



April - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ NASA's Mars helicopter 'Ingenuity' successfully became the first aircraft to take a powered flight on Mars.
 - Ingenuity, the Mars Helicopter is a solar-powered helicopter placed on Mars to test powered controlled flight on another planet.

NATIONAL

India elected to three bodies of the UN

- ❖ India was recently elected to the three bodies of the United Nations which operates under United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- ❖ They were the,
 - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ),
 - Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and
 - Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP).
- ❖ India was elected to all these three bodies by acclamation.
- ❖ Electing a member country through acclamation does not use a ballot.
- ❖ However, other member countries were elected through secret ballot to these bodies.

Election by Acclamation:

- ❖ When a member with clean slate is presented for an election in the United Nations, the vote takes place through acclamation.
- ❖ Clean Slate means there is no history of evidence of any problems or broken rules.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Review of Death Penalty

- ❖ The Amnesty International recently released the global Review of Death Penalty.
- ❖ Around 483 executions were recorded in eighteen countries according to the report published by Amnesty International.

- ❖ In 2019, the number of executions recorded were 657.
- ❖ The number of executions has grown by 26% in 2020 as compared to 2019.
- ❖ The maximum number of executions happened in China, Iran, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia in that order.
- ❖ Around sixteen women have been executed among the 483.
- ❖ They were from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Oman.
- ❖ The countries such as India, Qatar, Oman and Taiwan have resumed executions.
- ❖ The executions in Iraq have halved from hundred in 2019 to 45 in 2020.
- ❖ The executions in Saudi Arabia have decreased by 85%.
- ❖ The countries used beheading, hanging, electrocution, shooting and lethal injection as methods of execution.
- ❖ Iran executed three people for crimes that were committed by them when they were below 18 years old.
- ❖ China, Iran and Saudi Arabia executed at least 30 people for crimes related to drugs.
- ❖ The Asia-Pacific countries that carried out executions in 2020 were India, China, Bangladesh, North Korea, Vietnam and Taiwan.
- ❖ Pakistan, Singapore and Japan did not report any executions.
- ❖ China was the leading executioner in the world.
- ❖ However, the exact number of executions being carried out in China is unknown.

METHODS OF EXECUTIONS IN 2020⁷

BEHEADING	Saudi Arabia								
ELECTROCUTION	USA								
HANGING	Bangladesh	Botswana	Egypt	India	Iran	Iraq	South Sudan	Syria	
LETHAL INJECTION	China	USA	Viet Nam						
SHOOTING	China	Iran	North Korea	Oman	Qatar	Somalia	Taiwan	Yemen	

Note:

- ❖ Chad has abolished death penalty for all crimes.

- ❖ Colorado has become the twenty second state in the United States to abolish death penalty.

ENVIRONMENT

Blue Nature Alliance

- ❖ The Blue Nature Alliance is a global partnership of five core partners and few other Non-Profit Organisations.
- ❖ The core partners are Conservation International, The Global Environment Facility, the Pew Charitable Trusts, Minderoo Foundation and Rob and Melani Walton Foundation.
- ❖ The Blue Alliance was launched on April 20, 2021.
- ❖ The alliance aims to protect 5% of the world ocean in five years.
- ❖ The alliance aims to target seven ocean locations.
- ❖ They are as follows
 - Antarctica
 - Seychelles
 - Canada
 - Palau
 - Western Indian Ocean
 - Fiji
 - Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean

Note:

- ❖ Oceans are highly important for human survival as they regulate weather, rainfall and oxygen levels in the air.
- ❖ Currently they are under great threats from pollution, climate change and over fishing.

STATES

Electoral bonds donor's name

- ❖ The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is the first party that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through electoral bonds.
- ❖ A declaration of a ₹1 crore donation was made in the party's 2019-20 contribution report.

- ❖ According to the contribution report of the ruling party in Jharkhand, the donation was made by aluminium and copper manufacturing company Hindalco.

Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy recently released the first tranche of Rs 672 crores under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme for the year 2021-22.
- ❖ This reimbursed the fees for 10.88 lakh students.
- ❖ So far, a total of Rs 4, 879 crores have been disbursed under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme.
- ❖ The main objective of the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme is to provide scholarships to all the students who are not able to pay their fees because of their financial burden.
- ❖ The scheme mainly focuses on students seeking higher education.
- ❖ It aims to provide fee reimbursement to more than 14 lakh students of the state.
- ❖ The scheme will directly credit the amount into the accounts of students' mothers.
- ❖ Earlier, the money was transferred to the owners of the colleges.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Priyanka Mohite



- ❖ Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled Mt Annapurna,

- ❖ She becomes the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat.
- ❖ Mt Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain peak in the world.
- ❖ Mount Annapurna is considered to be one of the toughest mountains to climb.

Maidavolu Narasimham

- ❖ Former RBI Governor Maidavolu Narasimham, passed away at the age of 94.
- ❖ He served as RBI Governor between May and November 1977.
- ❖ Narasimham also served as chairperson of Committee on the Financial System, 1991 and the Committee of Banking Sector Reforms, 1998.
- ❖ He is known as the father of Indian banking reforms.

SPORTS

Water Sports & Adventure Institute

- ❖ Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI) has been established by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The institute was inaugurated by Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.
- ❖ ITBP's Mountaineering and Skiing Institute at Auli will independently run this institution.
- ❖ This institution will impart training in aero, water and land-related sports and adventure activities.

