



February - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi was appointed as Iraq's new Prime Minister. It was a result of 2019 Iraqi protests or Tishreen Revolution or October Revolution.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University (TNDALU) has decided to expand the 'learn and earn' programme through All India Reporters (AIR) Research Cafe.
 - The programme will enable law students to earn up while pursuing their course.
- ❖ President inaugurates Udyanotsav in Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
 - The Mughal Gardens will remain open for the general public from 4th of February to the 10th of March.
- ❖ Harmeet Desai - clinched his maiden national men's singles table tennis title in the UTT 81st National Table Tennis Championship.
 - The event was held at the Saroornagar Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ The world's largest solar telescope has revealed its first detailed image of the sun.
 - The Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) is the world's largest solar telescope.
- ❖ Manipuri footballer Bala Devi made history by becoming the first Indian woman footballer to bag a professional contract from a foreign club.
 - She was signed by Scottish football giant Rangers FC on 18-month contract along with 13 others.

TAMIL NADU

One nation, One ration card scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has launched the Union government's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts of the State on February 1, 2020 as a pilot project.
- ❖ The state government will study the successful implementation of the project in these two districts for a period of one month.
- ❖ The scheme will be beneficial to migrant workers to get their monthly quota of provisions at the place where they are working.
- ❖ However, Kerosene is not included in the scheme as it can be purchased only in PDS shops where the card has been registered.



Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway

- ❖ Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Budget that the work on the Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway will start soon.
- ❖ The project will be taken up under the hybrid-annuity model (HAM) by NHAI.
- ❖ The eight-lane access-controlled expressway will pass through Karnataka (77km), Andhra Pradesh (91km), and Tamil Nadu (94km).
- ❖ The agency proposes to take up the project under the Bharatmala Pariyojana scheme.
- ❖ The corridor is planned parallel to the existing NH-4 (Mumbai-Kolar-Bengaluru-Chennai), which is one of the most congested highways in the country.

New medical colleges in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Union health ministry's technical evaluation committee (TEC) has given its nod for four new government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The new colleges at Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi and Kancheepuram districts will each have 150 MBBS seats.
- ❖ With this, the number of government medical colleges in the State will increase to 37.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest number of government medical colleges in the country.

'On-site' museum – Adichanallur

- ❖ Adichanallur in Tuticorin district - is among the five archaeological sites that would be developed with on-site museums.
- ❖ Other shortlisted archaeological sites are,
 - Rakhigarhi (Haryana)
 - Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh)
 - Shivsagar (Assam) and
 - Dholavira (Gujarat).
- ❖ Adichanallur, a remote village, is home to a three-tier cemetery spread over more than 200 acres.
- ❖ It is one of the largest and oldest early Iron Age cemeteries ever located in South Asia.

- ❖ An excavation conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 2004-06, found 85 human skeletons.



NATIONAL

Santusht Portal

- ❖ The Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched 'Santusht portal'.
- ❖ This portal made to monitor the implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level.
- ❖ The portal aims to address the speedy redressal of grievances of workers and employers.
- ❖ It monitors services that are provided by EPFOs (Employee Provident Fund Organization) and ESICs (Employee State Insurance Corporation).
- ❖ For public grievances, Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal is already functional.

National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)

- ❖ NITI Aayog announced that it will launch National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) in 2021.



- ❖ The NDAP will act as a medium for different stakeholders to access data in an easy way.
- ❖ It will host latest data from all the government websites in a 'standardised' format.

Exercise 'Matla Abhiyaan'

- ❖ The Indian Navy conducts a coastal security exercise named 'Matla Abhiyan' in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ The exercise, named after Matla River.
- ❖ It aims to interact with coastal communities to spread awareness in the Sunderban deltaic waters.

INTERNATIONAL

Maldives re-joins Commonwealth

- ❖ Maldives officially re-joined the Commonwealth on February 1, 2020.
- ❖ It became the 54th member of the Commonwealth Union.
- ❖ The country is set to be a part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda, to be held in June 2020.
- ❖ Maldives joined the Commonwealth in 1982 and withdrew its membership in the year 2016.

Addu Tourism

- ❖ India and Maldives signed 5 Memorandum of Understandings to establish Addu Tourism in 5 islands of Addu atoll.
- ❖ Addu is a city in Maldives that contains several inhabited Islands.
- ❖ India established its diplomatic mission in Male in 1972, the capital of Maldives.

STATES

YSR Pension Kanuka' Scheme

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government has initiated a doorstep pension delivery scheme across the state.
- ❖ Under this scheme various welfare pensions are being delivered at the doorstep of the pensioners.

- ❖ Also, the age for old age pensioners (OAP) has been reduced from 65 to 60 years.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

100th anniversary of Mooknayak

- ❖ 2020 is the centenary year of journal “Mooknayak”.
- ❖ This was the Marathi journal published by B.R Ambedkar.
- ❖ The first issue was printed on 31 January 1920.
- ❖ His mentor Kolhapur’s Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj offered a donation of Rs. 2,500 to start Mooknayak.
- ❖ It included a scathing takedown of the Hindu caste structure and its despicable advocacy of inequality.

SPORTS

Novak Djokovic won Australian Open

- ❖ Serbia’s Novak Djokovic - claimed his 17th Major crown in the Australian Open on February 2 at Melbourne.
- ❖ The victory made him the first man in the Open Era to win Grand Slams in three different decades.
- ❖ The victory saw Djokovic move closer to Roger Federer’s record of 20 Grand Slams.





MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ Global Go To Think Tank Index Report -2019 is the complete ranking report of the world's think tank.
- ❖ It was released by the University of Pennsylvania, United States (US) each year since 2008.
- ❖ The index ranked top think tanks from around the world.
- ❖ As per the report India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) was ranked at 27th place among 176 global think tanks.
- ❖ The report was topped by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) of US.
- ❖ India has the second-largest number of think tanks at 509.
- ❖ The US has the highest number at 1,871.

Rank	ThinkTank	Country
27	Observer Research Foundation (ORF)	India
1	Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP)	United States
2	Bruegel	Belgium
3	French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)	France
6	Chatham House	United Kingdom

