

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.

Over 100 new airports to be built

Rs 3,150 cr for culture promotion, Rs 2,500 crore to boost tourism

An Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation

Maritime museum in Lothal, the Harappan port

Tribal museum in Ranchi

Re-curation of five museums, including Indian Museum in Kolkata

Museum on numismatics and trade at Old Mint building in Kolkata

SAY HELLO TO INCREDIBLE INDIA 2020

FAMOUS FIVE

Five archaeological locations will be developed as 'iconic sites' with on-site museums

- 1 Rakhigarhi, Haryana Myth Buster**
A pre-Harappan site that may rewrite history. DNA analysis of excavated skeletons led to a study that claims inhabitants of Indus Valley Civilisation were a distinct indigenous people. It challenges the theory that an 'Aryan invasion' ended Harappan culture, and disputes the Aryan migration-invasion theory
- 2 Dholavira, Gujarat Written In Stone**
Like Rakhigarhi, Dholavira in Kutch district of Gujarat also has Harappan ruins. The big archaeological find here is 10 large stone inscriptions in Indus Valley script. It is home to one of the earliest water conservation systems ever excavated
- 3 Hastinapur, UP Epic Chapter**
Believed to be the ancient capital of Kauravas and Pandavas of The Mahabharata, modern-day Hastinapur is located in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Recent excavations there have unearthed arrows, spearheads, shafts, tongs, hooks, axes and knives. It's regarded as the birthplace of three Jain Tirthankaras
- 4 Sivasagar, Assam Ahom Recall**
This Assamese city has an eponymous lake and used to be the capital of the Ahom kingdom from 1699-1788. Formerly called Rangpur, excavations at Karenghar (Talatalghar) complex, the citadel of Ahom power, revealed pathways, walls, terracotta drain pipes and vases
- 5 Adichanallur, Tamil Nadu History In Urn**
An archaeological urn-burial site in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district, excavated between 1876 and 1905. The site gained attention because of three important findings – an ancient Tamil-Brahmi script on the inside of an urn containing a full human skeleton, a fragment of broken earthenware, and the remains of living quarters

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 Malta 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

Go To Think Tank Index Report -2019

- ❖ 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

