

February - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister cleared the procurement of 24 Lockheed martin MH-60R Seahawk multi-role helicopters for the Indian Navy from USA.

NATIONAL

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- ❖ The government approved major changes in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana making it optional for farmers with a view to plug loopholes in the farm insurance scheme.
- ❖ Under the PMFBY, which was launched in February 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is mandatory for loanee farmers to take insurance cover under this scheme.
- ❖ Currently, 58 percent of the total farmers are loanee.



Next Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)

- ❖ The high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister has chosen by a majority decision, former Information and Broadcasting Secretary Bimal Julka, currently serving as an Information Commissioner, as the new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.



- ❖ The selection committee consists of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister probably Union Home Minister, to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ The last CIC was Sudhir Bhargava.

Supreme Court on decriminalization

- ❖ The Supreme Court directed political parties to upload on their websites and social media platforms the details of pending criminal cases against their candidates.
- ❖ Most importantly, the court also asked the parties to publish reasons as to why they are selected, as also for not giving ticket to those without criminal antecedents.
- ❖ It said these details should be published within 48 hours of the selection of the candidate or at least two weeks before the first date for filing of nominations, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ The details should also be published on official social media platforms of the political parties, including Facebook and Twitter, and also in one local vernacular and one national newspaper.
- ❖ The top court noted that 24 per cent of the MPs had criminal cases pending against them in 2004, while in 2009, it went to 30 per cent.
- ❖ Further, in 2014, 34 per cent of MPs had pending criminal cases against them, which increased to 43 per cent in 2019.
- ❖ The Supreme Court asked the Election Commission to work out a mechanism to curb criminalization of politics in nation's interest as the poll watchdog said that the 2018 order to declare criminal antecedents by the apex court to curb the problem has not been helpful.
- ❖ The Election commission has neither amended the Election Symbol Order, 1968 nor the model code of conduct (MCC) so the said notification has no legal sanction.
- ❖ A five-judge Constitution bench in 2018 had unanimously held that all candidates will have to declare their criminal background to the poll panel before contesting polls and called for a wider publicity, through print and electronic media about antecedents of candidates.
- ❖ It was said the EC neither published a list of leading newspapers-news channels for the purpose nor clarified the timing for declaration of criminal antecedents by candidates.
- ❖ This led to the candidates publishing the required information in newspapers and news channels that were not very popular and at odd hours.

Consumer Protection Authority

- ❖ The Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has said the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be set up by the first week of April this year.
- ❖ The CCPA has to be set up under Consumer Protection Act 2019.
- ❖ It will address issues related to consumer rights, unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements and impose penalties for selling spurious and adulterated products.
- ❖ At present there is no regulatory body to regulate e-commerce and direct selling.

STATES

Mahadayi Tribunal Award

- ❖ The Supreme Court passed an interim order to notify the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal's award.
- ❖ The sharing of the waters of this river is a cause of dispute between the governments of Karnataka and Goa.
- ❖ It involves building barrages across Kalasa and Banduri, the tributaries of the Mahadayi river, to divert water to the Malaprabha river.
- ❖ Malaprabha is a tributary of the Krishna River and flows through the state of Karnataka.
- ❖ The river joins Krishna River in Bagalkot district.





SPORTS

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) 2022

- ❖ India has been recommended as the first South Asian hosts for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022.
- ❖ India was the host of the AFC Under-16 Championships in 2016 and the FIFA Under-17 World Cup 2017.
- ❖ India had previously hosted the 1980 AFC Women's Championship.
- ❖ It was played in Jordan in 2018, the first time a West Asian nation had hosted the event.

Asian Wrestling Championships 2020

- ❖ India won 5 gold, 6 silver and 9 bronze in this edition.
- ❖ It was held at New Delhi in India.
- ❖ The Indian Women Wrestlers Sarita Mor, Pinki and Divya Kakran clinch gold medals for India.
- ❖ Before this, India had won only one gold at the Senior Asian Championships' women's event, through Navjot Kaur in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2018.
- ❖ China was barred from entering into the competition due to the 2019–20 coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Turkmenistan were unable to participate in the tournament due to circumstances stemming from the outbreak.

IMPORTANT DAYS

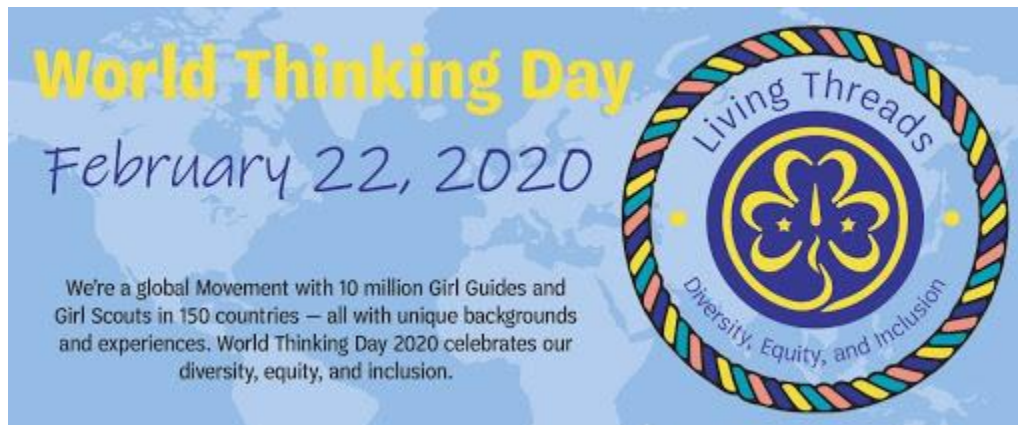
World Scout Day – February 22

- ❖ World Scout Day commemorates the first Scout Camp on Brown sea Island in 1907.
- ❖ This day was chosen as it was the birthday of Scouting and Guiding founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and of Lady Olave Baden-Powell, his wife and World Chief Guide.
- ❖ Baden Powell was a British Army officer, writer, founder and first Chief Scout of the world-wide Boy Scout Movement.
- ❖ In 1910 Baden-Powell retired from the army and formed The Boy Scouts Association.



World Thinking Day – February 22

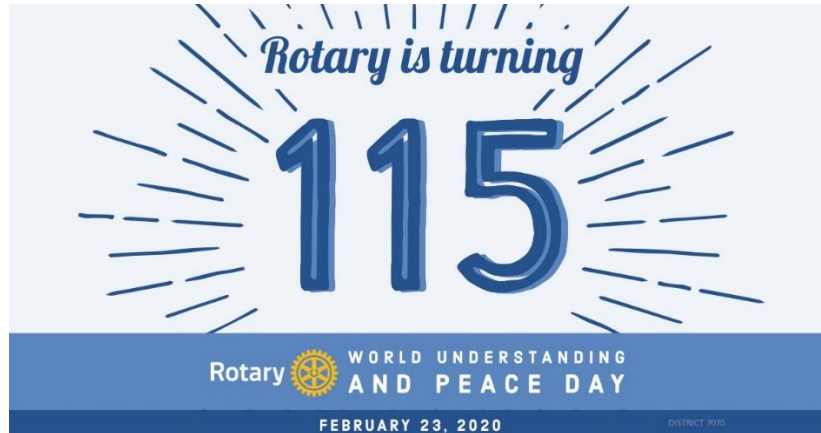
- ❖ World Thinking Day, formerly Thinking Day, is celebrated annually on 22 February by all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.
- ❖ It is also celebrated by Scout and Guide organizations and some boy-oriented associations around the world.
- ❖ 2020 Theme: "Living Threads".



World Peace and Understanding Day – February 23

- ❖ It commemorates the founding of Rotary International 115 years ago.
- ❖ On 23 February 1905, it was the very first Rotary meeting that Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey gathered in Chicago.
- ❖ The anniversary is known as “World Peace and Understanding Day.”
- ❖ The name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

- ❖ Ending polio is Rotary International's most famous humanitarian effort.



Central Excise Day - February 24

- ❖ The day is celebrated annually to mark the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.
- ❖ The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) celebrated the Central Excise Day across the country.
- ❖ Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Union Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ The board primarily deals with the Customs Act, 1962, Customs Tariff Act, 1975, Central Excise Act, 1944 and Service Tax Act.
- ❖ However, after the roll out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from 1 July 2017, the activities of the board are guided by the GST-related Acts.

About

- ❖ Earlier the Central Board of Excise and Customs was known as The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.
- ❖ The Customs and Central Excise/ Central GST department was established in the year 1855 by the then Governor-General of India, to administer customs laws.



A day, 24th of February, has been decided by the government of India to celebrate this special event all through the country.
The event celebration means to collect tax over the goods and by the people earning over the limit which has been decided according to the terms of Central Excise Act in the year 1944.

