

June - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ D. Gukesh won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title.
 - He also got a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour.
- ❖ Aruna Tanwar has become India's first-ever Taekwondo entry in the Paralympics.
 - Tanwar has been awarded a wild card entry for the Tokyo Paralympics.
- ❖ U.K. and Indian scientists have jointly developed a low-cost sensor that can detect fragments of the virus responsible for COVID-19 within wastewater.
 - It is developed by researchers from the University of Strathclyde and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government appointed former Nagapattinam MP A.K.S. Vijayan as its special representative in Delhi.
 - He is appointed for a period of one year.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has set up the 'Koita Centre for Digital Health' (KCDH) under the aegis of the Koita Foundation.
 - This is to be the India's first digital health center.

NATIONAL

Hallmarking of Gold jewellery



- ❖ The Government had made hallmarking of gold jewellery as mandatory.
- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been established for this purpose.
- ❖ Gold hallmarking is a purity certification for precious metal.
- ❖ Thus, from 15 June 2021, jewellers will only be allowed to sell gold jewellery of 14, 18 and 22 carats.

MoU on cooperation on domestic worker recruitment

- ❖ India and Kuwait signed an MoU on cooperation on domestic worker recruitment recently.
- ❖ This MoU will bring Indian domestic workers in Gulf nation within the legal framework.
- ❖ This will provide them protection under law.
- ❖ MoU was signed between Indian Ambassador Sibi George and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Majdi Ahmad Al-Dhafiri.

Political donations

- ❖ The Bharatiya Janata Party has topped the list of individual and corporate donations, pocketing around Rs 750 crore in 2019-20.
- ❖ The amount received by the Congress during the same period was Rs 139 crore.
- ❖ This is the seventh year in a row that the BJP has topped the list of political donations.

INTERNATIONAL

Brussels summit of NATO



- ❖ 31st formal meeting of heads of government of NATO was held in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ NATO summit 2021 is also being dubbed as Brussels summit of NATO.
- ❖ NATO leaders declared that China poses a constant security challenge and is working to undermine global order.
- ❖ NATO leaders declared China a global security challenge.

'Report it, don't share it' - initiative

- ❖ Facebook has launched a new initiative 'Report it, don't share it!'.
- ❖ This encourages people to report child abuse content on its platforms and not to share it.
- ❖ The initiative is in collaboration with civil society organisations like Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation and Arpan.



Report on Small Island developing States

- ❖ The 2021 edition of UNCTAD's Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures report was released recently.
- ❖ According to the report,
 - COVID-19 had affected all spheres of life in SIDS (Small island developing States) including health, the economy and trade.
 - This has had a huge impact on SIDS as most of them are heavily reliant on tourism.
 - SIDS were also 35 per cent more vulnerable to external economic and financial shocks than other developing countries.



ECONOMY

Bitcoin Investment Gain - 2020

- ❖ The US traders have benefited the most in Bitcoin Investment Gain in 2020 with a profit of \$4.1 billion.
- ❖ This is in according to the latest report by Chainalysis.
- ❖ Chinese traders stood second, with a profit of \$1.1 billion.
- ❖ India has been ranked at 18th spot with a profit of \$241 million.

Food Price Index - May

- ❖ United Nations announced recently that World food prices rose for the 12th consecutive month in in May.
- ❖ This is the highest level since September 2011.
- ❖ This announcement was made based on the Food Price Index released by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- ❖ On a year-on-year basis, prices were up 39.7 per cent in May.
- ❖ FAO also issued its first forecast for world cereal production in 2021.
- ❖ It predicted output of nearly 2.821 billion tonnes.
- ❖ It is a new record and 1.9 per cent up on 2020 levels.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Shenzhou-12

- ❖ Chinese spacecraft, Shenzhou-12, blasted off from Gobi Desert on a Long March rocket.
- ❖ This Spacecraft will ferry three men to an orbiting space.
- ❖ They will stay for three-month.
- ❖ This will be the first time China will send humans into space since 2016.
- ❖ Shenzhou-12 means Divine Vessel.

STATES

Raja Parba - Odisha

- ❖ Raja Parba festival celebrated in Odisha.



- ❖ It is a 3-days unique festival.
- ❖ It is celebrated during the onset of monsoon.
- ❖ It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation.
- ❖ The fourth day is the day of the 'purification bath'.
- ❖ This festival is synonymous with varieties of cakes (pithas).

IMPORTANT DAYS

ASEAN Dengue Day - June 15

- ❖ This day is celebrated to create awareness on dengue prevention and control at the regional and National level.
- ❖ It is celebrated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ❖ The theme of the ASEAN Dengue Day is "ASEAN Unite Against Dengue Amidst the Pandemic".
- ❖ The theme of 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper".
- ❖ The 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting held in 2010 declared the 15th June of every year as the "ASEAN Dengue Day".
- ❖ The first official ASEAN Dengue Day was observed on 15th June 2011.
- ❖ India observes the National Dengue Day on 16th May.

International Day of the African Child - June 16

- ❖ The day was set aside to raise awareness of the importance of education for children in Africa.
- ❖ The day not only honours the participants of the Soweto Uprising in 1976 but also raises awareness of the imperative need for improvement of the education of African children.

Note

- ❖ On June 16th, 1976, thousands of black students from Soweto, South Africa, took to the streets to protest.
- ❖ It was the protest for the prevailing disparity in the education system that preferred quality education for the whites over the black population in Africa.



MISCELLANEOUS

Head the world's largest family



- ❖ Ziona Chana, the man who believed to head the world's largest family died at the age 76.
- ❖ He was from Mizoram.
- ❖ He was with at least 39 wives and 94 children and 33 grandchildren.
- ❖ Ziona was the leader of a Christian sect, called Chana pawl.
- ❖ It allowed its male members to be polygamous.
- ❖ Ziona was featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not in 2011 and 2013 for having the world's largest family.

