



May - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Sabre Fencer Bhavani Devi has created history by becoming the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games.
 - She won a quota through the Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) method after the Budapest World Cup in March.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly, declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.
 - The United Nations General Assembly decided to celebrate 16th May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace on 8th December 2017.
- ❖ The International Day of Light is celebrated on 16 May each year to mark the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.
 - The message of 2021 International Day of Light is “Trust Science”.
- ❖ The Indian company, Shilpa Medicare has also joined the efforts to increase the manufacturing capacity of the Sputnik V Vaccine.
 - Last year the Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories had partnered with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) to conduct the clinical trials of the Sputnik V and for its distribution rights in India.

TAMIL NADU

Subdoluseps nilgiriensis

- ❖ It is a new species of an Asian gracile skink that has been discovered recently at Anaikatti hills, Coimbatore.
- ❖ This species is only the third skink species discovered from mainland India in the last millennium.
- ❖ The reptile has a slender body of just about 7 cm and is sandy brown in colour.
- ❖ Most skinks are diurnal and are non-venomous.
- ❖ Skinks are known to feed on insects such as termites, crickets and small spiders.
- ❖ It is currently classified as a vulnerable species.



NATIONAL

186 elephants killed on rail tracks

Elephant deaths in India due to train hits from 2009-10 to 2020-21

STATE	NO. OF DEATHS
Assam	62
West Bengal	57
Odisha	27
Uttarakhand	14
Kerala	9
Jharkhand	7
Tamil Nadu	5
Karnataka	3
Tripura	1
U.P	1
Total	186

Source: MoEFCC. Data up to December 31, 2020

- ❖ According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), a total of 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21.
- ❖ Assam accounted for the highest number of elephant casualties on railway tracks (62), followed by West Bengal (57), and Odisha (27).
- ❖ Eco Bridges could be a solution for this.
- ❖ Eco Bridges are wildlife corridors also known as wildlife crossing that are a link of wildlife habitat which connects two larger areas of similar wildlife habitat.



High Rice and Wheat Exports

- ❖ In 2020-21, India exported close to 20 million tonnes (mt) of grains and also distributed a record 92 mt of rice and wheat.
- ❖ 92 mt was distributed from the central pool included,
 - 60.32 mt under the National Food Security Act and other welfare schemes,
 - 31.52 mt under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package (for returning migrant labourers) and assorted programmes launched in the wake of Covid-19 lockdown.
- ❖ The total grain channelled through the public distribution system (PDS) in 2020-21 was nearly 50% higher than in normal years.

EXPORTS AND CENTRAL POOL OFFTAKE OF FOODGRAINS (in lakh tonnes)

	EXPORTS			CENTRAL POOL OFFTAKE	
	Wheat	Basmati	Non-basmati	Wheat	Rice
2012-13	65.15	34.60	66.88	332.09	326.37
2013-14	55.72	37.54	71.48	306.22	292.11
2014-15	29.15	37.02	82.26	252.54	306.73
2015-16	6.14	40.45	63.74	313.97	318.01
2016-17	2.62	40.00	68.13	289.98	327.80
2017-18	2.30	40.52	86.33	253.33	350.40
2018-19	1.83	44.15	75.34	314.71	344.35
2019-20	2.17	44.55	50.36	272.16	349.74
2020-21	20.86	46.32	130.88	360.56	557.78

Source: Departments of Commerce and Food & Public Distribution.

INTERNATIONAL

Israel - Palestine conflict

- ❖ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held a meeting on the Israel-Palestine situation.
- ❖ The meeting was chaired by the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.
- ❖ This was UNSC's first public meeting on the Israeli-Palestine conflict.

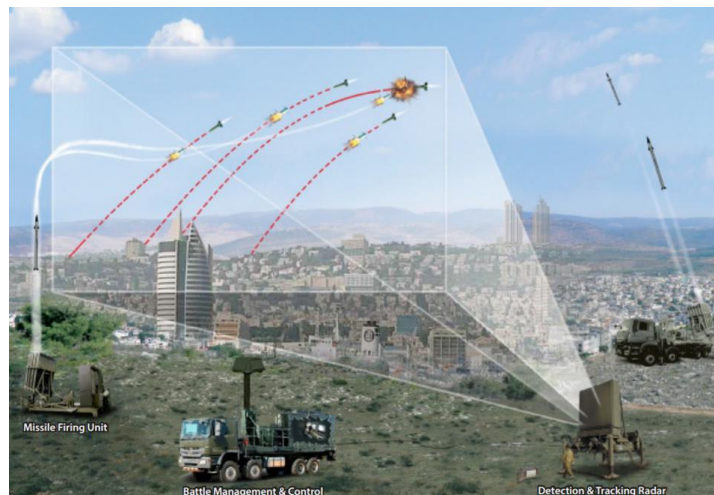


Iron Dome - Israel

- ❖ The Hamas group from Gaza made an attack with rockets on Israel.
- ❖ These rockets were intercepted by Israeli Iron Dome.
- ❖ It was as if the rockets were hitting some invisible shield.

About

- ❖ It is an air defence system.
- ❖ It neutralises any missiles or rockets.
- ❖ It is a short-range ground air-to-air defence system.
- ❖ It is used to counter rockets, mortars, aircraft, helicopters, mortars artillery and unmanned vehicles.
- ❖ Iron Dome was deployed in 2011.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Simorgh supercomputer

- ❖ Iran recently launched its supercomputer called Simorgh.
- ❖ This supercomputer is hundred times more powerful than the previous Iranian supercomputers.
- ❖ The Supercomputer has been named after the phoenix like bird called the Simurgh.
- ❖ The Simorgh Supercomputer was developed by the Amir kabir University of Technology in Tehran, the capital of Iran.
- ❖ It is located at the Iranian High Performance Computing Research Centre.

ENVIRONMENT

Cranes return to Ireland after 300 years



- ❖ The Cranes that have been a part of Irish folklore (traditional stories and beliefs) were recently spotted in Ireland.
- ❖ The birds were spotted in the country during their breeding season after three hundred years.

Cranes

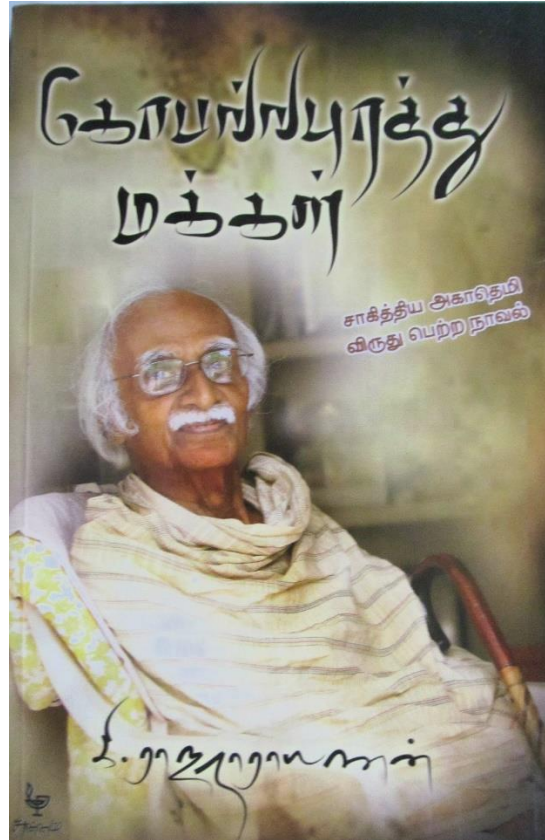
- ❖ The Cranes were extinct in Ireland in 1700.
- ❖ This was mainly due to the destruction of their habitats.
- ❖ They construct platform nests in shallow water.
- ❖ They lay only two eggs at a time.
- ❖ They are the world tallest flying birds.

- ❖ They are four feet tall.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

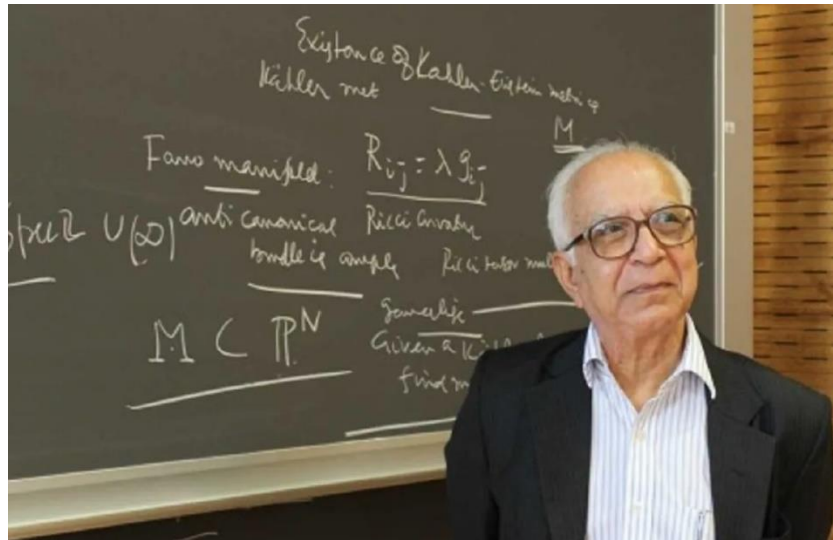
Writer Ki. Rajanarayanan

- ❖ Ki. Rajanarayanan the grand old man of modern Tamil literature and winner of Sahitya Akademi award in Tamil, died recently.
- ❖ He was 98.
- ❖ Born in Idaiseval near Kovilpatti, he was popularly known as Ki.Ra.
- ❖ His first short story 'Mayamaan' was published in 1959 in the magazine 'Saraswathi.'
- ❖ He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1991 for his novel 'Gopallapurathu Makkal'.
- ❖ Ki.Ra's first novel was 'Gopallagramam'.
- ❖ His other works Karisal Kaatu Kaduthaasi and Andaman Naicker also demands mention.



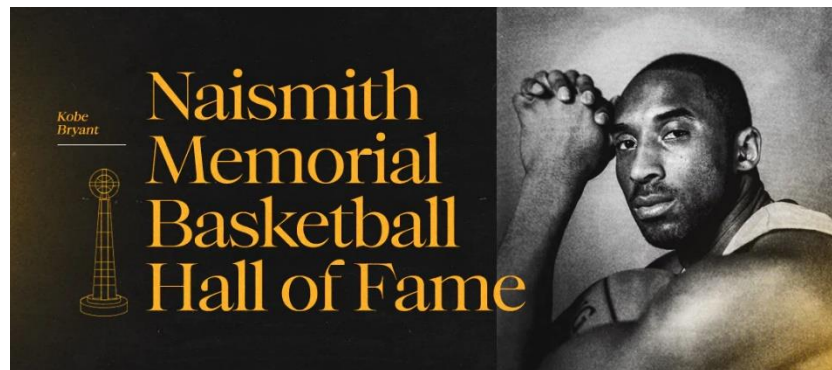
Professor MS Narasimhan

- ❖ Noted Indian mathematician, Professor MS Narasimhan has passed away.
- ❖ Professor Narasimhan, along with C. S. Seshadri, were known for their proof of the Narasimhan–Seshadri theorem.
- ❖ He is the only Indian to receive the King Faisal International Prize in the field of science.



SPORTS

Kobe Bryant - Hall of Fame



- ❖ Los Angeles Lakers legend, Kobe Bryant has been posthumously inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
- ❖ Bryant retired in 2016.
- ❖ The five-time NBA champion died, aged 41, in a helicopter crash in January 2020.

IMPORTANT DAYS

UN Global Traffic Safety Week (May 17 - 23)



- ❖ The 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week calls for 30 km/h (20 mph) speed limits to be the norm for cities, towns and villages worldwide.
- ❖ UN Global Road Safety Week is a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by WHO.
- ❖ The theme for the 6th UNGRSW is Streets for Life.
- ❖ The tagline is #Love30.
- ❖ This safety week programme aims to raise awareness of road safety and make changes that will reduce the number of road deaths.

