

May - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The United Nations observes May 16 as International Day of Living Together in Peace.
 - It was officially recognised by the General Assembly in December 2017.
- ❖ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approves a loan of 145 million USD to improve irrigation facilities and flood management in West Bengal.
 - The project is to focus on the Damodar Valley of West Bengal.

NATIONAL

EventBot

- ❖ The Computer Emergency Response of Team (CERT) of India has issued warning against a new malware called “EventBot”.
- ❖ The malware according to CERT steals personal financial information from Android phone users.
- ❖ The EventBot malware that is spreading is a Trojan.
- ❖ CERT operates under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.



Project 39A

- ❖ It is a report by research organization Project 39A of National Law University, Delhi.
- ❖ The study chose three states and Union Territories namely Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra.



- ❖ These states were chosen as they ranked high in awarding capital punishments.
- ❖ The trial courts in Delhi awarded death penalty invoking the concept of society's collective conscience.
- ❖ 'Collective conscience of society' as a ground to justify death penalty was first used by the Supreme Court in the 1983 judgment of Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab.
- ❖ Collective conscience found its most recent endorsement in the 2017 judgment of the Supreme Court in the December 2012 Delhi gang rape case of Mukesh v. State of NCT of Delhi.
- ❖ The study also revealed non-compliance by the trial courts with the sentencing framework laid down by the Supreme Court in its 1980 judgment in Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab.
- ❖ In that case, a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court was called upon to decide the constitutional validity of the capital punishment.
- ❖ The Law Commission in 2015, headed by Justice A P Shah proposed to abolish capital punishments.
- ❖ However, the commission had made the proposal only to non-terrorism cases.



PROJECT 39A
EQUAL JUSTICE
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

INTERNATIONAL

WTO chief

- ❖ The World Trade Organisation (WTO) chief Roberto Azevedo from Brazil resigned from his position.
- ❖ He would step down from his position on August 31.
- ❖ His second four-year term was scheduled to end on September 2021.

ECONOMY

Atmanirbar Campaign - Second Package

- ❖ Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled the second tranche of measures of the government's "atmanirbhar (self-reliant) campaign".

Key measures

- ❖ Free food grains will be supplied to all Migrant labourers for 2 months i.e. May and June, 2020.
- ❖ Technology system to be used to enable Migrants to access PDS (Ration) from any Fair Price Shops in India so as to achieve 100% National portability by March, 2021 under One Nation one Ration Card scheme.
- ❖ 6,000 crore of funds under Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA) will be used for Afforestation and Plantation works.

2ND TRANCHE OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS: KEY MEASURES

- ▶ Free food grain supply to migrants for next 2 months
- ▶ ₹5,000cr special credit facility for street vendors
- ▶ 5kg of rice/wheat per family and 1 kg of chana to non-card holders
- ▶ Interest subvention support of 2% for Mudra Shishu loan payees
- ▶ PDS ration cards to be made portable; 100% coverage under 'One Nation One Ration Card' by March 31, 2021
- ▶ ₹30,000cr additional emergency working capital fund for farmers through NABARD
- ▶ Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) for migrant worker/Urban poor
- ▶ ₹2 lakh cr of concessional credit boost to 2.5cr farmers through Kisan credit cards
- ▶ ₹6,000cr employment push using CAMPA funds
- ▶ Extension of housing subsidy scheme for middle-income families till Mar 2021



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COBAS 6800

- ❖ The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicated the COBAS 6800 RT PCR machine to the nation.
- ❖ The machine is completely automated and performs high end RT-PCR tests.
- ❖ The machine will help to increase the testing capacity of the country.
- ❖ It is capable of providing test results of 1,200 samples in 24 hours.
- ❖ It has been placed at National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi.
- ❖ The machine can also detect pathogens such as Hepatitis, Chlamydia, HIV, Papiloma, MTb, CMV, Neisseria, etc.
- ❖ The machine was developed by Roche Diagnostics.



Z-Scan Method

- ❖ Recently, scientists from IIT (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad and CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (Kolkata) have developed the Z-scan method
- ❖ It helps to monitor the origin as well as the progression of Parkinson's disease in human beings.
- ❖ It is expected to help in monitoring both the early as well as late stages of the aggregation of ASyn and death of neuronal cells.
- ❖ An aggregation of a protein called Alpha-synuclein (ASyn) plays a crucial role in the development of Parkinson's disease.

- ❖ Parkinson's disease is a chronic, degenerative neurological disorder that affects the central nervous system.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Endangered Species Day - May 15

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2006.
- ❖ It recognizes the national conservation efforts to protect endangered species and their habitats.
- ❖ Endangered species are those which are on verge of extinction due to changes in the physical and biological conditions of the environment.
- ❖ IUCN's Red list covers a wide range of endangered species.
- ❖ According to IUCN, an endangered species is one that meets any one of the following criteria as given below
 - A 50-70% population decrease over 10 years.
 - A total geographic area less than 5,000 square kilometre or local population area less than 500 square kilometres.
 - A population size less than 2,500 adults.
 - A restricted population of 250 adults or a statistical prediction that it will go extinct within the next 20 years.



International Day of Families - May 15

- ❖ It is observed every year, since 1994.
- ❖ This year's theme is Families in Development: Copenhagen & Beijing+25.
- ❖ This year is 25th anniversary for Copenhagen Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action (1995).



- ❖ The Copenhagen Declaration was an outcome of World Summit for Social Development in 1995.
- ❖ The Beijing Declaration was a resolution adopted by the UN at the end of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES 15 MAY



International Day of Light – May 16

- ❖ It is the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.
- ❖ It was inaugurated by the UNESCO in 2018.



45th Sikkim Day - May 16

- ❖ It marks the day in 1975 when Sikkim transitioned to become the 22nd state of the country from being a monarchy earlier.
- ❖ Sikkim is the first fully organic state in the Country.

❖ Till date, Sikkim is the only Covid Free State in India.

