

May - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The World Bee Day theme for the year 2020 is "Bee Engaged".
 - As per Food and Agricultural Organization database, in 2017-18, India ranked eighth in the world in terms of honey production (64.9 thousand tonnes) while China stood first with 551 thousand tonnes of honey production.
- ❖ The New York-based Private equity firm KKR has announced to invest Rs USD 1.5 billion in Jio Platforms for a stake of 2.32%.
 - This is fifth such investment in Reliance Jio followed by Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners and General Atlantic.
- ❖ The Operators began shutting down the Philippsburg nuclear power plant in southern Germany.
 - Germany has half a dozen more nuclear plants but they will be shut down by the end of 2022.
- ❖ The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has formed a six-member committee to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for phased resumption of training on sports once the coronavirus-forced national lockdown is lifted.
 - It will be headed by SAI secretary Rohit Bharadwaj.
- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry has allowed a proposal to set up a desalination plant inside the eco-sensitive zone of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.
 - The project will be coming up at Kuthiraimozhi village in Kadaladi Taluk of Ramanathapuram.
- ❖ The Indian economist Abhas Jha has been appointed by the World Bank to a key position on climate change and disaster management in South Asia region.
- ❖ The Former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Jayalalithaa's house 'Veda Nilayam' is set to become a memorial house.
- ❖ Israel has named a street in Tel Aviv after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore as a tribute on his 159th birthday.



NATIONAL

Khudol Initiative

- ❖ The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has listed Manipur's Khudol among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Khudol is a crowdfunded initiative of Ya_All, an Imphal-based NGO.
- ❖ It had created India's first transgender football team.
- ❖ The initiative entails ensuring food, health and hygiene of the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents.

ECONOMY

Status Paper on Government Debt

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance released Status Paper on Government Debt 2018-19.
- ❖ The debt of central government dropped marginally from 45.8% in 2017-18 to 45.7% in 2019.
- ❖ The external debt was 2.7% of GDP.
- ❖ Current debt of India stands at Rs 1.3 crore crore.
- ❖ Around 94% of centre's liabilities were of domestic debts.
- ❖ According to the report, the overall debt of centres and states declined by 68.7% in March 2018 to 68.6% in 2019.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Device Independent Self-Testing (DIST)

- ❖ Recently, the scientists from S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata have developed a novel protocol to find out whether a pair of electrons is in an entangled state.
- ❖ This novel protocol to measure the status of entanglement is known as Device Independent Self-Testing (DIST) method.
- ❖ Quantum Entanglement is the physical phenomenon that occurs when a pair or group of particles is generated and they interact in such a way that the quantum state of each particle of the pair or group cannot be described independently of the state of the others.



ENVIRONMENT

Five initiatives on Biodiversity conservation

- ❖ The United Nations framed 20 global actions to be implemented between 2010 and 2020.
- ❖ This is called Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.
- ❖ The year 2020 is called Super Year for Biodiversity.
- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched five initiatives on conservation of biodiversity.
 - “Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme” - It aims at engaging 20 students in post graduate programme for a period of 1 year.
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) campaign called Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species.
 - Wildlife Crime Control Bureau campaign called Not All Animals Migrate by Choice.
 - World Wildlife Fund Model Conference of Parties.
 - Webinar series on Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

- ❖ Recently FAO has designated 4 tea cultivation sites in China, Korea and Japan as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.
- ❖ Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems.
- ❖ GIAHS are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
- ❖ Three recognized GIAHS sites in India are
 - Kuttanad below Sea Level Farming System of Kerala.
 - Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha.
 - Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir.
- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award

- ❖ Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar, the National Hydrographer to the government of India, has been honoured with this award.
- ❖ It was given for his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the wider Indian Ocean region.
- ❖ It was presented by the UK Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ It is named after the first Hydrographer of the Admiralty, Alexander Dalrymple.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Turtle Day - May 23

- ❖ It is celebrated to make people aware of turtle and tortoise and their habitats.
- ❖ Since 2000, The American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), a non-profit organization, sponsors the celebrations for World Turtle Day.
- ❖ This year is the 20th anniversary of World Turtle Day.



WORLD TURTLE DAY

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula - May 23

- ❖ The United Nations has observed this day since 2013.
- ❖ Theme 2020: "End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!".
- ❖ Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth.

