

November - 01

TNPSC BITS


- ❖ Indian Railways has launched '09 Sewa Service' Trains to connect smaller towns around major cities.
 - These services were launched by the Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ India and Saudi Arabia plan to work together with other Indian Ocean Rim Countries for enhancing maritime security and ensure safe passage of ships for international trade.
 - India will hold its first joint naval exercise with Saudi Arabia in December 2019-January 2020.
- ❖ India's top-ranked men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty finished runners-up at French Open Badminton 2019.
 - This pair clinched silver after losing the final to World No. 1 pairing of Marcus Fernaldi and Kevin Sukamuljo.
- ❖ Bangladesh Cricket Board named Mahmudullah as the captain of the senior national T20I after the International Cricket Council slapped a lengthy "ban" on Shakib Al Hasan.
 - Shakib was banned for 2 years and suspended for 1 year over his failure to report approaches of corrupt conduct.

TAMIL NADU

Tamilnadu Buddhist Tourist Circuit

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government plans to build a massive statue of Bodhidharma at Kancheepuram.
- ❖ It plans to promote a Buddhist pilgrimage circuit in the state to attract tourists from China.
- ❖ The statue planned would be second only to the Statue of Unity of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat in size.
- ❖ Six places across the state, including Kancheepuram, Mamallapuram, Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur had been identified for the Buddhist circuit.
- ❖ TN Tourism department also plans to train 10 tour guides at Mamallapuram in basic Mandarin to interact with Chinese tourists.

STATUE IN KANCHEEPURAM

<p>➤ Statue would be second only to the Statue of Unity in terms of size</p>		<p>➤ Audio-visual presentation on life of Buddhist monk planned at site</p>
<p>➤ Six places, including Kanchi, Mamallapuram, Nagapattinam & Tiruvarur, identified for Buddhist circuit</p>		
<p>➤ 10 tour guides would be trained in basic Mandarin</p>		

NATIONAL

National Tribal Dance Festival @ Raipur

- ❖ Chhattisgarh will organise a three-day National Tribal Dance Festival in Raipur from December 27 to 29.
- ❖ The invitation for the occasion will be extended to all states and neighbouring countries.
- ❖ The event will see the participation of around 2,500 tribal artists from across the country.
- ❖ The festival will also reflect the dance events of the tribal community related to their marriage, crop harvest, traditional festival and other occasions

World's Best CEOs – 3 Indians Find Place

- ❖ Three Indian-origin CEOs have featured in a list of top CEOs compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR).
- ❖ 'The Best-Performing CEOs in the World, 2019' list by HBR features 100 CEOs.
- ❖ It has been topped by American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang.
- ❖ On the 6th spot is Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, followed by MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga ranked 7th and Microsoft chief Nadella on the 9th spot.



- ❖ HBR said its ranking has been based not only on financial performance but also on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings.

India, Saudi – Bilateral Strategic Partnership Council

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on an official visit to Riyadh.
- ❖ India and Saudi Arabia are set to sign an agreement for creating a bilateral strategic partnership council.
- ❖ The council will include multiple sections involving the External Affairs Ministry and NITI Aayog and counterpart organisations from Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It will be led by Mr. Modi and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Creative Cities Recognition of UNESCO

- ❖ The UNESCO adjudged Hyderabad as a ‘Creative City’ under the “gastronomy category” on the occasion of World Cities Day.
- ❖ Mumbai also received ‘Creative City’ tag under the “film category”.
- ❖ Hyderabad and Mumbai were the only two Indian cities among the 66 smart cities selected by the UNESCO in this year.
- ❖ Chennai, Varanasi and Jaipur have also been included in the list in previous years.
- ❖ UNESCO awards the ‘Creative City’ status under seven categories.

Postal ballot for Elder & disabled people

- ❖ The Law Ministry has amended the Conduct of Election Rules 1961.
- ❖ This amendment has power to give voting and ballot voting to voters with disabilities and those above 80 years of age and include them in the category of 'absentee voters'.
- ❖ In order to increase the vote percentage in the election, the government has provided the facility to the elderly and disabled voters.
- ❖ The Law Ministry has issued this notification on the recommendation of the Election Commission.
- ❖ Now, the format of the application form, to be filled for claiming to be an absentee voter, has been prepared.
- ❖ Senior citizens and disabled voters above 80 years of age can claim postal ballot by submitting this form.



- ❖ In the current system, only military, paramilitary personnel and government employees working abroad, as well as employees posted in election duty, are entitled to the postal ballot.

Global Bio-India 2019

- ❖ The Global Bio-India 2019 is one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders' conglomerates will be held for the first time in India at New Delhi.
- ❖ It is being organized by BIRAC and DBT of Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ❖ It is to bring together stakeholders to strengthen the indigenous research capabilities, bio-entrepreneurship, investments and last-mile-delivery of technology across rural India and tier-2, 3 cities.

INTERNATIONAL

India Vs US @ WTO

- ❖ India has lost a case filed by the US at the WTO against domestic "export incentives".
- ❖ The dispute settlement panel of the WTO has concluded that these schemes were inconsistent with the international trade norms.
- ❖ With this ruling, India will have to rework these incentive schemes to comply with the WTO ruling.
- ❖ India will appeal against the case.

ENVIRONMENT

Mice problem on Tristan Albatross

- ❖ Supersized mice were killing and eating rare Tristan Albatross chicks in Gough Island.
- ❖ Gough Island is a World Heritage Site in the South Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK) plans to send helicopters with cereal-based poison pellets to kill mice.
- ❖ The endangered chicks, which are often left alone in their nests as parents fly off to find food, are being gnawed to death by the rodents.
- ❖ Only 2,000 pairs of the rare Tristan Albatross birds now remain and they are in "Critically Endangered" category.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sakharov Prize - Professor Ilham Toti

- ❖ The European Parliament has awarded the “Sakharov Prize for human rights” to Uighur intellectual Ilham Tohti.
- ❖ He has been unfairly sentenced to life imprisonment in China for “separatism”.
- ❖ The outspoken former Professor of economics at a Beijing university was sentenced in 2014.
- ❖ European Parliament head David Sassoli urged China to immediately release Ilham Tohti and called for the respect of minority rights (Muslims) in China.

Uighurs

- ❖ The Uighurs are a Muslim ethnic minority mostly based in China’s Xinjiang province.
- ❖ They make up around 45% of the population there.
- ❖ Xinjiang is officially designated as an autonomous region within China, like Tibet to its south.
- ❖ Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have submitted reports to the UN committee documenting claims of ‘mass imprisonment of Uighurs’.
- ❖ The World Uyghur Congress said in its report that ‘detainees’ are held indefinitely without any charge.

