

November- 06

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged to invest €1 billion over the next five years on environmentally-friendly Green urban mobility in India.
- ❖ The biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference held at Colombo in Srilanka under the theme Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law.
- ❖ Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. Odisha is also known as Utkala which literally means the land of excellent art and culture.
- ❖ The Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority/EPCA had declared Public Health Emergency in Delhi and NCR region. It banned construction activity and bursting of crackers.

## NATIONAL

### Takhat Darshan Yatra

- ❖ To mark the 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will be organizing 'Takhat Darshan Yatra' for Sikh youths from various countries
- ❖ Takhat Darshan Yatra' will cover three takhats at- Patna Sahib in Patna, Bihar; the Golden Temple (or Sri Harmandir Sahib or Darbar Sahib) in city of Amritsar, Punjab and Hazur Saheb in Nanded, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The ICCR is also organising a first-of-its-kind programme including an International Youth Seminar (IYS) on Teachings of Baba Guru Nanak Dev ji and Sikhism's Contribution in Universal Wellbeing.
- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India, involved in India's external cultural relations, through cultural exchange.
- ❖ It was founded on 9 April 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 16<sup>th</sup> India ASEAN Summit

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister attended the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister highlighted the importance of Myanmar to India's Look East Policy and the Neighbourhood First policies.
- ❖ India plans to host a business event for the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam) in Yangon at the end of November 2019.
- ❖ India and Indonesia commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.
- ❖ The PM also addressed the Indian community at the 'Sawasdee PM Modi' event in Bangkok.
- ❖ In the Thai language, the word 'Sawasdee' is used for greetings and goodbye.
- ❖ Along with this Summit, the other summits that took place in Thailand are
  - 35th ASEAN Summit
  - 14th East Asia Summit, and
  - 3rd meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).



### **35th ASEAN Summit**

- ❖ The 35th Summit of The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) began in Bangkok, Thailand.



- ❖ It is a biannual meeting.
- ❖ The theme of 35th ASEAN Summit is - Advancing Partnership for sustainability.
- ❖ ASEAN is a group of 10 countries that encourages economic, social and political co-operation in the region.
- ❖ Apart from 10 members countries, eight dialogue partner countries are also participating in the summit.
- ❖ The role of the ASEAN chair rotates annually between the ten ASEAN member states.
  - Chair: 2018 Singapore
  - Chair: 2019 Thailand

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Odd Even Scheme of Delhi – 2019**

- ❖ The third edition of odd-even started in Delhi.
- ❖ Introduced in 2016, the odd-even scheme is a car rationing system.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the vehicles with odd last digit in the registration number will be allowed on roads on odd dates and those with even last digit will ply on even dates.
- ❖ It will apply to all non-transport four-wheeled vehicles plying on roads in Delhi and even those coming in from other states.
- ❖ Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will conduct 61 additional trips during the implementation of odd-even scheme.
- ❖ Twenty-nine categories of vehicles, including those of President, Prime Minister, emergency and enforcement vehicles, cars carrying school children in uniform have been exempted from the odd-even scheme.
- ❖ Women driving alone, cars having all women as occupants and women accompanied by children aged less than 12 years will also be exempted.
- ❖ Electric vehicles and cars with physically disabled are also exempted.
- ❖ Two-wheelers are exempted from odd-even scheme.
- ❖ There will be no exemption for the vehicles of Delhi government ministers and the chief minister.
- ❖ Privately owned CNG vehicles and hybrid vehicles will not be exempted this time.



### **Kanpur - world's most polluted city**

- ❖ The city of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh held the title for the world's most polluted city in the latest edition of Guinness World Records.
- ❖ A report by World Health Organization (WHO) analyzed that the most polluted city in the world is Kanpur in northern India, with an average PM2.5 level of 173 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> for the year 2016.
- ❖ This PM2.5 level is more than 17 times higher than WHO recommended maximum of 10 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup>.
- ❖ The book, 'Guinness World Records 2020', lists thousands of new record titles.
- ❖ It is released annually by publisher Penguin Random House.

## **STATES**

### **Minimum Wages hike in Delhi**

- ❖ Around 55 lakh contractual workers in the national capital will be benefited from the increased wages decided by the Delhi state government.
- ❖ As per the latest notification, unskilled workers will now get ₹14,842 per month, for semi-skilled workers, it is ₹16,341 per month and for skilled workers, it will be ₹17,991.
- ❖ It was also recently approved by the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Delhi's minimum wage is three times more than the national minimum wage.
- ❖ National minimum wage is ₹4,628 per month while in Delhi, it is ₹14,842 per month.

### **Free Travel for Women in Buses – Delhi**

- ❖ The Delhi state cabinet approved free travel for women in buses in the national capital.
- ❖ The scheme is voluntary and women travellers can choose to not avail the plan.
- ❖ In June, the State Government announced free travel for women in the metro and buses in Delhi.
- ❖ While the Centre is a stakeholder when it comes to Metro services, city buses come under the jurisdiction of the Delhi government.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **JCB Prize for Literature 2019**

- ❖ Madhuri Vijay wins JCB Prize for Literature 2019 for her debut novel, *The Far Field*.
- ❖ JCB Prize for Literature is an Indian literary award established in 2018.
- ❖ The JCB Literature Foundation was established to maintain the award.
- ❖ It is funded by the English construction manufacturing group JCB.
- ❖ It is awarded to a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer working in English or to a translated fiction by an Indian writer.

### **Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice**

- ❖ The recipients of this award in this year as follows
  - Office for the Rescue of Yazidis, Director, Hussein Al-Qaidi,
  - Nobel Peace Prize recipient and founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan Kailash Satyarthi,
  - Priti Patkar – founder of Prerana,
  - Hasina Kharbhih - founder of a non-profit organisation Impulse,
  - Chief Executive Officer of UK-based charitable organisation War Child - Rob Williams,
  - Filmmaker Robert Bilheimer,
  - Dr Kiran Kamal Prasad - founder of NGO Jeevika,
  - Dr. Torsten Trey, Founder of Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting,
  - Founder of non-profit organization Urban Light Aezandra Russel,
  - Social activist working against child sex trade Ajeet Singh,
  - Former Congo child soldier Nzita Nsuami,
  - Evelien Holsken - Founder of Free a Girl.

#### **About**

- ❖ Mother Teresa Awards have been given since 2004 annually or biannually.
- ❖ They are an initiative of Harmony Foundation, an organization created by Abraham Mathai in Mumbai.
- ❖ It is the only award in the name of Mother Teresa recognized by the Missionaries of Charity.



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