

October - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation received a certificate of appreciation from the State government for maintaining a Special park for disabled children called “Infinity Park” at Chennai.
 - The park was developed under the Smart Cities Project.
- ❖ Commemorating Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's 113th birth anniversary on October 2, political analyst Sandeep Shastri has written a book titled "Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond".
- ❖ For the first time, the passengers of India's first private train Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express will be compensated in case of any delays.
 - They will be compensated with an amount of ₹100 if the delay is for over an hour. The amount will rise to ₹250 if in case the train is delayed by more than two hours.

TAMIL NADU

Swachh Bharath Award for Rural Sanitation – TN

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been adjudged the best in rural sanitation after the Centre's rural cleanliness survey.
- ❖ This is a significant jump from the 11th spot it held in 2018.
- ❖ Municipal Administration Minister SP Velumani received the award, on behalf of the State government, from Prime Minister Modi
- ❖ The Swachhta survey this year was conducted in 17,200 villages and 690 districts across the country.
- ❖ The ranks were allotted based on feedback from the people, observation results by independent assessors etc.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu also achieved the status of 100 Open Defecation Free (ODF) as per the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) website.
- ❖ As per the data in the website, over 53.46 lakh toilets have been built in the state after Prime Minister Modi announced Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014.


NATIONAL

Hyderabad Nizam's Fund Case

- ❖ The UK High Court has ruled that funds transferred in 1948 by Hyderabad's VII Nizam Osman Ali Khan to the high commissioner of Pakistan in Britain belongs to India.
- ❖ The Nizam had transferred 1,007,940 pounds and nine shillings in 1948 to the Pakistan high commissioner on the assumption of the possibility of joining Pakistan.

TIMELINE FOR HYDERABAD FUND CASE

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| 1948 Hyderabad finance minister transfers 1 million pound to the account of Pakistan high commissioner in London | 1965 The Nizam assigns to the President of India his claim to the Fund |
| 1954 Nizam VII Mir Osman Ali Khan claims the money, files suit in London court | 2008 Proposal before Pakistan high commissioner in India to opt for out of court settlement |
| 1963 The Nizam creates a trust over his interest in the Hyderabad Fund | 2013 Pakistan initiates proceedings afresh withdrawing state immunity clause |
| 1965 The Nizam appoints trust for his grandsons Mukarram Jah and Muffakham Jah | 2019 UK court concludes hearing on June 21 |
| | 2019 UK court delivers order in favour of India and Nizam legal claimants on October 2 |



- ❖ After Indian annexation of princely state Hyderabad, ownership for the money was contested by both India and Pakistan for 70 years.
- ❖ The grandsons VII Nizam, Mukkaram Jah and Muffakham Jah also laid claim to the same fund.
- ❖ They say it had been gifted to them in a trust set up by their grandfather on April 24, 1963.
- ❖ The original amount has now grown into £35m (Rs 306 crore).

- ❖ UK's Justice Smith has ruled that the 7th Nizam was beneficially entitled to the £35m fund, as were the princes and India.
- ❖ The case came to be popularly known as "Hyderabad Fund Case".

Line of Credit to Pacific Islands

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a \$150 million line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations.
- ❖ The money will be used for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on their requirement.
- ❖ It was announced at India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders' Meeting, held on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The Pacific Island Countries involved are

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| Republic of Kiribati | Republic of Palau | Fiji |
| Republic of Marshall Islands | Republic of Vanuatu | Federated States of Micronesia |
| Republic of Nauru | Kingdom of Tonga | Tuvalu |
| Independent State of Papua New Guinea | The Independent State of Samoa | Solomon Islands |

National Nutrition Survey

- ❖ The first ever Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey has been conducted by Ministry of Health and UNICEF between February 2016 and October 2018.
- ❖ It is the first study undertaken to measure malnutrition as well as details of non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents).
- ❖ Nearly 10% of children in the age group of 5-9 years and adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years are pre-diabetic and 5% are overweight and another 5% suffer from blood pressure.



INTERNATIONAL

Singapore-India Hackathon

- ❖ NTU Singapore, India's Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Innovation Cell, and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have successfully organised the second edition of the Singapore-India Hackathon.
- ❖ It is a fast-paced 36-hour competition for students of both countries to collaborate on innovative solutions to real-life challenges in healthcare, education and clean energy.
- ❖ The top prize of S\$10,000 went to Team 10, comprising three students from India and three from Singapore.
- ❖ They were awarded for their innovative solution to monitor air impurities through an array of sensors installed in a potted plant.
- ❖ Upon detecting high levels of impurities, small fans will automatically switch on to circulate clean air from the base of the plant.
- ❖ Singapore's Minister for Education, Ong Ye Kung participated in the event.

STATES

Village Secretariat – AP

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government have created new administrative organ termed as Village Secretariats.
- ❖ A little over 1.26 lakh people have been hired for village and ward secretariats.
- ❖ A total of 11,158 village secretariats and 3,786 ward secretariats are functioning from October 2, 2019.
- ❖ The government aims to decentralize administration for more accountability and transparency.
- ❖ The new employees of the state government will essentially ensure that government services work seamlessly, and will try to fix issues reported to them.

Mo Sarkar – Odisha Government

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched his government's new governance initiative 'Mo Sarkar' on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- ❖ The objective of the 'Mo Sarkar' programme is to provide service with dignity to people who are coming to government offices for different purposes.



- ❖ The phone numbers of people who are coming to government offices will be collected randomly.
- ❖ They will be called back to collect feedback on behaviour and professionalism of government officers.
- ❖ The employees will be ranked as good or bad on the basis of the feedback received.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

MP Birla Award – Scientist Thanu Padmanabhan

- ❖ Physicist and Cosmologist Thanu Padmanabhan was conferred the prestigious M P Birla Memorial Award 2019 for his contributions to the world of cosmology.
- ❖ He is a Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardee as well as a Padma Shri-recipient scientist (2007).
- ❖ He received the award at a programme held at M P Birla Planetarium in Kolkata.
- ❖ The planetarium is currently in its 54th year and had played a pioneering role by initiating an Astronomy Awareness Programme in 1965.

About

- ❖ The award was established in 1993.
- ❖ It recognises the excellence in research in space science, astrophysics, astronomy, and related areas.
- ❖ Noted Awardees: Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam, Prof JV Narlikar.

IMPORTANT DAYS

The International Day of Older Persons – October 1

- ❖ The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year.
- ❖ United Nations General Assembly on December 14th 1990, declared October 1st to be the International Day of Older Persons.
- ❖ The holiday is celebrated by raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse.
- ❖ It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.
- ❖ The theme of the celebration in 2019 is “The Journey to Age Equality”

