

October - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ To promote Arunachal Pradesh as a destination of tourism and adventure sports, Chief Minister Pema Khandu made a bike trip for 122 kms from Yingkiong, the headquarters of Upper Siang district, to Pasighat, the headquarters of East Siang district.
 - The route offers best picturesque views of the Siang valley and villages of Adi tribes.
- ❖ Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that w.e.f December 1, toll plaza windows in all lanes of National Highways across the country will start accepting FASTag, the RFID (radio-frequency identification) chips on each vehicle.
 - Of the 527 toll plazas across National Highways, 380 got FASTag in all lanes.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that a High Court judge who retired as an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court is “not entitled” to the pensionary benefits which is available to a retired Chief Justice.
 - It further added that “Only for the limited purpose of salary, such an Acting Chief Justice is treated at par with the Chief Justice and not for any other purpose”.
- ❖ Swedish Teen-climate change activist Greta Thunberg and Divina Maloum, a 14-year-old peace campaigner from Cameroon have been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize by a Dutch organisation.
 - The prize will be awarded November 20 at a ceremony in The Hague.
- ❖ Typhoon Hagibis (whose name means "speed" in the Philippine language Tagalog) has become the worst typhoon that hit Japan in recent times and has brought a high death toll and has affected lakhs of people.
- ❖ Former India captain Sourav Ganguly is all set to be named the new president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after he filed his nomination for the top job in Mumbai. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah is set to become the secretary.
 - Ganguly was the lone candidate applying for the job and is set to be elected unopposed as the President.

TAMIL NADU

10 Electoral Role Observers Appointed

- ❖ The Election Commission has appointed 10 IAS officers as electoral roll observers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Each observer will be in charge of some districts and will oversee the authentication process of the electoral roll there.
- ❖ “Out of the 5.99 crore voters in Tamil Nadu, only 1.64 crore voters have authenticated their details on the electoral roll.
- ❖ Voters can do the authentication online, on mobile app and at taluk offices, e-Seva centres and special camps.

Second Unofficial Summit Between Xi and Modi

- ❖ The second unofficial summit between Xi and Modi was held at Mamallapuram.



- ❖ According to Indian foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale, India raised its concerns about the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) during the summit.
- ❖ RCEP is a proposed free-trade agreement led by China.
- ❖ The huge trade deficit of \$53 billion between India and China was discussed.
- ❖ A mechanism to discuss the same was established between Chinese Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua and Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ Modi hailed the Chennai meeting as marking “a new era of cooperation” between the two countries.

- ❖ The first such informal meet between the two leaders was held at Wuhan, China in 2018.

At Nepal

- ❖ Following the Chennai meet, Xi Jinping also visited Nepal, the first by a Chinese president since 1996.
- ❖ A rail link between Lhasa, China and Kathmandu, Nepal was proposed.
- ❖ The Trans-Himalayan link would also connect with Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha.
- ❖ Nepal and China have jointly agreed to announce the re-measured height of Mount Everest.

NATIONAL

1st Visually Challenged Woman IAS Officer

- ❖ India's first visually-impaired woman IAS officer Pranjali Patil has taken charge as Thiruvananthapuram sub-collector.
- ❖ This is her second assignment since her appointment into service in 2018.
- ❖ Krishna Gopal Tiwari, who joined IAS in 2008 in the Madhya Pradesh cadre, is the first visually-challenged IAS officer.

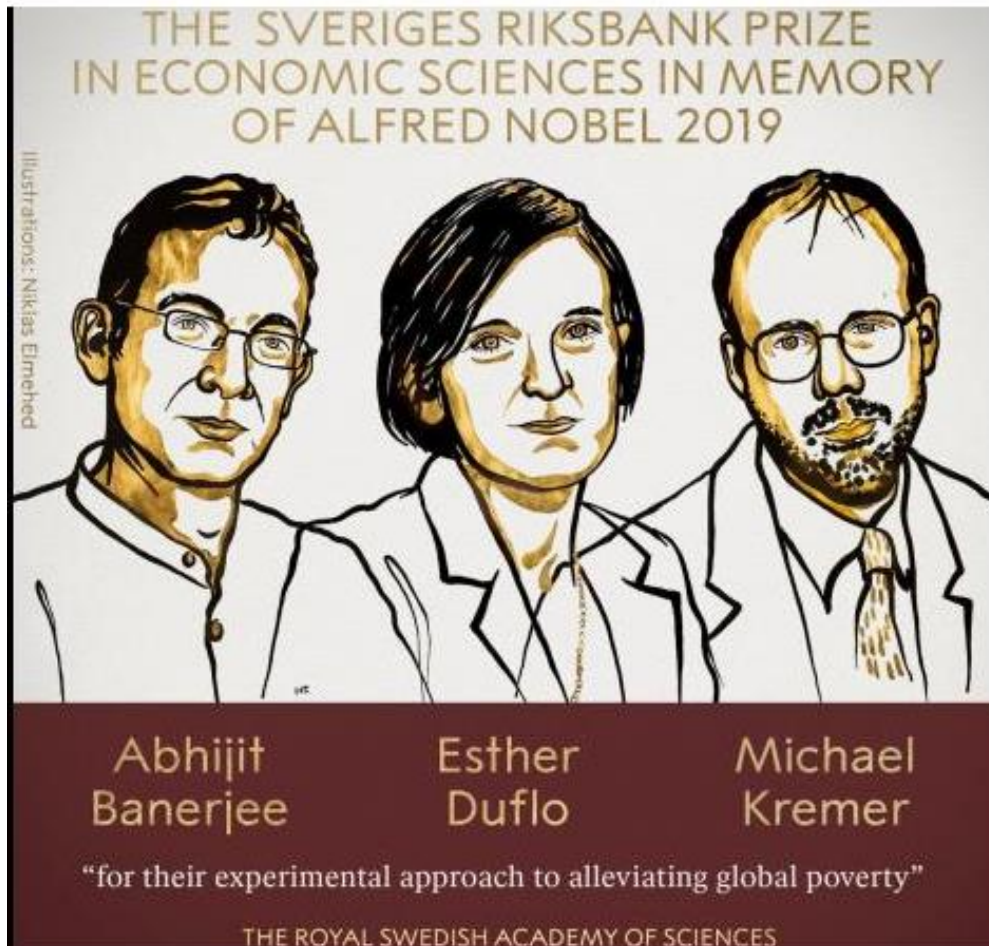
Law Secretary – AK Mendiratta

- ❖ In a first, a serving District and Sessions Judge has been appointed as the Union Law Secretary.
- ❖ Anoop Kumar Mendiratta is currently the District and Sessions Judge, North-East District, Karkardooma Courts, New Delhi.
- ❖ Mendiratta has been appointed to the post on contractual basis till March 30, 2023.
- ❖ Normally, the posts of Secretary (Legal Affairs and Legislative Department) are held by Indian Legal Service Officers.

Economics Nobel

- ❖ The 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel has been awarded jointly to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer.

- ❖ The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences is officially known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize.
- ❖ They were awarded for their “experimental approach to alleviating global poverty”.
- ❖ Duflo is married to Banerjee and in 2011 wrote the immensely popular book “Poor Economics: Rethinking Poverty & The Ways to End it together”.
- ❖ The couple are at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Michael Kremer is at Harvard University.
- ❖ Duflo is only the second woman, after Elinor Ostrom in 2009, to win the economics Nobel.
- ❖ The “new, powerful tool” employed by the Laureates is the use of Randomised Control Trials (RCTs).
- ❖ RCTs were largely used in medicine to test the effects of drugs.



Tamilnadu Connection – Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action lab (J-Pal)

- ❖ Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Esther Duflo have been working with the Tamil Nadu government for the last five years on improving governance.



- ❖ The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-Pal) was founded by the couple in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ J-Pal assists the government in building internal capacity to evaluate and monitor ongoing or new schemes and to adopt a result/outcome-based approach.

About Abhijith Banerjee

- ❖ Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee (born 1961) is an Indian-born American economist.
- ❖ In 1981, he completed BSc in Economics at Presidency College, University of Calcutta and later M.A. in economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi in 1983.
- ❖ He earned a Ph. D in Economics at Harvard by doing a Doctoral thesis on "Essays in Information Economics."
- ❖ Together with Esther Duflo and Tamilnadu born American economist Sendhil Mullainadhan he founded the J-PAL in 2003.

INTERNATIONAL

UNICEF Report on Child Nutrition

- ❖ UNICEF has warned that an alarmingly high number of children are suffering the consequences of poor diets and a food system that is failing them.
- ❖ It has released a report titled "The State of the World's Children 2019: Children, food and nutrition".
- ❖ The report finds that at least 1 in 3 children under five (or over 200 million) is either undernourished or overweight.
- ❖ Almost 2 in 3 children between six months and two years of age are not fed food that supports their rapidly growing bodies and brains.
- ❖ This puts them at risk of poor brain development, weak learning, low immunity, increased infections and, in many cases, death.
- ❖ The report provides the most comprehensive assessment yet of 21st century child malnutrition in all its forms.

SPORTS

Praggnanandhaa R – Chess

- ❖ Chennai R. Praggnanandhaa has won India's only Gold (Under 18 category) in the recently concluded World Youth chess championship held at Mumbai.



- ❖ This is the third world title for Praggnanandhaa, who was the under-8 champion in 2013 and the under-10 winner in 2015.
- ❖ He was world's youngest ever chess International Master in 2016.
- ❖ He is also the fourth-youngest person ever to achieve the title of Grandmaster (GM), behind Sergey Karjakin, Gukesh D and Javokhir Sindarov.

