

September - 06

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Sudha Prasad, a postgraduate zoology teacher at St Joseph of Cluny Matriculation HSS in Neyveli, has been selected for the prestigious Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program.
  - She is one of the three Indians selected for the program to be held in the United States and the only teacher to be selected from Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The Human Resource Development Ministry has awarded the status of Institute of Eminence to the IIT-Madras, the IIT-Kharagpur, Delhi University, Benares Hindu University and the University of Hyderabad,
- ❖ Odisha State Disaster Management Authority has won the IT Excellence Award, 2019 for its innovative conception by using information technology in the field of disaster management.
  - The “SATARK” (System for Assessing, Tracking and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge) application has been chosen for the award.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi will launch the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, USA on 23rd September 2019.
  - The international Secretariat office will be set up at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Prime Minister announced that India would be giving a 1 billion dollar worth 'Line of Credit' for the development of the Far East Russia.
  - This is the first time India is giving a line of credit to “a particular region” of a country.
- ❖ For the first time, a Hindu woman has been inducted into Pakistan’s Sindh Police Service after passing the provincial competitive examinations. That Hindu Girl Pushpa Kolhi has been posted as the Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI).
  - In January 2019, Suman Pawan Bodani, a Pakistani belonging to the Hindu community was appointed as Civil and judicial magistrate.

## TAMIL NADU

### Fast track Pocso courts





- ❖ The Tamilnadu department of social welfare has mooted the setting up of three special fast track courts.

- ❖ They will exclusively handle cases booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- ❖ The courts proposed are for Chennai, Thoothukudi and Kancheepuram districts.
- ❖ Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had earlier suggested that every district in the country where there are over 100 such pending cases must set up a special fast track court for trial and speedy disposal.
- ❖ Chennai has over 300 cases pending since the last two years and overall 2,000 cases are pending.

### **District Level Monitoring Committee: Biomedical Waste Rules, 2016**

- ❖ The District Level Monitoring Committee for implementing the Bio Medical Waste Management Rules 2016 has been constituted in Chennai.
- ❖ It is a 16-member committee headed by Chennai collector with representatives from various government departments.
- ❖ It is mandated to draft the District Environment Plan and to furnish monthly progress to chief secretary.

#### **Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016**

	<b>Yellow</b>	Human/ Animal Anatomical Waste, Soiled Waste, Expired Medicines, Chemical Waste, Body Fluid, Clinical Waste
	<b>Orange</b>	Contaminated Waste (recyclable) like plastic bag, bottle, pipes or container
	<b>White</b>	Scalpels, Blades, Needles, Syringes including Sharp Metal
	<b>Blue</b>	Broken Glassware or Metallic Body Implant

## **NATIONAL**

### **Officially Declaration as Individual Terrorists**

- ❖ Dawood Ibrahim, Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman-Lakhvi were declared “individual terrorists” by the government under a new anti-terror law.



- ❖ The Central Government has invoked the recent amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and declared them as terrorists and added their names to Schedule 4 of the Act.
- ❖ Earlier when terrorist organizations were banned, the individuals associated with it simply changed names and continued to carry out terrorist activities.

### **TB and Leprosy Screening for Children**

- ❖ Since August 2019, India has embarked on a large-scale plan to screen all children for leprosy and tuberculosis.
- ❖ An estimated 25 crore children below the age of 18 will be screened for the two infectious diseases.
- ❖ If a person is suspected to have either of the two, she/he will be sent to a higher centre for confirmation.
- ❖ The existing Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) infrastructure will be used for the screening.

### **National Conference on India-Africa Partnership**

- ❖ National Conference on “India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order: Priorities, Prospects and Challenges” was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organized by Indian Council of World Affairs.
- ❖ India has hosted more than 36 leaders from Africa since 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in 2015.
- ❖ 6 additional Indian Missions have been opened to strengthen diplomatic ties.

### **Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index**

- ❖ India has moved up six places to rank 34th on World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness index.
- ❖ Favourable Factors: Rich natural and cultural resources and strong price competitiveness in India
- ❖ India accounts for the majority of South Asia's T&T (travel and tourism) GDP and remains the sub-region's most competitive T&T economy.
- ❖ The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) score has been released by World Economic Forum.
- ❖ Spain topped the list followed by France, Germany and Japan.
- ❖ Japan is Asia's most competitive travel and tourism economy.



## TOP TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

Global Rank	Economy	Score	DIFFERENCE FROM 2017		SCORE DIFF. FROM BENCHMARK AVG.	
			Rank	Growth (%)	Regional (%)	Global (%)
4	Japan	5.40	0.00	2.10	29.10	39.60
7	Australia	5.10	0.00	0.80	23.60	33.60
13	China	4.90	2.00	3.20	17.20	26.70
14	Hong Kong SAR	4.80	-3.00	-1.10	15.70	25.10
16	Korea, Rep.	4.80	3.00	4.70	14.90	24.30
17	Singapore	4.80	-4.00	-2.00	14.40	23.70
18	New Zealand	4.70	-2.00	1.40	14.10	23.40
29	Malaysia	4.50	-3.00	0.40	8.50	17.30
31	Thailand	4.50	3.00	2.60	8.10	16.90
34	India	4.40	6.00	5.70	6.30	14.90

Source: World Economic Forum, 2019

Compiled by BS Research Bureau

### Facial Recognition at Delhi Airport

- ❖ The Delhi airport has announced that it will start a 3-month trial of biometric facial recognition entry system for domestic passengers of Vistara airline at Terminal 3.
- ❖ With this technology, passengers' entry would be automatically processed based on facial recognition system at all check points – entry, security and boarding.
- ❖ Passengers with valid flight tickets and government ID cards will have to enrol themselves to make use of this facility.
- ❖ Once the flight departs, data of the registered passengers will be deleted.

### Yudh Abhyas 2019: India and America

- ❖ A joint military training, Exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2019 is being conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA from 05-18 September 2019.
- ❖ Exercise Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavors between India and USA.
- ❖ This is the 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.
- ❖ It provides an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Pakistan's Ghaznavi Missile – Night training Launch**

- ❖ Pakistan has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi from Sonmiani test range near Karachi.
- ❖ It has also carried out the night training launch of the surface to surface ballistic missile.
- ❖ The Ghaznavi is a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- ❖ It is capable of delivering different types of warheads including nuclear and conventional up to a range of 290 km.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Climate Change and Bananas**

- ❖ According to a study published in Nature Climate Change, climate change has resulted in more favourable growing conditions for bananas.
- ❖ But the trend will reverse and climate change is eventually expected to cause a negative impact by 2050.
- ❖ Bananas thrive in warmer climates, and India is the world's largest producer and consumer of the fruit crop.
- ❖ National Horticulture Board has recorded consistent high yields of banana from 2011-17 (34 tonnes/hectare).

## BANANA YIELD IN INDIA (TONNES/HECTARE)



2011-12	35.7
2012-13	34.2
2013-14	37.0
2014-15	35.5
2015-16	34.6
2016-17*	34.0

\*Provisional

Source: National Horticulture Board

### **National Initiative on Wetlands Rehabilitation**

- ❖ Under its national initiative on wetlands rehabilitation, Union government has identified 100 wetlands all over India for “rehabilitation”.
- ❖ Pallikaranai, Point Calimere, Pulicat and Koothankulam were the wetlands included in the list from Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The state governments have been asked to create a group called “Friends of Wetlands” or Pakshi Mitras.
- ❖ They will be part of the stakeholders and be active participants in the conservation of these wetlands.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, as per a study by SACON, Coimbatore in 1991, there are 1,175 wetlands that cover 1.24% of the total area.

