



February – 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Competition Commission of India (CCI) entered into a MoU to enable a fair and competitive environment in the e-Marketplace.
- ❖ Kerala High Court has ruled that banks cannot be absolved from the liability to the loss caused to a customer on account of unauthorised withdrawals made from his/her account.
- ❖ Reserve Bank of India decided to treat deposits to over Rs.2 crore as 'bulk' as they doubled the limit for the same from the earlier Rs.1 crore. This move will enhance operational freedom of Banks.
- ❖ The 5-day multinational maritime exercise 'AMAN-19' in which 46 nations participated from all over the world was formally commenced at Karachi's Pakistan Navy Dockyard, with the Motto of 'Together for Peace'.
 - It is aimed to facilitate a forum of understanding of each other's maritime concepts and operation cultures and to produce ways and means to confront common threat at sea.
- ❖ Hindi is included as the third official language in the Abu Dhabi court system with a motive to improve access to justice for foreign workers.
 - Also, Authorities have created bilingual language guides to explain complex legal terms in an effort to help people understand court process.

TAMIL NADU

PM TN Visit

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the last leg of the Chennai metro rail's blueline and declared six underground metro stations through video-conferencing from Tiruppur.
- ❖ He laid a foundation stone for following facilities:
 - Modernisation of Chennai International Airport (Phase-II)
 - New integrated terminal building at Tiruchirappalli airport
 - 100-bedded ESI hospital in Tirupur.
- ❖ Also, He dedicated BPCL Ennore Coastal installation state-of-the-art and fully automated oil storage and distribution facilities.

NATIONAL

Exercise Rahat

- ❖ The disaster relief exercise 'Exercise Rahat' was demonstrated in Jaipur, Kota and Alwar in Rajasthan on February 11-12.
- ❖ On behalf of the Indian Army, Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command conducted the Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise.
- ❖ Exercise Rahat is being conducted in coordination with NDMA.
- ❖ The joint exercise will see participation from:
 - Armed Forces,
 - National Disaster Management Response Mechanism (NDMRM),
 - State Disaster Management Authority of Rajasthan.
- ❖ The exercise will be conducted simultaneously in three places, beginning at Jaipur in the form of a table top exercise and at Kota and Alwar.

Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP)

- ❖ Election Commission of India has launched a Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP) for citizens for verifications of their names, new registrations, changes in the voter details and corrections in the Voter Id Cards for the upcoming General Elections 2019.





- ❖ ECI has also set up Contact centres in all districts across India with Voter Helpline number as 1950. The Contact Centres are equipped with latest information and telecom infrastructure to help the callers.
- ❖ 'PwD App' to enable Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to request for new registration, change in address, change in particulars and mark themselves as PwD through the use of the mobile application was also launched.

Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill

- ❖ Government has introduced Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill in Rajya Sabha to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of the northeastern region.
- ❖ The amendment will impact one crore tribal people in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- ❖ The proposed amendments will provide for elected village municipal councils, ensuring democracy at the grassroot level.
- ❖ The village councils will be empowered to prepare plans for economic development and social justice.
- ❖ The Finance Commission will be mandated to recommend devolution of financial resources to them.
- ❖ The Autonomous Councils now depend on grants from Central ministries and the State government for specific projects.
- ❖ At least one-third of the seats will be reserved for women in the village and municipal councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura if this amendment approved.

6th schedule:

- ❖ The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Conservation and Promotion of Medicinal Plants

- ❖ As per information of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), more than 8,000 species of medicinal plants are found in India.
- ❖ National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Ministry of AYUSH is implementing following schemes to encourage farming/cultivation, conservation, processing and promotion of medicinal plants throughout the country



- Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM).
- Central Sector Scheme on “Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants”.
- Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plants Produce (VCSMPP).

ECONOMY

Generalized System of Preferences - India

- ❖ Vowing to reduce the U.S. deficit with large economies, the US President is planning to withdraw the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) from India.
- ❖ India is World’s largest beneficiary of this scheme that has been in force since the 1970s.
- ❖ The trigger for the latest downturn in trade ties was India’s new rules on e-commerce that restrict the rapidly growing online market.
- ❖ With this, India could lose a vital U.S. trade concession, under which it enjoys zero tariffs on \$5.6 billion of exports to the United States.

Generalised System of Preferences (GSP):

- ❖ The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a U.S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)

- ❖ The second indigenously developed "Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)" propulsion-based missile system was successfully flight tested in Odisha by the DRDO.
- ❖ Unlike conventional rockets that carry propellant and oxidizer, Ramjet uses the air as an oxidizer just like a jet engine, and hence, the weight of the fuel required is eliminated.
- ❖ With it, India can have fastest long-range missiles in two categories, providing full-fledged and multi-layered aerial protection from hostile attacks.



- ❖ Its successful use in missiles will mark India's entry into select club of nations that use next-generation missile technology against manoeuvring targets, compromising effectiveness of conventional missiles.
- ❖ First flight of SFDR, developed under a joint Indo-Russian R&D project, was tested in 2018.
- ❖ The Indian SFDR will be used as variants of missiles such as the advanced version of ASTRA.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Thirukuralin Porwal award

- ❖ Tarun Vijay, former MP hailing from Uttarakhand and speaks Hindi becomes the first North Indian after Independence to be honoured with 'Thirukuralin Porwal' award for taking up the cause of Tamil language and culture.



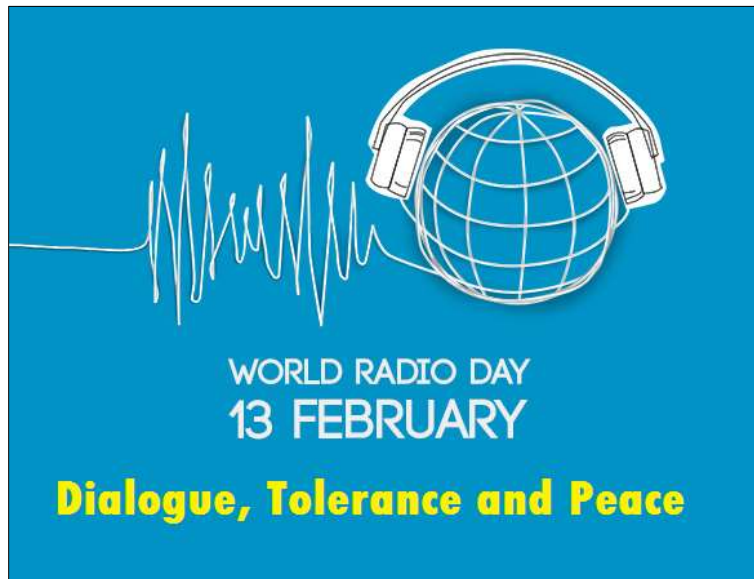
- ❖ The award is conferred to eminent personalities who spread the message and teachings of Thiruvalluvar's great classics in all parts of India and world.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Radio Day - February 13

- ❖ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on February 13th celebrated the World Radio Day.
- ❖ Theme of this year was - Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace.



- ❖ The date of 13 February marks the day of United Nations Radio was established in 1946.
