



February – 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister flagged off the first ever diesel-to-electric converted locomotive at the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ 150 students of Srilanka from all 25 districts were awarded the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi scholarships for study in India.
- ❖ Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir announced that National Awards, such as Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri do not amount to titles within the meaning of Article 18(1) of the Constitution and hence, cannot be used as prefixes or suffixes to the name of the recipient.
- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched SWAYATT in New Delhi.
 - SWAYATT is an initiative to promote Start-ups Women and Youth Advantage Through e-Transactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM).

TAMIL NADU

18th Tamil Internet Conference

- ❖ International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil (INFITT) and Anna University have come together to organise 18th Tamil Internet Conference.
- ❖ It will be held between 20 and 22 September 2019.
- ❖ Theme of the conference: 'Tamil Robotics and Language Processing'.
- ❖ 17th World Tamil Internet Conference held at Coimbatore Tamil Nadu Agricultural University with the theme of the conference is 'Arivusaar Tamil Theduporigal' (Intellectual Tamil search engines).

NATIONAL

Exercise Topchi

- ❖ Indian Army demonstrated its artillery firepower using ultra-light Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar at the annual "Exercise Topchi".
- ❖ The event took place at the vast firing ranges at Deolali Camp near Nashik.



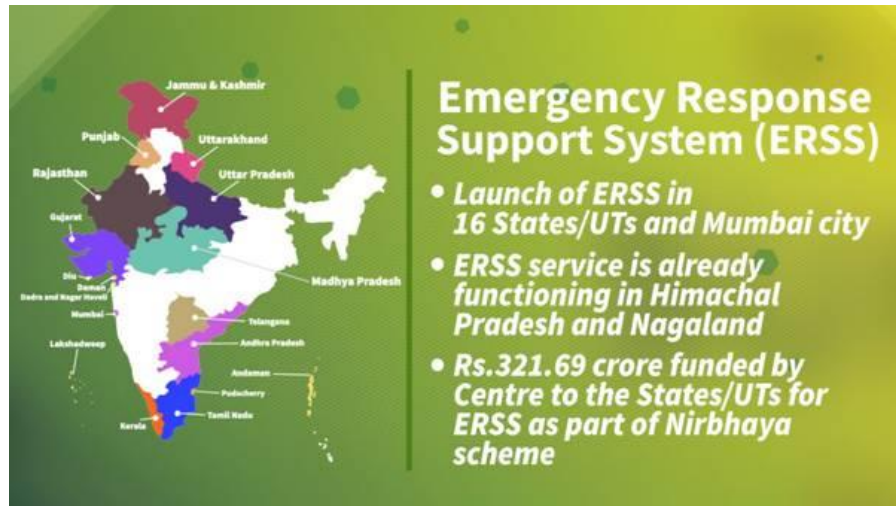
- ❖ It also showcased the aviation and surveillance capabilities including the indigenous advanced light helicopter, light combat helicopter, Cheetah & Chetak helicopters.

New company under Department of Space

- ❖ Union Cabinet has given its approval to the setting up of a new company under Department of Space (DoS).
- ❖ It will commercially exploit the research and development work carried out by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Centers and constituent units of DOS.

All-In-One Emergency Helpline Number

- ❖ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi launched the Women Safety initiative of Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) in 16 States/UTs and Mumbai city.



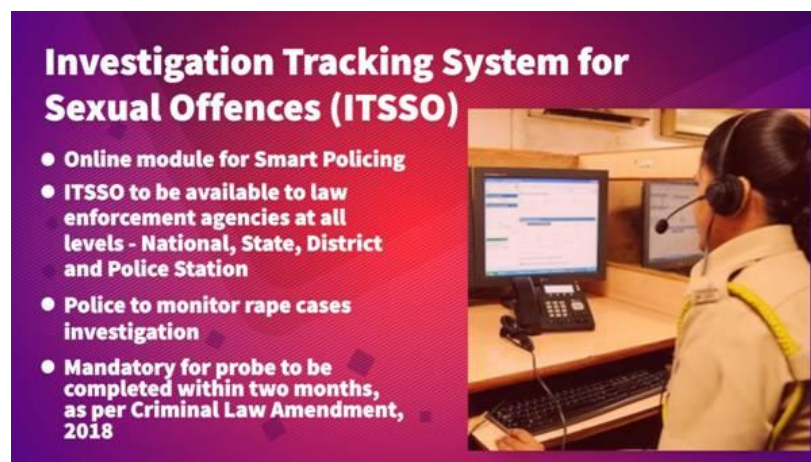
- ❖ 112 would provide immediate assistance to services like police (100), fire (101), health (108), women safety (1090) and child protection (1098).
- ❖ The single number for emergency services is similar to "911" in the United States.
- ❖ The 16 states and Union Territories are Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The emergency services can also be accessed online by logging on to Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) website.
- ❖ A "112 India" mobile app by the Ministry of Home Affairs was also be launched on Google Playstore and Apple store.
- ❖ Union Home Minister also announced the approval of Rs. 78.76 crore for a special project under the Nirbhaya Fund for strengthening DNA analysis capacities in the State Forensic Science Laboratories of four States of Tamil Nadu (Chennai and Madurai), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow and Agra), West Bengal (Kolkata) and Maharashtra (Mumbai).

Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences

- ❖ The government has launched an Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences and the safe city implementation monitoring portal.



- ❖ The system is an online module available to law enforcement agencies to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in two months.



- ❖ It leverages the existing Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) data base, which covers nearly 15,000 police stations in the country.

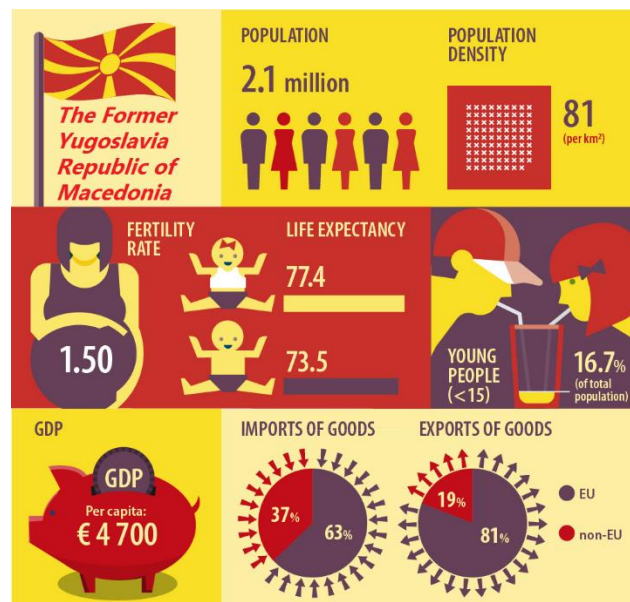
7th National Photography Awards

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Col Rajyavardhan Rathore presented the 7th National Photography Awards.
- ❖ Theme for the Professional category was 'Women led Development', while the theme for Amateur category was 'Fairs and Festivals of India'.
- ❖ The seventh edition of National Photography Awards was organised at National Media Centre in New Delhi.
- ❖ Winners are,
 - Lifetime Achievement Award – Ashok Dilwali.
 - Professional Photographer of the Year – SL Shanth Kumar.
 - Amateur Photographer of the Year – Gurdeep Dhiman.

INTERNATIONAL

Rename of Macedonia

- ❖ The country formerly known as Macedonia has officially changed its name to North Macedonia, in a bid to end a long-running dispute with its neighbour Greece.
- ❖ This Balkan country lays between Bulgaria and Albania.



- ❖ It is one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, from which it declared independence in September 1991.
- ❖ The name change, which was agreed last year, came into force under the so-called Prespa Agreement.

ECONOMY

Norms for Start-up

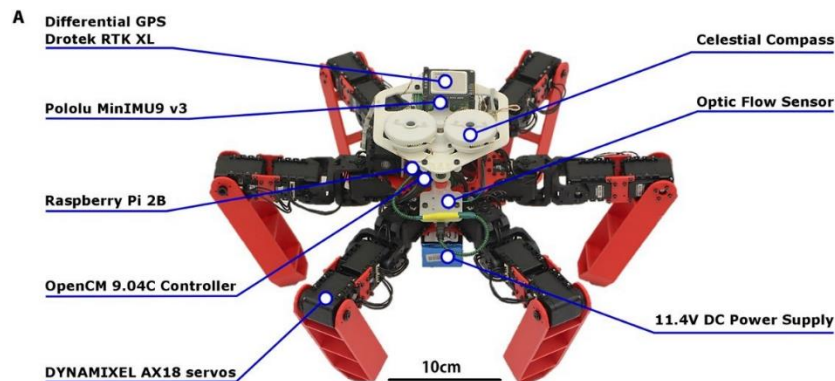
- ❖ Giving a major relief to start-ups, the government has decided to relax angel tax norms for start-up.
- ❖ Investment limit was increased to Rs 25 crore for availing income tax concessions by start-up from 10 crores.

- ❖ An entity shall be considered a start-up up to 10 years from its date of incorporation/registration instead of the previous period of 7 years.
- ❖ An entity would be considered as a start-up up to a turnover of Rs 100 crore as against the earlier limit of Rs 25 crore.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AntBot robot

- ❖ Scientists claim to have developed the first walking robot that can explore its environment and find its way home without GPS or mapping.
- ❖ Its opening new avenues for the navigation of autonomous vehicles.



- ❖ Researchers from the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) took inspiration from desert ants, which are extraordinary solitary navigators, to design the AntBot.
- ❖ Ants use polarised light and ultraviolet radiation to locate themselves in space.
- ❖ AntBot copies the desert ants' exceptional navigation capacities, allowing it to explore without using Global Positioning System (GPS).

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Laureus Sports Awards 2019

- ❖ World No. 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic and American gymnast Simone Biles were the top winners at the Laureus Sports Awards in Monaco on February 18.

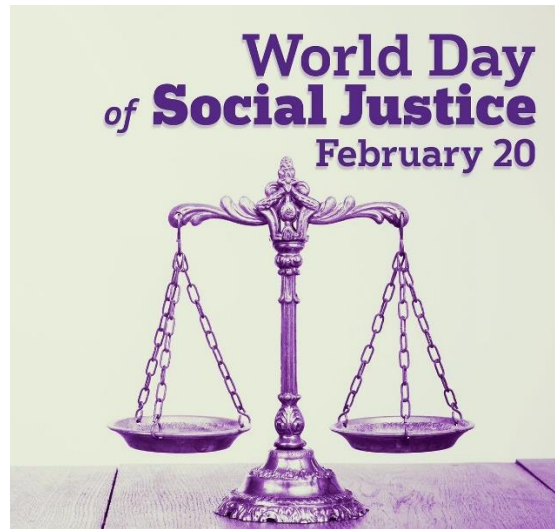


Laureus Sports Award 2019		
Category	Winner	Sport
Sportsman of the Year	Novak Djokovic	Tennis
Sportswoman of the Year	Simone Biles	Gymnast
Comeback of the Year	Tiger Woods	Golf
Breakthrough of the Year	Naomi Osaka	Tennis
Sportsperson of the Year with disability	Henrieta Farkkasova	Skiing
Action Sportsperson of the Year	Chloe Kim	Snowboarding
Team of the Year	France football team	Football
Laureus Sporting Moment of the Year	Xia Boyu	
Exceptional Achievement Award	Eliud Kipchoge	Athletics
Lifetime Achievement Award	Arsene Wenger	Football
Spirit for Sport Award	Lindsey Vonn	Alpine Skiing
Sport for Good Award	Yuwa	Women's football in Jharkhand

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day of Social Justice - February 20

- ❖ To promote equal rights and opportunities among people within a country and between nations, 20 February is observed annually as the World Day of Social Justice.
- ❖ United Nations General Assembly had approved the day on 26 November, 2007 and every year since 2009 social justice day is observed.



- ❖ This day is aimed at encouraging people to look at how social justice affects eradication of poverty, enhances employment and bring forth communal integration.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 World Day of Social Justice is 'If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice'.

MISCELLANEOUS

National Productivity Week - February 12 to 18

- ❖ National Productivity Council (NPC) is celebrating National Productivity week from February 12th to 18th, 2019.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Circular Economy for Productivity & Sustainability".
- ❖ This theme will help NPC to meet its zero-waste goal.

National Productivity Council

- ❖ National Productivity Council is an autonomous registered society under DIPP, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ❖ It was established in the year 1985.
- ❖ Its core function is to promote and adopt the new and improved culture of productivity in India.
