TNPSC BITS

- Tamil thatha U.Ve. Saminadha Iyer's 165th birthday was celebrated on 19 February 2019.

- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presented the Living Handloom Treasure awards, the Poompuhar State Awards and cash awards to three silk farmers.

- Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced that candidates can avail of the 10% quota for the upper-caste poor from 2019 civil services exam.

- UN has appointed Indian official Chandramouli Ramanathan to one of the topmost positions in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC).

- Saudi Arabia signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) becoming the 73rd country to join the India-led renewable energy organisation.
    - With this ISA has a total of 122 members now.

TAMIL NADU

Announcement under Rule 110 of Assembly

- The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has issued the following statements under Rule 110 of Assembly.

- The government has allocated funds to construct memorial halls and libraries to commemorate the following leaders / eminent personalities.

Leaders/Personalities	Planned location of memorial
Kavimani Desigavinayagam Pillai	Theroor – Kanyakumari district
Sir Arogyaswami Thamaraiselvam Pannirselvam	Trichy District
V.K. Palanisamy Gounder	Vettaikaaran Pudur – Coimbatore
Rettamalai Srinivasan	Kozhiyaalam – Mathuranthagam District
King Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar Alaala Ilaiya Naicker	Jedarpalayam – Namakkal District

- The government has also decided to pay respect for the following personalities on their birth anniversary
    - Si. Pa. Adithanar

- o M. P. Sivagnanam
- ❖ The government will renovate the existing memorials of the following leaders
  - o Veeran Sundaralingam memorial located in Kavanagiri, Tuticorin.
  - o Ondiveeran memorial located in Thirunelveli.
- ❖ The government also decided to celebrate the birthday of John Pennycuick (January 15) who constructed the Mullai Periyar dam.

Dr MGR Centenary Library

- ❖ TN Chief Minister inaugurated the newly-built Puratchi Thalaivar Bharat Ratna Dr MGR Centenary Library.
- ❖ It was built at the premises of the International Institute of Tamil Studies, Taramani in Chennai.
- ❖ This centre was created for research and to translate the best literature of other languages into Tamil.

NATIONAL

Aero India 2019

- ❖ The 12th edition of Aero India 2019, the International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition was inaugurated at Yelahanka, Bengaluru.
- ❖ The mega event was organized biennially.
- ❖ The Aero India 2019 will be held for 5 days from February 20 to 24 and each day of the 5-day air show would have a special theme.
  - o Day one would be Inaugural Day

- o The theme for day two is Start-Up Day
- o Day three is Technology Day
- o Day four would be Women's Day and
- o Day five will be Public Day
- ❖ During this event Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel (OPV) of the Goa Shipyard Limited, a public sector undertaking.

INTERNATIONAL

Multinational Cobra Gold Military Exercise

- ❖ Thailand and the US have begun the Cobra Gold annual multinational military exercise at Phitsanulok of northern Thai province in Thailand.
- ❖ The exercise will include three components: military field training, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief training.
- ❖ It is one of the Asia-Pacific region's largest multinational military exercises that is held in Thailand every year.
- ❖ It was first held in 1982 and its headquarters is in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ This is a Thai-American initiative with an aim to improve coordination between the armed forces.
- ❖ India joined this exercise for the first time in 2016 while China was admitted for the first time in 2015 but was only allowed to participate in humanitarian assistance training.

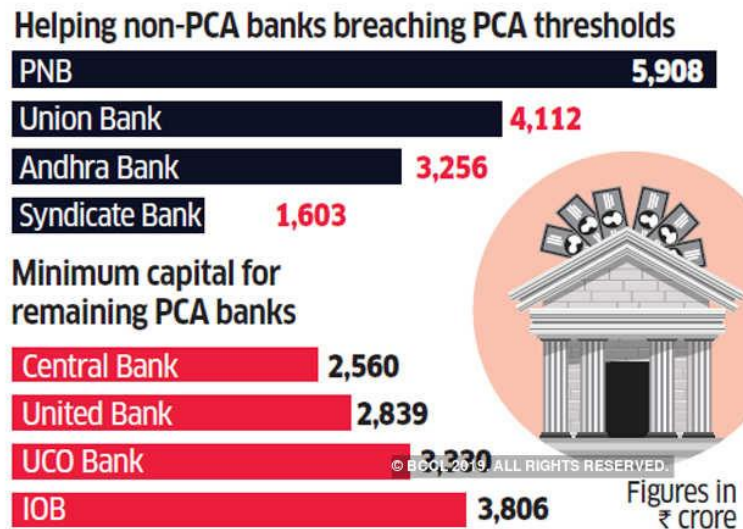## Creation of Military Space Force

- ❖ US President signed Space Policy Directive 4 (SPD-4) and ordering the Pentagon to establish the Space Force as the sixth branch of the United States military.
- ❖ It will go along with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.
- ❖ But establishing the Space Force will require the Congressional approval.
- ❖ The proposed space force will
  - o focus on national security and preserving the satellites and vehicles that are dedicated to international communications and observation.

o Ensure autonomous access to, and freedom to operate in space, and to provide vital capabilities to joint and coalition forces.

o Space could be a new warfighting domain and the US aims to be combat ready with Military Space Force.

ECONOMY

Capital infusion to 12 public sector banks

❖ The Finance ministry announced a Rs 48,239 crore capital infusion in 12 public sector banks.

❖ It would help them to meet regulatory capital requirements and make growth capital available for the stronger lenders.

Helping non-PCA banks breaching PCA thresholds

Bank	Figures in ₹ crore
PNB	5,908
Union Bank	4,112
Andhra Bank	3,256
Syndicate Bank	1,603

Minimum capital for remaining PCA banks

Bank	Figures in ₹ crore
Central Bank	2,560
United Bank	2,839
UCO Bank	3,330
IOB	3,806

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❖ The capital was allocated keeping in mind the thresholds set by the Reserve Bank of India in the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.

❖ The RBI removed Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra and Oriental Bank of Commerce from the PCA framework on January 31.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Fateh Submarine

- ❖ Iran recently launched a new locally-made submarine capable of firing cruise missiles.

- ❖ This submarine was named the Fateh (Conqueror). It has been equipped with torpedoes and naval mines in addition to cruise missiles.

- ❖ This new submarine is Iran's first in the semi-heavy category.

- ❖ It is filling a gap between the light Ghadir class and the heavy Kilo class submarines that the country possesses.

- ❖ This launch is one of the most important projects Iran's military have undertaken in the last 40 years mostly because of its vertical launching system.

ENVIRONMENT

Greenhouse gas emission cut for trucks

- ❖ The European Union (EU) agreed to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) from new trucks and buses by 30 per cent by a 2030.

- ❖ The deal proposes a binding CO_2-reduction target for trucks at the EU-level for the first time which includes a clear stimulus for zero and low-emission trucks.

- ❖ Trucks account for almost one-quarter of the EU's transport-related emissions and the EU did not have limits on emissions from heavy-duty vehicles till now.
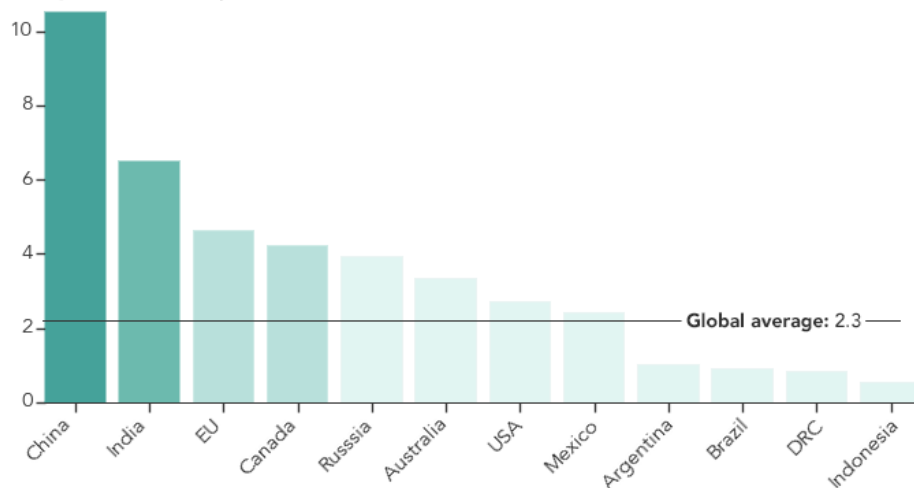
❖ Also, EU agreed in December on targets for cutting emissions from cars and vans.

NASA report on Forests

❖ A study by NASA, based on extensive satellite imagery, that India and china were responsible for the largest increase in green vegetation.

❖ After the year of 2000, the planet's green leaf area has been increased by 5%, or over two million square miles.

China and India Lead in Greening Due to Human Activity
Change in Leaf Area (% per decade)

Global average: 2.3

China | India | EU | Canada | Russsia | Australia | USA | Mexico | Argentina | Brazil | DRC | Indonesia
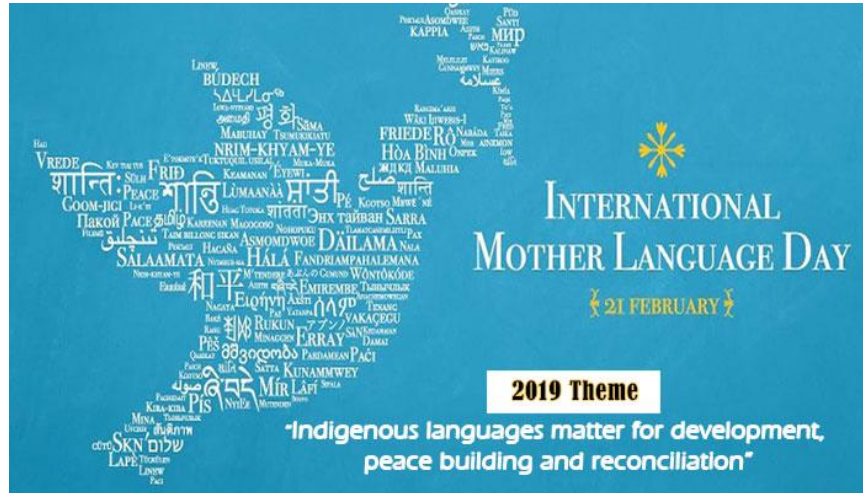
❖ China and India account for one-third of the global greening, but contain only 9% of the planet's land area covered in vegetation.

❖ China possessing 6.6% of the world's vegetated area. Forests account for 42 percent while croplands make up a further 32%.

❖ India has contributed a further 6.8% in green leaf area, with 82% from croplands and 4.4% from forests.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mother Language Day - February 21

❖ International Mother Language Day is every year celebrated on February 21 since the year 2000.

❖ The annual observance is marked to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promote multilingualism.

❖ It was first recognized in November 1999, when the UNESCO brought the subject in the UN General Conference.

❖ Later, the resolution was welcomed by the UN General Assembly in 2002.

❖ Theme of this year's International Mother Language Day was indigenous languages as a factor in development, peace and reconciliation.

❖ This year, India and Bangladesh will celebrate the International Mother Language Day together at Benapole in Bangladesh.

❖ The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh.

❖ In Bangladesh, the 21 February is the anniversary of the day when Bangladeshis fought for recognition for the Bangla language.

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