



February– 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ TN governor appointed, K Pitchumani as the VC of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University for a period of three years with effect from the date of assuming the office.
- ❖ Justice S M Subramaniam of the Madras high court has become the first judge in the country to go under continuous CCTV Surveillance in his chambers.
- ❖ The North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram celebrated Statehood Day on February 20.
 - Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh celebrated the 32nd and 47th Statehood Day respectively.
- ❖ Government of Punjab has sought an apology from the British government for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
 - A resolution demanding an apology from the British government was passed unanimously from the Punjab Assembly.
- ❖ South Central railway launched a new Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) express train between Nellore and Chennai.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd at Village Tulakona in Agartala.
 - This is the 17th Mega Food Park in the country and first in the state of Tripura.
- ❖ 4th India-ASEAN Expo and Summit was inaugurated by Union Minister for Commerce and Industries, Suresh Prabhu in New Delhi.
- ❖ US defence producer Lockheed Martin unveiled the F-21 multi-role fighter jet at Asia's biggest air show Aero India-2019 in Bengaluru.
 - Lockheed Martin will manufacture the plane in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems under India's flagship programme Make in India.
- ❖ Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal on February 12, 2019 commissioned Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park at Tundurru Village in West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh
 - It is India's first aqua mega food park launched exclusively for fish and marine products processing



- ❖ Central government has signed a (MoU) with the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada to work on various environmental issues including climate change, forest resource management and wildlife.
- ❖ Central government decided that all the personnel of central paramilitary forces can take commercial flights to either join the duty or to go on leave free of cost.
 - Till now, officers in the rank of Inspectors and above were given this air travel facility.
- ❖ West Indies player Chris Gayle breaks former Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi's record of 476 sixes by hitting 477 sixers on the international arena in the first ODI between West Indies and England.
- ❖ Umpires Eloise Sheridan and Mary Waldron are on the verge of making history as they will be the first women pair to preside in a men's first grade premier (club) cricket match.

TAMIL NADU

New revenue circles

- ❖ TN Chief Minister inaugurated new revenue circles for the Tamil Nadu Revenue and Disaster Management Department on 19 February 2019.
- ❖ Newly created circles are
 - Tiruvattar and Killiyur in Kanniyakumari,
 - Vatthirairupu in Virudhunagar
 - Gujiliamparai in Dindigul, and
 - R.K. Pettai in Tiruvallur.

Centre for Olympic sports

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 10 crore and identified 3 different spots in and around Chennai to develop centres for Olympic sports.
 - Academy for sailing at Marina beach
 - Centre for kayaking and canoeing at a quarry in Melkottaiyur on Kelambakkam - Vandalur Road
 - 2.9-km stretch for rowing on Buckingham canal at Thoraipakkam.

- ❖ Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) will be in charge of maintaining these facilities, as well as identifying.



NATIONAL

Stop Flow of Our Share of Water to Pakistan

- ❖ Government has decided to "stop" the flow of India's share of water to Pakistan from rivers under the Indus Water Treaty.
- ❖ Under the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960,
 - Western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab – are given to Pakistan.
 - Eastern rivers - Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej – are given to India.
- ❖ India's share of water from Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers came to 33 million acres feet (MAF).
- ❖ Around 95 % of the water was being used in the country after the construction of three main dams across the rivers.
- ❖ Close to 5 % water would flow to Pakistan.

Special power to Assam Rifles

- ❖ Assam Rifles personnel have been empowered by the central government to arrest anyone and search a place without warrant in North-eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram.
- ❖ "An officer of the rank corresponding to that of the lowest rank of members of the Assam Rifles" has been given these powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- ❖ The Assam Rifles is the leading counter-insurgency force in the Northeast.



- ❖ It also guards the sensitive India-Myanmar border.
- ❖ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which is operational in some parts of the Northeast, also gives similar powers to the Army operating in the region.

Amendments to the Indian Stamp Act 1899

- ❖ President gave his assent to changes in the Indian Stamp Act 1899.
- ❖ It will rationalise and harmonise the system of levying stamp duty and help curb tax evasion.
- ❖ Amendments to the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, were introduced as part of the Finance Act 2019, and was approved by the Parliament.
- ❖ This amendment was proposed to create the legal and institutional mechanism to enable states to collect stamp duty on securities market instruments at one place by one agency.

INTERNATIONAL

Festival of India in Nepal

- ❖ One month-long Festival of India is being held at Nepal.
- ❖ The Festival has been organised by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center at the Indian embassy in Kathmandu with support from India's Ministry of culture.
- ❖ The Festival aims to contribute towards sustaining and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Nepal.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Long Range Artillery Gun -Dhanush

- ❖ Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has received a production clearance from the Indian Army and the Defence Ministry for production of 114 'Dhanush' artillery guns.
- ❖ Dhanush is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India and it is a major success story of the 'Make in India' initiative.
- ❖ Dhanush has been mechanically and electronically upgraded to increasing the range and enhance the firing accuracies respectively.



Indigenous firepower

A look at Dhanush, an upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun which was procured by India in the mid-1980s



It is a 155-mm, 45-calibre gun with a range of 36 km, and has demonstrated a range of 38 km with specialised ammunition. It is also compatible with all North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) 155 mm ammunition systems

SPECIFICATIONS

Length 45 caliber
Crew 6-8
Caliber* 155 mm
Breech: Screw type
Recoil: Electro-rheological/
Magneto-rheological
Elevation: -3 to 70 degree

RATE OF FIRE

Burst: 3 rounds in 15 seconds
Intense: 15 rounds in 3 minutes
Sustained: 60 rounds in 60 min
Maximum firing range 38 km
*(DIAMETER OF THE PROJECTILE IT SHOOTS)

- ❖ The self-propulsion unit allows the gun to negotiate and deploy itself in mountainous terrains with ease.

First Diesel to Electric Locomotive

- ❖ Prime Minister flagged off the first ever 10,000 HP diesel-to-electric converted locomotive at the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) in Varanasi.

DLW CREATES WORLD'S FIRST

First time in the world, DLW successfully converted two old diesel locos (WDG3A) into Electric loco (WAGC3) with indigenous technology under 'Make In India' initiative

<p>➤ Two diesel locomotives of WDG3A class converted to one permanently coupled 12-axle, electric locomotive of 10,000 hp</p> <p>➤ Work began in December, 2017 and completed in February 2018</p> <p>➤ Engineers from Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), DLW and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) collaborated in this project</p>	<p>➤ Only old diesel locos of 18-year-old due for mid life rehabilitation were converted into electric loco</p> <p>➤ DLW so far manufactured 8149 locomotives till March 31</p> <p>➤ DLW has won the 'Best Production Unit Shield 2017-18' for third consecutive year</p> <p>➤ It has supplied locomotives to countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mali, Senegal, Sudan Tanzania, Angola, and Vietnam</p>
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- ❖ The conversion has proved to be cost effective as it requires half of the rehabilitation cost of old locos.
- ❖ It is also an environment-friendly Locomotive with enhanced traction power to double the average speed of goods train.



MISCELLANEOUS

Forbes India's 30 Under 30

- ❖ Forbes India released sixth annual 'Forbes India 30 Under 30' list for extraordinary achievements in business.
- ❖ Forbes chooses these achievers on the basis of four broad criteria across 16 categories
 - Impact of their achievements,
 - Ability to disrupt the environment they operate in,
 - Scalability of the business or line of work, and
 - Potential to stay a long-term talent.
- ❖ Famous athlete Hima Das, cricketer Smriti Mandhana and Aayush Agrawal of Wok Express are among the top 30 achievers.
- ❖ Vijay Deverakonda was the only actor placed in the list.
