



**May – 05**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ As a part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL) in association with Lok Bharti Education Society unveiled a skilling centre named “UDYAM” in Bangalore.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled an expanded men’s Twenty 20 International team rankings with 80 teams.
  - India with 260 points stands fifth in the latest list. Pakistan tops the list.
- ❖ The Ministry of Water Resources has reported that the water storage level available in 91 major Indian reservoirs for week ending on 2 May 2019 was 40.592 BCM (Billion cubic meters).
  - This is only 25% of the total storage capacity of these reservoirs.
- ❖ The Chinese electronics giant Huawei has surpassed Apple to become the No. 2 smartphone vendor worldwide, according to statistics from the International Data Corp.
- ❖ For the second year in a row, Iraq has become India’s top crude oil supplier.
  - Iraq supplied more than a fifth of the India’s oil needs in 2018-19 fiscal year (46.61 million tone).
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has awarded Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata a contract worth Rs. 6,000 crores to build eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASWSWCs) for Indian Navy.
  - These vessels will have the capability to interdict/ destroy sub surface targets in coastal waters.
- ❖ The Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobel Literature Prize has appointed Professor Mats Malm as its new permanent secretary. He heads the committee to announce Nobel Prize for literature for both 2018 and 2019.
  - Nobel Prize for literature was not awarded in 2018 in for the first time in 70 years.
- ❖ 18-year-old girl, Bandana Nepal from Nepal danced continuously for 126 hours and set a Guinness World Records on "Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual".
  - She overtook Indian Kalamandalam Hemlatha, who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in 2011.



- ❖ According to a report on the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) website, the Modi government has only finished 10 of the 100 sewage infrastructure projects commissioned after 2015 under the Namami Gange mission.
- ❖ The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has allowed the banks to declare the accounts of IL&FS and its group companies as non-performing assets (NPA) if they have defaulted on payments.
  - NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remains unpaid /overdue for a period of 90 days.
- ❖ Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections has hit an all-time high of Rs. 1.13 lakh crore in April 2019.
  - The government had collected Rs. 1.06 lakh crore in March.
- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) has linked its interest rate on savings account and short-term loans to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) repo rate.
  - Rate of Interest is 3.5% for savings accounts with balance less than 1 lakh and 3.25% for accounts with balance more than 1 lakh.

## **NATIONAL**

### **One Lakh Meals**

- ❖ The Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) is preparing more than one lakh ready-to-eat meals.
- ❖ These will be distributed in Fani cyclone affected Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.
- ❖ CFTRI is one of the constituent laboratories under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ❖ It was opened on 21 October 1950 in Mysore, Karnataka.

### **Forgotten Weaves**

- ❖ Delhi-based writer Radhika Singh has written a book titled "Suraiya Hasan Bose: Weaving a Legacy"
- ❖ It is about Suraiya Hasan Bose who is credited with reviving 2 forgotten weaves
  - Himroo - a Persian brocade weave
  - Mashru - a silk and cotton weave



## INTERNATIONAL

### Venice Art Event

- ❖ The 58th Venice Biennale will be held in Venice, Italy.
- ❖ It is one of the biggest art events in the world.
- ❖ 16 of the 400 Haripura session posters will be displayed by India.
- ❖ Haripura posters were first put up in the Haripura Congress Session, 1938.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi requested the famous painter Nandalal Bose to create them.
- ❖ Haripura session was presided by Subash Chandra Bose.

### NATO Commander

- ❖ US Air Force General Tod D. Wolters has been sworn in as the 19th Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO.
- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is a military alliance between 29 North American and European countries.
- ❖ NATO constitutes a system of collective defence.
- ❖ It implies that all member states have agreed to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- ❖ It was formed on 4th April, 1949.
- ❖ It is head quartered at Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ Jens Stoltenberg is the Secretary General of NATO.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Aditya L1

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send a probe named Aditya L1 to study the sun early next year.
- ❖ This is India's first mission to study the sun.
- ❖ It will be inserted in an orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system.
- ❖ Only a satellite placed in L1 orbit can view sun continuously without any eclipses.

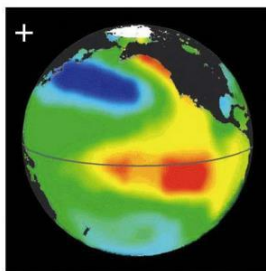
## ENVIRONMENT

### Drying North East India

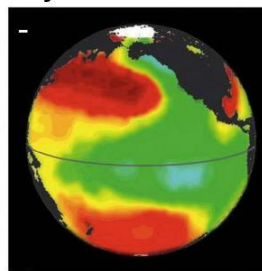
- ❖ North East India is one of the wettest places in India.
- ❖ But it is drying rapidly in the last 30 years.
- ❖ Researchers from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and Assam University studied the reason for this phenomenon.
- ❖ They state that the decreasing monsoon rainfall is associated with natural changes in the subtropical Pacific Ocean.

#### Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

~15 to 30 year cycle



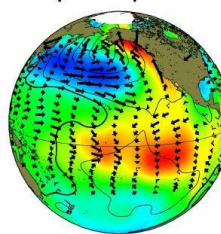
**Positive PDO pattern**



**Negative PDO pattern**

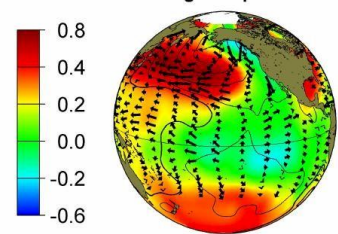
- The PDO Index is a spatial average of monthly sea surface temperature (SST) anomaly of the Pacific Ocean north of 20° N. The global average anomaly is subtracted to account for global warming (Mantua, 2000).
- Highly correlated with temperature in California Current

#### Pacific Decadal Oscillation



- 1) COLD water in central Pacific supports trough over central Pacific

- 2) WARM water along the West coast supports RIDGE over West Coast of N.America



- 1) WARM water in central Pacific supports RIDGE over central Pacific and strong PACIFIC JET

- 2) COOL water along the West coast supports TROUGH over West Coast of N.America & MILD eastern US winters

#### Pacific decadal oscillation (PDO)

- ❖ PDO is a pattern of fluctuations in the ocean – specifically in north Pacific basin.
- ❖ It affects northeast Indian summer monsoon.
- ❖ PDO is an oceanic phenomenon like EL Nino, La Nina
- ❖ But its impact is felt on a decadal level.



## STATES

### Heavy School Bags

- ❖ Karnataka has introduced norms to protect school kids from the health hazards of lugging heavy school bags.
- ❖ Schools are instructed to ensure bag's weight is not more than 10% of that of the child.
- ❖ Bags of students of Class I and II can only weigh around 1.5kg to 2kg.
- ❖ Those of Class III, IV and V can weigh 2kg to 3kg.
- ❖ Schools must also observe every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month as 'Bagless Day'.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Chevalier Award

- ❖ Former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar was conferred with France's highest civilian award "Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur".
- ❖ He was recognised for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.
- ❖ The National Order of the Legion of Honour award was created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte.
- ❖ This is the highest civilian award given by the French for outstanding service to France.
- ❖ This award is given regardless of the nationality of the recipient.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Coronation of Thai King

- ❖ Thailand officially crowned its new King Maha Vajiralongkorn with 'Great Crown of Victory'.
- ❖ He became crown prince and official heir to throne in 1972.
- ❖ He is now declared as 'King Rama X of Thailand'.
- ❖ Chakri dynasty has been reigning since 1782 in Thailand.
- ❖ He is the 10th monarch of the Chakri dynasty.
- ❖ Thailand has a constitutional monarchy.



- ❖ The last coronation was held for the king's father Bhumibol Adulyadej in 1950.

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