

May – 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Genetic studies on the people of the Lakshadweep archipelago was done by a team of CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), for the first time.
 - It has found that a majority of human ancestry in Lakshadweep is largely derived from South Asia with minor influences from East and West Eurasia.
- ❖ Justice DY Chandrachud has written to the Supreme Court's 3-judge inhouse committee, headed by Justice SA Bobde, not to proceed with the “ex-parte” inquiry into a dismissed SC woman employee's sexual harassment complaint against CJI Ranjan Gogoi.
 - “ex parte” means a legal proceeding brought by one person in the absence of and without representation or notification of other parties.
- ❖ Basava Jayanti 2019 was observed on May 7, 2019. Basava Jayanthi is the birthday of Basavanna, a Hindu Kannada poet of the 12th century.
- ❖ India was re-elected as an observer to intergovernmental forum Arctic Council at the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting held at Rovaniemi, Finland.
- ❖ Iran said that it will reduce some of its commitments to stop its uranium enrichment program and nuclear deal.
 - This is in response to the United States’ decision to withdrew from the 2015 multilateral deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to enhance the housing loan limits for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) for eligibility under priority sector lending.
 - This is expected to give them a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- ❖ The report of FICCI (The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) titled “India Inbound Tourism: Unlocking the Opportunity” published that India’s MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition) tourism is growing at 8 per cent a year.



- FICCI is an association of business organisations in India established in 1927 on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi by GD Birla and Purushottam Das Thakurdas.

TAMIL NADU

Anti Defection Law

- ❖ The Supreme Court has stayed proceedings initiated by Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker for disqualification of three AIADMK MLAs for “anti-party activities”.
- ❖ The anti-defection law (ADL) was passed by parliament in 1985.
- ❖ The 52nd amendment to the Constitution added the Tenth Schedule (ADL).
- ❖ ADL laid down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection.

Anti Defection Law Who stands defected?

- ▶ MLA or MP voluntarily resigned from his party or disobeyed the directives of the party leadership on a vote.
- ▶ A member who votes, or does not vote in the legislature, contrary to the directions of his political party. - However, if the member has taken prior permission, or is condoned by the party within 15 days from such voting or abstention, the member shall not be disqualified.
- ▶ Independent members would be disqualified if they joined a political party.
- ▶ Nominated members who were not members of a party could choose to join a party within six months; after that period, they were treated as a party member or independent member.

Exceptions

- * A party could be merged into another if at least two-thirds of its party legislators voted for the merger .
- * Any person elected as speaker or chairman could resign from his party, and rejoin the party if he demitted that post.



INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lankan Easter Blasts

- ❖ The Sri Lankan terrorist organisation National Thowheed Jamaath (NTJ) had orchestrated a series of coordinated attacks on Easter Sunday (April 21) in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The attacks killed over 350 people and injured many.
- ❖ Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for the attacks through its Amaq news agency.
- ❖ Taking responsibility for the suicide bomber attacks on the country, Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando had resigned.

ECONOMY

Co-location scandal

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) ordered the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) to pay a fine of about ₹1,000 crore within 45 days for its supervisory laxity.
- ❖ Under NSE co-location facility, brokers can place their servers in the exchange's data centre.
- ❖ But some brokers were given preferential access to the exchange servers.
- ❖ They gained thousands of crores because of this unfair advantage.

ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity Report

- ❖ The global scientific body 'Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) has released a comprehensive report on the world's ecological destruction.
- ❖ It states that human activity is threatening the existence of over a million plant and animal species.
- ❖ 75% of Earth's land surface and 66% marine environments have been "significantly altered" and that "over 85%" of wetland area had been lost.

- ❖ IBPES is an independent intergovernmental body, established by UN member states in 2012.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Bonn, Germany.
- ❖ The objectives of IPBES are
 - to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation
 - sustainable use of biodiversity
 - long-term human well-being
 - sustainable development.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Medal of Freedom

- ❖ The United States President Donald Trump awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom to the golfer Tiger Woods.
- ❖ The 43-year-old Tiger Woods became fourth and youngest, professional golfer to receive prestigious highest civilian honor in US.
- ❖ Medal of Freedom was established by President Truman to honour extraordinary civilian accomplishments related to World War II.
- ❖ In 1963 the medal was re-established by President Kennedy.
- ❖ Once awarded, the medal of honour cannot be revoked.

SPORTS

Asian Squash Championships

- ❖ Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal emerged champions in the Asian Individual Squash Championship held in Kuala Lumpur.
- ❖ For related content kindly read News dated 05.04.19 Link: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/squash/>

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Red Cross Red Crescent Day

- ❖ World Red Cross Red Crescent Day is celebrated on 8 May each year.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 is “#love”.
- ❖ The day commemorates all the volunteers who have made unparalleled contribution to people in duress or in need.
- ❖ This date is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant.
- ❖ He was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1863.
- ❖ He was also the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.
- ❖ The first Red Cross Day was celebrated on 8 May 1948.
- ❖ The title became world Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in 1984.

World Thalassaemia Day

- ❖ Every year 8 May is observed as ‘World Thalassaemia Day’ globally.
- ❖ The theme for 2019 is “Universal access to quality thalassaemia healthcare services: Building bridges with and for patient”.
- ❖ The day is observed to raise awareness about thalassaemia, its prevention and measures to avoid its transmission among people.
- ❖ Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder characterised by less haemoglobin (Hb).
- ❖ It is more common among people of Mediterranean, Southeast Asian ancestry and in African-Americans.

Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War

- ❖ In 2004, the UN General Assembly declared 8–9 May as a time of remembrance and reconciliation of the second world war and its victims.
- ❖ The UN expects all Member States to pay tribute to all victims of the Second World War on this day.



- ❖ The observance of this day aims to
 - save succeeding generations from the war
 - to settle all disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations
 - to uphold international peace and security at all times.
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