

May – 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ According to Britain's Sunday Times Rich List 2019, Indian-origin Billionaire Hinduja brothers (Sri and Gopi Hinduja) with 22 billion pounds worth of assets were named as wealthiest people in the UK continuously for a third time.
 - Zimbabwe-born Valerie Moran became first black female entrepreneur ever to be ranked in the Times Rich List.
- ❖ The theme of National Technology Day (May 11, 2019) is: "Science for People and People for Science".
- ❖ The Home Ministry has cancelled the FCRA licence of Infosys Foundation after a repeated request was made by the not-for-profit initiative of the IT company.
 - The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) enables an association or an NGO to receive foreign funds and they have to mandatorily register under it to receive such funds.
- ❖ HMAS Toowoomba, a frigate of the Royal Australian Navy has paid a visit to the Chennai port on counter-terrorism, anti-piracy and broader maritime security initiatives. For related news please go here: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/ausindex-19/>
- ❖ The Nilgiris district police has inducted a 60-member strong volunteer service termed "Nilgiri brigade" to assist the police as well as the public during the summer tourist season.
- ❖ An Assam forest officer has discovered *Lecanorchis taiwaniana* - one of the smallest orchids in India in terms of size and duration of bloom to be recorded botanically.
 - This orchid is a mycoheterotroph – a parasitic plant that has abandoned photosynthesis and depends on fungi for food. Myco-heterotrophy is considered a kind of cheating relationship with no benefit for the fungi.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has signed an agreement with Pakistan to loan \$6 billion over the next three years to meet its foreign debt obligations.
- ❖ Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir became the most successful women's One Day International spinner in history after she took her 147th wicket playing against South Africa in the third ODI of ICC Women's Championship.
- ❖ The World's No.1 tennis player Novak Djokovic has won the Madrid Open 2019 title. He defeated the Greek tennis player Stefanos Tsitsipas in 2 straight sets - 6-3, 6-4.



TAMIL NADU

IGST Dues

- ❖ The Tamilnadu government has requested the Union Finance Ministry for speedy disbursement of its share of the Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST).
- ❖ It has to receive the pending ₹5,453.82 crore for the financial year 2017 – 18.
- ❖ IGST is charged on movement of goods and services from one state to another.
- ❖ Under Article 269A, such tax will be collected by Centre.
- ❖ The Centre will retain 50% of IGST while remaining 50% will be devolved to States and Union Territories.

NATIONAL

Vacation Bench

- ❖ The Supreme Court will remain closed for the annual summer break from May 13 to June 30, 2019.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of India has constituted special **Vacation benches** under Rule 6 of Order II of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013.
- ❖ The court hears a plea even during vacation if it decides it is an “urgent matter”.
- ❖ It generally admits writs related to habeas corpus, certiorari, prohibition and quo warranto matters for enforcement of any fundamental right.
- ❖ For the first time, the Chief Justice of India himself will be heading the Vacation Bench from May 25 to May 30.

INTERNATIONAL

Train to Nepal

- ❖ Nepal has signed an agreement with Konkan Railways to procure 2 Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) train sets.
- ❖ These trains will be used to operationalise the 34 km long railway corridor which connects Jayanagar in Bihar and Kurtha in Nepal.
- ❖ The trains will be manufactured by Integrated Coach Factory in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Manav Atlas

- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has launched a new project called 'MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative'.
- ❖ This is the first program to map every tissue of the human body.
- ❖ The project can be signed up by students with a background in bio-sciences who are in their final year of graduation and above.
- ❖ The atlas will have data about the human physiology in two stages - in a normal stage and a disease stage.
- ❖ Thus, the atlas can help in
 - tracing the causes of a disease
 - understanding specific pathways
 - decode the body's disease stage linked to tissues and cells.
- ❖ In addition to researchers and clinicians, the atlas will be of help to drug developers.

ENVIRONMENT

Bioremediation

- ❖ Scientists of CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) and the University of Lucknow have used 2 indigenous strains of bacterium to remove arsenic contamination in soil.
- ❖ The strains are named as *Bacillus flexus* and *Acinetobacter junii*.
- ❖ They can live symbiotically in the roots of plants in arsenic contaminated soils and help them uptake the required nutrients without causing toxicity.
- ❖ In addition, they also promote plant growth.
- ❖ Bioremediation uses mainly microorganisms, plants, or microbial or plant enzymes to detoxify contaminants in the soil and other environments.

Back from the Dead - Twice

- ❖ The bird **Aldabra white-throated rail** has rebirthed itself twice after going extinct some 1,36,000 years ago.
- ❖ Scientists have termed it **iterative evolution**.
- ❖ It means the repeated evolution of similar or parallel structures from the same ancestor, but at different times.



- ❖ It is a chicken sized flightless bird that lives in Indian ocean's Aldabra atoll.
- ❖ It is indigenous to Madagascar but the fossil of the bird was found in distant Aldabra atoll during
 - two different time periods
 - each separated by many thousands of years.
- ❖ The unique and oldest paleontological record of Aldabra combines with fossil evidence, demonstrates the effects of changing sea levels on extinction and recolonization events.

STATES

Unique Women Groups

- ❖ Odisha has devised a special project named **Swayamsiddha**.
- ❖ Under this project Odisha's Ganjam district administration will train Women self help groups (WSHG) in disaster management.
- ❖ These women will be trained in evacuation, rescue, restoration and rehabilitation during natural calamities, especially during cyclones.

- ❖ A control room of 'swayamsiddha' will operate at district headquarters Chatrapur.
- ❖ The Kerala government had earlier used WSHGs successfully in rehabilitation and restoration work in the 2018 floods.

Chilika Lake

- ❖ The extremely severe cyclone Fani has created **four new mouths** in Chilika Lake.
- ❖ Earlier the lake had only 2 active mouths meeting with the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ A river mouth is the point where it meets the sea.
- ❖ Chilika is Asia's largest brackish water lake.
- ❖ Chilika lagoon is the largest coastal lagoon in India.
- ❖ The largest lagoon in the world is the New Caledonian barrier reef in Australia.

SPORTS

Premier League

- ❖ The Manchester City won the English Premier League (EPL) football title for second successive year. Liverpool gained the second place in league.
- ❖ Also called 'The Premier League' the English Premier league was founded on 20 February 1992.



- ❖ It stands at the top level of the Football Pyramid in England.
- ❖ EPL is contested by 20 clubs and each team plays 38 matches overall (A team plays against 19 other teams both home and away matches).



- ❖ Each season runs from August to May.
