

**May – 15**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Tamilnadu School Education Director has issued a circular to school principals advising them not to mention the caste of the students in Transfer Certificate.
  - The certificate will instead state “refer community certificate issued by Revenue Authorities” in the column seeking details of the caste of the student.
- ❖ The Supreme Court on May 13, 2019 agreed to hear the Centre’s plea challenging the verdict of Delhi High Court which quashed the cadre allocation of IAS, IPS officers from the 2017 batch.
  - Because of the New cadre allocation policy, more meritorious candidates in the rank list have been denied allocation to preferred cadres but less meritorious candidates have been allocated to the said cadres.
- ❖ According to a first of its kind study published in medical journal The Lancet, Oncology the number of patients requiring **chemotherapy** annually will rise from 9.8 million in 2018 to 15 million by 2040.
  - The most common indications for chemotherapy worldwide in 2040 will be lung cancer (16.4%), breast cancer (12.7%) and colorectal cancer (11.1%).
- ❖ The executive secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) has invited India to be an observer in the CTBT.
  - Being an observer would give India access to data from the International Monitoring System (IMS). IMS has 337 sensors across the globe that can detect nuclear test conducted by any nation which violates CTBT.
- ❖ India’s G.S. Lakshmi has become the **first woman** to be appointed to ICC’s international panel of **match referees** and will be eligible to officiate in international games with immediate effect.
  - She had first officiated as a match referee in domestic women’s cricket in 2008-09, has overseen 3 women’s ODI matches and 3 women’s T20I matches. Last month Australian **Claire Polosak** became the first Woman Umpire to officiate in Men’s ODI match.
- ❖ The Central Government has **extended** the ban on the Tamil separatist organisation Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for another 5 years under sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 with immediate effect.

- ❖ According to an analysis of imagery captured by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) the Moon is steadily shrinking, causing wrinkling on its surface and quakes.
  - Tectonic activity occurs in moon as it slowly loses heat from when it was formed 4.5 billion years ago and this has caused the surface of the moon to wrinkle by as much as 50 metres.
- ❖ The 3 minutes documentary film “Seed Mother” about Rahibai Soma Popere will be screened in Cannes Film Festival 2019.
  - She created awareness about the need to propagate native species and variants of grains and vegetables in her native village Khombalne in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Retired American Naval officer Victor Vescovo officer made the world’s deepest dive of 6.8 miles (35,853 feet / 10,928 metres) into the deepest place on earth, Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, Pacific Ocean.
  - In addition to new species, he discovered plastic pollutants in the floor of the ocean. An estimated 100 million tonnes of plastic have been dumped into the ocean.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has given principal approval for upgrading the 33 KV/11 KV substation in Chennai Anna Salai to become the **first** unmanned substation in Chennai city.
  - Dindigul, Madurai and Tirunelveli are the others towns that already have unmanned substations.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **AI Drones**

- ❖ IIT – Madras has designed and developed a 3D printed hexacopter-drone for **rescue operations** during disasters.
- ❖ It can fly and automatically detect human beings using **face recognition** technology.
- ❖ It can recognize individuals in need of immediate medical care in a disaster affected site using **activity recognition** technology.
- ❖ It can also send the location details of people to the ground station in real time for faster rescue operations.



## NATIONAL

### Rural Startups

- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced a Rs 700-crore venture capital fund for
  - equity investments in agriculture
  - rural-focused startups
- ❖ The fund has been launched by Nab Ventures, a subsidiary of NABARD.
- ❖ The startups engaged in agriculture, food and rural development space will get priority.

### About NABARD:

- ❖ NABARD is the **apex financing agency** for institutions that provide investment and production credit for promoting the developmental activities in rural areas
- ❖ It was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee in 1982.
- ❖ It looks after the development of the cottage industry, small scale industry and village industry.
- ❖ NABARD supervises
  - State Cooperative Banks (StCBs),
  - District Cooperative Central Banks (DCCBs)
  - Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

## ENVIRONMENT

### Death of Domestic Yaks

- ❖ At least 300 yaks (*Bos grunniens*) have starved to death in the Mukuthang valley in Sikkim after getting trapped by heavy snowfall.
- ❖ While between 10 and 15 yaks usually die each year this year's toll is the highest on record.
- ❖ Yaks are a source of local milk, milk products, transportation and wool in the Himalayan region, Tibetan plateau and as far as Mongolia.



## Rain Loving Snake

- ❖ A 7- member team of herpetologists have documented a new species of non-venomous snake in Mizoram.
- ❖ It has been named **Smithophis atemporalis**. It is a predominantly aquatic species.
- ❖ It is named after the British herpetologist Malcolm Arthur Smith for his immense contribution to Indian herpetology.
- ❖ Locally it is known as **Ruahlawmrul** or rain-loving snake.
- ❖ Snakes discovered from North East recently:

Mizoram	Smithophis atemporalis	Non-Venomous
Arunachal Pradesh	Crying Keelback	Non-Venomous
Arunachal Pradesh	Reddish-brown pit viper	Venomous

## STATES

### Herbivores Census

- ❖ The forest department of Gujarat is conducting a census of herbivores in Gir forest and other protected areas.
- ❖ The census covers wild ungulates like spotted deer, blue bulls (nilgais), sambars, Indian langurs, peafowl, Indian gazelles (chinkaras), four-horned antelopes (choshinga) and wild boars.
- ❖ Wild ungulates and langurs are the main prey of Asiatic lions.
- ❖ A count of ungulates gives data of prey-base for the lions and other predators like leopard, hyena.

## SPORTS

### Player Tracking

- ❖ BCCI had introduced the software Athlete Management System (AMS) and GPS-enabled wearable devices to monitor the players.
- ❖ AMS was used to monitor player fatigue and injuries from the 2018 Asia Cup tournament onwards.

- ❖ Player management became extremely important during the long IPL Tournament.
- ❖ AMS relies on Artificial Intelligence. It can also keep a tab on the amount of sleep a player gets.
- ❖ BCCI now maintains an up to date database of each player's fitness levels and preparedness for the World cup 2019.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Families**

- ❖ The International Day of Families or IDF is observed on May 15 every year.
- ❖ The UN General assembly proclaimed the first such celebration in 1993.
- ❖ It is celebrated since 1996.
- ❖ The day reflects the importance that the international community attaches to families as basic units of society and the value of filial bonds.
- ❖ The theme of IDF 2019 is 'Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13'.

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