

**May – 18**

## **TNPSC BITS**

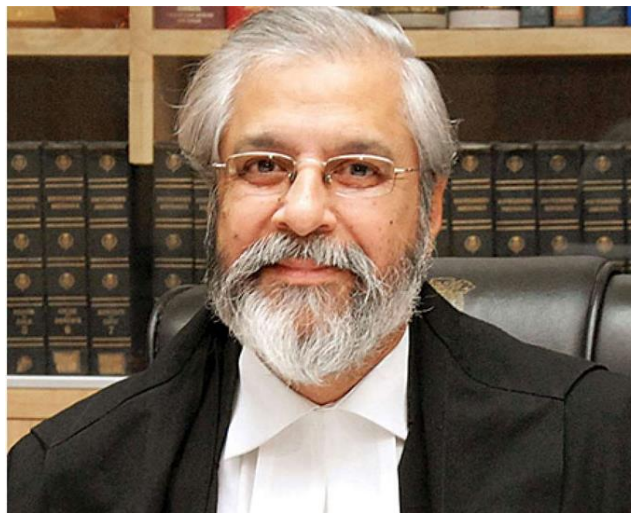
- ❖ The Kerala Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called E-Vidhan which enables state legislature to go fully digital and completely paperless.
  - Once the project is completed, all the Assembly proceedings like submission of notice by a member, question and answers, and all the other correspondence and business concerning the Assembly will go paperless.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vighraha which played an instrumental role in protecting East Coast of India in its 29 years of service from 1990 to 2019 was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam.
  - It was the seventh offshore patrol vessel built by Mazagaon Dock Ltd, Mumbai. It was also leased to Sri Lankan Navy on a dry lease from August 2008 to January 2011.
- ❖ India has reported inconsistencies and bias towards developed countries in the methodology adopted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the STRI ranking of countries.
  - Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) ranking shows Indian services sector as highly restrictive in areas such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). But one of the most liberalised norms post the LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation) of 1991 has been Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its report revealed that about 35 % of India's total Graphite reserves is found in Arunachal Pradesh. This is the highest source found in country.
  - GSI was founded in 1851 mainly to find coal deposits for the Railways. Its headquarters is in Kolkata and it functions under the Ministry of Mines.
- ❖ India for the first time will host the 'Army Scouts Masters competition'. The event will be organised by Indian Army's 'Konark Corps' at Jaisalmer Military Station between end of July to mid-August 2019.
  - The Army Scouts Masters Competition is a part of International Army Games conducted by Russia since 2015 at Koltsovo training ground in Novosibirsk Region. India has been participating since the first game.

- ❖ Under the Rhino Conservation Programme the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has undertaken a project to create DNA Profiles of all rhinos present in India.
  - 90% of the rhinos in India are at Kaziranga National Park, Assam. In order to protect them from poaching and to protect their habitat, the government is trying to translocate some of them to Manas National Park and Pobitara Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ The 8th annual report of the Global Drugs Survey (GDS) has surveyed Indians for the first time and found that more than other nationalities, Indians are seeking help to reduce their alcohol intake.
  - GDS runs the largest global survey of recreational drug-use. It is an anonymised, online survey that reports trends in drug use and self-reported harms among regular drug users and early adopters of new trends.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Indian Judge in Fiji

- ❖ The Former Justice of Supreme Court of India Madhan Lokur has become the first judge from the Indian apex court to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji.
- ❖ He will be a part of the non-resident panel for a period of three years.



- ❖ Justice Lokur was a part of the Mediation Committee of the Supreme Court of India since 2005.

- ❖ This initiative had led to the settlement of around 2 lakh cases.
- ❖ For related news about International recognition for Indian Supreme court judges please go here: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/jamaicas-aadhar/>

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Sasakawa Award

- ❖ The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has honoured Pramod Kumar Mishra IAS with ‘Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction’.
- ❖ He is an Additional Principal Secretary to PM.
- ❖ It was announced during the 6th ‘Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction’ (GPDRR) 2019 meet held at Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ This is the most prestigious award of the United Nations in the area of Disaster Risk Management.
- ❖ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Nippon Foundation created this award in 1989.
- ❖ The theme of the Sasakawa Award 2019 was ‘Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies’.
- ❖ Other winners

Sidnei Furtado	Director of Department of Civil Defence, Campinas, Brazil
Bijal Brahmhatt	Director of the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust of India

## SPORTS

### Match Fixing and Corruption

- ❖ For the first time in World cup history, each participating team at upcoming ICC World Cup 2019 will have a dedicated anti-corruption officer attached to it.
- ❖ They will stay attached to the team from warm-up matches till the end of the competition.
- ❖ They will also be staying in same hotel as that of players and also travelling with them to training and matches.

## Women Referees

- ❖ The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) recently announced that for the first time in history an All-Female referee team will officiate in Men's match.
- ❖ They will officiate in Men's Continental Club Cup clash.
- ❖ Three Japanese female referees namely Naomi Teshirogi, Mokoto Bozono and Yoshimi Yamashita get that unique distinction.
- ❖ In 2014, Australian women Alysson Flynn and Sarah Ho became first female assistant referees in AFC Cup matches.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

- ❖ World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969.
- ❖ It marks the founding of International Telecom Union (ITU).
- ❖ It also marks the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.
- ❖ The day has been instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference of ITU in 1973.
- ❖ In November 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day.
- ❖ Since 2006, May 17 is celebrated as both Telecom and Information Society day.
- ❖ Observance of this day aims to raise global awareness about the use of Internet and Information and Communications Technologies
- ❖ The theme of celebration for this year 2019 is 'Bridging the standardization gap'.



- ❖ The theme focuses on
  - the power of data for development
  - to turn complex data into actionable information
- ❖ The Plenipotentiary Conference is the top policy-making body of the ITU that decides the 4-year roadmap of the organization.

### **International Museum Day**

- ❖ International Museum Day is celebrated annually on May 18.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of museums as means of cultural exchange.
- ❖ The International Council of Museums organized the first International Museum Day in 1977.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 celebration is “Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition”.



- ❖ The World’s first public museum was founded in Britain in 1753.
- ❖ Started in 1851, the Government Museum or Madras Museum in Chennai is the second oldest museum in India after the Indian Museum in Kolkata.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Vikalp Scheme**

- ❖ Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) had introduced a new scheme for waitlisted passengers called VIKALP.

- ❖ It is applicable to all waiting-list passengers irrespective of booking quota and concession.
- ❖ Waitlisted passengers can opt for a maximum of 7 alternate trains under the Vikalp scheme.
- ❖ Alternate trains which depart 30 minutes to 72 hours from the scheduled departure of the original train can be selected.
- ❖ Subject to train and berth availability waitlisted passengers can get a confirmed ticket.

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