

May – 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Muzaffarnagar district (in Uttar Pradesh) is hosting a first-of-its-kind Gur Mahotsav (Jaggery festival).
 - Muzaffarnagar is arguably the biggest marketplace of jaggery in Asia. Here the farmers produce around 60 varieties of it.
- ❖ According to the “World Economic Situation and Prospects” (WESP), as of mid-2019, India's economy is projected to grow at 7.1 % in the fiscal year 2020 due to strong domestic consumption and investment.
 - WESP report is a joint product of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the 5 United Nations regional commissions.
- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) celebrated its Annual Day on 20th May, 2019. CCI has 1 Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.
 - CCI is a statutory body established under the provisions of The Competition Act, 2002. It was established in 2003.
- ❖ India has informed the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) that it will no longer entertain any communication with the HRC's Special Rapporteurs on its report.
 - The June 2018 report of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) enquired about the steps taken by India to address the alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Three-time Formula One (F1) World champion and a motor racing legend Niki Lauda died in Vienna of Austria at the age of 70.
 - He suffered burn injuries in the middle of the German Grand Prix in 1976 and is remembered for his fighting spirit and return to racing after being badly burned in the crash.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched ‘Golden Card’ Permanent Residency Scheme in an attempt to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents from all over the world.
 - The “Golden Card” programme was unveiled by the UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

- ❖ PCT Humanity, a charity run by an Indian Joginder Singh Salaria in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has set a new Guinness World Record for 'Longest Line of Hunger Relief Package' in Abu Dhabi.
 - The charity was held for hunger relief efforts during the Muslim's holy month of Ramzan.

TAMIL NADU

Then Pennai River

- ❖ Efforts to surface transport the 300-tonne semi-carved stone to Karnataka has altered the course of Thenpennai river in Perandapalli village, Krishnagiri.
- ❖ The South Pennar River is known as Thenpennaiyar in Tamil and Dakshina Pinakini in Kannada. It is also referred as Ponnaiyar.
- ❖ The river originates from the South-Eastern side of the Chennakesava hills and the North-Western side of the Nandi Hills in the Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka state.
- ❖ It flows for a distance of about 85 kilometres within Karnataka, to the north of Bangalore.
- ❖ It flows a total of 400 kilometres (km) from its point of origin before joining the Bay of Bengal at Cuddalore district of Tamilnadu.



NATIONAL

SIMBEX - 19

- ❖ Indian Navy Ships (INS) Kolkata and Shakti participated in the SIMBEX-2019 from 16 May to 22 May 19 at Singapore.
- ❖ The Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is an annual bilateral naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy.
- ❖ It was started in 1993.
- ❖ In addition to INS Kolkata and INS Shakti, the long-range maritime patrol aircraft Poseidon-8I (P8I) also participated in the maritime exercise.

INTERNATIONAL

Election Result Violence

- ❖ Joko Widodo was on May 21, 2019 re-elected as President of Indonesia for the second term, defeating rival Prabowo Subianto.
- ❖ Supporters of the opposition party and Prabowo Subianto have refused to “concede defeat” resulting in mass protests and violence.
- ❖ The worst rioting occurred outside the headquarters of Indonesia's elite Brimob police unit. 6 people have been killed and 250 injured so far.

Preserving Heritage

- ❖ The Parsi community has “digitalised” its prayers to save its age-old traditions.
- ❖ It is inspired by initiatives like Memory of the World.
- ❖ Memory of the World Programme is an international initiative launched by UNESCO in 1992.
- ❖ The objective of the program is to safeguard the documentary heritage of humanity.
- ❖ It calls for the preservation of valuable archival holdings, library collections, for future generations.



ECONOMY

Third Party Liability

- ❖ Insurance regulator IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) proposed an increase in third party motor insurance premium rates for cars, two-wheelers and school buses to trucks.
- ❖ A motor policy has two main components
 - Third-party liability
 - Own damage
- ❖ The liabilities arising from damage caused to a third party are covered under third party-cover.
- ❖ It does not cover damage to the vehicle or its owner.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

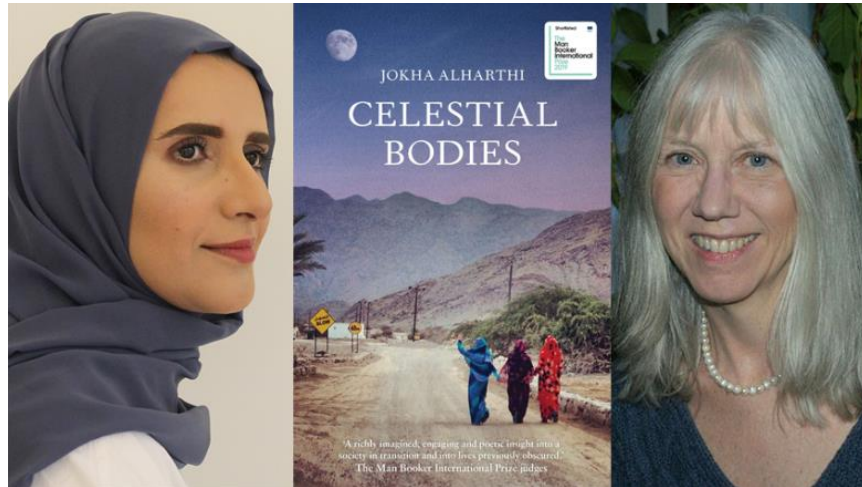
Rising Sun

- ❖ Former Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran is selected for Japan's Second Highest National Award called 'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'.
- ❖ The award was established by Japanese Emperor Meiji in 1875.
- ❖ It is awarded for an exceptional civil service or military merit.
- ❖ He will be conferred for his contributions in strengthening strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan.
- ❖ He served as India's Foreign Secretary from year 2004 to 2006.
- ❖ In this period, he played an important role in elevating India-Japan relationship to a "Strategic partnership".

- ❖ His contributions include “India Festival” that was held in Japan in 1988.

Man Booker International Prize

- ❖ Jokha Alharthi, an author from Oman has won the Man Booker International Prize for "Celestial Bodies".
- ❖ The novel was first published in 2010 as “Ladies of the Moon”.



- ❖ She is the first Arabic-language writer to take the prize.
- ❖ The Man Booker International Prize is an international literary award sponsored by the Man Group.
- ❖ It carries a cash prize of 50,000 pounds or 64,000 US dollar for the winning title, shared equally between author and translator.
- ❖ Jokha Alharthi will split the cash prize with her UK-based translator, Marilyn Booth.
- ❖ The Man Booker Prize for fiction is also awarded by the same group but it is for books written only in English language.

UN's Highest Award

- ❖ The UN's highest peacekeeping award “Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage” is awarded posthumously to Malawian soldier Chancy Chitete.
- ❖ He sacrificed his life while fighting against a mob and saving his fellow comrade during an UN operation to control the spread of Ebola virus in Congo.

About the Award

- ❖ Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage was established by UN in 2014.
- ❖ Captain Mbaye served with former UN Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) and saved thousands of Rwandans from death in 1994 genocide.



MISCELLANEOUS

Mind Control

- ❖ An Indian origin scientist in the US developed a technology that enabled a quadriplegic man to move his hand using just his thoughts.
- ❖ He has been awarded a \$20 million contract from US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).
- ❖ The system has been named BrainSTORMS (Brain System to Transmit or Receive Magnetoelectric Signals).
- ❖ It could allow a soldier to put on a helmet and use his mind to control multiple unmanned aerial vehicles or dispose a bomb remotely.
- ❖ A Nano transducer is to be temporarily introduced into the body via injection so that the brain can communicate through a helmet-based transceiver.
