

**October – 24**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Actor-turned-politician Kamal Hassan inaugurated a mobile app called Roudram created by a student named Sudha to empower women. Roudram app aims at giving women assistance in times of emergency.
- ❖ Veteran commentator and cricket statistician Vijayan Bala have come up with his new book “Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections”, a compilation of interviews of eminent sportspersons he has conducted since 1971.
- ❖ India, Japan and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral ‘Cope India’ air exercise to a trilateral format. The three countries already conduct naval war games under the expanded Malabar naval exercise.
- ❖ Paytm has launched a QR code-based smartphone payment service called PayPay in Japan, in a joint venture with SoftBank Corporation and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
  - With this launch, Yahoo Japan will terminate “Yahoo! Wallet”—its current smartphone settlement function.
- ❖ The Board of Directors of The Hindu Publishing Group unanimously appointed Suresh Nambath as Editor of The Hindu with effect from March 1, 2019. He will succeed Mukund Padmanabhan.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Parliamentary panel to examine functioning of EPFO**

- ❖ A parliamentary panel will examine the functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), its coverage and recovery of arrears.
- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has also decided to review the implementation of labour laws, social security and welfare scheme for workers.
- ❖ The panel will be headed by BJP MP Kirit Somaiya.
- ❖ At present, the EPFO is not the sole PF organisation or regulator in the country.
- ❖ The provident fund of private establishments/organisation/PSUs largely come under the EPFO purview.

## Panel to study feasibility of paying claims in instalments

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a panel to examine the feasibility of payment of general and health insurance claims in instalments.
- ❖ It will be headed by Suresh Mathur, Executive Director (Health) in IRDAI.
- ❖ The panel will look into the need for allowing settlement of personal accident and benefit-based health insurance claims in instalments by general and health insurance companies.

## India's First Domestic Cruise - 'Angriya'

- ❖ Angriya, India's first luxury cruise ship, has been inaugurated at Mumbai.
- ❖ Union minister for shipping Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis flagged-off the cruise which will operate between Mumbai and Goa.
- ❖ It has been named after the first Maratha Navy Admiral Kanhoji Angre and the Angria bank coral reef near Vijaydurg.



**REVAMPED WATERFRONT: GOOD NEWS FOR CRUISERS**

**ANGRIYA, INDIA'S 1ST CRUISE SHIP**

- > Angriya will sail three days a week for Goa. It will depart from Ferry Wharf at 4pm and on the return journey, will leave from Marmugao at 9am the next day
- > It houses multiple restaurants with 24-hour coffee shops & bars, a lounge and discotheque, infinity pool & spa, 104 staterooms/cabins

**The newly refurbished domestic cruise terminal at Victoria Dock**

**'NO. OF CRUISERS TO TRIPLE'**

- > Number of cruise tourists in Mumbai is set to triple to 1.2 lakh in 2018-19 from a little over 37,000 in 2015-16, according to national estimates
- > 155 tourist ship services scheduled to arrive at and depart from Princess Dock between Oct 2018 and May 2019
- > Number of services likely to touch 219 in 2019-20, with another pvt cruise liner

Minimum fare **₹7,500** with meals

## ECONOMY

### Forbes' global 2000 best employers list

- ❖ Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) have been featured at 22nd rank among the top 25 companies in the Forbes' global 2000 best employers list.
- ❖ It is the only Indian firm to be featured among the top 25 companies in the list.
- ❖ For the second year in a row the chart has been topped by Google parent Alphabet followed by Microsoft and Apple.
- ❖ German companies are the second most represented in the top 10.
- ❖ Other than L&T, the only other Indian firms to feature in the top 100 list are Mahindra & Mahindra at 55, Grasim Industries at 59 and HDFC at 91.

### NASSCOM signs MoU with Dubai Internet City

- ❖ The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has signed a MoU with Dubai Internet City (DIC) to facilitate expansion of Indian businesses in the Middle East.



- ❖ The agreement is the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- ❖ It is aimed at attracting Indian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

## **ILC recommends UNCITRAL model**

- ❖ The Insolvency Law Committee (ILC), chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, submitted its report on the matter to Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley.
- ❖ The ILC has recommended the adoption of the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency, 1997.

### ***Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency***

#### **Concerns and apprehensions**

- Imports insolvency law of the foreign country
- Protection of local creditors and participation of local creditors in foreign proceedings not ensured
- Foreign insolvency practitioners will be allowed to administer local proceedings
- Recognition of foreign court decisions and orders on insolvency detracts from sovereignty and independence
- Cannot be adopted without reciprocity
- Practical issues make implementation difficult – mechanics of how to cooperate, judicial experience



- ❖ The Model Law focuses on authorising and encouraging cooperation and coordination between jurisdictions, rather than attempting the unification of substantive insolvency law.
- ❖ The UNCITRAL Model Law has been adopted in as many as 44 countries.
- ❖ Established in 1966, UNCITRAL is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the UN.

## **STATES**

### **UP declares man-animal conflict death state disaster**

- ❖ UP has become the first state in the country to declare death through a man-animal conflict a state disaster.
- ❖ It has brought such incidents under the ambit of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to ensure better coordination and relief.

- ❖ If a person dies in an animal attack the deceased's family will be given a compensation of Rs 5 lakh by the State Disaster Management Authority.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Miss Deaf Asia 2018

- ❖ Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja has won the Miss Deaf Asia 2018 title at an international pageant held in Prague.
- ❖ The 18th edition of Miss and Mister Deaf World -Europe -Asia Beauty Pageant 2018 was held recently at Prague, Czech Republic.



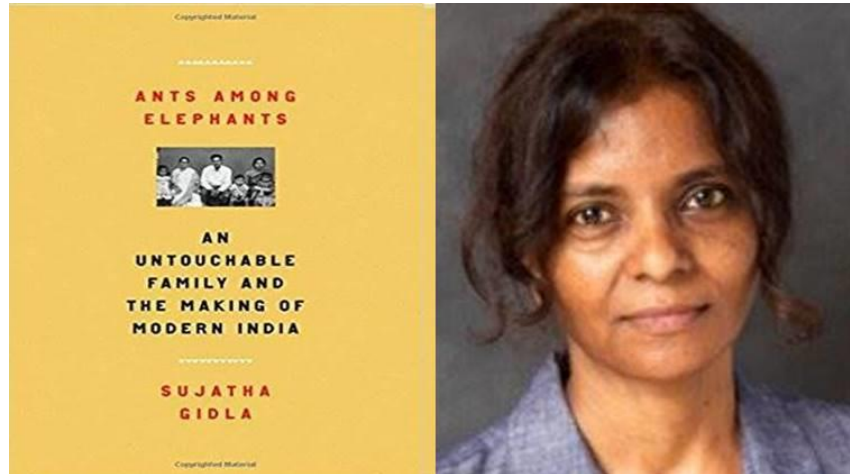
- ❖ Nishtha is the first Indian to have won any title at the Miss Deaf World Pageant.
- ❖ She is the brand ambassador for Sivantos India Pvt Ltd.

### Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2018

- ❖ US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla (55) has won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her debut book “Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India”.
- ❖ The book is an account of growing up in an ‘untouchable’ family in modern India and it was published by Harper Collins India.
- ❖ Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam had won the prize in 2017 for his debut novel “The Story of a Brief Marriage” set in the backdrop of the civil war.

### **Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize**

- ❖ The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize is funded by the Shakti Bhatt Foundation.
- ❖ It was set up in 2008 in memory of young writer and editor Shakti Bhatti.

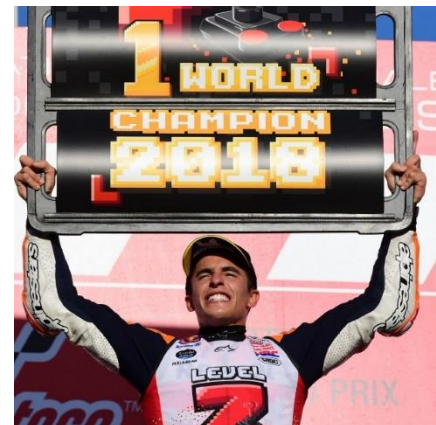


- ❖ It honours first-time writers from Indian sub-continent for their outstanding work of fiction or non-fiction.
- ❖ It carries cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs.

## **SPORTS**

### **2018 MotoGP World Champion**

- ❖ Repsol Honda's Marc Marquez has been crowned as the 2018 MotoGP World Champion after winning the Japanese Grand Prix at Motegi, Japan.
- ❖ The Honda rider won the fourth last race of the season fighting against Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso in the Japanese Grand Prix.
- ❖ It was his 7th world championship title and 5th world title in the premier class series.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan**

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the three-day “Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan” at Mangi Tungi in Satana taluka, about 125 kilometres from Nashik.
- ❖ It was organised by the Bhagwan Rishabhdev Murti Nirmaan Samiti.
- ❖ He presented the first international “Bhagwan Rishabhdev Award” to Teerthanker Mahaveer University, based in Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh.

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