

November – 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) Program of Ministry of Human Resource Development's (HRD) Innovation Cell was launched in New Delhi. It has been established at AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) with the purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.
- ❖ Tanzanian national Joyce Msuya was appointed as acting Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) following the resignation of the executive director Erik Solheim.
 - Solheim had quit in wake of the internal audit report accused of rule-breaking in the UNEP.
- ❖ Veteran first-class cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian player to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy during the 3rd round match against Baroda in Nagpur.

NATIONAL

9th Annual Defence and Security Dialogue

- ❖ The 9th Annual Defence and Security Dialogue between India and China held in Beijing.
- ❖ It held between the two defence delegations headed by
 - Defence secretary Sanjay Mitra and
 - China's deputy chief of Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission.
- ❖ The 9th Annual Defence and Security Dialogue was held after one-year gap due to Doklam standoff.
- ❖ The defence dialogue was held ahead of the 21st round of border talks between the special representatives of the two countries in the Chinese city of Dujiangyan.

PM launches Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge

- ❖ The Prime Minister has launched a grand challenge, in the Start-up India Portal platform, for improving the Ease of Doing Business in New Delhi.
- ❖ This initiative will invite innovative ideas based on cutting-edge technology to reform the Government processes and better India's Ease of Doing Business rank.
- ❖ This is a step towards PM's vision of achieving the goal of 50th position in the Ease of Doing Business.

BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change

- ❖ 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It has urged the advanced countries to enhance their support to developing nations in effectively implementing the Paris Agreement to combat climate change.
- ❖ This comes ahead of the UN Conference of Parties (COP) scheduled to be held in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.
- ❖ Brazil will host the next BASIC meeting in 2019.
- ❖ BASIC countries are a bloc (geopolitical alliance) of four large newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
- ❖ It was formed by an agreement in November 2009.

INTERNATIONAL

Morocco launches its second earth observation satellite

- ❖ Morocco successfully launched its second earth observation satellite named Mohammed VI-B.
- ❖ It has been launched on board of Ariane space Vega rocket from the launch pad at Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana in South America.
- ❖ It will be placed at same orbit as its twin satellite Mohammed 6-A, the first Moroccan satellite launched in November 2017 also on Vega rocket.
- ❖ The launch completes Morocco's two-satellite constellation for the Earth observation.
- ❖ The satellite was developed by Thales Alenia Space and Airbus Defence & Space.

- ❖ Arianespace is a multinational company founded in 1980 and is the world's first commercial launch service provider in the space sector.

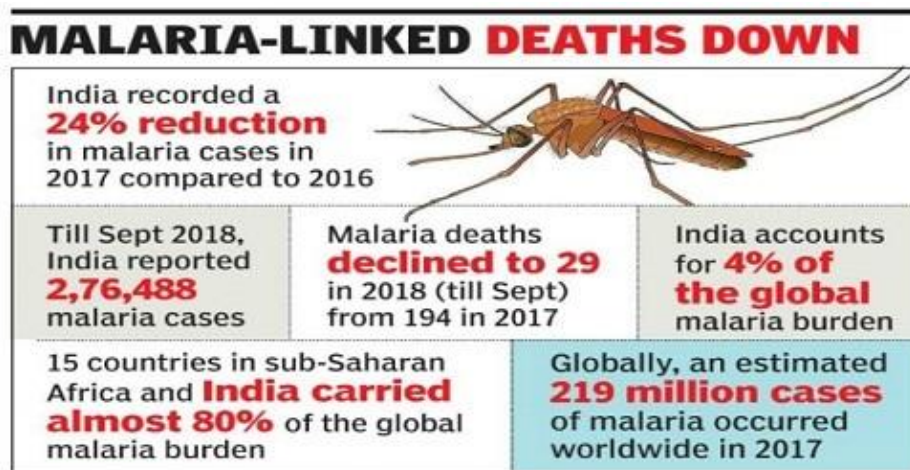
ENVIRONMENT

World malaria report – WHO

- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the World malaria report recently.
- ❖ It states that India is the only country to have recorded a substantial decline in malaria cases in 2017 out of the 11 highest burden countries worldwide.
- ❖ As per the report, India accounted for 4 % of global malaria cases in 2017. It has made significant progress in reducing malaria since then.
- ❖ India has registered a 24 % reduction in cases over 2016, mainly due to its reduction in the highly malaria infected state of Odisha.
- ❖ Odisha contributed to nearly 40 % of all malaria cases in India.

Note

- ❖ In 2017, India launched its five-year National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination that shifted focus from malaria “control” to “elimination”.



- ❖ It provided a road-map with targets to end malaria in 571 districts out of India's 678 districts by 2022.
- ❖ In 2018, WHO certified Paraguay as malaria-free, becoming the first country in the American continent to receive this status in 45 years.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

WCCB wins Asia Environment Enforcement Awards

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has selected the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and its enforcement officer RS Sharath for 2018 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards.
- ❖ They were selected under organization and individual categories respectively for their outstanding contributions in combating the trans-boundary environmental crimes.
- ❖ The 2018 Awards will be given by the UNEP with
 - UN Development Programme (UNDP),
 - UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),
 - INTERPOL,
 - USAID,
 - Freeland Foundation, and Government of Sweden.

WCCB and its Background

- ❖ WCCB is a statutory multi-disciplinary body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.
- ❖ It was established in June 2007 by amending the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.
- ❖ This is the second time in row that WCCB is awarded by the UN Environment.
- ❖ Last year it was awarded for its efforts in conducting and coordinating species-specific wildlife enforcement operation codenamed 'Operation Save Kurma'.
- ❖ **Operation Save Kurma** aimed at combating proliferating **illegal trade of live turtles** and its parts.

Lifetime achievement award - Ustad Amjad Ali Khan

- ❖ One of India's greatest Sarod Master Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was presented "Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement" at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi.
- ❖ It was awarded for his immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian Classical Music.

- ❖ Ustad Amjad Ali Khan has already received
 - Fellowship of sangeet Natak Akademi,
 - UNESCO Award,
 - UNICEP National Ambassadorship,
 - Fukuoka cultural Grand price of Japan
 - ‘Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters’ of France.
- ❖ Ustad Amjad Khan was born in 1945 in Gwalior and received Padma Vibhushan in 2001.
- ❖ The award is named after Sumitra Charat Ram, founder of Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra.

SPORTS

Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger

- ❖ Prajnesh Gunneswaran won the Bengaluru Open ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Challenger title in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Prajnesh Gunneswaran won the title by defeating Saketh Myneni.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Universal Children’s Day – 20 November

- ❖ The Universal Children’s Day was observed on 20th November every year across the World.
- ❖ The observance of the day seeks to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving the children’s welfare.
- ❖ The Theme of the day for the year 2018 is ‘Children are taking over and turning the world blue’.
- ❖ The day marks the adoption of Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 by the UN General assembly.
