

**January – 05**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, has announced commissioning of its first Rs 5,151- crore worth Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal in Ennore, Tamil Nadu.
  - This is the first LNG import terminal IOC has built on its own.
- ❖ The Gujarat education board has recently mandated that students in Gujarat government schools have to respond to their attendance call by saying 'Jai Hind' or 'Jai Bharat' instead of 'Yes Sir' to foster "a feeling of patriotism".
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has laid the foundation stone for the Kuppam airstrip project being taken up at an estimated cost of 100 crore, at Vijalapuram village.
- ❖ India's wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant became the first Indian wicketkeeper batsman to score a century in Test against Australia on Australian soil.
- ❖ Justice Asif Saeed Khosa was appointed as the new Chief Justice of Pakistan. He will succeed incumbent Chief Justice Saqib Nisar.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government appointed Mylswamy Annadurai as Vice president of Tamil Nadu state council of Science and Technology.
- ❖ Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport will be the first in the country to get a fleet of six bullet-resistant vehicles (BRVs) equipped with the latest weapons.
- ❖ The 11th edition of Coimbatore Vizha took off on January 03 at VOC Park in Coimbatore. The week-long annual celebrations, facilitated by Young Indians (Yi) – CII, will go on till January 12.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Tamilnadu Assembly session**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly session commenced on 2nd January 2019 with the customary New Year address by the Governor.
- ❖ The Assembly session would continue till January 8.
- ❖ A decision to this effect was taken at the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting chaired by Speaker P Dhanapal.



### **Top 10 Districts of India**

- ❖ The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had organised a 10 day long (November 9 – November 19) contest to mark World Toilet Day.
- ❖ The ministry released the list of top 10 placeholders that is the top 12 districts (including joint winners).
- ❖ Salem district of Tamil Nadu has been placed among top 12 districts in World Toilet Day contest.

Bankura, West Bengal  
Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir  
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh  
Hazaribagh, Jharkhand  
Jehanabad, Bihar  
Kandhamal, Odisha  
Kodagu, Karnataka  
Lohardaga, Jharkhand  
Murshidabad, West Bengal  
Salem, Tamil Nadu  
Sangli, Maharashtra  
South West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya

## **NATIONAL**

### **Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement**

- ❖ Both India and Pakistan have exchanged their list of nuclear installations.
- ❖ The exchange was in accordance with the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India.
- ❖ The agreement is also referred to as the Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement.
- ❖ The exchange is done each year on January 1 under the Agreement, which was signed on December 31, 1988, and entered into force on January 27, 1991.

### **RTE amendment Bill**

- ❖ The Parliament has given its approval for the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018.



- ❖ The Bill seeks to amend the RTE Act to abolish the “no-detention” policy in schools.
- ❖ Under the current provisions of the Act, no student can be detained up to class VIII.
- ❖ The amendment bill now leaves it to the states to decide whether they want to continue the no detention policy or not.
- ❖ The key aim behind the move is to rebuild the education system of the country.

### **NCTE (National Council for Teacher Education) amendment Act**

- ❖ The Parliament has given its approval to the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- ❖ The Bill grants retrospective recognition to institutions offering teacher education courses after the establishment of the NCTE until the academic year 2017-18.
- ❖ The Bill grants retrospective permission to start a new course or teacher education courses after the establishment of the NCTE until the academic year 2017-2018.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)**

- ❖ US President Donald J. Trump has recently signed the “Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)” into law.
- ❖ The act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region.

#### **Key highlights of the Act**

- ❖ The act will authorize \$1.5 billion in spending for a range of U.S. programs in East and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ It establishes a policy goal to peacefully denuclearize North Korea through the campaign of maximum pressure and engagement.
- ❖ It expresses support for regular arms sales to Taiwan and to enhance the relationship between Taiwan and the US.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Parivesh

- ❖ An ambitious web-based single-window system 'Parivesh' is set to be rolled out in all the states by January 15 to provide 'quick and fast' environmental clearances for industries.
- ❖ Parivesh expands as "Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub".
- ❖ The system has been designed, developed and hosted by the
  - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,with the technical support from the National Informatics Centre, (NIC).
- ❖ It is an automated system for submission, clearance and monitoring of the proposals for seeking Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) Clearances from various authorities.



## STATES

### ACI's Ease of Doing Business index

- ❖ The latest ranking of Singapore's Asia Competitiveness Institute's (ACI), Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index 2018 has been released recently.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of the 21 states of India that were considered for the ranking.
- ❖ While Maharashtra and Delhi came in second and third place, respectively.



- ❖ Andhra Pradesh rose from the 5th rank in 2016 to the top spot in 2018.

### **World Book Fair**

- ❖ The New Delhi World Book Fair was recently held at the Pragati Maidan.
- ❖ The theme of the 27th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair is “Readers with special needs”.
- ❖ The UAE’s third largest emirate Sharjah is the guest of honour for the New Delhi World Book Fair.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **National Bravery Award**

- ❖ Wahengbam Lamnganba Singh (15) of Manipur has been selected by the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) for receiving the National Bravery Award.
- ❖ He will be honoured because he had saved his two and half year’s old cousin brother from drowning in a pond.
- ❖ The National Bravery Awards are given under the aegis of the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) on every Republic Day.
- ❖ These awards are broadly classified into 5 categories, including the Bharat Award, Sanjay Chopra Award, Geeta Chopra Award, Bapu Gaidhani Award and the General National Bravery Awards.

### **World’s first female amputee to climb Mount Vinson**

- ❖ Arunima Sinha became the world’s first female amputee to climb Mount Vinson, the highest peak of Antarctica.
- ❖ The Padma Shree Awardee, Arunima Sinha became the first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013
- ❖ Arunima Sinha’s aim is to summit seven peaks across seven continents.

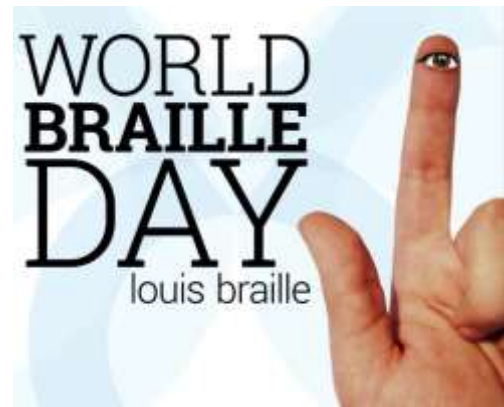


- ❖ She had already scaled five peaks which are Mt Everest, Mt Kilimanjaro, Mt Elbrus, Mt Kosciuszko and Mt Aconcagua.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Braille Day - 04 January

- ❖ United Nations observed the first official World Braille Day on 04 January 2019.
- ❖ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Louis Braille who was the inventor of Braille for the people with visual disabilities.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness on the importance of Braille for approximately 1.3 billion people living with some form of distance or near vision impairment.
- ❖ Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in France and he lost his vision at the age of 3.



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