



February – 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia will launch a common digital currency called 'Aber', which will be used for financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- ❖ The Wayanad district administration confirmed that the two cases of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KDF), also known as monkey fever, has been confirmed in Wayanad.
 - The viral disease can be transmitted to humans through a species of ticks usually found on monkeys.
- ❖ The Senior diplomat Sunjay Sudhir was appointed as India's Ambassador to the Maldives.
- ❖ Senior bureaucrat Rajiv Nayan Choubey appointed as the member of UPSC. The Chairman of UPSC, Aravind Saxena administered him the oath of office.

NATIONAL

Interim CBI chief's case

- ❖ The Supreme Court Justice A K Sikri has recused himself from hearing a PIL challenging the appointment of IPS officer M Nageshwar Rao as interim director of CBI.
- ❖ The case was allotted to Justice AK Sikri after CJI Ranjan Gogoi also withdrew from it as he had to attend the high-powered selection committee to select the new CBI chief.

Rag Rag Mein Ganga

- ❖ The Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari launched travelogue program "Rag Rag Mein Ganga" and quiz show "Meri Ganga" on Doordarshan.
- ❖ This show relays the message of the need of rejuvenating River Ganga and also informing about the efforts of the Government to clean Ganga – presented in a unique and interesting format.



INTERNATIONAL

First Ever Female Hindu Civil Judge

- ❖ Suman Kumari has become the first Hindu woman to be appointed as a civil judge in Pakistan.
- ❖ The first judge from the Hindu community was Justice Rana Bhagwandas, who served in Pakistan from 2005-2007.
- ❖ In 2018, Krishna Kumari Kohli was also a non-Muslim female to win a place in Pakistan Senate.

Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development

- ❖ Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has inaugurated the Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development at Rome.
- ❖ The centre has been opened by the Italian government in association with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Food & Agricultural Organisation (FAO).
- ❖ The centre would facilitate coordination among the G7 and African countries on common initiatives in Africa to achieve the goals set by the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2018

- ❖ The global Corruption Perception Index for the year 2018 was released by anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International recently.
- ❖ India improved its ranking on the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) by three points and moved to 78th position with a score of 41.
- ❖ Denmark is the world least corrupt country scoring 88 out of 100 points, followed by New Zealand and Finland.
- ❖ Somalia has been ranked at last with a score of 10 behind South Sudan and Syria.
- ❖ For the first time since its inception, the United States dropped out of the top 20 and it was ranked at 22nd rank.
- ❖ Along with Brazil, US was placed in the watch list by Transparency International.
- ❖ Since its inception in 1995, the Index, Transparency International's flagship research product, has become the leading global indicator of public sector corruption.



TI CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2018		
BANGLADESH'S POSITION IN SOUTH ASIA		
COUNTRY	RANK FROM TOP	SCORE
Bhutan	25	68
India	78	41
Sri Lanka	89	38
Pakistan	117	33
Maldives	124	31
Nepal	124	31
Bangladesh	149	26
Afghanistan	172	16

GRAFT INDEX: TOP FIVE, BOTTOM FIVE	
LEAST CORRUPT	MOST CORRUPT
Denmark	Somalia
New Zealand	Syria
Finland	South Sudan
Singapore	Yemen
Sweden	North Korea

ENVIRONMENT

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

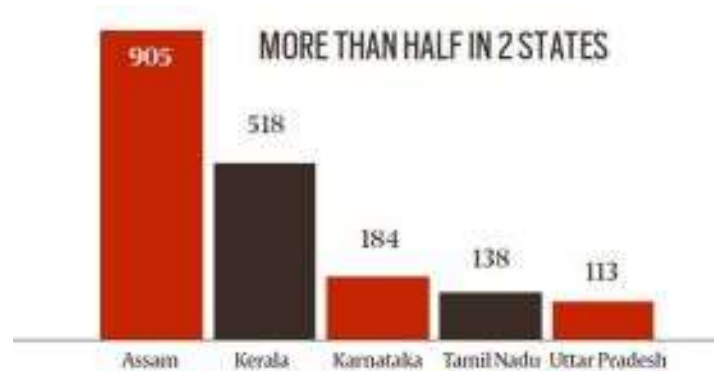
- ❖ The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in a new study says the life expectancy of people in Delhi can go up by nearly three years if the air pollution is reduced by 25%.
- ❖ NCAP is a programme launched by Union Environment Ministry to improve air quality by 20 to 30% in the next 5 years.
- ❖ The programme takes 2017 as the base year to improve air quality.

First survey of captive elephants

- ❖ The details of the first survey of captive elephants in the country were submitted in an affidavit by the MoEFCC to the Supreme Court.



- ❖ According to the affidavit, there are 2,454 elephants in captivity, of which 560 are in possession with forest departments and 1,687 with private individuals.



- ❖ It shows that Assam and Kerala account for more than half the nationwide total of 2,454.
 - Assam has 37% of these captive elephants and Kerala has 21%

Superbug gene – first detected in Arctic

- ❖ An antibiotic-resistant superbug gene first detected in India has been found in one of the last pristine places on the Earth, the Arctic.
- ❖ This finding has huge implications for global antibiotic resistance spread.
- ❖ Soil samples taken in Svalbard have now confirmed the spread of blaNDM-1 (New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1) into the High Arctic region.
- ❖ Svalbard is a Norwegian archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole.
- ❖ This Antibiotic-Resistant Gene (ARGs) provides multidrug resistance in microorganisms.
- ❖ An example is NDM-1, which is a protein that can confer resistance in a range of bacteria.

STATES

Special Scheme to Curb infant deaths - Maharashtra

- ❖ The state government of Maharashtra has launched a special scheme to curb infant deaths.



- ❖ The scheme was launched by distributing baby care kits to the children born in Primary health centre and Government Hospitals.
- ❖ The scheme is applicable only for first child of the parents.
- ❖ Infant mortality rate is the death of young children under one year.

First Astro Turf Football Pitch - Nagaland

- ❖ Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio inaugurated the first Astro Turf Football Pitch of the State at Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kohima, Nagaland.
- ❖ The pitch was inaugurated on the occasion of 100th birth anniversary of the legendary footballer Dr. T. Ao.
- ❖ The Astro Turf has the size of 105×66 metres for playground which is FIFA approved size.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

New chairman of BARC India

- ❖ The MD & CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL), Punit Goenka has been elected as the new chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC).
- ❖ Punit Goenka as a founder Chairman of BARC had played a key role in institutionalizing BARC.
- ❖ BARC India is a collaborative Industry Company founded in 2010 by stakeholder bodies that represent Broadcasters, Advertisers, and Advertising and Media Agencies.
- ❖ BARC India analyses the viewership habits of over 197 million TV households making it the world's largest television audience measurement service.

SPORTS

Tata steel masters

- ❖ Viswanathan Anand settled for 3rd place in Tata Steel Masters Chess tournament held in Wijk aan Zee, The Netherlands.



- ❖ Magnus Carlsen won the title and it is his 7th Tata Steel Chess title after setting for a draw against Anish Giri.
- ❖ Anish Giri secured 2nd position.
