

February – 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Prime Minister launched University of Ladakh, the first-ever varsity in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The Indian squash player Ramit Tandon has won the 2019 Seattle Open title by defeating Mohamed El Sherbini of Egypt in the final in USA. It is his fourth title in his career.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the abolition of institutions of Ombudsman for income tax and indirect tax.
 - The office of Income-Tax Ombudsman was set up in 2003 to deal with grievances of public related to the settlement of complaints relating to income tax.
- ❖ India's largest state-owned lender SBI's regional head in the UK has been honoured with the 'Freedom of the City of London' award in recognition of his contribution to promoting the bilateral relations.
- ❖ India become the second largest consumer and importer of the LPG in the world. This is attributed to government initiatives to push for cleaner alternatives to traditional cooking fuels such as firewood and cow dung.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for introducing the Cinematograph Amendment Bill, 2019 to amend to the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
 - This Bill aims to tackle Films piracy by including the penal provisions for unauthorized camcording and duplication of films.
- ❖ Young Maharashtra-based artist Shashikant Patil was declared winner of the CIMA Award.
- ❖ Dinesh Bhatia has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Argentina.

NATIONAL

Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill - 2018 Amendment

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval to move official amendments to the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill 2018.
- ❖ This amendment will further strengthen the Bill in its objective to effectively tackle the menace of illicit deposit taking activities in the country.



Parmanu Tech 2019

- ❖ The Parmanu Tech conference was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- ❖ The main motive of this conference is to showcase India's capabilities in Nuclear Energy with environmental responsibility.
- ❖ During the conference sector-specific sessions were held on the following topics
 - Health care: Nuclear Medicine and Radiation therapy – Care to cure.
 - Food Preservation, Agricultural & Industrial Applications: From farms to factories – Serving the National Cause.
 - Showcasing India's capabilities in Nuclear Energy: Energy Security with environmental responsibility.

Measures for the protection of Sentinelese Tribe

- ❖ The Government has promulgated various laws/regulations from time to time to ensure that the rights and wellbeing of the Sentinelese are safeguarded.
- ❖ These are being strictly implemented and enforced by the UT Administration. These Laws/Regulation include
 - A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956,
 - Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989,
 - Restrictions under Foreigner (Restricted Area) Orders, 1963,
 - Visa Manual Conditions/Passport Act 1920, and
 - Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ Besides, some major steps taken to ensure the protection of Sentinelese are:
 - The entire North Sentinel Island along with 5 km coastal sea from high water mark is notified as tribal reserve.
 - The Government respects their way of life style, therefore, has adopted an 'eyes-on and hands-off' practice to protect and safeguard the Sentinelese tribe.
 - A protocol of circumnavigation of the North Sentinel Island has been notified.
 - The ships and aircrafts of Coast Guard and boats of Marine Police make sorties around North Sentinel to keep surveillance.



INTERNATIONAL

Asia LPG Summit

- ❖ The second edition of the Asia LPG Summit was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan at New Delhi.
- ❖ The two-day summit held with the theme 'LPG – Energy for Life'.
- ❖ The summit has been organized jointly by the major Indian oil marketing companies (OMCs) Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum together with the World LPG Association (WLPGA).

Macedonia join NATO

- ❖ NATO members signed an accord with Macedonia to allowing the tiny ex-Yugoslav republic to become the 30th member of the U.S. led alliance.
- ❖ The Macedonia-NATO accord follows a deal with Greece ending a 27-year-old dispute over Macedonia's name.
- ❖ This signing of accession papers allows Macedonia to take part in NATO ministerial meetings as an invitee.
- ❖ To acquire full membership, all 29 current members must ratify the accession protocol.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

- ❖ North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is a military and political alliance established through the Washington Treaty.
- ❖ NATO aims to promote democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.
- ❖ Article 5 of the Washington Treaty states that an armed attack against one of the member states would be considered as an attack against all members, and other members would assist the attacked member, with armed forces if necessary.

National Aquatic Animal of Thailand

- ❖ The Government of Thailand has approved the proposal to name Siamese fighting fish as the National Aquatic Animal.



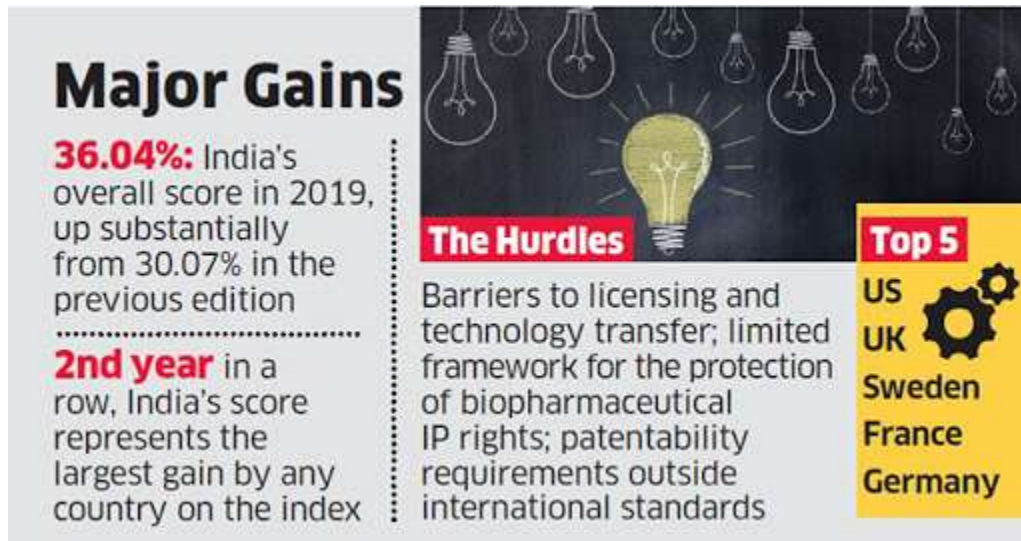
- ❖ The decision was taken based on the recommendation of the National Identity Committee of Thailand which promotes Thai cultural pride forwarded its endorsement of the fighting fish.
- ❖ The government has approved the proposal owing to the cultural and historical significance of the Siamese fighting fish for Thailand.
- ❖ The Siamese fighting fish was chosen as it's a native, unique species to the kingdom's waters and an important animal for Thailand's economy.



ECONOMY

36th International IP index 2019

- ❖ The US Chambers of Commerce released the annual International Intellectual Property (IP) Index of top 50 economies in the world.
- ❖ In the index, India climbed 8 position up to the 36th rank from 44th rank.
- ❖ While USA has topped in the index, Pakistan is at 47th spot and Venezuela is at the last place.



ENVIRONMENT

India Heritage Walk Festival

- ❖ Sahapedia in partnership with UNESCO organised the second edition of India Heritage Walk Festival (IHWF) 2019.
- ❖ It is also supported by the National Mineral Development Corporation.
- ❖ This festival offers the opportunity to discover the hidden gems linked to history.
- ❖ This heritage walk planned to introduce Sanjhi - a paper- cutting art by a stencil of Vrindavan in Bandra, Mumbai.
- ❖ The first edition of the festival, went on to receive the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Awards 2018 in Heritage and Culture.



STATES

Zero Fatality Corridor

- ❖ The Delhi Government has launched Zero Fatality Corridor with an aim to curb the number of accidents.
- ❖ The announcement was made by Kailash Gahlot the Minister of Transport, Delhi during the opening ceremony of the Road Safety Week.
- ❖ 3 km stretch between Bhalswa chowk and Burari chowk on the outer ring road in Delhi has been chosen as a case study in this regard.
- ❖ This 3 km stretch will be observed for scientific assessment of accidents, road engineering, road-user engagement.
- ❖ Experts will also ensure that safety and security measures such as police enforcement and rapid emergency care are made available on this stretch.
- ❖ The initiative is a collaborative approach of the transport, health, education, public works department, together with Delhi traffic police to ensure that road fatalities in Delhi are reduced.
