



February – 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Cabinet has recently approved the establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri.
 - This proposed bench will have jurisdiction over four districts namely Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar.
- ❖ Sushil Chandra, the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes or CBDT, has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner.
 - The appointment came ahead of this year's general elections.
- ❖ Day after the dastardly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 14, India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation (MNF) status accorded to Pakistan.

TAMIL NADU

Two New municipalities

- ❖ Tamil Nadu State government has passed a bill to will upgrade the Hosur and Nagercoil municipalities into municipal corporations.
- ❖ A Bill to this effect was introduced and passed by a voice vote in the Assembly on 14 February 2019.
- ❖ With the upgrading of the two municipalities into corporations, Tamil Nadu will have a total of 14 corporations.

Policy framework for agricultural produce and livestock

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill-2019 was passed by a voice vote at State Assembly.
- ❖ It envisages setting up "TN Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority".
- ❖ This authority will make contract farming more transparent, easier and successful and shall have the powers of a civil court in specified areas.
- ❖ The objective of adopting the bill, was drafted on the lines of a model legislation suggested by the Central government.



NATIONAL

Measures to protect Maithili language

- ❖ Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) accepted some recommendations of the committee set up for promotion and protection of Maithili language and its script.
- ❖ Accepted recommendations of the committee are as follows:
 - Establishment of a script and manuscript centre in Darbhanga of Bihar either at Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University or Lalit Narayan Mithila University
 - Early completion of work pertaining to Unicode scripts of Mithilakshar by the Technology Development of Indian Languages and
 - Preparation of audio-visual materials for teaching of Mithilakshar scripts

Maithili language & Script

- ❖ Maithili is an Indo-Aryan language native to the Indian subcontinent, mainly spoken in India and Nepal.
- ❖ It is spoken in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand and is one of the 22 recognised Indian languages in 8th schedule.
- ❖ Mithilakshar or Tirhuta is the script of broader cultural Mithila.
- ❖ It is an extremely ancient script and is one of the scripts of the broader North Eastern India.
- ❖ The scripts of Mithilakshar, Bangla, Assamese, Newari, Odia and Tibetan are part of the family.

National Gas Grid

- ❖ Union Government has envisaged the development of the National Gas Grid.
- ❖ Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been recognised as the authority.
- ❖ It would grant authorization to the entities for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Geographical Areas.
- ❖ The objectives of the National Gas Grid are:
 - To remove regional imbalance within the country with regard to access for natural gas and provide clean and green fuel throughout the country.



- To connect gas sources to major demand centres and ensure availability of gas to consumers in various sectors.
- Development of City Gas Distribution Networks in various cities for the supply of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG).

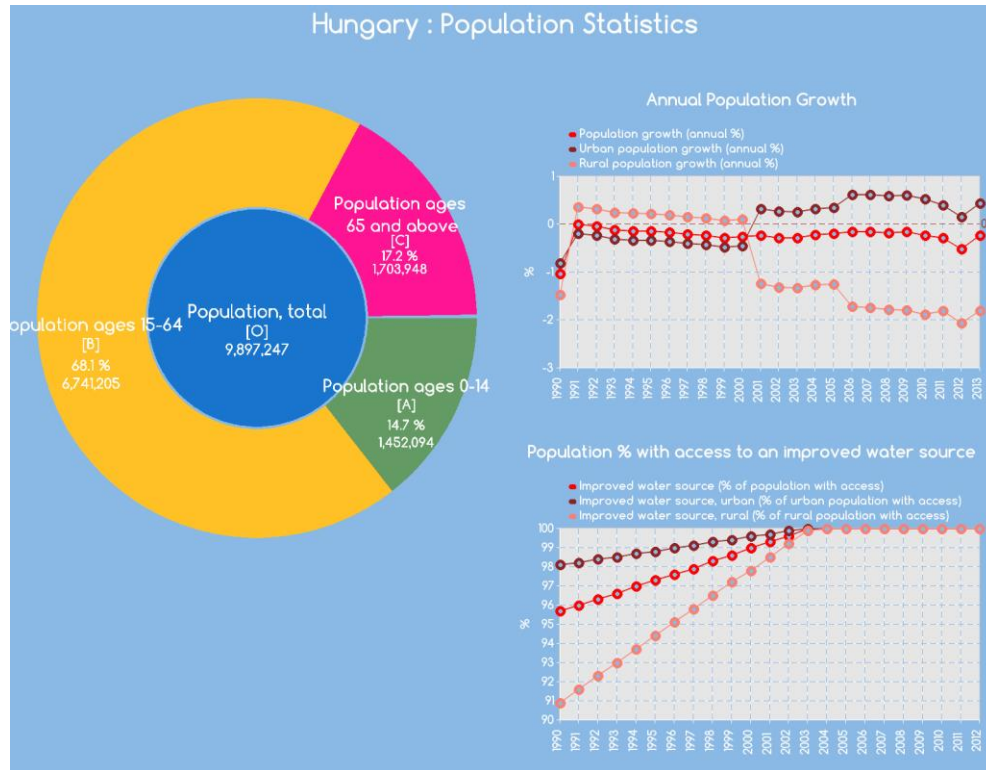
LAWASIA Human Rights Conference 2019

- ❖ The first LAWASIA Human Rights Conference was organised by LAWASIA, in association with the Bar Association of India in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference aims to provide a unique opportunity for lawyers and associated professional members to exchange insights and expertise on topics of significant importance to all.
- ❖ Theme of the LAWASIA Human Rights Conference 2019 was “State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges”.

INTERNATIONAL

Financial aid for Family

- ❖ Hungary's government is greatly increasing financial aid and subsidies for families with several children.
- ❖ This measure was announced to encourage women to have more children and reverse Hungary's population decline.
- ❖ The financial benefits include
 - Lifetime personal income-tax exemption for women who give birth and raise at least 4 children
 - Subsidy of \$ 8,825 towards the purchase a 7-seat vehicle for families with 3 or more children
 - Low-interest loan of \$ 35,300 for women under age 40 who are marrying for the first time.



ECONOMY

Collateral-Free Farm Loan Limit

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the limit of collateral-free agricultural loans to Rs. 1.6 lakh from the current Rs. 1 lakh with a view to help small and marginal farmers.
- ❖ The central bank also decided to set up an internal working group (IWG) to review agricultural credit and arrive at a workable policy solution.
- ❖ The one lakh limit was fixed in the year 2010.
- ❖ Keeping in view the overall inflation and rise in agriculture input costs since then, it has been decided to raise the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans.
- ❖ This will enhance coverage of small and marginal farmers in the formal credit system.

STATES

Operation Smile-V

- ❖ 'Operation Smile-V' initiative launched by Hyderabad Police has helped in rescuing 325 children, who were either working as labourers or begging on the streets, since January 1 this year.
- ❖ Operation Smile also called as Operation Muskaan is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to rescue/rehabilitate missing children.
- ❖ It was launched on January 1 across Telangana.

Sarathi Sandesh Vahini vehicles

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister flagged off 33 'Sarathi Sandesh Vahini' vehicles.
- ❖ It is a mission started by the state family welfare department with an aim to spread awareness regarding family planning in urban and rural areas.
- ❖ The vehicles will provide family planning information to the viewers through various documentaries and films.
- ❖ The state health department will also appoint nodal officers to supervise the campaign and ensure that several targets set by the department including women and child development and education for all are being fulfilled.





IMPORTANT DAYS

National Unani Day – February 11

- ❖ February 11 every year is observed as the Unani Day in India.
- ❖ 11th February, the birthday of Hakim Ajmal Khan, was adopted as Unani Day by the Ministry of AYUSH in 2016 in recognition of his contribution as an eminent Indian Unani physician.
- ❖ To commemorate the Unani Day 2019 a two-day National Conference on Unani Medicine for Public Health was held at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Ministry of AYUSH also adopted a scheme for AYUSH Awards for Unani Medicine which has the provision of conferring 12 Awards each year in following categories
 - Best Research Paper Award,
 - Young Scientist Award,
 - Best Teacher Award, and
 - Lifetime Achievement Award.