



February – 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamilnadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated the morning breakfast scheme of Greater Chennai Corporation on 25 February at the Tiruvanmiyur government school.
 - Chennai Corporation has teamed up with NGO Akshaya Patra to provide the breakfast in government schools around the city.
- ❖ ICAR-Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA) inaugurated a “Fish Waste Processing Unit” at Nambikkai Nagar, Pattinapakkam at Chennai.
 - This unit will be operated by a Self-Help Group (SHG) of Nambikkai Nagar
- ❖ 40th edition of International Annual Desert Festival 2019 has concluded in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
 - The 3-day festival exhibits rich cultural heritage of the desert state, commenced with a colourful procession from Gadsisar lake fort.
- ❖ Meghalaya state animal ‘Clouded Leopard’ was chosen as the mascot for the upcoming National Games to be hosted by the state in 2022.
- ❖ Elise Mertens from Belgium defeated Simona Halep of Italy in the Qatar Open Tennis final and won the biggest title of her career.
- ❖ Abdul Aziz Muhamat, a Sudanese refugee activist who spent four years in an Australian detention centre has won an international human rights prize Martin Ennals award 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland for exposing “the very cruel asylum seeker policy of the Australian government”.
- ❖ Myanmar clinched the Hero Gold Cup women's international football tournament title in style, beating Nepal 3-1 in the final at the Kalinga Stadium, Odisha.
- ❖ Ranji champions Vidarbha beat Rest of India in Nagpur to retain the Irani Cup in cricket match. Vidarbha has now become the 3rd team after Mumbai and Karnataka to clinch two Irani Cup titles in a row.
- ❖ Saina Nehwal beat P V Sindhu to retain her women’s singles crown at the 83rd Yonex Sunrise Senior Badminton Nationals in Guwahati at Assam.



NATIONAL

National War Memorial

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the first ever National War Memorial near India Gate at Delhi.
- ❖ This structure has been built in the memory of our valiant soldiers who laid down their lives protecting India since Partition.



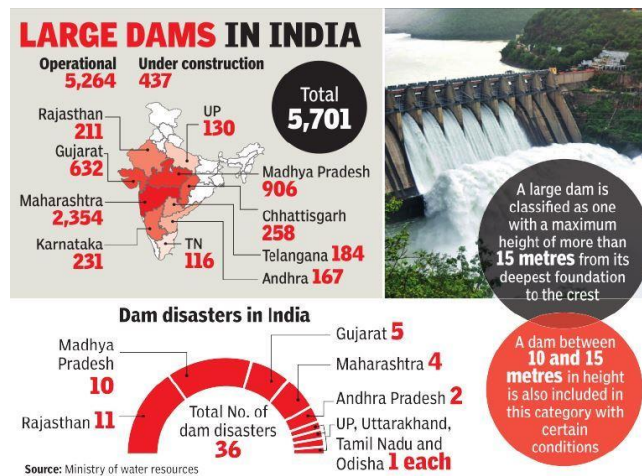
National Water Awards 2018

- ❖ Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation & Road Transport and Highways & Shipping Nitin Gadkari distributed 82 National Water Awards in 14 categories at New Delhi.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh were given first, second and third National Water Awards respectively in best state category.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu bagged 9 awards in following category.

Category	Place	Winners
Best Education/Mass Awareness efforts	1	Isha Foundation- Rally of Rivers, Coimbatore
Best Medium & Small-Scale Industry for Industrial Water Conservation	1	KGFL, Erode
Best District-Rejuvenation/Creation of water Bodies (South Region)	1	Madurai District
	3	Sivgangai District
Best Municipal Corporation	2	Tharangambadi Town Panchayat, Nagapattinam
Best Resident Welfare Association (RWA)	2	Jains Green Acres Flat Owner's Association, Zamin Pallavaram, Chennai.
Best Municipal Corporation	3	Manalmedu Town Panchayat, Nagapattinam District.
Ground Water Recharge	3	Madurai District
Best District Revival of River	3	Tirunelveli District

Fund to improve safety and operational performance of Dams

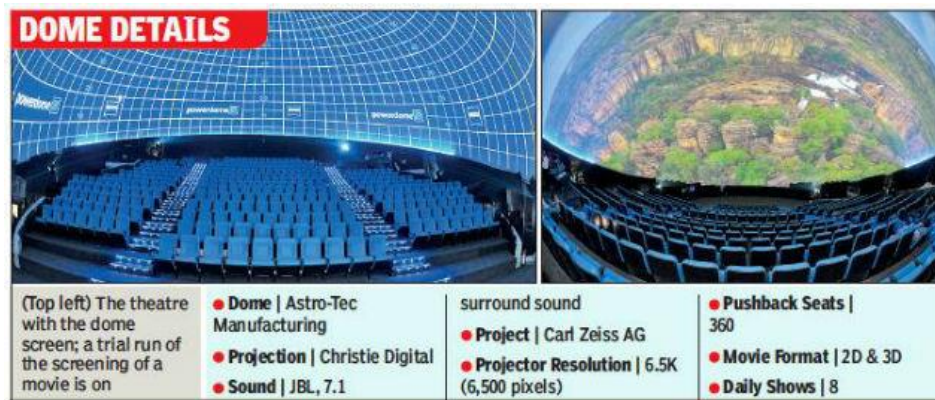
- ❖ World Bank approved Rs 11,000 crore to India to improve safety and operational performance of its 733 large dams across 18 states over the next 10 years.



- ❖ This money will be utilised under the ongoing Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP), besides operation, maintenance and emergency action plans.
- ❖ This programme will also focus on revenue generation at dams through tourism, fisheries, water recreations and solar and hydro power.

India's first fulldome 3D Digital theatre

- ❖ India's first 'fulldome 3D Digital Theatre' at the Science City was inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma in Kolkata.
- ❖ It was fully funded by the union Ministry of Culture.



- ❖ It was the first of its kind in India having a 23-metre titled dome to offer a fully immersive experience to the visitors.
- ❖ Poor and disabled children who are visiting the theatre will be allowed to watch the movie free of cost.

INTERNATIONAL

Velayat-97 Navy Drill

- ❖ Iran concluded its three-day navy drill Velayat 97 in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean including a sensitive global shipping route.
- ❖ The navy drill held in the Strait of Hormuz, Makran coast, Oman Sea and the north of the Indian Ocean, covering 2 million square kilometres.
- ❖ It showcased the performance of Iran's submarines, warships, helicopters and drones.
- ❖ Iran has launched a cruise missile from a Qadir-class submarine for the first time during the drill in the Strait of Hormuz.

Seoul Peace Prize

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with Seoul Peace Prize in South Korea.
- ❖ Modi is the only Indian to bag the Seoul Peace Prize.



- ❖ The award is given for his “contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth”.
- ❖ He is the fourteenth recipient of the award, received an honorarium cash prize of \$200,000 and he gave that to the Namami Gange Programme (National Mission for Clean Ganga).

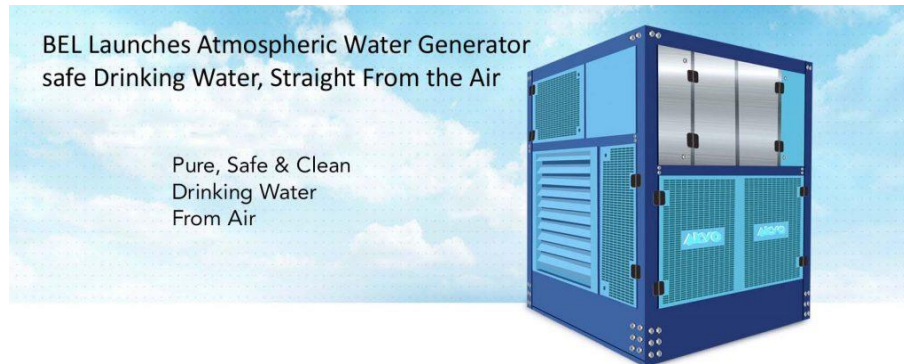
Seoul Peace Prize

- ❖ Established in 1990, the Seoul Peace Prize was an effort to crystallise the Korean people’s yearning for peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the rest of the world.
- ❖ It was initially established to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Atmospheric Water Generator

- ❖ Bharat Electronics has unveiled the Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG), an innovative solution to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide, at Aero India 2019.
- ❖ It can be used to generate water straight from the humidity present in the atmosphere.



- ❖ It employs a novel technology to extract water from the humidity present in the atmosphere and purify it.
- ❖ It uses heat exchanger for condensing the atmospheric moisture to produce pure, safe and clean potable water.

ENVIRONMENT

Conservation Reserves

- ❖ The Centre has identified over 100 coastal and marine sites as conservation reserves under its National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031.
- ❖ This was mentioned in the second biennial update report (BUR) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, submitted to the UN body on climate change in December 2018.

STATES

Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government rolled out its flagship 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana'.
- ❖ It guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youth from economically weaker sections.
- ❖ Youths would get Rs 4,000 stipend per month and total Rs 13,500 for the 100 days period would be provided.
- ❖ During this period, they would be given skill development training, so that they become independent.



- ❖ The scheme defines Economically weaker sections as those whose family's annual income is less than Rs 2 lakh.
- ❖ The scheme is limited to youth in the age group 21-30 years.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Future of Nature award

- ❖ Dr Divya Karnad has become the second Indian and the first woman to receive the 'Global Future of Nature Award' for her work on marine conservation.
- ❖ The only other Indian received the award is Dr Charudutt Mishra.



- ❖ The award is given to three people each year and this year Fernanda Abra (Brazil) and Olivier Nsengimana (Rwanda) also received this award apart from Divya.
- ❖ Future for Nature 2019 Award, awarded by Future for Nature foundation, celebrates tangible achievements in protecting wild animal and plant species.

Academy (Oscars) Awards

- ❖ 91st Academy Awards, commonly referred to as Oscars and presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honoured the best films of 2018.
- ❖ The ceremony was held on February 24, 2019 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California.
- ❖ AMPAS presented Academy Awards in 24 categories.



- ❖ India's UP-based documentary film "Period. End of Sentence" starred by Arunachalam Muruganantham of Tamilnadu, won the Academy Award for the Best Documentary (Short Subject) for the year 2018.

Category	Winners
Best Picture	Green Book
Best Actress	Olivia Colman
Best Actor	Bohemian Rhapsody
Best Animated Feature Film	Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse
Best Documentary	Period. End of Sentence

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