

March – 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Former Vice President Hamid Ansari launched the new book of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram named “Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India” at Nehru Memorial Museum, New Delhi.
- ❖ American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics has conferred DRDO Chief G Satheesh Reddy with the prestigious “Missile Systems Award 2019” for his leadership role in the Indian missile programmes.
- ❖ IFFCO Tokio General Insurance launched ‘bank locker protector policy’, the first stand-alone bank locker cover offered by any insurance company with a plan to protect the contents of a bank locker such as jewelry, title documents, and other valuables.
- ❖ Agrochemical firm, Parijat Industries has been conferred the prestigious ‘Sarvashreshtha Suraksha Puraskar’ (Bronze trophy) for the 3rd time by National Safety Council of India (NSCI) for the year 2018.
- ❖ TVS Motor Company has bagged the international sustainability award ‘Green Era Award for Sustainability’ in Lisbon, Portugal.
 - It also won the Quality and Business Excellence Award in acknowledgment of its endeavour to create new benchmarks in product quality.


NATIONAL


National Commission for Backward Classes


- ❖ The Central government inaugurated the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- ❖ This move took place after two years it became defunct following the introduction of the legislation in Parliament to grant it the constitutional status.
- ❖ This new commission comprises Bhagwan Lal Sahni as a chairman and other members are
 - Kaushalendra Singh Patel,
 - Sudha Yadav,
 - Achary Talloju.
- ❖ This new commission is enshrined in the Constitution at Article 338B on a par with the panels for SCs and STs.

- ❖ It has a power to hear grievances as against the earlier limited mandate of inclusion and exclusion of castes in the national list of OBCs.

Powers Of NCBC

 **NCBC will have all the powers of a civil court**

 **Its powers include summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath**

 **It can ask for production of any document, and receive evidence on affidavits**

QS World University Rankings

- ❖ QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- ❖ Previously it was known as Times Higher Education – QS World University Rankings.
- ❖ Indian universities improved their performance in the latest QS World University Rankings (WUR) by Subject 2019 with 22 more departments being ranked among top-200 over previous year.
- ❖ 89 departments at IISc, IITs, IIMs and Deemed Universities, among others, are being ranked among the global top-200 list.



- ❖ India is now at 21st position globally, with 20 other national systems having more top-200 departments.
- ❖ Three of top-50 subjects from India were achieved by the University of Delhi at 37th position for development studies.

National Policy on Software Products – 2019

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the National Policy on Software Products - 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation.
- ❖ Its objective is to develop India as the
 - Global software product hub through innovation,
 - Improved commercialisation,
 - Sustainable Intellectual Property (IP),
 - Promoting technology start-ups and specialised skill sets.

National Mineral Policy- 2019

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the National Mineral Policy- 2019.
- ❖ It replaces the extant National Mineral Policy 2008.
- ❖ The New National Mineral Policy will ensure more effective regulation.
- ❖ It will lead to sustainable mining sector development in future while addressing the issues of project affected persons especially those residing in tribal areas.
- ❖ It proposes a long-term export-import policy for the mineral sector.
- ❖ It introduces the concept of Inter-Generational Equity to support the future generations.
- ❖ It also intends to constitute an inter-ministerial body to institutionalise the mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining.

Ranjana Desai search committee

- ❖ Justice Ranjana Desai-led search committee for the appointment of Lokpal has finalised its recommendations for the chairperson and eight members of the anti-corruption ombudsman.
- ❖ The Committee submitted the list comprising five names for Lokpal chairman and 24 names for members of the Lokpal to head of the Lokpal selection committee.

- ❖ The selection committee members include,
 - PM -head
 - CJI Ranjan Gogoi,
 - Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan,
 - Former advocate general Mukul Rohatgi and
 - Mallikarjun Kharge - special invitee on the selection panel.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's First Female Robot Anchor

- ❖ The Chinese news agency Xinhua has used its first female Artificial Intelligence (AI) news presenter on the job.
- ❖ This artificial intelligence robot was named "Xin Xiaomeng".
- ❖ China is pushing to advance its prowess in AI technology, from surveillance equipment to self-driving cars.

STATES

Rice Knowledge Bank - Assam

- ❖ Rice Knowledge Bank - Assam, an agriculture web portal was launched in Assam.
- ❖ It is dedicated to magnifying knowledge on rice production technologies and techniques, best production practices and state agriculture facts.



- ❖ It was launched under the World Bank funded project – Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART).

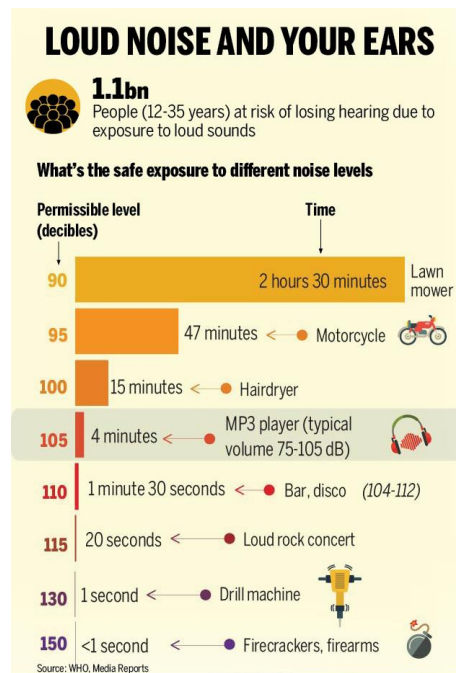
IMPORTANT DAYS

43rd Civil Accounts Day - March 1

- ❖ Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) has celebrated 43rd Civil Accounts Day at New Delhi on 1st March 2019.
- ❖ This year's civil accounts day has showcased the progress of the flagship project of the Indian Civil Accounts Organization namely the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).
- ❖ ICAS was constituted in 1976 and it has steadily increased in stature and played an important role in the management of public finances of the Union Government since its inception.

World Hearing Day - March 3

- ❖ The World Hearing Day is a campaign held each year by Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the World Health Organization (WHO).



- ❖ Theme for this year's commemoration is "check your hearing".

- ❖ WHO launched a free application mobile device named 'hearWHO', which allows people to check their hearing regularly and intervene early in case of hearing loss.

World Wildlife Day- March 3

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to proclaim 3 March as World Wildlife Day at its 68th session on 20 December 2013.
- ❖ This day marks the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



- ❖ It was proposed by Thailand, to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.
- ❖ Theme for this 2019 is "Life below water: for people and planet".

National Safety Day - March 4

- ❖ National Safety Day is celebrated every year on march 4th in India.
- ❖ The day is commemorating the Foundation Day of the National Safety Council.
- ❖ First National Safety Day (NSD) Campaign was launched in 1972 and has since been organised every year.
- ❖ It was started for a single day on 4th March as NSD.
- ❖ The campaign has now been spread over a week from 4-11 March.

