

**March – 14**

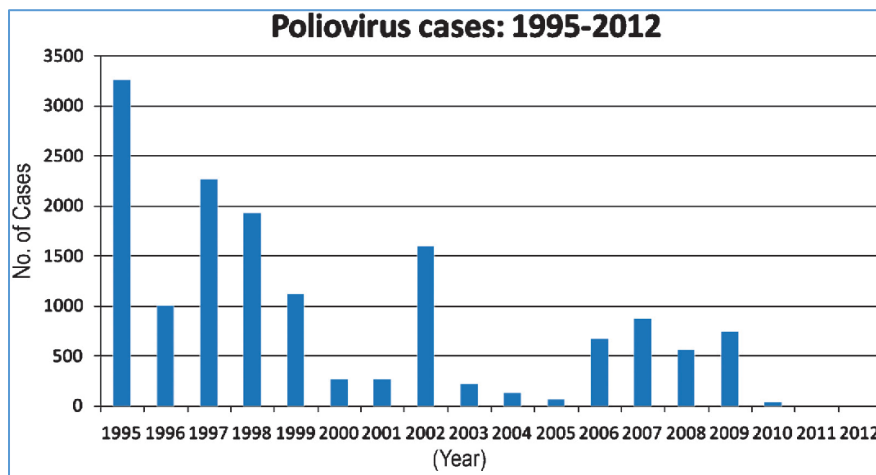
## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Central government has banned the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft after an Ethiopian Airlines flight crashed killing all 157 people including four Indians on board.
- ❖ C Lalsawta was sworn-in as the first Chairman of the newly-constituted Lokayukta in Mizoram at the Raj Bhawan, Aizawl.

## NATIONAL

### Pulse Polio Program 2019

- ❖ The Government has launched the Pulse Polio Programme 2019 on March 9.
- ❖ Under this programme, polio drops would be administered to children less than five years of age.
- ❖ It is conducted every year.



- ❖ It aims to protect children from the polio disease by conducting two nationwide mass polio vaccination campaigns and two to three sub-national campaigns each year.
- ❖ This pulse polio programme 2019 is aimed at sustaining the polio eradication from the country.

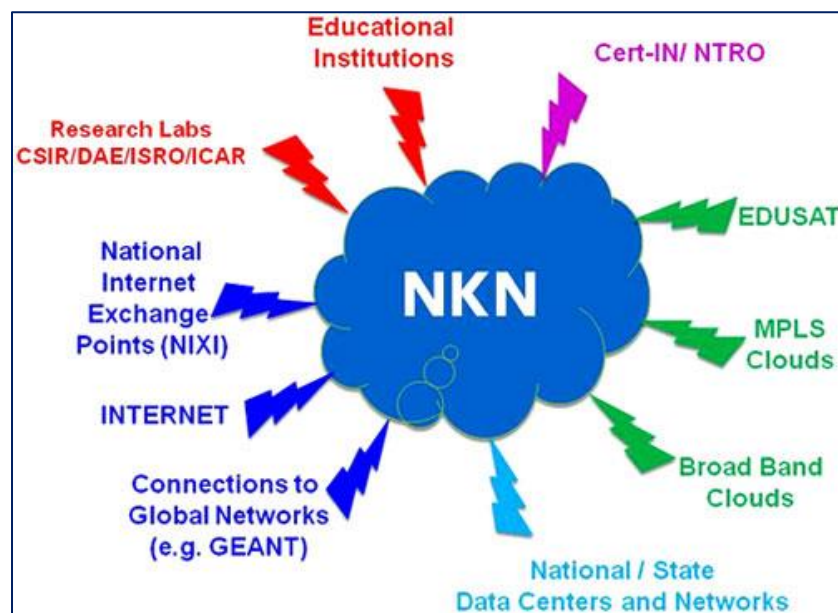
### Polio

- ❖ Polio, also known as poliomyelitis, is a highly contagious viral disease.

- ❖ Children younger than 5 years old are more likely to contract the virus than any other group.
- ❖ Polio virus spreads by food or water containing human faeces and less commonly from infected saliva.
- ❖ India was declared polio-free country in the year 2014.
- ❖ India's last reported cases of wild polio were in West Bengal and Gujarat on 13 January 2011.

### **National Knowledge Network**

- ❖ India has decided to extend its National Knowledge Network (NKN) to Bangladesh.
- ❖ NKN is a multi-gigabit pan-India network which facilitates the development of India's communications infrastructure, stimulates research and creates next generation applications and services.



- ❖ It aims to connect all universities, research institutions, libraries, laboratories, healthcare and agricultural institutions across the country to address such paradigm shift.



## **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**

- ❖ Till date since the launch (1/5/2016), Seven crore LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was handed over by the Ministry for Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ Under the scheme, deposit-free LPG connection is provided to a poor household or BPL.

**Top five States under Ujjwala scheme**

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of connections</b>
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>1,26,40,088</b>
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>78,47,110</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>77,51,825</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>63,31,815</b>
<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>55,34,808</b>

**Source: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

- ❖ LPG connection is issued in the name of an adult woman member of the household.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Wood snake**

- ❖ A species of wood snake (*Xylophis indicus*) that wasn't seen for 140 years has reappeared in a survey conducted by scientists in the Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The species is endemic to the Meghamalai forests and the Periyar Tiger Reserve landscape.
- ❖ The local population of wood snakes was last spotted and recorded by British military officer and naturalist Colonel Richard Henry Beddome in 1878.



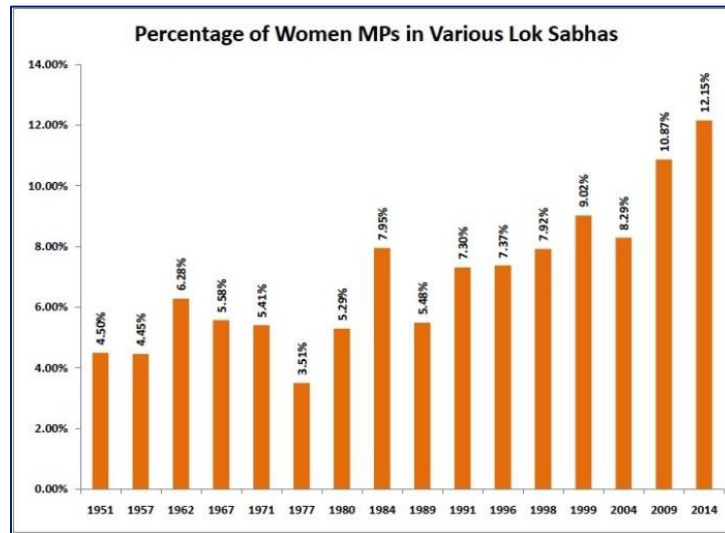
## STATES

### Dialogue and Development Commission

- ❖ High-level committee consist of 17 members has been constituted by the Delhi government's Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC).
- ❖ It aims to “reform higher education” in the city.
- ❖ This committee will recommend goals, metrics, policies, and actionable plans for reforming Delhi's higher education system within a year.
- ❖ Nalanda 2.0, a non-profit policy think tank with a mission to make India's higher education system world-class, is the knowledge partner of DDC in this initiative.

### 33% reservation for women

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that his party BJD would allocate 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies in Odisha.
- ❖ Last year Odisha state assembly passed a resolution seeking 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies.
- ❖ Mamata Banerjee led TMC in West Bengal also set the bar higher by naming 17 women over 40% in its list of 42 candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal.



### **Boat ambulance service**

- ❖ Odisha government on March 5, 2019 launched boat ambulance service for those living in the remote villages near Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district.



- ❖ This boat ambulance can speedily reach the river and seaside villages.
- ❖ This ambulance service will be available round-the-clock, and is equipped with necessary medical equipment.
- ❖ Also, the State government has decided to introduce six more boat ambulances in riverside areas this year.





### **Bhitarkanika National Park**

- ❖ Bhitarkanika National Park is the core area of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary located in the north-east region of Kendrapara district in the state of Odisha.
- ❖ Bhitarkanika is the second largest mangrove forest after Sundarban in West Bengal.
- ❖ Its water bodies are the home of around 1,800 estuarine crocodiles.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Inspiring Second Career Woman award**

- ❖ British Deputy High Commission in association with Avtar Group honoured three Tamil Nadu women for making a comeback to their careers after a long break.
- ❖ Navya C, Sugandhi Jagadeesan and Ruby Mathew were honoured with the Inspiring Second Career Woman (ISCW) award on March 8, on the occasion of International Women's Day.

## **SPORTS**

### **50 KM Race Walk World Record**

- ❖ China's 2016 Olympic champion Liu Hong broke the world record in the 50 km race walk.
- ❖ She finished 50 Km in 3 hours, 59 minutes and 15 seconds (3:59:15) at the Chinese Race Walk Grand Prix in Huangshan of China.
- ❖ With this she become the first woman to break the 4-hour barrier in the event.
- ❖ She clipped more than five minutes from the previous record of 4:04:36 set by China's Liang Rui at the IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships in Taicang of China in 2018.
- ❖ She now holds the world record for both the 20 km and 50 km distances, having clocked 1:24:38 in La Coruna, Spain in 2015 for the 20 km distance.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Commonwealth Day – March 11

- ❖ The Commonwealth of Nations celebrate Commonwealth Day every year, on second Monday in March every year.
- ❖ Commonwealth is an inter-governmental organization consisting of 52 former British colonies along with Rwanda and Mozambique (Totally 53 Members).



- ❖ Following a 1973 proposal by the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Commonwealth Secretariat selected the second Monday in March as the Commonwealth Day.
- ❖ Since 1977, Commonwealth Day has been celebrated annually on the second Monday in March.
- ❖ Theme for the 2019 is 'A Connected Commonwealth'.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### 30 years of World Wide Web

- ❖ March 12, 2019 marks the 30 years of the innovation of World Wide Web.
- ❖ The inventor of WWW, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, was 33 when he first submitted the 'Information Management: A Proposal' for World Wide Web while working at Europe's CERN lab.
- ❖ He submitted his proposal on March 12, 1989, which led to the invention of World Wide Web.
- ❖ Today, it nearly has 2 billion websites online.
- ❖ Web was made public in April 1993, after which the first search engine was launched called Mosaic.



### Barbie doll model

- ❖ Mattel, Barbie toy manufacturing company released a new range of barbies to honour female role models globally on their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



- ❖ India also got put on the map with this model, with Dipa Karmakar being India's representation on it.



- ❖ Karmakar has won over 77 medals, including 67 gold ones at state, national and international levels.
  - ❖ She was awarded with Arjuna Award in 2015, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 2016, Padma Shri award in 2017.
  - ❖ She also became India's first gymnast to win a gold medal at an international event - the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey.
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