



April – 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the plaque of the Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium at Gabriel Rene Moreno University, Bolivia to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation plans to install rooftop solar power plants in 662 buildings with a total capacity of 3,030 kilo watt (KW) and aims to save Rs.1 lakh per day on its power bill.
- ❖ The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai is now among the largest rail coach builders in the world, beating top Chinese manufacturers.
- ❖ European country Estonia has emerged as a global leader in Online Voting (e-Voting) with 44% of votes in the recently concluded parliamentary elections.
- ❖ The Chinese Long March 3B rocket delivered a new-generation tracking and data relay satellite to orbit to provide communications support for the future human spaceflight missions and space station.
- ❖ In view of Parliamentary Elections, WhatsApp has launched a 'tipline' in India using which citizens can submit possible rumours and misinformation for verification on WhatsApp.

NATIONAL

SVEEP Workshop

- ❖ The Election commission of India has conducted SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program) workshop for 150 community Radios.
- ❖ The Main purpose of the workshop was training and capacity building of Community Radios for voter education and awareness.
- ❖ Community radio is a type of radio service that caters to the interests of a specific area, broadcasting material that has relevance to a local audience.
- ❖ Community radios are usually a short-range, not-for-profit ventures run using low-cost technology.



Mind the Gap

- ❖ Oxfam India has released a report titled 'Mind The Gap - State of Employment in India'.
- ❖ According to the report, lack of quality jobs and increasing wage disparity are key markers of inequality in the Indian labour market.
- ❖ The report highlights gender inequality in salary and wages paid and how women are systematically underpaid irrespective of the category of their employment.
- ❖ It states, based on NSSO Survey (National Sample Survey Organisation) data, on an average, women are paid 34 per cent less than similarly qualified male workers for performing the same tasks.

OXFAM

- ❖ Oxford Committee for Famine Relief – Oxfam was a charitable organization founded in 1942 for the alleviation of global poverty.
- ❖ Oxfam is celebrating its 67th year of humanitarian service in India.
- ❖ In 1951, Oxfam Great Britain launched its first full scale humanitarian response to the Bihar famine.

Finalization of CCIT

- ❖ In the wake of growing threats and acts of terrorism across the world, India and Bolivia have called for an early finalization of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).
- ❖ The CCIT is a proposed treaty which intends to criminalize all forms of international terrorism and deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters' access to funds, arms, and safe havens.
- ❖ CCIT was proposed by India in 1996 but it is yet to be ratified and accepted fully by UN General Assembly.
- ❖ Except the convention on Terrorism, three other conventions have been universally accepted.



Name of the Convention	Year adopted
International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings	1997
International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism	1999
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism	2005

100th warship

- ❖ Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers of Kolkata (GRSE) has emerged the first Indian shipyard to make and deliver 100 warships to the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Mauritius Coast Guard.
- ❖ The 100th Warship, IN LCU L-56, can accommodate 216 personnel and is equipped with two indigenous CRN 91 guns.





INTERNATIONAL

Imperial era Reiwa

- ❖ Japan declared 'Reiwa' as the name of its new imperial era that will begin on May 1, 2019 once the new Crown Prince Naruhito ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne.
- ❖ The new era will be the 248th in the history of Japan.
- ❖ Japan's emperor has No political power, but remains a highly important symbolic figure.

ECONOMY

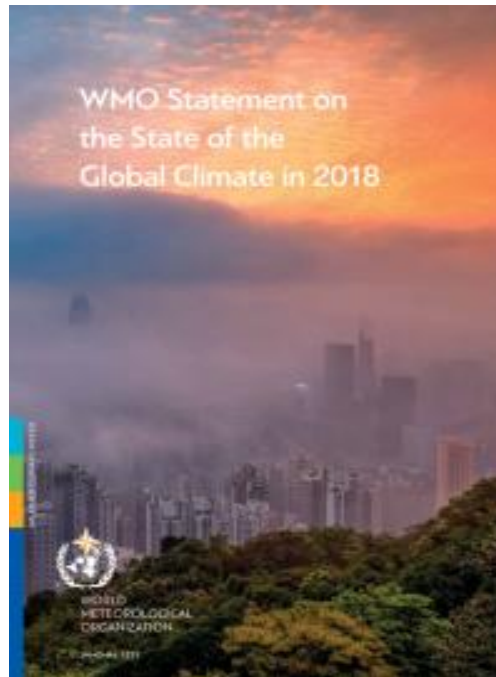
Fiscal Discipline Committee

- ❖ The Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission N K Singh has emphasised the need for a fiscal council to enforce fiscal rules and for better management of public debt.
- ❖ Article 293 (3) of the constitution places an upper limit on the ability of the state governments to borrow. They cannot breach that ceiling.
- ❖ But Central Government does not any have constitutional checks on the amount of the money it can borrow.
- ❖ India's debt-to-GDP ratio of the states and the Centre combined is also way too high at 70%.
- ❖ An Institutional mechanism like Fiscal Council is needed to enforce fiscal rules and to keep a check on Centre's fiscal consolidation.

ENVIRONMENT

State of the Global Climate

- ❖ World Meteorological Organisation has published a report - 'State of the Global Climate 2018'.
- ❖ This publication marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate, which was first issued in 1994.
- ❖ Key findings of this report include the continuous upward trend in the atmospheric concentration of the major greenhouse gases, the increasing rate of sea-level rise and the loss of sea ice in both northern and southern polar regions.



Fourth UN Environment Assembly

- ❖ The fourth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) meet was held at Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ The theme for UNEA-4 was “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”
- ❖ Estonia was the President of UNEA-4.
- ❖ UNEA is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment.
- ❖ It addresses the critical environmental challenges facing the world today.
- ❖ The UNEA was created in June 2012.
- ❖ This conference is popularly referred to as RIO+20.
- ❖ The first and second UNEA sessions tackled and adopted resolutions on major issues of illegal trade in wildlife, air quality, environmental rule of law, financing the Green Economy and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ The third UNEA session took place in Nairobi under the overarching theme “Towards a pollution-free planet”.
- ❖ The UN Environment Assembly which is composed of 193 Member States holds its sessions biennially.



SPORTS

Indian Open Badminton Tournament

- ❖ The 2019 edition of India Open ended at the Indira Gandhi (IG) Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- ❖ Denmark's Viktor Axelsen and Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon were crowned champions in men's and women's singles events respectively.
- ❖ Men's doubles were won by Thailand duo Lee Yang and Wang Chi-lin.
- ❖ Women's doubles were won by Indonesian duo Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu.
- ❖ Ace Indian Badminton players PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth both failed to make a mark.
- ❖ Indian Open tournament has been held since 2008.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Autism Awareness Day – April 2

- ❖ April 2nd is internationally recognized as World Autism Awareness Day.
- ❖ It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution which was adopted in December 2007.
- ❖ World Autism Day is one of only seven official health-specific UN Days.
- ❖ This day is observed to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the world.
