



April – 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Election Commission (EC) has appointed IPS officer Ashutosh Shukla as the Director General of Police (Elections) in Tamil Nadu to take charge of election-related works involving the state police immediately.
 - Police officials in the State would be reporting to Mr. Shukla, who was heading the Prisons Department.
- ❖ In a first, Election commission will set up a polling station at Institute of Mental Health, Chennai for the reformed and family-abandoned 192 people.
 - The Institution was started in 1795 when the East India company appointed Surgeon Valentine Conolly to be in charge of a “House for accommodating persons of unsound mind.”

NATIONAL

Modi Biopic banned

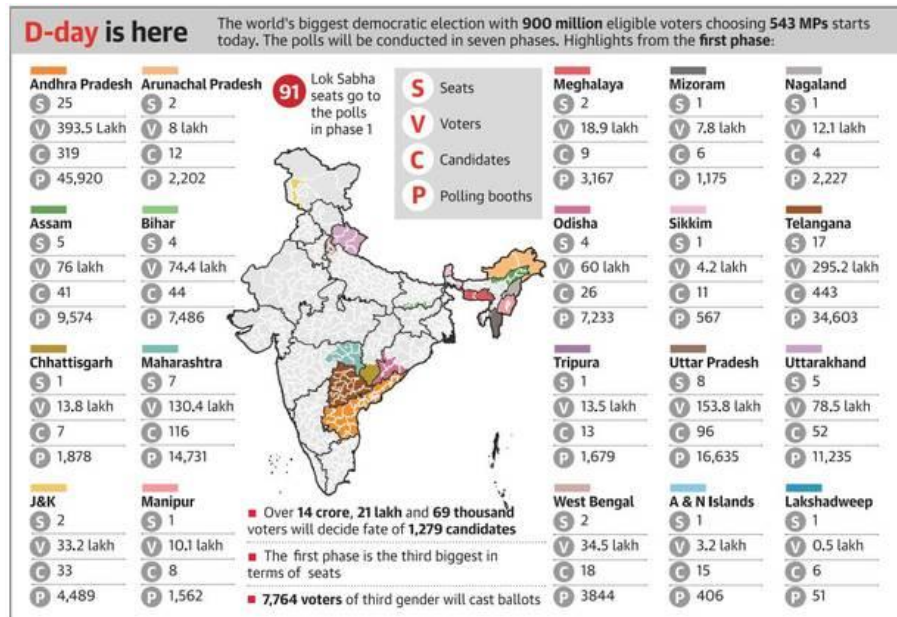
- ❖ The Election Commission of India has banned the screening of the biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Name of the Movie - PM Narendra Modi) during poll period.
- ❖ It has stated that any such film that promotes the purpose of any political entity or any individual should not be displayed in the electronic media.

PM deeply regrets

- ❖ British Prime Minister Theresa May has expressed “regret” in Parliament for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, ahead of the 100th anniversary of the killings on April 13.
- ❖ May quoted Queen Elizabeth’s remarks, calling the incident a “distressing example” of Britain’s past history with India.
- ❖ But the Opposition Labour Party headed by Jeremy Corbyn, has called for a “full, clear and unequivocal apology”, from the British government for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

First phase polling

- ❖ Voting in the Phase 1 of Parliamentary elections has begun on April 11th, 2019. The 7th and final phase of elections will be held on May 19, 2019.



- ❖ Polling will take place for a total of 91 seats in 20 states and Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh (25), Telangana (17), Uttarakhand (5), Meghalaya (2) and Arunachal Pradesh (2).

School Children's Health

- ❖ Jarma Wellness, an organisation working in the area of healthcare consultation has conducted a health survey amongst 2 lakh school going children from various socio-economic background.
- ❖ It has released a report titled 'Enhancing the Effectiveness and Impact of Schools: Insights from School Health Screening Program'.

Key Findings

- ❖ Obesity, vision and dental issues are the major health problems faced by school-going children in the age group 2 to 17 years across India.
- ❖ 30.4% of students have abnormal BMI (Body Mass Index) and one in two students may need spectacles.

INTERNATIONAL

Lord Howe Island

- ❖ The corals off Lord Howe Island, the world's southernmost coral reef, has been hit by bleaching this year due to rising sea temperatures.
- ❖ UNESCO records the Lord Howe Island Group as a World Heritage Site of global natural significance.
- ❖ This volcanic remnant island is located in the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand.

Corals

- ❖ Corals are animals which live in a symbiotic relationship with microscopic algae called zooxanthellae (which live within the coral tissue).
- ❖ The zooxanthellae convert sunlight into food, providing corals with up to 90 per cent of their energy needs. They also give corals much of their colour.



Coral bleaching

- ❖ Bleaching occurs when stressful conditions, such as heat, cause this relationship to break down, resulting in the corals expelling their zooxanthellae.

- ❖ This leaves the coral tissue mostly transparent, revealing the coral's bright white skeleton.
- ❖ This loss of their symbiotic algae means bleached corals are essentially starving.

ENVIRONMENT

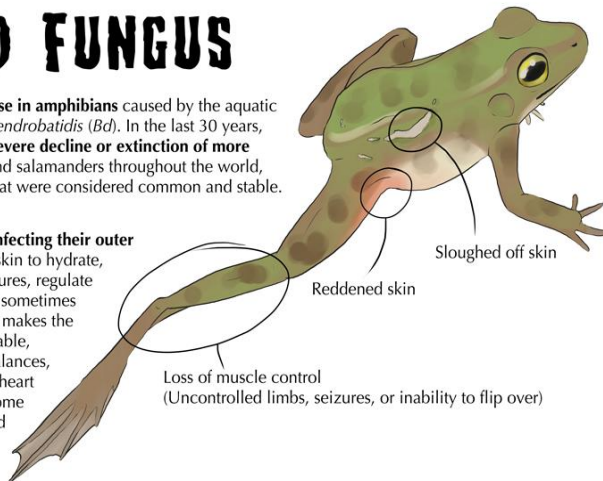
Chytridiomycosis

- ❖ Chytridiomycosis is a deadly contagious disease affecting amphibians.
- ❖ Chytridiomycosis is caused by the fungus “*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*”.
- ❖ The fungus attacks the skin of frogs, toads and other amphibians.

CHYTRID FUNGUS

Chytridiomycosis is a disease in amphibians caused by the aquatic fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*). In the last 30 years, *Bd* has been linked to the **severe decline or extinction of more than 200 species** of frogs and salamanders throughout the world, including several species that were considered common and stable.

Bd attacks amphibians by **infecting their outer skin layers**. Frogs use their skin to hydrate, control their body temperatures, regulate minerals and nutrients, and sometimes even breathe. The infection makes the skin thicker and less permeable, resulting in electrolyte imbalances, loss of muscle control, and heart failure. Frogs may also become lethargic and have reddened or sloughed off skin.



Several treatments have shown promise but there is currently **no cure**. One key may lie in figuring out why some species are more susceptible than others — some species are resistant while others experience **85-100% fatality**.

Alithographica

References: <https://amphibiaweb.org/chytrid/chytridiomycosis.html>
<http://www.amphibianark.org/the-crisis/chytrid-fungus/>

- ❖ As the creatures use their skin to breathe and regulate their bodies' water levels, the damage caused by the disease eventually leads to heart failure and death.
- ❖ This is described as the “first global wild disease issue” as it has resulted in complete extinction of 90 species.

STATES

Periyar Discoloration

- ❖ The Periyar River in Kerala has turned black near the Pathalam Regulator cum Bridge.



- ❖ The discolouration was due to the poor quality of water as a result of eutrophication.
- ❖ When excessive nutrients reach the waterbody, it will lead to algal bloom.
- ❖ A few days later, algae will die and decay, resulting in a foul smell and discolouration of water.
- ❖ Industrial effluents and household drains are equally responsible for this pollution.

Periyar River

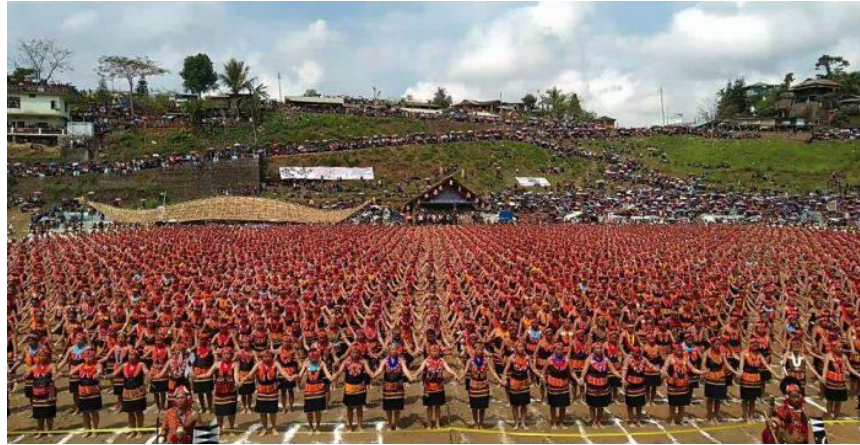
- ❖ Periyar is the longest river and the river with the largest discharge potential in Kerala.
- ❖ Its major tributaries are - Mullayar River, Muthirapuzha River, Cheruthoni River, Perinjankutti River and Edamala River.

Mullaperiyar dam

- ❖ The Mullaperiyar dam is constructed at the confluence of the Periyar and Mullayar to create the Periyar Thekkady lake and reservoir.
- ❖ Water from here is diverted to Tamilnadu via a tunnel. The diverted water is used to generate power.
- ❖ Then it is let into the Suruliar river (a tributary of the Vaigai River) thereby resulting in an inter-basin transfer of water.
- ❖ The dams falling within Tamil Nadu in the Periyar basin are the Upper Nirar Weir and the Lower Nirar Dam.
- ❖ Mullaperiyar dam was constructed between 1887 and 1895 by John Pennycuick.
- ❖ Kerala's largest hydroelectric power project Idukki Dam lies on Periyar river.

Konyak Dance

- ❖ Around 4,700 Konyak Naga women came together and have danced to set a Guinness World Record for the "Largest Traditional Konyak Dance".
- ❖ Konyak is one of the 16 Naga tribes and people of this community live mainly in the Mon district of Nagaland.

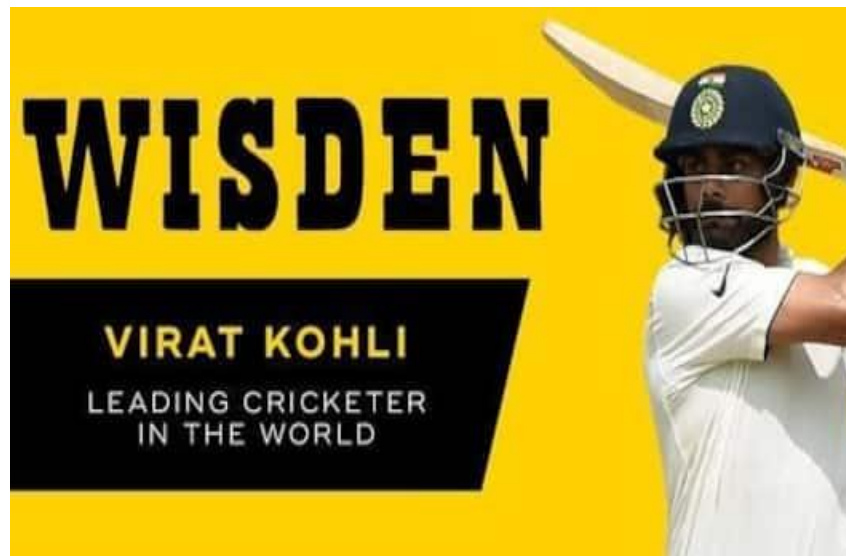


- ❖ The official attempt to make the record was made during the Konyak Aoleang-cum-Mini Hornbill Festival in Nagaland.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Cricketer Kohli

- ❖ Virat Kohli was named as Wisden's "Leading Cricketer of the Year" for an unprecedented third year in a row.



- ❖ Smriti Mandhana is the Women's "Leading Cricketer of the Year".
- ❖ Afghanistan's Rashid Khan was "Leading Twenty20 Cricketer of the Year" for the second year running.



- ❖ The awards were announced at the 156th edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

Wisden Almanack

- ❖ Wisden Cricketers' Almanack or simply Wisden is a cricket reference book published annually in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Wisden was founded in 1864 by the English cricketer John Wisden (1826–84).
- ❖ Its annual publication has continued uninterrupted to the present day, making it the longest running sports annual in history.
- ❖ In 2012, an Indian edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack was launched (dated 2013).
- ❖ Wisden introduced The Cricketer of the Year awards in 1889 to recognise the excellence of players who have performed in England during the previous summer.
- ❖ A player can win this award only once in his life time.
- ❖ The 'Leading Cricketer of the Year' honours are only recently given to appreciate international performances, with no restrictions on the number of wins.
