



April – 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 85 years old Kannyappan from Tiruvannamalai district, a bonded labourer since his childhood, has been rescued along with 50 others by TN Revenue department and he plans to vote for the first time.
- ❖ Sudan's three decades long president Omar Hassan al-Bashir has been removed from office and arrested following months of protests against Bashir's regime.
 - Defence Minister Ahmed Awad ibn Awf announced the suspension of the 2005 constitution, along with a three-month state of emergency.
- ❖ Australian-born founder of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange was arrested in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.
 - He faces US federal conspiracy charges related to one of the largest ever leaks of government secrets and classified data.
- ❖ US private space flight company SpaceX has carried out its first commercial launch with its Falcon Heavy rocket by placing a Saudi Arabian satellite-ARABSAT.

NATIONAL

Supreme Court on Rafale

- ❖ The SC dismissed arguments that several secret documents about the Rafale deal could not be examined by the court because they had been “stolen”.
- ❖ In 2015 PM Modi decided to drop ongoing negotiations with French manufacturer Dassault to buy 136 Rafale fighter jets despite years of technical discussions and negotiations.
- ❖ He had announced a new government-to-government deal to buy just 36 Rafale jets only on completely different terms from the earlier ones.
- ❖ Several petitioners demanded Supreme Court to investigate into the deal, but the court in 2018 chose not to intervene and dismissed the petitions.
- ❖ In 2019, The Hindu's N Ram published reports based on actual file notings and reports made by defence ministry officials. They were
 - Defence ministry's negotiation team had complained about the separate negotiation carried out by PM's Office on its own with Dassault.



- The separate discussions weakened India's position and denied a better deal.
- The French were permitted to drop clauses that are otherwise standard for India such as requiring bank guarantees and anti-corruption measures.
- ❖ The petitioners whose case was dismissed in 2018, took these documents back to the Supreme Court and had filed a review petition based on The Hindu's documents.
- ❖ The government of India objected to the investigation on the grounds that these documents were stolen and photo copied and any further investigation into the Rafale deal would endanger the National security.
- ❖ The court dismissed the arguments altogether and admitted Review of the case and verified the authenticity and admissibility of the evidence released by The Hindu.

INTERNATIONAL

Drone Delivery

- ❖ Google's parent company Alphabet has developed a drone-based delivery service named 'Wing' in the Australian city of Canberra on a pilot basis.
- ❖ The drones will deliver food and drinks as well as medication directly to the homes of customers.

Benjamin Netanyahu

- ❖ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has won the Israeli national election, securing a record fifth term in office.





- ❖ The Right-wing leader's Likud party has won 35 seats out of the 120 seats in the Knesset and is widely expected to form government again.
- ❖ Knesset is the parliament of Israel.
- ❖ Mr. Netanyahu is now set to become the longest-serving Prime Minister, overtaking David Ben-Gurion, the founder of Israel.

ECONOMY

Growth Forecast

- ❖ Gita Gopinath, the chief economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed India's growth estimate for the financial year 2019-20 from 7.7% to 7.5%.
- ❖ She has raised concerns about deflator or the base year used to calculate the real GDP and stressed the need for transparency in statistics released by the Government.
- ❖ India is a subscriber to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS).

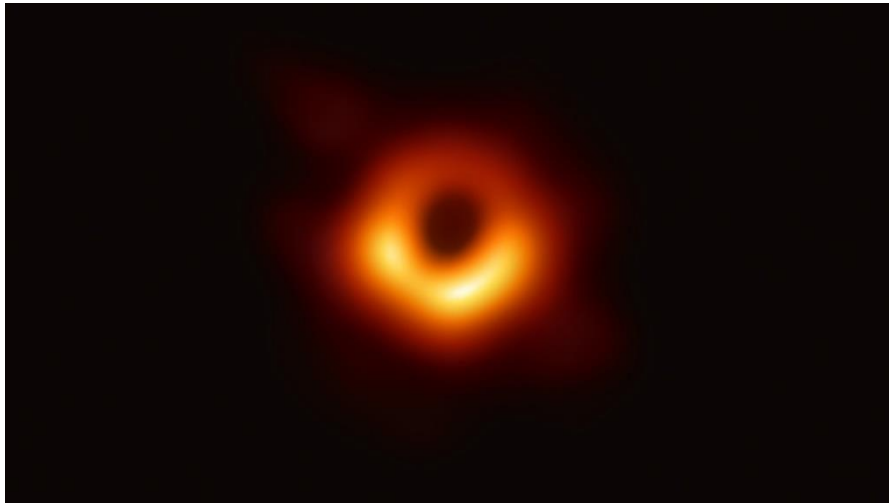
Statistics in India

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) is ministry concerned with coverage and quality aspects of statistics released.
- ❖ It was formed in 1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation.
- ❖ The Statistics Wing, also called the National Statistical Office (NSO) consists of
 - The Central Statistics Office (CSO)
 - The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)
 - The Computer center
- ❖ The Programme Implementation Wing has three Divisions
 - Twenty Point Programme
 - Infrastructure Monitoring and Project Monitoring
 - Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Black hole - Powehi

- ❖ The first-ever black hole to be photographed has been named "Powehi".



- ❖ The name was given by renowned Hawaiian language professor, Larry Kimura from the Hawaiian word "Kumulipo".
- ❖ It lies at the center of the largest galaxy Messier 87, which is about 54 million light-years away.
- ❖ Scientists have obtained this image of a black hole using Event Horizon Telescope observations.

Event Horizon Telescope

- ❖ The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) is an array of eight ground-based radio telescopes forged through international collaboration.
- ❖ EHT used very-long-baseline interferometry (VLBI) technique, a technique that linked and synchronised all the 8 telescopes around the globe.
- ❖ The synchronised telescopes together formed an Earth-sized virtual telescope with unprecedented sensitivity and resolution.
- ❖ EHT array of telescopes

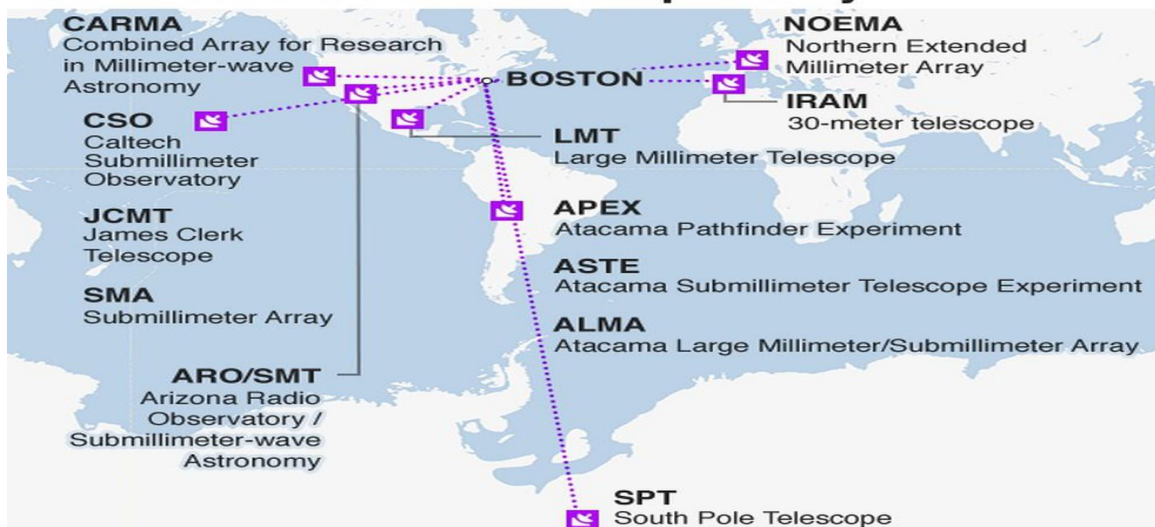
Atacama Large Millimeter Array	James Clerk Maxwell Telescope
Atacama Pathfinder Experiment	Large Millimeter Telescope
Heinrich Hertz Submillimetre Telescope	South Pole Telescope



IRAM 30m telescope

Sub-Millimeter Array

The Event Horizon Telescope Array



Black Holes

- ❖ A Black Hole is a region of space which is of immense gravity that nothing can escape from it.
- ❖ Even light does not escape after entering black hole.
- ❖ Black holes are formed at the end of some stars' lives.

STATES

Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ Supreme Court Collegium has recommended Allahabad High Court Judge Vikram Nath as the first Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Saraswathi Samman Award

- ❖ Telugu poet K Siva Reddy was selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman Award 2018 for his collection of poetry titled 'Pakkaki Ottigilite'.
- ❖ The award carries a cash prize of 15 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.



- ❖ The award was instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991.
- ❖ The award is given annually for an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language and published during the last 10 years.

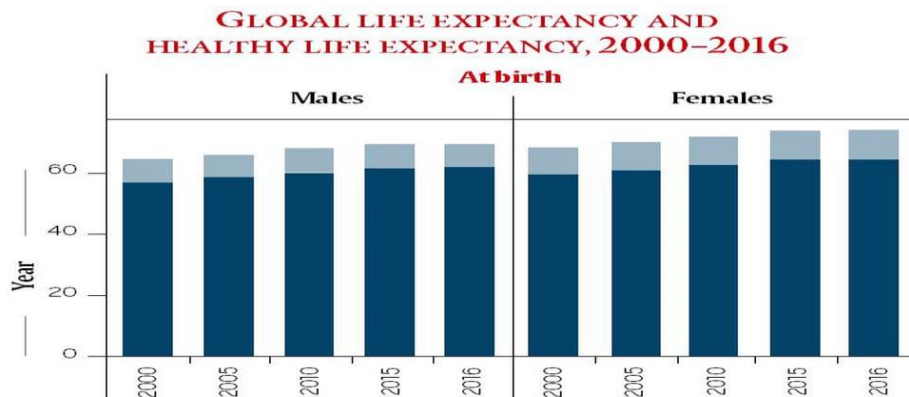
Deepa Malik

- ❖ Deepa Malik has been named as the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister's "Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019".
- ❖ She was the first Indian woman to earn a medal at the Paralympic Games.
- ❖ She was the silver medallist in 2016 Rio Paralympics games in shot put event.
- ❖ She is a recipient of Padma Shri and Arjuna Award, including 58 national and 23 international medals.
- ❖ The Fellowship Program has been running since 2008, with an aim to strengthen the relationship between India and New Zealand by showcasing the warm friendship between the two countries.

MISCELLANEOUS

World Health Statistics 2019

- ❖ The World Health Statistics 2019 has been published by World Health Organization to coincide with World Health Day on 7 April.
- ❖ For the first time the Global Health Statistics have been disaggregated by sex.
- ❖ Women outlive men everywhere in the world – particularly in wealthy countries.



- ❖ The reasons are biological, environmental and societal factors, and some impacted by availability and uptake of health services.



- ❖ Between 2000 and 2016, global life-expectancy at birth increased by 5.5 years, from 66.5 to 72.0 years.
