

April – 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put into circulation 50 rupees denomination banknotes signed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
 - The design of these notes is similar in all respects to Rs.50 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi new series.

TAMIL NADU

TN Elections

- ❖ The 99 years old, only living member of the post-Independence Provisional Parliament T M Kalianna, cast his vote in Tiruchengode town in Namakkal constituency.
- ❖ Mr. Kalianna was the first parliamentarian from the integrated Salem district that comprised present-day Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri districts.
- ❖ In Erode Lok Sabha constituency, 102-year-old K Arukkani exercised her right to franchise for the 18th time.

NATIONAL

SEA VIGIL

- ❖ Exercise SEA VIGIL, a first of its kind Indian Navy initiative, was undertaken along the entire 7516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India.
- ❖ For more details please go here:
 - <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/exercise-sea-vigil/>
- ❖ The debrief of Exercise Sea Vigil was held on 16 Apr 19.
- ❖ It was chaired by Vice Admiral M.S.Pawar who highlighted the significant achievements during the exercise.

INTERNATIONAL

RAAVANA-1

- ❖ Sri Lanka's first satellite Raavana-1 was launched into space from America's NASA's Flight Facility.
- ❖ The satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Sri Lankan research engineers.
- ❖ The launch of Raavana-1 marks Sri Lanka's entry into the global space age.

India – Vietnam

- ❖ The second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise was held between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.
- ❖ From the Indian side - INS Kolkata and INS Shakti warships participated in the annual exercise.
- ❖ In 2016 India and Vietnam have elevated their bilateral ties to that of 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
- ❖ The first edition of the exercise was conducted in 2018 at Da Nang, Vietnam.

ENVIRONMENT

Zinc Deficiency

- ❖ Rising carbon dioxide levels in the air are causing zinc deficiency in Indian crops reducing the nutritional value of food consumed by Indians.
- ❖ According to the study by the Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health, people living in rice-diet dominated regions of India have inadequate intake of zinc in daily food.
- ❖ The national rate of inadequate zinc intake has increased from 17% to 25% between 1983 and 2012.
- ❖ Zinc deficiency increases the risk of diseases like malaria, diarrhoeal afflictions, and pneumonia, particularly in children.

THE FACE OF DISASTERS 2019

- ❖ According to the report, 'The Face of Disasters 2019', released by the SEEDS, the "average" rainfall figures hide extremes of floods and droughts across the country.
- ❖ The Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) report have found that terms like "Normal rainfall" or "Average Rainfall" used by IMD does not factor in the huge intrastate and countrywide variation in rainfall.
- ❖ It substantiates that during the June to September monsoon of 2018, Punjab experienced a "normal" monsoon.
- ❖ But one region of Punjab (Ropar) received 71% excess rainfall while another region (Ferozepur) experienced a 74% shortage.

STATES

Chenchu Tribes

- ❖ The Chenchu tribal families have succeeded in domesticating the fox, who believe that the fox brings in good fortune.
- ❖ But the conservation of fox falls under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972, according to which hunting or domesticating it is an offense.
- ❖ Chenchus are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- ❖ They are forest dwellers who spread across four to five districts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Pulitzer Prize

- ❖ The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States.
- ❖ The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal newspapers were awarded Pulitzer Prizes for their separate investigations of President Donald Trump and his family.
- ❖ It was established in 1917 by Joseph Pulitzer.

Gagandeep Kang

- ❖ Gagandeep Kang has got selected as a fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), London.
- ❖ Ms. Kang has built national rotavirus and typhoid surveillance networks, established laboratories to support vaccine trials and conducted phase 1-3 clinical trials of vaccines.
- ❖ She is the first Indian woman scientist getting selected as FRS in 359 years of history of this prestigious scientific academy.

Fellow of Royal Society

- ❖ FRS is an award granted to individuals that the Royal Society of London judges to have made a 'substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge.'
- ❖ It was established in 1603.
- ❖ Some of the famous Indian scientists who were fellows of FRS were

Srinivasa Ramanujan	Mathematics Genius
S.Chandrasekahr	1983 Nobel Prize Awardee
Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	2009 Nobel Prize Awardee

Medal of Honour

- ❖ 150 Indian peacekeeping soldiers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were honored with medals of honor by the UN for their dedicated service and sacrifice.
- ❖ India is one of the top troop-contributing nations to UN Peacekeeping Missions.
- ❖ It is the second largest contributor of peacekeepers to UNMISS with more than 2,400 military and police personnel currently deployed in the mission.
- ❖ UNMISS is working in South Sudan to deter violence against civilians by providing a safe and secure environment for the people.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Mahavir Jayanthi

- ❖ Mahavir Jayanti is the birth anniversary of 24th and last Jain Tirthankar Lord Mahavira.
- ❖ As per the Gregorian calendar, the day occurs either in March or April. This year it was celebrated by Jains on 17 April 2019.

- ❖ It is one of the most important religious festivals for Jains.
- ❖ Mahavira taught that observance of the five vows of ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), asteya (non-stealing), brahmacharya (chastity), and aparigraha (non-attachment) is necessary for spiritual liberation.
- ❖ His teachings were compiled by Indrabhuti Gautama (his chief disciple).

Mujibnagar Day

- ❖ Bangladesh observed Mujibnagar Day on 17th April.
- ❖ Shiek Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Awami League in Bangladesh was arrested and deported to Pakistan on March 25, 1971.
- ❖ Then the Leaders of the Awami League party gathered in Baidyanathatala on April 17, 1971, and decided to establish the Provincial Government of Bangladesh.
- ❖ This event later paved the way for the formation of Bangladesh as an independent country.
- ❖ This former mango orchard called Baidyanathatala was renamed as Mujibnagar in 1998 to commemorate the historic event.

World Heritage Day 2019

- ❖ April 18 was observed as the World Heritage Day. The theme for this year is 'Rural Landscapes'.
- ❖ The theme Rural Landscapes is related to the theme of the 'Scientific Symposium on Rural heritage'.
- ❖ The World Heritage Day was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- ❖ This day offers an opportunity to raise the public's awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it.
- ❖ ICOMOS is a partner and founding member of the "Blue Shield" which works to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by wars and natural disasters.
- ❖ ICOMOS was founded in 1965 and headquartered at Paris.
