

**April – 20**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to suspend cross border Line of Control (LoC) trade between Salamabad & Chakkan-da-Bagh in Jammu & Kashmir and Pak Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Elections 2019**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded an average voter turnout of 71.87 per cent in the elections held to 38 Lok Sabha seats.
- ❖ Over 2.05 crore men exercised their franchise, as against 2.11 crore women and 1,011 transpersons.
- ❖ Dharmapuri Parliamentary constituency recorded the highest turnout of 80.49 per cent.
- ❖ South Chennai Lok Sabha segment recorded the lowest turnout at 56.41 per cent.
- ❖ The three Parliamentary constituencies spread over the State capital witnessed the lowest of polling in the entire State.

<b>Chennai North</b>	63.47%
<b>Chennai Central</b>	59.25%
<b>Chennai South</b>	56.41%

### **Assembly Bypolls**

- ❖ The average turnout stood at 75.57 per cent in the bypolls to the 18 Assembly seats.
- ❖ Among assembly constituencies Sholinghur recorded the highest with 82.26% followed by Harur with 82.08%.
- ❖ Perambur assembly constituency had the lowest turnout with 64.14%.

## **Vellore Polls**

- ❖ Lok Sabha election to the Vellore parliamentary constituency was cancelled following the recovery of a huge amount of cash allegedly from a DMK candidate's office.
- ❖ Election Commission (EC) had made the recommendation for cancelling the polls to the President.
- ❖ EC cancelled the polls by exercising the powers conferred on it under
  - Article 324 of the Constitution
  - Section 21 of the General Clauses Act of 1897
  - Other enabling powers aimed at ensuring the conduct of free and fair elections.
- ❖ Vellore became the first Lok Sabha seat where elections have been cancelled over alleged use of money.

## **NATIONAL**

### **World Press Freedom Index 2019**

- ❖ India ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index 2019.
- ❖ The report is released by Reporters Without Borders.
- ❖ The index is topped by Norway.
- ❖ The Paris-based Reporters Without Borders is a non-profit organisation that works to document and combat attacks on journalists around the world.

### **Renewable Energy Certificates**

- ❖ Renewable Energy (RE) companies have moved the Delhi High Court, seeking an exemption for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) under the GST.
- ❖ REC is a policy instrument to catalyze the development of renewable energy.
- ❖ It was introduced to increase the total renewable power generation under
  - The Electricity Act, 2003.
  - National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), 2008

## INTERNATIONAL

### Jamaica's Aadhar

- ❖ Jamaica's highest court has struck down their country's "National Identification and Registration Act (NIRA)".
- ❖ It quoted Indian Supreme Court Justice D Y Chandrachud's dissenting judgment on the Aadhaar Act to support its decision.
- ❖ Jamaica's NIRA Act is similar to India's AADHAR.
- ❖ It allowed similar collection of biometric information from all citizens to be centrally stored.

### NepaliSat-1

- ❖ Nepal's first satellite NepaliSat-1 was launched into space from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launch center in the US.
- ❖ The satellite was developed by two Nepalis Abhas Maskey and Hariram Shrestha at Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology.



### Asian Tea Alliance (ATA)

- ❖ The Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou in China.
- ❖ Indian Tea Association, China Tea Marketing Association, Indonesian Tea Marketing Association, Sri Lanka Tea Board and Japan Tea Association are the members.

- ❖ The alliance was formed with an aim to enhance global consumption of tea, while creating a sustainability agenda for the future of Asian tea.
- ❖ India is the second largest producer of tea (after China).
- ❖ India is the largest consumer of tea in the world.
- ❖ Tamilnadu is the third largest tea cultivating state in India.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Helium hydride ion $\text{HeH}^+$

- ❖ Scientists have detected the most ancient type of molecule in our universe in space for the first time ever.
- ❖ Falling temperatures in the young universe allowed recombination of the light elements produced in the Big Bang.
- ❖ At that time, ionized hydrogen and neutral helium atoms reacted to form  $\text{HeH}^+$ .

## ENVIRONMENT

### Great Indian Bustard

- ❖ India is the only home of the Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*). It is a Critically Endangered species.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal had directed the Union ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) to submit a 'factual report' on the number of GIB.

<b>BIRD ON A WIRE</b>	
<p>➤ According to the latest population assessment, the largest population of GIB is in Thar area of Rajasthan</p>	
<p>➤ Desert National Park which extends from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur is home to 170 GIBs</p>	
<p>➤ Five known mortalities in 2017-2018 following electrocution</p>	
<p>➤ Five breeding sites left now</p>	
<p>➤ National conservation GIB breeding programme involves state governments of Gujarat,</p>	
<p>Rajasthan, Maharashtra and will be supervised by Wildlife Institute of India (WII)</p>	<p>➤ WII team to finalize the size of a GIB hatching facility in Jaisalmer</p>

- ❖ A petition was filed by Centre for Wildlife and Environment Litigation (CWEL) to highlight dangers faced by GIB from Wind power projects and transmission lines in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Only 150 Great Indian Bustards (GIB) were spotted in Rajasthan's Desert National Park (DNP).

## SPORTS

### Wrestling Rankings

- ❖ India's Bajrang Punia has regained the world number one spot in the men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings.
- ❖ The rankings were released by United World Wrestling.



- ❖ Punia won Gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as well as a silver in the World Championships in 2018.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Good Friday

- ❖ The Christian community observed Good Friday on April 19 to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ on Calvary.
- ❖ It is also referred to as Black Friday, Great Friday, Easter Friday or Holy Friday.
- ❖ Good Friday coincides with the beginning of the Jewish festival of Passover.
- ❖ Good Friday is followed by Easter Sunday, the day on which Jesus was resurrected from death.

## World Chinese Language Day

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) observes the UN Chinese Language Day every year on or around April 20.
- ❖ The event was established by the UNESCO in 2010.
- ❖ The objective of the day is to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity.
- ❖ This day also strives to promote equal use of all six UN official working languages throughout the organization.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### 100 Most Influential People

- ❖ The TIME 100 Most Influential People 2019 list has been released, naming the world's most influential pioneers, leaders, titans, artists, and icons of the year.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani figures prominently in the list.
- ❖ The names of Supreme Court lawyers Menaka Guruswamy and Arundhati Katju are included in the list.
- ❖ They argued and won the “Navtej Johar case” in which the Supreme Court had decriminalized homosexuality by striking down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.



- ❖ The first such list was published in 1999.
- ❖ Time's recognizes twenty persons in each of five broad categories:



- Leaders and Revolutionaries
- Scientists and Thinkers
- Builders and Titans
- Artists and Entertainers
- Heroes and Icons

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