

April – 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ In a first, the UAE government has given birth certificate to a nine-month old girl who was born to an Indian Hindu father and a Muslim mother.
 - It has declared 2019 as the Year of Tolerance to highlight UAE as an exemplary example of a tolerant nation.
- ❖ Neuroscientists at University of California have created a virtual vocal tract, completes with lips, jaw and tongue, that can generate natural-sounding synthetic speech by using brain signals.
 - It could help people who could not speak due to injuries suffered in accidents or strokes or of neurodegenerative disorders.
- ❖ Australia's Claire Polosak became the first female umpire to officiate in a men's One-day International at the ICC World Cricket League Division Two match.
- ❖ As a mark of protest, India skipped the Belt and Road Forum summit in Beijing for the second time.
 - India is against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key component of the Belt and Road Initiative.
- ❖ The US Trade Representatives (USTR) placed India on its 'Priority Watch List' for lack of "sufficient measurable improvements" to India's Intellectual Property (IP) framework.
 - US threatens to take action against India based on its own law 'Section 301 report' or under World Trade organisation rules.
- ❖ Indigenously built seventh interceptor vessel named IGCS C-441 built by L & T Ltd has joined the Indian Coast Guard Service in a ceremony at Vizhinjam port, Kerala.

TAMIL NADU

Bharati Script

- ❖ A team of scientists at IIT Madras have developed a method for reading documents in Bharati script using a multi-lingual optical character recognition (OCR) scheme.
- ❖ Bharati is a unified script for nine Indian languages which is being proposed as a common script for India.



- ❖ Scripts integrated include
 - Tamil
 - Kannada
 - Telugu
 - Malayalam
 - Devanagri
 - Bengali
 - Oriya
 - Gujarathi
 - Gurmukhi
- ❖ The Roman script is used as a common script for many European languages (English, French, German, Italian etc.)
- ❖ Likewise, Bharti script aims to bring down the communication barriers in India with a common script.
- ❖ English and Urdu scripts have not been integrated in Bharti.

NATIONAL

Malaria Free India

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched the 'Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA)' India.
- ❖ The alliance was launched on April 25, 2019 on occasion of the World Malaria Day 2019.
- ❖ The National Vector Borne Diseases Control Program (NVBDCP) aims to achieve "Malaria free India by 2030".
- ❖ NVBDCP stresses more on research-oriented programs to eradicate malaria.
- ❖ MERA India is a gathering of partners working together to plan and scale up research to eliminate malaria.



INTERNATIONAL

Exit Visa

- ❖ The UN's International Labour Organisation has announced that Qatar is set to abolish its controversial exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019.
- ❖ In September 2018, Qatar approved legislation to scrap the "kafala" or "sponsorship system".
- ❖ Kafala required that foreign workers obtain permission from their employers to transfer employment, enter or leave the country.
- ❖ Labour reforms are made with the 2022 football world cup in mind.
- ❖ Qatar hosts 2022 football world cup.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Quantum Thermometer

- ❖ Researchers at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, have developed an ultrasensitive quantum thermometer.
- ❖ It can measure micro Kelvin changes in temperature and has quick response time.
- ❖ This ultrasensitive quantum thermometer has been developed using graphene quantum dots (GQDs).

Graphene Quantum Dots

- ❖ Graphene quantum dots (GQDs) refers to miniscule fragments, limited in size, or domains, of single-layer to tens of layers of graphene.
- ❖ GQDs are used in biological, opto-electronics, energy and environmental applications.

BepiColombo

- ❖ European and Japanese space agencies announced that an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a BepiColombo spacecraft into orbit.



- ❖ It is a joint mission to Mercury.
- ❖ The spacecraft is named after Italian scientist Giuseppe “Bepi” Colombo.
- ❖ BepiColombo will release two probes that will independently investigate the surface and magnetic field of Mercury.
 - Bepi, developed by European Space agency
 - Mio, developed by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency’s (JAXA)

ENVIRONMENT

Permafrost

- ❖ According to a new study published in Nature Communications, the Arctic’s thawing permafrost will release methane and carbon dioxide.
- ❖ This may hugely accelerate global warming and cost the world trillions of dollars in damages.
- ❖ Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen (32°F or 0°C) or colder for at least two years straight.
- ❖ A layer of soil on top of permafrost does not stay frozen all year.
- ❖ This layer, called the ‘active layer’, thaws during the warm summer months and freezes again in the fall.

Kakapo Parrot

- ❖ Kakapo sirocco, world's fattest parrot, is a critically endangered parrot species in New Zealand.
- ❖ In this breed, the females control the breeding process.



- ❖ They mate every two to four years when New Zealand's native Rimu trees are full of fruit.
- ❖ 249 eggs have been laid in a single season by the parrot.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Arjuna Awards

- ❖ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) nominated Mohammad Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja and Poonam Yadav for the Arjuna award.
- ❖ Arjuna Awards aims to recognize outstanding achievements of sportspersons in the field of sports at international level.
- ❖ It is conferred by Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports.
- ❖ It was established in 1961.
- ❖ Saleem Durani was the first cricketer to receive Arjuna Award.
- ❖ 53 cricketers have so far become Arjuna awardees.

Criteria for Award

- ❖ Good performance over the preceding four years at International level.
- ❖ Should have displayed leadership quality, sportsmanship and discipline.
- ❖ No person can receive it the second time.

SPORTS

La Liga Title

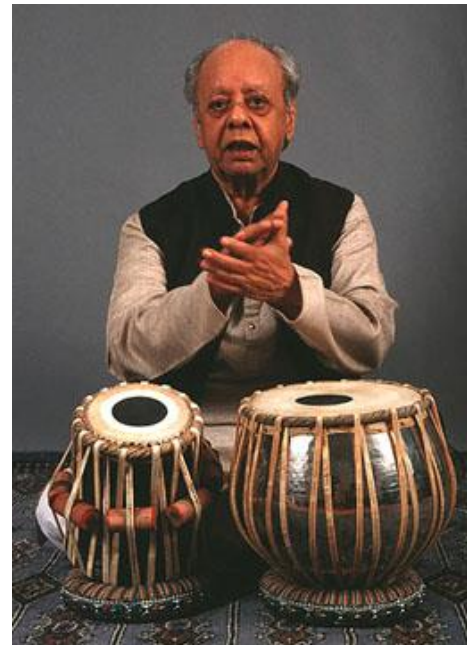
- ❖ Barcelona team has won the finals of the Spanish football league “La Liga”.
- ❖ They won playing against the team Levante.
- ❖ Star player of Barcelona, Lionel Messi scored the lone and winning goal of the match.
- ❖ Barcelona has won the La Liga title 26 times.
- ❖ La Liga is the men's top professional football division of the Spanish football league system.
- ❖ It was started in 1929.

La Liga	
	
Organising body	Liga de Fútbol Profesional (LFP)
Founded	1929; 90 years ago
Country	Spain
Confederation	UEFA
Number of teams	20
Level on pyramid	1
Relegation to	Segunda División
Domestic cup(s)	Copa del Rey Supercopa de España
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa League
Current champions	Barcelona (26th title) (2018–19)
Most championships	Real Madrid (33 titles)
Most appearances	Andoni Zubizarreta (622)
Top goalscorer	Lionel Messi (417)

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ustad Allah Rakha

- ❖ The birth centenary of tabla maestro Ustad Allah Rakha (29 April 1919 – 3 February 2000) was celebrated on April 29.
- ❖ He popularised the art of tabla and played it across the globe.
- ❖ Along with sitar player Pandit Ravi Shankar, Allah Rakha popularized the Indian classical percussion in the West.
- ❖ He was the greatest proponent of the Punjab Gharana of tabla music.
- ❖ Punjab gharana was founded by Lala Bhawani Das, one of Emperor Akbar’s court musicians.
- ❖ India’s most famous tabla player Zakir Hussain is the son of Allah Rakha.



World Immunisation Week

- ❖ World Immunisation Week is celebrated every year during last week of April.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Protected Together: Vaccines Work!'
- ❖ This year's theme targets to demonstrate the value of vaccines for the health of children, communities and the world.
- ❖ Immunization can protect against 25 different infectious agents or diseases, from infancy to old age.



- ❖ The World Health Organisation endorsed the observance of World Immunization Week during its May 2012 meeting.
