



May – 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Lebanon's capital Beirut has set a new Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours. It unfurled 26,852 flags.
- ❖ Israel honoured India's former Lt. Gen. JFR Jacob with a plaque on the Wall of Honour at the Ammunition Hill, Israel.
 - He negotiated the historic surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka after the 1971 Bangladesh's liberation war.
- ❖ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meet in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
 - She also held a bilateral meeting with her Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe on the sidelines.

NATIONAL

Important Geological Sites

- ❖ Geological Survey of India has taken steps to raise awareness about 2 important geological sites in Meghalaya.
- ❖ They are Mawmluh cave and Therriaghat, Sobhar in East Khasi Hill District.
- ❖ These sites present evidence of the geological evolution of the Indian land mass.

Mawmluh Cave

- ❖ This site is evidence of a major climatic event about 4200 years ago.
- ❖ The stalagmite in the Mawmluh cave has been tagged a Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP).
- ❖ This is the first formally ratified marker of a geological time period in India.

Therriaghat

- ❖ This site marks the Cretaceous (K)-Palaeogene (Pg) mass extinction event.
- ❖ Therriaghat has the most complete records of the Cretaceous-Palaeogene (K-Pg) boundary transition in India.



INTERNATIONAL

Japan's Emperor

- ❖ Japan's new Emperor Naruhito ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne.
- ❖ The Reiwa era officially begins from May 1, 2019.
- ❖ Usually Japan's eras are named after Chinese classics.
- ❖ In the last 1300 years, Reiwa is the first time an era is named after Japanese classic literature.
- ❖ Naruhito is the 126th emperor of Japan.
- ❖ This is the world's oldest hereditary monarchy from the 5th century.
- ❖ Naruhito was preceded by Emperor Akihito and Heisei era.

ECONOMY

FC5 - Potatoes

- ❖ PepsiCo Inc has sued four Gujarati farmers for cultivating FC5 Potato variety.
- ❖ Pepsi alleges patent infringement.
- ❖ Pepsi uses FC5 exclusively for its popular Lay's potato chips.
- ❖ FC5 has low moisture content.
- ❖ Lower moisture content enables easy processing of this variety into snacks.
- ❖ Potato is one of the 151 crop species open for registration in India under the PPV&FR Act

Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act

- ❖ This act was passed in 2001.
- ❖ Objectives of the act
 - Protection of plant varieties
 - Protect rights of farmers and plant breeders
 - Encourage the development and cultivation of new varieties of plants.



Tax Evasion

- ❖ The Income Tax Department and the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) plan to work together to detect tax evasion.
- ❖ An MoU will be signed that will allow the two entities to match their data.
- ❖ The amount of income disclosed both under the Income-tax and GST will be verified and checked.
- ❖ The IT department's order provides for the automatic exchange of such data to GSTN.

GSTN

- ❖ GSTN is jointly registered by the Central and State Governments as a not-for-profit company.
- ❖ It is registered as a company under Section 8 of the Companies act in 2013.
- ❖ The role of GSTN is to provide IT Infrastructure and services to implement GST.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Shoebbox Satellites

- ❖ Engineers from a Chinese start-up called LinkSpace tested a 8-metres reusable rocket last week.
- ❖ Using this rocket they plan to send tiny, inexpensive shoebox satellites into space.
- ❖ They are called shoebox because of their size as they weigh less than 10 kg.
- ❖ Scientists expect high demand for such shoebox satellites.
- ❖ They can be used for services like high-speed internet for aircraft, tracking coal shipments, universities/schools conducting experiments.

ENVIRONMENT

Chickpea genetic diversity

- ❖ A global team of scientists has unlocked the genetic diversity of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*).
- ❖ India's International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and China's BGI-Shenzhen have collaborated in this project.



- ❖ The team completed the genome sequencing of 429 lines of chickpeas, including 176 from India.
- ❖ The project aims to create newer varieties of chickpea with following traits
 - Higher yields
 - Disease and pest resistance
 - Climate change resistance
- ❖ Chickpea is the world's second most widely grown legume.

STATES

Stucco Sculptures

- ❖ Archaeologists have excavated a rare life-size stucco Buddhist sculpture in Phanigiri, Telangana.
- ❖ It is about 1.73 m in height and 35 cm in width.
- ❖ The figurine represents one of the Bodhisattvas belonging to the Jathaka Chakra.
- ❖ It is also one of the largest Buddhist stucco sculptures unearthed in India till date.
- ❖ Other artefacts discovered are

A Mahastupa	It's a paribhogika stupa containing the personal belongings of Buddhist monks
Votive stupas	hemispherical structure containing relics of Buddhist monks
Apsidal Chaitya grihas	A prayer hall
Pillared congregation halls	Belongs to the 1 century BC Satavahana period

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Goldman Environmental Prize

- ❖ Six grassroots environmental activists have received the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize.
- ❖ Goldman prize is also called the "Green Nobel Prize".



- ❖ 6 environmental activists from 6 continents were chosen.
- ❖ The prize was founded in 1989 by U.S. philanthropists Rhoda and Richard Goldman.
- ❖ Notable social activist Medha Patkar received this prize in 1992.
- ❖ She was awarded for her heroic fight against the Narmada Valley Development Project, Gujarat.
- ❖ 2019 Winners

Winner	Country
Bayarjargal Agvaantseren	Mongolia
Alfred Brownell	Liberia
Alberto Curamill	Chile
Jacqueline Evans	Cook Islands
Linda Garcia	United states
Ana Colovic Lesoska	North Macedonia

IMPORTANT DAYS

May Day – May 01

- ❖ May 1 is marked as International Labour Day, also referred as May Day.
- ❖ The day celebrates labourers and the working class.
- ❖ In India the first labour day was celebrated in 1923 at Chennai by M. Singaravelar.
- ❖ Singaravelar founded the first trade union in India.
- ❖ He was also one of the founding members of Communist Party of India.

History

- ❖ Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement in the United States.
- ❖ May 1 was chosen to be International Workers' Day to commemorate the May 1, 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago.
- ❖ On that day there was a general strike demanding 8-hour workday instead of the usual 15-hour working day.
- ❖ Chicago Police fired to disperse the crowd and killed many.



International Jazz Day

- ❖ The International Jazz Day is celebrated every year on April 30.
- ❖ The day tries to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly formally recognized International Jazz Day on its official calendar in December 2012.
- ❖ UNESCO relates the celebration of Jazz Day to the 2005 “Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions”.
