

May - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A team of researchers from the University of Pittsburgh have used genetically modified viruses to treat a patient fighting an antibiotic-resistant infection for the first time.
 - It was published in the journal Nature Medicine on 8th May 2019.
- ❖ A multinational effort led by scientists of Iceland have devised a technique to convert carbon dioxide into the rock and thus cleaning the air of harmful emissions that cause global warming.
 - Their technique mimics the natural process of carbon being absorbed by basalt rock that usually takes place over thousands of years.
- ❖ Australian flight carrier, Qantas operated the world's first zero-waste commercial flight named QF739 from Sydney to Adelaide which disposed of all waste through compost, reuse or recycles.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Lakshadweep has 'recruited' three pairs of barn owls (*Tyto alba*) from Kerala under a rodent management programme to fight the dangers of rat population which is destroying its coconut yield.
- ❖ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has organised a meet in Kochi for 33 members from Asia Pacific region of the World Customs Organization (WCO). The WCO has called for enhancing cross border trade and international logistics.
 - Head quartered at Brussels, the WCO has 183 member countries and manages around 98% of world trade.
- ❖ According to the AFRASIA Bank Global Wealth Migration Review 2019, about 5,000 Indian HNI (High Net Worth Individuals) or 2 per cent of India's super rich migrated from the country during 2018.
 - Since 2008, Australia has emerged as the top destination for global millionaire migrants (12,000), followed by US (10,000) and Canada (4000).
- ❖ The Supreme Court collegium led by CJI Ranjan Gogoi recommended the names of Justices Aniruddha Bose and A.S. Bopanna to the top court but the government disapproved both of their the elevation.
 - The government's disapproval was rejected by CJI and he pushed for the full sanctioned judicial strength of Supreme court at 31.

- ❖ According to The Indian Staffing Federation (ISF) Indian tech industry will add another 3 million new jobs in the next five years. ISF is the apex body for the 'flexi' working industry.
 - New jobs are expected in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, Internet of things (IOT), data science, analytics, big data, blockchain and augmented reality.
- ❖ The All India Football Federation has recommended the appointment of Former Croatia international Igor Stimac appointed Indian men's football team coach.
 - 51 years old Stimac, was an integral part of "golden generation" of Croatia that finished third at the 1998 FIFA World Cup.

NATIONAL

End of Black Listing

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has discontinued its 'local adverse lists' of Indian-origin people.
- ❖ It is widely known as 'Black Lists' of Indian-origin people.
- ❖ The list is maintained by Indian Embassies in the foreign countries.
- ❖ It has names of people who have taken asylum in a foreign country under plea of alleged persecution in India.
- ❖ Such people in the list are denied visa services by Indian embassies in the foreign country.
- ❖ Post this change, they are also allowed to get Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards after 2 years of using a normal Indian visa.

INTERNATIONAL

Fake News

- ❖ Singapore has passed a law (The Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill) which criminalises publication of fake news in country.
- ❖ It also allows government to block and order removal of such content.
- ❖ It bans false news that are detrimental to Singapore or false news that may likely influence elections.

Vice President at Vietnam

- ❖ Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu commenced his four-day official visit to Vietnam on 9 May 2019.
- ❖ He will participate in the '16th United Nations Day of Vesak' celebration at Tam Chuc pagoda.
- ❖ Vesak (also known as Buddha Jayanti or Buddha Purnima) is celebrated to commemorate birth of Lord Buddha, his attainment of enlightenment (nirvana) and his passing away.
- ❖ Its date changes every year based on lunar calendar.

ECONOMY

Chilli Meal

- ❖ India and China signed a protocol for the export of Indian chilli meal to China.
- ❖ Chilli meal is the residue left after the oil is extracted from chillies.
- ❖ It is the raw material used in manufacturing of chilli sauce and other products.
- ❖ India is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of chilli.
- ❖ Chilli is the largest exported spice from India.
- ❖ China has already allowed market access to these Indian food products.

Product	Year of Agreement
Mango	2003
Bitter Gourd	2005
Grapes	2005
Rapeseed Meal	2015
Basmati Rice	2006
Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice	2018
Fish Meal / Oil	2018
Tobacco Leaves	2019
Chilli Meal	2019

Class Action Lawsuit

- ❖ The National Company Law Tribunal (Second Amendment) Rules, 2019 have been notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- ❖ It has specified the 'thresholds' required for filing Class Action Lawsuits (CAL).
 - Minimum 5% of the members of a company or 100 members, whichever is less
 - The same criteria will also be applicable for the depositors of deposit-taking companies.

What is a CAL?

- ❖ CAL is filed when the allegations involve a large number of people (usually 40 or more) who have been injured by the same defendant in the same way.
- ❖ Investors can thus file CAL if they feel that the management or conduct of the affairs of a company are prejudicial to their interests.
- ❖ Example: In 2006, corruption by the executives of American energy firm Enron led to its bankruptcy and erosion of shareholder's wealth.
 - So, investors filed a class action suit against the company and received a compensation of \$ 7.2 Billion.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Migratory Bird Day

- ❖ The World Migratory Bird Day is observed on May 11 of every year.
- ❖ It is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- ❖ This year the theme of World Migratory Bird Day is "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!"
- ❖ Plastic consumption by birds leads to a chronic feeling of hunger and starvation as it gives the sensation of having a full stomach without any nutritional value.
- ❖ The number of seabirds dying from the effects of plastic every year is currently 1 million.



PERSONALITES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Ramanuja Jayanthi

- ❖ The birth anniversary of Ramanujar is also known as Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi.
- ❖ It is celebrated on the basis of Tamil solar calendar.
- ❖ It falls on Thiruvathirai Natchathiram day of Chithirai month. It is May 9 in 2019.
- ❖ His religious practices and the doctrines are carried in 2 most important Vaishnava centres:
 - Thiruvarangan Temple in Srirangam, Trichy
 - Venkateshvara temple in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ The Vaishnavite philosopher-saint Ramanuja was also a revolutionary social reformer.
- ❖ He promoted the belief that every human is equal regardless of gender, nationality, caste, creed, race, social, cultural, and economic status.
- ❖ Ramanuja is the main proponent of Vishishtadvaita philosophy.

MISCELLANEOUS

Legal Education

- ❖ “Father of Modern legal education” Padmashri Dr.NR Madhava Menon passed away in Thiruvananthapuram at 84 years of age.
- ❖ He was a pioneer in law education and established

- National Law Schools in India
- A 5-year integrated LLB (Bachelor of Laws) course
- ❖ He was founder director of 1987 established India's first National law school – the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore.
