

May – 13

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Army is commemorating this year as the 'Year of Next of Kin'.
- ❖ The world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine "CRICZONE" released with Indian women's cricket team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featured as the cover story.
- ❖ The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of India's most prestigious international motorsport event, Desert Storm Rally 2019 held in Rajasthan.

## NATIONAL

### India's first ice cafe

- ❖ Border Road Organisation (BRO) officials have created India's first ever ice cafe in the mountain village of Gaya in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ This is located at 14,000 feet height above sea level, on the famous ManaliLeh Highway.
- ❖ The ice sculpture, resembles a Buddhist meditation place, was created by natural process.



## INTERNATIONAL

### **New President of UN General Assembly**

- ❖ Professor Tijjani Mohammad Bande has been appointed as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ His appointment was announced by María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, outgoing president of UNGA.
- ❖ Bande becomes the second Nigerian to be appointed President of UNGA after Mr. Joseph Nanven Garba who held the position between 1989 and 1990.



### **Japan's fastest-ever bullet train**

- ❖ Japan has begun testing the ALFA-X version of its fastest-ever Shinkansen bullet train that could reach 400 km per hour (249 mph).
- ❖ The bullet train ALFA-X (Advanced Labs for Frontline Activity in Rail Experimentation) is scheduled to start its service in 2030.
- ❖ In addition to usual brakes, the ALFA-X will have air brakes on the roof and also use magnetic plates near the rails to decrease speed while slowing down.

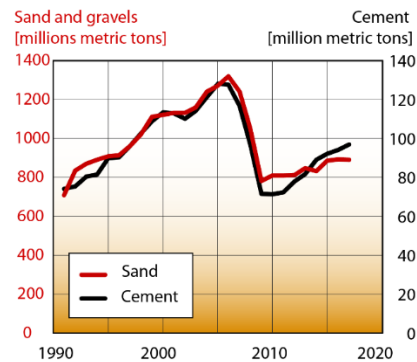
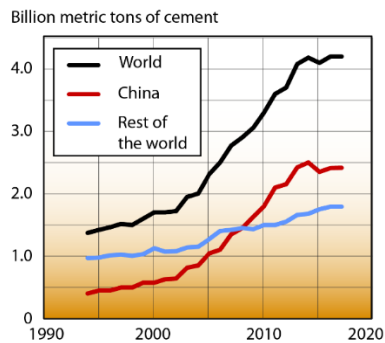
### ALFA-X bullet train

- Max speed 249 mph or 400 kph
- Air brakes on the roof, magnetic brakes, as well as conventional brakes
- Dampers and air suspension will keep it stable on curves



### UNEP Report on Sand Mining

- ❖ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recently released a report on sand mining and its consumption.
- ❖ The report published with title - Sand and sustainability: Finding new solutions for environmental governance of global sand resources.



- ❖ It emphasises on the changing pattern of sand consumption, demand and role in growing population.
- ❖ As per the report China and India head the list of critical hotspots for sand extraction impacts in rivers, lakes and on coastlines.
- ❖ Two thirds of global cement production occur in China (58.5%) and India (6.6%), as per United States Geological Survey.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Japan's first private rocket

- ❖ Interstellar Technologies (IST) have become Japan's first private company who launched its own rocket momo-3 into space.
- ❖ Interstellar Technologies launched Momo-3 rocket successfully from Hokkaido space centre.
- ❖ Interstellar Technologies first tried to launch private launch vehicle Momo-1 in year 2017 but failed.
- ❖ Second attempt was made in year 2018 with Momo-2 but it was crashed just four seconds after its launch.
- ❖ This company is planning to build a full-scale rocket that can launch small satellites into orbit by 2020.

### First Vaccine for Dengue

- ❖ The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first vaccine for dengue, Dengvaxia.
- ❖ But it also put certain conditions that use dengue vaccine only in people who have a previous history of the disease.
- ❖ The vaccine is a live, attenuated dengue virus. Under the vaccination, 3 doses will be provided to the patient.
- ❖ The vaccine is also known as CYD-TDV and made by company Sanofi Pasteur.
- ❖ Mexico was the first country to clear it in the year 2015.

#### **DENGVAXIA (DENGUE VACCINE)**

##### **How many times should an individual get vaccinated?**

- Given every 6 months.
- For Example if one gets the first dose in April, the person will receive his second dose 6 months after, which is October. The third dose will be given 6 months after the second dose which is April of the following year.

DOSES	MONTHS
1 <sup>st</sup> dose	0
2 <sup>nd</sup> dose	6
3 <sup>rd</sup> dose	12



## ENVIRONMENT

### Reappearance of brown bear

- ❖ The first brown bear sighting in Portugal in more than a century was confirmed by wildlife experts.
- ❖ The bear is most likely belonging to a population living in the western Cantabrian Mountains in northern Spain.
- ❖ Brown bears have been extinct in Portugal since the 19th century.
- ❖ The animal was spotted in the Montesinho Natural Park and Braganca commune in northeastern Portugal.



### Conference of the Parties

- ❖ Various session of the following convention's Conference of the Parties (COP) was held In Geneva International Conference Centre, Switzerland.
  - 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP to the Basel Convention (BC COP-14),
  - 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-9)
  - 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-9).
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was "Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste".
- ❖ In the meeting, 187 countries pledge to restrict the global plastic waste but United States has refused to take part in this pledge.





- ❖ COP-14 has discussed among parties about matters related to implementation of the Convention which include the strategic framework entry into force of the Ban Amendment and the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and other wastes.

### Basel Conventions

- ❖ It is also known as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.
- ❖ This international treaty aims to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries (LDCs).

### Rotterdam Convention

- ❖ It is also known as the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
- ❖ It aims to promote shared responsibilities and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and also contribute to environmentally sound use of these chemicals.

### Stockholm Convention

- ❖ It is also known as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- ❖ This international treaty aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **McCain Institute Award 2019**

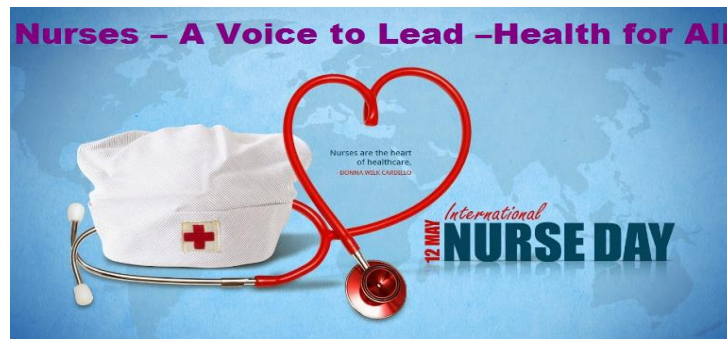
- ❖ Head of the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, IPS officer Chhaya Sharma has been conferred with the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.
- ❖ In 2017, Chhaya has performed a crucial role in drafting Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines to Combat Trafficking of Persons in India.
- ❖ This award is granted to those who manifest courage on behalf of human rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity.
- ❖ Malala Yousafzai (2015) and Dikembe Mutombo (2016) are the other personalities won the award.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Nurses Day - May 12

- ❖ International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12.
- ❖ It commemorates the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale also known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'.



- ❖ The theme for the International Nurses Day 2019 is 'Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All'.
  - ❖ International Council of Nurses (ICN) was first observed in 1965 after an officer with the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare proposed Nurses Day in 1953.
  - ❖ In January 1974, 12 May was chosen to celebrate the day.
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