



May – 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). It was established in 1969 and now functions under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
 - ICSSR provide grants for projects, fellowships, international collaboration, capacity building, survey, publications etc. to promote research in social sciences in India.
- ❖ To promote intercultural dialogue among Asian countries, China is hosting a **Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations** in Beijing from May 15 – 22nd.
 - The theme of the event is “exchanges and mutual learning among Asian civilizations and a community with a shared future”. It acknowledges the Asian solutions to benefit its people and Asian wisdom to promote political advancement.
- ❖ India's Captain Aarohi Pandit became world's first woman to cross Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA) named **Mahi**. She is also the first woman pilot to fly solo above the dangerous Greenland ice-cap.
 - This achievement is part of her ongoing **Women Empower Expedition**. The Slovenia-made, 400 kg, single-engine, ultra-light motor glider, Mahi is the **first** LSA registered under Directorate General of Civil Aviation India.
- ❖ The Indian government is planning to mandate a Quick Response (QR) code-based payment method option using Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at all shops.
- ❖ The 49-year-old veteran Nepali sherpa “Kami Rita Sherpa” has created world record when he scaled Mount Everest for the 23rd time.
 - He beat his own record as he had climbed Mt. Everest for the 22nd time in 2018.
- ❖ Due to privacy concerns, San Francisco became the first major American city to ban the use of **facial recognition software** by Police forces and other agencies to detect both small-time crimes suspect as well as major criminals.
- ❖ The Wikimedia foundation has stated that China has blocked access to all language versions of the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia in its country.



- Since 2015 the “Great Firewall” of China had blocked access to Chinese language version of Wikipedia. Chinese users have no access to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other popular social media sites since long time.

NATIONAL

Abhyas Target Drone

- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) drone.
- ❖ The test was conducted at Interim Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.
- ❖ Abhyas uses indigenously developed MEMS based navigation system for its navigation and guidance.
- ❖ It is a **target drone**.
- ❖ Target drones serve an important role in the development of a range of **interceptors** and ballistic **missile defense** systems.
- ❖ Abhyas is designed to simulate aircraft for **endoatmospheric** surface-to-air interception tests as well as air-to-air exercises.
- ❖ An endoatmospheric missile is one that remains within the earth's atmosphere (at an altitude below 100 kilometers).



Film Institute

- ❖ The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has granted approval to 5 courses of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.
- ❖ The courses are recognised under the newly created “APPLIED ARTS AND CRAFTS” category by AICTE.



- ❖ Four courses are in Television wing (Direction, Electronic Cinematography, Video Editing and Sound Recording & TV Engineering).
- ❖ One course is in Film wing (Feature Film Screenplay Writing).
- ❖ FTII thus becomes the only film institute which has the unique distinction of being recognised by AICTE.
- ❖ FTII, Pune was established in 1960.
- ❖ It is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's Smallest Pixels

- ❖ According to the research published in the journal 'Science Advances' scientists have created the world's smallest pixels.
- ❖ These pixels are million times smaller than typical smartphone pixels.
- ❖ They can be seen in bright sunlight and are thus energy efficient.
- ❖ These pixels are made of tiny particle of gold (size - few billionths of a metre).
- ❖ These grains are stuck on reflective surface with thin sticky coating of **polyaniline**.
- ❖ This coating changes chemically when electrically switched, causing the pixel to display all colours across the spectrum.

Cost Effective Diagnosis

- ❖ The National Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai has developed a cost-effective Point-of-Care (POC) rapid diagnostic test for
 - Severe Haemophilia A
 - Von Willebrand Disease (VWD).
- ❖ Patients with above 2 diseases can have life threatening spontaneous or post-traumatic bleeding like brain haemorrhage, gastrointestinal bleeding or bleeding from the nose or gums.
- ❖ According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the cost of these testing kits is less than ₹50 while current kits cost around ₹4,000 to ₹10,000.



VWD

- ❖ It is a genetic disorder caused by missing or defective Von Willebrand factor (VWF).
- ❖ VWF is a blood-clotting protein.
- ❖ When bleeding occurs the VWF helps **blood platelets** to mesh together and form a clot to stop the bleeding.
- ❖ People with disorder do not have enough VW Factor.
- ❖ So, it takes longer for the blood to clot and for bleeding to stop.

ENVIRONMENT

Sendai Framework

- ❖ A Global Assessment Report (GAR) was launched by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- ❖ It has warned of new and larger threats due to **extreme climate changes** with specific reference to Asia Pacific economies.
- ❖ The report has outlined major risk to human life from
 - air pollution
 - biological hazards
 - natural disasters like floods, landslides and earthquakes
- ❖ It projects economic losses to the extent of 4% of GDP annually if countries don't invest in Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ❖ The GAR report urges to put **Sendai Framework** into immediate action.

What is it?

- ❖ It was adopted by UN member states in 2015.
- ❖ It talks about reducing disaster mortalities and economic losses.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen **risk governance** by investing in early warning system.



STATES

Election Violence

- ❖ In an unprecedented move, Election Commission (EC) has cancelled campaigning for the 7th and final phase of polls in 9 constituencies of West Bengal after 10 PM, Thursday (16.05.19).
- ❖ The mandatory 48 hours silence period before polling was supposed to start from 17.05.19 only.
- ❖ The EC has invoked powers under Article 324 of the Constitution.
- ❖ This article gives EC the powers of “superintendence, direction and the control of elections”.
- ❖ EC aims to curb poll-related violence among political parties by such a measure.
- ❖ Other instances of use of Article 324 by EC in this 2019 elections:
<https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/article-324/>

MISCELLANEOUS

Top Paid Artists

- ❖ The Hurun Research Institute has released the first edition of Hurun India Art List.
- ❖ It ranks contemporary Indian artists alive based on the sales of their works at public auction from April 2018 to march 2019.
- ❖ UK-based sculptor Anish Kapoor tops the list with arts sales estimated at Rs.168.25 crores.





- ❖ He is followed by artists Akbar Padamsee (Rs.45.84 crores) and Krishen Khanna (Rs.9.48 crores).
- ❖ Krishen Khanna is well known for his contribution to Tash ke Patte (Deck of Cards) a collaborative work by 100 artists around the World.
