



May – 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 102 years old Shyam Saran Negi, a native of Himachal Pradesh who cast the first vote in the Independent India's first general election in 1951 again cast his vote in 2019 Parliamentary elections at Mandi Lok Sabha constituency.
- ❖ Kapil Sharma named as most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by World Book of Records at London. He had started his career as a stand-up comedian from different comedy shows and got fame from "Comedy Nights with Kapil".
- ❖ India has decided to allow the import of refurbished mobile phones only if they are certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ❖ Pakistan announced career diplomat Moin ul Haque as its new High Commissioner to India.
- ❖ Sri Lanka marked 10 years since the end of a decades-long civil war that left more than 100,000 people dead. The United Nations has urged Sri Lanka to investigate alleged war crimes committed by both sides.
- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed Universities and higher educational institutions to observe May 21 as Anti-Terrorism day in a measure to wean away youth from terrorism.
 - The activities suggested for the day include debates, discussions, symposium, pledge taking ceremony, screening of films. The day marks the death of Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ Facebook has reported that it had used Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML) powered pattern recognition tools to minimise the spread of disinformation during Indian elections.
 - At present, AIML tools assist the platform block or remove over a million accounts per day that are inaccurate, abusive, or violating the platforms' terms of service.
- ❖ The 46-day tournament ICC men's cricket World Cup 2019 will be played across 11 venues in the United Kingdom from 30th of May.
 - The World Cup winner will earn a cash award of 4 million US dollars (about 28 crore rupees) which is the highest prize money on offer in the history of the tournament.



NATIONAL

Parliamentary Polls 2019

- ❖ The 2019 Indian general election was held in seven phases from 11 April to 19 May 2019 to constitute the 17th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ About 900 million Indian citizens were eligible to vote the elections.
- ❖ The 2019 elections attracted a turnout of over 67.11 % – the highest ever in the history of Indian general elections.
- ❖ This is as opposed to 66.4% voter turnout in the 2014 Parliamentary Elections, which will now be the second highest voter turnout in general elections in India.

INTERNATIONAL

Dangerous Huawei Mobiles

- ❖ Due to security concerns and as per U.S. government order, Google has stopped providing non-public hardware or software to telecom company Huawei.
- ❖ It is expected to severely impact the Chinese device maker's ability to create new smartphones and update existing ones.
- ❖ Huawei is the second leading provider of Android devices, next to Samsung.
- ❖ It was founded in 1987 at Shenzhen by Ren Zhengfei, an engineer who had served in the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).
- ❖ Huawei's first research and development centre outside China was established in Bengaluru in 1999.

Landing Cards

- ❖ The UK government has scrapped the requirement of filling out landing cards by international travellers coming to the UK from countries outside of the European Economic Area.
- ❖ This is a part of a series of measures aimed at a "smoother" entry into Britain.
- ❖ Indians are also exempted from filling landing cards upon arrival.

EEA

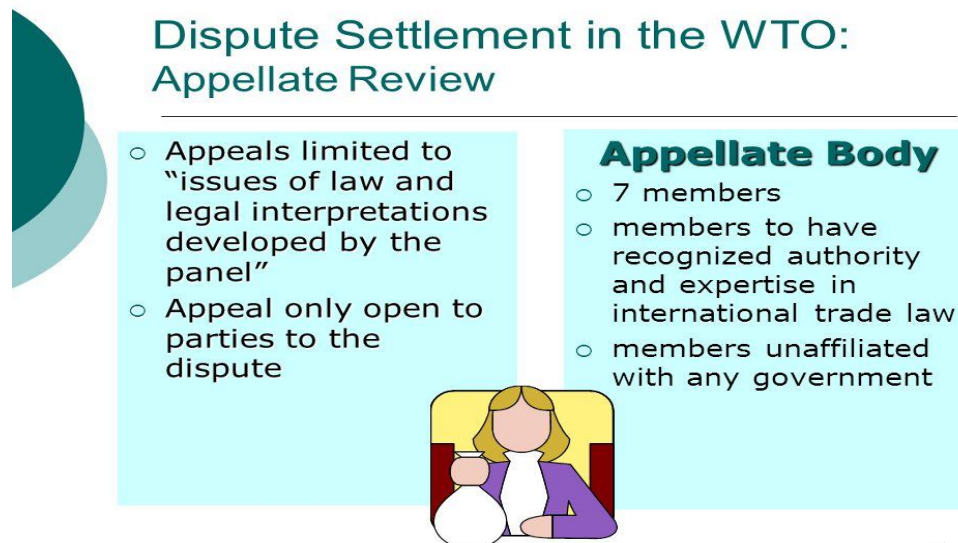
- ❖ The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) entered into force on 1 January 1994.

- ❖ The Agreement on the EEA brings together
 - The European Union Member States
 - Three EEA States: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
- ❖ These countries form a single market, referred to as the "Internal Market".
- ❖ Switzerland is not part of the EEA Agreement.

ECONOMY

WTO Impending Collapse

- ❖ Over 20 developing countries met in New Delhi recently to discuss ways to prevent collapse of World Trade Organization's (WTO's) "Dispute resolution system".



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- ❖ WTO's Appellate Body is a standing committee of 7 members.
- ❖ It presides over appeals against judgments passed in trade-related disputes brought by WTO members.
- ❖ The WTO's dispute settlement procedure is seen as being vital to ensuring smooth flows of international trade.
- ❖ Over the last two years, the membership of the body has been reduced to just 3 members instead of the required seven.
- ❖ This is because the United States believes that WTO is biased against it and has been blocking appointments.



- ❖ India has so far been a direct participant in 54 disputes and has been involved in 158 as a third party.

New RBI Cadres

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to set up a new institute in Mumbai, to be known as the College of Supervisors.
- ❖ It will train and build up a cadre for supervisory roles in the financial system.
- ❖ The institute will provide a one-year specialised training programme for the RBI officials.
- ❖ The officials undergoing training at the institute will be required to go for re-certification every five years in a bid to adapt to any change in technology.

ENVIRONMENT

Illegal Animal Trade

- ❖ In connection with the International Day of Biological Diversity (May 22) an awareness campaign has been launched in India by
 - UN Environment India
 - Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of India
- ❖ The tagline 'Not all animals migrate by choice' will be displayed at major airports across India.
- ❖ The campaign aims to raise awareness on illegal wildlife trade.

Chennai Airport

- ❖ According to animal conservation organisation TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce-India) Chennai is becoming the hub of illegal animal trade in South Asia and South East Asia.
- ❖ Star Tortoise, red-eared slider, pangolin, shark fins are the most smuggled animals from Chennai.
- ❖ Most of the animals smuggled out of Chennai are used in preparation traditional medicines in South-East Asia and China. Ex: shark fins



❖ Recent seizures at Chennai airport

Date	Animal Caught
March 25, 2019	African horn pit viper seized along with 2 rhinoceros iguanas, 3 rock iguanas, 22 Egyptian tortoises, 4 blue-tongued skinks and 3 green tree frogs
February 2, 2019	Leopard cub seized from a man who arrived from Bangkok
December 20, 2018	4,800 red-eared slider turtles seized from two passengers who arrived from Bangkok
April 6, 2018	65 star tortoises seized from a passenger bound for Bangkok

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Dag Hammarskjöld Award

- ❖ Indian Police Officer Jitender Kumar, an Indian peacekeeper, is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel who will be honoured this year with Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.
- ❖ It is a prestigious UN medal for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.



- ❖ Officer Jitender Kumar sacrificed his life while working in an UN Stabilisation Mission in the war torn Central African country of Congo.
- ❖ Started in 1997, this medal is given in memory of Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- ❖ He died in a plane crash in 1961 while en route to cease-fire negotiations during the Congo Crisis.

Indian Peacekeeping Missions

Fact Box

India is the fourth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN peacekeeping.

India mission first assisted in Korea War, 1950-54.

39 personnel of the Indian contingent laid down their lives in Congo War 1960-64

It currently contributes more than 6,400 military and police personnel to the UN peace operations.

They serve in countries like Abeyi, Cyprus, Congo, Haiti, Lebanon, West Asia, South Sudan and Western Sahara.

So far India has taken part in 43 Peacekeeping missions with a total contribution exceeding 180,000 troops

IMPORTANT DAYS

The International Day for Biological Diversity – May 22

- ❖ The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) is observed every year on May 22.



INTERNATIONAL DAY
for
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

*Our Biodiversity,
Our Food, Our Health*

== 22 MAY 2019 ==

- ❖ The theme for International Day of Biodiversity 2019 is “Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health”.
- ❖ The day celebrates the diversity provided by our natural systems for human existence and well-being on Earth.
- ❖ In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IDB.
