

**May – 25**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Pakistan has successfully test-fired a land-based ballistic missile named 'Shaheen-II'. Shaheen missile series is named after a Falcon species that live in Pakistan's mountains.
  - It is a land-based supersonic intermediate-range surface-to-surface guided ballistic missile capable of hitting targets up to 1,500-2000 kilometers. It is thus capable of reaching major cities in India.
- ❖ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers meet was held in Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek. It was attended by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
  - This was the second such meeting attended by India as a full member of SCO. For additional information about SCO please go here: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/2018-sco-summit-china/>
- ❖ Changsha 5712 Aircraft Industry company under state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) has delivered the first overhauled multi-role JF-17 Thunder fighter jet to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).
  - In 2007 Beijing delivered its first batch of JF-17 to Pakistan. Since the 1990s American-imposed arms embargo, China has been the main supplier of arms to Pakistan.
- ❖ The Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu Inaugurated 'Tree Ambulance' in Chennai on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) celebrations. The Tree Ambulance initiative is a campaign to save trees.
  - According to its founder K Abdul Ghani, it has been conceived, designed, fabricated and equipped to provide first aid treatment to trees, aid tree plantation, assist the shifting of trees, carry out seed ball distribution etc.
- ❖ The South African lawmakers on May 22, 2019 re-elected President Cyril Ramaphosa for another term.
  - Ramaphosa is the leader of the African National Congress (ANC).

## TAMIL NADU

### Fruit Show

- ❖ The 61st annual Fruit Show will take place at the Sims Park in Coonoor on May 25 and 26.
- ❖ The Sim's park was established in 1874
- ❖ It showcases exhibits made of fruits locally produced in the villages surrounding the Nilgiris and at the Pomological Station in Coonoor.

## NATIONAL

### No Leader of Opposition

- ❖ In a repeat of 16th Lok Sabha in 2014, the lower house of the Parliament may again not have a leader of opposition (LOP) between 2019-24.
- ❖ The post of leader of opposition has received "Statutory recognition" through the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
- ❖ It states that the concerned party must have at least 10% of the total strength of the House (55 seats in the Lok Sabha).
- ❖ Otherwise the House will not have recognized leader of the opposition.
- ❖ LOP can only be awarded to the leader of a single largest opposition political party
- ❖ It cannot be given to the leader of an alliance, even if the alliance was formed prior to the election.
- ❖ The First official leader of opposition in Lok Sabha was Ram Subhag Singh.
- ❖ He was appointed in 1969 and belonged to Congress (O) party.

### Rifles and Guards

- ❖ The Director Generals of Assam Rifles and Indian Coast Guard signed a 'Affiliation Charter' in a ceremony held at Shillong.
- ❖ It aims to enhance inter-armed forces cooperation between two and utilise each other's assets for training and sports.



- ❖ The agreement was signed between 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion of Assam Rifles and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship 'Shaurya'.
- ❖ This "affiliation charter" will facilitate the 'Sentinels of the North East' (Assam Rifles) to interact with 'Sentinels of the Seas' (Indian Coast Guard) on professional level as well as social platforms.

### **3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion of AR**

- ❖ It is the oldest battalion of the Assam Rifles raised in 1835 as 'The Cachar Levy'.
- ❖ It was a quasi-military entity.
- ❖ Originally it was started with 750 members under the command of Mr. Grange, a British civil officer in charge of the Nowgong district, Assam.
- ❖ It was entrusted with guarding the Eastern Frontier of Assam from Brahmaputra river to the Cachar Hills.
- ❖ Presently the battalion is developed at Kohima, Nagaland.
- ❖ At Kohima it bravely fought the Japanese in World War-II and stopped their advance into India.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Asian Track**

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to electrify railway tracks in India under Railways Track Electrification Project.

- ❖ As per agreement ADB will provide \$750 million long-term financing to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC).
- ❖ It is the largest single non-sovereign loan ever committed by ADB to a member country.

### Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)

- ❖ IRFC was set up in 1986.
- ❖ It raises financial resources for expansion of railways.
- ❖ It started borrowing from market in 1997.
- ❖ It raises money through financial bonds and from banks and financial institutions

### **Indo-Myanmar CORPAT**

- ❖ The eighth edition of the Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (CORPAT) began on May 20, 2019 at Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Myanmar Navy Ships UMS King TabinShweHtee (773) and UMS Inlay (OPV-54) will be joined by INS Sarayu.
- ❖ The ships would patrol along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between the two countries.
- ❖ They would patrol a distance of approximately 725 Kms over a period of 4 days.
- ❖ The CORPAT aims to tackle issues of terrorism, illegal fishing, drug trafficking, human trafficking, poaching and other illegal activities affecting both countries.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Environmental Carbon dioxide**

- ❖ On May 11, global concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere crossed the 415 parts per million (ppm) mark for the first time.
- ❖ It was measured by sensors at the Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii.
- ❖ In 1958 the carbon dioxide concentrations were around 315 ppm at the same place.

- ❖ The rapidly rising concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is one of the best indicators of global warming.

### Why is it dangerous?

- ❖ Carbon dioxide has a very long lifespan in the atmosphere, between 100 and 300 years.
- ❖ The carbon dioxide concentration level corresponding to a 2°C rise in global temperatures is generally understood to be 450 ppm.
- ❖ At current rates of growth this level would be reached in less than 12 years (by 2030 itself)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Nilgiris Mountain Railway (NMR)**

- ❖ NMR is a 1,000 mm (3 ft 3 3/8 in) metre gauge railway.
- ❖ It was built by the British in 1908.
- ❖ It is operated by the Southern Railway and is the only rack railway in India.
- ❖ In July 2005, UNESCO added the Nilgiri Mountain Railway as an extension to the World Heritage Site of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.



- ❖ Mountain railways of India (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
  - Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
  - Nilgiri Mountain Railway



- Kalka–Shimla Railway

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