

May – 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Scientists at the University of Chicago in the US have made a new record by creating a superconductor called “lanthanum superhydrides” which can conduct at minus 23 degrees Celsius.
 - The earlier record for a superconductor was held at minus 73 Celsius.
- ❖ Oscar Academy President John Bailey e-launched the Hindi version of ‘Digital Dilemma’ by National Film Archive of India (NFAI).
 - Translated in many languages, the ‘Digital Dilemma’ written by Milt Shelton and Andy Maltz deals about the way movie business currently stores and access important digital data.
- ❖ According to research unveiled at a conference of Environmental Toxicologists in Helsinki at Finland, Rivers worldwide are polluted with antibiotics that exceed environmental safety thresholds by up to 300 times. Ex: high levels of skin and urinary infection-antibiotic ciprofloxacin in Thames river, London.
 - The countries with the highest levels of antibiotic river pollution were Bangladesh, Kenya, Ghana, Pakistan and Nigeria.
- ❖ The South Korean film director Bong Joon-ho was awarded the “Palme d’ Or” for his film “Parasite” at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival, on May 25. It is the most prestigious prize awarded at Cannes.
 - Founded in 1946, Cannes Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Cannes, France. It is one of the "Big Three" alongside the Venice Film Festival and Berlin International Film Festival.
- ❖ Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh’s Bundelkhand region has been included in tentative list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO’s) World Heritage Sites.
 - There are 37 Indian heritage sites already in the UNESCO World Heritage list. Buddhist monuments at Sanchi, rock shelters of Bhimbedka and Khajuraho group of monuments are other internationally popular sites in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Sachin Fan Sudir Gautham, Kohli fan Sugumar D, Pakistan’s Chacha Abdul Jalil, Bangladesh’s Shoaib Ali, Sri Lanka’s Gayan Senananayake will be awarded the first Global Sports Fan award on the sidelines of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019.
 - The ICC Cricket world cup officially begins on May 30, 2019.

- ❖ Mahesh Manganekar triumphed for the second time in the Sekisui Open in Kriens, Switzerland. Three years earlier he had won it the first time.
 - Sekisui Open is a Challenger tour event of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), the world body which governs the sport. Mahesh beat Bernat Jaume of Spain.
- ❖ Malawi youth and rights activist Charles Kajoloweka has confirmed his appointment as United Nations (UN) Youth Ambassador for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 16.
 - SDG 16 advocates for Peace, justice and strong institutions.

TAMIL NADU

Chennai Water crisis

- ❖ The government plans to set up five mini-desalination plants of one million litre capacity each at Chennai.
- ❖ Costing 120 crore each, these plants will be set at Kasimedu, Thiruvottiyur, Triplicane, MRC Nagar and Thiruvanmiyur.

HIGH-FIVE ON SHORELINE		Representational Image
Location Kasimedu, Thiruvottiyur, Triplicane, MRC Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur		
Population to be served	1 lakh people per plant	
Estimated Cost	₹120 crore	
Where	1 km from shoreline	
Size	To come up on an area of approximately 1 sq.km	
Cost	₹55 to ₹75 per kilo litre	
Deadline	Within 6 months	

INTERNATIONAL

Colombo Port

- ❖ Sri Lanka, Japan and India have signed an agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port in Srilanka.
- ❖ The ECT is located very near the China-backed international financial city in Colombo known popularly as “Port city”.
- ❖ Over 70 % of the transshipment business at the strategically located ECT is linked to India.

ECONOMY

RTGS

- ❖ To facilitate high-value fund transfers, the RBI has announced an extension of timings for customer transactions through “Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)”.
- ❖ From June 1, 2019 the transaction timings are extended by one and half hours - 4:30 PM to 06 PM.
- ❖ ‘Real Time’ means the processing of instructions at the time they are received.
- ❖ ‘Gross Settlement’ means that the settlement of funds transfer instructions occurs individually not in batches unlike NEFT.
- ❖ There is “No upper limit” on the value of funds that can be transferred via the RTGS system.

SC/ST Entrepreneurs

- ❖ National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has signed a MOU with Ministry of MSME for the year 2019-20.
- ❖ The objective of the MoU is to provide assistance to SC/ST entrepreneurs with the overall objectives to increase their participation in public procurement.
- ❖ NSIC is a Government of India Enterprise under the Mini-Ratna Category.
- ❖ It was established in 1955.
- ❖ It functions under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Anthropocene Age

- ❖ A 34-member panel of the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG) has voted 29-4 in favour of designating a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene epoch.
- ❖ This marks the end of the Holocene Epoch, which began 11,700 years ago.
- ❖ The term 'Anthropocene' was coined in 2000 by Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer.
- ❖ Anthropocene epoch denotes the present geological time interval in which human activity has deeply altered many conditions and processes on Earth.
- ❖ Scientists are looking for the "Golden spike" which initiated Anthropocene epoch.
- ❖ Golden spike is a global level geological marker which triggers the new epoch.
- ❖ Example: Artificial radionuclides spread across the world by atomic bomb tests from the early 1950s.

Official bodies involved

- ❖ This proposal will be sent to the International Commission on Stratigraphy which oversees the official Geological time chart.
- ❖ The final ratification will be made by the International Union of Geological Sciences.

ENVIRONMENT

Traffic Jam @ Thirty Thousand Feet

- ❖ Overcrowding or "traffic jam" has killed 11 people including 3 Indians in a span of ten days while trying to scale Mount Everest.
- ❖ The deaths were due to altitude sickness, long waiting hours in a place with scarce oxygen, long queues in a hostile terrain and frostbites.
- ❖ Indiscriminate permits issued by Nepali government is blamed for these deaths.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

9 Dots Prize

- ❖ Indian writer Annie Zaidi was announced as the 2019 winner of Nine Dots Prize.
- ❖ The Nine Dots Prize is a prize for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues.



- ❖ The name of the Prize references the nine dots puzzle – a lateral thinking puzzle which can only be solved by out of the box thinking.
- ❖ The Prize is sponsored by the Kadas Prize Foundation with support from University of Cambridge and Cambridge University Press.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Everest Day – May 29

- ❖ Every year the International Mount Everest Day is celebrated on May 29.
- ❖ It is observed in memory of the first summit of Mt. Everest by New Zealand's Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Tenzing Norgay Sherpa on May 29, 1953.



- ❖ Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day since 2008, when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.
- ❖ In 1852, Bengali mathematician Radhanath Sikdar calculated the height of Peak XV.
- ❖ It was an icy peak in the Himalayas and the tallest mountain known in the world.
- ❖ It was later named as Everest in honour of Sir George Everest, the Surveyor General of India from 1830 to 1843.

MISCELLANEOUS

Murray Gell-Mann

- ❖ The 1969-Nobel prize winning physicist Murray Gell-Mann has died at the age of 89 in New Mexico, USA.
 - ❖ He devised a method for sorting subatomic particles into simple groups of eight (8) based on their spin, electric charge and other characteristics.
 - ❖ He named this method “eightfold way” after Buddhist Eightfold Path to enlightenment.
 - ❖ He was the first scientist who theorised “quarks” which forms the basis for our physical understanding of the universe.
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