

June – 03

TNPSC BITS

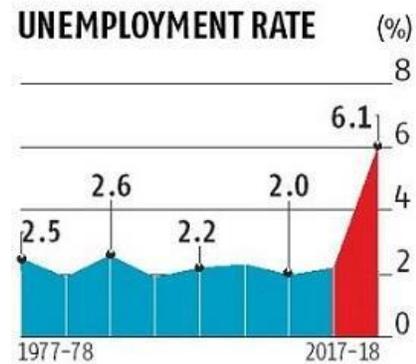
- ❖ India lost its position as the fastest-growing major economy of the world to China for the first time in one-and-a-half years.
- ❖ After 50 years of long-term struggle, a radical change made in England law to lift the ban on wearing turbans and keeping beard at work in the country.

NATIONAL

Unemployment rate

- ❖ The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released the unemployment rate in the country in Financial Year 2017-2018.
- ❖ According to the report the unemployment rate in 2017-18 was 6.1 percent and also the joblessness at a 45-year high.
- ❖ The joblessness among males on all-India basis was 6.2%, while it was 5.7% in case of females.
- ❖ It also showed that the unemployment rate for males was higher at 7.1% in cities compared to 5.8% in rural areas.
- ❖ Similarly, the joblessness for women was also higher in urban areas at 10.8% compared to 3.8% in rural areas.

THE NUMBERS SAY IT ALL



10th National Science Film Festival

- ❖ The 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be organised in Tripura on January and February 2020.
- ❖ The film festival is being held with the objective of highlighting science, technology, innovation, energy, environment, agriculture and traditional knowledge in a simple way that would bring science closer to common people through simple ways of explanation.
- ❖ Apart from the film festival, the Tripura's incumbent government also has plans for hosting 'Destination Tripura', a special competitive film production initiative.



- ❖ This the second time that the show will be held in a north Eastern city.
- ❖ The NSFFI was debuted in Chennai eight years ago in 2011.

INTERNATIONAL

Termination of Eligibility for a duty-free import scheme

- ❖ The United States on formally terminated India's eligibility for a duty-free import scheme for developing countries on 31 May.
- ❖ It is because that India has not given assurances it "will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets" to US companies as required under relevant American trade laws.
- ❖ According to this, USA would end its preferential trade treatment for India on June 5, 2019.
- ❖ India has been the largest beneficiary of this duty-free programme which allows certain imports from 120 countries to enter the United States at zero tariff.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Forbidden Planet - NGTS-4b

- ❖ Astronomers say they have discovered a rogue exoplanet with its own atmosphere in the Neptunian Desert.
- ❖ NGTS-4b, nick-named 'The Forbidden Planet' is smaller than Neptune but three times the size of Earth.
- ❖ Also, it has the equivalent of Earth's orbit around the Sun of one year.
- ❖ It is the first exoplanet of its kind to have been found in the Neptunian Desert.
- ❖ The Neptunian Desert is the region close to stars where no Neptune-sized planets are found.

ENVIRONMENT

Threat to coral reef

- ❖ The Reef Research Team (RRT) of Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI), Thoothukudi, found that the destructive algae invasion in Valai island region.



- ❖ This invasive species, named *Kappaphycus alvarezii* seaweed, will smother and kill coral reefs.
- ❖ It has spread its wings to coral reef areas in Valai island in the Gulf of Mannar and set to invade new coral colonies in the marine national park.
- ❖ The 2005's Government Order had restricted cultivation of the exotic seaweed only to the seawaters north of the Palk Bay and South of Thoothukudi coast.

Invasive species

- ❖ An invasive species is a species that is not native to a specific location (an introduced species naturally or intently).
- ❖ It has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the eco system, human economy or human health.

STATES

Alternative crops at MSP

- ❖ Haryana government plans to discourage planting of the water-guzzling rice (paddy) crop, which threatens to deplete the State's groundwater.
- ❖ Water depletion in Haryana over the years has led to 60 dark zones in the State, which include 21 critical ones in 10 districts.
- ❖ The Government also has decided to start a pilot project in seven blocks, where sowing of maize and 'tuar' pulse would be promoted by giving incentives to farmers.
- ❖ under the new scheme, identified farmers will be provided seed free of cost and given a financial assistance for Rs 2000 per acre in two parts.
- ❖ The maize crop insurance premium will also be borne by the government.
- ❖ Also, maize produce will be procured by the government agencies at Minimum Support Price.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Joan Miro Prize 2019

- ❖ Indian contemporary artist Nalini Malani has won the 7th Joan Miro Prize for 2019.

- ❖ She became the first Indian artist to win this most prestigious contemporary art awards in the World.
- ❖ This prize was given by the Barcelona-based Fundacio Joan Miro.
- ❖ She was awarded for her impressive body of work that gave a voice to "the silenced and the dispossessed all over the world, most particularly women".
- ❖ It recognises present-day work by artists who show the same spirit of exploration, innovation, commitment and freedom that characterised Spanish painter and sculptor Joan Miro's life and work.

SPORTS

India Open International tournament

- ❖ India bags a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals.
- ❖ This was Mary's second gold in the tournament, having won in 48 kg last year in the National capital.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Sex Workers Day - June 02

- ❖ International Whores' Day or International Sex Workers Day is observed annually on June 2 of each year.
- ❖ It honours sex workers and recognises their often-exploited working conditions.
- ❖ The event commemorates the occupation of Église Saint-Nizier in Lyon by more than a hundred sex workers on June 2, 1975 to draw attention to their inhumane working conditions.

World Bicycle Day - June 03

- ❖ The World Bicycle Day 2019 is celebrated on the June 3 by the U.N in collaboration with 56 other countries.

- ❖ This day recognizes "the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle, which has been in use for two centuries, and that it is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation.
- ❖ In April 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared 3 June as International World Bicycle Day.



MISCELLANEOUS

National Spelling Bee Contest

- ❖ For the first time in 92 years, 6 Indian-origin kids were among the 8 who won the 92nd Scripps National Spelling Bee Contest.
- ❖ It was held at Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland, US.
- ❖ National Spelling Bee Contest is a high profile, a high-pressure endurance test of exotic words.
- ❖ Balu Natarajan became the first Indian-origin child to win in the year 1985.