

June – 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Meghalaya state government launched the “One Citizen One Tree campaign” with an aim to plant more trees in the state on the World Environment Day.
- ❖ ISRO developed a mobile application named 'Bhuvan', to collect the detailed information of the location, participants, organisers, instructors and volunteers joining the mega Yoga Day event.
- ❖ The Malayalam actress-director, Sheela has been chosen for the prestigious J C Daniel Award for her contributions to the film world.
 - She is only the second woman to get it, after Aranmula Ponnamma in 2005.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh chief minister revoked the "General Consent" that barred the Central Bureau of Investigation's entry into the state.
 - The latest government order cancels an earlier one issued by Chandrababu Naidu's government.
- ❖ Facebook announced its first interactive game show, titled "Confetti" in India.
- ❖ The Austrian President appointed the head of the country's constitutional court, Brigitte Bierlein as Austria's first female chancellor to lead an interim government until elections later in the year.

NATIONAL

Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

- ❖ Prime Minister approved the reconstitution of government of India's policy think tank NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Planning Commission was replaced with NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in January 2015.
- ❖ Another full-time member of the Aayog Bibek Debroy, who is also the chairman of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, has not been reinstated.
- ❖ Member of the NITI Aayog as follows:



Chairperson	Prime Minister
Vice-Chairperson	Dr. Rajiv Kumar
Full-Time Members	V.K. Saraswat Ramesh Chand V.K. Paul
Ex-officio Members	Minister of Defence Minister of Home Affairs Minister of Finance Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

ECONOMY

Fiscal Performance Index

- ❖ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a Fiscal Performance Index to assess state and central budgets.
- ❖ This Index incorporates qualitative assessments of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, revenues, fiscal prudence and the level of public debt.
- ❖ According to the report, the financial performance of states with low income levels is better than those with higher income.

ENVIRONMENT

State of India's Environment 2019

- ❖ State of India's Environment 2019 figures is an annual quantified statement of environmental statistics and analysis put together by Down to Earth magazine, which Centre for Science and Environment helps to publish.

Some of the important findings

- ❖ Air pollution is responsible for 12.5 per cent of all deaths in India.
- ❖ India is yet to identify indicators to track its climate change preparedness to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
- ❖ Both surface and groundwater in the country are under stress. 86 water bodies are critically polluted.
- ❖ There is a 35 per cent shortfall in the number of 24x7 public health centres, where 26 per cent of the positions for medical officers are lying vacant.

- ❖ By 2050, India is projected to add 416 million urban dwellers to the world's urban population and will be home to about 58 per cent of the total global population.
- ❖ There has been a 22 per cent increase in India's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions between 2010 and 2014.
- ❖ India has recently shifted to a powerful forest fire monitoring and alert system, SNPP-VIIRS, which can capture forest fires with better accuracy and precision.
- ❖ India has witnessed 1.9 times increase in the unemployment rate in the past two years.

India's first trading programme to combat particulate air pollution

- ❖ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched India's first trading programme to combat particulate air pollution on World Environment Day 2019.
- ❖ The programme is a market-based system where the government sets a cap on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits to stay below the cap.
- ❖ Under the cap and trade system, the regulator first defines the total mass of pollution that can be put into the air over a defined period by all factories put together.
- ❖ Then, a set of permits is created, each of which allows a certain amount of pollution, and the total is equal to the cap.
- ❖ These permits are the quantity that is bought and sold.
- ❖ Each factory is allocated a share of these permits (this could be equal or based on size or some other rule).
- ❖ After this, plants can trade permits with each other, just like any other commodity.

Indian Navy Environment Conservation Roadmap

- ❖ The Navy is pressing ahead with its eco-friendly programme, the Indian Navy Environment Conservation Roadmap (INECR).
- ❖ It comprises specific action plans covering the gamut of operations, maintenance, administration, infrastructure and community living.
- ❖ The roadmap envisions 'reduction in energy consumption' and 'diversification of energy supply' as the key result areas.



Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2018

- ❖ International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has released a report titled 'Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2018'.
- ❖ For the study, IRENA analysed eight major solar PV markets from 2010 to 2018.
- ❖ These countries include China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US.
- ❖ According to the report, India is now the low-cost producer of solar power globally.
- ❖ Renewable energy sources have witnessed cost decline globally.

IRENA

- ❖ It was founded in 2009 its treaty entered into force on 8th July 2010 and is headquartered in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ It is the first international organisation to focus exclusively on renewable energy, addressing needs in both developed and developing countries.
- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organisation mandated to facilitate cooperation, advance knowledge, and promote the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy.
- ❖ It is an official observer of United Nations.

STATES

India's first project to receive power from waste

- ❖ Delhi Metro has become the first ever project in the country to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant.
- ❖ Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur.
- ❖ It has also commissioned a facility at Rohini on PPP model with IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure & Services Ltd for recycling of Construction and Demolition waste with a capacity of 150 tons per day.



EBPG quota withdrawal

- ❖ The Haryana government has withdrawn its quotas of posts kept reserved under the Economically Backward Persons in General Category (EBPG) and Backward Class (Block-C) in government jobs and state-run educational institutions.
- ❖ The government has also asked all the departments of the state government to release reserved posts from the quota into the General/ unreserved category.
- ❖ Besides EBPG, the decision will have impact on six castes viz. Jats, Jat Sikhs, Muslim Jats, Tyagis, Rors and Bishnois which were included in backward class (Block-C) category.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Women's Prize for Fiction

- ❖ American author Tayari Jones has won the Women's Prize for Fiction for her book, "An American Marriage".
- ❖ The book portrays a young African American's wrongful conviction and how it affects his marriage.
- ❖ Last year's Booker prize winner "Milkman" by Anna Burns and former Booker winner Pat Barker's new novel, "The Silence of the Girls", were also shortlisted for the women's award.

Women's Prize for Fiction

- ❖ The prize was set up in 1996 to celebrate and promote international fiction by women throughout the world to the widest range of readers possible.
- ❖ It is annually awarded to a female author of any nationality for the best original full-length novel written in English, published in the United Kingdom in the preceding year.

