

June – 13

TNPSC BITS

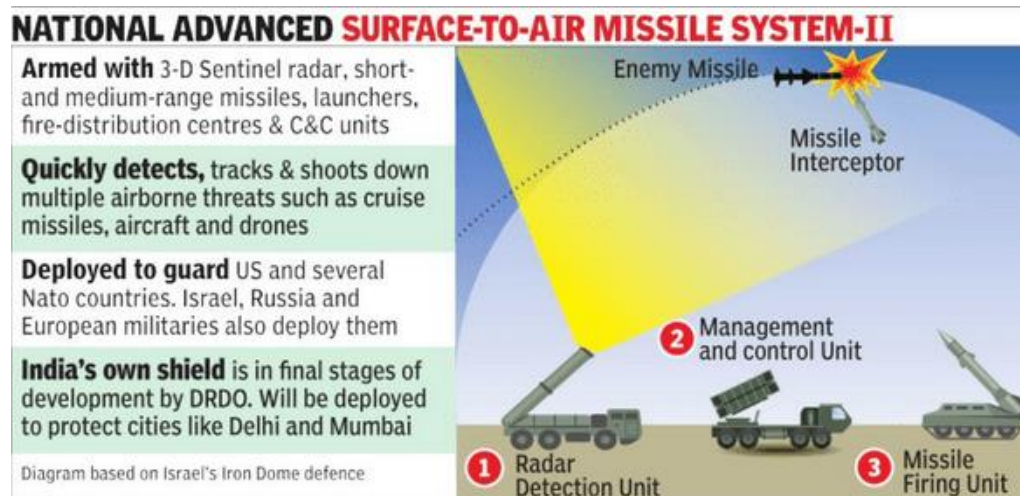
- ❖ India extended a financial aid of 1.6 billion Nepalese rupees to Nepal to help 50,000 people in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts to rebuild their houses damaged in the devastating earthquake in 2015.
- ❖ Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thawar Chand Gelot has been appointed as Leader of Rajya Sabha for BJP Parliamentary party and Minister of Railways and Commerce Piyush Goyal will be his deputy.
 - Narendra Modi is the leader of BJP in Lok Sabha and Rajnath Singh will be his deputy.
 - Sanjay Jaiswal will be Chief Whip in Lok Sabha and Narayan Lal Panchariya in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The 'Very severe cyclonic storm' Cyclone Vayu is expected to make landfall in Gujarat coast.
 - It was named Vayu by India. Cyclone Gaja was named by Sri Lanka. Ochki and Fani cyclones were named by Bangladesh.
- ❖ Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has announced that the Government of India has set a target of providing clean drinking water to all by 2024.
 - Currently only 18% of rural households get piped water.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer V S Kaumudi has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR & D).
 - Founded in 1970, BPR & D undertakes research to make suggestions for overcoming the problems of the police in the country.
- ❖ Nripendra Misra and PK Mishra have been re-appointed as Principal Secretary and Additional Principal Secretary to PM Modi.
 - The appointments will be co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister and they will be assigned the rank of Cabinet Minister.
- ❖ According to the World Bank criteria, India is a lower-middle income country with a per capita income of around \$ 2,000.
- ❖ The RBI has set up a six-member committee, headed by VG Kannan, Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association, to review the ATM interchange fee structure.
 - It aims for giving a fillip to ATM deployment in unbanked areas.

- ❖ The new proposals by a panel led by PNB chairman Sunil Mehta and backed by Reserve Bank to help consolidating the stressed assets is termed as “Project Sashakt”.
- ❖ The successor of long-term former president Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has been elected as Kazakhstan’s new president.
 - Nursultan Nazarbayev had ruled Kazakhstan since separation from Soviet Union in 1991 till his resignation in 2019.

NATIONAL

NASAMS-II

- ❖ The United States has approved the sale of the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II) to India.



- ❖ It is an advanced air defence system to defend National Capital Region (NCR) from aerial attacks.
- ❖ It can maximise the ability to quickly identify, engage and destroy enemy aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle or emerging cruise missile threats.

Defence Space Research Agency

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cleared the setting up of the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRA).
- ❖ DSRA has been entrusted with the task of creating space warfare weapon systems and technologies.

- ❖ It would be providing the research and development support to the Defence Space Agency (DSA).
- ❖ DSA will be set up in Bengaluru under an Air Vice Marshal-rank officer and will gradually take over the space-related capabilities of the three forces.
- ❖ In March 2019, India had carried out the Anti Satellite Test (ASAT) which demonstrated its capability to shoot down satellites.

Kheer Bhawani Mela

- ❖ Every year on Zyeshta Ashtami the Kashmiri Pandits visit 5 temples in Jammu and Kashmir to pay their obeisance to Goddess Ragnya Devi.
- ❖ Kheer Bhawani temple in Tulmul village, near Srinagar is the most important temple for the 60,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandits who live all over India.
- ❖ Mela Kheer Bhawani is an important annual festival for the pandits.
- ❖ The devotees of the Goddess Mata Kheer Bhawani fast and gather here on the eighth day of the full moon in the month of May or June (Zyeshta Ashtami day).
- ❖ The term kheer refers to rice pudding that is offered in the spring located in the temple to please the Goddess.

INTERNATIONAL

Mexico International Book Fair

- ❖ India has been designated as the Guest of Honour at the 33rd Guadalajara International Book Fair, in Mexico.
- ❖ The Indian pavilion at the book fair will showcase the cultural heritage and ancient history of the country and 35 Indian authors and artists.

About the Event

- ❖ The Guadalajara International Book Fair is the largest book fair of the Americas.
- ❖ It is the second largest book fair in the world after Frankfurt's Book Fair.
- ❖ It was started by the University of Guadalajara in 1987.
- ❖ Colombia was the first guest of honour in 1993.

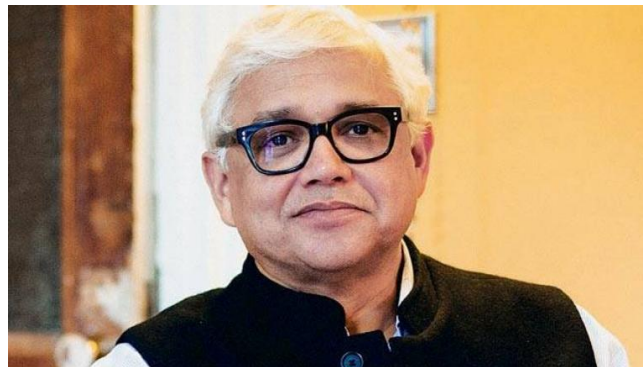
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Amitav Ghosh

- ❖ One of India's leading contemporary English writers, Amitav Ghosh has been honoured with 2018 Jnanpith Award for his outstanding contribution towards literature.
- ❖ This award was given by Gopala Krishna Gandhi.
- ❖ He has earlier won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel *The Shadow Lines* (1988).
- ❖ *The Glass Palace*, *The Hungry Tide* and *Ibis Trilogy* of "Sea of Poppies" are some of his other famous works.

About Jnanpith

- ❖ Jnanpith is conferred by literary and research organization Bhartiya Jnanpith.
- ❖ It was founded in 1944 by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain.
- ❖ The first Jnanpith award was given in 1965 to G. Sankara Kurup (Malayalam).
- ❖ This annual award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English.
- ❖ Other awards given by the organisation include Moortidevi Award and Navlekhan Award.



SPORTS

ITTF Hong Kong Open

- ❖ China claimed all four gold medals at 2019 ITTF World Tour Hong Kong Open – 2 Gold in Singles events and 2 gold in doubles events.
- ❖ Wang Yidi won her first women's singles title by defeating Mima Ito of Japan.

- ❖ The Hong Kong Open is a table tennis event held since 2018, as part of the 2018 ITTF World Tour.
- ❖ The event is organised by the Hong Kong Table Tennis Association, under the authority of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

World Athletics

- ❖ The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) has rebranded itself as “World Athletics” and revealed a new logo to reflect its name change.
- ❖ In the new logo, the ‘W’ in World represents an athlete’s arms raised in victory, ‘A’ in ‘Athletics’ represents an athlete’s focus, and an arc over the ‘W’ and ‘A’ represents the athletics community coming together.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Albinism Awareness Day – June 13

- ❖ The International Albinism awareness day is observed worldwide on June 13.
- ❖ It is observed to dispel myths about albinism, to reduce stigma, to create better awareness and to reduce violence against people with albinism.
- ❖ The day came into effect from the year 2015 by UN general assembly resolution to promote and protect the rights of people living with albinism.
- ❖ This year's theme for the day is "Still Standing Strong".



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