

June – 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved “The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019” for introduction in Parliament.
 - This bill aims to incorporate the directions of the Supreme Court and recommendations of Justice B.N. Srikrishna and strengthen the Aadhar Act.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
 - It aims to ensure transparency, accountability and quality in the governance of medical education in the country.
- ❖ Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched the “e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes”.
 - Online portals “DBT Tribal” and “NGO Grants Online Application & Tracking System” have been launched for bringing in greater e-Governance in implementation of welfare schemes for STs.
- ❖ “flygskam” – The word has been popularised by teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg in Scandinavian countries and the World.
 - It urges people to use train transport and avoid airlines due to the excessive pollution caused by airlines industry.
- ❖ The Society of Indian Automobile Association (SIAM) has opposed the government’s proposal to ban sales of non-electric three-wheelers by 2023 and two-wheelers of less than 150 cc by 2025, terming it as impractical and untimely.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has stayed the Andhra Pradesh government's Godavari-Penna river interlinking projects due to lack of environmental clearance from the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) bench under Justice Adarsh Kumar has set up an expert committee to probe whether there is a need for further norms to restrict plastic packaging of food products.
 - The panel comprises Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Bureau of Indian Standards, Central Pollution Control Board and Directorate General of Health Services.
- ❖ Central American country El Salvador has recognised forests as “living entities”. Its citizens will now be required to preserve the forests legally.

- ❖ According to Forbes' 2019 list of highest paid athletes, footballer Lionel Messi tops the list earning \$127 million via salary and endorsement deals.
 - Ranked at 100, Virat Kohli is the only Indian sportsperson and cricketer to feature in the list with total earnings of USD 25 Million in 2019.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the extension of President's rule under article 356(4) of Indian Constitution, in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for a period of 6 more months, beginning from 3 July 2019.
 - A resolution seeking approval of parliament for extending President's Rule in J&K will be moved in both houses of parliament during the upcoming session.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) committee led by Bimal Jalan (former RBI governor) constituted for considering guidelines for transfer of central bank's surplus funds to government delayed submitting its report after lack of consensus among its members.
 - The panel was originally supposed to submit its report in April 2019.
- ❖ The Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered into a Tripartite Agreement with French National Railways (SNCF) & AFD, a French development agency in order to support Railway Station Development Program in India.
 - Speed upgradation study to enable 200 kmph speed run on 245 km long Delhi-Chandigarh corridor, Ludhiana and Ambala Railway stations development were earlier done with French assistance.
- ❖ According to a report released by brand analytics firm TRA Research, "Dell" has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019.
 - Auto brand Jeep, LIC, Amazon, Apple are ranked 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th most trusted brands respectively.

NATIONAL

Global Peace Index

- ❖ India's rank has slipped five places to 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index 2019.
- ❖ Iceland remains the most peaceful country while Afghanistan is the least peaceful nation.
- ❖ In South Asia, Bhutan topped the peace index with 15th rank.

- ❖ Australian think tank 'Institute for Economics & Peace' ranks countries according to their level of peacefulness.
- ❖ It was developed in consultation with an international panel of peace experts from peace institutes and think tanks with data collected and collated by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ❖ Rankings are based on the level of societal safety and security, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarisation.

HSTDV

- ❖ DRDO conducted the maiden test of a Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.



- ❖ Under HSTDV project DRDO is developing a hypersonic vehicle that will be powered by a "scram-jet engine".
- ❖ It can be used for launching satellites at low cost.
- ❖ It will also be available for long-range cruise missiles of the future.

Kailash Manasarovar Yatra

- ❖ Union Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar flagged off the first batch of pilgrims from New Delhi, for this year's Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

- ❖ The duration of pilgrimage is 24 days for each batch including 3 days in Delhi for preparatory work.
- ❖ The pilgrimage was started in 1981.
- ❖ The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is undertaken by two routes
 - Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand – This route passes through a very mountainous area.
 - Nathu La Pass in Sikkim – Fully motorable route. Helpful for Senior Citizens.
- ❖ The Yatra involves a treacherous route that crosses territorial boundaries of India, Nepal and China.
- ❖ It is organised with support from governments of Delhi, Uttarakhand and Sikkim and also with cooperation of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).



ECONOMY

Tax Information Exchange

- ❖ India has notified a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the Marshall Islands on May 21, 2019.
- ❖ It provides an effective framework for exchange of information on tax matters which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance.
- ❖ The Marshall Islands are a sprawling chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in the Pacific Ocean, between Hawaii and the Philippines.

ENVIRONMENT

Micryletta aishani

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new species of 'Paddy Frog' from Northeast India, primarily in Assam.
- ❖ It is named as *Micryletta aishani*.
- ❖ Aishani in Sanskrit means North East.
- ❖ Aishani frog becomes the fifth worldwide recognised species under *Micryletta* genus.
- ❖ This genus is a group of narrow-mouthed frogs that are more commonly known as paddy frogs and are primarily and widely distributed in Southeast Asia.



STATES

Golden Langurs

- ❖ Assam's Bongaigaon district authorities have launched a ₹27.24-lakh project under the MGNREGA to plant guava, mango, blackberry and other fruit trees in the Kakoijana Reserve Forest.
- ❖ They plan to provide adequate food and protect the rare golden langurs which frequently die due to electrocution while searching for food.
- ❖ This is the first time MGNREGA scheme is being implemented with a focus on food for a primate species.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Blood Donor Day – June 14

- ❖ World Blood Donor Day is celebrated around the world on 14 June.
- ❖ The event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and also to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donation.
- ❖ The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2019 is Rwanda.
- ❖ The theme for blood donor day 2019 is 'Safe blood for all'.



- ❖ The 58th World Health Assembly designated World Blood Donor Day as an annual event to be held on June 14.
- ❖ It was started in 2005.
- ❖ The event is one of eight global public health campaigns led by the World Health Organisation along with World Health Day, World Tuberculosis Day, World



Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Hepatitis Day, and World AIDS Day.
