

June – 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Gujarat- based Adani Group has obtained the final regulatory clearance from the Queensland State, Australia regarding ground water management and is expected to commence work on its controversy-hit Carmichael coal mine project.
 - Potential damage to Great Barrier reef and high carbon emission concerns are raised against the project.
- ❖ The new Modi government is planning for the largest-ever auction of telecom spectrum, which may raise around Rs 6 lakh crore and will enable introduction of affordable 5G services, including Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) internet in rural areas.
- ❖ Union Culture Minister Prahalad Singh Patel inaugurated the exhibition ‘Astitva: The Essence of Prabhakar Barwe’, at National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.
 - The “1976 Lalit Kala awardee” Prabhakar Barwe was a pioneer of Modern Indian painting.
- ❖ A two-day National Conference of SVEEP Nodal Officers was organized by the Election Commission of India (ECI) at Gurugram, Delhi to deliberate upon the blueprint for the next five years.
 - Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program is the flagship program of the ECI.
- ❖ The Cambodian Ministry of Information and Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) organised the 16th Asia Media Summit 2019 in Siem Reap province of Cambodia.
 - A yearlong research project to find out appropriate measures to counter fake news named “Angkor Fake News initiative” will also be launched.
- ❖ Chinese President Xi Jinping was conferred with highest national award of Kyrgyzstan titled “Manas Order of the First Degree” in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.
 - Kyrgyzstan is hosting 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit starting 14 June 2019.
- ❖ The Indian Navy hosted “Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2019” under the aegis of the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram, Harayana.
 - The two-day event was inaugurated by Vice Admiral MS Pawar, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.

- ❖ Actor Priyanka Chopra will be awarded Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by United Nations International Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December 2019.
 - Headquartered in New York, UNICEF was established in 1946 to provide relief to children in countries devastated by World War II.
- ❖ Zonel Sougajam, a civil engineer from Manipur was included in Facebook Hall of Fame 2019, for detecting a WhatsApp bug that violated privacy of a user.
 - During a voice call via WhatsApp, the bug converted a voice call into video call without the authorisation and knowledge of receiver.
- ❖ An 8-year-old Indian origin student named Nia Tony was honoured “Eco Champions of Recycling award” during the 22nd edition of Emirates Recycling Awards in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
 - She won the award in the paper section in individual category for collecting a total of 14,914 kg of paper waste.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified that Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide Line of Credit (LoC) worth \$245 million to Ghana and Mozambique for agricultural and railway projects.
- ❖ In a list of the ‘World’s 2,000 largest public companies’, compiled by Forbes magazine, Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries stands at No.1 in India and 71st rank globally.
 - The global chart has been topped by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) for the 7th year in a row.

ECONOMY

World Investment Report

- ❖ World Investment Report 2019 was released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ It says that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to India grew by 6% to USD 42 billion in 2018.
- ❖ India was ranked among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.
- ❖ Sectors like manufacturing, communication and financial services took the lead.

UNCTAD

- ❖ It was established in 1964 and has 195 members

- ❖ Its mandate is to maximize trade, investment and development opportunities of “developing countries”.
- ❖ It also assists them in their efforts towards integrating into world economy.

Employee’s State Insurance

- ❖ Government has reduced the rate of contribution under the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Act from 6.5% to 4%.
- ❖ Employers’ contribution is being reduced from 4.75% to 3.25%.
- ❖ Employees’ contribution is being reduced from 1.75% to 0.75%.
- ❖ This would benefit 3.6 crore employees and 12.85 lakh employers.
- ❖ The reduced rate of contribution will bring more workers under the ESI scheme and bring more workforce into the formal sector.

ESI

- ❖ ESI Act, 1948 provides for medical, cash, maternity, disability and dependent benefits to the Insured Persons under the Act.
- ❖ The Government of India through Ministry of Labour and Employment decides the rate of contribution under the ESI Act.

IBBI

- ❖ Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian and former MD and CEO of IDBI Bank B. Sriram were appointed as part-time members of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ❖ IBBI is an insolvency regulatory agency established on 1 October 2016.
- ❖ It was given statutory powers by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016.
- ❖ IBC covers Individuals, Companies, Partnership firms and Limited Liability Partnerships and handles cases under it using 2 tribunals
 - National company law tribunal (NCLT)
 - Debt recovery tribunal (DRT).

ENVIRONMENT

Asiatic Golden Cats

- ❖ Indian scientists from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) have discovered six colours morphs of the “Asiatic golden cat” in Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Its Colour morphs are thought to arise from random genetic mutations and take hold in the population through natural selection.
- ❖ Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*) is listed as “Near threatened” on IUCN Red List of threatened species.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Sahitya Akademi Awards

- ❖ Sahitya Akademi has selected 22 writers for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019 and 23 writers for Yuva Puraskar 2019.
- ❖ Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar in Maithili language will be declared on a later date.
- ❖ For the Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the Awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of Award (between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2017).
- ❖ It is given in all the eight scheduled languages and English.
- ❖ Yuva Puraskar is a literary honour annually conferred on young writers of outstanding works in the twenty-four major Indian languages that is 22 scheduled languages with English and Rajasthani.
- ❖ Instituted in 2011, the Yuva Puraskar recognises young writers under the age of 35 years.
- ❖ From Tamilnadu, Writers Sabarinathan and Devi Nachiappan have been conferred Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar awards for 2019.
- ❖ While Mr. Sabarinathan has been awarded for his poetry collection ‘Vaal (Tail)’ published in 2016, Ms. Nachiappan has received the award for her contributions to children’s literature.

SPORTS

Copa America

- ❖ South America's governing body of football CONMEBOL has invited Australia and Qatar to take part in 2020 COPA America.
- ❖ COPA 2020 will be co-hosted by Argentina and Colombia.
- ❖ COPA America was established in 1916 and is the oldest international continental football competition.
- ❖ It is usually played between 10 South American continental teams and 2 special invitees.
- ❖ Qatar and Japan are guest teams at Copa 2019 scheduled to be held in Brazil.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Wind Day - June 15

- ❖ Global Wind Day is a worldwide event that occurs annually on 15 June.
- ❖ It is organised by WindEurope and Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).
- ❖ It is a day when adults and children find out about wind energy, its power and the possibilities.
- ❖ The event was started became a global phenomenon in 2009.


