

**June – 20**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has constituted a committee to work out the modalities and methodology of the implementation of next revision of pension under One Rank One Pension (OROP).
- ❖ Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) has launched the “Chalo App” which will be equipped with a multi-module model journey planner for the commuters and live information about the location of buses.
- ❖ Japanese researchers from Hiroshima University have developed a new type of cooling vest for sports athletes that may help them compete safely in sweltering summer conditions.
  - Dehydration, decreased performance and decreased brain function are the dangers when the core body temperature climbs too high.
- ❖ Indian engineer Nitesh Kumar Jangir won 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General’s Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London, United Kingdom (UK).
  - He won the award in People category, for creating a low-cost breathing support device called ‘Saans’ for premature babies.
- ❖ Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the global internet body and Indian apex body for IT industry NASSCOM announced collaboration for developing standards and technology for managing Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices and infrastructure using internet.

## **NATIONAL**

### **One Nation One Election**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited heads of all parties in Parliament to a meeting to discuss the idea of “One nation, One election”.
- ❖ 21 parties out of 40 parties represented in parliament attended the meeting.
- ❖ PM has announced that a committee will be set up to explore the possibility.
- ❖ Earlier, Law commission in its 170th report remarked that the holding of a separate election to a Legislative Assembly should be an exception and not the rule.



### Fact Box

Both Lok Sabha and State Assemblies do not have a fixed term and can be dissolved earlier than their normal under the following Constitutional Provisions

#### Lok Sabha:

\*Article 85(2)(b): Article 85 (2)(b) of the Constitution of India provides the President with the power to dissolve Lok Sabha.

#### State Assemblies:

\*Article 174(2)(b): Similar provision for dissolution of State Legislative Assemblies by the Governor of State is provided under Article 174(2)(b).

\*Article 356: In the event of a State being under President's Rule as provided under Article 356, the Legislative Assembly of the said State may be prematurely dissolved by the President.

### Ration in Kind

- ❖ The Government of India has approved Union Ministry of Defence proposal for restoration of 'ration in kind' to military officers stationed in peace areas.
- ❖ On 1 July 2017, government had taken the decision that instead of free 'ration in kind' facility defence officers would be given certain allowance.
- ❖ Now this proposal stands cancelled and reverted to old method.

### Appointments Committee

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of service of senior bureaucrat Alok Vardhan by over 3 months as Director General of Directorate General of Foreign Trade.
- ❖ ACC decides appointments to top posts under Government of India.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi is the Chairman of the Committee.
- ❖ Home Minister is member of the committee.

## **Driver Qualification**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to remove requirement of minimum educational qualification for transport vehicle drivers in country.
- ❖ At present the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 mandates that a transport vehicle driver must need to have passed Class VIII.
- ❖ This move is expected to meet shortage of nearly 22 lakh drivers in country's transport and logistics sector.

## **Financial support - Nigeria**

- ❖ India has extended \$15 Million financial support to Niger as a support for organising African Union (AU) summit.
- ❖ This summit is to be held in 7-8 July 2019 in Niamey (Capital of Niger).
- ❖ Indian Resident Diplomatic Mission in Niamey, Niger was opened in 2009.
- ❖ India also plans to establish Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey under grant assistance.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Sanitation for all**

- ❖ A report titled "Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2000-2017: Special focus on inequalities" was published recently.
- ❖ It was released by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

### **Key Findings**

- ❖ 2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely-managed drinking water.
- ❖ 4.2 billion people lack safe sanitation services and 3 billion lack basic handwashing facilities.
- ❖ India accounts for almost two thirds of the 650 million people globally who stopped practising open defecation between 2000 and 2017.
- ❖ But only 44% Indian households get piped water.

## SIPRI Yearbook 2019

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the findings of SIPRI Yearbook 2019.
- ❖ It assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security.
- ❖ The United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea possessed approximately 13 865 nuclear weapons at the start of 2019.
- ❖ The report states that India has 130-140 other warheads in 2019 which is same as 2018.

### World nuclear forces, January 2019

Country	Deployed warheads*	Other warheads**	Total 2019	Total 2018
USA	1 750	4 435	6 185	6 450
Russia	1 600	4 900	6 500	6 850
UK	120	80	200	215
France	280	20	300	300
China		290	290	280
India		130-140	130-140	130-140
Pakistan		150-160	150-160	140-150
Israel		80-90	80-90	80
North Korea	..	..	(20-30)	(10-20)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 750</b>	<b>10 115</b>	<b>13 865</b>	<b>14 465</b>

*Source: SIPRI Yearbook 2019*

## STATES

### Himachal Trekking

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh government has made it compulsory for trekkers to carry a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to tackle any exigency.
- ❖ It also plans to set up relief and rescue base for National Disaster Response Force at Rampur and Mandi towns.
- ❖ Early warning systems will be installed at Kullu district and Dalhousie town.

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh is popular among trekkers.

### **Heritage Status Proposals**

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has begun the process to get UNESCO's World Heritage Site status for Godavari Mangroves at Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, near Kakinada.
- ❖ Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary has the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with 24 tree species.

## **SPORTS**

### **World Tennis Rankings**

- ❖ Naomi Osaka of Japan stands No.1 in Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings.
- ❖ WTA was founded in 1973 by Billie Jean King, to govern women's tennis.
- ❖ Novak Djokovic of Serbia stands No.1 in Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings.
- ❖ ATP was founded in September 1972 by Jack Kramer, Donald Dell, and Cliff Drysdale to govern men's tennis.

### **Basketball Championship**

- ❖ 33rd Federation Cup Basketball Championship for Men and Women held in Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida.
- ❖ Punjab Police beat Indian Army team to win men's title.
- ❖ Eastern Railway beat Tamilnadu team to win the women's title.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Goa Revolution Day – June 18**

- ❖ Goa Revolution Day was celebrated on June 18, 2019.
- ❖ Goa got its freedom on 19 December 1961 from Portuguese.

- ❖ But Ram Manohar Lohia initiated struggle for Goa's liberation from Portuguese on 18 June 1946.
- ❖ The day is observed in memory of the date when the agitation against colonial rule was launched by Lohia.



### **Autism Rights Day – June 18**

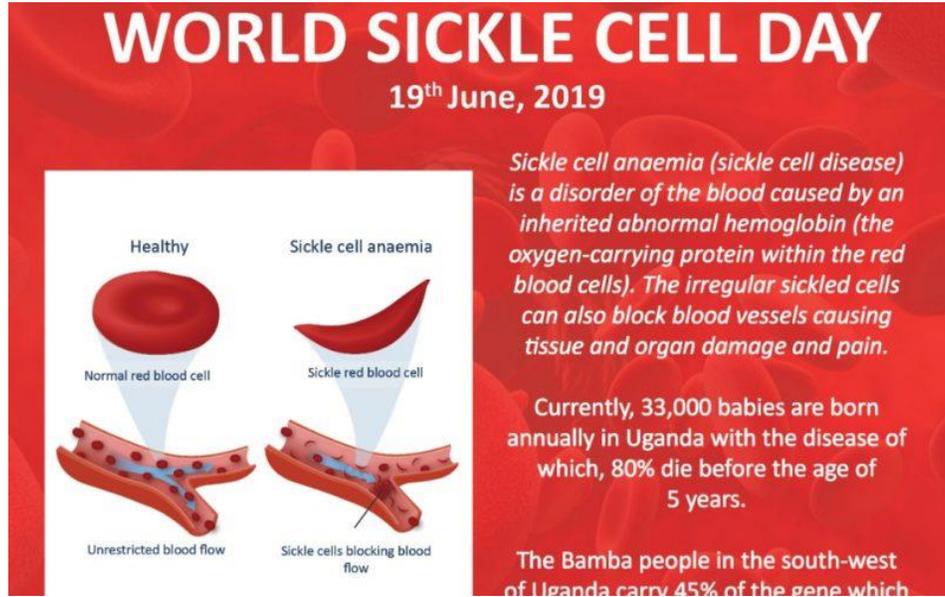
- ❖ Autistic Rights Day is being observed on June 18, 2019.



- ❖ It recognises the importance of pride for autistics.
- ❖ It was initiated by Aspies For Freedom, a group that raises public awareness about autism rights.
- ❖ The exact cause of autism is not known but it is known to be associated with genetic and environmental factors.

## World Sickle Cell Day – June 19

- ❖ The World Sickle Cell Day is being observed on June 19, 2019.



**WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY**  
19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

*Sickle cell anaemia (sickle cell disease) is a disorder of the blood caused by an inherited abnormal hemoglobin (the oxygen-carrying protein within the red blood cells). The irregular sickled cells can also block blood vessels causing tissue and organ damage and pain.*

Currently, 33,000 babies are born annually in Uganda with the disease of which, 80% die before the age of 5 years.

The Bamba people in the south-west of Uganda carry 45% of the gene which

**Healthy**      **Sickle cell anaemia**

Normal red blood cell      Sickle red blood cell

Unrestricted blood flow      Sickle cells blocking blood flow

- ❖ It is observed each year to raise public awareness about the sickle cell disease and its treatment methods.
  - ❖ Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited genetic abnormality of haemoglobin.
  - ❖ In 2008 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that recognises sickle cell disease as a public health problem and one of the world's foremost genetic diseases.
  - ❖ It is observed since 2009.
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