

June – 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed Rajya Sabha about the scheme for grant of financial assistance to NGOs for administering “Road Safety Advocacy”.
 - Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) registered in Darpan portal can claim reimbursement of Rs.5 lakhs after successful completion of road safety awareness programs.
- ❖ Union Minister of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar announced that the Publications Division of Government will bring out the Hindi adaptation of ‘Geet Ramayana’ by Shri Datta Prasad Jog.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD) had prepared a comprehensive block-level atlas of towns in Tamil Nadu.
 - It shows the areas that are suitable for Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) systems and the availability of water for drilling borewells.

TAMIL NADU

Water from Jolarpettai

- ❖ The Southern Railway has begun preparations for bringing 10 million litres of waters per day from Jolarpettai, Vellore district to Chennai.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 65 crores for the project to tide over the water crisis in Chennai.



NATIONAL

Smart Card Driving License

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed Rajya Sabha about the Universal Smart Card Driving License.
- ❖ It has prescribed a common standard format and design of the Driving Licence for whole of the country.
- ❖ It will also include the placement of information, standardization of fonts etc.
- ❖ The ministry already has a common countrywide database of all driving license holders in its SARATHI application.
- ❖ It was developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre).

ReCAAP

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted a workshop on issues related to piracy and armed robbery.
- ❖ It is jointly organised with Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC).



About ReCAAP

- ❖ ReCAAP is the first regional Government-to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.
- ❖ It was formed in 2006.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Singapore.

- ❖ Presently, 20 countries are members of the ReCAAP.

Impacts on Tribal

- ❖ The Anthropological Survey of India (ASI) has submitted a report about the impact of Government programmes on Indian tribal communities on the last five years.
- ❖ ASI was formed in 1945 and is head quartered in Kolkata.
- ❖ It is a premier research for anthropological research in bio-cultural studies and functions under Ministry of Culture.

INTERNATIONAL

Voting Rights for Russia

- ❖ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has voted in favour of restoring Russia's voting rights.
- ❖ Russia's voting rights were revoked five years ago after its illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.
- ❖ The Council of Europe was formed in 1949 and headquartered at Strasbourg, France.
- ❖ It advocates human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe.

Money Laundering

- ❖ The UAE has become the first country in the Gulf to launch goAML tool.
- ❖ goAML was developed by UN Office on Drugs and Crime to curb organised crimes.
- ❖ It is available to Financial Intelligence Units of Member States to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.



goAML

Anti-Money Laundering System

ECONOMY

Bank NPA

- ❖ Reserve bank of India has published report of the non-performing assets (NPA) in the banking sector.
- ❖ NPA data is published by RBI as part of its Financial Stability Reports.
- ❖ As on 31.3.2019, the aggregate amount of gross NPAs of Public Sector banks were Rs. 8,06,412 crores.
- ❖ NPA in Scheduled Commercial Banks were Rs. 9,49,279 crores.

UK Sinha Committee

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an 8- member expert committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector.
- ❖ It is headed by UK Sinha, Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ❖ The committee examines the factors affecting the timely and adequate availability of finance to the MSME sector.
- ❖ It has proposed a Rs.5000 crore package for MSME sector.

CREDIT FLOW TO MSME SECTOR (AMOUNT IN ₹ CRORE)		
Year ended	Banks	NBFCs
March 2014	10,39,930	8,576
March 2015	11,71,026	28,648
March 2016	12,16,007	88,013
March 2017	12,96,398	111,310
March 2018	13,24,239	144,140
March 2019*	15,77,566	162,217

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Moon Mission

- ❖ Among preparations for NASA's 2024 Moon mission, scientists are testing a device called Lunar Evacuation System Assembly (LESA).

- ❖ LESA is a pyramid-like structure whose purpose is to rescue an astronaut should he or she suffer an injury on the lunar surface.
- ❖ It is being tested under the sea which is mostly like the lunar surface.

Falcon Heavy

- ❖ Elon Musk's SpaceX launched its Falcon Heavy spacecraft on its third and the most complex mission.
- ❖ It carried important payloads like
 - Deep Space Atomic Clock – DSAC is 50 times more accurate than atomic clocks already aboard GPS satellites and it aims at helping spacecraft navigate by themselves without dependence on earth time.
 - ASCENT green fuel – Hydrazine fuel used in rockets is extremely toxic to humans as well as the environment. Advanced Spacecraft Energetic Non-toxic Propellant (ASCENT) significantly reduces pollution.
 - Solar-powered sail - It seeks to become the first orbiting spacecraft to be propelled solely by sunlight

ENVIRONMENT

Impressed Tortoise

- ❖ A team of herpetologists from the Forest Department and two NGOs - Help Earth and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) have discovered a new tortoise in Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh.



- ❖ It is named as Impressed Tortoise (Manouria impressa).
- ❖ This is the first record of the tortoise in India.
- ❖ India is already the only home of the Asian Forest tortoise (Manouria emys).
- ❖ Manouria emys is the largest tortoise in mainland Asia.

STATES

Smokeless Kitchen

- ❖ Maharashtra government has announced a project aimed at providing smoke-free environment in the kitchen.
- ❖ It is called as named "Chullah free and smoke-free Maharashtra". Chullah is a wood-fired stove.
- ❖ It is targeted at the women who have not benefited under the Ujjwala or any other LPG distribution scheme.



Puri Jagannath

- ❖ The annual ceremonial bathing ritual of the deities at Sri Jagannath temple has recently been celebrated in Puri, Odisha.
- ❖ It is called as Snana Yatra and it observed on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Jyeshtha.
- ❖ It is also considered as the birth day of Lord Jagganath.
- ❖ This function usually precedes the annual Ratha Yatra festival in Puri Jagannath temple.



MISCELLANEOUS

Bucheon Film Festival

- ❖ The 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BiFAN-2019) will be held at South Korea.
- ❖ 4 Indian Films including Tamil movie Super Deluxe will be screened at the event.
- ❖ The other Indian movies to be played at the event are - Gully Boy, Andhadhun and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.

Pazhavila Ramesan

- ❖ Popular Malayalam Poet and lyricist Pazhavila Ramesan has passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.



- ❖ He had also served as the director of Kerala Bhasha Institute for a long time.
- ❖ Ramesan brought out poetry collections such as Mazhayude Jalakam, Njan Ente Kadukalelikku, and Pazhavila Ramesante Kavithakal.
