

# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2019

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## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Punjab Government has issued orders to all online food order and supply companies to display the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) “hygiene rating” of all the hotels registered or affiliated with them.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a 6-member committee under the chairmanship of Harsh Vardhan, Senior Advisor with Bain & Co. to review the existing state of “Mortgage Securitisation in India” and suggest measures to deepen it.
  - It is officially named as “Committee on the Development of Housing Finance Securitisation Market”.
- ❖ According to a study based on National Sample Survey Organisation, India has 20.6 health workers per 10,000 people. World Health Organisation standards are 22.8 per 10,000 people.
  - More than 80% of doctors and 70% of nurses and midwives are employed in the private sector.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to ban the use of Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purifiers where total dissolved solids (TDS) in water are below 500 mg per litre.
  - If TDS is less than 500 milligrams per litre, RO system will not be useful but result in removing important minerals as well as cause undue wastage of water. 80% of water is wasted in Reverse Osmosis purifiers.
- ❖ Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Birender Singh Dhanoa has become the new Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee (COSC).
  - The role of COSC is to advise the Defence Minister and through him to the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs on all military matters which require ministerial consideration.
- ❖ According to the recent Global Childhood Report, children born today have a better chance than at any time in history to grow up healthy, educated and protected.
  - It was released by “Save the Children” an NGO working for the education and protection of child rights. Singapore topped the list. India stood at 113<sup>th</sup> position.
- ❖ The UN Security Council has extended an arms embargo and sanctions on South Sudan for one more year despite resistance from African countries, Russia and China.





- Resolutions in the 15-member Security council require a minimum of nine votes for adoption.
- ❖ Puerto Williams, a port and naval base on Navarino Island in Chile is now the world's Southernmost city.
  - Earlier Ushuaia in Argentina held that distinction.
- ❖ The proposed Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh is expected to begin operations from 2023 with a capacity to handle 1.2 crore passengers annually.
  - It will serve as the second airport for the National Capital Region.
- ❖ India lost its position as the fastest-growing major economy of the world to China for the first time in one-and-a-half years.
- ❖ After 50 years of long-term struggle, a radical change made in England law to lift the ban on wearing turbans and keeping beard at work in the country.
- ❖ Delhi government cleared the proposal to make metro and bus travel free for women in the national capital territory.
- ❖ ONGC has toppled Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to become the country's most profitable public sector company.
- ❖ UAE's Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) has issued the first Golden Residence Permit in Abu Dhabi to investor Yousuf Ali, the Abu Dhabi-based Keralite billionaire tycoon.
  - This scheme is expected to encourage expatriates to make long-term investment goals and own a property. 30% of UAE's total population comprises of Indian migrants.
- ❖ The Madras High Court has ruled that film music composer R. Ilaiyaraaja was entitled to "special moral rights" over 4,500 songs composed by him for more than 1,000 movies under Section 57 of the Copyright Act, 1957.
  - This Section protects the right of a composer to claim a right over his compositions even after assigning them wholly or partially to others.
- ❖ On the eve of World environment Day, 2019 (June 05), Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched #selfiewithsapling campaign and asked people to plant a sapling and post a selfie with it.
- ❖ The Nandan Nilekani committee on digital payments has recommended elimination of transaction charges, round the clock RTGS and NEFT facility, duty-free import of point-of-sales machines to increase digital payments in India.
  - It has also recommended for globalising Indian payment systems such as RuPay and BHIM UPI to ease remittances into India and to help Indian travellers make payments abroad.



- ❖ Food grains production for the agricultural year 2018-19 has been estimated at over 283 million tonnes.
  - Rice - 115 million tonnes (All time high record production); Wheat -101 million tonnes; Pulses - 23 million tonnes.
- ❖ The Navy expanded its Mission Based Deployments (MBD) in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and deployed P-8I long-range maritime surveillance aircraft for anti-piracy sorties from Salalah in Oman to patrol the Gulf of Aden.
  - Due to strategic importance of IOR, Indian Navy regularly conducts Presence and Surveillance Missions off critical choke points or sea lanes in the IOR.
- ❖ Researchers from ICAR-National Rice Research Institute (NRRI), Odisha have mapped out the diverse genes in rice that help in disease resistance against “rice blast” disease.
  - A fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*, causes rice blast which is one of the major diseases of the rice crop.
- ❖ The President of India Ram Nath Kovind greeted the citizens of India on the occasion of Idu’l Fitr.
  - It is a celebration to mark the end of Ramadan/Ramzan, the holy month of fasting and is celebrated on the first day of the month of Shawwal.
- ❖ The United States of America has withdrawn India’s GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) trade benefits w.e.f. 5 June 2019.
  - In 2017 GSP program gave duty free access to 5.7-billion-dollar worth of Indian exports to US.
- ❖ Manipur has launched the “Yellow Line Campaign” to prevent sale of tobacco products near schools and colleges.
- ❖ The official mascot for FIFA Women’s world cup 2019 is named as “Ettie”.
- ❖ Deputy Speaker VP Sivakolundhu was elected as the new Speaker of the Puducherry Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ Ahead of the International Yoga Day on June 21, the AYUSH ministry has launched a mobile application called 'Yoga Locator' to enable people locate yoga events and centres providing training.
- ❖ The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue also known as Quad is an informal strategic grouping consisting of India, US, Australia and Japan recently met at Bangkok in Thailand.
- ❖ A study by the UNICEF has found that ‘Swachh Bharat (Grameen)’ initiative of the government has helped to reduce ground water contamination.



- ❖ A recent paper published in the Journal of the Association of Physicians of India has stated that it is imperative to test all pregnant women for “gestational diabetes”.
- ❖ The 8<sup>th</sup> FIFA Women’s football world cup has begun in France. The first World Cup was held at China in 1991.
  - United States of America is the most successful team in Women’s football world cup tournament (4-time winners).
- ❖ In an attempt to boost digital transactions, RBI has decided not to levy charges on RTGS and NEFT transactions and banks will be required to pass this benefit to their customers.
- ❖ The Home Ministry has instructed all NGOs and associations registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010 have to submit online application for addition, deletion and change of details about office-bearers and key functionaries within one month.
  - FCRA Act regulates the receipt and usage of foreign contribution by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in India.
- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a fine amounting to Rs.74 crores on four chemists and pharmaceutical companies in Madhya Pradesh after they were found violating the provisions of Competition Act, 2002.
  - CCI is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 throughout India and to prevent activities that have an adverse effect on competition.
- ❖ Under the proposal announced by the Delhi government, women will have the option to not pay for rides in Delhi buses and metro.
  - The move is aimed at improving safety and security of women.
- ❖ The United States government has updated Visa application forms to require nearly all applicants to provide their social media usernames, email addresses, and phone numbers for the past five years.
  - The Donald Trump administration aims to ensure more stringent screening of potential immigrants and visitors to the United States.
- ❖ A team of evolutionary geneticists have identified a previously unknown group of ancient people who lived in north eastern Siberia during the last Ice Age that lasted from about 126,000 to 11,700 years ago.
  - The team named the group ‘Ancient North Siberians’ and described their existence as the ‘missing link’ in the Native American ancestry.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) had recently organized a two-day orientation workshop for Population Research Centres (PRCs) at Delhi.



- The event was to highlight the various features of Health Ministry's flagship schemes and for their concurrent monitoring.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a monthly pension scheme for small retail traders and shopkeepers and is expected to cover 3 crores of them.
  - Under the scheme all small shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons are assured a minimum of Rs. 3,000 monthly pensions after attaining 60 years of age.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research has recommended 'complete' ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes.
  - As e-cigarettes contain nicotine and not tobacco, they do not fall within the ambit of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA).
- ❖ Nirmala Sitharaman assumed charge as India's first full time woman Finance Minister.
  - Before that, Indira Gandhi was the finance minister for the period of 1970 to 71 during her Prime Ministership. Other women cabinet ministers in 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha are Smrithi Irani and Harsimrat Kaur Badal.
- ❖ United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) recently appointed Indian-origin Anita Bhatia as Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships.
- ❖ In his first overseas visit as India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reached Bhutan on June 7, 2019.
- ❖ 479<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Rajput warrior Maharana Pratap was observed on 6 June.
  - He fought valiantly but was defeated in the famous Battle of Haldighati against Akbar's forces under the command of Man Singh on 18 June 1576.
- ❖ Eminent historian and writer Romila Thapar has been elected as international member of American Philosophical Society (APS) at its Annual Spring Meeting.
  - APS is the oldest learned society in United States (US) founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin, who was known as one of the founding fathers of United States and the First American. APS believes intellectual inquiry and critical thought are inherently in best interest of public.
- ❖ A formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India for "data exchange" between the two regulatory organizations to tighten the regulatory oversight.



- This MoU comes in wake of increasing need for surveillance in context of Corporate Frauds affecting important sectors of economy.
- ❖ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Director General Rajendra Singh inaugurated the 4th Coast Guard Subordinate Officers Conclave at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi.
  - He conferred 'Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak' medal on Navik Vinod in recognition of his exceptional courage and expert use of lifesaving techniques in saving a drowning woman in Mumbai monsoon rains in 2018.
- ❖ The African Union has suspended Sudan's membership "with immediate effect" because of rising of violence in the Sudan's capital Khartoum where scores of people who were protesting the military rulers were killed.
- ❖ The Sri Lankan Airlines, the flag carrier of Sri Lanka has been named 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for second consecutive time in less than 12 months with over 90% of its flights in May being "on time".
  - 'Flightstats', a global flight tracker has bestowed this recognition.
- ❖ General Prayut Chan-o-cha was elected as Thailand's 29th Prime Minister in a joint upper and lower house Parliamentary vote.
  - He defeated Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, the leader of Thailand's progressive Future Forward Party who represented an alliance of anti-military parties.
- ❖ The first tourist train travelling through Russia's Arctic region carrying passengers heading for Norway set off from Saint Petersburg station.
  - The train has been named "Zarengold" and it is operated by Russia.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump has become the first-ever foreign leader to meet Japan's newly crowned emperor, Emperor Naruhito.
- ❖ American novelist Tayari Jones won this year's Women's Prize for Fiction for her fourth novel "An American Marriage".
  - Founded in 1996, this is United Kingdom's only annual book award for fiction celebrating women's writing from all around the world.
- ❖ Meghalaya state government launched the "One Citizen One Tree campaign" with an aim to plant more trees in the state on the World Environment Day.
- ❖ ISRO developed a mobile application named 'Bhuvan', to collect the detailed information of the location, participants, organisers, instructors and volunteers joining the mega Yoga Day event.
- ❖ The Malayalam actress-director, Sheela has been chosen for the prestigious J C Daniel Award for her contributions to the film world.





- She is only the second woman to get it, after Aranmula Ponnammamma in 2005.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh chief minister revoked the "General Consent" that barred the Central Bureau of Investigation's entry into the state.
  - The latest government order cancels an earlier one issued by Chandrababu Naidu's government.
- ❖ Facebook announced its first interactive game show, titled "Confetti" in India.
- ❖ The Austrian President appointed the head of the country's constitutional court, Brigitte Bierlein as Austria's first female chancellor to lead an interim government until elections later in the year.
- ❖ Bharat Stage-VI (BS - VI) norms for two-wheelers have been released.
  - Dinesh Tyagi, the Director of International Centre for Automotive Technology released India's first Type Approval Certificate for BS – VI norms and handed over it to Hero Motorcorp.
- ❖ The main event of International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations will be held at Prabhat Tara in Ranchi on 21st of this month.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the main function.
- ❖ Sunil Chhetri became the most capped Indian footballer by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches.
- ❖ The St. Petersburg International Economic Forum is an annual Russian business and investment event for the international economic sector.
  - It has been held in St. Petersburg since 1997.
- ❖ Comptroller and Auditor General of India Rajiv Mehrishi has been elected as external auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO) for four years from 2020 to 2023.
  - He was elected at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva with majority votes.
- ❖ Jiwandeep Kohli, a Sikh from California got global attention after he posted a picture of him sporting a Rainbow coloured turban in support of LGBT Community.
- ❖ Jimmy Carter, Former President of United States of America won the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in recognition of his contributions to relations between U.S. and China.
- ❖ Celebrated cricket broadcaster Ashish Ray has come out with a new book titled "Cricket World Cup the Indian Challenge".
  - He has penned down the journey of Indian cricket at the World Cups since the inaugural edition in 1975.



- ❖ Indian Army and Air Force conducted a joint exercise named "Kharga Prahar" in the plains of Punjab.
  - The exercise validated many important operational aspects and reinforced a high degree of operational preparedness of the Kharga Corps.
- ❖ The Ministry of AYUSH conducted a 2 day "Yoga Mahotsava" in New Delhi as a curtain raiser for the International Yoga Day celebrations 2019.
- ❖ Sahara Group has recently announced its plan to foray into the electric vehicle business under a new brand name 'Sahara Evols'.
  - The company will offer electric scooters and motorcycles to electric three-wheelers and cargo vehicles.
- ❖ One of India's biggest philanthropists and businessman, Azim Premji will retire from the post of executive chairman and managing director of Wipro on July 30.
- ❖ Traffic Index 2018 published by an Amsterdam based company called TomTom has ranked Mumbai as the most traffic-congested city in the world for the second straight year, and Delhi is ranked at fourth place.
- ❖ Popular Tamil dramatist, movie-dialogue writer and founder of "Crazy Creations" drama troupe Crazy Mohan alias Mohan Rangachari passed away.
  - Chocolate Krishna is his most famous and well-known drama.
- ❖ A five-time MLA and Former Puducherry Chief Minister R V Janakiraman passed away recently.
- ❖ Breaking all records, Churu in Rajasthan has registered 50.8 degree Celsius which is the highest ever maximum temperature recorded by Jaipur meteorology office in the state as well as in the country.
- ❖ Two Muslim Governors and all Nine Muslim Ministers in Sri Lanka, including four of Cabinet rank have resigned en masse in Sri Lanka.
  - They have taken a collective stand against the community being "demonised" since the Easter Sunday terror attacks.
- ❖ West Indies opener Chris Gayle overtook former South Africa captain AB de Villiers as the highest six-hitter in the history of the ICC World Cup with 39-sixes.
- ❖ Three Main accused in the Kathua gangrape and murder case of an 8-year-old girl child in Jammu and Kashmir were sentenced to life imprisonment under the Ranbir Penal Code. Three policemen were sentenced to 5 years imprisonment.
  - Introduced in 1932, only Ranbir Penal Code is applicable in Kashmir. It is named after Ranbir Singh, ruler of Dogra dynasty.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed banks to offer cheque book facility and other services to the no-frills account holders without demanding them to maintain any minimum balance.



- The Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) Account is designed to offer certain minimum facilities free of charge to the such account holders.
- ❖ BJP Member of Parliament Virendra Kumar will be India's next Pro-tem Speaker and he was elected from Tikamgarh constituency in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> most trusted brands respectively.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ India has decided to impose retaliatory tariffs on 29 US products including Walnut, chickpeas, Bengal gram, masur dal, boric acid, apples etc.
  - The tariffs will place a burden of \$220-290 million on the U.S.
- ❖ Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb announced that a museum to showcase the work of revered music composer R.D. Burman would be built in his state.
- ❖ Arctic monitoring website Polar Portal of the Danish (Denmark) Arctic research institutions has reported that the annual melting season in Greenland has started early in 2019.
  - Greenland has lost over 2 billion tonnes of ice in a single day reportedly due to atmospheric circulation in the Arctic and North Atlantic.
- ❖ According to a study published by the Botanical Survey of India, between 2010 and 2019, botanists and taxonomists discovered 23 new species of Balsams from the eastern Himalayas.
  - Because of their bright beautiful flowers, these group of plants are of prized horticultural significance.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has cleared the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) Bill, 2019.
  - It provides for setting up of an independent and autonomous body for institutional arbitration.
- ❖ Rajasthan's Suman Rao has been crowned the Miss India 2019.
- ❖ Over 633 scuba divers have set a world record for the largest underwater clean-up in a Florida beach of USA.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has asked the banks to ensure their ATMs are grouted to a wall, pillar, or floor by the end of September month (except those installed in high secured premises such as airports) to enhance security of the cash vending machines.



- ❖ The World Organization of Animal Health propounds the One Health concept and states that “human health and animal health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist”.
  - 60% of existing human infectious diseases are zoonotic; 75% of emerging infectious human diseases have an animal origin. Of the 5 new human diseases appearing every year, 3 originate in animals.
- ❖ A team of German-Russian scientists is all set to launch a space telescope, which will create a three-dimensional (3D) X-ray map of the universe and unveil unknown supermassive black holes, dark energy and stars.
  - It is named as Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma (SRG) Telescope.
- ❖ The Union Government has constituted a five-member committee headed by economist Kirit Parikh to review the existing marketing structure of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India.
  - This move is seen as an effort to bring in more private players into the field are also eligible to operate as parallel marketeers of LPG.
- ❖ Chief Minister of the Mizoram, Zoramthanga planted saplings at the premises of the Assam Rifles headquarters in Aizawl and celebrated Green Mizoram Day.
  - This day has been observed in Mizoram since June 11, 1999.
- ❖ According to the report on Internet Trends released by the venture capitalist Mary Meeker, India is ranked second with 12% of global internet users being Indians.
  - The Chinese tops the list with 21% and the Americans come third with 8% internet users.
- ❖ Singer Rihanna is named as the world’s richest female according to the Forbes magazine with an estimated fortune of \$600 million.
- ❖ The Venezuelan government has announced that it will issue three new banknotes due to racking hyperinflation which eroded the currency’s value.
  - It aims to control the prevailing hyperinflationary situation that reached more than 1.3 million percent.
- ❖ Estonia, Niger, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, Tunisia, and Vietnam were elected to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as Non-permanent Members for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2020.
- ❖ Bharat Dynamics Limited’s (BDL) Vishakapatnam unit has entered into an agreement with Indian Navy to manufacture Heavyweight Torpedoes called Varunastra.



- Varunastra is a ship-launched anti-submarine, electrically-propelled underwater weapon equipped with one of the most advanced automatic and remote-controlled guidance systems.
- ❖ The highest decision-making body in the department of Telecom, The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) has approved levying of penalty on Bharti Airtel Ltd. and Vodafone Idea Ltd.
  - They are fined for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio Infocomm when the latter had entered market in 2016.
- ❖ Nashik police in Maharashtra have set up a 'Nirbhaya squad' to check incidents of eve-teasing and harassment of women.
- ❖ Rohit Sharma has now hit the most sixes (358) for India in the international cricket.
  - He achieved this in the World Cup match against Pakistan.
- ❖ For the first time, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has appointed two women scientists to head the India's second Moon mission Chandrayaan-2.
  - Ritu Karidhal will serve as Mission director and Muthayya Vanitha as Project Director.
- ❖ The South African leg-spinner Imran Tahir became the 1<sup>st</sup> spinner in World Cup history to bowl the 1st over.
  - He achieved this feat in the opening match of World Cup 2019 against England.
- ❖ Karnataka government has launched 'Pink Sarathi' vehicles which will be used to attend to the grievances of women passengers in city buses.
- ❖ Bancha in Betul district, Madhya Pradesh is the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves and almost no use for LPG cylinders with all its 75 houses relying on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs.
- ❖ The Dzukou Valley of Nagaland has officially declared a 'No Plastic Zone' on the event of World Environment Day.
- ❖ Indian-American Congresswoman, Pramila Jayapal has become the first South Asian American woman to preside over the US House of Representatives.
- ❖ The Punjab and Haryana High Court has recently ruled that all animals are legal persons entitled to legal rights like human beings in Haryana.
  - The landmark judgement was given in the case titled Karnail Singh and others v State of Haryana.
- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) of India and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) signed a Joint Record of Discussion at the 48th Director General (DG)-level talks



in Dhaka, Bangladesh to implement the Coordinated Border Management Programme (CBMP).

- They will increase the coordinated patrols to prevent cattle and narcotics smuggling, educate the border population about the sanctity of International Border (IB) and prevent criminals from crossing the IB.
- ❖ In addition to English and Hindi, the Uttar Pradesh government plans to issue press release in Sanskrit.
- ❖ In an environment-friendly initiative, the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) constructed its first plastic waste road according to guidelines set by the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI).
- ❖ The Executive Council of Jawaharlal Nehru University has decided to honour Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar with 'Distinguished Alumni Award'.
  - They will be the first recipients of this award.
- ❖ The High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh inspected the ongoing construction of the Feni Bridge in Bangladesh which will connect Tripura with Chittagong port of Bangladesh.
  - It is being developed as a corridor for trade and commerce between India's North-East and Bangladesh.
- ❖ India's leading two-wheeler company Hero MotoCorp Ltd has appointed Colombian professional footballer Yerry Fernando Mina González (24) as its new brand ambassador.
  - Yerry Mina has the record for most goals in a single World Cup at the 2018 FIFA World Cup, France.
- ❖ The 14-year-old Indian Chess Grandmaster Nihal Sarin has secured a win at the Asian Continental Chess Championship in Xingtai, China.
- ❖ In the FIH (Federation Internationale de Hockey) Men's Series Finals hockey tournament 2019, India thrashed South Africa with 5-1 in a summit clash at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
  - With this win, India is placed in the top five of the FIH World Rankings.
- ❖ Indian professional squash player, Joshna Chinappa won the national squash title for the record 17th time at the 76th Senior National Squash Championship, 2019 held in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The three-time Olympian Brady Ellison defeated Malaysia's Khairul Anuar Mohamad in World Archery championships finals.
  - India ended the campaign with one silver and two bronze medals in the women's compound team and individual events.





- ❖ According to a study conducted by Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR), e-commerce player Amazon India has been rated as India's most 'attractive employer brand, followed by Microsoft India which emerged as the runner-up.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) has approved a proposal to set up a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) for solar/wind sector.
  - It is expected to solve any unforeseen disputes between solar/wind power developers and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) or NTPC, beyond contractual agreement.
- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir Government plans to open 18 AMRIT stores in all the Medical colleges' Hospitals and prominently associated hospitals of the State to provide quality and affordable medicines to the end users.
  - Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) pharmacies operate under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ A team of scientists from CSIR-NEIST in Assam has developed a chemical process that turns 'dirty' coal into a biomedical 'dot' to help detect cancer cells.
- ❖ The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) organised the fourth edition of National Yoga Olympiad for school children in New Delhi.



- Observed since 2016, this Olympiad aims to create awareness about a scientific and holistic way of living.
- ❖ IndusInd bank has acquired India's leading microfinance company BFIL, earlier known as SKS Microfinance.
  - The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) adjudicated and approved this merger.
- ❖ India's first solar-powered cruise boat will be rolled out in December 2019 in Alappuzha by Kerala State Water Transport Department (SWTD).
  - It had earlier launched Aditya which was India's first solar-powered ferry in 2016.
- ❖ According to the report by World Health Organization (WHO), Four countries from Asia (China, Iran, Malaysia and Timor-Leste) and one country from Central America (El Salvador) reported zero malaria cases in 2018.
- ❖ Mohammed Shami became the second Indian bowler to get a hattrick of wickets in a World Cup cricket match. He achieved this in the 2019 World Cup match against Afghanistan.
  - Chetan Sharma was the first Indian to achieve this feat in 1987 against New Zealand.
- ❖ Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry launched the Online enrolment facility for enrolling as an advocate in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- ❖ India's Bengaluru is ranked among top 10 Asia-Pacific cities for cross-border investments in real estate according to CBRE South Asia Ltd consultant firm's Asia Pacific investor intensions survey 2019 findings.
- ❖ India's first ever smart electric bike has unveiled by Revolt Intellicorp. This motorcycle will be the India's first AI enabled electric bike as it will come equipped with a 4G eSIM.
- ❖ Centre has taken out the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) from environment ministry and made it an integral part of the 'Jal Shakti' ministry which will now be responsible for rejuvenation of all rivers across the country.
- ❖ Qatar Airways have won four prestigious prizes at this year's 2019 Skytrax World Airline Awards, including the highest accolade of 'World's Best Airline'.
  - It becoming the only airline in the competition's history to win it five times (2011, 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2019).
- ❖ Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, are banning motorbikes from the city's streets as part of an effort to reduce crime.
- ❖ China donated a batch of security equipment to the Sri Lankan Parliament to ensure the safety of the public and legislators.



- ❖ Victoria, An Australian state has enacted euthanasia laws to allow terminally-ill patients to end their lives with lethal medication.
- ❖ New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has become the fastest batsman to reach 1,000 ODI runs in England.
  - He reached the landmark in 17 innings, overtaking India's Rohit Sharma, who achieved the feat in 18 innings.
- ❖ In a bid to boost India's relations with its neighbours, the government has entered into agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea to broadcast DD (Doordarshan) India channel in the two countries.
  - State channels of Bangladesh (BTV World) and South Korea (KBS World) will be shown on DD Free Dish in India.
- ❖ Tech-enabled logistics start-up company Rivigo has launched National Freight Index (NFI) that will provide live freight rates for different lanes and vehicles across the country.
  - This is a step towards easing logistics sector crisis and also streamlining the sector.
- ❖ Union Minister for Environment Prakash Javadekar has informed the Lok Sabha that India's forest cover has increased by 1% in last one year period and over 24.39% of India's geographical area now constitutes of green cover.
- ❖ Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Viral Acharya has resigned from his position 6 months before the end of his term citing reason as unavoidable personal circumstances.
  - At 45 years, he became the youngest deputy governor to serve RBI when he joined the central bank in January 2017.
- ❖ India clinched the women's FIH Series Finals Hockey Tournament by beating hosts Japan 3-1 at the Hiroshima Hockey Stadium in Japan.
- ❖ Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar along with Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik distributed Doordarshan (DD) Free Dish Set Top Boxes to people living in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir region in Srinagar.
- ❖ Pranati Nayak of India won bronze medal in vault event held at Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
  - She is India's 3rd major vaulting medallist after Dipa Karmakar and Aruna Reddy.



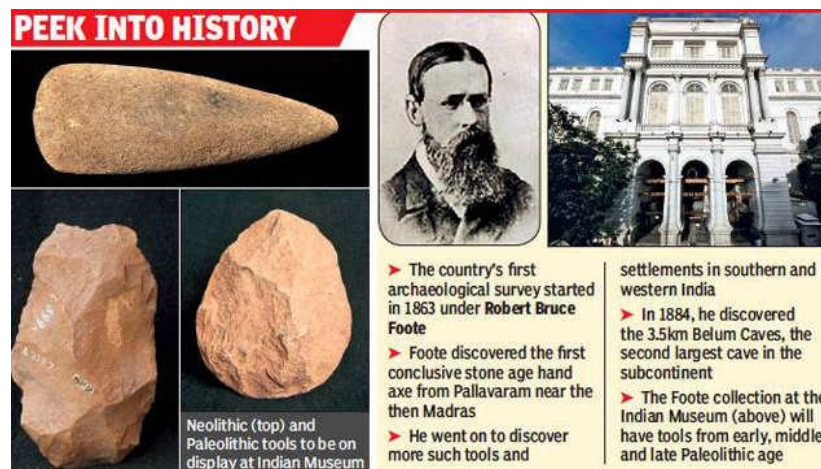
- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed Rajya Sabha about the scheme for grant of financial assistance to NGOs for administering “Road Safety Advocacy”.
  - Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) registered in Darpan portal can claim reimbursement of Rs.5 lakhs after successful 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.
- ❖ Malayalam film “Veyil Marangal” directed by Bijukumar Damodaran, became the first Indian film to win the award for ‘Outstanding Artistic Achievement’ at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival.
- ❖ Nilgiris district administration has banned the sale of plastic water bottles, beverages packed in PET bottles and food items packed in plastic covers from August 15<sup>th</sup> 2019.
- ❖ Women's T20 cricket, beach volleyball and Para-table tennis are the three new sports added to the programme of events at 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ Girish Koushik (22) from Mysore, Karnataka became India’s 63rd Grandmaster at the 37th Balaton International Chess Festival in Hungary.
- ❖ NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered a new planet named L 98-59b.
  - Launched in 2018 by SpaceX company, TESS is an all-sky survey mission to discover exoplanets around nearby bright stars.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Shipping and IIT-Kharagpur for setting up Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology.
  - It will focus on indigenisation of ship designing, building and testing.
- ❖ Telangana is hosting the triennial International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Congress in Hyderabad in association with Ministry of Agriculture.
  - ISTA congress is being held for the first time in Asia.
- ❖ The ‘100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women’ was launched by UK Home Secretary to mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> India Day in Houses of Parliament in London.

- Ruchi Ghanashyam, Indian High Commissioner to the UK and Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs find place in the list.
- ❖ K Natarajan has been appointed as new Director General of Indian Coast Guard. He will be succeeding Rajendra Singh, who retires on 30 June 2019.
- ❖ “Journalist of the Year 2019” by RedInk Award for Excellence in Indian Journalism - Rachna Khaira (The Tribune News Service).
  - The Red Ink awards - Annual awards instituted by The Mumbai Press Club.

## TAMIL NADU

### Robert Foote

- ❖ On May 30, 1863 British geologist Robert Foote discovered Palaeolithic tools at Chennai Pallavaram.
- ❖ Foote established that ancient man lived in these regions.
- ❖ It is considered as India's first archaeological survey.



- ❖ He also found stone tools at Atirampakkam which are 1.5 million years old.
- ❖ Foote donated more than 4,000 artefacts to Government museum, Chennai.

### Third Gender - Multi specialty Hospital

- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai will have a full-fledged wing to attend to the healthcare requirements of persons of the 'third gender'.



- ❖ This is for the first time in the country for a hospital to have separate wing for transgenders.



- ❖ The clinic would attend to the health care needs of the transgender on all days.
- ❖ Ten years ago, for the first-time free sex-change surgery was done on a transgender at the RGGG hospital in May 2009.

### **24 Hours shop**

- ❖ The Government has allowed Shops and commercial establishments in Tamil Nadu to operate 24 hours on all seven days.
- ❖ The order has been passed under Section 6 of Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act.
- ❖ The order will extend for a three-year period and is expected to give a boost to the trader's community.
- ❖ The government order also lays emphasis on safety of women employed in these units.

### **V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust**

- ❖ VOC Port Trust in Thuthukudi and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have signed a MoU for facilitating Direct Port Entry (DPE).
- ❖ DPE would enable direct movement of containers from factories to Container Terminal on a 24 \* 7 basis without any intermediate handling at Container freight station.





- ❖ VOC Port Trust is the second largest port in Tamilnadu and is located in Gulf of Mannar.

### **Avadi Corporation**

- ❖ The Avadi special grade municipality in Tiruvallur district has been upgraded as the 15th Municipal corporation on 18.06.19.
- ❖ This new corporation will have a Mayor, a council, a standing committee, awards committee and a Commissioner.
- ❖ The provisions of the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, will not be applicable to Avadi anymore.
- ❖ The provisions of the Avadi Corporation will be in line with the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981, since the provisions of the latter have been adopted for Avadi.
- ❖ Other Corporations in Tamilnadu are - Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Madurai, Tiruchy, Tirunelveli, Dindigul, Salem, Thanjavur, Tirupur, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Nagercoil and Hosur.

### **Distinction to Chennai Meteorological Department**

- ❖ Chennai's two meteorological centres in Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam have been recognised as long-term observing stations by the World Meteorological Organisation.
- ❖ They have been chosen among 5 other stations in India that have made weather observations for more than 100 years.
- ❖ It is a recognition for maintaining 100 years of data that could be used as vital records to assess climate variability and understand changes in the climate system.
- ❖ The first meteorological station in the country was established at Chennai in 1792.



**The first weather observatories of India located at Chennai.**

### **Guidelines to end bonded labour**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has passed an order approving the labour department's proposal for a standard operating procedure to end bonded labour in the state.
- ❖ TN, incidentally, has recorded the fifth highest number of human trafficking cases in the country.
- ❖ The government has come up with a uniform procedure in identification, rescue and rehabilitation of bonded labourers to guide the implementing agencies of the Bonded Labourer System (Abolition) Act and the Central Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers 2016

<b>BREAKING THE CHAINS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Depending on a complaint, a multi-disciplinary team shall be formed having two or more women officers</li><li>➤ There should be two independent witnesses</li><li>➤ NGOs/ social workers should be part of the team</li><li>➤ Release certificate should be issued within</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>24 hours of rescue</li><li>➤ ₹20,000 should be given to each beneficiary as immediate relief</li><li>➤ FIR should be filed within 24 hours of rescue</li><li>➤ Welfare assistants: Aadhaar, ration card, community certificate, house site/land patta, voter ID</li></ul>



## Green Award 2018

- ❖ Tamil Nadu state government presented green awards to Collectors, industrial houses and officials who played a key role in protecting the environment.
- ❖ The Green Award is conferred by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ It recognises the excellent contribution towards protection of environment by Industries in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Nilgiris Collector J Innocent Divya, former Collector of Madurai G Veera Raghava Rao and former Collector of Tirunelveli Sandeep Nanduri received the award for 2018.
- ❖ The green awards for industrial houses for efficient pollution prevention and environment protection for 2018:
  - Adani Marine Infrastructure Developer Private Limited,
  - Jayavishnu Tex Processors Private Limited and,
  - Ramco Cements Limited.
- ❖ The green awards for educational institutions were bagged by:
  - Sri Venkateswara Engineering College in Kancheepuram,
  - Mepco Schlenk Engineering College,
  - Ramco Vidyalaya, Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ Green awards for efficiently implementing the State government order on banning throwaway plastics.
  - Food Protection and Drug Control Commissioner-P Amutha,
  - Tirunelveli District Collector-Shilpa Prabhakar Satheesh.



### **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.



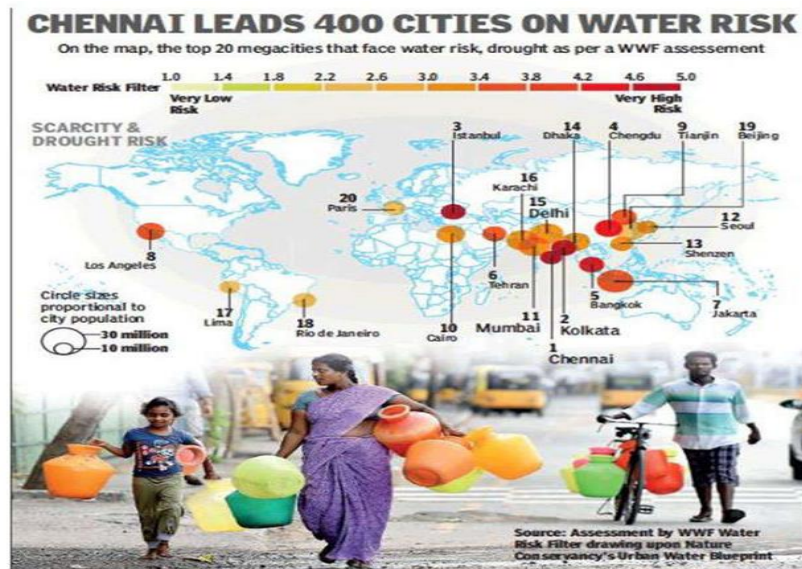
### **Fifth Reservoir**

- ❖ The fifth reservoir for Chennai is being built by linking Kannankottai and Thervoykandigai lakes in Thiruvallur district.
- ❖ It is expected to store 1 tmc ft of water.
- ❖ Chennai is already supplied by Poondi, Cholavaram, Redhills and Chembarambakkam reservoirs.

### **Drought Assessment**

- ❖ WWF's Global Water Stewardship program has done a study on water management initiatives and water scarcity in 400 mega cities around the world.
- ❖ Chennai emerged in top position as the mega city facing the most severe water scarcity and drought.





### Third Desalination Plant

- ❖ In collaboration with German agency, Tamilnadu government plans to construct a third desalination plant with a capacity of 150 million litre per day (MLD)
- ❖ It will be constructed near the existing desalination plant at Nemmeli in East Coast Road, Kanchipuram district.
- ❖ Partial subsidy will be obtained under the Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.
- ❖ Two 100 MLD desalination plants already exist at Minjur and Nemmeli.

### Tamizh Maravan

- ❖ Tamil Maravan (*Cirrochroa thais*) butterfly has been declared as the State Butterfly of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This tawny-coloured butterfly with a dark brown outer ring is endemic to the Western Ghats and is one of the 32 butterfly species found in Western Ghats.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has become the 5<sup>th</sup> state in the country to announce its state butterfly.
- ❖ Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).

Pic. V Sharan

# SPECIAL STATUS

## TIDBITS ABOUT TAMIL YEOMAN BUTTERFLY SPECIES

**Habitat** | Endemic to Western Ghats. They occur in moist deciduous, evergreen forests and along streams

**Size** | 60-75 mm

**Habit** | Fast, straight flight with few wing beats and long glide

**Larva** | They lay eggs in vertical chains of 8-10. Larva initially stay in group, below the leaf and often in shady areas. They eat edges of soft tender leaves

No. of butterfly hotspots in TN | 32

**Scientific name** | *Cirrochroa thais*

## OTHER RECOGNIZED SPECIES IN TN

> State Animal | Nilgiri Tahr

> State bird | Emerald Dove

> State tree | Palm

> State flower | Gloriosa

> State fruit | Jackfruit

- ❖ The other symbols of Tamil Nadu are
  - Government seal: Srivilliputhur Andal temple tower
  - Animal: Niligiri Tahr
  - Bird: Emerald Dove
  - Flower: Flame lily
  - Tree: Palm tree
  - Fruit: Jack fruit
  - Sport: Kabbadi
  - Dance: Bharata natiyam

## NATIONAL

### Second Term - Narendra Modi

- ❖ Narendra Modi was sworn in as 15th Prime Minister for a second consecutive five-year term on May 30th.
- ❖ The portfolios allocation of Union Council of Minister includes 24 Cabinet ministers, 9 Minister of State with Independent charge and 24 Minister of State.





	Cabinet Minister	Department		Cabinet Minister	Department
1	Rajnath Singh	Defence.			
2	Amit Shah	Home Affairs.	15	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Health and Family
3	Nitin Jairam	Road Transport and Highways; and			Science and Technology;
4	D.V. Sadananda	Chemicals and Fertilizers.			Earth Sciences.
5	Smt. Nirmala	Finance; and Corporate Affairs.	16	Shri Prakash Javadekar	Environment, Forest and
6	Shri Ramvilas	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public			Information and
		Agriculture and Farmers Welfare;	17	Shri Piyush Goyal	Railways; and
7	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Rural Development; and			Commerce and Industry.
		Panchayati Raj.	18	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Petroleum and Natural
					Steel.
8	Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	Law and Justice;	19	Shri Mukhtar Abbas	Minority Affairs.
		Communications; and			Parliamentary Affairs;
		Electronics and Information	20	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Coal; and
9	Smt. Harsimrat	Food Processing Industries.			Mines.
10	Shri Thaawar	Social Justice and Empowerment.	21	Dr. Mahendra Nath	Skill Development and
11	Dr. Subrahmanyam	External Affairs.	22	Shri Arvind Ganpat	Heavy Industries and
12	Shri Ramesh	Human Resource Development.	23	Shri Giriraj Singh	Animal Husbandry,
13	Shri Arjun Munda	Tribal Affairs.	24	Shri Gajendra Singh	Jal Shakti.
14	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Women and Child Development; Textiles.			

	Person	Ministers of State (Independent Charge) in Ministry of
1	Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Labour and Employment.
2	Rao Inderjit Singh	Statistics and Programme Implementation; and Planning
3	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	AYUSH); Defence
4	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Development of North Eastern Region;
		Prime Minister's Office;
		Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;
		Department of Atomic Energy;
		Department of Space.
5	Shri Kiren Rijju	Youth Affairs and Sports; Minority Affairs
6	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Culture; Tourism
7	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Power;
		New and Renewable Energy; and
		Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
8	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Housing and Urban Affairs;
		Civil Aviation; and
9	Shri Mansukh L. Mandavi	Shipping; Chemicals and Fertilizers.

## Jal Shakti Ministry

- ❖ A new ministry called Jal Shakti Ministry has been formed by the central government.



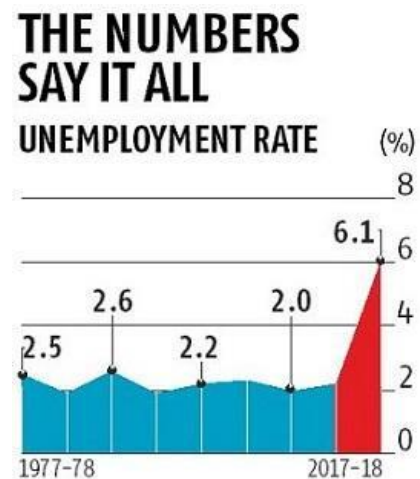
- ❖ Jal Shakti merges the ministries of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation along with Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ❖ Rajasthan MP Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is the first Cabinet Minister of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ Rattan Lal Kataria will be the Minister of State in the newly formed ministry.

### Flight Service - India and Pakistan

- ❖ Etihad's Abu Dhabi to New Delhi flight became the first to cross into India by flying through Pakistan after a gap of more than three months since the imposition of airspace restrictions by the two countries following the Indian Air Force's (IAF) strikes at Balakot.
- ❖ The service resumed on June 02, 2019.

### Unemployment rate

- ❖ The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released the unemployment rate in the country in Financial Year 2017-2018.
- ❖ According to the report the unemployment rate in 2017-18 was 6.1 percent and also the joblessness at a 45-year high.
- ❖ The joblessness among males on all-India basis was 6.2%, while it was 5.7% in case of females.
- ❖ It also showed that the unemployment rate for males was higher at 7.1% in cities compared to 5.8% in rural areas.
- ❖ Similarly, the joblessness for women was also higher in urban areas at 10.8% compared to 3.8% in rural areas.



### 10<sup>th</sup> National Science Film Festival

- ❖ The 10<sup>th</sup> National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be organised in Tripura on January and February 2020.
- ❖ The film festival is being held with the objective of highlighting science, technology, innovation, energy, environment, agriculture and traditional

knowledge in a simple way that would bring science closer to common people through simple ways of explanation.

- ❖ Apart from the film festival, the Tripura's incumbent government also has plans for hosting 'Destination Tripura', a special competitive film production initiative.
- ❖ This the second time that the show will be held in a north Eastern city.
- ❖ The NSFFI was debuted in Chennai eight years ago in 2011.

### **Punjab Mail – 107 years**

- ❖ The Punjab Mail is one of the oldest long-distance trains in the country.
- ❖ It has completed 107 years on June 01, 2019.
- ❖ The "Punjab Limited" (former name) made its first journey on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1912 from Mumbai to Peshawar.
- ❖ Peshawar is now part of Pakistan.
- ❖ It was known to be the fastest train of British India.
- ❖ Before Partition, the train ran from Ballard Pier Mole station in Mumbai all the way to Peshawar, covering a distance of 2,496 km in 47 hours.



- ❖ Now it starts from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and its northward journey ends at Firozpur Cantonment, after covering 1,930 km within 34 hours and 15 minutes.



## **SDG Gender Index**

- ❖ India has been ranked at 95th among 129 countries on the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Gender Index.
- ❖ It is a new index developed to measure global gender equality.
- ❖ It has been developed by Equal Measures 2030, a joint effort of regional and global organisations.
- ❖ A score of 100 reflects the achievement of gender equality in relation to the targets set for each indicator.
- ❖ With score of 89.3 Denmark topped the rankings followed by Finland and Sweden.

## **Air Traffic Management**

- ❖ The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed a technical assistance agreement with Boeing to develop and modernise India's Air Traffic Management.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive 10-year road map.
- ❖ The roadmap will be undertaken with a grant from the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
- ❖ AAI owns and manages around 125 airports across India.

## **Pension scheme for traders**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a new scheme that offers pension coverage to the trading community.
- ❖ Under this scheme all shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons are assured a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3,000/- month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- ❖ All small shopkeepers and self-employed persons as well as the retail traders with GST turnover below Rs. 1.5 crore and age between 18-40 years, can enrol for this scheme.

## **Extension of PM-KISAN Scheme**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved that the ambit of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) would be comprehensively extended.

- ❖ With this decision, all land holding eligible farmer families (subject to the prevalent exclusion criteria) would avail of the benefits under this scheme.

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

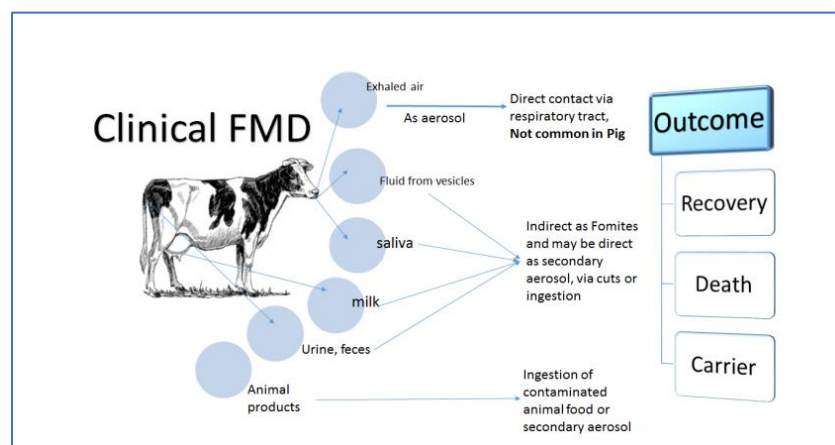
- ❖ The interim budget 2019 has announced a farmer income support scheme PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).
- ❖ The scheme aims to address unrest among cultivators who have suffered due to adverse weather and weak prices.
- ❖ Under this scheme the government will transfer Rs 6,000 every year to farmers.

### **New initiative to control livestock diseases**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a new initiative to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support the livestock rearing farmers.
- ❖ It aims to fully control these diseases amongst the livestock in the country in the next five years and subsequently eradicate these diseases.

### Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis

- ❖ These diseases are very common amongst the livestock – cow-bulls, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs etc.
- ❖ If a cow/buffalo gets infected with FMD, the milk loss is up to 100% which could last for four to six months.
- ❖ Further, in case of Brucellosis, the milk output reduces by 30% during the entire life cycle of animal.
- ❖ Brucellosis also causes infertility amongst the animals.
- ❖ The infection of brucellosis can also be transmitted to the farm workers and livestock owners.





### **Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a major change in the 'Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme' under the National Defence Fund.
- ❖ The Cabinet has increased the rates of scholarship from Rs 2,000 per month to Rs 2,500 per month for boys and Rs 2,250 per month to Rs 3,000 per month for girls.
- ❖ The ambit of the Scholarship Scheme is extended to the wards of State Police officials who are/were martyred during terror/naxal attacks.
- ❖ The quota of new scholarships for wards of state police officials will be 500 in a year.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs will be the nodal Ministry in this regard.

### **National Defence Fund (NDF)**

- ❖ The National Defence Fund (NDF) was set up in 1962.
- ❖ It aims to take charge of the voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation.
- ❖ Currently the fund is being used for the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces, Para Military forces and Railway Protection Force, and their dependents.
- ❖ The fund is administered by an Executive Committee with the Prime Minister as the Chairperson and the Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as Members.

### **SWIFT India and South Asia Conference**

- ❖ The SWIFT India and South Asia Conference was held at the St Regis Mumbai.
- ❖ It was organized and hosted by SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication).
- ❖ The theme of the conference was "Digitisation in transition: The future of innovation and cyber security".

### **'UdChalo' initiative**

- ❖ In a bid to make wounded soldiers, who are now confined to wheelchairs, self-reliant, an initiative 'UdChalo' is all set to take off at the Army's Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre (PRC).
- ❖ 'UdChalo' is a travel portal that provides for the personal travel of the military and paramilitary forces personnel by aggregating defence fares and getting exclusive discounts.



- ❖ It aims to empower the disabled military veterans.
- ❖ The initiative is unique and has given a new lease of life of these soldiers who are now confined to wheelchairs.



### **Cabinet Committees**

- ❖ The Government of India has reconstituted six Cabinet Committees.
- ❖ It has also formed two new Committees.
- ❖ They are
  - Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
  - Cabinet Committee on Accommodation
  - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
  - Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs
  - Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs
  - Cabinet Committee on Security
  - Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth
  - Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.
- ❖ Prime Minister will head all committees except two.
- ❖ Home Minister Amit Shah will head Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs and Accommodation.
- ❖ Cabinet Committee on Investment and Employment and Skill Development are the two newly formed committees.
- ❖ The Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees of the Cabinet and sets out the specific functions assigned to them.



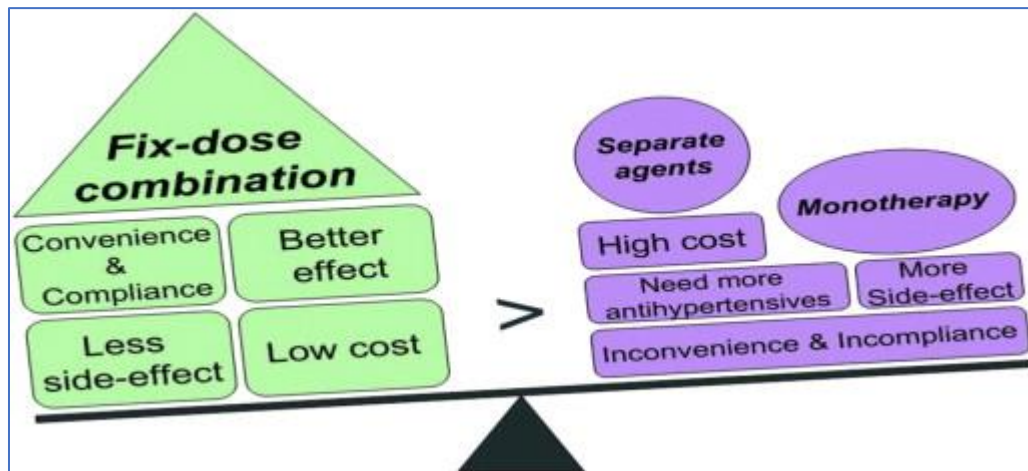
- ❖ He can add or reduce the number of committees.

### **Draft Education Policy**

- ❖ Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal.
- ❖ It was constituted in 2017 to revise NEP.
- ❖ The existing NEP was framed in 1986 under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and later revised in 1992 under PM Narasimha Rao.
- ❖ The policy draft recommends:
  - Incorporation of Indian knowledge systems in the curriculum
  - Constituting a National Education Commission
  - Curbing arbitrary fees hikes by private schools.
- ❖ The expert panel also proposed massive transformation in Teacher Education by moving all teacher preparation and education programmes into large multidisciplinary universities or colleges.
- ❖ The committee's thrust on 3-language formula which mandated compulsory learning of Hindi in all states was met with vehement opposition in Non-Hindi speaking states and Southern states.
- ❖ Then the draft policy dropped the mandatory Hindi clause but still the compulsory three language formula is not revised.
- ❖ The Former Cabinet Secretary T.S.R. Subramanian's 'Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy' had earlier submitted its report in 2016.

### **Fixed Dose Combination**

- ❖ The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) has asked pharma companies to submit "precise data" to prove that 324 FDCs drugs are safe and effective for patients to consume.
- ❖ Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs include two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients combined in a single dosage form.
- ❖ It is manufactured and distributed in fixed doses.
- ❖ The FDCs are more economic than single ingredient drugs.
- ❖ Common example of FDC: Vicks Action 500.



## National Party

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has declared the National People's Party as a National party.
- ❖ This has made the NPP the first political party from the north-eastern region to earn the tag. Its election symbol is a book.
- ❖ It was formed by PA Sangma in 2013. Its headquarters is at Imphal, Manipur.

If a party secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly;

and

In addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.

or

It wins at least two percent seats in the House of the People (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members) and these members are elected from at least three different States.

- ❖ The NPP is recognised as a State party in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
- ❖ In 2015, NPP became the first party to get suspended by ECI due to its failure of to provide its party expenditure during Lok Sabha Elections held in 2014.
- ❖ Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- ❖ Criteria to be recognised as a National party are



## Shanta Kumar Committee

- ❖ The Shanta Kumar committee has submitted its recommendations to Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan.
- ❖ It was constituted to
  - Restructure Food Corporation of India (FCI)
  - Improve its financial management
  - Improve operational efficiency in procurement, storage and distribution of food grains.
- ❖ The ministry has accepted to implement key recommendations of this committee.
- ❖ Key Recommendations are

- Reduce the number of beneficiaries under the Food Security Act — from the current 67 per cent to 40 per cent.
- Allow private players to procure and store food grains.
- Stop bonuses on minimum support price (MSP) paid by states to farmers, and adopt direct cash transfer system.
- FCI should involve itself in full-fledged grains procurement only in those states which are poor in procurement.
- Abolishing levy rice: Under levy rice policy, government buys certain percentage of rice (varies from 25 to 75 per cent in states) from the mills compulsorily, which is called levy rice. Mills are allowed to sell only the remainder in the open market.
- Deregulate fertiliser sector and provide cash fertiliser subsidy of Rs.7,000 per hectare to farmers.
- Outsource of stocking of grains
- Clear and transparent liquidation policy for buffer stock

## SPICE Bombs

- ❖ The Indian Air Force has signed Rs 300-crore deal with the Israeli government to buy as many as 100 SPICE bombs.
- ❖ SPICE stands for Smart, Precise Impact, Cost-Effective bomb.
- ❖ It has a stand-off range of 60 km.
- ❖ It comes equipped with a family of weapons used for air-to-ground operations.
- ❖ Indian Air Force had used SPICE 2000 version of this bomb in Balakot air strike.



## Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

- ❖ Prime Minister approved the reconstitution of government of India's policy think tank NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Planning Commission was replaced with NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in January 2015.
- ❖ Another full-time member of the Aayog Bibek Debroy, who is also the chairman of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, has not been reinstated.
- ❖ Member of the NITI Aayog as follows:

<b>Chairperson</b>	Prime Minister
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Dr. Rajiv Kumar
<b>Full-Time Members</b>	V.K. Saraswat Ramesh Chand V.K. Paul
<b>Ex-officio Members</b>	Minister of Defence Minister of Home Affairs Minister of Finance Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

## Foreigner's Tribunals

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up the quasi-judicial Foreigners tribunals.
- ❖ They can decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.
- ❖ Earlier only the Union Government had that power.
- ❖ It has also empowered individuals to approach the Tribunals.
- ❖ Earlier only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.
- ❖ Please go here for related read: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/assam-crisis/>

## Longest Serving Cabinet Secretary

- ❖ The government amended a 60-Year-Old Rule to extend the tenure of current Cabinet Secretary.
- ❖ A cabinet secretary is appointed for a fixed tenure of two years.



- ❖ The government can give extension in service provided the total tenure does not exceed four years.
- ❖ As per the modified rules an additional three months of tenure has been given to Pradeep Kumar Sinha.
- ❖ The current Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha has thus become the longest-serving bureaucrat in the post in the country's history.

### **State Food Safety Index**

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has developed the first State Food Safety Index (SFSI).
- ❖ Chandigarh topped the index.
- ❖ Other initiatives launched by FSSAI on World Food Safety Day were
  - Raman 1.0 - A hand-held battery-operated equipment that performs rapid detection (in less than a minute) of adulteration in fats, ghee and edible oils.
  - Food Safety Magic Box - A do-it-yourself food testing kit comprising of a manual and equipment to check for food adulterants.
  - Eat Right Awards - To recognize contributions made by food companies and individuals to empower citizens to choose safe and healthy food options.

### **Missing An-32 Aircraft**

- ❖ On June 3, an AN-32 transport aircraft which departed from Jorhat, Assam towards Arunachal Pradesh with 13 Indians went missing shortly after it took off.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force and other search teams are going through pictures and data sent by Earth Observation (EO) satellites under COSPAS-SARSAT to find missing aircraft.
- ❖ It is an international satellite-based search and rescue system.
- ❖ It is used to detect and locate emergency beacons carried by ships, aircraft, or individuals using a network of
  - satellites
  - ground stations
  - mission control centres
  - rescue coordination centres



- ❖ COSPAS is a Russian acronym for Space System for Search of Distress Vessels.
- ❖ SARSAT means Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking.

### **Visit to Maldives and Sri Lanka**

- ❖ Post re-election PM Modi has visited Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ He was presented a replica of the “Samadhi Buddha Statue” by Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena.
- ❖ The Samadhi Buddha is a famous statue situated at Mahamevnāwa Park in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Modi is the first international leader to visit Sri Lanka post Easter Sunday terror attacks.



- ❖ He also signed 6 bilateral agreements with Maldivian President Mohamed Solih in key areas like defence and maritime security.
- ❖ Modi was conferred with the Maldives' highest honour "Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen".
- ❖ He also addressed the Maldivian Parliament, the Majlis.
- ❖ India also agreed to offer training to the Maldivian Civil Servants.

### **National Data Warehouse**

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation proposes to set up a 'National Data Warehouse' on Official Statistics.
- ❖ It will use big data analytical tools to further improve the quality of macro-economic aggregates.
- ❖ It will also create a legislative framework under which the National Statistical Commission (NSC) may function with independence.

### **Chaukhandi Stupa**

- ❖ The Archaeological survey of India under the Ministry of Culture has declared Chaukhandi Stupa as a 'protected area of national importance'.
- ❖ It is located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- ❖ It is known as 'Chaukhandi' because of its four-armed plan.
- ❖ It served as a shrine for a relic of Buddha. It appears to be in ruins and was originally constructed in 5th Century AD.
- ❖ It also finds mention in account of Hiuen Tsang, celebrated Chinese traveller of 7th century AD.



### **The Swachh Survekshan League**

- ❖ Swachh Survekshan 2020 League (SSL) was launched by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
- ❖ It will be a quarterly cleanliness assessment of Indian cities and towns.
- ❖ Continuous monitoring of cleanliness in cities will be the top priority for SSL.

### **National Maritime Heritage Museum**

- ❖ The Government of India has announced that it will join hands with Portugal to set up maritime museum near ancient Harappans civilization at Lothal in Gujarat.

- ❖ It will be modelled on the Navy museum at Lisbon, Portugal and administered by the Portuguese Navy.
- ❖ The project will be implemented by under Sagarmala programme with the support of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Indian Navy and Gujarat State government.

## 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**

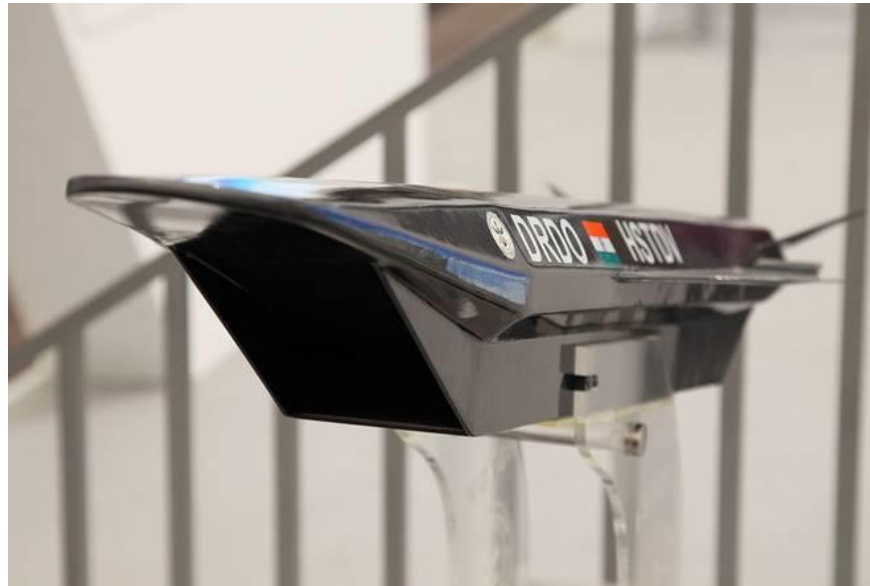
- ❖ Every year on Zyeshta Ashtami the Kashmiri Pandits visit 5 temples in Jammu and Kashmir to pay their obeisance to Goddess Ragnya Devi.
- ❖ Kheer Bhawani temple in Tulmul village, near Srinagar is the most important temple for the 60,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandits who live all over India.
- ❖ Mela 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.

### **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 years’ 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).





### **NITI Aayog Governing Council**

- ❖ The fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Governing Council of NITI Aayog embodies the principles of cooperative federalism.
- ❖ It presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral and federal issues to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda.
- ❖ Members of the council are
  - Prime Minister of India, Chief Ministers of all the States and UTs with Legislatures and Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
  - Four Union Ministers as ex-officio members
  - Three Union Ministers as Special Invitees.
- ❖ Modi has announced that India is targeting to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024.





## Bharath Skills

- ❖ Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has partnered with Cisco and Accenture.
- ❖ It aims to skill the youth for the digital economy through its Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
- ❖ Nearly 15 lakh students across all the ITIs in India can access the digital learning module via the Bharat Skills portal.

## Rural Poor and Climate Change

- ❖ Hyderabad-based National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has launched a training programme of Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change (SLACC).
- ❖ The program aims to help rural poor farm-based households adapt to climate change and sustain their livelihoods.
- ❖ It has been launched under the National Rural Livelihood Mission.
- ❖ 638 drought and flood-prone villages of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are being covered under the scheme on a pilot basis.

## Jan Aushad Drugs

- ❖ The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) has found 25 batches of drugs of 18 pharmaceutical companies to be of substandard quality since January 2018.
- ❖ BPPI functions under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- ❖ It is the nodal agency that implements Union government's flagship affordable medicine scheme Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- ❖ There are 4,677+ Janaushadhi Kendras functional in the country, as on December 31, 2018.

**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya  
Janaushadhi Pariyojana**

- ✓ Launched during the 11th plan period in November, 2008
- ✓ Number of Jan Aushadhi stores: 3000 by March 2017
- ✓ Coverage: All the Districts in the Country
- ✓ Number of medicinal products: 1000
- ✓ Type of Products: Medicines, Surgicals & Consumables, Stents & Replacements etc

**BPPI**  
Bureau of Pharma PSU of India (BPPI)  
Under the Aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals  
Government of India

## Operation Sunrise 2

- ❖ The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a three-week-long coordinated operation in their respective border areas.
- ❖ This joint exercise is named as Operation Sunrise 2.
- ❖ Assam Rifles also joined the operation.
- ❖ They targeted several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.
- ❖ Myanmar shares a 1,640-kilometre long border with Assam and militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

## Namaste Thailand

- ❖ Namaste Thailand Film Festival, a two-day event was held in Delhi from 15 June to 16 June 2019.



- ❖ This year was the 3rd edition of Thai film extravaganza event that celebrates Thai Culture's Diversity.
- ❖ It was organised by Royal Thai Embassy and was inaugurated by Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to India.

### **Chief of IMD**

- ❖ Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, the renowned scientist and cyclone warning specialist, has been appointed as the chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ He is popularly known as "Cyclone Man of India".
- ❖ He and his Cyclone warning team had given accurate forecasts on Phailin (2013), Hudhud (2014) and Titli (2018) cyclones.

### **17th Lok Sabha convened**

- ❖ The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha commenced on 17.06.19.
- ❖ The Protem Speaker Virendra Kumar was in the Chair when the MPs took their oath.
- ❖ Members of Parliament from Tamilnadu took oath in Tamil.
- ❖ The oath or affirmation may be made and subscribed by a member in any of the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

### **Beating China**

- ❖ According to 'The World Population Prospects 2019', India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2027.
- ❖ In 2019, India has an estimated population of 1.37 billion and China 1.43 billion.
- ❖ 'The World Population Prospects 2019' is published by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

### **World Food India**

- ❖ Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal announced that the biennial event World Food India (WFI) 2019 will be held in New Delhi from 1-4 November, 2019.
- ❖ It will be the biggest gathering of all global and domestic stakeholders in Food Processing Sector.



- ❖ The tagline of the event will be “Forging Partnerships for Growth”.

### 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.

### **Mobile Theft**

- ❖ The Telecom Ministry plans to roll out Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR).
- ❖ This is done in a bid to curtail the rampant cloning and theft of mobile phones across the country.
- ❖ CEIR is a database of International Mobile Equipment Identities (IMEIs), the 15-digit numbers that uniquely identify each mobile device.
- ❖ The data base will consist of mobile phones in three lists



- White List: Mobile phones with IMEI numbers in the white list will be permitted for use.
- Black List: Mobiles in blacklist are those reported as stolen or lost and will not be allowed to access the network.
- Grey List: Those in the grey list will be the ones that do not conform to standards but will be permitted to connect under supervision.

### **Lok Sabha Speaker**

- ❖ The BJP MP from Kota of Rajasthan Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The Constitution does not specify any qualifications for being elected the Speaker.
- ❖ It only requires that the Speaker should be a member of the House.
- ❖ The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are elected from among its members by a simple majority of members present and voting in the House.

### **Elephants Treated**

- ❖ India has opened its first specialised hydrotherapy treatment for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments.
- ❖ It is situated on the banks of the Yamuna in Mathura near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC) in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ It currently houses 20 rescued elephants and is run in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS.





## 6 Naval Submarines

- ❖ The Government of India has issued the Expression of Interests (EOI) for shortlisting of potential Indian Strategic Partners for construction of six conventional submarines.
- ❖ They will be constructed under P-75(I) Project of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The submarines will be built under Strategic Partnership Model (SPM).

### SPM

- ❖ SPM is an initiative under make in India program.
- ❖ It aims to boost to the indigenous design and construction capability of submarines in India.
- ❖ Under this one private Indian company will partner with foreign original equipment manufacturers.
- ❖ Indian company will have 51% ownership.

## Operation Sankalp

- ❖ The Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' in Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to reassure safe passage of Indian flagged vessels transiting through area.
- ❖ 2 oil-tankers of Norway and Japan were recently attacked in the region.
- ❖ Gulf of Oman offers the only entrance from Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean into Persian Gulf.



- ❖ Persian Gulf lies between Arabian Peninsula and Iran, extending from Shatt al Arab delta to Strait of Hormuz.

- ❖ Indian Naval Ships, INS Chennai and INS Sunayna have been deployed in region to undertake maritime security operations.
- ❖ The Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) of Indian Navy keeps a close watch on movement of ships in Gulf region.

### **GI tag to Kolhapuri Sandals**

- ❖ The Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the ethnic leather Kolhapuri chappals was awarded to four districts in each state of Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- ❖ Maharashtra - Kolhapur, Sangli, Solapur and Satara districts
- ❖ Karnataka - Belgaum, Dharwad, Bagalkot and Bijapur districts
- ❖ Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur encouraged its production and 29 tanning centres were opened during his rule in Kolhapur.



### **Balakot Strike Code Names**

- ❖ The Balakot strike was code named by Indian Air Force as “Operation Bandar”.
- ❖ The Indian Army had code-named its heightened operational alert and shoring up of defences along the border as “Operation Zafran”.
- ❖ Indian Navy did not give any specific name to its deployment of warships and submarines in Arabian Sea as it was already involved in operation-ready exercise TropeX-2019.

### **Air Traffic Management**

- ❖ Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) Central Command Centre in New Delhi.



- ❖ It ensures regulated flow of traffic at each airport in India.
- ❖ It also displays weather information along with static information about airports, airspaces and air routes.
- ❖ India has become the seventh country after the US, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Japan and Brazil to implement ATFM.

### **Litchi and AES**

- ❖ More than 100 children have died due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district.
- ❖ The deaths were initially considered due to children eating litchi fruits.
- ❖ But now the Director of Muzaffarpur based National Research Centre on Litchi (NRCL) Vishal Nath has denied any link between Litchi and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome.
- ❖ The NRCL is premier national institute for conducting research and developments on litchi fruit.

### **Krishi Vigyan Kendras**

- ❖ The Government of India has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) at the district level in the country.
- ❖ They will disseminate technologies among the farming community to double the farmers' income by 2022.
- ❖ KVK scheme is 100% centrally funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).

### **President's "third retreat" proposal**

- ❖ Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on requested central to have the "third retreat" of the President in the Northeast.
- ❖ Currently, there are two Presidential Retreat in India-The Retreat Building in Shimla and the Rashtrapati Nilayam in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Every year, President of India spends two weeks in Shimla during the summer and another two weeks in Hyderabad in winter.

## **Vaishno Devi Shrine**

- ❖ Mata Vaishno Devi shrine located in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) will get a dedicated in-house disaster response force by September 2020.
- ❖ Select temple employees will be trained by National Disaster Response Force team for a 6 week period in safety and rescue operations.
- ❖ The pilgrimage shrine lies atop Trikuta hills, in Reasi district of Jammu region.



## **Chikungunya Vaccine**

- ❖ The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) has successfully developed antibodies against the Chikungunya viral infection.
- ❖ Chikungunya is a viral disease which is transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes, most commonly, Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus.
- ❖ The name chikungunya originates from a verb in the Kimakonde language spoken in Tanzania.
- ❖ It means 'to become twisted'.

### **ILS**

- ❖ ILS was formed in 1989 at Odisha.
- ❖ It is an autonomous institute of higher education for research and education in life sciences under Department of biotechnology.

## **Power Generation**

- ❖ NTPC and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) have signed an agreement to set up National Electricity Distribution Company Limited.



- ❖ PGCIL owns India's largest power transmission network.
- ❖ This joint venture will distribute power to various states and union territories.

### **DRDO's Medicine**

- ❖ Hemant Pandey head of the Herbal Medicine Division of DRDO's Defence Institute of Bio-energy Research (DIBER), Pithoragarh has developed an herbal medicine called 'lukoskin'.
- ❖ He was awarded the prestigious "Science Award" for his discovery.
- ❖ This herbal drug is used to treat leukoderma, a skin condition in which white patches develop on the skin.
- ❖ June 25th is marked as International Vitiligo Day.

### **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.

### **India Sex Ratio**

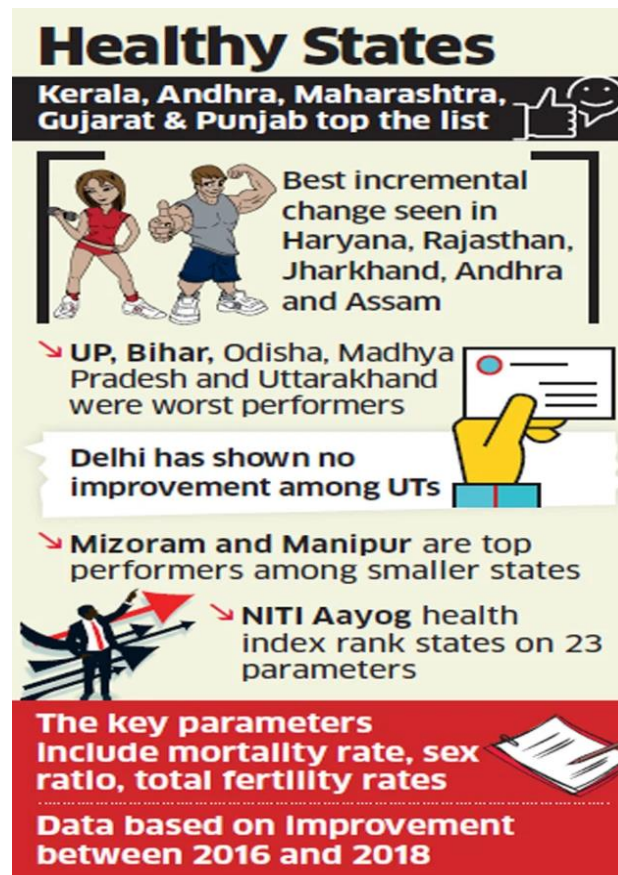
- ❖ The all-India sex ratio at birth (SRB) went up by eight points since 2015-16 to 931 girls per 1,000 boys till March 2019.
- ❖ It was 923 girls in 2015-16, 926 girls in 2016-17 and 929 girls in 2017-18.
- ❖ Kerala and Chhattisgarh at top ranked with 959, followed closely by Mizoram (958) and Goa (954).
- ❖ At the bottom of the list are Daman & Diu (889), Lakshadweep (891) and Punjab (900).



- ❖ Sex ratio is expressed as the number of girls per 1,000 boys.

## Health Index

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released the second edition of “Healthy States, Progressive India” report.



- ❖ It analysed 21 large states based for the period between 2015-16 (base year) and 2017-18 (reference year).
- ❖ The ranking was done under three categories (larger states, smaller states and Union territories) and 10 parameters.
- ❖ It states that Kerala remains the healthiest State in India and Uttar Pradesh remains the unhealthiest.
- ❖ Tamilnadu is ranked at 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Neo-natal mortality rate (NMR) in Kerala was found to be as low as 6 per 100 live births. It was 32 in Odisha.
- ❖ Among smaller states Mizoram was ranked first followed by Manipur on overall performance.



- ❖ Among Union Territories Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli were ranked on top in terms of overall performance.

### **New Appointments**

- ❖ The Union Government has appointed senior IPS officer Samant Goel as the new Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief on June 26, 2019.
- ❖ It has also appointed senior IPS officer Arvind Kumar as the director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- ❖ Their names were finalized by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM and comprising of Home Minister.
- ❖ The government has also extended the tenure of Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog by two years.

### **Nutrition Report**

- ❖ The UN World Food Programme and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has together released a report.
- ❖ It analysed the country's progress in achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal to end hunger.
- ❖ It finds that 4% of Indian children under five years will be stunted by 2022.
- ❖ The average per capita consumption of energy among the poorest 30% of the population is 1811 kilo calories (Recommended - 2155 kilo calories per day).

### **Five judges – PIL**

- ❖ Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has notified a new roster of work saying that top five judges of the Supreme Court will be hearing Public Interest Litigation (PIL) matters.
- ❖ Earlier, fresh PIL matters were notified to be heard only by the CJI and the second senior-most judge after the CJI.



தலைமை நீதிபதி ரஞ்சன் கோகோய்	
1. பொது நல மனுக்கள் 2. சமூக நீதி வழக்குகள் 3. தேர்தல் விவகாரங்கள் 4. ஆள்கொளர்வு மனுக்கள் 5. குற்றவியல் வழக்குகள்	
நீதிபதி எஸ்.ஏ. டிபாட்டே	
1. பொது நல மனுக்கள் 2. கல்வி நிறுவனங்களில் மாணவர் சேர்க்கை விவகாரங்கள் 3. நேரடி வரி தொடர்பான வழக்குகள் 4. தேர்தல் விவகாரங்கள் 5. வாந்தக சட்டங்கள்	
நீதிபதி என்.வி.ரமணா	
1. பொது நல மனுக்கள் 2. இழப்பீடு விவகாரங்கள் 3. குற்றவியல் விவகாரங்கள் 4. நிதித்துறை அதிகாரிகள் தொடர்பான வழக்குகள் 5. ஆயுதப்படை, துணை ராணுவப்படை தொடர்பான வழக்குகள்	
நீதிபதி ஆர்.எஃப். நாராயண்	
1. பொது நல மனுக்கள் 2. வாடகை சட்டங்கள் 3. குடும்ப சட்டங்கள் 4. உரிமைமீயல் விவகாரங்கள் 5. தீர்ப்பாயங்கள், பல்வேறு ஆணையர்கள் பிறப்பிக்கும் உத்தரவுகளுக்கு எதிரான மேல்முறையீட்டு மனுக்கள்	
நீதிபதி அருண் மிஸ்ரா	
1. பொது நல மனுக்கள் 2. நில கையகப்படுத்துதல் விவகாரங்கள் 3. நிறுவன சட்டங்கள் 4. நிதிமன்ற அலமதிப்பு 5. கல்வி நிறுவனங்கள் தொடர்பான வழக்குகள்	

## Prime Minister's Japan Visit

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ It was the first meeting between the two leaders since the start of Japan's Reiwa era and Mr. Modi's re-election.
- ❖ He announced President Ram Nath Kovind would participate in the coronation ceremony of Emperor Naruhito in October.

## National Mission on Natural Language Translation

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and IT will place before the Union Cabinet a proposal for Natural Language Translation.
- ❖ It aims to make science and technology accessible to all by facilitating access to teaching and researching material bilingually in English and in Local language.
- ❖ To achieve this, the government plans to leverage a combination of machine translation and human translation.
- ❖ Besides natural language translation, following other missions also identified by the body:
  - Quantum Frontier,
  - Artificial Intelligence,
  - National Bio-diversity mission,
  - Electric vehicles,

- Bio-Science for Human Health and
- Deep ocean exploration.

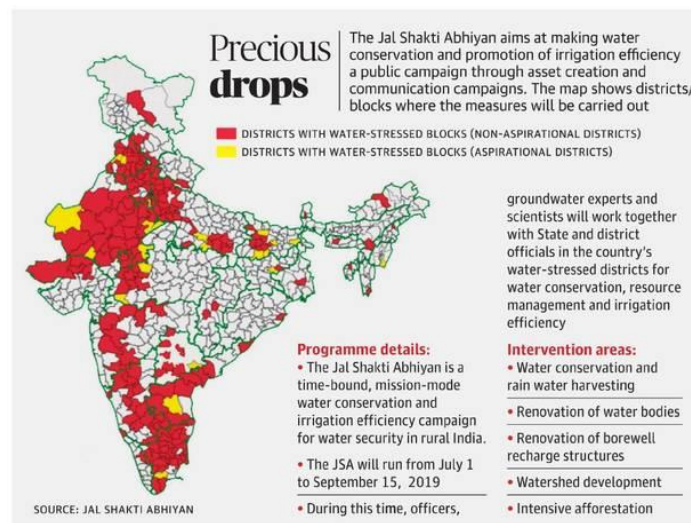
<b>Going local</b> The Ministry of Electronics and IT's Natural Language Translation mission aims to enable access to teaching and researching material in English and one's native language <small>SOURCE: CENSUS 2011</small>	Language	Mother tongue of speakers (%)
	Hindi and associated languages	43.63
	Bengali	8.03
	Marathi	6.86
	Telugu	6.7
	Tamil	5.7
	Gujarati	4.58
	Urdu	4.19
	Kannada	3.61



The proposed cost of the Natural Language Translation mission is ₹450 crore

## Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- ❖ The Centre is set to initiate the Jal Shakti Abhiyan to ramp up rainwater harvesting and conservation efforts in 255 water-stressed districts from July 1.
- ❖ The campaign would follow the model of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan of 2018.
- ❖ The campaign would run from July 1 to September 15 in States receiving rainfall during the south-west monsoon.
- ❖ while States receiving rainfall in the retreating or north-east monsoon would be covered from October 1 to November 30.
- ❖ Progress would be monitored in real time through mobile applications and an online dashboard at [indiawater.gov.in](http://indiawater.gov.in).





## Rankings of Police Stations - 2018

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs released the rankings of police stations for the year of 2018.
- ❖ The Kalu police station in Bikaner district of Rajasthan was ranked the best police station in the country.

State Name	District	Police Station Name	Final Rank	Part A Rank	Part B Rank
Rajasthan	Bikaner	Kalu	1	1	1
A&N Islands	Nicobar	Campbell Bay	2	2	2
West Bengal	Murshidabad	Farakka	3	5	5
Puducherry	Puducherry	Nettapakkam	4	6	9
Karnataka	Dharwad	Gudageri	5	4	19
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Chopal	6	7	21
Rajasthan	Bundi	Lakheri	7	9	14
Tamil Nadu	Theni	Periyakulam	8	3	58
Uttarakhand	Pithoragarh	Munsiyari	9	12	16
Goa	South Goa	Curcholem	10	8	26

- ❖ Campbell Bay police station in Nicobar district of Andaman & Nicobar Islands was ranked second.
- ❖ Periyakulam in Theni, Tamil Nadu, police station stands at 8<sup>th</sup> place.
- ❖ In 2017, R S Puram police station in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, was ranked as the best, followed by Panjagutta in Hyderabad and Gudamba in Lucknow.

## Self Defense Training for girls

- ❖ The government has introduced a self-defence training programme for girls under Samagra Shiksha Scheme.
- ❖ This scheme was launched to ensure the safety and security of girls keeping in mind the rising number of crimes against girls and women.
- ❖ Self-Defence training is also being given in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas.
- ❖ States will be given funds through the Nirbhaya Fund under Ministry of Woman and Child Development.
- ❖ “Samagra Shiksha” is an Integrated Scheme for School Education which is launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy.

## 20th Kargil Anniversary

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted several activities at Gwalior air base to commemorate 20 years of Kargil war.





- ❖ It simulated the IAF's famous Tiger Hill attack in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Drass-Kargil area during the Kargil War.
- ❖ IAF Mirage 2000 aircraft played a key role in the attack.
- ❖ During Kargil war the IAF had conducted "Operation Safed Sagar" as a part of Operation Vijay of the Indian Army.

### **Fortification of Rice**

- ❖ The Union Women and Child Development Ministry plans to launch a pilot scheme on "fortification of rice" and its dispersal through Public Distribution System.
- ❖ Fortification is a complementary strategy to fight malnutrition.
- ❖ Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only.
- ❖ The fortification of rice is a major opportunity to improve nutrition.
- ❖ It contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc.

### **One Nation One Ration**

- ❖ The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan announced that the government plans to implement One Nation One Ration Card scheme.
- ❖ It aims to enable the migrants get access to Public Distribution System (PDS) shops across the nation.
- ❖ This move is aimed to curb the dependence of beneficiaries on shop owners and reduce instances of corruption.

### **Digital Villages**

- ❖ The Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has reported that around 2.22 crore villagers were given Digital Education under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA).
- ❖ The government has enrolled 636 training partners.
- ❖ Rural people get trained at around 3.5 lakhs Common Service Centres.
- ❖ The Indian Railways is expected to lay Optical fibre network at gram level and further boost the program.





## **TB Elimination**

- ❖ India has signed a loan agreement worth 400 million dollar with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis from the country.
- ❖ This program will support the government's National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025.
- ❖ In India, around 5 lakh people died every year due to Tuberculosis.

## **Go Tribal Campaign**

- ❖ Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh has launched the “Go Tribal Campaign” in partnership with Amazon Global and TRIFED.
- ❖ The collaboration aims to create awareness and promote tribal arts and crafts as well as aid in socio-economic welfare of over 700 Indian tribes and the TRIFED.

### **TRIFED**

- ❖ The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was formed in 1987.
- ❖ It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ❖ It is head quartered in Delhi and has 13 regional offices.
- ❖ Its objective is to provide fair price to the products made or collected from the forest by the tribals.





## INTERNATIONAL

### Currency Monitoring list

- ❖ The Trump administration in US has removed India and Switzerland from its Currency Monitoring list of major trading partners.
- ❖ China, Germany, Japan, South Korea still remain in that list.
- ❖ India was placed in that list in 2018.
- ❖ It had resulted in decline in scale and frequency of foreign exchange purchases in India in 2018.

### Second SCO Mass Media Forum

- ❖ The 2nd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Mass Media Forum was held at Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan capital).
- ❖ Member States adopted 'Resolution of Media Forum' which calls for establishing successful collaborations of Mass Media Organizations of SCO member Countries.
- ❖ A delegation from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is representing India at international Forum.

### SCO and SCO Mass Media Forum

- ❖ SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance.
- ❖ It was founded on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ It was created by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Presently, it comprises eight member states and four observer states.
- ❖ The first SCO Media Summit was held on 1st June 2018 in Beijing, China.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen exchange and cooperation in field of mass media amongst SCO countries.



## Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a regional intergovernmental security alliance involving Russia, China and four Central Asian states



### Milestones

**1996**

Foundation of the Shanghai Five, the SCO predecessor

**1999**

Foundation of the Bishkek Group to counter border criminality

**2001**

Uzbekistan joins SCO

**June 15, 2001**

Shanghai Cooperation Organization Founding Declaration signed

**2008**

Iran submits official application for full-right SCO membership

### The 'Business Case for Change' Report

- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) released its second global report, titled "Women in Business and Management: The business case for change".
- ❖ The report highlights that almost half of the surveyed enterprises reported women holding less than 30 per cent of entry-level management positions.
- ❖ Just for Asia and the Pacific, the average female labour force participation rate has declined from 52.9 in 1991 to 45.3 per cent in 2018, dropping by 7.6 percentage points.

### Termination of Eligibility for a duty-free import scheme

- ❖ The United States on formally terminated India's eligibility for a duty-free import scheme for developing countries on 31 May.
- ❖ It is because that India has not given assurances it "will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets" to US companies as required under relevant American trade laws.
- ❖ According to this, USA would end its preferential trade treatment for India on June 5, 2019.
- ❖ India has been the largest beneficiary of this duty-free programme which allows certain imports from 120 countries to enter the United States at zero tariff.



## Special Kashmir Envoy

- ❖ The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has announced Yousef Aldobeah of Saudi Arabia as a Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ With this the organisation aims to interfere and resolve the India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir.
- ❖ The decision was taken at the 14th Islamic Summit of the OIC Member States held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ India has raised strong objections to it.

## OIC

- ❖ OIC is an international organization founded in 1969.
- ❖ It consists of 57 member states and is head quartered at Jeddah of Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It aims to safeguard the interests and ensure the progress and well-being of Muslims all over the world.

## G20 Ministerial Meet

- ❖ G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy was held in the Japanese city of Tsukuba.
- ❖ Japan has assumed its 1st ever rotating presidency in G20.
- ❖ Shinzo Abe is the current Chairman of G 20.
- ❖ The meet discussed importance of Digitalization and how it will help achieve inclusive, innovative and human-centred future society 'Society 5.0'.

## About G20

- ❖ The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union.
- ❖ It was founded in 1999.
- ❖ G20 economies account for around
  - 90% of the gross world product (GWP)
  - 80% of world trade (or, if excluding EU intra-trade, 75%)
  - Two-thirds of the world population
  - Approximately half of the world land area.



### **Rocket from Sea**

- ❖ China launched a rocket named “Long March 11” from a mobile launch platform in Yellow Sea off Shandong province for the first time.
- ❖ Earlier only US and Russia had successfully demonstrated the ability to launch satellites into orbit from a floating platform.

### **Global Disability Summit**

- ❖ The 2nd Global Disability Summit is being held at Buenos Aires, Argentina from 6 June to 8 June 2019.
- ❖ Indian delegation is headed by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- ❖ The summit aims to work out a mechanism which enables Persons With Disabilities (PwDs) to live an independent and dignified life.

### **National Well Being**

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Cabinet has adopted a National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031.
- ❖ This program aims at making their country a world leader in quality of life through a number of strategic objectives and initiatives.
- ❖ Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum who is Vice President, Prime Minister and also the Ruler of Dubai, introduced the project in Abu Dhabi.



## **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.

## **CICA**

- ❖ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- ❖ Theme of the summit is “Shared Vision for a Secure and More Prosperous CICA Region”.

### About CICA

- ❖ CICA is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- ❖ Any country with at least a part of its territory in Asia is eligible to become a CICA member.
- ❖ It was founded in 1999. Headquarters is at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ India is a member of CICA since its inception.

## **SCO Meet**

- ❖ The Prime Minister Modi attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek.
- ❖ It is his first multilateral engagement post his re-election.



- ❖ He urged member states to make coordinated actions against international terrorism under the SCO-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).

### About SCO

- ❖ SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- ❖ It is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance.
- ❖ It was established in 2001. It was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.
- ❖ The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body of SCO.
- ❖ It has 8 permanent members.



- ❖ Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia are observer states in SCO.

### **Kimberly Process**

- ❖ The Intersessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP) is being hosted by India from 17th to 21st June, 2019 in Mumbai.
- ❖ The Kimberley Process is an international certification scheme that regulates trade in rough diamonds and aims to prevent trade of conflict or blood diamonds.
- ❖ India is the Chairman of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) from 1st January, 2019.
- ❖ Blood diamonds are rough diamonds used by armed rebels in Africa to finance conflicts and undermine legitimate elected governments.

### **Facebook Cryptocurrency**

- ❖ Facebook revealed plans to launch a cryptocurrency called Libra in 2020 and it plans to move into e-commerce and global payments.
- ❖ It has linked with 28 partners in a Geneva-based entity called the Libra Association, which will govern its new digital coin.



- ❖ Facebook has also created a subsidiary called Calibra which will offer digital wallets to save, send and spend Libras.
- ❖ According to them, the name "Libra" was inspired by Roman weight measurements, the astrological sign for justice and the French word for freedom.

## 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.

### 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

- ❖ 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.

## University Rankings

- ❖ The latest QS World University Rankings has placed Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in US on top of the global list.

UNIVERSITY	INDIA RANKING			WORLD RANKING		
	2020	2019	Change	2020	2019	Change
IIT Bombay	1	1	—	152	162	▲
IIT Delhi	2	3	▲	182	172	▼
IISc Bangalore	3	2	▼	184	170	▼
IIT Madras	4	4	—	271	264	▼
IIT Kharagpur	5	6	▲	281	295	▲
IIT Kanpur	6	5	▼	291	283	▼
IIT Roorkee	7	7	—	383	381	▼
Univ of Delhi	8	9	▲	474	487	▲
IIT Guwahati	9	8	▼	491	472	▼

- ❖ IIT Bombay is ranked as number one in the list of Indian universities.
- ❖ 9 Indian universities are in top 500.
- ❖ IISc, Bengaluru is the first Indian institution to see its research cited more than 100,000 times in a five-year period.

## Hong Kong Protests

- ❖ Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam indefinitely delayed a proposed law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China.
- ❖ The proposed extradition bill had allowed the city government to extradite any suspect to places with which Hong Kong does not have extradition accords.
- ❖ Civil society groups and Hong Kong's pro-democracy activists warned that the bill will allow mainland China to deepen its influence in Hong Kong.



- ❖ When Hong Kong was handed over to China in 1997 by Britain, it was agreed that the city would remain a semi-autonomous region under the Basic Law.
- ❖ That law would have damaged the existing “One Country Two Systems” model between Mainland China and Hong Kong.

### **Guthi Bill**

- ❖ In Nepal, thousands of people protested and demanded their government to scrap the controversial “Guthi Bill”.
- ❖ Guthis are traditional socio-economic institutions (trusts).
- ❖ They do religious, public service or social roles using incomes from cultivated or leased land assets.
- ❖ Nepali government plans to nationalise them.
- ❖ People protested that this move could be a threat to the centuries-old culture and traditions of Nepal and favours land mafias.

### **Saudi Arabia**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ❖ Saudi Arabia had obtained observer status in the Group in 2015.

### **FATF**

- ❖ The FATF is the global body that sets standard for anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.



- ❖ It was formed in 1989. Headquarters is at Paris, France.
- ❖ It comprises 37-member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations – The Gulf cooperation council and European Commission.

### **Human Trafficking**

- ❖ The U.S. State Department has released its 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report based on International Labour Organisation's data.
- ❖ India was placed in Tier 2 on the country trafficking scale.
- ❖ The Palermo protocols is the international framework which aims to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- ❖ It was introduced by the UN in 2000.

### **Free UAE visa for tourists**

- ❖ United Arab Emirates announced that no tourist visa fees will be charged for children below 18 years who are accompanying their parents to the UAE.
- ❖ This visa fee waiver will only be enjoyed by the U-18s entering the emirates between July 15 and September 15 each year.
- ❖ The exemption was first announced by the UAE Cabinet in September last year.
- ❖ This will be the first year of its implementation.

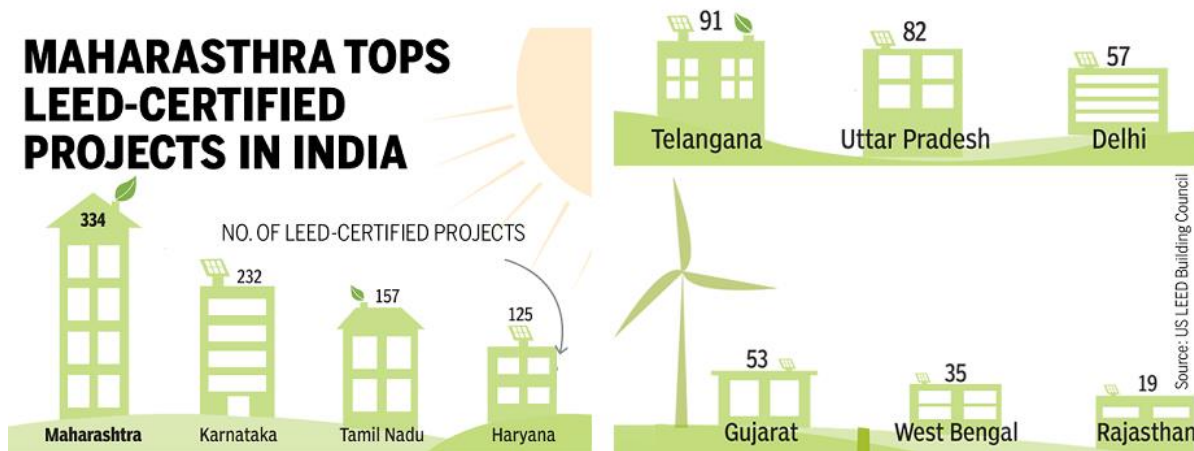
### **Khaan Quest 2019- Annual Military Exercise**

- ❖ The annual multinational peacekeeping exercise Khaan Quest-2019 kicked off in Mongolia.
- ❖ It having the participation from 38 countries including as Mongolia, China, Germany and India.
- ❖ Peacekeepers from seven countries, namely, Benin, Zambia, Moldova, Rwanda, Togo, Israel and Jordan are taking part in the exercise for the first time.

### **US green building council's list**

- ❖ US Green Building Council's (USGBC) listed the India's top ten states that have maximum number of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified green buildings.

- ❖ Maharashtra bagged the top slot, followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, in the second edition of the USGBC report.
- ❖ LEED is an international symbol of sustainability excellence that signifies a building with:
  - Lowering carbon emissions,
  - Conserving resources and cutting costs,
  - Prioritizing sustainable practices and
  - Creating a healthier environment.



### Nehru Centre

- ❖ Renowned Author Amish Tripathi has been named as the new director of London's Nehru Centre, under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ❖ He is the author of best-selling books such as 'Secret of the Nagas' and 'Sita – Warrior of Mithila'.
- ❖ The Nehru Centre is a cultural centre located at the South Audley Street, London in United Kingdom (UK).
- ❖ It was established in 1992 with the goal of promoting cultural exchange between India and UK.

### Mauritania Elections

- ❖ For the first ever time elections were conducted in the North West African country Mauritania.
- ❖ It gained independence from France in 1960.
- ❖ But it was ruled by military dictators and non-elected governments.





- ❖ Mohamed Ould Ghazouani has been elected as the President.

### **Bangladesh Iron Ore**

- ❖ For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur.
- ❖ The percentage of iron in the mine was 65 which indicates the high quality of the ore.
- ❖ In most other countries like Canada, China, Brazil, Sweden and Australia the percentage is below 50.
- ❖ Mining is expected to bring new revenues for Bangladesh.

### **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



### **UNSC Non Permanent Member**

- ❖ India has won the unanimous support of all countries in the 55-member Asia-Pacific Group at the United Nations in support of its bid for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC).
- ❖ It is for a two-year term 2021-22.
- ❖ India has already held a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for seven terms starting from 1950-51.
- ❖ Each year UN the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members out of a total of 10, for a two-year term.
- ❖ It is the only UN agency whose decisions are to be implemented by member states.

### **Submarine Missile JL-3**

- ❖ The China's Défense Ministry confirmed the test firing of a new submarine-launched ballistic missile.
- ❖ It was launched from Bohai Sea and flew several thousand miles to a missile impact range in Western China.
- ❖ It is considered by America as a strategic weapon capable of striking anywhere in the United States from underwater launch points.
- ❖ Codenamed JL-3, it is one of the People's Liberation Army's most secret military programs.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Secondary Market**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a task force under the Chairman of Canara Bank TN Manoharan.
- ❖ It is expected to suggest policy and regulatory interventions required for development of "Secondary Market" in corporate loans.
- ❖ The secondary loan market in India is largely restricted to the sale to asset reconstruction companies.
- ❖ No formalised mechanism has been developed to deepen it.



## **Global Entrepreneurship Summit**

- ❖ The ninth edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) was held in The Hague of the Netherlands.
- ❖ It was held for the first time in European Union. GES 2019 is jointly organised by Netherlands and USA
- ❖ Thirty-three Indian firms are taking part in GES 2019 across the subject areas of agriculture, water, energy, healthcare, and connectivity.

## **Key Economic Indicators**

- ❖ The growth rate of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell from 7.2 per cent in Financial Year (FY) 2017-18 to 6.8 per cent in FY 2018-19.
- ❖ Poor performance in agriculture and manufacturing sectors are considered as the reasons for this slow down.
- ❖ In January-March 2018-2019 quarter, the GDP growth slowed down to 5.8%.
- ❖ This is the slowest growth rate since 2014-15.
- ❖ Central Statistics Office also released the unemployment rate data.
- ❖ It stood at a 45 year high of 6.1%.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) stood at 3.39 percent of GDP (Rs. 6.45 lakh crores).

## **PMI Index**

- ❖ The Nikkei India “” Manufacturing” Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) improved to 52.7 in May from 51.8 in April.
- ❖ PMI has been above the 50-point mark for 22 consecutive months.
- ❖ A PMI index above 50 indicates expansion in the manufacturing sector.

## **Monetary Policy Review**

- ❖ In its bi-monthly monetary policy review, the Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reduced repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75% from current 6.0% with immediate effect.
- ❖ This is RBI’s third cut this year.
- ❖ This is also the lowest repo rate at lowest since 2010.



### **Stressed Asset Resolution**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has issued a new 'prudential framework for resolution of stressed assets'.
- ❖ Supreme court had struck down its earlier 'revised framework for resolution of stressed assets'.
- ❖ The new framework gives 30 days for lenders to review the borrower account on default.
- ❖ Banks have to draw a resolution plan (RP) for implementation within 180 days of the first default.
- ❖ The new circular is also applicable to small finance banks and systemically important non-deposit taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and deposit-taking NBFCs.

### **Fiscal Performance Index**

- ❖ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a Fiscal Performance Index to assess state and central budgets.
- ❖ This Index incorporates qualitative assessments of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, revenues, fiscal prudence and the level of public debt.
- ❖ According to the report, the financial performance of states with low income levels is better than those with higher income.

### **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.

### **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).



## **Trade Wars**

- ❖ According to a study by the Commerce Ministry of India, the ongoing trade war between the US and China offers an opportunity to India for boosting exports of as many as 350 products.
- ❖ The Indian products which can tap the Chinese market include copper ores, rubber, paper, paperboard, equipment for transmission voice/data in a wired network, tunes and pipes.
- ❖ The Indian products which can grab exports opportunities in the US market include industrial valves, vulcanised rubber, carbon or graphite electrodes and natural honey.

## **BEPS Project**

- ❖ India has ratified the BEPS multilateral convention to implement OECD's project on checking tax evasion.
- ❖ Multinational corporations make profits in one jurisdiction.
- ❖ But shift them to low or no tax locations.
- ❖ They finally pay very low to zero corporate taxes.
- ❖ Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) convention aims to prevent such practices.

## **Female Labour Force**

- ❖ The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data published by the National Sample Survey Office reported that female labour force declined in India in 2017-18.
- ❖ India's female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) pointed out that three out of four women over the age of 15 in India were neither working nor seeking work.
- ❖ Bihar had the lowest rate of female workforce participation whereas the southern and eastern states did better.
- ❖ As per the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimations, the average employed Indian woman worked for 44.4 hours per week during April-June 2018.
- ❖ It is higher than the developing country average of 35-36 hours per week.





### **Small Traders Forex**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to set up a foreign exchange trading platform for retail participants.
- ❖ Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) exporters & importers and individuals are expected to benefit from it.
- ❖ Platform is developed by the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL).
- ❖ The minimum tradeable amount is \$1000 and they are issued in the multiples of \$500 thereof.

### **India International Mega Trade fair**

- ❖ The second edition of India International Mega Trade fair (IIMTF) was inaugurated on 15 June at Bidhannagar (or Salt Lake) city in Kolkata.
- ❖ It is a 10-day-long event which will continue till June 23.
- ❖ IIMTF was first founded in 1994.
- ❖ Since its inception it has evolved as a major event for business community throughout the country.

### **GDP Calculation in India**

- ❖ The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has released a detailed note titled “GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts”.
- ❖ It provides a clear rationale for India’s switch to an improved GDP estimation methodology in January 2015.
- ❖ The new methodology that uses 2011-12 as the base year includes two major improvements:
  - Incorporation of MCA21 database
  - Incorporation of the Recommendations of System of National Accounts (SNA), 2008

### **FSDC**

- ❖ The 20th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ FSDC was formed in 2010.



- ❖ Its objectives are to strengthen and maintain financial stability and enhance inter-regulatory coordination.
- ❖ Members of FSDC

RBI Governor	IBBI Chairman	Finance Secretary
SEBI Chairman	Chief Economic Adviser	Secretary, Corporate Affairs
IRDA Chairman	Secretary, DEITY	Secretary, Financial Services
PFRDA Chairman	Revenue Secretary	Minister of State of Dept. of Economic Affairs

### **IGST refunds**

- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has introduced manual checks in IGST refunds to prevent frauds and loss to exchequer.
- ❖ The Government has assured all genuine exporters that they would continue to get IGST refunds in a timely manner in a fully automated environment.
- ❖ IGST is levied for interstate transfer of goods.
- ❖ It is shared between Union and state governments.

### **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.

<b>CREDIT FLOW TO MSME SECTOR (AMOUNT IN ₹ CRORE)</b>		
<b>Year ended</b>	<b>Banks</b>	<b>NBFCs</b>
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

### **RBI's System**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has launched a "Complaint Management System".
- ❖ It will enable members of the public to lodge their complaints on its website.
- ❖ Complaints can be made against commercial banks, urban co-operative banks, and non-banking financial companies.
- ❖ The system will be accessible on desktop as well as on mobile devices.

### **Payment Data Security**

- ❖ RBI has instructed Payment System Operators (PSOs) to store entire payment data in systems located only in India.
- ❖ Payment data includes name, mobile number, Aadhaar number, OTP, PIN.
- ❖ In case the processing is done abroad, the data should be deleted from the systems abroad and brought back to India within one business day or 24 hours.

### **Ramesh Chand Working Group**

- ❖ The Government of India has decided to constitute a Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12).
- ❖ It will be headed by Ramesh Chand a NITI Aayog Member.
- ❖ The current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with 2011-12 as base year was introduced in May 2017.



### The Review

Govt sets up 18-member working group to review WPI, devise PPI

- Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand to chair panel
- Committee to draft roadmap for switch over from WPI to PPI
- Panel to revise WPI base, basket of goods, price collection method
- Structural changes call for re-examination of WPI's coverage of commodities, weighting diagram

#### THE MEMBERS

- 4 officials from National Statistics Office
- 2 from finance ministry
- One each from agriculture dept, consumer affairs dept, petroleum & natural gas ministry and RBI

### Aruna Sundararajan Committee

- ❖ The Union Telecom ministry has formed a committee under Aruna Sundararajan to revive the Telecom sector.
- ❖ The committee will review levies, including spectrum usage charge and promote ease of doing business in the telecom sector.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Gaganyaan

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for astronaut selection and training for Gaganyaan Programme.
- ❖ The program is scheduled for 2022.
- ❖ IAF's Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) will undertake and lead the selection and training of astronauts.
- ❖ It will shortlist three sets of three astronauts (9 Members) to be trained for Gaganyaan mission.
- ❖ On 30 January 2019, ISRO had set up Human Spaceflight Centre at its headquarters in Bengaluru.
- ❖ It provides a unique micro-gravity platform in space to India for conducting experiments and test for future technologies.

## Forbidden Planet - NGTS-4b

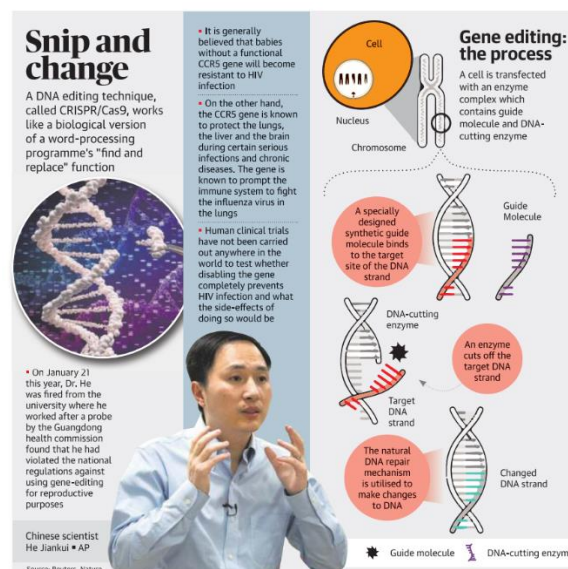
- ❖ Astronomers say they have discovered a rogue exoplanet with its own atmosphere in the Neptunian Desert.
- ❖ NGTS-4b, nick-named 'The Forbidden Planet' is smaller than Neptune but three times the size of Earth.
- ❖ Also, it has the equivalent of Earth's orbit around the Sun of one year.
- ❖ It is the first exoplanet of its kind to have been found in the Neptunian Desert.
- ❖ The Neptunian Desert is the region close to stars where no Neptune-sized planets are found.

## Lunar Library – Beresheet

- ❖ The world's first ever lunar library consists of 30 million pages.
- ❖ It flew to the moon on Israel's Beresheet lander has survived the spacecraft's crash landing on April 12.
- ❖ It will remain there for five billion years.

## Gene Editing

- ❖ In a bid to make babies immune to infection from HIV virus Chinese researcher Dr. He used a clinically untested gene editing tool (CRISPR-Cas9) to modify a particular gene.



- ❖ He edited and disabled a gene called CCR5 in twin girl embryos.
- ❖ The CCR5 gene encodes a protein that allows HIV to enter and infect cells.
- ❖ Babies without a functional CCR5 gene will become resistant to HIV infection.
- ❖ Ethical concerns were raised about the experiment.
- ❖ So Chinese government has laid down stringent rules in gene editing technique.

## **Siberian Wolf**

- ❖ A 40,000-year-old severed wolf's head, preserved by permafrost complete with teeth and fur has been discovered in eastern Siberia.
- ❖ It has been found on the banks of the Tirekhtyakh River in Yakuti, Siberia of Russia.
- ❖ The wolf lived during the Pleistocene era or the Ice Age.
- ❖ Due to global warming and thawing of permafrost more such remains are expected.
- ❖ Earlier this year, scientists had announced the discovery of liquid blood and urine within the frozen remains of a 42,000-year-old foal, also preserved in permafrost.
- ❖ An ice age is a long period of reduction in the temperature of the Earth's surface and atmosphere, resulting in the presence or expansion of continental and polar ice sheets and alpine glaciers.
- ❖ Earth is currently in the Quaternary glaciation, known in popular terminology as the Ice Age.

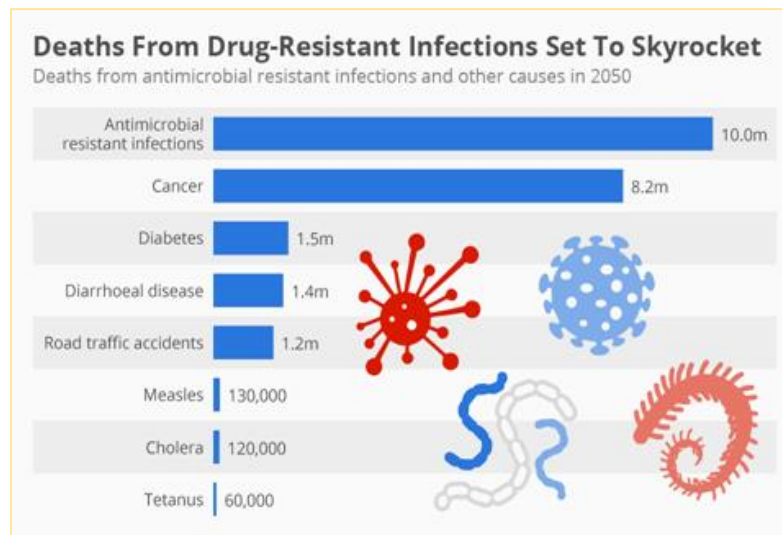


## **Antimicrobial Resistance**

- ❖ World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched a global campaign urging governments to adopt a tool called "AWaRE" (for Access, Watch, and Reserve).



- ❖ It aims to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance, adverse events and costs.
- ❖ The AWARe tool was developed by the WHO Essential Medicines List to contain rising resistance and make antibiotic use safer and more effective.
- ❖ It classifies antibiotics into three groups:
  - Access: Antibiotics that are used for the most common and serious infections.
  - Watch: Antibiotics that should be available at all times in the healthcare system.
  - Reserve: Those that must be used sparingly or preserved and used only as a last resort.



### **'Ravana-1' satellite**

- ❖ Ravana-1 was successfully launched into orbit from the International Space Station along with two other BIRDS 3 satellites from Japan and Nepal.
- ❖ This satellite was sent to the ISS on April 17, through the assistance of Cygnus-1 spacecraft from the US.
- ❖ It is expected to fulfil five missions including the capturing of pictures of Sri Lanka and surrounding regions, active attitude stabilization.

### **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


### **Largest Methane Deposit**

- ❖ NASA's Curiosity Mars rover has found the largest amount of methane ever measured during its mission on the Red Planet.
- ❖ It was measured to be about 21 parts per billion units by volume (ppbv).
- ❖ The finding came from the rover's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) tunable laser spectrometer.
- ❖ Curiosity Mars mission was launched by NASA from Cape Canaveral, on November 26, 2011.

### **Avishkar Hyperloop**

- ❖ The team of IIT Madras plans to unveil an indigenously designed and developed hyperloop pod at the finals of a competition organised by SpaceX.

### HOW IT WORKS?



- > Hyperloop pressure pod uses magnetic levitation to float on the track in a low-pressure tube
- > Motors (linear induction) propel the pressurized pod with air bearings at a required speed
- > Motors, magnets will help decelerate when required

#### Project specs

- > Self-propelled and autonomous, with DC motor
- > Powered by batteries similar to lithium ion

Max speed   480kmph
Pod Length   267cm
Width   36cm

- > Developers across the world working to achieve supersonic speed of more than 1,200kmph

**Status of IIT-M pod:** Design ready; fabrication for prototype under way

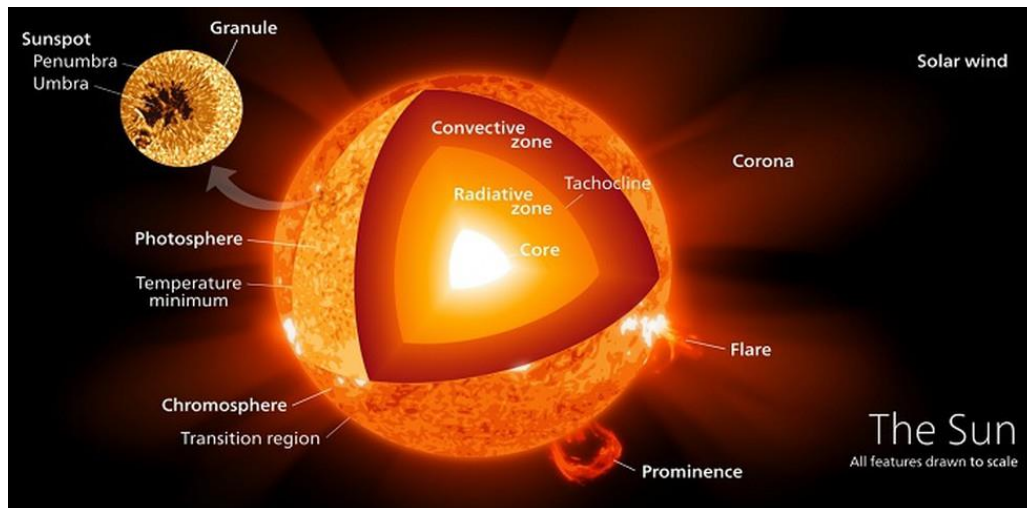
- ❖ It is an indigenous design and development for building the first-ever self-propelled, completely autonomous Hyperloop Pod in India.
- ❖ Hyperloop is the 5<sup>th</sup> mode of transportation, a high-speed train that travels in a near-vacuum tube.

## 75 by 75

- ❖ The Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA), Bengaluru has a project titled Seventy-five by 75 to celebrate the nation's 75th birthday.
- ❖ Under its '75 Student Satellites Mission 2022', up to 75 tiny satellites built by students of Indian universities could fly to the skies between late next year and 2022 in batches.

## Punch Mission

- ❖ Dipankar Banerjee, an Indian solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics has been selected as a Co-Investigator of PUNCH mission by NASA.
- ❖ PUNCH stands for "Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere".
- ❖ It will image regions beyond the Sun's outer corona.
- ❖ It will image and track the solar wind and the coronal mass ejections.
- ❖ The coronal mass ejections can affect and drive space weather events near the Earth.



## Fast Radio Burst

- ❖ A team of international astronomers have determined for the first time the precise source of a one-off fast radio bursts (FRBs).
- ❖ FRBs flash for only a micro-instant but can emit as much energy in a millisecond as the Sun does in 10,000 years.
- ❖ This first FBR was detected in 2007.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Air Pollution

- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry has launched the song 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution.
- ❖ The song was launched ahead of the World Environment Day (WED) which is celebrated on 5th June every year.
- ❖ The National Clean Air programme (NCAP) was launched by Union Environment Ministry aiming for 20-30% reduction of PM 2.5 and PM 10 concentration in 102 cities.
- ❖ 84 cities have submitted their draft action plan.

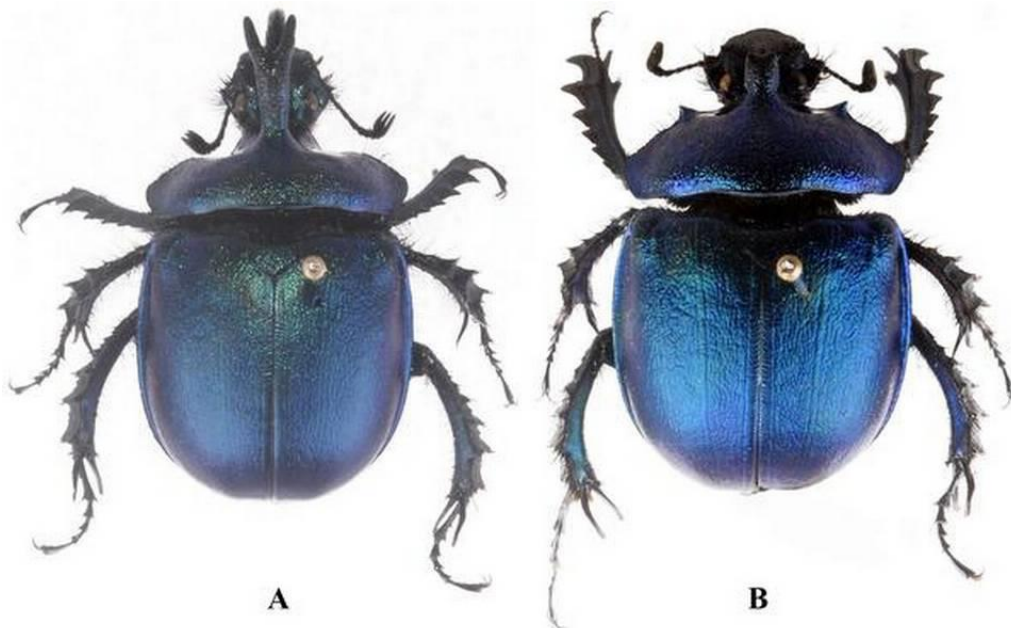
### New Wasp species

- ❖ Scientists have recently identified a new species of wasp from the genus in Goa.

- ❖ It was collected in the Western Ghats forests from Cotigao Wildlife sanctuary which is located in Southern Goa.
- ❖ It is named as “Kudakrumia rangnekari” after Parag Rangnekar, a Goa-based researcher.
- ❖ He has recorded 220 species of Butterflies in Western Ghats region of which 13 species had not been spotted earlier.
- ❖ Wasps are proficient at controlling pest populations and thus are deployed to protect crops.

### **Enoplotrupes tawangensis – New beetle**

- ❖ A new species of dung beetle has been discovered in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The species is named *Enoplotrupes tawangensis*.



- ❖ It is shining dark blue in colour and, measuring up to 27 mm.
- ❖ It is relatively bigger than most of the dung beetles.

### **Specter of extinction of species in Russia**

- ❖ Six mammal, bird and fish species are facing the spectre of extinction in Russia according to World Wildlife Fund (WWF).



- ❖ These include the Saiga antelope, the gyrfalcon, the Persian leopard, the spoon-billed sandpiper, the Sakhalin sturgeon and the kaluga, also a type of sturgeon.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the populations of some other species that were on the verge of extinction in the last century has increased due to conservation efforts.

### World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

- ❖ It is an international non-governmental organization which was founded in 1961.
- ❖ It is the world's largest conservation organization.
- ❖ It's Headquarter is located in Gland (Switzerland).
- ❖ It releases the Living Planet Report every two years since 1998.

### **Threat to coral reef**

- ❖ The Reef Research Team (RRT) of Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI), Thoothukudi, found that the destructive algae invasion in Valai island region.
- ❖ This invasive species, named Kappaphycus alvarezii seaweed, will smother and kill coral reefs.
- ❖ It has spread its wings to coral reef areas in Valai island in the Gulf of Mannar and set to invade new coral colonies in the marine national park.
- ❖ The 2005's Government Order had restricted cultivation of the exotic seaweed only to the seawaters north of the Palk Bay and South of Thoothukudi coast.

### Invasive species

- ❖ An invasive species is a species that is not native to a specific location (an introduced species naturally or intently).
- ❖ It has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the eco system, human economy or human health.

### **Mount Etna**

- ❖ Mount Etna has erupted volcano for the first time this year.
- ❖ Mount Etna, on the Italian island of Sicily, has been largely dormant for the past two years.
- ❖ It is the highest active volcano in Europe at two-and-a-half times the next largest, Mount Vesuvius.





### **“Red-color” warning for New Delhi**

- ❖ Indian Meteorological Department has issued a "red colour" warning for the national capital City.
- ❖ The IMD has four colour-coded messages viz. green, yellow, amber and red.
- ❖ Green indicates normal conditions while red denotes extreme weather situations.

### **'Go Green' Initiative - Indian Army**

- ❖ The Indian Army has commissioned a “Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System” (CAAQMS) at its Eastern Command headquarters in Fort William Military Station, Kolkata in West Bengal.
- ❖ This commissioning of air quality monitor is part of Army’s countrywide ‘Go Green’ initiative, which was started in April 2019.
- ❖ It will measure and displays wind speed, direction, air pollution, ambient temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation, barometric pressure and rain gauge continuously throughout the year.
- ❖ This installation was the sixth CAAQMS facility in Kolkata.

## **Greta Thunberg**

- ❖ The 16-year old Swedish teen-climate activist Greta Thunberg has won the Amnesty International's 'Ambassador of Conscience' Award 2019.
- ❖ She was awarded for mobilising world public opinion on imminent danger posed by global warming.



- ❖ Her 'Fridays for Future' movement has spread globally with students around the world absenting from school on Fridays to participate in climate protests.

### **About the award**

- ❖ This Amnesty award was established in 2002.
- ❖ It celebrates individuals and groups who further human rights cause with their acts of conscience, confronting injustice and using their talents to inspire others.

## **New Plants and Animals**

- ❖ Scientists and taxonomists have documented 596 new species of flora and fauna from India in the year 2018.
- ❖ The details of the discoveries were announced by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in the publications "Plant Discoveries 2018 and Animal Discoveries 2018".



#### Fact Box

- Of the 596 species, 372 come under fauna (311 invertebrates and 61 vertebrates).
- Newly identified 224 plant species include seed plants, pteridophytes, bryophytes, fungi and lichen.
- About 31% of the plant species were discovered in the Himalayas.
- In the case of animals, the Western Ghats remained a biological hotspot from where about 50% of the species were found.
- Of the 61 species of vertebrates discovered this year, reptiles dominate (30 species).
- 21 species of fishes, nine species of amphibians, and one mammalian sub-species were also found.

- ❖ BSI has placed emphasis on molecular DNA technology and phylogeny to confirm the discoveries.
- ❖ With these new discoveries, the updated list of animal species in India has risen to 1,01,681 which is about 6.49% of all the species in the world.
- ❖ Kerala recorded the highest number of discoveries with 59 species. West Bengal recorded 38 and Tamil Nadu recorded 26.

### State of India's Environment 2019

- ❖ State of India's Environment 2019 figures is an annual quantified statement of environmental statistics and analysis put together by Down to Earth magazine, which Centre for Science and Environment helps to publish.

#### Some of the important findings

- ❖ Air pollution is responsible for 12.5 per cent of all deaths in India.
- ❖ India is yet to identify indicators to track its climate change preparedness to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
- ❖ Both surface and groundwater in the country are under stress. 86 water bodies are critically polluted.
- ❖ There is a 35 per cent shortfall in the number of 24x7 public health centres, where 26 per cent of the positions for medical officers are lying vacant.
- ❖ By 2050, India is projected to add 416 million urban dwellers to the world's urban population and will be home to about 58 per cent of the total global population.
- ❖ There has been a 22 per cent increase in India's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions between 2010 and 2014.



- ❖ India has recently shifted to a powerful forest fire monitoring and alert system, SNPP-VIIRS, which can capture forest fires with better accuracy and precision.
- ❖ India has witnessed 1.9 times increase in the unemployment rate in the past two years.

### **India's first trading programme to combat particulate air pollution**

- ❖ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched India's first trading programme to combat particulate air pollution on World Environment Day 2019.
- ❖ The programme is a market-based system where the government sets a cap on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits to stay below the cap.
- ❖ Under the cap and trade system, the regulator first defines the total mass of pollution that can be put into the air over a defined period by all factories put together.
- ❖ Then, a set of permits is created, each of which allows a certain amount of pollution, and the total is equal to the cap.
- ❖ These permits are the quantity that is bought and sold.
- ❖ Each factory is allocated a share of these permits (this could be equal or based on size or some other rule).
- ❖ After this, plants can trade permits with each other, just like any other commodity.

### **Indian Navy Environment Conservation Roadmap**

- ❖ The Navy is pressing ahead with its eco-friendly programme, the Indian Navy Environment Conservation Roadmap (INECR).
- ❖ It comprises specific action plans covering the gamut of operations, maintenance, administration, infrastructure and community living.
- ❖ The roadmap envisions 'reduction in energy consumption' and 'diversification of energy supply' as the key result areas.

### **Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2018**

- ❖ International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has released a report titled 'Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2018'.
- ❖ For the study, IRENA analysed eight major solar PV markets from 2010 to 2018.



- ❖ These countries include China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US.
- ❖ According to the report, India is now the low-cost producer of solar power globally.
- ❖ Renewable energy sources have witnessed cost decline globally.

### **IRENA**

- ❖ It was founded in 2009 its treaty entered into force on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and is headquartered in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ It is the first international organisation to focus exclusively on renewable energy, addressing needs in both developed and developing countries.
- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organisation mandated to facilitate cooperation, advance knowledge, and promote the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy.
- ❖ It is an official observer of United Nations.

### **PET Recycle**

- ❖ Global sportswear giant Adidas aims at eliminating the use of virgin plastics in its products by 2024 with assistance from Polygenta Technology Limited, a Maharashtra-based firm.
- ❖ It is the only one of its kind company in India to produce yarn out of discarded PET bottles.
- ❖ Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles are the main contributors to plastic waste globally and in India.
- ❖ It breaks PET into its base product - an ester.
- ❖ It is then used to manufacture polyester filament yarn.

### **Ocean Plastics**

- ❖ After subscribing to the Ocean Plastics Charter last year, Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that single-use plastics will be banned in the country from 2021.
- ❖ “Ocean Plastics Charter” is a non-binding charter against pollution in the world's oceans.
- ❖ France, Germany, Britain and Italy along with European Union had also subscribed to this charter at last year's G7 summit, held at Quebec.
- ❖ Japan And US did not join the pact.

### **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.



### **Asiatic Golden Cats**

- ❖ Indian scientists from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) have discovered six colour 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.

### **Green Rating**

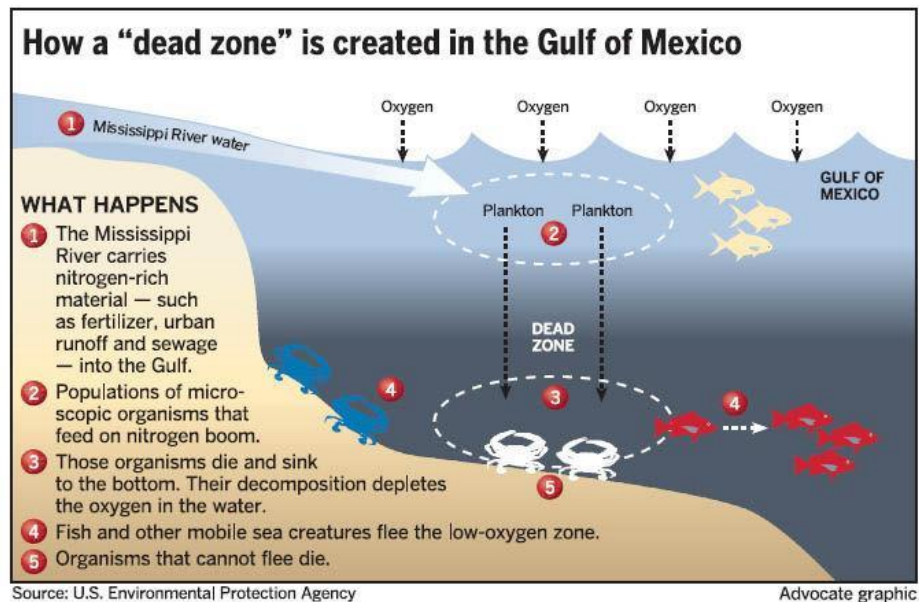
- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari addressed the 10th edition of regional GRIHA summit held in Nagpur.



- ❖ Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) is a rating tool that assesses the environment friendly conditions in a building.
- ❖ GRIHA Rating is given by GRIHA Council and it aims to promote more green buildings in India.

### Dead Zone in Gulf of Mexico

- ❖ Scientists say this year's oceanic 'dead zone' in the Gulf of Mexico will be one of the largest in recorded history.
- ❖ It's expected to grow to over 8,000 sq. miles, and scientists predict severe harm to marine habitat, impacting fish harvests.
- ❖ Dead zones are hypoxic (low-oxygen) areas in the world's oceans and large lakes.
- ❖ They are caused by excessive nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorous) from human activities coupled with other factors.
- ❖ These deplete the oxygen required to support most marine life in bottom and near-bottom water.
- ❖ Mississippi river and its nutrient rich contents are blamed for the ever-increasing dead zone in Gulf of Mexico.



### Kelp Forests

- ❖ Climate change is altering marine habitats such as kelp forests on a global scale.

- ❖ Kelp is a type of large brown seaweed that grows in shallow, nutrient-rich saltwater, near coastal fronts around the world.



- ❖ More than 350 different species and up to 100,000 small invertebrates can live on a single kelp plant.
- ❖ Many fish, birds and mammals depend on the whole kelp underwater forests.
- ❖ Place of Occurrence: Western Australia, eastern Canada, southern Europe, northern California and eastern United States
- ❖ They can survive and grow even in the harsh Artic environment.

### **World's highest weather stations**

- ❖ The National Geographic Society has installed world's highest operating weather stations on Mount Everest.
- ❖ It will provide researchers, climbers, and the public with near real-time information about mountain conditions.





- ❖ The team has installed the world's two highest operating automated weather stations at Balcony area (8,430 m) and South Col (7,945 m), as well as three other weather stations on Mount Everest.
- ❖ The other stations were placed at Phortse (3,810 m), Everest Base Camp (5,315 m) and Camp II (6,464 m).

### **UNEP's New Chief**

- ❖ Denmark's Inger Andersen recently took charge as the new Executive Director (ED) of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ She will hold the designation for period of 4-years.



- ❖ She has served as Director General of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) between January 2015 and May 2019.
- ❖ UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi and has 6 regional offices across the globe.
- ❖ It is also responsible for coordinating UN's environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.

### **Bonn Challenge**

- ❖ Ahead of the COP-14 and part of an international initiative called Bonn Challenge, the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has launched a flagship project to enhance India's capacity for forest landscape restoration.
- ❖ The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring



- 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land under restoration by 2020.
- 350 million hectares by 2030.
- ❖ The flagship project will be implemented during a pilot phase of 3.5 years in the five pilot states - Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka.
- ❖ A 2016 report by the Indian Space Research Organisation found that about 29% of India's land (in 2011-13) was degraded.
- ❖ Also, for the first time, India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019.

### **Melting Mountains**

- ❖ According to a study published in Science Advances journal, the Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast now as they were before the turn of the century.
- ❖ They observed 40 years of satellite data spanning 2,000 kilometres across India, China, Nepal and Bhutan.
- ❖ They found that the glaciers have been losing the equivalent of a foot-and-a-half (45 centimetres) of ice each year since 2000.
- ❖ Average temperature rise was 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit higher between 2000 to 2016 than they were between 1975 and 2000.

### **Result of Urbanisation**

- ❖ A recent study by researchers at the IIT- Bhubaneswar has documented how urbanisation of cities in the last decade can sharply increase the local temperature.
- ❖ The local surface temperature in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar has increased by as much as 40-50% during the period 2001-2010.
- ❖ A 0.5 degree Celsius increase in absolute local temperature during 2001 – 10 in Odisha's cities was solely due to urbanisation.
- ❖ According to UN-HABITAT, the world's cities cover less than 2 % of the earth's surface but they account for 71 to 76 % of greenhouse gas emissions.





## Rajaji Tiger Reserve

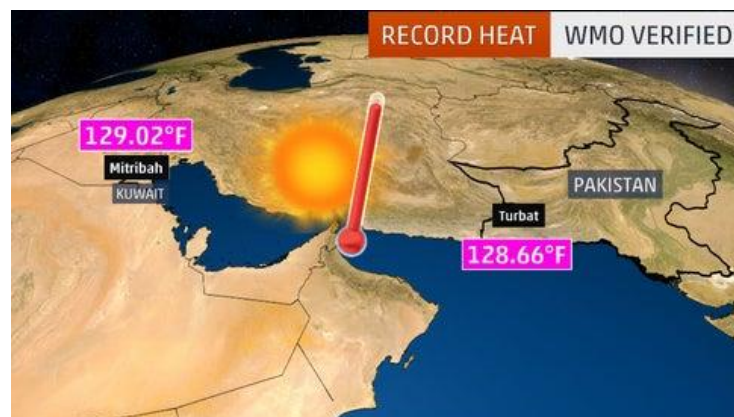
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ordered that further construction of the Kandi road inside Rajaji tiger reserve be stopped forthwith and issued notice to the state government.
- ❖ Rajaji Tiger reserve is a part of Rajaji National park, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The proposed road through was within the tiger reserve and cut through a wildlife corridor between Rajaji and Corbett Tiger reserves.

## Bangkok Declaration

- ❖ The Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region has been adopted by leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ❖ According to Ocean Conservancy report 2017 China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand alone dump more than half of the eight million tonnes of plastic waste in oceans every year.
- ❖ The Bangkok declaration has not mentioned about bans on single use plastic.

## Weather Extremes

- ❖ The United Nations' World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has officially evaluated temperature record extremes of 54.0 °C at two locations.
- ❖ One was recorded in Mitribah, Kuwait on 21 July 2016 and a second in Turbat, Pakistan on 28 May 2017.



## **Bihar Model**

- ❖ The Bihar Government recently announced ban on felling of trees in different cities of Bihar.
- ❖ The order been passed under Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980 and applies only for state properties.
- ❖ It cited increasing pollution as well as a fatal heatwave in the state as reason for the ban.
- ❖ The current heatwave in Bihar is also considered a reason for the death of more than 150 children by acute encephalitis syndrome.
- ❖ Bihar's capital Patna is the 7th most polluted city in the world.

## **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.

## **Desert dinosaur – Verpersaurus**

- ❖ A desert-based carnivorous dinosaur has been unearthed in southern Brazil.
- ❖ The dinosaurs had used claws to capture small prey 90 million years ago.



- ❖ The fossil remains of the *Vespersaurus paranaensis* were found in Brazil.



## STATES

### e - Cigarettes

- ❖ The Rajasthan government recently announced its decision to ban production, distribution, advertisement and sale of e-cigarette in the state.
- ❖ It has banned both online and offline sale, storage, production, distribution and advertisement of e-cigarettes in Rajasthan.

### Arunachal Pradesh – New CM

- ❖ The Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leader Pema Khandu was sworn-in as the 10th Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ For the first time swearing-in ceremony was held in Itanagar's landmark convention centre, named after his father Dorjee Khandu instead of Raj Bhavan.

### Ban on e-cigarettes – Maharashtra and Rajasthan

- ❖ Maharashtra and Rajasthan have decided to ban e-cigarettes to discourage nicotine addiction.
- ❖ Electronic nicotine delivery systems may be as harmful as conventional tobacco products.
- ❖ Apart from e-cigarettes, Maharashtra has also banned vapes and e-hookahs.



- ❖ The ban was issued in Rajasthan on World No Tobacco Day which is celebrated on May 31 every year.

### **WHO Award – Rajasthan**

- ❖ The World Health Organization has selected the [Rajasthan](#) government's Medical & Health Department for its award this year in recognition of its achievements in the field of tobacco control.
- ❖ WHO has selected five organisations from the South-East Asian region for the prestigious award.
- ❖ The Rajasthan Health Department of the State is the only government body in the country which will be awarded for its tobacco-free initiatives.
- ❖ Three other organisations in the South-East Asian region have been selected from Thailand and Indonesia
- ❖ Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, New Delhi is also among the recipients of the award.

### **Ganga pollution penalty – NGT**

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a penalty of ₹25 lakh each on the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and [West Bengal](#) for not taking adequate steps to curb pollution in the river Ganga.
- ❖ The fine will be used on restoration of the environment.

### **Alternative crops at MSP**

- ❖ Haryana government plans to discourage planting of the water-guzzling rice (paddy) crop, which threatens to deplete the State's groundwater.
- ❖ Water depletion in Haryana over the years has led to 60 dark zones in the State, which include 21 critical ones in 10 districts.
- ❖ The Government also has decided to start a pilot project in seven blocks, where sowing of maize and 'tuar' pulse would be promoted by giving incentives to farmers.
- ❖ under the new scheme, identified farmers will be provided seed free of cost and given a financial assistance for Rs 2000 per acre in two parts.
- ❖ The maize crop insurance premium will also be borne by the government.



- ❖ Also, maize produce will be procured by the government agencies at Minimum Support Price.

### **Nipah Virus**

- ❖ Kerala has again reported suspected cases of Nipah virus.
- ❖ In the journal Science “Translational Medicine”, scientists have reported that an experimental drug called “Remdesivir” has protected monkeys against infection with Nipah virus.
- ❖ At present there is no cure or approved vaccine for Nipah.
- ❖ The only current treatment for Nipah virus infection is a monoclonal antibody that is still experimental.

### **Elephanta Festival**

- ❖ The two-day Elephanta Festival held at Gharapuri island, Mumbai.
- ❖ It was organised by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC).
- ❖ MTDC organises the festival every year to promote tourism and the culture of Mumbai.
- ❖ This Festival was started in 2012 to celebrate not just the heritage site of Elephanta caves but also the culture of the city.

### **Annual income limit Increased for scholarship- Assam**

- ❖ Assam government has increased the parent’s annual income limit of students eligible for fee waiver scheme up to post graduation level from Rs 1 Lakh to Rs 2 Lakh.
- ❖ This scheme does not cover private colleges and universities in Assam.
- ❖ Children of parents working in state and central government are not eligible for this.

### **'Aapki Beti' scheme - Rajasthan**

- ❖ Rajasthan government has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the 'Aapki Beti' scheme.
- ❖ Under the Aapki Beti scheme, girls living under the Below Poverty Line and whose mother or father or both have died get annual financial assistance in the state.



- ❖ For girls studying in class 1 to 8, it is hiked to Rs. 2,100 from Rs. 1,100 and for the girls in class 9 to 12, its hiked to Rs. 2,500 from Rs. 1,500.

### **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet**

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has inducted five Deputy Chief Ministers.
- ❖ This is believed to be the highest-ever in any state in the country.
- ❖ They were picked out from the state's major social groups: SC, ST, BC, minorities and Kapus.
- ❖ They are

<b>Name</b>	<b>Represents</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Amzath Basha	Minorities	Minority Welfare	Kadapa
Pushpasreevani Pamula	Tribals	Tribal Welfare	Kurupam
Narayana Swamy	Scheduled Caste	Excise and Commercial Taxes.	Gangadhara Nellore
Alla Krishna Srinivas	Kapus	Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education.	Eluru
Pilli Subash Chandra Bose	Backward Caste	Revenue, Registration & Stamps.	Member of Legislative Council

### **India's first project to receive power from waste**

- ❖ Delhi Metro has become the first ever project in the country to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant.
- ❖ Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur.
- ❖ It has also commissioned a facility at Rohini on PPP model with IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure & Services Ltd for recycling of Construction and Demolition waste with a capacity of 150 tons per day.

### **EBPG quota withdrawal**

- ❖ The Haryana government has withdrawn its quotas of posts kept reserved under the Economically Backward Persons in General Category (EBPG) and Backward Class (Block-C) in government jobs and state-run educational institutions.

- ❖ The government has also asked all the departments of the state government to release reserved posts from the quota into the General/ unreserved category.
- ❖ Besides EBPg, the decision will have impact on six castes viz. Jats, Jat Sikhs, Muslim Jats, Tyagis, Rors and Bishnois which were included in backward class (Block-C) category.

### **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.



### **e-Foreigner Tribunal**

- ❖ The Government of India has approved setting up of e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam.
- ❖ It will be implemented to
  - maintain a state-wide bio-metric and biographic data
  - capture the illegal migrants' data
  - legalize eligible beneficiaries for welfare schemes
- ❖ e-FT is expected to help both judiciary and police department.

## Encephalitis Deaths

- ❖ 84 children have died due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.
- ❖ According to the doctors, the deaths due to AES are being caused due to excessive heat and humidity.
- ❖ Locally this fever is being called 'Chamki'.

### AES

- ❖ Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India (ranging from 5%-35%).
- ❖ In India, AES outbreaks in north and eastern India have been linked to children eating unripe litchi fruit on empty stomachs.
- ❖ Nipah virus, Zika virus are also found as causative agents for AES.
- ❖ AES most commonly affects children and young adults.
- ❖ It can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.

## Black Softshell turtle

- ❖ The Ugratara Temple in Guwahati, Assam, organised a special darshan of 34 hatchlings of the rare black softshell turtle as these hatchlings will be reintroduced into the wild.
- ❖ Having a soft shell allows them to move much faster on land than most turtles and to move more easily in water.



- ❖ It is found only in the ponds of some temples in Assam and Bangladesh.
- ❖ Its Scientific Name is Nilssonia nigricans
- ❖ IUCN conservation status is Extinct in the wild



### **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.

### **Sadikpur Sinauli**

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has started the process of declaring the site at Sadikpur Sinauli, Uttar Pradesh as a place of national importance.



- ❖ The site was the largest necropolis of the late Harappan period of the early 2nd millennium BCE.
- ❖ Three chariots, legged coffins, shields, swords and helmets were some of the objects unearthed from there.

### **Odisha Flood Atlas**

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has released a unique flood hazard atlas.
- ❖ It is expected to help the State to manage floods more efficiently.
- ❖ The atlas has the flood inundation data captured through satellite imagery over the period from 2001 to 2018.
- ❖ The National Remote Sensing Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Hyderabad had taken the study on flood hazard zonation for Odisha.

### **Nippon Foundation**

- ❖ The Nippon foundation of Japan funded a museum of Peace in Red Hill, near Manipur's capital Imphal.
- ❖ It was to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.
- ❖ Japanese Soldiers clashed with Indian National Army of Subash Chandra Bose and British forces in areas around Imphal and Kohima from March to June 1944.
- ❖ The Japanese War Memorial was built in 1994 at Red Hill to mark the 50th anniversary of the battle.

### **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.



## **Polavaram Extension**

- ❖ The under-construction multi-purpose Polavaram irrigation project construction works have been permitted for two more years by Environment ministry.



- ❖ It is being constructed on the Godavari River in the West Godavari District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Its reservoir spreads into parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha States also.



- ❖ It was declared a National project in 2014.
- ❖ It is expected to irrigate nearly 3 lakh hectares, generate hydel power with installed capacity of 960 MW and provide drinking water to 25 lakh populations.

### **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project**

- ❖ Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) was inaugurated on June 21, by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao.
- ❖ This world's largest multi-stage, multi-purpose lift irrigation project is built across Godavari river.
- ❖ KLIP will lift the water to a height of half-a-kilometer.
- ❖ It is claimed to be the world's biggest project of its kind, completed in the shortest span of time.

<b>THE LONGEST AND BIGGEST IRRIGATION SYSTEM</b>  Total length <b>1,832 km</b>  Total gravity canal <b>1,531 km</b>  Total tunnel length <b>203</b> (not single tunnel)  Pressure pipe line <b>98 km</b>	Total number of lifts <b>20</b>	New reservoirs <b>20</b>	Live storage <b>147.71 TMC</b>
	Total number of pump houses <b>22</b>	Old and excising reservoirs <b>5</b>	Highest pump capacity <b>139 mw</b>
	Total number of pumps <b>120</b>	Live storage <b>147.71 TMC</b>	Per day <b>2 TMC</b> water can be lifted, by far the biggest
	Power requirement <b>5,512 MW (2 TMC)</b>	Highest pump capacity <b>139 mw</b>	Highest power consumption scheme, requires about
	Power requirement <b>7,700 MW (3 TMC)</b>	Old and excising reservoirs <b>5</b>	<b>7.7 giga watts (7,700 mw)</b>

### **Amma Vodi Extension – Andhra Pradesh**

- ❖ Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh announced that 'Amma Vodi' scheme was being extended to Intermediate students in both government and private colleges and also residential schools and hostels.
- ❖ An annual financial assistance of Rs.15000 will be granted to each mother who sends her wards to school or college, under Amma Vodi scheme.

### **Sindhu Darshan Festival**

- ❖ The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of Sindhu Darshan Utsav 2019 celebrated at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Leh, Kashmir.



- ❖ The “Sindhu Darshan” or Sindhu festival was first started in month of October 1997.
- ❖ It aims at projecting Indus as a symbol of India’s unity, peaceful coexistence and communal harmony and is also a symbolic salute to brave soldiers of country.



### **Maratha Reservation**

- ❖ The Bombay High Court upheld the Maharashtra government’s decision to provide reservation to the Maratha community under the SEBC Act, 2018.
- ❖ But it ruled that the 16 % quota granted by the state is not “justifiable”.
- ❖ The court reduced reservation to 12 % in education and 13 % in government jobs.
- ❖ The addition of 12-13 % Maratha quota will take the total reservation in the state to 64-65 %, much above the 50% prescribed in the Indra Sawhney case.

### **Jaipur Foot Korea**

- ❖ South Korean Ambassador Bong-kil Shin and Jaipur based Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) have launched an initiative called “Jaipur Foot Korea”.
- ❖ Korea will collaborate in Medical Technology business to make prosthetic limbs, bionic arms, 3-D printing-based Flat foots.
- ❖ Founded in 1975, BMVSS is the world’s largest organisation rehabilitating more than 1.78 million disabled.
- ❖ It provides artificial limbs, calipers and many other aids for the disabled free of charge.
- ❖ Jaipur Foot is a lightweight and durable rubber-based prosthetic leg for people with below-knee amputations.



### **Nagaland's NRC**

- ❖ Nagaland has decided to start a variant of the National Register of Citizens similar to the one in Assam.
- ❖ It is named as Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN).
- ❖ It is supposed to be a master list of all indigenous peoples and will check the issuance of fake indigenous inhabitant certificates.





### **First Resilient Kerala**

- ❖ The Union Government, Government of Kerala and the World Bank have signed a Loan Agreement of USD 250 million for the “First Resilient Kerala Program”.
- ❖ It aims to enhance Kerala’s resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.
- ❖ It is part of Union Government’s support to Kerala’s ‘Rebuild Kerala Development Programme’ aimed at building a green and resilient Kerala.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Admiral Karambir Singh – 24th Navy Chief**

- ❖ Admiral Karambir Singh took charge as the 24<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) from Admiral Sunil Lanba.
- ❖ Admiral Singh was the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Visakhapatnam.



- ❖ The tenure of a Service Chief is three years or 62 years of age, whichever is earlier.

### **Hawk Eye – Lt. Mohana Singh**

- ❖ Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly a Hawk advanced jet aircraft.
- ❖ She achieved the feat at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal.



- ❖ A week back, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became fully operational by day on MiG-21 Bison.

### **Joan Miro Prize 2019**

- ❖ Indian contemporary artist Nalini Malani has won the 7<sup>th</sup> Joan Miro Prize for 2019.
- ❖ She became the first Indian artist to win this most prestigious contemporary art awards in the World.
- ❖ This prize was given by the Barcelona-based Fundacio Joan Miro.
- ❖ She was awarded for her impressive body of work that gave a voice to "the silenced and the dispossessed all over the world, most particularly women".
- ❖ It recognises present-day work by artists who show the same spirit of exploration, innovation, commitment and freedom that characterised Spanish painter and sculptor Joan Miro's life and work.

### **Highest Civilian Award of Mexico for foreigners**

- ❖ The Former President of India Pratibha Patil has been conferred "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle), the highest civilian award of Mexico given to foreigners.
- ❖ She is the second Indian President after S. Radhakrishnan to receive this honour.
- ❖ Patil was India's first women President (2007-2012).

## **National Security Advisor**

- ❖ The government reappointed retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Ajit Doval as National Security Adviser (NSA).
- ❖ He has been accorded the Cabinet rank.



- ❖ He becomes the first NSA to get Cabinet status in the table of precedence.
- ❖ In his previous stint as an NSA, he had the stature of a Minister of State (MoS).
- ❖ The NSA's post was first created in 1998 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Brajesh Misra, an Indian Foreign Service Officer, was the first NSA of India.
- ❖ Ajit Doval is a 1968-batch IPS officer who retired as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB) in 2005.

## **Global Leadership Award**

- ❖ Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai and NASDAQ president Adena Friedman have been chosen for the prestigious Global Leadership Awards 2019 by USIBC.
- ❖ This award recognises top corporate executives from the United States and India whose companies play a major role in promoting growth in business and commerce between the two countries.
- ❖ US-India Business Council (USIBC) is a Washington-based business advocacy group which awards them.
- ❖ The award is given annually since 2007.



## **Yoga Awards**

- ❖ The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has constituted the Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman Awards.
- ❖ This award aims to encourage the media to help propagate yoga during the run-up to International Yoga Day on June 21.
- ❖ In total 33 awards will be given out, 11 each in the three main formats - print, radio and television.
- ❖ Media houses working in all the 22 eighth schedule languages and English will be eligible for consideration of the awards.

## **UN Equator Prize**

- ❖ The women sangams (groups) of the Deccan Development Society of the Telangana state have bagged the United Nation's Equator Prize for 2019.
- ❖ These women farmers have been building their own seed banks and growing millets in the predominantly rain-fed villages of Sangareddy district.
- ❖ They were awarded as an outstanding example of a local, nature-based solution to climate change and sustainable development.

### About the Prize

- ❖ The Equator Prize is organized by the Equator Initiative within the United Nations Development Programme.
- ❖ It is awarded biennially to give global recognition to community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

## **Women's Prize for Fiction**

- ❖ American author Tayari Jones has won the Women's Prize for Fiction for her book, "An American Marriage".
- ❖ The book portrays a young African American's wrongful conviction and how it affects his marriage.
- ❖ Last year's Booker prize winner "Milkman" by Anna Burns and former Booker winner Pat Barker's new novel, "The Silence of the Girls", were also shortlisted for the women's award.

### Women's Prize for Fiction

- ❖ The prize was set up in 1996 to celebrate and promote international fiction by women throughout the world to the widest range of readers possible.

- ❖ It is annually awarded to a female author of any nationality for the best original full-length novel written in English, published in the United Kingdom in the preceding year.



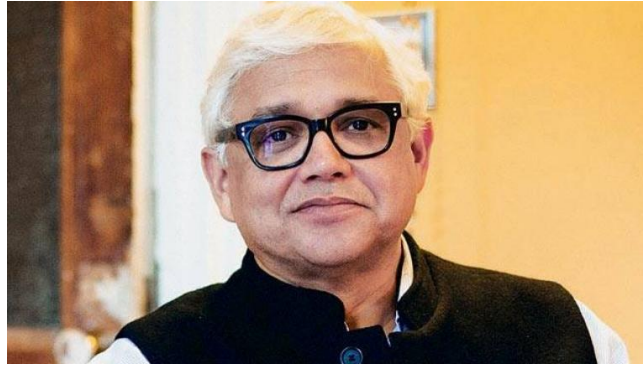
### **Amitav Ghosh**

- ❖ 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.





### **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.

### **Akshya Patra – BBC Awards**

- ❖ Akshaya Patra has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award for the programme.
- ❖ It is a non-profit organisation running one of the world's largest school meals project in India.
- ❖ The award was presented at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol.



- ❖ The award recognises a person or project that is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.



### **Order of the distinguished rule of Nishan Izzudeen'**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the "Order of the distinguished rule of Nishan Izzudeen" (Nishan Izzudeen Award) by the Maldivian Government
- ❖ The award was given in recognition of his services in the past to cement the long-standing and amicable ties between the two countries.
- ❖ Nishan Izzudheen Award is the highest award offered by the Maldivian Government to foreign dignitaries.





## Matri Shree Awards

- ❖ Twenty-nine journalists from print and electronic media were felicitated with Matri Shree Media Awards for their contribution towards journalism.
- ❖ The Matri Shree Media Awards was constituted during the Emergency.
- ❖ The first award was presented to journalist Lala Jagat Narayan.

## Yoga Development Award

- ❖ Prime Minister's Awards for outstanding contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga - 2019 has been announced.
- ❖ The award is given for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga.
- ❖ The awardees are: Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat, Ms. Antonietta Rozzi of Italy, Bihar School of Yoga, Munger and Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan.

PM Awards for <i>Outstanding Contribution for promotion &amp; Development of Yoga -2019.</i>		
Award/ Category	Individual	Organization
National	Swam Raja Rishi Muni, Life of Mission	Bihar School of Yoga, Munger.
International	Antonietta Rozzi, Italy	Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan.

## Indian representative to ICAO

- ❖ Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was appointed as representative of India (JS Level) in council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ ICAO is a specialized agency of United Nations.
- ❖ It is charged with coordinating and regulating international air travel.
- ❖ ICAO was established in 1944 by Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

### **Ranjith Singh Statue – Lahore**

- ❖ On the 180th death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, a statue was unveiled at the Lahore Fort.
- ❖ Maharaja Ranjit Singh was a legendary ruler of Punjab.
- ❖ Around 500 people crossed the Wagah border to attend the unveiling event.
- ❖ The main ceremony will take place at Gurdwara Dera Sahib.



### **Cyrus Poonawalla - Oxford honour**

- ❖ Cyrus Poonawalla is the founder and Chairman of the Serum Institute of India.
- ❖ He has received an honorary degree from the University of Oxford for his work in the field of life-saving vaccines and philanthropy.
- ❖ Founded in 1966, the Serum Institute is the world's largest manufacturer of life-saving vaccines by number of doses.
- ❖ Headquarters – Pune, India.





### **President's award - NALCO**

- ❖ Odisha based Navaratna NALCO has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development.
- ❖ In 2015 it started a program called “Aliali Jiha” similar to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.
- ❖ It paid education expense from Class 8 to 10 for 416 girls from BPL families of 66 villages in Anugul and Koraput districts.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award - Mark Tully**

- ❖ Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully was conferred with ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ at UK-India Awards in London for his contributions to UK-India relationship.
- ❖ He was the former Chief of BBC in New Delhi and was conferred Padma Shree in 1992, Padma Bhushan in 2005.

## **SPORTS**

### **Manu Bhaker – Olympic**

- ❖ India’s Manu Bhaker clinched a Tokyo 2020 Olympic quota for India in the women’s 10m pistol.
- ❖ She finished fourth in the final at the season’s third International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Munich.
- ❖ Bhaker earned India’s first quota in women’s 10m pistol after Saurabh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma won both the quota places in men’s 10m air pistol at the World Cups in Delhi and Beijing respectively.

### **India Open International tournament**

- ❖ India bags a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals.
- ❖ This was Mary’s second gold in the tournament, having won in 48 kg last year in the National capital.

## 400 Grand Slam

- ❖ Roger Federer played his 400th match in Grand Slams against Casper Ruud.
- ❖ The Swiss becomes the first player, male or female, to reach this milestone at Majors.



- ❖ Second on the list of most Grand Slam matches played is Serena Williams.
- ❖ Serena Williams defeated Japan's Kurumi Nara in the French Open second round. It was her 382<sup>nd</sup> match.
- ❖ Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal are third and fourth players to have played the greatest number of grand slam matches.

## Nihal Sarin – 2600 rating

- ❖ India's Nihal Sarin became the World's third youngest player to cross 2600 Elo points on FIDE's rating list.
- ❖ The 14-year-old is from Kerala.
- ❖ He is also India's youngest ever to reach the milestone, beating the record set by Parimarjan Negi in 2009 as a 15-year-old.

## Chess Rankings – India

- ❖ Five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand is ranked No 9 in the World.
- ❖ Pendyala Harikrishna is the next-best ranked Indian at No 25.
- ❖ Three other Indians – Vidit Gujarati, B. Adhiban and Krishnan Sasikiran – are in the top 100.
- ❖ Nihal is ranked at No 240.
- ❖ World champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway continues to be the World No 1.





- ❖ India's Koneru Humpy is the World No 4 among women.
- ❖ Dronavalli Harika is ranked No 14.

### Under-20 Eurasian Athletics

- ❖ Indian athletes won five gold and three silver medals at the Under-20 Eurasian Athletics Championships held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Sreekiran Nandakumar won the boys' 800m gold at the U-20 Eurasian athletics championships which was conducted at Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Athlete	Sport	Medal
Gurindervir Singh	100 m	Gold
Vikrant Panchal	400 m	Gold
Sreekiran	800 m	Gold
Abdul Razak, Priscilla Daniel, Florence Barla, Vikrant Panchal	4x400m mixed relay	Gold
Rohit Yadav	Javelin throw	Gold
Abdul Razak	400 m	Silver
Priscilla Daniel	800 m	Silver
Sahil Silwal	Javelin throw	Silver

### UEFA Championship – Liverpool

- ❖ Liverpool became champions of Europe for the sixth time after they defeated Tottenham by 2-0.







- ❖ Mohamed Salah and Divock Origi scored the 2 goals.
- ❖ It is first trophy in seven years for Liverpool team.

### **ISSF World Cup**

- ❖ India produced their best performance with a total of 5 gold and a silver medal, to top the medals tally at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Munich.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won the 10m Air Pistol mixed team title.
- ❖ Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh Panwar won the 10m Air Rifle mixed team gold cup.
- ❖ The other winners are
  - Apurvi Chandela - 10m Air Rifle Women - Gold
  - Rahi Sarnobat - 25m Pistol Women - Gold
  - Saurabh Chaudhary - 10m Air Pistol Men - Gold

### **Balidan Badge**

- ❖ The International Cricket Council has asked the BCCI to get army insignia removed from MS Dhoni's wicket-keeping gloves.
- ❖ Former Indian skipper MS Dhoni was spotted wearing the 'Balidan Badge' of the Indian Para Special Armed Forces on his wicket-keeping gloves.
- ❖ It was during India's opening Cricket World Cup match against South Africa at Southampton, England.
- ❖ Balidan badge has a commando dagger pointed downwards, with upward-extending wings from the blade and a scroll superimposed on the blade with "Balidan".
- ❖ Balidan means sacrifice.
- ❖ Dhoni is an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Parachute Regiment of the Territorial Army.



## French Open

- ❖ Australia's Ashley Barty and Spain's Rafael Nadal won the Women's Singles and Men's Singles French Open 2019.
- ❖ Rafael Nadal has lifted the French Open title for the 12th time.

<b>Mixed Doubles</b> Latisha Chan /  Ivan Dodig	
<b>Boys' Singles</b> Holger Vitus Nørdskov Rune	
<b>Girls' Singles</b> Leylah Annie Fernandez	
<b>Boys' Doubles</b> Matheus Pucinelli de Almeida /  Thiago Agustín Tirante	
<b>Girls' Doubles</b> Chloe Beck /  Emma Navarro	
<b>Legends Under 45 Doubles</b> Sébastien Grosjean /  Michaël Llodra	
<b>Women's Legends Doubles</b> Nathalie Dechy /  Amélie Mauresmo	
<b>Legends Over 45 Doubles</b> Sergi Bruguera /  Goran Ivanišević	
<b>Wheelchair Men's Singles</b> Gustavo Fernández	
<b>Wheelchair Women's Singles</b> Diede de Groot	
<b>Wheelchair Quad Singles</b> Dylan Alcott	
<b>Wheelchair Men's Doubles</b> Gustavo Fernández /  Shingo Kunieda	
<b>Wheelchair Women's Doubles</b> Diede de Groot /  Aniek van Koot	
<b>Wheelchair Quad Doubles</b> Dylan Alcott /  David Wagner	

- ❖ Germany's Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies won the men's doubles event.
- ❖ Hungarian Timea Babos and France's Kristina Mladenovic won women's doubles event.

## About the Event

- ❖ The 123rd edition of the French Open was held at the Roland Garros in Paris.

- ❖ It is the second Tennis Grand Slam event of the year.
- ❖ It is played on outdoor clay courts.
- ❖ Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open are the other Grand slam events of the year.
- ❖ Other events and winners of French Open 2019 are

### **Yuvraj Singh**

- ❖ Yuvraj Singh, 2011 World Cup hero and one of India's most celebrated cricketers has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- ❖ A cancer survivor, Yuvraj Singh featured in 40 Tests, 304 ODIs and 58 T20Is.
- ❖ He debuted under Sourav Ganguly in 2000.
- ❖ He is most famous for hitting six sixes in one over by Stuart Broad of England and getting the fastest 50 runs (in 12 balls) in 2007 T20 World Cup.
- ❖ He was the Man of the Tournament in the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup.



### **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.



## 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.

## Quickest 11000 runs

- ❖ Virat Kohli broke Sachin Tendulkar's record of being the quickest to 11,000 ODI runs.
- ❖ Kohli took 222 innings to reach the 11k club while Tendulkar needed 276 innings.
- ❖ The India captain has joined the elite club by becoming the third Indian and ninth player overall.

- ❖ The other 2 India players are
  - Sachin Tendulkar - 18,426 runs
  - Sourav Ganguly - 11,363 runs.



**FASTEST TO 11,000 RUNS IN ODIs**

PLAYER	INNINGS
VIRAT KOHLI	222
SACHIN TENDULKAR	276
RICKY PONTING	286
SOURAV GANGULY	288
JACQUES KALLIS	293

### **Pacific International Billiards - Peter Gilchrist**

- ❖ Multiple times world champion Peter Gilchrist defeated India's Sourav Kothari in final to win the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship.
- ❖ The event was held at Melbourne, Australia.



### **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.

### **End of IOC Ban**

- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has lifted all restrictions imposed on India in relation to awarding and hosting any international sports events.
- ❖ The Indian government gave a written guarantee to IOC that all athletes who qualify for international events will be granted entry into the country.
- ❖ Athletes including from Pakistan and Kosovo will be allowed to participate in IOC sports events held in India.

### **Khelo India**

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind said the new government has decided to widen the spectrum of the 'Khelo India Programme' to cover the entire country.
- ❖ He announced this during his address in the joint sitting of the two houses of parliament.
- ❖ Under this programme 2,500 talented players have been selected and are being trained.
- ❖ An additional 2,500 players would get the same facility every year.

### **Khelo India Games**

- ❖ It aims to is to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level.
- ❖ It is an annual event. First edition – 2018 Delhi; Second edition – 2019 Pune
- ❖ 1000 players will be selected from Khelo India Games and will be given 5 Lakh rupees scholarship per year for the next 8 years.



### **1<sup>st</sup> Hearing impaired shooter won national medal**

- ❖ Dhanush Srikanth (16) became the first shooter with hearing impairment to win a national-level medal in regular category top in the U-21 category of 10m air rifle.
- ❖ He shot better than the senior world record of by Alexander Dryagin of Russia and junior record of by China's Yuefeng Wang.
- ❖ He already clinched gold in the 10m air rifle event of the U-21 category at the Khelo India Games.



### **Olympic headquarters**

- ❖ On the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Olympic games International Olympic Committee has formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- ❖ The inauguration of new headquarters comes exactly 125 years after Olympic Games were revived by Pierre de Coubertin.
- ❖ The IOC is the governing body of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs).
- ❖ It is responsible for conducting both Summer and Winter Olympics.

### **Snooker Championship**

- ❖ India's Pankaj Advani defeated Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon of Thailand with 6-3 in final to clinch the 35<sup>th</sup> men's Asian Snooker Championship.
- ❖ Pankaj Advani won has thus completed a career grand slam in cue sports.



- ❖ He has now become the only player to win Asian and World championships in all formats.
- ❖ He is also only one to do it in both billiards and snooker.
- ❖ This premier non-professional Asian snooker tournament was started in 1984.
- ❖ The Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports organises the event.



### **Women's Rugby**

- ❖ Indian Women's Rugby team claimed their 1st ever international women's 15s victory.
- ❖ They defeated Singapore in the Asian Women Rugby Championship Division 1 in Manila, Philippines.
- ❖ They won a bronze medal and created history.

### **Fastest 20K runs**

- ❖ Virat Kohli became the to 20,000 international runs when he reached 37 during India's 6th match of the 2019 Cricket World Cup against West Indies in Manchester.
- ❖ Kohli reached the 20000-run mark in only his 417<sup>th</sup> innings (131 in Tests, 223 in ODIs, and 62 in T20Is).



- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara took 453 innings to reach this milestone.
- ❖ Ricky Ponting got to 20000 international runs in 468 innings.
- ❖ Overall, Virat Kohli became the 12th batsman of the World and 3rd Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to reach 20,000 international runs.

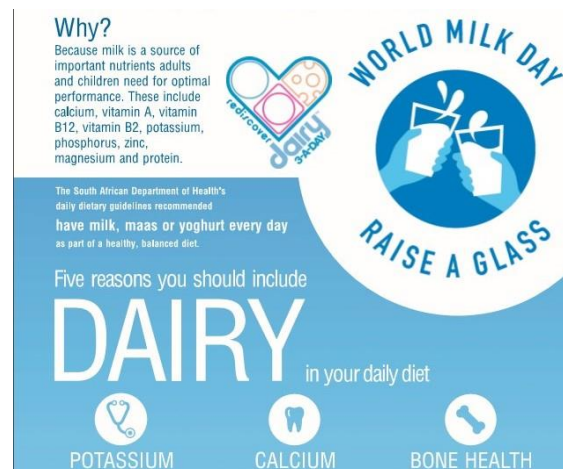
### **Suspension of Olympic status of AIBA**

- ❖ International Olympic Committee decided to suspend AIBA's (International Boxing Association) Olympic status.
- ❖ Also, the Committee take over the responsibilities of the qualifying and final tournaments for the 2020 Tokyo Games.
- ❖ AIBA is a sport organization that sanctions amateur (Olympic-style) boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.
- ❖ It was established in 1946 and headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Milk Day – June 1**

- ❖ World Milk Day is observed on June 1 of every year.
- ❖ The day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2001.



- ❖ It recognizes the importance of milk as a global food.
- ❖ The Day provides an opportunity to focus attention on milk and raise awareness of dairy's part in healthy diets, responsible food production, and supporting livelihoods and communities.

### **Global Day of Parents – June 1**

- ❖ The Global Day of Parents is observed on the 1st of June every year.
- ❖ The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012
- ❖ The day provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.
- ❖ Family-oriented policies can contribute to the achievement of UNSDG (Sustainable Development Goals) 1 to 5.

### **International Sex Workers Day - June 02**

- ❖ International Whores' Day or International Sex Workers Day is observed annually on June 2 of each year.
- ❖ It honours sex workers and recognises their often-exploited working conditions.
- ❖ The event commemorates the occupation of Église Saint-Nizier in Lyon by more than a hundred sex workers on June 2, 1975 to draw attention to their inhumane working conditions.

### **World Bicycle Day - June 03**

- ❖ The World Bicycle Day 2019 is celebrated on the June 3 by the U.N in collaboration with 56 other countries.
- ❖ This day recognizes "the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle, which has been in use for two centuries, and that it is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation.
- ❖ In April 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared 3 June as International World Bicycle Day.



### **Financial Literacy week: June 3-7**

- ❖ The Financial Literacy Week is an initiative of RBI to promote awareness on key topics every year through a focused campaign.
- ❖ Financial Literacy Week 2019 will be observed from June 3-7 on the theme of "Farmers" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system.
- ❖ The RBI will undertake a centralized mass media campaign during the month of June on Doordarshan and All India Radio to disseminate essential financial awareness messages to farmers.

### **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression – June 04**

- ❖ The United Nations' International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed on June 4.
- ❖ This day is to acknowledge the pain children who are victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse, throughout the World.
- ❖ It was established on 19 August 1982.





- ❖ It was originally focused on victims of the 1982 Lebanon War and made universal later.

## **World Environment Day**

- ❖ World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated on the 5th of June every year.
- ❖ WED was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 on the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.
- ❖ It was first observed on 1974 with the theme "Only One Earth".
- ❖ It is a global day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.
- ❖ The theme for 2019 is "Air pollution". The host nation is China.
- ❖ The theme for 2018 was "Beat Plastic Pollution". The host nation was India.

## **World Food Safety Day - June 7**

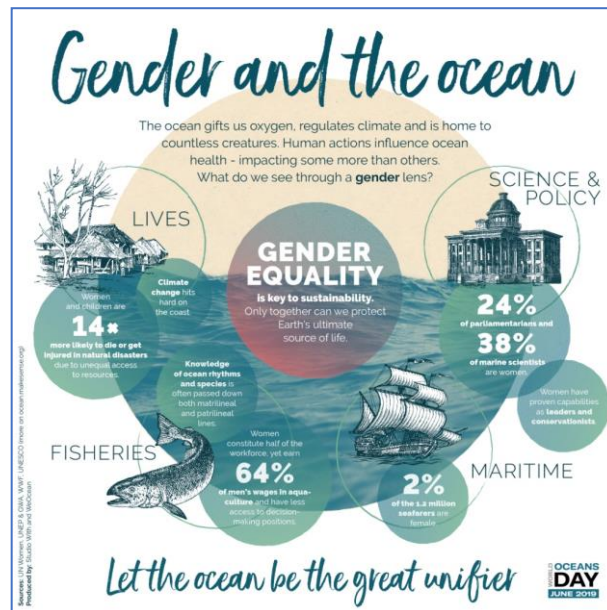
- ❖ The first annual world food safety day was observed on June 7.
- ❖ The theme of the day was "Food Safety, Everyone's Business".
- ❖ The day is celebrated to observe the importance of safe food and to reduce the problems related to unsafe food.
- ❖ In both developed and developing countries an estimated three million people around the world die every year from food and waterborne disease.
- ❖ An UNGA resolution in 2018 decided to observe annual World Food Safety day.
- ❖ The celebration of the inaugural edition of World Food Safety Day was jointly organised by World Health Organisation (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).





## World Ocean Day - June 8

- ❖ The World ocean day is observed every year on June 8.
- ❖ The day is to celebrate the majesty of the world's oceans and raise awareness about their preservation.
- ❖ The concept was originally proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Rio Earth Summit.
- ❖ The Brundtland World Commission on Environment and Development provided the inspiration for the global oceans' day.
- ❖ The first ocean day was observed in 1992.
- ❖ The world's oceans generate an estimated 70% of the earth's oxygen.
- ❖ The United Nation's World Oceans Day designated theme for 2019 year is "Gender and Oceans".
- ❖ This is to highlight the important role gender equality must play in ensuring effective conservation of our oceans, seas and marine life.



## UN Russian Language Day – June 6

- ❖ UN Russian Language Day is observed annually on June 6.
- ❖ The event was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2010.



- ❖ The commemoration of this day coincides with the birthday of the Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin.
- ❖ He is considered as the father of modern Russian literature.
- ❖ UN celebrates this day to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity and to promote equal use of all six of the UN's official working languages throughout the organization.

### **World Brain Tumour Day – June 8**

- ❖ World Brain Tumour Day is observed on 8th June of every year.
- ❖ German Brain Tumour Association first marked this day in the year 2000 to spread the awareness about the brain tumour among the general public.
- ❖ This day is observed to draw the attention of the public, R & D institutions towards the cause of a brain tumour and find an affordable treatment for all.

### **Coral Triangle Day – June 9**

- ❖ The Coral Triangle Day is celebrated annually on June 9.
- ❖ It was first held on June 10, 2012, as a World Oceans Day.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the ocean conservation and protection, especially on the Coral Triangle.

#### **Coral Triangle**

- ❖ Coral Triangle is the world's epicentre of marine biodiversity.
- ❖ It is also called the "Amazon of the seas"
- ❖ It is a roughly triangular area of the tropical marine waters of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.
- ❖ It is considered as one of the 3 mega ecological complexes on Earth, together with Congo Basin and the Amazon Rainforest.



### **World Day Against Child Labour - June 12**

- ❖ The World Day Against Child Labour is annually observed on June 12.
- ❖ It was first launched in 2002 aiming to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour.
- ❖ The day is intended to foster the worldwide movement against child labour in any of its forms.



### **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".



### **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.

### **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 because a global phenomenon in 2009.

### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15**

- ❖ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed every year on June 15.
- ❖ The day is observed to voice opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on elderly people.
- ❖ UN General Assembly officially recognized the day in December 2011 following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.
- ❖ According to the UN, around 1 in 6 older people experience some form of abuse.



### **International Day of Family Remittances - June 16**

- ❖ The International day of family remittances is observed every year on June 16.





- ❖ The day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million global migrant workers to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home.
- ❖ This day aims at bringing greater awareness on the impact that these contributions have on millions of households, communities, countries, and entire regions.



### **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought – June 17**

- ❖ The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD) is being observed globally on 17 June.
- ❖ UN General Assembly announced the observance of this day in 1995 on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was drafted.
- ❖ The day is observed every year to promote awareness about desertification and drought and the ways to stop desertification.
- ❖ The theme for year 2019 is “Let’s Grow the Future Together”.
- ❖ The theme reflects on 25 years of progress and envisioning next 25 years.
- ❖ According to UN, desertification implies degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.
- ❖ Desertification does not refer to expansion of existing deserts.





### **Sustainable Gastronomy Day - June 18**

- ❖ Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed annually on June 18.
- ❖ It emphasizes the need to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly resolution designated 18 June as annual Sustainable gastronomy day by its 2016 resolution.
- ❖ This day acknowledges gastronomy as a cultural expression related to the natural and cultural diversity of the world.





### **International Picnic Day – June 18**

- ❖ 18th of June is celebrated as International Picnic day across the globe.
- ❖ It first originated in France after the French Revolution (1789) where people had the opportunity to eat out in the open air over bountiful conversation.
- ❖ This day celebrates gathering together outdoors to eat and enjoy one another's company, which has traditionally been called Picnic.

### **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.

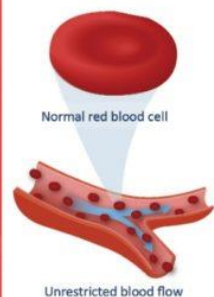
### World Sickle Cell Day – June 19

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

## WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

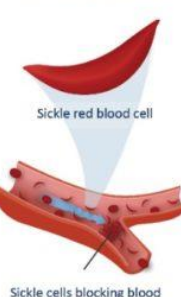
**Healthy**



Normal red blood cell

Unrestricted blood flow

**Sickle cell anaemia**



Sickle red blood cell

Sickle cells blocking blood flow

*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

- ❖ 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.

### **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict – June 19**

- ❖ The international day for the elimination of sexual violence in conflict was observed on June 19.
- ❖ In 2015 UN General Assembly proclaimed this day.
- ❖ The day is observed to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world.
- ❖ It also pays tribute to all those who have courageously devoted and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.

### **World Refugee Day – June 20**

- ❖ World Refugee Day is being observed every year on 20th of June.
- ❖ The theme for 2019 is “Step with Refugees - Take a Step on World Refugee Day”.
- ❖ The day celebrates the stories and contributions of refugees and spreads awareness about their condition.
- ❖ According to UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 70.8 million children, women and men were forcibly displaced at the end of last year.
- ❖ In 2000, UN General Assembly passed a resolution to observe World Refugee day on June 20.

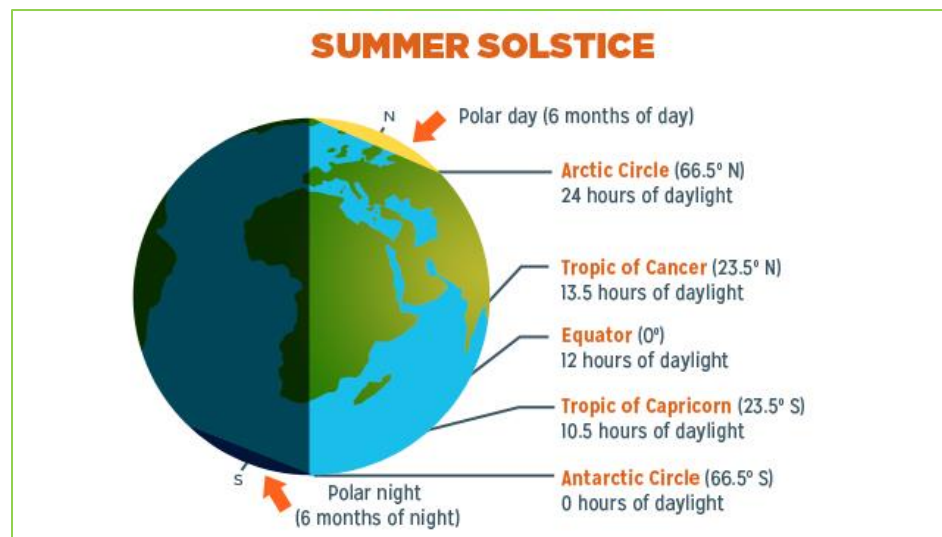
### **World Music Day – June 21**

- ❖ The world music day is observed annually on June 21.
- ❖ It marks the beginning of summer solstice, which is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ World Music Day has its origins in France, but has now been adopted by over 120 nations across the world, including India.
- ❖ It was first proposed by American artiste Joel Cohen back in 1976.
- ❖ The first world music day took place on June 21, 1982.
- ❖ The day celebrates music and the musicians.



## Summer Solstice – June 21

- ❖ The summer solstice day June 21 is the longest day of 2019.
- ❖ It is the start of summer season for regions north of equator.
- ❖ Scientists have estimated that the longest day in Earth's history so far likely occurred in 1912.
- ❖ The summer solstice occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer or 23.5 degrees north latitude.
- ❖ In the Northern Hemisphere “peak” sunlight usually occurs on June 20, 21, or 22 of any given year.



## International Olympics Day – June 23

- ❖ International Olympic day is observed on 23rd June all around the world.
- ❖ The day aims to promote mass participation of sports and propagate Olympic ideals of Fair Play, Solidarity, Respect and Sportsmanship across the globe.
- ❖ On 23 June 1894, delegates from 12 countries gathered at the Paris, France to support Pierre de Coubertin's proposal to revive the Olympic Games.
- ❖ They formed the International Olympic committee (IOC).
- ❖ In January 1948, the IOC approved the idea of Olympic Day to commemorate the creation of the IOC on 23 June 1894 in Paris.

### **International Widows Day – June 23**

- ❖ The international widows day is a global awareness day that takes place annually on June 23.
- ❖ The day was launched by the United Nations in 2010.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the violation of human rights that widows suffer in many countries following the death of their spouses.
- ❖ The day also stresses the need for a good support system for widows to live a life of dignity.



### **UNPSC Day – June 23**

- ❖ The United Nations public service day is celebrated annually on June 23.
- ❖ The day highlights the contribution of public service in the development process and to value public service to the community.
- ❖ On this day, the UN Public Service Awards are given.
- ❖ The first award ceremony took place in 2003.
- ❖ It is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service.
- ❖ The United Nations Public Service Forum 2019 will take place in Azerbaijan.
- ❖ The theme for 2019 is 'Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through effective Delivery of Services, Innovative Transformation and Accountable Institutions'.

### **International Yoga Day-June 21**

- ❖ International Yoga Day is celebrated every year on 21 June to raise awareness worldwide about the benefits of Yoga in daily life.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister performed yoga along with other participants at Ranchi.



- ❖ The theme of 5<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day 2019 is "Climate Action".
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 2014, announced that June 21 will be seen as International Yoga Day or World Yoga Day.
- ❖ Since 2015, International Yoga Day is been celebrated worldwide.

### **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – June 26**

- ❖ This day is observed annually on June 26.
- ❖ The observance was instituted by a UN General Assembly Resolution 1987.
- ❖ It was first observed on 1989.
- ❖ The day aims to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- ❖ The theme of observance for 2019 is 'Health for Justice. Justice for Health'.



### **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – June 26**

- ❖ The International Day in support of victims of Torture is observed every year on 26 June.
- ❖ On 26 June 1987 the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into effect.
- ❖ The first such events were launched in 1998.
- ❖ The day is observed to speak out against the crime of torture and to honour and support victims and survivors throughout the world.



### **UN MSME Day – June 27**

- ❖ The UN Micro, Small and Medium-sized businesses day is observed annually on June 27.
- ❖ The day is celebrated in recognition of the work of MSMEs in local and global economies.
- ❖ According to the data provided by the International Council for Small Business, MSME's make up 90% of all firms and account on average for 60-70% of total employment and 50% of GDP.
- ❖ The day is observed since 2017 after a UN General assembly resolution.

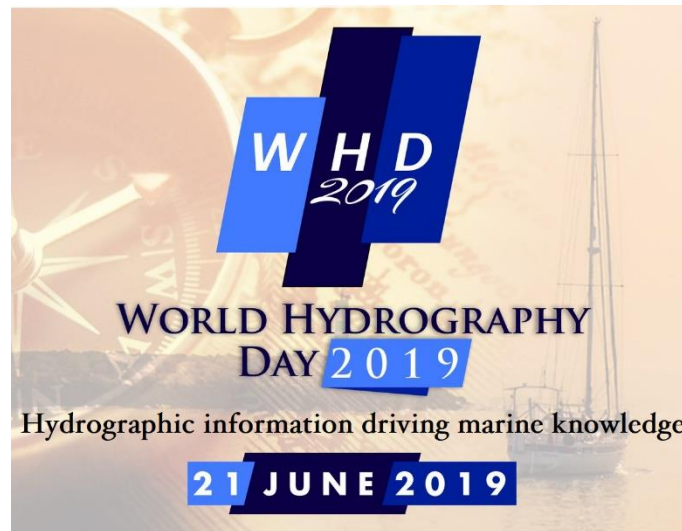


### **BIG MONEY FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES DAY - 27 JUNE 2019

### **World Hydrography day - June 21**

- ❖ World Hydrography Day is observed on 21 June every year since 2006.
- ❖ This initiative was started by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).
- ❖ It is observed to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography.
- ❖ It aims to increase awareness about the safe navigation, technical standards and protection of the marine environment.
- ❖ This year's theme for World Hydrography Day is "Hydrographic information driving marine knowledge."



### **National Statistics Day – June 29**

- ❖ The National Statistics Day is observed annually on June 29.



- ❖ The theme of this year's Statistics Day is Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ This day commemorates the birth occasion of Professor P C Mahalanobis.
- ❖ He was the chief architect of Indian statistical system as well as father of statistical science in India.
- ❖ He established the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931 in Kolkata.
- ❖ He was a member of the Planning Commission.
- ❖ The “Mahalanobis model” was employed in the Second Five Year Plan, which worked towards the rapid industrialisation of India.

### **International Day of Tropics - June 29**

- ❖ The International Day of Tropics is observed every year on 29 June across the world.
- ❖ The day was proclaimed to mark anniversary of launch of 'State of the Tropics Report' by Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on 29 June 2014.
- ❖ It is being celebrated since 2016 based on a UN General Assembly resolution.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness on climate challenges faced by tropical areas and the issues affecting world's tropical zone.



### **International Asteroid Day - June 30**

- ❖ The International Asteroid day is celebrated on June 30 of every year.
- ❖ It is held on the anniversary of the Siberian Tunguska event that took place on June 30, 1908.
- ❖ It was the most harmful known asteroid-related event on Earth in recent history.
- ❖ Asteroid Day aims to raise awareness about asteroids and what can be done to protect the Earth and future generations from a catastrophic event.
- ❖ Asteroid Day was officially declared on December 3, 2014.

### **International Day of Parliamentarism - June 30**

- ❖ June 30 is the day designated by United Nations to celebrate the annual International Day of Parliamentarism.
- ❖ It was proclaimed by UN General Assembly in May 2018 to recognise the role of parliaments in national plans and strategies.



- ❖ It is also the day on which the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the global organization of parliaments was established in 1889.
- ❖ This Day celebrates parliaments and the ways in which parliamentary systems of government improve the day-to-day lives of people the world over.
- ❖ In conflict prone countries like Afghanistan, Iraq robust parliaments can bring peace and functioning government to the people.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Corporate Tax Haven Index

- ❖ Tax Justice Network has ranked the three British territories, including British Virgin Island, Bermuda and Cayman Islands, at the top for enabling corporate tax avoidance across in the world.
- ❖ TJN is an independent international network.

Rank	Jurisdiction
1	British Virgin Islands
2	Bermuda
3	Cayman Islands
4	Netherlands
5	Switzerland
6	Luxembourg
7	Jersey
8	Singapore
9	Bahamas
10	Hong Kong

- ❖ The top 10 territories alone are responsible for 52 per cent of the world's corporate tax avoidance risks.

### National Spelling Bee Contest

- ❖ For the first time in 92 years, 6 Indian-origin kids were among the 8 who won the 92nd Scripps National Spelling Bee Contest.
- ❖ It was held at Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland, US.



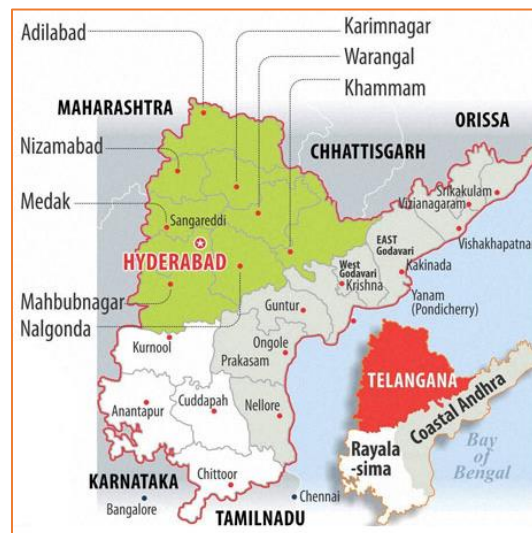


- ❖ National Spelling Bee Contest is a high profile, a high-pressure endurance test of exotic words.
- ❖ Balu Natarajan became the first Indian-origin child to win in the year 1985.



### **Telangana Formation Day – June 2**

- ❖ Telangana Formation Day is celebrated on the formation of Telangana State on 2<sup>nd</sup> June every year.
- ❖ The state of Telangana was officially formed on 2 June 2014.
- ❖ In February 2014, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 bill was passed by the Parliament for the formation of Telangana state.
- ❖ It comprises ten districts from north-western Andhra Pradesh.





### **Girish Karnad**

- ❖ Veteran actor, film director, critic of the right-wing policies, Kannada writer and playwright Girish Karnad (1938 – 2019) passed away.
- ❖ Nagmandala, Yayati and Tughlaq are some of his most famous works.
- ❖ Karnad served as the director of the Film and Television Institute of India from 1974–1975 and as Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Academy from 1988–1993.
- ❖ He was awarded Padmashri (1974), Padma Bushan (1992), the highest literary honour Gananpith (1998).



### **Mridangam Expert**

- ❖ Noted mridangam exponent Thanjavoor Ramamoorthy passed away in Trichy at the age of 90.
- ❖ He had the unique distinction of having accompanied four generations of Carnatic stalwarts.
- ❖ He played with violin genius Muringapuri Gopalakrishnan and renowned vocalist ML Vasanthakumari.



### **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.

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