

April – 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ For the second successive year, Telangana has been ranked first in e-learning training programme of Department of Personal and Training (DoPT) of the Government India.
- ❖ Hero MotoCorp's Chairman, Dr. Pawan Munjal was felicitated by the Asian Tour with a Special Achievement Award for his contributions to Asian Golf.
- ❖ Lori Lightfoot, a 56-years-old former federal Prosecutor has been elected as Chicago's first Black Women Mayor.
 - Lightfoot is also the first lesbian Leader for the City.

INTERNATIONAL

Exercise AFRICAN LION 2019

- ❖ Morocco-US sponsored exercise 'African Lion 2019', held at Morocco from March 16 to April 7, 2019.
- ❖ The drills include training on Counter terrorism operations, land and air exercises and also tactical stimulation.
- ❖ Additionally, Military Units from Canada, Spain, Great Britain, Senegal and Tunisia are taking part in the 16th Edition of this Exercise.

Australia and 7 nations military exercise

- ❖ Australia is conducting 7 nation Indian Ocean military exercise along with Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore.
- ❖ Australia deploy 4 Naval Ships and one military aircraft along with 1000 security personnel making it one the biggest military exercise.
- ❖ The exercise is aimed to counter the growing Chinese influence in the India Ocean.
- ❖ The Australian forces started the exercise from Sri Lanka and reached India then moved to other participating nations and will return after two and half months.



ADB's Report on Disaster Resilience

- ❖ Asian Development Bank's (ADB) released a report titled "Asian Development Outlook 2019: Strengthening Disaster Resilience" recently.
- ❖ As per the report, to build disaster-resilient infrastructure, investment needs in developing Asia are estimated at 26 trillion dollars from 2016 to 2030.
- ❖ This is because developing economies across Asia are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters and have suffered damages of around 644 billion dollars since 2000.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New exoplanet TOI-197.0

- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new five-billion-year-old planet that is 60 times bigger than Earth using data from NASA's space telescope TESS.
- ❖ This planet, known as TOI-197.0, is currently one of the best described exoplanets.
- ❖ Scientists have dubbed it a "hot Saturn" because it is about the size of Saturn, but much warmer.
- ❖ This is because the new planet is much closer to the star that it orbits than Saturn is to the sun.

ENVIRONMENT

Floating Purification islands

- ❖ Delhi Jal Board had introduced the "purification islands" to soak up pollutants and purify the water in the wetland.
- ❖ The islands are knots of hormone-treated plants.
- ❖ This floating wetland is that the plants on the islands will absorb the nutrients present in the waterbody.
- ❖ This in-house innovation can make water suitable enough to introduce fishes and make the lake ecosystem self-cleaning.

KEEPING THE LAKE AFLOAT



- Each island is made of 2X2 PVC pipe-frame with geonet (to allow water to pass through the surface)
- Has a blend of hormone-treated plant species, such as canna and cyperus

HOW THEY HELP

- Plants absorb pollutants and phosphates from detergents; prevent eutrophication and spread of algae
- These will make water suitable for fish

NUMBERS

60 such islands to be introduced; currently, there are 24	Each will cost ₹10,000 12,000
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Two new birds in Aralam sanctuary

- ❖ The 19th edition of the bird survey in Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, spotted two new species of birds.
- ❖ The new species spotted were Woolly-necked stork and White-bellied drongo.
- ❖ Both are dry-land species, and with this the total number of species spotted in the protected area so far has touched 246.

19TH EDITION OF BIRD SURVEY

- A total of 152 species were spotted in the three-day survey
- The total number of species spotted in the protected area so far has touched 246
- However, there was a reduction in the sighting of the birds this time

- The survey was conducted for three days in five spots inside the sanctuary, and the number of participants was restricted to 30, apart from the sanctuary officials, considering the possibility of forest fire due in peak summer



NEWBIES: The new species spotted are Woolly-necked stork (in pic) and White-bellied drongo, both dry-land species

- ❖ Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary is the northernmost wildlife sanctuary of Kerala and it is located on the western slope of the Western Ghats.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019

- ❖ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred President's Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards at New Delhi.
- ❖ Dr. Gyanaditya Shakya, a Scholar of Pali has been honoured with the Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019.

Presidential Award of Certificate

- ❖ The award is conferred in recognition of the outstanding contribution of various scholars of eminence over 60 years of age.
- ❖ This award was introduced in the year 1958 to honour the scholars of Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian Languages.
- ❖ Later it was extended to cover Pali/Prakrit, Classical Odiya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, Classical Tamil and Classical Malayalam.

Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards

- ❖ This award is conferred on persons in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Odiya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam.
- ❖ The award was introduced in the year 2002.
- ❖ The award is given to selected young scholars in the age group of 30 to 45 years.
- ❖ Both the awards are conferred by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

Global Slag Company of the Year

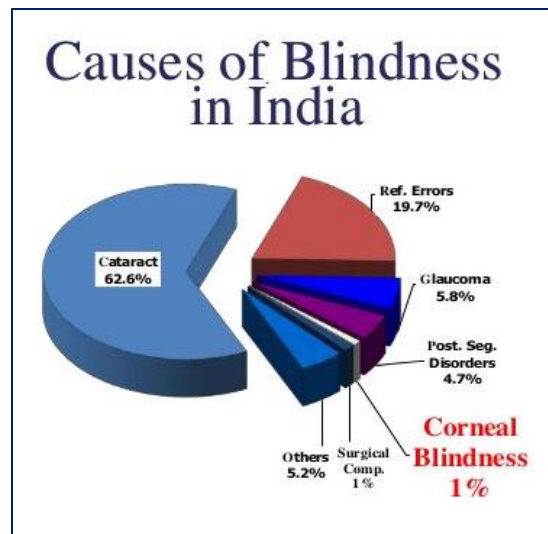
- ❖ Tata Steel has been named as the 'Global Slag Company of the Year' at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019.
- ❖ The award was presented for its innovative practices in development of new applications for Steel by-products (Slag).
- ❖ The global companies like Arcelor Mittal, CHC Resources Corporation, Contrasteel, Ecocem, Harsco Metals & Minerals, Koryo Slag Cement Co. Ltd and some others also received this award.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Prevention of Blindness Week 2019 - April 01 to 07

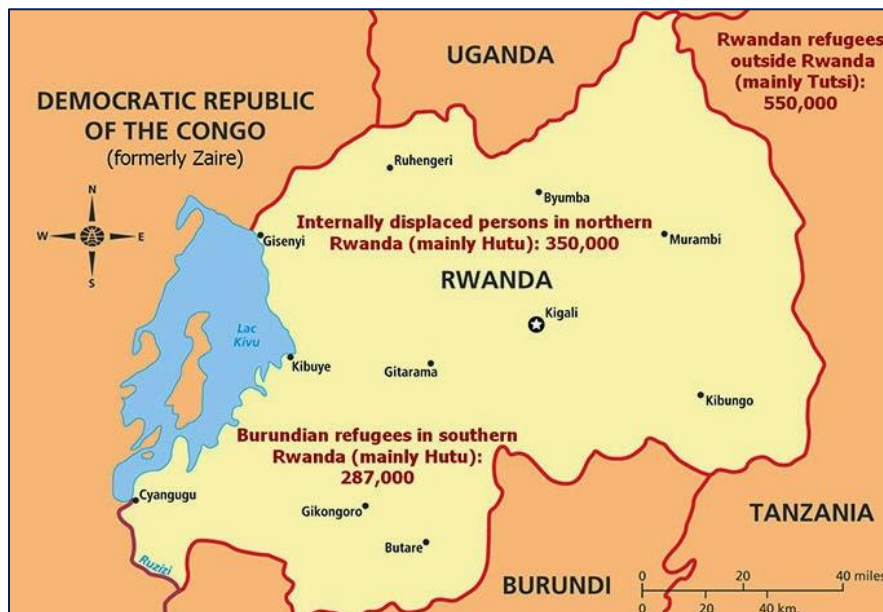
- ❖ Prevention of Blindness Week 2019 was observed from 1st of April (Monday) to 7th of April (Sunday).
- ❖ This campaign is planned by the Government of India for increasing the awareness towards the blind people.



- ❖ Prevention of Blindness Week was first started by the Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur in the year 1960 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.
- ❖ Another campaign “Vision 2020: The Right to Sight” was launched in 1999 by the WHO for the prevention of the blindness.

International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide- April 07

- ❖ International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide observed annually on April 7 by the UN.
- ❖ In April 7, 2004 it was recognized by the United Nations as an International Day to remember 1994 Rwandan genocide.
- ❖ 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, one of the darkest chapters in human history.



- ❖ More than 800,000 people of Tutsi, moderate Hutu, Twa and others who opposed the genocide were systematically killed in less than three months.

National Handloom Week April - 7 to 14

- ❖ The National Handloom week has been observed from 7th April to 14th April this year.



- ❖ The National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August every year and last year in December 2018 the National Handloom Week was observed.
- ❖ On this occasion, a book named 'The Indian textile Sourcebook' authored by Avalon Fotheringham will be launched on 9th April.

MISCELLANEOUS

Silamboli Su. Chellappan

- ❖ Tamil Scholar and orator Silamboli Su. Chellappan passed away at the age of 91 in Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai.



- ❖ He held posts such as director of Tamil Development and founder-director of World Tamil Research Centre.



- ❖ He has written Silamboli, Silapathikara Sinthanaigal, Sanga Ilakiya Thaen and other books.
- ❖ The State Government and Tamil fora awarded him in recognition of his contribution to Tamil literature and language.
- ❖ Veteran Tamil scholar R.P.Sethupillai gave him prefix Silamboli which would go on to stay with him.
