

**June – 09**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ In his first overseas visit as India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reached Bhutan on June 7, 2019.
- ❖ 479th 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.

## **NATIONAL**

### **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.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **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.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **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.

## STATES

### 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

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **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.
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