

**June – 21**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ 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.

## **NATIONAL**

### **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.



## INTERNATIONAL

### 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.

## ECONOMY

### 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

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **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.



## ENVIRONMENT

### 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.

## SPORTS

### 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.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **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.

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