

**April 14**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The United Kingdom and the European Union have agreed to extend Brexit deal until October 31, 2019. The extension is flexible and Britain can leave once its withdrawal deal is ratified in the UK Parliament.
- ❖ Due to high imports of value-added steel for the auto sector and high-end electrical steel, for the first time in three years, India became a net importer of steel during the 2018-19 fiscal year.
- ❖ Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas picked Mohammed Ishtayeh as the Prime Minister, who has been a long-time adviser to Abbas and a senior member of his Fatah party.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Salem district submitted the largest number of checklists of birds (8,420) among all participating districts to the global Great Backyard Bird Count 2019.



- ❖ The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an event to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations.
- ❖ Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on any or all days of 4-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org).

- ❖ It was launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society.
- ❖ GBBC is the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time
- ❖ The 22nd annual GBBC was held for four days from February 15 till February 18, 2019.

## NATIONAL

### Pharmacovigilance Programme

- ❖ The National Co-ordination Centre of the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) has raised an alert on adverse reactions that were being reported from 7 commonly-used antibiotics.
- ❖ The 7 Antibiotics are

Cefotaxime	Ofloxacin
Cefixime	Tranexamic Acid
Quetiapine	Sulfasalazine
Sodium Valproate	

- ❖ Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has instructed drug manufacturers to add leaflets inserted into drug packets or on promotional literature to inform people about the adverse reactions of these medicines.
- ❖ PvPI functions as the drug watchdog under the Union Health Ministry.

### Lateral Entry

- ❖ In a historic move, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has appointed 9 private sector specialists as joint secretaries in central government departments.

Name	Department
<b>Kakoli Ghosh</b>	Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare
<b>Amber Dubey</b>	Civil Aviation
<b>Arun Goel</b>	Commerce
<b>Rajeev Saxena</b>	Economic Affairs
<b>Sujit Kumar Bajpayee</b>	Environment, Forest and Climate Change
<b>Saurabh Mishra</b>	Financial Services



Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale	New and Renewable Energy
Suman Prasad Singh	Road Transport and Highways
Bhushan Kumar	Shipping

- ❖ Notable Non-IAS officers who had served as Secretaries include Vijay Kelkar who served as Finance secretary and Montek Singh Ahluwalia who was India's commerce and finance secretary.

## INTERNATIONAL

### HR 2123 BILL

- ❖ A bipartisan group comprising half a dozen influential American lawmakers introduced a new bill HR 2123 to advance the US-India strategic relationship.
- ❖ If enacted, the legislation would ensure that the US State Department treat India as a 'NATO ally' for the purposes of the Arms Export Control Act.
- ❖ It seeks to send a powerful signal that defence sales to India should be prioritised.

### Russian Award

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honoured with Russia's highest state decoration, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle.
- ❖ The Order was established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great, in honour of Saint Andrew, the first apostle of Jesus and patron saint of Russia.
- ❖ It was abolished under the USSR before being re-established as the top Russian order in 1998.
- ❖ PM Modi has been decorated with the order for promoting a special and privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian people.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Homo luzonensis

- ❖ Scientists have identified a new human ancestor species previously unknown to science in a cave on the island of Luzon in the Philippines.



- ❖ The fossils unearthed suggests that the small-bodied hominin were less than 4 feet tall and most likely walked upright.
- ❖ The new species has been named Homo luzonensis.
- ❖ The discovery of Homo luzonensis supports the growing body of evidence that human evolution is not as linear as was once thought.

## STATES

### WSIS Awards

- ❖ Two projects of West Bengal Government, “Utkarsh Bangla” and “Sabooj Sathi” have won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards under the aegis of the United Nations.
- ❖ WSIS Prizes is an international contest to recognise individuals, governments and private bodies for implementing development-oriented strategies by leveraging the power of information and communication technology.
- ❖ The contest was first held in 2012.

### Utkarsh Bangla

- ❖ It got the topmost award and emerged a winner in Capacity Building category.
- ❖ It is a project for skill development training for increasing employment opportunities for 6 lakh youth every year.

### Sabooj Sathi

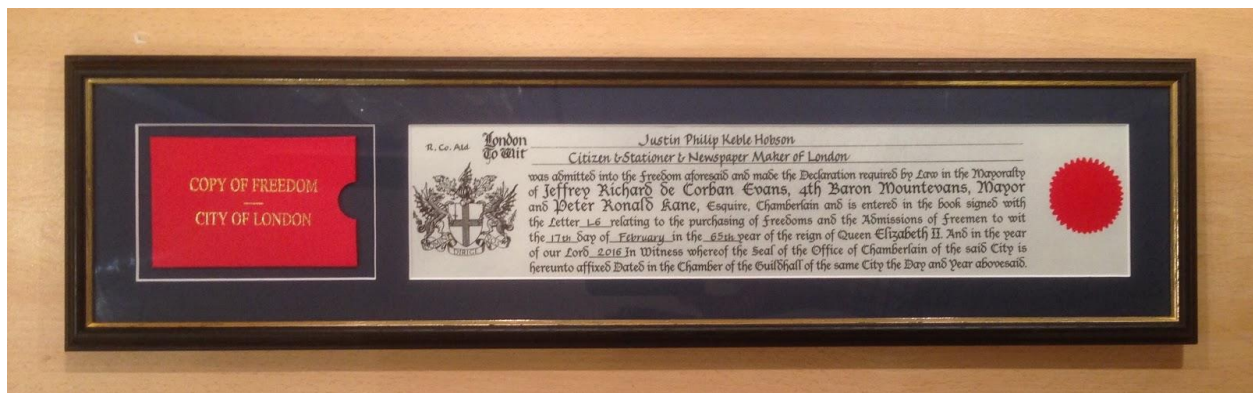
- ❖ It ranked in the first five as a champion project under ICT application: E-Government category.

- ❖ Under it, nearly 1 Crore bicycles have been provided to school going students in classes IX to XII.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Freedom of the City of London

- ❖ The Chairman and Managing Director of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India, Alice G. Vaidyan has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London, UK
- ❖ She was awarded in recognition of her work to promote insurance ties between India and the UK.
- ❖ The Freedom of the City of London recognition dates back to the 13th century.



## SPORTS

### Boxing Gold Medal

- ❖ Manipur's Meena Kumari Maisnam claimed the gold medal in the 54 kg category at the Boxing World Cup at Cologne in Germany.



- ❖ She defeated Thailand's Machai Bunyanut in the Final.
- ❖ Earlier this year, she became only the second Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at the prestigious Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Parkinson's Day - April 11

- ❖ World Parkinson's Day is observed on April 11th of every year.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease, promote a greater understanding of this condition and how it can affect a person.

Typical appearance of Parkinson's disease



- ❖ The theme of 2019 is “Awareness is #KeyToPD”
- ❖ This day marks the birthday of Dr James Parkinson, London who explained the Parkinson's Disease in “An Essay on the Shaking Palsy” in 1817.
- ❖ He systematically described the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson Disease.

- ❖ Jean-Martin Charcot, a French neurologist, named the term “Parkinson’s Disease.”

### **National Safe Motherhood Day – April 11**

- ❖ National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD) is observed annually on 11 April.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 NSMD is "Midwives for Mothers"
- ❖ In 2003 the Government of India had declared 11th April as National Safe Motherhood Day which is the anniversary day of Kasturba Gandhi's birth.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the proper healthcare of women, maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women, reducing anemia among women, institutional delivery, for better pre and post-natal health care.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Cesarean Awareness Month**

- ❖ The month of April is observed as Cesarean Awareness Month by International Cesarean Awareness Network.
  - ❖ Awareness campaigns are conducted to reduce the number of cesareans in mothers who do not really need or who will not benefit from this procedure when compared to a vaginal birth.
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