



**Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-May-2018**

### **General Studies-1**

#### **National Technology Day**

To promote and facilitate science and techno base infrastructure to the society, Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai (NCSM), is celebrating the National Technology Day on 11th May 2018.

Mumbai Metro is another technological marvel that is destined to improve the traffic conditions of Mumbai. In collaboration with MMRC, Mumbai, another exhibition "Making of Underground Metro Line –III", will be inaugurated on the occasion of the National Technology day 11th May, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the centre.

On this occasion, the most displayed "Illuminating India: 5000 Years of Science and Innovation" exhibition at the Science Museum, London will be displayed in Mumbai for the first time and they include the great Lambton's Theodolite, the Compound Lever, Sir C V Raman's spectroscope, J C Bose's Cresco graph and Phytography . These objects are from the collections of Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, Sir J C Bose Trust, Kolkata and Survey of India, Dehradun.

#### **Backgrounder-**

"Illuminating India: 5000 Years of Science and Innovation", which was organised at the Science Museum, London was one of the major event under the India –UK Year of Culture.

Nehru Science Centre, the Nodal Agency appointed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, was responsible for sending 6 antiquity objects and 8 non-antiquity objects for this exhibition.

This exhibition was visited by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on 18th April, 2018, during his recent visit for the heads of Common Wealth meeting in UK. On conclusion of the exhibition the objects have now come back to India and will be on display for the press and public only for three days from 11th May to 13th May 2018.

Since 1999, May 11 is celebrated as National Technology Day to mark India's technological advancements. Here are a few things you need to know about this day.

1. On May 11, 1998, India detonated three nuclear bombs in the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range.



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2. Hansa 3, India's first indigenous aircraft was first tested on the same day in 1998 in Bangalore.
3. Successful test firing of Trishul, a short range missile made in India, was also done on the same day.
4. Every year, on this day, the Technology Development Board of India awards various individuals with national awards for their contribution to indigenous technology.

**General Studies-2**

**Directorate General of Trade Remedies**

The Government of India carried out an Amendment to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 on May 7, 2018 substituting "Directorate General of Trade Remedies" in place of "Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties" in Department of Commerce.

**Benefits:**

This has paved way for creation of an integrated single umbrella National Authority to be called the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) for providing comprehensive and swift trade defence mechanism in India.

The amendment of Allocation of Business Rules has also mandated Department of Commerce with work pertaining to recommendation of Safeguard measures.

**Purpose of Decision:**

Presently, the trade defence mechanism in India lacks optimality and takes more than a year to complete proceedings in cases pertaining to unfair trade practices.

Currently, the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) deals with anti-dumping and CVD cases, Directorate General of Safeguards (DGS) deals with safeguard measures and DGFT deals with quantitative restriction (QR) safeguards.

The DGTR will bring DGAD, DGS and Safeguards (QR) functions of DGFT into its fold by merging them into one single national entity. DGTR will deal with Anti-dumping, CVD and Safeguard measures.



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It will also provide trade defence support to our domestic industry and exporters in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries.

The creation of DGTR will provide a level playing field to the domestic industry. In the last three years, India initiated more than 130 anti-dumping/countervailing duty/safeguard cases to deal with the rising incidences of unfair trade practices and to provide a level playing field to the domestic industry.

### **About DGTR:**

The DGTR will function as an attached office of Department of Commerce. The recommendation of DGTR for imposition of Anti-dumping, countervailing & Safeguard duties would be considered by the Department of Revenue.

### **Senior Citizen draft Bill**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has drafted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Draft Bill, 2018, that will amend the 2007 version of the legislation to expand its scope and provide for more stringent penalties.

### **Key provisions in the Bill:**

- The Bill enhances the jail term for those found abandoning or abusing their parents, 60 years or older, to six months from the existing three months.
- The Bill expands the definition of children, which currently refers to only biological children and grandchildren, to include daughter-in-law and son-in-law and also adopted/step-children.
- It extends the definition of maintenance beyond provision of food, clothing, housing, health care to include "safety and security" of the parent.
- As per the Bill, senior citizens can also approach a Maintenance Tribunal in case their children neglect or refuse to maintain them. In such cases, the draft Bill states that the Tribunal can order the children or, in case the person is childless, the relative to pay a monthly maintenance to the senior citizen. The amount would be decided by taking into account the standard of living of the senior citizen and the financial situation of both the parties.



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- The Bill proposes to make monthly maintenance amount variable as people who earn more, can afford to shell out a higher amount for the upkeep of their parents.
- The Bill also introduces a punitive measure of up to one month imprisonment in case the monthly allowance remains unpaid.
- Currently, various government and private schemes for insurance/health, housing and travel, have varied cut-off age for offering benefits meant for senior citizens. The Bill mandates the uniform age across schemes should be 60 years.
- The Bill will require the government to establish and run at least one Senior Citizen Care Home in every district in the country.
- As per the Bill, if parents transfer property to their children on the condition that they take care of them, and this clause is breached, the transfer of property will be deemed to be "made by fraud or coercion or under undue influence" and a tribunal can order it to be transferred back to the parent.

**General Studies-3**

**Green licence plates for e-vehicles**

**Why in News?:**

The government has approved distinctive green licence plates for electric vehicles to encourage people to use electric vehicles. Such vehicles will be fitted with green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private cars and yellow font for taxis.

**Benefits:**

The measure is aimed at promoting e-vehicle's use and the government is considering exemption from permits for such vehicles.



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The purpose behind distinctive number plates is their easy identification for preferential treatment in parking, free entry in congested zones besides other proposed benefits like concessional toll.

### ***Types of number plates:***

- India, currently, has four kinds of number plates – white licence plates with numbers on black font for private cars, yellow plates with fonts in black for commercial vehicles, black plates with yellow font letters for self-driven rental vehicles and blue plates with white font letters for Embassies and High Commissions.
- Army vehicles, on the other hand, follow a different registration system given by the defence ministry, while vehicles of the President and governors have red licence plates with the national emblem.

### ***FAME scheme:***

- The Government started Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles (FAME) scheme which provides incentives for purchasing electric vehicle.
- It is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan. The scheme envisages Rs 795 crore support in the first two fiscals starting with the current year.
- It is being administered by the Heavy Industries Ministry.

### **Tiny fossils to give clue about early Climate deals**

Scientists have discovered tiny fossil shells that unveil details about the Earth's climate over half a billion years ago.

The research, published in the journal *Science Advances*, suggests that early animals diversified within a climate similar to that in which the dinosaurs lived.

This interval in time is known for the 'Cambrian explosion', the time during which representatives of most of the major animal groups first appear in the fossil record.



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The animal groups include the first organisms to produce shells, and it is these hard-bodied fossils that the scientists used in their study.

Scientists have long thought that the early Cambrian Period was probably a greenhouse interval in the earth's climate history, a time when there were no permanent polar ice sheets.

**Cambrian climate**

Until now, however, scientists have only had a sense of what the Cambrian climate was like because of the types of rock that were deposited at this time — while it has long been believed that the climate was warm, specific details have largely remained a mystery.

Data from the tiny fossil shells, and data from new climate model runs, show that high latitude (about 65 degree South) sea temperatures were in excess of 20 degrees Celsius.

This seems very hot, but it is similar to more recent, better understood, greenhouse climates like that of the Late Cretaceous Period.

Careful examination of these tiny fossils revealed that some of them have exceptionally well-preserved shell chemistry which has not changed since they grew on the Cambrian sea floor.

Many marine animals incorporate chemical traces of seawater into their shells as they grow. That chemical signature is often lost over geological time, so it's remarkable that we can identify it in such ancient fossils.