

## Science and Technology

### Tropical cyclone Idai

- In Mozambique, at least 19 people died and more than 70 others were injured after cyclone Idai hit the central part of the country.

### Fish farms told not to rear African catfish

- The Fisheries Department of Tiruvannamalai has told farms that rearing African catfish is an offence and anyone doing so should destroy them immediately. The government imposed a ban on farming of the invasive species that is proliferating in water bodies across the State, posing a threat to native aquatic species.
- Native to Africa and the Middle East, where it inhabits freshwater lakes, rivers, swamps, and urban sewage systems, the African catfish was introduced all over the world in the early 1980s for aquaculture.

### Integrate TB services with primary health system

- Of the 10 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases reported globally in 2017 by the World Health Organization, 2.74 million were from India, showing a marginal reduction from 2.79 million in 2016.
- Government has set a highly ambitious target of “eliminating TB by 2025”, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target.

### India achieves 84 % reduction in TB deaths among HIV patients: UN

- India has achieved an 84 per cent reduction in tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 2017. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on the UNAIDS, it is the highest recorded decline among over 20 nations and it is also three years ahead of the 2020 deadline.
  - World Health Organization estimates show that globally, TB deaths among people living with HIV have fallen by 42 per cent since 2010.
- ### NGT directs CPCB to prepare a noise pollution map
- The National Green Tribunal, NGT, has directed the Central Pollution Control Board, CPCB, to prepare a noise pollution map and remedial action plan to solve the issue across the country.

## 5.1 Inventions / Discover

India's newest frog evolved 60 million years ago

- The discovery of the starry dwarf frog, a nocturnal amphibian that lives under leaf litter on a mountaintop in Kerala's Wayanad. The team named the new species the starry dwarf frog *Astrobatrachus kurichiyana* (genus *Astrobatrachus* after its starry spots and *kurichiyana* in honour of the Kurichiya tribal community who live in the area). It is just 2 cm long and sports pale blue spots and brilliant orange thighs. Genetic analysis reveals that the species is at least 60 million years old.

### **Humans can detect the earth's magnetic fields**

- Scientists have long known that turtles, birds, honeybees and even bacteria can sense the earth's magnetic field and use them for navigation. A team of researchers from California Institute of Technology, U.S. and the University of Tokyo has shown that humans do indeed unconsciously respond to the changes in the earth's magnetic fields.

### **IIT Madras converts petroleum waste toluene into useful product**

- Using platinum nanocatalyst, a two-member team at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has successfully converted petroleum waste-product toluene into benzoic acid. Benzoic acid is used as a food preservative (E210) and medicine for fungal/bacterial infection.

## 5.2 Space Science

First person on Mars may be a woman, says NASA

- NASA recently announced that it will have its first all-female spacewalk at the end of the month. NASA has said that the first person to set foot on Mars is likely to be a woman.

3 astronauts on Soyuz craft successfully reach ISS

- A Russian cosmonaut and two US astronauts arrived at the International Space Station aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft, five months after the failed launch of a rocket carrying two of the passengers.

#### NASA to send helicopter to Mars

- According to NASA, “the Mars Helicopter, a small, autonomous rotorcraft, will travel with the agency’s Mars 2020 rover mission, currently scheduled to launch in July 2020.

#### ISRO to launch 29 satellites

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will launch 29 satellites including the primary payload EMISAT, on the first of April. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C45 will take off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota tentatively at 9:30 AM carrying the satellites onboard.
- EMISAT has been developed for monitoring radar network by India.

#### PSLV to launch military’s monitor in the sky

- PSLV mission carrying EMISAT, the country's first satellite for gathering electronic intelligence (ELINT) to locate hostile radars for the military; will also be the longest flight for the Indian polar launch vehicle.
- The April 1 mission is numbered C-45 and carries 28 small, foreign customer satellites from four countries. One satellite each from Spain, Switzerland and Lithuania are also part of the payload.

### 5.3 App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free

#### e-Dharti App

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister HardeepPuri launched e-Dharti app where all the three modules- Conversion, Substitution and Mutation related to properties have been made online.

#### e-Dharti GeoPortal

- e-Dharti GeoPortal, through which the lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of property along with map showing its location.

### cVIGIL

The app, cVIGIL, launched by the EC for keeping tabs on those violating the poll code and expenditure limit. On the app, citizens can upload photographs and videos on what they deem to be violations of poll code from the spot with location-based details.

### PWD app

- A mobile application called 'PWD' for making voting easier and implement the poll body's slogan of Accessible Elections for over two lakhs Divyang voters across the state.
- The app would facilitate Divyang voters special facilities including wheelchairs, ramps and transport from home at polling booths during the Lok Sabha elections.

### 'Sankalp' app

- In Assam, the Bongaigaon district administration has developed a mobile app Sankalp to particularly reach out to the first-time voters. It is a special initiative taken to encourage the first-time voters.

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