

27 June

1) ***India is no longer the country with the largest number of people living in extreme poverty*** as per the latest World Poverty Clock study compiled by Brookings Institute. The dislodging of India from the ignominious number one position is a feat that took over fifty years to achieve.

India has finally shed the dubious distinction of being home to the largest number of poor, with ***Nigeria taking that unwanted position in May 2018.***

2) **Dam Safety Bill**

The **Tamil Nadu Assembly** has unanimously adopted a special resolution urging the Centre to keep the Dam Safety Bill, 2018, in abeyance until the concerns raised over the legislation by Tamil Nadu and other States are addressed.

Tamil Nadu contended that certain clauses of the Bill affected the interests of Tamil Nadu and could potentially affect the State's rights on control and maintenance of dams located in neighbouring States.

3) **China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):**

India has again opposed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a part of Beijing's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, as it "encroaches" on sovereignty and territorial integrity.

- Many experts are not in favour of India supporting CPEC. This is so because any Indian participation would inextricably be linked to the country's legitimate claims on PoK.
- CPEC rests on a Chinese plan to secure and shorten its supply lines through Gwadar with an enhanced presence in the Indian Ocean. Hence, it is widely believed that upon CPEC's fruition, an extensive Chinese presence will undermine India's influence in the

Indian Ocean.

4)The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with draft guidelines on constituting ***a board of management (BoM)*** in addition to the board of directors, ***for urban cooperative banks (UCBs)***, with the aim of strengthening the governance in these banks.

As UCBs are accepting public deposits, it is imperative that a separate mechanism be put in place to protect the interests of depositors.

5)**Europe's first solar panel recycling plant:**

Europe's ***first solar panel recycling plant was recently inaugurated in France***. The new plant is located in Rousset, southern France.

6)**Toxic air is causing malnutrition in trees:**

Besides affecting human health, air pollution is also causing malnutrition in trees by harming Mycorrhizal fungi.

Importance of Mycorrhizal fungi:

- Mycorrhizal fungi is hosted by the trees in their roots to receive nutrients from the soil.
- These fungi provide essential nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium from soil in exchange for carbon from the tree.
- This plant-fungal symbiotic relationship is crucial for the health of the tree.

6)**Aldabra Tortoise:**In a goodwill gesture, Seychelles has gifted a pair of giant Aldabra tortoise to India. The pair will be kept at Hyderabad Zoo.

- The Aldabra Giant Tortoise (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*) from the Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles is said to be one of the largest species of tortoises on the planet.

- It is also one of the world's longest living animals, with one Aldabra Giant Tortoise reaching the age of 255 years.
- The Aldabra giant tortoise's current IUCN conservation status is 'vulnerable'.

7) **World Food Prize 2018**: Dr. Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro will receive the 2018 World Food Prize for their individual and complementary global leadership in elevating maternal and child undernutrition.

World Food Prize:

- The World Food Prize is considered one of the most prominent global awards for individuals whose breakthrough achievements alleviate hunger and promote global food security.