

**April – 06**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Jaipur will co-host 8th Theatre Olympics, the largest international theatre festival being held for the first time in India. The Jaipur chapter of Theatre Olympics 2018 is organized by National School of Drama (NSD) under the aegis of Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Ravindra Manch Society and Art & Culture Department, Rajasthan Government.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Swachh Bharat Summer Internship**

- ❖ Government is going to launch Swachh Bharat Summer Internship (SBSI) 2018 aimed at engaging college youth with Swachhata work in villages in coming Summer vacation.



- ❖ The initiative will be launched by
  - Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the convening and coordinating Ministry of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in association with Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ❖ Every intern who completes the SBSI will also be provided a Certificate of Internship by the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ❖ 2 credit points as an 'elective' under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) will be awarded to students in Higher Educational Institutions undertaking and completing SBSI.



### **Re-structuring of NSDF and NSDC**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for restructuring of National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to strengthen their governance, implementation and monitoring framework.
- ❖ The purpose of restructuring is also to ensure better corporate governance, transparency, and accountability in operations of NSDC. Besides, it will also strengthen oversight role of NSDF.
- ❖ It will also lead to a restructuring of the composition of Board of NSDF and NSDC to strengthen governance, implementation and monitoring framework.
- ❖ NSDC and NSDF were set up by Ministry of Finance and registered in July 2008 and January 2009 respectively for implementing coordinated action for skill development.
- ❖ NSDF entered into Investment Management Agreement (IMA) with NSDC for utilization of its corpus to meet desired objectives of National Skill Development Mission and encourage skill development in the country.

### **India, UK, and Ireland - MoU on organized crime**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland regarding cooperation in the field of organized crime.
- ❖ It is an exchange of information for purposes of combating international criminality and tackling serious organized crime.
- ❖ India and UK already have an agreement concerning investigation and prosecution of crime and tracing, restraint and confiscation of proceeds and instruments of crime which was signed in 1995.

### **Protected Area Permit rules**

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is planning to relax the protected area permit (PAP) regime to enable foreign tourists to access border areas.
- ❖ The move is being initiated to promote tourism, create job opportunities for the locals and generate revenue for the states.
- ❖ MHA will coordinate with other agencies and state governments to identify possible locations for which protected area permit (PAP) regime provisions may be relaxed.



- ❖ However, citizens from Pakistan and China are unlikely to be given these relaxations.
- ❖ Under Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, all areas falling between Inner line and International Border of some states have been declared as protected areas.
- ❖ The protected areas currently include whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Sikkim, besides parts of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Some parts of Sikkim fall under protected area regime while others under restricted area regime.
- ❖ As per MHA's December 2010 circular, Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland were excluded from protected area regime initially for a period of one year from January 2011, subject to some conditions.
- ❖ Citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals of Pakistani origin are not allowed to enter such areas.

### **Aspirational Districts - NITI Aayog**

- ❖ The NITI Aayog launched the baseline ranking for 101 aspirational districts based on 49 indicators across several sectors
- ❖ It includes health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure.
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at creating competition at the state, district, and even the block level.
- ❖ The chosen districts for the Aspirational Districts programme will be ranked on their incremental progress, exemplifying and encouraging the spirit of competitive federalism.
- ❖ As per the baseline ranking, Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh is ranked highest with a score of 48.13 %.
- ❖ According to the baseline rankings, the worst performing districts in the country are Mewat in Haryana, Asifabad in Telangana and Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The 'Champions of Change' dashboard was created by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for monitoring the real-time progress of the districts.



### **‘Transformation of Aspirational Districts’ programme**

- ❖ The programme was launched Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018.
- ❖ It aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.

## **4 UP DISTS AMONG LAST 10**

### **Base-line Ranking of 101 Aspirational (Backward) districts**

#### **BETTER FIVE**

- 1** Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh)
- 2** Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh)
- 3** Osmanabad (Maharashtra)
- 4** Cuddapah (Andhra Pradesh)
- 5** Ramanathapuram (Tamil Nadu)

#### **\* BOTTOM FIVE**

- 1** Mewat (Haryana)
- 2** Asifabad (Telangana)
- 3** Singrauli (MP)
- 4** Kiphire (Nagaland)
- 5** Shrawasti (UP)

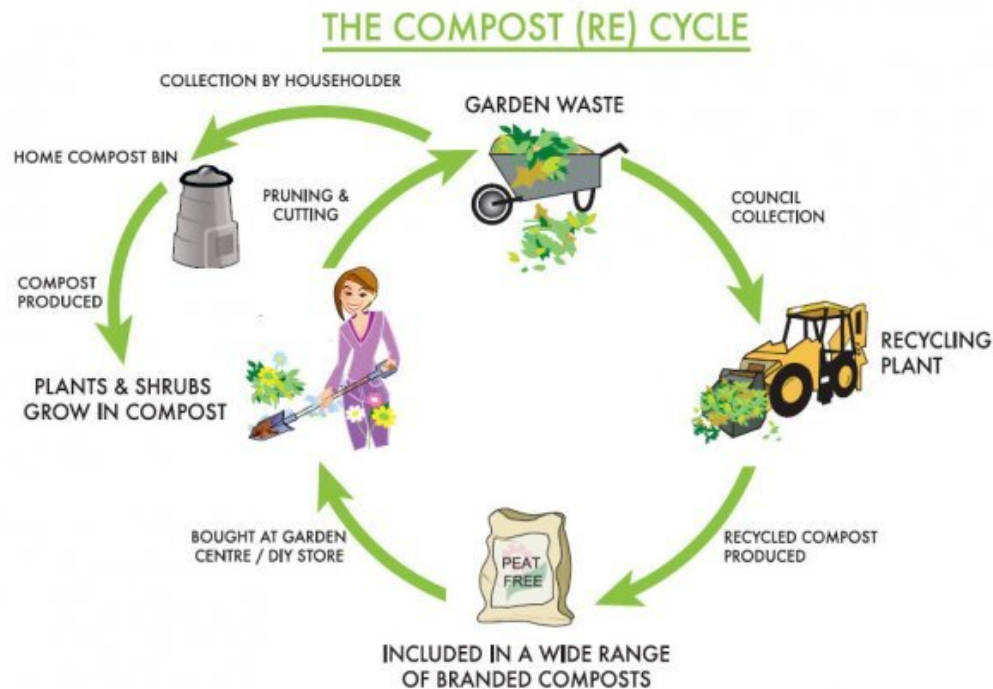
\*Uttar Pradesh has four districts, Shrawasti, Baharaich, Siddharth Nagar & Balrampur, in bottom ten most backward districts

## **ECONOMY**

### **Nutrient Based Subsidy and City Compost Scheme**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved for continuation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme and City Compost Scheme beyond 12th Five Year plan till 2019-20.
- ❖ The proposal was forwarded by Department of Fertilizers and the total expenditure for the continuation of both schemes till 2019-20 will be Rs. 61,972 crores.
- ❖ The continuation of both schemes will ensure that adequate quantity of P&K is made available to farmers at a statutory controlled price.
- ❖ The expenditure will be on actual basis since the national rollout of DBT entails 100% payment of subsidy to fertilizer companies on sale of fertilizers to farmers at subsidized rates.

- ❖ The subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers and Market Development Assistant (MDA) on City Compost will be provided on subsidy rates approved by CCEA on annual basis.
- ❖ The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by NBS Scheme which was launched in 2010.



- ❖ Similarly, Market Development Assistant is being governed by City Compost Scheme which was launched in 2016
- ❖ City Compost Scheme aims to convert all organic waste generated in cities into compost or biogas and market the compost with the help of fertilizer companies to benefit farmers.

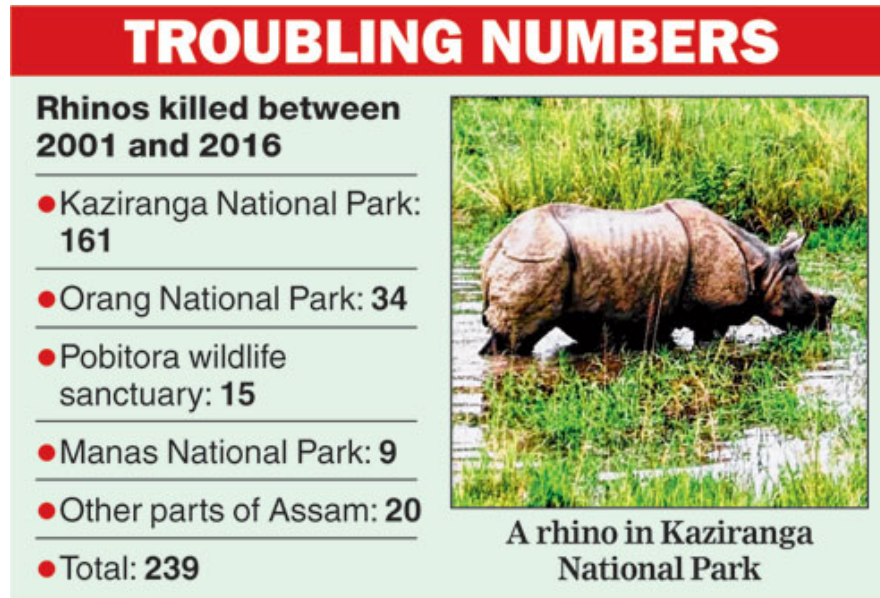
## ENVIRONMENT

### Rhino census

- ❖ Assam has seen a steady rise in the number of one-horned rhinos in Kaziranga national park with the total number standing at an impressive 2,413, which is an increase of 12 more from the last rhino census conducted in 2015.



- ❖ There are 793 breeding females of the 2,413 rhinos in Kaziranga counted this year.



- ❖ Kaziranga is home to about 70 percent of the one-horned rhino population in the world.
- ❖ NK Vasu, the state principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) said that, on the technical committee recommendation, the census-count will be repeated next year as all compartments could not be covered this time.
- ❖ A total area of 882 sq km, including the Brahmaputra river zone which makes for the 6th Addition to Kaziranga, was divided into 74 compartments for the census count.
- ❖ The rhino population in Assam saw a boom of 2,048 rhinos in 2009, an unimaginable increase of 193 rhinos in three years' time. From 1,855 rhinos in 2006, the population had been briskly swelling up.
- ❖ The Indian Rhino Vision 2020, an ambitious plan launched in 2005 to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos in Assam by the year 2020, has yielded good results.
- ❖ International Rhino Foundation (IRF) has partnered with the Assam Forest Department, the Bodoland Territorial Council, the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to address the threats facing Indian rhinos.



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