

**March – 21**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Tamilnadu government is set to introduce a free phone number service to provide equivalent Tamil words for other language words.
  - People can call the number and enquire Tamil word for words from any other language. Similarly, eminent Tamil people and general public can call to this number and register any new technical Tamil word they learn or come across.

## **TAMILNADU**

### **ICF – Carbon Dioxide**

- ❖ Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai has achieved overall reduction of carbon dioxide emission.
- ❖ Carbon dioxide causes environmental pollution and is a main source of global warming.
- ❖ The carbon compounds emitted heavily from the factories cause global warming and bring climate change.
- ❖ Chennai ICF, a Public-Sector Undertaking has completely reduced the amount of carbon emissions.
- ❖ Electricity requirement for ICF is achieved by wind and solar energy.
- ❖ Steps has been taken to produce 10.5 MW of electricity by windmills and 2.4 MW of electricity by solar energy.
- ❖ Further, the office and premises in ICF are illuminated by LED bulbs.
- ❖ Along with this, the lubrication used in the industry has been significantly reduced resulting in reduced carbon emission from the ICF.
- ❖ Furthermore, a large number of saplings are planted and maintained to contain high levels of pollution and heat in the premises.
- ❖ Integral Coach Factory (ICF) located at Perambur in Chennai has become the first railway organisation to achieve carbon-neutral status.

## NATIONAL

### Union Budget

- ❖ The Union government has passed the budget in Lok Sabha without discussion by applying the guillotine process as the opposition paralysed the functioning of both the houses of parliament by putting forward various demands.
- ❖ Guillotine is a tool used in parliamentary business.
- ❖ After the Budget is presented, Parliament goes into recess for about 3 weeks.
- ❖ During this time, the House Standing Committees examine Demands for Grants for various Ministries and prepare reports.
- ❖ After Parliament reassembles, the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) draws up a schedule for discussions on the Demands for Grants.
- ❖ Given the limited time, the House cannot take up the expenditure demands of all Ministries.
- ❖ The BAC therefore identifies some important Ministries for discussions.
- ❖ These may include Ministries of Home, Defence, External Affairs, Agriculture, Rural Development and Human Resource Development.
- ❖ Then the Members will discuss the policies and working of Ministries.
- ❖ Once the House is done with these debates, the Speaker applies the “guillotine”.
- ❖ This is to put to vote at once, all the other outstanding demands for grants that have not been discussed.
- ❖ This usually happens on the last day earmarked for the discussion on the Budget.
- ❖ In this the un discussed demands also considered as discussed one and it taken for voice vote along with discussed grants.
- ❖ The purpose is to ensure timely passage of the Finance Bill.

### SATH-E Roadmaps

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)
- ❖ SATH-E project is to introduce system-wide Governance Transformation in school education.

- ❖ These roadmaps, which operate between 2018 to 2020, lay out detailed interventions which will be taken by the three participating States- Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha – aiming to become ‘Role Model States’ in school education.
- ❖ The roadmaps were jointly prepared by NITI Aayog, the three States and the knowledge partners of the SATH Initiatives, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership (PFEL).
- ❖ These roadmaps present customized, action-oriented programmes, outlining interventions at the individual, district and State level.
- ❖ It will be facilitated by National Steering Group (NSG), chaired by CEO of NITI Aayog and including Chief Secretaries of 3 states.

### **Promotion of tourism in North-East**

- ❖ Online accommodation platform major Airbnb has signed four MoUs to boost tourism in North East India.
- ❖ It has signed MoUs with the North Eastern Council (NEC), the North East Tourism Development Council (NETDC) and two key livelihood initiatives, North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) and North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society (NERCRMS).
- ❖ The MoUs aim at creating hospitality micro-entrepreneurs across key destinations in tourism in the North East India.
- ❖ Under MoUs, NEC, NETDC and Airbnb had agreed to expand tourism in north east India through Airbnb’s global platform.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Gulf Shield – 1 joint military exercise**

- ❖ The Gulf Shield – 1 military exercise of 23 countries including Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states was held in Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The one-month exercise was the largest military drill in the region as it saw participation of ground, naval and air forces of participating countries.



- ❖ The multilateral exercise organised by Ministry of Defence of Saudi Arabia was aimed to raise military readiness of participating countries, modernise joint exercise mechanisms and enhance coordination and cooperation.

## **ECONOMY**

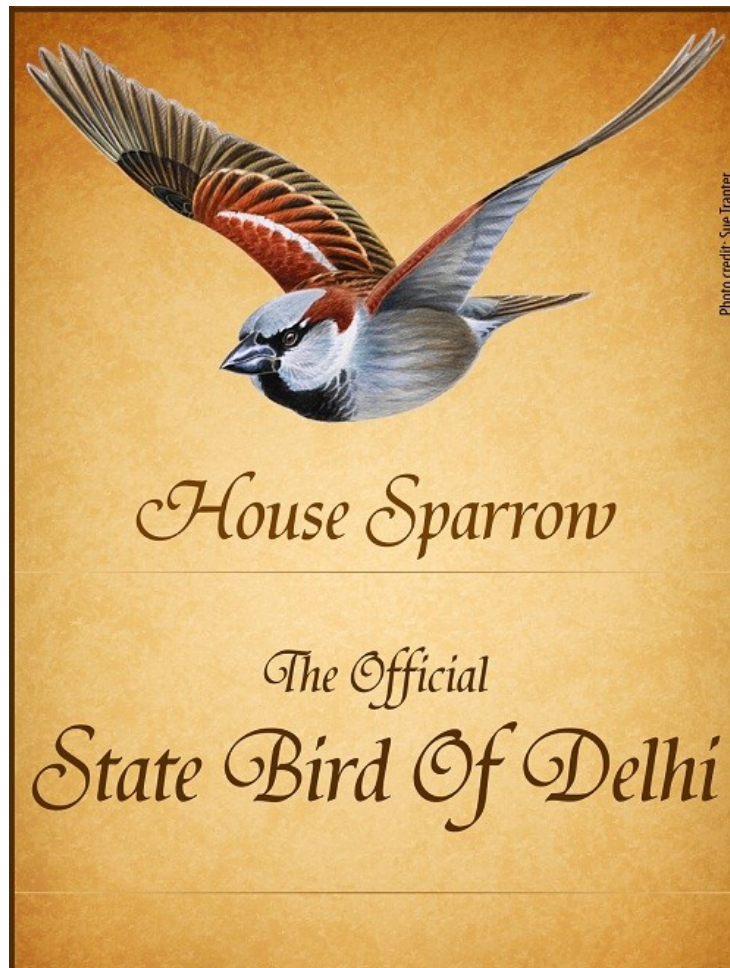
### **Double tax avoidance agreement**

- ❖ India and Hong Kong signed a bilateral double taxation avoidance treaty to curb evasion and promote flow of investment.
- ❖ The Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion will stimulate flow of investment, technology and personnel from India to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and vice versa
- ❖ Hong Kong is former British colony and is special administrative region of China which enjoys a high degree of autonomy under which it has an independent taxation system.
- ❖ It is an important financial and trading partner of India.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Sparrow Day - March 20

- ❖ The World Sparrow Day (WSD) is observed every year on March 20 to raise awareness among people about house sparrows and other common birds in urban environments and threats to their populations.
- ❖ WSD is an international initiative by the Nature Forever Society of India (NFSI) in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and also numerous other national and international organisations across the world.



- ❖ The purpose for celebrating the day is to use it as a platform to underscore the need to conserve sparrows as well as the urban biodiversity.
- ❖ The first WSD was organised in different parts of the World in 2010.



- ❖ In 2012, the then Delhi Government had launched campaign called “Rise of Sparrows” aimed at conservation of House Sparrow among other birds.
- ❖ It was also declared as the ‘state bird’ by the then Delhi Government for its conservation.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 5-day festival was organised by Rashtrapati Bhavan in association with Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Innovation Foundation - India (NIFI).



- ❖ He also presented Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards.
  - ❖ FINE is an initiative to recognise, respect, showcase, reward innovations and foster supportive ecosystem for innovators.
-