

**August – 20**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Panini language laboratory was recently inaugurated at Mahatma Gandhi institute in Mauritius to promote reading and writing Hindi amongst young and its further development.
  - It was launched by External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj on the sidelines of 11th World Hindi Conference held in Mauritius.
- ❖ Pakistan Cricketer Nasir Jamshed has been banned by Pakistan Cricket Board for 10 years on spot fixing charges. The charges were leveled during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2016-17 season.
  - It was to be noted that he was banned for the second time in the last 2 years.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Sahyadri on a good will visit to Fiji**

- ❖ Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri was on a good will visit to the Republic of Fiji, in an attempt to strengthen bilateral relations.



- ❖ The naval ship is visiting the island nation en route to India after participating in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC)-2018 organised at Hawaii.



- ❖ INS Sahyadri (F49) is the third and latest ship among the Shivalik Class of indigenously built stealth frigates and forms a part of the Eastern Fleet of Indian Navy.

### **Coordination committee constituted**

- ❖ The Central government has constituted a coordination committee headed by the Central Water Commission Chairman “Narendra Kumar”
- ❖ Its objective is to coordinate the discharge of floodwaters from inter-State projects involving Kerala and Tamil Nadu, including Mullaperiyar and Aliyar.
- ❖ The Chairman of the CWC will monitor the situation at Mullaperiyar dam in view of rising water level and continued heavy inflow.

### **Relaxation in Agreement on Repatriation of Bru**

- ❖ Union Home Ministry has agreed to relax conditions laid down in ‘four-corner agreement’ signed with Bru migrants for their repatriation from Tripura to Mizoram.
- ❖ The agreement was signed between Government of India, Governments of Mizoram and Tripura and Mizoram Bru Displaced People’s Forum (MBDPF) in July 2018.
- ❖ Relaxations
- ❖ The period of stay for cash assistance of Rs 4 lakh for Bru refugees will be relaxed from 3 years to 2 (or even one and half years).
- ❖ They can withdraw 90% of the Rs 4 lakh assistance as bank loan immediately after their return. Moreover, conditions in place for financial assistance may be also relaxed.
- ❖ The building assistance will be in single or two instalments.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita Re elected as president of Mali**

- ❖ Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been re-elected as president after beating opposition candidate, Soumaila Cisse, in a runoff vote.



- ❖ Cisse, a former finance minister, who also ran against Keita in 2013, secured 32 percent of the votes.
- ❖ Keita will serve his second five-year term as Malian leader.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **ATGM HELINA successfully test fired**

- ❖ Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) 'HELINA' was successfully flight tested from Indian Army Helicopter at Pokhran range.
- ❖ The weapon system was tested for its full range.
- ❖ HELINA is helicopter launched version known of NAG ATGM, designed and developed indigenously for Indian Army under integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP).



- ❖ It is manufactured by India's sole missile producer, state-owned Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- ❖ HELINA is one of the most advanced Anti-Tank Weapons in the world.
- ❖ It works on "fire and forget" principle and operates in Lock on Before Launch mode. It has operational range of 7-10km (after air-launched).

### **Smart Anti Airfield Weapon successfully flight tested**

- ❖ DRDO has successfully tested indigenously developed light weight glide bomb Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) dropped from an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft.
- ❖ SAAW project is India's first fully indigenous anti-airfield weapon project sanctioned by Government in September 2013.
- ❖ It was indigenously developed by state-run Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with IAF and the Research Centre Imarat (RCI).
- ❖ SAAW is long-range lightweight high precision-guided anti-airfield weapon.

### **Complex wheat genome decoded**

- ❖ Team of international researchers including 18 Indian scientists for first time have decoded wheat genome.
- ❖ The reference genome decoded covers 94% (14.5 Gb) of entire wheat genome.

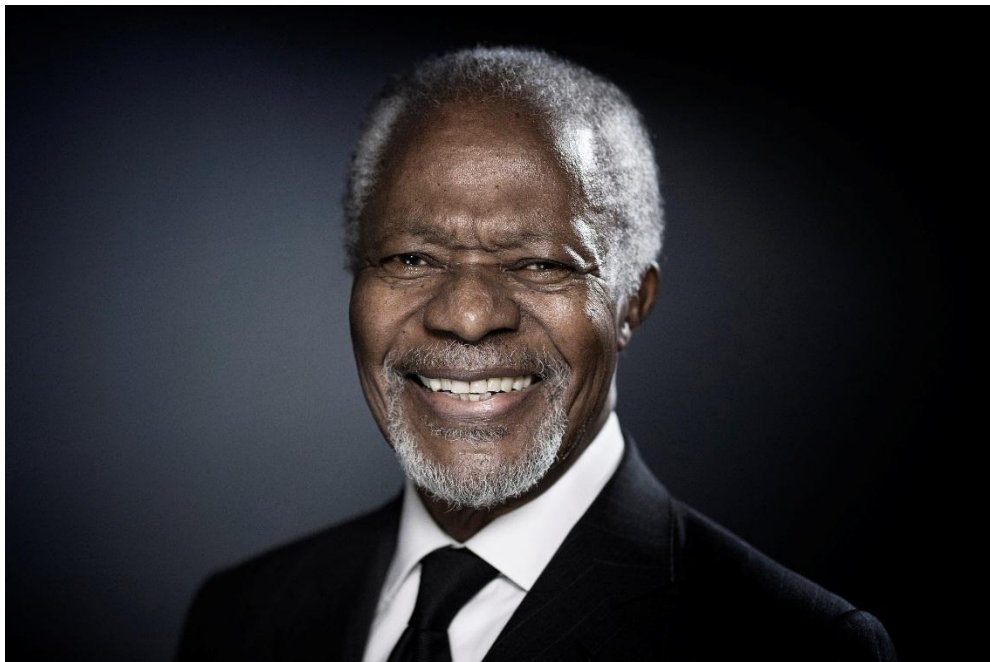


- ❖ This project was financially supported by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The bread wheat has a complex hexaploid genome which is 40 times larger than that of the rice genome and 5 times larger than the human genome.
- ❖ The availability of high quality reference genome would accelerate the breeding of climate-resilient wheat varieties to feed the ever-increasing world population and help address global food security.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan passes away**

- ❖ Former United Nations General Secretary and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kofi Annan (50) passed away in Bern, Switzerland.
- ❖ He had served as seventh Secretary-General of UN for two terms reigning from 1997 till 2006.
- ❖ He was first black African to become Secretary-General of UN and also the first to be elected from UN staff itself.



- ❖ In 1999, he had launched UN Global Compact initiative, which is now world's largest effort to promote corporate social responsibility (CSR).



- ❖ He was also founder and chairman of Kofi Annan Foundation and chairman of 'The Elders', an international organisation founded by Nelson Mandela.
- ❖ He was co-recipient of 2001 Nobel peace prize along with the United Nations.
- ❖ He had played major role in the formation of two new intergovernmental bodies in 2005 within UN: Peacebuilding Commission and Human Rights Council.

## SPORTS

### India's maiden medal at the world level - track cycling

- ❖ Indian Teen cyclist Esow Alben (17) created history by winning the country's maiden medal in track cycling at the world level.
- ❖ He achieved this feat by winning silver medal in Men's Keirin event of UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships held in Aigle, Switzerland.



- ❖ In the final sprint of this event, Esow finished just 0.017 seconds behind gold medallist Jakub Stastny (Czech Republic).
- ❖ Esow hails from Andaman and Nicobar. He is currently ranked world No. 1 in junior sprint category of cycling
- ❖ Esow had won hat-trick of gold medals at 2018 Asian Track Cycling Championships in Malaysia.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **‘Our Safety, Our Rights’ campaign**

- ❖ Amnesty International India has launched a new campaign ‘Our Safety, Our Rights’.
  - ❖ It is aimed at creating awareness among children to help them understand and identify sexual abuse.
  - ❖ Amnesty International India will manage the campaign in collaboration with Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, People's Action for Rural Awakening (PARA) and Institute of Social Education.
  - ❖ The campaign will culminate on October 11 - International Day of the Girl Child.
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