

**September – 20**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The National Health Agency (NHA), the apex body implementing the Ayushman Bharat– National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), has launched a website and a helpline number to check the enrolment of the beneficiaries.
  - The website is ‘mera.pmjay.gov.in’ and the helpline is ‘14555’.
- ❖ Indian Overseas Bank’s Hindi journal ‘Vani’ wins ‘Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar’ Award. The award was conferred by the Vice president, Venkaiah Naidu.
- ❖ Tajinder Mukherjee has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of National Insurance Company Limited (NICTL). Prior to this, she was posted as General Manager and Chief Underwriting Officer of New India Assurance.
- ❖ The Hindi film stars- Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma, have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, chaired by Prime Minister.
- ❖ India has signed a financing loan agreement with the World Bank for USD 74 million for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP).

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Customs Checking Centre**

- ❖ India’s first ‘Customs Checking Centre’ has been inaugurated at Thiruvotriyur, Chennai.
- ❖ This eliminates the massive backlog in front of the port and eases the traffic congestion.

## **NATIONAL**

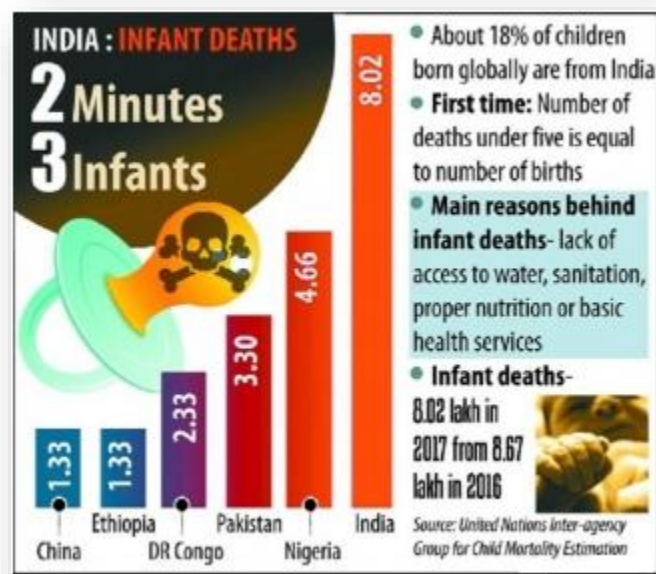
### **Cabinet Approval - Triple Talaq Ordinance**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance making triple talaq a punishable offence after the NDA government failed to pass it through both the houses of Parliament.
- ❖ It was cleared by the Lok Sabha but was stuck in the Rajya Sabha.

- ❖ The Supreme Court had in a verdict in August last year declared it illegal and unconstitutional.
- ❖ The ordinance will have similar provisions as the Muslim Women Protection of Rights in Marriage Act.

### “Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2018”

- ❖ ‘UNICEF’ and ‘UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation’ (UN IGME) has released the “Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2018”, which shows the full scope of child and mortality rates across the world.
- ❖ According to the report, the Sub-Saharan Africa region had the highest under-five mortality rate in the world.



- ❖ In 2017, the region had an average under-five mortality rate of 76 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- ❖ In India, the death of children below the age of 5 years has reduced from nearly 22% in 2012 to 18% in 2017, and is below one million mark, for the first time (9,89,000).
- ❖ About 8,02,000 infant deaths were reported in India in 2017, the lowest in 5 years.

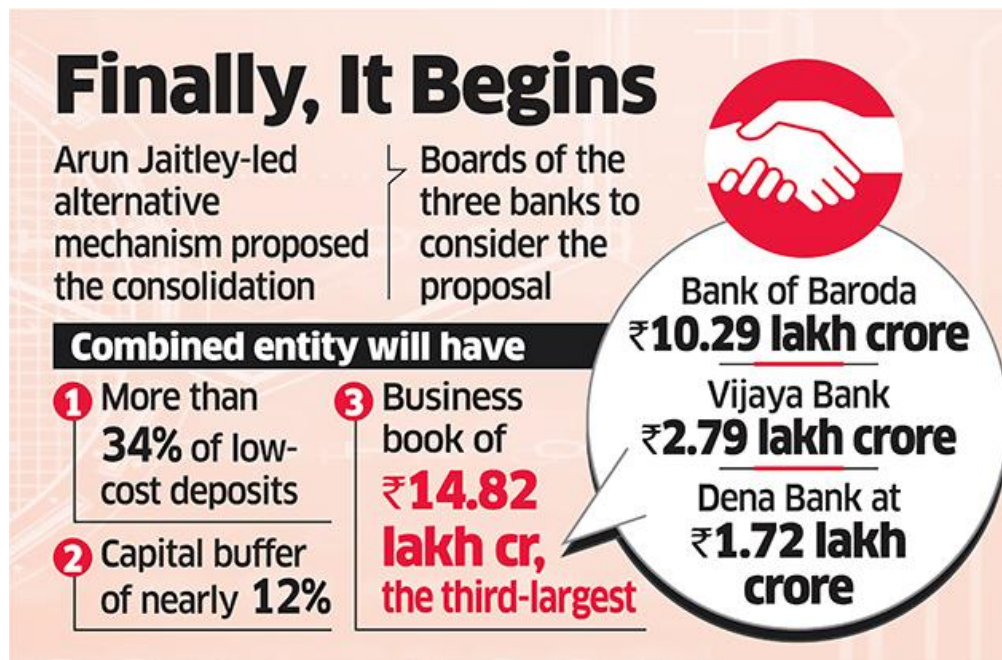


- ❖ But, India still leads the world in Infant deaths, followed by Nigeria, Pakistan and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ❖ Globally, an estimation of 6.3 million children aged younger than 15 years died in 2017, or the equivalent of one child in every 5 seconds.
- ❖ The report notes that more than 80% of all the deaths, or 5.4 million, occur in children in their first 5 years of life.

## ECONOMY

### Proposal for merger of Banks

- ❖ The Central government proposed the amalgamation of State-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to create India's third largest bank.



- ❖ The new merged entity will be the 3rd Largest bank in the country with a total business of about Rs 14.82 lakh crore, after SBI and HDFC bank.
- ❖ The “merger” is carried out as part of
  - The “Alternative mechanism” proposed by the committee under finance minister Arun Jaitley.
  - The reforms in the public sector banking segment.

- ❖ With this merger, the number of public sector banks in the country will come down to 19.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Lifting the ban on 3 FDC drugs

- ❖ Supreme court has lifted the ban and allowed the sale of **3 Fixed Dose combination drugs** FDC, **Saridon**, **Piriton cough expectorant** and **Dart**.
- ❖ It was argued that the medicines were **manufactured before 1988** and thus should be exempted from the banned list.



**Bitter Dose**

- ▶ Fixed dose combinations (FDCs) are 2 separate drugs combined into a single dose
- Govt examined FDCs that were not based on rational formulae
- Ban may shave off ₹3,800 crore from Indian market
- ▶ Corex, Phensedyl top drugs in banned drugs list

- ❖ These drugs were part of the 328 FDC drugs whose manufacture, distribution and sale were banned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on September 12.
- ❖ The FDC drugs are two or more drugs combined in a fixed ratio into a single dosage form, thereby reducing the number of drugs to be taken every day.

### Cyclone-30 - The biggest cyclotron in India

- ❖ Cyclone-30, the biggest cyclotron in India for medical application became operational in at VECC, Kolkata.
- ❖ It is under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and will be commissioned in 2019.
- ❖ This facility will provide for affordable radio isotopes and related radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar awards

- ❖ Union ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has conferred 'Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2017-18' awards in New Delhi.
- ❖ It has been awarded as part of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign launched by PM on September 15th, 2018
- ❖ The award has been extended, for the first time this year, to private schools besides government and government aided schools.
- ❖ "Certificate of Recognition" will be awarded to
  - 4 States (Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh) and
  - 9 districts (Pondicherry, Srikakulam, Chandigarh, Hisar, Karaikal, Latur, Nellore, South Goa, Vadodara)for having maximum number of schools awarded with "National Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar".
- ❖ The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar was launched in 2016-17 to honour the schools that have done exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene.

### Highest civilian honour of Mexico - Dr. Raghupati Singhanian

- ❖ Dr. Raghupati Singhanian was awarded the 'Mexican order of the Aztec Eagle' by Her Excellency Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico to India on the eve of 128th National Day of Mexico.
- ❖ It is the highest honour given to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico.
- ❖ He is the Chairman & Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd.
- ❖ He was awarded for his exemplary leadership, his noteworthy services towards humanity and his efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Mexico.

## SPORTS

### Asian Para Games

- ❖ The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) confirmed that Hangzhou in China will host the fourth edition of Asian Para Games in 2022.

- ❖ The Third Asian Para Games- 2018 will be played in Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **Singapore Grand Prix 2018**

- ❖ Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Singapore Grand Prix at Marina Bay Street Circuit, in Singapore.
- ❖ He was followed by Red Bull's Max Verstappen in the 2nd spot.
- ❖ Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished in the 3rd place.

### **Medved International Wrestling tournament**

- ❖ Indian wrestler Sakshi Malik won a silver medal (62 kg category) after losing to Hungary's Marianna Sastin in the final of the Medved International Wrestling tournament held at Minsk in Belarus.
- ❖ India's Pooja Dhanda won a Bronze medal in the 57 kg category.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Global Olympic Sponsor**

- ❖ German insurer Allianz has signed up as a global Olympic sponsor for a 4-Games period of 10 years between 2021 and 2028.
- ❖ The insurer will become the IOC's 14th top sponsor.
- ❖ The games it will sponsor are:
  - Summer Olympics in Paris in 2024,
  - Summer Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028,
  - The Winter Games in 2022 in Beijing and in 2026.
- ❖ Other sponsors are: Coca-Cola, Intel, Panasonic and Visa.

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