

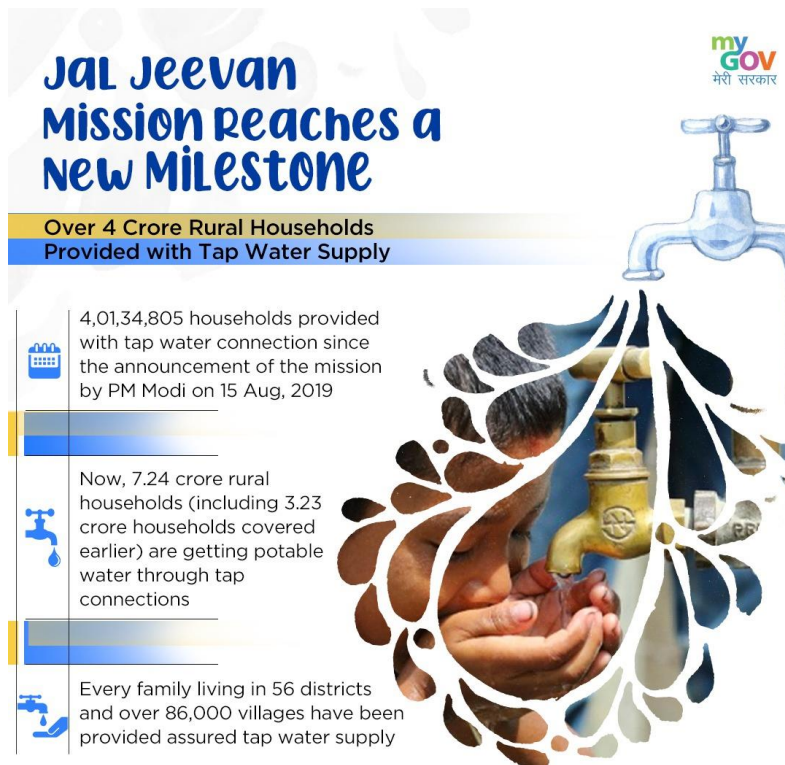
April - 01

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ HDFC Bank has adjudged the 'India's Best Bank for SMEs' at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021.
  - Asiamoney's award decisions were made by a team of senior journalists.
- ❖ President Joe Biden has invited 40 world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to a US-hosted virtual summit on climate next month.
  - This is to underscore the urgency and the economic benefits of stronger climate action.

## NATIONAL

### Jal Jeevan Mission - new milestone



- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission has achieved a new milestone of providing over 4 Crore rural households with tap water supply.
- ❖ The mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August, 2019.



- ❖ It was aimed to provide tap water supply to every rural home by 2024.
- ❖ Goa has become the first State in the country to provide 100 per cent tap water supply.
- ❖ It is followed by Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### **Purple Revolution**

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu announced phase 2 of purple revolution under Aroma Mission.
- ❖ This is announced after the success of the phase 1 in Doda, Jammu.
- ❖ Under the purple revolution, the farmers in Doda district had their incomes quadrupled after shifting from maize to lavender cultivation.
- ❖ First-time farmers were given free lavender saplings.
- ❖ Those who have cultivated lavender before were charged Rs. 5-6 per sapling.
- ❖ The farmers will get help from IIIM-Jammu to sell their produce.
- ❖ Farmers could reach the four distillation units set up by CSIR-IIIM Jammu in Doda for extraction of lavender oil.
- ❖ At present, large-scale lavender cultivation is limited to J&K.
- ❖ The Governments in Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are also encouraging their farmers to take up lavender.

### **Purple Economy**

- ❖ Lavender oil sells for at least Rs 10,000 per litre.
- ❖ Lavender water can be separated from lavender oil.
- ❖ It is used to make incense sticks.
- ❖ Hydrosol is formed after distillation from the flowers.
- ❖ It is used to make soaps and room fresheners.

### **Note:**

- ❖ In 2016, the Centre launched Aroma Mission to boost cultivation of plants for essential oils which have aromatic medicinal properties.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

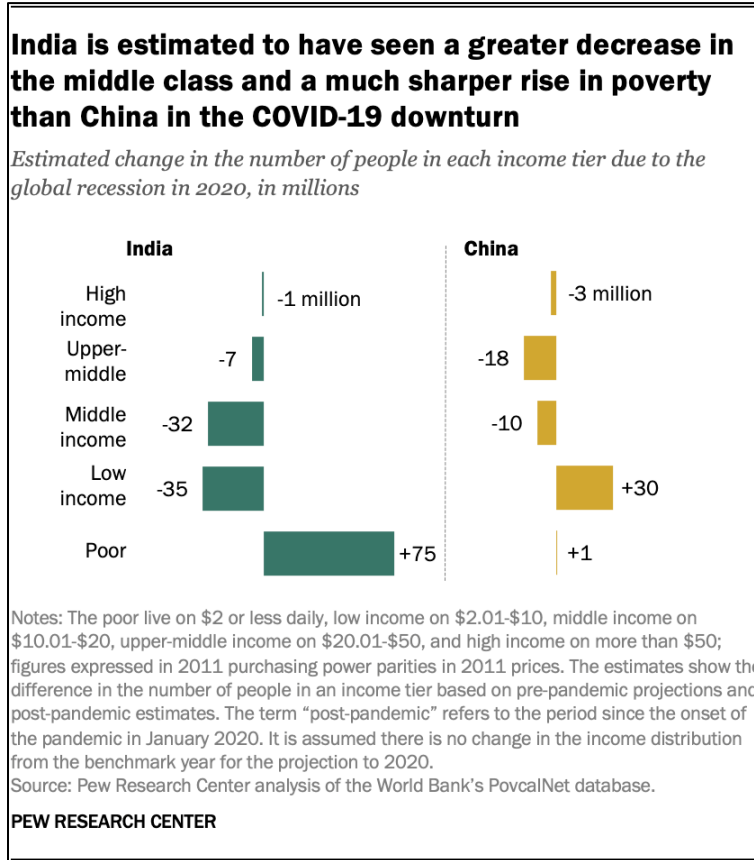
### **Strategic cooperation pact**

- ❖ Iran and China have signed a 25-year cooperation agreement to boost their bilateral relationship to the "level of strategic partnership".
- ❖ The deal focuses on boosting private-sector collaboration and Iran's role in China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- ❖ This comes as Iran continues to be under US sanctions.
- ❖ USA had extensively curtailed its economic activities.
- ❖ The deal was signed between Wang of China and his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif.

### **Study by Pew Research Centre**

- ❖ According to the US-based Pew Research Centre, the number of Indians in the middle class, or those earning between \$10 and \$20 a day, shrunk by about 32 million.
- ❖ The numbers of those in the middle class has shrunk to 66 million from a pre-pandemic estimate of 99 million.

- ❖ The Pew Centre estimated the number of poor people, with incomes of \$2 or less each day, has gone up by 75 million.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Undersea cables

- ❖ Facebook had planned two new undersea cables to connect Singapore, Indonesia and North America.
- ❖ The project is done with collaboration of Google and regional telecommunication companies.
- ❖ This is to boost internet connection capacity between the regions.
- ❖ Named Echo and Bifrost, these will be the first two cables to go through a new diverse route crossing the Java Sea.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Whale Shark

- ❖ A whale shark was rescued by fishers in Odisha coast.
- ❖ It is very important for marine megafauna like turtles, whales and sharks.
- ❖ The dotted whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean.
- ❖ It is often called 'Gentle Giant' in fishing parlance.
- ❖ It is a 'filter feeder shark'.
- ❖ It means it does not eat meat like other sharks.
- ❖ They filter sea water and feed on tiny planktons.
- ❖ The largest whale shark aggregation in India is along the Gujarat coasts.
- ❖ On the Bay of Bengal coast, the only aggregation is in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Whale sharks are found in all the tropical oceans of the world.

### Mount Merapi volcano erupts

- ❖ Indonesia's most volatile volcano erupted again.
- ❖ It released plumes of ash high into air.
- ❖ It sent streams of lava and debris down its slopes.
- ❖ The 2,968-metre-high volcano is on densely populated Java island near ancient city of Yogyakarta.
- ❖ It is the most active of dozens of Indonesian volcanoes.
- ❖ It has repeatedly erupted recently.

## STATES

### Shigmo Festival

- ❖ Goa has announced that this year no Shigmo spring festival parades will be held.
- ❖ It was mainly due to sudden hike in COVID-19 infections.
- ❖ Shigmo is the biggest spring festival in Goa.
- ❖ It was scheduled to take place in the first week of April.
- ❖ Shigmo is the celebration of a 'rich, golden harvest of paddy' by the tribal communities of Goa.
- ❖ Agricultural communities including the Kunbis, Gawdas and Velips celebrate the festival that also marks the onset of spring.



- ❖ Folk dances like Ghodemodini, Gopha and Phugadi are among the many dances performed by the participating communities.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Anil Dharker**

- ❖ The Noted journalist and author Anil Dharker passed away recently
- ❖ He was the founder and director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival.
- ❖ Dharker had been the editor of a variety of publications such as 'Debonair', 'Mid-Day', 'The Independent' and 'The Illustrated Weekly of India'.
- ❖ He has authored 'The Romance of Salt', a book on Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March.

### **International Ranger Award**

- ❖ Mahinder Giri, the range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve, has won the prestigious International Ranger Award.
- ❖ He is the only ranger from Asia to get receive this award.
- ❖ This award was given for his contribution towards conservation.
- ❖ The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world.
- ❖ It was announced by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

- ❖ The award is developed through a collaboration between the IUCN WCPA, the International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies.
- ❖ The award was created in 2020.
- ❖ The award aims to highlight and felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide.

