

April - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ For the first time, the Indian Navy will be part of a French naval exercise known as 'La Perouse' in the Bay of Bengal.
 - The other Quad nations namely the US, Japan and Australia will also participate.

NATIONAL

ULPIN



- ❖ The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme has been launched in 10 States this year.
- ❖ It will be rolled out across the country by March 2022.
- ❖ This plan has been laid out in a parliamentary standing committee report submitted to the Lok Sabha, as part of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) which began in 2008.
- ❖ Under the scheme, a 14-digit identification number will be issued to every plot of land in the country.

- ❖ It is being described as “Aadhaar for land”.
- ❖ It is a number that would uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land and prevent land fraud, especially in rural India,
- ❖ In Rural India, land records are outdated and disputed.
- ❖ The identification will be based on the longitude and latitude of the land parcel.
- ❖ It is dependent on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.

Benefits:

- ❖ The single source of information can authenticate the ownership.
- ❖ In turn it can end the dubious ownership.
- ❖ It will help identify the government lands easily.
- ❖ It can protect land from shabby land transaction.

Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the report ‘Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector’.
- ❖ The report outlines the range of investment opportunities in various segments of India's healthcare sector, including hospitals, medical devices and equipment, health insurance, telemedicine, home healthcare and medical value travel.
- ❖ India's healthcare industry has been growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of around 22% since 2016.
- ❖ At this rate, it is expected to reach USD 372 billion in 2022.



ECONOMY

Major financial changes

- ❖ Major financial changes for FY22 from April 1, 2021 are given below.



New Wage Rule

- ❖ As per the new compensation rules, the allowance component cannot exceed 50 percent of the total salary or compensation.
- ❖ This means that the basic salary has to be 50 percent.
- ❖ To comply with this rule, the employers will be required to increase the basic pay component of salaries.
- ❖ That will result in a proportional rise in gratuity payments and employees' contribution to the provident fund.

New EPF tax rules

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced during the 2021 Budget presentation that interest on employee contributions to the provident fund of over Rs 2.5 lakh per annum would be taxed, starting from April 1st.
- ❖ There would be tax exemption for PF up to Rs 2.5 lakh.
- ❖ The interest received from employee's provident fund (EPF) is exempt from tax under the existing tax provisions.
- ❖ However, from April 1st the interest earned on the EPF contributions (only employee contribution) above Rs 2.5 lakh a year will now be taxable.

Public sector bank mergers

- ❖ The account holders of seven public sector banks will need to get their passbook and cheque book updated as they will become non-functional from April 1, 2021.
- ❖ The banks include Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank, Corporation Bank, Allahabad Bank, Andhra Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India.
- ❖ This is because these seven public sector banks are scheduled to merge with various other banks effective from April 1st.
- ❖ They banks being merged are,
 - Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank have been merged with Bank of Baroda.
 - Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India have been merged with Punjab National Bank (PNB).
 - Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank have been merged with Union Bank of India and
 - The Allahabad Bank has been merged with the Indian Bank.

Banks to cancel auto-debit facility

- ❖ Banks will be cancelling all auto-debit payments for DTH, mobile phone, broadband, electricity, water and other utilities bill starting from April 1st due to RBI's new guidelines.

STATES

Utkal Divas - April 01

- ❖ Utkal Divas or Utakala Dibasha is celebrated on April 1 every year to remember the formation of the Odisha state.
- ❖ Under British rule, Odisha was part of the Bengal presidency, which consisted of the present-day Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha.
- ❖ The state was originally called Orissa.
- ❖ But the Lok Sabha passed the Orissa Bill, and Constitution Bill (113rd amendment), in March 2011 to rename it Odisha.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Guru Tegh Bahadur 400th Birth Anniversary

- ❖ Guru Tegh Bahadur Birth Anniversary is observed on April 1.
- ❖ He is famously known for the protection he provided to the Sikhs and the Hindus against a 17th-century law that forced them to convert to Islam.
- ❖ He is famous to have made long journeys to places such as Kashmir and Assam in the country to preach the tenets of Guru Nanak.
- ❖ He was executed in the city of Delhi on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb after he refused to embrace Islam.
- ❖ His son Guru Gobind Singh was the last Guru of the Sikhs.

Guru Tegh Bahadur:

- ❖ Guru Tegh Bahadur was born as Tyaga Mal.
- ❖ The name Guru Tegh Bahadur was given to him by Guru Hargobind.





MISCELLANEOUS

The Chilika Lake

- ❖ The Chilika Lake in Odisha was once part of the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ This is according to a study by the marine archaeology department of the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.

Note:

- ❖ Chilika Lake is the Asia's largest brackish water lake.
- ❖ Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha.
- ❖ It is located at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ It is the largest coastal lagoon in India.
- ❖ It is the largest brackish water lagoon in the world after the New Caledonian barrier reef.
- ❖ It has been listed Ramsar Site as well as a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site.

