

April - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Odisha Government recently launched “Mo Prativa” programme in collaboration with UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Funds).
- ❖ IIT Roorkee has developed low cost portable ventilator called “Prana Vayu”.
- ❖ The Food Corporation of India has set a new record by moving about 1.93 lakh tonnes of food grains in a single day on April 3, 2020.
- ❖ Spain plans Universal Basic Income to Fix Coronavirus Economic Crisis.
  - It will be the first European Nation to do so.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Singapore Convention on Mediation

- ❖ The Singapore Convention on Mediation is a United Nations (UN) treaty named after the country, will come into force on September this year.
- ❖ It is also known as the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.
- ❖ Qatar has ratified the international treaty.
- ❖ It is the third country to do so, following Singapore and Fiji.
- ❖ The convention makes it easier for commercial parties in a dispute to seek enforcement of international mediated settlement agreements by applying directly to the courts of countries that have ratified the treaty.



**SINGAPORE**  
**CONVENTION**  
ON MEDIATION

## **ECONOMY**

### **UN on World Economy**

- ❖ The global economy could shrink by up to 1 per cent in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic
- ❖ The analysis was done by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
- ❖ It was the part of UN DESA's World Economic Forecasting Model.
- ❖ The analysis noted that before the outbreak of the COVID-19, world output was expected to expand at a modest pace of 2.5 per cent in 2020, as reported in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2020.

### **Ordinance to Cut expenditure**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved to cut the salary of Prime Minister and other MPs by 30%.
- ❖ Apart from them, the salaries of president, governor and vice president are also to be cut.
- ❖ An ordinance in this regard was approved by the Union Cabinet to amend the “Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954”.
- ❖ According to the Act, as amended in April 2018, MPs are entitled to a monthly salary of Rs.1 lakh, apart from various allowances.
- ❖ The amount cut from the members are to go to consolidated fund of India.
- ❖ Only the MPs’ salaries would be cut, not allowances or the pensions of ex-MPs.
- ❖ The Cabinet has also approved that the MPLADS are to be suspended for 2 years that is between 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- ❖ The MPLADS is Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).
- ❖ It was introduced in 1993.
- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has been looking into its working.
- ❖ It is fully funded by the Government of India.
- ❖ Each MP is allocated Rs. 5 crore per year since 2011-12.
- ❖ Funds are non-lapsable in nature i.e. in case of non-release of fund in a particular year it is carried forward to the next year.



## MPLADS - Member of Parliament Local Area Development Program

- ✓ Launched on 23rd December, 1993
- ✓ Rs 5 crore per annum grant to each MP
- ✓ To take development project in constituency.
- ✓ Applicable to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs.
- ✓ 15% of annual outlay of funds must be utilized on areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste Population
- ✓ 7.5% of annual outlay of funds must be utilized on areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes Population



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Statistics and**  
**Programme Implementation**

### **Force Majeure in insurance**

- ❖ The Life Insurance council announced that the “Force Majeure” clause will not apply to COVID-19 deaths.
- ❖ All life insurers, both public and private, are committed to process any death claim pertaining to COVID-19.
- ❖ A force majeure in a contract can now be used to argue that the contract cannot be completed in time due to the spread of COVID-19.
- ❖ Force Majeure is described as an event or effect that can be neither anticipated nor controlled.
- ❖ Force Majeure clause was introduced for unforeseen circumstances.
- ❖ It is embodied under Indian Contract Act, 1972.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Ivermectin**

- ❖ Australian scientists have found that a common anti-parasitic drug Ivermectin killed SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- ❖ The research team made up of Monash University's Biomedicine Discovery Institute (BDI) and the Peter Doherty Institute of Infection and Immunity in Australia.
- ❖ It is an anti-parasitic drug that has also been shown to be effective in vitro against a broad range of viruses including HIV, dengue, influenza and Zika virus.
- ❖ It is currently used as a treatment for strongyloidiasis, a parasitic disease caused by roundworms.
- ❖ It was published in the journal Antiviral Research.
- ❖ Ivermectin was first developed in 1975 and came into medical use in 1981.
- ❖ It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines.

### **First home testing**

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research recently approved the home testing COVID-19 kit.
- ❖ It was designed by a startup called Bione.
- ❖ The kit examines the blood that oozes out from the pick and displays the result in 5 to 10 minutes.

### **Guidelines for quarantine**

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued this.
- ❖ According to the guidelines, the quarantine is separation and restriction of movement.
- ❖ It shall be applied to an individual or a group of persons.
- ❖ They are placed in quarantine for 14 days and are discharged after a final test.
- ❖ The bio-medical waste at the site of collection should be treated with 1% of hypochlorite solution.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Covid 19 on Tiger**

- ❖ A four-year-old Malayan tiger in the Bronx Zoo of New York in USA has tested positive of Corona Virus.
- ❖ This is the first time COVID-19 infections are reported on an animal.
- ❖ Indian Council of Medical Research has confirmed that there is no evidence that COVID-19 is air borne disease.
- ❖ There are evidences that it spreads only through droplets.



## TIGER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID19

## STATES

### **Rajnish Oswal - permanent Judge of High Court of J&K**

- ❖ Justice Rajnish Oswal was sworn in as a permanent Judge of the common High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- ❖ He was administered oath of office by Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal in Jammu.
- ❖ He is the first Judge of the High Court to take oath under the Indian Constitution.



- ❖ All previous Judges of High Court had taken oath under the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, which ceased to have effect since August 5, 2019.
- ❖ With the appointment of Justice Oswal, the strength of Justices of J&K High Court increased from eight to nine.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Conscience – April 5**

- ❖ April 5, 2020, will mark the first International Day of Conscience.
- ❖ It is a United Nations day.
- ❖ This day serves to remind people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things.



### **National Maritime Day – April 5**

- ❖ It was first celebrated on April 5, 1964.
- ❖ It aims to spread awareness in supporting safe and environmentally sound commerce between the continents across the world.
- ❖ From 2018, "Varuna Award" is given to those making outstanding contribution to the Indian maritime sector.
- ❖ The saga of India shipping first started on April 5, 1919, when the SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited travelled from Mumbai to the United Kingdom (London).
- ❖ World Maritime Day will be celebrated on September 24, 2020.
- ❖ According to the International Maritime Organization, "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet" has been selected as the World Maritime theme for 2020.



### **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) – April 6**

- ❖ It is an annual celebration of the power of sport to drive social change, community development and to foster peace and understanding.
- ❖ The "#BeActive" campaign was launched by the FIFA this year.
- ❖ The Day was Created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, supported by the International Olympic Committee since 6 April 2014.
- ❖ This date commemorates the inauguration, in 1896, of the first Olympic games of the modern era, in Athens, (Greece).

