

April - 08

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The UN General Assembly declared April 5 as the International Day of Conscience.
  - The International Day of Conscience is aimed at promoting peace and love throughout the world.

## NATIONAL

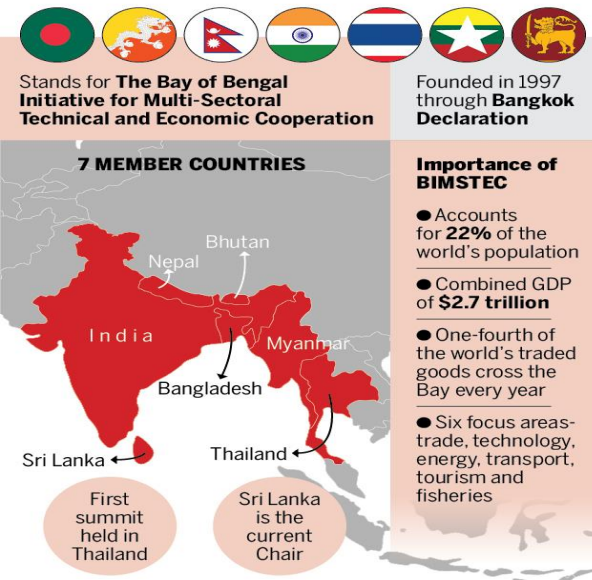
### Sankalp se Siddhi

- ❖ Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) has launched Sankalp Se Siddhi – Village & Digital Connect Drive.
- ❖ It is a 100-day drive started on the 1st of April.
- ❖ The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial meet

**BIMSTEC**  
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Stands for **The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**

Founded in 1997 through **Bangkok Declaration**

**7 MEMBER COUNTRIES**

India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand

**Importance of BIMSTEC**

- Accounts for **22%** of the world's population
- Combined GDP of **\$2.7 trillion**
- One-fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year
- Six focus areas—trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries

First summit held in Thailand

Sri Lanka is the current Chair



- ❖ Recently, the External Affairs Minister of India participated in the 17th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Ministerial Meeting.
- ❖ The meeting, chaired by Sri Lanka, was held in virtual mode.
- ❖ BIMSTEC comprises seven countries.
- ❖ Five of these seven countries - India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh - are from South Asia.
- ❖ The remaining two, Thailand and Myanmar, are from Southeast Asia.

## ARWU Ranking 2020

### Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020

Top 1000 Methodology Statistics			
World Rank	Institution*	By location India	National/Regional Rank
501-600	Indian Institute of Science		1
601-700	Indian Institute of Technology Madras		2-4
601-700	University of Calcutta		2-4
601-700	University of Delhi		2-4
701-800	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi		5-7
701-800	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur		5-7
701-800	Jawaharlal Nehru University		5-7
801-900	Aligarh Muslim University		8-9
801-900	Vellore Institute of Technology		8-9
901-1000	All India Institute of Medical Sciences		10-15
901-1000	Anna University		10-15
901-1000	Bharathiar University		10-15
901-1000	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur		10-15
901-1000	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee		10-15
901-1000	Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs)		10-15

- ❖ 15 Indian universities have made it to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020.
- ❖ This is also known as Shanghai Ranking.
- ❖ All the Indian institutes participated in this were placed in the category of 501-600.



### **About ARWU**

- ❖ The ARWU ranking is prepared by the Shanghai Ranking consultancy.
- ❖ It is an independent organisation that is dedicated to research on higher education, intelligence and consultation.
- ❖ The consultancy has been publishing the Academic Ranking of World Universities since 2009.

## **ECONOMY**

### **India leads in Digital Payments**

- ❖ The UK based payments system company ACI recently released a report on digital payments.
- ❖ According to this report, India has the highest number of real-time online transactions in 2020.
- ❖ The Digital payment market of India is led by Paytm, PhonePe, BharatPe, Pine Labs, etc.
- ❖ The UPI (Unified Payment Interface) transaction increased by 18.7% in March 2021 as compared to February 2021.
- ❖ In February 2021, the UPI transaction was Rs 4.25 lakh crores.
- ❖ And in March 2021, it was Rs 5.05 lakh crores.
- ❖ India was ahead of China, US, South Korea, UK, Thailand in number of online transactions.
- ❖ According to this report, the share of electronic transactions in India will exceed 50% by 2024.

### **Small Savings Schemes**

- ❖ The National Savings Institute operating under the Ministry of Finance recently announced that West Bengal is the top contributor to the Small Savings Scheme in the country.
- ❖ The state contributes 15% of the total corpus.
- ❖ It has so far collected Rs 90,000 crores under the Small Savings Scheme.
- ❖ West Bengal was followed by Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The state of Uttar Pradesh has collected Rs 69,660 crores.
- ❖ Maharashtra was ranked third.
- ❖ The state of Maharashtra contributed 10.57%, which is Rs 63,026 crores.

- ❖ Gujarat was ranked fourth.
- ❖ Gujarat contributed 8.16%, that is Rs 48,645 crores.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranked fifth contributing 4.8%, which is Rs 28,598.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Touch-sensitive watch for the visually impaired

- ❖ This will be useful for the visually impaired people to sense time accurately.
- ❖ The watch was developed by prof Siddhartha Panda and Vishwaraj Srivastava of IIT Kanpur.

#### *About the watch*

- ❖ The user has to touch and scan the touch-sensitive watch's hour indicators.
- ❖ With the help of different vibration patterns, the watch communicates back the time information that is easily perceived by the user.
- ❖ This way, the person is able to read the time.

### Plant-Insect Gene Transfer



- ❖ The Chinese scientists have recently identified the transfer of genes from plants to insects.
- ❖ Usually transfer of genes happen among the same family.
- ❖ Here the insect called whiteflies has incorporated a portion of DNA from plants into their genome.
- ❖ The incorporated gene found was BtPMT1.
- ❖ The whiteflies use this gene to neutralise the toxic compounds produced by the plants against them.

#### *Note*

- ❖ The transfer of gene from one family to another is referred to as horizontal gene transfer.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Japan sees the earliest Cherry Blossoms ever

- ❖ Usually, the Cherry trees of Japan reach their full bloom in April.
- ❖ This time the Cherry Blossom has occurred ten days earlier.
- ❖ This is the first time the Cherry trees have bloomed this earlier in Japan.
- ❖ Previously, the earliest Cherry Blossoms in Japan occurred before 1,200 years.
- ❖ This year, due to climate change, the flowers reached this stage earlier than usual.



## STATES

### First state to provide 5 lakh health insurance

- ❖ Rajasthan becomes the first state in the country to provide free health insurance facility to all the citizens of the state.
- ❖ This plan was announced in the state budget of 2021-22.
- ❖ The State began the registration for its cashless 'mediclaim' scheme Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme.
- ❖ Under this scheme each family will get annual health insurance up to 5 lakhs.

### First state to commission Farm-based Solar Power Project

- ❖ Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) commissioned India's 1st Farm-based Solar Power Project at Bhaloji Village, Kotputli in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ It was commissioned under the PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan) Scheme.

### **PM-KUSUM**

- ❖ It was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in 2019.
- ❖ It is one of the initiatives to Double the Farmer's Income by 2022.
- ❖ It was launched with the objective of providing financial and water security.

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

### **Kalinga Ratna Samman**

- ❖ Odisha-born Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan received the Kalinga Ratna Samman for 2021.
- ❖ The prestigious award was conferred to him in Cuttack on the occasion of the 40th annual day of the Sarala Sahitya Sansad at the Sarala Bhawan.
- ❖ 'Matrubhasa', 'Bhasa Jhalaka', 'Rana Pratap', 'Astasikha Manasi' and 'Sangrama Sarinahi' are some of his contributions to literature.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **National Maritime Day - April 05**

- ❖ This year, India will mark its 58th edition of National Maritime Day.
- ❖ The first celebration took place in 1964 to spread awareness about intercontinental commerce and the economy.
- ❖ The theme of National Maritime Day is 'Sustainable Shipping beyond COVID-19' on the lines of 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' initiative of the Government of India.

