

April - 22

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Indian Army is to extend its support to the Narela Quarantine Centre.
  - It is the largest quarantine centre in the country and was established by the Delhi Government.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh became the first state to geo tag community kitchens.
  - It joined hands with Google to geo tag community kitchens in the state.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Oil Seeds and Pulses procurement**

- ❖ The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing of India) have procured oil seeds and pulses from farmers directly at Minimum Support Prices.
- ❖ Currently, the Price Support Scheme for the Rabi season has been launched in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Maharashtra.
- ❖ NAFED is the apex organization for all marketing cooperatives of agricultural produce in the country.
- ❖ Apart from agricultural produce, NAFED also procures forest resources.
- ❖ It was established as a nodal agency for price stabilization in the country under “Operation Greens”.
- ❖ Operation Greens was introduced in the Union Budget 2018-19.
- ❖ The project aims to stabilize the supply of tomatoes, onion and potatoes in the country.

**'OPERATION GREENS'**

- ❖ On the lines of “Operation Flood”; to address price volatility of perishable commodities like potato, tomato and onion
- ❖ Will promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management



**Greys in Greens**

<p>Operation Green— <b>₹500 cr</b> allocated to ensure steady supply of three politically &amp; price sensitive vegetables – onions, potatoes and tomatoes</p>	<p><b>POTATOES, OFFICIALS</b> say, is less of a problem because it can last up to eight months in cold storage</p> <p><b>ONION, WHICH IS GROWN</b> largely in western India, can be stored in ventilated storages for about four to six months but then there are not many such spaces</p>	<p><b>Thought being given to have protected areas for tomato cultivation around high-demand urban centres</b></p>
--	--	---

### **National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.**

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture has launched the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India.
- ❖ It is an attempt to recognize the diversity of Indian culture embedded in its intangible heritage.
- ❖ The initiative is a part of Vision 2024 of Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ The list includes 13 elements that are already included in UNESCO Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- ❖ ICH involves non-physical intellectual property such as beliefs, folklore, traditions, customs and language.
- ❖ According to UNESCO’s Convention for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), there are 5 broad categories in the list.
- ❖ They are performing arts, rituals and festive events, social practices, knowledge and practices concerned with nature and traditional craftsmanship.

### India's ICH list

- Tradition of Vedic chanting.
- Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana.
- Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre.
- Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas.
- Mudiyyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala.
- Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan.
- Chhau dance.
- Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur.
- Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab.
- Yoga
- Nawrouz (Persian New year)
- Kumbha Mela

**NEWSICLE**

## KNOW YOUR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

In a recent interview, UNESCO director general Irina Bokova said that yoga is in the list of elements to be considered by the Intangible Heritage Committee for inscription on UNESCO's register. Following are the Indian elements that are already present on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

<p><b>Kutiyattam »</b> A form of Sanskrit theatre traditionally performed in Kerala 2001 2008 Year proclaimed Year inscribed</p>	<p><b>Ramman »</b> A religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal region 2009 2009</p>	<p><b>Kalbelia »</b> Folk songs and dances performed in Rajasthan 2010</p>	 <p><b>Chhau »</b> A traditional dance from eastern India 2010</p>
<p><b>Vedic chanting »</b> The oral tradition of recitation of the Vedas 2003 2008</p>	<p><b>Mudiyyett »</b> A ritual theatre of Kerala 2010</p>	<p><b>Buddhist chanting of Ladakh »</b> Recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu &amp; Kashmir 2010</p>	
 <p><b>Ramlila »</b> A theatrical performance of the Ramayana 2005 2008</p>	<p><b>Navroz »</b> The name of the Iranian new year. Observed by Parsis in India 2009</p>		

## ECONOMY

### **Pet Coke Imports**

- ❖ Directorate General of Foreign Trade has invited applications for import of pet coke.
- ❖ Earlier, it had banned import of pet coke.

- ❖ Import of petcoke was allowed only in lime kiln, cement gasification and calcium carbide industries.
- ❖ India is the largest consumer of pet coke in the world.

### Pet Coke

- ❖ Petroleum Coke is called Pet Coke.
- ❖ Pet Coke consists of more than 80% of carbon.
- ❖ Pet coke emits over 11% more greenhouse gases than coal.
- ❖ It is rich in carbon and is derived during oil refining.
- ❖ Pet Coke is mainly used in aluminum industry as raw material.



### **Sale of Electric vehicles**

- ❖ The Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) has released its data on Electric Vehicles sales.
- ❖ According to its report, the sales of Electric Vehicles have increased by 20% in the Fiscal Year 2019-20.
- ❖ The sale of electric vehicles for the year 2019-20 included 3,400 cars, 152,000 two wheelers and 600 buses.
- ❖ Around 90,000 e-rickshaws were sold in the year 2019-20.
- ❖ Of the electric vehicles sold in 2019-20, 97% were electric scooters.



## **Mapping India's Energy Subsidies, 2020**

- ❖ The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CCEW) and International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) recently released a report called "Mapping India's Energy Subsidies, 2020".
- ❖ The report says that India's energy subsidies to renewable energy have declined by 35% in 2019 as compared to 2017.
- ❖ On the other hand, the oil and gas subsidies have increased by 65%.
- ❖ But the subsidies for electric vehicles and renewable energy have increased by three and a half times since 2014.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Leather back Turtles**

- ❖ The Leather back Turtles are the world's giant sea turtles.
- ❖ The largest number of nests of this rare Leather back sea turtles were recently found in Thailand.
- ❖ They are considered vulnerable under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list of threatened species.

### **Trimeresurus salazar**

- ❖ It is the fifth variety of reptile to have been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh in a little more than a year.
- ❖ It was collected from the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Pakke-Kessang district.
- ❖ Of the species recorded from India, seven had been found in the northeast before the Salazar's pit viper.
- ❖ Salazar's pit viper belongs to the genus Trimeresurus Lacépède comprising charismatic venomous serpents with morphologically as well as ecologically diverse species.
- ❖ Pit vipers are venomous snakes distinguished by their heat-sensing pit organs between the eye and the nostril.

## **STATES**

### **First Green State**

- ❖ Goa recently became the first zero COVID-19 State in the country with the last seven positive cases also turning negative.

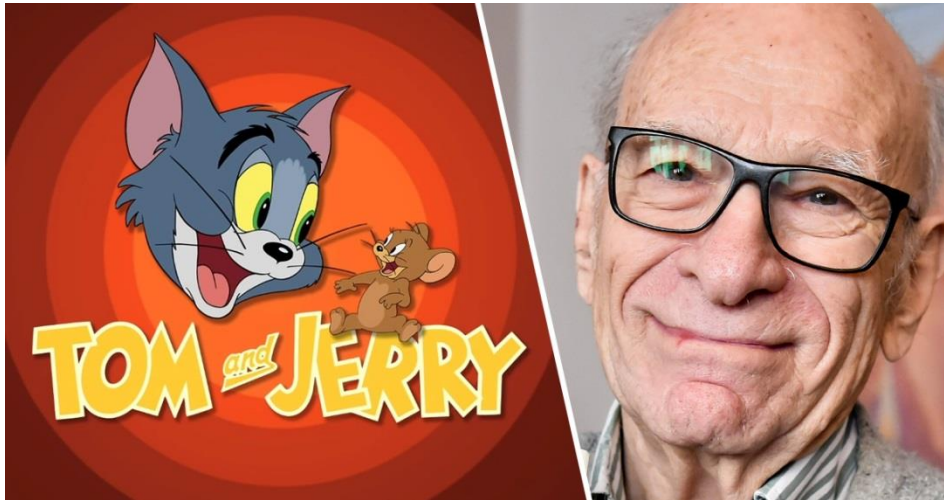


- ❖ This makes Goa the first green State in the country with no case of coronavirus being reported from April 3.
- ❖ Any district which has not reported a new case for 28 days will be classified as “Green Zones”.

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

### **Gene Deitch**

- ❖ Oscar-winning illustrator and animator, Gene Deitch, has recently passed away at Prague in Czech Republic.
- ❖ Deitch was known for creating animated cartoons such as Munro, Tom Terrific, and Nudnik, as well as his work on the Popeye and Tom and Jerry series.



## **SPORTS**

### **Asian Boxing Championship**

- ❖ The National Sports Federation of India recently announced that it is host the Asian Boxing Championship by November-December 2020.
- ❖ The host city is to be decided by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).
- ❖ The competition is a biennial event but was held in consecutive years in the past.
- ❖ BFI is the governing body for Olympic boxing in India.
- ❖ It represents India at the International Boxing Association.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **United Nations Chinese Language Day - April 20**

- ❖ It was observed first in 2010.
- ❖ The day is observed to pay tribute to Cangjie.
- ❖ Cangjie is a mythical figure who invented Chinese Characters.
- ❖ The Chinese language was set as one of the official languages in the United Nations in 1946.
- ❖ There are six official languages of the UN.
- ❖ They are Arabic, English, Chinese, Russian, Spanish and French.
- ❖ English and French are the working languages of the UN Secretariat.

