

August - 03

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund has cut India's GDP growth forecast to 9.5% for the fiscal year 2021-22 due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Previously, IMF has forecasted 12.5% GDP growth.
- ❖ The Department of Defence Production which comes under the Ministry of Defence has given its approval for a central sector scheme named 'Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)'.
  - The primary aim of this scheme is to provide financial support to around 300 MSMEs, Start-ups, and individual innovators as well as around 20 partner incubators through the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).
- ❖ India has overtaken Russia to become the fourth largest country with foreign exchange reserves.
  - Currently, China has the largest reserves followed by Japan and Switzerland.
- ❖ 'Divya Nayan' a personal reading device for the visually impaired developed by the CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organization (CSIO), Chandigarh.
  - Using this tool, any printed or digital document can be accessed via voice.
- ❖ The State Bank of India has topped the list of public sector banks that have written off loans in fiscal 2021.
  - Union Bank of India and Punjab National Bank are in second and third place respectively.

## NATIONAL

### Lithium exploration projects

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI), under the government's energy security plans, has taken up seven lithium exploration projects in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ Lithium exploration in the states of Rajasthan and Karnataka has also been undertaken by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMDER) which comes under the ambit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

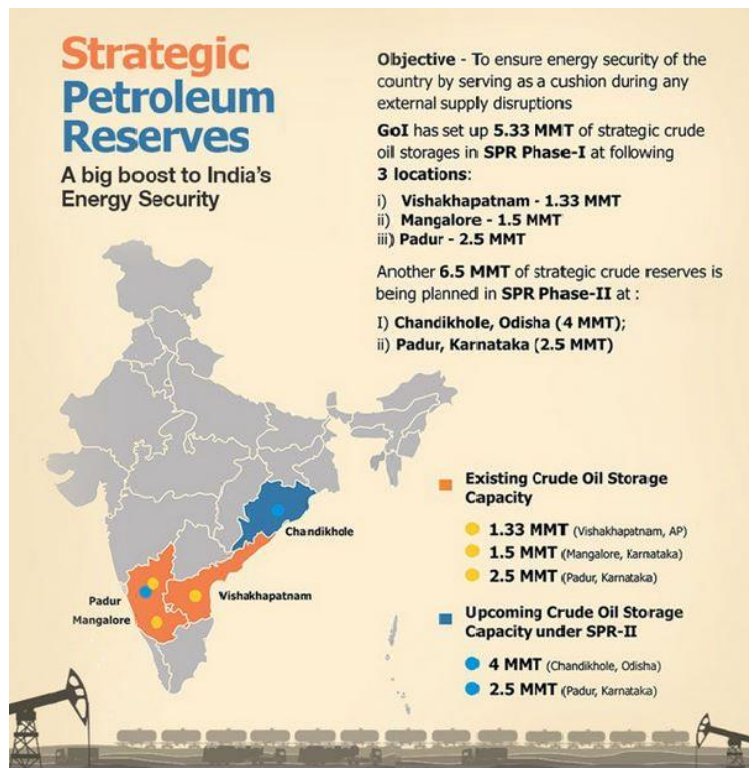
**Note**

- ❖ India lacks lithium reserves for the manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries and other usages.
- ❖ Most lithium batteries are imported into the country.

### President of UNSC for August - India

- ❖ India will be the president of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for August month.
- ❖ The nation will host various events in the three major areas of fight against terrorism, maritime security and peacekeeping.
- ❖ S. Tirumurti India's permanent representative to the UN will hold a press conference on the Security Council's work plan for the month.
- ❖ On January 1, 2021 India's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council began.
- ❖ The August presidential term will be India's first chairmanship during its non-permanent membership of the Security Council in 2021-22.

### Strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) programme



- ❖ Two more commercial-cum-strategic facilities at Chandikhole and Padur of 6.5 MM storage capacity to be established under phase-2 of SPR Programme.



- ❖ Under Phase I of strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) programme, Government of India has established petroleum storage facilities with total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations.
- ❖ They were,
  - Vishakhapatnam
  - Mangaluru and
  - Padur.
- ❖ Strategic petroleum reserves are huge stockpiles of crude oil to deal with any crude oil-related crisis like the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war or other calamities.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Global tobacco epidemic report 2021**

- ❖ The “WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic 2021: Addressing new and emerging products,” presented data on e-cigarettes and other ENDS for the first time.
- ❖ ENDS means electronic nicotine delivery systems.
- ❖ According to the report Tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year.
- ❖ More than 7 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use.
- ❖ Around 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.

#### **Note**

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommended a complete ban on e-cigarettes and other ENDS.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **World’s first reprogrammable commercial satellite**

- ❖ The European Space Agency is all set to launch the world’s first commercial fully re-programmable satellite.
- ❖ It is called the Eutelsat Quantum.
- ❖ The Quantum will be launched from the Guiana Space Centre in Latin America as a part of the payload for an Ariane 5 rocket.
- ❖ The Eutelsat Quantum has been developed under an ESA Partnership Project with satellite operator Eutelsat and manufacturer Airbus.

- ❖ The Quantum will offer coverage for a large geographical area ranging from Asia to West Africa for 15 years.



## ENVIRONMENT

### E-waste Generation

- ❖ In the year 2020, India's e waste generated is 31.6% more when compared to the previous year.
- ❖ Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change relayed this information in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The Environment Ministry of India has notified 21 types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) which are to be considered as e-waste.

## STATES

### Devaranya scheme

- ❖ In order to promote AYUSH in Madhya Pradesh and to link it with employment, the government has made the 'Devaranya' scheme.
- ❖ The scheme has been made to provide employment to the people living in the tribal areas of the state.
- ❖ A complete value chain for the production of AYUSH medicines will be developed in the state through Devaranya Yojana.
- ❖ Self-help groups will also play an important role in this work.

### **Krishikarna project**

- ❖ The Mini polyhouse which is a kind of greenhouse will be built under the “Krishikarna” project.
- ❖ It is launched in Kerala.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative of the National Society for Agricultural Horticulture, the Sustainability Foundation and Qore3 Innovations.

### **Odisha plans DNA profiling for leopards**

- ❖ Odisha’s Forest and Environment Department has decided to do DNA profiling of the leopards in the state.
- ❖ The exercise will help ascertain and trace the origin in case of deaths of the leopards, after the skin and other organs from poachers and traders are seized.
- ❖ The system will strengthen the fight against wildlife crimes, especially poaching of leopards.

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

### **Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021**

- ❖ Cyrus Poonawalla has been named the winner of the prestigious National Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021.
- ❖ He is the founder of the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune.
- ❖ He will be commended for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ This award was first presented in the year 1983.



### **Maharashtra Bhushan award 2021**

- ❖ The Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has unanimously selected legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle for the prestigious award.
- ❖ Asha Bhosle is best known for her playback singing in Hindi cinema.
- ❖ Asha Bhosle was officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most recorded artist in music history.
- ❖ The Government of India honoured her with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008.
- ❖ Bhosle is the sister of playback singer Lata Mangeshkar.



### **Eisner award**

- ❖ Graphic artist Anand Radhakrishnan has won the prestigious Will Eisner Comic Industry Award.
- ❖ It is considered as the Oscars equivalent of the comics world.
- ❖ The Eisner Awards are given out annually.
- ❖ The award won by Radhakrishnan “Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)” recognises the creator of a graphic novel’s art and images.
- ❖ Radhakrishnan shares the award with UK-based colourist John Pearson.
- ❖ They won for their work on UK-based author Ram V’s 145-page graphic novel ‘Blue In Green’.
- ❖ It was published by Image Comics.

