

August - 03

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The first State-level accreditation agency in the country, the State Assessment and Accreditation Centre (SAAC), has been operationalised for higher education institutions in Kerala.
  - 3 State-specific parameters are included for accreditation - social inclusiveness, equity and excellence, and steps to foster scientific temper and secular outlook.
- ❖ Scientists in Japan will begin trying to grow human organs in animals after receiving government permission for the first study of its kind in the country.
  - They will employ xenotransplantation technique. Xenotransplantation or heterologous transplant is the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from one species to another.
- ❖ Girraj Prasad Gupta has been appointed as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from August 1, 2019.
- ❖ Bhasha Mukherjee, a 23-year-old Indian origin doctor was crowned Miss England 2019.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi at the “Ebunjan Theatre” in the Gambia to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi.

## NATIONAL

### **The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- ❖ The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Bill, 2019 has been successfully passed by Parliament.
- ❖ It replaces Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.
- ❖ The Bill sets up the National Medical Commission (NMC) which will replace the Medical Council of India (MCI).
- ❖ It will consist of 25 members, appointed by the Union government.
- ❖ Within three years of the passage of the Bill, the state governments will establish State Medical Councils at the state level.
- ❖ The Union government will constitute a Medical Advisory Council (MAC).
- ❖ The States/Union Territories can put forth their concerns before the NMC through MAC.



- ❖ MAC will advise the NMC on measures to determine and maintain “minimum standards” of medical education.
- ❖ The NMC may grant a limited license to certain mid-level practitioners connected with the modern medical profession to practice medicine.
- ❖ There will be a uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to under-graduate and post-graduate super-specialty medical education in all medical institutions regulated under the Bill.
- ❖ There will be a common final year undergraduate examination called the National Exit Test (NEXT) for the students graduating from medical institutions to obtain the license for practice.
- ❖ NEXT scores will also serve as the basis for admission into post-graduate courses at medical institutions under this Bill.

### **Pashmina Testing Centre**

- ❖ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced that it would set up a Pashmina testing center in Leh.
- ❖ It will be set up in partnership with the lab of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh to check the quality of pashmina collected.
- ❖ Pashmina is a fine type of Kashmiri wool which comes from 4 distinct breeds of the Cashmere goats.

Changthangi	Malra
Chegu	Chyangara

### **India's First Time Release Study**

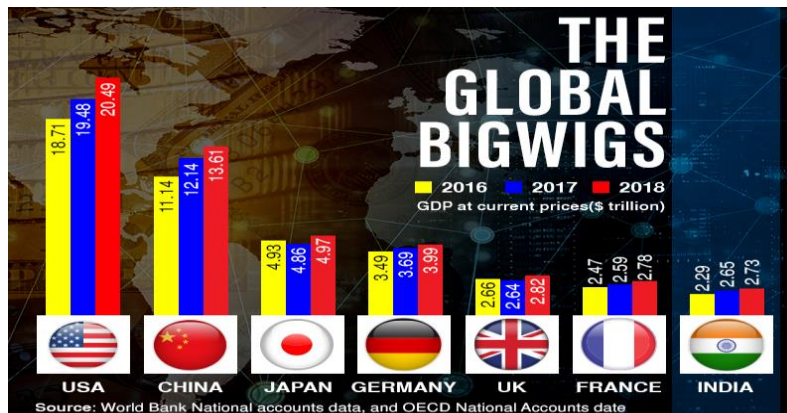
- ❖ The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance is conducting India's first national Time Release Study (TRS).
- ❖ It will be conducted between to enable faster movement of cargo across borders to benefit traders.
- ❖ It will be conducted at the same time across 15 ports including sea, air, land and dry ports between 1st – 7th August.
- ❖ The Overall Objective is to identify and address bottlenecks in the trade flow process and take the corresponding policy and operational measures required to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures.

- ❖ The TRS is an internationally recognized tool advocated by World Customs Organization (WCO) to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.

## ECONOMY

### Failing Indian Economy – Rank 5 to 7

- ❖ India has slipped down to the 7th place in the global GDP rankings of 2018, reveals data compiled by the World Bank.
- ❖ According to the 2018 data, the UK and France once again moved ahead of India to reclaim their 5th and 6th spots respectively in the global GDP rankings.
- ❖ The United States continues to top the list with a GDP of \$20.5 trillion, followed by China at second place with GDP of \$13.6 trillion and Japan at third place with a GDP of \$5 trillion.
- ❖ India recorded a GDP of \$2.73 trillion in 2018.
- ❖ The present government aims to make India a \$ 5 trillion economy by 2025.
- ❖ According to economists, India has slipped to the 7th place in Global GDP ranking due to currency fluctuations and a slowdown in economic growth.



### The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by both houses of Parliament.
- ❖ It amends the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.
- ❖ Under the original Act, the definition of a person includes an individual, a Hindu undivided family, a company, a co-operative society, a firm, or an association of persons.



- ❖ The Bill adds two more categories to this definition by including a trust, or any other entity which may be notified by the central government.

### **SBI and China's Payment System**

- ❖ The State Bank of India's (SBI) Shanghai branch is now connected to China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS).
- ❖ SBI is the only Indian bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency and also inducted to the CNAPS by the People's Bank of China (PBOC).
- ❖ CNAPS, launched in 2008 by People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **e- cars in Indian Army**

- ❖ The Indian Army has launched an ecological initiative with employing e-Cars for use of its officials in New Delhi in partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL).
- ❖ The initiative was officially launched on 01 Aug 2019 with flagging off the first lot of E-Cars for Indian Army.
- ❖ EESL is Super Energy Service Company and leads the market related activities of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency.
- ❖ EESL is a joint venture of four national Public-Sector Undertakings.

NTPC Limited	Power Finance Corporation Limited
Rural Electrification Corporation Limited	POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited

## **STATES**

### **The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- ❖ The Bill amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 and replaces an Ordinance promulgated on March 1, 2019.

- ❖ The Bill now extends reservation in appointment and promotions in certain state government posts to persons belonging to socially and educationally backward classes for those persons living in areas adjoining the International Border also.
- ❖ Earlier only people living in areas adjoining the Actual Line of Control were eligible for reservation.
- ❖ In the 2004 Act, people who live in areas adjoining the Actual Line of Control and earning more than 3 lakhs were not eligible for reservation.
- ❖ The amendment extends the provision to people living in areas adjoining the International Border also.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Ravish Kumar – Magsaysay Award

- ❖ NDTV journalist Ravish Kumar has been honoured with the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- ❖ He was awarded for “harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless” and his “unflinching commitment to a professional, ethical journalism of the highest standards”
- ❖ Magsaysay is the highest honour given to Asian individuals and organizations and often referred to as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.
- ❖ Other Awardees:



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