

August - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ French inventor Franky Zapata successfully crossed English Channel, between France and England, on a jet-powered hoverboard for the 1st time.
 - Flyboard Air is a board powered by four turbo jet engines that allows a rider to fly through air untethered, using a computer to keep it stabilized.

NATIONAL

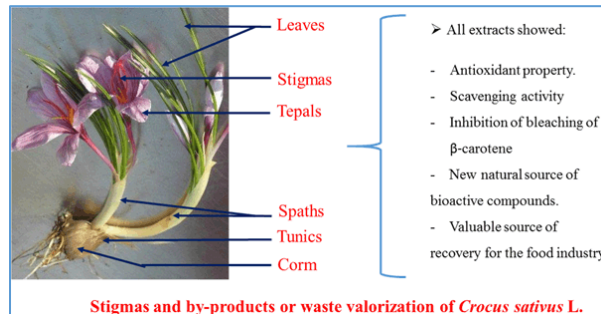
Triple Talaq Bill's History

- ❖ On 22 August 2017, the Indian Supreme Court deemed instant triple talaq (talaq-e-biddat) unconstitutional and asked the government to ban the practice by enacting a law.
- ❖ Then, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) ordinance was promulgated by the President on 19th September 2018.
- ❖ As the ordinance was to expire on 22nd January 2019, the government introduced fresh bill in the Lok Sabha on 17th December 2018 to replace the ordinance.
- ❖ However, the bill was not passed by the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ Again, before the expiry of triple talaq ordinance of 2018, the government had re-promulgated the ordinance on 10th January 2019.
- ❖ On 12th January 2019, the President re-approved the ordinance of 2019.
- ❖ The triple talaq ordinance of 2019 was to expire on 29 August 2019.
- ❖ The bill was passed by Lok Sabha on 25th July 2019 and then by Rajya Sabha on 30th July 2019.
- ❖ The President gave assent to the bill on August 1, 2019 and it has come into effect retrospectively from September 19, 2018.
- ❖ The bill is in line with Article 44 of the Constitution (Uniform Civil Code).

Saffron Experiment in Ladakh

- ❖ In Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh Farmers and Producers Cooperative Limited have started experimenting with saffron farming in Leh.
- ❖ At present, saffron is farmed in Pulwama and Pampore areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ Ladakh has similarities of climatic conditions with Iran and Afghanistan where saffron is grown.
- ❖ Saffron is one of the world's costliest spice and is in great demand for its medicinal, cosmetic and aromatic properties.
- ❖ It grows from a very small plant botanically known as *Crocus Sativus*.



ECONOMY

The Code on Wages 2019

- ❖ Parliament has passed the Code on Wages, 2019.
- ❖ It seeks to regulate wage and bonus payments in all employments where any industry, trade, business, or manufacture is carried out.
- ❖ The Code will apply to all employees.
- ❖ The central government will make wage-related decisions for employments such as railways, mines, and oil fields, among others.
- ❖ State governments will make decisions for all other employments.
- ❖ The Code replaces the following four laws
 - The Payment of Wages Act, 1936
 - The Minimum Wages Act, 1948
 - The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
 - The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

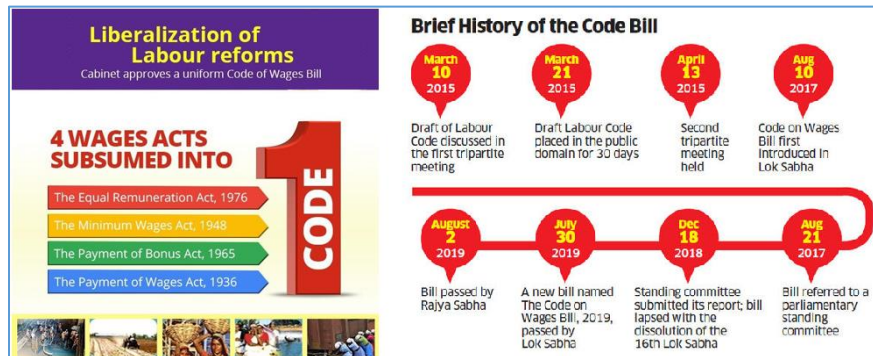
Floor Wage

- ❖ Based on living standards of workers, the central government will fix a “Floor Wage”.
- ❖ The “Minimum Wages” decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage.

Minimum Wage

- ❖ The Code prohibits employers from paying wages less than the minimum wages.

- ❖ Minimum wages will be notified and fixed by the central or state governments based on
 - Skill of workers
 - Difficulty of work



Overtime

- ❖ In case employees work in excess of a normal working day, they will be entitled to overtime wage.
- ❖ The overtime wage must be at least twice the normal rate of wages.

Determination of bonus

- ❖ The bonus will be at least 8.33% of an employee's wages.
- ❖ An employee can receive a maximum bonus of 20% of his annual wages.

Advisory Boards

- ❖ The central and state governments will constitute Advisory Boards, which will advise the respective governments on various issues including
 - Fixation of minimum wages
 - Increasing employment opportunities for women.

Gender Discrimination

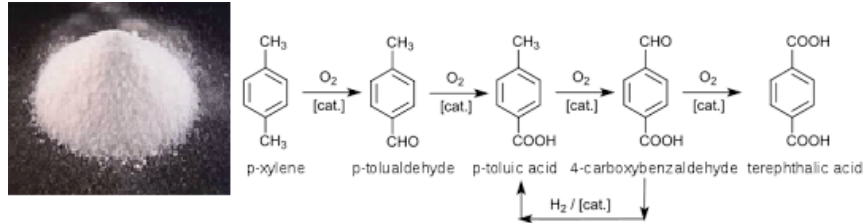
- ❖ The Code prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the same work or work of similar nature.

Penalties for Employers

- ❖ The Code specifies penalties for offences committed by an employer, such as paying less than the due wages, or for contravening any provision of the Code.
- ❖ Maximum penalty is imprisonment for three months along with a fine of up to one lakh rupees.

Anti-Dumping Duty on PTA

- ❖ India has imposed anti-dumping duty on all imports of purified terephthalic acid (PTA) from South Korea and Thailand.
- ❖ PTA is primary raw material in the manufacture of polyester chips, which in turn are used in textile, packaging, furnishings, consumer goods, resins and coatings.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Solar Cell from Kumkum

- ❖ The scientists at IIT Hyderabad have developed low-cost, environment-friendly solar cells by employing an off-the-shelf dye used to make Kumkum or vermilion in India.
- ❖ The Dye-Sensitised Solar Cell (DSSC) is based on New Fuchsin (NF) dye with aqueous electrolyte and platinum-free counter electrodes.
- ❖ High fabrication costs of the present silicon based solar cells is a deterrent for mass production and wide public usage.
- ❖ DSSC aims to address above concerns.

ENVIRONMENT

Advanced Air Pollution Predictors

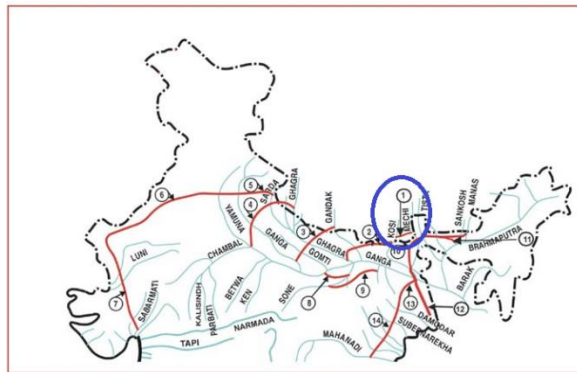
- ❖ Researchers from China and the U.S. have developed a novel computer model that can help accurately “predict” air pollution levels in the region, a season in advance.
- ❖ The statistical model uses certain climatic patterns related to the oceans.
- ❖ Oceans have a regulatory effect on the wintertime air pollution over northern India.
- ❖ The study found that levels of wintertime aerosol pollution over northern India is regulated mainly by a combination of
 - El Nino - a climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean with a global impact on weather patterns

- Antarctic Oscillation (AAO) - a low frequency mode of atmospheric variability of the southern hemisphere.
- ❖ The new model could allow the government to forecast aerosol pollution conditions in winter and accordingly improve plans for pollution control.

STATES

Kosi-Mechi River Interlinking Project

- ❖ Union Government has approved Rs 4,900 crore Kosi-Mechi Interlinking project for interlinking of Kosi and Mechi rivers of Bihar.
- ❖ This is the second major river interlinking project in the country to be approved by government after the Ken-Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh.



- ❖ The project is expected to
 - Relieve North Bihar (especially Seemanchal region) from menace of recurring floods
 - Irrigate 2.14 lakh hectares of command areas

SPORTS

Vinesh Phogat – Wrestling Tournament

- ❖ Indian Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won gold in women's 53kg category at Poland Open wrestling tournament in Warsaw (capital of Poland).
- ❖ She defeated wrestler Roksana of Poland in finals of competition.
- ❖ This is her 3rd consecutive gold in women's 53kg category after Spain and Turkey.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Breastfeeding Week - August 1 to 7

- ❖ World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is annually held from 1 to 7 August.
- ❖ It aims to promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life which has huge health benefits.



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK
1st - 7th August

Benefits of Breastfeeding for the Mothers

- Promotes post-partum weight loss
- Helps the womb to contract & the placenta is expelled easily
- Helpful in spacing births in early months
- Lower risk of maternal cancers (ovarian and breast cancer)
- Less post partum depression

- ❖ It is jointly organized by World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, WHO (World Health Organization) and UNICEF.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 1992 and is now annually observed in more than 100 countries.
- ❖ The Food and Nutrition Board, Ministry of Women and Child Development, is organizing a number of activities on the theme “Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding” during the WBW.
- ❖ Breastfeeding is important because
 - It prevents infections like diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections in early infancy and thus reduces infant mortality



- It decreases the risk of mothers developing breast cancer, ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease

