

December - 10

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The World's oldest Test Cricketer Eileen Ash passed away at the age of 110.
  - She made her debut to the England side in 1937 against Australia.
- ❖ Olaf Scholz, from the Social Democrat Party, will be the new Chancellor of Germany.
  - Scholz will end the 16-year rule of Angela Merkel, the first female chancellor of Germany.
- ❖ An Indian-origin doctor, Anil Menon has been named among the 10 new astronaut recruits selected by NASA for its future space missions.
- ❖ In South America, a New Species of Bird named Flatbill flycatchers have been discovered.
- ❖ India and Asian Development Bank signed a 150-million-dollar loan agreement to provide affordable housing for urban poor in Tamil Nadu.

## NATIONAL

### Bipin Rawat



- ❖ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has passed away in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He was India's first Chief of Defence Staff since 2020.
- ❖ An IAF Mi 17 V5 helicopter met with a tragic accident.
- ❖ Wing Commander Prithvi Singh Chauhan was the pilot of the Mi-17V5.

- ❖ The Chief of Defence Staff is an important post that was created for the first time.
- ❖ The Chief of Defence Staff is also the head of the new Department of Military Affairs.
- ❖ The tenure of the Chief of Defence Staff will be maximum up to the age of 65 years.
- ❖ The CDS will be the principal military adviser to the Union Defence Minister.
- ❖ The Chief of Defence Staff will be senior to the three services' chiefs.
- ❖ The Chief of Defence Staff will also serve as the head of the newly formed cyber and space agencies and the tri-service agency of Special Forces.

### **Inclusion of Diseases under AB-PMJAY**



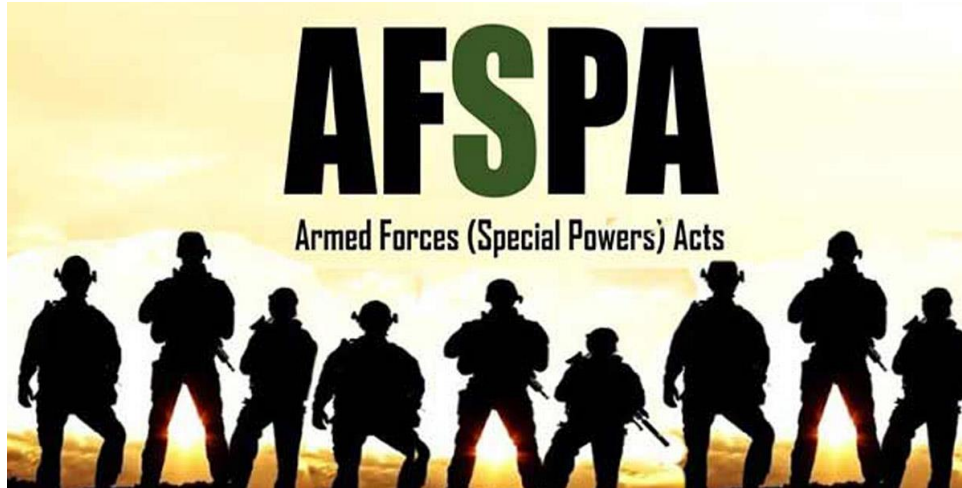
- ❖ Treatment of diseases like COVID-19 and dengue is included under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- ❖ The people affected with the diseases covered under AB-PMJAY can get specific 'Health Benefit Packages' under this scheme.

### **She is a Changemaker – new programme**

- ❖ The National Commission for Women (NCW) launched this pan-India capacity building programme.

- ❖ It was launched for women in Politics.

### **AFSPA repeal**



- ❖ The Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio demanded to repeal the AFSPA.
- ❖ It was in the aftermath of security forces' killing of 14 civilians in Mon district of Nagaland.
- ❖ In June 2021, Ministry of Home Affairs had declared the entire State of Nagaland as a “disturbed area” for six more months in accordance with the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA).
- ❖ AFSPA provides power to the armed forces to maintain public order in disturbed areas.

### **Bhasha Sangam**



- ❖ A mobile app known as 'Bhasha Sangam' has been launched by the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ The app will help individuals in acquiring basic conversation abilities in languages other than one's own mother tongue.
- ❖ The initiative by the Government has been taken under Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat Programme.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 4.5 days' work per week



- ❖ United Arab Emirates is to implement a national work week, which is shorter than five-day week.
- ❖ It has become the first country in the world to implement such a model.

### Australia - Beijing Winter Olympics

- ❖ Australia will not send officials to February's Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.
- ❖ With this move, Australia has joined a US diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympics Games.
- ❖ The United States took the decision to boycott the Games over China's genocide of the Uyghur minority in Xinjiang.
- ❖ It means that the US is not sending any official or diplomatic representation to participate in the Olympics.
- ❖ However, the US is allowing American athletes to participate in the Olympics.
- ❖ It will be the first Winter Olympics in China.

- ❖ It will be the last of three consecutive Olympics which is to be held in East Asia, after 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, and 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan.



## **PANEX-21**



- ❖ PANEX-21 is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise to be held at Pune.
- ❖ It is to be held for the BIMSTEC countries.
- ❖ BIMSTEC countries are Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

## **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)**

- ❖ Former chief election commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora has been invited to join the board of advisers at the International IDEA.

- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organization based in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ❖ India is one of the founding members of the institute since 1995.
- ❖ Sunil Arora had served as the 23rd Chief Election Commissioner of India from December 2018 to April 2021.



## **ECONOMY**

### **New FICCI Chairman**



- ❖ Sanjiv Mehta, the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), will be the new President.

- ❖ It was announced by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

### **RBI Monetary Policy**



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent for the ninth consecutive time.
- ❖ It was headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shakti kanta Das.
- ❖ The reverse repo rate will continue to be 3.35 per cent.
- ❖ The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)**



- ❖ NASA launched its first-ever laser communications system

- ❖ It will be in a geosynchronous orbit, over 35,000km above Earth.
- ❖ LCRD will showcase the unique capabilities of optical communications in space.
- ❖ Optical communications will help increase the bandwidth 10 to 100 times more than radio frequency systems.
- ❖ LCRD will send data to Earth at 1.2 Gbps using infrared lasers.
- ❖ LCRD is NASA's first two-way, end-to-end optical relay.

## **BrahMos Supersonic Missile**



- ❖ An air version of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile was successfully test-fired by India.
- ❖ The latest launch by the Defence Research and Development Organisation has cleared the system for the serial production of BrahMos missiles in India.

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

### **Jnanpith Award**

- ❖ Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr won the 56th Jnanpith Award and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo won the 57th Jnanpith Award.
- ❖ It is the country's oldest and highest literary award.
- ❖ It is a literary award presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith organization to Indian writers every year.
- ❖ This was instituted in 1961.





❖ It is given only to Indian writers who write in Indian languages and English.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★