

December - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid al-Sabah was appointed as the 8th Prime Minister of Kuwait.
  - It came after the resignation of his predecessor Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Koliwar Bridge over the Sone river in Bihar.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Survey of India to start the India's largest land and house ownership surveys in the state.
  - It was named as "YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakku-Bhoomi Rakshana".
- ❖ Molnupiravir has been shown to stop the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in 24 hours.
  - This is the first oral drug to rapidly block SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting and annual convention on December 12, 2020.
  - This year's theme of the Annual Convention is "Inspired India".
- ❖ Indian-American, Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari is among the 18 astronauts who have been selected by NASA for its Artemis moon-landing programme.
  - This programme aims to land the first woman and next man on the Moon in 2024.
- ❖ Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja informed that a new genus of malaria called 'plasmodium oval' has been detected in the state.

## TAMIL NADU

### International Bharati Festival

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi on December 11, 2020, virtually addressed the International Bharati Festival 2020.



- ❖ PM Modi also conferred Bharati Award 2020 virtually to writer and author Seeni Vishwanathan.
- ❖ Visvanathan made a voluminous compendium on Subramanya Bharati in chronological order.
- ❖ The event was organized by the Vanavil Culture Centre in Chennai.
- ❖ It was held to honor the national poet Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati on his 138th birth anniversary.
- ❖ Subramanya Bharati was born in 11th December, 1882 at Ettayapuram.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Co-WIN App**

- ❖ The Union Health Ministry has developed this digital platform.
- ❖ It will work for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine delivery, recording data and to enable people to get themselves registered for vaccination.
- ❖ Through this 'Co-WIN' platform, the people will be able to register themselves for vaccination.

### **New Parliament Building**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building at Sansad Marg in Parliament Complex.
- ❖ Tata Projects Ltd has been given the contract for the construction of this project.
- ❖ It will come up in an area covering 64,500 sqm at a cost of Rs 971 crore.
- ❖ It is expected to be finished by or before 2022.
- ❖ The country will celebrate its 75th Independence Day in 2022.
- ❖ The new Parliament building will have a bigger Lok Sabha and Rajya Chamber with the lower house having 888 seats, while the upper house will have 384 seats.
- ❖ It will be able to accommodate 1224 members during a joint session of the parliament.
- ❖ The new Parliament building will not have a central hall unlike the existing one.



### **Meat at IVC**

- ❖ A new study has found the presence of animal products in the Indus Valley Civilization.
- ❖ It is including cattle and buffalo meat in ceramic vessels.
- ❖ The people also kept the cattle for their dairy needs.
- ❖ The study also found that both summer and winter-based cropping was practiced.
- ❖ There is evidence of barley, wheat, rice and millets.
- ❖ It is dating back about 4,600 years at Indus Valley Civilisation sites.
- ❖ The study was essentially done in five sites: four villages – Alamgirpur in Uttar Pradesh; and around five places in Haryana.
- ❖ It was conducted by Akshyeta Suryanarayan at Cambridge.
- ❖ It was published in the Journal of Archaeological Science.

### **India Water Impact summit**

- ❖ It is the first ever summit in this kind.
- ❖ It will disseminate and discuss the need for modalities of embracing the method cleaning of Ganga.
- ❖ It is being organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies.

- ❖ Theme of this summit is ‘Comprehensive analysis and Holistic management of rivers and water bodies with a focus on Arth Ganga’.

### Urban Quality of Life

- ❖ It was compiled by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).
- ❖ The study quantifies the relative holistic urban development of 14 cities in India.
- ❖ Gender parity was taken into consideration for the first time.

### Important points

- ❖ Top city is Mumbai.
- ❖ The worst city is Patna.
- ❖ Most women-friendly city is Chennai.
- ❖ Least women-friendly city is Patna.
- ❖ Highest crime rate against women is at Jaipur
- ❖ Lowest crime rate against women is at Chennai

<b>IIT-B RANKING OF INDIAN CITIES</b>		
<b>Index</b>	<b>Highest ranked</b>	<b>Lowest ranked</b>
Basic amenities	Pune	Patna
Economic development	Mumbai	Patna
Safety and security	Kolkata	Patna
Transportation access	Delhi	Indore
Environmental impact	Mumbai	Lucknow
Infrastructure development	Kolkata	Patna
Gender role	Chennai	Patna

### **SBI study on pandemic management**

- ❖ The North-eastern states have topped the list of states in managing Covid-19.
- ❖ It is followed by Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh are at the bottom of the list.
- ❖ The northeast topped the list in the macroeconomic parameters as well.



- ❖ It was followed by Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal were at the bottom in this category.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra were at the top on performance in the Centre's schemes.
- ❖ While Goa, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh were the most laggard.
- ❖ Five schemes were taken into account for this yardstick - one nation one ration card, PM Svanidhi, PM Samman, emergency credit linked guarantee scheme and PM Awas Yojana.
- ❖ Combining all the schemes, the Northeast topped the list followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh came at the bottom.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Israel-Morocco peace deal**

- ❖ Morocco becomes 4th Arab state to normalise relations with Israel this year.
- ❖ It was done after the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan.
- ❖ Overall, Morocco is the sixth nation to recognise Israel, the first were Egypt and Jordan.
- ❖ In return, the United States has agreed to recognise Morocco's claim over the disputed Western Sahara Region.
- ❖ It is a subject of dispute between Morocco and the Algeria-backed Polisario Front.

### **Indian Ocean Island Games**

- ❖ Madagascar replaces Maldives as host of Indian Ocean Island Games 2023.
- ❖ It is held in every four years among the athletes from the Indian Ocean Island Nations.
- ❖ The games saw the participation of 5 countries: Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Reunion and Comoros.



### **Asian Development Outlook**

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank recently released this.
- ❖ According to this report, the GDP of Indian economy is to contract by 8% in 2020-21.

### **Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility**

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank recently launched this to provide equitable support to the developing countries.
- ❖ It will support developing countries in Asia and will put in efforts to procure vaccines.

### **Time 2020 Person of the year**

- ❖ Time magazine has named US President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris as 2020 "Person of the Year".
- ❖ The Time magazine had chosen 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg as the person of the year 2019.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Atma nirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for Atma nirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to boost employment in formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under Atma nirbhar Bharat Package 3.0.
- ❖ Under this, Government of India will provide subsidy on Employee Provident Fund (12%) for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after 1st October, 2020 and up to 30th June, 2021.

