



**December - 04**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has banned 'Hynniewtre National Liberation Council' (HNLC), a Meghalaya-based insurgent group.
- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued rules that provide a framework for bringing 'systemically important financial service providers' under the purview of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- ❖ The Chile government led by Sebastián Piñera to hold referendum on April 2020 for the creation of new constitution. The current charter was enacted by the military government of Augusto Pinochet in 1980.
- ❖ The European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union's financing department is to stop funding oil, gas and coal projects at the end of 2021.
- ❖ The 5th edition of India-Europe 29 Business Forum was recently held at New Delhi. It is India's largest European Platform.
  - It was organized by industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Union Ministry of External Affairs.

## **NATIONAL**

### **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)**

- ❖ The ambitious National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) project will be operational by December 31, 2020.
- ❖ It was started in 2009 after Mumbai attack 2008.
- ❖ The NATGRID links intelligence and investigation agencies.
- ❖ The 10 user agencies will be linked independently with certain databases which will be procured from 21 providing organisations including telecom, tax records, bank, immigration etc. to generate intelligence inputs.
- ❖ The data recovery centre of the NATGRID has been constructed in Bengaluru, Karnataka and its headquarter is nearing completion in Delhi.
- ❖ 10 agencies which will be able to access NATGRID data on real time basis are:
  - Intelligence Bureau (IB)
  - Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW)
  - Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
  - Enforcement Directorate (ED)



- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
- Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)
- Directorate General of Central Excise and Intelligence (DGCEI)
- Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **2019 Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange**

- ❖ It provides a wealth of information and data on the numbers of international students studying in the United States.
- ❖ For the 10th consecutive year, China remained the largest source of international students in the US
- ❖ The number of Indian students in the US has increased by around 3 per cent over the previous year to 202,014.

### **Visa on Arrival facility**

- ❖ The Indian government has extended Visa-on Arrival facility to nationals of United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Moreover, Pakistan Origin UAE nationals will not be eligible for Visa-on-Arrival Scheme.
- ❖ Japan and South Korea are the other two countries whose citizens are offered visa-on-arrival facility by India.
- ❖ However, India extends e-Visa facility to around Citizens of 170 countries.

## **ECONOMY**

### **TRACE Matrix**

- ❖ TRACE International, the world's leading anti-bribery standard setting organization, has released the 2019 edition of Trace Bribery Risk Matrix (TRACE Matrix).
- ❖ TRACE Matrix is a global business bribery risk assessment tool that measures business bribery risk in 200 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.



- ❖ With a total risk score of 48, India is ranked higher and has been placed in a better position than neighbouring China whose score is 59.
- ❖ Lowest Bribery Risk: New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland
- ❖ Highest Bribery Risk: Somalia, South Sudan, North Korea, Yemen and Venezuela

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Jupiter's moon Europa**

- ❖ For the first time, scientists of NASA have discovered the presence of water vapor above the surface on Europa, the Jupiter's icy moon.
- ❖ The water vapor was measured through one of the world's biggest telescopes in Hawaii.
- ❖ It was first reached by one of the Voyager missions in 1979.
- ❖ Jupiter has 79 known moons.
- ❖ Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and the largest in the Solar System.

### **Prithvi II**

- ❖ India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile.
- ❖ It was done at night as part of a user trial by Indian Army.
- ❖ These were second night trials of Prithvi-II missile.
- ❖ These tests were conducted from a mobile launcher at Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island, in Balasore district of Odisha.

#### **About Prithvi 2 missile**

- ❖ It is surface-to-surface tactical missile with a strike range of 350 km.
- ❖ It is a single-stage liquid-fuelled missile.
- ❖ It is India's first missile indigenously developed by DRDO under prestigious Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
- ❖ It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads, both conventional as well as nuclear.
- ❖ It is deployed by India's Strategic Forces Command.
- ❖ It was inducted into the Indian defence forces in 2003.



### **6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Lighting (iSoL)**

- ❖ The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, organized International Symposium on lighting (iSoL).
- ❖ It provides a common platform to professionals related directly or indirectly to the automotive lighting fraternity from all around the globe.
- ❖ The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is located at Manesar (Haryana).
- ❖ It is a leading world class automotive testing, certification and R&D service provider.
- ❖ It functions under the aegis of NATRiP (National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project), Government of India.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Idris Elba - wasp**

- ❖ The wasp as recently discovered in Mexico.
- ❖ The wasp was named as Idris Elba, who is known for playing Heimdall (Character name) in Thor (Film Name) from the Marvel Cinematic Universe.
- ❖ It was found living as a parasite in the eggs of another insect.
- ❖ The insect is known as the bagrada bug, which is a major pest of cruciferous vegetables.

### **Special Diesel**

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the supply of special winter-grade diesel for high altitude Ladakh, which faces sub-zero temperatures (upto minus 30-degree Celsius) during the winter months.
- ❖ It was developed by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to address the problem of loss of fuel during extreme winter conditions.
- ❖ It also meets BIS specification of BS-VI grade.

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



## **Golden Leaf Award**

- ❖ Tobacco Board of India, located at Guntur of Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the Golden Leaf Award at Tab Expo 2019 event in Amsterdam, Netherland.
- ❖ This is the second time that the Tobacco Board had been awarded.
- ❖ In the year 2014, the board bagged the award for its implementation of an electronic auction system, which has made the marketing of flue-cured tobacco in India more transparent and accountable.
- ❖ The award was given in the most impressive public service initiative category for the year 2019, for its efforts to initiate various sustainability (green) initiatives in Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco cultivation in India.
- ❖ The Golden Leaf Awards are created to recognise professional excellence and dedication in the tobacco industry by Tobacco Reporter, an international magazine in the year 2006.
- ❖ India is the world's fourth largest producer of FCV tobacco.
- ❖ About 88,000 FCV tobacco farmers and their families in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are dependent on this crop for their livelihood.

## **SPORTS**

### **Harmeet Desai**

- ❖ Indian paddler Harmeet Desai won men's singles title at International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Challenge Indonesia Open 2019 Table Tennis tournament held at Batam, Indonesia.
- ❖ He defeated compatriot Amalraj Anthony
- ❖ This was Harmeet's first title on foreign soil.
- ❖ It was his overall second International title of the year, after he had won Commonwealth championship in July 2019 held in Cuttack, Odisha.

