

December - 10

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A private weather monitoring company, Skymet released a report on Kharif Crop outlook. According to the report, barring cotton the Kharif crops are expected to witness a drop-in production by 4.5% to 12% as compared to 2018-19.
- ❖ Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech launched its advanced version of rotavirus vaccine – Rotavac 5D, to tackle viral diarrhoea.

## NATIONAL

### National Organic Festival of Women Entrepreneurs

- ❖ In a unique collaborative effort Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to organise “National Organic Festival of Women Entrepreneurs”.
- ❖ The event will be planned and organized through NIFTEM, Haryana.
- ❖ NIFTEM is an academic institution under the administrative control of Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.
- ❖ The festival aims to encourage Indian women entrepreneurs and farmers to connect with buyers and thus, empower them through financial inclusion, while also promoting organic food produce in India.





## **Prohibition of e-Cigarettes Bill - Passed**

- ❖ The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage, and Advertisement) Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament on 3 December 2019.
- ❖ The Bill which seeks to prohibits the production, storage, trade, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes, replaces an Ordinance promulgated in September 2019.

### **Background**

- ❖ The Union Government has set an ambitious goal of eliminating Tuberculosis by 2025.
- ❖ 16 states have already banned e-cigarettes.

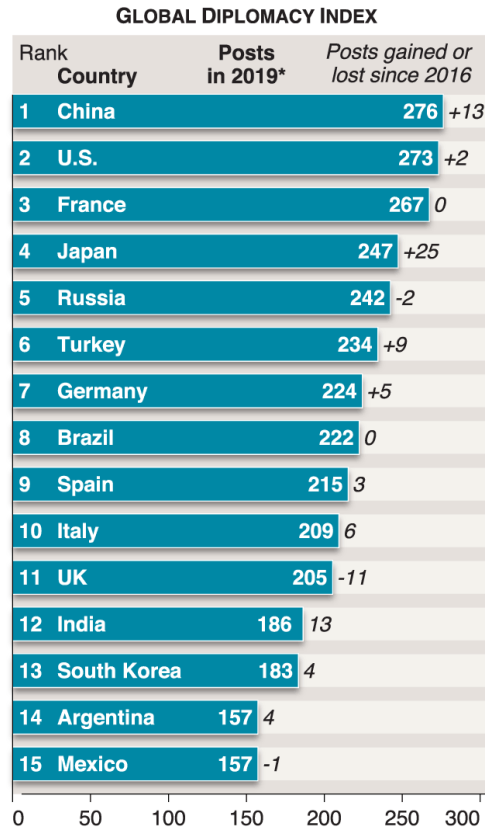
## **Centre stops - online sale of medicines**

- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has directed all states and Union territories to prohibit the sale of medicines through unlicensed online platforms as per the Delhi High Court order.
- ❖ The Delhi High Court had stated that the drugs were sold online in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Act, 1940.
- ❖ Under the D&C Act, 1940 and D&C Rules, 1945 sale of spurious drugs is a punishable offence and State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action in this regard.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Global Diplomacy Index 2019**

- ❖ The 2019 Global Diplomacy Index was released by Sydney-based Lowy Institute.
- ❖ The index gives the latest statistics and marking about how the world's diplomatic networks are expanding and shrinking.
- ❖ The index ranked 61 countries across the world.
- ❖ China and US are occupied top positions in this index.
- ❖ India was ranked 12th among the 61 countries.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Antibiotic Resistance

- ❖ According to a new study by researchers at the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), antibiotic prescription rate high in private sector.
- ❖ The study is the first ever estimate of outpatient antibiotic prescription rates and patterns in the private sector.
- ❖ The private sector clocked high levels of antibiotic prescription rates (412 per 1,000 persons per year).
- ❖ The highest rate was seen among children aged 0–4 years (636 per 1,000 persons) and the lowest in the age group 10–19 years (280 per 1,000 persons).



DISEASE	ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS (In per cent)
Acute upper respiratory infections	20.4
Acute lower respiratory infection	12.8
Disorders of urinary system	6.0
Cough	4.7
Acute nasopharyngitis	4.6
Acute pharyngitis	3.9
Acute bronchitis	3.4
Injury, poisoning and others	3.9
Cutaneous abscess	2.3
Asthma	2.2

Source: Outpatient prescription rate and pattern in the private sector in India: Evidence from medical audit data

### **CSIR Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Test gets US FDA certification**

- ❖ The CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) cleared the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Test facility at the centre.
- ❖ The inspection was conducted with regard to Current Good Manufacturing Practices and was certified “No Action Initiated”.

#### **About NMR**

- ❖ Nuclear Magnetic Resonance is an analytical technique to determine the purity of a sample and its molecular structure.
- ❖ The technique is used to observe the local magnetic fields around atomic nuclei.
- ❖ Biochemists use NMR technique to identify proteins and other complex molecules.

## **ENVIRONMENT**



### **32 major tiger corridors - mapped out**

- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), under the Union environment ministry, has published a document, titled “Connecting Tiger Populations for Long-term Conservation”.
- ❖ NTCA has published this in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.
- ❖ The document maps 32 major corridors and details the tiger conservation plan under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ There has been a 6% annual increase in their numbers since 2006.

### **New Zealand breeds low methane-emitting sheep**

- ❖ The New Zealand livestock industry has begun a “global first” genetic program “Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) Genetics”. It has launched a new “methane research breeding value”.
- ❖ That would help to tackle climate change by breeding low methane-emitting sheep.
- ❖ These grazing animals can be genetically modified to contribute less to the destruction of the ozone layer.
- ❖ There are about six sheep for each person in New Zealand, and the livestock industry accounts for about one-third of the country’s total greenhouse gas emissions.

## **STATES**

### **Punjab - Land banks**

- ❖ With an aim to create land banks in rural areas, the Punjab Cabinet has given in-principle approval to amend the law for transfer of common village land in rural areas to the state’s industry department.
- ❖ The amendment will facilitate gram panchayats to promote development of villages by unlocking the value of ‘Shamlat’ or village common land.

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

### **International Press Institute India award**

- ❖ India’s private news channel NDTV has been awarded International Press Institute India award for excellence in journalism.

- ❖ This award was given by the India chapter of the Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI).

#### About IPI

- ❖ The annual award was instituted by IPI India in 2003.
- ❖ It recognises and honours best work done by an Indian media organization/journalist.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime – December 09**

- ❖ United Nations General Assembly established this day.
- ❖ The 9th of December is the anniversary of the adoption of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”).
- ❖ This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Convention.
- ❖ The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the Genocide Convention and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide.







## **International Anti-Corruption Day - 9 December**

- ❖ International Anti-Corruption Day is observed every year on 9 December across the globe.
- ❖ It is celebrated to raise the awareness among people about corruption and what they can do to fight it.
- ❖ This day was instituted by UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2003. The Convention entered into force in December 2005.
- ❖ This day is organised by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) every year all over the world.
- ❖ This day is celebrated worldwide under the observance of United Nations and encourages a global fight against corruption keeping the sustainable development goal of 2030 at the apex.
- ❖ Theme for 2018-2019 is “Together We Are United Against Corruption”.

**9th International  
DEC Anti -Corruption Day**

**WE ARE #UnitedAgainstCorruption**

UNITED  
AGAINST  
CORRUPTION



TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2019**

- ❖ English author Tony Joseph has won 12th ‘Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize’ for his 2018 book, ‘Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came’.
- ❖ It seeks to celebrate ‘extraordinary new writing in all genres’ from South Asian countries.
- ❖ In 2018, the prize was awarded to Sujatha Gidla from India for her ‘Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and The Making of Modern India’.

