



**December - 16**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ In Maharashtra, the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi expressway was named after late Bal Thackeray.
  - This expressway is between Mumbai and Nagpur.
- ❖ Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar replaced Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance (MoF) as the head of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on the Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST).
  - This information was stated by the GST (Goods and Services Tax) council.
- ❖ Dr. Padmeswar Gogoi was awarded the Siu-Ka-Pha Award.
  - The award recognized his effort and contribution in the field of botany and science.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Drug Price Control Order, 2013**

- ❖ The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) for the first-time invoked Drug Price Control Order, 2013.
- ❖ It aims to increase the prices of 21 medicines to ensure their availability.
- ❖ The NPPA was set up as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

### **India Design Council**

- ❖ The India Design Council (IDC) launched the Chartered Designs of India (CDI) and the Design Education Quality Mark (DEQM) in New Delhi.
- ❖ These two initiatives of IDC and National Institute of design, Ahmedabad will help to address the challenges of scale,
  - quality of design,
  - quality of education for design,
  - raising the priority for design in industry and
  - design for public purpose.

- ❖ India Design Council is an autonomous body of the Government of India established under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ It is a national strategic body for multi-disciplinary design and is involved in promotion of design to make India a design enabled country.

### **Water Quality Index – India ranks 120: 70% contaminated**

- ❖ Niti Aayog published a report “Composite Water Management Index”.
- ❖ The report mentions that India is placed at 120th amongst 122 countries in the Water Quality Index, with nearly 70% of water being contaminated.
- ❖ Niti Aayog report has mentioned that 21 major cities are expected to run out of groundwater by 2020.
- ❖ This is based on the estimates of annual groundwater replenishment and its extraction.
- ❖ Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan which is a time-bound campaign to improve water availability including groundwater conditions.



### **T. L. Alamelu committee**

- ❖ IRDAI constitutes 10 member Working Group under T. L. Alamelu to look the issues of General Insurance Industry.
- ❖ The insurance regulator, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a Working Group to make recommendations for loss prevention and loss minimization.

#### **About IRDAI**

- ❖ Founded – 1999.
- ❖ Headquarters – Hyderabad, Telangana.



- ❖ Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia.

### **103<sup>rd</sup> LCU amphibious ship / LCU L-57**

- ❖ The Warship builder GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers) delivered 103<sup>rd</sup> LCU amphibious ship LCU L-57 to Indian Navy.
- ❖ It was the 7<sup>th</sup> in the series of 8<sup>th</sup> such vessels being made by GRSE for the Navy.
- ❖ The LCU Mk-IV Class of ships are a further improved version of the Mk-III LCU Vessels, in line with the central Government's 'Make in India' initiative.

#### About GRSE:

- ❖ Founded – 1884.
- ❖ Headquarters – Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ In 1960, it was acquired by the Government of India from Macneill & Barry Limited.

## **ECONOMY**

### **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**

- ❖ NFRA issued its first audit report of IL&FS Financial Services Limited for the year 2017-18.
- ❖ It is the first report submitted by the authority since its constitution in October 2018.
- ❖ Prior to NFRA, the audit of the IL and FS financial services were conducted by Deloitte Haskins and Sells (DHS).

#### About NFRA

- ❖ NFRA is a body for the establishment and enforcement of accounting and auditing standards and oversight of the work of auditors.
- ❖ It was established in 2018 under the Companies act, 2013.
- ❖ Due to the establishment of NFRA, India is now eligible for membership of International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Global High-Resolution Atmospheric Forecasting System (GRAF)**

- ❖ International technology company IBM is planning to develop this high-resolution weather forecast model.



- ❖ It will also rely on user-generated data to improve the accuracy of forecasts available in India.
- ❖ IBM GRAF, as the forecast system is called, can generate forecasts at a resolution of 3 kilometres.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Heavy metal contamination in Indian Rivers

- ❖ The Central Water Commission (CWC) collected a total of 442 surface water samples, of which 287 were polluted by heavy metals.
- ❖ The most common heavy metal found was iron, and above safe limits in 156 samples.
- ❖ Lead, nickel, chromium, cadmium and copper were the other metals.
- ❖ Arsenic and zinc are the two toxic metals whose concentration is always found within the limits.
- ❖ The main sources of heavy metal pollution are mining, milling, plating that discharge a variety of toxic metals into the environment.

River	Chromium	Lead	Iron
Ganga	Exceeds		Exceeds
Yamuna			Exceeds
Brahmaputra			Exceeds
Ramganga		Exceeds	
Rapti	Exceeds		Exceeds
Narmada			Exceeds
Godavari			Exceeds

### EU's 2050 climate neutrality targets

- ❖ Poland left 2050 Climate Neutrality Agreement of European Union.
- ❖ The Union demanded for more funds to support nuclear power and for economic transition.
- ❖ The plan is important as the EU bloc that comprises of 28 countries is the third largest economic bloc after China and US in contributions to climate change.

#### About Climate Neutrality Plan



- ❖ This is a key commitment under 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- ❖ It is a 100 billion Euro plan for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- ❖ It is also called European Green Deal.

## STATES

### Odisha - 45 fast track courts

- ❖ The Govt of Odisha announced to set up 45 fast track courts for speedy disposal of rape cases registered under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, in the state.
- ❖ The decision was taken due to the rising incidents of sexual offences against women and children and the need to dispose the cases quickly.

#### About Fast track courts:

- ❖ The Fast Track Courts (FTCs) were established in India in the year 2000 after the recommendation in the 11th finance commission.

### Namaste Orchha festival 2020 – MP

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh (MP) Tourism Department is going to organize a Cultural Festival 'Namaste Orchha 2020' in Orchha on March 2020.
- ❖ Its aim is to promote MP Tourism through Orchha & specially to attract tourists.
- ❖ Orchha is a town in the Bundelkhand region.
- ❖ It won the award for the best heritage city for 2017-18 at the National Tourism Awards.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Wharton - QS Stars Reimagine Education Award 2019

- ❖ Rahul Adhikari has won this award.
- ❖ He got this award for his program "International Changemaker Olympiad (ICO)".
- ❖ Rahul's work was the winner in "sustainable" category.
- ❖ This award is popularly known as the "Oscars" of education.
- ❖ This Award ceremony held in London, UK.
- ❖ The ICO gives a platform to young students in schools from all over the world to solve a real world problem.



### 2019 WTA Player Award winners

- ❖ The 2019 WTA (Women's Tennis Association) Player Awards were announced by the WTA.
- ❖ The winners were voted by the members of the International media in addition to the WTA Jerry Diamond ACES (Asia Corporate Excellence & Sustainability) Award.

Winners	Country	Category
Ashleigh Barty	Australia	Player of the year
Bianca Vanessa Andreescu	Canada	Newcomer of the year
Sofia Anna Kenin	United States (US)	Most Improved Player of the year
Tímea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic	Hungary and France	Doubles Team of the Year
Belinda Bencic	Switzerland	Comeback player of the year

