



December - 24

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) was successfully flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur located in Odisha.
  - QRSAM's technology is being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **First Tripartite Agreement on Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund**

- ❖ The department of fisheries (GoI), NABARD and Tamil Nadu Government signed an agreement to implement Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF).
- ❖ The tripartite agreement set a total of Rs 7522 crores to address the infrastructure requirement of fisheries sector.
- ❖ The projects are to be implemented in the southern coasts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The funding will also be used to augment deep sea fishing, cage culture and promote exports in the future.

#### **Key areas**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in total fish production in the country.
- ❖ The state is ideal for brackish water fisheries, marine fisheries and inland fisheries.
- ❖ India ranks second in the world fish production.
- ❖ The fisheries sector in the country contributes to 1% of GDP of the country.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Nagpur Resolution for Empowering Citizens**

- ❖ The 'Nagpur Resolution - A holistic approach for empowering citizens' was adopted during the Regional Conference on 'Improving Public Service Delivery – Role of Governments', in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The conference was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra.

- ❖ The emphasis of the government is on Minimum Government, Maximum Governance to promote transparency, citizen centricity and participation.
- ❖ For good governance, Shillong Declaration and Jammu Resolution have been adopted earlier.

#### Key highlights

- ❖ Better Service Delivery
- ❖ Grievance Redressal
- ❖ Use of Technology through digital platforms.
- ❖ Dynamic Policy Making
- ❖ Exchange of Technical Expertise
- ❖ Good Governance Index.

### **National Workshop on Accessible Elections 2019**

- ❖ Election Commission of India has organized National Workshop on Accessible Elections 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora has released a booklet named, 'Crossing the Barriers – I Got Inked' during the workshop.
- ❖ It also witnessed the release of "Accessibility Report 2019".
- ❖ It is a document underscored the work is done so far, recent initiatives, and recommendations from all States/UTs (Union Territories) and various stakeholders.





## **Hunar Haat**

- ❖ Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.
- ❖ The USTTAD scheme aims at preserving & promoting the rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts of the Minority communities.
- ❖ Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the Minority communities.
- ❖ Aimed at promoting and supporting artisans from Minority communities and providing them domestic as well as international markets.

## **Swachh Bharat Mission achieves its urban target**

- ❖ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced that urban areas of 35 states & UTs have been declared Open Defecation Free.

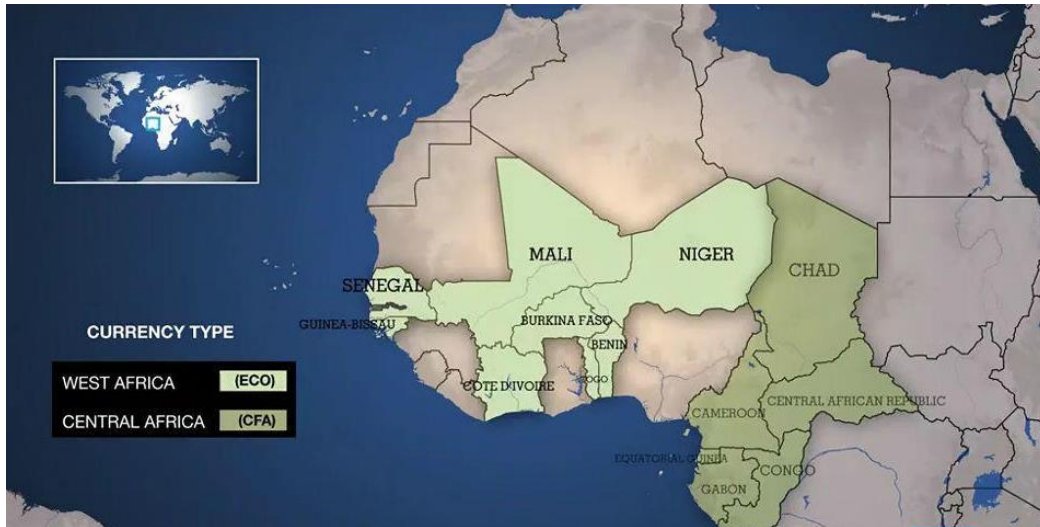
### Highlights

- ❖ According to the ministry, the target has been achieved by constructing 65.81 lakh households' toilets as against the target of 59 lakhs.
- ❖ In order to achieve the target, the ministry had launched ODF+ and ODF++ protocols.
- ❖ The Swachh Bharat Mission for urban areas is being implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ The mission for rural areas is being implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ❖ The rural areas of India were declared Open Defecation Free on October 2, 2019.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Common Currency – 'CFA franc' to 'Eco'**

- ❖ The eight West African nations have agreed to change the name of their common currency from 'CFA franc' to 'Eco'.
- ❖ CFA franc was their currency so far.
- ❖ The 8 West African countries namely - Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea-Bissau currently use CFA Franc as their currency.



## ENVIRONMENT

### World's oldest fossil forest

- ❖ Scientists have recently discovered remnants of a 386-million-year old world's oldest fossil forest in a sandstone quarry in Cairo, New York, United States.
- ❖ This forest is around 2 or 3 million years older than the current world's oldest forest at Gilboa.
- ❖ The research showed that the forest was home to at least two types of trees Cladoxylopsids and Archaeopteris.
- ❖ The third type of tree was also uncovered but is still unidentified.
- ❖ These trees reproduced using only spores rather than seeds.

## STATES

### Mission Shat Pratishat

- ❖ The Mission Shat Pratishat was launched by the Punjab education department.
- ❖ Its aim is to further improve the results of government schools, as compared to the previous year.
- ❖ The objective is to achieve 100 percent result in classes 5, 8, 10, and 12 of government schools.
- ❖ The department has coined a slogan: "Asambhav Nu Sambhav Banaiye, Shatpratishat Natija Liyaiye" (Make impossible possible and secure 100 percent results).

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Rashtriya Swayamsiddh Samman 2019

- ❖ Minister of Law & Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad presented the Rashtriya Swayamsiddh Samman 2019 to 17 individuals and 10 organizations at a function held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Rashtriya Swayamsiddh Jeevan Samman for lifetime achievement was conferred upon Seturam Gopalrao Neginhal, a pioneer of urban forestry.

#### Details of the award

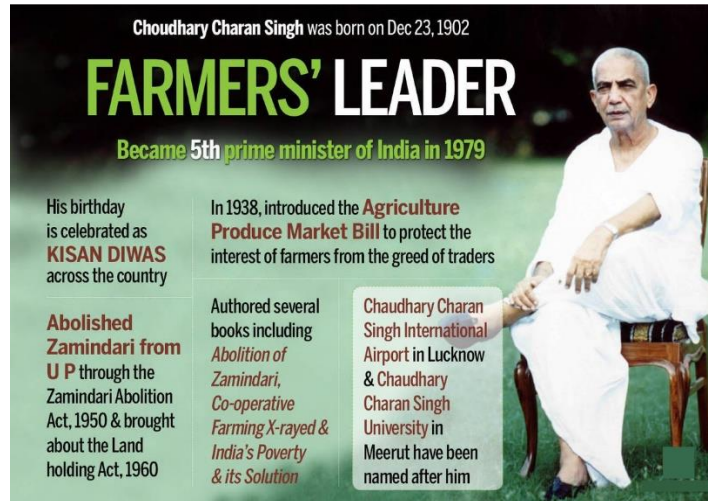
- ❖ It was Instituted in 2015.
- ❖ The award is presented under the following 10 categories:

1. Art and Culture	6. Innovation & Technology
2. Education	7. Public Service
3. Environment	8. Agriculture & Rural Development
4. Entrepreneurship & Livelihood	9. Sports
5. Health	10. Women Empowerment.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Kisan Diwas (Farmer's Day in India) - December 23

- ❖ The National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas is celebrated every year in India on 23rd of December.
- ❖ This day was chosen to honour the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh.
- ❖ He was also known as a Kisan Leader and followed the slogan of Lal Bahadur Shastri's 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'.
- ❖ 'Zamindari Abolition Bill -1952' was passed in parliament due to Chaudhary Charan Singh's hard work.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to promote awareness among the citizens to understand the importance of the farmers to the society and overall economic and social development of a country.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Global Alliance on Health and Pollution - Report

- ❖ Global Alliance on Health and Pollution released a report named “2019 Pollution and Health Metrics: Global, Regional and Country Analysis”.
- ❖ As per the report, India leads the world with about 2.3 million (23,26,771 deaths) in 2017 in terms of premature deaths due to pollution.
- ❖ India is followed by China (18,65,566 deaths) & Nigeria (2,79,318 deaths).
- ❖ The report estimates the global impact of contaminants in the air, water, and workplace.

### Other Data

- ❖ In terms of total untimely deaths per 1 lakh population due to pollution, Chad ranks 1<sup>st</sup> with 287 deaths, followed by the Central African Republic (251) & North Korea (202).
- ❖ India ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in this list with 174.
- ❖ In terms of untimely deaths due to air pollution only, China ranks first with 12,42,987 deaths, India ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with (12,40,529 deaths) and Pakistan ranks third (1,28,005).
- ❖ India is the only country included in the 3 lists issued by this report.

