

February - 08

## NATIONAL

### 8<sup>th</sup> India International Silk Fair

- ❖ The Textiles Minister of India, Smriti Irani, inaugurated the 8th India International Silk Fair on the Virtual Portal.
- ❖ This fair is the biggest silk fair of India.
- ❖ The fair is being held under the virtual platform of Indian Silk Export Promotion Council.

### Silks in India

- ❖ India is the 2nd largest producer of Silk after China.
- ❖ India is also the largest consumer of silk across the world.
- ❖ Around 97% of the raw mulberry silk is produced in five states.
- ❖ These are Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- ❖ Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh and Gobichettipalayam in Tamil Nadu were some of the first locations to establish the automated silk reeling units.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, mulberry silk cultivation is concentrated in Salem, Erode and Dharmapuri districts.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission report

- ❖ The final report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India for FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 was tabled in the Parliament.
- ❖ The Finance Commissions generally submit their reports for a five-year duration.
- ❖ The report has been organized in four volumes:
  - Volume I and II – Main report
  - Volume III: Focused on centre - it examines key departments in greater depth, with the medium-term challenges and the roadmap ahead.
  - Volume IV: Entirely focused on states - it analyses the finances of each State in great depth and has recommended state-specific considerations to address the key challenges that individual States face.

### Key recommendation

- ❖ Maintaining vertical devolution at 41 per cent to maintain predictability and stability of resources.



- ❖ Spending on health by states should be increased to more than 8 per cent of their budget by 2022.
- ❖ Giving additional borrowing room to States based on performance in power sector reforms.

### **India's First 'Amputee Clinic'**

- ❖ India's first amputee clinic has been launched by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh.
- ❖ It has been set up to improve the care of amputee patients by providing a wide range of services under one roof and with significant coordination.
- ❖ The amputee clinic will include all the specialities that help in patient care and rehab under one roof.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Myanmar coup 3.0**

- ❖ The Myanmar military grabbed power in a coup on February 1.
- ❖ This is the third time in the nation's history since its independence from British rule in 1948.
- ❖ In 1962, the military took over from a civilian government for the first time.
- ❖ That coup amended the official name in 1974 to the 'Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma'.
- ❖ Then in 1988, Myanmar's armed forces again took power in the country.
- ❖ This time it reversed the official name to 'Union of Burma'.
- ❖ But after one year, the ruler of that time adopted a law that replaced Burma with Myanmar.
- ❖ It made the country the 'Union of Myanmar'.

### **Neptune Declaration**

- ❖ "Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change" (Neptune Declaration) is joining more than 400 companies and organizations globally.
- ❖ It aims to work to ensure that the crew change crisis caused by COVID-19 is resolved as rapidly as possible.
- ❖ Its four major aims are



- Recognize seafarers as key workers and give them priority access to COVID-19 vaccinations
- Implement high-standard health protocols
- Increase collaboration between ship operators and charterers to facilitate crew changes
- Ensure airline connectivity between key maritime hubs for seafarers

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **First Wetland Conservation and Management center**

- ❖ New Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) will be set-up in Chennai soon.
- ❖ It aims to address the knowledge gaps and specific research needs for the conservation and management of wetlands.
- ❖ India has 42 Ramsar sites that have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance.
- ❖ They cover around 4.6% of Indian landmass.

## **STATES**

### **Kerala Looks Ahead**

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, inaugurated the “Kerala Looks Ahead”.
- ❖ It is a three-day virtual global conclave.
- ❖ It seeks to lay down the roadmap for long-term development in Kerala.
- ❖ The conclave was hosted by the Kerala State Planning Board.
- ❖ The conference covered the nine themes of deliberations.

### **Kerala's First Human Milk Bank**

- ❖ Kerala's first Human Milk Bank, 'Nectar of Life', was opened at Ernakulam General Hospital.
- ❖ It is set up with the support of the Rotary Club of Cochin Global.
- ❖ It will ensure the availability of the breast milk for new-born babies who are not breastfed by their own mothers.

***Nectar of life***


- Neonatology Forum (NNF), Kerala has proposed a breast milk bank

The newborns should be aggressively breastfed in the first hour

- Breast-feeding gives protection from many infections
- In all the neonatal intensive care units, about one-third of the babies would be preterm

• Breast Milk Bank project titled Nectar of Life has got support from Rotary International

**Any lactating mother can donate to the bank**



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

### **The Little Book of Encouragement**

- ❖ Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has come out with his new book titled 'The Little Book of Encouragement'.
- ❖ He has shared quotes and words of wisdom to promote human happiness in that book.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Cancer Day - February 04**

- ❖ It is a global uniting initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).
- ❖ The theme for the World Cancer Day 2021 is 'I Am and I Will.'
- ❖ World Cancer Day originated in 2000 at the first World Summit Against Cancer, Paris.
- ❖ The Day was founded by the UICC.
- ❖ It was to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration-2008.

## **International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation - February 06**

- ❖ This day spread awareness about Female Genital Mutilation.
- ❖ It is performed mainly in Africa, particularly in North-Eastern, Eastern and Western Africa.
- ❖ Against this practice WHO issued a joint statement together with the UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 1997.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation."

