

February - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tokyo 2020 Olympics chief Yoshiro Mori resigned recently.
- ❖ India and China agreed to disengagement of troops in North and South banks of Pangong Lake.

NATIONAL

Manual scavengers Data

- ❖ A total of 66,692 manual scavengers have been identified across the country.
- ❖ The highest number of manual scavengers have been identified in Uttar Pradesh at 37,379.
- ❖ It is followed by 7,378 in Maharashtra, 6,170 in Uttarakhand and 4,295 in Assam.
- ❖ 340 people have died while cleaning sewers and tanks in the last five years.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana and Karnataka have accounted for nearly 75 per cent of total deaths.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh (52), Tamil Nadu (43) and Delhi (36) were topping the list.
- ❖ Maharashtra had 34 such deaths, while Haryana and Gujarat had 31 each.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha MP

- ❖ Trinamool Congress MP Dinesh Trivedi announced his resignation in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ He became a Rajya Sabha member even after his defeat in Barrackpore Lok Sabha elections in 2019.

Crop loss during 2017-2019

- ❖ India has suffered a huge crop loss on 18.176 million hectares of land.
- ❖ It amounts to roughly 8.5 per cent of the total gross cropped area.
- ❖ The crop loss occurred due to floods in the year 2017 to 2019.
- ❖ Out of the losses, around 10.68 million hectares of land was affected in 2019 alone.

- ❖ As per the data, flood-prone states of Bihar, Assam and Uttar Pradesh observed the extreme floods.
- ❖ Extreme floods were also witnessed in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh was the hardest-hit in all the states.
- ❖ These states had zero crop loss in 2017 and 2018.
- ❖ But in 2019, it suffered the highest loss of 6.047 million hectares of land.

India's first CNG tractor

- ❖ The Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched India's first CNG tractor.
- ❖ It can help the farmers save over Rs 1 lakh annually on fuel costs.
- ❖ It is Minister's diesel tractor, which he had bought in 2012.
- ❖ It has been converted to a CNG tractor jointly by Rawmatt Techno Solutions and Tomasetto Achille India.



TROPEX-21 Exercise

- ❖ Theatre level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX-21) is the largest exercise of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It aims at testing the combat readiness of the Indian Navy in a complex multi-dimensional scenario set in the context of the current geo-strategic environment.
- ❖ It is conducted once in 2 years.
- ❖ The first TROPEX was held in 2005

INTERNATIONAL

US-Mexico Border Wall Project

- ❖ The US President has revoked the emergency order that was issued by former President Donald Trump
- ❖ It was issued to construct the US-Mexico border wall.
- ❖ In 2019, the Trump administration had signed the executive order.
- ❖ That order has declared the national emergency so as to build US-Mexico border wall.
- ❖ The emergency was announced after repeated clash with the lawmakers regarding the funding for the project.



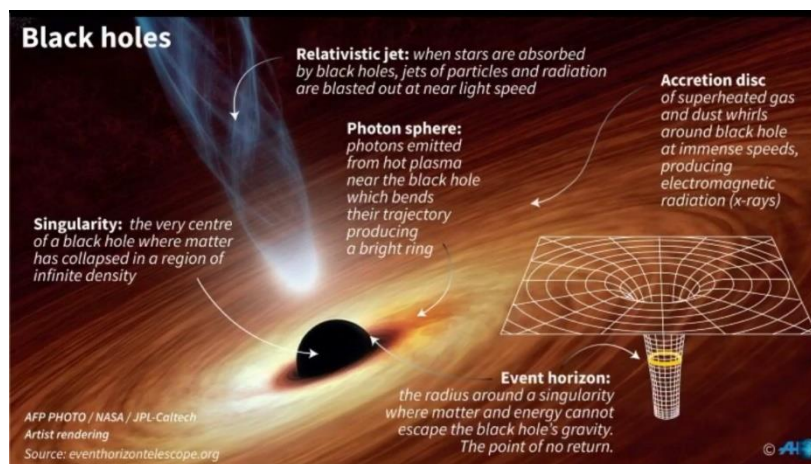
Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

- ❖ Members of the COFI (Committee on Fisheries) 34th session supported the first-ever Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture.
- ❖ COFI 34 is the 34th Session of UNFAO's Committee on Fisheries.
- ❖ The declaration calls for strong action to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- ❖ It has also emphasized on the importance of recovering from impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ COFI 34 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (adopted in 1995).
- ❖ This code is a key instrument guiding the drive towards sustainable fisheries and aquaculture around the world.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Concentration of Small Black Holes

- ❖ The astronomers have discovered a concentration of smaller black holes in the cluster NGC 6397.
- ❖ Small black holes were discovered instead of one massive black hole at the heart of the cluster.
- ❖ The cluster NGC 6397 is as old as the universe.
- ❖ The cluster is also known as Caldwell 86.
- ❖ It is located around 7,800 light-years away.



Humans in space policy 2021

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation unveiled a draft “humans in space policy 2021”.
- ❖ It would look at facilitating participation of non-traditional players in undertaking space activities.
- ❖ It also plans to tap startups and the local industry to build technologies for its human space programme.

Indigenous mapping solution

- ❖ ISRO has joined hands with ‘MapmyIndia’ to develop a web mapping service like ‘Google Maps’.
- ❖ MapmyIndia is an Indian technology company that builds digital map data and navigation solutions provider.



STATES

Completion of Urban Local Bodies reforms

- ❖ Goa has become the 6th State in the country that have successfully completed the Urban Local Bodies reforms.
- ❖ These Urban Local Bodies reforms were set up by the Department of Expenditure.
- ❖ It aims to strengthening the finance of the Urban Local Bodies in States.
- ❖ These reforms would enable the ULBs to provide better public health and sanitation services to its citizens.
- ❖ The five other states - Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan and Telangana.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Voice of The Customer Award

- ❖ Bangalore International Airport Limited's has bagged Airports Council International World's 'Voice of the Customer' award.
- ❖ This airport is also known as Kempegowda International Airport.
- ❖ It recognises the airports that continued to prioritise their customers and remained committed to ensuring that their voice was heard during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Productivity Day - February 12

- ❖ The day is celebrated by the National Productivity Council (NPC) to promote productivity culture in India.
- ❖ This day marks the formation of NPC in 1958.
- ❖ NPC is an autonomous registered society under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ❖ National Productivity Week was also observed during February 12-18.

