

February - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ February 12 is Abraham Lincoln's birthday and a museum dedicated to him is closed for the first time at USA.
- ❖ The Supreme Court said that, the inter-caste marriages can reduce caste and community tensions in India.
  - Special Marriages Act 1954 is used to register the inter-religious and inter-caste marriages in the country.

## NATIONAL

### Business Confidence Index (BCI)

- ❖ It is developed by the Delhi-based economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- ❖ According to the index, Business Confidence rose 29.6 per cent between second and third quarter of the current financial year.
- ❖ The rise was due to rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in different countries, including India.

### Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Residential Schools

- ❖ To honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the Union government has decided to name residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha scheme.
- ❖ These will be named as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools/hostels.
- ❖ So far, a total of 1063 residential facilities (383 residential Schools and 680 Hostels) were sanctioned to different States and UTs.
- ❖ Of these, 12 schools and 19 hostels are located in poll bound West Bengal.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Battle Tank Arjun Mark 1A

- ❖ Prime Minister dedicated the Main Battle Tank Arjun Mark 1A to the nation.
- ❖ The tank has been fully designed and developed by the DRDO in close coordination with the Indian Army.

- ❖ The tanks will be produced by the Ordnance Factory Board's Heavy Vehicles Factory of Avadi, Chennai.



### **Huge Optical Flare**

- ❖ The Indian astronomers have reported one of the strongest flares from a feeding super massive black hole or blazar called BL Lacertae.
- ❖ They emit jets of charged particles travelling nearly at the speed of light.
- ❖ It also one of the most luminous and energetic objects in the Universe.
- ❖ Analysis of this flare can help trace the mass of the black hole and the source of this emission.
- ❖ It can also provide a lead to probe mysteries and trace events at different stages of evolution of the Universe.
- ❖ BL Lacertae blazar is 10 million light-years away.

## **STATES**

### **COVID Warrior Memorial**

- ❖ Odisha government has decided to construct a Covid Warrior Memorial in Biju Patnaik Park at Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ It aims to recognize the sacrifice and services rendered by the Covid warriors who lost their lives fighting the pandemic.



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

### **Women Excellence Award 2021**

- ❖ Four young women fellows of National Science Academies have been awarded for excelling in science and engineering on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021.
- ❖ The award given by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).
- ❖ SERB is a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ This award was launched in the year 2013.
- ❖ The winners are:
  - Dr. Shobhna Kapoor - Chemical Biology
  - Dr. Antara Banerjee - Health Sciences
  - Dr. Sonu Gandhi – Bio nanotechnology
  - Dr. Ritu Gupta - Nanotechnology

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Radio Day - February 13**

- ❖ In 2011, UNESCO's General Conference, at its 36th session, proclaimed February 13 as World Radio Day.
- ❖ It coincides with the anniversary of the United Nations Radio.
- ❖ The UN's international broadcasting service was established on February 13, 1946.
- ❖ This is 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- ❖ This year will be celebrated through three sub-themes.
- ❖ Evolution: The world changes, radio evolves so the radio is resilient and sustainable;
- ❖ Innovation: The world changes, radio adapts and innovates - radio adapts to new technologies and remains the go-to medium of mobility, accessible everywhere and to everyone;
- ❖ Connection: The world changes, radio connects - radio services our society during natural disasters, socio-economic crises, epidemics, etc.

### **World Pangolin day - February 13**

- ❖ World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of February.

- ❖ This international effort raises awareness about pangolin species.
- ❖ Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are found in India.
- ❖ Protection Status:
  - Indian Pangolin: Endangered
  - Chinese Pangolin: Critically Endangered.
- ❖ Both these species are listed under Schedule I, Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

### Under threat

The pangolin is the most trafficked mammal in the world. A look at some of its characteristics

- A pangolin's tongue is longer than its body
- It can consume 70 million ants a year
- Pangolins have no teeth; they 'chew' with gravel and keratinous spines inside the stomach
- They close their ears and nostrils to keep insects out

▪ The animal marks its territories with urine, faeces and stinky secretion from a special gland

▪ Baby pangolins are carried on their mother's back and tail

▪ Scales, made of keratin, like human nails and hair, comprise about 20% of a pangolin's body weight

**There are eight pangolin species – four each in Africa and Asia; two of them are in India**

**The Chinese Pangolin was officially categorised as critically endangered in 2014, but I think it is extinct today. The Indian Pangolin, marked endangered that year, is now critically endangered and disappearing fast**

**RITESH SAROTHIYA**  
Officer-in-charge,  
Madhya Pradesh Forest Department's  
Special Task Force

An infographic about pangolins. It features a large image of a pangolin at the bottom. Above it, there are several text boxes and smaller images. One image shows a pangolin's head and tail. Another shows a pangolin's scales. The text provides facts about pangolin characteristics, their status, and conservation efforts.

### **Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary/National Women's Day of India 2021**

- ❖ National Women's Day is celebrated on Sarojini Naidu's birthday.
- ❖ She was famous for her nickname 'Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila' because of her poems.
- ❖ This year is the 142nd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- ❖ She became the first woman governor of the United Provinces, the present Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ She was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1925 held at Kanpur.

**Sarojini Naidu**, freedom fighter and poet, was born on Feb 13, 1879

**The Nightingale of India**

Began writing at the age of 12

Was the **second woman to become the president** of the Indian National Congress in 1925



Her famous works include, *Maher Muneer* & *The Golden Threshold*

Was the **first woman** to become a Governor in **1947**

**"Oh, we want a new breed of men before India can be cleansed of her disease"**



## International Childhood Cancer Day - February 15



**'Better Survival' is achievable**  
**#throughourhands**

Speak out for kids with cancer using **#ICCD2021 #throughourhands #cureall**

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about childhood cancer.
- ❖ It also aims to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.
- ❖ On the landmark 20th edition, Childhood Cancer International (CCI) and the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) unveil a joint three-year campaign.
- ❖ The campaign is planned under the theme of #throughourhands.
- ❖ The CCI campaign is fully aligned with the #CureAll strategy.
- ❖ It was the landmark strategy by the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC).



- ❖ That was Launched in 2018.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### World Bank report on Road Accidents

- ❖ The World Bank recently published its report titled “Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society”.
- ❖ As per the report, India has only 1 per cent of the world’s vehicles.
- ❖ But it accounts for 11 per cent of the global death due to road accidents.
- ❖ It stands highest death toll in the world because of road accident.
- ❖ The road crash deaths among rural poor households’ accounts for 44 per cent.
- ❖ The road crash death among urban poor household’s accounts for 11.6 per cent.

**Table 2.3: Number of accidents, Number of persons killed and those injured by the category of Roads in 2019**

Category of Roads	Length as on 31.3.18 (P)		Accidents		Persons killed		Persons injured	
	Kms	% age share in total	Number	% age share in total	Number	% age share in total	Number	% age share in total
National Highways	1,26,350	2.03	1,37,191	30.55	53,872	35.65	1,37,549	30.47
State Highways	1,86,908	3.01	1,08,976	24.27	38,472	25.46	1,11,831	24.78
Other roads	59,00,858	94.96	2,02,835	45.17	58,769	38.89	2,01,981	44.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,15,797</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,49,002</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,51,113</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,51,361</b>	<b>100</b>

