

February - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Germany's Bayern Munich Team beat Tigres UANL in the final of the FIFA Club World Cup to lift their sixth title.
- ❖ China has banned BBC World News from broadcasting in the country for seriously violating its guidelines for reporting.
- ❖ Arora Akanksha, an Indian-origin employee at the UN has announced her candidacy to be its next Secretary-General.

## TAMIL NADU

### New projects and schemes

- ❖ Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami launched a crop loan waiver scheme on 13th February.
- ❖ Government has also set a deadline for loans availed until January 31, 2021, for the waiver scheme.
- ❖ CM launched the seventh phase of excavations at the Keeladi site in Sivaganga district.
- ❖ He laid the foundation stone for construction of four check dams across the river Tamiraparani in Tuticorin district.

### Key projects by Prime Minister

- ❖ Prime Minister unveiled several key projects in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He inaugurated the following:
  - Fourth Metro railway line between Chennai beach and Attipattu.
  - Railway electrification of single line section in Villupuram-Cuddalore-Mayiladuthurai-Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai-Tiruvarur in Tamil Nadu.
  - Unveiled the foundation stone for the Discovery Campus of the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras.
  - Laid the foundation stone for the extension, renovation and modernisation of the Grand Anicut Canal System.



- Inauguration of Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I extension & inauguration of fourth Railway line between Chennai Beach and Attipattu
- Inauguration of Railway Electrification of single line section in Villupuram - Cuddalore - Mayiladuthurai - Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai-Thiruvavur
- To hand over the State-of-the-Art Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the Indian Army
- To lay the foundation stone for the extension, renovation and modernization of the Grand Anicut Canal System & also to lay the foundation stone for the Discovery Campus of IIT Madras

## NATIONAL

### Digital insurance policies

- ❖ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked insurers to issue digital policies in Digilocker to their policyholders.
- ❖ This step will not only bring down the cost but also help speed up claim settlement process.
- ❖ Digilocker is an initiative under the Digital India programme by the government.
- ❖ Using this, citizen can get authentic documents/ certificate in digital format from original issuers of these certificates.

### Vigyan Jyoti programme phase II

- ❖ Department of Science and Technology (DST) commenced the second phase of Vigyan Jyoti programme.
- ❖ It is started on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11.
- ❖ It is an initiative to encourage girls to take interest in science and build career.
- ❖ It aims to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
- ❖ It had been running successfully in 50 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) since December 2019.
- ❖ Now it has been expanded to 50 more JNVs for the year 2021-22.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Pakistan War games**

- ❖ The Pakistan Army is holding a month-long exercise in the Thar Desert in Sindh province.
- ❖ It aims to prepare for conflict in an extreme desert environment.
- ❖ The exercise, codenamed 'Jidar-ul-Hadeed', began on January 28-February 28.

### **Senate acquits Trump from impeachment**

- ❖ The US Senate has acquitted former President Donald Trump for a second time.
- ❖ After a week of the impeachment trial, only 57 Senators, including seven Republicans voted to convict him.
- ❖ The 57-43 tally fell 10 votes short of the two-third majority needed to convict him.
- ❖ 67 votes need to allow the Senate to move to disqualify him from holding future office.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Tamirabarani Waterbird Count**

- ❖ It was conducted in waterbodies of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Tenkasi districts.
- ❖ It showed a marginal increase in the numbers compared to the tenth edition of the count in 2020 when 24,411 birds from 74 species were spotted.
- ❖ This year, 26,868 birds belonging to 73 species, including thousands of migratory birds from Siberia and Mongolia, were recorded

## **STATES**

### **Climate-resilient development pathway**

- ❖ Bihar signed a memorandum of understanding with the UNEP to achieve climate resilience and low carbon development by 2040.
- ❖ UNEP would lead a multi-stakeholder team to assess the carbon footprint of various sectors.

- ❖ Bihar is the first state of India which signed such kind of MOU.

### **Developmental projects in Kerala**

- ❖ PM inaugurated Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project (PDPP) of oil major Bharat Petroleum in Kochi.
- ❖ He dedicated to the nation Ro-Ro vessels of Inland Waterways at Willingdon Islands.
- ❖ He inaugurated the Cochin Port Trust's International Cruise Terminal and Cochin Shipyard's Vigyan Sagar.
- ❖ It is India's first full-fledged international cruise terminal.
- ❖ He also laid the foundation stone of Cochin Port Trust's South Coal Berth.



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

### **New ICC chief prosecutor**



- ❖ British human rights lawyer Karim Khan was elected as the new prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ❖ He previously led a special UN probe into crimes by the Islamic State extremist group in Iraq.
- ❖ The United Nations has 193 member states but only 123 are in the ICC.
- ❖ ICC is the only permanent body investigating crimes against humanity.

## SPORTS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> highest wicket taker in Tests

- ❖ Ravichandran Ashwin surpassed Harbhajan Singh to become the second highest wicket-taker (268) in Tests played in India.
- ❖ Ashwin has so far taken 394 wickets from 76 Tests.
- ❖ Harbhajan is third in the overall standings with 417 wickets.
- ❖ Kumble is also India's leading wicket-takers in Tests with 619.



**INDIAN BOWLERS WITH 200-PLUS WICKETS IN TESTS AT HOME**

BOWLER	TESTS	WKTS	AVE	BEST	10WM	SR
A Kumble	63	350	24.88	10/74	7	59.4
R Ashwin	45	268	22.54	7/59	6	49.0
Harbhajan	55	265	28.76	8/84	4	64.1
Kapil Dev	65	219	26.49	9/83	2	55.7

### National record in the 20-km walk

- ❖ Priyanka Goswami, beat the national record in the 20-km walk.
- ❖ He did this feat at the 8<sup>th</sup> open national and 4<sup>th</sup> international race-walking championship.
- ❖ She crossed in a timing of 1:28:45.
- ❖ She broke Bhawna Jat's record of 1:29.54 set at the same event last year.
- ❖ Earlier Priyanka won two silver medals at national level in 2017-2018.
- ❖ She also bagged gold in the all-India railway competition (2018).
- ❖ She has participated in World Walk Championship in Italy (Rome) and in Asian Walk Championship Japan.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **International Epilepsy Day – February 08**

- ❖ The second Monday of February is observed as International Epilepsy Day.
- ❖ It is a special event which focuses on promoting awareness on epilepsy.
- ❖ Epilepsy is a neurological condition which can cause seizures.
- ❖ The severity of these seizures can differ from person to person.

