

February - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Oxford University Press has named 'Samvidhaan' (constitution) as the Oxford Hindi Word of the Year (HWOTY) for 2019.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned a 3rd high-speed interceptor boat C-448 in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The country's first and biggest 'walk-through' aviary was inaugurated in Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo also known as Byculla Zoo in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Dr. Partap Chauhan, the pioneer of Ayurvedic Telemedicine, has been conferred with Prestigious Ayurveda Ratan Award 2020 in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ As per the report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China is the world's second largest producer of weaponries.
 - China is only behind the United States and ahead of Russia.
- ❖ Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani appointed as a new Prime Minister of Qatar.
 - He is the successor of Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani who has resigned from the post.

NATIONAL

Meeting of the INCCU with UNESCO

- ❖ Meeting of Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ This was the 1st meeting after the National Commission's reconstitution.
- ❖ The national commission consists of members of 5 sub commissions which include Sub Commission for Education, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Communication and Culture.

125th anniversary of CII

- ❖ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is celebrating its 125th birth anniversary in the year 2020.
- ❖ Theme: CII@125: Business and Beyond.

- ❖ The Journey of CII began as Engineering and Iron Trades Association (EITA) in 1895.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced “Direct CTO (Consent To Operate) Scheme for Green Industries” to mark the 125th birth anniversary of CII.
- ❖ The scheme also helps to improve Ease of Doing Business.
- ❖ The scheme aims at relaxing the clearances of Green category industries.

INTERNATIONAL

12th South Asia Conference

- ❖ The 12th edition of the South Asia Conference held at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference deals with issues related to economic cooperation for development, changing political context in India’s neighbourhood etc.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was India’s “Neighbourhood First” Policy: Regional Perceptions.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mission to take first pics of Sun’s poles

- ❖ NASA and European Space Agency will jointly launch a new spacecraft to take first pictures of Sun’s north and south poles.
- ❖ It is named as - The Solar Orbiter Spacecraft.
- ❖ Spacecraft will use the gravity of Venus and Earth, rotate itself out of the ecliptic plane to take the snap of the Sun’s poles.



IAF'S aircraft on indigenous bio-jet fuel

- ❖ Indian Air Force's (IAF) successfully operated AN-32 aircraft powered with 10% blend of Indian bio-jet fuel.
- ❖ This is the 1st time both engines of the aircraft were powered by bio-jet indigenous fuel where the aircraft took-off from Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh.
- ❖ The technology to produce this fuel was developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand in 2013.
- ❖ The project was sponsored by IAF in 2018 for the fuel testing.
- ❖ Bio-jet fuel is produced from non-edible 'Tree Borne Oils'.
- ❖ They are grown and procured from the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh.

ENVIRONMENT

New meat-eating Dinosaur species

- ❖ Paleontologists discovered a new meat-eating dinosaur species at Natural History Museum of Utah, United States.
- ❖ It was lived in the flood plains of western North America during the Late Jurassic period, between 157-152 million years ago.
- ❖ The new species named as Allosaurus jimmandseni evolved at least 5 million years ago.

STATES

World's largest meditation centre

- ❖ The World's largest meditation centre was inaugurated at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ It was launched to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) and Heartfulness Institute.
- ❖ The centre is dedicated to the first guide of Heartfulness Lalaji Maharaji.
- ❖ It can accommodate 1 lakh practitioners at a time.



Women-only cab service

- ❖ 'Women with Wheels' cab service has been started at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi.
- ❖ It is operated by 'Sakha cabs' for the safety of women.
- ❖ The taxis are operated by women drivers and the services are provided only to women or men with family.
- ❖ The cab had been installed with GPS and panic button to help the women drivers & women passengers.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Kolkata Book Fair 2020

- ❖ The 44th edition of Kolkata Book Fair 2020 (IKBF) has commenced at Kolkata.
- ❖ Russia is a "Focal Theme Country" of this event
- ❖ A category of bird species consisting of barn owls, grass owls and masked owls was selected as the official Mascot of the Book Fair for the 1st time.
- ❖ Since 2020's focal theme is "Russia", January 30, 2020 celebrated as "Russian Day".
- ❖ The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has launched her book 'Why We Are Saying No CAA, NO NRC, No NPR' at this Book Fair.

Awards for 71st Republic Day Parade 2020

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh distributed the awards for best tableaux which was conducted on January 26, 2020, during the 71st Republic Day event.
- ❖ There was a total of 22 tableaux including 16 from various states and union territories and the remaining 6 from various ministries and departments.
- ❖ Assam's tableaux displayed the theme 'Land of Unique Craftsmanship and Culture', had showcased the Shatria tradition in the form of Bhortal Nritya was chosen as the best tableaux.
- ❖ The second position was tied between Odisha which depicted Lord Lingaraja's Rukuna Rath Yatra, and Uttar Pradesh which showcased the culture of Sarva Dharma Samabhav.
- ❖ Jal Shakti Mission won the best tableaux for government's new initiative.
- ❖ Central Public Works Department (CPWD) won a special prize for the theme "Kashmir se Kanyakumari".



13th edition of International Children's Film Festival

- ❖ 13th edition of International Children's Film Festival was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ The theme of International Children's Film Festival 2020 is 'Under The World' and slogan is "Future in Frames".
- ❖ It is organized by the Children's Film Society, Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is the biggest film festival of Southeast Asian country and only international festival celebrated exclusively for children and young adults since 2008.

Tyler Prize 2020

- ❖ The Indian environmentalist and Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Pavan Sukhdev won Tyler Prize 2020 for Environmental Achievement.
- ❖ This award given for his groundbreaking “green economy” work along with conservation biologist Gretchen C. Daily from United States.



SPORTS

71st International Boxing tournament

- ❖ The 71st edition of International Boxing Tournament “Strandja”2020 was held in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- ❖ India ranked 9th in the medal tally with 3 medals (1 Silver, 2 Bronze).
- ❖ The list was topped by Ukraine with 10 medals (4 Gold, 1 silver, 5 Bronze).

IMPORTANT DAYS

Indian Coast Guard - 44th Raising day

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 44th raising day on February 1.
- ❖ The ICG was raised on February 1 1977, with the enactment of Coast Guard Act 1978, as a full-fledged independent Armed Force of the Union under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ❖ Its primary task is to protect the country’s vast maritime zones.

