

February - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Central government plans to bar domestic Reverse Osmosis systems in places where tap water meets Bureau of Indian Standards norms.
- ❖ Finance Minister announced that the government was abolishing an anti-dumping duty on imports of Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA).
- ❖ ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, develops classical Swine Fever (CSF) Cell culture Vaccine.
 - CSF is one of the most important diseases of pigs causing high mortality.
- ❖ NASA's Christina Koch returned to Earth safely after completing the longest-ever single spaceflight by a woman.
 - She spent 328 days (11 months) on the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ Western Railways launched out branding of electric locomotives for the first time.
 - This will help the Railways earn additional revenue of 1.05 crores.
- ❖ The VIMSAR, a major public healthcare center for western Odisha and parts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, has many death cases of farmers.
 - The reason behind these deaths is the consumption of Paraquat — a herbicide used in agricultural fields.

TAMIL NADU

Ford's Innovation centre in Chennai

- ❖ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has inaugurated automobile manufacturer Ford's technology and innovation centre in Chennai.
- ❖ The centre will be located in Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu's Special Economic Zone (ELCOT SEZ) at Sholinganallur in Chennai.
- ❖ One of the features of the centre is mobility experience lab.



NATIONAL

4th EAS conference on Maritime Security

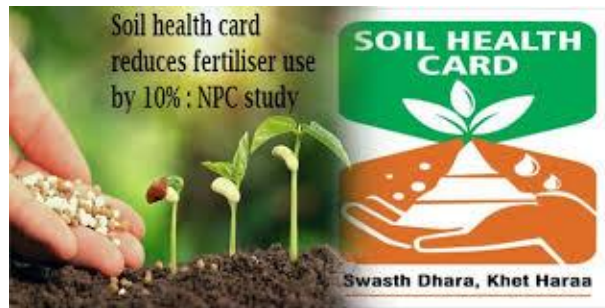
- ❖ The fourth East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation will be held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The EAS Maritime Security Conference has been organized by the Government of India since 2015.
- ❖ The fourth conference is being organized by
 - Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
 - Governments of Australia and Indonesia.

Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative

- ❖ The World Bank– Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (WB-ESMAP), developed the Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI) in partnership with,
 - Agence Française de Développement (AFD),
 - International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and
 - International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- ❖ SRMI aims to support countries in developing sustainable solar programs that will attract private investments and so reduce reliance on public finances.
- ❖ It has three components to mitigate the risk of solar deployment:
 - Sustainable Solar Targets
 - Transparent Procurement
 - Viable Risk Mitigation Coverage

National Productivity Council study

- ❖ National Productivity Council has reported that the use of soil cards has reduced the fertilizer use by 10% in the country.
- ❖ The study also reported that the productivity has increased by 5-6% due to soil card.
- ❖ This is mainly because the soil card scheme.
- ❖ The Soil Health Card Scheme was launched by the Modi Government in 2014-15 in order to address the issue of declining soil nutrients.



INTERNATIONAL

Blue Dot Network

- ❖ India will join the US-led Blue Dot Network (BDN) during the US President's visit to India.
- ❖ The Blue Dot Network initiative was announced at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Bangkok, Thailand in 2019.
- ❖ It is a US led initiative jointly launched by
 - US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)
 - Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
 - Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)



Sustainable Development Fee (SDF)

- ❖ Bhutan will impose Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) on tourists from India, the Maldives, and Bangladesh.
- ❖ July 2020 onwards, A daily ₹1,200 (\$17) fee will be imposed.
- ❖ It is meant to help the government deal with increasing numbers in tourist traffic.

US President acquitted at the Senate

- ❖ US President Donald Trump who had been impeached by the House of Representatives has been acquitted at the Senate trial.
- ❖ He now became the third President in the US history to be impeached by House of Representatives and acquitted by the Senate.
- ❖ The other two Presidents were
 - Bill Clinton in 1999 and
 - Andrew Johnson in 1868.

ECONOMY

6th Bi-monthly monetary policy of RBI

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its 6th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Rates for 2020-21 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This policy review meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Policy Rates under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)	Value
Repo Rate	5.15%
Reverse Repo Rate	4.90%
Marginal standing facility (MSF) Rate	5.40%
Bank Rate	5.40%
Reserve Ratios	
Cash reserve Ratio (CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.25%
GDP Prediction for 2020-21	6 % (from 5 % in FY20)
CPI Inflation- H1:2020-21	5.4-5.0 %



STATES

Virtual Police Station – Odisha

- ❖ The Odisha govt launched a virtual police station along with 2 other transformational projects of Odisha Police.
- ❖ These projects' aim is to reduce human interface with govt offices.
- ❖ People can access the documents like FIR, final form, spot map, inquest, etc from the website www.imsop.odisha.gov.in.
- ❖ The 3 projects are the following
 - Virtual Police Station,
 - Road Accident Case Documents Module and
 - Medico Legal Opinion System.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

PEN Gauri Lankesh Award 2019

- ❖ Senior journalist Yusuf Jameel from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) won the 2019-20 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism for his outstanding contribution in journalism.
- ❖ PEN South India and Pen Delhi have instituted the award in the name of editor late Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017.
- ❖ The award carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a citation.

DefExpo 2020

- ❖ DefExpo is being held for the first time in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) from 5th to 9th February 2020.
- ❖ This is a flagship biennial event of the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ This is the 11th edition of DefExpo - a mega defence exhibition.
- ❖ The 10th edition of the event was held at Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in 2018.
- ❖ The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub'.
- ❖ Its focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.
- ❖ Defence Expo 2020 will showcase the comprehensive spectrum of India's aerospace, defence and security interests.

- ❖ The 5th India Russia Military Industry Conference will be held on the sidelines of the event.



SPORTS

Australian open 2020 winners

- ❖ 108th edition of the Australian Open 2020 tournament recently concluded on 2nd February 2020 in Melbourne, Australia.

S.No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1	Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Dominic Thiem (Austria)
2	Women's Singles	Sofia Kenin (USA)	Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain)
3	Men's Doubles	Rajeev Ram (American) & Joe Salisbury (British)	Max Purcell (Australia) & Luke Saville (Australia)
4	Women's Doubles	Tímea Babos & Kristina Mladenovic	Hsieh Su-wei & Barbora Strýcová
5	Mixed Doubles	Nikola Mektic & Barbora Krejčíková	Jamie Murray & Bethanie Mattek-Sands

- ❖ It is one of 4 grand slam tournaments played annually.
- ❖ Novok Djokovic wins Eighth Australian Open Crown and becomes No. 1 in the ATP rankings.

- ❖ Sofia Kenin has become the youngest woman to win the Australian Open in 12 years.
- ❖ This was the first edition of the Australian Open with Greenset, a hard surface produced by GreenSet Worldwide.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - February 06

- ❖ It is an annual awareness day celebrated as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.
- ❖ It was first introduced in 2003.
- ❖ The day spreads the awareness about FGM which is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- ❖ Theme: "Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation".
- ❖ The theme focuses on eradicating FGM by 2030.
- ❖ The practice is performed mainly in North-Eastern, Eastern and Western parts of Africa.
- ❖ UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities) and UNICEF jointly led the largest global programme for eradication of FGM since 2008.

