

February - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Kerala government has declared novel coronavirus epidemic as “state emergency” after 3 people were tested positive in the southern India state.
 - The decision was taken by the State Disaster Management Authority.
- ❖ Third edition of the SBI Green Marathon held in Besant Nagar, Chennai.
 - Runners were given organic t-shirts to promote a clean and green city.
- ❖ A new cricket stadium of international standards was inaugurated at Valapadi in Salem by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

TAMIL NADU

Cauvery delta - Protected Special Agriculture Zone

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced Cauvery delta region as Protected Special Agriculture Zone.
- ❖ He announced this in the event of inaugurating Integrated Veterinary College and Research Park in Salem district.
- ❖ This announcement is to prevent implementation of oil exploration projects in the state’s rice bowl.
- ❖ Cauvery delta region is comprising of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Karur and Tiruchirappalli - eight districts in Tamil Nadu.





NATIONAL

Ease of Living Index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI)

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched two new indices to assess the quality of life of citizens in cities. They are,
 - Ease of Living Index (EoLI) and
 - Municipal Performance Index (MPI).

Ease of Living Index:

- ❖ It is aimed at providing a holistic view of the country's cities.
- ❖ To generate information to guide evidence-based policy making.

About Municipal Performance Index (MPI):

- ❖ It aims to assess the performance of municipalities based on five enablers.
- ❖ These five enablers include service, finance, planning, technology and governance.

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

- ❖ Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has said that the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) has helped to reduce the drop-out rate at the secondary and senior secondary classes.
- ❖ Aim of this scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII.
- ❖ The Scheme was launched in 2008 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD).
- ❖ Under the Scheme Rs.12000 per annum per student are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study.

Lucknow Declaration

- ❖ India and 50 African countries have adopted the Lucknow Declaration at the first India – Africa Defence Minister's Conclave.
- ❖ The Conclave was held on the side-lines of the ongoing DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow.
- ❖ Lucknow Declaration is about Peace and Security, Terrorism, Maritime security, Defence, etc

AFINDEX:



- ❖ Lucknow Declaration also appreciated the initiation of Africa India Field Training Exercises (AFINDEX) and agreed to further strengthen cooperation in defence preparedness and security.
- ❖ The first-ever AFINDEX was held in March 2019.

Sister cities under Smart Cities mission

- ❖ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has paired up 20 best performing cities with the 20 bottom cities and they will work as "sister cities".
- ❖ This will come under Smart Cities Mission.
- ❖ Smart Cities Mission, launched in 2015, is aimed at ensuring all-round developments of a city which has advanced facilities for its citizens.
- ❖ Ahmedabad tops the 20 best performing cities, according to internal rankings.
- ❖ Some of the sister cities under this category are,

Varanasi - Amritsar

Ranchi - Shimla

Pune - Dharamsala

Ahmedabad - Chandigarh

Visakhapatnam - Diu

Surat - Sharanpur

Bhopal - Aizawl

INTERNATIONAL

Africa Union Summit

- ❖ The African Union Summit was held in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia.
- ❖ This summit was about to tackle terrorism in the continent.
- ❖ Theme: Silencing the Guns.
- ❖ This year the chair is being assumed by South Africa.
- ❖ The Summit is important for India as India has recently signed the defence agreement, Lucknow Declaration.
- ❖ India is planning considerable investment in Defence sector in the regions of African Union.



African Union

- ❖ The African Union is a continental union consisting of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa.
- ❖ Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- ❖ The creation of African Union was revived under the leadership of Libyan head Muammar Al-Gaddafi.
- ❖ The Union was established through Sirte Declaration.

STATES

Janasevaka scheme

- ❖ The Karnataka government has launched a doorstep delivery scheme- called Jana Sevaka scheme.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the citizens will have to place the request for the service through the website or mobile phones.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented in Bengaluru.

Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojna – Haryana

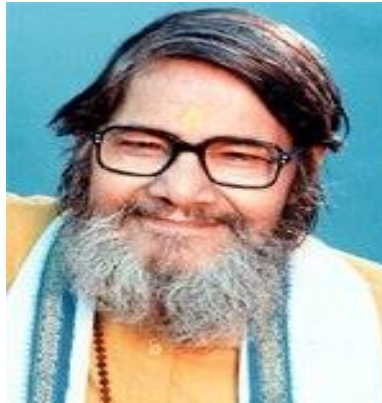
- ❖ The Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana.
- ❖ Aim is to provide social security benefits to eligible families of the state through annual financial assistance.
- ❖ Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs 6000 will be provided to those families whose
 - Annual income is up to Rs 1.80 lakh and
 - Land holding is less than 5 acres.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Kaka Hathrasi

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi had quoted Poet Kaka Hathrasi during the reply to the Motion of Thanks of President.
- ❖ Kaka Hathrasi was a Hindi satirist and humourist poet of India.
- ❖ He was awarded Padma Shri by the Government of India in the year 1985.

- ❖ Apart from humour, he also wrote on classical dance and music under the pen name 'Vasant'.
- ❖ Every year, the Delhi-based Hindi Academy awards the annual Kaka Hathrasi Award for outstanding contribution in the literary field.
- ❖ He started publishing a monthly magazine Sangeet in 1935.
- ❖ Sangeet is the only periodical on Indian classical music and dance.



International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy

- ❖ The President Ramnath Kovind has conferred the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy to Dr NS Dharmashaktu in the individual category and the Leprosy Mission Trust under the institutional category.
- ❖ The International Gandhi Award for Leprosy was constituted by the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation in 1950.
- ❖ The award has been launched to commemorate the compassion that Gandhiji's service towards people afflicted with leprosy.



- ❖ Initiatives by India
 - SPARSH Leprosy Awareness Campaign - 2017
 - National leprosy elimination Programme - 1983

- In 2005, India achieved the goal of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem.

Kaamya Karthikeyan – The youngest to climb Mt Aconcagua

- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan became the youngest girl to climb the highest peak of Andes range in South America, Mt Aconcagua.
- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan is a Class VII student studying in Navy Children School.
- ❖ She is also the youngest mountaineer to summit Mt Everest.
- ❖ By 2021, she aims to complete “Explorers Grand Slam”.



Explorers Grand Slam

- ❖ It is an adventurer goal to summit 7 highest peaks of the world and also to reach North Pole and South Pole.
- ❖ The seven summits include Mt Everest, Denali, Aconcagua, Kilimanjaro, Vinson and two other highest mountain peaks chosen by the designates.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ravidas Jayanti: February 9

- ❖ The birth anniversary of the 14th century saint Ravidas was celebrated all over India on February 9th.
- ❖ Ravidas was an Indian mystic poet.
- ❖ The poet was a social reformer. His teachings deal with Nirguna-Saguna theme.
- ❖ Nirguna is knowledge focused and Saguna is love-focused.
- ❖ These two were alternate ways of imagining god during the Bhakti Movement.

