

February - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre developed a new bullet proof jacket called Bhabha Kavach.
 - The jackets are to be used by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- ❖ Bottled drinking water has come under a price cap in Kerala, with the State fixing a ceiling of ₹13 per litre.
 - Including bottled water in the list of essential commodities enables price control.
- ❖ The Government of India has launched a School Health Ambassador Programme under Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres.
 - This initiative has been jointly rolled out by the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Service Institute are renamed as Sushma Swaraj Bhavan and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service respectively.

NATIONAL

Digital literacy training by Facebook

- ❖ Facebook launched “We Think Digital” Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states, including Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal & Bihar.
- ❖ It has been launched in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation.
- ❖ The training program aims to equip women with skills & provide equal access to economic opportunities, education & social connection through the internet.
- ❖ We Think Digital, Facebook’s global digital literacy programme, was announced in 2019 during the 2nd edition of South Asia Safety Summit.

Voting rights for prisoners

- ❖ The Delhi High Court has rejected a petition seeking voting rights for prisoners.
- ❖ The right to cast vote is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right and is only provided by a statute.



- ❖ Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 says that no person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison.
- ❖ In Europe, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, the Baltic States, and Spain already allow prisoner voting.

BIMSTEC conference on drug trafficking

- ❖ India is hosting the first-ever BIMSTEC nations conference on combating drug trafficking in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference has been organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- ❖ Aim of the conference is to provide an opportunity to all the member nations to deliberate contribution of preventing the increased threats posed by drug trafficking.

About Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):

- ❖ NCB was constituted in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- ❖ It is the apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

About BIMSTEC:

- ❖ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization founded in 1997.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

INS Jamuna - Hydrographic survey

- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Jamuna has been deployed in the shores of Sri Lanka to carry out a joint Hydrographic survey.
- ❖ The Hydrographic survey is the measurement and study of features that affect maritime navigation.
- ❖ It also includes offshore oil exploration, dredging, oil drilling and other related activities.
- ❖ The standards and specifications to conduct the survey is released by International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).
- ❖ It was established in 1921.
- ❖ India is also a member in IHO.

Indian Naval Hydrographic Department

- ❖ The office of the department is located in Dehradun.
- ❖ Currently 8 Indian Naval Ships are deployed in the hydrographic surveys.

- ❖ It includes INS Nirupak, INS Jamuna, INS Investigator, INS Sutlej, INS Sandhayak, INS Darshak, INS Sarvekshak

Apiary on Wheels

- ❖ Union minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari has flagged off the Apiary on Wheels.
- ❖ Apiary on Wheels is a unique concept designed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- ❖ It aims to address the challenges faced by the beekeepers by easy upkeep and migration of Bee Boxes having live Bee colonies.
- ❖ This initiative was launched as a part of the National Honey Mission.

About National Honey mission:

- ❖ The Honey Mission was launched in 2017 by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- ❖ Aim is to provide sustainable employment and income to rural and urban unemployed youth by conserving the honeybee habitat.

About KVIC:

- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body.
- ❖ It was established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- ❖ It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.



INTERNATIONAL

International fund for Agricultural Development

- ❖ The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) of the United Nations works to address hunger and poverty in developing countries.
- ❖ The 43rd session of the governing council of IFAD was held at Rome.
- ❖ It was announced at the council meet that with the current progress rate, it is not possible to achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2030.
- ❖ The Council met at the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) of United Nations in Rome.
- ❖ In 2015 the world leaders under the SDG aimed to eliminated hunger by 2030.
- ❖ IFAD was established at the World Food Conference in 1974.

STATES

Customary laws of Tribes - Tripura

- ❖ The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) has passed resolutions to codify the customary laws of three tribal clans-
 - Mizo
 - Kaipeng and
 - Malsom.
- ❖ As per the Sixth Schedule, the four states viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram contain the Tribal Areas which are technically different from the Scheduled Areas.
- ❖ Provision has been made for the creation of the District Councils and regional councils for the exercise of the certain legislative and judicial powers.
- ❖ Each district is an autonomous district and Governor can modify / divide the boundaries of the said Tribal areas by notification.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

President's Colours Awards - INS Shivaji

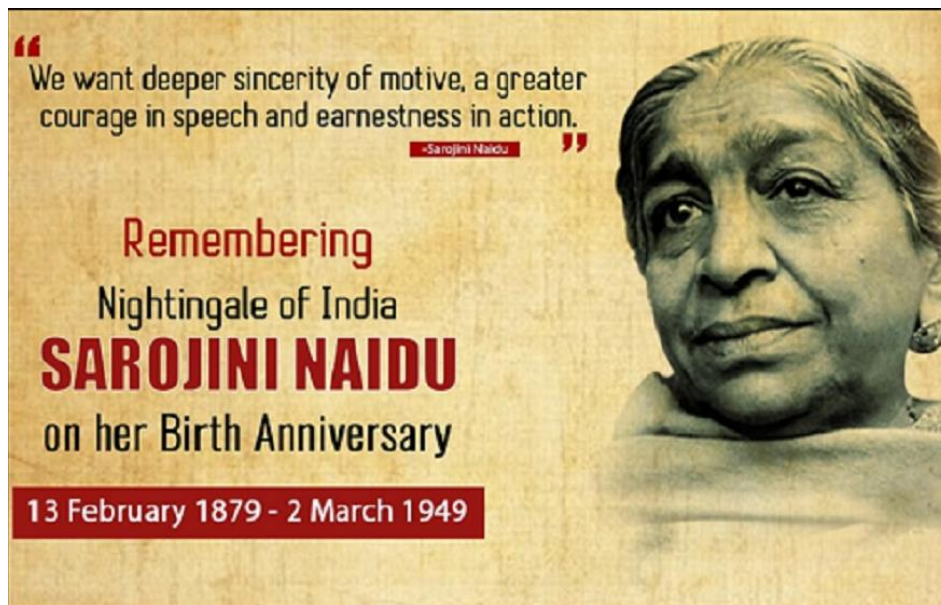
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's Colours Awards to INS Shivaji.
- ❖ The Indian Naval Station Shivaji has completed 75 years of service.
- ❖ The award was presented to the Indian Naval Station at Lonavala.

- ❖ The station was commissioned as HMIS (Her Majesty's Indian Ship) in 1945.
- ❖ The motto of the ship establishment is Karmasu Kaushalam (Skill at Work)
- ❖ Last year, the award was given to Indian Naval Academy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Women's Day- February 13

- ❖ To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu (also named Nightingale of India), every year India observes February 13 as it's National Women's Day.
- ❖ In 1925 Sarojini Naidu became the president of the Indian National Congress.
- ❖ She served as the 1st Governor of United Provinces from 15 August 1947 – 2 March 1949.
- ❖ The International Women's Day is observed on 8th March annually.



MISCELLANEOUS

Global Futures Report

- ❖ Recently, the Global Futures report has been released jointly by
 - World Wide Fund for Nature,
 - Global Trade Analysis Project and
 - Natural Capital Project.

- ❖ According to the report, Nature has provided humanity with six ecosystem services namely
 1. Pollination of crops
 2. Protection of coasts from flooding and erosion
 3. Supply of water
 4. Timber production
 5. Marine fisheries and
 6. Carbon storage.
- ❖ The reduced supply of the six ecosystem services would lead to a 0.67% drop in the annual global GDP by 2050.

