

February - 20

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ India's Atomic Energy Commission's researchers have found Lithium Reserves of 14,100 tonnes in Mandya, Karnataka.
  - Being a very rare metal Lithium is mainly used in manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Station WiFi program**

- ❖ Google India has announced that it will be ending its Station WiFi program.
- ❖ It was launched in India in 2015 as a partnership between Google, Indian Railways and Railtel.
- ❖ It sought to bring high-speed and secure internet connectivity in 400 of the busiest railway stations in India.

### **National Institutes renamed after late Union Ministers**

- ❖ The Government of India has been renaming the national institutes after late ministers.
- ❖ The leaders passed away in 2019 due to health issues.
- ❖ They were Manohar Parrikar, Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj.
- ❖ The Institute of Defence studies and Analyses (IDSA) has been renamed as Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies.
- ❖ His biggest contribution was the One Rank One Pension scheme for the armed forces.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Institute in New Delhi were renamed as Sushma Swaraj Bhawan and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services respectively.
- ❖ The National Institute of Financial Management was renamed as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management.
- ❖ Also, in September 2019, the Delhi Ferozeshah Kotla Cricket ground was renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium.



### **Blue Economy Partnership – India & Norway**

- ❖ India and Norway jointly inaugurated a Task Force of Blue Economy for Sustainable Development.
- ❖ The third meet of the task force was held on February 18, 2020.
- ❖ They also launched a new collaboration of Integrated Ocean Management and Research at the meet.
- ❖ 70% of the Norwegian Economy depends on maritime industry of the country.

### **Tilhan Mission**

- ❖ Government of India is to launch “TILHAN MISSION” to boost the oil seed production.
- ❖ The announcement was made at an occasion of Soil Health Card Day.
- ❖ Soil Health Card Day was celebrated all over India on February 19, 2020.
- ❖ Currently India is the fourth largest vegetable oil economy in the world after USA, China and Brazil.
- ❖ Previously the National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Northern European Enclosure Dam**

- ❖ A massive Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED) has been proposed to protect millions of people and important economic regions of 15 Northern European Countries from rising seas as a result of climate change.
- ❖ It consists of two dams of a combined length of 637 km will be constructed.
  - The first dam will be built between northern Scotland and western Norway.
  - The second dam will be built between France and southwestern England.

## **ECONOMY**

### **India removed from developing countries list**

- ❖ The office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has taken off India from the list of developing countries.

- ❖ Countries are eligible to claim benefits for preferential treatment with respect to Countervailing duties (CVDs) investigations in this list.
- ❖ USTR has now eliminated preferential treatment for India along with some other countries.
- ❖ This would make it easier for the US to impose countervailing duties (CVDs) on goods from India.

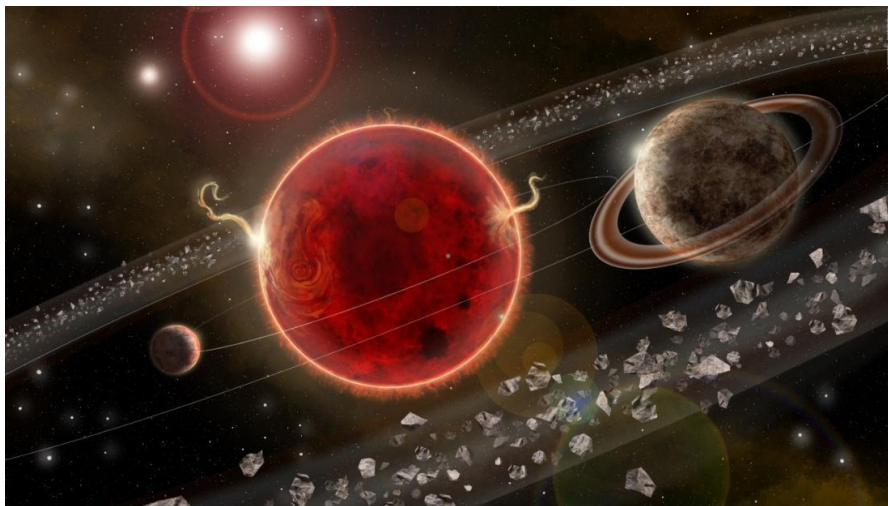
#### Reason for India's removal

- ❖ According to USTR, India's share in global trade was 2.1 % for exports and 2.6% for imports in 2017.
- ❖ India was also a G20 member which accounts for large shares of global economic output and trade.
- ❖ Further, being a part of G20 India can be classified as a developed country despite having a per capita GNI below \$12,375.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Nearest known exoplanet in solar system**

- ❖ Scientists at the Rochester Institute of Technology recently discovered an exo-planet, which is closer to Earth than any other planet.
- ❖ The newly discovered planet is named as "2MASS 1155-7919 b".
- ❖ It lies about 330 light-years from our solar system.
- ❖ The planet is closer to Earth and is located in the Epsilon Chamaeleontis Association.





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

### **Kala Kumbh exhibition**

- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles organized “Kala Kumbh” exhibition in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is an exhibition to promote Geographical Indication (GI) craft and heritage of India.
- ❖ The exhibition is being organized by the Ministry of Textiles.
- ❖ The exhibitions are planned in various major cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.
- ❖ The exhibitions are sponsored by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).

### **Next Chief Vigilance Commissioner**

- ❖ Sanjay Kothari, Secretary to the President of India, will be the next Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- ❖ CVC is the apex vigilance institution created via executive resolution in 1964 but was conferred with statutory status in 2003.
- ❖ The Commission was set up on the recommendation of the K.Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.

### **Oscar Awards 2020**

- ❖ The 92nd Academy (Oscars) Awards took place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California on 9 February 2020.
- ❖ Oscar Awards are given by the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

#### **Oscar 2020 Winners List:**

- ❖ Best actor: Joaquin Phoenix - Joker
- ❖ Best actress: Renée Zellweger - Judy
- ❖ Best director: Bong Joon ho - Parasite
- ❖ Best picture: Parasite
- ❖ Best supporting actor: Brad Pitt in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood"
- ❖ Best animated short: Hair Love
- ❖ Best original screenplay: Parasite
- ❖ Best documentary: American Factory
- ❖ Best cinematography: 1917

- ❖ Best international feature film: Parasite

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Soil Health Card Day - February 19

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Fifth year of the launch of the scheme is being observed on the ‘Soil Health Card (SHC) Day’, this year.
- ❖ The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to all farmers every two years.
- ❖ The card would provide details about the nutritional deficiencies in soil.
- ❖ So that the farmers can supplement the soil with suitable fertilizers and increase the yields.
- ❖ United Nations General Assembly announced that 2015 was the International Year of Soils.



**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India**

### Soil Health Card

- 10.74 crore cards were distributed in Cycle-I (2015-17) and 11.74 crore cards were distributed in J Cycle-II (2017-19).
- During 2019-2020 land holding based 10.59 lakh cards were distributed under model village programme
- 429 Static Soil Testing labs, 102 Mobile Soil Testing labs and 8752 mini labs have been sanctioned and 800 soil testing labs were strengthened.
- Soil testing capacity increased from 1.78 crore sample per annum to 3.33 per sample per annum
- 5.50 lakh demonstrations, 1946 farmers training and 7425 Kisan Melas have been sanctioned for awareness creation amongst a farmers.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference on Road Safety

- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Global Conference on Road Safety for Achieving Global Goals 2030 held in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways represented India at this conference.
- ❖ It was organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) in association with the World Bank and minister-led delegations from more than 80 countries.



- ❖ The objective of the conference is to bring road safety on the global agenda.
- ❖ Theme of the conference is “Achieving Global Goals 2030”.
- ❖ The Brasilia declaration was signed at the Second Global High-Level conference on Road Safety held in Brazil in 2015.
- ❖ The United Nations has also declared 2010-2020 as the decade of action for Road Safety.

### **Third most spoken language – Hindi**

- ❖ With 615 million speakers all over the world, Hindi become the third most spoken language in the world.
- ❖ English is at the top with 1,132 million speakers followed by Mandarin with 1,117 million speakers.
- ❖ The Ethnologue published yearly database on living languages of the world.
- ❖ It covered more than 7,111 living languages.
- ❖ It also published data on languages that were gone out of usage in the recent history and that included around 348 languages.

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