

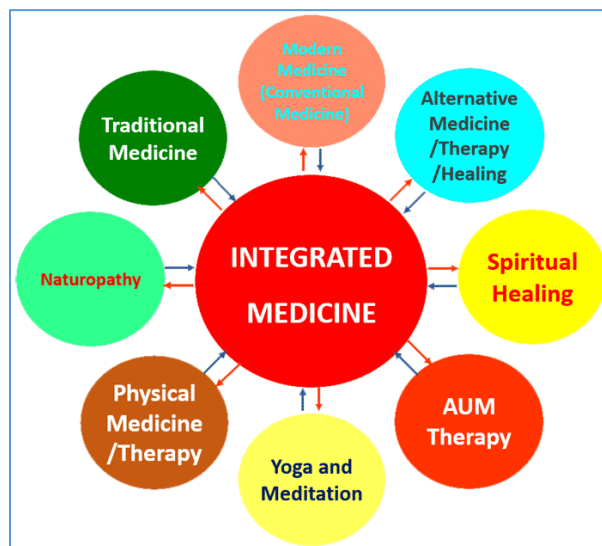
February - 26

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Delhi Metro will soon launch India's first virtual shopping app called Momentum 2.0 for metro commuters.
  - It is to purchase products, book services and collect orders at the destination stations.

## NATIONAL

### Integrative Medicine Centres



- ❖ The Centre has decided to open Integrative Medicine Centres at all government medical establishments in the country especially at AIIMS.
- ❖ The Opening such centres will help in harmonising the Indian and modern systems of medicine and providing joint multidisciplinary care to patients.
- ❖ Integrative medicine is aimed at harnessing the potential of India's rich heritage and medical knowledge, along with using modern advancements in allopathy.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Asia Economic Dialogue 2023

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs recently hosted the Asia Economic Dialogue in Pune.

- ❖ Theme of the event is “Asia and the Emerging World Order”.
- ❖ The dialogue also focused on the metaverse, the role of the global south in shaping the G20 agenda, meeting climate targets, etc.
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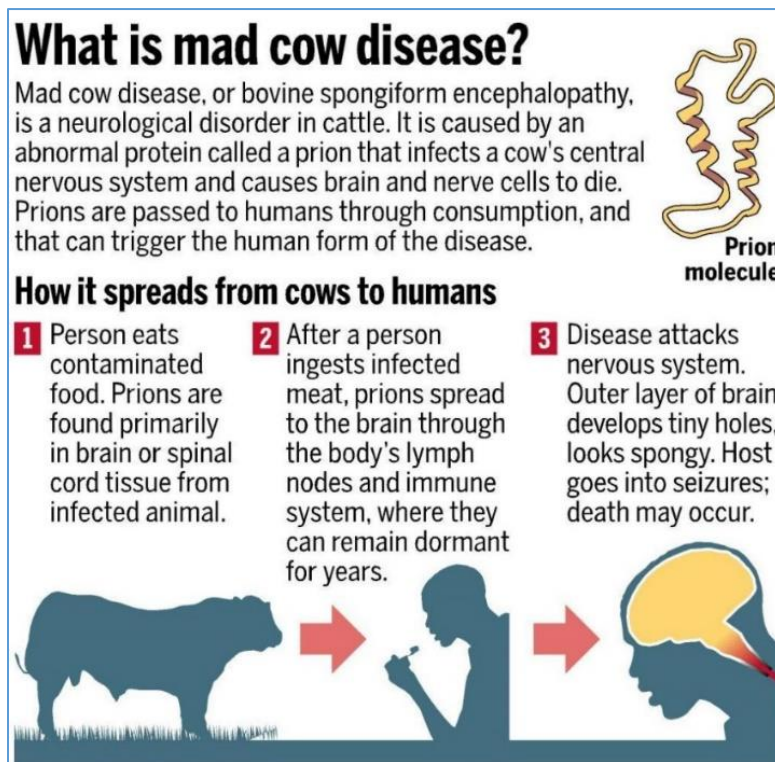
### **Air services agreement**



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the signing of an air services agreement between India and Guyana.

- ❖ It will pave the way for flight services between the two countries.
- ❖ The signing of an air services agreement with Guyana will enable a framework for provision of air services between the two countries
- ❖ As per the 2012 census, Indians have a sizeable presence in Guyana and are the largest ethnic group comprising about 40% of the population.
- ❖ India and Guyana are signatories to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention 1944).
- ❖ Currently, India has air services agreements with around 110 countries.

### Mad Cow Disease case



- ❖ Brazil has halted its beef exports to China after a case of mad cow disease was confirmed in the northern state of Para.
- ❖ The disease is also called Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.
- ❖ It is a transmissible, slowly progressive, degenerative, and fatal disease.
- ❖ It affects the central nervous system of adult cattle.
- ❖ The incurable disease occurs due to an infection in a protein called a prion.
- ❖ The outbreak of the disease occurred in the US, China, Egypt, Hong Kong, Chile, UAE, etc.

- ❖ Brazil is the largest beef exporter in the world.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### LORA Ballistic Missile

- ❖ Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has signed an MoU with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for domestic manufacture and supply of its LORA Weapon System for the Indian Tri-services.
- ❖ The state-of-the-art strategic weapon system weapon will be manufactured by BEL.
- ❖ LORA is a sea-to-ground and ground-to-ground system which comprises a long-range ballistic missile.
- ❖ It is a unique launcher, a command-and-control system, and a ground/marine support system.
- ❖ The LORA system provides ballistic assault capabilities for multiple ranges with a precision level of 10 meters circular error probability.



### World's First Cloud-Built Demo Satellite

- ❖ JANUS-1 satellite that rode on Isro's new mini-rocket SSLV-D2 and reached its orbit successfully.
- ❖ It is the world's first satellite fully conceived, designed and manufactured using an Indian company's end-to-end cloud platform.

- ❖ It is a software defined 6U technology demonstration satellite designed and built using the Antaris cloud software platform and SatOS software.
- ❖ JANUS-1 was designed and built in just 10 months at a cost saving of 75% over comparable satellite missions.



### **Vertiplane X3 drone**



- ❖ A Vertiplane X3 drone was used to deliver 2kg package of anti-tubercular drugs to a district hospital in Tehri Garhwal of Uttarakhand during the trial.
- ❖ The aerial distance of nearly 40 kilometres between the helipad at AIIMS and the hospital was covered in 30 minutes.
- ❖ The project will calculate the cost of effectiveness of delivering not only medicines but sputum samples to laboratories to support the country's programme to eliminate TB by 2025.
- ❖ This is not the first time a drone has been used to transport medical supplies.

- ❖ Another pilot was carried out by a Bangalore based startup in Arunachal Pradesh to deliver medicines.
- ❖ Other than that, there are e-pharmacies that have also introduced drone delivery.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Climate Smart Wheat Variety



- ❖ IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute) developed the third Wheat Variety- HD-3385, with the same yields as HD-3410, plant height of just 95 cm and strong stems.
- ❖ It is least lodging-prone and most amenable for early sowing.
- ❖ IARI has registered HD-3385 with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA).
- ❖ This new variety of wheat has been specifically designed to withstand the high temperatures that are prevalent in many parts of India.
- ❖ Earlier ICAR's New Delhi-based Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) scientists have developed two varieties.
- ❖ The first, HDCSW-18, was released and officially notified in 2016.
- ❖ It was having a potential wheat yield of over 7 tonnes per hectare.
- ❖ But due to the plant heights it prone to lodging or bending over when their ear heads were heavy with well-filled grains.
- ❖ The second variety HD-3410 was released in 2022.

- ❖ It has higher yield potential (7.5 tonnes/hectare) with lower plant height (100-105 cm).

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World's Top Independent Power Producer

- ❖ S&P Global Commodity Insights' Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings-2022 released recently.
- ❖ State-run NTPC Limited has been ranked top independent power producers and energy traders globally.
- ❖ These rankings are based on four key metrics- asset worth, revenues, profits and return on investment.
- ❖ NTPC currently contributes 24 per cent of the total electricity produced in India.
- ❖ By 2050, the corporation will contribute 50% of the total power production in the country.



## STATES

### Marine Spatial Planning Framework

- ❖ Puducherry has launched the country's first Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) framework.
- ❖ It is a part of a pact under the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative.

- ❖ It aims to balance growth alongside sustainable management of ocean resources and coastal environment preservation.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Sansad Ratna Awards – 2023

*Congratulations to all the*  
**Sansad Ratna Awardees -2023**

<b>Shri. Bidyut Baran Mahato</b> BJP, Jharkhand - Lok Sabha	<b>Dr. John Brittas</b> CPI-M, Kerala - Rajya Sabha
<b>Dr. Sukanta Majumdar</b> BJP, West Bengal - Lok Sabha	<b>Dr. Manoj Kumar Jha</b> RJD, Bihar - Rajya Sabha
<b>Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma</b> INC, Andaman Nicobar Islands - Lok Sabha	<b>Smt. Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan</b> NCP, Maharashtra - Rajya Sabha
<b>Dr. Heena Vijayakumar Gavit</b> BJP, Maharashtra - Lok Sabha	<b>Shri. Vishambhar Prasad Nishad</b> Samajwadi Party, UP - Rajya Sabha
<b>Shri. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury</b> INC, West Bengal - Lok Sabha	<b>Smt. Chhaya Verma</b> INC, Chhattisgarh - Rajya Sabha
<b>Shri. Gopal Chinayya Shetty</b> BJP, Maharashtra - Lok Sabha	<b>Standing Committee Awardees</b>
<b>Shri. Sudhir Gupta</b> BJP, Madhya Pradesh - Lok Sabha	<b>The Finance Committee from Lok Sabha</b>
<b>Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe</b> NCP, Maharashtra - Lok Sabha	<b>Chairman – Shri Jayant Sinha</b> BJP, Jharkhand
	<b>Transport, Tourism and Culture Committee from Rajya Sabha</b>
	<b>Chairman – Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy</b> YSR Congress, Andhra Pradesh
	<b>Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award</b>
	<b>Shri T K Rangarajan</b> Former Rajya Sabha MP and Senior CPIM Leader



- ❖ The 13th edition of the award ceremony is set to be held this year on March 25 in New Delhi.



- ❖ 13 MPs, 2 Parliamentary Committees and 1 Lifetime Achievement honour will be awarded during the 13th edition.
- ❖ They seek to recognise and felicitate the top-performing MPs on the basis of their work in the apex legislative body.
- ❖ The Sansad Ratna Awards were instituted in 2010, inspired by the teachings of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ The Awards are given by the Prime Point Foundation with support from IIT Madras.

