

February - 28

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The population of endangered dolphins has come down to 62 in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park and nearby Gahirmatha seawaters during the recent census.
  - While last year it was 126.
- ❖ International Polar bear day is observed annually on February 27.
  - It draws attention to the challenges that polar bears face due to global warming.
- ❖ India's first Artificial Intelligence summit - "RAISE 2020: Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020" to be held in April at New Delhi.
- ❖ Hosni Mubarak, the autocratic ruler of Egypt (1981 to 2011) died recently.
  - In 2011, he resigned being the ruler of Egypt as a result of citizen's protest.
- ❖ Israeli researchers discovered the parasite *Henneguya salminicola* that lives in the muscle cells of fish in an oxygen free environment.

## NATIONAL

### First anniversary of National War Memorial

- ❖ The first anniversary of the National War Memorial was observed on 25th February 2020.
- ❖ The memorial is a tribute to those heroes who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during various wars and internal security challenges since Independence.





- ❖ National War Memorial consists of names of 25,942 soldiers martyred after Independence engraved on its walls.
- ❖ The monument was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at New Delhi last year.

### **Military equipment from USA**

- ❖ India has signed a deal to purchase more than \$3 billion (Rs 21,000 crore) of advanced military equipment, including helicopters.
- ❖ India and US concluded agreements for the purchase of 24 MH-60 R Seahawk and 6 AH-64 E Apache attack helicopters.
- ❖ The Apache is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world.
- ❖ MH-60R is also referred to as 'Romeo'.

### **First National Conference on Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (CDRR&R) – 2020**

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai presided over the farewell session of the 1st CDRR&R – 2020.
- ❖ It was organised in New Delhi by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).
- ❖ The aim of the conference was to explore and debate the most recent advances in the discipline, to enhance the understanding of the issues and solutions on various facets for coastal disaster risk reduction and resilience.
- ❖ It focussed on enhancing human capacity in terms of better understanding about coastal disaster risks and effective collaborative actions, by implementing Prime Minister's 10-point agenda and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ❖ The Prime Minister had listed the 10-point agenda at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.

### **Adaptation of Central laws in Jammu and Kashmir**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently approved to issue an order for the adaptation of all 37 central laws in the Concurrent List in the newly created Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ These Acts will be adapted under the Section 96, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, that came into effect on October 31, 2019.



- ❖ The section 96 of J&K Re-organisation Act grants powers to the Central Government to adopt or modify laws for the application of any law within one year of newly formed Union territories.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **G20 - 2020**

- ❖ G20 nations meet for the year 2020 is to be held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The gathering will discuss the global economy and the risks from the coronavirus epidemic.
- ❖ In addition, they will discuss the priorities of the Saudi G20 Presidency under the theme 'realizing opportunities of the 21st century for all'
- ❖ Saudi Arabia is the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency.
- ❖ Last year G20 Summit was held at Osaka, Japan.

### **Artemis programme**

- ❖ With the Artemis program, NASA will land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.
- ❖ NASA plans to use what they learn on and around the Moon to take the next giant leap by sending astronauts to Mars.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Yongle Blue Hole (YBH)**

- ❖ Low levels of dissolved organic carbon and high levels of dissolved inorganic carbon aging as old as 8000 years have been found in YBH.
- ❖ The YBH is World's deepest blue hole (300 Metres depth) which was recently discovered in the South China Sea.
- ❖ Previously it was the Dean's Blue Hole in Bahamas, which had a depth of 202 metres.



### World Air Quality Report 2019

- ❖ World Air Quality Report is compiled by IQAir AirVisual.
- ❖ 21 of the world's 30 cities with the worst air pollution are in India.
- ❖ Bangladesh emerged as the most polluted country for PM 2.5 and India becomes the 5<sup>th</sup> Most Polluted Country in The World says report.
- ❖ The report also points India's launch of the country's first National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ NCAP aims to reduce PM 2.5 and the bigger particulate PM 10 air pollution in 102 cities by 20-30% by 2024 compared to 2017 levels.

MOST POLLUTED COUNTRIES		MOST POLLUTED CITIES IN 2019		
Rank	Country	Rank	City	PM2.5 (micrograms/cu. m)
1	Bangladesh	1	Ghaziabad (India)	110.2
2	Pakistan	2	Hotan (China)	110.1
3	Mongolia	3	Gujranwala (Pak)	105.3
4	Afghanistan	4	Faisalabad (Pak)	104.6
5	India	5	Delhi (India)	98.6
		6	Noida (India)	97.7
		7	Gurgaon (India)	93.1
		8	Raiwind (Pak)	92.2
		9	Greater Noida (India)	91.3
		10	Bandhwari (India)	90.5

## STATES

### **Vishwakarma Awards – New Delhi**

- ❖ HRD Minister Pokhriyal presented Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards to 23 teams and Utkrisht Santhan Vishwakarma Awards for six institutes.
- ❖ Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards is given for the Outstanding Innovative Teams (for Students & Mentor) and Utkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award for exemplary Institutional intervention.
- ❖ The competition for the year 2019 was based on the theme of ‘How to enhance the income of villages.’
- ❖ AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) has been organizing Vishwakarma Awards since 2017.



### **Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana**

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh had become the first state in the country to have “100% LPG gas coverage”.
- ❖ Following the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in 2016, the state government launched its own Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana in May 2018 to cover the remaining households.

- ❖ Except families having a pensioner, income taxpayer or any member employed with the government, board, corporation etc, all households of the state without an LPG connection were eligible.

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

### **Sahitya Akademi Award**

- ❖ Sahitya Akademi Award for translation goes to K.V. Jeyasri for her translation of the Malayalam novel 'Nilam Poothu Malartha Naal' into Tamil as 'Nilam Poothu Malartha Naal'.
- ❖ Also, Sahitya Akademi presented Sahitya Akademi awards for 24 writers.
- ❖ Among them
  - Cho. Dharman received it for his novel 'Sool' (Tamil) and
  - Shashi Tharoor for his book 'An Era of Darkness' (English).

### **Wikipedia competition 2019**

- ❖ Tamil has bagged the first place in the second edition of 'Project Tiger', with a total number of 2,959 articles contributed by 62 participants.
- ❖ It was organised by Wikimedia Foundation (WMF) and Google.
- ❖ Google and WMF launched the competition for the first time in 2018.
- ❖ Aim of this competition is to increase the online content of vernacular languages by motivating participants to contribute articles to Wikipedia.

Languages	Articles ▼	Participants
<a href="#">Tamil</a>	2959	62
<a href="#">Punjabi(Gurmukhi)</a>	1768	34
<a href="#">Bengali</a>	1460	49
<a href="#">Urdu</a>	1377	25
<a href="#">Santali</a>	566	18
<a href="#">Hindi</a>	417	26
<a href="#">Telugu</a>	416	42
<a href="#">Kannada</a>	249	17
<a href="#">Malayalam</a>	229	8
<a href="#">Marathi</a>	220	18
<a href="#">Assamese</a>	205	18
<a href="#">Gujarati</a>	202	7
<a href="#">Odia</a>	155	5
<a href="#">Tulu</a>	32	5
<a href="#">Sanskrit</a>	19	4



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World NGO day – February 27

- ❖ It is an important annual marking point for NGOs to celebrate their achievements, as well as allowing small, grassroots organisations to gain the recognition they deserve.
- ❖ It was officially recognised by the IX Baltic Sea NGO Forum of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in 2010, Lithuania.

