

January - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Oil Corp (IOC) has launched the country's first remote monitoring system for oil refineries' turbines.
 - The project, located in Hyderabad, is implemented by BHEL-GE Gas Turbine Services (BGGTS), a joint venture of BHEL and General Electric.
- ❖ The Chhattisgarh government signed a contract for the country's first ethanol plant to be set up in the state under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- ❖ India's first pollinator park was established at Haldwani in Nainital district of the Uttarakhand.
 - Pollinators include bees, birds, butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps, bats and small mammals.
- ❖ The leaders of the European Union (EU) on December 30, 2020 signed the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the Brexit trade deal.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bhutan to enhance cooperation for the peaceful use of outer space.
 - The Outer Space Treaty was passed by United Nations in 1963.
- ❖ The Australian government amends its National Anthem to honor its indigenous people.

TAMIL NADU

New Madras Chief Justice High Court

- ❖ The Supreme Court Collegium has proposed the appointment of Justice Sanjib Banerjee as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ He will be the 50th Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
- ❖ Currently he is serving as Judge of the Calcutta High Court.
- ❖ The present Chief Justice AP Sahi retired on December 31.



New Chairman of TN SHRC

- ❖ The retired Judge of Madras High Court S.Bhaskaran took charge as the new chairman of the Tamilnadu State Human Rights Commission.
- ❖ He was appointed by the Governor of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The appointment as members and the Chairman of the Commission are to be recommended by a Committee comprising the Chief Minister, Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly, Minister in-charge of the Home Department and the Leader of the Opposition.
- ❖ The Post was vacant since the last December 2019 after the tenure of Retired High Court Judge Meena Kumari.
- ❖ In 2020 February, the Justice Jayachandran has been appointed as the Acting Chairman to this commission.

NATIONAL

6th Edition of Digital India awards 2020

- ❖ The event is conducted by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), an agency of the IT Ministry.
- ❖ The Digital India Awards (DIA) was instituted under the aegis of the National Portal of India.
- ❖ Its purpose is to encourage “digital transformation of government service delivery”.
- ❖ Only the central and state government entities, and ‘Indian Missions Abroad’ are eligible to win these awards.
- ❖ Two new categories have been introduced in this year’s edition namely
 - Innovation in Pandemic Category and
 - Exemplary Product category awards.
- ❖ Haryana has been given the first position among the states and union territories for its e-governance efforts at the Digital India Award, 2020.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu came second for its e-governance efforts, followed by UP and Bengal.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has won a gold award under the category of Excellence in Digital Governance in the State/U.T.

- ❖ The Department of Post won the Gold award and the E-Committee-Supreme court of India under the department of Justice won the platinum award in the category of Excellence in Digital Governance Ministry/Department (Central).
- ❖ Haryana won the 'platinum award' and Uttar Pradesh won Silver award in the category for 'Excellence in Digital Governance'.
- ❖ Bihar won the silver medal in the Innovation in Pandemic category.

3	Excellence in Digital Governance - STATE / UT	Haryana
		Tamil Nadu
		Uttar Pradesh
		West Bengal

Nagaland as 'disturbed area'

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry on December 30, 2020 declared entire Nagaland as 'disturbed area' for six more months under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.
- ❖ Nagaland has been under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act for almost six decades.
- ❖ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been in force in the Northeast since 1958.
- ❖ The Home Ministry had previously withdrawn AFSPA completely from the state of Meghalaya and some stations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Currently, the AFSPA is in force in states of Nagaland, Manipur (except for Imphal Municipal Council), Assam, Some districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

- ❖ The Governor of the state or the central government can declare the whole or part of the state or union territory as disturbed area.

WHAT IS ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT?

➤ **Introduced in 1958, AFSPA** confers on members of the armed forces special powers to rein in suspects in areas declared "disturbed" on account of insurgent activities or similar threats. It has been in **force in Manipur since 1980**, and the alleged **excesses committed under it are the reasons** why activist **Irom Sharmila** has been on a **hunger strike since 2000**.

WHAT ARE SPECIAL POWERS?
AFSPA allows any commissioned officer, warrant officer and non-commissioned officer – or any other

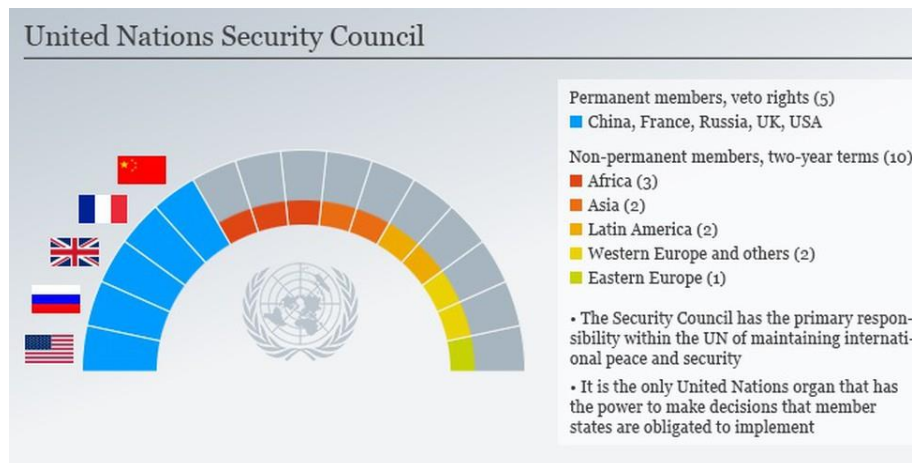
person of equivalent rank – to:

- Fire upon or use force against any person acting 'in contravention of any law for the time being in force in the disturbed area'
- Arrest suspicious people without warrant
- Destroy any structure suspected to house an arms dump, shelter from which armed attacks are made or are likely to be made
- Conduct searches without warrants for evidence, to recover a wrongfully confined person or property or arms or explosives
- **AFSPA bars prosecution or proceedings – except with Centre's nod – against personnel for action committed while exercising powers under the Act**



INTERNATIONAL

Non-permanent UNSC member



- ❖ India began its two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council on January 1, 2021.
- ❖ This is the eight-time that India would have a seat in the powerful organ of the United Nations.
- ❖ The Four other nations are Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway.

- ❖ India will be the UNSC President in August 2021 and again for a month in 2022.
- ❖ The presidency of the council is rotated among each of the members for one month according to alphabetical order.

GAVI Board

- ❖ Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board.
- ❖ He will be representing the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board.
- ❖ He will succeed MyintHtwe of Myanmar.
- ❖ He will hold this post for 2021 to 2023.
- ❖ Dr Harsh Vardhan was also elected as the chair of the World Health Organization.
- ❖ Gavi is an international organisation created in 2000
- ❖ It is a global Vaccine Alliance, bringing together public and private sectors.
- ❖ It works to achieve the objective of “Immunisation for All”.



ECONOMY

India's First Social Impact Bonds

- ❖ The Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal corporation (PCMC) in Pune and United Nations Development Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create the first Social Impact bond of India.
- ❖ The municipal administration will bear the cost of a public welfare project associated with the bond.
- ❖ A Social Impact Bond is basically a contract with public sector authority where it pays for better social outcomes.

