



January - 05

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) opened its first Silk Processing Plant in Surendranagar district of Gujarat.
  - It aims to increase the production of Gujarat Patola Sarees.

## **NATIONAL**

### **107<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 107th Indian Science Congress.
- ❖ It is scheduled to take place at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The theme of the congress for 2020 is “Science & Technology: Rural Development”.
- ❖ For the first time, Farmers Science Congress is to be held on the side-lines of Indian Science Congress.

### **Indian Science Congress**

- ❖ Indian Science Congress is organised by the Indian Science Congress Association every year in the first week of January.
- ❖ It is a major focal point for scientists, researchers and academicians interested in various aspects of scientific discoveries and technologies.
- ❖ The previous (2019) session 106th edition was held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar, Punjab.
- ❖ The first meeting of the Congress was held on 1914 at the premises of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta.

### **MEA's NEST division**

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has set up a New, Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST) division.
- ❖ It helps to deal with new and emerging technologies.
- ❖ NEST helps to partner with 5G and artificial intelligence areas of other countries.
- ❖ Under NEST, central government allows data sharing of various network makers in which Huawei shares its customer details with Chinese government under 5G trails.



- ❖ This division acts as the intermediate agency within the Ministry for issues pertaining to new and emerging technologies.
- ❖ NEST also negotiates “technology governance rules, standards and architecture”.

### **Railway helpline number 139**

- ❖ The Indian Railways launched an integrated helpline number 139 for quick grievance and enquiries by the passengers during journeys.
- ❖ It is an integrated form of existing helpline numbers (except 182) particularly to avoid the inconvenience over multiple helpline numbers and will be easy to connect with Railways for all their needs during travel.
- ❖ The helpline number will be available in 12 languages.
- ❖ It will be based on an interactive voice response system and it can also be used for general complaints, accidents and safety issues.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Fourth Regional Academic Centre for Space**

- ❖ ISRO sets its fourth Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S) at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) at Surathkal in Mangaluru.
- ❖ The centre helps for the advanced research in the areas of relevance to the future technological and programmatic needs of the Indian Space programme.
- ❖ It also helps in the promotion of space technology in southern regions like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep.
- ❖ ISRO has set its first RAC-S in Jaipur, second at Guwahati and third at Kurukshetra.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **1<sup>st</sup> turtle rehabilitation centre**

- ❖ A 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles is to be inaugurated in January 2020 in the Bhagalpur forest division of Bihar.
- ❖ This centre spread over half a hectare will be able to shelter 500 turtles at a time.
- ❖ The centre will also treat turtles that are sick, severely injured or smuggled, and then be returned safely into its natural habitat.



- ❖ The turtle species are under threat due to loss through dams and barrages, pollution, illegal poaching, accidental drowning through fishing nets and threats to their nesting habitats etc.

### **Palau banned sunscreen cream**

- ❖ The Pacific Island, Palau has become the first country to ban sunscreen cream that is harmful to corals.
- ❖ The country has banned 10 ingredients such as oxybenzone, ethyl paraben, Octinoxate, Butyl paraben, etc., that harm coral reefs. These ingredients are used in cosmetics.
- ❖ The sun creams absorb UV radiations and make corals susceptible to bleaching.

#### **About Palau**

- ❖ The Rock Islands in the Palau is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❖ Palau was the second nation to ratify Paris climate agreement after Fiji.

### **Extinction of Paddlefish**

- ❖ China has declared that the country's giant paddlefish often called as 'Panda of the Yangtze river' has become extinct.
- ❖ The extinction was reported due to decades of overfishing.
- ❖ As per scientists of the Yangtze River Fisheries Research Institute it became extinct between 2005 and 2010.
- ❖ The paddlefish with scientific name *Psephurus gladius*, can grow up to 22 feet (7 meters) in length.
- ❖ The last confirmed sighting of the paddlefish was in the year 2003.

## **STATES**

### **World's 2nd tallest statue of Vallabhbhai Patel**

- ❖ Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Ramniklal Rupani unveiled the world's 2nd largest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Sardardham campus near Vaishnodevi circle in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ This bronze statue which is 50 feet tall weighing 70,000 kilograms was built at a cost of Rs 3.25 crores.
- ❖ Ram Vanji Sutar (Sculptor) who designed the world's tallest statue has built this world's second tallest statue too.

- ❖ The Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue at 182 metres (597 ft) situated in Gujarat.

### **Lai Haroba Festival**

- ❖ Lai Haroba, a ritualistic festival observed by Manipuri meitei communities began in Agartala, Tripura.
- ❖ The five-day long festival is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance and rituals.
- ❖ A cultural troupe from Manipur came and performing manipuri martial arts, folk music and folk dances.



### **YSR Aarogyasri scheme**

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government has inaugurated “YSR Aarogyasri scheme” to provide free medical treatment to the poor.
- ❖ The scheme will be extended to each district of the state from the month April 2020.
- ❖ The revamped healthcare scheme is aimed at providing free medical treatment to people having an annual income of up to Rs 5 lakh.
- ❖ For this, the state government will distribute 1.42 crores Aarogyasri cards with QR (Quick Response) codes across the state.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Global child prodigy award 2020

- ❖ A Dubai-based Indian girl, Sucheta Satish has won the '100 Global Child Prodigy Award 2020' in the category of singing.
- ❖ She made her double world record in January 2018 at the Indian Consulate Auditorium, Dubai as a 12-year-old when she sings in 102 different languages over 6 hours and 15 minutes.
- ❖ She can currently sing in 120 languages and recently released her second album 'Ya Habibi' in Arabic.

### Global child prodigy award

- ❖ This award is a platform to showcase the talent of children in dance, music, art, writing, acting, modelling, science, sports etc.
- ❖ The award is supported by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and AR Rahman among others.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Braille Day 2020 – January 4

- ❖ World Braille Day is observed on January 4 every year across the world to mark the remembrance of Louis Braille.
- ❖ Louis Braille invented Braille script which helps the visually disability persons to read as well as to write.
- ❖ The aim is to spread awareness among society about the plight and cause of people with visual abilities.
- ❖ United Nations Observed First Official World Braille Day on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019.





## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **New born babies on January 01, 2020**

- ❖ As per UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), India has recorded the highest number of births of 67,385 children on the first day of 2020 in the world.
- ❖ The list followed by China, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia and the USA.
- ❖ A Total of 3,92,078 babies were born around the world.

