

January - 09

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and LED Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) under Ministry of Power marked their fifth anniversary on January 5, 2020.
  - The schemes were implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- ❖ New Zealand batsman Leo Carter entered the record books by becoming the seventh cricketer in the world to hit six sixes in an over.
- ❖ Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank has become the first co-operative bank in the country to get permission from the RBI to convert into a small finance bank (SFB).
  - Shivalik MCB headquartered in Saharanpur of Uttar Pradesh.

## NATIONAL

### Disaster relief fund to 7 states

- ❖ The Government of India approved Rs 5,908 crores of disaster relief fund to seven states.
- ❖ It includes Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The states were badly affected due to floods and landslides caused by South West Monsoon rains.
- ❖ On 2020, January 6 a high-level committee operating under Home Ministry approved disaster relief fund from National Disaster Respond Fund (NDRF).

### About NDRF

- ❖ The National Disaster Respond Fund was established under the disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ❖ The NDRF was established to supplement SDRF.
- ❖ The aim of the fund is to provide immediate relief from natural disasters and not as compensation for crop loss or damage to properties.
- ❖ Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audits the accounts of NDRF.



## **Indian Army begins work on GOCO Model**

- ❖ Indian Army began its work on the GOCO (Government Owned Contractor Operated) Model.
- ❖ The model is extended to base workshops and ordnance depots.
- ❖ The workshops play vital role as they ensure the Indian Army is operationally prepared all the time.
- ❖ The GOCO model was one of the recommendations of the Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (Retd.) committee to enhance combat capability and re-balancing defence expenditure.
- ❖ In GOCO model, the assets owned by government will be operated by the private industries.

## **NetSCoFAN**

- ❖ Union Health Minister Harsha Vardhan launched NetSCoFAN (Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition).
- ❖ It is a network of research & academic institutions working in the area of food & nutrition.
- ❖ The NetSCoFAN would comprise of eight groups of institutions working in different areas viz. biological, chemical, nutrition & labelling, food of animal origin, food of plant origin, water & beverages, food testing, and safer & sustainable packaging.
- ❖ FSSAI has identified eight Nodal Institutions who would develop a 'Ready Reckoner' that will have inventory of all research work, experts and institutions.

## **List of Medical Devices**

- ❖ Niti Aayog draws up list of medical devices that have high export potential.
- ❖ It has come up with 10 devices to provide priority subsidies.
- ❖ It includes surgical blades, orthopaedic implants, catheters, syringes and needles, X-ray machines, blood bags, MRI machines and CT scan.
- ❖ The medical devices are governed under the Central Drugs Standard Control organization (CDSCO).

### **Central Drugs Standard Control organization (CDSCO)**

- ❖ National regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices established under Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- ❖ It works under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

- ❖ Headquarters: New Delhi.

## Indian Data Relay Satellite System

- ❖ India plans space-to-space tracking and communication of its space assets by putting up a new satellite series called the Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS).
- ❖ It will be a set of satellites that will track, send and receive information from other Indian Satellites.
- ❖ IDRSS satellites of the 2,000 kg class would be launched on the GSLV launcher to geostationary orbits around 36,000 km away.
- ❖ The first beneficiary would be the prospective crew members of the Gaganyaan mission of 2022 who can be fully and continuously in touch with mission control throughout their travel.

**Scaling new heights**  
The Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) is a set of satellites that will track, send and receive information from other Indian satellites

- The project will aid the crew of Gaganyaan mission helping them in maintaining contact with the mission control throughout
- Work on two IDRSS satellites has already begun
- First satellite will be launched by 2020-end and the second one by 2021

 **We require the IDRSS system when our astronauts are in space. But I would prefer the relay spacecraft to be in place even before we launch the unmanned mission**

**K. SIVAN,**  
ISRO chief



## State of Aadhaar report

- ❖ State of Aadhaar report has been released on the completion of the tenth year of its existence.
- ❖ This report was done by the IDinsight and Omidyar Network of India.
- ❖ The report has also stated that 80% of participants felt that Aadhaar improved the reach of government schemes and services faster.
- ❖ Aadhaar even after 10 years is the world's largest bio metric ID system in the world.

## Aadhaar

- ❖ The Aadhaar number is a verifiable twelve-digit unique identity number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to the residents of India.
- ❖ It is linked with the resident's demographic and biometric information.
- ❖ The Aadhaar project was conceptualised in the year 2006 and launched in the year 2009 with the creation of UIDAI.

## INTERNATIONAL

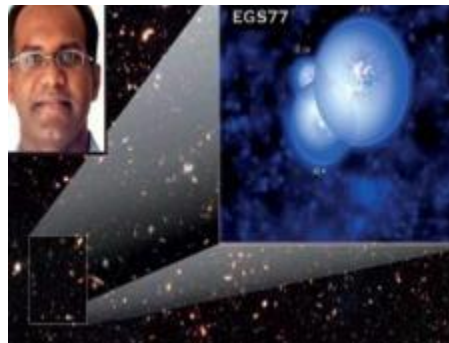
### Global meet on marine ecosystems

- ❖ The third international conference on marine ecosystems – challenges and opportunities (MECOS-3) will be held in Kochi, Kerala from January 2020.
- ❖ The Conference is organized by the Marine Biological Association of India.
- ❖ The Marine Biological Association of India was established in the year 1958.
- ❖ It serves the cause of promotion of research on marine sciences in the Asia-Pacific region.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 'EGS77' Farthest Galaxy Group

- ❖ An international team of astronomers funded in part by NASA has found the farthest galaxy group identified as "EGS77".
- ❖ EGS77 was discovered as part of the Cosmic Deep and Wide Narrowband (Cosmic DAWN) survey.
- ❖ The team of astronomers was led by an Indian-origin Goa-born scientist, Vithal Tilvi.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Chilika lake - CDA

- ❖ The Chilika Development Authority (CDA) has said that it expects over 1 million migratory birds to flock to Chilika lake in 2020.
- ❖ Chilika lake is the Asia's largest brackish water lake and the second largest coastal lagoon in the world.
- ❖ The lake is also home to the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ Chilika lake was also designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 1981.
- ❖ Chilika Development Authority has been created under Forest & Environment Department of Government of Odisha in the year 1991.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Kamal Singh – passed away

- ❖ A member of the country's first Lok Sabha and last Maharaja of the erstwhile Dumraon Raj (a Zamindari Estate) Kamal Singh died in Bihar's Buxar district.
- ❖ Singh was the country's youngest MP, having been elected to the first Lok Sabha in 1952 at the age of 25.
- ❖ He represented Buxar parliamentary constituency (Bihar) in the Lok Sabha as an Independent till 1962.
- ❖ He has opened a number of educational institutions and health facilities for the poor in the old Shahabad region.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Word of the Decade

- ❖ The linguists at the American Dialect Society in New Orleans, Louisiana –have chosen “They” as the “Word of the Decade”.
- ❖ The singular pronoun “They” is used as third-person plural pronoun to refer to those who do not identify with either male or female gender (non-binary gender).
- ❖ “They” was also adjudged as the word of the year in 2015.
- ❖ The American Dialect Society has picked only two “Word of the decade” winners till now - “web” for the 1990s decade and “Google” for 2000s.

