

January - 11

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Visakhapatnam is set to host an International Naval event 'MILAN' in March 2020.
  - The theme of the exercise is "Synergy Across the Seas".
- ❖ Indian Railways announced that it will source 1000 MW of solar power and 200 MW of wind power to zonal railways by 2021-22.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and BMGF (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) had signed the MoU to strengthen health sector of the country.
  - It focuses on reducing child mortality, morbidity, maternal mortality and neonatal mortality.
- ❖ The Ministry of Railway and the UK Government signed MoU to make Indian Railways self-sufficient in energy.
  - The UK Government will also aid in deploying Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.

## NATIONAL

### Regulation on minority education institutions

- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that the state has rights to introduce a regulatory regime in the "national interest" to provide minority educational institutions with well-qualified teachers in order for them to "achieve excellence in education."
- ❖ The judgment came after the validity of the West Bengal Madrasah Service Commission Act of 2008 was challenged.
- ❖ This Act mandated that the process of appointment of teachers in aided madrasahs would be done by a Commission, whose decision would be binding.
- ❖ Minority institutions have the fundamental right under Article 30 of the Constitution to establish and administer their educational institutions according to their choice.
- ❖ However, they cannot ignore the regulations recommended by the state.
- ❖ The regulatory law should however balance the dual objectives of ensuring standard of excellence as well as preserving the right of the minorities to establish and administer their educational institutions.
- ❖ For this, the supreme court broadly divided education into two categories:
  - Secular education.

- Education “directly aimed at or dealing with preservation and protection religious or a linguistic minority.”

### **Railways plans to Link J&K with rest of India**

- ❖ Indian Railways announced that Kashmir is to be linked with the rest of India through railway network by December 2021.
- ❖ Konkan Railways is the implementing agency of the project.
- ❖ According to Railways, this is the most challenging infrastructure project in its 150-year long history.
- ❖ The bridge, that is part of the project, across Chenab river will be the highest bridge in the world.

### **North East Gas Pipeline Grid**

- ❖ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the North East Gas Pipeline Grid.
- ❖ The pipeline is to be constructed for around 1,656 km.
- ❖ The gas pipeline grid is to be developed in eight states of the North East Region namely Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland and Tripura.
- ❖ The project is a joint venture of 5 Public sector units namely
  - ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited),
  - IOCL (Indian Oil Corporation Limited),
  - OIL (Oil India Limited),
  - GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited) and
  - NRL (Numaligarh Refinery Limited).
- ❖ The Joint Venture has been named IGGL (Indra Dhanush Gas Grid Limited).
- ❖ The Government of India has approved Rs 5,559 crores funding for the construction of the grid.
- ❖ The project will be monitored by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ The project is being implemented under the ambitious Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Pulses Conclave 2020**

- ❖ The fifth Pulses Conclave 2020 is to be held in Lonavala, Maharashtra.



- ❖ It is a biennial conference.
- ❖ The India Pulses and Grain Association will host the Conclave.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are the leading pulses producing states in India.
- ❖ India is the largest producer, the largest consumer and also the largest importer of pulses in the world.
- ❖ Pulses increase soil health and hence are used as annual leguminous crops.



## INTERNATIONAL

### India - Mongolia outer space cooperation agreement

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approves agreement between India and Mongolia on Cooperation in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful and Civilian Purposes.
- ❖ The agreement enables the countries to pursue research in planetary exploration, space system and application of space technology.
- ❖ The plan is to set up a Joint Working Group by drawing members from ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), DOS (Department of Space), Communications and Information Technology Authority (CITA) of Mongolia.

### Sea Guardians 2020 – Exercise

- ❖ China and Pakistan are holding nine-day naval exercise in the northern Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The naval exercise has been named “Sea Guardians”.
- ❖ It aims to enhance all-weather strategic partnership between China and Pakistan.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Market Study on E-Commerce in India**

- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) released a Report titled 'Market Study on E-commerce in India: Key Findings and Observations'.
- ❖ According to the report, the number of internet users have increased from 2017 to 2019.
- ❖ This is the primary reason for the fast growth of the E-Commerce sector in the country.
- ❖ The revenue from the E-Commerce sector is growing at the rate of 51%.
- ❖ Delivery market places in food industry raised by 90%.
- ❖ In India, The E-Commerce Sector was established in 2009.
- ❖ There are around 4757 E-commerce start-ups in India.

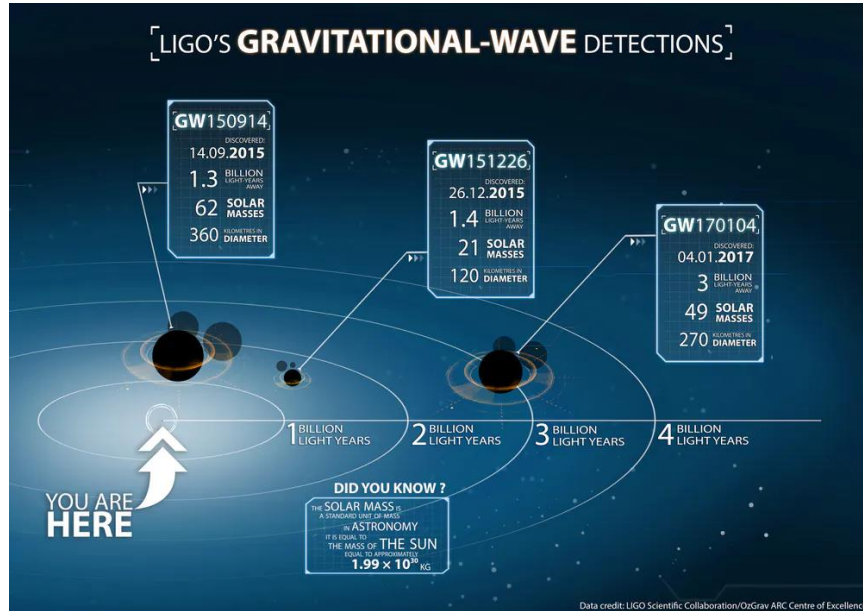
## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **LIGO second wave detection**

- ❖ The LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory) detected gravitational waves due to collision of two neutron stars.
- ❖ This is the second time the gravitational waves are being detected.
- ❖ Neutron stars are the remnants of giant stars that died in a fiery explosion known as a supernova.
- ❖ They have a mass of about 1.4 times that of the sun.
- ❖ The neutron stars were at a distance of 520 million light years from the earth.

### **LIGO**

- ❖ It is a massive observatory for detecting cosmic gravitational waves and for carrying out experiments.
- ❖ Currently LIGO operates three gravitational wave detectors at Livingston, Louisiana and Hanford at USA.
- ❖ LIGO India will come up in Maharashtra.
- ❖ LIGO - India project is piloted by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).



## ENVIRONMENT

### Indian Pompano fish cultivation

- ❖ For the first time in India, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has developed a viable scientific method to cultivate Indian Pompano fish in ponds.
- ❖ Pompanos are marine fishes.
- ❖ The Indian government began the scientific study on Pompano in 2014.
- ❖ The funding was provided by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).
- ❖ The scientists also said that growing Pompano along with shrimp will increase the survival rate of the shrimp as the Pompanos breaks the life cycle of viruses that attack shrimps.
- ❖ The government is currently planning to implement inter-cropping of Shrimp and Pompanos.



Adult Pompano



Pompano Fingerlings (1.5 inch size)

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **NRI Day - January 9, 2020**

- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is called as NRI (Non-Resident Indian) day.
- ❖ This is celebrated as Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa on the day in 1915.
- ❖ In 2019, the event was celebrated in Varanasi.
- ❖ The day is being marked since 2003 to recognize overseas Indians.
- ❖ The event is organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ❖ It is sponsored by Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award is presented by the President of India to honour the exceptional NRIs.

