



**January - 31**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ India has cut import duty on crude palm oil (CPO) and refined, bleached and deodorised (RBD) palm oil.
  - The government moved RBD oil from the “free” to the “restricted” list of imports.
- ❖ European Parliament decided to postpone voting on a critical anti-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) resolution to March 2020.
- ❖ Martyrs Day or Sarvodaya Day was observed on 30 January to give homage to the death of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

## **NATIONAL**

### **MGNREGA scheme faces funds shortage**

- ❖ The MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Employment Act) scheme released its financial statement recently.
- ❖ According to the statement, almost 96% of the money has already been spent.
- ❖ According to the financial statement of the scheme, 15 states are in red meaning, there is fund depletion or fund unavailability.

### **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020**

- ❖ Union Cabinet approved Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
- ❖ The bill aims to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy act, 1971.
- ❖ According to the proposal, termination of pregnancy is to be extended to 24 weeks. It was 20 weeks earlier.
- ❖ The extension is only for special category of women. It includes rape victims, survivors of rape and other vulnerable women like differently-abled women.
- ❖ The amendments were proposed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ In India the Shah Committee was appointed to review the socio-cultural and medical aspects of abortion.
- ❖ This committee recommended legalization of abortion for the first time.

## INTERNATIONAL

### New 50 pence coin commemorating Brexit

- ❖ The British Government has unveiled a new 50 pence coin commemorating Brexit.
- ❖ The coin has the inscription “Peace, Prosperity and Friendship with all nations”.
- ❖ Around 3 million coins are to be distributed from post offices, banks and shops from January 31, 2020.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### SISDP-Update project

- ❖ Satellite imagery-based database of rural natural resources, called SISDP, was launched by ISRO.
- ❖ The Space-based Information Support for Decentralised Planning programme (SISDP) was taken up in 2011 to empower panchayati raj institutions.
- ❖ SISDP phase-I project was successfully concluded in 2016-17.
- ❖ Based on the experience of SISDP phase-I, ‘SISDP-Update’ has been initiated.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Ramsar Sites in India

- ❖ India has added 10 more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ With this, a total of 37 sites in the country have been recognised under the international treaty.

- ❖ Among the 10 sites, Maharashtra (Nadur Madhameshwar bird sanctuary) gets its first Ramsar site.

S.No	States	Ramsar sites
1	Maharashtra	1. Nandur Madhameshwar bird sanctuary
2	Punjab	1. Beas conservation reserve 2. Keshopur-Miani community reserve 3. Nangal wildlife sanctuary
3	Uttar Pradesh	1. Nawabganj bird sanctuary 2. Parvati Arga bird sanctuary 3. Saman bird sanctuary 4. Sarsai Nawar Lake 5. Samaspur bird sanctuary 6. Sandi bird sanctuary

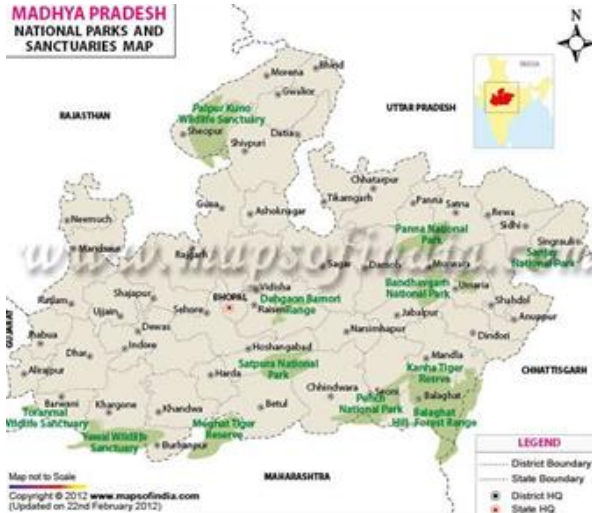
#### About Ramsar convention & Montreux Record

- ❖ Ramsar convention is an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- ❖ The treaty was signed on 2 February 1971.
- ❖ Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Ramsar wetlands of international importance.
- ❖ Indian sites in the Montreux Record are Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Loktak Lake (Manipur).
- ❖ Conserving Wet Lands will also help in achieving Nal Se Jal scheme. The scheme aims to provide water connection to every house hold by 2024.

#### **African Cheetah - introduced in India**

- ❖ Supreme Court ruled that African Cheetah shall be permitted to be introduced in India.
- ❖ The cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus*, is being introduced on experimental basis.
- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had previously told the Supreme Court that African cheetahs would be translocated in India from Namibia and would be kept at Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has given a 'no objection' for the translocation.
- ❖ Cheetah is the only mammal being hunted to extinction in India.

- ❖ IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- ❖ Geographic range: North, Southern and East Africa, and a few localities in Iran
- ❖ Cheetah in India: Extinct in India since 1947



## STATES

### Sustainable growth goals performer list

- ❖ According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Telangana has emerged the best performing states in terms of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- ❖ In December 2019, India released SDG India Index.
- ❖ India was the first country to release SDG index.
- ❖ The index was launched by NITI Aayog.

S. No	State	Score
1	Telangana	82
2	Andhra Pradesh	72
3	Karnataka	72

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

## **World Sustainable Development Summit**

- ❖ The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) has started at Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- ❖ The summit was earlier known as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.
- ❖ WSDS is an annual event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- ❖ It is being organized since 2001.
- ❖ The theme of the event is Theme: 'Towards 2030: Making the Decade Count'.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day - January 30**

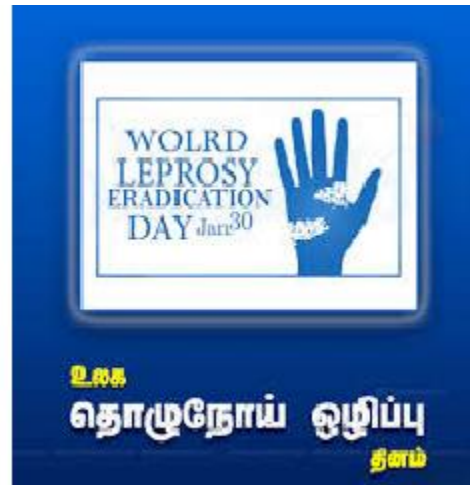
- ❖ The day creates awareness in addressing the tropical diseases.
- ❖ This is the first time World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day that is being marked.
- ❖ The Neglected Tropical Diseases are caused by pathogens such as bacteria, helminths, viruses and protozoa.
- ❖ They are common in low-income countries of Asia, Africa and America.
- ❖ The common NTD of India is Lymphatic filariasis.





### World Leprosy Day – January 30

- ❖ World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January, seeks to increase public awareness about leprosy and focuses on the target of zero cases of leprosy-related disabilities in children.
- ❖ In India, it is celebrated on the 30th January each year to commemorate the death of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ This day was chosen as a tribute to the life of Gandhi who had a lifelong compassion for people affected by leprosy.
- ❖ World Leprosy Day 2020 theme is “Overturning the Stigma of Leprosy”.
- ❖ Leprosy is an infectious disease that causes severe, disfiguring skin sores and nerve damage in the arms, legs, and skin areas around the body.



### MISCELLANEOUS

## NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Ranking

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released the ranking of Aspirational Districts of the country for the month of December 2019.
- ❖ Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has topped the list of aspiring districts in December 2019 with the score of 57.6.
- ❖ The rankings took into account incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas in December 2019.
- ❖ The six developmental areas are Health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure.
- ❖ The Aspirational districts programme was launched in 2018.
- ❖ Aspirational districts are ranked every month.

S.No	District	State
1	Chandauli	Uttar Pradesh
2	Balangir	Odisha
3	Y.S.R.	Andhra Pradesh
4	Sahibganj	Jharkhand
5	Hailakandi	Assam



## Budget formulation - transparency report

- ❖ According to the survey conducted by Transparency International, Assam tops in terms of budget formulation followed by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The states that were ranked lower in terms of budget formulation are Goa, Maharashtra and Punjab.
- ❖ The international Non-Governmental Organization measures and prevents criminal activities arising due to corruption.
- ❖ It releases Global Corruption Index annually.
- ❖ Its headquarters is located in Germany.

