



July - 08

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Hyderabad-based pharma player Laurus Labs has received a licence for manufacturing and marketing Covid-19 drug 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) in India.
  - The licence to Laurus Labs has been granted by DRDO.
- ❖ Panacea Biotech received its licence from the Drugs Controller General of India to manufacture Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine at its facility in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.
  - New Delhi-based Panacea Biotech is in collaboration with the Russian Direct Investment.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **TNAU identifies grasses & trees to improve Elephant Habitats**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI) has undertaken a project to identify native grasses & trees.
- ❖ The objective is to improve quality of elephant habitats by restoring them with native grasses and fodder trees.
- ❖ The Forest Department has set up eight-member group for this.
- ❖ The team submitted an interim report recently.
- ❖ In the report, they have identified 29 native grass species and 14 fodder tree species that are palatable for elephants and other herbivores.
- ❖ The team also started a nursery for growing these species in FC&RI campus.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Coal production - India**

- ❖ India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of 2.02% to 716.084 million tonnes during the last fiscal year.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh registered the highest coal production of 158.409 MT.
- ❖ It is followed by Odisha 154.150 MT, Madhya Pradesh 132.531 MT, and Jharkhand 119.296 MT.



### CoWin Global Conclave

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the CoWin Global Conclave.
- ❖ The global meet was participated by representatives from 142 countries.
- ❖ The Conclave was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of External Affairs and National Health Authority.
- ❖ India has offered its indigenously developed cloud-based CoWIN platform to be made open-source so that it is available to any and all countries.

### New Governors

- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new Governors for eight states.
- ❖ According to the article 155, The Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- ❖ The Union Government is responsible to nominate the governor for each state.

Sl.no	State	New Governor
1.	Karnataka	Thawarchand Gehlot
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
3.	Mizoram	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
5.	Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
6.	Tripura	Satyadev Narayan Arya
7.	Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais
8.	Haryana	Bandaru Dattatraya

### Project BOLD

- ❖ The project was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) recently from the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ 5000 saplings of special bamboo species have been planted in vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- ❖ These special species Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha were brought from Assam.



- ❖ KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
- ❖ BOLD stands for Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought.
- ❖ It is launched by KVIC.
- ❖ The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- ❖ Its objective is to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones to reduce desertification.

### **Open Network for Digital Commerce**

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce.
- ❖ The task has been assigned to Quality Council of India.
- ❖ ONDC aims at promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Child Soldiers Prevention Act**

- ❖ US adds Pakistan, along with 14 other countries, to the list of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act.
- ❖ The list identifies foreign governments with government-supported armed groups that recruit or use child soldiers and subjects them to certain restrictions.
- ❖ The term child soldier means any person less than 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities or who has been compulsorily recruited into governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Changes in G-Sec Auction Methodology**

- ❖ RBI has decided that benchmark securities of 2-year tenor, 3-year tenor, 5-year tenor, 10-year tenor & 14-year tenor and Floating Rate Bonds will be issued using uniform price auction method.

- ❖ However, for benchmark securities of 30-year and 40-year, auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction.
- ❖ The Government Security is a tradable instrument.
- ❖ These are issued by Central Government or State Governments.
- ❖ It acknowledges Government's debt obligation.
- ❖ G-Secs are of two types.
- ❖ Short Term - They are usually called treasury bills.
- ❖ They have original maturities of less than one year.
- ❖ It is issued in three tenors viz., 91-day, 182-day and 364-day.
- ❖ Long Term - They are usually called Government bonds or dated securities.
- ❖ They have original maturity of one year and more.

### **Financial Stability Report**



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India released the 23rd issue of its Financial Stability Report.
- ❖ It is published biannually.
- ❖ The Gross Non-Performing Asset ratio of India's Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) may climb by the end of 2021-22 to as much as 11.2%.
- ❖ It was 7.48% in March 2021.
- ❖ The GNPA ratio of SCBs may increase to 9.8% by March 2022 under the baseline scenario.
- ❖ The RBI Financial Stability Report is released by the Financial Stability and Development Council.

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister is the chairperson of this Council.
- ❖ The idea of the council was mooted by Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve

- ❖ Authorities in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve have started planning for conservation of vultures.
- ❖ This was planned after 150 of the birds were sighted recently in the protected area.
- ❖ VTR forms the easternmost limits of the Himalayan Terai forests in India.
- ❖ It is situated in the Gangetic Plains bio-geographic zone of the country.
- ❖ The forest has a combination of bhabar and terai tracts.
- ❖ Indian flying foxes can be sighted here.
- ❖ There are nine recorded species of vultures in India.

#### BIRD'S EYE VIEW

##### 9 RECORDED SPECIES:

Oriental white-backed, long-billed, slender-billed, Himalayan, red-headed, Egyptian, bearded, cinereous and the Eurasian Griffon.

(4 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, 1 ENDANGERED, 3 NEAR THREATENED)

##### THE CRISIS:

A massive dip in vulture populations came into limelight in the mid-90s, and in 2004 the cause of the crash was established as diclofenac, a veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.



#### WHAT NEXT AFTER 2006 PROJECT:

- Testing of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on vultures, development of new NSAIDs
- Covering two more species in the breeding programme that earlier focussed on 3 critically endangered species
- Additional conservation breeding centres and four rescue centres planned across India
- Nationwide vulture survey once in four years



## SPORTS

### India's flagbearers



- ❖ MC Mary Kom, the six-time world boxing champion, and Manpreet Singh, the men's hockey team skipper, will be India's flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ Bajrang Punia, a silver medallist at the 2018 World Wrestling Championships, will be the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony on August 8.
- ❖ In a first, India is having two flag-bearers, one male and one female, at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure "gender parity".

### James Anderson claims 1000th wicket





- ❖ Veteran England fast bowler James Anderson has completed 1000 wickets in first-class cricket.
- ❖ Anderson achieved this feat during Lancashire's County Championship clash against Kent in Manchester.
- ❖ Anderson is the leading wicket-taker among pacers in Test cricket.
- ❖ Anderson is only the 14th player to claim 1,000 first-class wickets this century and only the fifth among pacers.

