



July - 23

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza was inaugurated at New Delhi.
- ❖ A new Android malware "BlackRock" has been discovered that steals data such as password and credit card details from Mobile Apps.
- ❖ South Korea launched its first military communications satellite ANASIS-II.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh launched "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana", an all-round development scheme for the Scheduled Castes (SC).
- ❖ The Delhi Government has approved the Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana with an aim to enable beneficiaries' avail of the benefits of doorstep delivery of ration.
- ❖ Tata group chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and president of Lockheed Martin Jim Taiclet are to receive the US-India Business Council (USIBC) Global Leadership Award 2020.
- ❖ The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) announced that Kate Winslet will be receiving the 2020 TIFF Tribute Actor Award.

## **NATIONAL**

### **ICAR**

- ❖ Recently Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated its 92nd foundation day on 16th July 2020.
- ❖ It was established in 1929.
- ❖ It was a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ❖ It is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

### **MANODARPAN**

- ❖ The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched MANODARPAN initiative.
- ❖ It provides psycho-social support to students, teachers and parents and addresses their issues related to mental health and emotional wellbeing.

- ❖ It is a part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Retail sales in the World**

- ❖ "The Global Direct Selling – 2019 Retail Sales" was released by the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA).
- ❖ India was ranked 15th in global direct selling industry.
- ❖ It has been topped by the United States (US) and followed by China.

### **Global Rights Index**

- ❖ International Trade Union Confederation released its ranking of 144 countries on degree of respect for workers' rights.
- ❖ The ranking of the countries has been made based on the value of Global Rights Index.
- ❖ India was among the least performing 10 countries in the list.

### **Indo-US PASSEX**

- ❖ Indian navy conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the U.S. Navy.
- ❖ It was conducted near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Indian Navy had conducted similar PASSEXs with the Japanese Navy and the French Navy in the recent past.





## ECONOMY

### Arun Jaitley Scheme

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha Secretariat launched the scheme called “Arun Jaitley Financial Assistance for Group C Employees”.
- ❖ It is an Employees Welfare Scheme in the name of former Union Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ChAdOx1 COVID-19 vaccine

- ❖ It was jointly developed by British-Swedish company AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford.
- ❖ It has been found to be safe and induced an immune response in early-stage clinical trial.
- ❖ Serum institute of India, the partner in the development of Oxford Vaccine, is planning to start the clinical trials in India.
- ❖ The company is the world's largest vaccine producer by number of doses produced.



### Sero-surveillance study

- ❖ The National Centre for Disease control operating under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has commissioned sero-surveillance study in New Delhi.
- ❖ It generates important evidence to assess the spread of the disease.
- ❖ It also helps to know how many persons remain asymptomatic.
- ❖ The sera of selected individual were tested for IgG antibodies.
- ❖ The antibodies were identified using COVID KAVACH ELISA test.

## **Solar Orbiter**

- ❖ The European Space Agency has released the closest pictures ever taken of the Sun captured by the Solar Orbiter.
- ❖ Solar Orbiter is a space mission between ESA (European Space Agency) and NASA.



## **Series of faults**

- ❖ An oil and gas exploration company has helped geologists discover a series of faults at the foot of the Himalaya.
- ❖ This fault system lies in the south eastern region of Nepal.
- ❖ The newly discovered system doesn't appear to extend into India.
- ❖ A fault is a fracture or zone of fractures between two blocks of rock.
- ❖ Faults are related to the movement of Earth's tectonic plates.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **KURMA**

- ❖ A mobile-based application called KURMA was launched on 23rd May 2020, the World Turtles Day.
- ❖ It is aimed at turtle conservation.
- ❖ It is developed by the Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN) in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance of India and Wildlife Conservation Society of India.
- ❖ It will help in observing 2020 as the Year of the Turtle.



### **Giant Sea Cockroaches**

- ❖ The Group of scientists from Singapore reported the discovery of “Super Giant Isopod” species.
- ❖ It is called ‘Bathynomus raksasa’ (Described as “cockroach of the sea”).
- ❖ It is the second-largest isopod species known to researchers till now.
- ❖ It was found at Banta in the eastern Indian Ocean.
- ❖ Banta is in the southern coast of West Java in Indonesia.



### **RAISE initiative**

- ❖ Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency is RAISE initiative.
- ❖ It can potentially alleviate the issue of bad air quality in workspaces across the nation.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and the US Agency for International Development’s (USAID) MAITREE Program.
- ❖ MAITREE is Market Integration and Transformation Programme for Energy Efficiency.



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