



**June - 01**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Every year, on 31st May, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).
  - This year theme of the 2021 WNTD is “Commit to quit.”
- ❖ Drug firm Zydus Cadila has introduced a new feature in the packaging of its critical drugs.
  - This is to help patients ensure that the product is not fake or counterfeited.
- ❖ India extended support after US President asked US intelligence agencies to find how coronavirus emerged in China.
  - Demands were raised by countries including US and Australia to investigate whether coronavirus originated in Wuhan City of China in late 2019 from an animal source or from laboratory accident in December 2019.
- ❖ The UK cleared a Covid-19 vaccine for use from Johnson & Johnson.
  - It is to be the first single-dose shot to be authorised in Britain.
- ❖ BCCI announced its plans to host remaining matches of the suspended 14th edition of IPL.
  - It is planned between September 15 and October 15 in the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Research and Analysis Wing chief, Samant Kumar Goel and Intelligence Bureau head Arvind Kumar were given a one-year extension in their services.
- ❖ National Memorial Day is observed every year on the last Monday of May (31st May in 2021).
  - This day will pay tribute to the men and women who are doing and working for us to combat COVID-19 and also highlights to honor and reminds our troops, veterans, wounded warriors who sacrificed their lives.
- ❖ Christine Wormuth was confirmed unanimously by the US Senate to be the first female secretary of the Army.

## **NATIONAL**

### **IBF to be renamed as IBDF**

- ❖ The Apex body of broadcasters, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has extended its purview to cover digital streaming platforms.
- ❖ Also, it will be renamed as Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF).

- ❖ Extended coverage will bring broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms, under one roof.
- ❖ A self-regulatory body called 'Digital Media Content Regulatory Council (DMCRC)' will be established for digital OTT platforms.

### **YUVA Scheme**

- ❖ The Ministry of Education has launched "YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors".
- ❖ YUVA is an Author Mentorship programme which will train young and budding authors aged below 30 years to in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in India.
- ❖ It will also project India and Indian writings worldwide.
- ❖ YUVA stands for "Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors".
- ❖ The scheme is in line with PM's vision of encouraging young writers to write about India's freedom struggle.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented by "National Book Trust of India" under the Ministry of Education.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Steadfast Defender 21 war games**



- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is organising "Steadfast Defender 21 war games" military exercises in Europe as tensions with Russia increases.
- ❖ In the war names, NATO troops, warships and dozens of aircrafts are taking part.



- ❖ The Military exercises are taking place across Atlantic, through Europe and into Black Sea region.
- ❖ War games are being organised with the aim of simulating response of 30-nation military organisation for attack on any one of its members.

### **Germany recognises genocide**

- ❖ Germany for the first time has recognised that it committed genocide against the Herero and Nama people in present-day Namibia during its colonial rule over a century ago.
- ❖ Germany has also announced a fund of €1.1 billion (\$1.2 billion) to help aid community projects in Namibia.
- ❖ Between 1904 and 1908, German colonial settlers killed tens of thousands of men, women and children from the Herero and Nama tribes after they rebelled against colonial rule.
- ❖ In the Battle of Waterberg around 80,000 Herero, including women and children, were chased across the desert by German troops.

## **ECONOMY**

### **RBI Annual Report 2021**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has published its annual report.
- ❖ It has highlighted “asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters”.

#### **Highlights**

- ❖ In its report, RBI cautioned “banks being lenders will have to provide true picture of bad loans after Supreme Court lifted interim stay on classifying non-performing assets (NPA) in March 2021.
- ❖ According to it, waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts opted for moratorium during March-August 2020 would put stress on financial health of banks.
- ❖ Gross NPA ratio of banks decreased from 8.2% in March 2020 to 6.8% in December 2020.
- ❖ Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5 % by December 2020.
- ❖ Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of banks increased to 15.9% by December 2020, in March it was 14.8%.



- ❖ Gross NPA ratio for non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) increased from 6.8% in March to 5.7% in December 2020.
- ❖ Capital adequacy ratio of NBFCs increased from 24.8% in December 2020 from 23.7% in March.

## STATES

### Ankur scheme

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government announced the launch of Ankur recently.
- ❖ It is a scheme under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon.
- ❖ The People who take the initiative to plant saplings will be given the Pranvayu Award for their participation.

### West Bengal chief secretary issue

- ❖ Bandyopadhyay, a 1987-batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre, was scheduled to retire on May 31 after completion of 60 years of age.
- ❖ However, he was granted a three-month extension following a nod from the Centre.
- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had written to Prime Minister urging him to grant Bandyopadhyay an extension for at least six months in view of his experience of handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Issue

- ❖ Barely four days after he was granted extension, the Centre sought the services of West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay and asked the state government to relieve the officer immediately.
- ❖ The Centre also directed Bandyopadhyay to report to the Department of Personnel and Training, North Block, New Delhi.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### 3 Indian peacekeepers to be honoured - UN

- ❖ Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav are among those to be honoured with the UN's prestigious medal.



- ❖ Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ❖ Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper.
- ❖ Moolchand Yadav was associated with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI).

