

March - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) - has made it mandatory for sweet shops to display the details of the 'date of manufacturing' and 'best before' date of the products even on nonpackaged or loose sweet items from June 1.
- ❖ Book on late chief minister J Jayalalitha titled "The life and times of Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha" written by Amar Prasad Reddy was released recently.

TAMIL NADU

Launch of New offshore patrol vessel

- ❖ This project comes under the Center government's 'Make in India' initiative.
- ❖ The shipyard has delivered the six OPVs which have been commissioned to the Indian Coast Guard fleet.
- ❖ These vessels are ICGS Vikram, ICGS Vijaya, ICGS Veera, ICGS Varaha and ICGS Varad and ICGS Vajra (37).

Varad

- ❖ L&T-built Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Varad has been commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) On February 28, 2020.
- ❖ It was commissioned into the ICG by Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya at L&T Kattupalli shipyard, near Chennai.
- ❖ ICGS Varad set a record in Indian shipbuilding industry by becoming the first major defense ship to clear all sea acceptance trials in a single sea sortie
- ❖ The endurance of the vessel is 5,000 nautical miles, with a maximum speed of 26 Knots.

Yard 45006 Vajra

- ❖ On February 27, 2020 6th offshore patrol vessel (OPV) "Yard 45006 Vajra" was launched in the presence of Union Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ❖ It aims to enhance coastal security and would be used for day and night patrolling.
- ❖ This 6th vessel in the series of 7 OPV is designed & developed by Larsen & Toubro.
- ❖ Objective of this project is to,

- Strengthen the efforts of Indian Coast Guard to secure over 7500 km vast coastline, over 20 Lakh sq Kms of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and
- Safeguard more than 1 lakh merchant ships transiting per year through Indian waters for global trade.



NATIONAL

National importance status

- ❖ The Union Cabinet Approved Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM) Bill, 2019, to grant national importance status to two food technology institutes.
- ❖ National Institutes of Food Technology (NIFTEM) at Kundli, Haryana and Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu will be conferred the special status.
- ❖ This move will help them collaborate with overseas food institutes and improve the standard of education.

Cabinet approves National Technical Textiles Mission

- ❖ The Union government has approved setting up of a with a view to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles.
- ❖ The Mission will have a four-year implementation period from financial year 2020-21 to 2023-24.

- ❖ The Mission will aim at average growth rate of 15-20% per annum taking the level of domestic market size to \$40-50 billion by the year 2024.

24th Eastern Zonal Council

- ❖ 24th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council chaired by Union Home minister Amit Shah was held at Bhubaneshwar.
- ❖ The Meeting focused on the,
 - speedy investigation into cases of sexual offences and rape against women and children, and
 - prevention of cattle smuggling through the Indo-Bangladesh border.
- ❖ The Eastern Zonal Council states include Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand.

Central Consumer Protection Authority

- ❖ Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced that Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be established by the first week of April.
- ❖ The authority is being constituted under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 1986	PROVISIONS	CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 2019
No separate regulator	Regulator	Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to be formed
Complaint could be filed in a consumer court where the seller's (defendant) office is located	Consumer court	Complaint can be filed in a consumer court where the complainant resides or works
No provision. Consumer could approach a civil court but not consumer court	Product liability	Consumer can seek compensation for harm caused by a product or service
District: up to ₹20 lakh State: ₹20 lakh to ₹1 cr National: above ₹1 cr	Pecuniary jurisdiction	District: up to ₹1 cr State: ₹1 cr to ₹10 cr National: Above ₹10 cr
No provision	E-commerce	All rules of direct selling extended to e-commerce
No legal provision	Mediation cells	BCCL Court can refer settlement through mediation



- ❖ The Act replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and seeks to widen its scope in addressing consumer concerns.
- ❖ The new Act recognizes offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisement.
- ❖ It also specifies action to be taken if goods and services are found “dangerous, hazardous or unsafe”.

Assistive Aids and Devices to senior citizens

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed Assistive Aids and Devices to senior citizens and differently-abled at a camp in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj.
- ❖ The PM distributed assistive aids and devices to senior citizens under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana and to people with disabilities under ADIP scheme for purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances.
- ❖ The moto is to assist with these aids and devices to the daily living and socio-economic development of the Divyangjan and the senior citizens.

Exercise Indra Dhanush - 5th edition

- ❖ The Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force (RAF) of the UK jointly commenced the 5th edition of Exercise Indra Dhanush at Air Force Station, Hindan, UP.
- ❖ The exercise is tasked to enhance mutual operational understanding between the two air forces via close interaction.
- ❖ The focus of this edition of the exercise is ‘Base Defence and Force Protection’.
- ❖ The first edition of this exercise was held in 2006.

ECONOMY

100% FDI in insurance intermediaries

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) amended the Consolidated Foreign Direct Investment Policy 2017.
- ❖ It aims to allow 100 per cent FDI in insurance intermediaries through the automatic route.
- ❖ This includes insurance brokers, reinsurance brokers, insurance consultants, corporate agents, third-party administrators, surveyors and loss assessors.
- ❖ Previously FDI up to 49 percent was allowed in insurance intermediaries through the automatic route.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Discovery of 17 new planets

- ❖ University of British Columbia astronomy student Michelle Kanimoto has discovered 17 new planets.
- ❖ The 17 new planets were discovered by combining the data gathered by NASA's Kepler mission.
- ❖ Among the 17 planets, Earth-like world found was officially named 'KIC-7340288 b'.
- ❖ It is almost 1 ½ times the size of Earth.

Kepler mission

- ❖ NASA's Kepler mission was named after the astronomer Johannes Kepler.
- ❖ This spacecraft was launched in 2009 and the same was retired in 2018.

STATES

1000 Springs Initiative

- ❖ Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launched the "Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe Representatives in Local Self Governments" in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ He also launched "1000 Spring Initiatives" and an online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs on the occasion.
- ❖ 1000 Springs Initiative aims at improving access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities living in a difficult and inaccessible part of rural areas in the country.
- ❖ The online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas has been developed to make these data easily accessible from an online platform.

SPORTS

Maria Sharapova retires

- ❖ Five-time grand slam singles winner Maria Sharapova, Russia retires from tennis.
- ❖ Sharapova became a global star in 2004 by winning Wimbledon at age of 17.



5 Grand Slam titles 2004 | 2006 | 2008 | 2012 | 2014
Wimbledon US Open Aus Open French Open French Open

Asian Squash Federation performance award list

- ❖ Saurav Ghosal and Veer Chotrani have been shortlisted among Indians for the Asian Squash Federation performance award list for 2019.
- ❖ Ghosal has been nominated for the Dato Alex Award for 'the outstanding performance of the year' in the senior category.
- ❖ Chotrani has been picked for the Hassan Musa Award for 'the outstanding performance of the year' in the junior category.
- ❖ The awards will be presented at the Asian Team Championships to be held from March 25 to 29 in Kuala Lumpur.

