

March - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Foundation stone for a new government medical college was laid in Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram on March 1st.
- ❖ The Madras High Court had said that a female government employee who gives birth to two or more babies in her first delivery would not be entitled to maternity benefits such as paid leaves during her second delivery.
- ❖ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet is moving to file an intervention application in the Supreme Court against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme on March 3rd, 2020.
- ❖ Of the total cost, about ₹2,000 crore is the World Bank share and ₹857 was pumped in by the State government.
- ❖ The programme aims at upgrading the quality of healthcare, bringing down non communicable diseases, filling equity gaps in reproductive and child health services.

NATIONAL

India and Armenia defense deal

- ❖ India has overtaken Russia and Poland to win a \$40 million defence deal to supply four indigenously-built weapon locating radars to Armenia in Europe.
- ❖ The deal is being seen as a major achievement for 'Make in India' programme in the defence sector.
- ❖ As per the agreement, India will supply four SWATHI weapon locating radars to Armenia.
- ❖ This will provide fast, automatic and accurate location of enemy weapons like mortars, shells and rockets in its 50-km range.
- ❖ SWATHI is developed by DRDO's Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE).



World Heritage Sites

- ❖ The Central government has nominated the following two sites for inclusion in the World Heritage Site list for the current year.
 - 'Dholavira: A Harappan City' and
 - 'Monuments and Forts of Deccan Sultanate'
- ❖ The Dholavira is an archaeological site located in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat.
- ❖ It consists of remains of ancient Indus Valley civilization.
- ❖ Monuments and Forts of Deccan Sultanate include,
 - Bidar fort – has the second largest dome in the world that was constructed before the modern age,
 - Bijapur Monuments,
 - Golconda Fort – famous for water management and
 - Gulbarga Fort – Initial capital of the Bahmani Sultanate.

Suposhit Maa Abhiyan

- ❖ The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched a national campaign from Kota, Rajasthan on March 1, 2020.
- ❖ It aims to create malnutrition free India.
- ❖ “Suposhit Maa Abhiyan” will support adolescent girls and pregnant women in the country.
- ❖ The main objective of this campaign is to keep pregnant women and the new born healthy.



- ❖ In the first phase of the campaign, 1000 kits of 17 kg balanced diet each were provided to 1000 pregnant women.

Kaushal Bharath

- ❖ The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) developed an enterprise resource planning platform called 'Kaushal Bharath'.
- ❖ This enables states to capture data on projects under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and for the information to be collated in one system.

DDU-GKY

- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) announced the DDU-GKY on Antyodaya Diwas - 25th September 2014.
- ❖ DDU-GKY is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- ❖ Objectives of DDU-GKY are
 - Adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and
 - Cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.

Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana

- ❖ Under performance of National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons is marked because just over 34,000 people have signed up so far in this scheme.
- ❖ The Labour Ministry's vision document in 2019 had set a target of 25 lakh enrolments for the scheme in 2019-2020.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana is a voluntary and contribution based central sector scheme.
- ❖ The government launched the scheme, entailing monthly minimum assured pension of ₹3,000 for the entry age group of 18-40 years after attaining the age of 60 years.

River linking projects

- ❖ The Central government is working on the establishment of an exclusive body to implement projects for linking rivers.
- ❖ It is to be called as the National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA).
- ❖ The proposed body is expected to take up both inter-State and intra-State projects.

- ❖ It will also make arrangements for generating up funds, internally and externally.

INTERNATIONAL

Peace agreement

- ❖ US and Taliban have signed a historic agreement- “Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan”- in Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ The agreement could pave the way to end America’s longest-fought war.
- ❖ Highlights of the agreement:
 - Military troops withdrawal: It lays out a 14-month timetable for the withdrawal of all military forces of the United States, its allies, and Coalition partners.
 - Release of prisoners: The agreement also calls for the release of 5,000 Taliban prisoners and 1,000 “prisoners of the other side” on the first day of intra-Afghan negotiations.

ENVIRONMENT

Eurasian otters in Odisha

- ❖ Eurasian otters have been spotted in Odisha's Chilika Lake for the first time.
- ❖ Researchers conducting a study in Odisha's Chilika Lake have found the presence of a viable, breeding population of a fishing cat in the brackish water lagoon.
- ❖ It is a globally endangered species that is elusive and found in very few places in south and south-east Asia.



Black carbon concentration

- ❖ Black carbon concentrations near the Gangotri glacier rose 400 times in summer due to forest fires and stubble burning from agricultural waste.
- ❖ This result was given after a study by scientists at the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG).
- ❖ India is the second largest emitter of black carbon in the world.
- ❖ Its emissions are expected to increase dramatically in the coming decades, says the 'Atmospheric Research' journal.
- ❖ It also says that the Indo Gangetic plains is to be the largest contributor of this.

Black carbon

- ❖ Black carbon results from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and biomass.
- ❖ It is said to be the second largest contributor to climate change after CO₂.



STATES

Tribal organizations demand the ILP system

- ❖ Tribal organisations in Meghalaya have been demanding the ILP (Inner Line Permit) system for restricting the entry of outsiders into the State.
- ❖ It is a document required by non-natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
- ❖ ILP helps to protect the indigenous culture of the place and also prevents illegal migrants and encroachment by the outsiders.
- ❖ At present, four North eastern states are already covered in this system.

- ❖ They are Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland.
- ❖ The ILP is issued by the concerned state government.
- ❖ The Inner Line Permit is an extension of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act 1873.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Islamica 500 Award

- ❖ Mohammed Jinnah from Singapore, gets award for his excellence in Islamic Economy from Islamica 500.
- ❖ He is of Tamil origin.
- ❖ ISLAMICA 500 is the reference providing hard-to-find biographical details for 500 of the world's most prominent and influential personalities in the Islamic world and economy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wildlife Day - March 03

- ❖ The theme of United Nations World Wildlife Day 2020 is 'Sustaining all life on Earth'.
- ❖ In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March as UN World Wildlife Day.

- ❖ It marks the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.



World Hearing Day - March 03

- ❖ The WHO commemorates World Hearing Day each year by deciding the theme and developing brochures and other advocacy materials including posters and banners.

