

March - 10

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Global industrial technology company Rolls-Royce has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) for joint research programmes.
  - Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited is a British luxury automobile maker.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Food Safety and Drug Administration recently asked the administrators of temples to obtain BHOG (Blissful Hygiene Offering to God) certificate from FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).
- ❖ Afghan President Ashraf Ghani is elected as the President of Afghanistan for the second time.

## TAMIL NADU

### Kannagi Nagar Art District

- ❖ The Chennai Corporation inaugurated the Kannagi Nagar Art District recently.
- ❖ Chennai is the first city in Tamil Nadu to get an Art District.
- ❖ The Kannagi Nagar Art District aims to promote art and culture for social transformation and civic improvement.
- ❖ Chennai Corporation has supported artists who participated in the initiative with assistance of Chennai Smart City Limited and St+art India.
- ❖ Lodhi Art District in Delhi is the India's first art district, with fifty murals.





### **Wind energy power generation**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu electricity generation and distribution corporation is planning to increase the wind energy power generation.
- ❖ The current wind power capacity of Tamil Nadu is 8,507 MW.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's share of India's wind power capacity is 23%.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Power and Energy aims to create non-conventional energy sources with a capacity of 1 lakh 75 thousand MW by 2022 and 4 lakh 50 thousand MW by 2030.
- ❖ As part of this, Tamil Nadu is projected to reach 22,000 MW by 2022.

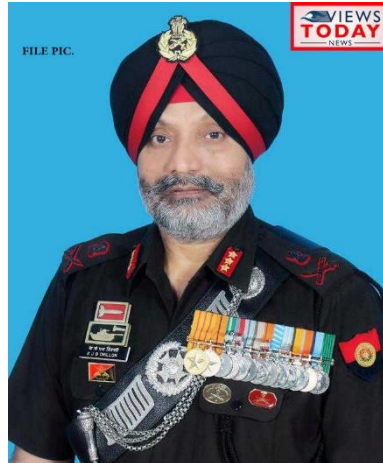
### **Vice Chairman of State Planning Commission appointed**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government appointed senior AIADMK leader and former Finance Minister C. Ponnaiyan as Vice Chairman of State Planning Commission.
- ❖ The Chief Minister is the chairman of the State Planning Commission.
- ❖ The State Planning Commission (SPC) was constituted in Tamil Nadu on 25th May 1971.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon**

- ❖ Former Commander of Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lt-Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon has been appointed as Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency, and Deputy Chief of Integrating Defence Staff (Intelligence) under the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in the Department of Military Affairs.
- ❖ The Defence Intelligence Agency is an organisation responsible for providing and coordinating military intelligence for the Indian armed forces.
- ❖ It was created in March 2002 and is administered within the Ministry of Defence.



### **Helpline for women scientists, students, researchers**

- ❖ Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan launched a helpline number for women students, researchers, entrepreneurs and scientists
- ❖ This enables them to get their queries related to the ministry's programmes answered.
- ❖ They will also get information about qualifications or other requirements to avail benefits of schemes under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST).

### **Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards**

- ❖ NITI Aayog organized the Fourth Edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards recently.
- ❖ The WTI Awards 2019 received over 2,300 applications of which the Top 30 were shortlisted
- ❖ WTI Awards are NITI Aayog's initiative to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavours of India's women leaders and changemakers.
- ❖ Since 2018, the Awards have been hosted under the aegis of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform with a special focus on entrepreneurship.



### **Sanitary napkin disposal bags**

- ❖ The Government has decided to make sanitary napkin disposal bags mandatory from January 2021.
- ❖ The announcement was made by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- ❖ He also stated that it will be mandatory for the sanitary napkin makers to supply a biodegradable bag with each napkin from January 2021.

### **HAL to set up logistics bases in four countries**

- ❖ State-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is looking at setting up logistics bases in four countries as part of initiatives to woo the countries to buy India's light combat aircraft Tejas and military helicopters.
- ❖ The four countries include Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The Tejas has been developed by Aeronautical Development Agency and the HAL.
- ❖ The lifespan of the jet would be a minimum of 30 years just like any other frontline combat aircraft.
- ❖ Chairman and Managing Director of HAL R Madhavan also added that HAL is now seriously focusing on boosting exports in sync with the government's priority to sell key platforms like Tejas, attack helicopter Rudra and advanced light helicopter Dhruv.



### **Women scientists receive international exposure**

- ❖ The Indo-U.S. Fellowship for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (WISTEMM)” program of Department of Science and Technology (DST) in association with Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) have provided international exposure to several women scientists.
- ❖ Around 20 women scientists have visited 20 leading institutions across the United States of America for furthering their research work and to get trained in the state of art technologies related to their research.
- ❖ WISTEMM aims to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers and Technologists,
  - To undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions in U.S.A and
  - To enhance their research capacities and capabilities.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cells**

- ❖ Scientists at the International Advanced Research for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad have developed polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cell (PEMFC) systems ranging in power from 1 kW to 20 kW.
- ❖ ARCI is an autonomous R&D facility under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ❖ PEMFCs are also known as proton-exchange membrane fuel cells.





- ❖ They operate at low temperatures.
- ❖ Fuel cell systems provide sustainable electricity using hydrogen gas without the need for grid power, as required by conventional battery backup systems.
- ❖ This makes them highly useful for applications such as emergency operation centers, which need to respond immediately in emergency situations.

### **Sahyadri Megha**

- ❖ In order to prevent the decline in the paddy cultivation, the University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (UAHS), Shivamogga of Karnataka, has developed 'Sahyadri Megha', a new red variety of paddy.
- ❖ This variety is resistant to blast disease and also rich in nutrients.
- ❖ The new variety has been approved by the State-level Seed Sub-Committee and it will be available for farmers from the coming kharif season.
- ❖ Another objective of developing the new variety is to cater to the strong demand for red rice, rich in fibre and protein, by health-savvy consumers in urban areas.

## **STATES**

### **Kishori shakti karyakram**

- ❖ Fourteen teenage girls from Odisha's Berhampur have started a campaign 'kishori shakti karyakram' beginning from the International Women's Day.
- ❖ This aims to empower young girls living in slums of the city.
- ❖ These activists are in the age group of 14 to 18 years.
- ❖ The campaign includes making adolescents and the community aware about menstrual hygiene, right age for marriage, motivating school and college drop-outs to restart studies, promoting gender equality, skill development and formation of adolescent groups.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Indian Sports Women of the year Award**

- ❖ World champion shuttler P. V. Sindhu was voted as the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year.
- ❖ She gained more popular votes than boxer Mary Kom, para-shuttler Manasi Joshi, sprinter Dutee Chand and wrestler Vinesh Phogat.

- ❖ On the same occasion, the legendary athlete P.T. Usha was bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award.

