

March - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Three 'Amma wedding halls' are to be opened in Chennai. The three areas include Korattur, Velachery and Ayapakkam.
- ❖ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recently advised insurance companies to ensure that the affected patients be expeditiously handled and to design products covering the treatment cost for coronavirus.

TAMIL NADU

Tracking MTC buses

- ❖ Now, MTC buses can be tracked on phone with the help of 'Chalo' app.
- ❖ The app provides details on nearest bus stops and next five Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) buses scheduled to arrive at any selected stop.
- ❖ This works in both offline and online modes.
- ❖ Currently the app is a beta version (or test-run) of the soon-to-be-launched government's Locate My Bus App (LAMB).

Name boards in Tamil

- ❖ The Labour Welfare Commissioner has said that all shops and businesses in Tamil Nadu should have a name board in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Though the name boards can also be in English and other languages, it must be ensured that the name in Tamil gets priority in order of writing and size of fonts.

NATIONAL

Startup India

- ❖ According to the Start-up India portal, 29,681 start-ups have been registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) so far.
- ❖ This is three times higher than the startups registered till March 2018 (8,939).
- ❖ This data is shared by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The Indian startup ecosystem is currently the third-largest globally after the US and China.



DPIIT

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade was established in 1995.
- ❖ It has been reconstituted in the year 2000 with the merger of the Department of Industrial Development.
- ❖ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is responsible for formulation and implementation of promotional and developmental measures for growth of the industrial sector, keeping in view the national priorities and socio-economic objectives.

2021 Census questions

- ❖ Centre has issued a gazette notification regarding a list of 31 questions which will be asked by enumerators for collecting information through housing census schedule in connection with 2021 Census.
- ❖ The questions are given below.

1. Building Number
2. Census House Number
3. Predominant material of floor, wall and roof of the census house
4. Ascertain use of census house
5. Condition of the census house
6. Household number
7. Total number of persons normally residing in the household
8. Name of the head of the household
9. Sex of the head of the household
10. Whether the head of the household belongs to SC/ST/Other
11. Ownership status of the census house
12. Number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household
13. Number of married couple(s) living in the household
14. Main source of drinking water
15. Availability of drinking water source
16. Main source of lighting
17. Access to latrine
18. Type of latrine
19. Wastewater outlet
20. Availability of bathing facility
21. Availability of kitchen and LPG/PNG connection
22. Main fuel used for cooking
23. Radio/Transistor
24. Television
25. Access to Internet
26. Laptop/Computer
27. Telephone/Mobile phone/smartphone
28. Bicycle/scooter/motorcycle/moped
29. car/Jeep/Van
30. Main cereal consumed in the household
31. Mobile number

High court verdict on Lieutenant Governor's power

- ❖ The Madras High Court set aside its own order restraining the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi from interfering in the day-to-day affairs of the elected government of the union territory.



- ❖ The Bench asked the lieutenant governor to work in unison with the elected government.
- ❖ The bench allowed appeals moved by the Union government and the governor.

Top private institution in India

- ❖ Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is number one private institution in India for Engineering and Technology as per the QS subject ranking, 2020.
- ❖ The university was ranked among the top 450 universities in the world by the QS World University Rankings.
- ❖ QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Limited, United Kingdom.
- ❖ VIT has been recognised as an Institution of Eminence by Government of India.
- ❖ It has also been ranked as number one private university for innovation by Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), Government of India.

Pragyan Conclave 2020

- ❖ The Indian Army International Seminar named 'PRAGYAN CONCLAVE 2020' was organized by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).
- ❖ The Seminar commenced in New Delhi.
- ❖ The event creates a platform for national and international military experts to discuss on the subject of 'Changing Characteristics of Land Warfare and its Impact on the Military'.

INTERNATIONAL

OPEC+ supply cut agreement with Russia

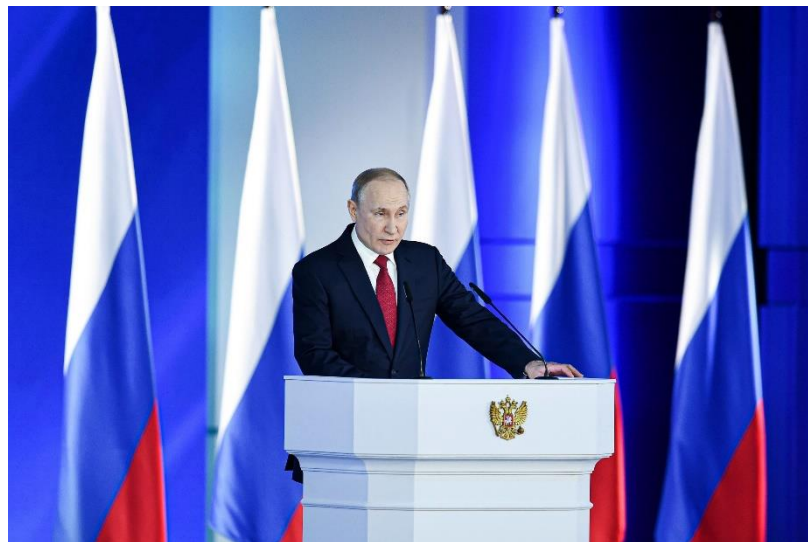
- ❖ A three-year pact between OPEC and Russia ended in acrimony recently after Moscow refused to support deeper oil cuts to cope with the outbreak of the coronavirus.
- ❖ OPEC responded by removing all limits on its own production.
- ❖ OPEC+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.



- ❖ OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, plans to raise its crude oil production significantly above 10 million barrels per day (bpd) in April, after this collapse.

Vladimir Putin to Become Russia's Eternal Leader

- ❖ In Russia, President Vladimir Putin has endorsed a plan that would allow him to remain in power until 2036.
- ❖ The legislation was approved by the lower house of Russia's parliament, the Duma, but must still be approved by Russia's Constitutional Court and a public referendum to be held in April.
- ❖ Putin had already proposed constitutional changes that would allow him to remain in power beyond 2024.



ECONOMY

No minimum balance for SBI savings bank accounts

- ❖ The State Bank of India (SBI) announced that it has waived off the requirement of holding average monthly balance for savings accounts.
- ❖ Currently SBI savings bank account customers need to maintain an average monthly balance of Rs 3,000, Rs 2,000 and Rs 1,000 in Metro, Semi Urban and Rural areas, respectively.
- ❖ The bank has also rationalised interest rate on savings accounts to a flat 3 per cent per annum for all savings bank account holders.
- ❖ Previously, savings accounts with a balance of less than Rs 1 lakh earn 3.25 percent a year, while those with more than Rs 1 lakh earn 3 percent.

STATES

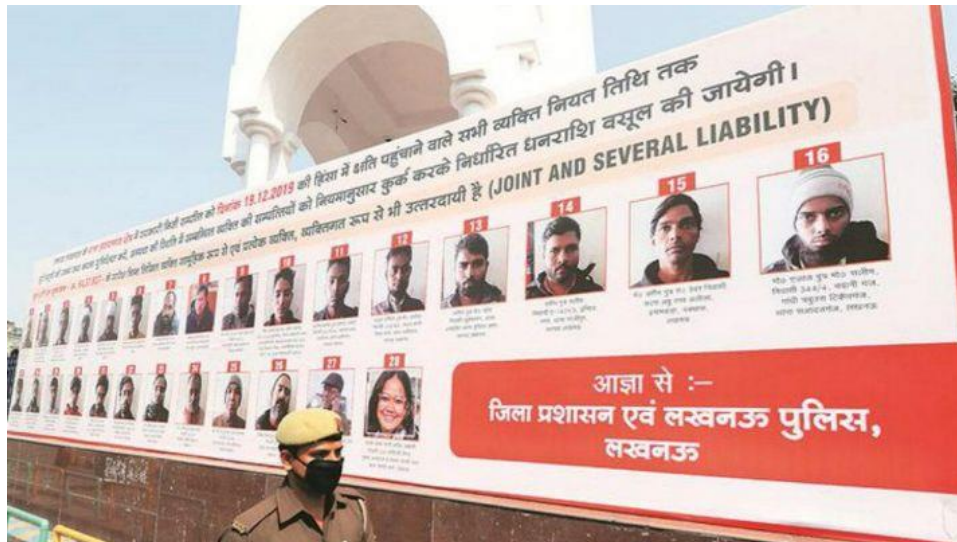
Attukal Pongala festival

- ❖ Attukal Pongala is a 10-day festival celebrated at the Attukal Temple, Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ There will be a huge gathering of millions of women on the ninth day.
- ❖ These women prepare a divine food made of rice in earthen pots and offer it to the Goddess of the Temple.
- ❖ This temple is also known as the women's Sabarimala.



Court orders removal of 'name and shame' hoardings

- ❖ Allahabad High Court has directed the Lucknow administration to remove forthwith the controversial 'name and shame' hoardings.
- ❖ These contains the names of those arrested during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.
- ❖ The police put up several hoardings across Lucknow identifying those accused of violence during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.
- ❖ The Allahabad High Court had taken Suo motu notice of this act.
- ❖ It violates the Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ Also, no power is available in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to police or the Executive to display personal records of a person to public at large.



Solar Rooftop Installations

- ❖ Gujarat has topped solar roof top plants across the country.
- ❖ The state government has adopted the scheme called "Surya Gujarat" in order increase the use of solar energy at domestic level.
- ❖ The scheme aimed to cover more than 8 lakh domestic consumers by 2022.
- ❖ It had also provided 40% subsidy to projects with capacity between 3 KWhr and 10 KWhr.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Bhawna Dehariya

- ❖ Indian mountaineer Bhawna Dehariya has successfully scaled Mount Kosciuszko, the highest mountain peak in Australia.
- ❖ She scaled Mount Everest and Mount Kilimanjaro in the year 2019.
- ❖ Dehariya, who hails from Madhya Pradesh, thanked Chief Minister Kamal Nath for supporting and motivating her to climb the summit.

