

March - 16

## TAMIL NADU

### Memorial hall for Irattai Malai Srinivasan

- ❖ The foundation stone for the construction of the memorial hall for Irattai Malai Srinivasan was launched in Achhirupaakkam next to Madhurandhagam.
- ❖ Irattai Malai Srinivasan was a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ He is one of the pioneers of the scheduled caste movement in India.

## NATIONAL

### Masks & hand sanitizers under Essential Commodities Act

- ❖ The government amended Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 to declare 2 ply & 3 ply surgical masks, N95 masks & hand sanitizers as Essential Commodities up to 30th June, 2020.
- ❖ It aims to ensure that these products are available in the market at the right price given the outbreak of coronavirus & also has a measure to manage it.
- ❖ In 1955, the Central government enacted this act to regulate the production, supply & delivery of bulk products & make them available to consumers at reasonable prices.



### Crime Multi Agency Centre

- ❖ Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai has launched the Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC).



- ❖ It is established for sharing of information on heinous crime and other issues related to inter-state coordination.
- ❖ He launched the Centre at a function organised on the occasion of 35th Inception Day of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ He also launched the National Cybercrime Training Centre (NCTC) for professional quality e-Learning services on cyber-crime investigation to police officers, judges, prosecutors and other stakeholders.
- ❖ National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 35th Inception Day, on March 12, 2020.
- ❖ It is headquartered in New Delhi and is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.
- ❖ It is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

### **Bhoomi Rashi portal**

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) announced that the 'Bhoomi Rashi' portal has significantly increased the process of land acquisition for National Highways project.
- ❖ The portal has made the process error-free & more transparent with the notifications at every stage being processed in real-time.
- ❖ The MoRTH has launched the portal Bhoomi Rashi on April 1, 2018.

### **Wings India 2020**

- ❖ A 4-day biennial event WINGS INDIA 2020, an International Exhibition & Conference on Civil Aviation sector held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.
- ❖ This is organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation & Airports Authority of India (AAI) & Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) under the theme of "Flying For All".

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Iran and International Monetary Fund.**

- ❖ For the first time since 1962, Iran is seeking the help of International Monetary Fund.
- ❖ Since Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran stopped getting help from IMF.

- ❖ After US had withdrawn from JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), it had imposed sanctions on Iran.

### **Global Animal Protection Index 2020**

- ❖ The Global Animal Protection Index 2020 was released by World Animal Protection, an international animal welfare charity.
- ❖ India was ranked second in the index.
- ❖ India was ranked along with Spain, Mexico, France and New Zealand.
- ❖ The Animal Protection Index ranks countries from A to G.
- ❖ According to the index, the countries that performed weakly included Iran, Morocco, Algeria and Belarus.



### **International Health Regulations (IHR)**

- ❖ International Health Regulations (IHR) were agreed upon by the global community to improve the detection and reporting of potential public health emergencies worldwide.
- ❖ Under IHR, once a WHO member identifies a potential event, it must assess the public health risks and notify WHO.
- ❖ Since IHR came into being, WHO has declared four public health emergency of international concern (PHEICs) namely, H1N1 influenza (2009), Polio (2014), Ebola (2014) and Zika virus (2016).
- ❖ Covid-19 is the fifth time a PHEIC is declared by the WHO.



### **Visas for foreign nationals**

- ❖ The Indian government has suspended visas for foreign nationals from all across the globe owing to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak.
- ❖ India is the first among more than 120 countries affected by this outbreak to take such a drastic step.

## **ECONOMY**

### **RoDTEP (Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product) scheme.**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved to withdraw the MEIS (Merchandise Export from India) Scheme in phases.
- ❖ It is later to be replaced with RoDTEP (Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product) scheme.
- ❖ The MEIS is being replaced as the exports are to fall further due to Corona Virus outbreak.
- ❖ The RoDTEP is compliant with WTO (World Trade Organization) norms.
- ❖ The RoDTEP is a scheme for exporters to reimburse their taxes and duties.
- ❖ The MEIS scheme offers export incentives between 2% and 5%.
- ❖ It was introduced under the Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20).
- ❖ The aim of MEIS scheme is to make Indian products competitive at the Global market.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Oculudentavis khaungraae**

- ❖ It is the smallest dinosaur discovered yet.
- ❖ The scientists found the fossilised skull of a dinosaur trapped in a 99-million-year-old amber in northern Myanmar.
- ❖ It is in the size of a modern hummingbird.
- ❖ The fossil represented the smallest dinosaur from the Mesozoic era — about 250 million to 65 million years ago.



## STATES

### State Health Emergency

- ❖ Odisha CM Naveen Declares Coronavirus Outbreak As “State Calamity” or state disaster.
- ❖ Earlier, Kerala has declared a health emergency in four districts.

### Phool Dei festival

- ❖ Uttarakhand celebrated the traditional harvest festival “Phool Dei”.
- ❖ The festival also showcases the inner bonding between the communities who all are residing in the hills.
- ❖ On this traditional festival young girls pluck the first flowers of the season to decorate their houses with flowers.
- ❖ The term ‘Dei’ refers to ceremonial pudding which is the key food in the festival that is made from jaggery, White flour & curd, are offered to everyone.

### Stadiums under Uttaran scheme

- ❖ The Assam Government plans to construct 33 stadiums across the state under the Uttaran Scheme.
- ❖ The Uttaran Scheme is adopted by the Assam Government to give a new dimension to the visions of the MLAs and to implement innovative projects which will be suitable to local needs.

## SPORTS

### Ranji Trophy 2019-20

- ❖ The 2019–20 Ranji Trophy was the 86th season of the Ranji Trophy.
- ❖ Saurashtra wins maiden Ranji title by defeating Bengal team at Rajkot.
- ❖ The Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between multiple teams representing regional and state cricket associations.
- ❖ The competition is named after the first Indian cricketer who played international cricket, Ranjit sinhji, who was also known as 'Ranji'.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Pi Day - March 14

- ❖ Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi).
- ❖ UNESCO's 40th General Conference decided Pi Day as the International Day of Mathematics in November 2019.
- ❖ Coincidentally, March 14 is also Physicist Albert Einstein's birthday.
- ❖ Pi Approximation Day is observed on July 22 (22/7 in the day/month format)
- ❖ Two Pi Day, also known as Tau Day for the mathematical constant Tau, is observed on June 28 (6/28 in the month/day format).

