

March - 17

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Chadalavada Anandha Bhavani Devi became the first-ever fencer from India to qualify for Olympic Games.
  - Bhavani secured a spot for the Tokyo Olympics at the World Cup in Hungary.
- ❖ The United States overtook Saudi Arabia as India's second biggest oil supplier.
  - Iraq remains Top supplier to India.

## **NATIONAL**

### **The Geographical Indication (GI) Mahotsav**

- ❖ The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda inaugurated the Tribes India GI Mahotsav at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The purpose of the GI Mahotsav is the exhibition and demonstration of the various GI products from across the country in a bid to increase the awareness of these products amongst the IAS probationers and sensitize them about the rich cultural heritage of India.
- ❖ It is with the vision towards “Vocal for Local” and building an “Atma nirbhar Bharat”.

### **Framework for water quality testing, monitoring**

- ❖ Jal Shakti Ministry launches framework for water quality testing and its monitoring.
- ❖ The framework is part of the Centre’s flagship Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ The guidelines mandate a network of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited labs.
- ❖ These labs are to be set up in every State, district and block over the next year.
- ❖ At the panchayat level, teams of women in the village water and sanitation committees will be given field testing kits.
- ❖ All results of testing will be fed into the Water Quality Information Management System.



### **INS Jalashwa**

- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa has reached the port of Anjouan in Comoros.
- ❖ The ship carried a consignment of 1000 metric tonnes of rice.
- ❖ After handing over the consignment to Comoros, the INS Jalashwa will travel to the Port of Ehoala.
- ❖ It will deliver another consignment of 1000 metric tonne of rice and 1,00,000 tablets of Hydroxychloroquine there.
- ❖ INS Jalashwa is the only Indian naval ship that has been procured from United States.

### **Study panel for Sarasvati river**

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India stated that it has reconstituted an Advisory Committee for Multidisciplinary Study of the River Sarasvati.
- ❖ The river is also known as Ghaggar-Hakra River.
- ❖ It has been reconstituted for the next two years (2021-23).
- ❖ The Head of the Committee will be Prahalad Singh Patel, Union Minister for Culture.
- ❖ The committee will use remote sensing imagery for studying environmental changes, history of archaeological culture concentrating more on the protohistoric era of River Sarasvati.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **First Quad Summit 2021**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga come together for the first QUAD Summit.
- ❖ The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue nations are planning to counter China.
- ❖ QUAD is also known as the Asian NATO.
- ❖ It is an informal strategic forum comprising India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.
- ❖ The idea of QUAD was first brought up by the then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe back in 2007.

### **Energy office' in Moscow**

- ❖ India opens 'energy office' in Moscow as Delhi-Moscow focuses more on sector.
- ❖ This energy office will have the presence of five prominent Indian power supplies.
- ❖ The five main Indian energy PSUs that will be present are:
  - ONGC VIDESH Limited,
  - Indian Oil Corp,
  - GAIL (India),
  - Oil India Limited and
  - Engineers India.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **RH-560**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the sounding rocket called RH-560.
- ❖ It was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) Sriharikota Range (SHAR).
- ❖ The rocket was launched in order to study "attitudinal variations" in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics.
- ❖ The sounding rockets are one or two-stage solid propellant rockets.
- ❖ These rockets are used to probe the upper atmospheric regions and conduct the space research.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Genome Mapping in Indian Ocean

- ❖ In the Indian Ocean, the National Institute of Oceanography will launch the first-of-its-kind project of Genome Mapping.
- ❖ Its objective is to gather samples of genome mapping of microorganisms in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ It is also necessary to understand the biochemistry and the response of the Ocean to climate change, nutrient stress and increasing pollution.
- ❖ Benefits are:
  - It will help in understanding ecosystem.
  - It will understand factors causing change.
  - It will help in identifying Mineral Concentration.
- ❖ Indian Ocean covers about 20% of the Earth's water surface.
- ❖ It is the third largest water body in the world.

### Fire in Shetrunjay Hills

- ❖ Fire broke out in the Shetrunjay Hills reserve forest area of Gujarat.
- ❖ The forest area is the habitat of Asiatic lions in the Bhavnagar territorial forest division.
- ❖ Shetrunjaya hills are,
  - located in Palitana city of Bhavnagar district in Gujarat.
  - located on the banks of river Shetrunji.
  - considered as a sacred hill by Jains.

## STATES

### Supreme Court and Maharashtra Local Body reservation

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that reservation for Other Backward Classes in Maharashtra's local bodies should not exceed the aggregate 50% of the total seats reserved in favour of SCs/STs/OBCs taken together.
- ❖ This direction is being issued in exercise of plenary power under Article 142 of the Constitution of India to do complete justice.



- ❖ It held that the reservation for other backward classes is only “statutory”, unlike the “constitutional” reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Grammy Awards 2021

Award Category	Winner	Artist Name
Record of the Year	Everything I Wanted	Billie Eilish
Album of the Year	Folklore	Taylor Swift
Song of the Year	I Can't Breathe	Dernst Emile II, H.E.R., and Tiara Thomas, songwriters (H.E.R.)
Best New Artist	Megan Thee Stallion	
Best Pop Solo Performance	Watermelon Sugar	Harry Styles
Best Pop Vocal Album	Future Nostalgia	Dua Lipa
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance	Rain on Me	Lady Gaga with Ariana Grande
Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album	American Standard	James Taylor
Best Dance Recording	10%	Kaytranada featuring Kali Uchis
Best Dance/Electronic Album	Bubba	Kaytranada
Best Contemporary Instrumental Album	Live at the Royal Albert Hall	Snarky Puppy
Best Rock Album	The New Abnorm	The Strokes
Best Rock Performance	Shameika	Fiona Apple

- ❖ The 63rd annual Grammy Awards were presented at the Los Angeles Convention Centre at the USA.
- ❖ Billie Eilis became the first solo artist to win the record of the year award at Grammys for two years in a row.
- ❖ Beyonce created history by becoming the most-awarded woman in the history of Grammys with 28 wins.
- ❖ Beyonce picked up four awards during this year’s ceremony,
  - Two for ‘Savage’ along with rapper Megan Thee Stallion,
  - One for her own ‘Black Parade’ and
  - Another for ‘Blown Skin Girl’.
- ❖ Taylor Swift became the first woman to win the album of the year award three times.
- ❖ This achievement was made after winning the honour for her eighth album ‘Folklore’.



## **SPORTS**

### **First cricketer to score 3000 runs**

- ❖ Virat Kohli became the first cricketer to score 3000 runs in T20 Internationals.
- ❖ This was achieved in the match against England at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ Kohli is also the leading run-scorer in the Indian Premier League with 5878 runs.

