

March - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's foreign-exchange reserves have become the fourth largest in the world, surpassing Russia.
 - China has the largest foreign currency reserves followed by Japan and Switzerland.
- ❖ The researchers from the US National Institutes of Health have found that, a mosquito protein called AEG12 strongly inhibits the family of viruses which causes dengue, yellow fever, Zika and West Nile.
 - They also noted that the protein also inhibits the corona viruses.
- ❖ Mumbai defeated Uttar Pradesh by six wickets to lift the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Ferozeshah Kotla, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that no serving bureaucrat could be given additional charge of state election commissioner.

TAMIL NADU

Best paediatric hospital

- ❖ Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital has been adjudged the best paediatric facility in the country.
- ❖ The survey was by the News Week magazine.
- ❖ The survey was done in partnership with Statista Inc.
- ❖ The survey included hospitals from 25 countries, including the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and India.

Keeladi excavation - 7th phase

- ❖ In Keezhadi's 7th phase excavation, a damaged clay lid was found.
- ❖ It is said to be 2,600 years old.
- ❖ This lid resembles an earthen pot lid-like structure with a knob, used to hold water.
- ❖ Being so small, it is likely to be a used as a playing toy 2,600 years ago.

Potsherds in Ramanathapuram

- ❖ Potsherds with inscriptions similar to the Indus Valley scripts have been discovered in Uthirakosamangai in Ramanathapuram.
- ❖ Earlier, Chinese potsherds were discovered and documented along with a trident symbol pertaining to the Sethupathi period in Keelakarai in Ramanathapuram district.
- ❖ At present, a total of 20 new potsherds were found near a local tank in Mariyapuram near Uthirakosamangai.



NATIONAL

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project

- ❖ It is launched by the Centre to address cyclone risks in the country.
- ❖ The objective of the project is to undertake suitable structural and non-structural measures to mitigate the effects of cyclones in the coastal states and UTs of India.

About the project

- ❖ It is to be implemented by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs, along with coordination from the respective state governments and the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM).
- ❖ The Project has identified 13 cyclone prone States and Union Territories (UTs), with varying levels of vulnerability.
- ❖ It is to be assisted by the World Bank.

- ❖ These States/UT have been classified into two categories.
- ❖ Category I: Higher vulnerability States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- ❖ Category II: Lower vulnerability States i.e. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Baralacha Pass

- ❖ For the first time ever, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has started work on reopening the Baralacha Pass in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ This is to restore connectivity to Leh in Ladakh.
- ❖ Baralacha Pass is a high mountain pass in Zaskar range.
- ❖ It connects Lahaul district in Himachal Pradesh to Leh district in Ladakh, situated along the Leh–Manali Highway.
- ❖ The pass also acts as a water-divide between the Bhaga river and the Yunam river.



India-Maldives MoU

- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Narendra Modi, has given its approval on the memorandum of understanding on cooperation in sports & youth affairs between India and Maldives.
- ❖ This will help to expand the expertise and knowledge with respect to sports science, sports medicines, coaching techniques and participation in youth festivals & camps.



India-Finland Virtual Summit

- ❖ The India-Finland Virtual Summit was held with the participation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland Ms Sanna Marin.
- ❖ The virtual summit was organised to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral issues as well as other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization & Permit Rules

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced a new set of rules known as “All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization & Permit Rules, 2021”
- ❖ The new rules announced under the scheme aims to promote state revenue and tourism.
- ❖ This will be applicable from April 1, 2021.
- ❖ Under the scheme, any tourist passenger vehicle operator can apply to get “All India Tourist Authorization or Permit” in the online mode.

INTERNATIONAL

SIPRI report on arms imports and exports:

- ❖ It is released by Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- ❖ India continues to remain the second largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The U.S. was the second largest arms supplier to India in 2011 - 15.
- ❖ But in 2016 - 20 India’s arms imports from the U.S. were 46% lower than in the previous five-year period, making the U.S. the fourth largest supplier in 2016 - 20.
- ❖ Russia was the largest arms supplier in the World.
- ❖ France and Israel were the second and third largest arms suppliers in 2016 - 20.

STATES

First dedicated express cargo terminal

- ❖ The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru now has India’s first dedicated Express Cargo Terminal exclusively for export and import of international couriers.



- ❖ It is developed by Bangalore International Airport Limited.
- ❖ This new facility will enhance the cargo processing capability by 1,50,000 Metric Tonnes.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Action for Rivers - March 14

- ❖ This year, it is the 24th edition of the International Day of Action for Rivers.
- ❖ It is a day dedicated to save, celebrate and make people around us aware about our life-giving source of water.
- ❖ Theme of the year 2021 is 'Rights of Rivers'.




National Vaccination Day - March 16

- ❖ The National Vaccination Day is celebrated every year on March 16 in India.
- ❖ It is also called the National Immunization Day.
- ❖ This day is to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.
- ❖ The day was first observed in the year 1995.
- ❖ It was in 1995 India started the Pulse Polio Programme.
- ❖ The first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.



16 March



“ Aimed at spreading mass awareness about eradication of polio from our planet, **National Vaccination Day** is celebrated, providing polio immunization to millions of children all over the world! ”

