

March - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Telangana Legislative Assembly become the seventh State Legislature that opposed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Population Register (NPR), and National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- ❖ The United States Reserve Bank announced that the key interest rates are to be slashed to the range of 0% to 0.25%.
 - This is being done in response to growing impact of Corona Virus.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palani swami laid the foundation stone for a new government medical college in Dindigul district on March 14th.

TAMIL NADU

Decrease in deaths due to road accidents

- ❖ There has been a 10% reduction in the number of deaths caused due to accidents in the country since the passage of the amended Motor Vehicles Act.
- ❖ The Transport Minister said Tamil Nadu has made significant progress in reducing the number of deaths in road accidents by 24% in last five months.
- ❖ This is the maximum anywhere in the country.
- ❖ The new Motor Vehicles Act has enhanced the penalties for driving errors.
- ❖ The Transport Minister also informed that the Motor Vehicles Act is in the Concurrent list and States are empowered to compound the offences and implement the provisions of the Act as per their requirements.

NATIONAL

Ganga Amantran Abhiyan

- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga organized “Ganga Amantran Abhiyan” (GAA).
- ❖ The GAA is an open-water rafting and kayaking expedition in Ganga river.
- ❖ The expedition is conducted between Devprayag and Ganga Sagar.
- ❖ Devprayag is the place where two rivers Alakananda and Bhagirathi meet to form the Ganges.
- ❖ Ganga Sagar is a part of Sunderbans.

Ground Water contamination

- ❖ The Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria announced in the parliament that ground water is contaminated with Uranium at 30 micro-grams per litre in the country.
- ❖ The states such as Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir have occurrence of Uranium in ground water.
- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards has set the maximum permissible limit of Uranium in drinking water as 0.03 mg per litre.

Vivad Se Viswas Bill

- ❖ Parliament passed the Direct Tax Vivad Se Viswas Bill, 2020.
- ❖ The bill aims to reduce the number of litigations that are associated with direct tax payments.
- ❖ The Direct Tax Vivad Se Viswas concept was introduced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman during the Union Budget 2020-21.
- ❖ The bill says that if the tax payment is made after March 31, 2020, the tax payer has to pay 110% of the disputed tax.
- ❖ And if the tax is paid before the date, the tax payer has to pay full amount of the disputed tax and there will be no penalty applied.
- ❖ English version of the bill is “No Dispute, But Only Trust”.

All-women’s medical college

- ❖ The Medical Council of India has recently granted permission to Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Pune to establish an all-women’s medical college.
- ❖ The Symbiosis Medical College for Women will also offer medical education for free to five students.

Ranjan Gogoi nominated to Rajya Sabha

- ❖ The former Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi has been nominated to Rajya Sabha by the President Ram Nath Kovind.



- ❖ The maximum strength of Rajya Sabha is 250 members out of which 12 are nominated by the President of India on the account of Art, Literature, Science and Social Service.
- ❖ Gogoi was the 46th Chief Justice in India.

INTERNATIONAL

UNCTAD report

- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently released a report on the effect of COVID-19 on global economy.
- ❖ According to the report India was ranked 10th.
- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964 with headquarters at Geneva.

UK's Strategy to contain Corona Virus.

- ❖ The United Kingdom Government under the PM Boris Johnson has adopted "Herd Immunity" strategy to contain Corona Virus.

Herd immunity

- ❖ Herd immunity is achieved through vaccinations and also by gaining immunity.
- ❖ When a considerably bigger population is vaccinated, those that are not vaccinated also gain immunity.
- ❖ Even in epidemics, over the period of time, when the majority of population gain immunity against the disease, the level of its transmitting reduces.
- ❖ This is the strategy being adopted as "Herd Immunity" in United Kingdom.

ECONOMY

Exposure limits of Urban Cooperative Banks revised

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India revised exposure limits of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCB).
- ❖ Earlier the RBI permitted 15% of its capital funds to single borrowers and 40% of its funds to group of borrowers.
- ❖ It has now revised the group of borrower fund limit to 25% of its funds.
- ❖ The Exposure Limit is the maximum credit a bank avails to its borrower.



- ❖ The RBI also revised the priority sector lending (PSL) target for UCBs from 40% to 75%.
- ❖ The priority sectors include agriculture, micro and small enterprises, low income groups, poor people for housing, education loans, loans for weaker sections.

39th GST Council

- ❖ The GST Council recently concluded its 39th meeting at Delhi and took major decisions about GST rates to be applied for various commodities.

Major Decisions

- ❖ GST on mobile phones and certain parts to be increased to 18% from 12%.
- ❖ GST on MRO (maintenance repair overhaul) services of aircraft reduced to 5% from 18%.
- ❖ GST on handmade and machine-made matchsticks rationalised to 12%.

The GST Council

- ❖ It is a constitutional body introduced in 2016 by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act.
- ❖ It was constituted under the article 279A of the Constitution.
- ❖ It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.

Reduction in Gold Imports

- ❖ The Commerce Ministry reported that the gold imports for the period April to February (2019-20) has reduced by 8.86% as compared to the previous year.
- ❖ India is the largest importer of gold in the world.
- ❖ Indian economy has been facing increased Current account deficit due to import of gold and fuel.
- ❖ The Current account deficit is the difference between money flowing in on exports and the money flowing out on imports.
- ❖ A country with increasing Current account deficit means that it is becoming uncompetitive.
- ❖ It also means that investors are not willing to invest.
- ❖ Therefore, reducing gold and oil imports will reduce Current account deficit.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ExoMars Mission

- ❖ The ExoMars Mission has been delayed by 2 years due to software problems.
- ❖ The European Space Agency mission (ESA) is now expected to be launched in 2022.
- ❖ The ExoMars or Exobiology on Mars mission is a collaborative program between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Roscosmos (Russian space agency).
- ❖ Its objective is to look for life on Mars, apart from studying the history of water on the planet, its geochemistry, atmospheric compositions, etc.
- ❖ Rosalind Franklin is the rover that is to be launched on board the ExoMars mission.



STATES

Recovery of Damage to Public Properties Ordinance 2020

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet recently passed the 'Recovery of Damage to Public Properties Ordinance 2020' for recovery of losses caused by damage to public property during violent protests.
- ❖ It aims to prevent loss of public property in the state.

