

March - 19

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Moderna has started testing its Coronavirus vaccine on infants and children between the ages of 6 months and 12 years.
  - The clinical trial, called the KidCOVE study by Moderna, will enroll approx. 6,750 children in Canada and the United States.
- ❖ The Indian Parliament is discussing over a proposal to form a Parliamentary Friendship Group with the friendly nations.
  - This initiative is to strengthen the bilateral relations.
- ❖ The Dutch inventor of audio cassette tapes, Lou Ottens passed away recently.
  - He also engineered the concept of magnetic tape players and the computer discs (CDs).
- ❖ Murali Shree Shankar qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in the long-jump event.
  - The qualification mark for the Olympics was 8.22 metres. Shree Shankar set a national record of 8.26 metres in his final attempt at the Federation Cup.

## NATIONAL

### States leading in drip irrigation

- ❖ The data is presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to Lok Sabha.
- ❖ According to this, four states namely Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro-irrigation in India.
- ❖ The data also shows that 27 States (including UTs) have less than 30% micro-irrigation system out of which 23 have fewer than 15% micro-irrigation.

### Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill, 2020

- ❖ The bill seeks to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- ❖ It provides for enhancing the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women.
- ❖ But this does not specify the category.
- ❖ Currently, abortion requires the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks.

- ❖ The bill allows abortion to be done on the advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain categories of women between 20 and 24 weeks.
- ❖ The bill also ensures that women get access to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian grounds.

Table 1: Changes proposed in conditions for terminating a pregnancy at different gestational periods

Time since conception	Requirement for terminating pregnancy	
	MTP Act , 1971	MTP (Amendment) Bill, 2020
Up to 12 weeks	Advice of one doctor	Advice of one doctor
12 to 20 weeks	Advice of two doctors	Advice of one doctor
20 to 24 weeks	Not allowed	Two doctors for some categories of pregnant women
More than 24 weeks	Not allowed	Medical Board in case of substantial foetal abnormality
Any time during the pregnancy	One doctor, if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life	

### **Dr. Harsh Vardhan - Chairman of 'Stop TB Partnership Board'**

- ❖ The Union Health Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, has been appointed as the chairman of "Stop TB Partnership Board".
- ❖ This appointment was made to recognise his outstanding contribution towards the movement of eradicating Tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025.
- ❖ He will be serving the global body for a three-year term from July 2021.
- ❖ Stop TB Partnership is an international body which is having the power to align the nations to fight against TB.
- ❖ The body works with the vision of a "TB-free world".

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Largest Floating Solar Farms being in Singapore**

- ❖ The largest floating solar farm of the world is being built in Singapore.



- ❖ The country has resorted to set up the energy plants off the coasts and reservoirs across it.
- ❖ Singapore is one of the biggest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in India.
- ❖ Thus, to cater to the issue of climate change and to cut the greenhouse gas emission, Singapore is building the floating solar farm.
- ❖ This project is being built by Sembcorp Industries.

### **IBSA Women's Forum meeting**

- ❖ The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was organised on March 16, 2021 in virtual mode.
- ❖ The meeting was led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India.
- ❖ The forum discussed the issues which has contributed in transforming the lives of women.
- ❖ IBSA is a unique Trilateral Cooperation Forum bringing India, Brazil and South Africa together.
- ❖ These countries are the three large democracies and major economies located in different continents.

### **IQAir Study**

- ❖ According to World Air Quality report, New Delhi was the world's most polluted capital for the third straight year in 2020.
- ❖ Globally, New Delhi is ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world.
- ❖ The topmost polluted city in the world is Xinjiang in China.
- ❖ World Air Quality report is released by IQAir.
- ❖ IQAir is a Swiss group that measures air quality levels based on the concentration of PM2.5.
- ❖ The report also states that, twenty-two of the world's 30 most polluted cities are in India.
- ❖ Prolonged exposure to PM2.5 can lead to deadly diseases, including cancer and cardiac problems.

### **New 5G Radio Solutions**

- ❖ The Finnish company, Nokia has planned to develop a new cloud-based 5G radio solution.



- ❖ It has partnered with Microsoft, Amazon web services and Google for this.
- ❖ This solution will be developed with its radio access network (RNA) technology.

### **ReNew Power in Global Lighthouse Network**

- ❖ ReNew Power has been named to the World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network.
- ❖ It recognises companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable, community supportive, profitable growth.
- ❖ ReNew Power is an Indian renewable energy company.
- ❖ ReNew Power is one of the two Indian companies to be recognised by the Global Lighthouse Network this year.

## **ECONOMY**

### **India's First Libor Alternative Rate Deal**

- ❖ The State Bank of India and Indian Oil Corporation Limited inked the first SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate) linked External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) deal.
- ❖ It replaces the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR).
- ❖ The London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is a benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another in the international interbank market for short-term loans.

#### **Note:**

- ❖ This deal is the first SOFR linked ECB deal in India.

### **India in world's top 10 nations by market value**

- ❖ Indian stocks have gained the most across the world's top 10 nations by market value in the fiscal year 2021-2022.
- ❖ This has underscored the strength of rally which was not affected by the covid-induced economic uncertainties.
- ❖ The data is provided by Bloomberg.
- ❖ The data highlights that, India's aggregate market capitalization has reached to 88% in dollar terms in the current fiscal.
- ❖ This was recorded as the sharpest increase in the aggregate market capitalization since the financial year 2011.



## STATES

### Project RE-HAB

- ❖ A pilot project RE-HAB has been launched in Chelur village in Kodagu, Karnataka.
- ❖ Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees is abbreviated as RE-HAB.
- ❖ It involves installing bee boxes along the periphery of the Nagarahole National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ This helps to mitigate human-elephant conflict.
- ❖ Project RE-HAB is a sub-mission of the KVIC's National Honey Mission.

