



March - 20

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Goat research centre**

- ❖ Minister of Department of Animal Husbandry of Tamilnadu K. Radhakrishnan announced that a goat research centre will be set up in the newly created Tenkasi district.
- ❖ He also announced that a new Veterinary Medical Science University Training and Research Centre will be set up in the Tuticorin district.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Priority to NCC certificate holders**

- ❖ The Central Government has decided to give bonus marks to the NCC certificate holders in the direct recruitment examinations of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
- ❖ The decision was taken to increase the participation of India's youth in NCC (National Cadet Corps).

### **National Cadet Corps**

- ❖ It is a tri-service organization comprising young cadets of the Army, Naval and Air wings.
- ❖ The organisation's motto is 'Unity and Discipline'.
- ❖ The cadet group was established under the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948.

### **Second Phase of Swachh Bharat Mission**

- ❖ The Government approved the implementation of second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission in February 2020.
- ❖ The Mission is to focus two crore projects during its second phase.
- ❖ It includes Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus) and solid and liquid waste management.
- ❖ During this phase, the primary focus is to be provided on gram panchayats.
- ❖ These Gram Panchayats will get more funds under 15th finance commission.
- ❖ Every Gram Panchayat under Swachh Bharat Mission receives Rs 7 to 20 lakhs.
- ❖ Now these funds are to be increased by 5 lakhs for managing solid and liquid waste.

- ❖ These additional funds are to be allocated through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme.
- ❖ This way, the MGNREGA work force are to be diverted towards Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ❖ The second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission is to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25.

### **ODF+, ODF++ and Water Plus**

- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development recently tabled its report on the performance of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) in Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Despite the fact that work on three protocols under the next phase of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban-2) — ODF+, ODF++ and Water Plus — is to be completed by 2024, the ground situation was not matching with the assigned timeline.
- ❖ Out of 4,320 cities declared ODF, as low as 1,276 cities have been certified as ODF+.
- ❖ The number of ODF++ cities — 411 — means that less than 10 per cent cities are certified as ODF++ so far.
- ❖ ODF+ and ODF++ were launched in August 2018 to further scale up and sustain the work undertaken by the cities after achieving the ODF status under Phase I of the Swachh Bharat Mission — Urban (SBM-Urban).
- ❖ Cities that had been certified ODF at least once, on the basis of the ODF protocols, are eligible to declare themselves as SBM-ODF+ & SBM-ODF++.
- ❖ While ODF+ focuses on toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene, ODF++ focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management.
- ❖ Announced in August 2019, Water Plus aims to sustain toilets by treating and reuse of water.
- ❖ It contributes to the government's focus on water conservation and reuse under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and is in alignment with United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goal No 6 on clean water and sanitation.
- ❖ Under Phase 1 of the Swachh Bharat Mission (U), 99 per cent of the cities became ODF, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had claimed in December 2019.



## INTERNATIONAL

### United Nations Statistical Commission

- ❖ Sierra Leone assumed its seat in the UNSC for the first time ever.
- ❖ Sierra Leone's Statistician General, Osman Sankoh has been unanimously elected as the Rapporteur, responsible for the reports of the United Nations Statistics Commission's Sessions for a 4-year term (2020-2023).
- ❖ Thirty-six major changes to the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were approved and adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), at its 51st session that concluded on March 6, 2020, in New York.
- ❖ The revised global framework will have 231 indicators, approximately the same number as in the original framework.
- ❖ These changes are based on the '2020 comprehensive review' conducted by the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).

#### Key changes

- ❖ Eight additional indicators were added across six SDG goals — 2, 3, 4, 10, 13 and 16.
- ❖ Six indicators across six SDG goals — 1, 4, 8, 11, 13 and 17 — have been deleted.

## ECONOMY

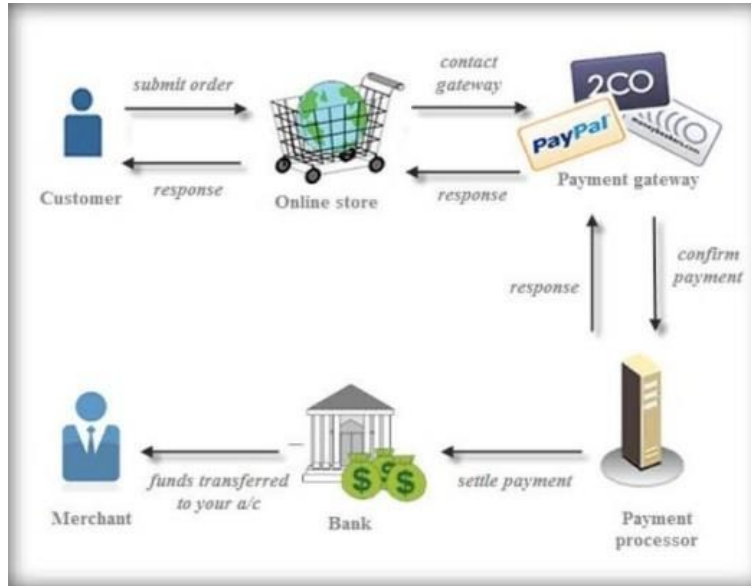
### New Guidelines for Payment Aggregators

- ❖ The RBI released new guidelines for payment aggregators (PA).
- ❖ Capital requirements for payment aggregators has been reduced to Rs 15 crore at the time of application for the licence.
- ❖ Pure-play payment gateway companies would be separated as an entity and would be identified as technology service providers for banks and non-banks.
- ❖ PAs have also been asked to adhere to strict security guidelines, adhere to all KYC (Know Your Customer) and AML (Anti Money Laundering) rules.
- ❖ The RBI has prohibited PAs from allowing online transactions to be done with ATM pin as the second factor of authentication, which few payment gateway companies were offering as a service.

#### Payment Aggregators

- ❖ These are players who integrate with e-commerce companies and connect them with banks.

- ❖ They receive payments on behalf of these companies and transfer the money to their accounts.
- ❖ Entities like Billdesk, CCAvenue, Firstdata, Razorpay, Cashfree, Paytm Payment Gateway and others are offering payment services to ecommerce companies.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Nanocomposite Coatings

- ❖ International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D center of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) has developed a process for size-selective deposition of nanocomposite coatings.
- ❖ Nanocomposite coatings are formed by mixing two or more dissimilar materials at nanoscale to improve the physical, chemical and physicochemical properties of the new materials.
- ❖ The scientists have found that nickel tungsten-based coatings with infusion of particular sized Silicon Carbide (SiC) submicron particles using a pulsed electroplating can provide an excellent combination of wear and corrosion resistance.
- ❖ Several aerospace, defence, automobile, space devices need to reduce friction, wear, and tear to enhance the life of components.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Ordnance Factories Day – March 18

- ❖ It is an industrial organisation, functioning under the Department of Defence Production of Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- ❖ Ordnance Factories Board (OFB) is the world's largest government-operated production organisation, and the oldest organisation run by the Government of India.
- ❖ The Board is responsible for manufacturing small arms, missiles, rocket launchers, chemicals, explosives, mines, grenades, anti-tank warfare, etc.
- ❖ It is often called the "Fourth Arm of Defence", and the "Force Behind the Armed Forces" of India.
- ❖ OFB is the 37th largest defence equipment manufacturer in the world, 2nd largest in Asia, and the largest in India.
- ❖ The first Indian ordnance factory can trace its origins back to the year 1712 when the Dutch Ostend Company established a Gun Powder Factory in Ichhapur at West Bengal.
- ❖ In 1801, Gun Carriage Agency was established at Cossipore, Calcutta.
- ❖ This is the oldest ordnance factory in India still in existence.
- ❖ There are 41 ordnance factories in the country.



**ORDNANCE FACTORIES**  
**Day (India)**

