



**March - 26**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ India and France, For the first time, have conducted joint patrols from the Reunion Island.
  - Reunion is an overseas department and region of the French Republic and an island in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ Anosmia, the loss of sense of smell, and Ageusia, an accompanying diminished sense of taste, have emerged as peculiar tell-tale signs of COVID-19 and possible markers of infection.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Short Service Commission**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has upheld the right of serving Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers of the Navy to be granted permanent commission (PC) on a par with their male counterparts.

#### What benefit?

- ❖ A Permanent Commission means a career in the army until one retires.
- ❖ If one gets selected through Permanent Commission, one has the option to serve the country up to the full age of retirement.
- ❖ A women naval SSC officer retires in 10 years, whereas one with a permanent commission is entitled to serve for four more years, making it a total of 14 years.

### **Ayushman Bharat and COVID 19**

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has included Ayushman Bharat or the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in the Medical Insurance to fight against Corona Virus.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also involved National Health Authority as well to fight against Corona Virus.
- ❖ The National Health Authority is the implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Safe Hands Challenge

- ❖ It is a campaign launched by the World Health Organization in the wake of 2019-20 coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ The campaign urges everyone to wash their hands regularly for 40 seconds to keep themselves safe and prevent the transmission of disease.



### COVID - 19 Solidarity Response Fund

- ❖ The United Nations Foundation and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation have created the solidarity fund
- ❖ It is to support WHO and partners in a massive effort to help countries prevent, detect, and manage the novel coronavirus – particularly those where the needs are the greatest.

## ECONOMY

### Drugs Prices Control Order, 2013

- ❖ The DPCO, 2013 (Drugs Prices Control Order, 2013) has helped to save Rs 12, 447 crores per annum.
- ❖ The DPCO is an order that was issued by the Government of India under Essential Commodities Act, 1955.



- ❖ The order provides details to fix the prices of the drugs, procedures to increase or decrease prices, penalties for defying the order, etc.
- ❖ The Order empowered the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) to fix the threshold prices of drugs.
- ❖ The NPPA is allowed to fix prices only on those drugs that are listed under National List of Essential Medicines.
- ❖ The list was prepared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2011.

### **Agricultural and Processed food product Export Development Authority**

- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed food product Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed Memorandum of Understanding with Small Farmers Agriculture-Business Consortium (SFAC).
- ❖ The agreement aims to link the Farmer Producer Organization and farmer cooperatives with the export value chain.
- ❖ The APEDA was established under an act of Parliament in 1985.

### **Innovate for Accessible India**

- ❖ The NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) recently launched the “Innovate for Accessible India” campaign along with Microsoft India.
- ❖ The other partners of the initiative include Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- ❖ The Initiative aims to sort out issues of Divyangs (physically challenged) with the help of Artificial Intelligence and Microsoft Cloud and other technologies.
- ❖ The NASSCOM under its supervision operates National Institute of Smart Government and Data Security Council of India.

### **Fish Production in the World**

- ❖ India is an important country that produces fish through aquaculture in the world.
- ❖ India is home to more than 10 percent of the global fish diversity.
- ❖ Presently, the country ranks second in the world in total fish production with an annual fish production of about 9.06 million metric tonnes.

- ❖ As the second largest country in aquaculture production, the share of inland fisheries and aquaculture has gone up from 46 percent in the 1980s to over 85 percent in recent years in total fish production.
- ❖ India's aquaculture production basically can be classified into freshwater and brackish water production.
- ❖ Freshwater aquaculture contributes to over 95 percent of the total aquaculture production.

<b>Top five fisheries States in India in 2017-18</b> (in lakh tonnes)				<b>Trend in export of marine products</b> (in ₹ cr)	
States	Inland	Marine	Total		
Andhra Pradesh	28.45	6.05	34.5	2011-12	16,597.23
West Bengal	15.57	1.85	17.42	2012-13	18,856.26
Gujarat	1.34	7.01	8.35	2013-14	30,213.26
Kerala	5.34	1.51	6.85	2014-15	33,441.61
Tamil Nadu	1.85	4.97	6.82	2015-16	30,420.83
<b>All India production</b>	<b>89.02</b>	<b>35.88</b>	<b>125.9</b>	2016-17	37,870.90
				2017-18	45,106.89

## ENVIRONMENT

### GM Crop - White Flies Resistant Cotton Field Trials

- ❖ The National Botanical Research Institute developed pest resistant cotton variety.
- ❖ The cotton variety is to be field tested at the Center of Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana.
- ❖ In 2015, the whiteflies devastated more than two-third cotton crops in Punjab.
- ❖ Whiteflies feed on the underside of plant leaves.
- ❖ They are common in warm tropical climates.
- ❖ They are more prevalent in greenhouses.



## **Akshay Urja Portal**

- ❖ Akshay Urja Portal is launched by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- ❖ The portal aims to develop ways to use akshay urja or renewable energy more efficiently.
- ❖ It promotes innovation to adopt renewable energy sources to produce power for the electricity grid and for several standalone applications and decentralized power production.

## **SPORTS**

### **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**

- ❖ The 2020 Summer Olympics officially the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and commonly known as Tokyo 2020 would be postponed to 2021.
- ❖ It was announced by the International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo Organizing Committee of Japan.
- ❖ The Games will still be publicly branded and marketed as Tokyo 2020, even with the change in scheduling.

### **Postponed History**

- ❖ Olympic Games that were scheduled but cancelled, in all cases due to World War I (1916 at Berlin) or World War II (1940 at Tokyo and 1944 at London).
- ❖ The Winter Olympics (1940 in Japan and 1944 at Italy) were also cancelled due to Second World War.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Meteorological Day – March 23**

- ❖ The day was established at the first International Meteorological Congress in Vienna, Austria, in 1873 and on March 23, 1950, International Meteorological Organization became the World Meteorological Organization.
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is 'Climate and Water', which will align with the theme of World Water Day 2020, focusing on climate change and water.
- ❖ The slogan for World Meteorological Day 2020 or WMD 2020 is "Count Every Drop, Every Drop Counts".



### **World Tuberculosis Day – March 24**

- ❖ It is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- ❖ Dr Robert Koch announced the discovery of the bacterium causing Tuberculosis on the very same day.
- ❖ It is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Hepatitis Day and World AIDS Day.
- ❖ The theme for World TB day 2020 is "It's time to End TB!".





## **International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims – March 24**

- ❖ This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980.
- ❖ Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

