

March - 26

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Delhi government has taken a decision to reduce the minimum age for liquor consumption in the city to 21 from 25.

## **NATIONAL**

### **HK Mittal Committee**

- ❖ The Government of India has constituted an expert advisory committee to execute and monitor the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).
- ❖ The committee will be chaired by H K Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The total investment of the scheme, Rs.945 core will be divided over 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

### **SISFS**

- ❖ On 5th February 2021, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry approved the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).
- ❖ This was approved for a period of 4 years starting from 2021-22.
- ❖ This will be implemented with effect from 1st April 2021.
- ❖ The SISFS is aimed to support around 3600 startups across India.
- ❖ It aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine pill**

- ❖ India's Premas Biotech has collaborated with Oramed Pharmaceuticals Inc. to develop an oral COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- ❖ This has shown efficacy after a single dose.
- ❖ Premas Biotech is an Indian company.



### **National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021**

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 recently.
- ❖ This seeks to give more powers to the Delhi Lieutenant Governor.
- ❖ According to the bill, the "government" in Delhi means the "Lieutenant Governor".
- ❖ The bill also makes it mandatory for the Delhi government to take the opinion of the L-G before any executive action.

### **Sputnik V Vaccine production in India**

- ❖ Hyderabad based Virchow Biotech and the Russian Direct Investment Fund-RDIF announced an agreement to produce up to 200 million doses of Sputnik V in India.
- ❖ It is Russia's COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The technology transfer is expected to be completed in the second quarter of the year 2021.
- ❖ It will be followed by the full-scale commercial production of Sputnik V.

### **National Biopharma Mission**

- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has initiated cabinet approved National Biopharma Mission.
- ❖ The mission is with the objective of strengthening emerging biotechnology enterprise across India.
- ❖ The National Biopharma mission was launched to support small and medium enterprises in order for them to overcome the risks associated with early stages of development of products.
- ❖ It promotes entrepreneurship by supporting enhanced industry-academia inter-linkages.
- ❖ It also provides mentoring & training for academia, innovators and entrepreneurs.

### **Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly**

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims to launch 'Poshan Abhiyan' for the Elderly to provide them 'nutrition support'.
- ❖ Under the mission, supports will be provided to indigent elders who are not staying in Old Age Homes and are victims of malnutrition.



- ❖ The Mission will focus on procuring healthy food material which are available locally to serve hot-cooked mid-day meals.
- ❖ The Scheme will be implemented by “Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities”.
- ❖ ‘Senior Citizens Welfare Fund’ will be utilized to fund & implement the mission.

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## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World Summit on Information Society Forum 2021**

- ❖ The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021 represents one of the world’s largest annual gathering of the ‘ICT for development’ community.
- ❖ It is co-organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD.
- ❖ The telecom minister mentioned that under the flagship program BharatNet, nearly 6,00,000 villages are being connected through laying of more than 4,00,000 Km length of optical fiber cable and use of satellite communication services.
- ❖ Through submarine cable networks small and remote islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep and other inaccessible areas are being connected with funding from Government.

### **Russia - 38 satellites for 18 countries**

- ❖ Russia has successfully put 38 satellites for 18 countries into orbit from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.



- ❖ The Russian Space Agency, Roscosmos, published a video showing its Soyuz rocket was launched against the grey and cloudy skies.
- ❖ The rocket successfully placed the satellites from countries including Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Italy, Germany and Brazil.
- ❖ The launcher also launched “Challenge-1 satellite”.
- ❖ Challenge-1 satellite is the first satellite completely made in Tunisia, created by Telnet Telecommunications group.

## **STATES**

### **UPFPO Shakthi Portal**

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched UPFPO Shakti Portal recently.
- ❖ This was launched as part of Kisan Kalyan Mission at an event in Gorakhpur.
- ❖ The portal is the first of its kind in the country.
- ❖ It is aimed at benefitting the farmers at the grassroots level.
- ❖ The Farmer Producer Organization-centric (FPO-centric) portal will bring farmers, producer groups, traders and the agriculture and other allied departments of the UP government on one platform.

### **First Govt Run Animal Ambulance Network**

- ❖ The state government of the Andhra Pradesh has decided to set up “India’s first government-run ambulance network” for animals.
- ❖ This decision was taken in order to further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in the state.
- ❖ The Animal Husbandry Department was directed to set up one Mobile Ambulance Veterinary Clinic at each of the assembly constituency.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Methylobacterium ajmalii**

- ❖ The University of Hyderabad along with researchers from NASA have discovered a new bacterial species in International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ The discovered bacteria belong to the family Methylobacteriaceae.
- ❖ The name given was Methylobacterium ajmalii.

- ❖ They have named it after an Indian biodiversity scientist Seyed Ajmal Khan.
- ❖ Seyed Ajmal Khan is a professor at the Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Shaheed Diwas - March 23

- ❖ On March 23, the three freedom fighters - Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged to death by Britishers.
- ❖ March 23 is observed as 'Shaheed Diwas' to pay tribute to this trio.
- ❖ They were hanged for killing British police officer J.P. Saunders.
- ❖ The trio wanted to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

