

March - 28

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National Book Trust functioning under Ministry of Human Resources and Development launched the initiative “Stay Home India with Books”.
- ❖ The Election Commission recently allowed the use of Election ink for stamping “home quarantined” on infected or symptomatic patients.
  - The ink is also called indelible ink, election ink, phosphoric ink, electoral ink.

## NATIONAL

### Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman launched Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana.
- ❖ The scheme is an economic help package for people in the country to fight against COVID-19 and its effects.
- ❖ Around 1.7 lakh crore has been allocated under the package.
- ❖ Under the scheme, around 80 crore people are to get 5 kg of free rice and wheat for the next three months.
- ❖ This is additional to the already allotted 5 kg of subsidized rice and wheat.
- ❖ Along with this, they will also get 1 kg of free pulses per household.
- ❖ The scheme will provide insurance cover for doctors, sanitation workers, nurses, paramedics and other staffs working on the front line in the fight against the virus.
- ❖ The scheme is to perform a direct benefit transfer of Rs 1000 to old age, Divyangs and pensioners.
- ❖ It has also proposed to offer free cylinders under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Scheme.
- ❖ The economic package has increased daily wages of MNREGA from Rs 182 to Rs 202.
- ❖ It is to be noted that Government has now included sanitation workers under MNREGA scheme.
- ❖ Also, they are to get Rs 2000 extra perks for a period of three months.
- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana scheme, women account holders will receive Rs 500 per month for the next three months.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **G20 Virtual Summit**

- ❖ The G20 video summit was chaired by the Saudi king Salman.
- ❖ As a member of G20, India was represented by PM Modi.
- ❖ At the summit, the leaders pledged to infuse 5 trillion USD into the global economy.
- ❖ The summit was first of its kind with the leaders attending through video conferencing.
- ❖ The G20 Summit was to be held under the leadership of Saudi Arabia in November 21-22, 2020.
- ❖ Saudi has chosen the theme of “Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for all”.
- ❖ For 2020 summit, Spain, Jordan, Singapore and Switzerland are the invited countries.

### **About**

- ❖ The G20 summit is an annual meeting of leaders from the countries with the largest and fast-growing economies.
- ❖ Its members account for 85% of the world’s GDP, and two-thirds of its population.
- ❖ The G20 Summit is formally known as the “Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy”.
- ❖ The group has no permanent staff of its own, so every year in December, a G20 country from a rotating region takes on the presidency.
- ❖ After the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-1998, the G7 finance ministers agreed to establish the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in 1999.

### **IMF Policy Tracker**

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently launched the “IMF Policy Tracker”.
- ❖ The platform will provide all the key economic responses launched by Governments all over the world to fight against Corona Virus.



### **Global Humanitarian Response Plan**

- ❖ The United Nations launched Global Humanitarian Response Plan to fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ The organization has allocated 2 billion USD to implement the plan.
- ❖ The plan has been launched in 51 countries of Africa, South America, Middle East and also Asia.
- ❖ The plan is to be implemented by the United Nations in direct collaboration with international NGOs.
- ❖ Under the plan, the organization is to deliver essential medical supplies and laboratory equipment to test the virus.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Fertilizer Subsidy**

- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee report says that until December 2019, 1182.04 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizers have been sold under Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme.
- ❖ Currently, the identity of the buyer or farmer is authenticated through Aadhar-based identification, Kisan Credit Card, biometric or voter ID.
- ❖ The subsidies are paid to the fertilizer companies based on the receipts of their sales made by the retailers to the beneficiaries.
- ❖ The fertilizers subsidies consume 0.5% of GDP which is the second highest after food.



- ❖ The three major types of fertilizers used are Urea, Muriate of Potash and Diammonium Phosphate.
- ❖ Of all these fertilizers, urea accounts to 86%.
- ❖ Currently, the Government of India is taking several steps to control the use of urea and replace it with NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) fertilizers.

### **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme**

- ❖ The scheme provides for development of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities through Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).
- ❖ The Scheme would support setting up of both Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and Common Facility Centres (CFCs).
- ❖ An Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) would set up in geographical areas of certain minimum extent, preferably contiguous, where the focus is on development of basic infrastructure, amenities and other common facilities for the ESDM (Electronics System Development and Maintenance) units.
- ❖ For Common Facility Centre (CFC), there should be a significant number of existing ESDM units located in the area and the focus is on upgrading common technical infrastructure and providing common facilities for the ESDM units in such EMCs, Industrial Areas/Parks/industrial corridors.

### **COVID -19 Rehabilitation and Relief Fund**

- ❖ The Confederation of Indian Industries has set up funds to assist rehabilitation of micro, small and medium enterprises.
- ❖ The fund is to be raised from the members of the confederation.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Procurement of 83 Tejas Fighter Jets**

- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of indigenously built 83 Tejas fighter aircrafts for Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The Light Combat Aircraft LCA-Tejas was designed by the Aircraft Development Agency (ADA).
- ❖ The ADA operates under DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization).
- ❖ It was manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

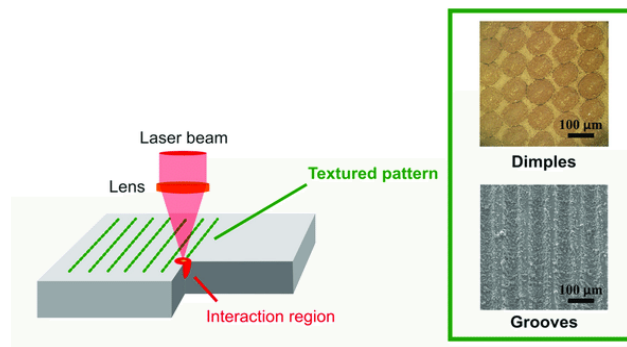
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council operates under Ministry of Defence and is the highest decision-making body.
- ❖ It was formed in 2001 after Kargil war in 1999.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Fuel efficiency of internal combustion engines.

- ❖ The International Advanced Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) operating under Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has developed a technology to improve fuel efficiency of internal combustion engines.



- ❖ The technology improves the fuel efficiency by reducing friction in the engines.
- ❖ This has been achieved through Laser surface micro-texturing.
- ❖ In this technology, the friction is controlled by controlling the size, density and shape of the micro-surface texture features.

- ❖ Such a texture is created by using a pulsating laser beam.

## SPORTS

### FIFA's COVID -19 Campaign

- ❖ The World Governing body FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) has selected Indian Football Captain Sunil Chhetri among 28 other stars for its campaign.
- ❖ Apart from Sunil, it also includes other best players from the world such as Argentine Lionel Messi and other world cup winners Casillas, Philip Lahm and Cales Puyol.
- ❖ The campaign is to combat COVID -19.
- ❖ The campaign is called “Pass the message to kick out Corona Virus”.
- ❖ The campaign is to spread five key steps that are in line with WHO guidance
- ❖ It includes hand washing, not touching the face, coughing etiquette, physical distance and staying home.

