

March - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The “Mo Jeeban Programme” was launched by the Odisha Government to contain the spread of COVID-19.

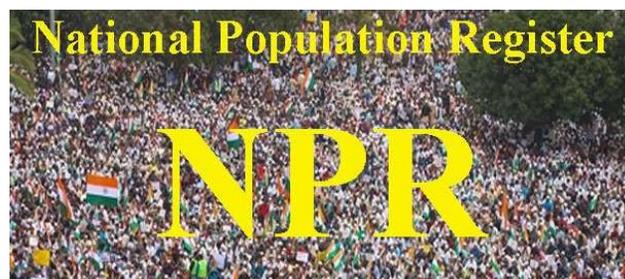
NATIONAL

Census 2021

- ❖ Both Census and NPR updation has been postponed due to Covid issue.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs had planned to conduct Census 2021 in two phases.
- ❖ The first phase was scheduled between April-September 2020 and the second phase was scheduled in February 2021.
- ❖ The National Population Register (NPR) updation was scheduled to be conducted along with Census 2021.
- ❖ It is to be conducted by the office of Registrar General of India operating under Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ Assam was the only state that was to be kept out of the NPR process.
- ❖ Updation of the register for the state of Assam was done under the National Register of Citizens.

NPR

- ❖ The data for NPR was first collected in 2010 along with Census 2011.
- ❖ The NPR collects biometric and demographic data.
- ❖ The Biometric data is to be updated through Aadhar details.
- ❖ This is the first time NPR is collecting biometric data.
- ❖ Earlier in 2010, only demographic details were collected.
- ❖ Later in 2015, the data was updated with Aadhaar, ration card numbers and mobile numbers.



Operation Namaste

- ❖ On March 27, 2020, the Indian Army launched “Operation Namaste” to contain the spread of Corona Virus in the country.
- ❖ Under the operation, the army will help the Government of India fight against the deadly disease.



INTERNATIONAL

USA's economic package

- ❖ The US Senate has unanimously approved a \$2.2 trillion economic package to contain the damage caused to the country's economy due to the novel coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ The package is the largest of its kind in modern American history.
- ❖ It is far bigger than the \$800 billion assistance provided in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis.

National Security Mission

- ❖ The United States' Space Force launched a hyper-secure satellite for its military communications.
- ❖ With the launch of the satellite the United States has begun its first National Security Mission.
- ❖ The Lock Heed Martin AEHF (Advanced Extremely High Frequency) satellite was launched from Florida.
- ❖ The US Space force is the sixth service of the country.



- ❖ The first five major services of Defence includes Army, Air Force, Navy, Naval Corps and Coast.

Trace, Test, Treat

- ❖ The South Korean Model has a vigorous regime of “trace, test, treat”.
- ❖ It has shown remarkable results in controlling the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- ❖ It was done without putting a nationwide lockdown in place.

Global Coal Power Production

- ❖ According to a survey in 2019, the global coal power plant development declined for the fourth consecutive year.
- ❖ The survey was conducted by the Global Energy Monitor, Sierra Club, Greenpeace international and the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

ECONOMY

Modified New Pricing Scheme III

- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently gave its nod to remove ambiguities in Modified New Pricing Scheme-III.
- ❖ This was done to determine the costs of urea units.
- ❖ The Modified NPS scheme-III was launched in 2014.
- ❖ The Modified scheme provided incentives to the domestic urea manufacturers, encouraged investment in urea production sector, reduced urea imports.
- ❖ It mainly aimed to achieve self-sufficiency in urea production.

District Mineral Foundation (DMF)

- ❖ The Union finance minister said state governments should use district mineral foundation (DMF) funds for response and preparedness to fight the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
- ❖ DMFs were instituted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act 2015.
- ❖ The Act says that every mine holder has to contribute 10% of their loyalty towards the funds.

- ❖ They are non-profit trusts to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations.
- ❖ It was set up in those districts that were affected by mining works.
- ❖ Its manner of operation comes under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government.
- ❖ The fund is collected at the district level.

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

- ❖ The programme is meant to provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations, using the funds generated by District Mineral Foundations (DMFs).
- ❖ The funds will be used for the following “high priority” issues
 - Drinking water.
 - Health
 - Women and child welfare.
 - Education
 - Livelihood and skill development.
 - Welfare of aged and disabled.
 - Sanitation



RBI Measures

- ❖ The Central bank advanced its Monetary Policy Committee meet due to COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ This was the 7th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement of the RBI for the financial year 2019-20.
- ❖ The RBI is to inject Rs 3.74 lakh crore into the Indian Economy.
- ❖ The repo rate was cut by 75 basis points (bps) to 4.4%, reverse repo rate was cut by 90 bps to 4%.
- ❖ RBI rules banks and other institutions such as non-banking financial companies, including housing financiers and other financial institutions to provide a three-month moratorium on all loans.
- ❖ The Cash Reserve Ratio was cut by 100 bps to 3% of NTDL (Net Time and Demand Liabilities).
- ❖ This would release liquidity worth Rs 1,37,000 crore within banks.
- ❖ The central bank's overall liquidity injection stands at 3.2 per cent of GDP.
- ❖ RBI is to introduce Net Stable Funding Ratio between April and October, 2020.
- ❖ It is the ratio between amount of stable funding available to the amount of stable funding required.
- ❖ RBI also allowed banks to restructure the working capital cycle for companies without worrying that these will have to be classified as non-performing assets (NPAs) during the 21-day countrywide lockdown.
- ❖ ₹1.37 trillion will be made available under the emergency lending window called the marginal standing facility (MSF).
- ❖ Banks will now be able to borrow 3% of their deposits under this window, up from the current 2%.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Antibody test

- ❖ India is all set to begin antibody tests to confirm if a person was previously infected with the virus.
- ❖ This will help understand the epidemiology of Covid-19.
- ❖ The methodology adopted by India is first in the world.
- ❖ It is a serological test that looks for antibodies in the blood.
- ❖ The test is different from the current methodologies to determine active infection.
- ❖ The antibody test is not a confirmatory test.
- ❖ However, it is a test for the purpose of surveillance.



H1 drug

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare declared the Hydroxy chloro quine as a Schedule H1 drug.
- ❖ It was done under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ Through this the Government has brought upon restrictions on sales and distribution of the drug.
- ❖ The drug listed under Schedule H1 should be labelled as “Rx” in red colour.
- ❖ The label should also carry precautionary warnings.
- ❖ The supply of H1 drugs are to be registered in a separate register.

SCHEDULE H1 DRUG – WARNING:

- **It is dangerous to take this preparation except in accordance with the medical advice.**
- **Not to be sold by retail without the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.**

Project Isaac

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) has launched Project Isaac to engage its students in creative projects to enhance their critical skills while they are confined to their homes because of Corona virus.



- ❖ The project is inspired by Sir Isaac Newton, who was similarly sent home by Trinity College, Cambridge, because of the Great Plague of London in 1665.
- ❖ Project Isaac is a model for academic institutions worldwide to explore ways to engage students in the midst of the pandemic.

