

March - 31

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad addressed at inauguration of new building of Bombay High Court in Goa.
  - The Bombay High Court already has regional branches at Nagpur and Aurangabad in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Erode district will attract tourists to Kural Malai, a hill that will have all 1,330 couplets of Thiruvallur engraved on it.
  - Work on the project, funded by the Central and State governments, will take off after the Assembly elections.

## TAMIL NADU

### Tamil Nadu - Highest revenue deficit among poll-bound States

**States' report card**  
Among the poll bound States/UTs, Assam had the highest average economic growth rate (8.6%) in FY16-20, followed by Tamil Nadu (8%)

State	Average economic growth rate in % (FY16-20)	Inflation for Feb. 2021 (%)	Unemployment rate for Feb. 2021 (%)
Assam	8.6	6.5	3.4
Tamil Nadu	8	7.2	4.8
Puducherry	6.7	8	5.8
West Bengal	6.7	5.3	6.2
Kerala	6.3	4.9	4.3
All India	6.7	5	6.9

Source: CARE Ratings report data sourced from Budget documents, RBI, CMIF, PRS Legislative

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest revenue deficit at ₹65,994 crore, among poll-bound States, according to a report.
- ❖ This is as per revised budget estimate for 2020-21.
- ❖ In terms of size of the economy, Tamil Nadu's economy is the largest (third largest in India).
- ❖ It is followed by West Bengal (sixth), Kerala (11th), Assam (17th) and Puducherry (26th).
- ❖ Together, they account for around 20% of India's economy.

- ❖ According to the report, Assam has witnessed the highest average economic growth of 8.6% during the four-year period to FY20.
- ❖ West Bengal and Puducherry's economy grew on par with the national average.
- ❖ With 6.3% Kerala's economic growth was lower than the national average due to the devastating floods of 2018 and 2019.

## NATIONAL

### India - US naval exercise

- ❖ India and the US began a two-day naval exercise in the eastern Indian Ocean Region recently.
- ❖ The Indian and US navies were part of joint drills in a passage exercise (PASSEX).
- ❖ The IAF fighters were part of such an exercise for the first time.
- ❖ PASSEXs are conducted regularly by Indian Navy with units of friendly foreign navies, whilst visiting each other's ports or during a rendezvous at sea.

## INTERNATIONAL

### World Development Report 2021



- ❖ Recently, the World Bank has published the World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives.
- ❖ The World Development Report focuses on how data can improve the lives of poor people and advance development objectives, to ensure no one is left behind.



- ❖ It highlights the tremendous potential of the changing data landscape to improve the lives of poor people.
- ❖ At the same time, it was acknowledging its potential to open back doors that can harm individuals, businesses, and societies.
- ❖ Through this report, the World Bank aims to
  - support its client countries by identifying where public and private sector investments are the most critical
  - define a rich program for policy reform and technical assistance and
  - highlight areas in which global initiatives can help to convene and facilitate cross-border cooperation.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **New red algal seaweed species**

- ❖ Two new red algal seaweed species have been discovered along India's coastline.
- ❖ These can be a potential raw material for those involved in jelly and ice cream production.
- ❖ A group of marine botanists have traced these native seaweed species along the coasts of Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and in Gujarat and Daman Diu.
- ❖ Both varieties, *Hypnea indica* and *Hypnea Bullata* were discovered in Kanyakumari.
- ❖ The fine and hairy algae *Hypnea indica* was discovered in Shivrajpur and Somnath Pathan in Gujarat.
- ❖ *Hypnea Bullata* grew along the coastline of Daman and Diu.
- ❖ It is the first time red algal species of sea weeds have been discovered along the Indian coasts.

## **STATES**

### **World's first mobile water from air kiosk**

- ❖ Maithri Aquatech has set up the 'World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre' with the use of its 'MEGHDOOT solution' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Maithri Aquatech is a startup, formed under the initiative 'Make in India'
- ❖ MEGHDOOT means 'Messenger of the Sky'.



- ❖ This initiative is supported by GVMC (Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation) and project SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health).

#### **MEGHDOOT solution**

- ❖ It is the only atmospheric water generator approved by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ By using this technology, kiosk will provide clean, mineral-enriched potable water by harvesting the moisture in the air.
- ❖ That air is independent of the existing groundwater and surface water resources.
- ❖ It is an environmentally friendly and capable of producing 100% microbe-free potable water on a sustainable basis.
- ❖ It is capable of generating over 1 million litres of water every single day.
- ❖ The water generated meets the WHO (World Health Organization) as well as Indian Standards of potable water.

#### **Note**

- ❖ The kiosk will also act as a Water Knowledge Resource Centre by creating awareness to local communities and nearby schools on the benefits of good water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices.

### **UP tops in digital payments in country**

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has set a record in the number of digital transactions.
- ❖ These transactions were facilitated through various modes like mobile banking, Unified Payment Gateway (UPI) App, internet banking, debit card etc.
- ❖ Also Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has identified two districts as the 'digital districts' in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Those two districts are Siddhartha Nagar and Firozabad.

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

### **Lt Gen Pinto (retd)**

- ❖ Lieutenant General WAG Pinto (Retd) has passed away in Pune at the age of 97.
- ❖ He was a military hero who led an infantry division to a legendary victory in the 1971 India-Pakistan War.
- ❖ He led the 54 Infantry Division in the Battle of Basantar in the war.
- ❖ That time he coined the slogan “bash on regardless”.

## SPORTS

### Shooting World Cup

- ❖ India won gold medals in both the women's and men's Trap Team events at the ISSF World Cup.
- ❖ The Indian trio of Shreyasi Singh, Manisha Keer and Rajeshwari Kumari won the gold medal in the women's Trap Team event.
- ❖ In the men's Trap Team event, Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Tondaiman and Lakshay beat the Slovakian team.
- ❖ India topped the medals tally with a whopping 30 medals in total.
- ❖ Next best was the USA with a total of eight medals.

### Prithviraj Tondaiman

- ❖ Tamil Nadu shooter Prithviraj Tondaiman helped India to win gold in the men's trap team event on the final day of the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.
- ❖ He was teamed up with Kynan Chenai and Lakshay Sheoran.

INDIA TOPS MEDAL TALLY					
ISSF Shooting World Cup (Delhi)					
		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 IND	15	9	6	30
2	 USA	4	3	1	8
3	 ITA	2	0	2	4
4	 DEN	2	0	1	3
5	 POL	1	3	3	7

