

May - 20

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research recently dropped the plasma therapy from COVID-19 treatment.
  - The decision was taken as the procedure was found to be ineffective.
- ❖ Every year, the World AIDS Vaccine Day / HIV Vaccine Awareness Day is celebrated on May 18.
  - This year the day is celebrated under the theme is 'Global Solidarity'.

## NATIONAL

### Narada Bribery Case

- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation arrested the TMC Ministers of West Bengal, Subrata Mukherjee, Firhad Hakim, MLA Madan Mitra and Sovan Chattopadhyay (former Kolkata Mayor).
- ❖ In Narada Bribery Case, the state ministers were shown taking money in a video footage.
- ❖ Calcutta High Court had ordered a CBI probe against the sting operation in Narada Bribery case in March 2017
- ❖ CBI can investigate a crime in the state after the consent from the State Government.
- ❖ However, the Supreme Court or the High court shall order CBI to conduct investigation anywhere in the country.

### Norms on imports of pulses

- ❖ The Government of India recently allowed free import of tur, moong and urad dal.
- ❖ All the three pulses have been put under non-restricted list.
- ❖ This is because their retail prices increased in the last few weeks due to low stock levels with the traders.
- ❖ Also, the Government of India has announced that the import consignments should be cleared strictly before November 30, 2021.
- ❖ India primarily imports these three pulses from Myanmar and African countries.

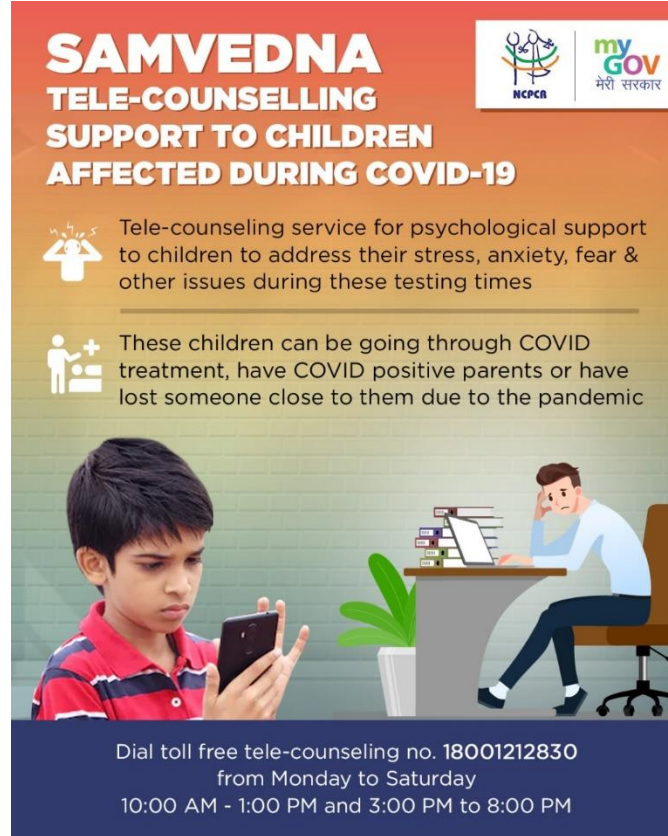
### **Jal Jeevan Mission - first instalment**

- ❖ The Union Government released Rs 5,968 crores of rupees to implement the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ The funds were released to fifteen states.
- ❖ This is the first instalment of the four to be released in 2021-22.
- ❖ In 2021, the GoI allocated Rs 50,011 crores to Jal Jeevan Mission in its budget.
- ❖ Out of the total funds allocated under the Jal Jeevan Mission,
  - 93% are to be utilized for developing water supply infrastructure,
  - 2% in water quality monitoring and surveillance activities and
  - 5% on support activities.






### **SAMVEDNA**


- ❖ SAMVEDNA is Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.
- ❖ It is a toll-free helpline through which children affected during COVID-19 pandemic are provided counselling.
- ❖ The main objective of SAMVEDNA is to provide psychological first aid and emotional support to the children.
- ❖ The tele-counselling is to be provided to children in three categories.
  - Children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19
  - Children who are in quarantine in COVID care centres
  - Children who have COVID-19 positive parents or family members.




**SAMVEDNA**  
**TELE-COUNSELLING**  
**SUPPORT TO CHILDREN**  
**AFFECTED DURING COVID-19**

   
मेरी सरकार

 Tele-counseling service for psychological support to children to address their stress, anxiety, fear & other issues during these testing times

 These children can be going through COVID treatment, have COVID positive parents or have lost someone close to them due to the pandemic



Dial toll free tele-counseling no. 18001212830  
from Monday to Saturday  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

### **Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools**

- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding on joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools.
- ❖ This includes introduction of Ashram Schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas.
- ❖ In the first phase of the programme, 250 EMRS are to be established.

### **The State of Working India (SWI) report**

- ❖ The State of Working India (SWI) 2021 was brought out by the researchers at Azim Premji University of Karnataka.
- ❖ The annual report documented the impact of one year of Covid-19 in India, on jobs, incomes, inequality, and poverty.
- ❖ According to the report,
  - The pandemic had forced people out of their formal jobs into casual work, and led to a severe decline in incomes.



- There is a sudden increase in poverty over the past year.
- Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, contributed disproportionately to job losses.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Study on long working hours**

- ❖ A study conducted by the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation recently found that the long working hours kills hundreds of people every year.
- ❖ The study has included 22 studies on strokes and 37 studies on ischemic heart diseases.
- ❖ Also, it collected data from more than 2,300 surveys in 194 countries.
- ❖ Working 55 hours a week increases risks of strokes by 35% and increased the risk of ischemic heart disease by 17%.

### **Anti-dumping investigation against China, Vietnam and Thailand**

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce has recently initiated the anti-dumping investigation against China, Vietnam and Thailand.
- ❖ The investigation is against the import of solar cells from these countries.
- ❖ The investigation has been started by the Ministry following the application submitted by the Indian Solar Manufacturer Association.
- ❖ The solar cells that are being imported from China are 15% to 20% less expensive as compared to that of the solar cells produced in India.
- ❖ This is affecting the business of solar modules produced using locally available raw materials.
- ❖ Ultimately it is increasing the price of domestic solar modules.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Environmental Risk Outlook 2021**

- ❖ A report on 'City Risk Analysis' in the Environmental Risk Outlook 2021 study was done by Verisk Maplecroft.
- ❖ As per this report,
  - Kanpur has been ranked 10th,



- followed by Jaipur (22nd),
- Lucknow (24th) and
- Mumbai (27th).
- ❖ With 43 Indian cities in the top 100, our country is the most at-risk nation in the world.
- ❖ Pollution is identified as the main threat for this.

## STATES

### First Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre

- ❖ The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) recently launched the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre in Pune.
- ❖ The Centre will aid in boosting the agricultural and food exports of the state of Maharashtra.
- ❖ The state is
  - one of the largest producers of onions.
  - the leading producer in pulses.
  - the second largest coarse cereals producer.
  - the second largest producer of soya bean, sugarcane and cotton.
  - the third largest producer of sunflower.

### Legislative Council - West Bengal

- ❖ The West Bengal government will set up Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).
- ❖ For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and then a nod from the Governor is required.
- ❖ In West Bengal, the Upper House existed till 1969.
- ❖ Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia - May 17**

- ❖ The day aims to increase awareness against discrimination, violence and repression of LGBT communities worldwide.
- ❖ Homophobia is dislike against gay people.
- ❖ Transphobia is the dislike against the transgender people.
- ❖ Biphobia is the dislike against the bisexual people.
- ❖ Louis-Georges Tin is the founder of International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

