

May - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The number of beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat touched 1 crore.
 - The Ayushman Bharat Scheme was launched in 2018.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given the security clearance to the Swiss firm Zurich Airport International AG for the construction of Jewar airport in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
 - The greenfield project has been considered as an alternative to New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport.
- ❖ Union Finance Ministry announced it will launch National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission.
 - The mission will ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy in Grade 3 by 2020.
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojana was launched by Chhattisgarh government to ensure “minimum income availability” to farmers of the state through direct bank transfer.
 - The scheme was launched in the state on May 21, the death anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ The Charan Paduka Campaign was launched in Madhya Pradesh by the Police Department of the Madhya Pradesh for the migrant workers passing through the state.
 - Under the campaign the migrant workers were provided with shoes and slippers to reduce their pain.
- ❖ The Union government has given the nod for a two-lane tunnel road in the Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi corridor in Kerala.
 - On completion, this 6.5-km tunnel will be the third longest tunnel in the country.
- ❖ Mee Annapurna programe has been launched for the welfare of farmers in Maharashtra.

NATIONAL

New PSU Privatisation Policy

- ❖ The new PSU Policy will categorise the sectors as Strategic and Non-Strategic ones.



- ❖ The government will retain maximum of four and minimum of one in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in Strategic Sectors.
- ❖ All other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Non-Strategic sectors will be either privatised or merged or brought under the holding companies.
- ❖ It is with an aim to minimise the administrative cost of the Central Government.
- ❖ The Strategic sector PSUs in India are
 - Arms & Ammunition of defence equipment
 - Defense aircraft & warships
 - Atomic energy
 - Applications of radiation to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industry
 - Railways
- ❖ Companies in which Central Government holds 51% stake are known as CPSEs or PSUs.
- ❖ Privatisation means migration from the Public to Private Sector through the transfer of ownership, management and control.

Privatization

Benefits of Privatization:

Economic Benefits:

- One-time cash injection to gov't revenues
- Competitive imperative
- Market capitalization

Social Benefits:

- Commercial control over enterprise (more disclosure)
- 'Private – dividend' more public money for programs and services

INTERNATIONAL

Baltic Travel Bubble

- ❖ Creating a travel bubble involves reconnecting countries or states which have shown a good level of success in containing the Covid-19 pandemic domestically.

- ❖ Such a bubble would allow the members of the group to restart trade ties with each other and open travel and tourism.
- ❖ The Baltic countries have opened their borders to one another creating “travel bubble”
- ❖ The Baltic Countries are those countries that are in the Northern Europe and in the eastern coast of Baltic sea.
- ❖ The countries that are referred to Baltic state include Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.
- ❖ The countries that border Baltic sea include Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Germany, Poland, Lithuania.



Israel PM

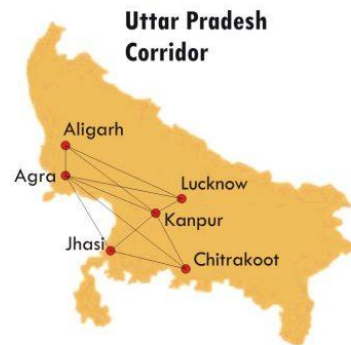
- ❖ Benjamin Netanyahu-led government was sworn into office in Israel in the knesset, the Israel Parliament.
- ❖ This marks the beginning of Netanyahu’s fifth term in office, his fourth consecutive term.
- ❖ Benny Gantz took his oath of office as the alternate prime minister and future prime minister after Netanyahu’s swearing-in.

ECONOMY

Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme


- ❖ Union Government has approved the launch of Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS).

- ❖ It aims to give a boost to domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing.
- ❖ The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to 75% government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'.
- ❖ The remaining 25% of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) whose constituents will be Indian private entities and State Governments.
- ❖ A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is a legal entity that is formed for a well-defined, sole and narrow purpose.
- ❖ Union Government in 2019, has set up defence industrial corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor includes - Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot and Jhansi.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor includes - Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli.



PMVVY

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the Extension of Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) up to 31st March, 2023.
- ❖ It is a Pension Scheme exclusively for the welfare of and to enable old age income security the senior citizens aged 60 years and above.
- ❖ One can invest a maximum amount of ₹ 15 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) scheme.
- ❖ The tenure of the policy is set at 10 years.
- ❖ The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has been given the sole privilege to operate this Scheme



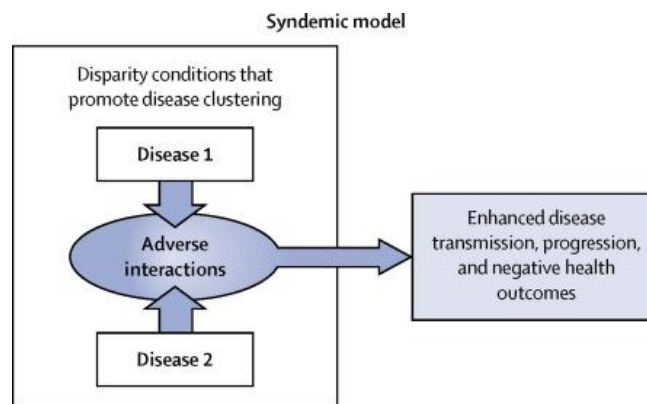
New Pension scheme to protect Elderly
Government launches Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)

- ◆ Minimum entry age is 60 yrs and policy term is of 10 years
- ◆ Can be subscribed **offline** as well as **online** through LIC
- ◆ Provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly
- ◆ On death of pensioner the **purchase price shall be refunded to the beneficiary**
- ◆ Loan upto 75% of purchase price allowed after 3 policy years
- ◆ Pension is payable **monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Syndemic

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Covid-19 is less likely to be eliminated (i.e. may become endemic).
- ❖ There is a possibility that the world will face increased burden of the diseases and thus the situation of syndemic.
- ❖ A Syndemic is a situation when two or more epidemics interact synergistically to produce an increased burden of disease in a population.



ENVIRONEMENT

Feral horse

- ❖ The major exploration to extend drilling and testing of hydrocarbons by the Oil India Limited beneath the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park of Assam received environmental clearance from MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change).
- ❖ The park is the only region in India that supports feral horses.
- ❖ The Feral horse is not a true wild horse.
- ❖ The only true wild horse that exists today is the Przewalski's horse that is native to Central Asia.
- ❖ Australia has the largest population of feral horses in the world.

