

November - 03

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian Railways has launched “Meri Saheli” initiative for focused action on security of women across all zones.
  - Its objective is to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.
- ❖ The state government of Karnataka has proposed a ban on government servants acting in films and television programmes.
- ❖ The Indian Navy test fired the Anti-Ship Missile from INS Kora in Bay of Bengal.

## TAMIL NADU

### Fossils at Perambalur

- ❖ More than 25 concretions (ammonium sediments) were found in Kunnam (Perambalur).
- ❖ The round-shaped Phosphatic nodules, called Uttatur potatoes, were also available in Kunnam and Karai areas.
- ❖ A fossilised tree and ammonite sediments were also found in Aanaivari stream in the area.
- ❖ The ammonite (ammonoids) was a large and diverse group of marine species
- ❖ It originated around 416 million years ago during the Devonian period.
- ❖ Ammonites survived three mass extinctions.
- ❖ Out of that, the Permian extinction is the most notable one
- ❖ It was a global warming brought on by volcanic activity about 252 million years ago.
- ❖ It killed 96 per cent of the planet’s marine species.
- ❖ Some years back, the Archaeological evidence suggests that dinosaurs lived in the Ariyalur area of Tamilnadu 6.5 billion years ago.
- ❖ But the remains of the eggs are rarely found.
- ❖ Earlier Ariyalur and Perambalur were submerged in the sea in present-day Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Fossils in Kunnam might have formed about nine billion years ago when the depth of the sea was about 100 metres in the Turonian-Cenomanian Cretaceous period.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Aarambh 2020**

- ❖ The prime minister addressed the probationers of Indian Civil Services at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, through a video conference from Kevadia of Gujarat.
- ❖ This is part of the integrated foundation course 'Aarambh' launched in 2019.
- ❖ Aarambh is an initiative to bring all the probationers of All India Service, Group-A Central Service and Foreign Service together for a Common Foundation Course (CFC) with the vision to break the silos of departments and services from the very beginning of the career of a civil servant.
- ❖ This year, the second edition of Aarambh 2020, is taking place in LBSNAA from October 14 to 31.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Governance in India @100".

### **NCLAT**

- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has extended the term of Justice (retd) Bansi Lal Bhat as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- ❖ Justice Bansi Lal Bhat was appointed Acting Chairperson after the first Chairperson of NCLAT, Justice SJ Mukhopadhaya demitted the office.
- ❖ The NCLAT was established by the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2013.
- ❖ It hears the appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- ❖ It is also an appellate tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India and the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

### **ISO 17020:2012**

- ❖ The National Productivity Council (NPC) has been granted accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012.
- ❖ It was given by National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI).
- ❖ It was given for undertaking inspection and audit work in the area of Food Safety Audit and Scientific Storage of Agricultural Products.

- ❖ NPC was established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in 1958.

### Public Affairs Index 2020

- ❖ It was released by Public Affairs Centre, a non-profit organisation.
- ❖ It was released by the committee headed by a former ISRO chairman Kasturirangan.
- ❖ The Governance of the states was analysed based on three pillars namely growth, equity and sustainability.
- ❖ According to the index, Kerala was the best governed the state in the Larger state category.
- ❖ It was followed by Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- ❖ The bottom most ranking was occupied by Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar in the same category.
- ❖ In the small state category Goa topped the list followed by Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The bottom most states in this category were Manipur, Delhi and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ In the category of Union Territories Chandigarh was the top performing region followed by Puducherry and Lakshadweep.
- ❖ Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir were the least performing Union Territories.

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX

BEST	WORST
<b>LARGE STATE CATEGORY</b>	
Kerala	UP
Tamil Nadu	Odisha
Andhra Pradesh	Bihar
<b>SMALL STATE CATEGORY</b>	
Goa	Manipur
Meghalaya	Delhi
Himachal	U'khand

■ **Chandigarh** the best governed UT, followed by **Puducherry** and **Lakshadweep**

■ **Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman, J&K** least performers



## **Bye Bye Corona**

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel released a 'sciencetoon' book.
- ❖ It contains comprehensive information on the COVID - 19 pandemic.
- ❖ It was published by Vigyan Prasar of the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The book has been written by Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow.
- ❖ It is World's 1st Sciencetoon Book on Coronavirus.
- ❖ A 'sciencetoon' is a cartoon communication based on science.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Referendum in Chile**

- ❖ In a referendum held recently, People of Chile have voted overwhelmingly in favour of rewriting the country's nearly four-decade-old constitution
- ❖ The Chilean people also voted to elect an assembly of 155 members to draw up the new constitution.
- ❖ The existing system was established during the rule of dictator Pinochet without any popular inputs in 1980.

### **Migration and Development Brief 33 - report**

- ❖ It is published by the World Bank.
- ❖ For the first time in recent history, the stock of international migrants is likely to decline in 2020.
- ❖ It is because new migration has slowed and return migration has increased.
- ❖ Remittance flows to low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to fall by 7 percent.
- ❖ The top 5 countries in 2020 to receive foreign remittances are expected to be India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **IndiGen Programme 2019**

- ❖ The Council of scientific and Industrial Research began the IndiGen Programme in 2019.

- ❖ The programme was launched to fill the gap of genome sequences from different populations in India.
- ❖ The programme successfully completed genome Sequencing of 1029 self-declared healthy Indian who were drawn from different regions of the country.
- ❖ The programme will find solutions that are applicable in preventive and predictive medicated measures.
- ❖ This will enable genetic epidemiology.
- ❖ Under this, a study was conducted by the Council of scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Centre for cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and the institute of genomics and integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB).
- ❖ As per this study, 32% genetic variants are unique in Indian sequences as compared to that of global genomes.
- ❖ This is because India is rich in Genetic diversity and also in population density.
- ❖ The first country to launch a genome programme in the world was the United Kingdom.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Project Lion

- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India, along with the Gujarat Forest Department, had created a Project Lion proposal.
- ❖ Under the proposal six new sites has identified for possible lion relocation in the future include
  - Madhav National Park, Madhya Pradesh
  - Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
  - Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan
  - Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh



- Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
- Jessore-Balaram Ambaji WLS and adjoining landscape, Gujarat.
- ❖ Project Lion was launched on 15th August, 2020 for the conservation of the Asiatic Lion.
- ❖ It's last remaining wild population is in Gujarat's Asiatic Lion Landscape.

### **Sardar Zoological Park**

- ❖ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Arogya Van, Sardar Patel Zoological Park, Ekta Mall, and the Children Nutrition Park in Kevadia, Narmada District in Gujarat.
- ❖ Sardar Patel Zoological Park is also popularly known as Jungle Safari.


### **Yellow Dust**

- ❖ Recently North Korean authorities have urged citizens to remain indoors to avoid contact with a mysterious cloud of 'yellow dust' blowing from China.
- ❖ Yellow dust is actually sand from deserts in China and Mongolia.

### **Green firecrackers at New Delhi**

- ❖ This Diwali, which falls on November 14, is likely to be India's first green Diwali.
- ❖ Only 'green' firecrackers can be manufactured, sold and used in the national capital of India.
- ❖ These firecrackers are 30 per cent less polluting compared to ordinary ones.
- ❖ The chemical Barium Nitrate is responsible for heavy smoke and emissions.
- ❖ Green crackers also don't contain banned chemicals such as lithium, arsenic, and lead.
- ❖ They are called Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) crackers.
- ❖ Green crackers release water vapour and don't allow the dust particles to rise.
- ❖ The smoke mainly comes from emissions of Sulphur dioxide (So<sub>2</sub>) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)
- ❖ The Nagpur-based CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) formulated these crackers.

**Toxic nature**  
Conventional firecrackers contain chemicals which produce effects like bright lighting and colours. However, these chemicals can have adverse effects on human health and the environment



Initial ingredient	Use in crackers	Health hazards
Charcoal, potassium nitrate and sulphur	Black powder which is the primary fuel in the cracker	The dust released is hazardous when inhaled; different compounds formed can be carcinogenic
Strontium and lithium	Colouring agent (Red)	Strontium can replace calcium in the body which can be toxic; Lithium releases harmful fumes
Barium	Colouring agent (Orange)	Fumes can cause respiratory and other health issues
Nitrates, chlorates/perchlorates	Oxidising agents	The compounds can hamper the growth of small children; they remain airborne for days and can be poisonous

## New Biosphere Reserves

- ❖ The International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) programme added 25 new sites in 18 countries to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).
- ❖ Now the total numbers are 714 biosphere reserves in 129 countries around the globe.
- ❖ Andorra (Ordino), Cabo Verde (Fogo and Maio), Comoros (Mwali), Luxemburg (Minett), Trinidad and Tobago (North-East Tobago) join the MAB Network this year with the designation of their first sites.
- ❖ Four Member States requested to withdraw 11 sites from the Network.
- ❖ They are
  - Australia - Uluru Ayers Rock-Mount Olga, Croajingalong, Riverland (formerly Bookmark), Kosciuszko, and Unnamed (Mamungari)
  - Bulgaria - Ali Botouch, Douпки-Djindjiritza, Mantaritza and Parangalitsa
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo – Lufira
  - Mexico - Islas del Golfo de California
- ❖ The biosphere reserves come under IUCN Category V Protected areas.
- ❖ Biosphere reserve aims to protect larger areas of natural habitat than a typical national park or animal sanctuary.

### About MAB

- ❖ MAB is an intergovernmental scientific programme.
- ❖ It was launched in 1971 by the UNESCO headquartered at Paris.
- ❖ The MAB - ICC has a rotating elected membership of 34 UNESCO Member States.
- ❖ The Current chair is Nigeria.

## STATES

### First State to fix MSP for vegetables

- ❖ Kerala became the first Indian state to fix Minimum Support Price for sixteen agriculture items.
- ❖ It consists of vegetables, fruits and tubers.
- ❖ The Base Price will be 20% more than production cost of vegetables.
- ❖ There is also a condition to revise the MSP price on a regular basis.
- ❖ Local self-government bodies will correlate the procurement and circulation of vegetables.

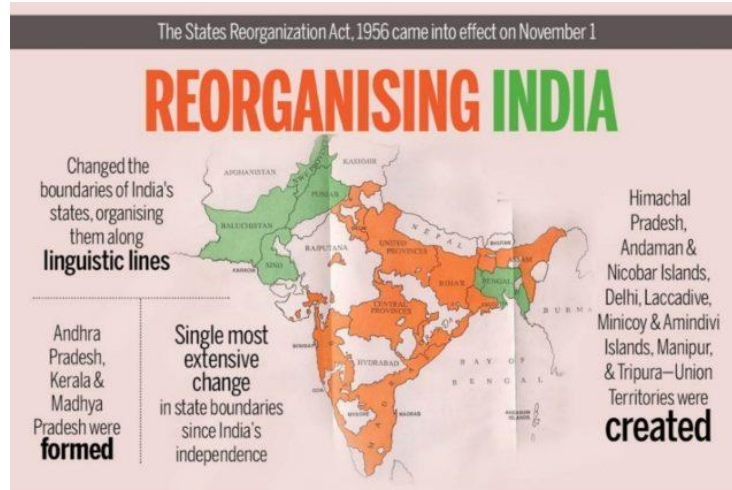


## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Tamil Nadu Day/ State Formation Day – November 01

- ❖ Tamil Nadu observed its second formation day - 'Tamil Nadu Day' on November 1 this year.
- ❖ The Madras State was formed on November 1, 1956 from the erstwhile Madras Presidency as per States Reorganisation Act -1956.
- ❖ The Madras State was eventually renamed Tamil Nadu in 1969.
- ❖ Orissa (now Odisha) was the first state to be formed on linguistic basis in 1936.
- ❖ Later, in 1953, Andhra Pradesh was formed on linguistic basis.





### **Puducherry Liberation Day – November 01**

- ❖ The Union Territory of Puducherry won freedom from the foreign yoke only after seven more years of struggle after India became free on August 15, 1947.
- ❖ The merger itself was democratically decided through a referendum conducted by the French administration.
- ❖ On 18 October, 1954, the municipal councillors and the members of the Assembly representatives gave their verdict in favour of merger with India.
- ❖ Later, an agreement for the transfer of the four (Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahe and Yanam) remaining French settlements to India was signed on October 21, 1954.
- ❖ It was coming into effect on November 1, 1954.
- ❖ In 2014, The Puducherry govt declared that November 1 would be celebrated as Liberation Day of Puducherry.

