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## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India Post has issued a commemorative postage stamp on M.M. Kuzhiveli, an educational expert, a teacher and president of the publications department of the Kerala University.
  - He published first encyclopedia in Malayalam “Vijnanam” and contributed for children’s literature.
- ❖ A maiden bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) on explosive ordnance disposal and mine counter measure was undertaken in Kochi.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 4-day ‘Destination North East’ event at Varanasi, UP.
  - The festival showcases the culture and craft of the 8 north eastern states.
- ❖ In a bid to boost internationalisation of the rupee, the RBI has relaxed norms for the opening of special non-resident rupee (SNRR) accounts and permitted direct remittance from India into these accounts.

## NATIONAL

### National Tribal Craft Mela 2019

- ❖ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the National Tribal Craft Mela-2019 in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ The craft has been organised with the objective of promotion and popularisation of traditional tribal arts and crafts.
- ❖ Items showcased: Iron, bamboo products, puppets, siali crafts, tribal textiles and embroidery work, etc

### Highest Road Length under PMGSY – Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the highest road length in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in this year.
- ❖ The region has witnessed construction of 11,400 kilometres covering 1,838 habitations so far.
- ❖ PMGSY is an initiative launched by Union government in to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages in the country.

- ❖ It was started in 2000 under prime ministership of AB Vajpayee.

### **Awas Portal**

- ❖ Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awas Portal (CLAP).
- ❖ The portal provides a transparent and robust real-time web-based monitoring system for beneficiaries of credit-linked Subsidy Service (CLSS).
- ❖ CLSS is one of the components under PM Awas Yojana wherein the Union Government offers interest subsidy to housing loan buyers.

### **Suman Billa IAS @ UNWTO**

- ❖ Kerala cadre senior IAS officer Suman Billa is set to join the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) at its headquarters in Madrid, Spain.
- ❖ He will take charge next week as Director, Technical Cooperation and Silk Road Development at UNWTO.
- ❖ It is a specialised agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Global Inclusive Prosperity Index**

- ❖ In terms of economic and social inclusivity, Bengaluru has emerged as India's highest ranked city (Rank 83) out of 113 cities in the world.
- ❖ The first-ever Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards (PICSA) Index was commissioned by Basque institutions and D&L Partners.
- ❖ It is the first-time world's major cities have been ranked for their efforts to build inclusive and prosperous environments for all its citizens.
- ❖ Zurich (Switzerland) tops the list and followed by Vienna (Austria) and Copenhagen (Denmark).
- ❖ Delhi at 101 and Mumbai at 107 are the other Indian cities in the index.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Parliament @ Delhi Assembly**

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed youngsters from India and the Commonwealth during the inaugural session of the 10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Delhi Assembly.

- ❖ The Commonwealth Youth Parliament is an annual gathering hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).
- ❖ Young people (age 18-29) from commonwealth of nations participate and debate.
- ❖ It is for the first time that an Indian Legislature is hosting the Commonwealth Youth Parliament.

### **Floating School Project in Bangladesh**

- ❖ A floating school project in Bangladesh named 'The Arcadia Education Project' has won the Aga Khan Architecture Award.
- ❖ Razia Alam, a Bangladeshi expatriate decided to fund a school which doesn't get submerged in monsoon and to improve lives of rural students.
- ❖ Internationally renowned architect Saif Ul Haque conceived the project using local materials.
- ❖ The school remains on the ground during dry season and floats on water when the area is submerged in water during monsoon.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Secretagoin – Obesity Induced Diabetes**

- ❖ Scientists from Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad have isolated a new protein called secretagoin (SCGN).
- ❖ SCGN is a special type of protein that helps in increasing the efficacy of insulin in diabetics.
- ❖ It increases the action of insulin in the body and controls the blood sugar levels.



- ❖ This might become a breakthrough in managing diabetes which affects millions of people.

### **ETVAX Vaccine against Diarrhoea**

- ❖ An oral, inactivated vaccine against enterotoxigenic E. coli diarrhoea (ETEC) has been found safe for infants and children in a clinical trial conducted in Bangladesh.
- ❖ ETEC bacteria are a primary cause of diarrhoea.
- ❖ They lead to substantial illness and death in children in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- ❖ The vaccine was developed by Sweden's University of Gothenburg.
- ❖ At present there is no vaccine for diarrhoea.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Plastic Parks**

- ❖ Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister DV Sadananda Gowda has announced that six plastic parks will be established in different parts of the country.
- ❖ These parks will be located in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ A plastic park at Tamot in Madhya Pradesh is already functional.
- ❖ The Scheme provides "common infrastructure" to support the plastic production units for hazardous waste management, plastic recycling, tooling, designing, etc.

### **Most Inhabitable Place – Dallol, Ethiopia**

- ❖ Researchers have found an aquatic environment on the Earth with complete absence of any forms of life on Earth at Dallol geothermal field in Ethiopia.
- ❖ Any form of microbial life was absent in the hot, saline, hyperacid ponds of the Dallol geothermal field.
- ❖ Dallol is known as one of the driest and hottest places on the planet.
- ❖ It is also one of the lowest land points, lying 125 m (410 ft) below mean sea level.
- ❖ The research shows that the presence of liquid water on a planet alone does not directly imply the presence of life.



## STATES

### **Guru Ghasidas National Park Tiger Reserve – Chhattisgarh**

- ❖ The Chhattisgarh government has decided to declare Guru Ghasidas National Park in the state's Korea district as a tiger reserve.
- ❖ Presently the state has three tiger reserves, namely Indravati in Bijapur district, Udanti-Sitanadi in Gariaband and Achanakmar in Bilaspur.

### **Seats for Disabled - Panchayath Polls Chhattisgarh**

- ❖ The Chhattisgarh Cabinet has approved an amendment to the State Panchayati Raj Act, 1993
- ❖ The presence of a person with disabilities in all panchayats across the state has been made mandatory.
- ❖ This will make it the only State to have such members in all panchayats.
- ❖ Every panchayat will now have differently abled members, either elected or nominated.
- ❖ If differently abled members are not elected through the electoral process, then one member (either male or female) would be nominated as a panch.

### **Ban Extended on Bodos Movement**

- ❖ The Union government has extended the ban on the Assam-based insurgent group NDFB under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 by five more years.



- ❖ National Democratic Front of Bodoland has been banned for its involvement in violent activities and for joining hands with anti-India forces.
- ❖ Bodos are the single largest tribal community in Assam (5-6% of state's population).
- ❖ They have had a long history of separatist demands, marked by armed struggle.

