



October - 03

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ International Air Transport Association (IATA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) as the first non-government partner to strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations (UN) Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel Programme).
- ❖ The Indian National Team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, and Sanju Yadav are the winners of the 2019-20 AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year Award, and the 2019-20 AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year Award respectively.
- ❖ NITI Aayog and Netherlands have signed an SOI (Statement of Intent) to support the decarbonisation and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.
- ❖ Australia's wicket-keeper bat Alyssa Healy broke MS Dhoni's record of having most dismissals as a wicket-keeper in Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).

## **NATIONAL**

### **e-copy of driving license and RC for verification**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended the new provision under Section 139 of Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1989.
- ❖ It allows vehicle owners across the country to use electronic versions of their driving licence and registration certificate.
- ❖ As per the amended provision, the citizen can produce the transport related documents such as registration, insurance, fitness and permit, the driving licence, certificate for pollution under check and any other relevant documents, if required, in physical or electronic form.

### **Best before date display for sweet**

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has released guidelines on sale of loose sweets.

### **Highlights**

- ❖ In case of non-packaged/ loose sweets, the container/tray holding sweets at the outlet for sale should display the 'Best Before Date' of the product mandatorily with effect from October 1, 2020.

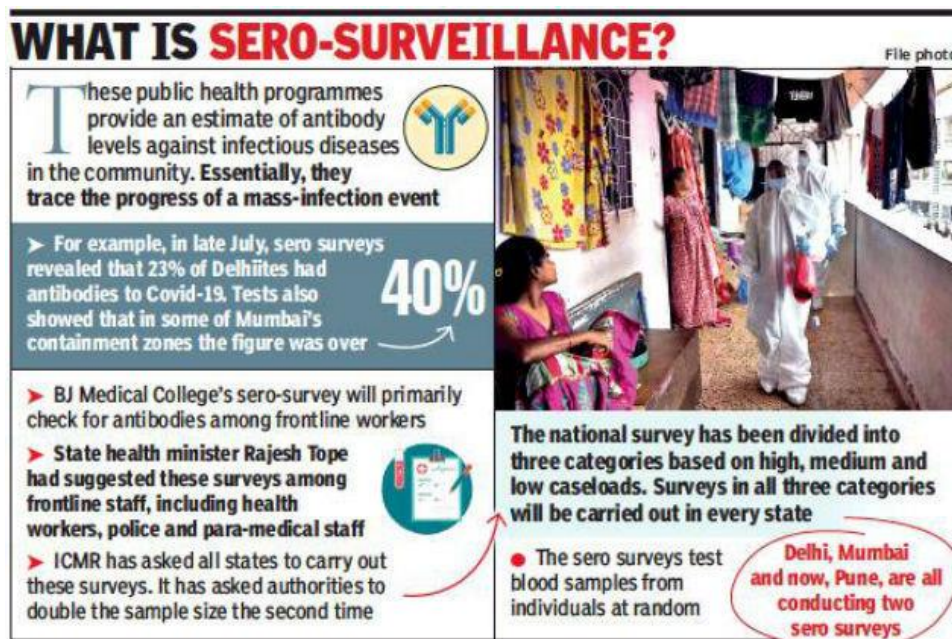
- ❖ The food business operators (FBOs) might also display the date of manufacturing. It is not mandatory however.
- ❖ The FBOs shall decide and display the 'Best Before Date' of sweets depending on the nature of the products and the local conditions.

## Second national sero-survey

- ❖ The second national sero-survey have been released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ They are conducted by drawing blood samples and checking for a specific class of antibodies called IgG that appear within two weeks of an infection.
- ❖ Because, it is yet unclear how long antibodies detectably persist in the body, their presence only indicates past exposure to — and not presence of — the virus.

### Highlights

- ❖ Around 7% of India's adult population may have been exposed to the novel coronavirus till the last fortnight of August.
- ❖ During the first survey, it emerged that there were 82-130 infections for every confirmed COVID-19 positive case that now dropped to 26-32 infections.
- ❖ The country wide prevalence of the virus was similar to that seen in the United States, which was around 9.3%.
- ❖ Brazil and Spain had a prevalence of 2.8% and 4.6%.



**WHAT IS SERO-SURVEILLANCE?**

These public health programmes provide an estimate of antibody levels against infectious diseases in the community. Essentially, they trace the progress of a mass-infection event

➤ For example, in late July, sero surveys revealed that 23% of Delhiites had antibodies to Covid-19. Tests also showed that in some of Mumbai's containment zones the figure was over **40%**

➤ BJ Medical College's sero-survey will primarily check for antibodies among frontline workers

➤ State health minister Rajesh Tope had suggested these surveys among frontline staff, including health workers, police and para-medical staff

➤ ICMR has asked all states to carry out these surveys. It has asked authorities to double the sample size the second time

The national survey has been divided into three categories based on high, medium and low caseloads. Surveys in all three categories will be carried out in every state

● The sero surveys test blood samples from individuals at random

Delhi, Mumbai and now, Pune, are all conducting two sero surveys

File photo



### **SAATHI app**

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism launched the SAATHI application for the hospitality industry.
- ❖ It aims to assist the hospitality industry in continuing to operate safely and instill confidence among staff, employees and guests about the safety of the hotels and units.
- ❖ It is an initiative of the tourism ministry with the Quality Council of India.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Contactless debit card-based payment**

- ❖ IDFC First Bank will launch "SafePay" a contactless debit card-based payment facility.
- ❖ This payment facility will allow contactless payments by simply waving one's smartphone against a Near Field Communication (NFC) - enabled POS terminal.

## **STATES**

### **Modification of Forest Rights Act**

- ❖ Maharashtra Governor has issued a notification modifying the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- ❖ The notification has been issued by the Governor using his powers Schedule V of the Constitution.
- ❖ The changes will enable tribal and other traditional forest dwelling families to build houses in the neighbourhood forest areas.
- ❖ The decision is likely to provide a major relief to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest-dwelling families residing in the scheduled areas of the State.

### **V<sup>th</sup> schedule**

- ❖ The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize 2020

- ❖ The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2020 was announced by the Union Science and Technology Ministry.
- ❖ This prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields — Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics.

#### Winners

Disciplines	Awardees
<b>Biological Sciences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Subhadeep Chatterjee,</li> <li>• Dr Vatsala Thirumalai</li> </ul>
<b>Chemical Sciences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Jyotirmayee Dash,</li> <li>• Dr Subi Jacob George</li> </ul>
<b>Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Abhijit Mukherjee</li> <li>• Dr Suryendu Dutta</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics Sciences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr UK Anandavardhanan,</li> <li>• Dr Rajat Subhra Hazra</li> </ul>
<b>Medicine Sciences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Bushra Ateeq,</li> <li>• Dr Ritesh Agarwal</li> </ul>
<b>Physics Sciences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Rajesh Ganapathy</li> <li>• Dr Surajit Dhara</li> </ul>

### Kuwait's emir passes away

- ❖ The ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad-al Sabah passed away recently.
- ❖ With the emir's death, the 83 years prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been recognized by the cabinet to take Sabah-al Ahmad's place as the monarch of the country.
- ❖ Sheikh was sworn in as the emir on January 29, 2006.
- ❖ After the confirmation of the National Assembly and served as the ruler until his death on September 29, 2020.
- ❖ Emir was dubbed 'dean of Arab Diplomacy' for his efforts to restore relations with states that had backed Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf war when Kuwait was being invaded by the Iraqi forces.



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