

October - 11

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. This will be the final Ministerial meeting before the 3rd Leaders' Summit which will be held on November 4, 2019 in Bangkok.
  - India will be represented by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths**

- ❖ Union Minister for Health Dr. Harshvardhan along with several State Health Ministers launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) initiative.
- ❖ SUMAN aims for Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths.
- ❖ It tries to assure dignified, respectful and quality health care at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility.
- ❖ The pregnant women will have a zero-expense delivery and C-section facility in case of complications at public health facilities.
- ❖ Also free healthcare benefits will be provided for pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery.
- ❖ Sick newborns will also be able to avail free healthcare benefits.

### **India specific Strategy of WHO**

- ❖ Union health ministry has launched a strategic roadmap for the World Health Organisation (WHO) to work with the Indian government.
- ❖ It is termed as the WHO India 'Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2019–2023: A Time of Transition'
- ❖ CCS provides a strategic roadmap for WHO to work with the Government of India towards achieving its health sector goals.
- ❖ It outlines how WHO can support the Ministry of Health and other allied Ministries to drive impact at the country level.



## **POSHAN Atlas**

- ❖ In a bid to tackle malnutrition, government is developing an Atlas to map the crops and food grains grown in different regions of the country.
- ❖ The atlas will be used to promote nutritious protein rich food in local areas.
- ❖ Union Government has launched a new initiative called “POSHAN Atlas” under the Poshan Abhiyaan scheme.
- ❖ It is launched as a collaborative effort of
  - Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)
  - Deendayal Research Institute
  - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- ❖ According to the World Bank Global Nutrition Report – 2018, malnutrition costs India at least \$10 billion annually in terms of lost productivity, illness and death.

## **Government Railway Police Site and Mobile App**

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai has launched the Government Railway Police’s website “railways.delhipolice.gov.in” and a mobile application “Sahyatri”.
- ❖ The database of criminals, including their photographs, active in railways’ jurisdiction all over India would be uploaded on the Railway police’s website.
- ❖ It will also have the facility to scan and read QR codes and make an emergency call.

### **Sahyatri**

- ❖ The Sahyatri app will help railway passengers find out the jurisdiction of a police station and the details of GRP officials by geo-tagging with Google Maps.
- ❖ It will also help the railway police in addressing complaints of passengers from across India and crime detection by integrating the criminal database online.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World’s First Ban on Sugary Drinks Ad – Singapore**

- ❖ Singapore plans to implement a total ban on ads for packaged drinks with very high sugar content in an attempt to reduce illnesses in the rapidly-aging city state.
- ❖ The city state will be the first country in the world to implement a ban on ads for very high sugar drinks.



- ❖ Singapore has very high rates of diabetes.

### **UNICEF Crypto Fund**

- ❖ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Children's agency of the United Nations has now become the first UN organization to hold and make transactions in cryptocurrency.
- ❖ UNICEF now joins a number of other aid agencies that accept donations in cryptocurrencies, such as American Red Cross.
- ❖ It has established UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund and accepts donations in the form of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and ether.
- ❖ The Ethereum Foundation will be first one to be contributing to UNICEF through cryptocurrencies.

### **Solar Wind Farms Across Border**

- ❖ India has a target of 175 GW of clean energy by 2022.
- ❖ In order to achieve the target, India plans to set up solar and wind projects on fallow lands along the international border with Pakistan.
- ❖ A 30 km by 20 km wide parcel of land is identified along the border in Kutch district of Gujarat to implement the project.
- ❖ The proposed energy power parks will generate 2,000 MW of energy each.
- ❖ The project is being constructed on deserted lands with no habitats.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Interconnect Usage Charge**

- ❖ Reliance Jio announced it would start charging customers Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC)
- ❖ It would be at the rate of 6 paise per minute.
- ❖ IUC refers to an arrangement under which telecom players connect their equipment, networks and services with other Telecom Services Providers.

#### **IUC Charges**

- ❖ Currently only calls made via wireless to wireless devices attract IUC in India.
- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has fixed the IUC rates at 6 paise per minute.
- ❖ TRAI wants to bring IUC to zero from January 1, 2020.



- ❖ TRAI is ending IUC because it was assumed all networks would move to VoLTE.
- ❖ Jio is entirely a VoLTE network, but Vodafone and Airtel continue to offer their legacy 2G and 3G networks as well.

## STATES

### Kerala Bank

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its final nod to Kerala Government for the formation of Kerala Bank.
- ❖ The Kerala Bank will be the largest banking network in the state.
- ❖ The district cooperative banks of all the 14 districts in the state (barring the Malappuram District Cooperative Bank) had approved the state government's amalgamation scheme.
- ❖ The new bank is expected to strengthen cooperative sector in Kerala.
- ❖ Pending court cases against the merger are expected to go in favour of state as RBI has given approval.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Nobel Prize Literature – 2019

- ❖ Austria's Peter Handke won the 2019 Nobel Prize for Literature.
- ❖ He won the price for his influential work in exploring the specificity of human experience.
- ❖ Some of the famous works of Peter Handke include
  - Die Angst des Tormanns beim Elfmeter (1970; The Goalie's Anxiety at the Penalty Kick)
  - Die linkshändige Frau (1976; The Left-Handed Woman)
  - Wunschloses Unglück (1972; "Wishless Un-luck"; Eng. trans. A Sorrow Beyond Dreams)

### 2018 Prize

- ❖ The postponed 2018 Nobel Prize for literature award went to Polish author Olga Tokarczuk.
- ❖ Olga Tokarczuk is the 15th woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize.
- ❖ She had also won the International Booker Prize in 2018 for her work "Flights".
- ❖ Some of her famous works include

- Primeval and Other Times
- Księgi Jakubowe (The Books of Jacob)

**The Swedish Academy has announced two Nobel literature awards after a sexual assault scandal forced a postponement of the 2018 prize**



**2018 Prize:** Polish writer *Olga Tokarczuk* "for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life"

**2019 Prize:** Austrian author *Peter Handke* "for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience"

**RECENT LAUREATES**

● 2017: Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>UK</i>	● 2014: Patrick Modiano, <i>France</i>
● 2016: Bob Dylan, <i>U.S.</i>	● 2013: Alice Munro, <i>Canada</i>
● 2015: Svetlana Alexievich, <i>Belarus</i>	● 2012: Mo Yan, <i>China</i>

## SPORTS

### Mary Kom – 8th Gold Medal

- ❖ Six-time champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) has surpassed herself as the most successful boxer in the Women's World Championship history.
- ❖ She has secured an unprecedented eighth medal.
- ❖ The third-seeded Mary Kom defeated Colombia's Valencia Victoria.
- ❖ Manju Rani (48kg) and Jamuna Boro (54kg) have also entered semi-finals.

