

September - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ For the first Time, Sudha Painuli, a vice-principal of Kalsi, Dehradun, Uttarakhand's Eklavya Model Residential School, has been selected for National Award to Teachers (NAT) 2020.
- ❖ Isha and Akash Ambani have been included by Fortune Magazine in the '40 under 40' list of the most influential young leaders for the year under the technology section.
- ❖ Aweek Sarkar, the Editor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications, has been elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India.
- ❖ Current Pope Francis is set to release the book "Let Us Dream" in December 2020.

NATIONAL

Water Heroes contest

- ❖ The Water Heroes contest was launched by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ The main aim of the contest is to reach out to people with messages of water conservation and management.
- ❖ The entries of water conservation would be invited to share their success stories.
- ❖ This is to be done through video of 1-5 minutes along with a write up of 300 words.
- ❖ Of these, 10 entries are to be invited for awards.





INTERNATIONAL

G-20 Foreign Ministers meet

- ❖ Saudi Arabia recently hosted the G-20 foreign ministers' meet focusing on cross border movement amidst the pandemic.
- ❖ During the meet, India proposed development of G-20 Principles on Coordinated Cross border movement of people.
- ❖ The proposed principles are based on three elements. They are as follows
 - Standardisation of Quarantine procedures
 - Standardisation of testing procedures and universal acceptability of test results
 - Standardisation of movement and transit protocols

India to host Summit of SCO Council

- ❖ India is to host a summit of council of heads of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) on November 30, 2020.
- ❖ India was an observer of SCO till 2005.
- ❖ It became a member in 2017 along with Pakistan.
- ❖ India wants to expand its cooperation with SCO to increase its trade in the central Asian region.
- ❖ This is to be achieved through India's Connect Central Asia Policy.

Annual report on Chinese Military power

- ❖ The United States recently published an annual report on Chinese Military power.
- ❖ According to the report, the Chinese Navy is now the largest in the world.
- ❖ The report says that the overall battle force of China is approximately 350 ships and submarines.
- ❖ This includes 130 major surface combatants.
- ❖ On the hand the US Navy has approximately 293 ships as of early 2020.

Other highlights

- ❖ The Western theatre command of china is oriented towards India.
- ❖ The official budget allocated by china annually is 174.4 billion USD.
- ❖ On the other hand, India allocated 61.7 billion USD.

- ❖ China aims to build world class military by 2049.
- ❖ The Chinese define world class military as a military force that is superior to the United States.
- ❖ China has increased the participation of armed forces at STRIDE in the last two years.
- ❖ China is to supply 8 Yuan class diesel-electric submarines and other weapons and build naval platforms in Pakistan.

The Little book of green nudges

- ❖ A new publication “The Little Book of Green Nudges” has been launched by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ The newly launched publication seeks to encourage around 200 million students around the world to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- ❖ It is a UNEP’s first on behavioural science and nudge theory.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Signal - GW19052

- ❖ The LIGO and Virgo Gravity Wave Observatory confirmed that the largest double black hole fusion which was detected in 2019.
- ❖ The signal has been named GW190521 and likely represented the instant that the two black holes merged.
- ❖ The masses of the two black holes were 66 and 85 times that of the Sun.
- ❖ And they eventually merged into a black hole with a mass of 142 times that of the Sun.



- ❖ The black hole with 85 solar masses falls in an “intermediate-mass” range (first-ever to be observed)
- ❖ It defies the traditional knowledge of how black holes are formed.
- ❖ A solar mass is the mass of the sun or more precisely.
- ❖ It is 1.989×10^{30} kilograms, which is equivalent to about 333,000 Earths.
- ❖ Black holes 100-100,000 times the mass of the sun are called intermediate mass black holes.

ENVIRONMENT

New species of freshwater fish

- ❖ New species of freshwater fish named *Systemus gracilus* was found by researchers from Kerala and West Bengal from Ganga in West Bengal.
- ❖ This edible fish has a reddish-white, thin and compressed body.
- ❖ It can be cultured in inland waterbodies.

MISCELLANEOUS

From Insights to Actions: Gender Equality in the wake of COVID-19 report

- ❖ It is released by UN Women and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❖ It states that the COVID-19 pandemic will have negative impacts on the women and will increase the poverty rate of women and widen the gap between men and women in poverty.
- ❖ The pre-pandemic female poverty rate in South Asia was projected to be 10 per cent in 2021 but is now expected to reach 13 per cent.
- ❖ The pandemic is expected to reverse the progress made to eradicate poverty by the end of this decade and push around 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021 of which around 47 million will be women and girls.
- ❖ International Labour Organisation estimates that by June 2020, around 72% of the domestic workers had lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

