



**February – 20**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Proposal for allotment of land to Pasteur Institute of India (PII) for establishment of New Viral Vaccine Manufacturing Unit at Coonoor, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Vice Admiral SN Gharmade took charge as the Chief of Staff at Eastern Naval Command, Vishakhapatnam.
- ❖ The Finance Ministry inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana on 15th February 2019 which is a pension scheme for the labours, associated in the unorganized sector.
- ❖ Government of India, Government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank signed a \$40 million loan agreement to help bring clean and reliable drinking water to the citizens of the Greater Shimla area.
- ❖ Ahead of World Hearing Day (March 3), WHO and International Trade Union have issued a new international standard regarding fabricating and utilization of musical devices, which includes smart phones.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Swachhata Excellence Awards 2019**

- ❖ Shehri Samridhi Utsav was organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) from 1st – 15th February 2019.





- ❖ During the event totally 40 awards were distributed to the Area Level Federations (ALFs), City Livelihoods Federations (CLFs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- ❖ Raigarh Municipal Corporation of Chhattisgarh has won the “Swachhata Excellence awards 2019”.
- ❖ The municipal corporations of Ambikapur of Chhattisgarh and Kumbakonam of Tamil Nadu have bagged the second and third prizes respectively.

### **Exercise Vayu Shakti - 2019**

- ❖ The Indian Air Force carried out a mega exercise involving 140 fighter jets and attack helicopters, in a firepower demonstration close to the border with Pakistan at Pokhran in Rajasthan.
- ❖ In this Vayu Shakti exercise, the IAF showcased firepower capability of indigenously-developed platforms like Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and Akash surface-to-air missile and Astra air-to-air missile.

### **North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre (NKAFC)**

- ❖ The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre (NKAFC) at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Dharwad, Karnataka.
- ❖ It is an India's first agro-met forecast centre.
- ❖ The main objective of the centre is to give accurate reports on weather which would enable the farmers to protect the crops and get good yield.
- ❖ It will also educate farmers on how to manage the crops in different weather conditions and plan their actions in advance.

### **International Dam Safety Conference 2019**

- ❖ Two-day long 5<sup>th</sup> International Dam Safety Conference 2019 was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The conference was a part of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) assisted by World Bank envisages rehabilitation of 223 dams in seven States.



- ❖ 26 large dams in Odisha are covered under DRIP for rehabilitation including construction of an additional spill way for the Hirakud dam at Rs 600 crores.



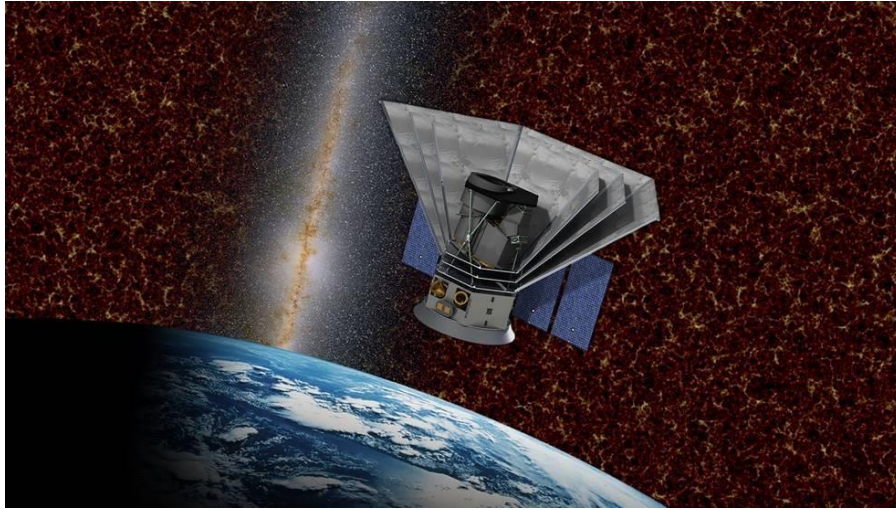
### **Second ordinance on triple talaq**

- ❖ The Cabinet has given its nod to the Triple Talaq ordinance.
- ❖ The ordinance makes the practice of instant triple talaq by Muslim men a penal offence.
- ❖ The bill which seeks to make the practice of talaq-e-biddat void is pending in Rajya Sabha and will lapse on 3 June when the Lok Sabha dissolves.
- ❖ Once signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, the triple talaq ordinance will come into force for the third time in less than one year.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **SPHEREx mission**

- ❖ NASA is launching an ambitious new mission SPHEREx to map the entire sky in order to understand the origins of the universe.
- ❖ SPHEREx stands for Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer.
- ❖ This mission will be launched in 2023.



### **PMAY (U) Mobile Application**

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (Independent Charge) Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna – Urban (PMAY-U) mobile application at New Delhi.
- ❖ This App will allow beneficiaries to capture and upload high resolution photographs of completed houses along with their families.
- ❖ It also allows uploading of selfies of beneficiaries with their house and a 30 - 60 seconds video clip where beneficiaries share their stories of owning a house under PMAY (U).

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Pacts - India's river rejuvenation project**

- ❖ 3 European countries signed agreements with India to support the country's river rejuvenation project under the India-EU water partnership (IEWP) framework.
- ❖ This pact will enable the implementation of EU innovative technologies for the river rejuvenation programme.
- ❖ MoUs were exchanged between the IEWP and Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, international organisations as well as IIT Kanpur at the 4th EU India Water Forum (IWF).



- ❖ 4th EU India Water Forum (IWF) was hosted by the IEWP and TERI as part of the World Sustainable Development Summit, New Delhi.

## STATES

### First District Cooling System of India

- ❖ India's First District cooling system will come up in Amravati, capital of the Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ UAE-based international cooling provider (Tabreed) has entered into a 30-year agreement with AP government to build, own, operate and transfer district cooling system.
- ❖ District cooling systems produce chilled water, steam or hot water at a central plant and then pipe that energy out to buildings for air conditioning.
- ❖ The system will meet cooling requirements for the State's Assembly, High Court, Secretariat and other government buildings.
- ❖ This district cooling uses only 50 % of primary energy consumption for cooling urban buildings.
- ❖ It also reduces carbon emissions.

### Pension schemes for senior citizens

- ❖ Bihar govt's Current old age pension scheme is applicable to only the BPL (Below Poverty Line) category.
- ❖ In this situation, the following new old age pension schemes has been introduced to cover all old-age persons.
- ❖ Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna- MVPY
  - CM announced a universal old age pension scheme Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna- MVPY for all people above 60 years of age.
  - For this scheme, all will be eligible for 400 rupees monthly pension irrespective of caste, religion or community except those senior citizens who have retired from government service.
- ❖ Bihar Patrakar Samman Yojana (BPSY)
  - CM also announced a pension of 6,000 rupees for journalists above 60 years of age.



- Those who have been in regular service in the field of media and not getting any other pension will be eligible for Bihar Patrakar Samman Yojana (BPSY).
- ❖ Both schemes will be implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

-----