

**March – 26**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Founder and Chairman of Jet Airways, Naresh Goyal and his wife stepped down from being board members as part of the plan to save the embattled airlines from going bankrupt.
- ❖ Ramco Cements has won Excellent Corporate Governance Award and its Ariyalur unit won gold medal in Indian Green Manufacturing Challenge organised by International Research Institute for Manufacturing.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Ancient port city Poempuhar**

- ❖ The Department of Remote Sensing, Bharathidasan University will conduct a research project to trace the history of the ancient port city Poempuhar.
- ❖ This program is funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ❖ Cauvery Poempattinam or Poempuhar was an ancient port city established by the Chola dynasty at the mouth of the Cauvery during Sangam period.



- ❖ It had trade links with Asian, Arabian and Mediterranean countries.

- ❖ There are elaborate narrations in the Sangam and post-Sangam literature such as Silapathigaram and Manimekalai about Poompuhar.
- ❖ But around AD 1100, it seems to have become defunct all of a sudden.
- ❖ This research program aims to bring out the socio-cultural evolution of the ancient Tamils in this country and the history of Poompuhar as well.

## NATIONAL

### **New Subjects – CBSE**

- ❖ With an aim to boost the analytical ability, physical and mental health of the students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce 3 new subjects in school curriculum.
  - Artificial intelligence (AI)
  - Early childhood care education and
  - Yoga

### **Chinook Helicopters**

- ❖ The Indian Air Force inducted four heavy-lift CH-47 Chinook choppers.
- ❖ The choppers were inducted by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa in Chandigarh.
- ❖ They will be used for various military purposes including deploying of troops and machinery at high-altitude locations along the India-Pakistan border.



- ❖ Along with military operations, they can also be used for disaster relief, search and recovery operations, medical, evacuation, fire-fighting and civil development.

- ❖ The Boeing CH-47 Chinook is an American twin-engined helicopter jointly developed by US company Vertol and Boeing Rotorcraft Systems.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Italy signs Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- ❖ Italy endorsed China's ambitious "Belt and Road" infrastructure plan, becoming the first major Western power to back the initiative.
- ❖ Italy is the thirteenth European Union country but the first G7 country to join China's Belt Road Initiative.
- ❖ The agreement is seen as a trade-off wherein Italy needs investment and China has those investment to provide.

### Belt and Road Initiative

- ❖ BRI is a development strategy adopted by the Chinese government involving infrastructure development and investments in 152 countries and international organizations in Europe, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and Africa.



- ❖ It is also known as the One Belt One Road (OBOR) or the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road.

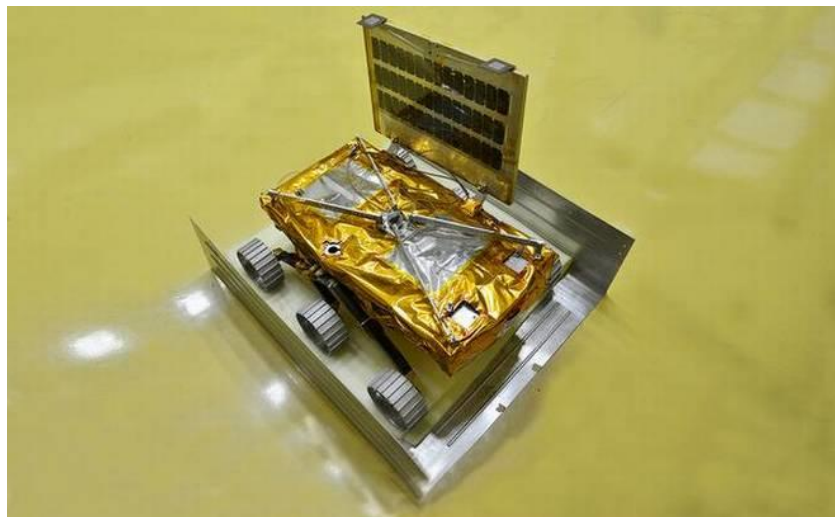
## Defeat of the ISIS

- ❖ The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) backed by the US has defeated the International terrorist group ISIS, by capturing the last piece of the territory Baghouz in Syria.
- ❖ ISIS captured and commanded large swathes of land in Iraq and Syria at its peak.
- ❖ ISIS members and sympathisers were responsible for numerous attacks and deaths worldwide.
- ❖ ISIS was founded by Global terrorist Abu bakr-al Baghdadi.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Chandrayaan 2

- ❖ India's lunar mission Chandrayaan 2, scheduled to launch next month, will carry NASA's laser instruments that allow scientists to make precise measurements of the distance to the Moon.



- ❖ Indian mission carries the NASA-owned laser retroreflector arrays.
- ❖ Retroreflectors are sophisticated mirrors, that reflect laser light signals sent from the Earth.
- ❖ The signals can help pinpoint precisely where the lander is, which scientists can use to precisely calculate the Moon's distance from Earth.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Global Energy Transition index

- ❖ World Economic Forum has released a report titled the Energy Transition Index (ETI), which compares the energy sectors of 115 countries and analyses their readiness for energy transition.



### Top 10 Countries

#### Energy Transition Index 2019<sup>1</sup>

	Score	Rank
Sweden	74.9%	1
Switzerland	74.3%	2
Norway	73.4%	3
Finland	73.0%	4
Denmark	72.2%	5
Austria	70.7%	6
United Kingdom	70.2%	7
France	68.6%	8
Netherlands	68.5%	9
Iceland	68.5%	10

**Note 1:** The Energy Transition Index benchmarks countries on the performance of their energy system, as well as their readiness for transition to a secure, sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy future. ETI 2019 score on a scale from 0 to 100%.

**Source:** Fostering Effective Energy Transition Report 2019, World Economic Forum

- ❖ India has moved up two places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index.
- ❖ Rankings are based on how well countries are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability.
- ❖ Sweden tops the list.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Templeton Prize 2019

- ❖ Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser has been awarded the 2019 Templeton Prize for his work blending science and spirituality.
- ❖ Templeton Prize was established in 1972 by the late Sir John Templeton.



- ❖ This honours a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to life's spiritual dimension through insight, discovery, or practical works.

### **Global Teacher Prize 2019**

- ❖ A science teacher from rural Kenya, Peter Tabichi, has won the prestigious 2019 global teacher prize.
- ❖ He is the first teacher in Africa to win the \$1 million award.



- ❖ The prize is awarded by the Varkey Foundation under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.
- ❖ This award aims to recognize teachers who have been exceptional in their work and who try to improve the standards of education.

### **Vice Admiral Karambir Singh**

- ❖ The Defence Ministry announced appointment of Vice Admiral Karambir Singh as the next Navy Chief.
- ❖ He is famous for heading Project Seabird – the building of new naval base at Karwar.
- ❖ In his earlier appointment as the Eastern Naval Commander, he was responsible for commanding the twin nuclear assets of the Indian Navy.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **The Independence Day of Bangladesh – March 26**

- ❖ Bangladesh celebrates its Independence Day on March 26.
- ❖ It commemorates Bangladesh's declaration of independence from Pakistan in the late hours of 25 March 1971.
- ❖ Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the founding father of independent Bangladesh.

### **World Purple Day - March 26**

- ❖ Purple day is celebrated with an aim to increase worldwide awareness of epilepsy, and to dispel common myths and fears of this neurological disorder.
- ❖ Purple day commemoration tries to reduce the social stigmas commonly endured by many individuals afflicted with the condition.



- ❖ The first Purple Day event was held on March 26, 2008.
- ❖ The goal of Purple Day is to increase general public awareness, and to empower individuals living with epilepsy to take action in their communities.

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