

**December – 16**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Manika Batra won the 'Breakthrough Table Tennis Star' award at the prestigious International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Star Awards in Incheon, South Korea.
  - With this, she became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Table Tennis player to be decorated with this award.
- ❖ NITI Aayog in partnership with a Singapore based AI start-up 'Perlin' launches 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon' to develop AI (Artificial Intelligence) Applications to make significant positive social and economic impact in India.
- ❖ The Indian Skipper Virat Kohli became the first Indian captain to win a Test in South Africa, England and Australia after defeating Australia by 31 runs in the First Test Match of the Four Match Test Series at Adelaide.
  - The Former Indian Captains Rahul Dravid and MS Dhoni won Test matches as Captains in England and South Africa but not in Australia.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Government raises NPS contribution**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has decided to raise the contribution of Central Government to National Pension System (NPS) corpus of its employees from 10% to 14%.
- ❖ This will increase in eventual accumulated corpus of all central government employees covered by the NPS.
- ❖ The Government also has decided to make the NPS fully tax free, making it on par with the Provident Fund Scheme.

### **Ex Aviaindra 2018**

- ❖ The service specific exercise AVIAINDRA between the Indian Air Force and the Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF) was held at the Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The aim of this exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist operations in bi-lateral scenario.

- ❖ The inaugural IAF-RFSAF Ex AVIAINDRA was conducted in 2014.
- ❖ The exercise is unique wherein the foreign participant does not bring its air assets.
- ❖ The EX AVIAINDRA-2018 is the 2nd in the series of bilateral joint exercise, which is planned in two phases between India and Russia.

### **First ever Agriculture Export Policy 2018**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the first ever Agriculture Export Policy, 2018 with the aim to double farmer's income by 2022.
- ❖ It has also approved the proposal for the establishment of Monitoring Framework at Centre with the Ministry of Commerce as the nodal Department to oversee the implementation of Agriculture Export Policy.
- ❖ The Commerce Ministry has formulated the India's 1st ever Agricultural Export Policy with a focused plan to boost India's agricultural exports to USD 60 billion by 2022.
- ❖ As per the policy, a corpus of USD 1 billion has been created to boost 12 champion sectors in services.
- ❖ The recommendations in the Agriculture Export Policy have been organised in two categories
  - Strategic and
  - Operational.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **UN Migration Deal 2018**

- ❖ The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was adopted by 164 nations including India at Intergovernmental Conference.
- ❖ The Conference was held under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at Marrakesh, Morocco.
- ❖ The Conference was hosted by the Government of Morocco.
- ❖ It is the first intergovernmental agreement to cover wide-ranging dimensions of international migration.



- ❖ It was agreed upon by all the UN member states but the United States opposed it.
- ❖ It is a non-legally binding and co-operative framework fully respecting the sovereignty of all States.

### **Kazakhstan opens consulate in Gujarat**

- ❖ Kazakhstan opened a consulate in Gujarat to further the business partnership.
- ❖ The Honorary consulate will be headed by the businessman and Managing Director of the company Chandan Steel Limited, Dilip Chandan.
- ❖ The consulate was inaugurated on the eve of the 27th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **CROSS BOW-18**

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully concluded combined guided weapons firing of Surface-to-Air Missiles from the Air Force Station at Suryalanka in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It has conducted as part of a first-of-its-kind two-day exercise codenamed- CROSS BOW 18.
- ❖ The exercise was carried out for 3 days during the day and night in an integrated networked environment.
- ❖ In the exercise, successful firing of 4 different classes of missiles, like Akash, Spyder, OSA-AK-M and IGLA, took place.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Global Nutrition Report 2018**

- ❖ The WHO's (World Health Organization) Global Nutrition Report 2018, which has been released recently points out a wide variation in the stunting levels in different parts of the country.
- ❖ Nearly one-third of the World's 150.8 million stunted children (who have low height for age) under the age of 5, live in India.



- ❖ Globally 150.8 million children under five years are stunted and 50.5 million are wasted.
- ❖ With 46.6 million children who are stunted, India tops the list of countries followed by Nigeria (13.9 million) and Pakistan (10.7 million).
- ❖ With 25.5 million children who are wasted (low weight for height), India tops the list followed by Nigeria (3.4 million) and Indonesia (3.3 million).
- ❖ More than half of the world's children impacted by wasting (26.9 million) live in South Asia.
- ❖ 3 million Children in the world over are overweight, while 38.9 % of adults are overweight or obese.
- ❖ One third of all women of reproductive age have anaemia. Women also have a higher prevalence of obesity than men.

### **Global Nutrition Report**

- ❖ The Global Nutrition Report is the world's leading report on the state of global nutrition.
- ❖ The Global Nutrition Report came into existence following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013.

## **STATES**

### **Shi Yomi - 23rd district of Arunachal Pradesh**

- ❖ Shi Yomi formally became the 23rd district of Arunachal Pradesh after it was officially inaugurated by its Chief Minister Pema Khandu.
- ❖ It was created by bifurcating the West Siang district with its headquarters at Tato.
- ❖ Two more districts Pakke-Kesang and Lepa Rada will be formally inaugurated in the state, taking the total to 25.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Securities Appellate Tribunal Presiding Officer**

- ❖ Justice Tarun Agarwala, the retired Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, has been appointed as the presiding officer in the Securities Appellate Tribunal, Mumbai.

- ❖ He will remain the presiding officer for a period of five years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

### **Securities Appellate Tribunal**

- ❖ The Securities Appellate Tribunal is a statutory body.
- ❖ It is established under the provisions of Section 15K of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992.
- ❖ The tribunal is to hear and dispose of appeals against orders passed by the SEBI or by an adjudicating officer under the Act.

### **2018 Mister Supranational**

- ❖ Goa's Prathamesh Maulingkar has created history by becoming the first Asian/Indian to win the Mister Supranational title 2018.



- ❖ He won this coveted title after defeating 37 candidates in the 3rd edition of the competition held in Krynica-Zdroj, Poland.
- ❖ He was followed by Mr. Poland at 2nd position and Mr. Brazil at 3rd position.
- ❖ Mr. Brazil was also crowned with Mr. Popularity sash.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **China's richest man - Xu Jiayin**

- ❖ Evergrande Group owner Xu Jiayin has become the richest person in China with a \$36.7 billion net worth, overtaking Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma.



- ❖ The Forbes "real-time ranking" of the world's billionaires places Xu at number 20, one spot ahead of Jack Ma and two ahead of Huateng.

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