

**January – 26**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Wasim Jaffer, the veteran cricketer became the only batsman to score 1,000 runs in 2 separate seasons of Ranji Trophy cricket. Jaffer made his first-class debut in 1996-97.
  - He is also highest capped player in Ranji Trophy cricket.
- ❖ The SBI Ecowrap report recommends the government to opt for the unconditional cash transfer to farmers to alleviate agrarian distress rather than Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme.
- ❖ India's premier container port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has become India's only port to get listed among the top 30 global container ports in Top 100 Container Ports report.
  - JNPT has notched up five spots, to be 28th on the list, compared to its previous ranking.

## **NATIONAL**

### **IMBEX 2018-19**

- ❖ The 2nd edition of India-Myanmar bilateral Army exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19' was held at Chandi Mandir military station in Haryana.
- ❖ The aim of this joint training programme is to train the Myanmar delegation for participation in UN peace keeping operations under the UN flag.
- ❖ The Indian Army has a rich experience of serving in UN peace keeping operations, being the foremost troop contributing country in the world body.

### **'in-chamber' decision on listing of plea challenging Article 35-A**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has announced that it would take 'in-chamber' decision on listing of plea challenging Article 35-A.
- ❖ A petition has been filed by NGO 'We The Citizens' challenging the constitutional validity of both Article 35A and Article 370.



## The genesis

A look at Article 35A, whose constitutional validity has been challenged in the Supreme Court

- **Article 35A** was incorporated into the Constitution by a Presidential order on the advice of the Cabinet in 1954
- **The order of 1954** followed the 1952 Delhi Agreement between Jawaharlal Nehru and the then J&K Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah, which extended Indian citizenship to the 'State subjects' of J&K
- **Article 35A** bars a non-J&K resident from buying property in the State and ensures job reservation; State decides permanent residents



- ❖ 'In-chamber' decision refers to a process of decision making where the orders are issued from the Justice's chambers without a formal court proceeding.

## Article 35-A

**Article 35A** of the Indian Constitution is an article that empowers the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define "permanent residents" of the state and provide special rights and privileges to those permanent residents. It was added to the Constitution through a Presidential Order.

## Exercise SEA VIGIL

- ❖ The Indian Navy has commenced its largest-ever coastal defence exercise - 'Sea Vigil'-off the Indian coast, ten years after the "26/11" attack.

'SEA VIGIL' FOR COASTAL SECURITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exercise being undertaken along the entire <b>7516.6km coastline</b> and Exclusive Economic Zone of India</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Aims to comprehensively and holistically validate the efficacy of the measures taken for coastal defence since 26/11</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It will provide a realistic assessment of our strengths and weaknesses</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mock drills and simulation of terror attacks will be conducted on Wednesday</li> </ul>	

- ❖ Navy had undertaken biannual coastal security exercises at the level of states previously.
- ❖ But it is for the first time an exercise involving all coastal states, island territories and all central and state agencies has been undertaken.
- ❖ The exercise is a build up towards the major theatre level tri-service exercise TROPEX which Indian Navy conducts every 2 years.

- ❖ It aims to comprehensively and holistically validate the efficacy of the measures taken since the '26/11' attack in Mumbai.

### **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2019**

- ❖ President conferred Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2019 to 30 awardees.
- ❖ The awards were conferred during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas being held at Varanasi.
- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians.
- ❖ The winner of this prestigious award includes
  - Gita Gopinath - Chief economist of IMF
  - Chandra Shekhar Mishra - senior scientist (Instrumental in 2015 India-US S&T relationship)
  - Girish Pant – (social worker - instrumental in rescuing several Indian sailors stranded in UAE waters)
- ❖ Every year since 2003 till 2015, 15 PBSAs were awarded during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention.
- ❖ Since 2015, PBD Convention is being held Biennially and the number of PBSAs have been increased to 30.

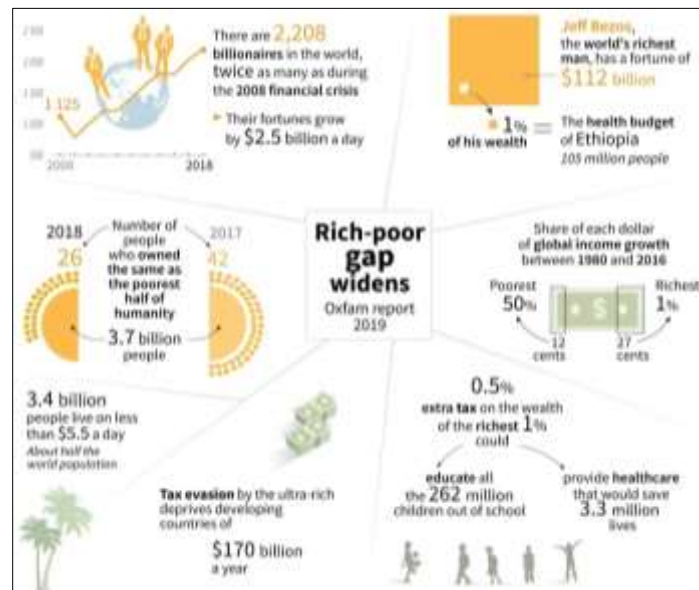
## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Oxfam Annual Wealth Check report 2019**

- ❖ The Annual Wealth Check report 2019 of Oxfam has been released marking the start of the World Economic Forum in Davos.
- ❖ 26 richest billionaires own as many assets as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of the world.
- ❖ The rich had grown richer and the poor poorer in 2018 and the widening gap is hindering the fight against poverty.
- ❖ The number of billionaires has doubled during the last 10 years. A new billionaire was being created every two days in 2017-2018.
- ❖ The top 1% of India's richest lot got richer by 39% as against just 3% increase in the wealth for the bottom half of the population.



- ❖ The wealth of the Indian billionaires witnessed an increase by Rs 2,200 crore a day last year.
- ❖ Top 10% of the richest population in India holds 77.4% of the total national wealth.



## ECONOMY

### Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal

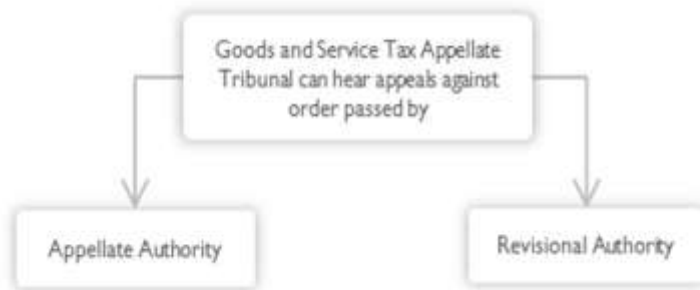
- ❖ Cabinet has approved creation of National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).

#### The features of the GSTAT

- ❖ The National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal will be situated in New Delhi.
- ❖ It will be Presided over by its President and shall consist of one Technical Member (Centre) and one Technical Member (State).
- ❖ It is the forum of second appeal in GST laws and the first common forum of dispute resolution between Centre and States.
- ❖ The appeals against the orders in first appeals issued by the Appellate Authorities under the Central and State GST Acts lie before the GSTAT.
- ❖ GSTAT will ensure that there is uniformity in redressal of disputes arising under GST, and therefore, in implementation of GST across the country.



### Section 109 (I) Goods and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal



**Second Appeal**

A new GST appellate tribunal to be set up soon

GST Council has cleared setting up of the tribunal

Three regional benches at Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai

**How does it help**

Forum for the businesses for redressal of their disputes

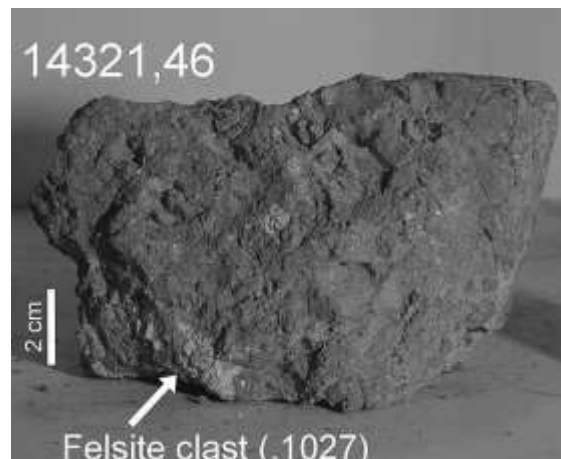
Hear appeal against appellate authorities or orders from revisional authorities

It will help bring consistency by reconciling different interpretations

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Earth's oldest rock found in Moon Sample

- ❖ Scientists discovered the oldest Earth rock on the Moon, which is found from the lunar sample bought by the Apollo 14 astronauts in February 1971.
- ❖ This rock was formed between 4 and 4.1 billion years ago, about 12.4 miles beneath the Earth's crust.
- ❖ The 2-gram fragment of rock was composed of quartz, feldspar, and zircon -- all commonly found on Earth and highly unusual on the Moon.





## STATES

### **Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival declared State Festival**

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister has declared Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) as the “State Festival”.
- ❖ Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) is only conservation festival of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ He announced that Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department will fund the festival from 2020.
- ❖ The PPHF festival was celebrated first time in 2015 to recognize the role played by the resident Nyishi tribe in conserving hornbills in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR).

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **National Voters Day 2019 – 25 January**

- ❖ India is celebrating 9th National Voters Day on 25th January 2019 for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process.



- ❖ The theme of this year's National Voters Day (NVD) is 'No voter to be left behind'.
- ❖ The Day is celebrated all over the country every year since 2011 to mark the Foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on 25th January 1950.

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