

February – 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ As per the recent ranking, Tamil Nadu is ranked at 18th in implementing the self-employment programme under the Centre's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat occupy the top two places among the 27 states.
 - Last year TN was ranked at 4th under the same category.
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved indigenous construction of six submarines for the Indian Navy under Project 75(I). This is the second project under the Ministry of Defence's ambitious Strategic Partnership (SP) model.
- ❖ Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra assumed the office of Director General of NCC (DGNCC).
- ❖ New Campus of the National Museum Institute was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development Praksh Javedkar at NOIDA in Delhi.
- ❖ 3rd International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition, being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, is all set to be inaugurated on February 10, 2019.
- ❖ High Level Committee chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, approved the additional Central assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) of Rs 7214.03 crore to 6 States and one Union Territory.
 - Assisted states are Himachal Pradesh (floods & landslides), Uttar Pradesh (floods), Andhra Pradesh (drought), Gujarat (drought), Karnataka (drought), Maharashtra (drought) and UT of Puducherry (cyclone).
- ❖ The Prime Minister dedicated the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial at Dandi in Navsari district, Gujarat to the nation on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary day.
 - He also unveiled statues of Gandhi and 80 Satyagrahis who had marched with him during the historic Dandi Salt March in 1930 at the memorial site.
- ❖ The celebration of 'Bharat Parv' concluded at Red Fort of Delhi in the presence of Union Tourism Minister Alphons Kannanthanam which is held from 26th to 31st January, 2019.
 - It is aimed to generate a patriotic fervour and promote the rich cultural diversity of the country.



- ❖ India received the Award of Excellence for 'Best in Show' at the recently concluded New York Times Travel Show 2019, the largest travel show in New York, USA.

NATIONAL

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of another 4,78,670 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- ❖ This approval was given in the 42nd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee.
- ❖ The cumulative number of houses sanctioned under PMAY (U) now is 72,65,763.

Name change of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)

- ❖ The government has notified changing the name of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, and has enhanced its role.
- ❖ The notification has also included four new categories of responsibilities to the renamed body.
 - The promotion of internal trade (including retail trade)
 - The welfare of traders and their employees
 - Matters relating to facilitating Ease of Doing Business
 - Matters relating to start-ups.

The Future of Rail report

- ❖ The Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal launched the "The Future of Rail" report of the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ❖ "The Future of Rail" is the first-of-a-kind report that analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world through the perspective of its energy and environmental implications.
- ❖ The report reviews the impact of existing plans and regulations on the future of rail.

International Energy Agency (IEA)

- ❖ IEA is an inter-governmental organisation that works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 30-member countries and 8 association countries.
- ❖ It was established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1974.
- ❖ Its mission is guided by four main areas of focus: energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide.

First Swadesh Darshan project

- ❖ The Union Minister for Tourism Alphons Kannanthanam inaugurated the project “Development of North East Circuit” in Gangtok, Sikkim.
- ❖ The project is implemented under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism and it is the first ever project in Sikkim under the scheme.
- ❖ Under this project, the Ministry has developed tourism infrastructure facilities like Tourist Information Centre, Meditation Centre, Organic Eco Tourism centre, Log Huts, Last Mile Connectivity, Parking, Public Toilets etc.



ECONOMICS

First Revised Estimates of 2017-18

- ❖ The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation for the financial year 2017-18.
- ❖ Along with this, the Second Revised Estimates for the financial year 2016-17 and the Third Revised Estimates for the financial year 2015-16 (with Base Year 2011-12) also are released as per the revision policy.

Salient features of the Estimates

- ❖ Nominal GDP or GDP at current prices is exhibiting a growth of 11.3 per cent during 2017-18 as against 11.5 per cent during 2016-17.
- ❖ Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices is showing growth of 7.2 per cent during 2017-18 and 8.2 per cent during 2016-17.
- ❖ Nominal Net National Income (NNI) at current prices is showing an increase of 11.3 per cent during 2017-18 as against an increase of 11.8 per cent in the previous year.
- ❖ Gross National Disposable Income (GNDI) at current prices is showing a growth of 11.2 per cent in 2017-18 as against 11.0 per cent in 2016-17.

ENVIRONMENT

Polar vortex

- ❖ Many parts of the northern United States are experiencing record cold temperatures during the first week of February, attributed to the polar vortex.
- ❖ Polar vortex is a band of strong winds high in the atmosphere around the north pole that normally keeps bitterly cold air locked around the Arctic region.
- ❖ They are called 'vortexes' because of the mass of cold, dense air that spins counter-clockwise like a hurricane.
- ❖ Normally, the cold air remains in the far north.
- ❖ However, higher temperatures than usual in the Arctic region have forced it to travel south.
- ❖ The vortex has broken into two air masses, with one sitting over North America and the other over Europe and northern Asia.



- ❖ It is capable of delivering sub-zero temperatures in the new areas for several days at a time.
- ❖ 2014 polar vortex was notable because it recurred throughout the winter months.

STATES

Golden Langur Conservation Breeding Program - Assam

- ❖ The Assam Environment and Forest Minister Pramila Rani Brahma announced the success of the Golden Langur Conservation Breeding Program in the State.
- ❖ Purpose of this program is to breed langurs which is currently placed in endangered category, so that they can be repopulated in the wild.



- ❖ Golden Langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) was discovered in 1953 by naturalist E.P. Gee.
- ❖ These langurs are arboreal leaf-eating monkeys.
- ❖ It is only found in the forests in Assam (primarily in the areas of the Manas Biosphere Reserve) and Bhutan.



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