



**February– 04**

## **TNPSC BITS**

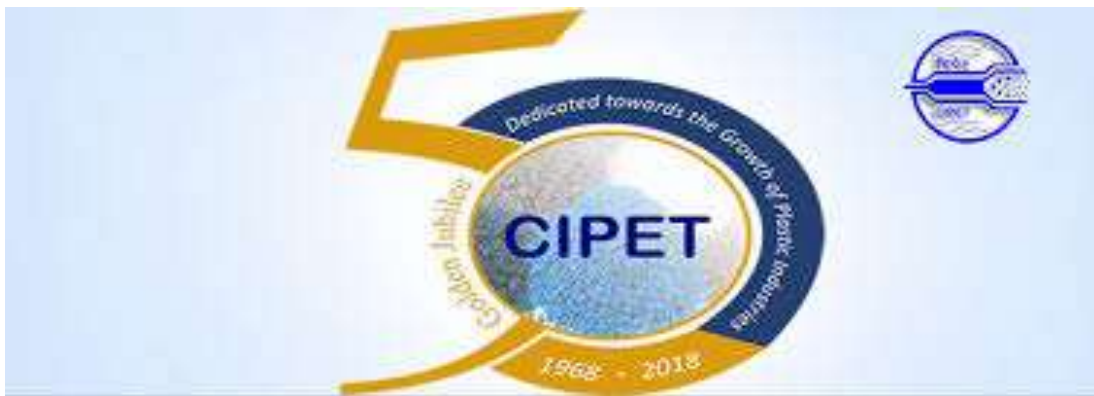
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) selected 10 companies jointly with the NITI-Aayog from a list of 141 companies for transfer of its Lithium-ion cells technology developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thumba in Thiruvananthapuram.
  - These Li-ion batteries are originally developed for use in launch vehicles and satellites.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund has cut its forecast for world economic growth this year, citing heightened trade tensions and rising U.S. interest rates. It has lowered the growth rate in its World Economic Outlook, projecting the world's economy will expand 3.5 per cent for 2019, and 3.6 per cent in 2020.
  - This is 0.2 and 0.1 per cent lower than last October's forecast, respectively.
- ❖ According to World Steel Association's report, India has replaced Japan as world's second largest steel producing country.
  - India's steel production was at 106.5 MT in 2018. It went up by 4.9 % from 101.5 MT in 2017.
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs appointed 1993 batch IFS Officer Sanjiv Ranjan who is current Ambassador to Argentina as the new Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia.
- ❖ The Government reduced the import duty on parts and components of electric vehicles to 10-15 per cent from 15-30 per cent in order to promote domestic assembling of electric vehicles.
  - The new rates will come into effect from 30th January 2019.
- ❖ 36 years old India's Women Cricket team captain, Mithali Raj became the first female player to play 200 ODIs during the 3rd and Final ODI against New Zealand.
- ❖ Golfer Vani Kapoor has become the first Indian to grab Australian Ladies PGA Tour (LPGA) after securing 12<sup>th</sup> Rank tied with three others in the first ever qualifying tournament at the Ballarat Golf Club in Australia.



## Tamilnadu

### CIPET - Golden Jubilee

- ❖ The Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET), an organization devoted to development of plastics and allied industries celebrated its Golden Jubilee (50 years) Celebrations.
- ❖ The Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) was established in 1968 with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Chennai.



- ❖ International Labour Organization (ILO) served as the executing agency.
- ❖ It was the first institution in the country in the area of plastics under the aegis of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India.
- ❖ It is devoted to Skill Development, Technology Support Services, Academic and Research (STAR).
- ❖ Headquartered at Chennai, CIPET operates from various locations spread across the country catering to the needs of Polymer and allied industries.

## NATIONAL

### Swachh Bharat Grand Challenge Award

- ❖ As part of the Swachhta Pakhwada held from 1-15<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) organized a Swachh Bharat Grand Challenge.
- ❖ This was organized to reward innovative solutions by DIPP recognized Start-ups in the country.



- ❖ The following four areas were selected for the grand challenge
  - Sanitation
  - Waste Management
  - Water and Wastewater management
  - Air Management



### **CDSCO's safety guidelines for Isotretinoin**

- ❖ The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has issued safety guidelines for Isotretinoin, an oral drug, which is used in the treatment of severe acne.
- ❖ It stated that the Drug Controllers of all the States and Union Territories have to monitor the sale, manufacture and distribution of Isotretinoin.
- ❖ Isotretinoin can cause birth defects in progeny if not taken without proper guidance.
- ❖ Isotretinoin may be sold by retailers only against a dermatologist's prescription.

### **Committee to explore prepaid payments**

- ❖ The Government has constituted a committee under the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to explore prepaid payments by state electricity distribution companies to power plants.
- ❖ This committee constitutes chairmen of distribution companies of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, representatives from Union power ministry and power associations.
- ❖ It will look into problems of delayed payments from distribution companies to power generators.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **International conference on 8th century sage**

- ❖ Two-day international conference on 8<sup>th</sup> century Himalayan sage Guru Padmasambhava was held at New Delhi to mark the 50-years of formalization of diplomatic ties between India and Bhutan.
- ❖ This conference was organised by the Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP) and was titled 'Life and Legacy of Guru Padmasambhava.'
- ❖ Scholars from both countries participated in the conference and discussed about the Guru who was born in India and moved towards Bhutan in the 8th century to spread Buddhism and Buddhist teachings all across the Himalayan region.

## **ECONOMY**

### **RBI Lifted up restrictions on 3 banks**

- ❖ RBI eased out the operational curbs on three banks, Bank of India (BoI), Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and also allowed them to have an exit from the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework fully.
- ❖ These 3 lenders were among the 11 public sector banks that were put under the so-called PCA framework that placed restrictions on extending big loans, distributing dividends, and expanding the branch networks.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Global warming's impact on El Nino in 2019

- ❖ According to the recent reports, El Nino is forecasted to give a rise in vector-borne diseases, including those spread by mosquitoes, in Central and South America.
- ❖ Also, drought caused by El Nino can be widespread, affecting southern Africa, India, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands.
- ❖ El Nino is a climatic chain characterized by high air pressure in the Western Pacific and low air pressure in the eastern pacific.
- ❖ El Nino occurs once in every 15 years and results in heavy drought, flood, dust and snow storm resulting in millions of dollar loss to the public in Tropical Pacific region.

## STATES

### Ban on import of pigs and piglets

- ❖ The Mizoram government has banned import of pigs and piglets to prevent outbreak of a disease that has cost the lives of thousands of swines in the state.
- ❖ The porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) has cost the lives of over 10,000 swines in Mizoram since 2013.
- ❖ It is believed that it happened due to import of pigs and piglets from Myanmar where the disease was known to be prevalent.
- ❖ PRRS disease is also called as Swine Flu.
- ❖ This disease generally transmitted from pigs and affects both pigs and humankind.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Award of Appreciation

- ❖ Rajiv Nath was conferred with the prestigious 'Award of Appreciation' by the Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey.
- ❖ He was honoured for his valuable, remarkable and outstanding achievements in the field of healthcare & community services for affordable Medtech access & patients safety initiatives.



- ❖ Rajiv Nath has also been appointed as the Member on Board of National Medical Devices Promotion Council by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Wetlands Day- February 2

- ❖ World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- ❖ This day marks the date of the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

**World  
Wetlands Day**  
2 February 2019



Wetlands and  
climate change

- ❖ WWD 2019 was celebrated with the Theme of “Wetlands and climate change”.
- ❖ This theme aims to highlight the important role played by wetlands, as natural solutions, in adapting and mitigating the impact of climate change.

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