



**February – 15**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Snegha Parthibaraja, a female lawyer has received an official certificate declaring that she does not belong to any caste or religion and become the first person in the entire country to get such certificate.
- ❖ An integrated, state-of-the-art multidisciplinary animal husbandry park (over 900 acres), the largest such facility in Asia, will be set up in Salem.
- ❖ The World Day of the Sick is a feast day of the Roman Catholic Church which was instituted on 13 May 1992 by Pope John Paul II beginning on 11 February 1993.
- ❖ Sibghatullah Mujadidi, Afghanistan's first president after the withdrawal of invading Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the collapse in 1992 of Kabul's pro-communist government, has died.
- ❖ 19-year-old Corentin Moutet of France defeated Andrew Harris of Australia in the singles final and won the title in Chennai Open ATP Challenger tennis tournament.
- ❖ Egyptian President, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has been elected as the chairman of the African Union (AU) at the continental body's summit in Ethiopia.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Migration support Centre in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ Odisha State government has opened a migration support centre in Tirupur.
- ❖ It will provide guidance and support to people who have migrated from Odisha to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This centre would mainly address the grievances of unskilled labourers trained under the DDU-GKY (Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana) scheme.
- ❖ It is the third centre set up by the Odisha government besides the two in the National Capital Region (NCR), Delhi, and Bengaluru.
- ❖ Odisha was the first to open such centre, mandated under the DDU-GKY scheme, in Tamil Nadu

### **UK India Social Innovation Challenge**

- ❖ Students from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras were bagging the first and third positions in the UK India Social Innovation Challenge.
- ❖ Second place went to a team from Kongu Engineering College, Erode.
- ❖ The competition was launched by the UK India Social Entrepreneurship Education Network (UKISEEN) and this year saw its second edition.
- ❖ Top-ranked projects are:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Recycling of demolished waste concrete using solar energy.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Eco-Friendly Construction blocks from Construction & Demolition Debris using the Innovative CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration Technique.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Catalytic Degradation of kraft lignin by Ultraviolet Light and Ultrasound.





## NATIONAL

### Schemes for improve Research Ecosystem

- ❖ Government has launched following schemes to improve the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions and to attract and retain young researchers.
- ❖ Prime Minister's Research Fellowship includes
  - To attract the bright and meritorious students into research within the country, attractive fellowship is given.
  - Selected students are given fellowship for 5 years
    - Rs.70,000/- per month for the first two years,
    - Rs. 75,000/- per month in the third year and
    - Rs.80,000 per month in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year with an annual research grant of Rs. 2 lakhs.
- ❖ Setting up of Research Parks:
  - Setting up of Research Parks at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Gandhinagar and IISc Bangalore.
- ❖ Impacting research in Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT).
- ❖ Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY)
  - It aims to promote innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the Industry and thereby improves the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing.
- ❖ Smart India Hackathons are being organized on yearly basis.
- ❖ Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) are established in 960 Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) for promoting innovation ecosystem within their campuses.
- ❖ Trainee Teacher Scheme had been initiated in NITs with the objective to attract, motivate and sponsor best graduate engineers for part time M.Tech and Ph.D. programmes.

## INTERNATIONAL

### World Government Summit 2019

- ❖ Seventh annual World Government Summit was held in Dubai (UAE).
- ❖ The three-day forum offers a platform to showcase various innovations and ideas in different emerging fields.
- ❖ The Summit is being attended by 4,000 decision-makers from 140 countries including heads of state, ministers and business leaders.
- ❖ In this summit “Best M-Government Award” in Gamification Service was awarded to India's Traffic Guru App.




## ENVIRONMENT

### Remotely operated boat to study oceans

- ❖ National Institute of Ocean Technology has developed Robo Boat, a remotely operated oceanic surface vehicle.
- ❖ It is fitted with ocean and atmospheric sensors.
- ❖ This 10x2 feet size boat can be operated from a remote location to measure ocean parameters close to large ice chunks, narrow streams and estuaries.



<b>ROBO BOAT</b> The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has designed and developed 'robo boat', a remotely operated surface vehicle		
<p>➤ The boat is designed to aid in oceanographic studies, particularly air-sea interaction</p> <p><b>DIMENSIONS OF THE BOAT</b>   3.3m long, 0.66m wide and height is 0.4m</p> <p>➤ Boat can be fitted with cameras and sensors to</p>	 <p>study ocean and atmospheric parameters like conductivity, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, humidity and radiation</p>	<p>➤ Due to its size, it can be maneuvered in narrow areas, including estuaries and close to icebergs</p> <p>➤ The boat can also be used to collect data in open ocean surface and sub-surface to corroborate with data collected by buoys</p>

## STATES

### Annadatha Sukhibhava scheme

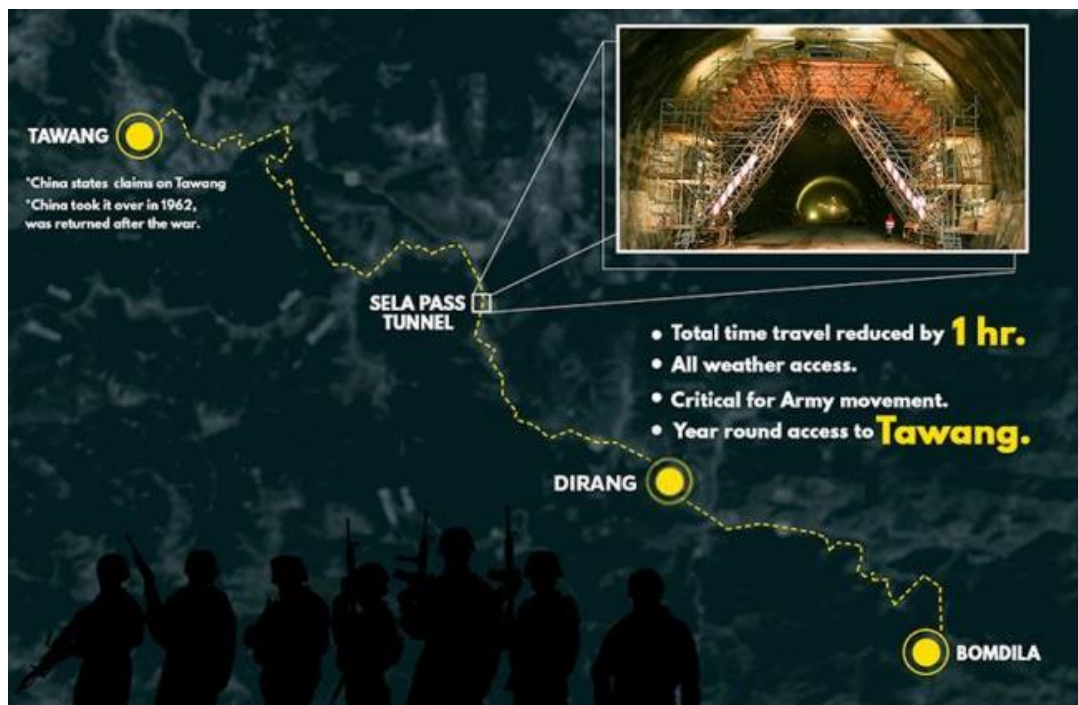
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government introduced a new scheme, called 'Annadatha Sukhibhava' to give economic support to Annadathas (farmers).
- ❖ This scheme will pay an additional Rs 4,000 with Union government's minimum income support of Rs 6,000 (PM Kisan Samman Nidhi) to small and marginal farmers who own less than 5 acres of land, taking up the total to Rs 10,000.

### Statue of Guru Padmasambhava

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister unveiled a 19-foot-high statue of Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tibetan Buddhism, at Jirang in Gajapati district.
- ❖ This 29-tonne stone statue is placed in the middle of 'Padma Sarovar', a large tank near Padmasambhava Mahavihara, the largest Buddhist monastery in eastern India.
- ❖ Historians claim that Guru Padmasambhava, also known as second Buddha, was born and brought up in Odisha before he left for Tibet.



## Sela Pass Tunnel



- ❖ Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Once the tunnel is ready, the travel time to Tawang will be cut short.



- ❖ And the security forces will have all-weather access in that region of Arunachal Pradesh throughout the year.
- ❖ The Sela tunnel will be built to boost the tourism industry and economic activities in the region as well as north-eastern states.
- ❖ Sela pass tunnel will be constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **National Women's Day- February 13**

- ❖ National Women's Day of India was first observed on 13 February 2014.
- ❖ This day is observed on the date of birth of India's first women governor Sarojini Naidu.
- ❖ Sarojini Naidu was born on 13 February 1879 and died on 2 March 1949.
- ❖ This was the 135<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- ❖ Sarojini Naidu is also known as the Nightingale of India.
- ❖ Her birthday has been selected to observe as a National Woman Day in recognition of the works done by her for upliftment and development of women in India.
- ❖ Her name and birth date were proposed to celebrate as the National Women's Day in India by members of Bhartiya Mahila Sangh and Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Sammelan.




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**SAROJINI NAIDU**  
1879 - 1949

**13 February**  
**NATIONAL**  
**WOMENS DAY**

*"A country's greatness lies in its undying ideals of love and sacrifice that inspire the mothers of the race."*

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