



**February– 19**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The President of India has unveiled the portrait of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the Central Hall of Parliament on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Extension of CLCS-TUS**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Up-gradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS) beyond the 12th Plan period for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- ❖ The scheme will facilitate:
  - Technology up-gradation to MSMEs,
  - Improvement in Quality of products by MSMEs,
  - Enhancement in productivity, reduction in waste and
  - Promote a culture of continuous improvement.
- ❖ This scheme will provide a capital subsidy of 15 per cent for induction of well-established and improved technology in the specified 51 sub-sectors/products approved.

### **National Commission for Safai Karmacharis**

- ❖ Union Cabinet approved the proposal for extending the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK) beyond March 31 of this year for the next 3 years.
- ❖ NCSK was established in the year 1993 as per the provisions of the NCSK Act 1993.
- ❖ Initially it was setup for the period up to March 31, 1997.
- ❖ Later the validity of the Act was first extended up to March 31, 2002 and thereafter up to February 29, 2004.
- ❖ NCSK Act ceased to have effect from February 29, 2004.
- ❖ After that the tenure of the NCSK has been extended as a non-statutory body from time to time.



- ❖ The tenure of the present Commission is up to March 31 of this year.

### **Registration of Marriage of NRI Bill – 2019**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Bill-2019.
- ❖ Its aims to create more accountability and offer more protection against the exploitation of Indian citizens, mostly women by their NRI spouses.
- ❖ Under the new bill, a marriage between an NRI and an Indian citizen will have to be registered in India or Indian missions and posts abroad within 30 days from the date of marriage.
- ❖ If the marriage is not registered within 30 days, the passport of the NRI will be revoked, summons and warrants be issued.
- ❖ This bill will make necessary changes in the following Acts
  - Passports Act, 1967; and
  - Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 by insertion of Section 86A.

### **Swachh Shakti 2019**

- ❖ Erravalli village of Markook mandal bagged Swachh Shakti-2019 award in New Delhi.
- ❖ This award given by Central government's prestigious programme Swachh Sundar Shauchalaya.
- ❖ Swachh Shakti-2019 is a national event which is aimed at empowering women. It was attended by women Panchs and Sarpanchs from across the country.

### **Dr. Anoop Satpathy Committee Report**

- ❖ Ministry of Labour and Employment had constituted an expert committee under the Dr. Anoop Satpathy, to review and recommend methodology for fixation of National Minimum Wage (NMW).
- ❖ Expert Committee has submitted its report on "Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage" to the Government on 14-02-2019.
- ❖ The Report has now been placed on the Ministry's website ([www.labour.gov.in](http://www.labour.gov.in)) for facilitating the process of consultation and seeking necessary approval of methodology from tripartite bodies.



- ❖ The report using scientific approach for fixation of minimum wages was based on the overall guidelines of the ILC (Indian Labour Conference) 1957 and the Supreme Court Judgment of Workmen vs Reptakos Brett & Co. in 1992.

### Recommendations of the Committee

- ❖ A balanced diet approach which is culturally palatable for fixation of national minimum wage.
- ❖ Minimum wage should include reasonable expenditure on 'essential non-food items such as clothing, fuel and light, house rent etc.

Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V
Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand	Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu	Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram and Tripura
Rs 342 per day  (Rs 8,892 per month)	Rs 380 per day  (Rs 9880 per month)	Rs 414 per day  (Rs 10,764 per month)	Rs 447 per day  (Rs 11,622 per month)	Rs 386 per day  (Rs 10,036 per month)

- ❖ Fix the need based national minimum wage for India at INR 375 per day (INR 9,750 per month) as of July 2018.
- ❖ Introduce an additional house rent allowance (city compensatory allowance), averaging up to INR 55 per day.
- ❖ Different national minimum wages for different geographical regions of the country to suit the local realities.

### **LADIS Portal**

- ❖ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a new portal LADIS to aid in ensuring of optimum use of National Waterways.
- ❖ It will ensure real-time data on ship and cargo owners on which they can undertake transportation on National Waterways (NW) in a more planned way.
- ❖ It is a step towards ensuring optimum use of National Waterways.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **e-AUSHADHI portal**

- ❖ Minister of State for AYUSH launched the *e-AUSHADHI* portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters at New Delhi.
- ❖ This e-AUSHADHI portal is intended for increased transparency, improved information management facility, improved data usability and increased accountability.
- ❖ Timelines will be fixed for processing of application through this portal with SMS and e-mail status updates at each step of the process.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **India – Spearheading Climate Solutions**

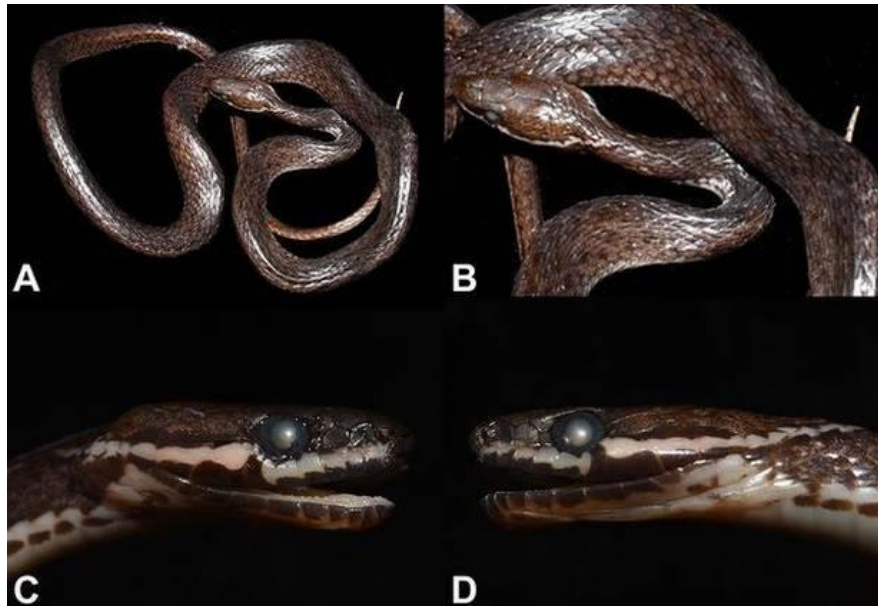
- ❖ The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Harsh Vardhan has released a publication titled “India – Spearheading Climate Solutions” on 12 February, 2019.
- ❖ This document mentions India’s key actions taken towards combating and adapting to climate change.

#### **Some of the major initiatives included in the publication are:**

- ❖ India’s National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
  - It will cover 8 major missions on Solar, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change.
- ❖ International Solar Alliances (ISA).
- ❖ State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC).
- ❖ FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) Scheme – for E-mobility.
- ❖ Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT) – for Smart Cities.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – for access to clean cooking fuel.
- ❖ UJALA scheme - for embracing energy efficient LED bulbs.
- ❖ Swachh Bharat Mission.

### Discovery of 'crying' snake

- ❖ New species of 'crying' snake has been discovered in Lepa-Rada district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Discovery of the non-venomous crying snake (*Hebius lacrima*) has been published in the New Zealand-based scientific mega-journal for animal taxonomy Zootaxa.
- ❖ Crying snake refers the mark below its eyes, that gives the illusion that it is crying.
- ❖ Globally snakes are represented by 3,709 species.
- ❖ The northeast is home to some 110 species, with Arunachal Pradesh accounting for 55.



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