

March – 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kerala Governor P. Sathasivam inaugurated the memorial for the Tamil Nadu former CM M.G. Ramachandran in the Vadavannur in Palakkad in Kerala on February 26.
 - It is also a centre for preparing youth and women for competitive examinations and employment with a library.
- ❖ Actor Vijay Sethupathi adopted two white tigers (Adithya and Arthi) from the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, in Chennai's Vandalur.

TAMIL NADU

Prime Minister visit to Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Prime Minister visited Kanyakumari on 1 March 2019 and launched a series of development projects.
 - Flag-off Tejas Express between Madurai and Chennai.
 - Laid foundation stone for the Restoration of Rail connectivity between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi.
 - Laid foundation stone for the Restoration of Pamban Bridge.



- Laid foundation Stone for Four Laning of Madurai – Chettikulam Section of NH-785
- Dedicated 2/4 Laning of Madurai- Ramanathapuram Section of NH-87 to the Nation. This section covers Madurai, Sivanganga and Ramanathapuram districts.

NATIONAL

FAME India Phase II

- ❖ The Union cabinet has approved the proposal for implementation of scheme titled 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)' for promotion of Electric Mobility in the country.
- ❖ The scheme with total outlay of Rs 10000 Crores over the period of three years will be implemented with effect from 1st April 2019.
- ❖ This scheme is the expanded version of the present scheme titled 'FAME India 1' which was launched on 1st April 2015.

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana".
- ❖ The scheme aims for providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and another renewable feedstock.
- ❖ The scheme focuses to incentivise 2G Ethanol sector.
- ❖ Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has targeted to achieve 10% blending percentage of Ethanol in petrol by 2022.
- ❖ Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical body under the aegis of MoP&NG, will be the implementation Agency for the scheme.
- ❖ Government of India launched Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme in 2003.
- ❖ Cellulosic ethanol, also known as Second generation (2G) ethanol is not produced from starch or sugar but from cellulose fibers, which are found in abundance in plant cell walls.

Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019

- ❖ Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) concluded a three-day 'Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019' as a part of 'Confidence Building Measures' between the two border guards.
- ❖ The joint exercise held in general area of BSF's Srimantapur border outpost, nearly 60 km from Agartala from Tripura.
- ❖ The exercise was named after a hill range situated 8 km west of Comilla township in Bangladesh, which is home to an ancient Buddhist archaeological site in the region.



- ❖ The main objective of this exercise was to plan and conduct anti-smuggling and anti-criminal activity related operations.

STARS Scheme

- ❖ On the National Science day, the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar has launched 'STARS' to fund science projects.
- ❖ STARS – Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science.
- ❖ The project will be coordinated by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- ❖ The National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28 in the memory of Sir C.V. Raman.

2nd Indian Sign Language Dictionary

- ❖ Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot launched the 2nd Edition of Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary in New Delhi.
- ❖ The dictionary is brought out by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- ❖ According to Census 2011, there are 50.71 lakh hearing impaired persons in India.
- ❖ The aim of the dictionary is to help spread the use of ISL and result in better education and employment opportunities for hearing impaired persons.

ECONOMY

Share capital of RBI in NHB

- ❖ The Cabinet has approved payment of the face value of the share capital of Rs.1450 crore in National Housing Bank (NHB) to Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The payment was made consequent to amendments made to the NHB Act, 1987 in 2018.

Why?

- ❖ NHB is an All India Financial Institution (AIFI), set up in 1988, under an Act of Parliament.
- ❖ NHB is an apex agency to operate as the principal agency to promote housing finance institutions in India.
- ❖ The wholesale financing role of NHB will get strengthened with the transfer of ownership to Government, thereby making possible funding support to housing finance companies.
- ❖ The change in ownership from RBI to Gol will also segregate RBI's role as banking regulator and as owner of NHB.

Usha Thorat panel

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has constituted an eight-member task force headed by Usha Thorat.
- ❖ Tasks

- Examine issues related to offshore rupee markets.
- Recommend policy measures to ensure stability of the external value of the domestic currency.
- ❖ Guiding objective
 - Developing deep and liquid on-shore financial markets that act as a price setter of the Rupee globally.
- ❖ Usha Thorat was a former Deputy Governor of Reserve bank of India (10 November 2005 to 8 November 2010).

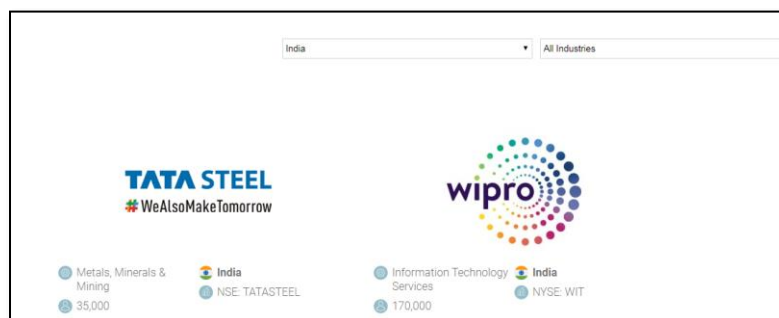
Bilateral Swap Arrangement – India and Japan

- ❖ The RBI and Bank of Japan have completed signing of the bilateral currency swap agreement for USD 75 billion.
- ❖ It will help in bringing greater stability in foreign exchange and capital markets in the country.
- ❖ The Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) was negotiated between India and Japan during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tokyo on October 29, 2018.

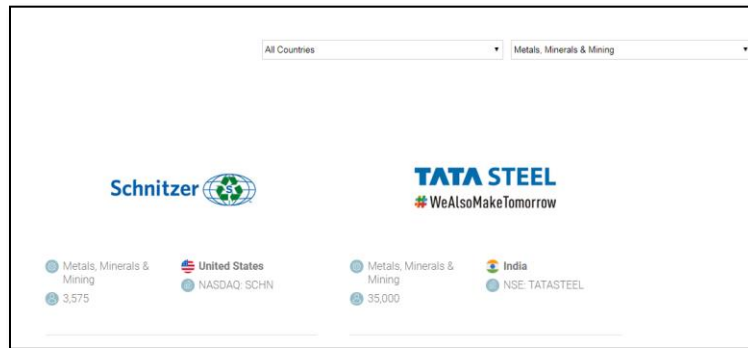
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

World's Most Ethical Companies

- ❖ Tata Steel has been recognised as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute in 'Metals, Minerals and Mining' category.
- ❖ Tata Steel has got the recognition eight times.
- ❖ Industries in list from India



- ❖ Industries in 'Metals, Minerals and Mining' category (World Ranking)



Wallace Smith Broecker

- ❖ The Climate scientist, Wallace Smith Broecker, who popularised the term “global warming” has died.



- ❖ Broecker brought “global warming” into common use with a 1975 article that correctly predicted rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere would lead to pronounced warming.
- ❖ The article published by him in 1975 was titled “Climatic Change: Are We on the Brink of a Pronounced Global Warming?”
- ❖ He was also a pioneer in radiocarbon and isotope dating and became the first person to recognise the ocean conveyor belt, a global network of currents affecting everything from air temperature to rain patterns.
- ❖ His notable awards include,
 - Vetlesen Prize in 1987
 - Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in 2002.
