

**March – 25**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Former Chief Election Commissioner of India Navin Chawla's latest book 'Every Vote Counts' was launched by former Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari at New Delhi.
- ❖ Chennai Super Kings's batsman Suresh Raina, became the first batsman to make a record by surpassing 5,000 runs in the IPL in Chennai.
- ❖ India's first HIV treatment centre and holistic clinic for LGBTQ community has been launched by Humsafar trust in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Bank of Baroda has become the first public sector banks to launch a creche/child day-care facility for children of its employees.
- ❖ Union government has exceeded its disinvestment target for the fiscal year 2018-19 with Rs 85,000 crore.
  - This is the second highest disinvestment proceeds in a financial year after the government's last fiscal mopped up a little over Rs 1 lakh crore in 2017-18.
- ❖ The Art Dubai fair's 13<sup>th</sup> edition was held from with features of 92 Contemporary and Modern galleries from 42 countries.
  - It has a special focus on South Asia.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Tribunal to declaring unlawful association**

- ❖ The Centre has constituted a tribunal headed by a Delhi High Court judge to decide whether there is sufficient cause for declaring Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir as an unlawful association.
- ❖ MHA issued a notification to set up the tribunal under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
- ❖ Justice Gupta is presently heading another tribunal set up under UAPA to ascertain whether there was sufficient cause to extend the ban on the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) as an unlawful association.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030

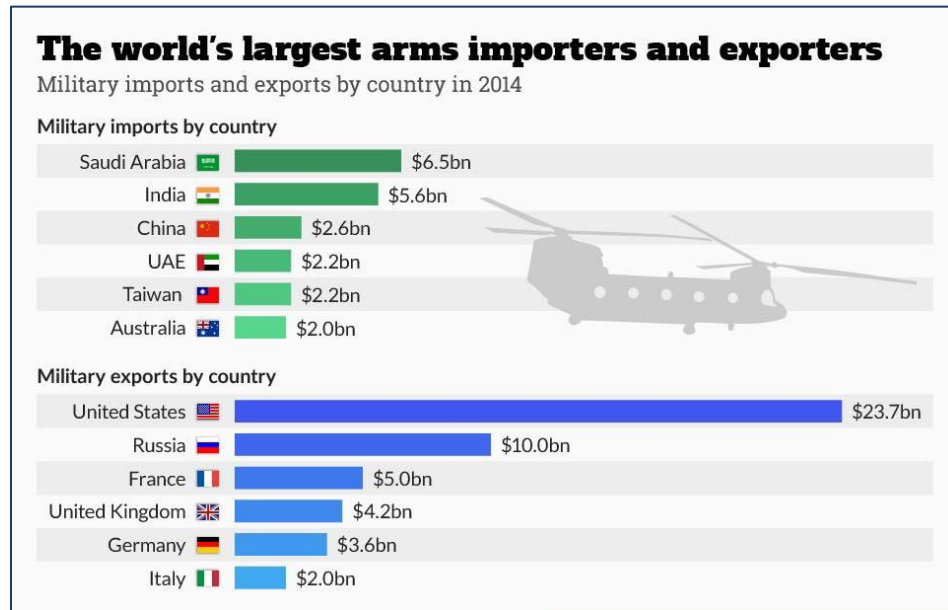
- ❖ WHO released a Global Influenza Strategy for 2019-2030, which aimed at protecting people in all countries.
- ❖ The goal of the strategy is to prevent seasonal influenza, control the spread of influenza from animals to humans, and prepare for the next influenza pandemic.
- ❖ The new strategy is the most comprehensive and far-reaching that WHO has ever developed for influenza.

#### *Its two overarching goals*

- ❖ Build stronger country capacities for disease surveillance and response, prevention and control, and preparedness.
  - To achieve this, it calls for every country to have a tailored influenza programme that contributes to national and global preparedness and health security.
- ❖ Develop better tools to prevent, detect, control and treat influenza, such as more effective vaccines, antivirals and treatments, with the goal of making these accessible for all countries.

### World's largest importer of weapons

- ❖ Saudi Arabia become the world's largest buyer of weapons in the world market.
- ❖ After eight years of holding the position of the largest importer of weapons, India was dropped down to the second position.
- ❖ This is based on the annual report released by the Swedish-based think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), titled 'Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018'.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Digital information into DNA

- ❖ Microsoft and researchers from the University of Washington have built a full end-to-end automated DNA storage device.
- ❖ Using this device, they can able to translate digital information into DNA and then back to bits.
- ❖ The software used in the system converts the 1's and 0's of digital data into DNA sequence and stored it as a liquid.

### Shiksha Vani App

- ❖ Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched a podcast app 'Shiksha Vani' app.
- ❖ It is aimed to disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely manner.
- ❖ CBSE also mentioned that its first episode, on the evaluation process of Class 10 and 12 board examinations, has been released on the platform.

## WHAT IT DOES

Parents and students need no registration and can access publicly available information



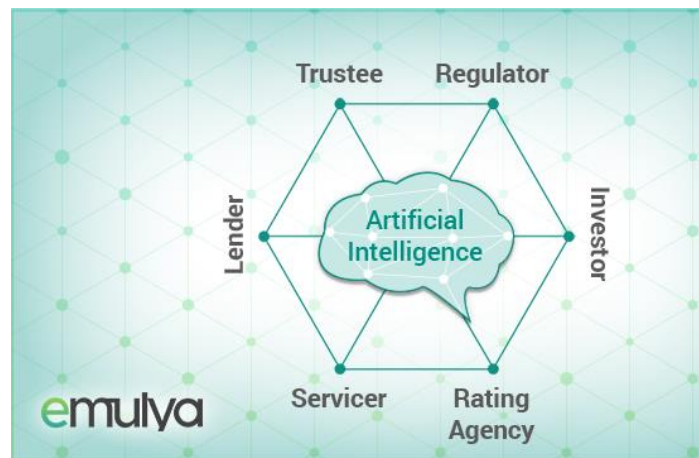
➤ Podcast will disseminate information on the board's activities

➤ App is available for Android users

➤ Has information for principals, teachers, centre superintendents and invigilators, examiners, regional officers, parents, students and the public

### eMulya Platform

- ❖ Intain Fintech, an AI and block chain-based software products firm, will be launching 'eMulya platform' by the end of 2019.
- ❖ It is an intelligent block chain that facilitates efficient, secure and trustworthy asset securitisation transactions for NBFCs in India.
- ❖ eMulya will utilize AI to onboard authenticated loans and asset data to the platform and allows investors, originators, issuers, rating agencies and services to manage the securitization life cycle in complete trust and transparency.



### Smart weapon Test fire

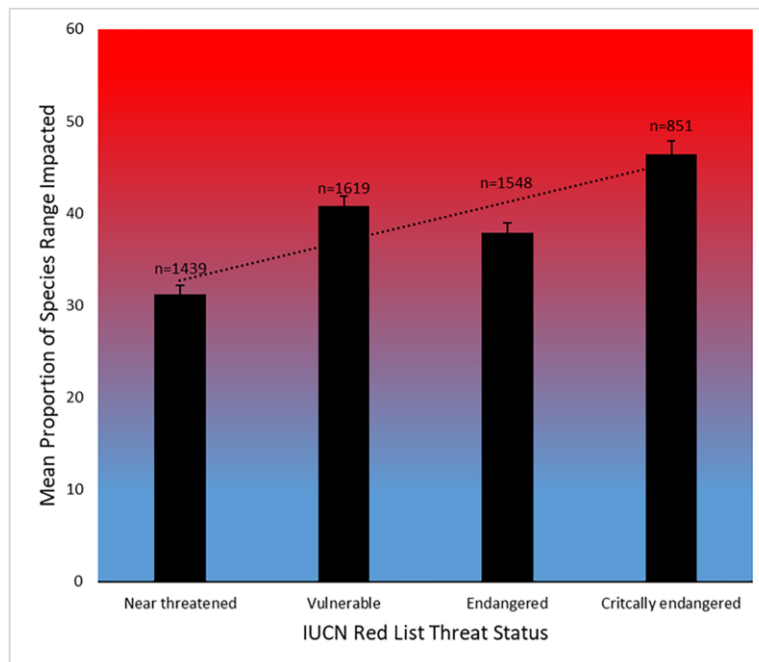
- ❖ Pakistan Air Force has announced successfully test-firing an indigenously developed "smart weapon" from a JF-17 Thunder fighter jet.

- ❖ It will provide a very potent day and night capability to engage a variety of targets with pinpoint accuracy.
- ❖ This trial is a great milestone for the country as the weapon has been developed, integrated and qualified solely through indigenous efforts of Pakistan.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Impacted species in hotspots

- ❖ A recent study published in PLOS Biology, an international journal dedicated to biological science, found that human impacts on species occur across 84% of the earth's surface.
- ❖ India ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in such impacts, with 35 species impacted on an average.
- ❖ Malaysia ranks first among the countries with the highest number of impacted species (125).



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Commonwealth Youth Award

- ❖ Social entrepreneur from Tamil Nadu has bagged the Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region for his technology-based food rescue organisation.

- ❖ Padmanaban Gopalan, founder of No Food Waste, was named the winner of the award at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
- ❖ He was given this honour for his work towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of Zero Hunger with his innovative system of recovering excess food to distribute to those in need.

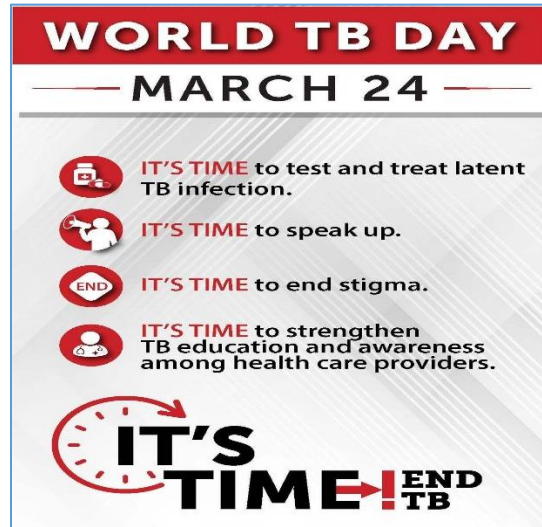


## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Tuberculosis Day - March 24

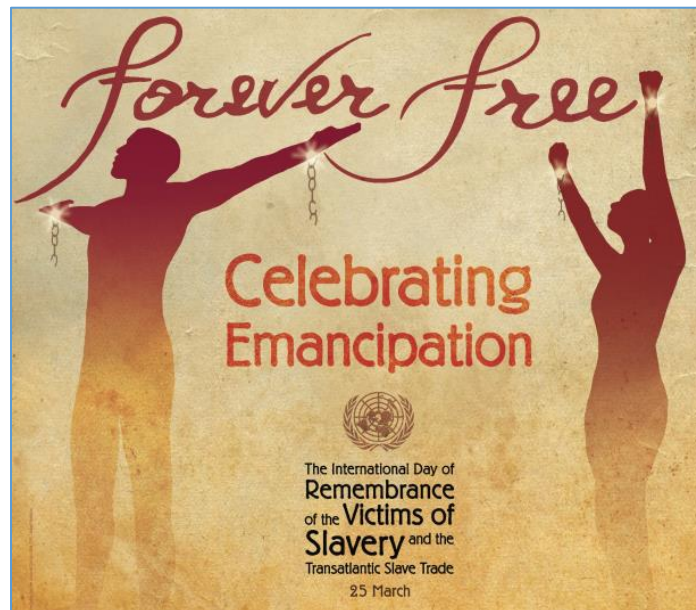
- ❖ World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24 March each year.
- ❖ It is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- ❖ This Day commemorates the event in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus.
- ❖ Theme of World TB Day 2019 is "It's time".
- ❖ On the occasion of the World TB Day 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a joint initiative "Find. Treat. All. #EndTB" along with the Global Fund and Stop TB Partnership.





### **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade - March 25**

- ❖ International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a UN international observance designated in 2007 to be marked on 25 March every year.



- ❖ The day honours those who suffered and died at the hands of the transatlantic slavery system.

- ❖ It was first observed in 2008 with the theme "Breaking the Silence, Lest We Forget".
- ❖ Theme of the 2019 is "Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice".

### **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members - 25 March**

- ❖ International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on 25<sup>th</sup> March by the United Nations.
- ❖ It commemorates the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) when he was kidnapped by armed gunman in 1985.
- ❖ This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as their colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.



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