

**March – 28**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ European Union Parliament has voted to ban single-use plastic cutlery, cotton buds, straws and stirrers as part of a law against plastic waste that despoils beaches and pollutes oceans.
- ❖ The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships (aka Tong Yun Kai Cup) 2019 was held in Hong Kong.
  - China has grabbed the championship by defeating Japan.
- ❖ Oslo, the capital city of Norway will become the world's first city to install wireless, induction-based charging stations for its fleet of electric taxis.
  - It aims to have a zero-emission cab system by the year 2023.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Additional posts in NCLT**

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved creation of additional posts of three Judicial Members and three Technical Members in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- ❖ This will ensure to meet the mandate provided to NCLAT by the following act and the time frame provided for disposal of cases
  - The Finance Act, 2017
  - The Companies Act,
  - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

### **Cruise service to Bangladesh**

- ❖ India and Bangladesh will start a cruise service from March 29, 2019 that would take passengers through the Sunderbans to Dhaka.
- ❖ The move aims to strengthen inland waterway routes between the two countries.
- ❖ As movement of goods starts using inland waterways, goods from India can go in the cheapest possible form up to Narayanganj and Dhaka in Bangladesh.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- ❖ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative has released the annual Global Multidimensional poverty index report.
- ❖ Poverty is calculated on an individual level and based on 3 dimensions and 10 factors.

Dimension	Indicators
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Mortality</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years of schooling</li> <li>• School attendance</li> </ul>
Living Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooking fuel</li> <li>• Sanitation</li> <li>• Drinking Water</li> <li>• Electricity</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Assets</li> </ul>

- ❖ A person is considered poor if they are deprived in at least a third of the weighted indicators.
- ❖ According to the report, India has reduced its poverty rate drastically from 55% to 28% in 10 years, with 271 million people moving out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16.
- ❖ Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are home to more than half of the poorest people in India.
- ❖ Worldwide Sub-Saharan and South Asian countries are home to 83% of the multidimensionally poor people around the world.

### LIMA 2019 Aero Expo

- ❖ The 5 days long, Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019) was conducted in Malaysia.

- ❖ Indian Air force participated for the first time to enhance the relationship between the two services.



- ❖ In LIMA 2019, India represented its indigenous supersonic fighters' jet Tejas and anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kadmat.

### **Exercise Mitra Shakti-VI**

- ❖ India and Sri Lanka conducted a joint military exercise Mitra Shakti VI from 26 March to 8 April at Sri Lanka.
- ❖ This exercise aimed to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries and to enhance the ability of joint exercise commander to take military contingents of both nations under command.

#### **Mitra Shakti**

- ❖ Mitra Shakti exercise is conducted annually between India and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It was a part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of the two countries.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Mission Shakthi**

- ❖ Prime Minister announced that the DRDO-has developed anti-satellite system A-SAT successfully destroyed a live satellite in the Low Earth Orbit.

- ❖ India is the fourth country after the U.S., Russia, and China to have this technology.
- ❖ ASAT weapons are missile-based systems to attack moving satellites.
- ❖ This test was done in the lower atmosphere to ensure that there is no space debris.
- ❖ America was the first country to develop and test ASAT. China conducted a similar test in 2007.

### Low-Earth Orbit satellites (LEO)

- ❖ These are satellites roughly at an altitude of 2,000 kilometers from the earth.
- ❖ Majority of satellites are concentrated in this region.



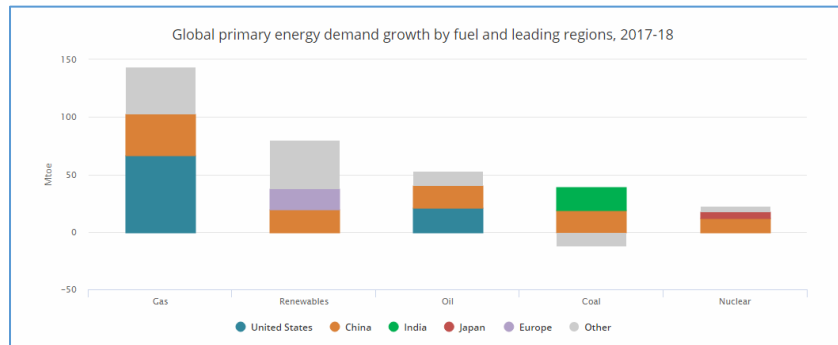
### **AI-based system to detect malaria**

- ❖ IIT-Delhi announced that they have developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based electronic hardware system to detect malaria, tuberculosis, an intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds.
- ❖ The system can detect patterns and give accurate answers within milliseconds.
- ❖ They used nanotechnology to develop a diagnostic support system which can read raw data from blood samples, patterns of a patient etc and can extract information.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Global Energy and CO2 status report**

- ❖ International Energy Agency (IEA) released the Global Energy and CO2 Status Report.
- ❖ It highlights worldwide trends and developments of fuels, renewable sources, energy efficiency, and carbon emissions.
- ❖ Energy consumption worldwide grew by 2.3% in 2018, nearly twice the average rate of growth since 2010.



- ❖ As per the report, India's energy demand outpaced global demand growth in 2018.
- ❖ India, China and the United States together accounted for nearly 70% of the rise in energy demand.
- ❖ Despite this growth, per capita emissions in India remain low at only 40% of the global average.

### **Island protection zone 2019 notification**

- ❖ Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Island Protection Zone (IPZ) 2019 for Andaman and Nicobar.
- ❖ These changes in Island Protection Zone rules are aligned with the Niti Aayog's proposal for holistic development in the Islands.
- ❖ It brings the norms for Andaman and Nicobar at par with Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 2018 norms for other islands.

#### **Highlights of IPZ 2019**

- ❖ It allows eco-tourism projects 20 meters from the high tide line (HTL) in smaller islands like Baratang, Havelock, and Car Nicobar.
- ❖ In case of larger islands, 50 meters from the HTL is permitted.
- ❖ It allows for eco-tourism activities like mangrove walks, tree huts and nature trails in island coastal regulation zone (ICRZ) IA.
  - ICRZ 2018: ICRZ IA, provides areas classified as the most eco-sensitive region of the islands which includes turtle nesting grounds, marshes, coral reefs etc.

## STATES

### Ban on mentioning caste in FIRs

- ❖ The Punjab and Haryana High Court has barred the mentioning of caste in the FIRs.
- ❖ The antiquated Punjab Police Rules -1934 specified the mentioning of the caste of the complainant and the accused in the FIRs.
- ❖ The bench asserted that the right to dignity was a fundamental and basic human right.
- ❖ It also added division of society into sections cannot be determined by birth as all are born equal.
- ❖ The ruling came in a murder case where the Haryana Police mentioned during the course of the investigation the caste of the accused, witnesses and the victims.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Croatia's highest civilian order

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind was honoured with Croatia's highest civilian order - The Grand Order of the King of Tomislav.



- ❖ The civilian order is awarded to heads of state for their important contribution towards the development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries.
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