



**April – 03**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in March rose 15.6% from a year ago to hit ₹1.06 trillion, the highest ever tax collected since the new indirect tax system - GST took effect on 1 July 2017.
- ❖ Following mass protests by people in the North African country Algeria, its President Abdelaziz Bouteflika will resign from his position after almost being 20 years in office.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Tamilnadu Lokayukta**

- ❖ The Governor of Tamilnadu has appointed retired High Court judge P. Devadass as the chairperson of the five-member Tamilnadu state Lokayukta.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Lokayukta is a 5 member body – A Chairman and two judicial and non-judicial members each.
- ❖ Former district judges K. Jayabalan and R. Krishnamoorthy are the two judicial members and retired IAS officer M. Rajaram and advocate K. Arumugam are the two non-judicial members of the anti-corruption body.
- ❖ The chairperson and the members shall hold office for five years from the day they enter office or the date on which they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ Complaints against a public functionary can be submitted to the Registrar or the designated officer in person or by post, but anonymous complaints would not be entertained by the panel.

## **NATIONAL**

### **EMISAT**

- ❖ India's launch vehicle PSLV-C45 blasted off from the ISRO spaceport, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on April 01, 2019.
- ❖ The rocket carried an electronic intelligence satellite EMISAT for the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and 28 other third-party satellites.



## Matiri Bridge

- ❖ The Indian Army has successfully built the longest suspension bridge over the Indus River - 'Matiri Bridge' in the Leh-Ladakh region of Kashmir.
- ❖ The 260-feet long suspension bridge was built by the combat engineers belonging to the Sahas aur Yogyata regiment of Indian Army's Fire & Fury Corps.

## AUSINDEX-19

- ❖ The third edition of 'AUSINDEX-19' (Australia India Exercise), a bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy is being held at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ This joint exercise emphasises on India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and shared objectives of the two countries towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain.

Event	Venue
<b>AUSINDEX -2015</b>	Vishakapatnam
<b>AUSINDEX -2017</b>	Freemantle, Australia
<b>AUSINDEX - 2019</b>	Vishakapatnam

## Bolivian Lithium

- ❖ Bolivia has agreed to provide India with access to its lithium carbonate, and also facilitate joint ventures for lithium battery/cell production plants in India.
- ❖ Bolivia has one fourth of the world's total lithium reserves.
- ❖ The partnership will provide a major boost to India's ambitious e-mobility plans – the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage of India.
- ❖ India's objective to have at least 30% of its vehicles run on electric batteries by 2030 will be partially augmented by Bolivian Lithium.



- ❖ Bolivia, Argentina and Chile are together called the Lithium Triangle countries of South American continent.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **India-Africa IAIARD**

- ❖ India will set up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in the land-locked African country Malawi, in consultation with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy service (NABCONS).
- ❖ IAIARD will be a Pan-African Institute wherein trainees from Malawi and all other African countries will receive training to develop their human resources and build their capacity.
- ❖ Focus areas will be agro-financing and micro-financing.
- ❖ This institute will be the first of its kind developed in an African country by India.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Manufacturing PMI Index**

- ❖ The Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index stands at 52.6 indicating that the manufacturing sector is losing momentum.
- ❖ A reading above 50 indicates expansion while a point below that level points to contraction of manufacturing sector.
- ❖ The index is based on data compiled from monthly replies to questionnaires sent to purchasing executives in more than 400 industrial companies.

### **Investment Advisers**

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) for the growing number of investment advisers.
- ❖ Such a measure is expected to address issues related to the quality of advice given to investors by such entities.
- ❖ SRO will also deal with complaints alleging charging of exorbitant fees, false assurance of returns, misconduct etc. by investment advisers.



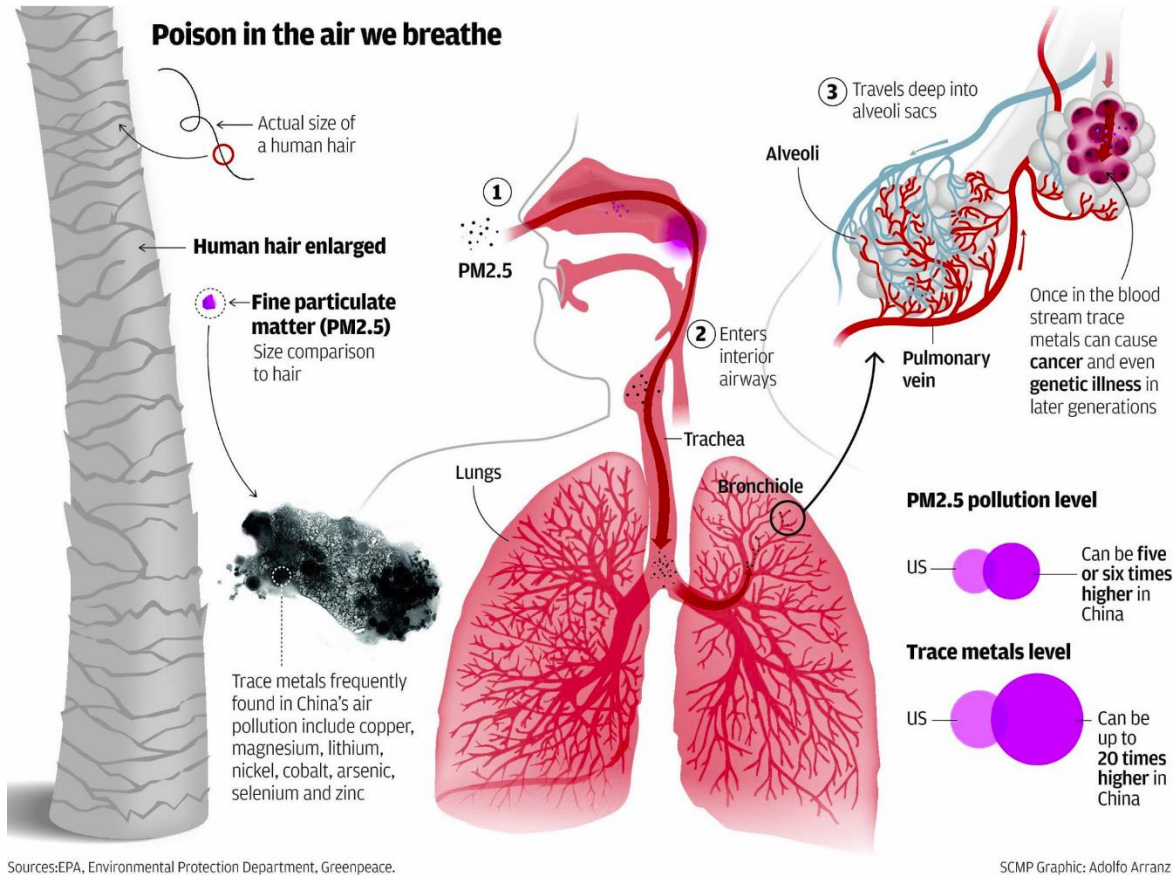
## ENVIRONMENT

### State of Global Air 2017

- ❖ Exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution contributed to over 1.2 million deaths in India in 2017 according to the report 'State of Global Air'.
- ❖ This report is released by Health Effects Institute, an independent, non-profit US based research institute.
- ❖ The study reports that the life on average of a South Asian child growing up in current high levels of air pollution will be shortened by 2 years and six months.
- ❖ A majority of Air pollution deaths are directly attributed to PM2.5, half of which are generated from India and China together.
- ❖ Fossil fuel generated emissions are responsible for about 65 per cent of premature deaths from human-made air pollutants worldwide.
- ❖ India has initiated major steps to address air pollution and pollution sources like
  - The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
  - Accelerated Bharat Stage VI clean vehicle standards
  - National Clean Air Programme.

### PM 2.5

- ❖ PM2.5 refers to atmospheric particulate matter (PM) that have a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres.
- ❖ These particles can be detected only with an Electron Microscope.
- ❖ This increases the chances of humans and animals inhaling them into the bodies.
- ❖ Fine particles are known to trigger or worsen chronic disease such as asthma, heart attack, bronchitis and other respiratory problems.



## STATES

### Kandhamal Haldi

- ❖ Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) named after central Odisha district of Kandhamal, gets Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- ❖ Kandhamal Haldi is famous for its healing properties and for high curcumin content which is used in pharma industries.
- ❖ Turmeric is the main cash crop of tribal people in Kandhamal.
- ❖ The leaf of Kandhamal turmeric is mainly used in an Odia cuisine "Enduri Pitha" which gives a pungent flavour and taste to the dish.
- ❖ Odisha has so far received GI Tag for 15 of its items, including two agricultural products.



### **Café Scientific**

- ❖ A group of science experts of the Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, Wayanad, Kerala are planning to launch 'Café Scientific'.
- ❖ It is an initiative to make science relevant, powerful and important to the public, especially the younger generations
- ❖ Café Scientific is a grassroots public science initiative based on the popular French Café Philosophique model.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Global Health Award**

- ❖ Vikram Patel, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, has won the prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award.
- ❖ Mr. Patel has led research generating knowledge on the burden and determinants of mental health problems in low and middle-income countries.
- ❖ He pioneered approaches which utilise community resources for the prevention and treatment of mental health problems in India with global impact.





## **SPORTS**

### **National Cricket Academy**

- ❖ Former Indian cricketer turned cricket administrator Rahul Dravid will now play a crucial role in shaping the future of the young cricketing talents in India.
  - ❖ The batting legend will now have the responsibility of running the prestigious and all-important National Cricket Academy (NCA).
  - ❖ The National Cricket Academy is located in Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.
  - ❖ The NCA was the brainchild of cricket administrator and former BCCI President Raj Singh Dungarpur in 2000.
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