

**April- 05**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ BSNL has procured the “in-flight and maritime connectivity” (IFMC) license from Inmarsat, a British telecommunications satellite company that offers global mobile services.
  - This will help Airlines flying through the Indian airspace to offer their passengers Wi-Fi connectivity.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Adichanallur**

- ❖ Carbon dating of samples excavated from the Adichanallur site in Thoothukudi district has revealed that they belonged to the period between 905 BC and 696 BC.



- ❖ Carbon dating of artefacts was done in the Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory, USA.
- ❖ With the artefacts having Tamil inscriptions, this could prove that Tamil was older than Prakrit language, dated to be from 268 BC to 232 BC.

## Temple Conservation

- ❖ The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department has prepared a manual for conservation of heritage temples across the state.



- ❖ Such a manual with a scientific approach is required to ensure that the structure of the temples is not weakened and their maintenance continues without modern additions.
- ❖ The HR & CE (Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowment) department oversees nearly 36,700 temples across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ At least 50% of these temples are heritage structures that are more than 100 years old.

## NATIONAL

### AFSPA in Arunachal

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued orders for withdrawal of the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from 3 of the 9 districts in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ AFSPA is declared in areas where armed forces are required to operate in aid to civil authorities.
- ❖ AFSPA is valid only in area which are declared “disturbed” either by the Central or the State government or the administrator of Union Territory under Section 3 of the Act.

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh became a state on February 20, 1987, and since its inception, AFSPA was applied to the certain parts of the state.

### AFSPA

- ❖ AFSPA act is modelled on the Armed Forces Special Powers Ordinance of 1942, promulgated by the British to suppress the Quit India Movement.
- ❖ Armed Forces (Special Powers) Acts (AFSPA), are Acts of the Parliament of India that grant special powers to the Indian Armed Forces to act in specific areas that are termed as "disturbed areas".
- ❖ The AFSPA Acts are

REGION	STATUS
<b>Armed Forces Special Powers (Assam and Manipur) Act, 1958</b> (Extended to all 7 North East states later)	Tripura, Meghalaya – Withdrawn Rest of the States - Partially Withdrawn
<b>The Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Act, 1983</b>	Withdrawn in 1997
<b>The Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990</b>	Active

## ECONOMY

### Interest Rate Cut

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut its repo rate by 25 basis points to 6% and lowered the GDP forecast to 7.2% for the current financial year from 7.4% projected earlier.
- ❖ Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to commercial banks.
- ❖ This is the second consecutive rate cut from RBI under new Governor Shaktikanta Das.

### Growth Forecast

- ❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered India's growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7.2 per cent from 7.6 per cent estimated earlier.
- ❖ This is due to moderation in global demand and likely shortfall in revenue on the domestic front.

- ❖ The ADB is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- ❖ From 31 members at its establishment, ADB now has 68 members, of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 from outside.
- ❖ Takehiko Nakao is the current President of ADB.

### **CBDT signs 18 APAs**

- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into 18 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs), including 3 Bilateral APAs (BAPAs).
- ❖ The total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT so far stands at 271.
- ❖ An APA is an agreement between a taxpayer and the tax authority determining the Transfer Pricing methodology for pricing the tax payer's international transactions for future years.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Scissors Enzyme**

- ❖ Scientists at the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) have discovered a new enzyme "Murein Peptidase" which helps in breaking cell walls of bacteria.
- ❖ This offers a potential for a new drug delivery route to arrest the anti-bacterial resistance through existing antibiotic drugs.
- ❖ Scissors enzyme is the enzyme that regulates the growth of cell wall in bacteria.
- ❖ This method of drug delivery blocks the 'scissors enzyme' from functioning.
- ❖ In contrast, the classical antibiotic drugs like Penicillin target only the last stage of cell synthesis to prevent bacterial cell growth.
- ❖ Blocking the enzyme can pave new ways to target microbes and can lead to a production of new wave of antibiotic drugs.

### **CCMB**

- ❖ CCMB conducts high quality basic research and trainings in frontier areas of modern biology and inter-disciplinary areas of biology.
- ❖ The Hyderabad based institute was started in 1977 and operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

- ❖ It is designated as “Center of Excellence” by the Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network, UNESCO.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Jumping Spiders

- ❖ A team-led by arachnologists Rajesh Sanap, Dr. John Caleb and biologist Anuradha Joglekar announced that they had discovered a new species of jumping spiders in Mumbai.
- ❖ The new species has been named *Jerzego sunillimaye*.



- ❖ Spiders are microhabitat specialists and are sensitive to sudden changes in their habitat, which makes them the ideal environment indicators.
- ❖ Spiders are important creatures as they are pest-controllers.
- ❖ They are like the tigers of the microhabitat world.
- ❖ Pulling them out could cause ecological imbalance.
- ❖ Those who study spiders and other arachnids are arachnologists.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Zayed Medal

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on April 4, 2019 honoured PM Narendra Modi with its highest decoration, Zayed Medal.
- ❖ This award was in recognition of PM's "pivotal role" in strengthening ties between the two nations.

### Alemba Yimchunger

- ❖ A forest guard of Nagaland named Alemba Yimchunger had been conferred with the 'Earth Day Network Star Award'.
- ❖ The award was given by Earth Day Network, an international environmental NGO based in United States.
- ❖ Yimchunger works as a forest guard at Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary in Kiphire district, Nagaland.
- ❖ He has been honoured with the prestigious award for his efforts in conserving biodiversity in and around the wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ The Earth Day Network was founded on the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970.

## SPORTS

### Squash

- ❖ India's top-ranked squash player Saurav Ghosal stormed into the record books when he became the first Indian male to enter the top-10 list in the world.





- ❖ Two Tamilnadu women players, Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal were the first Indians to have reached the top-10 in the world rankings but failed to consolidate further.

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