

**March – 31**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Wipro and IIT Kharagpur will jointly take up applied research projects on industry challenges related to the design, planning and operations of 5G networks.
- ❖ Nobel laureate and the 39<sup>th</sup> Former President of United States Jimmy Carter is now the longest-living chief executive in American history. He is 94 years old.
- ❖ Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has sanctioned a loan of \$83.11 million to Congo to finance three solar power projects in the central African country.
- ❖ Serbian national Veselin Matic, who took Iran to an Asian Games bronze medal in 2010, is set to be appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's basketball team.
- ❖ In a first, premium mobile brand Apple has introduced Apple Credit Card for its customers.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Dhanush Howitzers**

- ❖ The Indian Army is set to induct the first batch of its domestically developed and manufactured Dhanush artillery howitzer.
- ❖ State-owned Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) is building the Indian Army's long-range artillery gun.



- ❖ The 155mm × 45mm calibre Dhanush artillery gun is reverse engineered based on Bofors howitzers.

- ❖ K-9 Vajra and the M-777 are the other two ultra-light howitzers used in Indian Army.

### **India – Bolivia Agreements**

- ❖ India and Bolivia signed eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) during President Ram Nath Kovind's three-day visit to the country.
- ❖ Indian President was conferred with the highest State honour of Bolivia, "Condor de Los Andes en el Grado de Gran Collar" by the Evo Morales, the President of Bolivia.
- ❖ The MoUs were in the fields of mining, space, traditional medicine, establishment of Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (IT) and Bi-Oceanic Railway project.

### **Terror Monitoring Group (TMG)**

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted an 8-member multi-disciplinary Terror Monitoring Group in J & K.
- ❖ TMG is created to take action against hard core sympathisers amongst government employees, including teachers, who are providing covert or overt support to terror-related activities.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **AIDS Drug from Hyderabad**

- ❖ Hyderabad-based pharma company Laurus Labs has entered into a strategic partnership agreement with Global Fund for a period of 3.5 years to manufacture AIDS drugs.
- ❖ Global Fund is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and a global charity agency.
- ❖ The global fund was established in 2002.
- ❖ It invests nearly \$ 4 billion a year to support programmes designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics.

### **Statement of Guiding Principles**

- ❖ Statement of Guiding Principles (SGP) agreement was signed by India and America in November 2014.
- ❖ SGP provides a framework for promoting cooperation between the two countries to meet the developmental aspirations of partner countries in Asia and Africa.
- ❖ The First Amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles (SGP) on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development was recently renewed by India and America.

### **UNDP Human Development Report**

- ❖ The Human Development Report (HDR) for 2019 published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focuses on inequality.
- ❖ HDR 2019 provides a comprehensive picture of the many forms of inequality that are shaping the 21st century.
- ❖ The report was first launched in 1990 by the Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and Indian Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.
- ❖ The goal of their report was to place 'people' at the centre of the development process in terms of economic debate, policy and advocacy.
- ❖ This report is released annually.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Fiscal Deficit Target**

- ❖ The government missed the Fiscal deficit target for the financial year 2018-19.
- ❖ Fiscal deficit was 3.5% of GDP in FY18 as against a target of 3.2%.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit in terms of rupees was Rs 8.51 lakh crore against the budgeted Rs 6.34 lakh crore for the full year in the revised estimates.
- ❖ Lower-than-expected tax collections and continuing government spending were responsible for the widening fiscal deficit.
- ❖ Fiscal deficit target for next financial year is 3.4% of GDP.



## **Interest rate Derivatives**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed non-residents to participate in the rupee interest rate derivatives segment with a view to deepening the rupee interest rate swap (IRS) market.
- ❖ Rupee interest rate swap market is the most liquid among the interest rate derivatives market.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Space Junk**

- ❖ With successful testing of anti-satellite missile in India, the world expressed concern over space junk generated from the satellite that was shot down.
- ❖ Space junk is an ever-growing problem with more than 7,500 tonnes of redundant hardware now thought to be circling the Earth.
- ❖ The rising population of space debris increases the potential danger to all space vehicles, especially The International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ Kessler Syndrome, proposed by the NASA scientist Donald J. Kessler in 1978 warns of the dangers of collusion because of the space junk.

## **SPORTS**

### **Asia Cup Archers**

- ❖ India finished with a rich haul of seven medals in the Asia Cup archery meet that concluded in Bangkok.
- ❖ India's women archer Muskan Kirar claimed a hat-trick of medals.

### **Seamaster 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus**

- ❖ The Seamaster 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus commonly called Oman Open table tennis was held in Muscat, Oman.
- ❖ Indian player G Sathyan won a bronze medal in the tournament and Archana Kamath bagged U-21 silver.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Rajasthan Day

- ❖ Rajasthan Day is celebrated every year on March 30 to commemorate the day on which the state of Rajasthan came into existence.
- ❖ Rajasthan was earlier known as Rajputana till March 30, 1949.
- ❖ Rajasthan is the largest state in India with an area of 3,42,239 square kms.

### World Idli Day

- ❖ World Idli day is celebrated every year on march 30.
- ❖ Idli day is celebrated since 2016.
- ❖ Among Indian cities Bengaluru consumes idli the most, followed by Mumbai, Chennai, Pune and Hyderabad.
- ❖ Globally, San Francisco, London and New Jersey have been found to be the top idli ordering cities.

### Earth Hour Day

- ❖ The Earth hour day is celebrated on March 30.
- ❖ It is celebrated across the world at the 8.30pm to 9.30pm time slot in a given local time zone.



- ❖ The global theme of this 2019 Earth Hour is #Connect2Earth.
- ❖ Earth Hour in India was observed with #Bee4ThePlanet Challenge.



- ❖ The event was started in 2007 in Sydney and is now popular worldwide.
- ❖ It is hosted every year by the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), an international non-governmental organization.

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