

**June – 06**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Ahead of the International Yoga Day on June 21, the AYUSH ministry has launched a mobile application called 'Yoga Locator' to enable people locate yoga events and centres providing training.
- ❖ The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue also known as Quad is an informal strategic grouping consisting of India, US, Australia and Japan recently met at Bangkok in Thailand.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Pension scheme for traders**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a new scheme that offers pension coverage to the trading community.
- ❖ Under this scheme all shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons are assured a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3,000/- month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- ❖ All small shopkeepers and self-employed persons as well as the retail traders with GST turnover below Rs. 1.5 crore and age between 18-40 years, can enrol for this scheme.

### **Extension of PM-KISAN Scheme**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved that the ambit of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) would be comprehensively extended.
- ❖ With this decision, all land holding eligible farmer families (subject to the prevalent exclusion criteria) would avail of the benefits under this scheme.

### ***Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi***

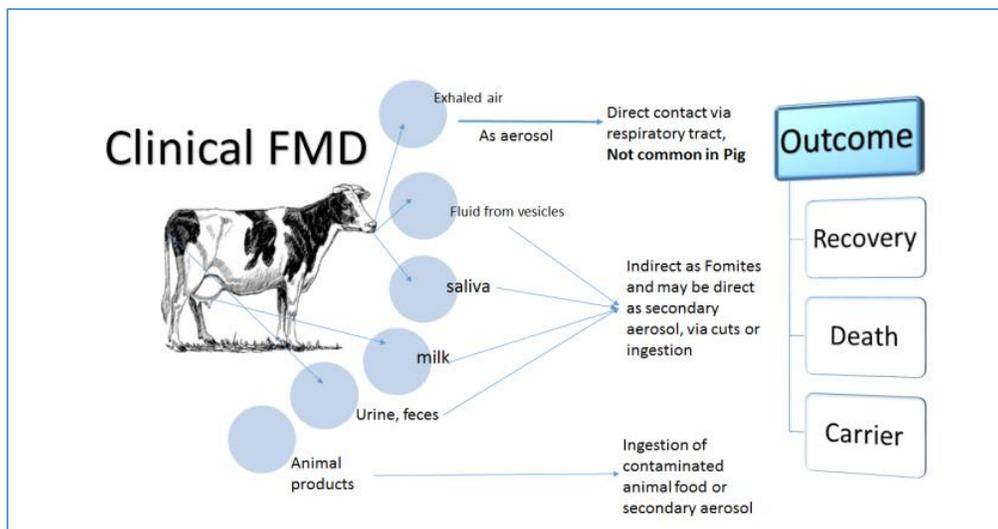
- ❖ The interim budget 2019 has announced a farmer income support scheme PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).
- ❖ The scheme aims to address unrest among cultivators who have suffered due to adverse weather and weak prices.
- ❖ Under this scheme the government will transfer Rs 6,000 every year to farmers.

## New initiative to control livestock diseases

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a new initiative to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support the livestock rearing farmers.
- ❖ It aims to fully control these diseases amongst the livestock in the country in the next five years and subsequently eradicate these diseases.

### Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis

- ❖ These diseases are very common amongst the livestock – cow-bulls, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs etc.
- ❖ If a cow/buffalo gets infected with FMD, the milk loss is up to 100% which could last for four to six months.
- ❖ Further, in case of Brucellosis, the milk output reduces by 30% during the entire life cycle of animal.
- ❖ Brucellosis also causes infertility amongst the animals.
- ❖ The infection of brucellosis can also be transmitted to the farm workers and livestock owners.



## Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a major change in the 'Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme' under the National Defence Fund.



- ❖ The Cabinet has increased the rates of scholarship from Rs 2,000 per month to Rs 2,500 per month for boys and Rs 2,250 per month to Rs 3,000 per month for girls.
- ❖ The ambit of the Scholarship Scheme is extended to the wards of State Police officials who are/were martyred during terror/naxal attacks.
- ❖ The quota of new scholarships for wards of state police officials will be 500 in a year.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs will be the nodal Ministry in this regard.

### National Defence Fund (NDF)

- ❖ The National Defence Fund (NDF) was set up in 1962.
- ❖ It aims to take charge of the voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation.
- ❖ Currently the fund is being used for the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces, Para Military forces and Railway Protection Force, and their dependents.
- ❖ The fund is administered by an Executive Committee with the Prime Minister as the Chairperson and the Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as Members.

### **SWIFT India and South Asia Conference**

- ❖ The SWIFT India and South Asia Conference was held at the St Regis Mumbai.
- ❖ It was organized and hosted by SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication).
- ❖ The theme of the conference was “Digitisation in transition: The future of innovation and cyber security”.

### **‘UdChalo’ initiative**

- ❖ In a bid to make wounded soldiers, who are now confined to wheelchairs, self-reliant, an initiative ‘UdChalo’ is all set to take off at the Army’s Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre (PRC).
- ❖ ‘UdChalo’ is a travel portal that provides for the personal travel of the military and paramilitary forces personnel by aggregating defence fares and getting exclusive discounts.
- ❖ It aims to empower the disabled military veterans.

- ❖ The initiative is unique and has given a new lease of life of these soldiers who are now confined to wheelchairs.



## ENVIRONMENT

### **“Red-color” warning for New Delhi**

- ❖ Indian Meteorological Department has issued a "red colour" warning for the national capital City.
- ❖ The IMD has four colour-coded messages viz. green, yellow, amber and red.
- ❖ Green indicates normal conditions while red denotes extreme weather situations.

### **'Go Green' Initiative - Indian Army**

- ❖ The Indian Army has commissioned a “Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System” (CAAQMS) at its Eastern Command headquarters in Fort William Military Station, Kolkata in West Bengal.
- ❖ This commissioning of air quality monitor is part of Army’s countrywide ‘Go Green’ initiative, which was started in April 2019.
- ❖ It will measure and displays wind speed, direction, air pollution, ambient temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation, barometric pressure and rain gauge continuously throughout the year.
- ❖ This installation was the sixth CAAQMS facility in Kolkata.

## STATES

### Elephanta Festival

- ❖ The two-day Elephanta Festival held at Gharapuri island, Mumbai.
- ❖ It was organised by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC).
- ❖ MTDC organises the festival every year to promote tourism and the culture of Mumbai.
- ❖ This Festival was started in 2012 to celebrate not just the heritage site of Elephanta caves but also the culture of the city.

### Annual income limit Increased for scholarship- Assam

- ❖ Assam government has increased the parent's annual income limit of students eligible for fee waiver scheme up to post graduation level from Rs 1 Lakh to Rs 2 Lakh.
- ❖ This scheme does not cover private colleges and universities in Assam.
- ❖ Children of parents working in state and central government are not eligible for this.

### 'Aapki Beti' scheme - Rajasthan

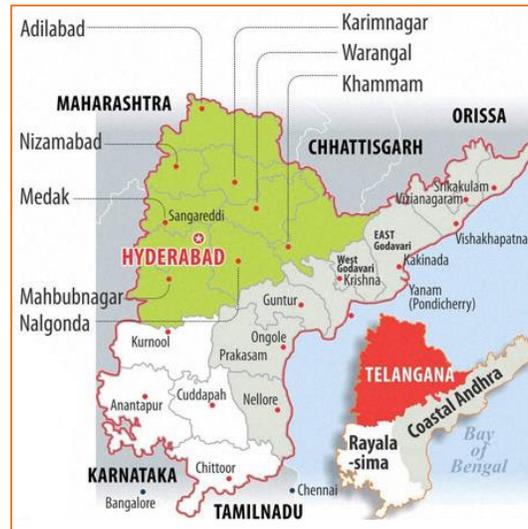
- ❖ Rajasthan government has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the 'Aapki Beti' scheme.
- ❖ Under the Aapki Beti scheme, girls living under the Below Poverty Line and whose mother or father or both have died get annual financial assistance in the state.
- ❖ For girls studying in class 1 to 8, it is hiked to Rs. 2,100 from Rs. 1,100 and for the girls in class 9 to 12, its hiked to Rs. 2,500 from Rs. 1,500.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Telangana Formation Day – June 2

- ❖ Telangana Formation Day is celebrated on the formation of Telangana State on 2<sup>nd</sup> June every year.
- ❖ The state of Telangana was officially formed on 2 June 2014.

- ❖ In February 2014, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 bill was passed by the Parliament for the formation of Telangana state.
- ❖ It comprises ten districts from north-western Andhra Pradesh.



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