

**June – 17**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The World Organization of Animal Health propounds the One Health concept and states that “human health and animal health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist”.
  - 60% of existing human infectious diseases are zoonotic; 75% of emerging infectious human diseases have an animal origin. Of the 5 new human diseases appearing every year, 3 originate in animals.
- ❖ A team of German-Russian scientists is all set to launch a space telescope, which will create a three-dimensional (3D) X-ray map of the universe and unveil unknown supermassive black holes, dark energy and stars.
  - It is named as Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma (SRG) Telescope.
- ❖ The Union Government has constituted a five-member committee headed by economist Kirit Parikh to review the existing marketing structure of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India.
  - This move is seen as an effort to bring in more private players into the field are also eligible to operate as parallel marketeers of LPG.
- ❖ Chief Minister of the Mizoram, Zoramthanga planted saplings at the premises of the Assam Rifles headquarters in Aizawl and celebrated Green Mizoram Day.
  - This day has been observed in Mizoram since June 11, 1999.
- ❖ According to the report on Internet Trends released by the venture capitalist Mary Meeker, India is ranked second with 12% of global internet users being Indians.
  - The Chinese tops the list with 21% and the Americans come third with 8% internet users.
- ❖ Singer Rihanna is named as the world’s richest female according to the Forbes magazine with an estimated fortune of \$600 million.
- ❖ The Venezuelan government has announced that it will issue three new banknotes due to ricketing hyperinflation which eroded the currency’s value.
  - It aims to control the prevailing hyperinflationary situation that reached more than 1.3 million percent.
- ❖ Estonia, Niger, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, Tunisia, and Vietnam were elected to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as Non-permanent Members for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2020.

- ❖ Bharat Dynamics Limited's (BDL) Vishakapatnam unit has entered into an agreement with Indian Navy to manufacture Heavyweight Torpedoes called Varunastra.
  - Varunastra is a ship-launched anti-submarine, electrically-propelled underwater weapon equipped with one of the most advanced automatic and remote-controlled guidance systems.
- ❖ The highest decision-making body in the department of Telecom, The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) has approved levying of penalty on Bharti Airtel Ltd. and Vodafone Idea Ltd.
  - They are fined for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio Infocomm when the latter had entered market in 2016.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Trade Wars**

- ❖ According to a study by the Commerce Ministry of India, the ongoing trade war between the US and China offers an opportunity to India for boosting exports of as many as 350 products.
- ❖ The Indian products which can tap the Chinese market include copper ores, rubber, paper, paperboard, equipment for transmission voice/data in a wired network, tubes and pipes.
- ❖ The Indian products which can grab exports opportunities in the US market include industrial valves, vulcanised rubber, carbon or graphite electrodes and natural honey.

### **BEPS Project**

- ❖ India has ratified the BEPS multilateral convention to implement OECD's project on checking tax evasion.
- ❖ Multinational corporations make profits in one jurisdiction.
- ❖ But shift them to low or no tax locations.
- ❖ They finally pay very low to zero corporate taxes.
- ❖ Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) convention aims to prevent such practices.



## **Female Labour Force**

- ❖ The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data published by the National Sample Survey Office reported that female labour force declined in India in 2017-18.
- ❖ India's female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) pointed out that three out of four women over the age of 15 in India were neither working nor seeking work.
- ❖ Bihar had the lowest rate of female workforce participation whereas the southern and eastern states did better.
- ❖ As per the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimations, the average employed Indian woman worked for 44.4 hours per week during April-June 2018.
- ❖ It is higher than the developing country average of 35-36 hours per week.

## **Small Traders Forex**

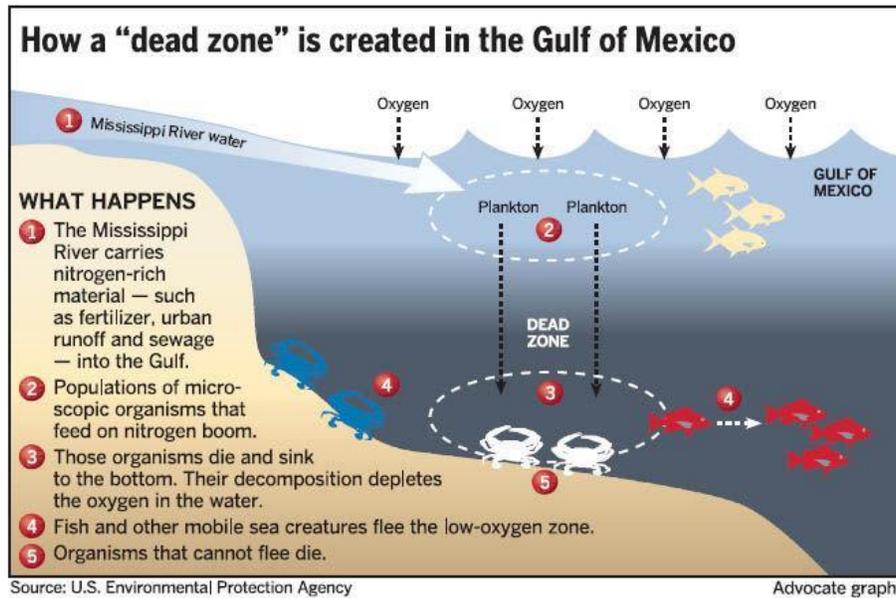
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to set up a foreign exchange trading platform for retail participants.
- ❖ Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) exporters & importers and individuals are expected to benefit from it.
- ❖ Platform is developed by the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL).
- ❖ The minimum tradeable amount is \$1000 and they are issued in the multiples of \$500 thereof.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Dead Zone in Gulf of Mexico**

- ❖ Scientists say this year's oceanic 'dead zone' in the Gulf of Mexico will be one of the largest in recorded history.
- ❖ It's expected to grow to over 8,000 sq. miles, and scientists predict severe harm to marine habitat, impacting fish harvests.
- ❖ Dead zones are hypoxic (low-oxygen) areas in the world's oceans and large lakes.
- ❖ They are caused by excessive nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorous) from human activities coupled with other factors.
- ❖ These deplete the oxygen required to support most marine life in bottom and near-bottom water.

- ❖ Mississippi river and its nutrient rich contents are blamed for the ever-increasing dead zone in Gulf of Mexico.



## Kelp Forests

- ❖ Climate change is altering marine habitats such as kelp forests on a global scale.
- ❖ Kelp is a type of large brown seaweed that grows in shallow, nutrient-rich saltwater, near coastal fronts around the world.



- ❖ More than 350 different species and up to 100,000 small invertebrates can live on a single kelp plant.
- ❖ Many fish, birds and mammals depend on the whole kelp underwater forests.

- ❖ Place of Occurrence: Western Australia, eastern Canada, southern Europe, northern California and eastern United States
- ❖ They can survive and grow even in the harsh Artic environment.

## STATES

### Black Softshell turtle

- ❖ The Ugratara Temple in Guwahati, Assam, organised a special darshan of 34 hatchlings of the rare black softshell turtle as these hatchlings will be reintroduced into the wild.
- ❖ Having a soft shell allows them to move much faster on land than most turtles and to move more easily in water.



- ❖ It is found only in the ponds of some temples in Assam and Bangladesh.
- ❖ Its Scientific Name is Nilssonina nigricans
- ❖ IUCN conservation status is Extinct in the wild

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought – June 17

- ❖ The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD) is being observed globally on 17 June.
- ❖ UN General Assembly announced the observance of this day in 1995 on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was drafted.
- ❖ The day is observed every year to promote awareness about desertification and drought and the ways to stop desertification.

- ❖ The theme for year 2019 is “Let’s Grow the Future Together”.
- ❖ The theme reflects on 25 years of progress and envisioning next 25 years.
- ❖ According to UN, desertification implies degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.
- ❖ Desertification does not refer to expansion of existing deserts.



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