

November - 13

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Government is set to introduce English medium in all government schools right from first to eighth standard starting from the next academic year.
  - The program will be extended to ninth and tenth standards in the subsequent year.
- ❖ Thousands of migratory birds of about ten species were found dead around Sambhar Lake, the country's largest inland saltwater lake near Jaipur.
- ❖ Industrial output (Index of Industrial Production) in September fell 4.3% from a year earlier due to decline in mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors.
  - This is the first time after November 2012 that all three broad-based sectors have contracted and posted lowest monthly growth.

## NATIONAL

### **Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan – Beach Cleaning Drive**

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched the Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan.
- ❖ The program aims to improve the sanitation on beaches and create awareness among citizens about the importance of coastal ecosystems.
- ❖ The mass cleanliness drive was implemented at 50 beaches in 10 coastal States and union territories across the country in collaboration with National Green Corps (NGC).
- ❖ National Green Corps is a programme of the MoEFCC covering around 1,20,000 schools in India with NGC School Eco Clubs.
- ❖ Environmental activity in schools in India is promoted through the NGC.

### **International Seed Treaty – Protection of Plant Genetic Resources**

- ❖ Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the 8th session of the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), in Rome, Italy.
- ❖ The ITPGRFA is also known as the Seed Treaty.



- ❖ It is a comprehensive international agreement for ensuring food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world's plant genetic resources.
- ❖ It also recognises farmers' rights, subject to national laws.

#### **PPV & FR Act, 2001 in India**

- ❖ In India the 2001 legislation 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act' protects Farmers' Rights and breeder's rights.
- ❖ A farmer is entitled to save, use, sow, resow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under the Act.
- ❖ The Indian legislation is fully compliant with Article 9 of the Treaty.

#### **First SCO Meet in India – 2020**

- ❖ India will host the 19th council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2020.
- ❖ This is the first such high level meeting of the eight-member grouping to be organised by New Delhi after its admission as full member in 2017.
- ❖ The SCO is a China-led eight-member economic and security bloc in which India and Pakistan were admitted as full members in 2017.
- ❖ Recently Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the summit in Tashkent.

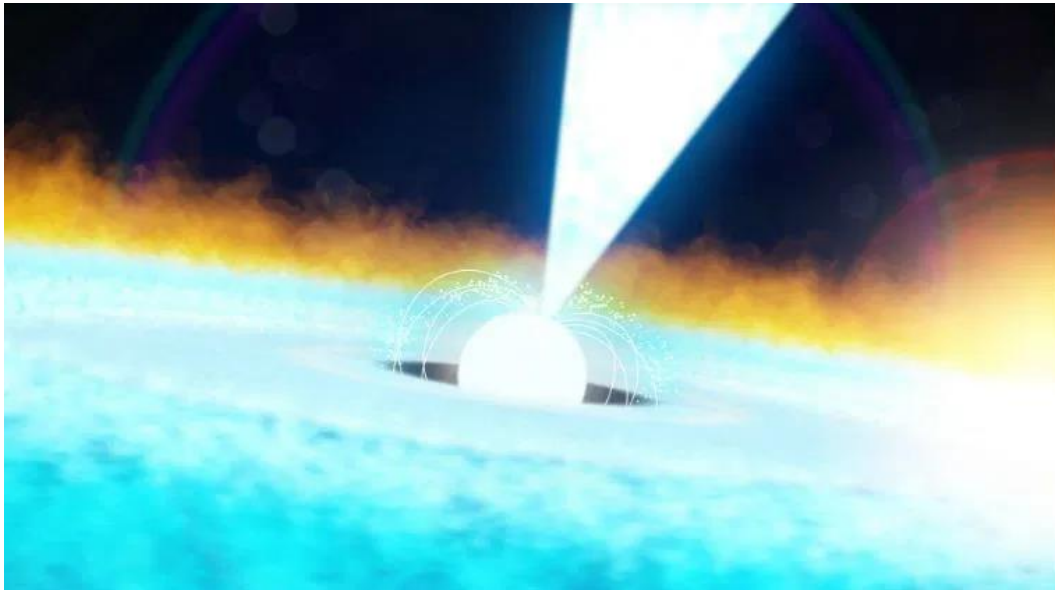
#### **New National Water Policy Committee**

- ❖ The Union Water Resources Ministry has finalised a 10-member committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP).
- ❖ It will be chaired by Mihir Shah, who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert.
- ❖ The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012 and is the third such policy since 1987.
- ❖ There are also plans to establish a National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Nicer Telescope of NASA

- ❖ NASA's Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER) telescope on International Space Station (ISS) has detected the brightest ever X-ray burst.
- ❖ The X-ray burst had been caused by a massive thermonuclear flash on the surface of a Pulsar.
- ❖ The crushed remains of a star that exploded long ago as a supernova is called pulsar.
- ❖ The explosion, which astronomers classify as a Type I X-ray burst, released as much energy in 20 seconds as the Sun does in nearly 10 days.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Brown to Green Report – India

- ❖ Climate Transparency, a global NGO has released a report titled Brown To Green Report 2019.
- ❖ It notes that India is the only G20 which is on its way to ensure world's mean temperature rises no further than 1.5° Celsius.
- ❖ The goal is set by the Paris Agreement against global warming.
- ❖ G20 countries represent more than four-fifths of the world's GDP and bulk carbon emissions.

- ❖ The report also lauded India for its investments in renewable energy.

## STATES

### President's Rule in Maharashtra

- ❖ After the results of Maharashtra assembly elections were declared, none of the major parties or pre-poll coalitions were found to have won majority to form the government.

<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>			
<b>2019</b>	<b>Assembly election</b>		
	<b>TOTAL SEATS 288</b>		
	<b>Seats won</b>	<b>2014 Seats won</b>	<b>Trends</b>
<b>BJP</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>-17</b>
<b>Shiv Sena</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-7</b>
<b>INC</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>+2</b>
<b>NCP</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>+13</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>+9</b>

- ❖ So, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari invited the largest party in Assembly to form a majority government.
- ❖ Since the option failed, he invited the second largest and third largest parties to explore the possibility of forming a government.
- ❖ The Governor then sent a report to President to proclaim President's Rule under Article 356 (1) of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister approved the recommendation to the President and Maharashtra has now been placed under President's rule.
- ❖ The Assembly will be kept under suspended animation.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Asia Society's Game Changer Awards – Kung Fu Nuns of Himalayas

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (Independent Charge) Prahlad Singh Patel felicitated the Kung Fu Nuns at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa Order, recently received the Asia Society's prestigious Game Changer Award in New York.
- ❖ They were awarded for their path-breaking work to empower women and dismantle gender stereotypes in the Himalayas.
- ❖ The 700-strong community of Kung Fu nuns belong to the Drukpa Lineage, a thousand-year-old Buddhist tradition that began in the Himalayas.

#### About the Award

- ❖ The Asia Society is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among people, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context.
- ❖ It was founded in 1956.





## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Pneumonia Day – November 12

- ❖ The world pneumonia day is observed every year on November 12.
- ❖ More than 100 organizations representing the interests of children joined forces as the 'Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia' to hold the first World Pneumonia Day on 2 November 2009.
- ❖ This year the theme for World Pneumonia Day is "healthy lungs for all".
- ❖ Pneumonia is a respiratory disease - the biggest killer of children under five across the world.
- ❖ India alone accounted for 70% of the global pneumonia burden in the year 2016.



The infographic features a central graphic with two lungs and the text "world pneumonia day November 12". Below this, a blue box titled "The facts" states: "Pneumonia is the #1 infectious disease killer of children under 5". A statistic below reads: "99% of pneumonia deaths in children under 5 occur in low & middle income countries". To the right, a section titled "Simple, proven solutions" lists six key actions: Exclusive breastfeeding for baby's first 6 months, Vaccination, Safe drinking water and good sanitation, Frequent hand washing with soap, Good nutrition, especially for kids aged 6 months to 2 years, and Adequate indoor ventilation. The bottom of the infographic features the slogan "Simple, proven solutions" and "Every breath counts. Stop pneumonia now."

### Public Service Broadcasting Day – November 12

- ❖ The Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated in India every year on November 12.
- ❖ The day commemorates the first and only visit of Gandhi to All India Radio on 12 November 1947.
- ❖ On that day he addressed the people who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.



## **Guru Nanak Jayanthi – November 12**

- ❖ Guru Nanak Jayanti is a sacred festival of the Sikh community and is widely celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- ❖ This year it falls on 12 November and is also celebrated as the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- ❖ Guru Nanak Jayanti is also known as Guru Parv, Gurupurab or Guru Prakash Parv.
- ❖ The birth place of Guru Nanak (born on 1469) is located in Nankhana Sahib, Pakistan.

