



**March – 18**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Indo Oman Joint Exercise Al Nagah III, a joint military exercise between Indian and Royal Army of Oman (RAO) was conducted at Oman.
- ❖ The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil with a special focus on countering transnational crime and terrorism was conducted at Curitiba in Brazil.
- ❖ Valtteri Bottas beat his world champion team mate Lewis Hamilton and clinch the season-opening Australian Grand Prix for Mercedes Team.
- ❖ NASA's Nick Hague, Russian Alexey Ovchinin and Christina Koch have successfully reached ISS (International Space Station).
  - Russia's Soyuz spacecraft carried them.
- ❖ Bengaluru Football club lifts their first ISL (Indian Super League) title by beating Goa.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Separate Police Wing for Women**

- ❖ TN government has created a separate wing of Police in pursuance of the orders of the Supreme Court and the Madras High Court to effectively deal with crimes against women and children.
- ❖ The duties and responsibilities of the wing include monitoring and studying the patterns of all categories of crimes against women and children across the State and develop effective strategies to prevent them.
- ❖ This exclusive wing is headed by an officer of ADGP Rank and will have 3 Superintendents of Police.
- ❖ The wing also deals with child-lifting and child abuse.

### **African Catfish rearing banned**

- ❖ Fisheries Department of Tiruvannamalai has banned rearing of African catfish and has made it an offence.

- ❖ It is an invasive species that is proliferating in water bodies across the State, posing a threat to native aquatic species.



- ❖ African catfish is Native to Africa and the Middle East, where it inhabits freshwater lakes, rivers, swamps, and urban sewage systems.

## **NATIONAL**

### **India's First Lokpal**

- ❖ The Former Supreme Court judge and current member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Pinaki Chandra Ghose, is likely to be India's first anti-corruption ombudsman, or Lokpal.
- ❖ The high-level selection committee chaired by the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and the eminent jurist Mukul Rohatgi recommended him for the post.
- ❖ Lokpal at the centre and Lok ayuktas in the states are set up to probe corruption complaints against top functionaries and public servants, including the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers.

### **Operation Sunrise**

- ❖ The Indian Army in a joint operation with Myanmar's Army destroyed 10 camps belonging to an insurgent group in Myanmar which had threatened the Kaladan multi-mode transit project.
- ❖ The operation was codenamed as 'Operation Sunrise'
- ❖ Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project involving India and Myanmar is critical to the connectivity between North East and Myanmar.



- ❖ Operation Sunrise was a mega task in which Arakan army, an insurgent outfit of Kachin Independent Army (KIA) backed by China, was targeted.

## ECONOMY

### Domestic Systemically Important Banks

- ❖ SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be in the Reserve Bank of India's list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2018.
- ❖ D-SIBs are required to maintain higher capital as compared to other banks.
- ❖ D-SIB tag indicates that the bank is too big to fail.
- ❖ Some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection.
- ❖ Banks whose assets exceed 2% of GDP are considered part of this group.
- ❖ Inclusion in the list gives additional comfort to investors that these banks won't be allowed to fail.
- ❖ Therefore, borrowing costs of these banks from the markets are cheaper than their peers.

### REPCO Bank - Central Govt Ordinance

- ❖ Following the Central Government ordinance 'Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Ordinance' Chennai Headquartered REPCO Bank has become ineligible to mobilise deposits from non-voting members.

#### An overview

Repco, set up in 1969, is headquartered in Chennai

- Formed to rehabilitate repatriates from Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Vietnam and other countries
- Includes as Directors two nominees of Home Affairs Ministry; 1 representative each from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments
- Centre's shareholding 50%; five State governments' share 6% and repatriates' 44%
- Voting members about 70,000
- Non-voting members over 10 lakh
- 108 branches in southern States with 1,300 employees
- In 2017-18, it achieved total business of ₹13,550 crore with 73% credit-deposit ratio

- ❖ Unlike other banks, REPCO bank comes under administrative control of Union Home Ministry.

- ❖ It is flourishing only on the support of 10 lakh non-voting members who are mostly repatriates from Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Vietnam and other countries.
- ❖ The ordinance that is essentially meant for unregulated private financial firms that had been collecting deposits from the public illicitly has affected REPCO bank.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **Khanderi Submarine**

- ❖ Indian Navy is set to induct the second Scorpene submarine Khanderi by early May.
- ❖ Khanderi was launched in January 2017 and has since been undergoing a series of trials.



- ❖ Khanderi is a “KALVARI Class” Attack Submarine.
- ❖ It is a diesel-electric attack submarine which is designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and manufactured at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

### **Topical Gel to Protect Farmers**

- ❖ Researchers in Bengaluru have developed a gel for the skin to protect agricultural workers from harmful pesticide sprays.



- ❖ The base of the gel is chitosan, a natural substance extracted from the waste shells of crabs and shrimps, with that they added a nucleophile and few aqua reagents to get the consistency and desired pH.
- ❖ This gel was found to cleave a wide range of commercially available pesticides before they enter the bloodstream, thus reducing the pesticide-induced enzyme inhibition.

### Harmful effects of Pesticides

- ❖ Organophosphate pesticides bring about the inhibition of important enzymes (AChE) of the human body.
- ❖ It can affect the functioning of nervous system, heart, immunity, and even the reproductive system.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **India at UNEA Nairobi Meet**

- ❖ India piloted a resolution passed in UN Environment Agency meeting at Nairobi to phase out the plastic use by 2030 and to create awareness on the nitrogen pollution.
- ❖ The damage to the ecosystems caused by the unsustainable use and disposal of plastic products was highlighted.
- ❖ The pollution caused by reactive nitrogen which threatens human health, ecosystem services, its contribution to climate change and stratospheric ozone depletion was also highlighted.

## STATES

### **Manohar Parrikar passes away**

- ❖ Four-time Goa Chief Minister and former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar passed away on March 17.
- ❖ Mr. Parrikar resigned as Chief Minister and served as Defence Minister from 2014-17 on the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



- ❖ Mr. Parrikar was the first Indian Institute of Technology alumnus (of IIT, Bombay) to serve as MLA of an Indian state as well as Chief Minister of Goa (in 2000).
- ❖ He became the Chief Minister for four terms but could not complete a single full term in office.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Ritu Beri

- ❖ Popular Indian fashion designer Ritu Beri has been appointed as the Cultural and Tourism Ambassador of Uzbekistan in India by the Ministry of Tourism of Uzbekistan.
- ❖ She is the first Indian to be appointed to this position.



- ❖ In 2016 Ritu Beri was appointed as the advisor to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.



## SPORTS

### Thabitha

- ❖ Thabitha from Tamilnadu claimed her second gold in the Asian youth athletics championships in Hong Kong, winning the girls' long jump with a 5.86m jump.
- ❖ The 17-year-old had earlier clinched the girls' 100m hurdles gold.



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