



# TNPSC score

## TNPSC Current Affairs February 2020



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## PREFACE

*The TnpSC score is the current affairs handouts prepared exclusive for TNPSC examination. TnpSC has changed the pattern of exam recently for GROUP 1 & 2. With clear reference to the previous year question paper and TnpSC group 2 model paper, the domain and trend of current affairs has changed. In group 2 model paper the trend of asking question was changed inline to UPSC pattern. Accordingly the pattern, change of syllabus, new school book determine the equal medium of competition for all.*

*In this way unit 9 predominant area deals with economics and current affairs. Inline pattern of TnpSC GS questions will be in essence of current trend. So to keep everything in box of preparation we prepared current affairs TNPSC SCORE material only in basis of HINDU News paper and PIB. TNPSC SCORE TEAM made a detailed analysis of Hindu news paper and prepared this material. This material is exclusively taken only from paper. So hope this TNPSC SCORE Will add additional advantage and boost your preparation to score and show edge in your preparation.*

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01.02.2020

### 1. **Economic Survey 2019 – 2020:-**

- Optimistic vision 20/20, expects GDS growth to receive from the 5% estimated for this year to a range between 6% - 6.5% next year.
- India's economy is estimated to be the fifth largest in the world.

1. United States - \$ 21.4 tn economy
2. China - \$ 14.1 tn
3. Japan - \$ 5.2 tn
4. Germany - \$ 3.9 tn
5. India - \$ 2.9 tn

- NSO - National Statistics Office released revised estimates for economic growth in the last 3years, begging Actual GDP growth in 2018 -19 at 61% instead of the 6.8% Provisional estimates reported earlier in May 2019.
- There has been Slowdown in economy, Poised to grow at just 5% in 2019-20 is the Slowest in 11years.
- The Survey hints at going easy no fiscal deficit targets in a bid to shore up growth and makes a Valiant attempt to evangelise wealth Creation by entrepreneurs instead of demonising them.
- The Survey delves into texts from BC 4<sup>th</sup> Century and Cites Tamil Poet Thiruvalluvar's Thirukural and Kautilya's Arthashastra to espouse the Virtues of the invisible hand of the market combined with trust in wealth Creation.
- India's only one bank is identified in the world's 100 largest banks. The Survey hopes for at least eight domestic entities to join the league so that India can be a \$ 5 trillion economy.
- IIP in Nov.2019 raw a growth of 1.8% Compared to a Contraction by 3.4% in Oct 2019.
- PMI Manufacturing increased from 50.6 in Oct.2019 to 51.2 and 52.7 in Nov. and Dec 2019 respectively.
- NIFTY India Consumption Index Picked up for the first time in Oct 2019.
- Theme: Wealth Creation, Promotion of Pro - business Policies, Strengthening of trust in the economy."

- Survey Suggests relaxing Fiscal Deficit target to revive growth in Country's economy.
- Gross GST monthly Collection crossed the ₹ 1 lakh Crore mark five times till Dec 2019.
- India ranks third in number of new firms Created. 1.24 lakh firms created in 2018.
- GDP growth in the first half of FY 20 Slowed to 4.8%, the Economic Survey Suggests that the Second half will witness an up tick
- Economic Survey Says top five States account for 65% of domestic tourists

**i) Tamil Nadu is one among the top three States in attracting domestic and foreign tourists.**

**ii) Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra were the other top two States.**

**iii) These three States along with Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh accounted for nearly 65%**

- The reason for increase in tourists is e - visa Scheme, which earlier Called as e - tourist Visa.
- The Inflation declined from 3.2% in April 2019 to 2.6% in December 2019. This reflects weakening of demand in the economy.
- Women employment between 2011-12 and 2017-18 has increased by 8%
- Survey States, the Centre's imposition of Stock limits in a bid to Control the Soaring Prices of onions Over the last few months actually increased price Volatility, hardly hitting on the Essential commodities Act (ECA) 1955 Which doesn't Suit to Present economy Situation.
- India need to work on improving the ease of doing business, especially the ease of starting business, registering Property, Paying taxes or enforcing contracts.

“World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Rankings 2019 – India done well in Some Parameters.

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2019</b>
i) Ease of Starting a business	156	136
ii) Dealing with Construction Permits	181	27
iii) Getting electricity	29	22
iv) Registering your Property	154	154
Overall Rank	100	63



- Survey raises Concern over farmers Continuing “Stubble burning Practice” though has come down.
- “Thalinomics” : Affordability of Vegetarian Thali improved 29% and that of non - Vegetarian Thali by 18%  
from 2006 -2007 to 2019 -2020
- Economic Survey Says India has an unprecedented Opportunity to Chart a china – Like, labour - intensive, export trajectory by integrating “Assemble in India for the World” into Make - in - India Policy and thus can rise its export market share to 3.5% by 2025 and 6% by 2030.
- According to Survey, Livestock has become a major Secondary Source of income for rural families. Growth of Livestock has been 7.9% in last five years.
- The forest and tree Cover has reached 80.73 million hectare. This is 24.56% of total geographical area of the Country.
- The job Creation of salaried employees of regular wage employees increased by 5% in 2017-18 as Compared to 2011-12.
- **Green Bond Market:-**
  - India has become the Second largest emerging Green Bond market after china. In 2019, India joined the International Platform of Sustainable Finance to increase the environmentally Sustainable investments.
  - Survey Says Public Sector units Performed better than Peers after Privatisation.
  - As far as food inflation, Survey highlighted high food inflation in urban areas When Compared to rural areas. The report Cautioned that if headline inflation did not completely revert to core inflation within a reasonably Short Span time, it may indicate the Presence of Strong Secondary effects.
  - India Currently ranks third globally in the number of new firms created with about 1.24 lakh new entities Coming up in 2018. However, India has lower rates of formal entrepreneurship on a Per - Capita basis Compared to other Countries.



**2. President quoted Thirukurral in his address Session of Parliament:**

உழுதுண்டு வாழ்வாரே வாழ்வார்மற் றெல்லாம்  
தொழுதுண்டு பின்செல் பவர்.

**3. Arunachalam Muruganantham:**

- Coimbatore based Social entrepreneur got the Patent rights for low cost Sanitary Pad - making machine he invented more than a decade ago.

He invented in 2002

Initiated Process of getting Patent in 2006.

4. Chief Minister Edapadi K. Palani Swami has announced a new Scheme, the "Direct CTO (Consent To Operate) **Scheme for green industries**", to relax the Process for Pre - establishment Clearances for green Category industries. These industries just need to apply for consent to establish, don't have to wait till obtaining final approvals.
5. High fees at the institutes of higher education Push the Poor and underprivileged out of **Education System – Economic Survey**.
6. **Indian Coast Guard Day.**
- The interim Indian Coast guard was established on, Feb, 1977 to Prevent Sea - borne Smuggling of goods which were hampering India's domestic economy. On 18 Aug, 1978 Parliament Passed the Coast Guard Act.



02.02.2020

**1. February 2 - World Wetlands Day.**

1. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 Feb, 1971, in Ramser, Iran.
2. It was Celebrated in 1997
3. Theme: "Wetlands and Biodiversity"

**2. Budget 2020 - 21**

- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the budget for fiscal 2020 -21, Vowing to boost income of Indians and their Purchasing Power, in a bid to revive domestic economic growth that has Slumped to lowest in decade.

**1. Taxation :- New Optional tax Slabs:**

Upto Rs. 5 lakh	- Nil
Rs.5 Lakh to 7.5 Lakh	- 10 % tax rates
7.5 to 10 Lakh	- 15 % tax rates
10 to 12.5 Lakh	- 20 % tax rates
12.5 to 15 Lakh	- 25 % tax rates
15 and above	- 30 % tax rates

## 2. **Agriculture:**

- 16 - Points action Plan to help farmers Agri Credit target for the year 2020 - 21 has been Set at 15 lakh crore rupees.

## 3. **Steep hike in Customs duty to Keep China keys out of reach.**

- No more double taxation on dividends Centre removes 15 % tax Plus applicable Surcharge and Cess on dividends, Currently Paid by Companies
- Government has increased the insurance Cover for bank deposits to ₹ 5 lakh from 1 lakh
- The government is Planning to Sell a Part of its Stake in the Life Insurance Corporation of India through an initial Public offering, Which Could turn out to be the biggest such offering domestically .“The government now Proposes to Sell a Part of its holding in LIC by way of Initial Public Offer (IPO)”
- The Union budget has made a major reduction in the annual allocation for financial assistance to Nepal. Apart from Nepal, aid to African Countries has also been reduced.
- 100 more airports will be developed by 2025 to Support UDAN Scheme, aimed at better regional Connectivity.
- Budgetary allocation of ₹ 70,000 Crore for the Indian Railways, with Overall Capital expenditure of ₹ 1.61 lakh for the next financial year in the Union budget.
- MS. Sitharaman also Proposed a 148 km Bengaluru Suburban transport Project
- Ministry Promised more Tejas - type train to connect tourist destinations.
- Also to Set up large Solar Power Capacity alongside rail tracks.
- Budget allocated ₹ 1,67,250 Crore to Union Home Ministry. This increase in amount Compared to the Previous year is due to the Creation of a separate fund for the new UT's J & K and Ladakh
- The Road Transport and Highways Ministry Saw an increase of 10% in its budgetary allocation.
- Minister has announced that atleast one major Port would be Corporatised and then listed on the Stock exchanges.
- Sagarmala Project that aims to exploit India's waterways and Coastline has Seen a doubling of allocation from ₹ 98 Crore to ₹ 211 Crore.



- Women and Child Development ministry allocated with ₹ 1500 Crore, Which saw a rise of 1.1%.
- POSHAN ABHIYAN, School Education both saw rise in Percentage of allocation this year.
- “Kisan Rail” - Proposed to Set up through the Public – Private – Partnership for a Cold Supply chain to transport Perishable goods. Nine such refrigerated vans were already available.
- RURAL: with rural wages on the decline and Consumption falling rapidly in those areas, budgetary Cuts in Schemes such as MGNREGS will exacerbate the Crisis. Most rural assistance recorded poor allocation in FY21 budget.

Schemes	2019 – 20 (RE)	2019 – 21 (BE)
	<b>2.63 %</b>	<b>2.02 %</b>
NSAP	<b>0.34 %</b>	<b>0.30 %</b>
NRLM	<b>0.33 %</b>	<b>0.30 %</b>
Rural Mission	<b>0.01 %</b>	<b>0.02 %</b>
PMGSY	<b>0.52 %</b>	<b>0.64 %</b>
PMAY - Rural	<b>0.68 %</b>	<b>0.64 %</b>
PMKISAN	<b>2.01 %</b>	<b>2.47 %</b>

- The Sharp Cut in rural Spending has come amid a huge fall in rural Consumption.  
The Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) of rural India declined by 8.8 % in 2017 - 18 Compared to 2011 -12
- In Oct.2019, the % annual growth in real rural wages for men decreased by 4.7%, biggest such drop in the recent years.
- The Spending came down as real rural wages declined from Mar. 2019 till Oct. 2019.
- The government’s food, fertilizer and fuel Subsidy bill has been pegged marginally higher by 0.24%
- The gender budget of the government as a share of budget has Seen a decline of 0.1% Though, budget for Ministry for Women and Child Development, School girls Scheme has Seen a rise in Percentage of allocation.

- There is also a 92% increase in the allocation for “one Stop Centre” Which received ₹ 385 Crore.
- There is a Cheer for Science in the budget, with key departments given larger hikes. Overall allocation is increased by 13%. The key departments. are Biotechnology - 17 %

Dept of Sci & Tech      - 14%  
Earth Science Ministry      - 14 %  
CSIR                      - 10 %

- Generally, the hikes will be revolving around 7%, but this time Posted double digit Percentage [first in atleast 3years]
- As of Nov. 2019, less than 13% of the Sanctioned amount of Pulses and oilseeds were Procured under PM – AASHA Scheme Reduction in food subsidy, which Plays a major role in Procuring Such Produce, will exacerbate the Situating forcing farmers to Sell at relatively lower mandi Prices.
- In budget, a Series of Steps announced to Set up and renovate museums to Promote tourism.  
Five Archaeological Sites would be developed as iconic sites with on – Site Museums They are:

1. Rakhigarhi (Haryana),
2. Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh)
3. Shivsagar (Assam)
4. Dholavira (Gujarat)
5. Adichanalur (Tamil Nadu)

- In this direction, Ms. Sitharaman also Pointed Out, “India has moved up tram rank 65 in 2014 to 34 in 2019 in the “world Economic Forum’s Travel and Tourism Competitive Index”
- Department of Space given a hike of 8%
- Health care in focus with ₹ 69,000 cr. been outplayed. In Which maximum allocation of ₹ 6,400 Cr. For PMJAY. Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to be expanded.



### 3. Tamil Nadu gets from the budget are:

1. Chennai - Bengaluru Expressway work to Start
2. Adichanallur as an iconic site with onsite museum
3. Funds requested for Godavari - Cauvery linking, Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase – II, Nadanthai Vazhi Cauvery Project were not allocated.
4. State to receive ₹ 32, 849.34 Cr as Share of Union taxes, When Compared to ₹ 26, 392.40 in 2019 -20.
5. Hike in Customs duties.
6. Steps to ensure Clean air in cities
7. Comprehensive measures for 100 water - Stressed districts
8. Thrust to renewable energy, Solar Pump Scheme, Support to Self help groups

### 4. பட்ஜெட் உரையில் திருக்குறள், ஆத்திகூடியை மேற்கோள் காட்டிய நிதி அமைச்சர்

ஒரு சிறந்த நாடு எவ்வாறு இருக்க வேண்டும் என்று திருக்குறளின் 74-ஆவது அதிகாரத்தின் (நாடு) கீழ் வரும் 738-வது குறளில் திருவள்ளுவர் தெரிவித்திருப்பதாக கூறிய அவர்,

“பிணியின்மை செல்வம் விளைவுஇன்பம் ஏமம்  
அணிஎன்ப நாட்டிற்கு இவ்வைந்து”

என்று கூறினார்.

ஒளவையார் எழுதிய ஆத்திகூடியையும் அவர் மேற்கோள் காட்டினார்.

“பூமி திருத்தி உண்”, என்பதாகும்.

### 5. Third train of Private:-

The third Private train is planned to operate in “Indore - Varanasi”.

Already - 1<sup>st</sup> - Delhi to Lucknow

2<sup>nd</sup> - Ahmedabad to Mumbai

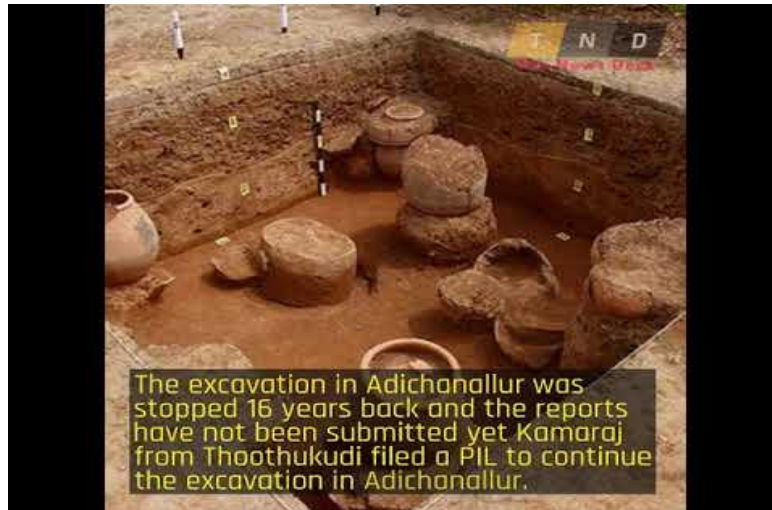
03.02.2020

**1. Finance Bill has Proposed three major Changes to Prevent tax abuse by citizens that don't pay taxes anywhere in the world.**

- Reducing the number of days that an Indian Citizen can be granted non - resident Status for tax Purposes from 182 to 120
- Citizens who don't pay taxes anywhere will be deemed to be a resident
- The definition of not ordinarily resident has been tightened. - NRI, living in Dubai or elsewhere, is not taxed for his income there, but has some earnings through Something in India for which they been taxed, said by Finance Minister.

**2. Adichanallur excavation reports were submitted to ASI – the documents have been awaiting Publication for the Past 15 years.**

The excavation were undertaken during 2004 -05



**3. 2,130 backwater is lands of Kerala have brought under the CRZ ruler:**

- ✚ Including Maradu, Ernakulum's Kadamakudy Island.
- ✚ Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)
- ✚ To impose curbs on development activities
- ✚ No new development activity will be permitted in these islands in an area between High Tide Line HTL and 50 metres towards the landward side, which is the CRZ area of these islands.



- + HTL is the line on the land upto which the highest water line reaches during the Spring tide.
- + List of islands (1<sup>st</sup> in State) was prepared by the National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvanthapuram, for the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA).

#### 4. **India Sends aid to Cyclone - hit Madagascar:**

- + Naval ship INS Airavat delivers relief
- + SAGAR Policy
- + "Operation Vanilla" - Conducted by Indian Navy.
- +

04.02.2020

#### 1. **15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has recommended a Post - devolution revenue deficit grant of ₹ 4,025 Cr. For Tamil Nadu.**

- State government's estimate is around ₹ 20,000 Cr. for the year. Budget 2020-21 have provided only ₹ 30,000 Crore against the required amount of ₹ 74,340 Crore as worked out by commission.
- Deputy CM. O. Panneerselvam, Stated that the State might get ₹ 1,600 Cr. Initially.

#### 2. **Assam river burns for 2 days after Crude Oil Spill:**

- A Stretch of a river in Assam's Dibrugarh burned for 2 days.
- Spillage from "Punctured Pipelines"
- Crude trickled into Burhidihing river

#### 3. **National Crime Records Bureau - Missing Women and Children.**

##### 1. **Missing Women:**

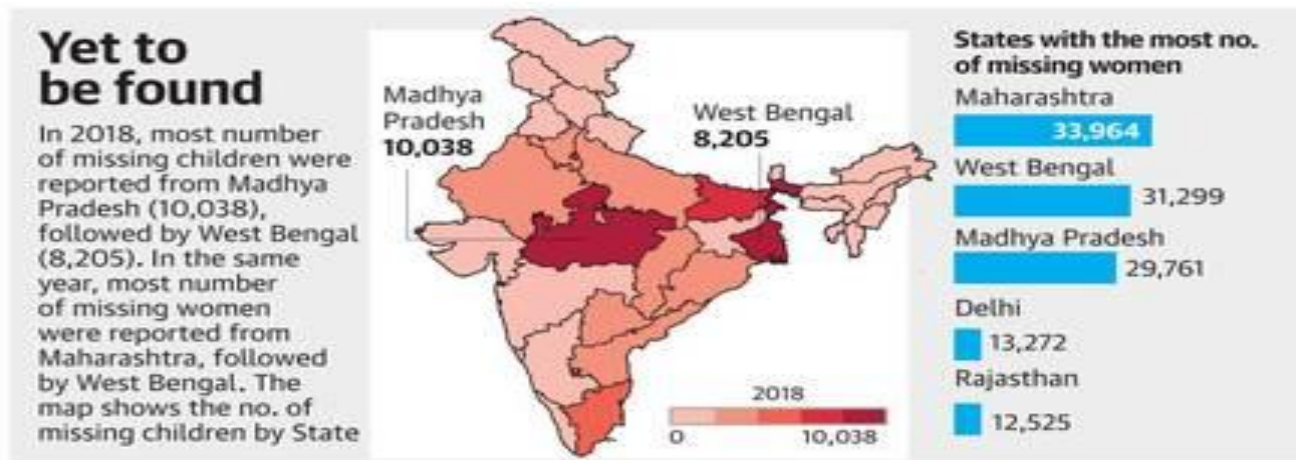
Maharashtra	- 33,964 Cases
West Bengal	- 31,299 Cases
Madhya Pradesh	- 29,761
Delhi	- 13, 272
Rajasthan	- 12,525

## 2. Missing Children:

Madhya Pradesh - 10,038 (Indore tops)

West Bengal - 8,205

- Shaktikanta Das - Chosen as the “Central Banker of the year”
- RBI Governor was Chosen for Asia Pacific Region by “The Banker” Magazine.



## 4. 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 - World Cancer Day.

05.02.2020

### 1. DEFEXPO INDIA - 2020:

- 11<sup>th</sup> edition, from 5<sup>th</sup> Feb to 8<sup>th</sup> Feb
- “Department of Defence” at Lucknow, UP
- Theme: “India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub”.
- To Showcase for new and future defence technology.
- Largest exhibition for the worlds defence Companies to display their land, Sea and their Capabilities.
- 40 Countries Ministers have participated.



India : The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub

**DEFEXPO 20**  
**INDIA**  
05-08 FEBRUARY 2020 LUCKNOW  
Ministry of Defence

## 2. 7 in 100 anganwadi beneficiaries in Urban.

- For every 100 anganwadi beneficiaries in the Country, only 7 are in urban areas, according to government response to a RTI query from the Hindu.
- Anganwadis or Day- Care Centres Provide Six Services
  1. Supplementary nutrition
  2. Pre - School non - formal education
  3. Immunisation
  4. Nutrition and
  5. Health education
  6. Referral Services
- Aim of Scheme to reduce infant mortality and Child mal nutrition.
- While there were a total 7.95 Crore beneficiaries of the anganwadi Scheme in the Country, as of Sep 30, 2019, only 55 lakh were registered at urban anganwadis.
- ICDS - Integrated Child Development Services need to be strengthened, the draft working to strengthen is being prepared by NITI Aayog.

## 3. Articles:

1. Proposals to amend the National Disaster management act 2005 (23 Dec) focus on, improving Preparedness
  - ✚ Providing immediate relief
  - ✚ Protecting infrastructure
  - It lacks long term recovery
  - 3 major disasters
  - ✚ 1999 - Cyclone in Odisha (Phailin)

- ✚ 2001 - Bhuj Earth quake
- ✚ 2004 - Tsunami

#### 4. **The act NDM 2005 Pave ways to form**

1. National Disaster Management Authority
2. State Disaster Management Authority
3. District Disaster Management Authority
4. National institute of Disaster management
5. NDRF
6. National Disaster Response Fund
7. National Disaster Mitigation Fund
8. National Disaster Management Structure in India

##### 1. **NDMA:**

- PM as Ex – officio Chair Person
- P.M nominate 9 members and Vice Chairman
- P.M presided the meeting and fix whenever he want to meet.
  - It lays down the Policy on disaster management.
  - Approve national Plans and Plan's lay down by ministries Minimum guide lines as Standards of relief
- Food, Shelter, Water, medical Cover
- Relief from repayment of loans and granting new loans - If the disaster was Severe.

##### 2. **SDMA:**

- Chair Person - C.M
- 9 members and Vice Chair Person nominated by C.M.

##### 3. **DDMA**

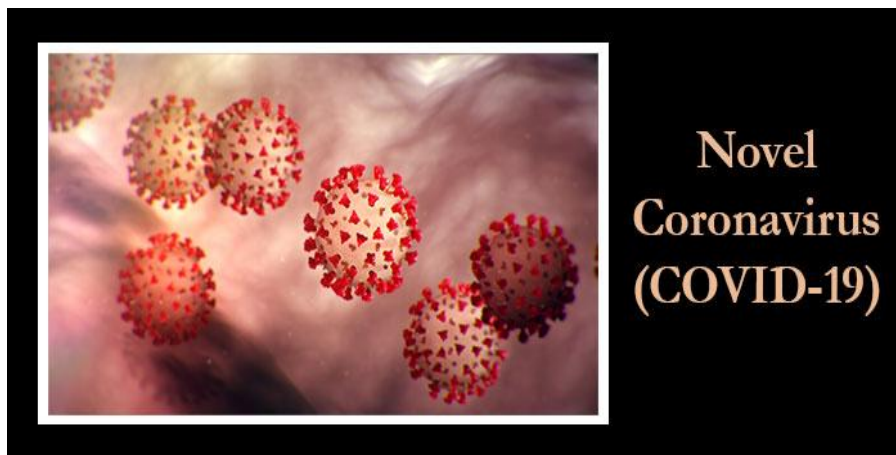
- Chair Person → Dist Magistrate, / Dist Collector / Dist. Dy. Commission
- 7 members → nominated by State govt.
  - The act helps immediate relief through
- NDRF
- SDRF



- Only Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha - has department level disaster management
  - + Poor implementation of PMPY and Biju Pucca Ghar Yojna.
  - + Result - To improve and provide long torn recovery

#### 5. **Anatomy of out Break: [Novel Corono Virus]**

- Globally affected - 7,39
- Kerala - People under Surveillance - 2,239
- SARS - Affected 8,096 in 2003



#### 6. **IRDAI Constituted a Committee to develop Concept paper on Standalone micro insurance Companies**

- After Coverage for low income groups and for low valued assets.
- Easily Converted by distributor, understood by the Customer
- It recommended Option to Permit Payment of single Premium in daily, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly installments
- Help more People to buy insurance Coverage who were previously unable to afford it.
- 10 member panel, 3 months to submit recommendations
- Chair Person of Committee - Mirai Catterjee (Director of SEWA . Ahmedabad)

#### 7. **Green bone Sustainable Resilience (German Cyber Security firm):-**

- Medical data's leak from unsecure PACS (Picture Archiving and Communications Systems Servers)

- ✚ Classifies Countries in “Good, “ “Bad”, “Ugly”
- ✚ India ranks “Ugly” Category , after the U.S
- Maharashtra ranks the highest in data’s available online.
- Karnataka is in next to Maharashtra.

06.02.2020

**1. Trust formed for Ram temple Construction:**

- Headed by former Attorney General and Supreme Court lawyer “k. Parasaran”.
- Trust named “Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra”

**2. PM announces Setting up of Ram Temple Trust:**

- Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust → office at Greater Kailash, New Delhi.
- It over See the Construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- Trust will have 15 members (includes one from Dalit Community)
- Independent trusts takes all decisions regarding temple Construction.
- Announced by P.M in Lok Sabha

→ Ajodhya verdict      → Nov 8, 2019  
→ 2.77 acre land (Ram temple)  
→ Alternate land 5 acre (Sunni waft Board for  
Constriction of Mosque)

**3. Consecration of 1000 yr old Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple in Tanjavur on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb:**

- was witnessed by Maratha Royal family members led by the Prince Babaji Rajah Bhonsle Chattrapathi - was held after 23 years.



**4. Kamban Kazhagam awards**

- Presented to SPB, Sangakkara
- Playback Singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam
- Srilanka Cricketer Kumar Sangakkara
- At Colombo

**5. Maharashtra government wrote to Centre to cancel earlier request for imported onions.**

- Due to increase in Production

**6. 3<sup>rd</sup> Scorpene Submarine - karanj, will be delivered to the Indian Navy by December.**

- All 6 deliveries would be completed by 2022 – by Nicolas de La Villemarque, Vice President India, Asia and Pacific of Naval Group.
- The Scorpene Submarine has the ability to be equipped with an AIP (Air Independent Propulsion) System.
- Karanj launched into water in Jan 2018, currently in advanced Stages of Sea trials.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Scorpene - Kulvari - 2018
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Scorpene - Khanderi - Sept.2019.

## 7. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Pulls up 14 Coal Plants

- They have not complied with deadline to limit Sulphur dioxide emissions
  - ✚ 5 Plants in Haryana
  - ✚ 3 Plants in Punjab
  - ✚ 2 Plants in U.P
  - ✚ 2 Plants in A.P
  - ✚ 2 Plants in Telangana
  - ✚ 1 Plant in T.N
- Supreme Court given these Plants a time until this month to explain to CPCB.



## 8. Madhya Pradesh Passes resolution against CAA

### 9. Surrogate mothers need not be Close kin:

- 15 major changes in Bill Suggested by Rajya Sabha Select Committee - 23 members - Major Changes.
  1. Allowing Single women (window or a divorcee and Persons of Indian Origin) to avail themselves of Surrogacy and increasing insurance Cover for the Surrogate mothers form 16 months Proposed in the Bill to 36 months.
  2. Surrogate the availability of Surrogate mothers, affecting genuinely needy Persons, the Committee has recommended the removal of this requirement from the Bill.



4. Deleting the definition of “infertility” as “the inability to Conceive after five years of unprotected intercourse”, on grounds that it was too long a Period for a Couple to wait for a Child.
- 10. Cooperative Banks to Come under Reserve Bank regulation - approved by Union Cabinet amending Banking Regulation Act to bring 1,540 Cooperative banks under RBI.**
- 1. Cabinet approves amendment (Cooperatives under RBI)**
- Amendments to the Banking regulation act
  - Gives financial Stability to Sector
  - Audit and other norms of RBI will implemented
  - Pre Permission for the LEO and other Officers.
  -

**07.02.2020**

- 1. 125<sup>th</sup> Maramon Convention – Feb 9:**
- Asia’s largest week - long annual Christian Congregation, will be held on its traditional venue of the riverbed of Pampa at Maramon, near Kozhencherry in Kerala
- 2. 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Bengaluru international film festival from Feb 26**
- 3. Following Punjab and Rajasthan, Haryana govt. warns farmers against locusts.**  
**State been Put in high alert.**
- 4. India Central Asia Business Forum:**
- New Delhi
  - Diplomats from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
  - Minister S. Jaishankar Said, India would like to explore Setting up “air Corridors” between India and five central Asian nations
  - Apart from developing trade via the “Chabahar Port” in Iran.

- This air Corridor reduces 2 months time taken over lands to 2 hours.

**5. Nepal will add a third gender option in Census:**

- In next Population Census, for the first time Counting LGBT People as a minority group that can be allocated Government jobs and education.

**6. RBI opts for long - term repos, CRR exemption to lower rates - by RBI Governor**

- To increase credit flow to Sectors such as home and auto loans and also MSME's
- Lenders have been exempted from cash reserve ratio (CRR) maintaining for the incremental Credit extended between Jan 31 to July 31.
- Current CRR - 4 % of their net demand and time liabilities.

**7. Auto Expo 2020 - at Greater Noida**

- Piaggio unveils its e - Scooter, Vespa Electrica - 1<sup>st</sup> to introduce a hybrid electric Scooter.



**8. Christina Coch - of NASA – returned on 6 Feb.**

- She stayed for longest Period of 328 days in Space.

**9. India to Study air corridors with Central Asian Countries**

- To explore Setting up of air Corridors between India and five Central Asian nations, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- Overland trade may take two months for Containers whereas flying time would be two hours.

- Fresh fruits & other agricultural Products could be exported.
- Air Corridors can boost trade in Perishable goods, agricultural & food Products.

### 10. **Nepal will add a third gender option in Census**

- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time Nepal will count LGBT People as a minority group that can be allocated govt. jobs and education.

08.02.2020

### 1. **Upgraded 155mm artillery gun handed over to army**

- OFB (Ordinance Factory Board), handed over “Sharang, the first 130mm M-46 artillery gun upgraded to 155mm to Indian army.

### 2. **Green light for HAL helicopter**

- The indigenous light utility helicopter (LUH) being developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Crossed a milestone on Friday as it at the ongoing Def-expo.
- The Choppers will replace the aging Cheetah and Chetak helicopters along with Russian Ka – 226T helicopters.



### 3. **Habitat loss felled leopards - Research Points to 90% loss of Population a Century ago**

- Catastrophic declines due to human Pressures.
- Research says needed an initiative like “Project Tiger”.

#### 4. **Include gender bias (unequal treatment in employment opportunity) in order to curb Sexual Harassment**

- Scope of the sexual harassment of women at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act to include gender bias.
- Recent economic survey pointed out that the female labour force's Participation had dropped from 33% in 2011- 12 to 25.3% in 2017-18.
- Gender bias could be in the form of humiliation, exclusion from important task, removal of responsibilities & Prevent Promotion.

09.02.2020

#### 1. **Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa's India Visit**

- Met PM Narendra Modi on 08.02.2020 - PM Said – “I am Confident that the Govt. of Sri Lanka will realise the expectations of Tamil People for equality, justice, Peace and respect within a united Sri Lanka. For this, it will be necessary to carry forward the Process of reconciliation with the implementation of 13<sup>th</sup> amendment of Sri Lanka's Constitution.
- Rajapaksa gave no firm Commitment on it - Rajapaksa seeks delay in debt payment to be deferred for 3years and discussed plans to utilise a \$ 400 million Line of Credit extended by India.

#### 2. **Big Temple - Thanjavur**

1. Chola rule 9<sup>th</sup> Century CE - 13<sup>th</sup> Century CE
2. Rajaraja - I (985 - 1014) CE
3. Arulmozhiarman Crowned himself Rajaraja in mid 985 CE, Said to be between June 25 & July 25.
4. Late Pandya Era : during 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Century Possibly 1279 CE to 1311 CE
5. In early 14<sup>th</sup> Century, Thanjavur was invaded by Malik Kafur, Commander of Alauddin Khilji, and brought under Muslim Principality with Madurai as base.
6. Takeover by Vijayanagar King, Kumara Kampanne, in late 14<sup>th</sup> Century CE
7. Nayaka Kingdom established by Sevappa Nayaka (1535 - 1564)
8. Captured by Ekoji I (1675 - 84), Maratha feudatory of Nawab of Bijapur.
9. Maratha rule ends in 1856 with Thanjavur getting absorbed into British India
10. Also called Brihadeeswara or Peruvudayar or Rajarajeswara temple.
11. Designed to represent Cosmic Structures



12. Built in tune with the Chola ideology of equating temple with Cosmos and territory.
13. Constructed during 1003 - 1010 CE Constructed of large granite blocks.
14. Spread over 21 acres.
15. Three rajagopurams (gateways) - Maratha, Keralanthakan and Rajarajan
16. Regarded as India's tallest temple tower, the Vimana is 216 ft high (66m), with 13 receding tiers.
17. Rajaraja I said to have gifted gold - Covered finial to be placed atop vimana.
18. Plinth of Central shrine 45.72 Sq.m; Linga height -13ft.
19. Amman Shrine during Jatavarman Sundara Pandya (1251 - 70) CE
20. Subramanya, Nagaraja Shrines during Sevappa Nayaka
21. Ganesha Shrine during Serfoji - II (1798 - 1832) CE
22. Fortified walls Probably added during 16<sup>th</sup> Century
23. Nandi and Nandi mandapa installed during 16<sup>th</sup> Century CE
24. Scheduled Castes allowed entry in July 1939 when temple entry movement was gaining momentum. Mahatma Gandhi, during his visit to Thanjavur in Feb, 1934, appealed for Permitting SC's into temple.
25. In 1987 – declared world Heritage Monument.
26. In 2004,
  - ✚ Brihadeeswara temple in Gangaikonda cholapuram, Ariyal district
  - ✚ Aihavatreswara temple in Darasuram, Thanjavur district also included as world Heritage monument.
27. UNESCO Calls them "Great Living Chola Temples"
28. The Agamas say that any ritual in a temple is not complete without the rendering of Tamil hymns. To render "Thevaram", Rajaraja has appointed 50 persons, known as Odhuvar - by R. Nagaswamy Archaeologist.

### 3. **West Bengal growing arsenic - resistant rice.**

- Seeds made available after Successful trials in both the wet season and dry season.
- The New rice Variety, Mukto shri - IET 21845, developed jointly by the "Rice Research Station" at Chinsurah District under west Bengal's Agriculture Department and the "National Botanical Research Institute", Lucknow.

- A gazette notification for the Commercial use of Muktoshrī was made by west Bengal.

#### 4. **Fireflies under Threat:**

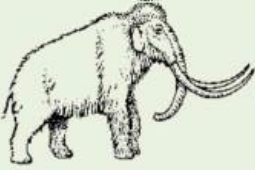
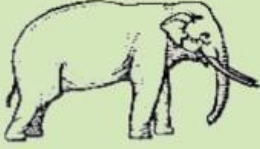
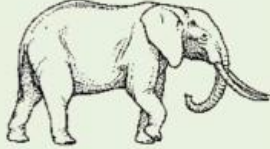
- Along with familiar hazards of habitat loss and Pesticides, night lighting Proves to be an added menace that Plays havoc in Courtship behaviour of fire flies.
- In a worldwide assessment Published in Biosciences, researchers Concluded that Some of the 2000 - Plus firefly Species may face extinction threats.



#### 5. **Mammoths:-**

- The world's last woolly mammoths suffered from serious genetic defects due to inbreeding that may have hampered Sense of Smell and male fertility. Scientists decoded the genome of one of the last mammoths from Wrangel Island off Siberia's Coast.
- The Study has been published in "Genome Biology and Evolution."

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MAMMOTS AND ELEPHANTS**

			
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>Woolly mammoth</b> <i>Mammuthus primigenius</i>	<b>Asian elephant</b> <i>Elephas maximus</i>	<b>African savannah elephant</b> <i>Loxodonta africana</i>
<b>HEIGHT</b>	9-11 ft (2.75-3.4 m)	8-10 ft (2.4-3 m)	10-11 ft (3-3.4 m)
<b>WEIGHT</b>	4-6 tons	3-5 tons	4-6 tons
<b>BACK SHAPE</b>	sloping	humped	saddle-shaped
<b>FUR</b>	dense	sparsely	very sparsely
<b>HEAD</b>	high single dome	double dome	low single dome
<b>EAR</b>	very small	medium	large
<b>TUSKS</b>	curved and twisted	gently curved	gently curved
<b>TRUNK TIP</b>	1 short, 1 long "finger"	1 "finger"	2 equal "fingers"
<b>TAIL</b>	short	long	long

**WOOLLY MAMMOTH FACTS**

**Life history**

- \* The heyday of the woolly mammoth was ~50,000 BP
- \* Most woolly mammoths went extinct ~10,000 BP, and the last population survived until ~4,000 BP
- \* Woolly mammoths once had a range stretching from Ireland east across Asia and North America
- \* Woolly mammoths had hairy coats, sloped backs, and large tusks and were adapted for a life in the cold
- \* An adult woolly mammoth ate about 400 lbs of grass and sedge a day
- \* Mammoths were likely social creatures with a similar social structure to elephants
- \* The lifespan of woolly mammoths was about 60 years, and they weighed about 6 tons
- \* Mammoth tusks grew throughout their life, laying down daily and yearly cone-shaped tusk rings

**Two theories for why woolly mammoths went extinct:**

- (1) Being hunted by humans
- (2) Warming temperatures and climate change at the end of the ice age

**6. Bats Serve as natural hosts for numerous viruses including Ebola virus, Nipah virus, Corona viruses Such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).**

- These viruses cause harm in humans, they rarely cause any harmful effects in bats.
- Compared with terrestrial mammals, bats have longer lifespan.
- Bats can harbour these viruses without getting affected because bats can avoid excessive virus – induced inflammation.
- Researchers found that reduced inflammation in bats was because activation of an important protein - NLRP 3
- Researchers studied two distinct Species of bats
  - ✚ Pteropus alecto - known as Black Flying Fox
  - ✚ Myotis davadii - tiny Vesper bat from China

## 7. Finding the elephant's long - lost relatives in Kutch

- Ancient elephant called Deinotherium Indicum - weighed between 8 to 10 tons - Three localities these Species Spread are:
  - + Tapar of Gujarat
  - + Haritalyangar in Himachal Pradesh
  - + Piram Island off the Coast of Gujarat
- They lived roughly between 11 and 7 million years ago in India

10.02.2020

### 1. Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi k. Palaniswami on 09.02.2020 laid the foundation for

1. Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences, at Thalaivasal in Salem district.

### 2. The International Park would host a Veterinary institute, a Processing Centre for diary and meat – based Products and an incubation Centre.

### 3. TN CM announced that the Cauvery delta region would be declared a Protected Special Agriculture Zone as a Step towards ensuring food securing of the State.

### 4. TN CM inaugurates SCF[Salem Cricket Foundation] ground

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated the ground at Salem
- Play area of 90 metres, which is the biggest in the State.





### 5. **Medical Termination Pregnancy bill 2020:**

- 10 women die every day due to unsafe abortions.
- Cabinet approved the MTP 2020
- It will amend MTP act (1971) [only allows abortion till 12 weeks]
- The bill Proposes
  - + Foetuses aged up to 12 weeks → Only one Medical Practitioner's Opinion is needed for the abortion in Cases of risk of life of mother, grave injury to her Physical and mental health, handicapped foetus (Physically or mentally)
  - + Foetuses aged between (12.20 weeks) → at least 2 medical Practitioners Opinion is required.
  - + In case of grave injury, (Pregnancy due to rape, Pregnancy due to failure of Contraceptives) the termination is carried out beyond 20 weeks if it is necessary to save the life of Pregnant women.

### 6. **Back logs:**

- Abnormalities of foetuses beyond 20 week can only aborted in case of grave danger to Pregnant women's life.

### 7. **India's rank - 128/140 Countries for average mobile internet Speed.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - South Korea. In India - Bihar - 34.4 Mbps (fastest) (J 10) - North east - 3 Mbps (Slowest) (Idea).

### 8. **Melting Antartic Glaciers:**

- Roughly Size of Britain [Thwaites Glacier]
- 120 km wide, 1.9 lakh Sq. Km → Contain enough water to raise the world Sea level by more than half a metre.
- Thwaites melting already Contributes 4% to global Sea level rise each year.
- This glacier is often called as “Doom’s day glacier”.
- Sensor is Placed to measure the waters moving below the glacier – Ice fin [at a depth of 600m deep and 35 cm wide]

### 9. **India - Bangladesh rail link to be ready by 2021**

- Rail line to Connect the Northeastern region with Bangladesh [Agartala in Tripura & Akhaura in Bangladesh]  
Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DONER)

### 10. **Li - ion batteries imports Since 2016 has quadrupled**

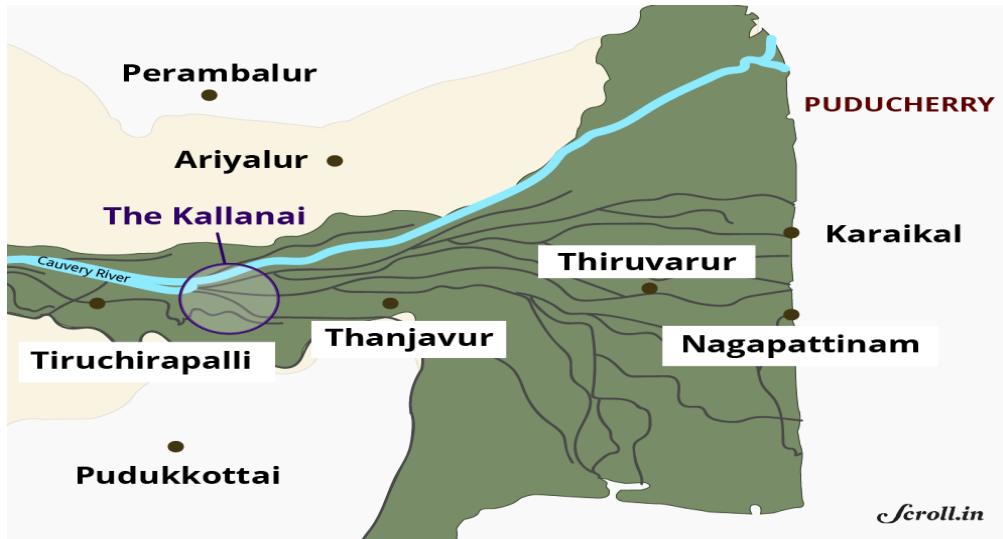
- Li - ion means Lithium - ion
- It is Vital for powering a range of devices from Cellphone to electric Vehicles.
- Sources of Li - ion batteries are China, Japan and South Korea.
- To Promote indigenous development of such batteries, the Union Cabinet in 2019 approved a programme called a National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage in the NITI Aayog.

11.02.2020

### 1. **Cauvery Delta - Agricultural Zone:-**

Significance: Region Covers 8 districts, fully or partially with 59 blocks.

1. Full Coverage - Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam
2. Partial Coverage - Tiruchi and Pudukottai – 6 blocks each - Cuddalore - 5 block - Karur - 4 block - Ariyalur - 3 block



3. Spread over about 28 lakh acres
4. Covers 70% Canal irrigation in the State
5. Ensures food Security in the State with 40% of Paddy Production.
6. Provides drinking water of around 1,775 million litres a day in districts, from Ramanathapuram in South to Vellore in north, Dharmapuri in west to Vedaranyam in east.
7. The full Coverage districts are top 3, Produced 18.15 lakh tonnes of rice in 2017 – 2018 27% of States total Production.

**2. Four Indian Pilots begin astronaut training in Russia for Gaganyaan.**

- At (GCTC) Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Centre in Moscow, Russian Space business Company Glavkosmos has announced that Gaganyaan Planned around 2022 12 - month training.

**3. J & K administration to allocate 100 acre land for TTD temple.**

**4. Solar orbiter mission to reveal Sun's Secrets:**

- A new Probe built by NASA and the European Space Agency Set off on a blazing hot journey to the Sun on 09.02.2020 to take the first Close -up look at the Star's Polar region, a mission expected to yield insight into how Solar radiant energy affects Earth.
- The Solar orbiter Space craft lifted off from Cape Canaveral 10 yr Voyage

## 5. **February 11 – world Unani Day**

- Birth Anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan (Indian)

## 6. **Decline in dropouts in higher education:**

- IIT dropout has fallen from 2.25% in 2015 – 16 to less than 1% in 2019 – 2020
- IIM - 1.04% to 1% in the Same Period
- Data by Ministry of Human Resource development
- Tabled datas from Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE +) 2018 - 2019, All India Survey on Higher Education 2018 - 19 (AISHE) → Shows Gross Enrollment ratio [GER] at Secondary, Senior Secondary and Higher Education are Similar to boys and girls.
- Higher Education level, GER → Boys - 26.29% Girls - 26.36%
- Senior Secondary level → GER for girls is higher than Boys.

## 7. **India Host: → 13<sup>th</sup> Cop of CMS:**

- Conference of Parties of Convention on the Conservation of migratory Species of wild Animals (CMS), → an Environment treaty under aegis of United Nations Environment Programme [15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> FEB, 2020], Since 1983.
- COP is the decision making Organ.
- India Signed non legally binding MOU with CMS for Conservation and management of Siberian Cranes ( 1998)
- Marine turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008), Raptors (2016).

## 8. **India and Migratory Birds:**

- Amur Falcons
- Bar headed Gheese
- Black necked Cranes
- Marine turtles
- Dugong
- Hump backed whales etc...,
- Central Asian Flyway (CAF) → Part of major bird flyway network → Between Arctic and Indian Oceans.



**9. No shortage of funds for Siachen : Army sources**

- Recent report of the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) which flagged deficiencies in clothing , equipment and rations to soldiers on the world's highest battlefield
- Each soldiers were provided with special clothing equipment worth over Rs.1 lakh along with auxiliary, medical & mountaineering equipment worth an additional Rs.1.5 lakh
- According to the report there was a critical shortage of snow goggles ranging from 62% to 98% and troops were not issued “ Multi – purpose boots” from Nov 2015 to sep 2016.

**10. India moves to include elephant, bustard in Global Conservation list**

- The list will be debated at the 13<sup>th</sup> conference of parties (COP) of the convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of wild Animals (CMS)
- Held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- There are 130 parties to the convention & India has been a member since 1983
- Asian Elephant and the great Indian Bustard to be included in the list of species that require heightened conservation measures.
- The elephant faces risks particularly in neighbouring Bangladesh and Nepal
- Union Environment Ministry reports India as having 29,964 elephants according to the project Elephant census in 2017.
- India has been designated the president of the COP for the next three years



- India has been taking necessary actions to protect and conserve migratory marine species

#### 11. **Solar Orbiter mission to reveal sun's secrets**

- A new probe built by NASA and the European Space Agency to take the first close up look at the star's polar regions
- This mission expects to yield insight into how solar radiant energy affects Earth
- Lifted off from cape Canaveral and is on a 10 years voyage

12.02.2020

#### 1. **Delhi Election:**

- Aam Aadmi Party back to Power in Delhi, winning 62 Out of 70 Seats. BJP won 8 Seats, managed to add only five Seats to its tally of 2015. Congress draw a blank.



#### 2. **Tamil Nadu Government is Planning to Promote (Farmers Producer Organisations) in a big way.**

- State government has decided to offer a host of Concessions and incentives to them.
- FPO's are viewed as an alternative to Cooperative Societies.

- An Amendment to the Companies Act in 2003 enabled the establishment of FPO's
- FPO's are emerging as an effective model for the aggregation of land, resources, inputs and finance in accessing markets.
- In 2012 - 13, the Centre released a national Policy and Process guidelines for FPO's
- The State government has been backing FPO's since 2014.
- The T.N. government and NABARD are Supporting 175 and 170 FPO's respectively.
- There are 500 registered FPO's in TamilNadu.

### 3. **Thanatotheristes [ Reaper of Death]:**

- University of Calgary and Royal Tyrrell Museum
- Found dinosaur fossil → Alberta in Canada (2010), a new Species of Tyrannosaur.
- Named it as Thanatotheristes means - 'Reaper of Death'.
- 79 million year old fossil (oldest tyrannosaur known from Northern North America).
- It is used to Study Late Cretaceous Period
- Preyed on large Plant - eating dinosaurs such as Xenoceratops and dome - headed Colepiocephale.

### 4. **WHO names Corona virus as COVID - 19:**

- CO - Corona
- Vi - Virus
- D - disease.
- Director general of WHO → announced at news Conference at HQ - Geneva.

### 5. **Gender Gap:**

- Feb 11 - International day of Women and Girls in Science → Established by U.N. to promote equal access for Participation in Science for women and girls.

## 6. UNESCO:

- 28.8 % researchers are women (2018)
- In India it drops to 13.9%
- Between 1901 to 2019 → 334 Nobel Prize to 616 Laureates of which 20 have won by 19 Women.
- 2019 - 1<sup>st</sup> women to win Abel Prize → American mathematician Karen Hollenbeck.

## 7. 1.25 lakh to attend 'kem chho Trump' show

- U.S. president Donald Trump's visit to India at the Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad.
- Inauguration of the new Sardar Vallabhai Patel stadium, the largest cricket stadium in the world.
- They will visit Hriday Kunj, Gnadhi's house, where they will operate a spinning wheel (Charkha) Mahatma Gandhi's favorite hymn 'vaishnav Jan to' will be played in the background music.

## 8. SPG Only secures PM

- According to a recent amendment to the SPG Act, 2019 reduced Special Protection Group (SPG) cover to only Prime Minister, former Prime Minister and their immediate family members up to 5 years after ceasing post if they are residing at the residence allotted.
- CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) Secures 56 important people in the country.

## 9. Bill to include more tribes in ST category

- Lok Sabha passed the constitution (Scheduled Tribes) order Amendment Bill. It seeks to include the Parivara and Talawara communities in the ST category.
- Siddhi tribes of Belagavi & Dharwad in Karnataka will be included, apart from those living in Uttar Kannada.
- Tribal Affairs Minister – Arjun Munda.

## 10. **Economy not in trouble , asserts finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**

- Highlighted revival of macro – economic indicators which included higher foreign investment, improvement in industrial output and GST Collections, all –time high forex reserves and an upbeat stock market.

13.02.2020

## 1. **T.N CM honours fishing Village in Thoothukudi that does not use nets.**

1. The fishers of Kombutharai Village in Thoothukudi do not know how to use fishing nets - they are accustomed to the traditional hook and line method of fishing, and they believe in Conserving marine resources and do not Catch Small - Sized fish.
2. Recently, the village's Co – management Committee received an award from CM as “the best Village with Co - management in the State”
3. Co - management is a Concept that is being introduced in 532 fishing hamlets in TN, where local Community and the government Share responsibility and authority for management of resources.
4. Second Prize - Mannakudi in Kanyakumari Third Prize - Sulerikattukuppam near Chennai.

## 2. **Bill to regulate Pesticide business been approved by Cabinet.**

- “Pesticides Management Bill, 2020
- The draft Bill has proposed raising Penalty on Sellers of Spurious Pesticides.

## 3. **The Union Cabinet approved the major Ports Authority Bill 2020.**

- This bill will replace existing regulations under a 1963 law.
- The 12 major Ports in India Would get a boost through the now law.

## 4. **BIMSTEC Disaster management Exercise - 2020:**

- Minister of State for Home Affairs inaugurated Field training Exercise of 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Disaster management Exercise on flood rescue at RamaChandi Beach, Puri [Odisha].
- Rescue teams of 5 member nations
  - India
  - Bangladesh



- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- Myanmar



5. **BIMSTEC:**

- Bay of Bengal for Multi - Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- Totally 7 member States.
- Established on 6 June 1997 through Bangkok declaration.

**5 from South Asia,**

**2 from South East Asia:**

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1) Bangladesh | 6) Myanmar  |
| 2) Bhutan     | 7) Thailand |
| 3) India      |             |
| 4) Nepal      |             |
| 5) Sri Lanka. |             |

6. **Cabinet Clear's Major Port Authority Bill: 2020**

- Shipping minister - Mansukh Mandaviya.
- Bill was approved by P.M. Modi and will replace existing regulations under 1963.
- It Provides for Creation of Board of Major Port Authority for each major Port.



- Currently Tariff authority for major ports - fixes the Scale of rates for assets and Services available at Ports.
- Under this bill the board or Committees will determine these notes.

14.02.2020

### 1. **USTR takes India off developing Country list**

- In 1998 U.S. had come up with lists of nations classified as per level of development.
- This list helped to determine if they were subject to U.S CVDs (Counter Vailing Duties).
- United states Trade Representative (USTR) has published a notice, amending lists of developing and least – developed countries.
- New lists include 36 developing, 44 least developed nations.
- India was in the 'Developing Country' list till February 10, eligible for relaxed norms.
- Country taken off the lists were Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand , Vietnam.
- **Criteria to determine the list were**
  - I) Per capita Gross National Income
  - II) Share of world trade
  - III) Other factors such as Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD), EU membership and Group of Twenty (G20) Membership
- **Reasons for removing India form the list**
  - I) At least 0.5% share of the global trade is processed by India
  - II) Because it is a part of the G20  
(G20 indicates that a Country is Developed )

### 2. **SEBI devises to track client securities**

- Securities and Exchange Board of India has developed an in-house system to track the movement of client securities that are collected as collateral by brokers

- There had been instances of some brokers having misused clients securities by pledging them with banks and NBFC'S (Non – Banking Financial Company) to raise funds for their own use
- Measures taken to minimize such misuse are
  - I) Early warning mechanism to detect diversion of clients funds & Securities
  - II) Restricting the broker from pledging clients securities even with the consent of the client
  - III) Transferring securities to the client account or Client Unpaid Securities Account (CUSA) within 24 hours of payout
  - IV) Mapping of Unique Client Code with the demat account of the client to detect diversion of payout of securities

### **3. Publish Criminal history of candidates, supreme court orders parties**

1. Supreme court ordered political parties to publish the entire criminal history of their candidates for the Assembly and Lok sabha elections along with the reason that goaded them to field suspected criminals over decent people
2. The information should be published in a local and a national newspaper as well as the parties social media handles
3. If is mandatory to be published either within 48hours of the selection of candidates or less than 2weeks before the first date for filing of nominations, whichever is earlier

### **4. Future of Earth, 2020 report :**

1. Jointly released by The south Asia Future Earth Regional office, Divecha centre for climate change and the Indian institute of science
2. **Risk factors been listed:**
  - Failure of climate change mitigation & adaptation
  - Extreme weather events
  - Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
  - Food crisis
  - Water crisis

### 3. **Going Energy Neutral, 13 SCR railway stations tap the sun**

1. The South Central Railway (SCR) has become the first in Indian Railways to come up with the concept of “Energy Neutral “ stations, capable of meeting 100% energy requirement by tapping natural solar power through Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) panels commissioned on about 13 station building
2. The total capacity is 99 kwp

### 4. **L&T to deliver first patrol boat to Vietnam**

1. The first high – speed patrol boat being built for Vietnam under the 100 – million line of credit will be delivered in September
2. 11 more vessels will be ready by 2021

**15.02.2020**

### 1. **TAMILNADU BUDGET :2020-21 , presented by state Finance minister O.Pannerselvam, in the Assembly on 14.02.2020:**

1. Priority to education, Rural Development & infrastructure
2. CCTV's in all government buses at a cost of Rs.75.02 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund
3. Mega Food park at Gangaikondan, Tirunelveli District
4. Reduction in stamp duty for rental agreements under the new Tenancy act from 1% to 0.25%
5. The government has decided to form a “not for profit” special purpose vehicle to finance and Manage the AMMA Unavagam programme
6. Foods Parks to be established in Dharmapuri, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Karur, Nagapattinam , Ramanathapuram, Tenkasi Districts
7. Eco-restoration of the Buckingham Canal, its drains and all the drains of the Coovum and Adyar to be taken up together
8. School education been allocated Rs.38,181.73 crore and Rs.5,052.84 crore for higher education
9. State has sanctioned fund for the establishment of a world – class museum at Keezhedi
10. Government will set up mega Industrial park in Thiruvallur district, near Ponneri

11. Rs.5 crore along with a piece of land will be provided by government to set up centre for public Finance, a research centre by Madras school of Economics at Kotturpuram
12. TN government to start old age homes in 37 districts on a pilot basis
13. An integrated plan will be submitted to Central Govt. to develop Mamallapuram
14. Government to take over Raja Muthaiah Medical College in Annamalai University and rename it as Government Cuddalore Medical College
15. Housing Scheme , Desalination plants, Fisheries department has also been allocated funds.
16. Debt bonds to be floated for implementing certain urban schemes.
17. Basic infrastructure project – in village – a new scheme to be implemented.
18. Irrigation projects and rehabilitation of clams were included in Budget.
19. For water resource management, fund been allocated for Kudimarathi works
20. Rs.100 crore set aside for flood management works in Chennai.
21. Police department with Rs.8,876.57 crore Judiciary – Rs.1,400 crore Fire services – Rs.405 crore.
22. Tamil Nadu achieved growth of 8.1% in 2018-2019.TN got good governance award, Reduction in road accidents, all been righted.
23. Government proposed for 13 working women hostels. 8 hostels around Chennai and Krishnagiri, Trichi, Hosur, Kanchipuram, Namakkal with each one.
24. Government has allotted Rs.500crore in the budget for the Athikadavu – avinasi ground water recharge and drinking water supply scheme.
25. TN's net outstanding debt is expected to rise significantly to over Rs.4.56 lakh crore in 2020 – 21.
26. Integrated farmers market complexes will be established in Thiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli on a pilot basis through NABARD – Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure fund.
27. The government would launch a scheme to bring farmers and officials closer through a structural programmer of interaction, “Uzhavar – aluvalar Thodrabu Thittam” providing technical advice on farming operations.
28. Inter – ministerial team to clear 8 agro processing clusters on February 26.
29. TN's revenue deficit set to double. The burden imposed on state Finance by the takeover of debt of TANGEDCO under UDAY scheme .



**2. Kerala Seeks Tamil Nadu help to tide over milk crisis**

- Kerala is looking to TN mill supplies (Aavin) to address an unexpected shortage that has hit Milma in the run – up to the summer

**3. Radio – tag Indian Pangolin**

- Scientists have, for the first time, radio tagged the Indian Pangolin, an endangered animal
- It is hunted for meat, used in traditional Chinese medicines

**4. NLCIL bags second “Best Enterprise award for -2019**

- In recognition of its work done for the empowerment of women employees in the organization and for the welfare of women and children in villages around Neyveli
- At the 30<sup>th</sup> national Convention of Forum of women in Public Sector (WIPS)
- Award was instituted by central APEX WIPS functioning under the aegis of scope to select PSU's
- NLC has bagged in “ Navratna Category”

**5. Supreme Court ordered, telecoms to pay AGR dues immediately**

- AGR – Adjusted Gross Revenue
- Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea - Major telecoms



## 6. **World Largest Subterranean Fish: (Meghalaya's Jaintia Hills)**

- Fish species occurs under Earth's surface. Normally measures 8.5 cm average
- Nearby 5 times the mean length

## 7. **Subterranean Eco System**

- Extreme
- High stress environment
- Darkness
- Truncated food webs
- Food Scarcity
- Not named yet it lack pigmentation lack of eyes
- From a paper published ( Nov 2019) in Journal – Cave and Karst science describes Harries accidental discovery as “world's largest known subterranean fish”
- Similar to endangered “Mahseer fish”

## 8. **SC: orders to publish criminal History of parties Candidates :**

- Info should be published in local, national newspapers
- Mandates the release within 48hours of selection of candidates or before 2week the 1<sup>st</sup> date for filling of nominations
- Details include the nature of offences, charged with crime

## 9. **Restoration of Sun temple :**

- 800 years old Konark sun Temple in Odisha
- UNESCO world heritage site
- Conference for restoration plan Feb 28,29 said by Union Culture Minister – Prahlad Singh Patel



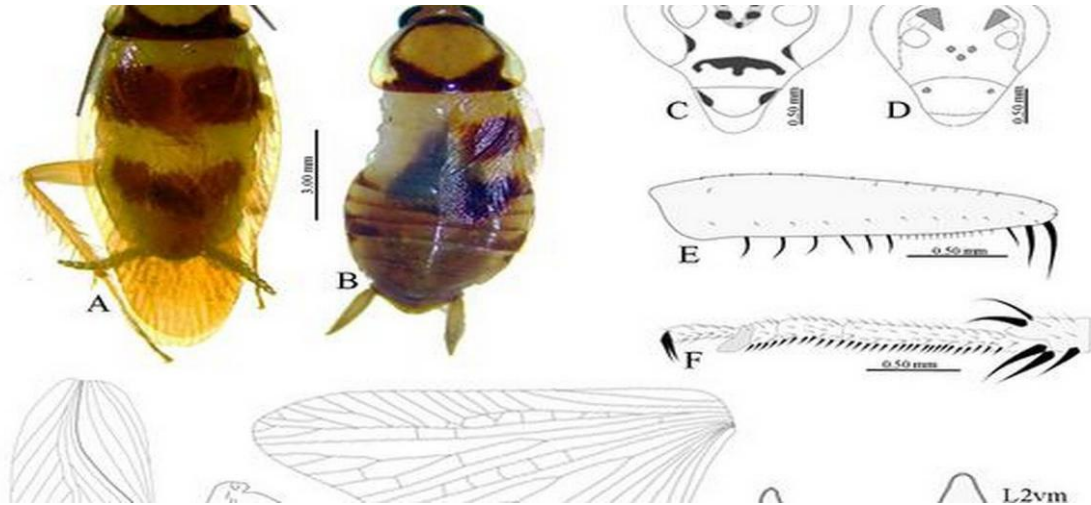
16.02.2020

**1. Mazood Azhar & family, Pakistan tells FATF**

- Pakistan has said JeM's Chief Masood Azhar and his family are missing to global terror financing watch day FATF
- JeM carried at a suicide attack in Pulwama and killed 40CRPF personal
- May 1,2019 UN committee designated them as a global terrorist

**2. New Cockroach species found in Western Ghats**

- Name – Allacta Kalakkadensis
- It is said to be endemic to Western Ghats and is nocturnal



### 3. Ambala bus stand renamed after Sushma

- Ambala city bus stand was renamed after late external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, as she was born in Ambala cantonment and was elected MLA twice from there
- It is located in Haryana

### 4. Elephantine conflict swells in the East

- Three states in the Eastern and north Eastern parts of the country – west Bengal, Odisha and Assam – account for about half of both human and elephant deaths in the overall human – elephant conflicts in the country, according to the latest data provided by the ministry of environment, forest and climate change
1. States with human Casualties
 

West Bengal	- 400 deaths
Odisha	- 397 deaths
Jaharkhand	- 349 deaths
Assam	- 332 deaths
  2. Unnatural deaths of elephants mainly due to poaching, train accidents, electrocution and poisoning
  3. 65% of elephant death is due to electrocution

### 5. ISRO to launch 10 EO satellites in 2020 -21

1. The country will send up an unusually large number of 10 Earth Observation (EO) satellites

2. The upcoming launches include GISAT – 1, RISAT - 2BR2, RISAT – 1A and 2A, ocean sat – 3 and Resource sat -3/3s

**6. Doctors warn against use of weight – loss drug**

- Lorcaserin, a weight – loss drug been cautioned by Indian doctors , since US food and Drug Administration recently said is linked to a “Possible” increased risk of cancer”.

**7. Duty cut to revive Horse breeding**

- Finance Minister had announced a Reduction of customs duty for import of pure – line breeding stock while presenting the Budget
- It would also make Indian Breeding competitive globally

**8. Textile policy to be rolled out by mid 2020**

- The central government is expected to roll out a Textile policy and by mid – year a new policy will be provided
- The Ministry plans to develop to mega textile parks. Each one will be an integrated Park.
- Rs.1000 crore is to be spent for developing raw materials for technical textiles

**9. Madhya Pradesh Radio Tag’s rescued Pangolins**

- 9th world Pangolin Day
- MP Radio tag’s the rescued Pangolin (ant eater) and released in the Sapura tiger reserve (6 months ago)
- Pangolins → most trafficked wild lip species in the world
- It is a mammal ( gives birth for only one young in one year)
- Has an armour of scales, tooth less animals
- Population declined from 50% to 80 % across genus
- There are 8 species of pangolins (only Indian and Chinese Pangolins are found in India )
- Highly poached for its scales.(Believed to have medicinal traits but not proven)





#### 10. Multi Lateral Naval Exercise : MILAN(2020)

- Aimed – honing the skills of operators, maintainers, planners, executors, responsibilities and authority onboard a warship
- MILAN – started in 1995 near Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- 2018 – it was attended by 17 countries
- Milan 2020 march – 42 countries including US, Russia also been invited will be commenced at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Theme – “Synergy across the seas”
- Exercise is restricted only to the friendly countries
- Chinese navy has not been invited
- September, 2019 – Indian Navy directed Chinese Vessel, Shi yan 1 to leave India’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Bay of Bengal)

#### 11. Convalescent Plasma Therapy :

- Therapeutic product is made from the plasma – donated by cured patients (After virus inactivation)
- Used to reduce the mortality rate of critically ill patients
- Collection, preparation and test process in safe, nature and takes short time
- Covalent plasma has been listed as a therapeutic method by clinic National Health Commission
- This method is also used in E bola struck parts of Guinea, Sierra, Leone, Liberia
- Also used against measles, chicken pore, rabies



17.02.2020

**1. CRPF enlists Combai, a native breed of T.N:**

- Combai, a dog breed of T.N known for its fearlessness and devotion to owners, has joined the dog Breeding and Training school of the central Reserve Police Force, Bengaluru On a Pilot Basis
- Zoologists say the dog is fast and athletic. At present, the CRPF has Belgian Malinois.



**2. Bihari Migrant women emerged topper in Malayalam Literacy exam**

- Romiya kathur scores first rank with full marks in the examination held by Kerala state literacy mission Authority

**3. Madhya Pradesh grapples with spiraling neonatal deaths**

1. Madhya Pradesh recorded highest percentage of Newborn deaths of 11.5% against the total admissions to government – run sick new born care units (SNCUS) in past 3 years across country a rate ominously spiraling since 2017, according to the national Health Mission (NHM). The Country's Average is 7%.

2. Although admissions of neonates (Under 28days) in the state have dropped from April 2017 to December 2019 – remaining tower than west Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh – the percentage of deaths at 12.2% surpassed Bihar's last year.
3. Several Factors : Staff crunch, low community referrals, absence of a special neonatal transport service to health centres and the non –availability of enough units to cater to increasing institutional deliveries has contributed to the spike in the percentage of deaths.
4. **Clean Indore now aims to be “most silent” city**
  - After being rated India's cleanest city in several Swachh Bharat surveys, authorities in Indore want to make it most “Silent city”.
  - Plans include curbs on sound amplifying systems and “smart traffic signals” that stay red longer if honking is above a certain decibel limit.
5. **India signs 14 MoU's with Russia for support spares**
  - MoU & were signed during the 5<sup>th</sup> India Russia military industry conference held during the Defexpo 2020 in Lucknow.
  - They cover modern T- 90 tanks, Pechora air defence systems, Tunguska, Kavadratt, the OSA –AKA.
  - Intergovernmental Agreement on joint manufacturing of spares in India.
6. **We are not growing at the rate needed to reach the \$ 5 trillion target says former planning commission Deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia**
  1. To reach the target the growth rate must be close to 9% from 2019-20. But the present growth rate is below 5 %.
7. **Achievements of T.N**
  1. Tamil Nadu ranks first in the good governance index
  2. Hon'ble Chief Minister's foreign visit has attracted investments worth Rs.8835 crore.
  3. Cauvery Delta Region Declared as protected Special Agriculture Zone
  4. New Government Medical Colleges in 11 Districts.
  5. Five new districts created for administrative convenience.

## 8. Awards & Recognition Received by the Govt of T.N

1. India today Magazine adjudged T.N as the overall best performing state for the second time
2. T.N bagged the Prestigious Krishi Karman award for 5 times
3. Best States award for organ transplantation consecutively for the 5<sup>th</sup> year
4. 12 National Awards for e – Governance, capacity building , child care. Grama Sabha, etc
5. “Public Affairs centre “, Bengaluru has ranked T.N second in good governance
6. Central Government’s Award for reducing the death ratio of lactating mothers
7. Central Government’s Award for the best performance in “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” Scheme.
8. Frost & Sullivan adjudged T.N in 2<sup>nd</sup> position for the overall best performing state for the second consecutive time
9. Best state Award for clean India Scheme
10. Award for end to end Computerization of public Distribution system
11. Nine national awards for exemplary work of Rural Development Department
12. Four National Awards for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
13. National award for forerunner state in online learning
14. National award for best service to senior citizens
15. Award to Chennai government General Hospital for organ Donation
16. Award to renewable energy department
17. Central governments award for road safety
18. Nine National Awards for best performance of Transport corporations
19. T.N state forerunner in enrolment in higher education
20. National Kamadhenu Award to Bargur Cattle Research Station
21. Post Graduate Award to T.N Veterinary and animal Sciences university
22. T.N. Fisheries university accredited with First Rank among the fisheries universities in India
23. Central Government’s Award for Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
24. Central Government’s National Water Resource Award for the year 2018
25. Central Government’s clean city swatch Sarvaksan Award for the year 2018
26. Clean Holy place Award for Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai

27. UNESCO Award to Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganatha Swamy Temple for restoration work without altering architecture

18.02.2020

**1. Policy statement Endorsed Permanent Commission for SSC women officers in two sections**

- Accepts Governments Policy to grant permanent commission (PC) to short service commission (SSC). Women officers in 10 streams of the combat support arms and services wings
- SSC women are eligible for command assignments and not just staff appointments
- SSC women officers granted PC will be entitled to all consequential benefits, including promotion and financial gains

**2. Centre lets Ladakh appoint non – gazetted personnel**

- Due to shortage of Personnel, the union govt has empowered the union Territory of Ladakh to formulate its own rules to appoint “non – gazette” officials.
- Lieutenant – Governor shall exercise the power to make rules in regard to the method of recruitment to all Groups “B” (NON – gazetted ) & group ‘C’ posts under his administrative control.
- Lieutenant – Governor could decide on the “qualification necessary for appointment to such services and posts.
- In the union Budget on Feb1, a total of Rs. 30,757 crore was allocated to Jammu & Kashmir and Rs.5,958 crore for Ladakh for 2020-21(Fiscal year).

**3. Women Army officers Eligible for permanent commission**

- Supreme court dismissed the union governments submissions that women are physiologically weaker than men as a “sex stereotype” and declared that short service commission (SSC) women officers are eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the army irrespective of years of service
- Bench of justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta.



- The verdict came on a nearly 10- year old appeal filed by the government against a march 12,2010 decision of Delhi high court to grant SSC women officers permanent commission.

#### 4. India's bird population on the decline:

- India's bird diversity has suffered strong long – term declines over a 25 year period, while more recent annual trends point to a drastic 80% loss among several common birds a new scientific report jointly released by 10 organizations.
- The state of India's Birds 2020(SOIB) assessment raises the alarm that several spectacular birds, many of them endemic to the subcontinent, face a growing threat from loss of Habitat due to human activity, widespread presence of toxins, including pesticides.
- 101 species - High Conservation concern
- 59 of which based on range and abundance and the rest included from high – risk birds on the IUCN Red List – endemics such as

- ✚ Rufous – fronted Prinia
- ✚ Nilgiri Thrush
- ✚ Nilgiri Pipit

Indian Vulture – were confirmed suffering decline

- All expert 13 has a restricted or highly restricted range, indicating greater vulnerability to man – made threats





**5. Government unveils plan for research on “indigenous” cows – the study will be funded by multiple scientific ministries**

- The initiative, SUTRA PIC, is led by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- It has Department of Biotechnology, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry of AYUSH and Indian Council of Medical Research as partners
- Sutra PIC –scientific utilization through research Augmentation – prime products from indigenous cows
- Has 5 themes
  - i) Uniqueness of indigenous cows
  - ii) Prime – products from indigenous cows for medicine and health
  - iii) Prime – products from indigenous cows for agricultural applications
  - iv) Prime – products from indigenous cows for food and Nutrition
  - v) Prime – products from indigenous cows based utility items

**19.02.2020**

**1. Food grain Production set to touch a record high**

- Total food grain production is projected to scale an all time high of almost 292 million tonnes in 2019- 20
- According to the Agriculture Ministry
- Abundance of late monsoon rains resulted in cumulative rainfall that was 10% higher than the long-period average for the reason. This helped the farmers in harvest that were larger - than - expected

**2. Sugar Exports expected to Pick up**

- Indian sugar export is expected to increase in the coming months as global sugar prices have increased
- According to Indian Sugar Mill's Association (ISMA) there is a deficit of nearly 9 million tonnes in the global market during 2019 – 2020

### 3. **Pakistan to remain in terror financing Watchdog's "Grey List"**

- The International co-operation review group (ICRG) of the Financial action Task force (FATF) on 18.02.2020 recommended that Pakistan be retained on the "Grey List: given HS failure to completely implement the 27-point action plan to check terror financing
- Turkey and Malaysia gave their support to take away Islamabad from Grey List in coming June

### 4. **TN government to introduce prohibition in a phased manner**

- Government was committed to the policy of introducing prohibition in a phased manner in Tamil Nadu.
- The business hours for Tasmac – run liquor outlets were reduced by 2 hours and 1000 liquor shops were shut down on the orders of the chief minister.

### 5. **Andhra Pradesh launches "Nadu - Nedu " Programme**

- Nadu – Nedu programme aimed at revamping hospitals and health centres across the states.

### 6. **Supreme court voices concern over deforestation**

- The court was hearing a plea challenging cutting of old trees for an over – bridge in west Bengal

### 7. **Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill,2020**

- To monitor medical procedures used to assist people to achieve pregnancy
- This bill also proposed stringent punishment for those who practice sex selection, indulge in sale of human embryos or gametes and those who operate rackets

### 8. **CK Motors to set up EV plant in Tamil Nadu**

- New plant in Coimbatore to make electric vehicles (EVs) for commercial use

20.02.2020

1. **Chennai residents can now use GIS to monitor progress of Civic Projects**
  - GIS – Geographic Information System
  - In the first phase, projects costing more than Rs.100 crore be geo tagged using GIS to facilitate monitoring by the public.
2. **City to get bird interpretation centre – Puducherry**
  - At Oussudu lake, an important wetland on the outskirts of Puducherry, under national wetland conservation programme of ministry of Environment and Forests.
  - It also been declared one of the 93 significant wetland in Asia by Asian Wetland Bureau.
3. **TN Government announced Birth Anniversary of Former CM Jayalalitha's to be observed as "Girl child Protection Day"**
  - February 24 – birth anniversary of former CM Jayalalitha, will be observed as the "State Girl Child Protection Day".
4. **Swachh Bharat Mission second Phase gets nod**
  - This phase will focus on Open Defecation Free plus (ODF plus), which includes ODF sustainability and liquid and Solid Waste Management (SWM)
5. **Centre cuts its share in crop insurance**
  - The centre has almost halved its contribution to its own flagship crop insurance schemes, slashing its share of the premium subsidy from the current 50% to just 25 % in irrigated areas and 30% for unirrigated areas from the kharif season of 2020.
6. **Keeladi excavation:**
  - Sixth phase of archaeological excavation at Keeladi, covering three neighboring villages began on 19.02.2020.

21.02.2020

**1. Tamil Nadu House passes Bill to Protect Agriculture in Delta Region**

- Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Bill, 2020 was passed on 20.02.2020.
- It states ongoing projects not to be affected.
- Zone Includes: Thanjavur, Tiruvarur & Nagapattinam , 5 blocks each of Cuddalore and Pudukottai districts.
- Tiruchi, Ariyalur and Karur excluded.

**2. Special Prosecutors for POSCS cases - TN**

- The prosecution Department of TN has announced the appointment of 16 & special public prosecutors to handle offences relating to POSCO Act, 2012, in 16 special courts across the state.

**3. Historical Gastronomical the Harappan Dining Experience**

- Exhibition of Indus valley food
- Organized by OSMS – one station million store
- Hosted by National Museum
- At new Delhi

**4. Tiruppavai In French**

- Andal's Tiruppavai have been translated into French by vasumath Badrinathanm classical vocalist.
- Le Tiruppavai ou Lechant Matinal de Margali has been published by Editor Banyan, Paris.

**5. World's Second - biggest control centre for goods trains set to roll**

- Built by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL)
- The center is built at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, will be the 'nerve - centre' of the over 1, 800 km - long eastern dedicated freight corridor.

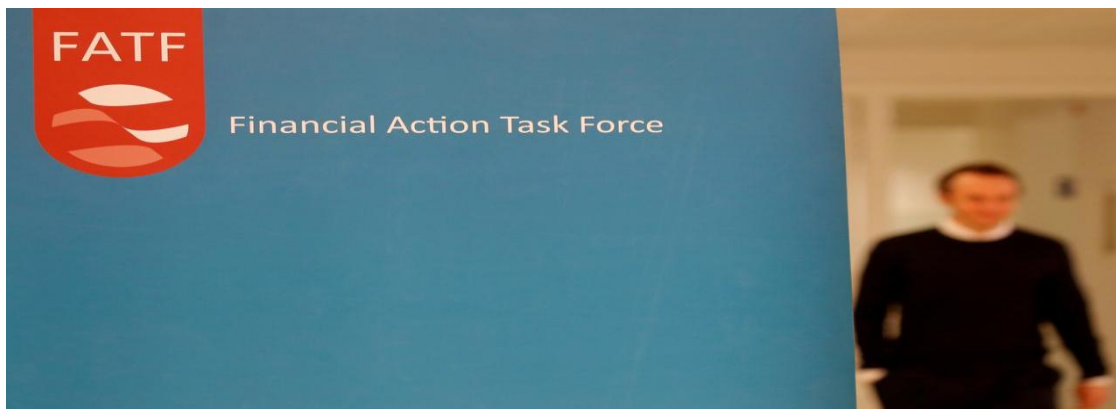
22.02.2020

**1. India, Maldives agree to take on terrorism, radicalisation .**

- Home Minister of Maldives, Sheikh Imran Abdulla and Union Home Minister Amit Shah discussed bilateral Cooperation in the fields of counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation.

**2. FATF Places Iran on black list.**

- By Paris based Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- FATF placed Iran on its black list after it failed to comply with international anti - terrorism financing norms.



23.02.2020

**1. Monsoon in Sunder bans:**

- Longer and to get more intense by the fact sheet released by on the convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals
- Habitat of Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris* ) will be affected due to shortage of prey.
- Rise in 3.2 mm sea level per year ( Currently )
- 96% decline of the habitat of Bengal tiger will be the result.
- Also discussed on the threatened freshwater Fauna,
- Indian River Terrapin ( Batagur Baska)
- Hilse (*Tenuulosa ilisha*)
- Ganges river Dolphin (*Platanista gangetice*)



2. **The Book – who is Bharat Mata – by Purushottum Agrawal Radha Krishna**
  - Also contains the selections from Nehru's classic works – Glimpses of World History, the Discovery of India, his Speeches.
  - Inaugurated by Former P.M. Manmohan Singh.
3. **One in three payments for maternity benefit scheme credited to wrong account:**
  - Aadhar Based Payments for maternal benefits (or) (PMMVY) Pradan Mantri Matru Vandhana yojna).
  - Report by NITI Aayog.
4. **PMMVY**
  - To benefit the maternal people.
  - Implemented with the provision of National Food Security Act (2013).
5. **Objectives :**
  - Partial Compensation for the wage loss, so the women can take adequate rest after delivery.
6. **Benefits:**
  - Rs.5000/- in three installments
    - ✚ Rs.1000 on early registration of pregnancy in Anganwadi Centre
    - ✚ Rs.2000 after 6 months of pregnancy
    - ✚ Rs.2000 after the child birth is registered

24.02.2020

**1. Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary as Tiger reserve:**

- Approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority is expected.
- The Chamarajanager district already has
  - + Bandipur Tiger Reserve
  - + Biligiri Ranganatha Temple Tiger Reserve
- Other Tiger Reserves in Karnataka
  - + Nagarahole
  - + Bhadr
  - + Anshi – Dandli
- The upcoming Sanctuary will be renamed as Malai Mahadeshwara Hill Tiger Reserve this spread across
  - + Malai Mahadeshwara Reserve forest
  - + Hamur Reserve Forest
  - + Yediyarahalli Reserve Forest
- These forests also support 300 elephants.
- It creates biggest biosphere reserve in India - Nilgiri Biosphere reserve.

**2. 4000 year old Crafts unearthed:**

- 4000 year old urban Settlement has in earthed by Surveyors from Banaras Hindu University.
- Site - Babhaniyav village, 13 km from Varanasi found a temple dating back to 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Centaury Potteries are 4000 yrs old and walls are 2000 years Old.
- Also found a pillar with 2 line text in Kushan Brahmi Script - 3500 to 4000 years old.

**3. No Country is doing Enough to Protect Children:**

- By WHO, UNICEF, Lancet Medical Journal, these panels accessed how 180 Countries Protecting the health and well being of their youngest and most Vulnerable Citizens.
- 2 main threats Children face.
  - + Climate Change
  - + Predatory Commercial exploitation

- Global warming exceeds 4° C by the year 2100
- Children are exposed to TV and Online Adds [Junk food, Sugary beverages, e - cigarettes and alcohol]
- Leads to weight gain and obesity
- Obese Children, 11 million } 1975                      11 fold increase  
   124 million - 2016
- Commission gauged Child well being by measuring factors such as
  - i) Education
  - ii) Health care
  - iii) Nutrition
  - iv) Income gaps
  - v) Green house gas emissions
- It Said no Country has figured out
- Norway                      }
- Republic of Korea         } - has the best chance of survival and well being
- Netherlands               }
- Central African Republic         }
- Chad                                 } Face the Worst odds
- Somalia                               }
- Niger and Mali                       }
- But - for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions - Norway - 156  
   Republic of Korea - 166  
   Netherlands -160
- Each emit 210% more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per Capita of their target 2030
- USA                                 }
- Australia                         } among the 10 worst emitters
- Saudi Arabia                     }
- Countries kept CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in control are Countries within rank 70  
   Eg. Albania, Armenia, Grenada, Jordan Moldova, Srilanka, Tunisia, Vietnam,  
      Uruguay.

Report recommended to take immediate action on Stopping CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to work towards Children health.

25.02.2020

### 1. **ASI Planned to Barricade around Chariot at Hampi**

- UNESCO World heritage Site - Hampi
- ASI → installing wooden barricade around Stone Chariot inside Vittala temple
- This step is taken to protect it from Vandalism.
- It is located in east - Central Karnataka
- It is also a Capital of Vijayanagara empire in 14<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Hampi - Vijayanagara was the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest medieval era city after Beijing, India's richest at that time
- UNESCO described it as "austere, grandiose Site"



### 2. **Amendments in Arms act, 1959 and Arms rules 2016**

- This will increase the number of fire arms that can be kept by the shooters
- And also enhance the quantity of ammunition fixed for their practice.
- It facilitates the shooting practice.

### 3. **New rules**

- International medalists/ Renewed shooters are allowed to keep additional weapons upto 12 (earlier it was 7 weapons)

- It shooter is renowned in one event, he can have maximum 8 (Previously it was 4)
- For 2 events - 10 (max), [Previously 7 weapons]
- More than 2 events - maximum 12, (Previously 7 weapons)
- Junior target shooter (aspiring Shooter - allowed to Possess - 2 weapons (Previously one weapon only)
- Ammunition Purchasing was also increased per year.
- No license is required for Indian Citizens for having small arms those are all falling under the Category.
- Shooters can also posses 2 fire arms as normal citizens under the act 1959.
- But license is required for Indian Citizens for use or to carry or transport such small arms.
- By amended act, 2019 → maximum number of fire arms to be possessed by any persons has been reduced from 3 to 2.

26.02.2020

**1. OMCs ready to supply Bharat Stage - VI fuel in State**

- The state -run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are prepared & geared up to Supply Bharat Stage - VI fuel in Tamil Nadu.
- Bharat stage - VI fuel has low sulphur content (sulphur content has been reduced from 50 ppm to 10 ppm)
- Indian oil's Clear Blue diesel exhaust fluid, to be used by all BS - VI diesel commercial vehicles to reduce nitrogen oxides.



## Mechanics of BS-VI

► Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) norms will take effect in India from **1 April 2020**

► BS-VI is the **most advanced emission standard** for automobiles and is equivalent to Euro-VI norms

► In order to **reduce vehicular pollution**, the government decided to leapfrog from BS-IV to BS-VI

► The new norms make on-board diagnostics (**OBD**) **mandatory** for all vehicles



► The OBD unit can identify likely **areas of malfunction** by means of default codes stored on a computer

► For two-wheelers, manufacturers will introduce a **fuel injection system**—a first in India

## 2. Centre justifies reduced allocation of PDS Kerosene to Tamil Nadu

- Because TN has achieved very high rate of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Coverage, besides ensuring 100% electricity supply to all households as per the latest statistics.
- People were shifting to use LPG, which was a relatively cleaner and environment - friendly fuel.

## 3. Sahitya Akademi Award for translation goes to K.V. Jeyasri

- K.V. Jeyasri, a Tamil teacher from Tiruvannamalai won Sahitya Akademi Award 2019 for translation of the Malayalam novel “Nilam Poothu Malaranna Naal” into Tamil as “Nilam Poothu Malartha Naal”
- Novel was written by Malayalam author Manoj kumar.
- Award includes cash prize of ₹ 50,000 & a copper plaque
- Nilam Poothu Malartha Naal traces the history of Paari, one of the seven philanthropist Tamil chieftains and also explores the socio - cultural history of the Tamil land.

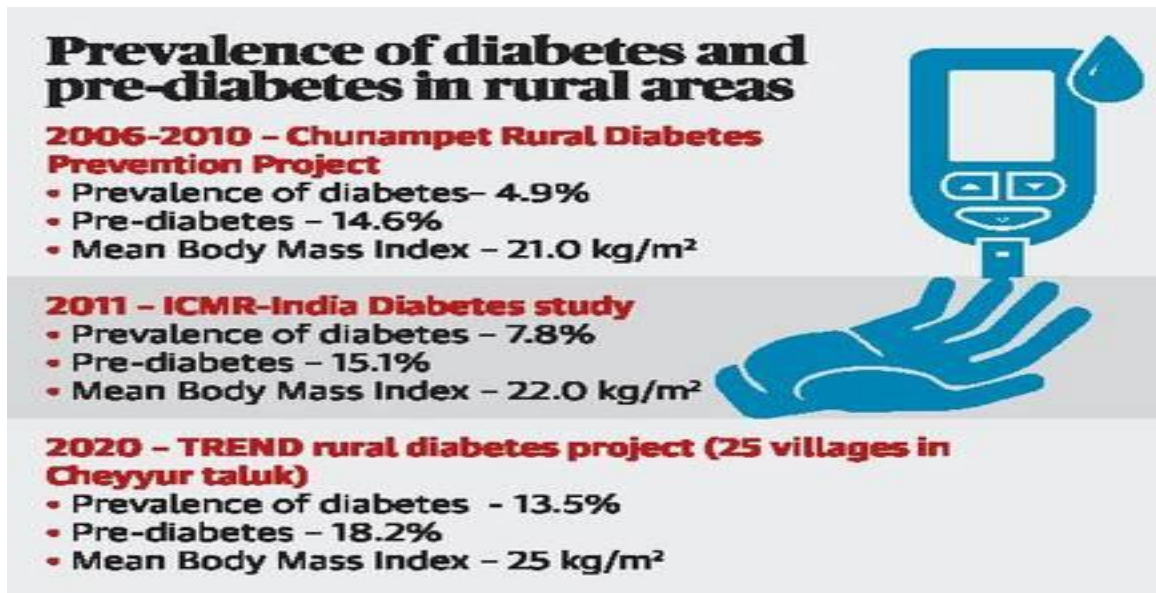
## 4. Declare Eastern Ghats UNESCO cultural heritage sites, Say environmental groups.

- All historically & culturally significant mountains of the Eastern ghats should be declared UNESCO cultural heritage sites.

- 5 States that the Ghats encompass - T.N, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Odisha should prepare an action plan to protect & conserve their ecology & natural resources.

#### 5. **Huge increase in cases of diabetes in rural T.N.**

- One in three has diabetes or is in pre - diabetes stage.
- In a span of 14 years, the prevalence of diabetes in rural has increased from 4.9 % in 2006 to 13.5% now
- TREND (Telemedicine Project for Screening Diabetes and its Complications in rural TN), a rural diabetes project, covering 15,000 adults in 25 villages.
- People are getting fatter and lack of exercise. They are eating too much rice, with no vegetables or fruits.
- A diabetic care will be provided and through an application messages could be sent on their mobile phones to keep track of their blood sugar & blood pressure.



#### 6. **Elderly to get rations at doorsteps in Karnataka**

- The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs of Karnataka has decided to provide home delivery of ration to 1.4 lakh elderly people across the State.

27.02.2020

1. **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020** been approved by cabinet 15 major changes Suggested by the 23 member committee . It includes deleting, the definition of 'infertility ' as the inability to conceive after 5 years Bill aimed at banning commercial surrogacy and allowing aistic surrogacy.
2. **Harappan site of Rakigarh in Haryana into tourist hub.**
  - Two village's Rakhi khas and Rakhi Shanpur are into this, who were worried as being shifted to flats.

28.02.2020

1. **Vechur cow - smallest cow breed in the world.**








2. **Cabinet gives clearance for Technical Textiles Mission, will be implemented for four years from 2020 - 21, with four components.**

**29.02.2020**

**1. Niti Aayog & Nasscom roll out AI modules in schools:**

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), in collaboration with Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), launched an artificial intelligence (AI) based module for students of Indian schools. The AI-Base Module will be implemented across 5,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL), empowering 2.5 million students.

 NITI Aayog: National Institution for Transforming India.  
 NITI Aayog CEO: Amitabh Kant, Vice Chairman: Rajiv Kumar.  
 Chairman of NASSCOM: Keshav Murugesh.

**2. Ministry of Corporate Affairs launches SPICe+ web form:**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has been launched 'SPICe+' Web Form (pronounced 'SPICe Plus') to offer 10 services by 3 Central Government Ministries/ Departments and of State Government of Maharashtra in a single web form. The three department/govt ministries are the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance.
- Union Minister of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.

**FREE CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS FOR TNPSC  
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**28.03.2020 AND 29.03.2020**

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TO MARCH 2020.**