

**July – 09**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Nepal SBI Bank Ltd has completed 25 years of its operations in Nepal. The Nepal SBI Bank Ltd was established in 1993 as a subsidiary of State Bank of India.
- ❖ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu addressed the Conference of Intra-ocular Implant & Refractive Society of India held in Chennai.
- ❖ The Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir launched the first Cyber Forensic van of Delhi Police and an online cybercrime portal where people can file a complaint online regarding such crimes.
- ❖ Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia chaired the first meeting of the task force set up to recommend the framework for a national policy on e-commerce.
- ❖ East Coast Railway has launched highest ever 6 (six) Limited Height Subways (LHS) in Sambalpur Division and completed it in a single block of four and half hours.
  - It is a first of its kind not only in East Coast Railway but also in the entire Indian Railways.
- ❖ The Law Commission in its report, Legal Framework: Gambling and Sports Betting including Cricket in India, has recommended that gambling and betting on sports, including cricket, to be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).
- ❖ Veteran cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has become the 3rd Indian after Sachin Tendulkar (664) and Rahul Dravid (509) to reach this milestone of playing 500 international cricket matches during the second T20 International against England.
- ❖ The 22nd International Conference on Non-Ferrous Mineral & Metals 2018 concluded in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ❖ The Muthoot Pappachan Group has named actress Vidya Balan as its brand ambassador for 2 years.
- ❖ India's much-awaited indigenously manufactured semi high-speed train called "Train 2018", code-named Train 18, is expected to be rolled out in September.

- ❖ It is built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Chennai to promote Make in India and is capable of running at a speed of 160 km per hour.
- ❖ Shareholders of Reliance Industries have approved giving Mukesh Ambani another five years as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.

## **NATIONAL**

### **BSNL unveils internet telephony service Wings**

- ❖ State-owned telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced the soft launch of its first Internet telephony service Wings in India to be rolled out from August 2018.
- ❖ Through wings, the customer can make or receive calls by using internet service of any operator.
- ❖ This comes after Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had refreshed VoIP guidelines in October 2017 and that was approved by the Telecom Commission in May 2018.


## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **First Biofortified sorghum**

- ❖ India's first biofortified sorghum (Jowar) named Parbhani Shakti containing higher iron and zinc than regular sorghum was formally launched.
- ❖ This improved sorghum variety has been developed by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT).
- ❖ It was released for cultivation by Vasantrya Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Maharashtra.
- ❖ The improved variety ICSR 14001 has been released as 'Parbhani Shakti' by VNMKV.
- ❖ Parbhani Shakti is cost-effective. It has been introduced as a sustainable solution to rectify micronutrient deficiency.
- ❖ Parbhani Shakti was developed by ICRISAT under HarvestPlus, a sorghum biofortification project.

- ❖ It was tested as PVK 1009 in Maharashtra and in All India Co-ordinated Sorghum Improvement Project (AICSIP) Trials.
- ❖ It was launched as a rainy season variety (Kharif). But it can be grown in post-rainy (Rabi) and summer seasons.

**India's first biofortified Jowar (sorghum) developed by ICRISAT -**  
(International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics)



- ICRISAT-bred biofortified sorghum line ICSR 14001
- To be officially launched on July 5
- Is a double fortified variety that gives more iron and zinc
- Boon to millions of people suffering from anaemia due to iron deficiency in India
- Proved superior under on-farm testing
- And under testing by the All India Coordinated Sorghum Improvement Project (AICSIP)

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Special Lifetime Achievement Award to ghatam maestro T.H. Vinayakram

- ❖ The Music Academy announced a Special Lifetime Achievement Award to be conferred on ghatam maestro T.H. Vinayakram, fondly known as 'Vikku' Vinayakram.
- ❖ The award does not fall under the institution's annual recognition and honors.
- ❖ It is conferred, once in a while, on artists of outstanding calibre who, the Music Academy feels, deserve independent recognition
- ❖ He has already received the Sangita Kala Acharya Award of the Academy.

- ❖ The earlier recipients were dancer Kamala Lakshminarayanan and violinist Lalgudi G. Jayaraman.



### **Dr. T.K Chand gets Knowledge Excellence Award**

- ❖ Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, CMD, NALCO, received Knowledge Excellence Award from Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Anil Gopishankar Mukim, for Outstanding Contribution in Aluminium Knowledge domain.
- ❖ It was awarded at the 22nd International Conference on Non-Ferrous Minerals and Metals 2018 at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ❖ A special NALCO (National Aluminium Company Limited) booklet on Sustainable Mining named 'Mine with Mind' was released on the occasion.

### **Chairperson of National Green Tribunal**

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Justice AK Goel as new Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- ❖ He will have a tenure of five years from the date he assumes office or till he reaches the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ His appointment comes after he retired as Supreme Court Judge.
- ❖ The NGT was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010
- ❖ It adjudicates matters and environmental cases related to

- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
  - Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
  - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991; Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ❖ It consists of a full-time chairperson (retired judge of Supreme Court of India or Chief Justice of High Court), judicial members and expert members.

## SPORTS

### FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup

- ❖ India's premier gymnast Dipa Karmakar clinched the gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey.
- ❖ This is Dipa's first medal in a World Challenge Cup.
- ❖ Rifda Irfanaluthfi of Indonesia clinched the silver while local woman Goksu Uctas Sanli took the bronze.
- ❖ World Challenge Cup series is an important competition in the calendar of International Gymnastics Federation.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Chocolate Day – 07 July

- ❖ World Chocolate Day was celebrated every year on 7th July all over the world.
- ❖ World Chocolate Day is said to be commercially celebrated since 2009.
- ❖ Cocoa is obtained from the fruit of cocoa trees that are native to Central and South America.

### International Day of Cooperatives – 07 July

- ❖ International Co-operative Day or International Day of Co-operatives was observed on 7th July throughout the world.
- ❖ The theme for International Day of Cooperatives 2018 is: “sustainable consumption and production of goods and services”.
- ❖ The Slogan is “Sustainable societies through Cooperation”.
- ❖ The International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July annually.
- ❖ International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated for the first time in July 1923 by the international cooperative movement and the International Co-operative Alliance.
- ❖ It was celebrated as the UN International Day of Co-operatives for the first time in 1995.
- ❖ The aim of this day is to create awareness on cooperatives and promote international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace.



### **'GST Day' – 01 July**

- ❖ The government will celebrate July 1, 2018, as 'GST Day' to mark the first anniversary of the new indirect tax regime.
- ❖ Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out in the intervening night of June 30 and July 1, last year, in a ceremony held in the Central Hall of Parliament.

### **Krishi Din – 01 July**

- ❖ The day of 1st July is celebrated as the Agriculture Day or Krishi Din in Maharashtra.
  - ❖ The day is celebrated as the remembrance of the Father of Green Revolution of Maharashtra – Vasantarao Naik. Hence, the day falls on his birthday.
  - ❖ Vasant Rao Naik was an Indian politician, who served as Chief Minister of Maharashtra from 1963 until 1975.
  - ❖ Till date, he remains as the longest-serving chief minister of Maharashtra.
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