

July – 25

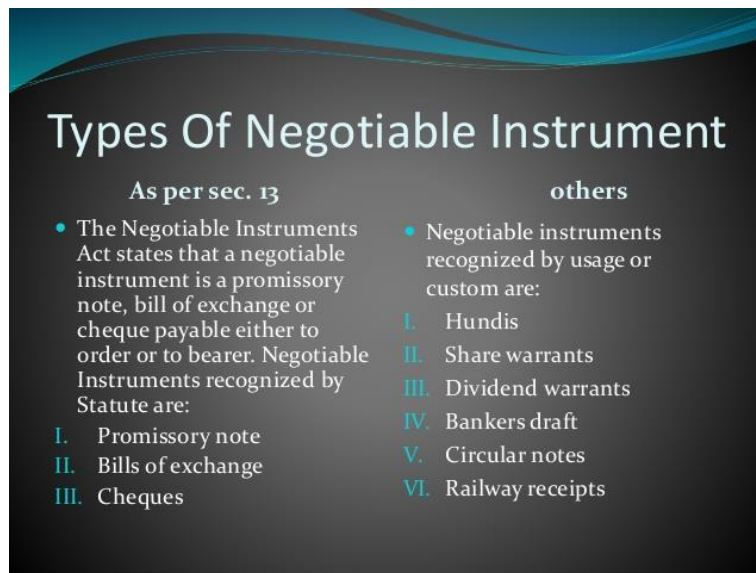
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats was held in Agartala, Tripura.
- ❖ The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has initiated the process of introducing QR code (Quick Response code) in their textbooks.
- ❖ Indian Railways inaugurated Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI) at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh in a bid to strengthen expertise and capabilities of the employees of North-Eastern Railways.

NATIONAL

Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017

- ❖ Lok Sabha has passed Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to reduce the number of cheque dishonor cases pending in courts.



Types Of Negotiable Instrument

As per sec. 13	others
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Negotiable Instruments Act states that a negotiable instrument is a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque payable either to order or to bearer. Negotiable Instruments recognized by Statute are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">I. Promissory noteII. Bills of exchangeIII. Cheques	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negotiable instruments recognized by usage or custom are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">I. HundisII. Share warrantsIII. Dividend warrantsIV. Bankers draftV. Circular notesVI. Railway receipts

- ❖ The bill amends Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 to primarily address issues of dishonor of cheques and deal with the unnecessary delay in disposal of such cases.
- ❖ The important features of the bill are
 - Interim compensation

- Deposit in case of an appeal
- Returning interim compensation

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

- ❖ The Union Government has reduced minimum yearly deposit required under popular girl child savings scheme, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana to Rs 250 from Rs 1,000 earlier.



- ❖ In this regard, Government has amended Sukanya Samridhi Account Rules, 2016, to enable more people to enjoy the benefits of this scheme.
- ❖ It was launched as a small savings scheme under Beti Bacho Beti Padho (BBBP) in January 2015.

Public Affairs Index 2018

- ❖ According to Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2018, Kerala tops the list as a best-governed state for the third consecutive year since 2016 in the country followed by Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ While Telangana, Karnataka, and Gujarat are ranked third, fourth and fifth among the top five states delivering good governance.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar ranked the lowest on the PAI, indicating higher social and economic inequalities in the states.

WINNER FOR 3RD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

<p>➤ The Public Affairs Index 2018 released by the thinktank Public Affairs Centre examines governance performance in the states through a data-based framework, ranking them on social and economic development</p> <p>➤ The thinktank</p>	 <p>A file photo of Kudumbashree members attending a drama workshop</p>	<p>infrastructure, support to human development, social protection, women and children as well as law and order</p> <p>➤ Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat followed Kerala among the top five states delivering good governance</p>
	<p>has undertaken the study across all the Indian states</p>	<p>considering them across 10 themes such as essential</p>

- ❖ Among smaller states (with a population less than two crores), Himachal Pradesh topped the list, followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura
- ❖ Nagaland, Manipur, and Meghalaya were ranked at the bottom of the index among small states.
- ❖ The Centre added a new chapter in the index this year, Children of India, giving a measure of how child-friendly each of the states is.
- ❖ Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and Mizoram topped the index on being the states to provide better living conditions for all children.
- ❖ The index is released since in 2016 by Bengaluru base Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a not for profit think tank which aims to improve governance in India.
- ❖ It was Founded in 1994 by renowned Indian economist and scholar late Samuel Paul.

28th Meeting of GST Council

- ❖ The 28th meeting of the GST Council chaired by interim finance minister Piyush Goyal was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The GST Council has exempted sanitary napkins from Goods and Services Tax.
- ❖ Earlier, there was a 12% levy of tax on sanitary napkins.
- ❖ It has also recommended a reduction in the GST slab for lithium-ion batteries used in electronic items from the current 28% to 18% along with a slew of reductions in other items.



INTERNATIONAL

4th BIMSTEC Summit

- ❖ The fourth edition of Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.
- ❖ The main focus of the summit will be to increase connectivity between BIMSTEC nations including roads, airways and transmission lines.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TreadWill

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has developed TreadWill, an online tool to help people cope with issues related to mental health.
- ❖ The tool was developed by a team with collaborative support from Computer Science and Engineering and Humanities and Social Sciences, HSS (Psychology) departments.
- ❖ It is based on the proven methodology of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) that helps people with depressive symptoms.

'Remote Sensing Toolkit'

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched 'Remote Sensing Toolkit' to promote commercial use of satellite data.
- ❖ The toolkit was launched as part of NASA's Technology Transfer program that offers open remote-sensing data benefiting scientific community, other government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.
- ❖ It has been designed to help users search for data, as well as utilize ready-to-use tools and code to build new tools.

MicroDot Technology

- ❖ The Indian Government has announced the launch of a new MicroDot Technology that would help check on vehicle thefts.



- ❖ Under this, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body including its engine.
- ❖ This technology is yet to be finalized by the highest automobile technical standard making body Central Motor Vehicles Rules - Technical Standing Committee (CMVR-TSC).

ENVIRONMENT

STF for Pangolin smuggling racket

- ❖ Odisha Special Task Force (STF) has launched a drive to bust an international syndicate that peddles 'endangered' pangolin, one of the world's most illegally traded mammals.
- ❖ Pangolin is only scaly mammal on the planet.
- ❖ Of the eight species of pangolin worldwide, two are found in India. They are
 - Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*), mostly found in northeast India
 - Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*).
- ❖ Chinese pangolin has been listed as "critically endangered" by UN-affiliated International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) has been listed as "endangered" in IUCN Red List.
- ❖ It is also a Schedule I category protected the animal, under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).

Centre for Climate Change

- ❖ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched the Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ It is first of its kind center in South East Asia. It aims at accelerating concerted climate action by various stakeholders in government, private, financial and non-government sectors.
- ❖ NABARD has been engaging itself in capacity building of various stakeholders involved in Climate Change actions.
- ❖ It is National Implementation Entity (NIE) for three important climate funds, viz. Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation fund of UNFCCC and National Adaptation fund for Climate Change (NAFCC).

STATES

‘Tribal Atlas of Odisha’

- ❖ Odisha Government has unveiled first-ever ‘Tribal Atlas of Odisha’, a compilation of demographic and cultural information of the tribal population in the state.
- ❖ It is claimed to be first-of-its-kind tribal compilation in the country.
- ❖ The book was published by SC and ST Research and Training Institute in collaboration with the Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC).
- ❖ As per Census 2011, Odisha has the second highest tribal population in the country after Madhya Pradesh.

e-Pragati core platform

- ❖ Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched ‘e-Pragati core platform’ at Undavalli, Andhra Pradesh.
 - ❖ e-Pragati would act as a platform to connect all departments and stand-alone to resolve the issues.
 - ❖ e-Pragati, a forward-looking digital initiative, is aimed at connecting the citizen to 34 departments, 336 autonomous organizations and 745-plus services.
 - ❖ Through this project, the State government intends to realize the vision of ‘Sunrise AP 2022’.
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