

July – 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A new Mobile App, TNCTD-GST, has been launched by Commercial Taxes Department, Tamil Nadu to obtain the information regarding GST and also to calculate the Tax interest rates.
- ❖ Karnataka government has passed an order not to allow Media personnel inside the Vidhana Soudha, state's Assembly building This is the first time that such a move has been initiated in Karnataka state assembly.
- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Rs 300 crore Rukura Medium Irrigation Dam project in Sundargarh district which will irrigate 5,800 hectares of the agricultural field.

TAMILNADU

Tamil Nadu Property Tax Revised

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government has again reduced the property tax on 26th July 2018 for Rented residential buildings from 100% to 'not more than 50%' in Urban local bodies - after the request from the public.
- ❖ However, the 50% hike in property tax rates for other residential buildings and the 100% increase for non-residential buildings remains unchanged.
- ❖ The new rates will be effective from the half-year period of April-September 2018.
- ❖ The new tax rate structure applicable to The Greater Chennai corporation, 11 other Municipal Corporation, 124 municipalities and 528 town panchayats
- ❖ The last time in Chennai when the property tax was revised in 1998.
- ❖ The last time for all other urban local bodies, except Chennai, has seen the revision in property tax was in 2008.

NATIONAL

2nd Young Superintendent of Police Conference

- ❖ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 2nd Young Superintendent of Police Conference, held in New Delhi.

- ❖ The conference was organized by the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D).
- ❖ The theme of the two-day conference was “Predictive Policing and Contemporary Challenges for Indian Police Forces”.
- ❖ BPR&D was established in 1970 and is the nodal national police organization to study, research and develop on subjects and issues related to policing.
- ❖ It functions under the aegis of Union Home Ministry, headquartered in New Delhi.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Google unveils two new AI chips

- ❖ Internet search engine giant Google at its Cloud Next 2018 conference held in San Francisco has unveiled two new Artificial Intelligence (AI) chip.
- ❖ They are Edge TPU and Cloud IoT Edge.
- ❖ It is aimed at helping customers develop and deploy intelligent connected devices at scale.
- ❖ The new hardware chip, Edge TPU, is a purpose-built application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) designed to run AI at the edge.
- ❖ It so small that four such chips can fit on US penny.
- ❖ Cloud IoT Edge is a software stack that extends Google Cloud’s powerful AI capability to gateways and connected devices.

New strain of Ebola virus discovered

- ❖ Researchers in joint US-West African study funded by US Aid have discovered a new strain of Ebola virus in bats in northern Bombali region of Sierra Leone.
- ❖ It has been named as Bombali virus strain, after the district where it was found. The Bombali virus is overall sixth known virus strain Ebola virus.
- ❖ Others are Zaire, Sudan, Tai Forest, Bundibugyo, and Reston.
- ❖ Ebola virus is a highly fatal hemorrhagic fever that is spread through contact with bodily fluids from infected persons and animals which include non-human primates, bats, and forest antelope.
- ❖ Zaire strain of Ebola virus is the deadliest strain known.



- ❖ The 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa was caused by the Zaire virus, which was discovered in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), formerly Zaire in 1976.

STATES

Arogya Arunachal Yojana

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh government is going to launch a new health insurance scheme, 'Chief Minister's Arogya Arunachal Yojana'.
- ❖ The new Chief Minister's Arogya Arunachal Yojana (CMAAY) will enable citizens to avail cashless health services in impaneled hospitals.
- ❖ The scheme will offer healthcare services of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.

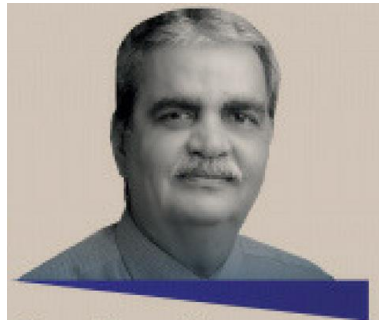
Project Gandiva

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh CM, N Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone of Amaravati International Sports Complex in Vijayawada.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has planned to develop Amaravati, Vizag, and Tirupati as sports cities
- ❖ He also launched 'Project Gandiva'.
- ❖ Under this Government will choose students aged between 10-16 years and offer them international level facilities and coaching with an aim to secure medals in Olympic Games in a period of 10 years.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award

- ❖ Two Indians Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk are among six who have been declared winners of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- ❖ Bharat Vatwani is a psychiatrist who works for mentally-ill people living on the streets in Mumbai.
- ❖ Sonam Wangchuk is educational reformer from Ladakh.
- ❖ In 1988, he had founded Students' Education and Cultural Movement of Ladakh to coach poor Ladakhi students.



Bharat Vatwani
India
RESTORING HEALTH AND DIGNITY
TO TROUBLED LIVES



Sonam Wangchuk
India
HARNESSING NATURE, CULTURE,
AND EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY
PROGRESS

2 Indians among Ramon Magsaysay Award winners

Bharat Vatwani
for his tremendous courage and healing compassion in embracing India's mentally-afflicted destitute, and his steadfast and magnanimous dedication to the work of restoring and affirming the human dignity of even the most ostracized

Started with his wife, an informal operation of bringing mentally-ill street persons to their private clinic for treatment, leading them to establish Shradadha Rehabilitation Foundation in 1988
Based in Mumbai

Sonam Wangchuk
for his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India, thus improving the life opportunities of Ladakhi youth, and his constructive engagement of all sectors in local society to harness science and culture creatively for economic progress, thus setting an example for minority peoples in the world

1988: founded Students' Education and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL)
1994: Operation New Hope (ONH) was launched for partnership-driven educational reform

PTI GRAPHICS

- ❖ Others are
 - Youk Chhang (Cambodia),
 - Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz (East Timor)
 - Howard Dee (Philippines)
 - Vo Thi Hoang Yen (Vietnam)
- ❖ They will be conferred with the award during a formal presentation ceremony at Cultural Centre in the Philippines in August 2018.

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- ❖ It is Asia's highest honor and is often regarded as the region's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
- ❖ It was established in 1957 by trustees of the New York City-based Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Philippine government in the memory of Philippines' third President **Ramon Magsaysay** who had died in an air disaster in March 1957.

- ❖ It is awarded annually to individuals or organizations from Asia region for their altruistic and philanthropic service.
- ❖ It carries Medallion bearing the likeness of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, a cash prize, and a certificate.

Champion of Earth Prize – 2018

- ❖ Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has been selected for the Champion of Earth Prize - 2018 for being fully powered by solar energy.
 - ❖ It is the highest environmental award instituted by the United Nations.
 - ❖ Cochin International Airport has recently become the world's first fully solar-powered airport
 - ❖ The airport stands fourth in the country in terms of international traffic and seventh in total traffic handled in 2017-18.
 - ❖ The Award to be presented on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in New York on Sep 26, 2018
 - ❖ The Champion of Earth prize was Established in 2005
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