



August – 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has given Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel additional charge of Chhattisgarh. She was given additional charge following death of Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Dass Tandon.
- ❖ Prime Minister during his addresses on the 72nd Independence Day announced that permanent commission will be granted to serving SSC women officers of armed forces. Under current scheme Women are inducted in armed forces only as officers and not in subordinate ranks.
- ❖ Indian Banks' Association has appointed **Egon Zehnder International** as a '[Knowledge Partner](#)' to the Banks Board Bureau (BBB). As a Knowledge Partner, Egon Zehnder International will help to design, implement and institutionalise a flagship leadership development strategy for public sector banks in India.
- ❖ Senior diplomat D Bala Venkatesh Varma was appointed as India's next ambassador to Russia. Varma, a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as Indian envoy in Spain.
- ❖ In the wake of Prime Minister's vision for creating digital museums at stations using QR code, Ministry of Railway has made "digital screens" operational at 22 stations on this Independence Day to spread awareness about Indian Railways Heritage.
 - The project aims at showcasing the legacy of Indian Railways through one to two-minute-long movie clips on digital LED screens.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has launched its [website www.tnsdma.com](http://www.tnsdma.com) for disaster management. Government has also signed MoU with '**Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre**' – to provide training and Disaster risk management strategies for Government staff involved in disaster management.

TAMIL NADU

5 New taluks of revenue department

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniswamy, inaugurated 5 new taluks of revenue department.
- ❖ The newly formed taluks are,
 - Kallikudi in Madurai district



- Raja Singa Mangalam in Ramanathapuram district
- Eral in Thoothukudi district
- Thisaiyanvilai in Tirunelveli district
- Mohanur in Namakkal district

NATIONAL

First manned space mission by 2022

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister as part of his 72nd Independence Day speech said that India will send a human to space by 2022 under manned space mission on board 'Gaganyaan'.
- ❖ If successful, India will become fourth nation in the world to send astronaut into space after US, Russia and China.
- ❖ Former Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Rakesh Sharma was first Indian to travel to space.
- ❖ He was part of the Soviet Union's Soyuz T-11 expedition, launched on April 2, 1984, as part of the Intercosmos programme.
- ❖ Some of the Successfully tested technologies required for human spaceflight programme are,
 - In December 2014, experimental flight of GSLV Mk-III was successfully tested.
 - It also had successfully tested experimental crew module, demonstrating re-entry capability.
 - In June 2017, first developmental flight of GSLV Mk-III was successfully conducted.
 - In July 2018, first successful flight of crew escape system was tested.

INTERNATIONAL

Iran Action Group

- ❖ US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo has announced the formation of the Iran Action Group (IAG) to coordinate and run the country's policy towards Iran.



- ❖ Pompeo has named Brian Hook, the State Department's director of policy planning, as the group's head.
- ❖ Brian Hook has been formally named as the 'Special Representative for Iran'.
- ❖ The basic aim behind the formation of IAG is to change the Iranian regime's behavior.

STATES

Shaheed Saman Diwas

- ❖ The Shaheed Saman Diwas will be observed in all districts of Madhya Pradesh to honour families of martyrs of Madhya Pradesh origin.
- ❖ The schools and government buildings located in the native village of a martyr, where he was born or his family is residing currently, will be named after him.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

2018 Albany Medical Center Prize

- ❖ Three US scientists
 - James Allison,
 - Carl June and
 - Steven Rosenbergwere declared winners 2018 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research.
- ❖ They will receive the award at ceremony to be held in September 2018 in Albany, New York.
- ❖ They were awarded in recognition of their [research in immunology and translation of their ideas into effective therapies](#) that have led to innovative treatments for **cancer, HIV and other diseases**.
- ❖ It is United States' second highest value prize in medicine and biomedical research, awarded by the Albany Medical Center.
- ❖ It was established in 2000 by late Morris "Marty" Silverman. It is awarded annually and carries monetary award of \$500,000.



India's wealthiest women

- ❖ Smitha V. Crishna, a third-generation heir of the Godrej family, ranks 1st in the Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women 2018 list (INR 37,570 crore).
- ❖ Roshni Nadar, CEO and executive director at HCL, ranks 2nd on the list (INR 30,200 crore).
- ❖ The chairperson of the Times Group, Indu Jain, ranks 3rd on the list. Her wealth is estimated at INR 26,240 crore.
- ❖ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder and MD of Biocon, ranks 4th in the list, whereas, Kiran Nadar, wife of HCL founder Shiv Nadar, ranks 5th.
- ❖ The women in the Hurun India Rich List have increased from 4% in 2012 to 9% in 2017.
- ❖ Industry wise, pharmaceuticals leads with 22 women from that sector on the list.
- ❖ It is followed by Software & Services with 12 individuals, and Food & Beverages with 8 individuals featured in the list.
- ❖ City wise, with 25 women each, Mumbai and New Delhi are the leading cities for India's super-rich women, followed by Bengaluru (14).

SPORTS

India's 53rd Grandmaster

- ❖ Nihal Sarin became India's 53rd Grandmaster after attaining his third and final GM-norm in the Abu Dhabi Masters.



- ❖ His current ELO rating is 2556 and he is the twelfth youngest grandmaster in chess history.
- ❖ It may be recalled that in June, R. Praggnanandhaa became the second youngest GM on the all-time list.
- ❖ Sarin also becomes Kerala's third Grandmaster, following G. N. Gopal and S. L. Narayanan.

Woman Grandmaster

- ❖ 17-year-old R. Vaishali became a Woman Grandmaster, completing her final norm in the Riga Technical University Open chess tournament in Riga, Latvia.



- ❖ She is the elder sister of R. Praggnanandhaa, who recently became the second youngest GM on the all-time list.
- ❖ Vaishali has joined an elite list, which also includes Padma Shri Koneru Humpi, Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi, and Harika Dronavalli.
- ❖ For a Grandmaster title, a player needs to earn three norms and a combined Elo rating of 2500.
