

**June - 14**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), a Rs.6000 crore Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, with World Bank assistance.
- ❖ The 31st edition of CORPAT concluded at Belawan, Indonesia in which India had deployed INS Kulish, a Kora class missile corvette, and one Dornier maritime patrol aircraft.
  - The opening ceremony of IND-INDO CORPAT was earlier conducted from 24 - 25 May 18 at Port Blair.
- ❖ Union IT and Law Minister Ravi Shakar Prasad released Bhagat Singh's jail diary book at a function in New Delhi. The jail diary book is a compilation of Bhagat Singh and his writings.
- ❖ Tsewang Namgyal, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Poland, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lithuania.
- ❖ Veteran film actor Anupam Kher will be given the prestigious Lifetime Achievement honor at the upcoming 19th edition of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony in Bangkok.
- ❖ Ms. Madhu Sethi presently Counsellor in the High Commission of India, London, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cuba.
- ❖ Rudrendra Tandon, presently Joint Secretary at Headquarters, has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to ASEAN.
- ❖ India's Sanjana Ramesh was awarded the 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) even as compatriot Vaishnavi Yadav won the 'Girls Grit Award' on the Basketball Without Borders Asia, which featured 66 campers from 16 countries from the Asia-Pacific region.
  - Sanjana also won the Co-MVP award at the NBA Academies Women's camp. Rence Forthsky Padrigao of Philippines was named Boys MVP.

## TAMILNADU

### End of Fishing Ban Term

- ❖ The 61-day annual ban on fishing by mechanized boats end on June 15.
- ❖ The ban would not apply to those using country boats or fiber boats for fishing.
- ❖ The fishing ban period started in Tamil Nadu on April 15, 2018 to facilitate breeding of fish and conservation of stock in marine ecology.
- ❖ From the year 2000 Tamil Nadu had been implementing the fishing ban for 45-47 days.
- ❖ But from the year 2017, adhering to the Union Agriculture Ministry, the state government had implemented the ban for 61 days to increase the fish reproduction.
- ❖ In 2017, the ban period was relaxed in the districts of Chennai, Kanchipuram, and Thiruvallur, which were hit by oil spill following the collision of two ships.

## NATIONAL

### QS World University Rankings

- ❖ IIT-Bombay has progressed to 162nd rank to emerge as India's top-rated institution, moving up 17 places from last year.



- ❖ It now ranks higher than IIT-Delhi (172) and has also overtaken the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, which is ranked 170.

- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retains its pole position as the world's best university for a record-breaking seventh consecutive year.



- ❖ QS ranks the world's 1000 best universities, which come from 85 countries. US institutions retain all top four positions (Stanford 2nd, Harvard 3rd, Caltech 4th).
- ❖ Overall, six of the country's eight ranked IITs and IISc improved their ranks, with two (IIT-Delhi and IIT Madras) remaining stable year-on-year.

### **South Asia Conclave**

- ❖ Oxford University Press (OUP) will host the inaugural edition of the South Asia Conclave.
- ❖ Thought leaders, politicians, industry experts, academics and policymakers, and journalists will participate and explore contemporary research and ideas on modern South Asia.
- ❖ The panel will be chaired by Ashutosh Varshney, professor of political science, and director of the Centre for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University.
- ❖ It will be co-chaired by Pradeep Chhibber, professor of political science and director of the Institute of International Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

## INTERNATIONAL

### New prime minister of Madagascar

- ❖ Madagascar's president has appointed the country's local representative of the International Labour Organisation, Christian Ntsay, as the new prime minister.
- ❖ Former Prime Minister Olivier Mahafaly resigned his post to comply with the terms of a court ruling that ordered the formation of a new consensus government to end a political crisis on the Indian Ocean island nation.
- ❖ Ntsay was the fourth prime minister nominated by Rajaonarimampianina after he became the Malagasy president in 2014.



- ❖ The island country, located in the Indian Ocean, is one of the world's poorest countries despite having nickel, cobalt, gold, uranium and other mineral reserves.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Agni-5

- ❖ India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable long-range ballistic missile Agni-5 from Dr. Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- ❖ This was the sixth trial of the state-of-the-art Agni-5.



- ❖ The surface-to-surface missile was launched with the help of a mobile launcher and it has a strike range of 5,000 km.
- ❖ Unlike other missiles of the series, Agni-5 is the most advanced with new technologies in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine.

## STATES

### **‘Business First Portal’**

- ❖ The Punjab Government has launched a ‘Business First Portal’ to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in the state.
- ❖ The portal aims to be a one-step solution for industrialists. Regulatory clearances of all departments would be integrated in the portal.
- ❖ Further, it would provide self-access facility to the traders for the first time. The facility would enable the applicants to examine their application and enclosed documents.
- ❖ The Punjab state government would also ensure 100 per cent VAT refund to the industrialists by the end of 2018.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### **‘National Gopal Ratna’ award**

- ❖ Dhiraj Ram Krishna, a young engineer from Coimbatore, has won the ‘National Gopal Ratna’ award from the Central Government for cattle rearing and dairying.



- ❖ He received the award from the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh in New Delhi for 'upkeep of the best dairy animals of indigenous breeds'.

### **BCCI Awards**

- ❖ The Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli received the Polly Umrigar Award (Best International Cricketer) for his stupendous performances in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons.



- ❖ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) bestowed the award on the skipper at their annual BCCI awards ceremony in Bengaluru.

- ❖ In the other category, Indian women cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and opener Smriti Mandhana received the maiden Best International Cricketer (Women) award for their stellar 2016-17 season.
- ❖ The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) was adjudged the best state association owing to their consistent performances in the BCCI domestic tournaments for the 2016-17 season
- ❖ The Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) was adjudged the best state association for the 2017-18 season.
- ❖ It is for the first time, an award category for the best International Cricketer (Woman) has been introduced.

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