



August – 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Red Fort, built east of Madras Medical college, in Chennai is going to be remodelled as a “Museum”. It was constructed in 1897 and it belongs to Indo-Saracenic style of structure.
 - It is classified as “Grade I Heritage building” by Justice E Padmanabhan Committee.

TAMILNADU

All-Woman Metro Railway station

- ❖ Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has announced that Shenoy Nagar and Koyambedu Metro Rail stations is going to be fully managed by Woman employees.
- ❖ Shenoy Nagar station was handed over to the All-Woman authorities on July 31st, 2018 as a part of women empowerment.
- ❖ Chennai has totally 26 Metro Rail stations.

NATIONAL

Swachhta Pakhwada

- ❖ Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), its attached offices and Oil & Gas CPSEs under the administrative control of MoPNG celebrated Swachhta Pakhwada fortnight from 01st to 15th July, 2018.
- ❖ The main theme of MoPNG initiatives in this Pakhwada were “Innovation” and “Sustainability”.
- ❖ A maiden initiative of Swachhata ranking of Oil & Gas CPSEs/ attached offices was undertaken.
 - 1st – ONGC
 - 2nd – IOCL
 - 3rd – HPCL



- ❖ It has to be noted that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC), has been ranked 197 in the latest 'Fortune Global 500' list.
- ❖ ONGC is recently conferred with INFRA Icon Award at the Mid-day 'INFRA Icons'
- ❖ Swachhta Pakhwada was Launched in April 2016.
- ❖ Its objective is to bring intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging Ministries/Departments – for a period of a Fortnight.

Startup India Yatra

- ❖ The Startup India Yatra was launched on July 30, 2018 in Raipur, the capital city of Chattisgarh.
- ❖ It moves to Bilaspur from Raipur and intends to travel to other cities of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Startup India Yatra has previously been held in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Startup India organises the 'Startup India Yatra' in one state every month to promote job creation in tier 2 and tier 3 towns and cities.

INTERNATIONAL

1st Nepal-India Think Tank Summit

- ❖ The first Nepal-India Think Tank Summit has begun in Kathmandu to foster greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the think tanks of the two countries.
- ❖ The summit is being jointly organized by the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs and Nehru Memorial Museum Library.

EU moving anti-piracy HQ

- ❖ European Union countries have decided to move the headquarters of the bloc's anti-piracy Atalanta patrols from London to the Spanish port of Rota on March 29, 2019.
- ❖ The London-based Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa, which informs shipping about piracy threats off Somalia, is also to be shifted to the French Port of Brest.



- ❖ The EU launched Atalanta in 2008 to fight brazen acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia, including the spectacular hijacking of a Spanish tuna boat in 2009.

Independent commission panel

- ❖ The Myanmar Government has appointed an independent commission to investigate alleged human rights abuses against the ethnic Rohingya minority.
- ❖ The 4-member panel announced includes,
 - Kenzo Oshima - Former Japanese ambassador to the UN & former UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.
 - Rosario Manalo - Former Philippine Vice Foreign Minister.
 - Mya Thein - Former chief of Myanmar's Constitutional Court.
 - Aung Tun Thet, An Economist and Former UN official.

ECONOMY

Digital Payments – Study by NITI Aayog

- ❖ NITI Aayog has done a study by 'Credit Suisse' and published a booklet titled 'Digital Payment: Trends, Issues and Opportunities'
- ❖ The digital payments market in India is expected to grow to US \$ 1 trillion by 2023
- ❖ Mobile payments are slated to rise from \$ 10 billion in 2017-18 to \$ 190 billion by 2023.
- ❖ This is the 2nd annual edition of the booklet on Digital Payments which was published in July 2017.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

E-Aksharayan

- ❖ The IT ministry launched a desktop software e-Aksharayan in a conference for Indian Languages Technology Industry 'Bhashantara', in New Delhi.
- ❖ E-Aksharayan is free, desktop software for converting scanned printed Indian Language documents into a fully editable text format in Unicode encoding.



- ❖ The software supports editing in seven Indian languages - Hindi, Bangla, Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Kannada & Assamese.

ENVIRONMENT

Air Quality Study - C40 Air Quality Network

- ❖ According to the April issue of the Indian Journal of Pediatrics, the number of children affected with a chronic cough has risen from 8% in 1999 to 21.25% in 2017.
- ❖ Almost 23% of all global deaths are linked to environmental pollution.
- ❖ These findings were announced at the inaugural meeting of C40 Air Quality Network, a global initiative to tackle air pollution.

STATES

B-Hub

- ❖ The Telangana government is going to set up B-Hub for biotech and biopharma sector in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.
- ❖ It will be set up through Public-Private Partnership in Genome Valley, which is India's first organized cluster for life sciences R&D and clean manufacturing activities.
- ❖ B-Hub will be the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, aimed at providing much needed support to the biopharma research and development activities.

UNESCO World Heritage recognition

- ❖ "The Walled City of Jaipur, Rajasthan, India" has been proposed for the UNESCO World Heritage recognition.
- ❖ As per UNESCO's Operation Guidelines 2017, only one site can be nominated each year.
- ❖ It impacts the local economy by giving a boost to domestic and international tourism.
- ❖ There are 37 World Heritage sites in India at present.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Rajiv Sadbhavana Award

- ❖ Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for the 24th Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award for promoting communal harmony and peace.
- ❖ The award was Instituted in 1992 and it carries a citation and a cash award of Rs.10 lakh.
- ❖ The award will be presented on August 20, the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, which is celebrated as Sadbhavna Diwas (Harmony Day).
- ❖ The recipients of the award for the year 2017 were Former Captain of India Cricket Team Mohammad Azharuddin and retired IAS officer M.Gopala Krishna.

Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards on five Members of Parliament.
- ❖ The 5 MP's who received the award,
 - Najma A Heptulla, Manipur's governor (2013)
 - Hukumdev Narayan Yadav, BJP's Lok Sabha member (2014)
 - Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress leader (2015)
 - Dinesh Trivedi, Trinamool Congress leader (2016)
 - Bhartruhari Mahatab of the Lok Biju Janata Dal (2017)
- ❖ The award was established in 1992 by Shivraj Patil who was then Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- ❖ So far 18 eminent MPs have received the award.
- ❖ Chandra Shekhar of the Samajwadi Janata Party was the 1st member to receive this award.

SPORTS

2018 RBC Canadian Open Golf Title

- ❖ Dustin Johnson won the 2018 RBC Canadian Open at the Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville in Canada.



- ❖ He is currently in world number one position.
- ❖ He became the first player after Tiger Woods (2005-09) with at least three wins in three consecutive seasons.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Breastfeeding Week 2018

- ❖ World Breastfeeding Week 2018 is celebrated every year, from August 01 – 07, to promote awareness regarding the importance of Breastfeeding.
- ❖ According to the UNICEF and WHO Report on Breastfeeding, an estimated 7.8 crore newborns are not breastfed within the first hour of life globally – mostly from Low and middle income countries, including India.

CRITICAL MISS

Unicef's 'Capture the Moment' report found too many newborns miss out on lifesaving breast milk.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cultural practices, such as regarding colostrum (sticky, yellowish first milk high in antibodies, carbohydrates and protein, low in fat) as impure, a family elder feeding the baby honey, or giving the newborn sugar water■ The inability of the mother to express enough milk (1% to 5% | <ul style="list-style-type: none">of cases in India).■ Promotion and marketing of infant food or drinks, including infant formula■ Rising Caesarean sections, which result in delayed initiation to breast milk■ Mother's physical discomfort or an inability to do so because of health or work issues. |
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- ❖ Breastfeeding initiation within an hour after birth,
- ❖ India - Increased from 23.4% in 2005 to 41.5% in 2015.
- ❖ Global – Increased from 37% to 42 % in 2015
- ❖ It is highest in Eastern and Southern Africa (65 per cent) and lowest in East Asia and the Pacific (32 per cent)
- ❖ It says that the newborns who began breastfeeding between two and 23 hours after birth had a 33 % greater risk of death compared with those who began breastfeeding within one hour of birth.

International Day of Friendship – July 30

- ❖ The International Day of Friendship is an initiative that follows on the proposal made by UNESCO and taken up by the UN General Assembly in 1997.
- ❖ It defines the Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes and behaviours that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes with a view to solving problems.



- ❖ The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.
- ❖ The Day is also intended to support the goals and objectives of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).
