

August – 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Telangana police launched facial recognition system (FRS), a first of its kind crime detection tool in the country. The FRS software has been linked to TSCOP mobile phone app, allowing field-level police personnel to check a suspect's face from anywhere with the criminal database.
- ❖ Apple became the first publicly traded U.S. company to be valued at \$1 trillion. The tech company's stock jumped 2.8 percent to as high as \$207.05

TAMILNADU

GI Tag - Nagercoil temple jewellery

- ❖ The Geographical Indications (GI) registry of the government of India, has given an authorized user certificate to the Nagercoil temple jewellery.
- ❖ A peculiar red and green stone called 'Kuchu kal' is used for making the jewellery.



- ❖ The temple jewellery is believed to have originated somewhere in the 9th century during the reign of the Chola dynasty.
- ❖ This traditional jewellery is made of the finest gold embedded with several precious gems and stones and is also the authentic ones which are used by classical dancers.



T.N. Economy

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has clocked a growth rate of 8.09% in 2017-18, staging a recovery from the effects of November 2016 demonetisation and the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July 2017.
- ❖ This has been largely due to the double-digit growth rate of agriculture and allied activities aided by the other two sectors – industry and services.
- ❖ The farm sector registered 15.1% growth rate followed by industry's 7.75% and services' 6.55%.

NATIONAL

Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment) Bill, 2017

- ❖ Lok Sabha has unanimously passed Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 by two-third majority.
- ❖ The constitutional amendment bill seeks to grant National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC) constitutional status at par with National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCSTs).
- ❖ The Bill
 - Removes power of NCSC to examine matters related to backward classes.
 - Mentions that NCBC will comprise of five members appointed by President. Their tenure and conditions of service will also be decided by President through rules.
 - Seeks to make NCBC Constitutional body by inserting new article 338B in constitution.
 - Gives NCBC powers of civil court while investigating or inquiring into any complaints.

Move Hack

- ❖ NITI Aayog has launched global mobility hackathon Move Hack to crowdsource solutions aimed at future of mobility in India.

- ❖ It is first platform in the world that has enmeshed
 - Public transport,
 - Private transport,
 - Road safety,
 - Multimodal connectivity and
 - New age transport technologies (zero emission vehicles & Intra city aerial transport)in a hackathon spearheaded by Government.
- ❖ The hackathon has two-pronged campaign approach:
 - “Just Code It” (solutions through innovations in technology / product / software and data analysis)
 - “Just Solve It” (Innovative business ideas or sustainable solutions).
- ❖ The hackathon is organized in partnership with Government of Singapore and is powered by Hacker Earth.
- ❖ PwC is the Knowledge Partner and NASSCOM is the Strategic Partner.

Logo and tagline for GI

- ❖ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has unveiled tricolour logo for geographical indication (GI) certified products.



- ❖ The logo has tagline “Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India” printed below it.



- ❖ In the open contest, winning logo was designed by Adri Chatterjee and winning tagline was coined by Akancha Tripathi.
- ❖ The purpose of logo and tagline for GI selected is to increase awareness about intellectual property rights (IPRs) and also and importance of GI products in the country.

INTERNATIONAL

UAE launches visa amnesty programme

- ❖ The UAE has launched a landmark three-month visa amnesty programme which will benefit hundreds of illegal foreign workers.
- ❖ It will also benefit Indians, overstaying their permits, by allowing them to leave the country without penalties and giving them 6 months to find a job.
- ❖ Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA), the entity responsible for entry and residence of foreigners in the UAE.
- ❖ The UAE is home to 2.8 million Indian expatriates, the largest expatriate community in the country.
- ❖ This is the third such amnesty announced by the UAE government in just over a decade and it will end on October 31.

Zimbabwe election

- ❖ Zimbabwe's president and leader of the ruling Zanu-PF party, Emmerson Mnangagwa, has won the country's historic and hotly contested presidential election.
- ❖ Mr. Mnangagwa won 50.8% of votes, compared to 44.3% for opposition leader Nelson Chamisa.
- ❖ By narrowly winning more than 50% of the vote, Mr Mnangagwa avoids a run-off election against Mr Chamisa.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Supersonic interceptor missile successfully test-fired

- ❖ India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed supersonic interceptor missile, capable of destroying any incoming hostile ballistic missile, from a test range off Odisha coast.
- ❖ The test was to validate some improved features incorporated into the system.
- ❖ The endo-atmospheric missile, developed as Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Air Defence (AAD), is yet to get a formal name.
- ❖ The interceptor is a 7.5-metre long single stage solid rocket propelled guided missile equipped with a navigation system
- ❖ DRDO has spearheaded India's double-layered interceptor ballistic missile defence (BMD) programme.
- ❖ It consists of 2 interceptor missiles,
 - Advanced Area Defence (AAD) missile for endo-atmosphere or lower altitudes
 - Prithvi Defence Vehicle for exo-atmospheric ranges.
- ❖ DRDO expects deployment of this indigenous BMD shield by 2022.
- ❖ It will make India fourth country in the world after US, Russia and Israel to successfully built effective anti-ballistic missile system.

STATES

Mukhya Mantri-Yuva Nestham

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has launched an unemployment allowance scheme named 'Mukhya Mantri-Yuva Nestham'.
- ❖ Through this scheme, an allowance of Rs 1000 per month will be provided to unemployed youth in the state.
- ❖ The money will be credited directly into the bank accounts through biometric authentication.

First-ever dragonfly festival - Delhi

- ❖ Delhi will celebrate its first-ever dragonfly festival from August 3 to September 1. This is First-ever festival for insects that help maintain ecosystem.
- ❖ The festival is being organized jointly by WWF (World Wide Fund) India and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

Photos: Sohail Madan, Nazneen, Lakhan Kohli

ENTER THE DRAGONFLY

1 Delhi's first ever dragonfly festival to be held from Aug 3 to Sept 1

2 Dragonfly census on August 19 to record the number of species in Delhi

3 Jointly being organised by WWF India and Bombay Natural History Society

WHERE
WWF's auditorium, Lodhi Garden

The capital has **over 51 recorded species** of dragonfly and damselfly. But the documentation was carried out decades ago

WHY DRAGONFLIES ARE IMPORTANT

- Help control population of harmful insects, mosquitoes
- Survive in pure and clean water, ensuring that the waterbody/lake is clean
- Dragonfly larvae are equally important as they feed on mosquito eggs and larvae

DO-IT-YOURSELF DRAGONFLY POND

- Use a small, wide bucket
- Keep a shallow planter of lily and cover it with pebbles to hold mud in place
- Use plants like submerged hydrilla, heterophylla, eutrophylla, nymphaea and floating plants like water cabbage

3,012 species of dragonflies known in 2010; classified into 348 genera in 11 families

India has about **500** recorded species

Rhyothemis variegata (Common picture wing)

Acisoma panorpoides (Trumpet tail)

Ceriatagrion coromandelianum (Coromandel marsh dart)

- ❖ This will culminate towards a dragonfly census on August 19.

Assam Releases Final NRC Draft

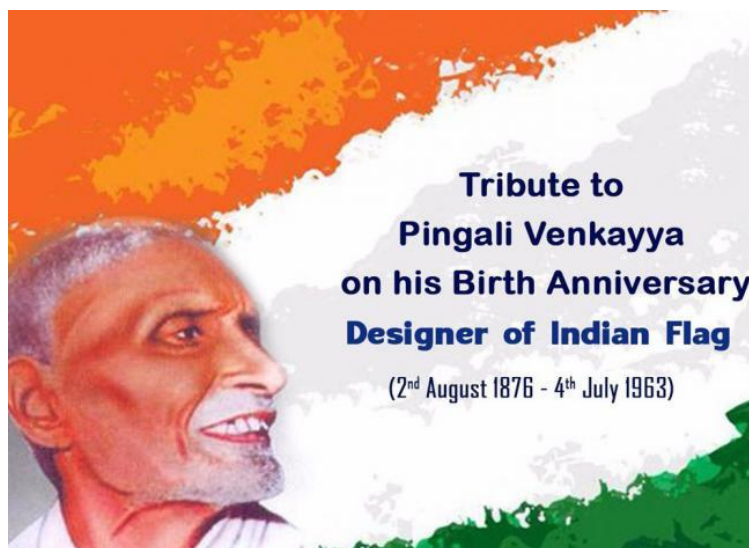
- ❖ Assam government has released its final draft of National Registry of Citizens of Assam.
- ❖ According to the release, out of 3.29 crore total applicants, 2.9 crore people have been found eligible to be included in the National Register of Citizens.
- ❖ 40.07 lakh people who have not made their name to the list have been declared 'illegal immigrants'.
- ❖ Assam is the first Indian state where the NRC is being updated after 1951, with March 24, 1971 as the cut-off date, to include names of genuine Indian citizens.
- ❖ The first NRC draft, with 1.9 crore names, was released during the intervening night of December 31 and January 1 this year.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Pingali Venkayya - 141st birth anniversary

- ❖ 141st birth anniversary of freedom fighter and designer (architect) of Indian National Flag Pingali Venkayya was observed on August 2, 2018.



- ❖ India's National Flag (tricolor) is based on Swaraj flag of Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya.

SPORTS

BRICS U-17 football 2018

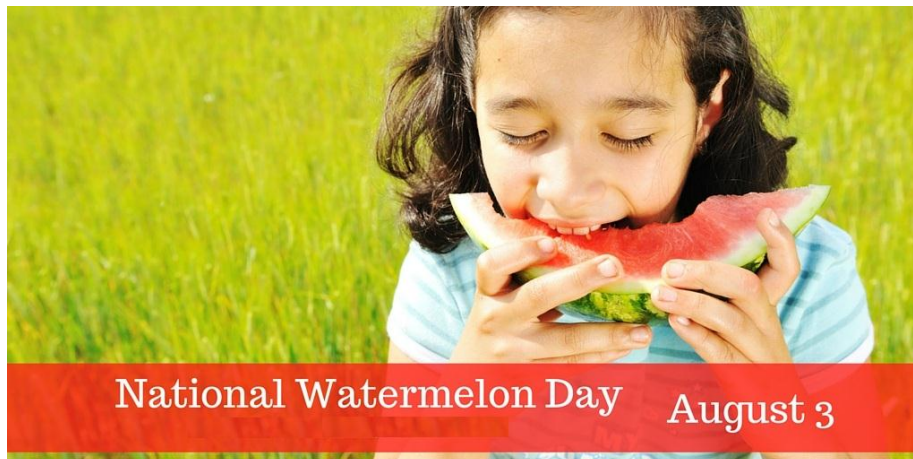
- ❖ BRICS U-17 girls football tournament for the year 2018 was held at Johannesburg in South Africa.
- ❖ Brazil finished as champions and China emerged runners-up in the 2018 edition of the tournament
- ❖ The 1st historic edition was played in Goa, India in 2016 on the occasion of the 8th BRICS summit that was held in India.
- ❖ Brazil finished as champions while South Africa emerged runners-up in the inaugural edition.

- ❖ The Tournament will take place once every year and each edition will be held in a BRICS nation.
- ❖ Brics Football Cup was not held in 2017 during the Xiamen Summit.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Watermelon Day – 03 August

- ❖ Watermelon Day is an annual holiday which celebrates everyone's favourite summer fruit, Water Melon
- ❖ It has almost 92% water with full of Vitamins A, C, and antioxidants, carotenoid and lycopene, which can reduce the risks of some types of cancer.



- ❖ Watermelon is an ancient food that is believed to have originated in tropical Africa, 4000 years ago
- ❖ Watermelon is the official vegetable of the state of Oklahoma in the United States.

World Ranger Day - 31 July

- ❖ World Ranger Day is being celebrated every year on 31st July, acknowledging the critical work of rangers on the front-line of conservation across the globe
- ❖ Its Objectives is to honour Rangers killed or injured during duty and to safeguard earth's natural treasures and cultural heritage.



- ❖ It was Initiated by International Ranger Federation (Estd -1992) and it is being Celebrated Since – 2007.
