



**August – 07**

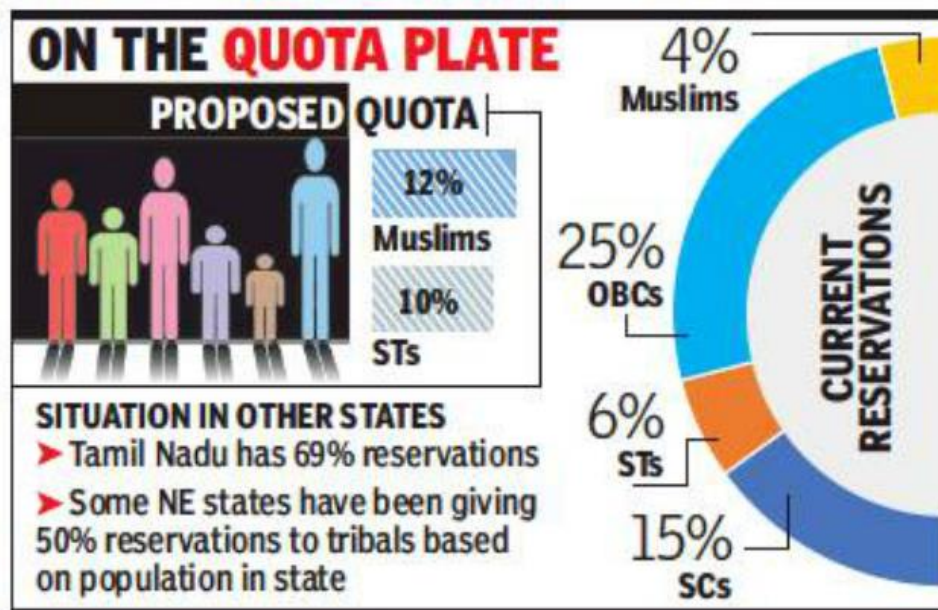
## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has approved 122 new research project proposals worth Rs 112 crore for funding under its IMPRINT-II (Impacting Research Innovation and Technology) scheme.
  - These projects were approved at IMPRINT-II Apex Committee meeting chaired by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.
- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has postponed Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to the moon to January 2019. This will be second time mission has been postponed.
  - With this delay, India may lose 4th position in the world for soft-landing on the moon to Israel as it too planning to launch moon mission in December 2018.
- ❖ The government has extended e-visa facility for citizens of 165 countries at 25 airports and five seaports in order to promote tourism.
- ❖ Food safety appellate tribunal has been set up on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government. Additional Chief Justice of Chennai metropolitan magistrate court Zakir Hussain has been appointed as the New Head of that Tribunal.

## **NATIONAL**

### **TN's 69% quota in professional college seats**

- ❖ The Supreme Court declined to intervene in a petition filed by 2 successful NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) candidates from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ According to the petition, the 69% quota was against the fundamental right enshrined in the constitution that no person should be discriminated against in the name of his/her caste, religion, gender, sex, etc.



- ❖ The petition argued that the apex court had capped the reservation at 50%.
- ❖ Consequently, Tamil Nadu had passed a law enabling 69% reservation. The law was included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Backward Class Commission, which was directed to assess the justifiability of 69% reservation on objective criteria, filed a report in July 2011.
- ❖ The petition said the report was without any objective criteria and simply confirmed the 69% reservation on the basis of the Amba Shankar Commission report of 1985.

### **First Indian to get elected as ICANN ccNSO council member**

- ❖ The nominating committee of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has selected Ajay Data as a new council member of Country Code Supporting Organisation (ccNSO).
- ❖ With this, he becomes first Indian to get selected as a member of ccNSO.
- ❖ ccNSO is policy development body of ICANN for ccTLD (country code top-level domains) issues and represents all country code top-level domain operators from around the world.
- ❖ He has been selected for a two-year term and will take up position during ICANN 63 Meet in Spain in October 2018.



- ❖ He will be representing India at the global level and will be also the custodian of Asia, Australia and Pacific Islands as a member of ccNSO.

#### **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)**

- ❖ ICANN is a private (non-government) non-profit corporation with the responsibility of supervising domain names on the internet.
- ❖ It was founded in 1998 and is headquartered in Los Angeles, California, United States.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **UK unveils new organ donation plan**

- ❖ United Kingdom has announced new plans to change the law for organ and tissue donation to address the urgent need for organs within Indian-origin communities in the country.
- ❖ The amendment in existing law will propose a new system of consent for organ and tissue donation.
- ❖ This will be known as Max's Law after Max Johnson, a 10-year-old boy who was saved by a heart transplant.
- ❖ The changes in law will try to incorporate an opt-in system similar to India, whereby families' decision to donate organs of their loved one after death is discretionary.
- ❖ Under this, those who do not want to donate their organs will be able to record their decision on state-funded National Health Service (NHS) Organ Donor Register (ODR).

## **ECONOMY**

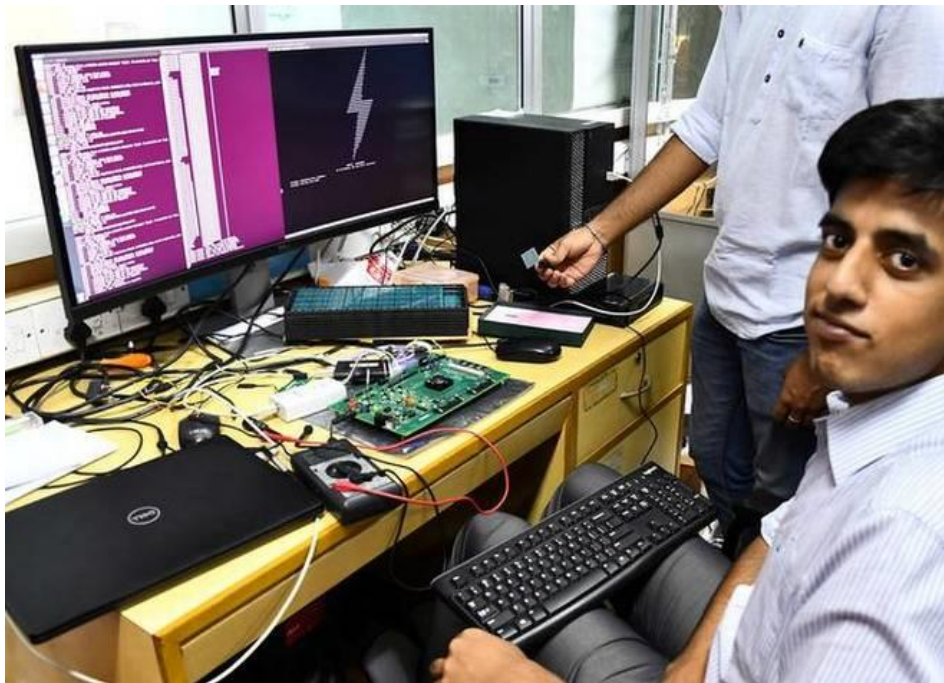
### **GST Council announces incentives**

- ❖ The GST (Good and Services Tax) council in its 29th meeting held in national capital New Delhi has approved cash incentives to promote Digital transactions.
- ❖ The GST Council meeting was chaired by Interim Finance Minister Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ It has announced 20% cashback for digital transactions paid on business-to-consumer transactions using RuPay and BHIM platforms, subject to a cap of Rs 100 per transaction.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### RISECREEK

- ❖ Computer scientists from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have developed first of a family of six industry-standard microprocessors under Project Shakti.
- ❖ The initial batch of 300 chips have been named RISECREEK and have been fabricated at Intel's facility at Oregon, the US for free to run Linux operating system.



- ❖ Project Shakti was started in 2014 as an IIT-M initiative and its part of the project was funded by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ Their design is open source and can be adapted by others.
- ❖ At a frequency of 350 MHz, RISECREEK can meet the demands of defense and strategic equipment such as NAVIC (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite) and the Internet of Things (IoT) electronics.



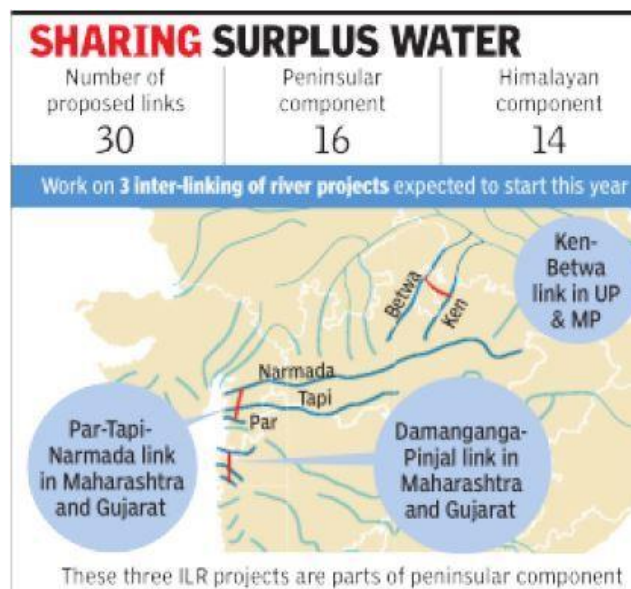
## World's first thermal battery plant

- ❖ The world's first-ever thermal battery plant was unveiled at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.
- ❖ It was Manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST).
- ❖ The first-of-its-kind batteries will aim to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.
- ❖ The technology, which will help in mitigating carbon emissions, is best suited for grid balancing and stabilizations.
- ❖ The device, known as High Energy Density Storage (HEDS), is a technology that was invented and patented by Dr. Patrick Glenn in 2016.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 5 river inter-linking projects within FY19

- ❖ Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari announced that 5 river inter-linking projects will commence in the current fiscal.



- ❖ It will secure financial assistance from the World Bank and the ADB for the Rs 2 lakh crore project.



- ❖ A cabinet note has been moved seeking to accord recognition to it as a National Project.
- ❖ The 5 projects include
  - Ken-Betwa
  - Godavari-Cauvery
  - Tapi-Narmada
  - Daman Ganga-Pinjal

## SPORTS

### World Championships Badminton 2018 – Winners from other events

#### Men's singles

- ❖ Kento Momota of Japan won the title (gold medal) with a victory over China's Shi Yuqi.



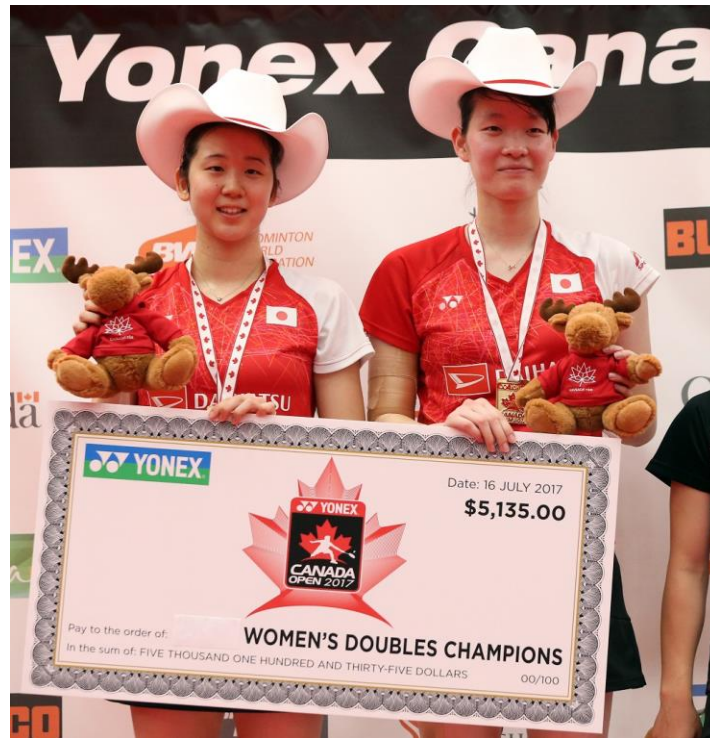
- ❖ With this victory, he became the first Japanese man to win the Championships.

#### Men's doubles

- ❖ Chinese pair of Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen won the title by defeating Japanese pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda

#### Women's doubles

- ❖ The Japanese pair of Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara won the title by defeating another Japanese pair of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota.



### Mixed doubles

- ❖ Chinese pair of Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong won the title by defeating another Chinese pair of Wang Yilü and Huang Dongping.

-----