



August – 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Turkey will sell four corvette warships to Pakistan which will be the country's largest single export deal. Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding to build four corvettes for Pakistan under the MiLGEM project last year.
- ❖ The government has doubled import duties on 328 textile products to 20% from existing rate of 10% under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.
- ❖ Chennai will be hosting the 6th edition of the Covelong Point Surf festival at Kovalam on Aug 17, 2018.
- ❖ Rugby World cup 2019 is going to be hosted by Japan, for the 1st time in Asia. It will be the ninth Rugby World Cup.
- ❖ Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela's president has escaped an assassination attempt when the explosives detonated just above him during a speech in a military event.
 - He replaced the socialist, Hugo Chavez in 2013.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia – announced that it is cutting all its diplomatic, trade and investment ties with Canada – for its interference in the Internal Affairs of Saudi Arabia.
 - It has also expelled the Canadian ambassador and recalled its own envoy in Canada.
- ❖ On the occasion of Government Maternity Hospital, Egmore inaugurating the 175th year of service celebrations, C Vijayabaskar, Health Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the RFIT service (Radio frequency identification tag) to prevent the newborn from stolen or lost within the hospital campus.
- ❖ Mumbai's St Xavier's College will get its first non-Christian principal in the institution's 150-year history after Rajendra Shinde assumes charge on September 1, the day when the college turns 150 years
 - The principal-designate, who at present heads the Botany department of the college, will replace Dr. Baptist Agnel Menezes, the 1st Non-Jesuit principal of the College.



NATIONAL

Restricted Area Permit eased

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has excluded 29 inhabited islands in Andaman and Nicobar from Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 till December 2022.
- ❖ This decision aims to increase footfalls and promote tourism.
- ❖ Citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these countries will continue to require RAP to visit Union Territory.
- ❖ For visiting Mayabunder and Diglipur islands, citizens of Myanmar will also continue to require RAP.
- ❖ Besides, separate approvals of competent authority will be required for visiting reserved forests, wildlife sanctuaries, and tribal reserves.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Water Resources, the NABARD and the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) signed a revised Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for funding of central share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- ❖ The funding will be done through the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF).
- ❖ The revised MoA will enable the Ministry of Water Resources to release Central Assistance to prioritized projects under PMKSY as per the requirements from time to time.

64th Foundation Day - Lalit Kala Akademi

- ❖ 64th Foundation Day Celebrations of Lalit Kala Akademi was held in New Delhi on Aug 7, 2018
- ❖ The institution was Inaugurated on August 5, 1954, and it was set up by the Indian government to build a national and cultural identity.
- ❖ A book on eminent artist Ganesh Pyne, "A Painter of Eloquent Silence" written by Pranav Ranjan Ray was released during the occasion.
- ❖ The book is a biographical work on the painter's life and works. It is co-published by the Akademi and Akar Prakar art gallery.



- ❖ The Minister released the logo of the 12th Triennale India, which is scheduled to be organized by the Akademi in December 2018.

ECONOMY

GoM headed by Suresh Prabhu

- ❖ Union Government has constituted 4-member Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu to decide on 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.
- ❖ It was constituted to advise Prime Minister on whether to continue with or withdraw from RCEP negotiations.
- ❖ The GoM also includes
 - Interim Finance and Power Minister Piyush Goyal,
 - Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and
 - Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri.
- ❖ It has been mandated to find a way forward from current deadlock over issues of joining RCEP or not.
- ❖ It will also help fine-tune India's strategy for the upcoming RCEP ministerial meet in August 2018 in Singapore.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IT initiatives of the Road Transport & Highways Ministry

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has launched
 - Bidder Information Management System (BIMS),
 - Bhoomi Rashi and Public Financial Management System (PFMS) linkage,two IT initiatives of the Road Transport & Highways Ministry.
- ❖ It is aimed at expediting pre-construction processes relating to bidding and land acquisition respectively.
- ❖ BIMS - streamlining the process of pre-qualification of bidders for EPC Mode of contracts for National Highway works.
- ❖ The portal, Bhoomi Rashi, was developed by MoRTH and NIC and it comprises the entire revenue data of the country.

- ❖ Integration of PFMS with Bhoomi Rashi - one of the key functionalities to facilitate payment related to compensation for land acquisition to all the beneficiaries directly.

Android 9.0 named 'Pie' launched

- ❖ Google has officially launched Android 9.0 named 'Pie' –with Artificial Intelligence embedded in it for 'Digital wellbeing' of the user.
- ❖ It succeeds Android Oreo.



- ❖ It includes an Adaptive Battery feature that maximizes battery power by prioritizing the apps.
- ❖ It also introduces a new gesture-based system interface like the swipes in iPhone X, for navigating through the operating system.
- ❖ It has been rolled out in its own Pixel phones and will be available to other devices later this year.

STATES

World's largest bird sculpture

- ❖ The Jatayu sculpture at the Jatayu Earth Center (JEC) at Chadayamangalam in Kollam district, Kerala, said to be world's largest bird sculpture, will be inaugurated on August 17 by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.



- ❖ This Rs 100 crore-project is a creation by film director and sculptor Rajiv Anchal.

1st state to give ID cards to Gau Rakshaks

- ❖ Uttarakhand has become the 1st state in the country to issue ID cards to Gau Rakshaks.
- ❖ The initiative has been taken to distinguish genuine Gau rakshaks from others who resort to violence in the name of cow protection.

Sashi Bhusan Behera Committee

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik set up a ministerial committee headed by Finance Minister Sashi Bhusan Behera to draft policies for the development of Odia film industry, known as Ollywood.
- ❖ It would suggest the steps to be taken to revive the film industry and also for the renovation of the Kalinga Studio, located on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Fortune's '40 Under 40' Rankings

- ❖ Fortune's 2018 '40 Under 40' has released an annual ranking of the most influential young people in business under the age of 40 years.

- ❖ Co-founder and CEO of Instagram Kevin Systrom shares rank 1 on the 40 under 40 lists with CEO and Co-founder of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg.



- ❖ According to Fortune, the pair Logan Green & John Zimmer has been ranked second on the list.
- ❖ Chinese businessman Wang Xing, CEO of Meituan-Dianping, has been ranked 3rd on the list.
- ❖ The four persons of Indian-origin has been featured on the list and they are
 - Dhivya Suryadevara, Rank 4 (Chief Financial Officer of the General Motors)
 - Anjali Sud, Rank 14 (Chief Executive Officer of Vimeo)
 - Bajju Bhatt, Rank 24 (Co-Founder and co-CEO of Robinhood)
 - Anu Duggal, Rank 32 (Founding partner of Female Founders Fund)

SPORTS

World Junior Squash Championships 2018

- ❖ World Junior Squash Championships 2018 was held in Chennai, India.
- ❖ The individual's event for men and women are held every year since 2009.
- ❖ The team event is biennial.
- ❖ Egypt national junior squash team defeated England 2-0 in the final and emerged as the 2018 World Junior Squash Champions.



❖ India finished in 11th position.

Event	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Individual	Mostafa Asal (Egypt)	Marwan Tarek (Egypt)
Women's Individual	Rowan Elaraby (Egypt)	Hania El Hammamy (Egypt)
Men's Team	Egypt	England
