

August – 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released the Book '**Bebak Baat**' written by **Vijay Goel**, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation, in New Delhi.
- ❖ Indian-American **Aruna Vishwanathan** was one of the 3 women honoured with 'Women in Business: Making a Difference Award' at the **19th annual Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH)** gala, in Houston, United States.

NATIONAL

All-Women SWAT team

- ❖ The Delhi Police has inducted an all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, consisting of 36 commandos – the first ever by any police force in India – for anti-terrorist operations.



- ❖ All the 36 women commandos in the new team are from India's northeast states.
- ❖ The women commandos will be deployed at Red Fort and India Gate during Independence Day celebrations on Aug 15, 2018.
- ❖ The SWAT team is the brainchild of Amulya Patnaik, the Delhi Police Commissioner.

Operation Madad and Operation Sahyog

- ❖ Indian Navy has launched Operation Madad, major rescue and relief operation in flood-hit Kerala.
- ❖ Indian Army also has launched Operation Sahyog to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala.



- ❖ Both operations will support rescue and relief efforts of civil administration and National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF).

Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 to help India become hub for domestic and global arbitration for settling commercial disputes.
- ❖ It seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 which contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration and defines law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
- ❖ The Bill establishes ACI (Arbitration Council of India) as an independent body for promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.



- ❖ It will consist of Chairperson who is either Judge of Supreme Court or Judge of High Court or Chief Justice of High Court or eminent person with expert knowledge in conduct of arbitration.
- ❖ The Bill proposed to remove time restriction for international commercial arbitrations. The earlier one was within the period of 12 months.

ECONOMY

UAE top source of inward remittances in 2016-17

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India's survey of inward remittances for 2016-17 has stated that, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** is the **top source of inward remittances**, and **Kerala** has received the **maximum funds** sent from abroad.
- ❖ UAE's share in total remittances was 26.9%. It is followed by the United States (22.9%), Saudi Arabia (11.6%), Qatar (6.5%) and Kuwait (5.5%).
- ❖ As per the survey, 82% of the total remittances received by India originated from 8 countries,
 - UAE, the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, the United Kingdom and Malaysia.
- ❖ Kerala has the highest share with 19%, among destinations. It is followed by Maharashtra (16.7%), Karnataka (15%), Tamil Nadu (8%) and Delhi (5.9%).
- ❖ Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu altogether received 58.7% of total remittances.
- ❖ Responses for the survey were received from 42 major authorised dealers (ADs), that account for 98.3% of total remittances in 2016-17.
- ❖ The rupee drawing arrangement (RDA) is the most popular channel of remittances. RDA accounts for 75.2% of remittances.
- ❖ It is followed by SWIFT (19.5%), direct transfers (3.4%) and cheques and drafts (1.9%).
- ❖ The share of Private banks in total remittances is 74.1%. Share of public sector banks is 17.3% and the remaining are foreign banks.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Most distant radio galaxy

- ❖ Astronomers, from Pune, used an Indian telescope, Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), and discovered the most distant radio galaxy ever known.
- ❖ It is located at a distance of 12 billion light-years. Radio galaxies are very rare objects in the universe.

A typical modern radio telescope : The GMRT

- The Giant Metre-wave Radio Telescope (GMRT) is a new, world class instrument for studying astrophysical phenomena at low radio frequencies (50 to 1450 MHz)
- Designed and built primarily by NCRA, a national centre of TIFR.
- Array telescope consisting of 30 antennas of 45 metres diameter, operating at metre wavelengths — the largest in the world at these frequencies



- ❖ The radio galaxy belongs to a time when the universe was only seven per cent of its current age.
- ❖ GMRT is an array of thirty fully steerable parabolic radio telescopes of 45 metre diameter.
- ❖ It is operated by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics.
- ❖ The distance to this galaxy was then determined using the Gemini North telescope in Hawaii and the Large Binocular Telescope in Arizona.



ENVIRONMENT

Gurugram - India's most polluted city

- ❖ Gurugram has been declared as India's most polluted city out of 62 cities in the country by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in its Air quality index (AQI).
- ❖ The AQI of Gurugram has crossed 300 mark marking it in the 'Very Poor' category of AQI.



- ❖ Peak level of Particulate Matter (PM)_{2.5} rose to 189 microgm/m³. The permissible limit is 60microgm/m³.
- ❖ The rise of the PM is due to the location of the city which gets a huge influx of Arabian dust storms and due to its humidity, which traps the dusts.
- ❖ 6 cities have been marked as 'Poor', 1 City (Gurugram) has been marked as 'Very Poor',
- ❖ 2 cities – Thane and Pune has been marked as 'Good', 26 cities marked as 'Satisfactory' and 27 cities as 'Moderate'.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

First woman Chief Justice of J&K High Court

- ❖ Justice Gita Mittal became the first-ever woman Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court.



- ❖ she was administered the oath of office by Governor N N Vohra in Srinagar.
- ❖ She succeeded Ramalingam Sudhakar.

Most Influential Woman in history - BBC

- ❖ Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie was adjudged the most influential woman in history, through a poll conducted by BBC History Magazine.



- ❖ Marie Curie was nominated by Patricia Fara, president of the British Society for the History of Science.
- ❖ Marie Curie had won Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 and Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911.
- ❖ Marie Curie is the,
 - First woman to win a Nobel Prize in physics
 - First female professor at the Sorbonne in France
 - First person to win a second Nobel Prize
 - Only person to have won Nobel Prizes in two sciences

SPORTS

Messi - Captain of Barcelona

- ❖ Lionel Messi has been named as Barcelona's new captain for the 2018/19 season.

- ❖ The Argentine 31-year-old takes over the role following the departure of Andres Iniesta to Japanese club Vissel Kobe.



- ❖ Sergio Busquets will be the vice-captain. Messi joined the club in 2001 and is their record goal-scorer.

ITF men's Futures tennis tournament

- ❖ India's Niki Poonacha beat Australia's Michael in the final and won the men's singles title of ITF men's Futures tennis tournament in Indonesia.
- ❖ This was his first singles title.
- ❖ He has won 3 doubles titles including one with Davis Cup winner Ramkumar Ramanathan.
- ❖ Men's Doubles - Justin Barki & Christopher Rungkat (Indonesia).


