



August - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Railway stations in Rajasthan are the cleanest in the country with Jodhpur topping the list of cleanest railway stations released by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- ❖ Union Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a genetic resource storage facility at the Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.
- ❖ The lander on the Chandrayaan-2 mission, which is scheduled to be launched early next year, will be named 'Vikram' after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of Indian space programme.
- ❖ Punjab government announced that will start 'Tatkal Sewa' for property registration across the state
- ❖ Chhattisgarh is the first among the 28 other states in the country to provide 'Right to Skills' Development to the youth.
- ❖ Indian rupee for first time in history plunged to record low of Rs. 70.07 against US dollar on 14 August 2018.

NATIONAL

A K Bhutani - CEO of PMFBY

- ❖ Senior bureaucrat Ashish Kumar Bhutani has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) till May 9, 2020 by the Personnel Ministry.
 - PMFBY is in line with one nation – one scheme theme launched in 2016
 - It incorporates the best features of all previous schemes and at the same time, all previous shortcomings and weaknesses have been removed to ensure faster insurance services or reliefs to farmers.



Appointment of Chairman to Marine Products Export Development Authority

- ❖ IAS officer K S Srinivas has taken over as the Chairman of the city-based Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), an agency under the Union Commerce Ministry.

North India's First Space Research Center

- ❖ In a significant development, Jammu is all set to be the first city in North India to get a full-fledged Space Technology Research Centre, devoted to research, academics and post-graduation degree course.
- ❖ Another town selected for opening a Space Technology Research Centre is in the Northeast in Tripura, where it would function under the aegis of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala.

NITI Aayog - Pitch to MOVE competition

- ❖ NITI Aayog has launched mobility pitch competition Pitch to MOVE to provide budding entrepreneurs of India unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to distinguished jury.
- ❖ Using this platform, start-ups working in various fields of mobility can pitch their ideas to industry leaders and venture capitalists for raising investments
- ❖ It is organised by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Invest India and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal - Final verdict

- ❖ Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal delivered its final verdict to ending 50-year-old dispute over sharing of Mahadayi or Mandovi River between Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
 - The tribunal was constituted in November 2010 under Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956 to resolve water sharing dispute between riparian states.



INTERNATIONAL

World's First Blockchain Bond

- ❖ The World sell the first-ever bond to be issued entirely using blockchain technology.
- ❖ The technology is most often associated with cryptocurrencies — like bitcoin which often raise suspicion about their reliability and volatility, as well as their use for criminal purposes.
- ❖ The transaction is the brainchild of the World Bank's innovation lab together with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.
- ❖ use of blockchain will improve transparency, since it is public, and cut down on transaction time since the bonds eventually will be exchanged instantaneously for cash.

2018 Global Livability Index

- ❖ Austrian capital Vienna was ranked as world's most liveable city among 140 major cities in 2018 Global Liveability Index released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The world's most liveable cities

- | |
|-------------------------|
| 1. Vienna, Austria |
| 2. Melbourne, Australia |
| 3. Osaka, Japan |
| 4. Calgary, Canada |
| 5. Sydney, Australia |
| 6. Vancouver, Canada |
| 7. Toronto, Canada |
| 8. Tokyo, Japan |
| 9. Copenhagen, Denmark |
| 10. Adelaide, Australia |

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit Global Liveability Index 2018



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Scientists develop super-insulating transparent gel

- ❖ Scientists have developed Aerogel, a transparent heat-resistant super-insulating gel using beer waste. It may be used to build greenhouse-like habitats for human colonised on extra-terrestrial habitats such as Mars or Moon
- ❖ It could be used on buildings on Earth to help make huge savings on energy costs, it can be also used in windows and extra-terrestrial habitats.
- ❖ It enables to harvest sunlight through that thermally-insulating material and store energy inside, thus protecting from big oscillations in temperature especially on Mars or on the moon.

STATES

Family income ceiling for 'Kanyashree'

- ❖ The West Bengal government has widened the reach of its flagship women welfare scheme 'Kanyashree' by lifting the ceiling on annual family income.
- ❖ As per the scheme, unmarried girls above 13 years are offered cash incentive for remaining unmarried till 18.
 - Kanyashree was launched in 2013 to prevent child marriage in economically weaker sections with an annual household income of Rupee 1.2 lakh.
 - Successful applicants got Rupee 1,000 a year scholarship from 13 to 18 years and a one-time grant of Rupee 25,000 on remaining unmarried till 18 years.

SPORTS

Toronto Masters

- ❖ Rafael Nadal won the 80th title of his career with victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas at the Toronto Masters.
- ❖ The win gave the 32-year-old Spaniard a record-extending 33rd trophy at the elite Masters level as well as his 80th title.



- ❖ He now owns five titles this season and has clinched the first spot in the year-end finals in London.

Youngest Indian golfer

- ❖ Indian golfer Viraj Madappa won his maiden title on the Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru.



- ❖ The earlier record was held by Gaganjeet Bhullar, who won the Indonesia Invitational
- ❖ Apart from becoming the youngest Asian Tour winner from India, Madappa is also the first rookie and youngest player to win on the continental Tour this season.
