



August – 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ University Grants Commission (UGC) issued circular directing all universities and higher education institutions to ban the sale of junk food on their campuses.

INTERNATIONAL

Greece exits eurozone bailout program

- ❖ Greece emerged from the eurozone bailout programme after 8 years, successfully completing its 3rd bailout programme worth €61.9 billion.
- ❖ The European Union, European Central Bank, and IMF had loaned Greece €289 billion under the three bailout deals, in support of macroeconomic adjustment and bank recapitalization.
- ❖ According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), only 4 countries have shrunk economically more than Greece in the past decade. They are,
 - Yemen
 - Libya
 - Venezuela and
 - Equatorial Guinea

Turkey initiates WTO dispute complaint about the U.S.

- ❖ Turkey has initiated a dispute complaint against the United States with the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- ❖ This follows the imposing of additional tariffs on steel and aluminium imports from Turkey by the United States.
- ❖ The tariff war is in response to Turkey's rejection of an American request to release an American pastor detained for the past 2 years for alleged involvement in an abortive military coup.



World's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics

- ❖ Researchers from the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) have successfully developed the world's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics that can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.
- ❖ 4D printing is conventional 3D printing combined with the additional element of time as the fourth dimension.



- ❖ Researchers also have developed a novel 'ceramic ink', which is a mixture of polymers and ceramic nanoparticles.
- ❖ The printed ceramic precursors can be used in the manufacture of electronic devices.
- ❖ Ceramic materials have much better performance in transmitting electromagnetic signals than metallic materials.

ECONOMY

India Banking Conclave 2018

- ❖ India Banking Conclave (IBC) 2018 was held in New Delhi from 23-24, 2018.
- ❖ It was organized by the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) along with its knowledge partner and government Think Tank, NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The conclave was aimed at making India's banking sector more adaptable to face multiple future challenges in the coming years.



- ❖ CEPR was founded in 1983 and is based in London, United Kingdom. It is funded by a registered, European charity founded in 1983 by Richard Portes.
- ❖ It aims to enhance the quality of economic policy-making within Europe and beyond.

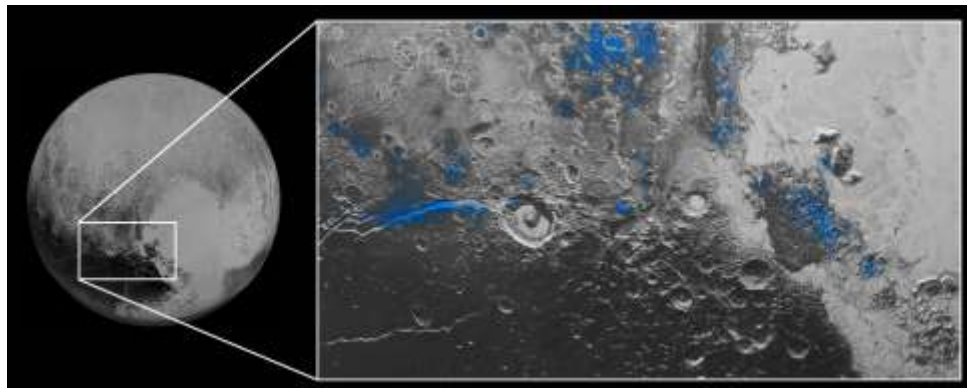
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

'ReMix' - 'in-body GPS' system

- ❖ Scientists have developed a wireless 'in-body GPS' system that can pinpoint the location of ingestible implants and track tumors inside the body.
- ❖ Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) named the system as 'ReMix' and it was found to easily track the implants with centimeter-level accuracy.
- ❖ The major drawback of this system is that it is not providing accurate clinical data yet for real-time implementation.

Frozen water deposits in moon

- ❖ The NASA scientists, using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, confirmed that there are frozen water deposits in the darkest and coolest parts of Moon's Polar Regions.



- ❖ Most of the newfound water ice lies in the shadows of craters near the poles, where the warmest temperatures never reach above minus 156 degrees Celsius (-250 degrees Fahrenheit).
- ❖ Due to the very small tilt of the Moon's rotation axis, sunlight never reaches these regions.



- ❖ Chandrayaan-1 was India's first mission to the moon launched on October 22, 2008.

CERT-In report

- ❖ According to a recent report by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a maximum number of cyber-attacks on official Indian websites are from China, US, and Russia.
- ❖ China accounted for largest 35% of a total number of cyber-attacks on official Indian websites followed by US (17%), Russia (15%), Pakistan (9%), Canada (7%).
- ❖ The report was forwarded to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and other security agencies.
- ❖ CERT-In is the nodal agency for information technology (cyber) security under the aegis of Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- ❖ It was established in 2004. Its mandate is to protect Indian cyberspace and software infrastructure against destructive and hacking activities.

On The Blink

WHAT IS CERT-IN?
Nodal agency for cybersecurity response and tracking under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000

22,000+
Websites hacked into between Apr 2017 and Jan 2018, including 114 govt portals (Source: Centre to LS in March)

50,362
incidents handled by CERT-In in 2016 (Source: Annual report)

57,262
spam incidents reported to CERT-In in 2016

TYPES OF INCIDENTS:
Website intrusion & malware propagation, malicious code, phishing, distributed denial of service attacks, website defacements & unauthorised scanning activities

ENVIRONMENT

Kerala Heritage Rescue Initiative

- ❖ International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) launched Kerala Heritage Rescue Initiative to assess damage to rich cultural and built heritage sites in flood-devastated Kerala.
- ❖ ICOMOS is a global monument conservation body.
- ❖ The initiative aims at setting up a platform for emergency response to cultural heritage damaged by the floods in Kerala.
- ❖ The Central Government has declared this calamity of 'severe nature'.
- ❖ ICOMOS has also approached International Centre for Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to partner in post-disaster work.
- ❖ ICCROM based in Rome (Italy) is an inter-governmental organization dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide.

- ❖ ICOMOS is a global monument conservation body (non-government organization), headquartered at Paris in France.
- ❖ It was founded in 1965 in Warsaw (Poland) as a result of the Venice Charter of 1964.
- ❖ It is also the advisory body to UNESCO for cultural heritage, in particular for implementation of World Heritage Convention.

STATES

Disrespect of religious texts made punishable

- ❖ The state Cabinet has approved amendments to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to make sacrilege of all religious texts punishable with life imprisonment in order to preserve communal harmony.
- ❖ The State Cabinet approved the Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2018, and the Indian Penal Code (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- ❖ A new section 295AA has been inserted in IPC to provide that whoever causes disrespect or damage to Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Srimad Bhagwad Geeta, Holy Quran and Holy Bible, shall be subjected to Life imprisonment.

Chhattisgarh to rename Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar

- ❖ In the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Chhattisgarh Government has decided to rename Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar.
- ❖ It intends to institute awards known as 'Atal Sushashan Awards' to honor people who have rendered excellent service to the society.
- ❖ These awards would be given on November 1, the foundation day of the state of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It plans to name a state battalion of the police force as 'Pokharan battalion'
- ❖ It has also approved the naming of the second phase of the CM's 'Vikas Yatra' as 'Atal Vikas Yatra'.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Highest paid women sportspersons

- ❖ India's ace Shuttler and Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu (23) was ranked 7th on Forbes list of highest-earning women sportspersons in the world (between June 2017 and June 2018).

THE TOP 10				
PLAYER	SPORT	TOTAL EARNINGS	PRIZE MONEY	ENDORSEMENTS
Serena Williams	Tennis	\$18.1 million	\$62,000	\$18 million
Caroline Wozniacki	Tennis	\$13 million	\$7 million	\$6 million
Sloane Stephens	Tennis	\$11.2 million	\$5.7 million	\$5.5 million
Garbine Muguruza	Tennis	\$11 million	\$5.5 million	\$5.5 million
Maria Sharapova	Tennis	\$10.5 million	\$1 million	\$9.5 million
Venus Williams	Tennis	\$10.2 million	\$4.2 million	\$6 million
P. V. Sindhu	Badminton	\$8.5 million	\$500,000	\$8 million
Simona Halep	Tennis	\$7.7 million	\$6.2 million	\$1.5 million
Danica Patrick	NASCAR	\$7.5 million	\$3 million	\$4.5 million
Angelique Kerber	Tennis	\$7 million	\$3 million	\$4 million

- ❖ The list was topped by tennis legend Serena Williams with total earning of \$18.062 million including \$62,000 as prize money.
- ❖ Eight of the 10 top highest-earning women sportspersons were tennis players, remaining two were badminton player and professional racing driver.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism – August 21

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly established 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.
- ❖ This is the 1st Terrorism victims Remembrance Day.



- ❖ The day is observed to honor and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.
