

August – 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry is developing National Logistics Portal is to ensure ease of trading in international and domestic markets. The portal will link all stakeholders of EXIM (export and import), domestic trade and movement and all trade activities on a single platform.
- ❖ Industry chamber (Assocham) appointed former bureaucrat Uday Kumar Varma as its new Secretary General. He succeeds DS Rawat who held the position for nearly 14 years.

TAMILNADU

TN Launches plastic pollution-free Tamil Nadu' Campaign

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has launched a 'plastic pollution-free Tamil Nadu' Campaign to ban the 'Use and Throw' plastics from January 01, 2019.
- ❖ He has also launched an exclusive web portal, www.plasticpollutionfreetn.org and a mobile application called 'Plastic Pollution Free Tamil Nadu'.

Kicking plastic

Ahead of the complete ban on one-time use plastics from January 1, 2019, the State govt. has stepped up its campaign against plastics, with a series of initiatives

CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami handing over a cloth bag to actor Vivek, an ambassador for the anti-plastic campaign

— S.R. RAGHUNATHAN



Initiatives launched on August 23

- CM launched the logo of the campaign
- New website www.plasticpollutionfreetn.org has all details of govt. efforts
- Mobile-based application 'Plastic Pollution Free Tamil Nadu' launched
- CM also released promotional documentaries prepared by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
- Display of items which are alternative to one-time use plastics
- CM also handed over subsidies to entrepreneurs who are involved in manufacturing items that are alternatives to one-time plastic

Ambassadors for the campaign



Suriya Sivakumar



Jyothika



Karthi

Steering committee set up

- 10-member committee to monitor overall implementation of the ban on one-time use and throwaway plastic
- Members include the chief secretary, secretaries in the finance department, rural development and panchayat raj department, environment & forests department, municipal administration & water supply department, health & family welfare department, cooperation, food & consumer protection department, micro, small & medium enterprises department, school education department and the member secretary of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

Regional coordinators appointed

- P. Amudha**
Chennai and Salem regions
- Santosh Babu**
Coimbatore and Tiruchi regions
- Rajendra Rathee**
Tirunelveli and Madurai regions

- ❖ The actors, Suriya, Karthi, Jyothika, and Vivek has been announced as “Brand ambassadors” of the campaign and to promote eco-friendly bags

INTERNATIONAL

Sweden Launches "feminist foreign policy"

- ❖ Sweden has launched the "feminist foreign policy" manual to highlight the nation's flagship approach to promote women's rights globally.
- ❖ It has been led by Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom since its inception in 2014.
- ❖ The policy's main goals include the promotion of economic emancipation, fighting sexual violence and improving women's political participation.
- ❖ It includes an action plan for 5 war-torn nations, Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and the Palestinian Territories, to target women's empowerment.
- ❖ There has been a growing influence of Women in Sweden where the number of women ambassadors has risen from just 10 percent in 1996 to 40 percent in 2016.

ECONOMY

Bond-i

- ❖ The World Bank launched the world's first public blockchain bond named bond-I created, allocated, transferred and managed by using blockchain technology.
- ❖ Bond-I is an acronym standing for Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument and also refers to tourist famous Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia.
- ❖ Funds raised from this bond will go towards sustainable development initiatives.
- ❖ Bond-I is Ethereum blockchain bond denominated in Australian dollars, making it Kangaroo bond (referring to foreign bonds issued in Australia in local currency).
- ❖ World Bank had chosen Commonwealth Bank of Australia (the largest bank in Australia) was chosen as sole arranger for this bond.
- ❖ The bond has a two-year maturity and had raised Australian \$100 million (US\$73.16 million) after its issuance.



1st Indian company to cross Rs 8 lakh crore market capitalization

- ❖ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became first Indian company to cross Rs 8 lakh crore (\$114 billion) market capitalization.
- ❖ This record m-cap of RIL also bumped up Mukesh Ambani's (India's richest man) wealth to over \$48 billion (according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index).
- ❖ M-cap is the value of a company that is traded on the stock market, calculated by multiplying a total number of shares by present share price.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

5G steering committee - AJ Paulraj

- ❖ The 5G steering committee chaired by Stanford University's Professor Emeritus AJ Paulraj submitted its recommendations to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- ❖ The committee was set up by Government in September 2017 to suggest a roadmap for the adoption of 5G.
- ❖ Its aim was to push participation in the process of defining global standards for the next generation of wireless technology.
- ❖ It expects the commercial rollout of 5G in India by 2020. It expects that economic impact of 5G to be over \$1 trillion.
- ❖ It recommended that the deployment of 5G in India should be classified into three phases based on technologies and use cases.

European wind survey satellite launched

- ❖ The "Aeolus" satellite, named after the guardian of wind in Greek mythology, has been launched by Europe from French Guyana.
- ❖ The satellite will probe the lowermost 30 kilometers of the atmosphere in measuring winds around the Earth.
- ❖ The satellite is equipped with a single instrument: a Doppler wind lidar -- an advanced laser system
- ❖ It is part of the "Copernicus project", a joint initiative of the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA) - to track environmental damage and assist disaster relief operations



- ❖ The launch is Ariane space's 50th launch for the European Space Agency
- ❖ Aeolus is the 5th of the ESA's planned Earth Explorer missions.

Fabless Chip Design Incubator

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad launched the Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI), dedicated exclusively to help startups in this sector.
- ❖ Its goal is to incubate at least 50 'Make-in-India' chip design companies that can compete globally and generate Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)
- ❖ FabCI is said to be the first-of-its-kind in India that focuses on creating an ecosystem for grooming startups in chip design
- ❖ FabCI is funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and its technology partners are Cadence Design Systems, Inc. and Mentor Graphics.

ENVIRONMENT

5 Thematic Reports on Sustainable Development in Himalayan Region

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released 5 Thematic Reports on Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) recognizing the uniqueness of Himalayas and challenges for sustainable development.
- ❖ These reports list challenges in all defined 5 thematic areas and discuss significance, challenges, ongoing actions and future roadmap.
- ❖ These reports were prepared by five working groups which were set up by NITI Aayog in June 2017.
- ❖ These areas were
 - Inventory and Revival of springs in the Himalayas for Water Security
 - Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region
 - Transformative approach to shifting cultivation
 - Strengthening Skill and Entrepreneurship Landscape in the Himalayas
 - Data/Information for Informed Decision Making



STATES

India's biggest techno-hub

- ❖ Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the Bhamashah Techno Hub in Jhalana Industrial Area of Jaipur.
- ❖ It can accommodate around 700 entrepreneurs under one roof
- ❖ It has to be recalled that the State had launched "i-start" a year ago to provide a digital solution to the startups
- ❖ Raje also inaugurated an online payment app, Bhamashah Wallet.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Raveena Tandon - brand ambassador of Sanjay Gandhi National Park

- ❖ Maharashtra Government has appointed Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon as the brand ambassador of Mumbai city-based Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP).
- ❖ She was appointed to spread awareness among fellow citizens as she is an environmentally-conscious citizen.
- ❖ It is a protected area near Mumbai in Maharashtra. It was formerly known as Borivali National Park (renamed to present name in 1996, after Sanjay Gandhi).
- ❖ It is notable as one of the major national parks existing within the metropolis limit and is one of the most visited parks in the world.
- ❖ Kanheri Caves, 2000-year-old complex of some 160 rock-cut caves (important Buddhist learning center) is situated within the national park and is protected the archeological site.

VS Naipaul passes away

- ❖ Nobel prize-winning author V S Naipaul, known for his critical commentary on colonialism, idealism, religion and politics, passed away at the age of 85 on 11th August.
- ❖ Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul was born on August 17, 1932, in Trinidad
- ❖ Naipaul wrote more than 30 books of fiction and nonfiction. His first book was 'The Mystic Masseur'.
- ❖ His most celebrated novel, A House for Mr. Biswas, was published in 1961.



- ❖ He is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Man Booker Prize in 1971 and a knighthood for services to literature in 1990.



- ❖ Naipaul was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition – 23 August

- ❖ The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition was observed across the world every year on 23 August.
- ❖ The day designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
- ❖ Observance of this day marks the anniversary of 1791 insurrection of enslaved men and women in a western part of the island of Santo Domingo, which is now known as Haiti.



- ❖ These men and women torn from Africa and sold into slavery had revolted against the slave system.
 - ❖ This Haitian Revolution had led to their freedom and independence in 1804.
 - ❖ The Day was first celebrated in a number of countries, particularly in Haiti on in 1998 and in Senegal in 1999.
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