



August – 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Department of Telecommunications has indicated that the passengers in Flights can browse and make calls from October onwards at 30000 feet. Earlier, TRAI has announced that the Local and international flights will be allowed to provide voice and data services within Indian airspace at an altitude of 9850 feet onwards.
- ❖ Pakistan's new government has banned the discretionary use of state funds and first-class air travel by officials and leaders, including the President and the Prime Minister, as part of its austerity drive.

TAMIL NADU

Flag hoisted by Governor at Raj Bhavan for the 1st time

- ❖ In a first, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit unfurled the Indian tricolor at the Raj Bhavan on the occasion of Independence Day.
- ❖ Generally, a Governor unfurls the tricolor only on Republic Day, January 26 during a colorful ceremony here at the Marina.
- ❖ Purohit hoisting the national flag at Raj Bhavan was a break from the tradition established in 1974.
- ❖ Before that year, it was the practice for governors to hoist the flag at the official Independence Day event of the State government.
- ❖ But, with the efforts of former chief minister M.Karunanidhi, this privilege was later given to chief ministers of the country.

NATIONAL

BNHS to open its first regional center

- ❖ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) will start operating its first regional center on the campus of Wetland Research and Training Centre near Chilika Lake, Odisha.
- ❖ The avifauna observatory will carry out research on the avian disease by collecting samples and monitor Nalabana Bird Sanctuary.



- ❖ BNHS is one of the largest non-governmental organizations in India engaged in conservation and biodiversity research.
- ❖ It was founded on 15 September 1883 and headquartered at Hornbill House, Mumbai.

1st 'Make in India' project under 'Strategic partnership' policy

- ❖ The Defence Ministry approved procurement of 111 utility helicopters for the Indian Navy at a cost of over Rs 21,000 crore.
- ❖ This is the 1st project under the MoD's prestigious Strategic Partnership (SP) Model that aims at providing a significant fillip to the government's Make in India programme.
- ❖ The 'SP' seeks to boost the Indian private sector's role in the production of advanced weapon systems in a tie-up with the foreign arms majors.

National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application

- ❖ Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched the National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application to rate Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
- ❖ 'Neta - Leaders' Report Card' App, the brainchild of 27-year-old entrepreneur Pratham Mittal, is a platform where voters can review and rate their elected representatives
- ❖ The App was first used during the February 2018 bypolls in Rajasthan's Ajmer and Alwar constituencies, and later, it was used in Karnataka ahead of the Assembly Elections in May 2018.

INTERNATIONAL

G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting

- ❖ The G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting was held in Salta, Argentina from 23 to 24 August, 2018.
- ❖ It took place as part of Sherpa Track for 2018 G20 Leaders' Summit, which is to be hosted by Argentina by end of 2018.
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was 'Building consensus for fair and sustainable development'.

- ❖ Its three key issues for the agenda were future of work, infrastructure for development, and sustainable food future.

First container ship to navigate an Arctic sea route

- ❖ The Venta Maersk carrying 600 containers have become the World's 1st container ship to sail on the 'Warmer' Arctic route.
- ❖ Maersk has decided to use ultra-low sulfur fuel (ULSFO) for this trail to comply with the Emission Control Area or ECA requirements for the Baltic and Northern sea regions.



- ❖ It has left the Russian port of Vladivostok on the way to St Petersburg by late September
- ❖ It will collect the data to check the viability of the route for passage
- ❖ The route was once considered 'impossible' due to the presence of ice, but now higher Arctic temperatures combined with advances in shipping made it more viable

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OSIRIS-Rex Spacecraft

- ❖ NASA's asteroid sampling spacecraft OSIRIS-REx has captured 1st images of its target asteroid Bennu and began its final approach towards it after the almost 2-year journey.
- ❖ OSIRIS-Rex stands for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer.
- ❖ The first glimpses of the targeted asteroid were captured by Poly Cam camera OCAMS on board of OSIRIS-Rex from a distance of 2.1 million kilometres.
- ❖ OSIRIS-Rex mission was launched in September 2016 for studying 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid.
- ❖ It is NASA's first asteroid sampling mission i.e. it will survey surface, collect a sample and deliver it safely back to Earth.
- ❖ Bennu is a near-Earth carbonaceous asteroid about the size of a small mountain in the Apollo group. It was discovered in September 1999 by the LINEAR Project.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

National award for best teacher for 2017

- ❖ R. Sathy, the headmistress of the Madukkarai Panchayat Union Primary School in Malumichampatti village in Coimbatore district, has won the national award for best teacher for 2017.
- ❖ The accolade included a certificate of merit, a cash award of ₹50,000 and a silver medal.
- ❖ The award is given by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD)
- ❖ The award would be presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on September 5, which coincides with Teachers Day.



- ❖ Ms. Sathy is the only teacher from Tamil Nadu among the 45 candidates nominated for the national award.
- ❖ Recently, The Ministry of HRD has issued fresh guidelines for Selection of Teachers for National Awards.
- ❖ Teachers of Government schools can now send their entries directly for the National Award for Teachers.
- ❖ This is a new initiative; as earlier entries were selected by the State Government.

Sri Lanka National Efficiency Awards 2018

- ❖ Forbes Marshall Lanka has won the 'Golden Flame award' in the 'Energy Efficiency Improvement category' of the Best Energy Services Company
- ❖ The Sri Lanka National Efficiency Awards 2018 are instituted by Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority.

SPORTS

Jhulan Goswami retires from T20I

- ❖ Jhulan Goswami, the veteran Indian women cricketer, has retired from the T20 Internationals.
- ❖ In 2010, she received the "Arjuna Award" and 2 years later, became only the 2nd woman cricketer to be conferred the "Padma Shri", after Diana Edulji.





- ❖ She won the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Women's "Cricketer of the Year" award in 2007, the first Indian player to win it.

Kho-Kho gets OCA recognition

- ❖ The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has given recognition to India's indigenous sport of Kho-Kho.
- ❖ The decision to recognize Kho-Kho was taken at the General Assembly of the OCA held AT Jakarta.
- ❖ Kho-Kho will now be included as a demonstration sport in the Asian Indoor Games.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Sea Prayer" by Khaled Hosseini

- ❖ Khaled Hosseini, the bestselling author of The Kite Runner, is soon to release his latest book "Sea Prayer".
- ❖ It is a tribute to Alan Kurdi, the 3-year-old Syrian boy whose body was washed up on a beach in Turkey in September 2015



- ❖ The book will be published by Bloomsbury.
- ❖ Earlier, "Sea prayer" was produced as a "Virtual film" in collaboration with "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (UNHCR)
- ❖ Khaled Hosseini is an Afghan-born American novelist



- ❖ He has written books like “The Kite Runner”, “A Thousand Splendid Suns” and “And the Mountains Echoed”
- ❖ He was earlier appointed as UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador” in 2006
