



**August – 27**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ On August 23, the annual festival at Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil has started in Jaffna, Sri Lanka with the sacred flag hoisting ceremony. In the 25-day festival, Ther Thiruvila (chariot festival) is the most popular of all events.
- ❖ The 2018 Krishi Kumbh International Conference and Exhibition, organized by the Uttar Pradesh Government, was held at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (Telibagh) in Lucknow. The aim of the 3-day conference is
  - To provide a platform to farmers, technical experts, and entrepreneurs for the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the field of the agriculture sector.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh government is going to organize a youths' conclave, titled ATAL (Arunachal Transformation & Aspirational Leadership) Conclave, in September 2018. The aim of the 3-day ATAL conclave is to engage youths in the age group of 18 to 30 years of the state pro-actively in the areas of public policy and governance.
- ❖ The 9th edition of Mountain Echoes Literature Festival 2018 has started in Thimphu, Bhutan to serve as a collaborative platform for knowledge sharing, leading to a global cultural potpourri of ideas. It will celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.
- ❖ The book "281 and Beyond" is the autobiography of veteran cricketer VVS Laxman, which will be launched by Westland Sport in November 2018. The title has been taken from the series-turning innings of 281 against Australia at the Eden Gardens in 2001.
- ❖ Pakistani-origin Mehreen Faruqi, of the Australian Green Party, became the first Muslim woman to occupy a seat in the country's Senate. She replaces Lee Rhiannon from the Green Party, WHO announced her retirement in May.

## **NATIONAL**

### **NGT appoints S.J.Vazifdar Committee**

- ❖ National Green Tribunal has appointed S J Vazifdar, Retired Judge as the Head of the 3-member committee to decide Vedanta's plea challenging closure of Sterlite Copper Plant.



- ❖ S J Vazifdar is a former Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Courts



- ❖ The committee also includes representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Environment and Forests
- ❖ The committee will commence work within two weeks and will submit the report within six weeks.

### **3rd Indian Ocean Conference**

- ❖ The third edition of Indian Ocean Conference was held in Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam.
- ❖ The third edition of the Conference was organized by India Foundation in association with
  - Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam,
  - S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS),
  - Sri Lanka and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.
- ❖ Its theme was “Building Regional Architectures”.
- ❖ It is an annual conference which has been initiated by Delhi based think tank India Foundation along with its partners from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- ❖ So far, two successful editions of the conference were hosted in 2016 and 2017 in Singapore and Sri Lanka respectively.



## INTERNATIONAL

### First female fighter pilot of Japan

- ❖ Japan has appointed its first female fighter pilot, the latest achievement in the national push for greater gender equality in the traditionally male-dominated country.
- ❖ First Lieutenant Misa Matsushima, 26, of Japan Air Self Defence Force has become the first female fighter pilot.



- ❖ The Air Force decided in 1993 to open all positions to women, except for pilots of fighter jets and reconnaissance aircraft.
- ❖ But the limit was lifted in 2015.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NASA's two virtual reality apps

- ❖ NASA has created two virtual reality apps that allow users to take selfies in front of gorgeous cosmic locations.
- ❖ The apps are named as
  - NASA Selfies
  - NASA's 'Exoplanet Excursions'

- ❖ NASA Selfies app users can take selfies in a virtual spacesuit in front of various cosmic locations
- ❖ NASA's Exoplanet Excursions takes the users on a virtual guided tour of the TRAPPIST-1 planetary system, around 5 planets
- ❖ The Selfies app and Exoplanet Excursions virtual reality app were released to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the launch of NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope.

## ENVIRONMENT

### India's first biofuel-powered flight

- ❖ SpiceJet flew the country's first biofuel-powered flight, which took off from Dehradun for Delhi.
- ❖ India is 1st among the developing nations to test the biofuel-powered flights, after the earlier successful attempts by the US and Australia
- ❖ The bio-jet fuel was prepared by CSIR & Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun.
- ❖ The jet fuel has been recognized by American Standard Testing Method (ASTM) and meets the specification standards of Pratt & Whitney and Bombardier for commercial application in aircraft.
- ❖ It is made from vegetable oils, sugar, animal fats and waste biomass.
- ❖ It can be used on existing engines without necessitating any other modifications.
- ❖ Biofuel flights make air travel cleaner and more efficient by reducing carbon emissions and also reduce the cost of airline operations.

### Cheetah Reintroduction Project

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to revive its Cheetah Reintroduction Project.
- ❖ The move is to reintroduce Cheetahs in Nauradehi sanctuary located in Sagar district of the state.
- ❖ The ambitious project was conceived in 2009 but had hit a roadblock for want of funds.
- ❖ Cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952. India's last spotted Asiatic cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) had died in Chhattisgarh in 1947.



- ❖ National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under Union Environment Ministry.

## STATES

### **Bundelkhand Expressway to be named as 'Atal Path'**

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to name the upcoming Bundelkhand Expressway as 'Atal Path'.
- ❖ It is proposed as a 289-km, 4-lane, access-controlled highway. It starts at Jhansi and joins Agra-Lucknow expressway.
- ❖ It is proposed to be developed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).

### **Free power units for SC/ST families**

- ❖ Telangana State Government has increased the free electricity supply to the families of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for domestic purpose up to 101 units.
- ❖ Currently, the state government is supplying free electricity to these families up to 50 units.

### **Other welfare measures**

- ❖ Honorarium being paid to Imams and Moazins of Masjids has been increased to 5000 rupees from the current 1500 rupees per month.
- ❖ The government also decided to increase the retirement age of Archakas in Temples to 65 years from the current 58 years.

### **First interstate connected wind power project**

- ❖ 126 MW wind power capacity, part of India's first inter-state transmission system (ISTS) auction, was commissioned in Bhuj, Gujarat.
- ❖ It was part of India's first ISTS auction was conducted by state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) in February 2017.
- ❖ The project is undertaken by Ostra Kutch Wind private Limited.
- ❖ Through ISTS, power generated from one state can be transmitted to other deficient states.



- ❖ The energy generated from this project in Gujarat is purchased by Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Satheesh Reddy –New Chairman of DRDO**

- ❖ Renowned aerospace scientist Dr. G Satheesh Reddy has been appointed the new chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for a period of 2 years.
- ❖ He will also be secretary in the Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D) for the same period.



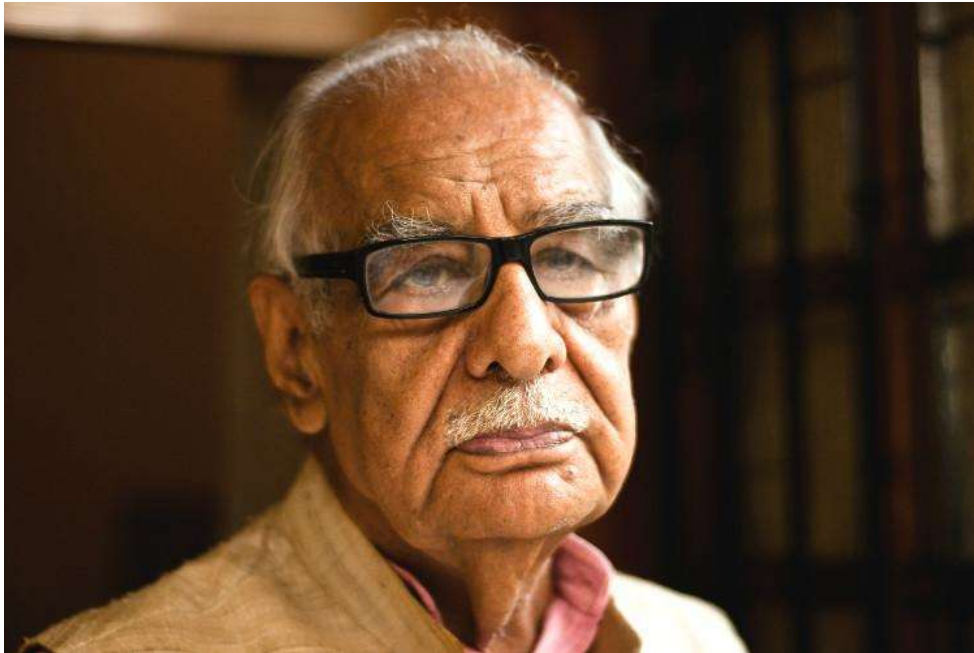
- ❖ Prior to this appointment, he was a scientific adviser to the defense minister and director general, Missiles & Strategic Systems (DG MSS).
- ❖ post of DRDO chief was lying vacant since May 2018 after the then Chief Dr. S. Christopher stepped down.
- ❖ Dr. Reddy is the first defense scientist working in India to receive the Silver Medal of Royal Aeronautical Society, UK.



- ❖ He has also been selected for the first IEI (India) and IEEE (USA) joint award for Engineering Excellence.

### **Kuldip Nayar passes away**

- ❖ Kuldip Nayar (95), the Veteran journalist, author and human rights activist, has passed away in New Delhi on August 23, 2018.
- ❖ Nayar, a former editor of the Indian Express, was also the author of 15 books including “Without Fear: The Life and Trial of Bhagat Singh”, “India after Nehru” and “Emergency Retold”.



- ❖ During Emergency, he was jailed under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act for leading a protest against the excesses of the administration.
- ❖ In 2015, he was honored with ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ for his contribution to journalism at the 8th edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence awards.
- ❖ Nayar also served as High Commissioner of India to the UK in 1990 and as a member of the Rajya Sabha.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Water Color Festival 2018 – August 23

- ❖ On August 23, the International Water Colour Festival 2018 has started at Audrey House in Ranchi.
- ❖ The aim of the 5-day fest is to bring local artists in touch with the international art and promote the rich art and culture of Jharkhand.



- ❖ It is organized by the Jharkhand Art Culture and Tourism Department.

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