



**August – 31**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will outsource the production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) to private Industries. The Indian Space agency Chairman K Sivan informed that private industries will play a major role in capacity building.
- ❖ Govt of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$375 million loan agreement to contribute to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.
- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, and the International Energy Agency (IEA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Enhancing Innovation for Clean Energy Transition.
  - This seeks to deepen co-operation in support of clean energy innovations to accelerate the research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of clean energy technologies in India.
- ❖ Governor of Assam has extended application of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the entire state for six more months with immediate effect.
  - This decision was taken as precautionary measure to maintain law and order during ongoing National Register of Citizens (NRC) update process.
- ❖ Global IT firm IBM has partnered with Indian IT companies (Persistent Systems, Invest India, Wipro, Capgemini and NASSCOM) for its 'Call for Code' initiative that aims to build global solutions for disaster management.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed a bill for the creation of three new districts - Pakke-Kesang, Lepa Rada and Shi Yomi - in the state.
- ❖ R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy released a book on "Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System".
  - This document has been developed by POSOCO in collaboration with IMD to facilitate enhanced utilization of Weather Portal in all spheres of Power Sector.



## **NATIONAL**

### **Third edition of Smart India Hackathon**

- ❖ Third edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model - Smart India Hackathon 2019 was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.
- ❖ This is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of pressing problems we face in our daily lives, thus creating a 'mindset of problem solving'.
- ❖ It is organised by MHRD, AICTE, Persistent Systems and i4c.
- ❖ This SIH also have 2 sub-editions
  - Software edition – 36-hour software product development competition
  - Hardware edition - 5 days long hardware product development competition.

### **Union Cabinet approved various MoUs**

- ❖ MoU between India and Republic of Korea Railway Research bodies to strengthen and promote scientific and technical cooperation in the field of railways.
- ❖ MoU between India and United Kingdom (UK) and Northern Ireland for cooperation in the fields of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.
- ❖ MoU between India and Bulgaria for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.
- ❖ Union cabinet approved revised air services agreement to be signed between India and Morocco.
- ❖ Union cabinet given its ex-post facto approval for the trade cooperation framework between India and Rwanda. This trade cooperation framework will facilitate better trade and economic relations between the two countries.

## **ECONOMY**

### **RBI Annual Report for 2017-18**

- ❖ As per the report
  - 99.3% of all currency in circulation came back to banking system after demonetisation
  - Agricultural production likely to remain strong for 3rd consecutive year
  - Large-scale adoption of digital modes of payments was done in 2017-18
  - Number of Fake Rs 2000 notes increased significantly in 2017-18 FY

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Russia's new interceptor missile test**

- ❖ Russian military has successfully conducted a test launch of a new interceptor missile for Russia's missile defence system at the test site of Sary-Shagan (Republic of Kazakhstan).
- ❖ The new interceptor missile is capable to reach a speed of four km per second, has no equal in the world.
- ❖ So that the enemy's warhead will be successfully destroyed at the maximum height and distance from the protected object.

### **Largest military exercise - Vostok-2018**

- ❖ Russia is going to conduct Vostok-2018 (East-2018) military exercise in central and eastern Russian military districts from September 11 to 15, 2018.
- ❖ It will be biggest war games ever conducted by Russia since Zapad-81 (West-81) exercise conducted by erstwhile Soviet Union in 1981 which had seen involvement about 100,000 to 150,000 troops.
- ❖ China and Mongolia will also participate in this exercise with participation of units from Russian Army, Air Force and Navy.



- ❖ Vostok-2018 exercise is being conducted in response to aggressive and unfriendly attitudes towards Russia by NATO and West countries.

### World's Smallest Medical Robot

- ❖ Student at the University of Texas has built the world's smallest medical robot that cannot be seen with the human eye.
- ❖ The robot measures 120 nanometre and has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for its negligible size, Fast Company reports.
- ❖ The robot is capable of interacting with biological cells, it would help in cancer and Alzheimer's treatments in future.



## STATES

### ADB approved loan to West Bengal

- ❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved financing package of \$245 million to implement a project for providing safe, sustainable drinking water service to million people in three districts of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.
- ❖ This project will play a pivotal role in reducing the burden of disease from arsenic and fluoride while preserving groundwater and enhancing climate resilience.
- ❖ The project will provide continuous potable water through metered connections to about 390,000 individual households in three districts of North 24 Parganas, Bankura and Purba Medinipur.

### Google partners with AP State Fiber Net

- ❖ Google has partnered with Andhra Pradesh State Fiber Net Ltd (APSFNL) to facilitate Internet access to more than 12,000 villages, benefitting around 10 million people.
- ❖ also rebranded its 'Tez' as 'Google Pay' as part of its efforts to take the digital payments app to more online and retail merchants across the country.
- ❖ Already Google had partnered RailTel to offer Wi-Fi access across 400 railway stations in India.
- ❖ Also, through 'Google Station' it provides Wi-Fi services in public locations in partnership with various entities.

### Amendment Bill to Set Up State Security Commission

- ❖ Punjab Has Passed the Police (Amendment) Bill 2018 To Set Up "State Security Commission" For Selection of The Director General of Police (DGP).
- ❖ The bill amended the Punjab Police Act, 2007.
- ❖ The State Security Commission shall comprise
  - Chief minister - chairperson,
  - home minister – vice chairperson
  - Leader of the opposition
  - Retired high court judge



- Chief Secretary
- Principal secretary to state government, department of home affairs and justice
- State advocate general

### **India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank**

- ❖ Central Government along with Government of Rajasthan has signed \$250 million Development Policy Loan (DPL) agreement with World Bank for Electricity Distribution Sector Reforms in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The loan will be provided by World Bank's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- ❖ Key areas that the programme will support include, strengthening governance in the distribution sector by establishing annual performance MoUs between the DISCOMs and the State Government.
- ❖ Also, to address the concerns of affordability and access to electricity for the poor, and supports the Government of India's Domestic Efficient Lighting Program (DELP).

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Exercise KAKADU 2018**

- ❖ The 14th edition of multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise "KAKADU 2018" has started in Darwin, Australia from August 29 to September 15.
- ❖ Exercise KAKADU is a biennial, multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- ❖ INS Sahyadri is participated behalf of Indian navy.





- ❖ Indian Navy's participation is a significant milestone in towards strengthening mutual confidence among regional navies and is expected to further boost India's contribution in ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **Best Hindi Book of the Year 2018**

- ❖ Vairamuthu's "Kallikaattu Idhigaasam" Wins Best Hindi Book of The Year 2018 as Announced by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry).





- ❖ It had earlier received the 'Sahitya Akademy Award'.
- ❖ The Hindi translation of the book launched last year under the title, 'Nagaphani Van ka itihaas' was done by translator H Balasubramaniam.

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