



August - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Serum Institute of India (SII) Private Limited has entered into a new partnership with Gavi, the International Vaccine Alliance and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to accelerate the process of manufacture and delivery of up to 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for India.
- ❖ Pune-based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020, a national-level digital product building competition.

NATIONAL

Gandagi Mukh Bharat

- ❖ Prime Minister launched "Gandagi Mukh Bharat", a week-long campaign for 'swachhata' in the run-up to Independence Day.
- ❖ During this week, each day will have special 'swachhata' initiatives in urban and rural India to re-enforce the 'jan andolan' for 'swachhata'.

INTERNATIONAL

Loya Jirga assembly

- ❖ A three-day Loya Jirga-grand assembly has been called in Afghanistan to decide on freeing about 400 Taliban fighters convicted for serious crimes including murder and abductions.
- ❖ It is a mass national gathering that brings together representatives from the various ethnic, religious, and tribal communities in Afghanistan.
- ❖ It is a highly respected centuries-old consultative body that has been convened at times of national crisis or to settle national issues.
- ❖ According to the Afghan Constitution, a Loya Jirga is considered the highest expression of the Afghan people.
- ❖ It is not an official decision-making body and its decisions are not legally binding.



ECONOMY

Startups under Priority sector lending

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has assigned priority sector lending (PSL) status to India's start-up sector.
- ❖ This will make more funds for lending to start-ups.
- ❖ It means those sectors which the Government of India and RBI consider as important for the development of the basic needs of the country and are to be given priority over other sectors.

REVISED RULES
Priority sectors
● Agriculture
● MSMEs
● Export Credit
● Education
● Housing
● Social Infrastructure
● Renewable Energy
Banks have to offer 18% of priority loans to agriculture, of which 8% has been fixed for small & marginal farmers

- ❖ As per the RBI guidelines for PSL for scheduled commercial banks, 40% of the total net bank credit should go to a priority sector advances.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Metamaterial grid

- ❖ The IIT Guwahati, and Imperial College London, have developed nanoparticles the 'meta-grid' or 'metamaterial grid'.
- ❖ This grid makes the light-emitting diodes (LED) brighter, energy-efficient and durable.
- ❖ Meta-grid is a specifically patterned array of nanoparticles acting as metamaterials and it is capable of exhibiting extraordinary optical properties.

STATES

Reservation of Seats for Women in Village Employment Councils

- ❖ Meghalaya cabinet approved the "Policy on Reservation of seats for Women in Village Employment Councils.

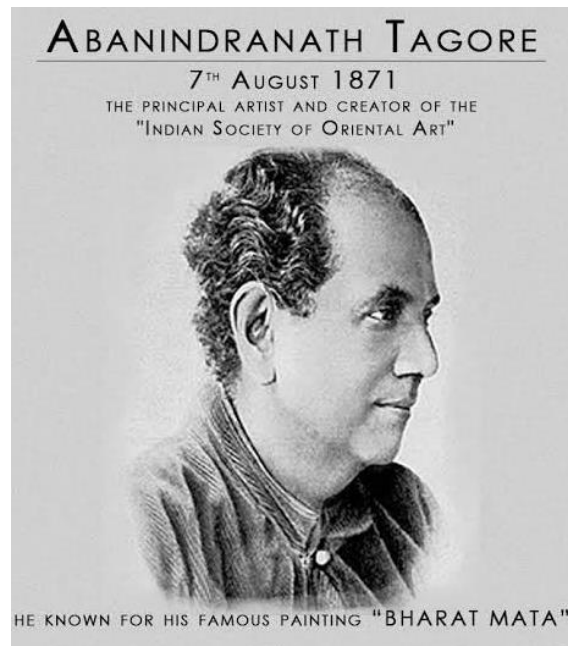


- ❖ This policy is reserving 50% seats for women in the village level community institutions.
- ❖ This policy ensures the empowerment of Women by establishing a forum for women to exercise their leadership and freedom.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

150th Birth Anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore

- ❖ National Gallery of Modern Art is organised the virtual tour titled “The Great Maestro Abanindranath Tagore” to commemorate the 150th anniversary.
- ❖ He was one of the most prominent artists of Bengal school of art in India.
- ❖ He was the first major supporter of swadeshi values in Indian art.
- ❖ He first created the ‘Indian Society of Oriental Art’ and later went on to establish Bengal school of art.
- ❖ Famous paintings are: Bharat Mata, The Passing of Shah Jahan (1900), My Mother (1912–13), Fairyland illustration (1913), Journey’s End (1913).



MS Swaminathan Award

- ❖ Telangana State Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor V Praveen Rao has won the 7th Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017-2019.



- ❖ The award recognising his contributions in the fields of agricultural research, teaching, and administration.
- ❖ Praveen Rao handled 13 research & 6 consultancy projects on micro-irrigation in India, Israel and South Africa.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Biofuel day - August 10

- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- ❖ Bio-fuels are basically green fuels which are environment friendly fuels and their utilization would address global concerns about containment of carbon emissions.
- ❖ On August 10th in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel (inventor of the diesel engine) for the first time successfully ran mechanical engine with groundnut oil.
- ❖ Thus, to mark this achievement, World Biofuel Day is observed per year on 10th August.
- ❖ In India, the Government approved the National Policy on Biofuels-2018 in June 2018.
- ❖ It has the objective of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by the year 2030.



National Deworming Day - August 10

- ❖ Every year National Deworming Day is observed twice on February 10th and August 10th.
- ❖ The days aim at eradicating intestinal worms also known as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), among children in the age group of 1-19 years.
- ❖ It was started in 2015 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- ❖ The program is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

World Lion Day - August 10

- ❖ It aims to awareness and educates people about lions and issues concerning the conservation of the species.
- ❖ The Gir Forests is the only natural habitat of Asiatic lions.
- ❖ It was declared as a sanctuary in 1965 and a national park in 1975.
- ❖ The Asiatic lion found in India is listed as endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list.
- ❖ The “Asiatic Lion Conservation Project” has been launched by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in 2018.

