

August - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A 15-year-old young Indian Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani has won the 19th Spilimbergo Open chess tournament in Italy.
 - Raunak Sadhwani hails from Nagpur.
- ❖ Afghanistan's First Vice President Amrullah Saleh declared himself as the legitimate caretaker President of Afghanistan.

TAMIL NADU

Agricultural budget important measures

- ❖ A separate wing for organic farming will be created under the Agriculture Department.
- ❖ Scheme of 'Rural Youth Agricultural Skill Development Mission' will be rolled out.
- ❖ To motivate the educated youth to take up agriculture to next level in their native places.
- ❖ An Integrated Farming System will be implemented.
- ❖ Agricultural Zonal Committees will be formed to protect the farmers from natural calamities.
- ❖ A separate museum for agriculture will be set up in Chennai.
- ❖ Modern cold storages will be set up in Oddanchatram and Panruti.
- ❖ The government will set up an integrated rural agricultural market complex at Edapally village situated on the borders of Coonoor and Kotagiri.
- ❖ A 'Modern Agricultural Marketing Centre' will be set up at Kolathur in Chennai Corporation.
- ❖ A new horticulture college will be set up at Jeenur near Krishnagiri district.
- ❖ Turmeric Research Centre will be established at Bhavani Sagar near Erode.

NATIONAL

Women to appear for NDA exam

- ❖ The Supreme Court has allowed the women to appear for National Defence Academy (NDA) exam.

- ❖ Kush Kalra filed petition, seeking permission for women to sit in the NDA entrance exam.
- ❖ This Petition highlighted the issue of violation of Articles 14, 15, 16 and 19 of the Constitution.

NDA

- ❖ NDA is the joint defence service training institute of Indian Armed Forces.
- ❖ It is located in Khadakwasla in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This academy is world's first tri-service academy.



On equal footing
A Supreme Court order on Wednesday paved the way for women to apply for admission to the prestigious National Defence Academy

TOP COURT ANGERED
The Centre and the Army faced the ire of the Supreme Court over their opposition to allow women to give the NDA exam that is scheduled to be held in September

'GENDER DISCRIMINATION'
Court rejected Centre's argument that the restriction on women training at the NDA is a policy decision. Instead, it said, the "policy decision is based on gender discrimination"

A 'MINDSET' ISSUE
The bench said there is reluctance on part of the Army to "change its mindset" in providing equal opportunities to women

"We keep passing orders after orders but the Army will not change its mindset. I am finding it absurd now. It is like the Army will act only when judicial orders are passed."

GOVT ARGUMENT: Arguing in favour of the restriction, the Centre had said: "Training at NDA does not give any automatic advantage to male cadets..."

1992: Women allowed to serve in some branches of three services as short-service commission officers

2020: SC order entitles women officers in Army to permanent commission and command roles

So far, women have joined Army as SSC officers after graduating from Officers Training Academy

Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0

- ❖ Third series of Student Entrepreneurship Program 3.0 (SEP 3.0) was launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
- ❖ This program was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with La Foundation Dassault Systems.
- ❖ Theme of SEP 3.0 is 'Made in 3D – Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program'.
- ❖ Under this program, a team from each school comprising of 6 students and a teacher will be allocated seed funding in order to create their own start-up and design.

Exercise Konkan 2021

- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship Tabar arrived at Portsmouth in England, to undertake the annual bilateral drill 'Exercise Konkan 2021' between the Indian Navy and Britain's Royal Navy.
- ❖ The bilateral naval exercise Konkan is being held every year since 2004.

- ❖ It is held to enhance the interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both navies.
- ❖ HMS Westminster of the Royal Navy took part from Britain's side.

UNITED KINGDOM CARRIER STRIKE GROUP
Exercise KONKAN

Maritime Security
The UK and India are two prosperous, outward-looking democracies, committed to freedom of navigation and the rule of law at sea, in the Indian Ocean and beyond.

Closer Defence Partnership
The UK-India 2030 Roadmap, signed by Prime Ministers Modi and Johnson in May 2021, is an historic commitment to strengthen relations between the two countries, including closer defence cooperation.

Naval Modernisation
The UK and India are in the midst of modernising their navies around the introduction of a new generation of large aircraft carriers, creating new opportunities to learn from one another.

HMS Queen Elizabeth

Rajput-class guided missile destroyer

12 Ships | 30+ Aircraft
2 Submarines | 4500 Personnel

Follow the journey... #CSG21

ECONOMY

m-cap - TCS



- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) company has become the second Indian company to cross the market value of Rs 13 lakh crore.
- ❖ TCS has become the second company after Reliance.
- ❖ TCS is headquartered in Mumbai.



Financial inclusion index – RBI

Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)

- Introduced by RBI.
- Made without any ‘base year’.
- Will be published annually in July every year.
- Its value ranges from 0 (complete financial exclusion) to 100 (full financial inclusion).
- Comprises of three parameters viz., Access (weightage 35%), Usage (weightage 45%) and Quality (weightage 20%).

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the formation of a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.
- ❖ The FI-Index for the period ended March 2021 stood at 53.9 compared with 43.4 for the period ended March 2017.

About the index

- ❖ The annual FI-Index will be published in July every year.
- ❖ The index incorporates details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sectoral regulators.
- ❖ The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100.
- ❖ Here 0 represents complete financial exclusion.
- ❖ 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- ❖ It has been constructed without any ‘base year’.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Origin of asteroid that killed dinosaurs

- ❖ The asteroid that was responsible to wipe out the dinosaurs from the face of the Earth had hit near Mexico.



- ❖ The large rocky object is dubbed as Chicxulub impactor.
- ❖ The mass extinction of dinosaurs and several other species took place 66 million years ago.
- ❖ It has come to be widely accepted as the end of the Mesozoic era.

ENVIRONMENT

House Fresh report

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad was adjudged the second most polluted city out of the 50 'most polluted cities' in the world in 2020.
- ❖ This data was given by a report prepared by British company House Fresh.
- ❖ The Chinese city of Hotan in Xinjiang province has been named the most polluted city.
- ❖ According to the report, Bangladesh was the most polluted country across the world in 2020.
- ❖ Judbury in Australia bagged the top position in the list of cities with the cleanest air.

STATES

Smart Health Cards – Odisha

The infographic features a blue and white color scheme. At the top, a banner reads 'CM announces Smart Card for Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana beneficiaries' next to a portrait of the Chief Minister. Below this, a dark blue box on the left states 'Programme to benefit 3.5 Cr people of 96 lakh families' with a photo of a family. To the right, two text boxes provide details: one with a family icon stating 'All beneficiaries of NFSA, SFSS, Annapurna & Antodaya will receive healthcare coverage under this scheme', and another with a rupee icon stating 'State Govt will bear medical expenses up to ₹5 lakh per family & additional ₹5 lakh for women at registered private hospitals'.

CM announces **Smart Card** for **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana** beneficiaries

Programme to benefit **3.5 Cr** people of **96 lakh** families

All beneficiaries of NFSA, SFSS, Annapurna & Antodaya will receive healthcare coverage under this scheme

State Govt will bear medical expenses up to ₹5 lakh per family & additional ₹5 lakh for women at registered private hospitals



- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced Smart Health Cards for people in the state.
- ❖ The smart health cards have been announced under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.
- ❖ The initiative aims to transform the health service delivery system of not only the state but also create history in the health sector of the Country.
- ❖ The smart health cards will enable each family to avail treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per annum.
- ❖ The women members of the family will be able to avail the benefit up to Rs 10 lakh every year.
- ❖ Odisha is the first state in the country to provide this kind of Smart Health Cards to the people.

Aligarh as Harigarh

- ❖ The Zila Panchayat Parishad of Aligarh passed a resolution seeking to rename Aligarh as Harigarh.
- ❖ The proposal was passed unanimously by the newly elected district panchayat in its first meeting.
- ❖ The proposal has now been sent to the Uttar Pradesh government, which will take the final decision.

Note

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has already changed the name of several places.
- ❖ They include,
 - Faizabad to Ayodhya,
 - Allahabad to Prayagraj and
 - Mughalsarai to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Youth Award

- ❖ Mohammad Azam from Karimnagar district in Telangana has been awarded the National Youth Award recently.
- ❖ He is awarded for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.
- ❖ He has conducted several awareness programmes related to blood donation, organ donation and plantation programmes under the Haritha Haram project.



Congressional Gold Medal

- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi is to be posthumously awarded with the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal.
- ❖ This is in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence.
- ❖ The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States.
- ❖ Gandhi would be the first Indian to receive a Congressional Gold Medal.

Maki Kaji

- ❖ Maki Kaji, the creator of puzzle Sudoku passed away recently.
- ❖ He was known as the father of Sudoku.
- ❖ He was from Japan.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★