

August - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Lalit Kala Akademi, also known as National Academy of Art celebrated its 65th Foundation Day in New Delhi. Minister of Culture & Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the celebrations.
- ❖ According to Forbes, 23-times Grand Slam champion Serena Williams has become the highest paid female athlete of 2019.
 - Japanese player Naomi Osaka's recent Grand Slam title wins at the US and Australian Opens has catapulted her to second spot.
- ❖ The United States has designated China a "Currency Manipulator", thus fulfilling Donald Trump's election campaign promise.
 - The US treasury department accused China of manipulating its currency "to gain unfair competitive advantage in international trade".

NATIONAL

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 was introduced and passed in Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2019 and passed in Lok Sabha on August 6, 2019.
- ❖ The Bill provides for reorganisation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into
 - The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with legislature
 - Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh without a legislature (previously 4 seats).
- ❖ The UT of Ladakh will comprise Kargil and Leh districts only. The rest of the territories will belong to UT of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Lok Sabha will have five seats from the UT of J-K, while Ladakh will have one seat.

Lieutenant Governor

- ❖ Both the Union Territories will be administered by the President, through an administrator appointed by him known as the Lieutenant Governor (LG).

Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ The Bill provides for the addition of 7 seats to the Legislative Assembly for J & K UT with 114 seats (previously 107 seats).



- ❖ Of these, 24 seats will remain vacant on account of certain areas of Jammu and Kashmir being under the occupation of Pakistan. Rest of 90 seats will be for J and K.
- ❖ The LG may nominate two members to the Legislative Assembly to give representation to women, if they are not adequately represented.
- ❖ Assembly seats will be reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population.
- ❖ The assembly will have a term of 5 years and the LG must summon the Assembly at least once in six months.
- ❖ It may make laws for any part of the J and K UT related to:
 - any matters specified in the State List of the Constitution, except “Police” and “Public Order”.
 - any matter in the Concurrent List applicable to Union Territories.
 - Further, Parliament will have the power to make laws in relation to any matter for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Council of Ministers

- ❖ There will be a Council of Ministers of not more than ten percent of the total number of members in the Assembly.
- ❖ It will aid and advice the LG on matters that the Assembly has powers to make law.
- ❖ The Chief Minister will communicate all decisions of the Council to the LG.

High Court

- ❖ The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir will be the common High Court for the Union Territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Further the UT of J and K will have an Advocate General to provide legal advice to the government of the Union Territory.

Legislative Council

- ❖ The Legislative Council of the state of Jammu and Kashmir will be abolished. Upon dissolution, all Bills pending in the Council will lapse.

Old State Laws of J and K

- ❖ 153 state laws of Jammu and Kashmir have been repealed.
- ❖ 166 state laws will remain in force, and 7 laws will be applicable with amendments.
- ❖ These amendments include lifting of prohibitions on “lease of land” to persons who are not permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

Other Provisions

- ❖ The Union Government will establish Advisory Committees for issues related to
 - The generation and supply of electricity and water
 - The Jammu and Kashmir State Financial Corporation
 - Distribution of assets and liabilities of corporations of the state of Jammu and Kashmir between the two Union Territories.

Safeguarding Space Assets

- ❖ ISRO is setting up a network of telescopes and radar to develop its own system to monitor space debris and safeguard its space assets.
- ❖ Currently ISRO has 50 functional satellites, including communication, navigation and surveillance satellites, in space.
- ❖ It depends on NORAD's (North America Aerospace Defense Command) publicly available and inaccurate data for
 - Keeping track of space debris
 - Monitoring our active and passive (dead) satellites.
- ❖ The foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre has been laid in Bengaluru.
- ❖ ISRO will set up telescopes and radars in four corners of the country.
 - Telescope in Trivandrum, Mount Abu (Rajasthan), Deep North
 - A radar in the northeast
- ❖ The network will be set up under the Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management.

Elephant Census

- ❖ Union Ministry of Environment informed about the elephant population in India.
- ❖ Elephant population in India is estimated at 29,964 as per the census conducted in 2017.
- ❖ The South Region accounted for 14,612 followed by North East with 10,139 elephants.
- ❖ While the census of tigers is undertaken at the national level once every four years, the census of elephants is undertaken at every five years.



Intelligent Traffic Control – Chandigarh

- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, Mohali traffic police have launched 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised by the students of a Chandigarh university.
- ❖ One of the major reasons for traffic congestion is the inefficient working of traffic signal timers installed at intersections.
- ❖ This wireless system, called 'Intelights' uses dynamic signal control technology to adjust the timers of red, yellow and green lights.
- ❖ Timings is adjusted according to the traffic density at an intersection.
- ❖ It uses CCTV cameras to gather live traffic feed.

ENVIRONMENT

World Water Crisis

- ❖ According to new data from the World Resources Institute (WRI), 1/4 of the world's population faces huge water stress, with bulk of them living in India.
- ❖ Irrigated agriculture, industries, and municipalities withdraw more than 80% of their available supply on average every year.
- ❖ 17 countries are facing withdrawals of 80% or more from available supply. India is 13th among these 17 countries.
- ❖ Groundwater tables in Northern India aquifers declined at a rate of more than 8 cm per year between 1990 and 2014.
- ❖ The Aqueduct tool used by the World Resources Institute (WRI) ranks countries on the basis of "water risk scores", which are determined using 13 indicators of water risk.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research

- ❖ As part of centenary year celebrations of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has instituted two categories of awards in journalism.
- ❖ This award is to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
- ❖ The nominations are open to all Indians who have a good experience in journalism.
- ❖ The articles published by journalists or freelancers of print media between 2019 to 2020 will be considered.

