

August - 13

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Israeli spacecraft called “Beresheet” crashed onto the Moon in April. It carried dehydrated microscopic lifeforms known as tardigrades which are supposedly still alive in moon.
  - Tardigrades are among the most resilient animals known, with individual species being able to survive in extreme conditions.
- ❖ Delhi-Lahore bus service has been stopped. It was started in 1999 under Vajpayee’s rule.
- ❖ India beat Bangladesh and won the Under-19 Tri-Series cricket tournament held at England under the captaincy of Pavan Shah.
- ❖ The 2019 Rogers cup was won by Bianca Andreescu (Women’s) and Rafael Nadal (5<sup>th</sup> Time) at Montreal, Canada.

## NATIONAL

### Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment approved 13 wildlife sanctuaries as eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) for scientific conservation of the ecosystem.
- ❖ The 11 sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu are
  1. Vaduvloor Bird Sanctuary,
  2. Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary,
  3. Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel sanctuary,
  4. Megamalai Wildlife sanctuary,
  5. Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park,
  6. Vettangudi Birds sanctuary,
  7. Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary,
  8. Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary,
  9. Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary,
  10. Oussudu Lake Bird Sanctuary
  11. Point Calmere Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ The Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra have also been approved as ESZ.



### ESZ

- ❖ ESZs are extended up to 10 km from the protected areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ❖ It acts as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- ❖ It works as a shock absorber to the protected areas as certain activities such as mining, quarrying or heavy construction are banned around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- ❖ It aims to minimize the negative impact on the fragile ecosystem.
- ❖ Final ESZ notification provides for prohibition of mining, stone quarrying and crushing units located within one km of such protected areas.
- ❖ The ESZ notifications are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Environment (Protection) Rules 1986 by the Union Environment Ministry.
- ❖ But, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word “Eco-Sensitive Zones”.
- ❖ The Supreme Court in December 2006 had directed all the States to demarcate ESZs within four weeks.
- ❖ Over 30 per cent of India's protected area (PA) has been covered under the Final ESZ notification.
- ❖ Out of the 651 protected areas in India, 316 have been covered under the Final ESZ notification.

### **The Consumer Protection Bill, 2019**

- ❖ The Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 was passed by both Houses of Parliament. It replaces the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

#### Who's a Consumer?

- ❖ A consumer is defined as a person who buys any good or avails a service for a consideration.
- ❖ It does not include a person who obtains a good for “resale” or a good or service for commercial purpose.
- ❖ It covers transactions through all modes - offline, online through electronic means, teleshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.

#### Rights of Consumers

- ❖ 6 Consumer's rights have been defined in the Bill including the right to



- Be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property
- Be informed of the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services
- Be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices
- Seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.

#### **Central Consumer Protection Authority**

- ❖ A Central Consumer Protection Authority will be set up to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.
- ❖ It will have an investigation wing, headed by a Director-General, which may conduct inquiry or investigation into such violations.
- ❖ It may impose a penalty on a manufacturer or an endorser of up to Rs 10 lakh and imprisonment for up to two years for a false or misleading advertisement.
- ❖ It can also prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from endorsing that particular product or service for a period of up to one year.

#### **Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (CDRC)**

- ❖ CDRC will be set up at the district, state, and national levels.
- ❖ Appeals at district level redressal commission can be escalated till national level.
- ❖ Final appeal will lie before the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Complaints can be made in relation to
  - Unfair or restrictive trade practices
  - Defective goods or services
  - Overcharging or deceptive charging
  - Offering of goods or services for sale which may be hazardous to life and safety.

#### **Jurisdiction**

- ❖ The District CDRC will entertain complaints where value of goods and services does not exceed Rs.1 crore.
- ❖ State CDRC will do from 1 crore to 10 crores
- ❖ National CDRC will deal with complaints of over 10 crores value.

#### **Product liability**

- ❖ Product liability means the liability of a product manufacturer / service provider / seller to compensate a consumer for any harm or injury caused by a defective good or deficient service.



- ❖ To claim compensation, a consumer has to prove any one of the conditions for defect or deficiency, as given in the Bill.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Vikram Sara Bhai – 100<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary**

- ❖ Google celebrated the 100th birth anniversary of scientist and innovator Vikram Sarabhai on August 12<sup>th</sup>, with a doodle.
- ❖ The lander on India's moon mission Chandrayaan II which will finally land near the South Pole of the moon on September 20, 2019 is named Vikram in his honour.
- ❖ He is considered as the father of India's space program.
- ❖ He received the Padma Bhushan in 1966 and was conferred the Padma Vibhushan posthumously in 1972.
- ❖ In 1973, a crater on the moon was named after him.
- ❖ Sarabhai started a project for the fabrication and launch of an Indian satellite.
- ❖ As a result, the first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, was put in orbit in 1975 from a Russian cosmodrome.
- ❖ He was the founder Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from 1963 to 1972.
- ❖ He was also the Founder and Chairman (1963–1971) of Space Applications Centre at Ahmedabad.
- ❖ Other institutions founded by him.

Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, 1947
Indian National Committee for Space Research, 1962
Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram, 1963
Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, 1961
Community Science Centre in Ahmedabad, 1960
Darpan Academy for Performing Arts in Ahmedabad, 1949

### **Distinguished positions**

- ❖ President of the Physics section, Indian Science Congress (1962).
- ❖ President of the General Conference of the I.A.E.A., Vienna (1970).
- ❖ Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India (1966 –1971).
- ❖ Vice-President, Fourth UN Conference on 'Peaceful uses of Atomic Energy' (1971).



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **World Elephant Day – August 12**

- ❖ World Elephant day is observed annually on August 12.
- ❖ It is dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.
- ❖ It was conceived in 2011 by Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, Thailand and Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark.
- ❖ African elephants are listed as "Vulnerable" and Asian elephants as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- ❖ The first International Elephant Day was held on August 12, 2012.
- ❖ Poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflicts, mistreatment in captivity are major concerns in elephant conservation.

### **Elephants**

- ❖ Project Elephant was launched in 1992 by the Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- ❖ The Project is being mainly implemented in 16 States, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in India.
- ❖ Indian elephant is the national heritage animal of India since October 22, 2010.
- ❖ Bandipur National Park of Karnataka along with Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is the largest protected area in southern India and the largest habitat of wild elephants in India.
- ❖ The South Indian states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are home to nearly 44% of the elephants, 35% of the tigers and 31% of the leopards in India.



- ❖ The state of Karnataka alone is home to 22% of the elephants, 18% of the tigers and 14% of the leopards in India.
- ❖ The Northeast Indian states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura together with West Bengal account for 30% of the elephants and 5% of the tiger population in India.

