

August - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Microsoft and the Indian government collaborated for a programme to train nearly 2.5 million civil servants in using the company's suite of digital tools.
- ❖ Latvia and Estonia have withdrawn from a cooperation group between China and over 12 Central and Eastern European countries.
  - The move comes amid Western criticism of China over escalating military pressure on Taiwan.

## TAMIL NADU

### New Ramsar sites



- ❖ Four sites in Tamil Nadu have been added to the Ramsar list.
- ❖ It is taking the state's total number to 14.
- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry added 11 Indian sites to the Ramsar list.
- ❖ Thus, the number of wetlands of international importance in the country is 75.
- ❖ The new Indian wetlands of international importance in Tamil Nadu are:
  - Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary - Ramanathapuram district

- Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary - Ramanathapuram district.
- Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary - Tiruvarur district
- Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex - Kanyakumari district
- ❖ The other sites include, three in Odisha, two in Jammu and Kashmir and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Now, Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of Ramsar sites in the country (14), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).
- ❖ A total of 26 sites were added to the Ramsar list from 1982 to 2013.
- ❖ Since 2014, 49 sites have bagged the coveted tag.

### **Siddha University Bill**

- ❖ The Governor's office has sent back the Bill passed by the Assembly in April for setting up a Siddha Medical University.
- ❖ According to the Bill, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister would be the Chancellor of the proposed university and not the Governor.
- ❖ The State government has kept around 20 acres of land in Madhavaram near Chennai for setting up the university.

### **Neidhal salt**



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched 'Neidhal' salt.
- ❖ It is a brand of salt manufactured and marketed by the Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu produces about 8% (24 lakh MT) of the 300 lakh MT of salt produced in the country.
- ❖ This state is the second-largest salt-producer in the country after Gujarat.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation was established in 1974.
- ❖ It is the only State government-owned establishment that manufactures salt and salt-based products in the country.

## NATIONAL

### Trans-Himalayan network



- ❖ China and Nepal recently gave their consent to construct “Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network”.
- ❖ Under the agreement, China will finance the feasibility study of a China-Nepal cross-border railway.
- ❖ Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity network will be constructed under Belt & Road Initiative of China.
- ❖ Under it, railways and communication networks will be constructed.
- ❖ It is an economic corridor between Nepal and China, under the Belt and Road Initiative.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Commission for world peace

- ❖ The Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has proposed a 3-men commission for global peace.
- ❖ It comprises of Narendra Modi, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and Pope Francis.

- ❖ The Mexican President is planning to submit a written proposal to the UN to create the commission.



## ECONOMY

### National Conference of Rural Cooperative Banks

- ❖ The National Conference of Rural Co-operative Banks held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The awards were presented to outstanding State Co-operative Banks, District Central Co-operative Banks and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).
- ❖ In the field of agricultural credit, there are 34 state cooperative banks with more than 2,000 branches, 351 district cooperative banks with 14,000 branches and about 95,000 PACS.



### Microsoft in ONDC platform

- ❖ Microsoft joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) of the Indian government.
- ❖ It aims to introducing social e-commerce in Indian market.

- ❖ Microsoft is the first big technology company to tie up with government for ONDC platform.
- ❖ As a part of social e-commerce, Microsoft has also planned to launch shopping app in India.
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## ENVIRONMENT

### Peninsular Rock Agama



- ❖ Several environmental factors (including urbanisation) that could affect the presence of the Peninsular Rock Agama/ South Indian Rock Agama.
- ❖ The Peninsular Rock Agama is a type of garden lizard has a strong presence in southern India.
- ❖ Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar hosts the population of the lizard.



- ❖ Rock Agama can indicate which parts of the city are warming, and their numbers show how the food web is changing.

## STATES

### Bill against forced mass conversion

## MAX PENALTY UP TO 10 YRS' JAIL

- ▶ The maximum punishment under the bill is 10 years' jail, up from seven in the 2019 Act and three in the old Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2006.
- ▶ The current law says no person or organisation violating its provisions will be allowed to accept a donation or contribution of any kind from within or outside the country.

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a bill on August 13, 2022 forbidding "mass conversion".
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was passed unanimously.
- ❖ It is enhancing the maximum punishment to 10 years imprisonment in its 2019 law against any change of religion through force or allurement.
- ❖ The Bill inserts the reference to "mass conversion", which is described as two or more people converting at the same time, in the 2019 Act.
- ❖ It proposes to increase the punishment for forced conversions to a maximum of 10 years from seven years.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Saroj Narayanaswamy

- ❖ All India Radio's Tamil newsreader Saroj Narayanaswamy passes away recently.
- ❖ She joined the radio service in 1962.
- ❖ She has about 35 years of experience as a Tamil newsreader.

- ❖ She also holds the distinction of being the first Tamil newsreader of All India Radio.
- ❖ In 2008, the Tamil Nadu government honoured her with the Kalaimamani Award.



### **Investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala**

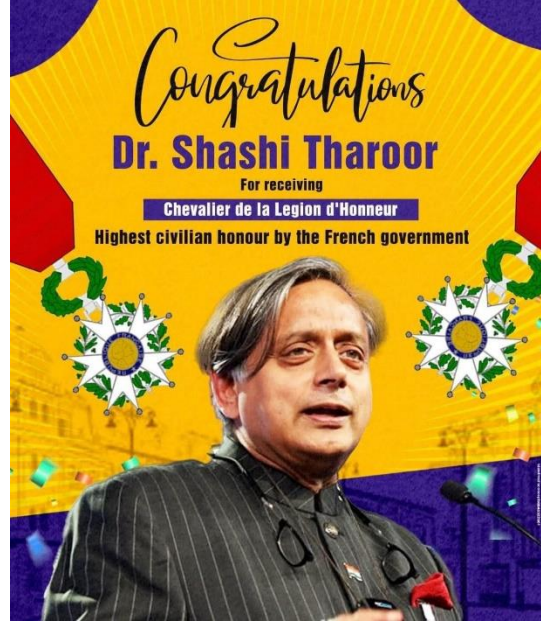
- ❖ Investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, known as the 'Big Bull' of Dalal Street, passed away recently.
- ❖ He publicly owned 32 stocks.
- ❖ Now, he also got into the aviation business by the name of Akasa Air.



### **Shashi Tharoor - Highest French Civilian Honor**

- ❖ The French government is honouring Congress leader Shashi Tharoor with its highest civilian honour, 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur' Emmanuel Lenain.

- ❖ The award is being conferred upon Tharoor in recognition of his writings and speeches.
- ❖ The two-term Lok Sabha MP is also a celebrated author with several fiction and non-fiction books under his belt.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Sanskrit Diwas - August 12



- ❖ It is celebrated on the occasion of Shraavana Pournima.
- ❖ This day also coincides with the festival of Raksha Bandhan.





- ❖ It aims to encourage and make the upcoming generation familiar with the Sanskrit language.

### **International Lefthanders Day - August 13**

- ❖ This day was first celebrated by Dean R Campbell in 1976.
- ❖ He was the founder of Left-Handers International Inc.
- ❖ Since the day is observed annually.
- ❖ It aims to bring light to the everyday struggle a lefty faces.

