

August - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Information and Broadcasting Ministry has decided to implement Accessibility Standards for Persons with Disabilities in “private television channel programmes” from this Independence Day.
  - As a first step, they had been asked to telecast a short programme on Independence Day Celebrations along with corresponding sign language interpretation.
- ❖ West Bengal’s Priyam Chatterjee became the 1st Indian chef to be awarded the prestigious ‘Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto’ by the government of France.
  - He is famous for creating French cuisines out of Bengali dishes.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government has announced a scheme called “Village Volunteers System” which is aimed at providing Government services at doorsteps of people.
- ❖ Harshad Pandurang Thakur has been appointed as Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare. Decision in this regard was taken by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister.
- ❖ A rare variety of tea named ‘Golden Butterfly’ from Upper Assam’s Dikom Tea Estate set a new record on as it was auctioned for Rs.75,000 per kg at Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC).
- ❖ Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar released a patriotic song titled Watan in New Delhi to mark the occasion of Independence Day 2019.
  - The special song has been created by public service broadcaster Doordarshan (DD) and Prasar Bharati for Independence Day.
- ❖ Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry has become the first cricketer of either gender to reach the rare milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in T20 international cricket.
- ❖ The ‘QS Best Student Cities Ranking’ has been compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds. London has been named as the world’s best city for students for the second consecutive year, followed by Tokyo and Melbourne.
  - Bengaluru (81st rank) is ranked as India’s best student city.
- ❖ World Lizard day is observed on August 14.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Tirupattur, Ranipettai Districts**

- ❖ Vellore district in Tamil Nadu will be divided into Vellore, Ranipet and Tirupattur districts.
- ❖ With this, the total number of districts in the State will increase to 37.
- ❖ Vellore district was created in 1989 by bifurcating North Arcot district into Vellore and Tiruvanamalai districts.
- ❖ In July 2019, Tenkasi and Chengalpet districts were created as separate districts from Thirunelveli and Kanchipuram districts.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Gallantry Medals to Armed Forces**

- ❖ President of India approved 132 Gallantry Awards and other decorations to Personnel of Armed and Paramilitary Forces.
- ❖ The awards include two Kirti Chakras, one Vir Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras, eight Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 90 Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and five Yudh Seva Medals.
- ❖ He also approved 8 Tatrakshak medals to Indian Coast Guard Personnel.
- ❖ The gallantry awards are announced twice in a year - first on the occasion of the Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day.
- ❖ Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman has been awarded Vir Chakra for shooting down a Pakistani F-16 combat jet on February 27, 2019
- ❖ This is the Indian Air Forces's first Vir Chakra since the Kargil war.
- ❖ IAF Squadron leader Minty Agarwal, who guided IAF Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman during February 27 dogfight, has been awarded the Yudh Seva Medal.
- ❖ This medal is awarded to recognise distinguished service of a high order during war, conflict or hostilities.

### **RPF Commandos - CORAS**

- ❖ Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal launched CORAS (Commando for Railway Security) of Indian Railways.
- ❖ CORAS is a separate Commando Unit of Railway Protection Force (RPF).

- ❖ They will be posted in Left extremist wing affected areas, north-eastern region and Jammu and Kashmir where providing security to the passengers and the railway network is of utmost priority.
- ❖ A new commando training centre will be set up in Jagadhri, Haryana to modernize and train the RPF Commandos.



### **Swachh Bharath (Urban)**

- ❖ Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the following programs
  - Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020): fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey.
  - The Swachh Bharath Mission (SBM) Water PLUS Protocol: Preventing release of untreated waste water into the environment
  - Swachh Nagar Mobile App – An app for monitoring, collection of segregated waste and tracking the movement of waste vehicles and waste pickers
  - AI enabled mSBM App – To track application status of Individual Household Toilets scheme beneficiaries.

### **Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation**

- ❖ The “Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation” for the year 2019 has been awarded to 96 Police personnel.
- ❖ The medal is awarded to officers in Central investigation agencies, State/UT police force investigating agencies in recognition of their outstanding service in investigation.
- ❖ The award was first created in 2018 to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Injeti Srinivas Committee on Corporate social responsibility**

- ❖ Injeti Srinivas, Secretary (Corporate Affairs), presented the Report of the High-Level Committee on Corporate social responsibility (CSR) to the Union Minister of Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ It made the following key recommendations for strengthening the CSR ecosystem
  - Making CSR expenditure tax deductible
  - Balancing local area preferences with national priorities
  - Violation of CSR compliance may be made a civil offence

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **NASA Mars Mission from Iceland**

- ❖ NASA has chosen the Lambahraun lava field in Iceland as the site to prepare for the next mission to Mars in 2020.
- ❖ According to experts, Iceland which is a volcanic island in the middle of the North Atlantic, is in many ways reminiscent of Mars.
- ❖ NASA's upcoming Mars robotic space explorer will be trained on black basalt sands of Iceland.

### **Bone Implant from Egg Shells**

- ❖ Researchers from IIT-Hyderabad and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, have developed a process by which bone implant materials can be synthesised from eggshells.
- ❖ Currently damaged and missing bones are replaced with bone from either the patient or a donor or artificial materials containing calcium, such as Plaster of Paris or phosphate compounds.
- ❖ Bio ceramics made from egg shells were used to replace artificial tricalcium phosphate implants (produced by using harmful chemicals).

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **PET Bottles**

- ❖ A comprehensive evaluation by the CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFRTI), Mysore has determined that PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles are safe.
- ❖ The CFRTI analysis concluded that antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, mercury, selenium and zinc “were below” their detection limits (BDL) of 0.001 mg/kg.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Abdul Kalam Award to K. Sivan**

- ❖ ISRO Chairman Kailasavadivoo Sivan, was awarded Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award by Tamil Nadu government.



- ❖ He was awarded in recognition of his stellar work in promotion of science and technology.



- ❖ He is known popularly known as 'Rocket Man'.
- ❖ He was chief architect of SITARA, a 6D trajectory simulation software.
- ❖ ISRO successfully launched its Chandrayaan-2 mission under the leadership of K. Sivan.

## **SPORTS**

### **Wrestler Deepak Punia – Junior World Champion**

- ❖ Deepak Punia has scripted history for Indian sports after becoming 1st Indian junior world champion in 18 years.
- ❖ Deepak beat Russia's Alik Shebzukov to win the 86kg junior freestyle wrestling title.
- ❖ He won gold at the Junior World Championships in Talinn, Estonia.

