

August - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Air India becomes first Indian airline to fly over North Pole. The Air India flight from Delhi to San Francisco usually flies over the Atlantic or the Pacific Ocean but on August 15, it flew over zero degree north.

TAMIL NADU

AMMA Patrol Vehicle

- ❖ It is a new novel scheme introduced in Tamil Nadu to help women, children, and older adults.
- ❖ The patrol vans are to assist the special wing of police for the crimes against women & children.
- ❖ All the complaints against them will be investigated by the special wing which is attached to the all-women police stations.
- ❖ Patrol Vans will be under the All Women Police Stations.
- ❖ Aided by the state and central governments, these patrol vans will soon start from patrolling Chennai.
- ❖ This vehicle will also have the display of 1091 and 1098 phone numbers.





Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Nungambakkam

- ❖ Chennai Regional Meteorological Centre in Nungambakkam is recognized by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for its impeccable work spanning more than 100 years.
- ❖ It was among five stations in the country to receive the recognition.
- ❖ Others are Mumbai, Panjim (Goa), Pune and Trivandrum.
- ❖ Chennai meteorological centre is considered one of the first modern astronomical-cum-meteorological observatory in the East.

About

- ❖ RMC was started as Madras observatory, the first astronomical observatory in 1786.
- ❖ It was a private facility set up at Egmore by William Petrie, an officer with the East India company.
- ❖ In 1789, the observatory passed from Petrie's private ownership to the East India Company.
- ❖ Later that astronomical observatory was shifted to Kodaikanal.
- ❖ RMC was founded by Sir Charles Oakeley, the then Governor of Madras under the East India Company in 1792.
- ❖ It was founded way before the establishment of the Indian Meteorological Department in 1875.
- ❖ It is responsible for the weather-related activities of the southern Indian peninsula comprising the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the union territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep Islands and Puducherry.
- ❖ It is one of the six regional meteorological centres (RMCs) of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ The other regional centres are located at Kolkata, Guwahati, Mumbai, Nagpur and New Delhi.

NATIONAL

India – Bhutan Relations

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister, who is here on his second visit to Bhutan, inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant.
- ❖ He launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation.

- ❖ He also launched the RuPay Card in Bhutan.
- ❖ Modi and Lotay Tshering (PM of Bhutan) jointly inaugurated the Ground Earth Station and SATCOM network, developed with assistance from ISRO for utilization of South Asia Satellite in Bhutan.
- ❖ On August 8, 1949 Bhutan and India signed the Treaty of Friendship.
- ❖ India re-negotiated the 1949 treaty with Bhutan and signed a new treaty of friendship in 2007.
- ❖ The new treaty replaced the provision requiring Bhutan to take India's guidance on foreign policy with broader sovereignty and not require Bhutan to obtain India's permission over arms imports.
- ❖ Modi made his first foreign visit as a PM in 2014 to Bhutan.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HarmonyOs

- ❖ Chinese telecom giant Huawei unveiled its own operating system HarmonyOS
- ❖ It is also known as Hongmeng OS in Chinese language.
- ❖ The platform is open source, and it's actually more of a competitor to Google's upcoming Fuchsia.
- ❖ Honor is a smartphone brand owned by Huawei Technologies.
- ❖ Huawei was subjected to export restrictions by the United States government for violations of United States sanctions against Iran.

ENVIRONMENT

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce & Industry's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has registered 3 more new Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- ❖ These are Tirur betel Leaf, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei.
- ❖ GI is an indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess the qualities or reputation that are due to that origin.
- ❖ Tirur betel Leaf (Kerala) is valued both for its mild stimulant action and medicinal properties.
- ❖ Tawlhlohpuan (Mizoram) is compactly woven fabric from Mizoram.
- ❖ Mizo Puanchei (Mizoram) is colourful Mizo shawl. It is important and an essential possession for every Mizo lady.



STATES

Bunker Museum

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- ❖ The bunker dates back to the pre-World War I era.
- ❖ Earlier, the President also unveiled the foundation stone for the proposed reconstruction of Jal Bhushan, the Governor's office-cum-residential building.
- ❖ Jal Bhushan has a history of nearly 200 years.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards

- ❖ Bajrang Punia and Celebrated para-athlete Deepa Malik are selected for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2019.
- ❖ Deepa became the first Indian female athlete to win a Paralympics medal, when she won a silver at the 2016 Games.
- ❖ Last year, she shifted to javelin and discus throw and created a new Asian record in Jakarta, becoming the only Indian woman to win medals in three consecutive Asian Para Games (2010, 2014, 2018).
- ❖ She will become the second para-athlete to be honoured with the prestigious award after javelin thrower Devendra Jhajarhia in 2017.

About

- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is the highest sporting award in India.

- ❖ It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award can be given maximum three persons in a year.
- ❖ Viswanathan Anand was the first awardee of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 1992.



National Sports Awards 2019

- ❖ The selection panel for the National Sports Awards 2019 nominated Vimal Kumar (badminton), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis) and Mohinder Singh Dhillon (athletics) for the Dronacharya Award regular category.
- ❖ Mezban Patel (hockey), Rambir Singh Khokar (kabaddi), Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket) were picked for the Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category.
- ❖ Dronacharya Awards are given to honour eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international competitions.
- ❖ The committee also picked 19 sportspersons for the Arjuna Award.
- ❖ To get the Arjuna award, a sportsperson should not only have had good performance consistently for the previous four years at the international level with excellence for the year. Moreover, the player should also have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- ❖ Five persons were also nominated for the Dhyan Chand Award.
- ❖ Dhyan Chand Award is given to honour those sportspersons who have contributed through their performance and continue to promote sports even after their retirement.



- ❖ The Awards will be bestowed by the President of India at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on the occasion of National Sports Day, which commemorates the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand.
- ❖ Earlier, the Sports ministry announced a 12-member committee to select athletes for the National Sports awards.
- ❖ The athletes on the Selection Panel include six-time world champion Mary Kom, former football captain Bhaichung Bhutia, woman cricketer Anjum Chopra, former long-jumper Anju Bobby George and table tennis coach Kamlesh Mehta.

Award Name	Winners
Arjuna Award	Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (athletics), Mohammed Anas Yahiya (athletics), S Bhaskaran (body building), Sonia Lather (boxing), Ravindra Jadeja (cricket), Chinglensana Kangujam (hockey), Ajay Thakur (kabaddi), Gaurav Singh Gill (motor sports), Pranod Bhagat (para-badminton), Anjum Moudgil (shooting), Harmeet Rajul Desai (table tennis), Pooja Dhanda (wrestling), Fouaad Mirza (equestrian), Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (football), Poonam Yadav (cricket), Swapna Burman (athletics), Sundar Singh Gurjar (para-athletics), Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth (badminton), Simran Singh Shergill (polo)
Dronacharya Award (Regular)	Vimal Kumar (badminton), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis), Mohinder Singh Dhillon (athletics)
Dronacharya Award (Lifetime)	Mezban Patel (hockey), Rambir Singh Khokar (kabaddi), Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket).
Dhyan Chand Award	Manuel Fredricks (hockey), Arup Basak (table tennis), Manoj Kumar (wrestling), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis), C Lalremsanga (archery).

