

August - 22

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 9th Session of the India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held on 19th – 20th August 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers was organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism at New Delhi on 20 August 2019.
- ❖ India's Prashant Gade has won the NCPEDP MPHASIS Universal Design Award 2019 for developing low cost prosthetic arm called as "Inali Arm".
- ❖ To strengthen enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes, Karnataka government has included "nicotine" under its Class A poison category.
  - Highly toxic chemicals, which are dangerous to life even in very small quantities such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide, and phosgene are classified as Class A poisons in Karnataka.
- ❖ A startup from California Cerebras Systems has developed the biggest processor in the world, which consists of 1.2 trillion transistors. It is called the Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine.
- ❖ Every year, August 21 is observed as World Entrepreneurs' Day, a day to celebrate innovation and empowerment of entrepreneurship and leadership.
- ❖ The chief minister of Punjab has launched a universal health insurance scheme called "Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana" which covers pre-existing disease also and benefits nearly 46 lakh families.
- ❖ Former Additional Commissioner of Police and a current member of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit, B.N.S. Reddy has won the gold medal at the World Police and Fire Games tournament, held in Chengdu, China.

## TAMIL NADU

### M Sand

- ❖ Tamil Nadu plans to put in place an M-sand policy to promote its use as an alternative building material and eliminate sub-standard products.
- ❖ Manufactured sand (M-Sand) is a substitute of river sand for concrete construction.
- ❖ It is produced by crushing hard granite stones.

### Advantages

- ❖ No organic and soluble compound that affects the setting time and properties of cement.
- ❖ Less transportation cost as M-sand can be manufactured from nearby granite rocks.
- ❖ Increased quality and durability of concrete due to absence of impurities.
- ❖ Available in various sizes.



## **NATIONAL**

### **Mobile Metallic Ramp for Army**

- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over the design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army.
- ❖ It has been developed by DRDO's premier research laboratory the Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety, New Delhi.
- ❖ MMR will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized units and formations of the Army.

### **D Voters – Assam NRC Issue**

- ❖ With few days left for the publication of the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), the Election Commission of India (ECI) is now faced with the legal question whether those excluded should be marked as 'D' voters.
- ❖ 'D' voters, sometimes also referred to as Dubious voter or Doubtful voter, are a category of voters in Assam whose citizenship is doubtful or under dispute.
- ❖ This category was introduced in 1997.

- ❖ Such D Voters cannot participate in elections unless their case is decided by a Foreigners' Tribunal.
- ❖ Around 1.2 lakh 'D' voters did not participate in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

## THE CITIZENSHIP CONUNDRUM

After the first National Register for Citizens (NRC) exercise was carried out in 1951, the wheels were set in motion to update the list in 2005. In 2015, Assam began the task of verifying and updating the NRC list. Out of current 32.9 million applicants to the list, 4 million potentially stare at being rendered 'stateless'.

After the census of 1951, the first NRC list was prepared



**May 2005**

Tripartite meeting chaired by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is held among the centre, Assam government and the All Assam Students' Union

**2009**

Assam Public Works, a non-governmental organization, files a writ petition in the Supreme Court for the deletion of illegal migrants' names from the voters' lists in Assam

**2010**

Pilot project to update NRC launched in Kamrup and Barpeta districts, but halted soon after due to law and order problems

**2011**

Assam government sets up cabinet sub-committee to simplify the procedure



**May 2013**

Supreme Court directs centre to finalize the plan of action by July 2013

**2014**

SC directs centre to resume updation of NRC

**2015**

State invites NRC application forms from

May to August 2015

**Sep 2015**

Verification exercise begins in Assam

**1 Jan 2018**

First draft of NRC released

**30 Jul**

Final draft of NRC released



## Secretarial Appointments

- ❖ The current Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba IAS has been appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years (from August 30, 2019).
- ❖ Gauba was the key architect of the recent Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act which divided Kashmir into two Union Territories.
- ❖ Ajay Kumar has been appointed as Secretary, Defence.
- ❖ Subhash Chandra has been appointed as Secretary, Defence Production.
- ❖ Similarly, Brij Kumar Agarwal will be Secretary, Lokpal.

## NISHTHA – Teacher's Training Program

- ❖ Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has launched the Integrated Teachers' Training Programme, NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Head's and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) in New Delhi.
- ❖ He also launched NISHTHA initiative's Website, Training Modules, Primer Booklet and Mobile App built for purpose.

- ❖ The Mobile App and Learning Management System (LMS) have been developed by NCERT.
- ❖ This Integrated Teachers' Training Programme aims to build capacities by training around 42 lakh teachers across country.



## INTERNATIONAL

### First US Missile Test Post INF Treaty Withdrawal

- ❖ The United States has announced that it has successfully tested a medium-range ground-launched Tomahawk cruise missile.
- ❖ This is first such test after US unilaterally withdrew from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, a Cold War-era pact with Russia.
- ❖ The 1987 INF Treaty had banned both parties from possessing, testing land-based missiles – conventional/ nuclear, that could travel between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

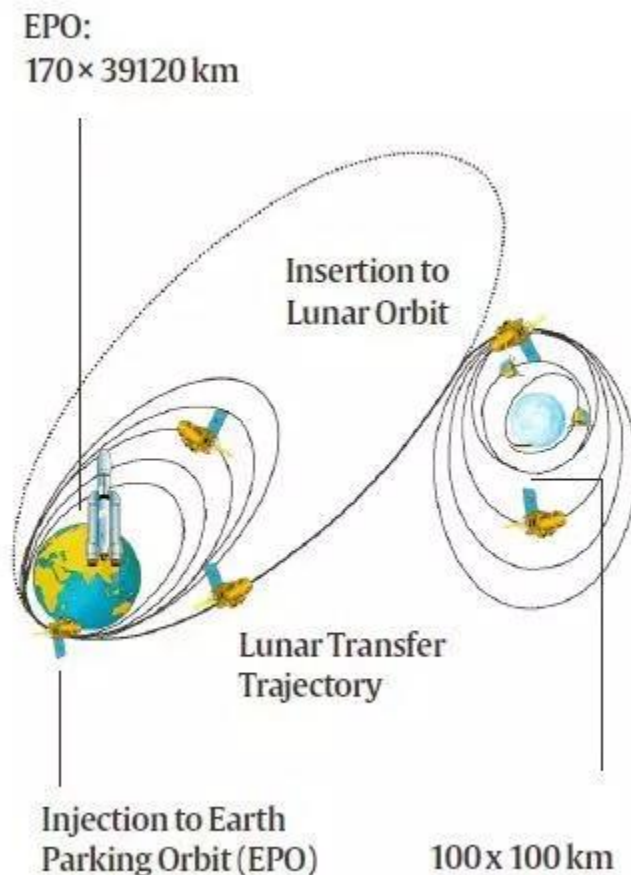
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Piggery Development Project – Meghalaya

- ❖ The piggery development project is to be launched in Meghalaya financed by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) along with the State Government.
- ❖ It is expected to boost domestic availability of meat in the entire North Eastern Region and also promote its exports thereby generating employment.
- ❖ Pig farming is very important component in North East India. 28% of India's pigs are grown here.
- ❖ Hampshire, HSX 1, Large White Yorkshire, Duroc and Landrace are the commonly grown breeds.

## Chandrayaan -2: In Moon's Orbit

- ❖ On August 20, 2019 Chandrayaan -2 was placed into elliptical orbit around moon.
- ❖ It is now 114 km from the Moon's surface at its nearest and 18,072 km at the farthest.
- ❖ Soon it will place itself in a circular orbit of 100 km × 100 km around the Moon.
- ❖ Then Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyaan) modules will detach themselves from here and descend into lower orbits before finally making a landing on September 7.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Prasar Bharti's 2 New Awards

- ❖ State broadcaster Prasar Barti has announced two new awards - Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award and Achyutananda Sahoo Award.



- ❖ Former Prasar Barti employee Neelum Sharma had also been awarded the 2018 “Nari Shakti Puraskar (NSP)” for her women centric programs.
- ❖ NSP is India's highest civilian award for recognising the achievements and contributions of women.

## **SPORTS**

### **Para Swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia**

- ❖ Indian Para Swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia has become the first Asian to cross the Catalina Channel of America.
- ❖ He also holds the Asian record of crossing both the English and Catalina channels.
- ❖ He led the Indian Para Relay team along with 5 teammates and crossed the Catalina Channel and covered the distance of 42 km in 11 hours 34 minutes.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism – August 21**

- ❖ The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed every year on August 21.
- ❖ The day is observed to express solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families and to condemn the suffering caused by terrorism around the world.
- ❖ In 2017, the UN General Assembly designated August 21 as such a day to honor the victims and survivors of terrorism.
- ❖ It is observed since 21 August, 2018.

### **World Senior Citizen’s Day – August 21**

- ❖ The World Senior Citizen's Day is celebrated on August 21 each year.
- ❖ The day is dedicated to increase awareness about the issues that affect older adults.
- ❖ It also recognises and acknowledges the contributions of older people to the society.
- ❖ The day was first conceived in 1988 by former US President Ronald Reagan and later proclaimed by UN General Assembly in 1990.

