

August - 29

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Madurai-based J Dhaanya Thasnem was declared as one among three students to go on an educational tour to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and interact with astronauts there.
  - The class 10 student bagged the opportunity after winning the National Space Science Contest 2019.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has decided to examine the “legal challenge” against the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.
  - It has referred the matter to a five-judge Constitution bench.
- ❖ Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers D. V. Sadananda Gowda has launched a mobile application called “Jan Aushadhi Sugam”. It is to enable people search their nearest Jan Aushadhi generic medicine stores.
- ❖ In a bid to encourage Good Samaritans, the Puducherry government has announced a cash award of Rs 5,000 to those rushing road accident victims to hospitals and helping save lives.
- ❖ Union Government has notified 63 provisions of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019 including the ones dealing with enhanced penalties for various traffic offences. The new clauses will come into effect from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the ‘26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela’ organised by Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research in Leh.
- ❖ Prominent economist Abdalla Hamdok has taken charge as the new Prime Minister of Sudan.
- ❖ Constable Monali Jadhav from Maharashtra won three medals, including two golds, at the recently concluded World Police and Fire Games International Championship held in Chengdu, China.

## TAMIL NADU

### **Dindigul Locks, Kandangi Saree**

- ❖ Dindigul lock and Kandangi saree have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
- ❖ The lock is famous for its superior quality and durability, that even the city is called Lock City.
- ❖ The abundance of iron in this region is the reason for the growth of the industry.

- ❖ The Kandangi cotton sarees are manufactured in the entire Karaikudi taluk in Sivaganga district.
- ❖ They are characterised by large contrast borders. Some are known to have borders covering as far as two-thirds of the saree.



### **Energy Efficient Electric Trains – Southern Railway**

- ❖ The Southern Railway has introduced new energy-efficient three-phase Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) between Chennai and Arakkonam.
- ❖ It has 'regenerative braking system'.
- ❖ This enables faster acceleration and deceleration.
- ❖ This results in saving up to 35 per cent of energy compared to conventional Electric Multiple Units (EMU) and MEMUs.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Bureau of Police Research and Development Foundation Day**

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended the 49th Foundation Day of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) at New Delhi.
- ❖ On the occasion, the Home minister released BPR&D's new logo.
- ❖ The theme of the function was "promoting good practices and standards".

#### About

- ❖ BPR&D was set up on 28 August 1970 for the modernization of police forces.
- ❖ At present it has 4 divisions – Research, Development, Training and Correctional Administration.

## 'Fit India' Movement

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a nation-wide 'Fit India' Movement on the occasion of National Sports Day (August 29).
- ❖ The campaign is aimed at encouraging people to inculcate physical activity and sports in their day to day life.
- ❖ A 28-member committee, under the chairmanship of sports minister Kiren Rijiju has been formed to advise the government on the campaign.
- ❖ During the launch of the event, PM also paid tributes to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand as it is his birth anniversary.

## 75 new Medical Colleges in 3 Years

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of 75 new Medical Colleges by 2021-22.
- ❖ The move will add 15,700 more MBBS seats in the country.
- ❖ This will be established in under-served areas having no such colleges with at least 200 bedded district hospitals.
- ❖ Preference will be given to Aspirational districts and district hospitals having 300 beds.

## Facial Biometric Data of Seafarers

- ❖ India has become the 'first country in the world' to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID) capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers.



- ❖ Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya launched the project in New Delhi.
- ❖ Nine data collection centres have been set up at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Noida, Goa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Vizag and Kandla for the issue of BSID.



- ❖ The total number of existing Indian seafarers who will be required to be issued BSIDs is around 3,50,000.

### **7th National Community Radio Sammelan**

- ❖ Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar attended the 7th National Community Radio Sammelan (meet) held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Awards for excellence were given to different community radio channels for their valuable contribution in sensitizing local people.
- ❖ For the year 2019, “Friends Radio”, Tripura bagged the first prize in the thematic category.
- ❖ Awards were given under 5 categories.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **South Asia Air Quality Tech Camp, Kathmandu**

- ❖ The U.S. Embassy in Nepal has organized a South Asia Air Quality Tech Camp in Kathmandu.
- ❖ The aim of the camp is to address political, social and scientific facets of air pollution problem.
- ❖ Seven South Asian countries participated: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Rejuvenation of Degraded Land: 50 lakh hectares**

- ❖ Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that India has committed to rejuvenate 50 lakh hectares (5 million) of degraded land between 2021 and 2030.
- ❖ About 29% (about 96.4 million hectares) are considered degraded in India.
- ❖ In January 2019, India became part of the “Bonn Challenge”.
- ❖ Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.

### **Gooty Tarantula Spiders – Gingee, TN**

- ❖ Gooty Tarantula spiders which is endemic to Eastern Ghats was spotted for the first time beyond its known habitat. (original habitat: Nandyala, Andhra Pradesh)
- ❖ It was spotted at in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in Villupuram district.
- ❖ Scientific Name: *Poecilotheria metallica*      Common Name: Peacock Parachute Spider
- ❖ IUCN Status: Critically endangered



## **STATES**

### **Google and Telangana**

- ❖ The Telangana Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Google India for 'Digital Telangana'.
- ❖ The MoU will improve and get more local language content online using Google's digital publishing tool "Navlekha".
- ❖ Google would provide support to overall digitalisation drive of the state.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Pushkin Award – Professor Meeta Narain

- ❖ Professor Meeta Narain of Jawaharlal Nehru University has been conferred the prestigious ‘Pushkin Medal – 2019’ for her contribution to Russian studies abroad.
- ❖ Narain has contributed towards re-writing of Russian studies textbooks for graduate students after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- ❖ Books influenced by her are used in many former Soviet nation institutes, Europe, the US and other countries including India.

#### About

- ❖ The Pushkin Medal is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government for promoting Russian language and culture.
- ❖ It was instituted in 1999 and named after famous Russian author and poet Alexander S. Pushkin.

