

September - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 81-year old leader of National Conference party of Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah has been detained under the stringent Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) of 1978, which enables authorities to detain any individual for two years without trial.
- ❖ India has formally launched an initiative to fund 1000 scholars from South East Asian countries to pursue PhD at its 23 Indian Institutes of Technology.
  - It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ❖ The GST Network has decided to make Aadhaar authentication mandatory for new dealers from January 2020 to check malpractices in GST. Aadhaar authentication was earlier optional.

## TAMIL NADU

### TN Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy

- ❖ In an attempt to give a boost to the manufacture and use of electric vehicles in the State, Tamilnadu has released the Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019.

### Going electric

The Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019, provides for various concessions to manufacturers of e-vehicles

- EV-related and charging infrastructure manufacturing units will be provided 100% exemption on electricity tax till December 2025
- Units that obtain land by sale or lease shall be entitled to 100% exemption on stamp duty for transactions till December 2022
- Units that obtain land from SIPCOT, SIDCO or other governmental agencies will be provided a 15% subsidy on the cost, and will be provided 50% subsidy if the investment is in the southern districts
- Units will be provided an employment incentive in the form of the reimbursement of employer's contribution to EPFO for all new jobs created till December 2025
- The government will provide a higher capital subsidy of 20% of the eligible investment over 20 years in cases where units are engaged in making EV batteries
- Amendment to building and construction laws will be effected to ensure that charging infrastructure is integrated at the planning stage itself for all new constructions and apartments in cities



- ❖ It has provided for various concessions to manufacturers and users of e-vehicles.
- ❖ The policy called for 100% road tax exemption till December 30, 2022 and a waiver of registration charges for electric two-wheelers.
- ❖ 100% State GST will be “refunded” for EVs manufactured, sold and registered for use in the State till 2030.
- ❖ For tourist and commercial EVs permit fee will be waived till December 2022.

### Special Number plates

- ❖ Registration number of Transport vehicles will be exhibited in yellow color on a green background.
- ❖ It will be white on a green background for all other EVs.

## **NATIONAL**

### **60 years of DD Channel**

- ❖ Doordarshan has completed 60 years of existence.
- ❖ Doordarshan (DD) is an autonomous public service broadcaster founded by the Government of India and owned by the Information and Broadcasting (I & B) Ministry of India.
- ❖ It was established in 1959 in Delhi, then spread to Mumbai and other cities.
- ❖ On April 1, 1976, it was separated from All India Radio and became a new department under the Ministry of I & B.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at Delhi and Motto is “Satyam Shivam Sundaram”.

### **Drones to Map the Country**

- ❖ The Survey of India (SoI) will for the first-time use drones to map the country.
- ❖ 300 drones will be used to map 75% of India’s geography (2.4 million sq. km)
- ❖ Unprecedented details will be captured.
- ❖ Such high-resolution maps of land in villages will facilitate the digitisation of land titles in villages.
- ❖ Currently the best SoI maps have a resolution of 1:250000, meaning a 1 cm in the map represents 2500 cm on the ground.
- ❖ The maps being prepared now will be of 1:500 resolution, meaning 1 cm will represent 500 cm.

### About

- ❖ Survey of India is the National Survey and Mapping Organization of the country.

- ❖ It is the oldest scientific department of the Government of India.
- ❖ It was set up in 1767 and headquarters is at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is under the Department of Science & Technology.

### **First Private Train: Tejas Delhi-Lucknow**

- ❖ India's first private train Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will commence operation from October 4, 2019.
- ❖ It will be the first train of Indian Railways that will be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- ❖ For the first time, a paid door-door luggage pickup and delivery service is introduced.
- ❖ There will be No Tatkal tickets and No tickets at reservation counters.
- ❖ No concessions, privileges or duty passes will be allowed on these trains.



### **1<sup>st</sup> Women Defence Air Attache @ Moscow**

- ❖ Wing Commander Anjali Singh, an aeronautical engineer who specialises in handling fighter jets has taken over as the Deputy Air attaché at the Indian embassy in Moscow.
- ❖ She is the first woman officer has been posted as a defence attaché in an Indian mission abroad.
- ❖ She also holds the distinction of being the first female Indian Armed Forces Officer to be posted as a military diplomat in “any” of the Indian missions abroad.

- ❖ India has over 100 defence attachés or advisers (DAs) posted in different countries across the globe.
- ❖ Only some countries like the US, UK and Russia have representatives from all the three Indian Services - the Army, Navy and IAF.

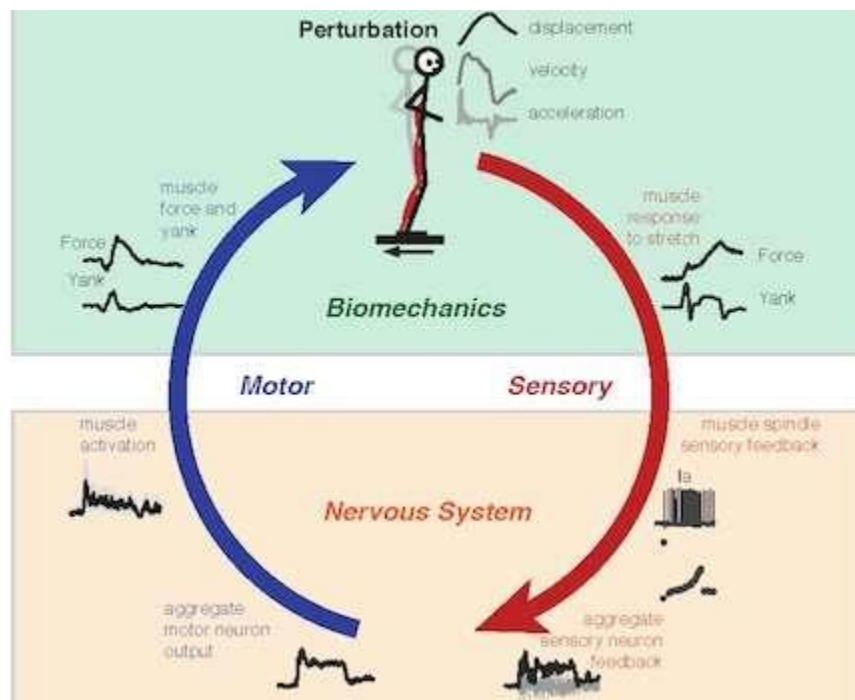
### About

- ❖ A military attaché is a military expert who is attached to a diplomatic mission, often an embassy.
- ❖ They also enjoy diplomatic status and immunity.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **New Scientific Term: Yank**

- ❖ Biologists and biomedical engineers are proposing to define a new term to measure any changes in force over time, called “Yank”.



- ❖ Defining “Yank” will be useful to know better about human muscle behaviour.
- ❖ ‘Yank’ could be useful in better understanding of spasticity, a common muscle impairment in multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, stroke and cerebral palsy.

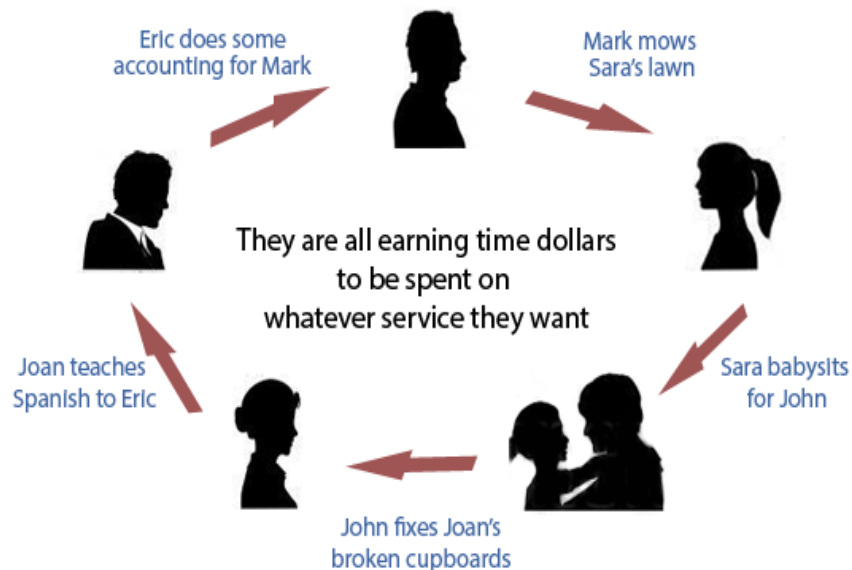
## STATES

### Uranium Mining in Telengana

- ❖ Telangana State Assembly passed a resolution against proposed Uranium mining in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR), located in Nallamala forest area of the State.
- ❖ The project is expected to be a threat to the habitation and biodiversity in and around Nallamala due to mining besides public fears of air and water pollution.
- ❖ It might also displace the native Chenchu tribals.

### Time Banks - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government's Happiness Department has proposed to set up a "Time Bank".
- ❖ It's a reciprocal service exchange which uses "units of time" as currency.
- ❖ Community-level banks will be formed with a list of volunteers.
- ❖ The list of "skills" they could impart or "services they could offer" will be noted.



- ❖ Whenever a bank member needs a service or wants to acquire a new skill (Ex: playing a guitar), she/he could exchange a credit, worth an hour, with another member knowing the skill.
- ❖ This concept was first conceived at the Cincinnati Time Store, USA in 1927.
- ❖ The first Time Bank was set up in Japan in 1973.



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

### **Hrant Dink Awards**

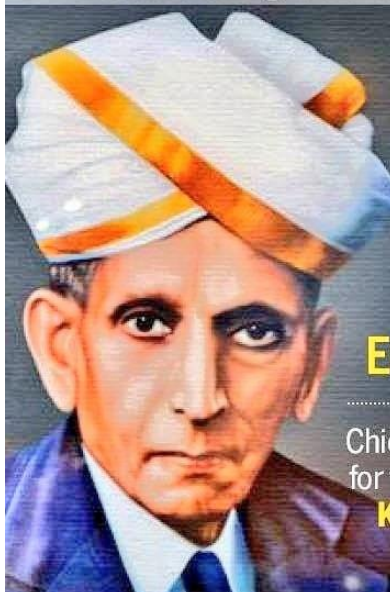
- ❖ Meghalaya-based rights activist Agnes Kharshiing received the 11<sup>th</sup> International Hrant Dink Award along with Turkish activist Nebahat Akkoç who is against male violence.
- ❖ This international Award commemorates the memory of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, who was killed in 2007.
- ❖ Agnes Kharshiing is in the forefront of fighting against illegal coal mining in Meghalaya.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **National Engineer's Day – September 15**

- ❖ Every year since 1968, September 15 is celebrated as Engineer's day.
- ❖ It is celebrated also as a mark of respect on the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
- ❖ He is credited for Krishna Raja Sagara Dam situated in Mysuru and for bringing up flood protection system in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Its construction was started in 1911 and was completed in 1932.
- ❖ He received Bharat Ratna, in 1955.
- ❖ He is held in high regard as a pre-eminent engineer of India.
- ❖ The theme of this 52nd Engineers day is "Engineering for Change".

Celebrated engineer and scholar **M Visvesvaraya** was born on Sept 15, 1860



# A STALWART OF INDIAN ENGINEERING

His birthday is celebrated as **Engineer's Day**

Chief engineer responsible for the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagara dam in Mysore**

Received the **Bharat Ratna** in 1955

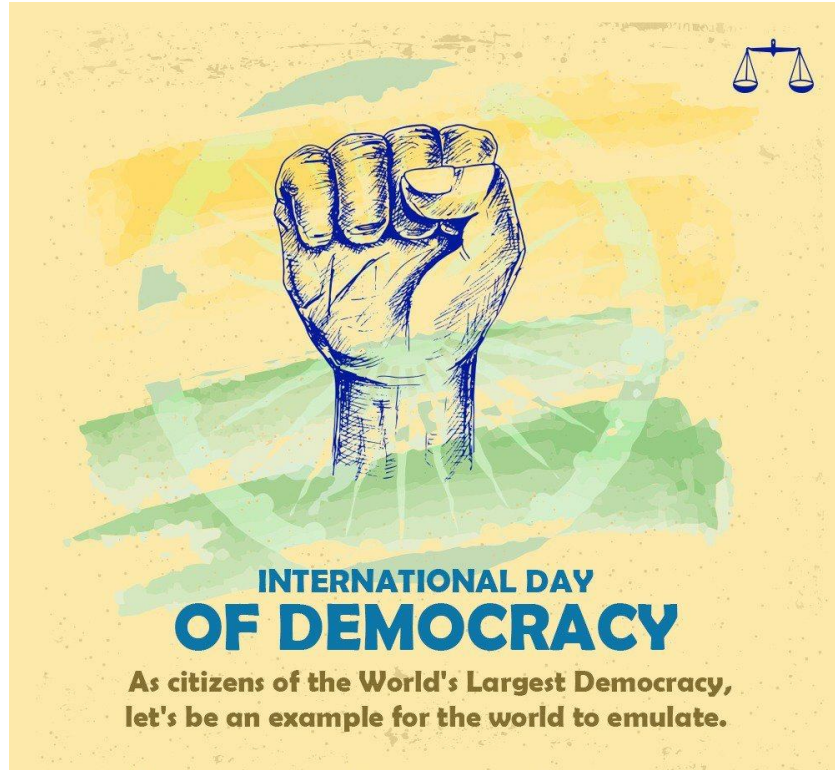
Lived till the **age of 101**

Designed and patented the automatic **weir water floodgates**, first installed at the **Khadakwasla Reservoir, Pune in 1903**

Designed a **flood protection system** for Hyderabad, giving him celebrity status

## **International Day of Democracy – September 15**

- ❖ The annual international day of democracy is celebrated on September 15 of every year.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly passed a resolution on November 2007 to observe September 15 as the International Day of Democracy.
- ❖ The first such day was celebrated in 2008.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to uphold and promote the tenets of democracy.
- ❖ The 2019 theme for democracy day is "participation".



**INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF DEMOCRACY**

**As citizens of the World's Largest Democracy,  
let's be an example for the world to emulate.**

