

August - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ M. Mansoor Ali, a social science teacher at Diamond Jubilee Higher Secondary School in Gobichettipalayam and R. Selvakkannan, Headmaster of Panchayat Union Primary School at K. Paramathi in Karur have been selected from the State for the National award for best teachers for 2018.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change (MoEFCC) has decided to 'waive off' or relax mandatory charging of lease rent of Rs.30,000 per Mega Watt (MW) for wind power projects.
- ❖ Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism has launched the book 'The Diary of Manu Gandhi' (1943-44), translated from Gujarati by Tridip Suhrud.
 - The book has been brought out on occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by National Archives of India in collaboration with Oxford University Press.
- ❖ Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar has made it to the 4th position on the Forbes magazine's World's Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 list. He has earned \$65 million. Top paid actor is Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson.

NATIONAL

Zonal Councils Meet

- ❖ Union Home Minister, Amit Shah chaired the 24th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Panaji (Goa).





- ❖ The meeting was also attended by Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Administrator of the UTs of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- ❖ The Six Zonal Councils are - Western, Eastern, Northern, Southern, North Eastern and Central.
- ❖ They were set up under the State's Reorganization Act, 1956 to foster Inter-State co-operation and co-ordination among the States.

Ocean Energy as Renewable Energy

- ❖ Minister of New and Renewable Energy (Independent Charge) RK Singh has approved a proposal to declare 'ocean energy' as Renewable Energy.
- ❖ The energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy conversion will be considered as Renewable Energy.
- ❖ It will be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).
- ❖ The decision is expected to give a boost to ocean energy in the country.

'SAN-Sadhan' Hackathon – Accessible Toilets

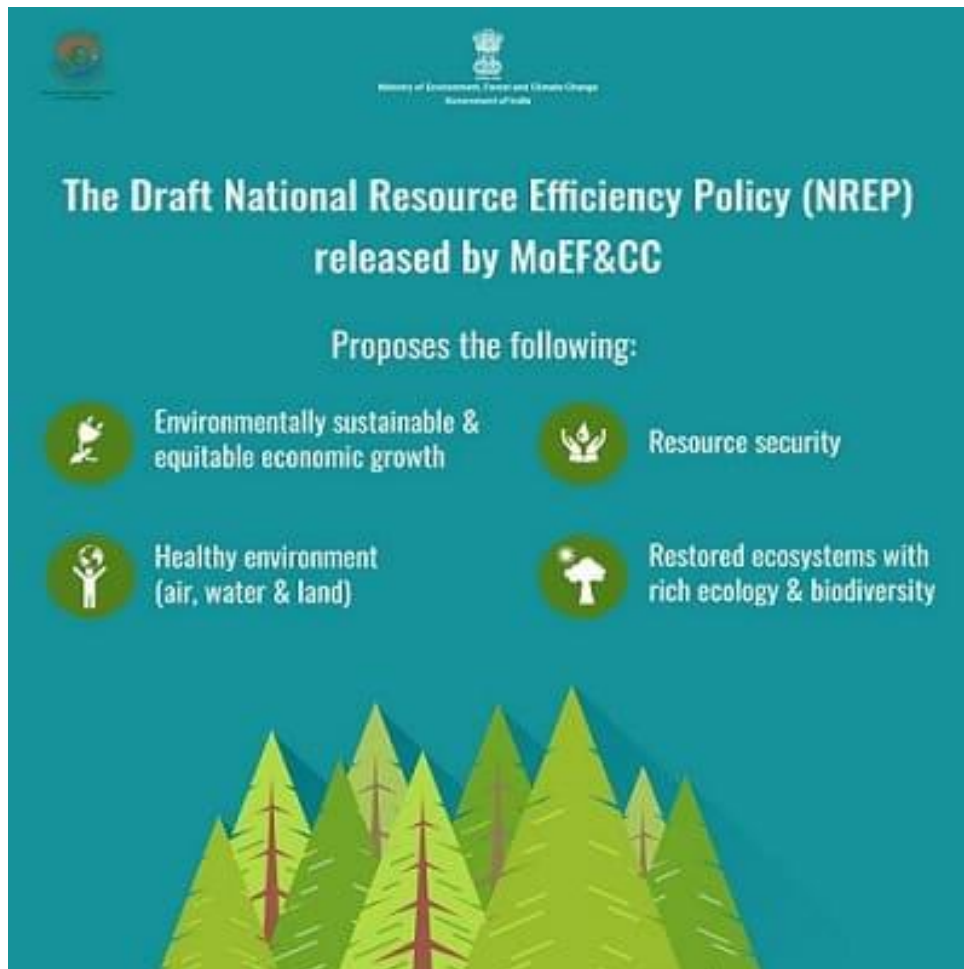
- ❖ The Government of India has invited applications for its latest initiative called the 'SAN-Sadhan' Hackathon – for Divyangjan accessible toilets.
- ❖ It is an initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission to ease lives of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.
- ❖ The shortlisted applicants will work to develop their prototype during the two-day Hackathon scheduled to be held in the month of September in New Delhi.

The Sabka Vishwas - Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019

- ❖ The Sabka Vishwas - Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019, which was announced in the Union Budget 2019-20, has now been notified.
- ❖ It will be operationalized from 1st September 2019 and would continue till 31st December 2019.
- ❖ The government expects large number of taxpayers to avail the scheme for closing their 'pending disputes' relating to old Service Tax and Central Excise cases that are now subsumed under GST.

National Resource Efficiency Policy, 2019

- ❖ Driven by serious sustainability concerns, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has proposed a draft 'National Resource Efficiency Policy 2019.
- ❖ It aims to streamline the efficient use of these resources with minimum negative impact on environment.
- ❖ The policy aims for a 'circular economy' - Through efficient use of available material resources, based on principles of 6R.
- ❖ 6R stands for- reduce, reuse, recycle, redesign, re-manufacture and refurbish.
- ❖ Zero Landfill Approach - Imposing 'landfill taxes' for bulk generators of waste so that they can move towards optimal use of materials and better waste management.





INTERNATIONAL

Maritime Surveillance and Security – India and France

- ❖ India and France have formalised the development and launch of constellation of around 10 low-earth orbit satellites that will continuously provide maritime surveillance and security.
- ❖ It will cover a wide belt around the globe and specifically focus on the Indian Ocean region where France, with its Reunion Islands, has a strategic interest.
- ❖ The satellite-based Automatic Identification System (AIS) will
 - detect, identify and track a range of vessels moving in the ocean region.
 - guard against aggression, terrorism, piracy, smuggling, and also be useful for rescue.
- ❖ Other climate and ocean weather monitoring satellites jointly developed by India and France are
 - Megha-Tropiques in 2011
 - SARAL-AltiKa in 2013.

FATF – Pakistan Blocked

- ❖ Pakistan has been placed on the lowest rung or “blacklist” of the Financial Action Task Force’s Asia Pacific Group (APG).
- ❖ It has been placed in the list for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering.
- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had already ‘grey listed’ Pakistan for failing to curb anti-terror financing.
- ❖ FATF has no investigative authority.
- ❖ The FATF blacklist or OECD blacklist has been issued by the Financial Action Task Force since 2000.
- ❖ Main objective of FATF is to fight against money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the security and integrity of the international financial system.

ECONOMY

e-commerce portal - Bharat Craft

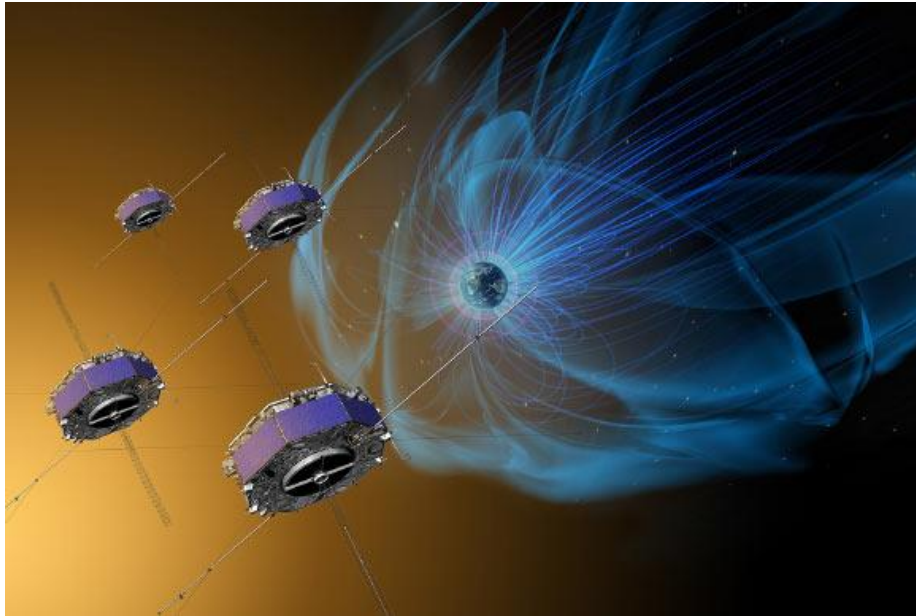
- ❖ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced plans to launch an e-commerce portal for MSMEs called ‘Bharat Craft’.

- ❖ He inaugurated the 6th India International MSME Expo at New Delhi.
- ❖ Bharat Craft portal would be similar to e-portal such as Alibaba and Amazon.
- ❖ He also informed about the website called 'Samadhaan' where entrepreneurs can raise his/her problems.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Measuring Inter Planetary Shock

- ❖ Recently, NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission made the first high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock.
- ❖ Interplanetary shocks are a type of collision-less shock.
- ❖ Here particles transfer energy through electromagnetic fields instead of directly bouncing into one another.
- ❖ These shocks are made of particles and electromagnetic waves, are launched by the Sun.
- ❖ This phenomenon is observed in: supernovae, black holes and distant stars.



ENVIRONMENT

Harmful Nitrates – Girl Infants

- ❖ In a new World Bank report about water pollution worldwide, one aspect covered is the “long-term impact of nitrate exposure” experienced during infancy.

- ❖ Nitrate levels in groundwater aquifers in India exceeded permissible levels in more than 50 % of the districts across 19 states.
- ❖ An infant girl who has been exposed to nitrate levels above the safety threshold in the first three years of life experiences a 1-2 cm decrease in her adult height.
- ❖ Female adult height had increased by approximately 4 cm over the last century in India.
- ❖ Nitrate exposure will wipe out almost half of this gain in height.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - 23 August

- ❖ The “International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition” is observed every year on 23 August.
- ❖ The date August 23 is chosen to commemorate the August 22 to August 23, 1791 rebellion by “slaves” against slave trade in the island of St. Dominique (now known as Haiti).
- ❖ It was a major factor in the abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade.
- ❖ The day was first celebrated in Haiti on August 23, 1998.

