

**October – 04**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Nilgiris police have decided to promote traditional “Kurumba” painting. The police will adopt tribal villages in the forest areas along Kerala-Tamil Nadu border in Nilgiris to create an awareness about the dying ‘art’ form.
- ❖ The Haryana government has decided to institute Kalpana Chawla Haryana Solar Award, named after the India-born US astronaut, to encourage the participation of scientists in solar sector.
- ❖ **TRAI** (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) is going to be **renamed** as **Digital Communications Regulatory Authority of India**.
- ❖ Seven district hospitals and six primary health centres in Tamil Nadu have won the National quality assurance award from the Centre for excellence in Health services of the State.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Governor and Chief Minister inaugurated the "Lal Bahadur Shastri Smriti Bhavan Sangrahalay", a Memorial for the former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri at Ramnagar.
- ❖ The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has constituted the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society, nominating actor Kangna Ranaut, singer Anup Jalota, noted directors and producers Rajkumar Hirani and Vidhu Vinod Chopra, among others, as members.
  - Their nomination comes about a year after actor Anupam Kher was appointed as the chairman of FTII.
- ❖ Tribes India and TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched “Punch Tantra Collection and Ms. Mary Kom as Brand Ambassador of Tribes India”.
- ❖ Lok Manthan 2018, a 4-day National literary and intellectual conference, has been inaugurated by M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ❖ Germany won the race to host the 2024 European Championship after beating Turkey, the only other bidder for the mega event. Germany had last hosted the World cup in 2006.

## TAMIL NADU

### **TN signs MoU with ACT**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu school education department has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ACT Fibernet, a private internet service provider, to provide free internet services to 100 public libraries.
- ❖ ACT will be using its corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund to provide free internet to libraries in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram for a period of 5 years.

### **Best State in Rural development**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has won the award for the Best State in Rural development at the 6th Edition of the ET (Economic Times) Rural Strategy Summit 2018, held at New Delhi.
- ❖ The award was received by S P Velumani, Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development.

### **World UAV Medical Express Challenge 2018**

- ❖ South Indian actor Ajith's team, Dhaksha, has won the second place in the Challenge held at Queensland in Australia.
- ❖ Actor Ajith was appointed as the UAV System Adviser and Test Pilot by Madras Institute of Technology (MIT), Chennai.
- ❖ The Dhaksha (UAV) Team, Centre for Aerospace Research, Anna University was conferred with the Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Award for the year 2018.
- ❖ They have been awarded for developing three Unmanned Aerial Vehicle systems to be used by various government departments.

### **Periyar University to offer courses in VR & AR**

- ❖ Periyar University is going to offer the courses in Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) for the first time in the entire country.
- ❖ The courses are designed based on the MoU between Periyar University with a technical collaborator, Scopik Edu Services, Chennai.

## NATIONAL

### Economic Freedom Index

- ❖ The Index of Economic Freedom 2018 was recently released by the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) in conjunction with Canada's Fraser Institute.
- ❖ India stands at 96th position among 162 countries in economic freedom. In overall ranking, India was evenly placed among BRICS nations.
- ❖ While Russia and South Africa are ahead of India at 87th and 94th, China and Brazil are behind at 108th and 144th positions.
- ❖ India was ranked 98th in the 2017 index. The 2018 report is based on data from 2016.
- ❖ Hong Kong and Singapore again topped the index, continuing their streak as the first and the second country, respectively.

## ECONOMY

### High Level Advisory Group

- ❖ The Union Commerce Ministry has approved the constitution of a High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to review India's Global Trade strategy.
- ❖ The HLAG will be chaired by Surjit S Bhalla, who is the Director of Oxus Research and Investments.
- ❖ The group may consider possible approaches and suggest a pragmatic framework for India's future engagement in international trade.

## ENVIRONMENT

### World's Largest ever bird

- ❖ Zoological Society of London has named Vorombe Titan as World's Largest ever bird.
- ❖ Vorombe Titan (meaning 'big bird' in Malagasy and Greek) is believed to have weighed up to 800 kg and was 3 metres tall



- ❖ It is an extinct Madagascan species and belongs to 'Elephant' bird category
- ❖ Elephant birds (belonging to the family Aepyornithidae) are an extinct group of colossal flightless birds that roamed Madagascar during the Late Quaternary.

## STATES

### Universal old age pension scheme

- ❖ The Assam cabinet has decided to introduce a universal old age pension scheme to cover all BPL and APL ration card holders above the age of 60.
- ❖ The scheme would be launched on October 2 during the launch of 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

### 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship

- ❖ Thiruvananthapuram is hosting the 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship.
- ❖ Kerala hosts the Pan-Asian event for the 2nd time in the country, after 'Hyderabad' which hosted the 2nd edition.
- ❖ 'Yogaratna Awards' will be given away to foreign delegates who were instrumental in popularising yoga in their respective countries.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize

- ❖ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has recently announced the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology for 2018.
- ❖ Every year, several scientists below the age of 45 are selected from various institutions across the country and awarded for their outstanding scientific work in the last 5 years.

#### Biological Sciences

- ❖ Dr Thomas Pucadyil, IISER Pune.
- ❖ Ganesh Nagaraju from IISC, Bengaluru.

#### Chemical Sciences

- ❖ Rahul Banerjee, IISER, Kolkata.



- ❖ Swadhin Kumar Mandal IISER, Kolkata.

#### Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences

- ❖ Dr. Madineni Venkat Ratnam, National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Tirupati.
- ❖ Parthasarathi Chakraborty, CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.

#### Engineering Sciences

- ❖ Amit Agarwal, IIT Bombay.
- ❖ Ashwin Anil Gumaste, IIT Bombay.

#### Mathematical Sciences

- ❖ Amit Kumar, IIT Delhi.
- ❖ Nitin Saxena, IIT Kanpur.

#### Medical Sciences

- ❖ Dr Ganesan Venkatasubramanian, NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

#### Physical Sciences

- ❖ Dr. Aditi Sen De, Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad.
- ❖ Dr. Ambarish Ghosh, IISc, Bengaluru.

### **National Tourism Awards 2016-2017**

- ❖ The National Tourism Awards 2016-17 were presented by Union Minister for Tourism (IC), K J Alphons.
- ❖ The Tourism Minister also launched the '**Incredible India Mobile App**' and the '**Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification**' programme.
- ❖ The App has been developed by 'Tech Mahindra' and the online certification learning platform was developed by 'Wipro Limited'.

#### Best State / Union Territory - Comprehensive Development of Tourism (Rest of India)

- ❖ 1st Prize: Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ 2nd Prize: Kerala
- ❖ 3rd Prize: Rajasthan & Goa (Joint Winner)

#### Best State / Union Territory - Comprehensive Development of Tourism (J & K and North East including Sikkim)

- ❖ Sikkim

#### Best Heritage City



❖ Ahmedabad & Mandu (Joint Winner)

**Most Responsible Tourism Project / Initiative**

❖ Wayanad, Kerala

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