

**November – 16**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Kerala government has commenced a scheme to offer free education and vocational training to the children of fishermen who died or went missing in the 2017 Ockhi cyclonic storm.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Finance has announced to release commemorative coin on Rs 75 on the occasion of 75th anniversary of hoisting of Tricolour for first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Cellular Jail, Port Blair on December 30, 1943.
  - It will also have inscription in both Devanagari script and English saying 'First Flag Hoisting Day'.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Government launches LEAP and ARPIT programmes**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development launched two new initiatives viz.
  - Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and
  - Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT)for higher education faculty.
- ❖ ARPIT is a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform SWAYAM.
- ❖ LEAP is a 3 weeks flagship leadership development training programme for 2nd level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions.
- ❖ Its main objective is to prepare second tier academic heads who are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in the future.

### **INDRA 2018**

- ❖ The joint military exercise between Indian and Russia Exercise INDRA 2018 was conducted at Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ It was the tenth exercise in the series of INDRA Exercise aimed at increasing interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies.
- ❖ The aim of the exercise was to practice joint planning and conduct to enhance the interoperability between two armies in peace keeping/ peace enforcement environment under aegis of the United Nations.

### **38th India International Trade Fair**

- ❖ The 38th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Culture Mahesh Sharma at Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of the 38th IITF was 'Rural Enterprises in India'. It will conclude on 27th November 2018.
- ❖ Afghanistan is the Partner Country for the 38th IITF. Nepal is the Focus Country and Jharkhand is the Partner State for the trade fair.
- ❖ IITF will act as a platform for all kind of businesses to exhibit their excellence and services to trade, industry and public.

## **ECONOMY**

### **NBCC acquires HSCC**

- ❖ State-owned NBCC (formerly National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to acquire HSCC.
- ❖ HSCC Limited, known as Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation Limited is a "**Mini Ratna**" Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- ❖ It offers consultancy services in healthcare and other social sectors in India and other countries.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### GSAT-29 satellite launched successfully

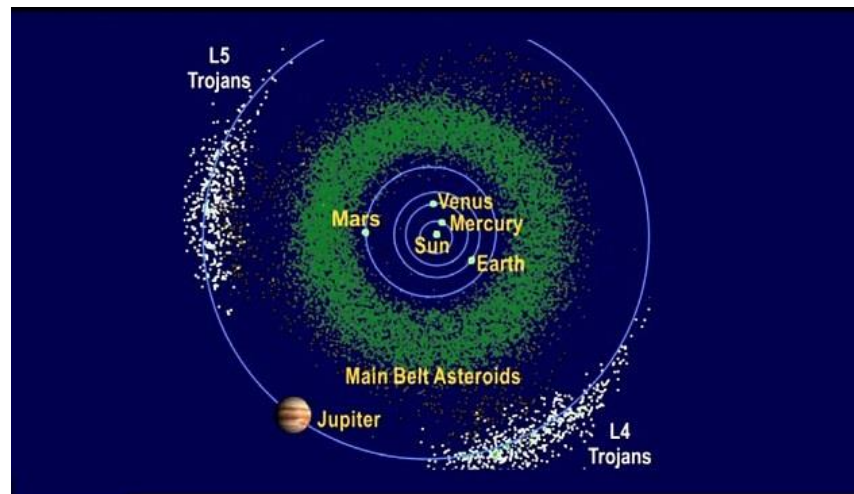
- ❖ ISRO has successfully launched its latest communication satellite GSAT-29, which was put in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III D2 (GSLV-Mk III D2).



- ❖ It was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ GSLV-Mk III D2 is India's 5th generation heavy-lift rocket, which launched GSAT-29 weighing 3,423 kg making it heaviest satellite launched in that orbit by an Indian launch vehicle.
- ❖ The GSLV Mk III is the designated rocket for India's first human spaceflight proposed for 2022 and Chandrayaan-2 in January 2019.
- ❖ It carries Ka and Ku band transponders that will provide communication services to remote places in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir.

## **Ralph probe set to visit Jupiter's Trojan asteroids**

- ❖ NASA's Ralph is set to journey with the Lucy mission to Jupiter's Trojan asteroids by 2021.
- ❖ Ralph, a space instrument that has travelled as far as Pluto, was first launched aboard the New Horizons spacecraft in 2006.
- ❖ The Lucy spacecraft carries a near-twin of Ralph, called L'Ralph, which will investigate Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.



- ❖ Lucy will fly by 6 Trojans and 1 Main Belt asteroid, which is more than any other previous asteroid mission.
- ❖ L'Ralph will detect the chemical fingerprints of Trojan asteroids.

## **'Bionic mushroom' generates clean energy**

- ❖ The US scientists have tested an idea of producing electricity from a mushroom covered in bacteria.
- ❖ The scientists used 3D printing to attach clusters of energy-producing bugs to the cap of a button mushroom.
- ❖ The fungus provided the ideal environment to allow the cyanobacteria to generate a small amount of power.
- ❖ The authors say their fossil-free "bionic mushroom" could have a great potential.

## STATES

### GPS mapping of government schools

- ❖ The Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched the GPS Mapping of Government Schools and Personnel Location System in Kohima.
- ❖ This would help in computerization and digitization of records of all the government schools.
- ❖ This is a first in the country initiative and was under taken by the School Education Department of the state.

### Welfare boards for Namasudra, Matua communities

- ❖ The West Bengal cabinet has decided to set up development boards for the Matua and Namasudra communities.
- ❖ The names of the two boards will be
  - West Bengal Namasudra Welfare Board and
  - West Bengal Matua Welfare Board.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Infosys Prize 2018

- ❖ The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF), on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, announced 6 winners of the Infosys Prize 2018 in the six different categories of the award.
  - Navakanta Bhat - Engineering and Computer Science
  - Kavita Singh – Humanities
  - Roop Mallik - Life Sciences
  - Nalini Anantharaman - Mathematical Sciences
  - SK Satheesh - Physical Sciences
  - Sendhil Mullainathan - Social Sciences



- ❖ Infosys Prize is an annual award bestowed upon researchers, scientists, social scientists and engineers in India by the Infosys Science Foundation (ISF).
- ❖ Each category awardee receives 22-carat gold medallion, a citation certificate and prize money of US \$100,000.
- ❖ It is one of the highest monetary awards in India that recognizes the scientific research.

### **La Liga Player of the Year Award - Messi**

- ❖ Barcelona forward Lionel Messi was declared the Spanish football league's best player of the 2017-18 campaign by Marca Newspaper at an awards ceremony in Barcelona.
- ❖ Messi also won the Pichichi Trophy at the ceremony, an award given to the top scorer in La Liga each year.
- ❖ His 34 goals in 36 games earned him the Pichichi Trophy for the 5th time in his career. Only Telmo Zarra, with six, has won it more often.
- ❖ Atletico Madrid's goalkeeper Jan Oblak was named the goalkeeper of the year.
- ❖ Marca is a Spanish national daily sport newspaper.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Children's Day – 14 November

- ❖ The Children's day was celebrated in India on November 14 to commemorate the first prime minister of independent India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
  - ❖ It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's 129th birth anniversary.
  - ❖ Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was born on November 14, 1889 in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
  - ❖ Before 1964, Children's day was celebrated in India on November 20, which is the universal Children's Day declared by the United Nations.
  - ❖ After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru on May 27, 1964, India decided to celebrate his birthday as Bal Diwas (Children's Day) to honour him.
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