

**February – 08**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ K.Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2018 will be conferred on P.S. Krishnan, former Secretary, Government of India.
- ❖ Ministry of Textiles has organised National Conclave on Technical Textiles- 'TechnoTex 2019' in Mumbai.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), popularly known as the Ayushman Bharat launched PM-JAY app in New Delhi.
- ❖ Sunjay Sudhir, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Maldives.
- ❖ The Supreme Court reserved its judgment on a batch of review petitions over the entry of women into the Sabarimala temple, while the Travancore Temple Board (TDP) pledged to support entry of women of all ages into the temple.
- ❖ The National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC) has been selected as winner under the Miniratna Category by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
  - This has been done as part of endeavour by Ministry of MSME to felicitate selected Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to recognize their exemplary work towards promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- ❖ 8th meeting of India - China Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was held in Beijing.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched Shehri Samridhi Utsav to extend the outreach of DAY-NULM to the most vulnerable.
  - This event showcases its initiatives to facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes.
- ❖ The 2019 edition of Kochi Area Boat Pulling Regatta, which is one of the most prestigious and traditional naval sporting activities conducted in Indian Navy, was held in Kochi.
  - The team from INS Dronacharya won the overall regatta trophy.

## TAMIL NADU

### 102 Service

- ❖ Chief Minister of Tamilnadu launched 15 new ambulances for the 102 service which is used for drop and pick up services for women and new-born children.
- ❖ Former CM J Jayalalithaa had first launched the 102 vehicles service in 2013 at Chennai and later it was extended to other districts.

### Digicop Mobile App

- ❖ Tamil Nadu police has launched a mobile application called 'Digicop'
- ❖ The user can lodge mobile theft complaints using the app and can check if the user's mobile is in the police list of retrieved mobiles.
- ❖ Using DigiCop App, people can verify IMEI, report lost two-wheelers and phones, know the nearest police station, police news and traffic alerts.



### Uzhavan app - JFarm

- ❖ Tamilnadu has launched a new service in State government's Uzhavan App to enable farmers get equipment meant for agricultural operations at reasonable rent.

- ❖ This has been done by integrating JFarm Services App of Chennai-based Tractor and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) with Uzhavan App.



- ❖ JFarm Services App aims to increase easy access to farm mechanisation solutions through renting out tractors and modern farm equipment to small and marginal farmers.
- ❖ The app also provides localised weather forecast, agri-news alerts and advisory, enhancing their productivity and increasing their income significantly.

### **Tamil Nadu Solar Policy**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has unveiled a new solar energy policy 2019 that aims at generating 9,000 MW for the state by 2022.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has announced in June 2018 that a similar policy released in 2012 would be upgraded by combining the Vision 2023 document released by former late chief minister J Jayalalithaa and also the target set by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of 9,000 MW installed capacity.
- ❖ According to the new policy, Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 document includes a solar energy target of 5,000 MW.
- ❖ Of the total 9,000 MW, 40 per cent would be earmarked for consumer category solar energy systems.

	<h2>2023 DEADLINE</h2>	
<p><b>TARGET FOR 2023</b>   <b>9,000MW</b> installed solar energy generation</p> <p><b>Current capacity</b>   <b>2,200MW</b></p>	<h3>CHALLENGES</h3>	<h3>INCENTIVES</h3>
	<p>&gt; TN has been adding an average of <b>400MW/yr solar energy</b> capacity for five years, but will have to add <b>6,800MW</b> over the next four years</p> <p>&gt; Rooftop solar systems did not work well in the past; authorities were keener about large-scale projects. With 40% new capacity to come from consumers (rooftop), renewed focus is the need of the hour</p>	<p>&gt; Consumer category is <b>exempted from electricity tax</b> for two years from Feb 4, 2019</p> <p>&gt; Schemes to promote solar energy generation in agricultural sector, besides encouraging <b>co-utilization of land</b></p> <p>&gt; Incentives in form of providing <b>land, single-window approval</b> to promote <b>manufacturing of solar energy components</b></p>

## NATIONAL

### Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017

- ❖ President of India presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2017 at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ Forty-two artists from the fields including Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional, Folk, and Tribal music were awarded.
- ❖ Eleven eminent artists were selected in the field of Music.
- ❖ Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture had selected the awardees. It was established in 1952.

### Employment of Women in Mines

- ❖ Union Ministry of Labour & Employment has lifted the time bar for women working in mines.
- ❖ In a notification issued on February 4, 2019, Ministry announced that women could now be deployed in mines above ground (including opencast mines) as well as mines below ground between 7 pm and 6 am.
- ❖ Earlier, as per section 46 of the Mines Act-1952, mine owners were allowed to send women workers into the mines only between 6 am and 7 pm. Now the government has exempted women from this rule.





## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY


### Communication satellite GSAT-31

- ❖ India's latest communication satellite GSAT-31 was successfully launched by European launch services provider - Arianespace's rocket (Ariane-5) from French Guiana.
- ❖ GSAT-31 is the country's 40<sup>th</sup> communication satellite which is configured on ISRO's enhanced 'I-2K Bus', utilising the maximum 'bus capabilities' of this type.
- ❖ This satellite will augment the Ku-band transponder capacity in Geostationary orbit and it is going to serve & replace some of the satellites (InsAT) that are going to expire soon.
- ❖ GSAT-31 will be used for supporting VSAT networks, Television uplinks, Digital Satellite News Gathering, DTH-television services, cellular backhaul connectivity and many such applications.

**GSAT-31**, the communication satellite of India configured on ISRO's enhanced I-2K Bus, utilising the maximum bus capabilities of this type. This satellite will augment the Ku-band transponder capacity in Geostationary Orbit.

GSAT-31, launched by Ariane-5 (VA 247), will provide continuity to operational services on some of the in-orbit satellites.

The satellite derives its heritage from ISRO's earlier INSAT/GSAT satellite series. The satellite provides Indian mainland and island coverage.



**GSAT-31**  
40th communication satellite of India

**Salient Features**

Lift off Mass	: 2535 kg
Spacecraft Power	: 4.7 kW
Payload	: Ku-band transponders
Coverage Area	: Indian mainland and island
Mission Life	: Around 15 years



## STATES

### Committee to review welfare schemes for tribals

- ❖ Maharashtra government has set up a 17-member committee to review various schemes being implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state.
- ❖ The committee will be headed by former MLA and Shramjeevi Sanghatna president Vivek Pandit.
- ❖ The panel will undertake the study of various works done for providing employment opportunities, minimum wages and proper livelihood to tribals.
- ❖ As per a recent government order, the committee will suggest measures to ensure that children in tribal regions were not deprived of education.
- ❖ The committee will hold its meetings every three months and submit its recommendations to the government.

## SPORTS

### Fastest fifty in T20I

- ❖ India's opening batswoman Smriti Mandhana struck to be the fastest fifty for India in Women's T20Is.
- ❖ She struck a half century in 24 balls in the 1st T20I against New Zealand at Westpac Stadium in Wellington.
- ❖ Smriti Mandhana is entitled in the 6th position in the list.
- ❖ New Zealand's Sophie Devine leads the record of the quickest half century in women's T20Is.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation – February 6

- ❖ Female Genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- ❖ It is nearly always carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of children.



6 FEBRUARY

International Day of  
**ZERO  
TOLERANCE**  
for  
**FEMALE  
GENITAL  
MUTILATION**

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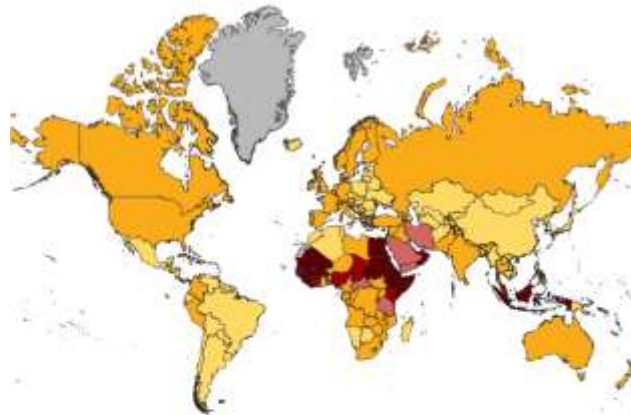
**#EndFGM**

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- ❖ In 2008, United nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF jointly lead the largest global programme to accelerate the abandonment of female genital mutilation (FGM).
- ❖ The Day is also related to the aims of the ongoing Spotlight Initiative, a joint project of the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.



### Prevalence of Female Genital Cutting



- Essentially never
- Rare, limited to ethnic minority enclaves or within migrant communities where FGM is common (<11%)
- 11-25% have had their genitals cut
- 26-50% have had their genitals cut
- More than half of women have had their genitals cut
- No data

This scale includes both mild and severe forms of cutting.

Source: The Woman Stats Projects, scaled 2015

BBC

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