

June – 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered a new planet named L 98-59b.
 - Launched in 2018 by SpaceX company, TESS is an all-sky survey mission to discover exoplanets around nearby bright stars.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Shipping and IIT-Kharagpur for setting up Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology.
 - It will focus on indigenisation of ship designing, building and testing.
- ❖ Telangana is hosting the triennial International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Congress in Hyderabad in association with Ministry of Agriculture.
 - ISTA congress is being held for the first time in Asia.
- ❖ The '100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women' was launched by UK Home Secretary to mark the 3rd India Day in Houses of Parliament in London.
 - Ruchi Ghanashyam, Indian High Commissioner to the UK and Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs find place in the list.
- ❖ K Natarajan has been appointed as new Director General of Indian Coast Guard. He will be succeeding Rajendra Singh, who retires on 30 June 2019.
- ❖ "Journalist of the Year 2019" by RedInk Award for Excellence in Indian Journalism - Rachna Khaira (The Tribune News Service).
 - The Red Ink awards - Annual awards instituted by The Mumbai Press Club.

TAMIL NADU

Third Desalination Plant

- ❖ In collaboration with German agency, Tamilnadu government plans to construct a third desalination plant with a capacity of 150 million litre per day (MLD)
- ❖ It will be constructed near the existing desalination plant at Nemmeli in East Coast Road, Kanchipuram district.



- ❖ Partial subsidy will be obtained under the Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.
- ❖ Two 100 MLD desalination plants already exist at Minjur and Nemmeli.

NATIONAL

20th Kargil Anniversary

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted several activities at Gwalior air base to commemorate 20 years of Kargil war.
- ❖ It simulated the IAF's famous Tiger Hill attack in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Drass-Kargil area during the Kargil War.
- ❖ IAF Mirage 2000 aircraft played a key role in the attack.
- ❖ During Kargil war the IAF had conducted "Operation Safed Sagar" as a part of Operation Vijay of the Indian Army.

Fortification of Rice

- ❖ The Union Women and Child Development Ministry plans to launch a pilot scheme on "fortification of rice" and its dispersal through Public Distribution System.
- ❖ Fortification is a complementary strategy to fight malnutrition.
- ❖ Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only.
- ❖ The fortification of rice is a major opportunity to improve nutrition.
- ❖ It contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc.

One Nation One Ration

- ❖ The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan announced that the government plans to implement One Nation One Ration Card scheme.
- ❖ It aims to enable the migrants get access to Public Distribution System (PDS) shops across the nation.

- ❖ This move is aimed to curb the dependence of beneficiaries on shop owners and reduce instances of corruption.

Digital Villages

- ❖ The Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has reported that around 2.22 crore villagers were given Digital Education under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA).
- ❖ The government has enrolled 636 training partners.
- ❖ Rural people get trained at around 3.5 lakhs Common Service Centres.
- ❖ The Indian Railways is expected to lay Optical fibre network at gram level and further boost the program.



TB Elimination

- ❖ India has signed a loan agreement worth 400 million dollar with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis from the country.
- ❖ This program will support the government's National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025.
- ❖ In India, around 5 lakh people died every year due to Tuberculosis.

INTERNATIONAL

Submarine Missile JL-3

- ❖ The China's Défense Ministry confirmed the test firing of a new submarine-launched ballistic missile.
- ❖ It was launched from Bohai Sea and flew several thousand miles to a missile impact range in Western China.

- ❖ It is considered by America as a strategic weapon capable of striking anywhere in the United States from underwater launch points.
- ❖ Codenamed JL-3, it is one of the People's Liberation Army's most secret military programs.

ECONOMY

Payment Data Security

- ❖ RBI has instructed Payment System Operators (PSOs) to store entire payment data in systems located only in India.
- ❖ Payment data includes name, mobile number, Aadhaar number, OTP, PIN.
- ❖ In case the processing is done abroad, the data should be deleted from the systems abroad and brought back to India within one business day or 24 hours.

Ramesh Chand Working Group

- ❖ The Government of India has decided to constitute a Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12).
- ❖ It will be headed by Ramesh Chand a NITI Aayog Member.
- ❖ The current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with 2011-12 as base year was introduced in May 2017.



The Review

Govt sets up 18-member working group to review WPI, devise PPI

- Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand to chair panel
- Committee to draft roadmap for switch over from WPI to PPI
- Panel to revise WPI base, basket of goods, price collection method
- Structural changes call for re-examination of WPI's coverage of commodities, weighting diagram

THE MEMBERS

- 4 officials from National Statistics Office
- 2 from finance ministry
- One each from agriculture dept, consumer affairs dept, petroleum & natural gas ministry and RBI

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

75 by 75

- ❖ The Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA), Bengaluru has a project titled Seventy-five by 75 to celebrate the nation's 75th birthday.
- ❖ Under its '75 Student Satellites Mission 2022', up to 75 tiny satellites built by students of Indian universities could fly to the skies between late next year and 2022 in batches.

STATES

Maratha Reservation

- ❖ The Bombay High Court upheld the Maharashtra government's decision to provide reservation to the Maratha community under the SEBC Act, 2018.
- ❖ But it ruled that the 16 % quota granted by the state is not "justifiable".
- ❖ The court reduced reservation to 12 % in education and 13 % in government jobs.
- ❖ The addition of 12-13 % Maratha quota will take the total reservation in the state to 64-65 %, much above the 50% prescribed in the Indra Sawhney case.

Jaipur Foot Korea

- ❖ South Korean Ambassador Bong-kil Shin and Jaipur based Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) have launched an initiative called "Jaipur Foot Korea".
- ❖ Korea will collaborate in Medical Technology business to make prosthetic limbs, bionic arms, 3-D printing-based Flat feet.
- ❖ Founded in 1975, BMVSS is the world's largest organisation rehabilitating more than 1.78 million disabled.
- ❖ It provides artificial limbs, calipers and many other aids for the disabled free of charge.
- ❖ Jaipur Foot is a lightweight and durable rubber-based prosthetic leg for people with below-knee amputations.


