

**July – 16**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MHUA) has released the draft Model Tenancy Act, 2019.
  - It aims to regulate rental housing by a market-oriented approach and lays down the obligations of tenants and landlords.
- ❖ Table tennis player from Tamil Nadu Sharath Kamal was voted the Sports person of the Year in the annual Indian Oil Sports Conclave.
- ❖ The first-of-its-kind Global Conference for Media Freedom was co-hosted by the UK and Canada in London. The conference was aimed to strengthen media freedom around the world.
  - It was attended by Prasara Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, Member of Parliament Swapan Das Gupta and Kanchan Gupta, Member of Press Council.

## **NATIONAL**

### **First Indian Waterway Cargo Transport**

- ❖ For the first time ever, an Indian waterway is being used for transport of cargo between Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The ship MV AAI has set sail from Dhubri in Assam and will travel to Narayanganj in Bangladesh, over river Brahmaputra and the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route.
- ❖ It carried stone from Bhutan to be delivered in Bangladesh.
- ❖ This waterway route will cut short travel time by 8 to 10 days and reduce transportation cost by 30%.

### **Sikh for Justice Organization**

- ❖ The Government of India has banned the separatist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, on the grounds of secessionism.
- ❖ Started in 2007, United States-based SFJ plans to conduct a referendum among global Sikh community.

- ❖ Termed as “Referendum 2020”, it is on the question of establishing Punjab as an independent country.

### **National Dairy Development Board**

- ❖ The Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has advised National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to extend the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 to its subsidiary companies.
- ❖ It is done in a bid to increase transparency, accountability and trust of consumers.
- ❖ NDDB is an Institution of National Importance set up by an Act of Parliament of India.
- ❖ It was founded by Dr. Verghese Kurien in 1965 and headquartered at Anand, Gujarat.

### **Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary**

- ❖ The Ministry of Shipping has introduced new norms to safeguard the population of the Ganges River Dolphin in the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS)
- ❖ The VGDS extending from Sultanganj to Kahalganj on the river Ganga in Bihar, is the only dolphin sanctuary in the country.



- ❖ National Waterway -1 connecting Haldia, West Bengal to Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh passes through VGDS.

- ❖ Restriction of vessels speed, using nontoxic paints, fitting vessels with propeller guards are some of the steps to save these river dolphins.

### **Kartarpur Sahib Agreement**

- ❖ Pakistan has agreed to give year-long visa-free access for Indian pilgrims to the holy Gurdwara of Kartarpur Sahib.
- ❖ The agreement was reached at the second formal meeting held at Wagah.
- ❖ Throughout the year, 5,000 pilgrims will be allowed to visit the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara per day.
- ❖ There will be provision for a permit system for the pilgrims travelling through the religious corridor.

#### About

- ❖ Gurdwara Darbar Sahib is located at Kartarpur in Pakistan.
- ❖ It was here that the First Sikh Guru (Nanak Dev) assembled a Sikh community and lived for 18 years until his death in 1539.



- ❖ It is also the final resting place of Guru Nanak.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Billion Dollar Losses from Ransomwares**

- ❖ According to data compiled by the Internet Society's Online Trust Alliance, globally, losses from ransomware rose by 60% last year to \$8 billion.

- ❖ Two most destructive ransomwares in recent times were 'WannaCry' and 'NotPetya'.

### About

- ❖ Ransomware is a kind of malware that denies access to important documents or files within a system.
- ❖ The user is then asked for a ransom in return for decrypting the files or access to his system.
- ❖ Ransomware spreads easily when it encounters outdated or cracked software.

### **European Parliament**

- ❖ Italian socialist David Maria Sassoli has been elected as the new President of the European Parliament.
- ❖ He will lead Parliament until January 2022.
- ❖ He will succeed Antonio Tajani.



- ❖ He also represents the Parliament within the European Union (EU) and internationally.
- ❖ The president's signature is required for enacting most EU laws and the EU budget.



## **ECONOMY**

### **International Investment Dispute Resolution**

- ❖ An international arbitration court has imposed a penalty of over 5 billion dollars on Pakistan.
- ❖ Fine has been imposed for unlawful denial of a 'mining lease' to a company for the copper extraction Reko Diq project in 2011.
- ❖ The dispute has been solved by the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- ❖ The Reko Diq mine in Balochistan province of Pakistan is famous for its vast gold and copper reserves.

### **Housing Loan Survey by RBI**

- ❖ RBI has conducted the quarterly Residential Asset Price Monitoring Survey on housing loans disbursed by select banks / Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) across 13 cities.
- ❖ The report indicated that housing affordability has worsened over the past 4 years.
- ❖ Mumbai is the least affordable city in India while Bhubaneswar remains the most affordable city for home buyers.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Orchids of India**

- ❖ "Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide" was published recently by the Botanical Survey of India.
- ❖ It is the first comprehensive census of orchids of India.
- ❖ India is home to a total of 1,256 species of orchids - 388 are endemic.
- ❖ 128 endemic species are found in Western Ghats.
- ❖ They are highly concentrated in the North East India.
- ❖ Orchids have complex floral structure that facilitates biotic cross-pollination and it makes them evolutionarily superior to the other plant groups.



- ❖ The entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- ❖ Trade in wild orchids is banned globally.

## STATES

### Rewa Solar Plant

- ❖ Asia's largest solar Power project in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh has been damaged due to heavy rains-triggered mudslides.
- ❖ It is the first project to get funding from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) in India.
- ❖ It is also the first solar park in India to get World Bank funding.
- ❖ The project was commissioned with 750 MW capacity in July 2018.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Vikas Swarup IFS

- ❖ Indian Foreign Service officer Vikas Swarup has been appointed as the as Secretary, (Consular, Passport, Visa and Overseas Indian affairs) in the External Affairs Ministry.



- ❖ Swarup is the author of award-winning book “Q&A”, which inspired the Oscar winning movie Slumdog Millionaire.
- ❖ The book bagged South Africa’s Boeke Prize 2006 and the Paris Book Fair’s Reader’s Prize.
- ❖ He is currently India’s Ambassador to Canada.

## SPORTS

### Footballer Sunil Chetri

- ❖ Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri has been named as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for a record-extending sixth time.
- ❖ He is currently the second highest international goal scorers among active players with 70 goals, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (149) and Lionel Messi (68).



- ❖ Ace India international Ashalata Devi was named the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year 2018-19.



**AIFF**

- ❖ The All India Football Federation is the governing body of association football in India.
- ❖ It was formed in 1937 and is headquartered at Delhi.

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