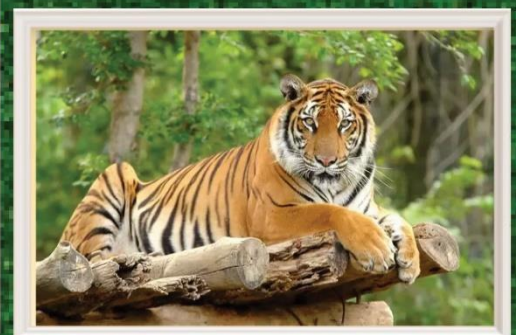
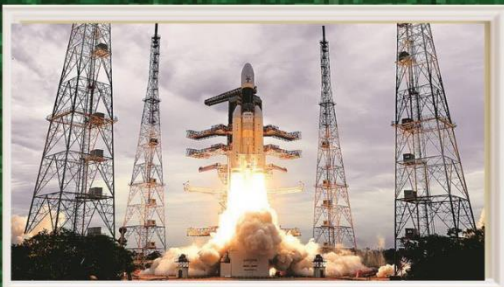


# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 2019

[www.tnpscthervupettagam.com](http://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com)



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS ACADEMY™**  
The Best IAS Academy In South India SINCE 2004

Plot No. 1742, I Floor, 18th Main Road,  
Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.  
Phone: 04-26216435, 4353 3445, Mobile: 9444166435  
[www.shankariasacademy.com](http://www.shankariasacademy.com)



<b>TNPSC BITS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>TAMIL NADU .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>New DGP – Tamilnadu .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>New Chief Secretary – Tamilnadu .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Heritage Garden – Tamil Nadu .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>STR Python .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Startup India List .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Blue Flag beach pilot program .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Schizophrenia Gene .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>PMJAY – Tamilnadu’s claims .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>World Tamil Conference – Chicago .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>IIRSI 2019.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Makkal Number .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Water from Vellore .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Supreme Court Judgement in Tamil.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Two New Districts .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Arani Silk.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Waste Incinerator.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Trichy St.Joseph College.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>MMR of Tamilnadu .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu Day.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Sangeeta Kalanithi Awards .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>New Awards and Announcements .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Ambassador .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Tamilnadu Minorities Commission .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>New TN Rajya Sabha MP .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Water Conservation Measures in TN .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>MLA Constituency Development Scheme .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Dial for Water 2.0 .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Kodaikanal’s Malai Poundu.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Tamilnadu Hospitals Day – July 30 .....</b>	<b>36</b>



<b>Labelling norms – High sugar and salt .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>SDG Tracker.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Film Heritage .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Mount Denali .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>EQUIP Program .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Strum Ataka Missile .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Haj Quota.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Ayush Grid .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Transformation of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Garuda – VI .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>3 New NIMZ .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Over the Counter Drugs.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>OGAS status to paramilitary forces .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>India International Cooperatives Trade Fair .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Increase in MSP .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Watson Decision Platform for Agriculture.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Ship to Maldives.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Education of Differently Abled Children .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Electrified Railway Tunnel .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Tur Dhal Price Stabilization .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Rooftop Solar in Delhi Police.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>RRB Exams in Regional Languages .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Training Bangladeshi Officials at Mussoorie .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Coral Rehabilitation Program .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Women’s Unit in Territorial Army.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Heat Waves Predictor .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Jaipur’s UNESCO Heritage Status .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Jal Jeevan Mission .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Kisan Credit Card extension.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Budget 2019-2020.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Economic Survey .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Jai Shankar in Rajya Sabha .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Rainwater Harvesting Cell.....</b>	<b>48</b>



<b>Operation Sudharshan.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Kashmir Investor Summit .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Conference at Patel Statue .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>National Investment and Infra Fund.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Kaushal Yuva Samwad (KYS) - A Youth Dialogue.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>200% Duty on Pakistani Goods .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>First Private Train in India.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Indian Cinema Museum's Bulletin .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Haj Pilgrims and Digital India.....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Nag Missile System (NAMIS) Test.....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Port Integrity Campaign.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Cabinet – Key decisions.....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>RSDP – Myanmar.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Aadhar Bill .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Philip Campose Task Force of Experts.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Direct Benefit Transfers to Farmers 2.0 .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Compulsory Retirement of Government Officials.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Facial Recognition System .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Pawan Hans Helicopters .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Mission Raksha Gyan Shakthi .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Operation Thirst .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019 .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>National Green Tribunal .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Agri Business Incubation Centre .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Swadhar Greh Scheme.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Labour room Quality improvement Initiative - LaQshya .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>First Indian Waterway Cargo Transport .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Sikh for Justice Organization.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>National Dairy Development Board.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Kartarpur Sahib Agreement.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Study in India Program for Foreign Students.....</b>	<b>63</b>



<b>Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>GSLV MK III Chandrayaan - 2 Rocket .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Writ Petition about Abortion .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Failing Global Vaccination Program .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>National Investigative Agency (Amendment) Bill .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>National Digital Health Blueprint .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019 .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Internet Saathis .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Kulbhushan Jadhav – International Court of Justice .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Motihari – Amlekhgunj Petroleum Pipeline .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Solar Charkha Mission .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Paramarsh Scheme of UGC .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Sagar Maitri Mission – 2 .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>New Governors for Six states .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Chandrayaan – 2 Mission .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>The Fifth Dornier aircraft squadron .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Indian Army HQ Revamp .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Demographic Dividend Period .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Representation of SC and ST in Scientific Institutions .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Colistin Antibiotic - Animals .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>DefExpo India - 2020 .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Paid News .....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Bullet Proof jacket Kavach .....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Pencil Portal .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>New Governors Appointments .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Regional Connectivity Udan Scheme .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Ujh and Basantar Bridge .....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India .....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>IndSpaceEx - 1st Space War Drill .....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Occupational Health and Hygiene Institute .....</b>	<b>78</b>



<b>Hand-in-Hand Military Exercise.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Metrolite Trains .....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>National Data Quality Forum.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Fair Price for Sugarcane .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>R &amp; D in India .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>50 Years of Bank Nationalization.....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Defence Dashboard.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Public Accounts Committee .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Namdapha Tiger Reserve .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>POCSO Special Courts .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Migration Data based on Census 2011 .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>CARE4U Android App for Elderly People.....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>RTI Amendment Bill, 2019.....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Vande Mataram Case .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>All India Police Duty Meet .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>National Digital Health Blueprint report.....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>FASTag Lanes.....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Coach Mitra App.....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Tiger – Census, Conservation and Reserves .....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Odisha Rasagolla .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Integrated Battle Groups .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Iconic Tourist Sites .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>IN LCU L-56 Ship Commissioned .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Sitting HC Judge Prosecution.....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Waqf Board – Justice (Retd) Zakiullah Khan Committee .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes.....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Green Ratings for Fertiliser Sector .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>National Minorities Commission.....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>G20 summit .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>African Biotech Park .....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>ISALEX 19.....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Self-Care .....</b>	<b>93</b>



<b>Trump and Kim Meet.....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Iran's Nuclear Program .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>NATO-ally Like Status .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>India Aiding Palestinians .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>ILO Report on Global warming.....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>European Union President .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Henley Passport Index.....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Facebook, Google Taxed by France .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Pirates of West Africa .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>UNFAO's Chinese head .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Babylon Heritage Site .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Five Eyes Program.....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Torture Goods UN Resolution .....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Model Village in Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Sharjah Golden Card Visa .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Zamzam Holy Water from Haj .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act in US .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Vote on the appointment of the Independent Expert.....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>India's support to Maldives .....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>No Reimbursement for Homeopathy - France .....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Rohingya Refugees .....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>New North Korean Constitution.....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Measles eradicated in Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>One More Orbit – Circumnavigation.....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Billion Dollar Losses from Ransomwares .....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>European Parliament.....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>China's Worst Growth Slowdown in Three Decades .....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Ebola Outbreak in Congo: Global Emergency .....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Bloomberg Billionaires Index.....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>NAM Meeting.....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Resettling Poor Migrants .....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Tiangong 2 – China.....</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Secret Chinese Naval Base in Ream .....</b>	<b>105</b>



<b>Underwater Military Vehicles Museum.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Omega Block – Climate Emergency in Europe .....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Global Tobacco Epidemic .....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>ECONOMY.....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>GST Second Anniversary .....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Current Account Deficit .....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Reappointed of RBI deputy governor .....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Core Investment Companies.....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Aadhar and PAN .....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Digital Udaan .....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Sovereign Gold Bonds.....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Three Year Roadmap for RBI .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Third Party Insurance Administrators .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Unauthorised Leak of Sensitive Information.....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Borrowing from Overseas Markets .....</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>India - ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers Meet .....</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>International Investment Dispute Resolution.....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Housing Loan Survey by RBI .....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Extension to 15th Finance Commission .....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Bimal Jalan Panel’s surplus transfer.....</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Most Digitized State.....</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Committee on Virtual Currencies .....</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Global Innovation Index 2019 .....</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Fortune Global 500 .....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>NBFC Regulation .....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census.....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>World Hindu Economic Forum.....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY .....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Dragonfly – NASA .....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Gaganyaan and Russia.....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Artificial Gravity .....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Lithium-Ion Giga Factories.....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Great South American Eclipse .....</b>	<b>115</b>



<b>Monsoon Prediction using Beryllium-7 radionuclide .....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Artist Ai-Da .....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Neutrino Observatory at Theni .....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Salem Soil for Chandrayaan 2 Test .....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Compatible Time-Sharing System.....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Russia's Spektr-RG Telescope .....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Ploonets .....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Brain – Machine Interface.....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Dolutegravir - HIV Medicine .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Cancer detecting Jacket.....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Smart Agricopter.....</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Agent Smith Malware .....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Microdot Technology in Automobiles .....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT.....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Single-use Plastic Ban .....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Whaling Resumes in Japan .....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Wildlife Population Control .....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Arctic Fox Transcontinental Migration .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Six metros – Nitrogen Oxide pollution .....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Sea level rise – India.....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Elektorornis chenguangi Bird .....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Ethanol Powered bikes – TVS.....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Orchids of India .....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican.....</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World.....</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Aceclofenac – Vultures .....</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Herbicide Tolerant BT Cotton.....</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Arogyapacha – Genome decoded.....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Updated IUCN Red list .....</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Senna Spectabilis .....</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Eco-friendly Water Pollutants Removal .....</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Sonali Carrying Bags .....</b>	<b>133</b>



<b>Rhesus Macaque monkeys .....</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Dragon Tree Species .....</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Human-Elephant Conflicts .....</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Scaly-foot Snail .....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Rooftop Solar Projects.....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Vine Snake in Western Ghats .....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Species Extinction in India .....</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Deep Ocean Mission .....</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Himalayan Conclave .....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Red Mud Usage.....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>STATES .....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Krishi Kiosk – Haryana.....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Bangla Shashya Bima – West Bengal .....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Dastak Campaign .....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Rhino Protection Force .....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>St. Mariam Thresia of Kerala .....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Kerala Fishermen .....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>First airport with face recognition system.....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Ease of Doing Agribusiness .....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Aadhar Seva Khendra .....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>CRPF in Abujahmad Forests .....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Sports Centres in Arunachal.....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Kerala Snake Boats League.....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>West Bengal – Reservation.....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Green Tax in Uttarakhand .....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Operation Milap Delhi Police .....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Mountain Medicines Institute .....</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Plan Bee Project of Railways .....</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>OBC Reservation in Madhya Pradesh .....</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Japanese afforestation method in Telangana.....</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Meri Fasal Mera Byora.....</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Witness Protection Program Implemented in Odisha .....</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Sah-beej Seeds of Madhya Pradesh .....</b>	<b>144</b>



<b>Karchi Puja of Tripura .....</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Women Startup Summit 2019 in Kerala .....</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Meghalaya – Water Conservation .....</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Rewa Solar Plant .....</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport .....</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>1 Crore for Maharashtra’s Martyred Soldiers .....</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Karnataka Defection .....</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Dibang Multipurpose Project .....</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Medicine from the Sky in Telangana .....</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others (1992) .....</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Chandipura Virus .....</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Elephant Rehabilitation Centre .....</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Reservation for Locals in Private Companies .....</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Gharials Conservation in Odisha .....</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Karnataka Confidence Vote Lost .....</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Nisagandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram .....</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Yamuna Water Conservation Project .....</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Nagaland’s Banuo J Zamir Commission .....</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>New Karnataka CM .....</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>MLAs Disqualification .....</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>Bamboo Industrial Park .....</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS .....</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>A Prime Minister to Remember .....</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Dr. Jaya Arunachalam .....</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Global Excellence Awards 2019 .....</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Vikas Swarup IFS .....</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Alan Turing .....</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Sangeet Natak Academy Annual Awards .....</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>SAARC Film Festival 2019 .....</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Shiela Dixit passed away .....</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> International Police Expo 2019 .....</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>SPORTS .....</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Black Forest Cup .....</b>	<b>159</b>



<b>Asian Junior Squash.....</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Sports Journalists Federation of India 2019 Awards.....</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2019 .....</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Copa America .....</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Kutno Athletics Meet .....</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>World Youth Cup - Karate .....</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>Wrestling Grand Prix of Spain.....</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>FIFA Women's World Cup .....</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>Concacaf Gold Cup .....</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>G Kosanov Memorial International Event .....</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Dutee Chand – Gold .....</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>New Commonwealth record in Weightlifting .....</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>International Physically Disabled Chess Association title.....</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>2019 ICC Cricket World Cup.....</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Wimbledon Championship – Men's Single .....</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>World Tour Platinum Australian Open – Table Tennis .....</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>US professional circuit – Vijender Singh .....</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>WBC international welterweight .....</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Footballer Sunil Chetri .....</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship 2019 .....</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>ICC Announcements.....</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Hima Das 5th gold.....</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Indonesia Open final – Badminton .....</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships.....</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Mohun Bagan Ratna .....</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Veteran Pin for PT Usha .....</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>World Test Cricket Championship .....</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Kristof Milak breaks Phelps Record .....</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Indian Cricketers Association.....</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Kiren Rijju Committee .....</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>2023 Cricket World Cup .....</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Mary Kom – President's Cup .....</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Anjum Moudgil breaks Shooting Record .....</b>	<b>176</b>



<b>IMPORTANT DAYS .....</b>	<b>177</b>
National Doctor's Day - July 01 .....	177
GST Day - July 01 .....	177
Van Mahotsav Week / July 1 - 7.....	178
World Sports Journalists Day - July 2.....	178
World UFO day - July 2.....	178
USA Independence Day - July 4 .....	179
International Day of Cooperatives - July 6 .....	179
World Zoonoses Day - July 6 .....	179
World Population Day - July 11 .....	180
World Youth Skills Day - July 15 .....	180
International Malala Day - July 12 .....	181
Kamaraj 117th Birth anniversary - July 15 .....	181
International Justice Day - July 17.....	182
Nelson Mandela Day - July 18 .....	182
50 years of Moon landing - July 20 .....	183
International Chess Day - July 20 .....	184
Shark Awareness Day - July 14 .....	184
National Broadcasting Day - July 23 .....	185
Income Tax Day - July 24 .....	185
International Day for the Conservation of the Mangroves - July 26.....	186
CRPF Day - July 27.....	186
World Hepatitis Day - July 28 .....	186
World Nature Conservation Day - July 28.....	187
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - 30 July .....	187
World Ranger Day - July 31.....	188
<b>MISCELLANEOUS .....</b>	<b>189</b>
Expensive Cities - Mumbai .....	189
First battery-powered cruise ship voyage .....	189
Book on Amit Shah .....	189
D-4-D initiative .....	190
'Butcher of Beijing' Li Peng .....	190
Operation Vijay - Kargil War 20 .....	191



## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ 2-day Meeting of Expert Working Group on Paris Pact Initiative on Illicit Financial Flows deriving from the trafficking of Opiates originating in Afghanistan was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ In the 134<sup>th</sup> session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Italy's Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo won the right to host the 2026 Winter Olympics.
  - It will be the third Winter Games in Italy, after Turin (2006) and Ski Resort Cortina hosted it in 1956.
- ❖ Goa has recently approved an amendment to Factories Act 1948 which will allow deployment of women in night shifts (from 7pm to 6 am) in industries.
- ❖ State Bank of India day is observed annually on July 1 to commemorate its foundation on July 1, 1955.
- ❖ According to a report, "Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2018" by the International Renewable Energy Agency, India is global No.1 in producing solar power at "lowest cost".
- ❖ India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand has been bestowed an honorary doctorate by IIT Kanpur on the occasion of their 52nd convocation.
  - After Prakash Padukone, Gopichand is the only Indian to have won the All England Open Badminton championship (In 2001).
- ❖ The Rajasthan government has decided to set up Vedic education board and culture board in the state.
- ❖ The University Grants Commission has approved a new scheme called STRIDE 'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy'.
  - It aims to strengthen the culture of research and innovation in colleges and Universities.
- ❖ Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav became the WBC Asia Silver Welterweight champion after defeating Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak in the title match held in Pattaya, Thailand.
  - The fight was conducted by the Asian Boxing Council and approved by the World Boxing Council (WBC).
- ❖ Ms. Rashika Raj of Tamilnadu has become the first transperson to have received her B. Sc Nursing degree from Tamil Nadu Governor at the convocation of the university.



- ❖ Haryana government has introduced a scheme called 'Jal Hi Jeevan Hai' in its northern districts.
  - It is a crop diversification scheme and promotes farmers to diversify paddy area into maize, arhar dal (pigeon pea) and soybean crops which require less water.
- ❖ Quantela Inc, a Hyderabad and Silicon Valley-headquartered digital technology company, was awarded World Economic Forum's 'Technology Pioneers' award 2019.
- ❖ The Centre has declared the entire State of Nagaland as a "disturbed area" for six more months under the AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Powers Act).
  - It empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without prior notice.
- ❖ India has ratified Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures (MLI) to prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).
  - This Multilateral Convention (MLI) is an outcome of OECD or G20 Project to tackle Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (called as BEPS Project).
- ❖ Dubai Duty Free has announced that Indian Rupee will now be an accepted currency at all the retail outlets of the Dubai airport.
  - The move makes Indian rupee the 16th international currency to be accepted at Dubai's airports.
- ❖ Tamilnadu shooter Elavenil Valarivan has claimed a silver medal in the 10m Air Rifle event in the 30th World University Games held at Napoli in Italy.
  - Elavenil is also a three-time Junior World Cup gold medallist.
- ❖ Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has released a Kargil Tribute Song on the war's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to honour, salute and pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and war veterans.
  - It has been composed by eminent Hindi lyricist Sammer Anjaan and sung by Shatadru Kabir.
- ❖ The World's Largest burn and plastic surgery institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh has commenced its operation.
- ❖ The current Chief of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde has been nominated as the first woman to head the European Central Bank.
  - She was also the first woman to be appointed as IMF Chief in 2011.



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.75 crore on four public-sector banks for non-compliance with KYC requirement and norms for opening of current accounts.
  - They are PNB, Allahabad Bank, UCO Bank and Corporation Bank.
- ❖ Hollywood actor Leonardo Di Caprio is joining with billionaire investors and philanthropists Laurene Powell Jobs and Brian Sheth to create an environmental organization called “Earth Alliance”.
  - It will work globally to protect ecosystems and wildlife, support renewable energy and secure indigenous rights to the benefit of all life on Earth.
- ❖ New Space India Limited (NSIL) has been incorporated as a ‘new’ commercial arm of Department of Space to tap the benefits of the Research & Development carried out by ISRO.
  - Antrix Corporation limited was the first commercial venture started in 1992 to market the products and services of ISRO.
- ❖ Chinese player Li Shi Feng has won the men’s singles title of Canada Open Badminton. He defeated India’s Parupalli Kashyap in the title clash.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a USD 6 billion loan over a period of 3 years for the cash strapped Pakistan.
  - The financial aid includes an immediate disbursement of USD 1 billion to help Pakistan address its Balance of Payment crisis.
- ❖ The Department of State of USA has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist outfit.
  - BLA is blamed for the civil war-like situation in Balochistan, which is Pakistan’s largest province.
- ❖ Kerala based Catholic Syrian Bank has been renamed as CSB Bank Ltd with effect from June 10, 2019.
- ❖ The Hong Kong government has approved over \$900,000 for relief and rehabilitation work in cyclone Fani-hit Odisha that could benefit around 45,100 victims.
- ❖ India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' was launched in the Textile city Surat.
- ❖ The production of India’s first semi-high-speed train “Vande Bharath” has been stopped in ICF, Chennai due to design violations.
- ❖ Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled ‘Vivekadeepini’ which was initially written by 8th century philosopher and theologian Adi Shankaracharya.



- He consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta.
- ❖ The Former Indian Cricket captain Rahul Dravid was on appointed as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), Bengaluru.
- ❖ Indian movie 'Gully Boy' was honoured with NETPAC (The Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award for Best Asian Film at 23<sup>rd</sup> Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea.
  - The film directed by Zoya Akhtar revolves around the underground rap movement in India and inspired by the lives of Mumbai street rappers Vivian Fernandes (aka Divine) and Naved Shaikh (aka Naezy).
- ❖ Dr. Hameed Nuru of United Nation World Food Programme (UNWFP) in India and Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar have launched a book called "50 years of Partnership for Change".
  - It showcases key milestones achieved by India in its efforts to make the country free from hunger and malnutrition and role played by WFP in support of India.
- ❖ According to property consultant CBRE, New Delhi's Connaught Place (CP) is the 9<sup>th</sup> most expensive office location in the world.
  - Hong Kong's Central district retained the top spot as the world's most expensive market for prime office rents.
- ❖ France will impose green tax up to 18 Euros on plane tickets from 2020. The move aims to fund less-polluting transportation projects.
  - Since 2018, Sweden imposes a similar tax up to 40 Euros on flight travel to minimise the damage to the climate.
- ❖ Odisha government has decided to give monthly allowance of Rs 10,000 to Padma Shri award winners of the state to support them financially.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has agreed to finally adjudicate the question of "whether the members of the Rohingya community are entitled to refugee status" and hence, immunity from deportation.
  - The Union government has proposed a plan to deport 40,000 refugees of the Rohingya community to the land of their origin, Myanmar.
- ❖ The Delhi government has announced that the Rajghat thermal power plant will be officially shut and turned into a solar park. The current units of this coal-based plant were commissioned in 1989.
- ❖ Iran made a failed attempt to capture a British Oil Tanker near Abu Musa islands, in the Strait of Hormuz.
  - Abu Musa island is claimed by both Iran and UAE but presently occupied by Iran.



- ❖ A documentary film club called "KSHITIJ" is being launched at Mumbai by Films Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in association with Indian Documentary Producers Association (IDPA).
  - The acclaimed documentary film "Secret Life of Frogs" by Ajay & Vijay Bedi will be screened as the inaugural film.
- ❖ It has been declared in the 10<sup>th</sup> World Tamil Conference in Chicago of USA that the 11<sup>th</sup> World Tamil Conference will be held at Annamalai University, Chidambaram.
- ❖ The Dr. M. Balamurali krishna National Award for Artistic Excellence, Murali Nada Lahari, was conferred upon playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam.
  - The award was presented as part of the Balamurali Nada Mahotsav 2019 held by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and M. Balamuralikrishna Memorial Trust on the Carnatic singer's birthday.
- ❖ South Korean automaker Hyundai has launched India's first fully electric SUV "Kona Electric" in India. The vehicle promises a driving range of 452 km/charge.
  - 'Kona' Electric is named after the idyllic west-coast region of the Big Island of Hawaii.
- ❖ Robots were used as umpires for the first time in the American Professional baseball games by a team called 'Atlantic League'.
- ❖ The World Bank Group has announced that Anshula Kant, an Indian national, has been appointed as its next MD and CFO. Ms. Kant will be the first woman CFO of the Bank.
  - She was formerly employed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the State Bank of India.
- ❖ Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe made a "perfect" touchdown on a distant asteroid, collecting samples from beneath the surface in an unprecedented mission that could shed light on the origins of the solar system.
  - This is the first time the sub-surface material from a celestial body further away than the moon is collected.
- ❖ The United States government has levied a fine of \$ 5 billion on Facebook on allegations that it clandestinely shared information belonging to 87 million users with the British political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica.
- ❖ Deputy U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has said that the U.S. will consider a "301 investigation" against India if the trade issues between the two countries are not resolved quickly.
  - A "301 investigation" is a probe by US which happens before it lays high tariffs and other harsh trade measures against a country.



- ❖ There are over 10.38 crore senior citizens in India. Uttar Pradesh accounts for more than 1.54 crores senior citizens, followed by Maharashtra with 1.11 crores.
  - Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana has been implemented since 2017 for senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, who are suffering from age-related disabilities.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu Ministry of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department has proposed to introduce a mobile application for transgenders to enrol themselves and avail the benefits of various government schemes.
- ❖ 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 Sportsperson 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 Swapna Das Gupta and Kanchan Gupta, Member of Press Council.
- ❖ Bihar government has announced that the state government will provide financial aid of Rs 1.5 Lakhs to transgender people who undergo sex reassignment surgery (SRS).
  - Additionally, it will also set up a Kinnar Kalyan Board (Transgender Welfare Board).
- ❖ Pakistan has opened its airspace for civilian traffic effectively removing the ban on Indian flights that were not allowed to use majority of its airspace since the Balakot air strikes in February 2019.
- ❖ Every year France celebrates 14 July as National Day of France also known as Bastille Day.
  - It commemorates the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille prison and the start of the French Revolution on 14 July 1789.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lighted Victory Flame at National War Memorial in New Delhi on 14 July 2019 to begin celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of victory in Operation Vijay (Kargil War 1999).



- ❖ The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from 20-28 November 2019 in Panaji, Goa. Goa is the permanent venue of the event since 2004.
  - In this years' edition Russia will be IFFI's partner.
- ❖ Simona Halep of Romania beat Serena Williams of the United States with 6-2, 6-2 in finals to win Women's Singles Wimbledon Title 2019.
  - She is now the 1st Romanian to win singles crown at Wimbledon. She has also won the French Open in 2018.
- ❖ Department of Telecom and Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations signed an MoU to develop a Broadband Readiness Index for Indian states and Union Territories to attract more investments in the sector.
- ❖ The President of the Republic of Singapore Halimah Yacob has appointed India's former Supreme Court Justice AK Sikri as an international judge in the Singapore International Commercial Court with effect from August 1, 2019.
  - His term will expire on January 4, 2021. At present, SICC has 16 international judges.
- ❖ The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by Rajya Sabha. It awaits passage in Lok Sabha.
  - It defines major airports as those with annual passenger traffic of over 35 lakhs instead of existing 15 lakhs.
- ❖ Palau, an archipelago of more than 500 islands in Oceania, has become 76th signatory country to join the 121 nation International Solar Alliance (ISA). ISA was jointly launched by India and France in 2015. For related read about ISA: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/international-solar-alliance/>
- ❖ The "Find the Incredible You" campaign of the Union Tourism Ministry, has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award, 2019.
  - The campaign won the award under the "Marketing – Primary Government Destination" category.
- ❖ The Union HRD Ministry has released University Grants Commission's guide on student induction program called 'Deeksharambh'.
  - It is to engage with the new students as soon as they come into the institution, before regular classes start.
- ❖ ICC has inducted India's batting icon Sachin Tendulkar, South African pacer Allan Donald and two-times World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick into the ICC's Hall of Fame.
  - Other Indians on the list are Bishan Singh Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble and Rahul Dravid.



- ❖ In the honour of freedom fighter S.S. Ramasamy Padayachi Tamilnadu government has unveiled his portrait in State Assembly complex on 19.07.19
- ❖ Tamilnadu government has announced an annual award in the name of SP. Adithanar to recognise one Tamil periodical, daily, magazine each which promotes Tamil heritage and those that are published in chaste Tamil uninfluenced by other languages.
- ❖ Indian Army has successfully carried out summer user trials of NAG missile at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. This paves the way for production and induction of the missile system into the Army.
- ❖ Researchers at Canada's University of British Columbia are developing a high-performance cricket bat called 'Algobat' using computer modelling and optimisation algorithms.
  - They optimised the geometry of the bat to minimise vibrations when ball hits the bat thus transferring more energy to the ball.
- ❖ Scientists from Technion Israel Institute of Technology have developed a concept they named as the "Ramanujan Machine" after the Indian mathematician.
- ❖ According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's current account (CA) balance deficit rose to \$68 billion in 2018-19 from \$49 billion in 2017-18.
- ❖ Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that 20 thousand wellness centres will be completed by the end of the 2019 under Ayushman Bharat programme.
  - A total of 1.5 lakh wellness centers are to be established in the country under this programme.
- ❖ A new species of flowering tree, *Mischogyne iddi* trees, was discovered in the Usambara Mountains in Tanzania.
  - It has been categorised 'Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's list.
- ❖ The Kerala government will set up the country's first space tech park at Thiruvananthapuram's Knowledge City.
  - A space museum named after former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam will also be a part of the infrastructure.
- ❖ India's first Garbage Cafe in Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh is launched, which will allow a full meal in return of plastic waste.
  - It is expected that the cafe will also provide homes to the rag pickers and garbage collectors of Ambikapur.
- ❖ Chess Grandmaster from Tamilnadu P Iniyan settled for the second spot in the Thailand Open Chess held at Pattaya.



- ❖ The Directorate of Education of Delhi is organising a 15-day "Happiness Utsav" across all its schools to celebrate the first year of the "happiness curriculum".
- ❖ According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) preliminary data suggest that the Merck's vaccine (VSV-EBOV) used during the current outbreaks in Congo was 97.5% efficacious in preventing Ebola infection.
  - The vaccine is based on a virus found in animals called 'vesicular stomatitis virus' (VSV) that is combined with a portion of the protein covering of the Ebola virus.
- ❖ Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik has clinched Mr. South Asia title.
  - He was crowned as the overall champion at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ Pi Approximation Day is celebrated worldwide on 22 of July every year.
  - The fraction  $22/7$  is said to be the common approximation of Pi ( $\pi$ ).
- ❖ As part of its efforts to revamp the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has planned to get two pairs of lions from Gujarat, in exchange for two pairs of zebras from an international zoo and some exotic birds.
- ❖ In a bid to revive the prospects of Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd (TACTV), the Tamilnadu government appointed Animal husbandry minister Udumalai K Radhakrishnan as its Chairman.
- ❖ World Children's Winners Games 2019 was held in Moscow between July 4 – 7.
  - It was held for cancer survivor children.
- ❖ UK Billionaire's Virgin Galactic company has launched its first test rocket from a modified Boeing 747 plane.
  - It is a part of ongoing tests by Richard Branson's spaceflight firm to prepare for commercial trips to space.
- ❖ Boris Johnson will become the next Prime Minister for the United Kingdom. He will replace Theresa May. He belongs to the Conservative Party.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath (Ajay Singh Bisht) has decided to install a 251 metre Lord Rama on the banks of Sarayu river in Ayodhya.
  - Upon construction this statue would be taller than the Sardar Patel statue of Unity in Gujarat and will be the tallest statue in the World.
- ❖ Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has been appointed as next vice-chief of armed force.
  - He will succeed Lt Gen D Anbu who is set to retire on 31 August 2019.



- ❖ As per the data of RBI, Maharashtra reported the highest number of ATM fraud cases in the country (233) followed by Delhi (179), Tamilnadu (147).
- ❖ A 1984 batch IAS officer and currently Secretary, Ministry of Power, Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Ministry of Home Affairs with immediate effect.
  - Mr. Bhalla will have a fixed two-year tenure as Union Home Secretary till August 2021.
- ❖ On the occasion of 20th Kargil anniversary, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh released a book on XIV Corps of Indian Army named as 'Fire and Fury Corps– Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice'.
  - The nick name of XIV corps is Fire and Fury corps. It is headquartered at Kumbathang, 28 km from Kargil.
- ❖ The PM Narendra Modi has released the book "Chandra Shekhar - The Last Icon of Ideological Politics." The book has been written by Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Ravi Dutt Bajpai.
- ❖ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved creation of a buffer stock of 40 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of sugar.
  - This buffer stock would be created for one year starting from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020.
- ❖ The Standing Committee on Finance headed by Veerappa Moily has released a report titled 'Status of Unaccounted Income/Wealth Both Inside and Outside the Country – A Critical Analysis'.
  - It states that the unaccounted wealth held by Indians was estimated in the range of \$216.48 billion to \$490 billion over various periods between 1980 and 2010.
- ❖ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has launched an online encyclopedia called Securitypedia and a video interface for its personnel called CISFTube.
  - CISF aims to empower its personnel by making technical know-how available to them at the click of a button.
- ❖ National Health Authority, the agency which implements Union Government's flagship health scheme 'Ayushman Bharath' has signed a MoU with Healthcare Federation of India to streamline delivery of services and improve efficacy of the scheme.
- ❖ On the event of Gandhi's 150 anniversary celebrations, the Tamilnadu Postal Circle has released special envelopes and stamps on the theme "Gandhiji's Earliest Footprints in Tamilnadu".



- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has pulled out of the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly in September to protest the dropping of "Shooting" from the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games roster.
- ❖ Gujarat government has passed 'The Gujarat Irrigation and Drainage (Amendment) Bill' which provides for stringent punishments including two years' jail term for "Water Theft".
- ❖ In Gujarat, a lion cub has been rescued in Gir Sanctuary with the help of a special Lion-Ambulance.
  - This was the first such instance after the special lion ambulance initiative was launched last month by the Gujarat administration.
- ❖ The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) led by World Cup-winning former captain Kapil Dev is entrusted with the responsibility of selecting India's new coach.
  - Former Women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy and former men's coach Anshuman Gaekwad are other members in the panel.
- ❖ During the 36th GST Council Meeting, it was announced that GST rate on all Electric Vehicles has been reduced from 12% to 5% and of charger or charging stations for EVs from 18% to 5%.
- ❖ Mahalaxmi Express which runs between Mumbai and Kolhapur was stranded with hundreds of passengers due to flooding and overflow of Ulhas river. All Passengers were later rescued.
  - Ulhas River is a west flowing river which drains into Arabian sea.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu government will establish a new 'Tamil Nadu House and Cultural Centre' in Mumbai, on the lines of the 'Tamil Nadu House' in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian tennis team will travel to Pakistan for the first time in 55 years to participate in the Davis Cup.
- ❖ Nigeria's Boko Haram fighters are suspected to have launched a militant attack and killed 65 people.
- ❖ Karnataka Assembly Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar has announced his resignation shortly after the state's new Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa cleared the Trust Vote by a voice vote.
  - He submitted his resignation to Deputy Speaker of Assembly Krishna Reddy.
- ❖ NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has announced that an Inter-Ministerial panel has sanctioned 5645 electric buses for operations in 65 cities and for inter-city operations to 8 state transport undertakings.
- ❖ A 1984 batch IAS officer Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new Secretary, Finance Secretary of Government of India.

- ❖ Harvard Microrobotics Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts at USA have made the “lightest insect-scale aerial vehicle which has achieved sustained, untethered flight” called RoboBee X-Wing. Just like an insect it can flap its wings 120 times a second.
  - Practical applications include understanding the mechanical basis of natural selection and environmental monitoring.
- ❖ Britain has announced that it is planning a Europe-led force to escort tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, world's busiest oil shipping lane.
  - This was in response to seizure of Stena Impero, a UK-flagged vessel on July 19 by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

## TAMIL NADU

### **New DGP – Tamilnadu**

- ❖ Jalad K. Tripathy takes charge as the new Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force.
- ❖ He is a 1985-batch IPS officer.
- ❖ He replaces T.K. Rajendran.

### Accolades

- ❖ Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration
  - For Beat Officers' System, Slum Adoption Programme and Complaint Box System initiatives.



- ❖ International Community Policing Award instituted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Washington.



- ❖ Gold medal for 'Innovation in Governance,' conferred by the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM), Glasgow.

### **New Chief Secretary – Tamilnadu**

- ❖ The State government has announced the appointment of K. Shanmugam as 46<sup>th</sup> Chief Secretary.



- ❖ He is 1985-batch IAS officer.
- ❖ He is succeeding Girija Vaidyanathan.

### **Heritage Garden – Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ The Chennai city will have its own heritage garden showcasing various native species of trees and plants, including those mentioned in Sangam literature.
- ❖ The garden will be set up at Washermenpet, Chennai.



- ❖ It is setup by Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency.

### STR Python

- ❖ For the first time in the country, radio telemetry devices were successfully implanted in 10 pythons at the Forest Veterinary unit of Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) near Bhavani Sagar.
- ❖ The pythons that are let into Moyar River valley are being monitored by the field teams.
- ❖ This is a step to conserve the endangered snake in its native distribution region itself.
- ❖ Ten pythons at Mudumalai Tiger Reserve are also tracked similarly.

### Startup India List

- ❖ Data from the commerce ministry on the number of start-ups registered with Department for promotion of industry and internal trade (Start-up India) initiative shows Tamil Nadu is in the seventh spot with 1,004 start-ups.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Delhi are in the top three slots with 3,661 & 2,847 and 2,552 start-ups respectively.
- ❖ Registered start-ups gain access to a host of benefits including exemption from angel tax, intellectual property fast-tracking and more.

### Blue Flag beach pilot program

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has chosen Mahabalipuram beach as a pilot project, in accordance with the principles of blue flag beach programme.
- ❖ As of now around 4,000 Blue Flags are waving around the world.
- ❖ Right now, there are two “Blue Flag” certified beaches in India, in Odisha and Gujarat.



## Schizophrenia Gene

- ❖ Indian and Australian scientists in a collaborative effort have identified a new gene directly linked to schizophrenia.
- ❖ Researchers from the University of Queensland and the Schizophrenia Research Foundation led by R. Thara in Chennai analysed the genomes of more than 3000 Chennai residents.
- ❖ They identified a gene called NAPRT1 which is directly linked to Schizophrenia.
- ❖ Schizophrenia is a chronic and severe mental disorder that affects how a person thinks, feels, and behaves.

## PMJAY – Tamilnadu’s claims



- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks second in the country in the cash amount claimed under the Ayushman Bharat –Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- ❖ Gujarat topped the list with a claim amount of nearly ₹641 crore followed by Tamil Nadu with a claim amount of ₹399 crore.
- ❖ AB-PMJAY is centre's flagship health insurance scheme
- ❖ Tamilnadu ranks fourth in terms of total number of claims.

### **World Tamil Conference – Chicago**

- ❖ The 10th World Tamil Conference was held in Chicago from July 4 to July 8.
- ❖ The ninth edition was held at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in 2015.
- ❖ The International Association of Tamil Research (IATR) organised the event.
- ❖ It was held in USA for the first time.
- ❖ Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA) will concentrate on “Keezhadi - Nam Thaa Madi (Keezhadi Excavations - in our Tamil Mother's lap) and would be dedicated to the late Tamil scholar, Rev GU Pope, during his 200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.
- ❖ New historicist, scientific and comparative study of the antiquity, Tamil language, literature, culture, civilisation, modern literature and Tamil computing is the overall theme of the conference.
- ❖ The theme is based on the eight research subjects
  - Classical Tamil literature (Sangam literature),
  - Ancient Tamil civilisation,
  - Tholkappiyam,
  - Thirukkural,
  - Contributions of Tamil scholars,
  - Tamil music and performing arts,
  - Modern Tamil literature and
  - Tamil language and linguistics.

### **IIRSI 2019**

- ❖ The annual conference of the Intraocular Implant and Refractive Society of India (IIRSI) Chennai 2019 was inaugurated by Chief Minister in Chennai.
- ❖ The IIRSI 2019 witnessed the “Ophthalmic Premier League”, where participants will showcase their most challenging cataract cases through videos.



## **Makkal Number**

- ❖ Tamilnadu government plans to provide statutory services to people as a predictive service without citizens having to apply for it.
- ❖ Statutory services include providing government services like certificates, documents, licences, etc. to people through Arasu e-sevai centres after a request is made by people.

### **New Scenario**

- ❖ The Tamilnadu e-governance agency plans to generate a unique id number for all 7-crore people of the state called “Makkal Number”.
- ❖ The Aadhaar data will be anonymised and a fool-proof id like Makkal Number will be used.
- ❖ These data will electronically reach the ‘Citizen Vault’, to be created for each resident of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Residents can view their certificates and documents in their vault, using their mobile number as the user ID and an OTP as the password.
- ❖ Blockchain technology will prompt the software of each department or agency to issue certificates as and when citizens become eligible for them.
- ❖ “Right from the Birth Certificate to the Death Certificate and numerous certificates/documents issued in-between by various government departments and agencies will be automatically stored in the ‘Citizen vault’.
- ❖ The “Makkal number” scheme and the subsequent verification of an individual’s data stored in the Citizen vault will be done only with the consent of the concerned person.

## **Water from Vellore**

- ❖ A train carrying 2.5 million litres of water arrived in Chennai on July 12.
- ❖ The train had 50 tank wagons (BTPN) and carried 50,000 litres of water.
- ❖ The water was filled from Jolarpettai in Tamil Nadu’s Vellore district.
- ❖ Surplus water supplied from Mettur to various places in Vellore district under the Vellore Combined Water Supply Scheme is being diverted to Chennai.



- ❖ It is the first time in 18 years that the capital city brings water from other places in train wagons.

### **Supreme Court Judgement in Tamil**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has released the first set of the copies of its judgments in vernacular languages, including Tamil, Kannada and Telugu.
- ❖ Now the Judgements are available in nine vernacular languages – Urdu, Telugu, Assamese, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Bengali and Tamil.
- ❖ This is a part of the court's initiative to make available the copies of judgments in the regional languages of India.
- ❖ The first 2 translated Tamil judgements were uploaded on Supreme Court's website on 18.07.19. They are
  - Rajagopal (Founder of Saravana Bhavan) and others etc. Vs the State of Tamil Nadu
  - Joseph Easwaran Wapshare Vs Shirley Kathleen Wheeler

### **Two New Districts**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has announced that Tirunelveli and Kancheepuram districts will be bifurcated to create two new districts headquartered in Tenkasi and Chengalpattu.
- ❖ With this, the total number of districts in Tamil Nadu will go up to 35.
- ❖ Earlier Kallakurichi became the 33rd district in January 2019. It was carved out of Villupuram district.

### **Arani Silk**

- ❖ The Union government is implementing Handloom Marketing Assistance scheme to promote Arani silk sarees.
- ❖ Central Silk Board through Silk Mark Organisation of India is organising “Silk Mark Expo” in various towns and cities including Chennai near Arani.
- ❖ The highlight of an Arani pattu is the “thazambo” border motif.



### **Waste Incinerator**

- ❖ Chennai’s first solid waste incinerator is to be set up in Manali, followed by plants in Madhavaram and Thiruvottiyur zones.
- ❖ The waste would be burned to produce pure carbon ash that is not harmful to environment.
- ❖ It can be used to manufacture paver blocks and to make other construction material.

### **Trichy St.Joseph College**

- ❖ St Joseph’s College, Trichy has become the first autonomous arts and science college in the country to secure the prestigious A++ rank for the fourth cycle of accreditation.
- ❖ The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has rated the institution A++.
- ❖ It is the only college with “special heritage” status from the University Grants Commission in Tamil Nadu.

### **MMR of Tamilnadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is down six points.
- ❖ It has dipped from 66 to 60 per one lakh live births, according to the 2018 State Health Management Information System data.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu achieved the Sustainable Development Goal of bringing MMR down to under 70 per one lakh live births by 2030 back in 2014-2016.
- ❖ The country's maternal mortality rate stood at 130.

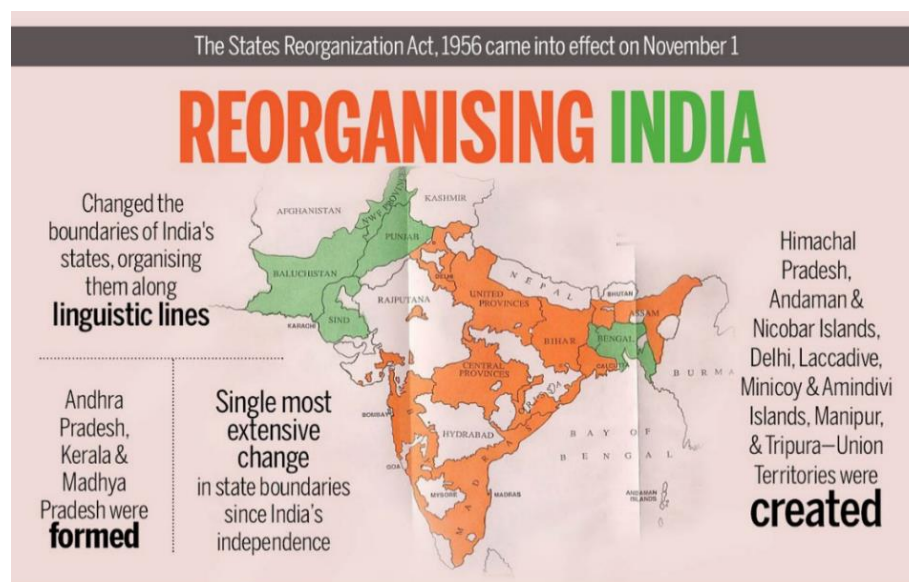
### About MMR

- ❖ Maternal mortality refers to deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth.
- ❖ It is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births.



### **Tamil Nadu Day**

- ❖ Tamilnadu CM announced in the Assembly under Rule 110 that November 1 would be celebrated as Tamilnadu Day annually.
- ❖ In 1956, as a part of the States Reorganization Act, the states in India were arranged on linguistic basis.
- ❖ It came into effective from November 1.





### Sangeeta Kalanithi Awards

- ❖ The Madras Music Academy has announced the recipients of Sangeeta Kalanithi, Sangeeta kala acharya, TTK Award, Musicologist award, Nritya Kalanithi.
- ❖ Sangeeta Kalanidhi is the title awarded yearly to a Carnatic Musician by the Madras Music Academy.
- ❖ The list as follows:

Awards	Recipients
<b>Sangeeta kalandihi</b>	S.Somya
<b>Sangeeta kala acharya</b>	MS Sheela, Seetha Narayanan
<b>TTK Award</b>	Kodhanda Raman and Rajkumar Baharathi (Great Grandson of Great Poet Bharathiyaar)
<b>Musicologist award</b>	Aarthi N Rao
<b>Nritya Kalanithi</b>	Priyadarshini Govindh (Kalai mamani awardee)

### New Awards and Announcements

- ❖ The state Government announced that new awards will be instituted in the following names:
  - Tamil savant and founder of Samarasa Suddha Sanmarga Sangam, Arutperunjothi Vallalar,
  - Late Tamil scholar Devaneya Pavanar,
  - Spiritual poet Karaikkal Ammaiyar and
  - Veeramamunivar.
- ❖ It also said that a Tamil lab will be set up at Banaras Hindu University at Varanasi to help teach Tamil to non-Tamil speakers easily.
- ❖ The Government also announced that an international flower auction centre will be established at Hosur in Krishnagiri district.

### Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Ambassador

- ❖ Tiruvallur Collector Mageswari Ravikumar appoints “Venda” as “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Ambassador” for Tiruvallur district.
- ❖ Venda was from in Tiruvallur district.
- ❖ Parents of Venda named her as Venda, meaning “No need”. They don’t want further girl child and named their 3rd girl child as “No need”.



- ❖ Recently, a Japan company selected “Venda” to work for their company with 22L per annum.

### **Tamilnadu Minorities Commission**

- ❖ Tamilnadu assembly adopted a Bill to increase the number of members of the State Minorities Commission from six to nine.
- ❖ This number excludes Chairman.
- ❖ The strength of the panel had been increased taking into consideration “the increase in population and the welfare of the minorities.

### **New TN Rajya Sabha MP**

- ❖ Six Rajya Sabha MPs from Tamilnadu were elected unopposed. They are
- ❖ Vaiko, Anbumani Ramadoss, AIADMK members A. Muhammathjohn and N. Chandrasekaran, DMK members N. Shanmugam and P. Wilson.

### **Water Conservation Measures in TN**

- ❖ Tamilnadu government has announced new measures for water conservation.

#### **Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission**

- ❖ “An intensive one-week campaign will be launched in the first week of August to convert the Mission into a people’s movement.
- ❖ The Mission will involve rainwater harvesting and conservation of water bodies to increase their capacity.
- ❖ Water Protection Councils will be created in villages and panchayat unions.

#### **Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery**

- ❖ It is aimed at preventing the Cauvery river from getting polluted.

### **MLA Constituency Development Scheme**

- ❖ The state Government has increased fund allocation under MLA Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) from 2.5 crore to 3 crores.
- ❖ This is the second time within two years that the government is increasing funds for this scheme.
- ❖ The last revision was made in January 2018.

### About MLACDS

- ❖ The MLACDS is fully funded by the State Government and each MLA identifies and proposes the works to be executed in his Constituency.
- ❖ The Scheme is implemented both in rural and urban areas
- ❖ The District Collector will accord administrative sanction for the chosen works and will also identify the implementing agency.

### **Dial for Water 2.0**

- ❖ The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has introduced the 'DIAL FOR WATER 2.0' scheme.
- ❖ Under this consumer will get water supply within two days from booking.
- ❖ Under this, the date of water supply is assured. with the assured date.
- ❖ Chennai Metro water lorries are making 12,000 trips a day to supply water across the city, and of this, 2,500 trips are made on "Dial for Water" basis.

**Water on call**




PHOTO: B.VELANKANNI RAJ

Capacity of tanker	Booking pattern	Booking time	Payment details (In ₹)
3 KL	Over phone	9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	400
	Online payment	6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	
6 KL	Online payment	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	475
9 KL		10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	700
12 KL		12.00 noon to 6.00 p.m.	900
16 KL		12.00 noon to 6.00 p.m.	1,200

### **Kodaikanal's Malai Poundu**

- ❖ The Geographical Indications Registry has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Kodaikanal Malai Poundu (Kodaikanal Hill Garlic).



- ❖ This particular garlic species is known for its medicinal and preservative properties.
- ❖ It is usually white or pale yellow.
- ❖ The hill altitude, the misty condition and Kodaikanal soil are responsible for its medicinal property and the long storage shelf life.
- ❖ Garlic is both a kharif (June-July) and rabi (October-November) crop in Tamilnadu.

### **Tamilnadu Hospitals Day – July 30**

- ❖ Government hospitals in Tamil Nadu will celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy on July 30 as 'Hospital Day' every year.
- ❖ A native of Pudukkottai, she was one of the country's prominent woman doctors in the early 20th century and the State's first woman legislator.
- ❖ She also founded the Adyar Cancer Institute in 1954 at Chennai.
- ❖ The day is also celebrated to publicise services offered by the hospitals besides appreciating NGOs, donors, social institutions and corporates offering corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds.
- ❖ Government of India conferred on her Padma Bhushan in 1956.
- ❖ Her book: My Experience as a Legislator.
- ❖ She was the prime mover behind the legislation that abolished the Devadasi system (bill introduced in 1930 but abolished in 1947).

Eminent doctor, social reformer & legislator  
**Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy** was born on July 30, 1886

## A LADY OF MANY FIRSTS

Graduated from the Madras Medical College in 1912 to become one of the <b>first woman doctors in India</b>	<b>First female student in a men's college</b> , she held a brilliant academic record
<b>The first woman legislator in India</b> in the Madras Legislative Council in 1927, where she was also elected deputy president	<b>Became the first woman house surgeon</b> in the Government Maternity & Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai
<b>Worked for women's equality, started women's hospitals, shelters &amp; fought against trafficking</b>	
Founded the <b>Cancer Relief Fund &amp; the Adyar Cancer Institute</b> which today offers treatment to 80,000 cancer patients a year	



NF newsflicks

## NATIONAL

### Labelling norms – High sugar and salt

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to make it mandatory for food products that are high on fat, sugar and salt content levels to display red-colour coding on their labels.
- ❖ The FSSAI has defined different threshold levels for sodium and saturated fat content for various categories of food products.
- ❖ In case of sugar, the draft regulations propose display of red-colour coding, for those that have added sugar content value is more than 10 per cent of the total energy (kcal) provided by the 100 g/100 ml of the product.

### SDG Tracker

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has launched India's first Sustainable Development Goal dashboard on the eve of National Statistics Day (on June 29).
- ❖ It is a step to effectively track the country's progress on Agenda 2030 adopted by UN.
- ❖ India has been closely monitoring its progress on SDGs through its National Indicator Framework and India SDG Index was released in 2018.
- ❖ Being home to about 17% of world population, India's progress in SDGs is crucial.



## Film Heritage

- ❖ The Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar reviewed “National Film Heritage Mission Project” in a meeting held at National Film Archives in Pune.
- ❖ This project is concerned with Preservation, Conservation, Digitization and Restoration of Indian films of the past.

## Mount Denali

- ❖ Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Deputy Inspector General Aparna Kumar has become the first civil servant to scale Mount Denali located in Alaska, USA.
- ❖ It is the highest peak in North America.
- ❖ Denali in local language means "The Great One".
- ❖ Aparna Kumar was also the first woman IPS DIG and ITBP officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition.

## EQUIP Program

- ❖ The Higher Education Department of the HRD ministry has introduced a 5-year Vision Plan titled as Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP).
- ❖ It aims to transform the higher education sector in India by

DOUBLE THE GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO (GER) IN HIGHER EDUCATION

POSITION AT LEAST 50 INDIAN INSTITUTIONS AMONG THE TOP-1000 GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES

ACCREDITATION OF ALL INSTITUTIONS AS AN ASSURANCE OF QUALITY

PROMOTE RESEARCH & INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS FOR POSITIONING INDIA IN THE TOP-3 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD IN MATTERS OF KNOWLEDGE CREATION

DOUBLE THE EMPLOYABILITY OF THE STUDENTS PASSING OUT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

PROMOTE INDIA AS A GLOBAL STUDY DESTINATION

ACHIEVE A QUANTUM INCREASE IN INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### **Strum Ataka Missile**

- ❖ India has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia for acquiring Strum Ataka anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers of Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ❖ This would give an added capability to Mi-35 attack choppers of IAF to take out enemy tanks and other armoured elements.



### **Haj Quota**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia has increased India's Haj quota to Mecca pilgrimage by 30,000.
- ❖ It is a city in Hejazi region of Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It is the third hike in 3 years.

### **Ayush Grid**

- ❖ The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry has agreed to give technical support to the AYUSH Ministry for planning and development of AYUSH GRID Project.
- ❖ It is aimed at digitisation of AYUSH knowledge, greater research, education, delivery of various health care programmes and better drug regulations.
- ❖ Formed in 2014, the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) is headed by Minister of State (Independent Charge) Shripad Naik.

### **Transformation of Agriculture**

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India has set up a High-Powered Committee of Chief Ministers for 'Transformation of Indian Agriculture'.
- ❖ Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis is the Convenor of the committee.

- ❖ CMs of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, UP, MP & Union Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj are the members of the committee.

### **Garuda – VI**

- ❖ Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air Force are participating in Garuda VI, a bilateral air exercise at Mont de Marsan in France.



- ❖ The last edition of joint exercise between IAF-FAF was held in June 2014 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ This 6th edition of joint exercise takes place from 1 July to 12 July 2019.
- ❖ Such an exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability level of French and Indian crews in air defence and ground attack missions.

### **3 New NIMZ**

- ❖ Minister of Commerce and Industry has granted final approval to establish three new National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ).
- ❖ They will be set up at
  - Kalinganagar, Jajpur district of Odisha
  - Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh
  - Sangareddy district (erstwhile Medak district) of Telangana.

#### **About NIMZ**

- ❖ NIMZs are one of the important components of National Manufacturing Policy, 2011.
- ❖ They are planned as large areas of developed land with the requisite eco-system for promoting world class manufacturing activity.
- ❖ It is based on the principle of industrial growth in partnership with States.



### **Over the Counter Drugs**

- ❖ The Delhi High Court today directed the Union government to provide a partial list of Over the Counter (OTC) drugs to doctors and pharmacists by 12<sup>th</sup> September.
- ❖ The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) will be the authority to finalise and release the list.
- ❖ The list of OTC drugs would allow people to treat or manage many health conditions conveniently and successfully.

### **OGAS status to paramilitary forces**

- ❖ Central government accorded the Organised Group A Service status to senior officers of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).
- ❖ Cabinet also approved extension of benefit of Non-Functional Financial Upgradation (NFFU) and Non-Functional Selection Grade (NFSG).
- ❖ It will benefit about 11,000 serving officers and a few thousand more who have retired since 2006 from the five primary CAPFs or paramilitary forces such as:
  - Central Reserve Police Force,
  - Border Security Force,
  - Central Industrial Security Force,
  - Indo-Tibetan Border Police and
  - Sashastra Seema Bal.

### **India International Cooperatives Trade Fair**

- ❖ The first ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) will be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from October 11-13, 2019.
- ❖ It is a unique initiative for taking farmers, artisans and other members of cooperatives directly to the international trade arena.
- ❖ The event is organized by:
  - National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) with the support of Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC),
  - Three Ministries,

- Four State Governments and
- Several apex level Indian cooperative organizations.



### **Increase in MSP**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all kharif crops for 2019-20 Season.
- ❖ The MSP for this year is 1.5 times all India weighted average Cost of production.
- ❖ The highest percentage return to farmers over their cost of production is for Bajra (85%) followed by urad (64%) and tur dhal (60%).
- ❖ The MSP mechanism is implemented across the country as nearly 86% farmers are in small and marginal category and to ensure equity.
- ❖ It also helps in stabilising prices in the market and thus services the consumers as well.

### **Watson Decision Platform for Agriculture**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with IBM India.
- ❖ They will undertake a pilot study to utilise Artificial Intelligence (AI) and weather technology solutions in agriculture in selected pilot districts.
- ❖ IBM's Watson Decision Platform for Agriculture will give solutions at village level and farm level.
- ❖ The pilot study will be undertaken in 3 districts – Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat) and Nanded (Maharashtra).
- ❖ This study will cover crops for Kharif season 2019.



### **Ship to Maldives**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for the MoU between India and Maldives for the establishment of passenger and cargo services by sea.
- ❖ Shipping services will connect Kochi with the capital city of Maldives, Male and Kulhudhuffushi, the third most populous city in Mali.
- ❖ It is expected to boost health and wellness tourism for India.
- ❖ Maldives is presently connected to India by flights and sea planes only.

### **Education of Differently Abled Children**

- ❖ UNESCO and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) have released a report titled "State of the Education Report for India-2019: Children with Disabilities."
- ❖ It cites 2011 census data and shows that there are more than 78 lakh children with disabilities in the country between 5-19 years.
- ❖ It also says that 27% of children with disabilities have never been to school in India.
- ❖ The report recommends to amend the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 to be aligned with the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

### **Electrified Railway Tunnel**

- ❖ South Central Railway (SCR) railways has commissioned the longest "electrified tunnel" in Indian Railways.
- ❖ The electrified tunnel measuring 6.6 kilometers is situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is constructed in the shape of 'Horse Shoe' on the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM).
- ❖ The 11.25 km-long Pir Panjal railway tunnel is India's longest railway tunnel and Asia's second longest railway tunnel.

### **Tur Dhal Price Stabilization**

- ❖ Minister for Consumer Affairs has decided to increase the import limit on Tur Dal from two metric tonnes to 4 lakh metric tonnes for the year 2019 - 20.



- ❖ It will release 2 lakh metric tonnes of Tur Dal buffer stock to States and Union Territories under the Price Stabilization Fund.
- ❖ This step is expected to compensate for the fall in tur dal production during 2018-19 crop year (232 lakh tonnes).

### **Rooftop Solar in Delhi Police**

- ❖ Delhi Police signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
- ❖ It will set up Rooftop Solar Energy Systems in more than 200 of its buildings across the city.

#### **About SECI**

- ❖ SECI is a company under Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- ❖ It was started in 2011.
- ❖ It is government's nodal agency for implementation of the National Solar Mission.
- ❖ It is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) dedicated to solar energy sector.

### **RRB Exams in Regional Languages**

- ❖ The Union government has announced that recruitment examination of Regional Rural Banks (RRB) will be conducted in 13 regional languages in addition to English and Hindi.
- ❖ The regional languages are Tamil, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Telugu and Urdu.
- ❖ At present, there are 45 Regional Rural banks functioning in the country with a staff strength of around 90 thousand employees.

### **Training Bangladeshi Officials at Mussoorie**

- ❖ Eighteen hundred Bangladeshi mid-career civil servants will be trained at the National Centre for Good Governance in Mussoorie between 2019-2025.
- ❖ The first batch of 30 civil servants attending the 2-week long training programme in Mussoorie paid a visit to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.
- ❖ This is expected to develop foster deeper ties between the two countries.

### **Coral Rehabilitation Program**

- ❖ National Centre for Coastal Research has proposed to dispose plastic waste by converting them into 'melted plastic rocks or slabs'.
- ❖ It plans to lay them on the seabed for growing coral reefs.
- ❖ The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park has opposed the program as it fears that corals would be destroyed.
- ❖ It has been implementing coral rehab program since 2002.

### **Women's Unit in Territorial Army**

- ❖ For the first time, the Indian Army is recruiting 100 Women Jawans in the Corps of Military Police (CMP).
- ❖ It also plans to
  - Include 1,700 women in the PBOR (personnel below officer rank) category in CMP over the next 17 years
  - Raise All-Women 'Mahila Provost Unit' in Territorial Army



### **Heat Waves Predictor**

- ❖ The researchers at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune have developed an extended range prediction system to monitor heat waves.
- ❖ It enables real time prediction of heat waves two to three weeks in advance.
- ❖ No such system was available before 2017.
- ❖ Based on observation data available from 1981 to 2017, it shows that two regions in India are prone to heat waves



- South Coastal Regions
- Northwest India

### Jaipur's UNESCO Heritage Status

- ❖ The Pink City Jaipur has been selected as India's 38th UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❖ The decision was taken by UNESCO at the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee held at Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ Govind Dev temple, City Palace, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal are some of the iconic monuments in Jaipur.
- ❖ Jaipur city was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Jai Singh II, who ruled Jaipur State between 1699–1744.

### Jal Jeevan Mission

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister has introduced a new program in Budget 2019 called Jal Jeevan Mission.



- ❖ It aims to supply piped water supply to all rural households by 2024.
- ❖ This Mission, under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, will focus on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.
- ❖ It aims to create local infrastructure like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.

### Kisan Credit Card extension

- ❖ The Union Government has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers.
- ❖ It is to help them meet their working capital needs.
- ❖ Under Kisan Credit Card facility, for the existing KCC holders the credit limit is three lakh rupees to meet their working capital requirements.

### **Budget 2019-2020**

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the maiden budget of Narendra Modi 2.0 government in the Lok Sabha on July 05, 2019.
- ❖ **“Gaon, Garib and Kisan”** (Village, Poor and Farmer) is the centre of all policies of the Modi 2.0 Government.
- ❖ This is the 89<sup>th</sup> Union Budget.
- ❖ Excluding interim budgets, it is the 29th budget post economic liberalisation in 1991.
- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman became only the second woman in the history of independent India to present the Union Budget.



- ❖ Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the first and only woman till now to have presented the Union Budget.
- ❖ In 1970, she presented the Union Budget of India for 1970-71, after she took over the finance portfolio following the resignation of Morarji Desai as finance minister.

### **Economic Survey**



- ❖ The Economic Survey was tabled in Parliament by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 04.
- ❖ The Survey was authored by the Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian.
- ❖ As per the survey, India now stands at 4th in wind power, 5th in solar power and 5th in renewable power installed capacity.

### Key Agenda

- ❖ Sustained real GDP growth rate of 8% needed for a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
- ❖ It aims for the following targets
  - Moving From 'Beti Baco Beti Padhao' to 'BADLAV' (Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi).
  - Moving From 'Swachh Bharat' to 'Sundar Bharat'.
  - Moving From 'Give it up' for the LPG subsidy to 'Think about the Subsidy'.
  - Moving From 'Tax evasion' to 'Tax compliance'.

### **Jai Shankar in Rajya Sabha**

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar took oath as Rajya Sabha member.
- ❖ He has been elected to the Upper House from Gujarat.
- ❖ Article 84 of the Constitution lays down the qualifications for membership of Parliament.
- ❖ A 1977-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar played a major role during the 2017 Doklam stand-off negotiations with China.
- ❖ He was also involved in negotiating the landmark Indo-US Nuclear deal.

### **Rainwater Harvesting Cell**

- ❖ As part of the first phase of Jal Shakti Abhiyan campaign (July 1 - September 15), Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has released its Guidelines for urban water conservation.
- ❖ All Urban Local Bodies across the country have been asked to set up a cell for monitoring of Rain Water Harvesting.
- ❖ The cell should monitor the extent of groundwater extraction and groundwater aquifer recharge and display the data in a prominent public place.



### **Operation Sudharshan**

- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise code-named Operation Sudharshan on July 1.
- ❖ It will cover the entire over the 1,000 km length of the India-Pakistan International Border.
- ❖ Jammu shares about 485-km of the border with Pakistan, Punjab shares 553-km and the rest are in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- ❖ The BSF is the primary force guarding this frontier as the 'first line of defence'.
- ❖ Please go here for additional read about BSF: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/52nd-raising-day-of-bsf-observed-1-december/>

### **Kashmir Investor Summit**

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir will host its first-ever investor summit in September-October of this year in Srinagar and Jammu.
- ❖ In addition to tourism, horticulture and handicrafts, focus will be on power sector and manufacturing.

### **Conference at Patel Statue**

- ❖ For the first time ever, the Foreign Ministry's annual Heads of Missions (HoMs) conference will be held next to Patel's Statue of Unity in [Gujarat](#)'s Narmada district.
- ❖ It is a gathering of all Indian ambassadors and high commissioners who work to promote India's interests abroad.
- ❖ Annual conference of state DGP was also held at the same venue in 2018.
- ❖ Sardar Vallabhai Patel is widely called as Bismarck of India.

### **National Investment and Infra Fund**

- ❖ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an MoU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) for funding highway projects.
- ❖ NIIF is an investor-owned fund manager.
- ❖ It was set up in December 2016 with a planned corpus of ₹40,000 crore.



- ❖ The purpose of NIIF is to provide long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector.
- ❖ The Indian government has 49 % stake in NIIF with the rest held by marquee foreign and domestic investors.

### **Kaushal Yuva Samwad (KYS) - A Youth Dialogue**

- ❖ The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has announced the launch of an initiative called "Kaushal Yuva Samwad" (A Youth Dialogue).
- ❖ It aims to collect direct feedback from the youth across all skill training centres and use it to improve overall efficiency of its projects.
- ❖ It has been launched to commemorate World Youth Skills Day on July 15, 2019 and celebrating the 4th Anniversary of the Skill India Mission.
- ❖ The National Skill Development Mission (Skill India Mission) was launched on July 15, 2015.

### **200% Duty on Pakistani Goods**

- ❖ Parliament has adopted a "statutory resolution" for levying 200 % duty on all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan.
- ❖ A Statutory Resolution is a resolution passed in pursuance of a provision in the Constitution or an Act of Parliament.
- ❖ The original decision to levy 200% duty was taken on February 16, 2019.

### **First Private Train in India**

- ❖ The Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express is set to be the first train in India to be operated by private players.
- ❖ It is a part of a 100-day agenda by Railway ministry to hand over operations of two of its trains to the private sector.



- ❖ The custody of the trains will be transferred to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

### **Indian Cinema Museum's Bulletin**

- ❖ The Films division of National Museum of Indian Cinema has launched a fortnightly news bulletin called "NMIC".
- ❖ The country's first national film museum was started in January 2019 and it is located at Gulshan Mahal, Mumbai.
- ❖ It showcases the rich heritage of Indian cinema spanning across 100 years.

### **Haj Pilgrims and Digital India**

- ❖ Indian Haj Mission in Saudi Arabia has adopted digital technology to reach out to a large number of pilgrims as part of the Government of India's initiative of Digital India.
- ❖ It has developed a mobile application called "Indian Haj Information System".
- ❖ The app connects Haj pilgrims with their state's Haj Coordinator called "Qadimul Hajjaj".
- ❖ The health status and medical history of Indian pilgrims is also being stored at online portal "e-MASIHA".

### **Nag Missile System (NAMIS) Test**

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out 3 successful test firings of Nag missiles during both day and night in Pokhran firing ranges.

- ❖ With these successful trials, the Nag anti-tank guided missiles are in the final stages of being inducted into the Army.



- ❖ NAMIS system includes - a 3rd generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG and Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA).

### **India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue**

- ❖ The Second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ India was represented by the chairmanship of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- ❖ The IRSED was established following a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.
  - It was established during the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Annual India-Russia Bilateral Summit held on October 5, 2018 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The First India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in St. Petersburg between November 25-26, 2018.

### **Port Integrity Campaign**

- ❖ Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) has launched Port Integrity Campaign in India.
- ❖ It aims to reduce and (in the long term) eliminate integrity issues and bottlenecks to trade during operations in Indian ports.



- ❖ MACN is a global business network of over 110 companies working to tackle corruption in the maritime industry.
- ❖ Ministry in charge: Ministry of Shipping.

## **Cabinet – Key decisions**

### **Ponzi scam**

- ❖ Cabinet approved 'The banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019'.
- ❖ The Bill will help tackle the menace of illicit deposit taking activities in the country.

### **Inter State River Water Disputes**

- ❖ Cabinet approved 'The Inter-State River Water disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019'.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to amend the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.
- ❖ The bill seeks constitution of a single tribunal with different Benches, and the setting of strict timelines for adjudication.

### **Rural roads**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSYIII).
- ❖ Under this, 1.25 lakh km of roads in rural areas will be upgraded.

### **Railway Protection Force**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet accorded Organised Group A Service status to the Railway Protection Force.

### **Note:**

- ❖ Earlier this month, the benefits were extended to Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Sashastra Seema Bal.

### **Child abuse – Death Penalty**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved an amendment to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.
- ❖ The Bill provides for stringent punishment, including death, for sexual assault of children.

### **Transgenders – support**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019.



- ❖ The Bill looks at providing social, economic and educational empowerment to transgender persons.
- ❖ Sending the Bill to the Parliament again was on the first 100-day agenda of the present NDA government.

### **Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019**

- ❖ The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019 was approved by the cabinet.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to merge 13 labour laws into one code on occupational safety, health and working conditions.
- ❖ It would apply to all establishments with 10 or more workers.

### **RSDP – Myanmar**

- ❖ India will hand over 200 houses on to Myanmar built for Rakhine State under the Rakhine State Development Programme (RSDP).
- ❖ India signed a development programme for Rakhine State in Myanmar in late 2017.
- ❖ This programme was designed to assist the Myanmar government in Rakhine State to build housing infrastructure for displaced persons.



- ❖ More than 700,000 minority Rohingya Muslims fled from Myanmar's Rakhine state to neighbouring Bangladesh since August 2017, triggering a massive refugee crisis.

### **Aadhar Bill**



- ❖ The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by both Houses of the Parliament on July 08, 2019.
- ❖ The amendments were as per the directions of the Supreme Court 'on privacy' and recommendations of Justice B.N.Srikrishna's Amendments to Aadhaar.
- ❖ It amends
  - Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016
  - Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
  - Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

### Key Amendments

- ❖ No individual will be compelled to provide proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo authentication for the purpose of establishing his identity unless provided by a law made by Parliament.
- ❖ It allows the use of Aadhaar number for authentication on a voluntary basis as an acceptable KYC document to open bank accounts.
- ❖ It gives a child an option to exit from the biometric ID programme on attaining 18 years of age.
- ❖ It prevents denial of services for refusing to, or being unable to, undergo authentication.
- ❖ It provides for the establishment of Unique Identification Authority of India Fund.
- ❖ It provides for civil penalties, its adjudication, appeal thereof in regard to violations of Aadhaar Act and provisions by entities in the Aadhaar ecosystem.

### **THE AADHAAR AND OTHER LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019: WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE FOR**

- Voluntary use of Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form by authentication or offline verification with the consent of Aadhaar number holder
- Use of 12-digit Aadhaar number and its alternative virtual identity to conceal the actual Aadhaar number of an individual
- An option for children who are Aadhaar number holders to cancel their Aadhaar number on attaining the age of 18 years
- Use of Aadhaar number for authentication on a voluntary basis as an acceptable KYC document under the Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002
- Deletion of Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act relating to the use of Aadhaar by private entities
- Prevents denial of services for refusing to, or being unable to, undergo an authentication
- Provides for civil penalties, its adjudication, appeals in regard to violations of Aadhaar Act

### **Philip Campose Task Force of Experts**

- ❖ Defence minister Rajnath Singh chaired a meeting to review the recommendations of the Philip Campose Task Force of Experts.
- ❖ The task force was constituted to evolve methodology to prevent ammunition accidents and minimise its effects.
- ❖ The defence minister gave directions to expedite implementation.



## **Direct Benefit Transfers to Farmers 2.0**

- ❖ Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched the Phase-II of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Fertilizer Subsidy.
- ❖ It is a step towards improving the lives of farmers through the use of modern technology and plugging leakages, pilferages and black marketing.
- ❖ The new initiatives of DBT 2.0 are
  - DBT Dashboards - Live reports regarding the Fertilizer Stock position
  - PoS 3.0 Software - Facilitates registration, login and sale activity in DBT software
  - Desktop PoS Version - It as an alternative or added facility to PoS devices to manage rush.
- ❖ Both PoS versions are multilingually available.

## **Compulsory Retirement of Government Officials**

- ❖ The Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office stated that Union government has the absolute right to retire Government officials prematurely.
- ❖ They can be asked to retire and removed on the grounds of
  - Lack of integrity and ineffectiveness,
  - In public interest,
  - As per the provisions of Fundamental Rules 56 (j) (1), Rule 48 of Central Civil Services Rules, 1972 and All India Service Rules, 1958
- ❖ It has the power to review the officials and a total of 36,756 Group-A and 82,654 Group-B officers have been reviewed between July 2014-May 2019.
- ❖ 125 Group A and 187 Group B officials have been listed for disciplinary action.

## **Facial Recognition System**

- ❖ The National Crime Records Bureau has released a Request for Proposal for an Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS).
- ❖ It will be used by police officers across the country to identify criminals, missing people, unidentified dead bodies and crime prevention.
- ❖ AFRS works by maintaining a large database with photos and videos of peoples' faces.



- ❖ It is an easier solution for finding accurate match especially for identification amongst crowds.
- ❖ On July 1, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has trialled AFRS for airport entry at Hyderabad Airport.
- ❖ This technology also raises privacy concerns and fear of data breach.

### **Pawan Hans Helicopters**

- ❖ The Union government has issued a fresh bid document for strategic “disinvestment” in Pawan Hans.
- ❖ The Government holds a 51% stake and 49% is with ONGC.
- ❖ Pawan Hans is a Mini Ratna-I category PSU started in 1985.
- ❖ It provides helicopter services to various state governments, especially the North East, Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands, Vaishnao Devi shrine.
- ❖ The slogan of the company is “We fly for you”.

### **Mission Raksha Gyan Shakthi**

- ❖ In a major boost to Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti (MRGS) mission, a MOU was signed between the Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC), Department of Defence Production and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC).
- ❖ MRGS was launched in 2018 to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- ❖ The IPFC has facilitated filing of more than 1000 new patent applications.
- ❖ The overall objective of the mission is full utilization of new ideas and innovation towards achieving self-reliance in defence sector.



### Operation Thirst

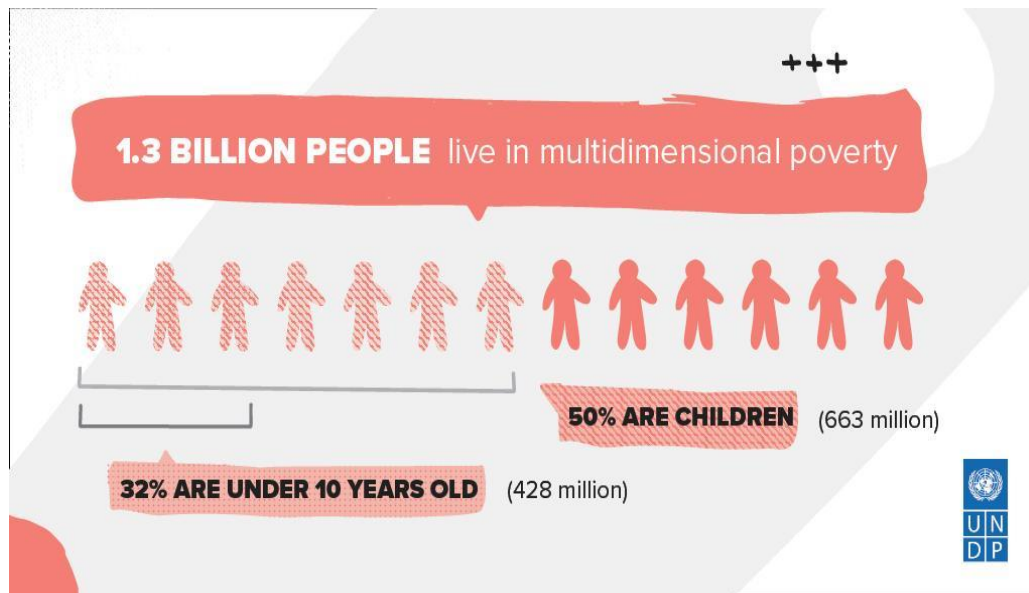
- ❖ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a new program called “Operation Thirst”.
- ❖ It is an All India action plan to crack down on the selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water in trains and railway stations.
- ❖ The unauthorised bottles were seized under the sections of 144 and 153 of the Railway Act.



### Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019

- ❖ The 2019 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) from the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) has been released.

- ❖ It states that India has lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016.
- ❖ Jharkhand has shown highest progress in India.
- ❖ It reduced the incidence of multidimensional poverty from 74.9% in 2005-06 to 46.5% in 2015-16.



### National Green Tribunal

- ❖ The Supreme Court has agreed to examine whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has the power to take cognisance of a matter “suo motu” (on its own).
- ❖ NGT is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- ❖ It was established in 2010 under National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- ❖ It has the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- ❖ It has the original jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to environment is concerned.

### Agri Business Incubation Centre

- ❖ An Agri Business Incubation Centre has been set up by the Union Agriculture Ministry at Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.



- ❖ It has been set up under the National Agriculture Development Scheme - RAFTAAR.
- ❖ Under this scheme, technology and infrastructure will be provided to youth and entrepreneurs for start-ups in different areas of agriculture.

### **Swadhar Greh Scheme**

- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is implementing the 'Swadhar Greh Scheme' for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances
- ❖ It covers deserted women who do not have any social and economic support, women victims of domestic violence, family tension and natural disaster.
- ❖ One Stop Centre was established for violence affected women across the country as part of the Nirbhaya Framework with the help of states and Union Territories (UTs).
- ❖ It is aimed at providing legal and psycho-social counselling along with other facilities including temporary shelter, police facilitation and medical support to the women who needs it in an integrated manner.

### **Labour room Quality improvement Initiative - LaQshya**

- ❖ The Union Government has launched "LaQshya" (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative).
- ❖ It aims to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities.
- ❖ 'LaQshya' aims to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity Operation Theatre and ensure respectful maternity care.

### **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 Kahalgaon 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.

### Study in India Program for Foreign Students

- ❖ Union HRD Ministry informed Lok Sabha that Yoga training has been included in 'Study in India' Program.
- ❖ This enables foreign students and Yoga seekers from abroad to obtain authentic Yoga training in India.
- ❖ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already made Yoga a part of compulsory health and physical education in all its affiliated schools.

### Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program

- ❖ More than one crore employees have joined the workforce under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) between August 2016 and March 2019.

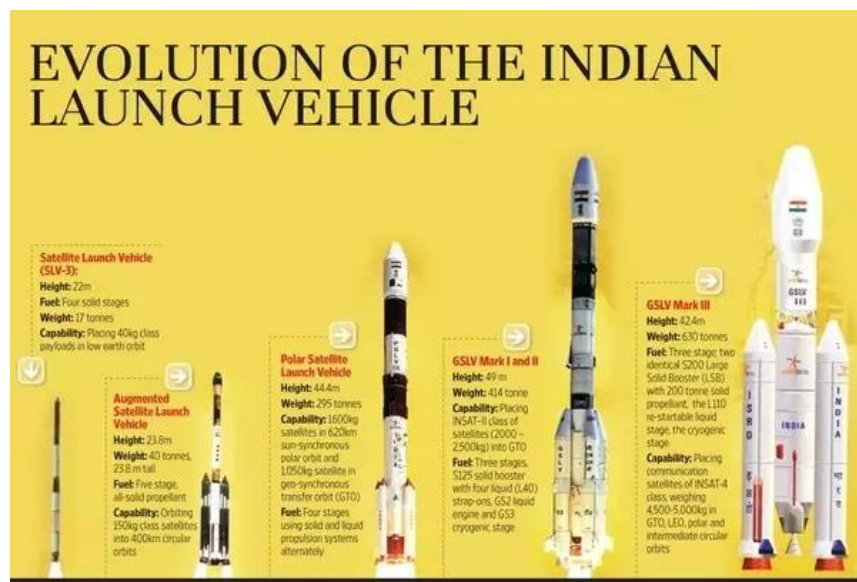
<b>Beneficiaries under PMRPY</b>		<b>Industry-wise PMRPY statistics</b>	
<i>(August 1, 2016 to March 3, 2019)</i>		<b>Industry</b>	<b>Employee benefited</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>Number of employees</b>		
Maharashtra	21,06,405	Expert services	47,06,945
Tamil Nadu	14,17,808	Trading - Commercial	8,09,949
Karnataka	11,51,215	Textiles	7,79,321
Gujarat	10,28,838	Building and construction	7,57,435
Haryana	9,70,736	Garment making	6,18,104
<b>India</b>	<b>1,18,05,003</b>		

Source: Ministry of Labour and Employment data presented in the Lok Sabha on July 15, 2019

- ❖ About 57 per cent came from five States — Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Haryana.
- ❖ Under the PMRPY, the government pays the entire employer's contribution (12 per cent or admissible contribution) towards the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) for all eligible new employees for all sectors for three years.
- ❖ PMRPY aims to incentivise employers for generating employment.

## **GSLV MK III Chandrayaan - 2 Rocket**

- ❖ The launch of Chandrayaan-2 was aborted due to a technical glitch in the launch vehicle GSLV Mk-III.
- ❖ GSLV Mk-III is the latest and most powerful rocket of ISRO.
- ❖ It has had two successful flights so far.
- ❖ It is powered by a
  - core liquid engine
  - two solid boosters
  - cryogenic engine
- ❖ Cryogenics is the science relating to behaviour of materials at very low temperatures.
- ❖ GSLV rockets can carry heavier payloads and travel deeper into space.



## **Writ Petition about Abortion**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has admitted a writ petition seeking to decriminalise abortion and allowing women the right to exercise their reproductive choice.
- ❖ According to Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act of 1971, Abortion is not permissible after 20 weeks of pregnancy in India.
- ❖ MTP Act protects married women by allowing them to terminate an “unplanned and unwanted pregnancy” but the same is not extended to single women.



### **Failing Global Vaccination Program**

- ❖ According to a joint study by the WHO and UNICEF, 19.4 million children worldwide failed to receive potentially lifesaving vaccines in 2018.
- ❖ 10 countries accounted for 11.7 of the 19.4 million under and non-vaccinated children in the world: Nigeria (3 Million), India (2.4 million) and Pakistan (1.4 Million)
- ❖ 350,000 measles cases were reported globally last year which is double the number in 2017.
- ❖ Ukraine is the country with the highest measles incidence rate in 2018.

### **National Investigative Agency (Amendment) Bill**

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
- ❖ The following category of offences can also be investigated by NIA
  - Human trafficking
  - Offences related to counterfeit currency or bank notes
  - Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms
  - Cyber-terrorism
  - Offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.
- ❖ The officers of the NIA have the same powers as other police officers in relation to the investigation of such offences, across India.
- ❖ Designated special courts would be set up to expedite the cases and transfers / delay in appointments of judges would not delay them.
- ❖ The agency will be able to investigate terrorist acts against Indian embassies and assets abroad.

#### **About NIA**

- ❖ NIA was set up in 2008 to act as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
- ❖ The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.



### **National Digital Health Blueprint**

- ❖ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan released the National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) report in the public domain for inputs from various stakeholders.
- ❖ It is aimed at creating nationwide integrated e-Health system.
- ❖ Data from schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Reproductive Child Healthcare, NIKSHAY will be collected and monitored to provide health services in a robust and efficient manner.

### **Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- ❖ The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by both the houses of Parliament.
- ❖ It seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 which establishes universities for teaching and research in various states.
- ❖ The Bill provides for establishment of two Central universities in Andhra Pradesh
  - The Central University of Andhra Pradesh
  - The Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ With this, all states in India have a central university except Goa.

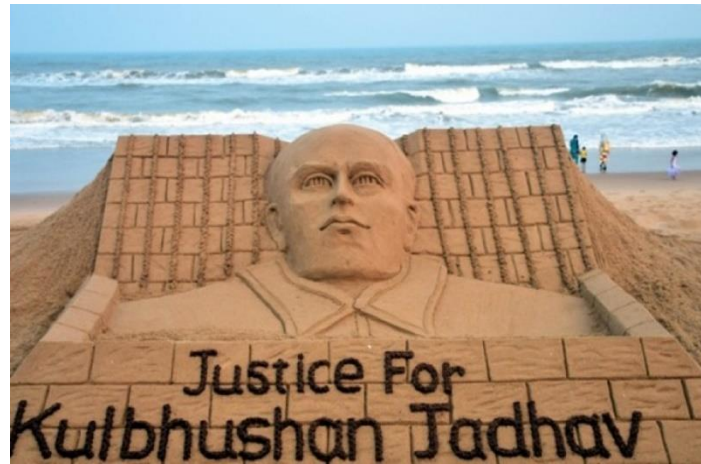
### **Internet Saathis**

- ❖ Google India's 'Internet Saathi' programme has now added Punjab and Odisha.
- ❖ It was started in 2015 along with Tata Trust.
- ❖ The program aims to educate rural women on how to use the Internet.
- ❖ It is now run in 20 states.

### **Kulbhushan Jadhav – International Court of Justice**

- ❖ International Court of Justice (ICJ) has directed Pakistan to review conviction order of the alleged Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav and put his death sentence on hold.
- ❖ ICJ also asked Islamabad to allow New Delhi consular access at earliest.
- ❖ Pakistan has been accused of violating Article 36 of Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, 1963.

- ❖ It has failed to inform India about Jadhav's arrest immediately after Pakistan Army had taken him into custody in 2016.



### About

- ❖ ICJ is located at The Hague, Netherlands.
- ❖ It was established in 1945.
- ❖ It comprises a panel of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
- ❖ India's Former Supreme Court Justice Dalveer Bhandari serves at ICJ since 2012.

### **Motihari – Amlekhgunj Petroleum Pipeline**

- ❖ Indian Ambassador to Nepal announced that Motihari- Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline has been successfully completed by India.
- ❖ The project will start commercial operation by August following virtual inauguration by executive heads of the two countries.
- ❖ The 69-kilometre long petroleum pipeline from Motihari in Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal has been constructed by India.
- ❖ It will help in tackling the oil storage problem in Nepal and doing away with transportation of petroleum products through tankers.

### **Solar Charkha Mission**

- ❖ The Ministry of MSME has launched the Mission Solar Charkha for implementation of 50 Solar Charkha Clusters across the country with a budget of Rs. 550 crores.



- ❖ Solar Charkha units have been classified as Village Industries.
- ❖ It will function under administrative control of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai.
- ❖ To generate direct employment for nearly one lakh persons.

### **Paramarsh Scheme of UGC**

- ❖ The Union HRD Minister launched the Paramarsh scheme of University Grants Commission (UGC).
- ❖ Under this program, a specific higher education will be chosen as a mentor.
- ❖ Institutions which aim to get National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) and deliver quality education will be mentored.
- ❖ The scheme will target 1000 Higher Education Institutions for mentoring.

### **Sagar Maitri Mission – 2**

- ❖ INS Sagardhwani has embarked on a two-month long SAGAR MAITRI Mission-2 from the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.
- ❖ It has been designed and developed by DRDO'S Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi.
- ❖ The prime objectives of the Sagar Maitri Mission are

- Data collection from the entire North Indian Ocean
  - Focussing on the Andaman Sea and adjoining seas
  - Establishing long-term collaboration with eight Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries in the field of ocean research and development.
- ❖ It commemorates the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's lone 'research ship' INS Kistna which conducted International Indian Ocean Expeditions during 1962-65.



### **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana**

- ❖ The Minister for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar informed Rajya Sabha about the 'Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana'.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the ESI Insurance Act, 1948.
- ❖ It is implemented on pilot basis for a period of two years initially.
- ❖ It aims to financially support those who lost their jobs or rendered jobless for whatsoever reasons due to changing employment pattern.
- ❖ The relief will be payable in cash directly to bank account of insured persons in case of unemployment.
- ❖ They will also be able to draw 47% of their total contributions towards ESIC after remaining unemployed for at least three months from date of leaving their previous jobs.



### About

- ❖ ESI is a self-financing social security and health insurance scheme for Indian workers.
- ❖ It is an autonomous corporation by statutory creation under Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
- ❖ It is managed by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) according to rules and regulations stipulated there in the ESI Act 1948.

### **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has rolled out a scheme 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' for the period 2018-2020.
- ❖ It is a 7-Pronged Scheme to combat cyber-crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.

### **Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project**

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga is a gas pipeline project that aims to provide piped cooking gas to residents of Varanasi.
- ❖ It will later be extended to people in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.
- ❖ According to GAIL with the Urja Ganga project, 20 lakh households will get PNG (Piped Natural Gas) connections.

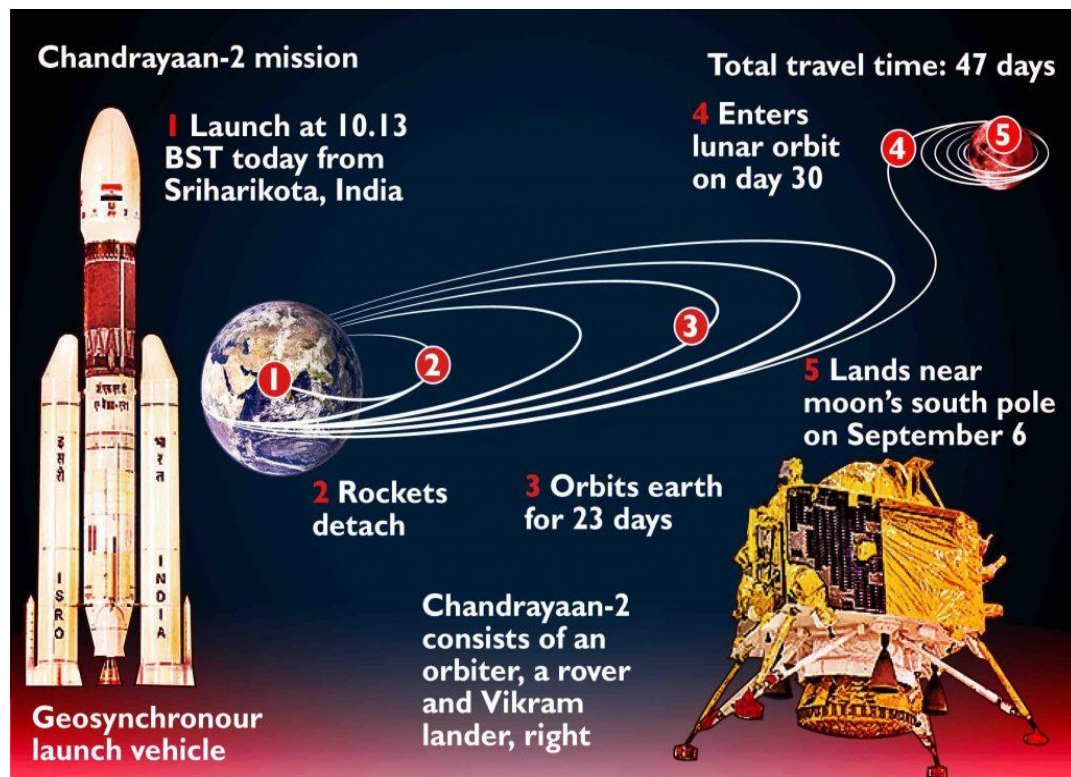
### **New Governors for Six states**

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed six new governors in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland and Tripura.
- ❖ The new governors as follows:

S.No	State Name	New Governors
1	Madhya Pradesh	Lal Ji Tandon
2	Uttar Pradesh	Anandi Ben Patel
3	Bihar	Phagu Chauhan
4	West Bengal	Jagdeep Dhankhar
5	Tripura	Ramesh Bais
6	Nagaland	RN Ravi

## Chandrayaan – 2 Mission

- ❖ India's most powerful satellite launch vehicle GSLV MkIII-M1 has successfully launched Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft on July 22, 2019 into its planned orbit.
- ❖ The launch took place from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan – 2 mission comprises
  - A fully indigenous Orbiter
  - Lander (named as Vikram)
  - Rover (names as Pragyan)
- ❖ The Lander aims to make a soft landing in a high plain between two moon craters — Manzinus C and Simpelius N on 7th September 2019.
- ❖ The mission life of Vikram is 1 lunar day.
- ❖ The Rover will roll out and carry out experiments on Lunar surface for a period of 1 lunar day which is equal to 14 Earth days.
- ❖ The Orbiter will continue its mission for a duration of one year.



### **The Fifth Dornier aircraft squadron**

- ❖ Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 313, the fifth Dornier aircraft squadron was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Admiral Karambir Singh.
- ❖ The Squadron will be operating from Chennai International Airport.
- ❖ With commissioning of INAS 313, Tamil Nadu will have three naval air bases which is the highest number for any Coastal State.
- ❖ The other two naval air bases are
  - INS Rajali at Arakkonam
  - INS Parundu at Ramnad
- ❖ The aircraft is used for maritime surveillance, Search and Rescue Operations and to provide targeting data to weapon platforms.



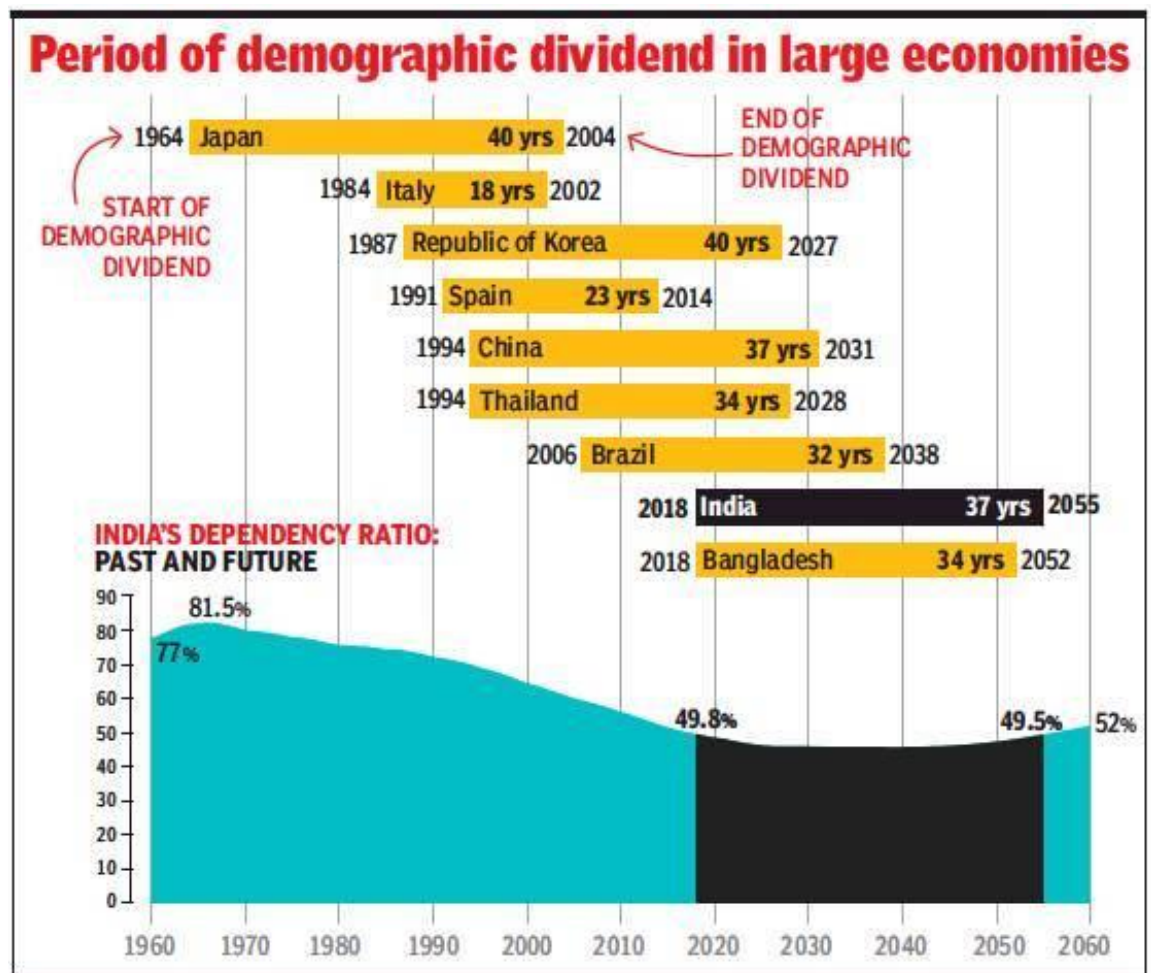
### **Indian Army HQ Revamp**

- ❖ The revamp of the Army Headquarters (AHQ) is expected to formally begin by the month-end.
- ❖ The entire training function will move under the Army Training Command, which will be shifted from Shimla to Meerut.
- ❖ The Delhi based-Director-General, Rashtriya Rifles will be moved to Udhampur where the Northern Command is located.
- ❖ 2 new Additional Director-General (ADG) posts will be created
  - ADG, Human Resources
  - ADG, Vigilance
- ❖ The revamp aims to enhance the army's operational and functional efficiency.



## Demographic Dividend Period

- ❖ Recent Studies have shown that India has entered a 37-year period of “Demographic Dividend” in 2018.
- ❖ The bulge in the working age population is going to last till 2055.
- ❖ UN Population Fund (UNFPA) defines demographic dividend as the “growth potential” that results from shifts in a population’s age structure.
- ❖ Since 2018, India’s working-age population (people between 15 and 64 years of age) has grown larger than the dependant population (age 0 to 14 and age more than 65).
- ❖ Japan, China and South Korea have already used this period and shown huge economic progress.





## Representation of SC and ST in Scientific Institutions

- ❖ A Right to Information query has found that scientists from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are grossly under-represented in scientific institutions funded by the Department of Biotechnology.
- ❖ Several of these institutions just about meet the government prescribed criteria for reservation — 15% for SC and 7.5% for ST.

Institute	Permanent staff		Scientists	
	Total	SC/ST	SC	ST
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology	37	6	1	0
National Institute of Immunology	208	34	2	0
Regional Centre for Biotechnology	44	4	0	0
National Institute of Plant Genome Research	74	9	5	0
Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics	110	19	2	0
National Centre for Cell Sciences	149	27	5	2
Centre of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing	13	2	1	0
Translational Health Science and Technology Institute	32	2	1	0
Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development	14	0	0	0

## Colistin Antibiotic - Animals

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued an order prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of “colistin” and its formulations for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.
- ❖ It has advised manufacturers to display this information on containers.
- ❖ Colistin is a last-resort antibiotic that saves lives in critical care units.
- ❖ It is effective against most Gram-negative bacilli.
- ❖ As it enters through food chain, an increasing number of patients exhibit resistance to the drug.

## DefExpo India - 2020

- ❖ The Eleventh biennial edition of DefExpo India - 2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh’s capital Lucknow in February 2020.

- ❖ The main theme of the event will be “India - the Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub”.
- ❖ It focusses on Digital Transformation of Defence.

### **Paid News**

- ❖ The government has recently announced steps to curb the menace of Paid News.
- ❖ Paid news is defined as any news or analysis appearing in print or electronic media for consideration in cash or kind.
- ❖ The Press Council of India has received 58 cases of paid news during 2018-19 from the Election Commission and others.
- ❖ It has recommended amendment to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 in order to make the incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice.

### **Bullet Proof jacket Kavach**

- ❖ India’s lightest bullet-proof jacket ‘Bhabha Kavach’ was recently launched at the International Police Expo 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ It has been developed jointly by the Ordnance Factories Board and the public sector metals and metal alloys manufacturer MIDHANI.
- ❖ The Kavach weighs 9.2 kg, a half kilogram less than the weight for a bullet-proof jacket prescribed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ The jacket is powered with nano technology from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and has a five-year warranty.





## Pencil Portal

- ❖ PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) portal has been effective in solving 361 Complaints of Child Labour all over India.
- ❖ It was launched in 2017.
- ❖ Its objective is to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of the National Child Labour Project Scheme.
- ❖ Online complaints regarding child labour can also be filed by anybody on the Pencil Portal.

## New Governors Appointments

- ❖ New Governors have been appointed to the following states

Gujarat	Acharya Devvrat
Himachal Pradesh	Kalraj Mishra
Chhattisgarh	Anusuiya Uikey
Andhra Pradesh	Biswa Bushan Harichandan

## Regional Connectivity Udan Scheme

- ❖ Eight more routes have started operations under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN.
- ❖ The scheme seeks to boost regional air connectivity and provides various incentives to airlines.
- ❖ The total UDAN routes that are now operational has increased to 194.
- ❖ The UDAN scheme was started on 21 October 2016.

Departure Airport (State)	Arrival Airport (State)	OPERATOR	Commencement Date
MYSORE (Karnataka)	HYDERABAD (Telangana)	ALLIANCE AIR	19 July 2019
HYDERABAD (Telangana)	MYSORE (Karnataka)	ALLIANCE AIR	19 July 2019
MYSORE (Karnataka)	GOA	ALLIANCE AIR	19 July 2019
GOA	MYSORE (Karnataka)	ALLIANCE AIR	19 July 2019
MYSORE (Karnataka)	COCHIN (Kerala)	ALLIANCE AIR	19 July 2019
COCHIN (Kerala)	MYSORE (Karnataka)	ALLIANCE AIR	19 July 2019
<i>KOLKATA (West Bengal)</i>	<i>SHILLONG (Meghalaya)</i>	<i>IndiGo(DoNER Route)</i>	<i>20 July 2019</i>
<i>SHILLONG (Meghalaya)</i>	<i>KOLKATA (West Bengal)</i>	<i>IndiGo(DoNER Route)</i>	<i>20 July 2019</i>



## **Ujh and Basantar Bridge**

- ❖ Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh has inaugurated 2 new bridges in Jammu & Kashmir.
  - 1 km long Ujh bridge in Kathua district
  - 617.40 m long Basantar bridge in Samba district
- ❖ Both of these bridges have been constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Project Sampark.
- ❖ The 1000-metre long Ujh bridge is the longest bridge constructed by the BRO.

### **About**

- ❖ BRO was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north-east states of the country.
- ❖ The organisation maintains operations in
  - Twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)
  - Neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

## **UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India**

- ❖ A new India-UK bilateral scheme named “UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India” has been launched on a pilot basis.
- ❖ Its objective is to fund students from UK to visit India.
- ❖ Britain's universities will collaborate with Indian partners to send UK students to India during their studies.
- ❖ The program is part of “Go International: Stand Out” campaign by the UK.

## **IndSpaceEx - 1st Space War Drill**

- ❖ The Indian armed forces are all set to conduct the country's first-ever simulated space warfare exercise "IndSpaceEx".
- ❖ The tri-Service integrated defence staff (IDS) under the defence ministry with all military and scientific stakeholders will conduct the drill.
- ❖ India successfully tested an anti-satellite (A-Sat) interceptor missile on March 27 this year.
- ❖ Such a capability is necessary as enemy countries can destroy or jam Indian satellites vital for surveillance, communication, missile early-warning and precision-targeting.



### **Occupational Health and Hygiene Institute**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH) with ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) - National Institute of Occupational Health.
- ❖ NIHM conducts applied research in occupational health and hygiene and provides tech support services to mining and mineral based industry.
- ❖ Registered Office: Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka
- ❖ It was set up by Government of India in 1990.

### **Hand-in-Hand Military Exercise**

- ❖ The 2019 edition of India and China joint military exercise titled "Hand – in – Hand" will be held in Umroi near Shillong, Meghalaya in December 2019.
- ❖ It will be a two-week exercise which will be based on counter terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
- ❖ It will be a company level exercise, where around 120 troops from each side will be participating.

### **Metrolite Trains**

- ❖ The Union government has proposed a light urban rail transit system named 'Metrolite'.
- ❖ It will be introduced in small cities and towns having lower projection of ridership.
- ❖ Each train will have three coaches and a restricted speed of 25 kmph.
- ❖ Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has issued standard specifications of the 'Metrolite' system which will be developed on surface and elevated stretches.
- ❖ Metrolite will not have Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) gates, platform screen doors, X-ray and baggage scanner.

### **National Data Quality Forum**

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) to improve data collection and use.
- ❖ NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives.
- ❖ It will guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences.



### **Fair Price for Sugarcane**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the determination of 'Fair and Remunerative Price' (FRP) of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for 2019-20 sugar season.
- ❖ FRP is the minimum price at which rate sugarcane is to be purchased by sugar mills from farmers.
- ❖ It is fixed by Union government on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ❖ Besides FRP, states such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, UP and TN announce a State Advised Price, which is generally higher than the FRP.

### **R & D in India**

- ❖ A special session was held to discuss India's Research and Development (R&D) expenditure eco-system report during the launch of Global Innovation Index (GII) – 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The report has been compiled by PMEAC.
- ❖ India invests a meagre 0.6% to 0.7% of GDP in R & D.
- ❖ This is much below the expenditure of countries like the US (2.8), China (2.1), Israel (4.3) and Korea (4.2).

### **50 Years of Bank Nationalization**

- ❖ India celebrated the 50 years of bank nationalization on July 19, 1969.
- ❖ The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi initiated nationalization of 14 major lenders that accounted for 85 per cent of bank deposits in the country.
- ❖ The banks were acquired under Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1969 which later became a bill.
- ❖ Six more banks were later nationalised in 1980.
- ❖ The core objective for nationalisation was to energise priority sectors at a time when the large businesses dominated credit profiles.
- ❖ SBI is the largest lender in India.



## Defence Dashboard

- ❖ Defence Minister launched dashboard of Department Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The dashboard will help the Ministry to keep track of the major components of Defence Production, including defence exports, defence offsets, Intellectual Property Rights and Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti.
- ❖ The dashboard is available for the general public at “ddpdashboard.gov.in”.

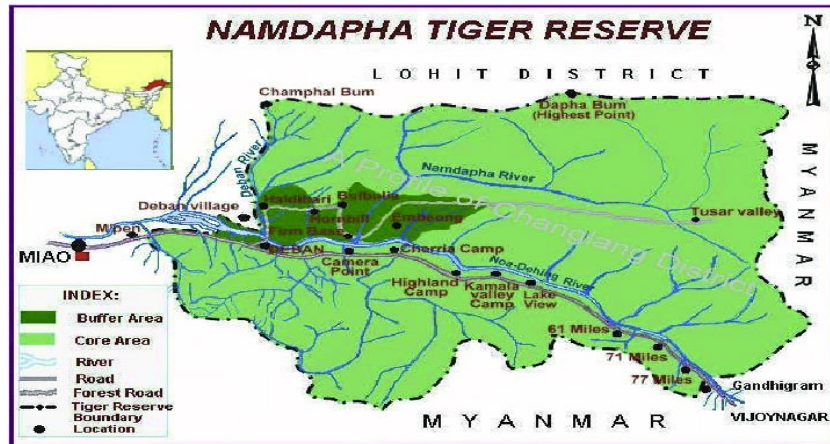
## Public Accounts Committee

- ❖ The leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has been appointed as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
- ❖ The PAC has 22 members (15 members from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha).
- ❖ The term of office of members of the committee does not exceed one year at a time.

## Namdapha Tiger Reserve

- ❖ Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger has taken a hit in the Namdapha Tiger Reserve as the authorities have discontinued the services of 53 frontline staff and all casual employees.

- ❖ The Namdapha Protected area is a Tiger Reserve and a national park.
- ❖ It is located in Arunachal Pradesh near the international border with Myanmar.
- ❖ It is India's Easternmost tiger reserve.



### POCSO Special Courts

- ❖ The Supreme Court asked the Centre to set up Special Courts in 60 days for POCSO cases.
- ❖ These courts would be centrally-funded.
- ❖ They are established in areas where there are more than 100 cases registered under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.
- ❖ This order came on a suo motu Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition registered by the Supreme Court itself.
- ❖ Between Jan 1 – June 30, 2019 around 24,212 FIR were filed under POCSO Act.
- ❖ But only 911 cases were decided by trial courts. This necessitated special courts.

### Migration Data based on Census 2011

- ❖ According to the Census 2011 data on migration released last week, Marriage and employment are the major reasons for migration.
- ❖ When a person is enumerated in Census at a different place than his/her place of birth, she/he is considered a 'migrant'.
- ❖ Over 45.58 crore Indians were found to be "migrants" during Census 2011.
- ❖ Nearly 39.57 crore people had moved within their states.
- ❖ 5.43 crore people have moved from one state to another.



## CARE4U Android App for Elderly People

- ❖ IIT Kharagpur team has developed an Android app for elderly people.
- ❖ The app connects the caregiver to the elderly person and has a “Medicine Reminder” facility.
- ❖ The app also has a record of medical histories, allergies’ account, an SOS button, real time location tracking and so on.

## RTI Amendment Bill, 2019

- ❖ After being passed in Lok Sabha recently, the Right to Information (RTI) Amendment Bill, 2019 was passed by the Rajya Sabha.

THEN AND NOW	
<p><b>TERM</b></p> <p><b>2005 ACT:</b> Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) at central and state levels will serve for five years.</p> <p><b>2019 BILL:</b> Central government will notify the term of office.</p>	<p>government.</p>
<p><b>SALARY</b></p> <p><b>2005 ACT:</b> At central level, salary of CIC and ICs equivalent to salary of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively. At state level, equivalent to salary of Election Commissioners and Chief Secretary, respectively.</p> <p><b>2019 BILL:</b> Salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central</p>	<p><b>DEDUCTIONS</b></p> <p><b>2005 ACT:</b> At the time of appointment, if CIC and ICs (at central and state levels) are receiving pension or any other retirement benefits for previous government service, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to that pension. Previous government service includes service under: (i) the central government, (ii) state government, (iii) corporation established under a central or state law, and (iv) company owned or controlled by the central or state government.</p> <p><b>2019 BILL:</b> The Bill removes these provisions.</p>
Source: PRS Legislative Research	

- ❖ The Bill changes the “Terms and Conditions of Service” of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (IC) at the Centre and in States.
- ❖ Union Government has allotted “itself” the powers to set salaries and allowances for CICs and ICs.
- ❖ According to estimates, nearly 60 lakh RTI applications are being filed every year.

### **Vande Mataram Case**

- ❖ The Delhi High Court has dismissed a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to declare "Vande Mataram" on par with "Jana Gana Mana".
- ❖ Vande Mataram is a Bengali poem written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1870s, which he included in his 1882 novel Anandamath.
- ❖ The poem was composed into song by Rabindranath Tagore.
- ❖ It was first sung in a political context by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress.

### **All India Police Duty Meet**

- ❖ Recently 62nd edition All India Police Duty Meet was held in Lucknow of Uttar Pradesh from July 16 to 20.



- ❖ The meet is organized annually by the All India Police Sports Control Board, New Delhi with the aim to improve the standards of professional skills of the police force in India.
- ❖ The Maharashtra Police team has, for the first time, won an overall championship trophy.

### **National Digital Health Blueprint report**

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) report in the public domain for inputs from various stakeholders.
- ❖ It will strengthen Digital India and accelerate efforts towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

### KEY GOALS

- Establishing and managing the core digital health data and the infrastructure required for its seamless exchange.
- Promoting the adoption of open standards by all the actors in the national digital health eco-system, for developing several digital health systems that span across the sector from wellness to disease management.
- Creating a system of personal health records, based on international standards, and easily accessible to the citizens and the service providers, based on citizen-consent.
- Following the best principles of cooperative federalism while working with the states and union territories for the realisation of the vision.
- Promoting health data analytics and medical research; enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of governance at all levels.
- Ensuring the quality of healthcare.
- Leveraging the information systems already existing in the health sector.

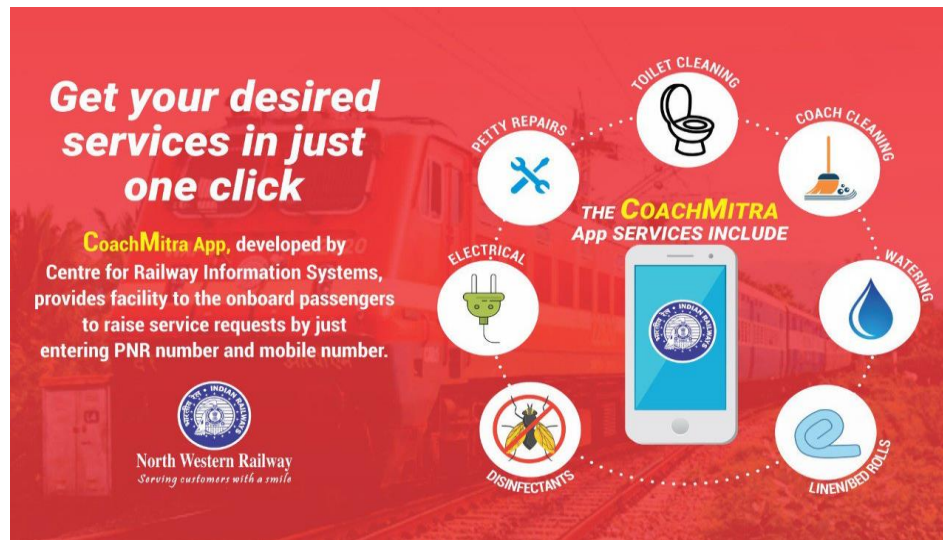
### FASTag Lanes

- To ensure seamless traffic and prevent congestion at toll plazas, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said it has decided to declare all lanes at toll fee plaza on national highways as 'FASTag lanes' from December 1.
- However, among all lanes, one 'hybrid lane' will be allowed at every toll plaza to facilitate and monitor over-dimensional or oversized vehicles, where FASTag and other modes of payment will be accepted.
- After December 1, non-FASTag users will be charged double the fee if they pass through FASTag-only lanes.
- FASTag is a prepaid tag that enables automatic deduction of toll charges and lets the vehicle pass through the toll plaza without stopping for the cash transaction.



## Coach Mitra App

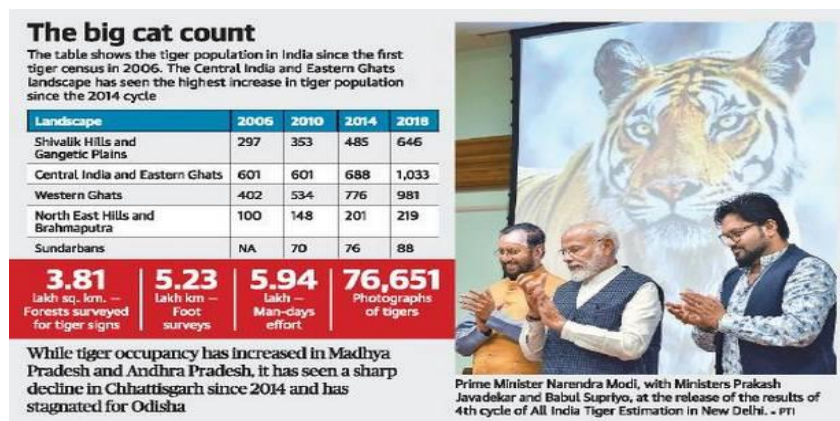
- ❖ The Southern Railway has figured among three poorly-performing zones of the Indian Railways when it comes to resolving the passenger grievances raised through the 'Coach Mitra' mobile application.



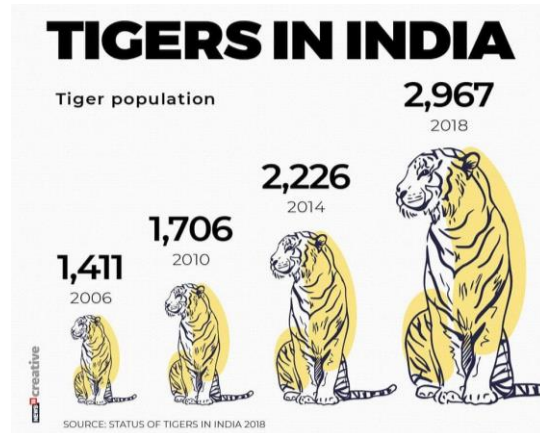
- ❖ The Eastern Railway was the top performer, followed by the West Central Railway and the East Coast Railway.
- ❖ The Coach Mitra app is a single-window system developed to enable passengers to flag issues relating to cleanliness, provision of water, linen quality and electrical fittings on trains.

## Tiger – Census, Conservation and Reserves

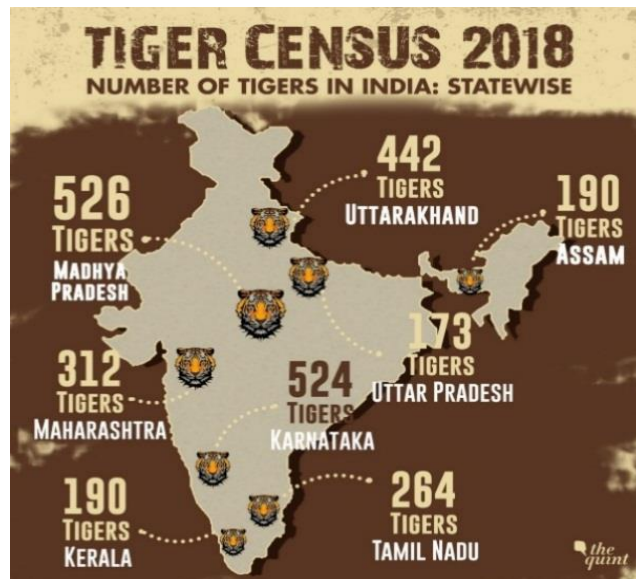
- ❖ The Global Tiger day was observed on July 29, 2019.
- ❖ On this occasion, the results of fourth tiger census was released in India.
- ❖ The survey was conducted by Wildlife Institute of India.



- ❖ It has revealed that India has a total of 2,967 tigers.
- ❖ The first survey was held in 2006.
- ❖ It is now held every 4 years.



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka (524) and Uttarakhand (442).
- ❖ Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in tiger population.



- ❖ Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of tigers.
- ❖ Tx2' programme was launched by World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit held in Russia.
- ❖ Under it, 13 tiger range countries had agreed to double the world tiger population by 2022.
- ❖ Nepal become first country in the world to double its tiger population as part of World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme.



### Tamilnadu Specifics

- ❖ All the four Tamilnadu tiger reserves have been ranked “very good” in the census. They are
  - Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)
  - Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)
  - Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)
  - Kalakkad – Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)
- ❖ STR in Tamil Nadu registered the “maximum improvement” since 2014. It has shown a 30% increase in tiger population since 2014.
- ❖ STR was also awarded by Prime Minister for highest increment in the quadrennial tiger census.
- ❖ There is also a proposal to form a fifth tiger reserve in Tamilnadu linking both
  - Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Theni district
  - Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary, Virudhunagar district.



(Numbers in brackets indicates lower and upper limits)  
Source: Status of Tigers in India 2018



## Odisha Rasagolla

- ❖ Odisha Rasagolla has been given the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Odisha Small Industries Corporation Limited (OSIC) will be the registered holder of Odisha Rasagolla's GI tag.
- ❖ It will enjoy all legal and intellectual protection available for the product.
- ❖ All the 30 districts in Odisha are termed as geographical areas entitled to use the GI tag.
- ❖ Odisha Rasagolla is associated with the world-renowned Puri Jagannath Temple rituals.

## Integrated Battle Groups

- ❖ The Indian Army announced that the first Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) concept is close to implementation and will be structured by end of next month.
- ❖ IBGs are brigade-sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations, which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.
- ❖ Usually 1,500 to 4,000 soldiers make a brigade.
- ❖ IBG can be both defensive and offensive.
- ❖ Defensive IBGs would hold ground at vulnerable points or where enemy action is expected.

## Iconic Tourist Sites

- ❖ 17 "Iconic Tourist Sites" in the country would be developed by the government "into world class tourist destinations, to serve as a model for other tourism sites".
- ❖ The initiative was aimed at enhancing India's soft power and was announced in the 2019 Budget speech.
- ❖ The List of sites are

Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Ajanta & Ellora (Maharashtra), Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort and Qutub Minar (Delhi), Colva (Goa), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kaziranga (Assam), Kumarakom (Kerala) and the Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).

## IN LCU L-56 Ship Commissioned

- ❖ IN LCU L56 was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.



- ❖ LCU 56 is an amphibious ship with its primary role being transportation and deployment of Main Battle Tanks, Armoured Vehicles, Troops and Equipment from ship to shore.
- ❖ It would be administered and based in Port Blair under the NAVCC in ANC (Andaman Nicobar Command).
- ❖ It is the 100<sup>th</sup> warship built by GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers), Kolkata.

## Sitting HC Judge Prosecution

- ❖ Justice SN Shukla of the Allahabad High Court has become the first sitting high court judge to be prosecuted while in office in nearly three decades.
- ❖ Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi has allowed the CBI to lodge a FIR against Justice Shukla.
- ❖ This is the first such case since the landmark Supreme Court Judgement in the K. Veeraswami vs Union of India, 1991.

### K. Veeraswami Case

- ❖ In this case, the court issued an order that Chief Justice's permission was "mandatory" for the filing of even a first information report (FIR) against any Judge of the High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The sanctioning authority for Prosecution is the President of India.
- ❖ But the Court has also laid down the procedure that the President "shall" act in accordance with advice given by the Chief Justice of India.



### **Waqf Board – Justice (Retd) Zakiullah Khan Committee**

- ❖ Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the national conference of Central Waqf Council (CWC) in New Delhi.
- ❖ He announced the Union Government's target to achieve 100 per cent digitisation of Waqf properties across the country in its first 100 days.
- ❖ Justice (Retd) Zakiullah Khan committee has also submitted its report for better utilisation and management of Waqf properties.

#### **About**

- ❖ Waqf is a type of large property which were dedicated in the name of God by generous Muslims.
- ❖ The proceeds of these properties will be used exclusively for welfare of the poor.

### **Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes**

- ❖ Both houses of the Parliament have passed the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill 2019.
- ❖ A deposit-taking scheme is defined as “Unregulated”, if
  - It is taken for a business purpose
  - It not registered with the regulators listed in the bill.
- ❖ Competent Authority not under the rank of State/Central Secretary will be appointed as government officers who regulate such schemes.
- ❖ It aims to create a centralised database of all deposit takers.
- ❖ Designated Courts will try cases relating to any offences.

### **Green Ratings for Fertiliser Sector**

- ❖ Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released the latest Report of Green Ratings on Fertilizer Sector in New Delhi called 'Grain by Grain'.
- ❖ Ratings has been done by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi.
- ❖ Positives: India's fertilizer sector is among the best in the world in energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- ❖ Concerns: Records on water use, water pollution and plant safety
- ❖ Top 3 Industries:
  - Indo Gulf Fertilizers unit at Jasdishpur, Uttar Pradesh



- Hazira unit of KRIBHCO in Gujarat
- Panambur unit of Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers, Karnataka.
- ❖ Established in 1980, CSE works as a think tank on environment-development issues in India.

### **National Minorities Commission**

- ❖ The National Commission of Minorities (NCM) has clarified that only the Union Government has the power to declare new groups as “Minorities”.
- ❖ This was in response to a plea filed in Supreme Court to officially declare Hindus as “Minorities” in States where they do not form a majority of the population.

#### **About**

- ❖ Minorities Commission was set up in 1978 vide an Executive order.
- ❖ It became a statutory body in 1992 after enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **G20 summit**

- ❖ The 14<sup>th</sup> G20 Summit took place at Osaka, Japan on June 28 and 29.
- ❖ 19 members of the G20, except the US, reaffirmed their commitment to the "full implementation" of the Paris climate deal, agreeing to look into a wide range of clean technologies and approaches.
- ❖ Leaders of the G20 proclaimed “Osaka declaration” to make united efforts to address major global economic challenges.
- ❖ Ahead of the summit, JAI (Japan-America-India) Trilateral talk took place in Osaka.
- ❖ Also, RIC (Russia- India-China) Trilateral talk took place.
- ❖ Twenty-four countries and groupings signed a statement agreeing to the Osaka Track which was declared by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ India, Indonesia, Egypt and South Africa did not sign the declaration.
- ❖ “Osaka Track” is a framework to promote cross-border data flow with enhanced protections.
- ❖ This summit held under following 8 various themes:

1.Global Economy	5.Employment
2.Trade and Investment	6.Women's Empowerment
3.Innovation	7.Development
4.Environment and Energy	8.Health

- ❖ The first G20 meeting took place in Berlin, Germany in 1999.
- ❖ The G20 Summit is formally known as the “Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy”.



## RUSSIA-INDIA-CHINA TRILATERAL

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Russia-India-China Trilateral Summit** took place in November, 2018 after a gap of 12 years!

The leaders met on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina

### AN OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Established in 2002**
- ▶ **A platform for Russia, India & China to discuss global & regional issues of common concern**
- ▶ **Foreign Ministerial Meetings held annually**

## African Biotech Park

- ❖ The Mahatma Gandhi Information Technology & Biotech Park (MGIT-BP) has been inaugurated in Côte d'Ivoire.
- ❖ The MGIT-BP was built with India's assistance through EXIM Bank Lines of Credit of US\$ 20 million.
- ❖ It is a dedicated Free Trade Zone for IT & Biotechnology.



## **ISALEX 19**

- ❖ Abu Dhabi is hosting International Security Alliance (ISA's) first joint security exercise named ISALEX19.
- ❖ Representatives of 50 law enforcement agencies of the ISA are taking part in the first joint security exercise in Abu Dhabi.

### **About ISA**

- ❖ ISA was launched in 2017 and headquartered at Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ It is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes.

## **Self-Care**

- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health.
- ❖ Because according to an estimate, the world will face a shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers by 2035.
- ❖ In its first volume, the WHO guidelines focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## **Trump and Kim Meet**

- ❖ United States President Donald Trump became 1st sitting US president to set foot in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) when he met its leader, Kim Jong Un.
- ❖ He met Kim in Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between North Korea and South Korea.
- ❖ Trump and Kim Jong Un have already met twice at Singapore Summit and Hanoi Summit, Vietnam.

## **Iran's Nuclear Program**

- ❖ Iran has exceeded the 300-kilogram limit on its enriched uranium reserves set by the 2015 nuclear deal.
- ❖ In 2015, due to international pressure Iran had agreed to limit its sensitive nuclear activities and allow international inspectors in return for the lifting of economic sanctions.



- ❖ But due to rising tensions between Iran and the US and continuing economic blockade Iran has reverted back to enriching Uranium.
- ❖ This may eventually lead to production of nuclear weapons.

### **NATO-ally Like Status**

- ❖ The National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) for the fiscal year 2020 was passed by the US Senate recently.
- ❖ It brings India at par with America's traditional NATO allies like South Korea, Australia and Japan.
- ❖ It provides for increased US-India defence cooperation in Indian Ocean in the areas of humanitarian assistance, counterterrorism, counter-piracy and maritime security.
- ❖ In 2016 India was conferred the "Major Defence Partner" designation by the US.

### **India Aiding Palestinians**

- ❖ India has pledged to contribute USD 5 Million in 2019 to the UN Palestine refugee agency.
- ❖ The Indian Government is also assisting 150 Palestinian professionals every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme.

### **ILO Report on Global warming**

- ❖ The International Labour Organisation (ILO) released a report named 'Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work'.
- ❖ It stated that India is projected to lose 5.8% of working hours in 2030 equivalent to 34 million full-time jobs due to global warming.
- ❖ It will mainly impact agriculture and construction sectors.
- ❖ India will be the most affected country because of its large population.

### **European Union President**

- ❖ Germany's Ursula von der Leyen was appointed by European Union (EU) leaders as the next President of European Commission.
- ❖ This would be the 1st time in 50 years a German national holds the top EU job.



- ❖ European Commission is responsible for implementing decisions, proposing legislation, upholding EU treaties and managing day-to-day business of European Union.
- ❖ It was founded in 1958 and headquartered at Brussels, Belgium.

### **Henley Passport Index**

- ❖ The Indian passport has been ranked at the 86th position with a mobility score of 58 in the latest Henley Passport Index 2019.
- ❖ The score points out that Indian passport holders can access 58 countries around the world without a prior visa.
- ❖ The list is topped by Japan & Singapore with a mobility score of 189.
- ❖ The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ Started in 2005, The Henley Passport Index (HPI) is a global ranking of countries according to the travel freedom for their citizens.

### **Facebook, Google Taxed by France**

- ❖ France's Lower House of Parliament has approved a small, pioneering tax on Internet giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook.
- ❖ The Bill aims to stop the tech-multinational companies from avoiding taxes by setting up headquarters in low-tax European Union countries.
- ❖ Currently these companies pay nearly no tax in countries where they have large sales like France.

### **Pirates of West Africa**

- ❖ According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), West Africa's Gulf of Guinea became the world's most pirate-infested sea in 2018.
- ❖ The region witnessed 72 attacks in 2018 and 30 attacks till now in 2019.
- ❖ Founded in 1981, IMB is a specialized department of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).
- ❖ It is mandated to fight crimes related to maritime trade and transportation, particularly piracy.



## UNFAO's Chinese head

- ❖ China's deputy Agriculture minister Qu Dongyu has been selected as the Director-General of UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.
- ❖ Qu will be the first head of the agency from China, and will succeed Brazil's José Graziano da Silva.
- ❖ His four-year term will start on 1 August.

### About FAO

- ❖ FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- ❖ It was founded in 1945 and head quartered currently at Rome, Italy.
- ❖ With around 11,500 employees, it is the UN's largest technical agency.
- ❖ FAO helps developing countries modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.

## Babylon Heritage Site

- ❖ UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has listed Iraq's "Babylon" as a World Heritage Site.
- ❖ This ancient Mesopotamian city was developed as a walled city of mudbrick temples and towers, constituting the Tower of Babel, and the Ishtar Gate.
- ❖ It was the centre of the ancient Babylonian empire more than 4,000 years ago.
- ❖ Famous rulers who ruled from Babylon include Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar.
- ❖ Babylon is world famous for its Hanging gardens.
- ❖ The other recently selected list of World Heritage sites are

- Ancient Ferrous Metallurgy Sites of Burkina Faso
- Paraty and Ilha Grande, Brazil
- Vatnajökull National Park, Iceland
- French Austral Lands and Seas, France
- Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, Albania - an extension from the North Macedonian side of the lake, which has been on the World Heritage List since 1979



### **Five Eyes Program**

- ❖ The United States has threatened to stop sharing intelligence data with Five Eyes countries if they use Chinese telecom company Huawei's network equipment.
- ❖ The Five Eyes name refers to the security classification of intelligence documents which is available only for
  - Australia
  - Canada
  - New Zealand
  - UK
  - USA
- ❖ This program was started in 1946 between US and UK to share intelligence. Then the rest of the countries joined.
- ❖ During the Cold war era they spied Russia. After 9/ 11 Twin Tower attacks, they are also monitoring global terrorists.

### **Torture Goods UN Resolution**

- ❖ India joined with Russia and 42 other nations to abstain from voting on a recent UN General Assembly resolution introduced by Romania.
- ❖ The resolution aimed at examining options to end trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture.
- ❖ India abstained from voting on it because
  - It is against Indian statutory law which allows capital punishment in rarest of the rare cases
  - It may be an attempt to place capital punishment on par with torture.

### **Model Village in Sri Lanka**

- ❖ The first model village built with Indian assistance under the Model Villages Program was inaugurated at Ranidugama in Gampaha in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It is a part of housing project meant for Tamil people displaced due to war.
- ❖ India plans to construct 100 such model villages with 2400 houses each.
- ❖ India's contribution also includes the largest University Auditorium in Ruhuna University in Matara in Sri Lanka.



### **Sharjah Golden Card Visa**

- ❖ Sharjah's first Golden Card visa was issued to Indian expat businessman Lalu Samuel.
- ❖ It is a 10-year long-term visa eligible for investors and entrepreneurs and scientists so as to engage them in the development of the UAE.
- ❖ The card-holders are entitled to a host of privileges, a residency visa without a sponsor to them and their families (spouse and children).

### **Zamzam Holy Water from Haj**

- ❖ Air India has said that pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia after Haj will be allowed to carry holy water from the Zamzam within permissible baggage allowance.
- ❖ The well of Zamzam is located in Mecca in Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Many Haj pilgrims bring the holy water from the well for family and friends.

### **Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act in US**

- ❖ The US House of Representatives have passed to remove the 7% the seven per cent country-specific cap on Green Card applicants.
- ❖ A Green Card allows a non-US citizen to live and work permanently in America.
- ❖ More number of highly skilled Indian IT professionals who enter US mainly on the H-1B work visas are expected to get permanent legal residency.

### **Vote on the appointment of the Independent Expert**

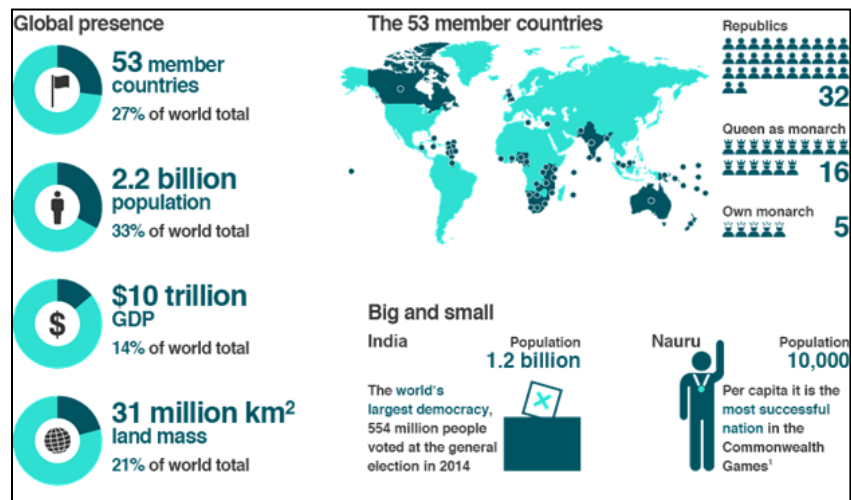
- ❖ India abstained at the vote for extending the mandate of an important U.N. official who reports on violence and discrimination against sexual minorities.
- ❖ This Resolution aimed to grant an extension of three years to the Independent Expert to carry on reporting on incidents of violence against the LGBTQ community all over the world.
- ❖ The resolution received support from most of the member countries at the Human Rights Council.
- ❖ but India, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Hungary, Togo and Senegal abstained during the final voting.



- ❖ Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Qatar, Somalia opposed the resolution.
- ❖ India had also abstained during the 2016 vote on appointment of the Independent Expert.
- ❖ The current Independent Expert is Victor Madrigal Borlio of Costa Rica.

### India's support to Maldives

- ❖ India has urged the Commonwealth to expedite readmission of the Maldives as a member country.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar conveyed India's stand at the 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting in London.
- ❖ The Maldives withdrew from the Commonwealth during the tenure of President Abdullah Yameen in 2016.



### About Commonwealth

- ❖ The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 independent and sovereign states, nearly all of them former territories of the British Empire.
- ❖ Headquartered in London, the Commonwealth was started in 1931.
- ❖ The last country to join the Commonwealth was Rwanda in 2009.
- ❖ All 53 members have an equal say, regardless of the size or economic stature.

### No Reimbursement for Homeopathy - France

- ❖ The French government has decided to stop reimbursing medical bills of its citizens who undergo homeopathic treatment from 2021.



- ❖ In 2017, Britain decided to stop funding homeopathic care.
- ❖ Alternative medicine homeopathy was developed in 1796 by Samuel Hahnemann in Germany.

### **Rohingya Refugees**

- ❖ India has handed over 250 completed prefabricated homes to the Myanmar government for use by the Rohingya refugees when they return.
- ❖ In 2017, India had committed to spend \$25 million over five years on Rohingya Rehabilitation.
- ❖ Nearly 7,00,000 Rohingyas Muslims fled to Bangladesh and subsequently to India due to ethnic cleansing by Myanmar government.

### **New North Korean Constitution**

- ❖ In a new Constitution to North Korea, Kim Jong-un has been formally named “head of state of North Korea” and the Commander-in-Chief of the military.
- ❖ A previous Constitution simply called Mr. Kim “supreme leader” who commands the country’s “overall military force”.
- ❖ The title change is presumed to be a precursor to a Peace Deal with the USA.

### **Measles eradicated in Sri Lanka**

- ❖ Sri Lanka has been declared to be free of the highly infectious “measles” disease by the World Health Organization.
- ❖ It reported the last case of the homegrown virus infection in May 2016.
- ❖ In recent times, measles has seen resurgence in high-income countries like the US and Europe.

### **One More Orbit – Circumnavigation**

- ❖ The [One More Orbit](#) crew led by Action Aviation chairman Hamish Harding and astronaut Terry Virts has completed its circumnavigation of the world on July 11.
- ❖ The One More Orbit mission marks both the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first global circumnavigation, started in 1519 by Ferdinand Magellan.



- ❖ It was completed in a Gulfstream G650ER: the fastest ultra-long-range business jet.
- ❖ Pitstops: Kazakhstan, Mauritius and Chile.
- ❖ Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka was part of the 8-member crew.
- ❖ Padalka is the world's current record holder for total days spent in space (879 days).

### **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**

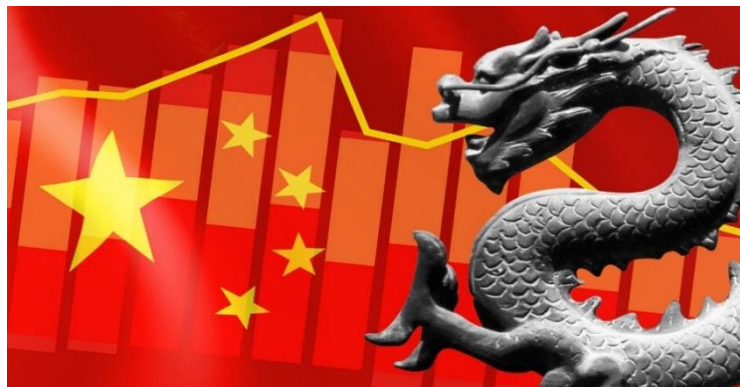
- ❖ Italian socialist David Maria Sassoli has been elected as the new President of the European Parliament.
- ❖ He will lead Parliament until January 2022.
- ❖ He will succeed Antonio Tajani.



- ❖ 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.

### **China's Worst Growth Slowdown in Three Decades**

- ❖ China's economic growth slowed to 6.2 % in the second quarter of this year.
- ❖ This is the weakest growth rate in the last 27 years for the world's second-largest economy.



- ❖ This was the result of a trade war with the United States and weakening global demand.

### **Ebola Outbreak in Congo: Global Emergency**

- ❖ The World Health Organisation has declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

- ❖ WHO defines a global emergency as an “extraordinary event” which constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated international response.
- ❖ Such a declaration brings greater international attention and aid.
- ❖ This is only the fifth such declaration in history.
- ❖ Previous emergencies were: the emergence of Zika in the Americas, the swine flu pandemic, polio eradication and 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa.



### **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**

- ❖ Amazon chief Jeff Bezos is the still richest man in the world, with a total net worth of \$125 billion.
- ❖ Bill Gates stands at Number 3 with net worth of \$107 billion.
- ❖ Microsoft Corp co-founder Bill Gates, who has never been ranked below the second spot on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index has been pushed to the Number 3 rank by Bernard Arnault, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LVMH.
- ❖ It must be mentioned that Gates' philanthropic endeavours was one of the biggest reasons for his slip in ranking.
- ❖ Gates donated more than \$35 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ❖ The richest Indian, Mukesh Ambani is on the 13th spot, with a net worth of \$51.8 billion.
- ❖ Azim Premji is the second-richest Indian to be on the list at the 48th rank with \$20.5 billion, followed by Shiv Nadar in the 92nd spot and Uday Kotak on the 96th spot.



### About

- ❖ Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking of the world's billionaires published by Bloomberg News since March 2012.
- ❖ It tracks the 500 wealthiest people in the world.

### **NAM Meeting**

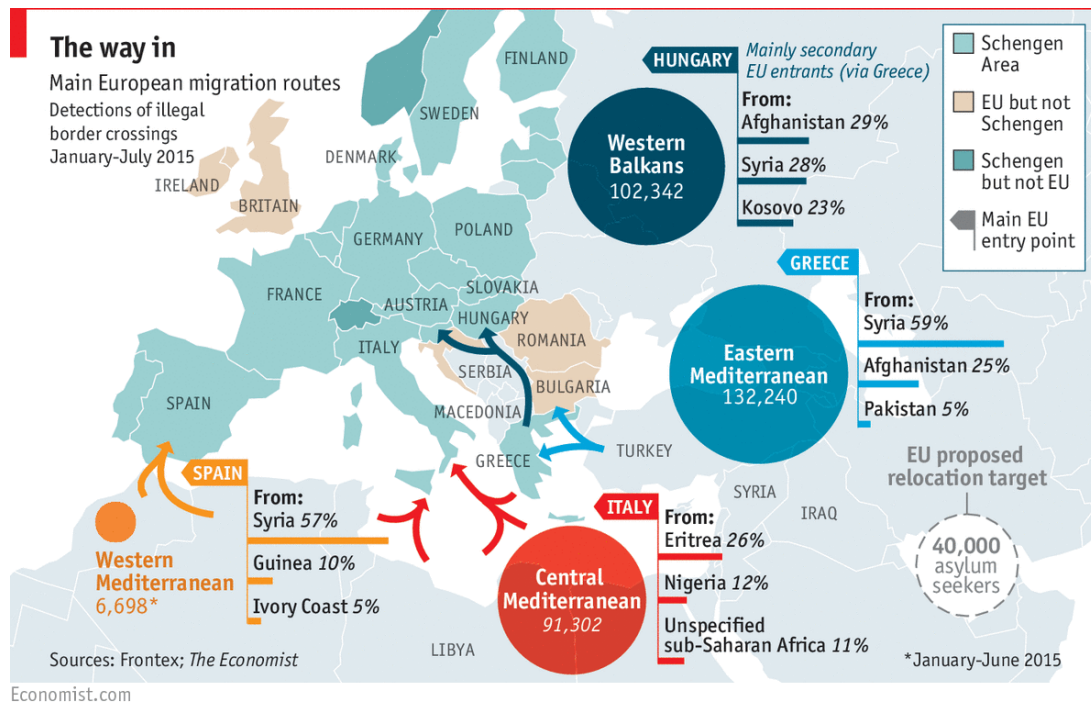
- ❖ The Ministerial meeting of co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held in Caracas, capital of Venezuela.
- ❖ The theme for 2019 Meet was Promotion and Consolidation of Peace through Respect for International Law.
- ❖ Since 2016 Venezuela has held the presidency of NAM which will now be passed on to Azerbaijan in October 2019.

### About

- ❖ NAM was established in Belgrade in 1961.
- ❖ It was a joint initiative of former Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito.
- ❖ It is the 2nd largest international organization after United Nations (UN) with 120 member states.
- ❖ It was primarily established for developing countries that were neither a part of alliance led by the US or Soviet Russia.

### **Resettling Poor Migrants**

- ❖ Eight European Union (EU) nations have agreed to a migrant resettlement plan proposed by France and Germany.
- ❖ They have agreed to share the lakhs of migrants rescued in the Mediterranean.
- ❖ Thousands of migrants attempt to cross the Mediterranean to Europe every year, and Libya is a key departure point.



## Tiangong 2 – China

- ❖ Tiangong-2, a manned Chinese space station, was destroyed upon its controlled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean on July 19.
- ❖ Tiangong-2 was launched on September 15, 2016 and in late 2016, hosted two Chinese astronauts for 30 days.
- ❖ It was China's longest manned space mission so far.
- ❖ The Space debris fell near Point Nemo, the most remote location on Earth.

## Secret Chinese Naval Base in Ream

- ❖ China and Cambodia have reportedly signed a “secret pact” which allows China exclusive use of a naval base on the Gulf of Thailand.
- ❖ Ream Naval Base is a facility operated by the Royal Cambodian Navy on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand.
- ❖ China plans to post military personnel, store weapons and berth warships at Ream for 30 years.
- ❖ This would be China's second overseas naval foothold, after a base in Djibouti opened in 2017.



## Underwater Military Vehicles Museum

- ❖ Jordan has unveiled its 1st Underwater Military Museum on the bed of Red Sea off the coast of Aqaba.
- ❖ The Museum features 19 decommissioned pieces of military hardware, submerged at depths up to 92 feet.
- ❖ This unique tourism experience is expected to attract more tourists to the already popular Aqaba diving resort.

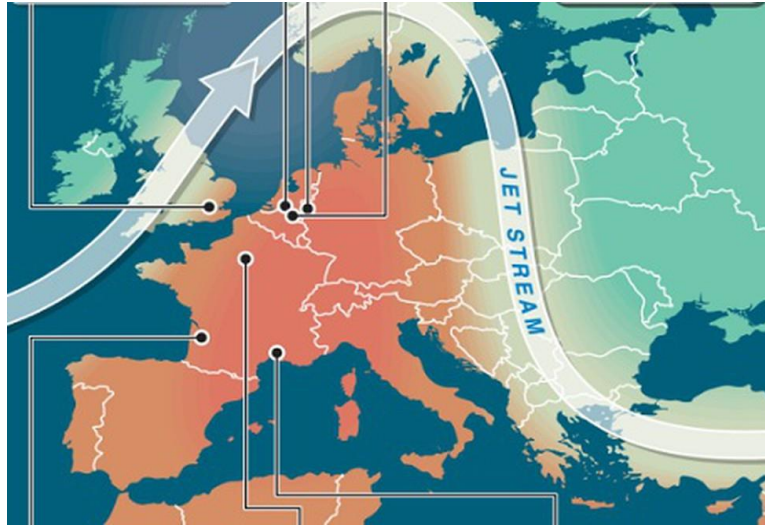
### About Red Sea

- ❖ The Red Sea is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean, lying between Africa and Asia.
- ❖ It is designated as a Global 200 ecoregion by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature).
- ❖ Over half of the ecoregions in the Global 200 are rated endangered.

## Omega Block – Climate Emergency in Europe

- ❖ Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands have recorded their highest ever temperatures consecutively for the second time.
- ❖ The latest heatwave is caused by an “Omega Block”.
- ❖ Western Europe’s weather is largely governed by the jet stream.
- ❖ Omega Block is a high-pressure pattern that blocks and diverts the jet stream.

- ❖ It allows a mass of hot air to flow up from northern Africa and the Iberian Peninsula.
- ❖ It is in omega shape. Hence the name Omega Block.



### **Global Tobacco Epidemic**

- ❖ WHO launched its seventh Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic which analyses national efforts to reduce demand for tobacco.
- ❖ Currently, there are an estimated 1.1 billion smokers, around 80% of whom live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

## **ECONOMY**

### **GST Second Anniversary**

- ❖ The second anniversary of GST implementation was observed on 1st July 2019.
- ❖ The Finance Ministry unveiled a new return filing mechanism besides a host of other reforms to simplify this indirect tax system.
- ❖ The GST collections for June 2019 stood at less than one lakh crores (Rs.99,939 crores)

### **Current Account Deficit**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has stated that India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) increased to \$57.2 billion or 2.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Financial Year 2019.



- ❖ It is the highest in 6 years due to higher trade deficit caused by high crude oil imports.
- ❖ CAD was only \$48.7 billion or 1.8% of the GDP in Financial year 2018.

### **Reappointed of RBI deputy governor**

- ❖ N S Vishwanathan was re-appointed as the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for one more year with effect from July 4, 2019.
- ❖ He is in charge of regulation of banks, non-banking finance companies, and cooperative banks.
- ❖ Besides N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and M K Jain were the two other deputy governors of RBI.
- ❖ He is also a member of the Bimal Jalan committee which looks into the appropriate economic capital framework for RBI.

### **Core Investment Companies**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a working group to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CIC).
- ❖ The group will be headed by Tapan Ray, non-executive chairman, Central Bank of India.
- ❖ A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with asset size of more than 100 crores is designated as a CIC.

### **Aadhar and PAN**

- ❖ The Union Budget 2019-20 has proposed to make Aadhaar interchangeable with PAN.
- ❖ It allows people without PAN to file income tax returns using only their Aadhaar.
- ❖ Aadhar number can be used wherever PAN Number details are sought after.
- ❖ According to data with the Central Board of Direct Taxes only 23 crores PAN out of 42 crores have been linked to Aadhar.

### **Digital Udaan**

- ❖ Reliance Jio has announced a digital literacy initiative for the first-time Internet users in the country.



- ❖ As part of the "Digital Udaan" initiative in collaboration with Facebook, Jio will engage with its users every Saturday to help them learn about Jio Phone features, use of various apps and Internet safety including use of Facebook.
- ❖ The "Digital Udaan" initiative will have audio-visual training in 10 regional languages.

### **Sovereign Gold Bonds**

- ❖ The government fixed the price of the new series of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) at Rs 3,443 per gram opening July 8, 2019.
- ❖ Under SGB scheme, launched in November 2015, bonds are denominated in units of one gram of gold.
- ❖ Minimum Investment in bonds is 1 gram and the maximum limit of subscription is 500 gram/person/fiscal year.

### **Three Year Roadmap for RBI**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board has finalised a three- year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank.
- ❖ The program is named as Utkarsh 2022.
- ❖ It is in line with the best practices followed by global Central banks.

### **Third Party Insurance Administrators**

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced changes in the regulations governing Third-Party Administrators (TPAs) Health Services.
- ❖ TPAs act as an intermediary between the insurance company and policyholder.
- ❖ They also handle insurance claims.
- ❖ New regulations allow the policyholders themselves to choose TPA of their choice.

### **Unauthorised Leak of Sensitive Information**

- ❖ The Finance Bill, 2019 has given the SEBI powers to levy huge fines on “entities” that tamper or destroy electronic databases or fail to furnish data during investigation.
- ❖ Fines are up to ₹10 crore or three times the unlawful gains, whichever is higher.



- ❖ Individual brokers can be laid fines upto ₹1 crore.
- ❖ The move is aimed to prevent leak unauthorised leak of pricing information and other sensitive data through Whatsapp and other digital means.

### **Borrowing from Overseas Markets**

- ❖ Union Government plans to raise a portion of its gross borrowing from overseas markets.
- ❖ So far, the government of India has only issued bonds in the domestic market.
- ❖ It now plans to issue overseas sovereign bonds.
- ❖ Government issues bonds with the promise to pay periodic interest payments and also repay the entire face value of the bond on the maturity date.

### **Concerns**

- ❖ Overseas borrowing will lead to a stronger rupee.
- ❖ A stronger rupee would encourage imports at a time when the government is trying to curb them.

### **India - ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers Meet**

- ❖ India – ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers’ meeting was held in New Delhi today for informal consultation on the ongoing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- ❖ The meeting was attended by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ He stressed that market access issues with China for Indian goods have been particularly problematic.
- ❖ RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement between
  - 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam)
  - 6 Indo-Pacific states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand).



### **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.

### **Extension to 15th Finance Commission**

- ❖ Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved extension of term of 15th Finance Commission (FC) up to 30 November 2019.
- ❖ The government has also broadened the ambit of FC's recommendation to include funds for defence and internal security.
- ❖ Extension is given due to various fiscal and budgetary reforms introduced between 2014-19.

#### About

- ❖ The 15th Finance Commission was constituted by Presidential Order on November 2017 under the Chairmanship of N. K. Singh.
- ❖ It will decide formula for devolution of revenue/funds between Centre and States, for a 5-year period between April 2020 to March 2025.



### **Bimal Jalan Panel's surplus transfer**

- ❖ The Bimal Jalan panel has decided to recommend the transfer of RBI's surplus reserves to the government.
- ❖ It will be transferred in a staggered manner over 3-5 years.
- ❖ The transfer of surplus capital may help the government meet its fiscal deficit target.
- ❖ The recommendation for transfer of excess reserves includes both contingency and revaluation funds.

### **Most Digitized State**

- ❖ Bengaluru-based payment solutions company Razorpay launched the second edition of its digital transactions report, 'The Era of Rising Fintech'.
- ❖ According to the report, Karnataka topped the list of most digitised States, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranked fourth, followed by Andhra Pradesh.

### **Committee on Virtual Currencies**

- ❖ The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Virtual Currencies has submitted its Report along with draft Bill 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019.'
- ❖ It has officially banned and proposed fines for carrying on any activities connected with cryptocurrencies in India.
- ❖ But it has also the government urged to consider announcing an "official digital currency".
- ❖ It highlighted the positive aspect of Distributed-Ledger Technology (DLT) commonly known as "blockchain technology".
- ❖ DLT has immense use in the financial services sector. Ex: loan-issuance tracking.

### **Global Innovation Index 2019**

- ❖ The Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal released Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 in New Delhi on July 24, 2019.
- ❖ India gained five ranks since last year and stood at 52nd rank.



- ❖ The report says that India continues to be the most innovative economy in Central and Southern Asia.
- ❖ GII is a leading reference for measuring an economy's innovation performance. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> edition.
- ❖ It is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

### **Fortune Global 500**

- ❖ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) becomes highest-ranked Indian company on Fortune Global 500 list.
- ❖ It has jumped 42 places and is ranked 106 this year.
- ❖ Indian Oil Company (IOC) is also in the list.
- ❖ Fortune Global 500 is an annual ranking of top 500 corporations worldwide as measured by revenue.
- ❖ The list is compiled and published annually by Fortune magazine, an American multinational business magazine.

### **NBFC Regulation**

- ❖ Finance Bill, 2019 aims to give more powers to RBI to regulate Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC).
- ❖ The supervisory framework for NBFCs is being aligned with that of Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- ❖ RBI can direct the inspection and audit of any group company of an NBFC.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census**

- ❖ Union Government has started off the 7th Economic Census from Tripura.
- ❖ It will be launched in other states and union territories in August and September.
- ❖ Economic Census (EC) is the complete count of all establishments/units located within the geographical boundaries of the country.
- ❖ It is the only source of information on the significantly large unorganized sector in the country.
- ❖ Agriculture is not covered in Economic census.



- ❖ The census is being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI).
- ❖ Six Economic Censuses (EC) have been conducted till date:
  - First EC (1977), Second EC (1980), Third EC (1990), Fourth EC (1998), Fifth EC (2005) and Sixth EC (2013).

### **World Hindu Economic Forum**

- ❖ World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) has launched its Nepal Chapter to increase economic cooperation between India and Nepal and to connect Nepal with a global network for its economic prosperity.
- ❖ WHEF was started in 2012 at Hong Kong.
- ❖ It is a group of committed Economists, Academicians, Industrialists, Businessmen, Bankers, Professionals and activists.
- ❖ Their philosophy is “Economy is the strength” (Dharmasya Moolam Arthah – Arthasasthra)

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Dragonfly – NASA**

- ❖ NASA announced that it is sending a drone-style quadcopter to Titan, Saturn’s largest moon.
- ❖ This Dragonfly spacecraft is scheduled to launch in 2026.
- ❖ It will reach Titan in 2034.

### **Gaganyaan and Russia**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a pact with the Russian firm Glavkosmos to select and train astronauts for the country’s Gaganyaan project.
- ❖ Simulation of the real space environment, parabolic flights and training in the spacecraft will be done outside India.
- ❖ Gaganyaan is a crewed orbital spacecraft expected to carry three people into space for seven days.
- ❖ ISRO plans to launch its first manned space mission Gaganyaan in 2022.



## **Artificial Gravity**

- ❖ A Team of Scientists from the University of Colorado, USA is working on making the concept of artificial gravity a reality.
- ❖ Artificial gravity means spacecraft generating their own gravity by spinning around in space.
- ❖ This will ensure astronauts remain healthy during space explorations and stay for longer periods.

## **Lithium-Ion Giga Factories**

- ❖ NITI Aayog has proposed the establishment of “giga factories” in India for the manufacture of lithium-ion batteries in the next couple of years.
- ❖ The recommendation is part of NITI Aayog’s push for the adoption of electric mobility in the country.
- ❖ It has recently proposed that only electric three-wheelers should be sold in the country after March 31, 2023 and only electric two-wheelers below 150cc should be sold post March 31, 2025.

## **Great South American Eclipse**

- ❖ The only total solar eclipse of 2019 occurred in South American continent.

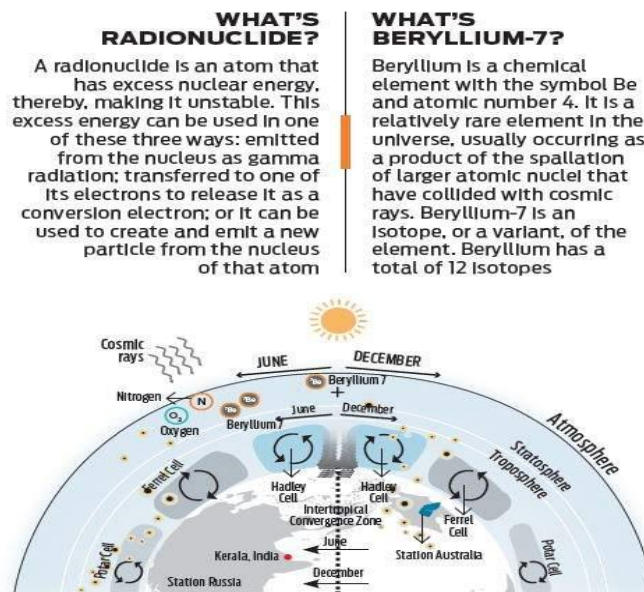


- ❖ A total eclipse happens when the dark silhouette of the Moon completely covers the intense bright light of the Sun.

- ❖ Only the much fainter solar corona is visible during a total eclipse which is known as a Totality.
- ❖ The path of totality in this eclipse covered land mass beginning near La Serena, Chile and ended near Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### Monsoon Prediction using Beryllium-7 radionuclide

- ❖ Lucrezia Terzi of Belgian Nuclear Research Centre used data from monitors meant to detect nuclear explosions to decode the 'complex' Indian monsoon.
- ❖ The International Monitoring System stations set up under Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) regularly detect the level of radioisotopes in the atmosphere.



- ❖ She used data from the CTBTO monitors in Russia and Australia to know the levels of radioactive isotope Beryllium-7 to predict the monsoon.
- ❖ Whenever Beryllium-7 level is high in Russia it is low in Australia vice versa.
- ❖ The point at which the data of both countries intersect is called Hadley-Ferrell Convergence Zone (HFCZ).
- ❖ HFCZ can be linked to monsoon rains.
- ❖ This system predicts monsoon with unprecedented accuracy - about two months in advance with an error margin of about three days.

### **Artist Ai-Da**

- ❖ Ai-Da is the world's first ultra-realistic humanoid artist.
- ❖ She is the brainchild of Aidan Meller.
- ❖ It uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.



- ❖ Ai-Da is named after Ada Lovelace, the English mathematician and writer often called the world's first computer coder.
- ❖ Developed by: Oxford University.

### **Neutrino Observatory at Theni**

- ❖ The Government of India has approved a project to build the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Pottipuram in Theni District of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The project aims to set up a 51000-ton Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector.
- ❖ It will observe naturally occurring atmospheric neutrinos in a cavern at the end of a 2 km long tunnel in a mountain.
- ❖ It is built as an underground observatory to reduce the noise from cosmic rays that is ever present over-ground.
- ❖ There is no other neutrino detector anywhere in India at present.
- ❖ INO would be the first of its type.
- ❖ For a detailed read please go here:
- ❖ <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/neutrino-observatory/>



### **Salem Soil for Chandrayaan 2 Test**

- ❖ U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) has created a 'simulated surface' by fetching soil from Salem, Tamil Nadu for testing 'Chandrayaan-2's lander and rover on earth.
- ❖ It is an ISRO lead centre for building satellites and developing associated satellite technologies.
- ❖ It was established in 1972 at Bengaluru.

#### **Why Salem's soil?**

- ❖ ISRO needed a soil which resembles lunar soil in texture, lunar temperatures, low gravity and the same amount of sunlight as on the moon.
- ❖ The 'anorthosite' rocks from Sithampoondi and Kunnamalai villages in Salem were crushed and used to simulate lunar soil.
- ❖ The moon-rover was test run on this soil.

### **Compatible Time-Sharing System**

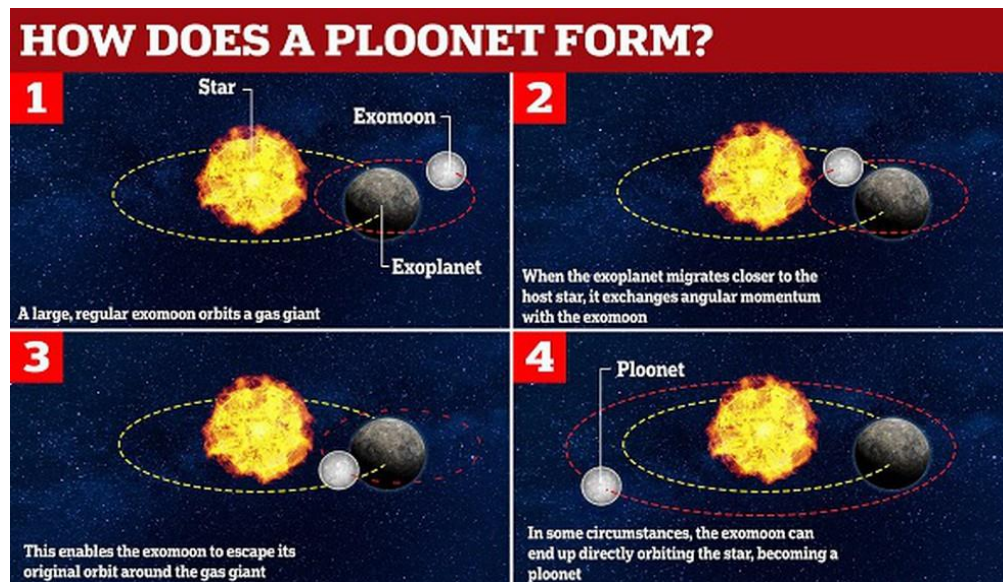
- ❖ Fernando Corbató, whose work on Compatible Time-Sharing System (CTSS) paved the way for the personal computer and the computer password has passed away at the age of 93.
- ❖ CTSS allowed multiple users in different locations to access a single computer simultaneously through telephone lines.
- ❖ It was developed at MIT Computation Centre in the USA during the 1960s and 70s.
- ❖ CTSS gave way to more modern MS-DOS systems in the 1980s and on to modern Windows and OSx systems in use today.

### **Russia's Spektr-RG Telescope**

- ❖ In a joint project with Germany, Russia has launched Spektr-RG, a space telescope from the cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ It is a space observatory intended to observe black holes, neutron stars and magnetic fields.
- ❖ This telescope is called as Russia's "Hubble Telescope".

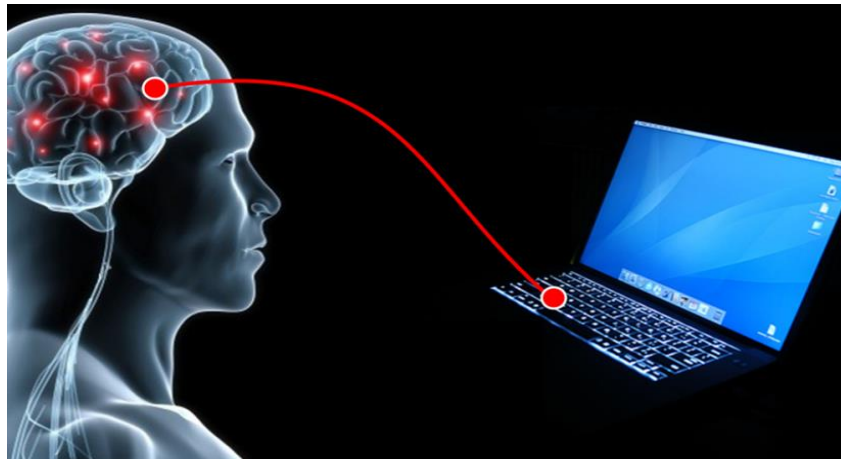
## Ploonets

- ❖ Some moons around distant, giant planets can break free of their orbits and end up circling the host star like a planet instead.
- ❖ An international team of astronomers have described these hypothetical moons as ploonets.
- ❖ Researchers reveal that ploonets can form when gas giants like Jupiter are forced to migrate closer to their star, causing a transfer of angular momentum to their moons.



## Brain – Machine Interface

- ❖ Elon Musk's Brain-Machine Interface start-up Neuralink has revealed its progress in creating a wireless implantable device that can read a person's mind.





- ❖ Very small “threads (electrodes)” can be injected into the brain to detect the activity of neurons.
- ❖ The company aims to let a person with the implants, control a smartphone with “thought” and without any physical action
- ❖ Practical application includes developing a robotic arm, treatment for Parkinson’s disease.

### **Dolutegravir - HIV Medicine**

- ❖ The World Health Organisation has recommended the use of HIV drug dolutegravir (DTG) as the preferred first-line and second-line treatment for all populations.
- ❖ It is also recommended for pregnant women and those of childbearing potential.
- ❖ DTG is sold under the brand name Tivicay.
- ❖ It is an antiretroviral medication used together with other medications to treat HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ DTG is more effective, easier to take and has fewer side effects than alternative drugs.
- ❖ This drug also has a high genetic barrier to developing drug resistance.

### **Cancer detecting Jacket**

- ❖ A thermal-imaging jacket which can diagnose breast cancer has been unveiled.
- ❖ It was handed over to the District Women’s Hospital in Maharashtra.
- ❖ It has been developed by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ The jacket, to be worn by a person undergoing diagnosis for a few minutes, uses thermal imaging technology to detect cancerous growth.
- ❖ It will be manufactured in India under ‘Make in India’ initiative by Japanese firm Murata Manufacturing.



### **Smart Agricopter**

- ❖ Students of IIT Madras have developed a smart agricopter to eliminate the manual spraying in agricultural fields.
- ❖ The current version of Project Smart Agricopter is a hexacopter drone with the capacity to carry 15 litres of pesticide.



- ❖ It aims to spray pesticides 10 times faster and with 100 percent precision at the same cost as manual spraying.
- ❖ The drone will work well on crops 1-1.5 m tall.
- ❖ It is equipped with a multispectral imaging camera to map a farmland based on crop health.
- ❖ This project also won the Indian Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP 2.0) University Challenge held at IIT Bombay in June 2019.



### Agent Smith Malware

- ❖ According to Indian cybercrime officials, Indians constitute the highest number of victims of the recently detected Agent Smith malware.
- ❖ The malware can replace apps on android phones with 'malicious versions' without the user's knowledge.
- ❖ Agent Smith is embedded in apps available on Google Playstore, mostly connected to gaming, image editing or adult entertainment.

### Microdot Technology in Automobiles

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport has issued a draft notification allowing Motor Vehicles and their Parts to be Affixed with Microdots.
- ❖ Microdot technology involves spraying the body and parts of the vehicle with microscopic dots, which give a unique identification.
- ❖ They cannot be removed without damaging the asset, that is the vehicle itself.
- ❖ These nearly invisible microdots can only be read physically with a microscope and identified with ultra violet light source.
- ❖ This technology will help check theft of vehicles and also use of fake spare parts.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Single-use Plastic Ban

- ❖ New Zealand has officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags with effect from 1 July 2019.



- ❖ Single-use plastic bag is defined as any plastic bag which has handles and is less than 70 microns thick.
- ❖ As per United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) more than 80 countries have already introduced similar bans.

### **Whaling Resumes in Japan**

- ❖ Japan has resumed commercial whaling after a period of 31 years, but will do whale hunting within country's exclusive economic waters only.
- ❖ Large scale whale meat consumption started in Japan due to post World War 2 induced poverty.
- ❖ In 1986, Japan stopped commercial whale hunting and allowed only hunting for research purposes.
- ❖ It has now withdrawn from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) so is no longer subject to its rules.



### **Wildlife Population Control**

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched a project to undertake 'immunocontraceptive measures' and control population of four species of wild animals.
  - Elephant
  - Wild Boar
  - Monkey

- Blue Bull (Nilgai)
- ❖ This technology uses a female animal's immune system to build a protein around the egg that prevents it from fertilising.
- ❖ The project aims to minimise human-animal conflict and the resulting casualties.
- ❖ It will be started in Uttarakhand and then be extended to other States.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India and National the Institute of Immunology have developed the protocol of immunocontraception.

### **Arctic Fox Transcontinental Migration**

- ❖ A young Arctic fox has travelled 2,175 miles from its original habitat in Norway to Canada in just 76 days.
- ❖ The areas are connected seasonally by sea ice and much of the journey was completed over stretches of the frozen Arctic Ocean.
- ❖ According to a study by the Norwegian Polar Institute, such a fast-transcontinental migration has “never” been documented earlier.
- ❖ The migration may be because of lack of food or need for a new habitat.



### **International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference**

- ❖ India will host the 3rd International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019 on July 19 and 20 in Mumbai.
- ❖ First 2 conferences were held by China and Ukraine respectively.



- ❖ India is the largest importer of sunflower oil.
- ❖ The International Sunflower Oil Association (ISOA) was established in 2015 in Rome by National Associations and Companies from China, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, Spain and Argentina.

### **Six metros – Nitrogen Oxide pollution**

- ❖ Based on analysis by environmental NGO Greenpeace India, several Indian cities are major hotspots for rising levels of nitrogen oxide.
- ❖ Nitrogen Oxide is a dangerous pollutant which contributes to the formation of ozone.
- ❖ Metros namely Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad are Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) hotspots due to high vehicular population and diesel consumption.

### **Sea level rise – India**

- ❖ According to data tabled in the [Lok Sabha](#) by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Diamond Harbour has recorded the maximum sea level increase.
- ❖ Diamond Harbour is located in West Bengal at the mouth of river Hooghly.
- ❖ The sea level rise is higher in West Bengal, particularly in the Sunderbans delta because of the deltaic sediment deposition as a result of the mixing of fresh water and saline water
- ❖ The sea level rise in the country has been estimated to be 1.3 mm/year along India's coasts during the last 40-50 years.
- ❖ The rise in Diamond Harbour was almost five times higher at 5.16 mm per year.
- ❖ Kandla port in Gujarat, Haldia in West Bengal and Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has also recorded higher sea level rise.
- ❖ Studies over Indian region have shown a warming trend of 0.6°C on all India average basis.

### **Elektorornis chenguangi Bird**

- ❖ The extinct bird with an extra-long toe, 'Elektorornis chenguangi' has been described in a study published in the journal Current Biology.
- ❖ In 2014, the fossil of Elektorornis chenguangi were discovered in Myanmar's Hukawng Valley.

- ❖ It had lived 99 million years ago with a distinct feature - an abnormally elongated toe.
- ❖ Its elongated toe structure has never been observed in other birds, living or extinct.

### **Ethanol Powered bikes – TVS**

- ❖ TVS motor company launched an ethanol-based version of its 200cc sports-bike Apache.
- ❖ TVS is the country's third largest two-wheeler maker.
- ❖ The government is pushing on biofuels as well as electricity to completely replace our existing fossil fuel-based industry.



- ❖ Notable reasons include
  - Reduce our oil import bill
  - Save foreign exchange
  - Eradicate pollution
- ❖ Ethanol has lower calorific value compared to petrol.
- ❖ 1.3 litre of ethanol needs to be burnt to get the same mileage as that of petrol.

### **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.

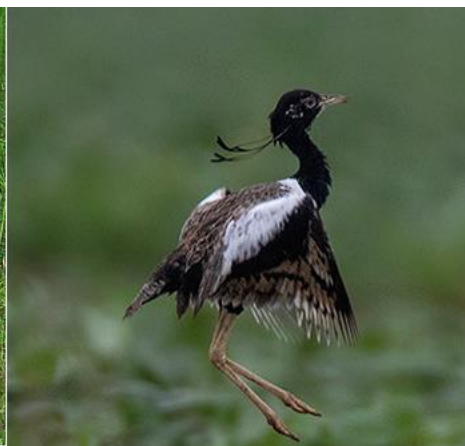
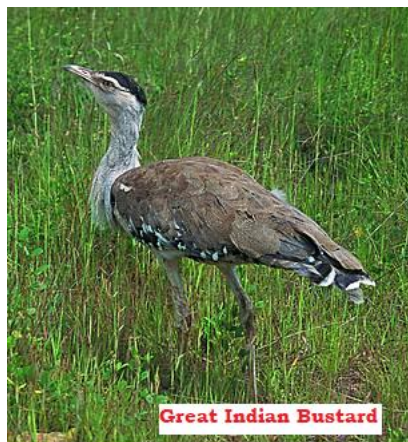
- ❖ India is home to a total of 1,256 species of orchids - 388 are endemic.
- ❖ 128 endemic species are found in Western Ghats.
- ❖ They are highly concentrated in the North East India.
- ❖ Orchids have complex floral structure that facilitates biotic cross-pollination and it makes them evolutionarily 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.

### **Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican**

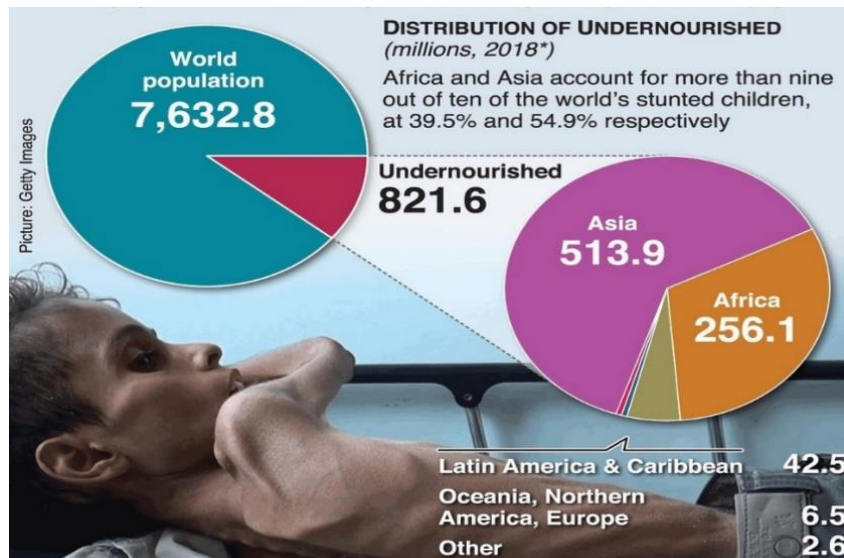
- ❖ The Supreme Court has constituted a high powered committee to urgently frame an emergency response plan for the protection of
  - Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*)
  - Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indicus*)



- ❖ Over the last 50 years the population of both these birds has seen a sharp decline of 80% and an alarming rate of extinction.
- ❖ The lesser florican is the smallest bustard in the world, barely weighing 500-750 gms.
- ❖ The Great Indian Bustard is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

### State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World

- ❖ The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other UN agencies including the World Health Organization have released a report called “State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World”.



- ❖ The number of people going hungry without food has risen for the third year running to more than 820 million.
- ❖ Africa and Asia account for more than nine out of ten of the world's stunted children, at 39.5% and 54.9% respectively.
- ❖ India's undernourished population has dropped from 253.9 million in 2004-06 to 194.4 million in 2016-18.
- ❖ India's poverty reduction rate was 48.9 % in 1987 to 21.2 % in 2011 to 13.4 % in 2015.

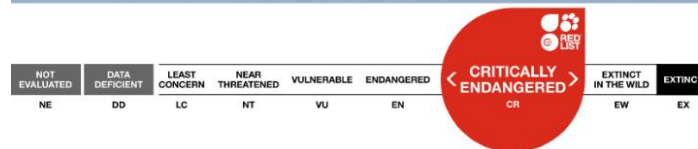
### Aceclofenac – Vultures

- ❖ The Government of India is also likely to ban the analogue NSAID aceclofenac for veterinary use.

- ❖ NSAID - Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
- ❖ Aceclofenac has potential to kill Indian vultures.

### Previous bans

- ❖ The Government of India banned “Diclofenac and its formulations for veterinary use” in July 2008 with a view to conserving vultures.
- ❖ Since July 2015 use of the drug as a single-dose injection for humans alone is allowed.
- ❖ Animals are fed (NSAID) diclofenac as painkiller.
- ❖ When the gyps Vulture, also called as Indian Vulture (Gyps indicus) species fed on these carcasses, they faced acute renal failure and died.



### **Herbicide Tolerant BT Cotton**

- ❖ The Maharashtra state government has lodged police complaint against 12 farmers for sowing Herbicide Tolerant Bt Cotton (HT Bt Cotton) illegally.
- ❖ Under the Environment Protection Act 1986, growing GM crops that have not been approved by the government is illegal.
- ❖ HT Bt is the third generation of BT cotton in India.
- ❖ The first two generations used Cry 1 Ab and Cry 1 Ac and were instrumental in controlling pink bollworm attack in cotton plants.
- ❖ Cry1Ac and Cry1Ab are proteins produced by the bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) during sporulation.

- ❖ Bt crops are the crops that are genetically engineered to produce the same toxin as Bt in the plant to protect them from pest.

#### PINK BOLLWORM

இளஞ்சிவப்புக் காய்ப்பழு



Moth  
அந்தப்புளி



Rosette flower  
தாக்கப்பட்ட பூஞ்சேர்ப்பூ



Early instar larva  
இளம்பருவ பழு



Larval feeding  
காயில் பழுவின தாக்குதல்



Grownup larva  
முதிர்ந்த பழு



Damaged boll  
சேதம் அடைந்த காய்

### Arogyapacha – Genome decoded

- ❖ Scientists from the University of Kerala have decoded the genetic make-up of Arogyapacha (*Trichopus zeylanicus*)
- ❖ It is a highly potent medicinal plant endemic to the Agasthya hills.
- ❖ This 'miracle plant' is known for its traditional use by the Kani tribal community to combat fatigue.
- ❖ The plant has anti-oxidant, aphrodisiac, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, anti-tumour, anti-ulcer, anti-hyperlipidaemic, hepatoprotective and anti-diabetic properties.





## Updated IUCN Red list

- ❖ The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species.
- ❖ An updated list was published which added nearly 9,000 more species to the IUCN Red List, bringing up the total to 105,732.
- ❖ According to the new updated list, 28,338 species are threatened with extinction.
- ❖ This comes close to the recent release of the IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) Global Biodiversity Assessment.
- ❖ Twenty Australian dragonflies were also assessed for the first time.
- ❖ The new list brings out an alarming rate of decline of freshwater and deep-sea species.
- ❖ Among ocean species, wedgefishes and giant guitarfishes, collectively known as Rhino Rays because of their elongated snouts, have been listed as the 'most imperilled marine fish families in the world'.
- ❖ Close to 50 per cent of the species assessed by IUCN have been put under the 'Least Concern' category.
- ❖ It means the rest 50 per cent are under various degrees of decline.
- ❖ Of the total assessed, 873 are already extinct while 6,127 are critically endangered.
- ❖ According to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020)'s Target 12, the extinction of known threatened species has to be 'prevented' by 2020.

**More than 28,000 species**  
**are threatened with extinction**

That is 27% of all assessed species.

AMPHIBIANS

**40%**



MAMMALS

**25%**



CONIFERS

**34%**



BIRDS

**14%**



SHARKS & RAYS

**30%**



REEF CORALS

**33%**



SELECTED CRUSTACEANS

**27%**



## **Senna Spectabilis**

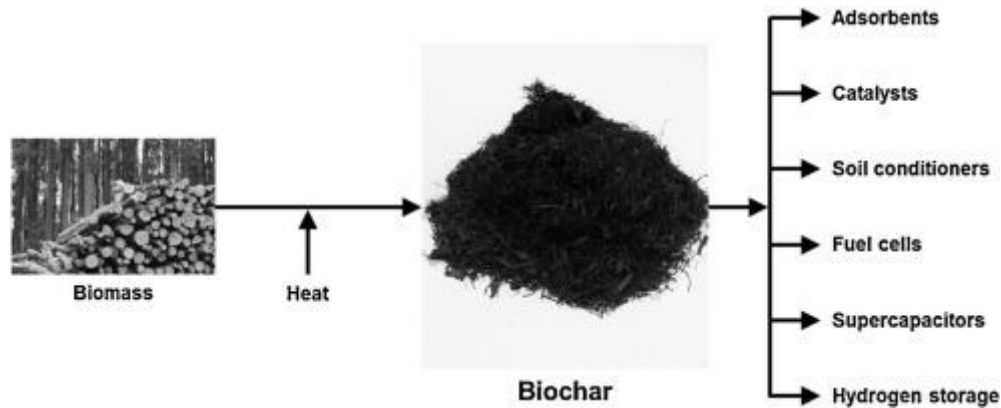
- ❖ An inter-State meeting of senior forest personnel in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala was held at Bandipur in Karnataka.
- ❖ The meeting decided to intensify joint efforts to eradicate invasive plants such as Senna Spectabilis.



- ❖ Senna Spectabilis causes major threat to the wildlife habitat in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

## **Eco-friendly Water Pollutants Removal**

- ❖ Researchers have developed a wastewater treatment process that uses a common agricultural by-product called as “endocrine disruptors” to effectively remove
  - Pollutants
  - Environmental Hormone
- ❖ Environmental hormones in waste water do not break down easily.
- ❖ The catalysts currently used to process sewage and wastewater is of high cost and low efficiency.



- ❖ Eco-friendly catalysts made of biochar and manganese dioxide can be used to treat waste water at low cost and with high efficiency.
- ❖ “Biochar” is a common agricultural byproduct and made from organic waste.

### Sonali Carrying Bags

- ❖ Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named 'Sonali'.
- ❖ It can be used as wrapping material and carrying bag.



- ❖ The physical qualities of this invented jute fibre and plastic are quite similar.
- ❖ But these eco-friendly bags are not harmful to humans.
- ❖ It has been developed by the state-run Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

### **Rhesus Macaque monkeys**

- ❖ Union environment ministry has declared monkeys (Rhesus Macaque) as ‘vermin’ in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It allows local authorities to cull this animal in certain identified non-forest areas in Shimla for one year.
- ❖ Rhesus Macaque monkeys are protected species under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ But Section 62 of the above act empowers the States to send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them “vermin”.

### **Dragon Tree Species**

- ❖ Researchers have discovered “*Dracaena cambodiana*” a dragon tree species in the Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong district in Assam.
- ❖ This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India.
- ❖ Dragon tree species are those whose sap turns bright red after coming in contact with air.

### **Human-Elephant Conflicts**

- ❖ A committee set up by the Union Environment Ministry has recommended that power poles should have spikes to keep away elephants.
- ❖ The power distribution companies are advised to use ABC (aerial bunched cables) or underground cables in forest areas.
- ❖ Between 2009- 2017 nearly 461 elephants have died due to electrocution. i.e 50 a year.



### **Scaly-foot Snail**

- ❖ A rare snail species called 'Scaly-Foot Snail' has become the 1st species to be officially declared "Threatened" due to deep-sea mining.
- ❖ It is found at only three spots on Indian Ocean floor near Madagascar.
- ❖ It was added by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to its updated Red List of Endangered Species on 18 July 2019.
- ❖ At present there is a freeze on all ocean-floor mining activities globally.
- ❖ UN-agency International Seabed Authority (ISA) is currently formulating guidelines on how to conduct ocean-floor mining.

### **Rooftop Solar Projects**

- ❖ Government has set a target for installation of Rooftop Solar projects (RTS) of 40,000 MegaWatt (MW) by 2022.
- ❖ As of 18 July 2019, over 1700 Mega Watt of grid-connected rooftop systems has been installed in India.
- ❖ Top Three states that have installed rooftop solar projects are: Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

### **Vine Snake in Western Ghats**

- ❖ Scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru have discovered a new vine snake species called *Prohaetulla antiqua* in Western Ghats.
- ❖ This is an ancient species which is endemic to southern Western Ghats.
- ❖ This is thought to have evolved around 26 million years ago during the mid-Oligocene period.
- ❖ Vine snakes get their names due to their slender bodies and vine-like appearances.



## Species Extinction in India

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment has notified that 4 species of fauna and 18 species of flora have gone extinct in India in the past few centuries.

### Fauna

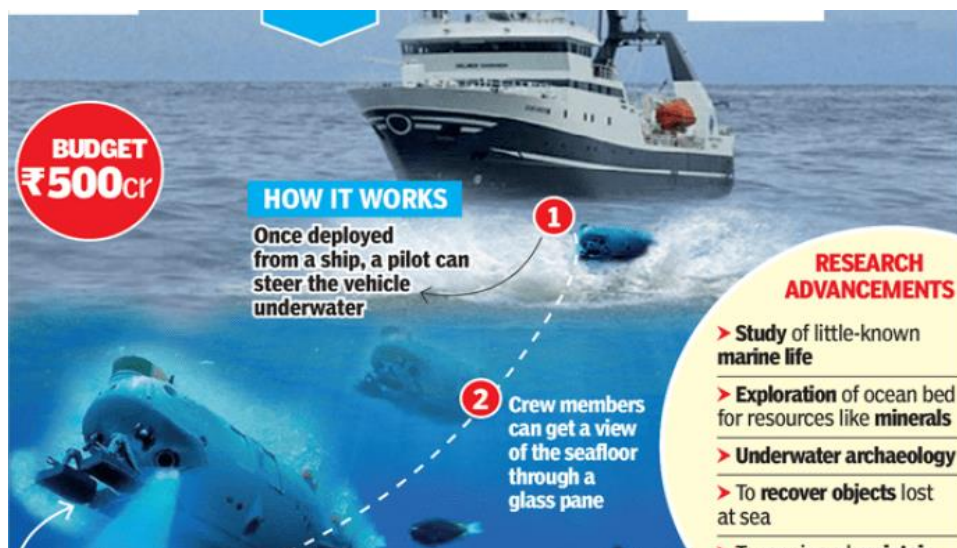
- ❖ Among mammals, the following are considered extinct in India:
  - Cheetah - *Acionyx jubatus*
  - Sumatran rhinoceros - *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*
  - Pink-headed duck - *Rhodonessa caryophyllaceai*
  - Himalayan quail - *Ophrysia supercilios*
- ❖ India has about 6.49% of all the fauna species in the world.

### Flora

- ❖ 18 species of plants — 4 non-flowering and 14 flowering plants have gone extinct.
- ❖ Notable ones:
  - A fern from Manipur - *Lastreopsis wattii*
  - Three species from the genus *Ophiorrhiza* (*Ophiorrhiza brunonis*, *Ophiorrhiza caudate* and *Ophiorrhiza radican*)
- ❖ India is home to 11.5% of all flora in the world.

## Deep Ocean Mission

- ❖ The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) has received in-principle approval from the Union government.
- ❖ It is to be led by the Union Earth Sciences Ministry.



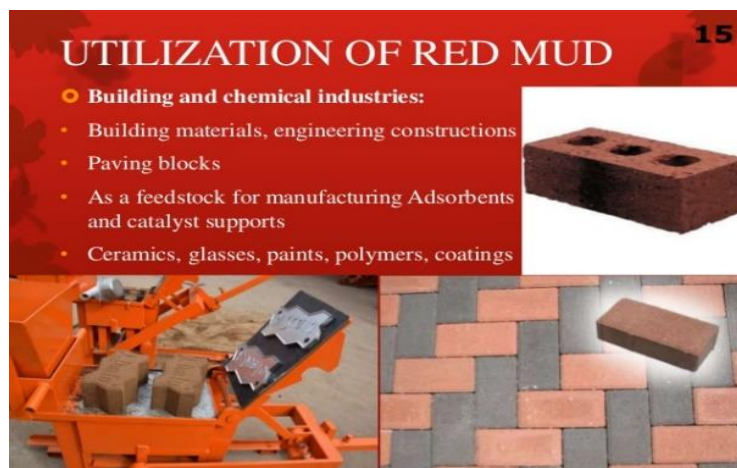
- ❖ The mission proposes to explore the deep ocean similar to the space exploration started by ISRO about 35 years ago.
- ❖ A major thrust of the mission will be looking for metals and minerals.
- ❖ The mission will comprise of
  - An offshore desalination plant that will work with tidal energy.
  - To develop a submersible vehicle that can go to a depth of at least 6,000 metres with three people on board.

### Himalayan Conclave

- ❖ In Uttarakhand, a Himalayan Conclave is being held in Mussoorie.
- ❖ The objective is to discuss various issues related to the development of Himalayan States.
- ❖ The main agenda for the conclave is conservation of Himalayan ecology, bio-diversity and cultural heritage and water conservation.

### Red Mud Usage

- ❖ Union Ministry of mines, in association with the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC) Nagpur, organised a workshop in New Delhi on Effective utilization of 'Red Mud'.



- ❖ Red Mud, a Bauxite Residue, is a solid waste generated during the aluminium production process.
- ❖ This is an environmental concern due to presence of impurities such as caustic soda and others minerals.



## STATES

### **Krishi Kiosk – Haryana**

- ❖ Haryana agriculture and farmers' welfare minister Om Prakash Dhankar has launched 'krishi kiosk' at Panchkula.
- ❖ The kiosk will give the farmers information about government schemes and also help them file claims under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana'.
- ❖ The kiosk comes under the state government's 'Digital Kisan Suvidha' plan which aims to bring services for farmers online.
- ❖ The minister also flagged off 'Suchana Rath' facility through which farmers will be encouraged to not burn crop residue and instead sow it in the fields through using a scientific method.
- ❖ The minister also released book titled 'Agri Scope'.

### **Bangla Shashya Bima – West Bengal**

- ❖ West Bengal government has announced a crop insurance scheme in collaboration with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC), for the 2019 kharif season.
- ❖ The scheme called Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB) is applicable for farmers in 15 districts
- ❖ The crop insurance scheme would be free of cost for the farmers since the government will pay the full premium.
- ❖ The crops that will come under insurance are aman paddy, aus paddy, jute and maize.
- ❖ The insurance will be paid in four stages - for any losses suffered during planting, during cultivation, during the period post-cutting when crops are lying in the field, and for adverse weather situations.

### **Dastak Campaign**

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh government has launched a campaign called DASTAK to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis disease.
- ❖ The campaign will run from 1st to 31st July.
- ❖ Special teams will go door to door in every village of the 75 districts of the state to create awareness about these 2 diseases.



### **Rhino Protection Force**

- ❖ An 82-member Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF) has been deployed in the Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- ❖ The SRPF personnel will be posted under eight ranges of Kaziranga National Park.
- ❖ They aim to control rhino poaching as well as tiger poaching since Kaziranga is also a tiger reserve.
- ❖ Kaziranga National Park houses the largest population of One Horned Rhinoceros in the world.
- ❖ It has about 68% of the entire world population of One-horned Rhinoceros.

### **St. Mariam Thresia of Kerala**

- ❖ Pope Francis will declare the Kerala Nun and foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family “Mariam Thresia” as Saint on October 13.
- ❖ The nun belongs to the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church and worked for education girls and orphans.
- ❖ Sainthoods are conferred by The Vatican church.
- ❖ It had earlier declared three Kerala-born Indian Catholics as Saints (Fr Kuriakose Elias Chavara, Sister Euphrasia and Sister Alphonsa)

### **Kerala Fishermen**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation has distributed 250 NavIC Messaging Receivers to fishermen of Kerala on a trial basis.
- ❖ The device will provide Emergency Warning Alerts like cyclone, high waves and Tsunami.
- ❖ It also provides information on Potential Fishing Zone and International boundary crossing based on the position information from NavIC.

### **First airport with face recognition system**

- ❖ Hyderabad’s Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has initiated Face Recognition (FR) system on a trial basis for passengers for entry.
- ❖ The trials which are being carried out under Centre's Digi Yatra programme.
- ❖ Digi Yatra is a facility which help to paperless travel and avoid identity check at multiple points.



### **Ease of Doing Agribusiness**

- ❖ Maharashtra has achieved the first rank in NITI Aayog's "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI)".
- ❖ Gujarat ranks second closely and followed closely by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Tamilnadu is ranked 25<sup>th</sup> due to poor implementation of market reforms.
- ❖ The index ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing.
- ❖ AMFFRI has a score that can have minimum value "0" implying no reforms and maximum value "100" implying complete reforms in the selected areas.
- ❖ This index was launched in 2016.

### **Aadhar Seva Khendra**

- ❖ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has operationalized 1st 'Aadhaar Seva Kendra' (ASK) in Delhi and Vijayawada.
- ❖ The new centres are functioning on a pilot basis.
- ❖ UIDAI plans to set up 114 such centres across 53 cities by the end of 2019.
- ❖ ASK centres will function similar to Passport Seva Kendras.
- ❖ They are meant to facilitate enrolment, updation and other related activities.

### **CRPF in Abujahmad Forests**

- ❖ Nearly 7,000 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel will be deployed by the Union Home Ministry in the inaccessible areas of Abujahmad, South Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ These forests are not even on the revenue map and the dense jungles are used by Maoists as their hideouts.
- ❖ The security forces are expected to be a strong deterrent and flush out Maoists.

### **Sports Centres in Arunachal**

- ❖ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju has announced that three Sports Centre of Excellence will be established in Itanagar.
- ❖ These centres will have a capacity of 300 sportspersons with residential facility.



- ❖ The three centres of excellence will be for Martial Arts, Weight Lifting and Boxing.

### **Kerala Snake Boats League**

- ❖ Kerala government plans to transform the state's legendary and historically-significant 'vallamkali' (snake boat races) into a world-class sporting event.
- ❖ It aims to conduct Champions Boat League (CBL) on the lines of IPL tournament.
- ❖ The snake boat or 'chundam vallam' is a long canoe that can seat up to 100 rowers and 100 to 138 feet in length.
- ❖ These boats were used in 13th century for battles in Alleppey's backwaters.

### **West Bengal – Reservation**

- ❖ The Bengal cabinet approved 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in the general category in state government jobs and educational institutions.
- ❖ Bengal so far had a total quota of 48%.
- ❖ After the new reservation, reservation quota will be 53.2%.
- ❖ By this, Bengal has become the fourth state after Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Telangana to cross the 50% reservation cap.

### **Green Tax in Uttarakhand**

- ❖ The government of Uttarakhand has decided to levy a "eco tax" for tourists visiting the state.
- ❖ The tax would be decided by the urban local body of the concerned place.
- ❖ It will be used to dispose the waste generated in the fragile ecosystem by visiting tourists.
- ❖ An estimated 8 lakh pilgrims visit Uttarakhand every year.
- ❖ Mussoorie and Nainital are the two hill towns that levy 'entry tax' for visitors.

### **Operation Milap Delhi Police**

- ❖ The Delhi Police crime branch conducted Operation Milap to rescue missing children.



- ❖ They rescued 333 missing children from the city and handed them over to their families in different parts of the country.
- ❖ These children were missing since January 2019 from various parts of the country and were found in Delhi.
- ❖ Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Delhi Police was set up in 2014.

### **Mountain Medicines Institute**

- ❖ Uttarakhand government plans to set up Asia's first Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High-Altitude Rescue in Rudraprayag district.
- ❖ The institute would also train armed forces as well as paramilitary personnel in Mountain Medicines.
- ❖ It would provide necessary high-altitude medical services to pilgrims and tourists visiting the state.

### **Plan Bee Project of Railways**

- ❖ The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has been accorded the best innovation award in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal year.
- ❖ NFR implemented a unique plan called "Project Bee" to save elephants from meeting accidental deaths in railway tracks.
- ❖ It is an amplifying system imitating the buzz of a swarm of honey bees to keep wild elephants away from railway tracks.

#### **About NFR**

- ❖ The headquarters of NFR is at Maligaon, Guwahati in the state of Assam.
- ❖ It is responsible for rail operations in the entire Northeast India and parts of West Bengal and Bihar.

### **OBC Reservation in Madhya Pradesh**

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh cabinet has passed a resolution to increase the reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from the existing 14 per cent to 27 per cent.
- ❖ Additional 10% reservation to EWS quota, makes total reservation in the state to 73 per cent.
- ❖ It is in violation of Supreme Court guidelines on the quota and against landmark judgment in Indra Sawhney vs Union of India case, 1993.

## Japanese afforestation method in Telangana

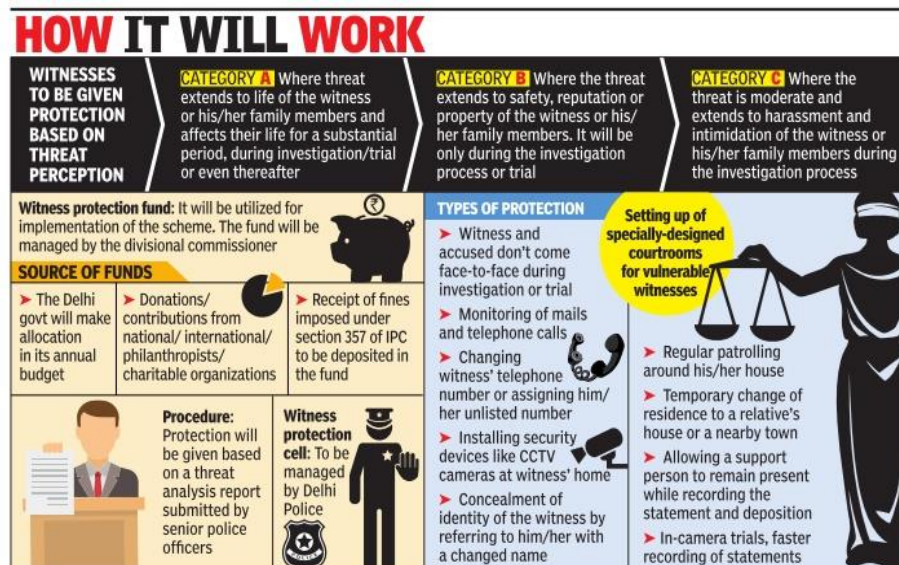
- ❖ The Telangana Forest department has introduced the famous Japanese “Miyawaki” method of afforestation to boost its afforestation program and to grow urban forests.
- ❖ The Miyawaki method is well-known for growing mini urban forests in limited spaces in a relatively less time.
- ❖ It is used in developing dense plantations in a short time.
- ❖ It was developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki.

## Meri Fasal Mera Byora

- ❖ The Haryana government has launched 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal.
- ❖ The farmers can avail benefits of several government schemes directly after uploading their crop-related details.
- ❖ The portal would help farmers to avail subsidy on agricultural implements in an easy manner.

## Witness Protection Program Implemented in Odisha

- ❖ The Odisha state government has implemented the Centre’s Witness Protection Scheme-2018.
- ❖ It provides for the protection of witnesses during investigation/trial or thereafter based on the threat assessment.



- ❖ This scheme encompasses protection/change of identity of witnesses, their relocation, installation of security devices at the residence of witnesses, usage of specially designed Court rooms, etc.
- ❖ Three categories of witness protection are offered based on threat assessment - Category A, B, C.
- ❖ A State Witness Protection Fund for meeting the expenses of the scheme will be created
- ❖ This fund shall be operated by the Ministry of Home under State/UT Government.

### **Sah-beej Seeds of Madhya Pradesh**

- ❖ Along with distribution and marketing of certified and high-quality seeds to farmers, Madhya Pradesh government also plans to produce “seeds”.
- ❖ The brand name of seeds will be ‘Sah-Beej’.
- ❖ They will be produced from next “Rabi season”.
- ❖ State seed committees will involve in marketing of these seeds.

### **Karchi Puja of Tripura**

- ❖ Kharchi Puja is one of the most popular festivals in Tripura.
- ❖ It is celebrated at capital city Agartala (Puran Agartala) in the temple premises of fourteen gods.
- ❖ It's a week-long royal Puja which falls in the month of July on the eighth day of the new moon.
- ❖ Kharchi Puja is basically done to clean the post menstrual phase of mother earth's menstruation.
- ❖ Animal sacrifice is also an important part of this festival.





### **Women Startup Summit 2019 in Kerala**

- ❖ The Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) is hosting the 'Women Start-up Summit' on August 1 in a bid to promote women entrepreneurship.
- ❖ The meet will be open for all women professionals, aspiring entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and start-up founders.
- ❖ About 20 women start-ups shortlisted from the "She Loves Tech" national grand challenge will be showcased in the summit.

### **Meghalaya – Water Conservation**

- ❖ Meghalaya became the first state in India to ensure the conservation of water and have own water policy.
- ❖ The objective of the policy is to recognize water resources as a common pool resource, to provide safe and hygienic water for drinking, domestic and sanitation and livelihood development to all residents of the state.
- ❖ It also aims at ensuring protection and conservation of catchment areas of all water sources to prevent degradation of the quantity and quality of water sources.

### **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.

### **Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport**

- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, the first international flight from Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport of Indore left for Dubai today with 153 passengers on board.
- ❖ It was declared as an International Airport in May 2019 under sub-rule (b) of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950.
- ❖ The airport is named after Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore (1725 – 1795), belonging to the Holkar dynasty of the Maratha Empire.



## **1 Crore for Maharashtra's Martyred Soldiers**

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has approved an increase in financial assistance given to families of martyred and disabled soldiers hailing from state who lay down their life in the line of duty.
- ❖ The compensation is increased from Rs.25 lakh to Rs.1 crore for the kin of martyred soldiers.
- ❖ It will be implemented from January 1, 2019.
- ❖ This decision replicates enhanced compensations announced by Centre and some other states, including Madhya Pradesh.

## **Karnataka Defection**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has allowed 15 dissident MLAs to opt out of current assembly session.
- ❖ It implies that they can defy a "party whip" without fear of disqualification for defection under Clause 2 (b) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

### **Party Whip**

- ❖ A whip is a written order that party members be present for an important vote, or that they vote only in a particular way.
- ❖ Political parties appoint a senior member from among their House contingents to issue 'whips' who is called as Chief Whip.

## **Dibang Multipurpose Project**


- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the expenditure and various clearances for Dibang Multipurpose Project (MPP) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project envisages construction of a 278 m high Concrete Gravity Dam.
- ❖ It will become the highest dam in India once it is completed.
- ❖ It is located on river Dibang, in Lower Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh.



 Will generate  
**2880 MW**  
power

 **₹ 28080 crore**  
Total cost of project

 **12% free**  
power  
to Arunachal Pradesh

 At **278 meters**  
this will be the Highest  
Dam in India

**CABINET DECISION**

**DIBANG**  
**MULTIPURPOSE**  
**PROJECT**  
Arunachal Pradesh





### Medicine from the Sky in Telangana

- ❖ Telangana government and the World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network have together announced the 'Medicine from the Sky' project.
- ❖ It is an innovative project to deliver emergency medical supplies such as blood and vaccines via drones.
- ❖ It will help facilitate decision-making in healthcare supply chains, focus on last-mile deliveries and address issues that affect the medical distribution system.

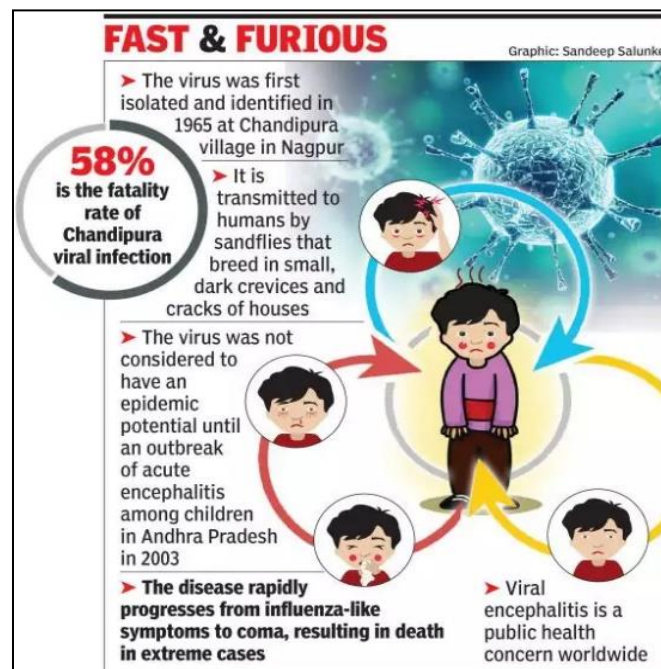


### Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others (1992)

- ❖ In the arguments in the Supreme Court in the case related to the political crisis in Karnataka the landmark Supreme Court judgement in Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others (1992) case has been quoted.
- ❖ In this case the court upheld the sweeping discretion available to the Speaker in deciding cases of “disqualification of MLAs”.
- ❖ A constitutional challenge to the Tenth Schedule was settled by the apex court in Kihoto Hollohan case.

### Chandipura Virus

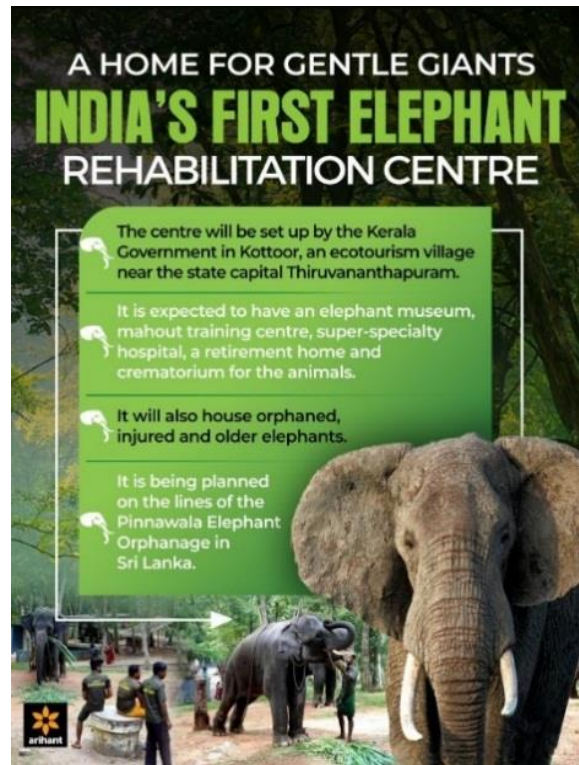
- ❖ Recently the Chandipura Virus outbreak was detected at Gujarat state.
- ❖ It was first identified in 1965 at Chandipura village in Maharashtra state.
- ❖ The virus is a member of the Vesiculovirus genus of the family Rhabdoviridae.



### Elephant Rehabilitation Centre

- ❖ The Kerala government is working to set up the country's first elephant rehabilitation centre in Kottoor, an ecotourism village near the state capital Thiruvananthapuram.

- ❖ The rehabilitation centre would house an elephant museum, mahout training centre, a well-equipped veterinary hospital and crematorium for the elephants.
- ❖ It is being planned on the lines of the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka.



### **Reservation for Locals in Private Companies**

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh became the first state to reserve jobs for locals in all private industrial units and factories.
- ❖ All companies irrespective of whether the companies get financial or any other help from the government are instructed to follow the norms.
- ❖ 75% private jobs across all categories in industrial units, factories, joint ventures and projects in public-private partnership mode are reserved for Andhra people.

### **Gharials Conservation in Odisha**

- ❖ Odisha has renewed its effort to revive the population of critically endangered “gharials” in their natural habitat.



- ❖ It has released five reptiles, fitted with radio transmitters, into the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi which is the southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India.
- ❖ Compared to alligators and crocodiles, a gharial has a very long and narrow snout.
- ❖ Three Species of crocodilians are found in India are
  - Gharial (Or freshwater crocodile)
  - Saltwater crocodile
  - Mugger crocodile
- ❖ Odisha is the only State in India having all three species.

### **Karnataka Confidence Vote Lost**

- ❖ The Confidence motion moved by the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition in Karnataka Vidhan Sabha was defeated by 6 votes.
- ❖ In a House of 225 MLAs (including one nominated), 20 MLAs were not present at the time of voting.
- ❖ Absentee MLA's – 15 resigned, 5 abstained from voting.
- ❖ While 99 MLAs expressed confidence in the government, 105 opposed the motion.
- ❖ S Nijalingappa (1962-68), D Devaraja Urs (1972-77) and Siddaramaiah (2013-2018) were only the chief ministers who had completed their full term in the history of Karnataka.

### **Note**

- ❖ A Government has to prove its majority in the house either by bringing in a Vote of confidence or the opposition can ask the Government to prove its majority after it brings a "No Confidence Motion".



### **Nisagandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram**

- ❖ Kerala government presented the Nishagandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram to musicians Parassala B. Ponnammal and T V. Gopalakrishnan.
- ❖ It is awarded by a cultural programme organized by the Tourism Department of Kerala every year.

### **Yamuna Water Conservation Project**

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal has approved the Delhi government's Yamuna water conservation project.
- ❖ Recommended by NGT in 2015, this project is named as 'Maily Se Nirmal Yamuna Rejuvenation Plan'.
- ❖ The project aims to deal with the water shortage in the National capital, particularly during summers by
  - Conserving water in the Yamuna floodplains
  - Building reservoirs

### **Nagaland's Banuo J Zamir Commission**

- ❖ The Nagaland government has constituted a commission to frame the modalities of creating the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN).
- ❖ The Commission would be headed by retired Chief Secretary Banuo Z. Jamir as Chairman.
- ❖ It would recommend eligibility criteria, documents acceptable as proof and govern any other issue relating to implementation of the RIIN.

#### About

- ❖ RIIN is supposed to be a register of all the indigenous inhabitants of the State and exclude ineligible persons.
- ❖ Citizens who settled in Nagaland prior to December 1, 1963, the day it became a full-fledged State, will be included in the list.

### **New Karnataka CM**

- ❖ BS Yediyurappa took oath as Chief Minister of Karnataka for the fourth time on July 26<sup>th</sup> after the BJP was invited to stake a claim.

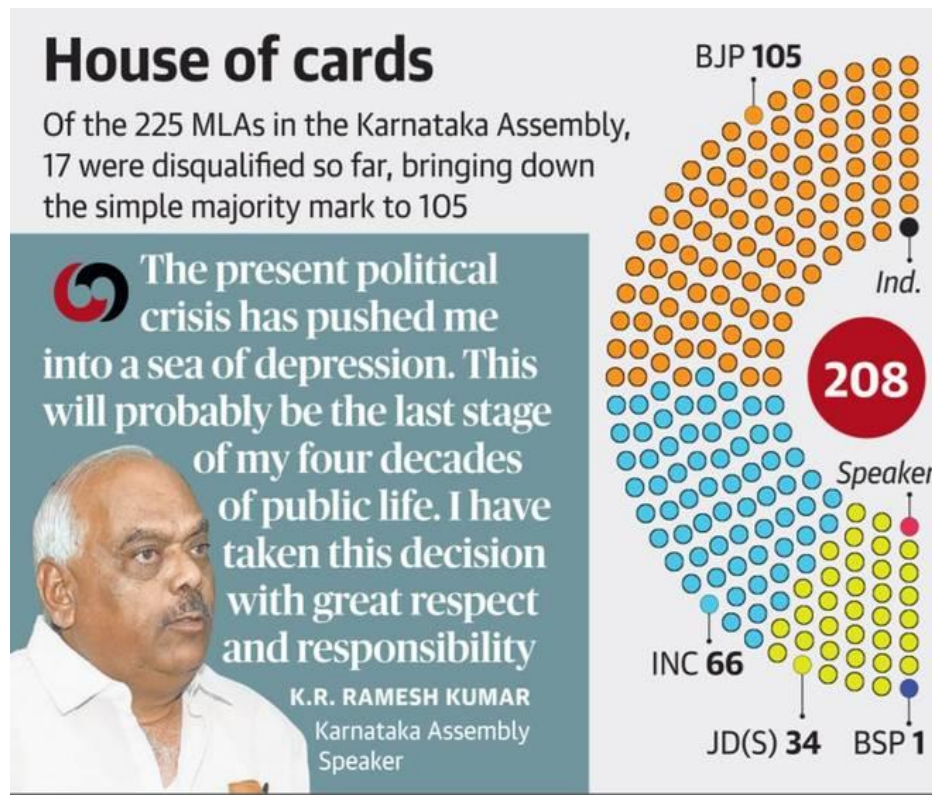
- ❖ He proved his majority in the Assembly winning the confidence motion by a voice vote on 29<sup>th</sup> July.
- ❖ This is Yediyurappa's fourth stint as the Karnataka chief minister and second in the current Assembly.



- ❖ He is the only CM to become the four-time CM of Karnataka.
- ❖ He was sworn in as CM in May 2018 after BJP emerged as the single largest party with 104 MLAs in the Assembly polls.
- ❖ But he resigned in just two days without taking a trust vote on the floor of the Assembly.
- ❖ He thus became one of the shortest serving chief minister in India with just 2½ days in office.

### **MLAs Disqualification**

- ❖ Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar disqualified 14 rebel MLAs barring them to contest by-polls till the end of the tenure of the present Assembly (2023).
- ❖ Overall, the speaker disqualified 13 from Congress, 3 from JDS and 1 independent - totalling into 17 MLAs.
- ❖ With this, the effective strength of the 225-member Assembly has been reduced to 208. The half-way mark is 105.
- ❖ These MLAs are barred from contesting the by-elections as well.
- ❖ It also means that the new Karnataka CM cannot accommodate the rebel MLAs in his cabinet.



- ❖ All these disqualifications were made under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution read with Article 191.
- ❖ While the Speaker has observed that they cannot re-contest elections until the expiry of the current Assembly term due to the disqualification, the rebel MLAs are set to contest the Speaker's order in the High Court or the Supreme Court.

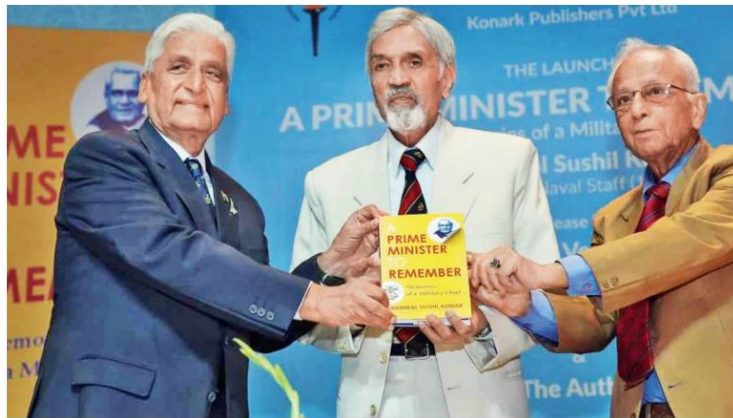
### **Bamboo Industrial Park**

- ❖ Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) Jitendra Singh reviewed the status of implementation of various projects under MDoNER.
- ❖ He announced that India's first Bamboo Industrial Park will be set up in Manderdisa in Dima Hasao district of Assam.
- ❖ Another project for Bamboo Park would be established in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### A Prime Minister to Remember

- ❖ A Prime Minister to Remember written by former navy chief Admiral Sushil Kumar was released on June 28.



- ❖ The book talks about AB Vajpayee and his relationship with three armed forces Chiefs after the attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists on India's Parliament in 2001.

### Dr. Jaya Arunachalam

- ❖ Social worker and founder of Working Women's Forum (WWF), Jaya Arunachalam has passed away in Chennai.
- ❖ She was the pioneer of women's Self-Help group (SHG) movement in India.
- ❖ WWF was founded in 1978 at Chennai to provide micro credits, trade union support, health care and training to poor woman working in informal sectors.



## Global Excellence Awards 2019

- ❖ US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) has selected MasterCard CEO and President Ajay Banga and Wipro Chairman Azim Premji for its 2019 Global Excellence Awards.
- ❖ The prestigious awards are being conferred on them for significant contribution made by towards strengthening economic ties between US and India.
- ❖ Jared Kushner, senior adviser to US President will be presenting the awards during summit.

### About USISPF

- ❖ Established in 2017 this non-profit organization aims to strengthen U.S.-India bilateral and strategic partnership.
- ❖ USISPF 2nd Annual Leadership Summit will be held in Washington, D.C. on 11 July 2019.

## 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.

## Alan Turing

- ❖ Alan Turing, the code-breaker during World War II has been chosen by the Bank of England to feature on Britain's new £50 note.



- ❖ This prestigious announcement comes decades after his tragic death following a conviction for homosexuality under old British law.
- ❖ In 2013 he received a posthumous pardon from Queen Elizabeth II.
- ❖ His Turing Machines helped Allied Powers get a decisive edge over German Nazi forces.
- ❖ He is also referred as Father of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for his path-breaking contributions in the field.

## Sangeet Natak Academy Annual Awards

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Academy has announced the three category of following honours for 2018.

### Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships:

- ❖ It is the highest and rare honour. At any time, the number of Fellows is restricted to 40. The four new Fellows are
  - Zakir Hussain (Tabla Maestro)
  - Sonal Mansingh (Dancer)
  - Jatin Goswami (Choreographer)
  - Kalyanasundaram Pillai (Bharatnatyam Exponent)



**Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar):**

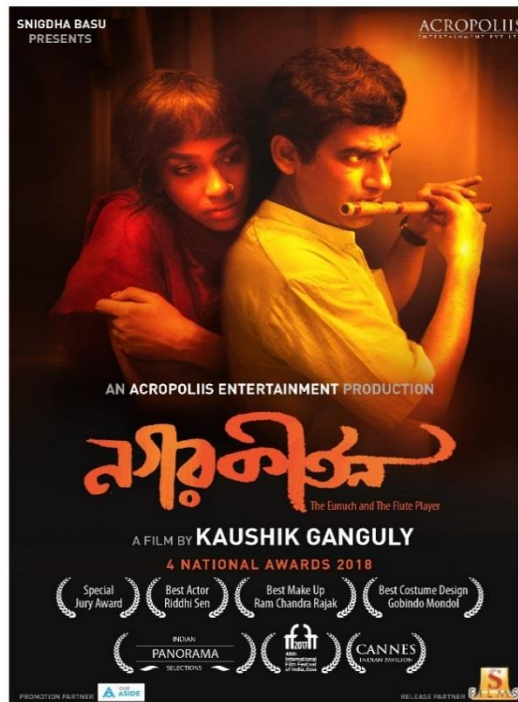
- ❖ 44 artists have been selected from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/ Folk /tribal music in the Performing Arts category.
- ❖ This is awarded since 1952 to recognize sustained individual work and contribution towards arts.
- ❖ The Awards will be conferred by the President of India at a special investiture ceremony.
- ❖ Noted 2018 awardees: Radha Sridhar for Bharatanatyam, Akham Lakshmi Devi for Manipuri, Rajiv Naik for Playwriting and Malini Awasthi in Folk Music

**Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskars:**

- ❖ 32 Young artists below 40 years of age who have made a mark as young talents in their respective fields of the performing arts are accorded this honour.
- ❖ The Chairman of Sangeet Natak Academy presents this award.

**SAARC Film Festival 2019**

- ❖ The 9th Edition of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Film Festival- 2019 was held at Colombo, Sri Lanka from July 2-7, 2019.



- ❖ It screened films from the SAARC Member states of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



- ❖ Bengali Movie Nagarkirtan won best feature film and its director Kaushik Ganguly won the best director award.
- ❖ India won a total of 6 awards.

### **Shiela Dixit passed away**

- ❖ Former chief minister of Delhi (1998-2013) and veteran Congress leader Sheila Dikshit passed away at the age of 81 in the national capital in July 20th.
- ❖ She was one of the longest-serving chief ministers of Delhi, as well as the longest-serving female chief minister of any Indian state, serving for a period of 15 years from 1998 to 2013.
- ❖ She was sworn in as Governor of Kerala on 11 March 2014. However, she resigned on 25 August 2014.
- ❖ In 2010 first time in India Commonwealth Games were organized during her tenure.



### **5<sup>th</sup> International Police Expo 2019**

- ❖ The International Police Expo 2019 is held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi,
- ❖ The exhibition is an interactive platform where police representatives of different nations can meet policing security equipment and technology suppliers.
- ❖ More than 100 companies from Singapore, Israel, South Korea, Taiwan, China, UK, the US, Malaysia, Germany, Australia, Poland and other nations are displaying the best and advanced technologies at the expo organised by Nexgen Exhibitions.



- ❖ The police to people ratio at the all-India level is about 117 policemen for every 100,000 people.



## SPORTS

### Black Forest Cup

- ❖ India's junior women boxers clinched seven medals, including five gold at the Black Forest Cup in Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany.
- ❖ The team was adjudged the best of the tournament.



- Haryana's Neha (54kg) - Best boxer
- Karnataka's Anju Devi (50kg) - Promising player of the tournament respectively.
- ❖ Tamanna (48kg), H Ambeshori Devi (57kg), and Preeti Dahiya (60kg) were the other pugilits who returned with gold medals out of the 13-member Indian squad.
- ❖ Ten countries including India, Ukraine, Germany, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mongolia, Greece, and Poland took part in this tournament.

### Asian Junior Squash

- ❖ Veer Chotrani has won the Asian junior individual squash championship finals in the Under-19 category by defeating Yash Fadte.



- ❖ He became the third Indian to win the trophy after Ravi Dixit and Vela Senthilkumar.
- ❖ He was also the first Indian to win in Under-13 Asian Junior championships held at Iran in 2014.

### Sports Journalists Federation of India 2019 Awards

- ❖ The annual general meeting of Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) 2019 was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ It honours the sports-persons for their contribution to sport and for record-breaking reign in the National and international scene.
- ❖ List of awards and winners:



Awards	Winners
<b>SJFI Medal (SJFI's Highest Honour)</b>	Prakash Padukone (Badminton)
<b>Sportsperson of the Year 2019</b>	Pankaj Advani (Billiards and Snooker) and Bajrang Punia (Wrestling).
<b>Emerging Talent of the Year 2019</b>	Saurabh Choudhary (shooting)
<b>Team of the Year 2019</b>	Vidarbha cricket team

## 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2019

- ❖ Odisha State Table Tennis Association (OSTTA) will host the 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Championship for the year 2019.
- ❖ It will be held from July 17-22, 2019 at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.
- ❖ The previous two Commonwealth Championships were held in India in 2013 and 2015.

## Copa America

- ❖ Brazil has become the champions of South America, defeating Peru 3-1 in the Copa América finals.
- ❖ It won the tournament for the first time in 12 years.

### About

- ❖ Started in 1916, Copa America is the oldest international continental football competition in the world.
- ❖ The 2019 Copa América was the 46th edition of the tournament.
- ❖ The event was held in Brazil.

## Kutno Athletics Meet

- ❖ Star Indian sprinter Hima Das won her second international gold in women's 200m with a top finish (23.97 seconds) at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland.
- ❖ National record holder Muhammed Anas also won the gold in men's 200m race with a time of 21.18 seconds.
- ❖ 400m hurdles
  - MP Jabir – Gold (1st place)

- Jithin Paul (3rd place)



### **World Youth Cup - Karate**

- ❖ Arinjeeta Dey has won a silver medal in the World Youth Cup (Karate).
- ❖ Arinjeeta won the medal in the under-12 age group category.
- ❖ She hails from West Bengal.
- ❖ The tournament was organised by World Karate Federation affiliated to the International Olympic Association.

### **Wrestling Grand Prix of Spain**

- ❖ India's top wrestler Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal in 53 kg category by beating Netherlands' Jessica Blaszka in the finals of Wrestling Grand Prix.
- ❖ Divya Kakran claimed the gold medal in 68kg by beating an opponent from Poland.
- ❖ India finished overall second in the tournament. Russia topped.

### **FIFA Women's World Cup**

- ❖ The United States of America won the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 held in Lyon, France.
- ❖ They scored 2 goals and beat Netherlands.



- ❖ Team coach Jill Ellis became 1st coach to win back-to-back World Cups in men's or women's game since Italy's Vittorio Pozzo in 1930s.
- ❖ US women's team has also won earlier in 1991, 1999 and 2015.

### Concacaf Gold Cup

- ❖ Mexico's men's soccer team has won the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup by defeating United States men with 1-0 in the final.
- ❖ This is Mexico's record 8th Gold Cup title.

#### About Concacaf

- ❖ It is the international men's football championship of North, Central American, and Caribbean region.
- ❖ It was founded in 1963 and is a biennial event.

### G Kosanov Memorial International Event

- ❖ G. Kosanov Memorial international was held at Almaty in Kazakhstan.

#### Medallist:

<b>Gold</b>	
800 meter (Men)	Mohammed Afsal
Discus throw (Men)	Gagandeep Singh
Discus throw (Women)	Navjeet Kaur
Triple jump	Mohammed Salahuddin
Long jump	M.Sreeshankar
Javelin throw	Sahil Silwal
<b>Silver</b>	
Discus throw	S. Mithravarun
Hammer throw (Women's)	Jyothi
Triple jump	Mohammed Zuber
Javelin throw	Rohit Yadav
<b>Bronze</b>	
Hammer throw (Women's)	Anita

### **Dutee Chand – Gold**

- ❖ Sprinter Dutee Chand became the first Indian ever to win gold in the 100m race at a global meet.
- ❖ She finished first in the event at the World Universiade in Napoli (Italy).
- ❖ She clocked 11.32 seconds to win the gold.



- ❖ Her national record was 11.24 seconds.
- ❖ Dutee Chand hails from Odisha.
- ❖ She has now become only the second Indian sprinter to win a gold in a global event after Hima Das.
- ❖ Hima Das clinched gold in 400m in the World Junior Athletics Championships 2018.

### **New Commonwealth record in Weightlifting**

- ❖ Indian weightlifter [Ajay Singh](#) created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category.
- ❖ He is competing in the 81 kg category.



- ❖ Ajay did 190 kg in clean and jerk (338kg in total).

### **International Physically Disabled Chess Association title**

- ❖ K. Jennitha Anto has won the women's title in the International Physically Disabled Chess Association (IPCA) World Individual Chess Championship for the **sixth** time.
- ❖ Jennitha hails from Tiruchirappalli, Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the championship was held at Slovakia.



- ❖ Ms.Anto is a Woman International Master (WIM) title holder and aims at becoming a Grand Master.

## 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup

- ❖ England beat New Zealand in the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup on boundary count after a tied match and a tied Super Over.



- ❖ England won since it had more boundaries (26) than what New Zealand (17) had scored.
- ❖ Man-of-the-series: Kane Williamson (New Zealand).
  - Kane becomes the captain with the greatest number of runs in a single World Cup (578 runs).

### Few Facts

- ❖ It was the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Cricket World Cup.
- ❖ It was hosted by England and Wales from 30 May to 14 July 2019
- ❖ This was the fifth time England and Wales have hosted the World Cup.
- ❖ It is the only time a One Day International format match has had to be decided by a Super Over.
- ❖ England win their first World Cup and their second ICC championship following the [2010 World Twenty20](#).
- ❖ [England](#) became the 3<sup>rd</sup> team in succession to win the World Cup at home (hosts won the cup).
- ❖ Others – India in 2011 and Australia in 2015

## Wimbledon Championship – Men's Single

- ❖ The 2019 Wimbledon Championships [Grand Slam tennis](#) tournament took place in [Wimbledon, London](#).
- ❖ The Gentlemen's singles champion was won by [Novak Djokovic](#).

### Djokovic Wins 5th Wimbledon Title



➤ Novak Djokovic **fought off two championship points** to defeat Roger Federer 7-6 (7-5), 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 13-12 (7-3) in arguably the greatest Wimbledon final of all time

➤ The 4 hours, 57 minutes-long epic is the **longest ever Wimbledon final**. The last set alone went on for 2 hrs, 2 mins

➤ It's Djokovic's 5th Wimbledon singles title (making him joint 3rd with Bjorn Borg & Laurence Doherty) and **16th Grand Slam title**. He is No. 3 on the all-time list, behind only Federer (20) and Rafael Nadal (18). The **3 men have won the last 11 Slam tournaments between them**

➤ Djokovic has now **won 4 of the last 5 Slams**, with only Nadal denying him at this year's French Open

- ❖ [Novak Djokovic](#) was the defending champion and successfully defended his title, defeating [Roger Federer](#) in the final.



- ❖ It was the longest singles final in Wimbledon history, at 4 hours and 57 minutes.
- ❖ This was the first edition of the [tournament](#) to feature a standard [tie break](#) in the final set when the score in the set was 12 games all.

### ALL-TIME LIST OF MAJOR WINNERS

	Total	Aus Open	French Open	Wimby	US Open
Federer	20	6	1	8	5
Nadal	18	1	12	2	3
Djokovic	16	7	1	5	3
Sampras	14	2	0	7	5
Emerson	12	2	0	7	5

### World Tour Platinum Australian Open – Table Tennis

- ❖ The Indian pair of [G. Sathiyan](#) and [Anthony Amalraj](#) ended their World Tour Platinum Australian Open with a bronze medal in the men's doubles competition.
- ❖ This was the first ever medal for India in the Australian Open.

### US professional circuit – Vijender Singh

- ❖ Indian boxer [Vijender Singh](#) won a [technical Knockout](#) over [Mike Snider](#) on his debut in the US professional circuit.



- ❖ In the super middleweight eight-rounder Vijender Singh prevailed in four rounds for his 11th consecutive victory in the circuit.
- ❖ This was Vijender's eighth knockout win in all.

### **WBC international welterweight**

- ❖ Britain's Amir Khan claimed the WBC international welterweight title by defeating Australia's Billy Dib.
- ❖ The event was held in Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Amir Khan has won a silver medal at the Olympics (2004).

### **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.

### **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship 2019**

- ❖ Commonwealth Weightlifting championships were held at Apia, Samoa in Oceania.
- ❖ India topped the medal tally by winning 35 medals across three categories - 22 golds, 10 silvers and 3 bronze medals in all categories.
- ❖ P Anuradha of Tamil Nadu won gold in the 221 kg category.



## ICC Announcements

- ❖ On July 19, 2019, Zimbabwe cricket has been suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- ❖ Zimbabwe has been suspended for failing to provide free and democratic elections and ensuring that there is no government interference in cricket administration.
- ❖ It will not be allowed to play in any ICC tournaments.
- ❖ ICC has now altered the punishment for maintaining a slow over-rate. Both Captain and team members will be fined, not just Captain.
- ❖ Shashank Manohar is the Chairperson of ICC and Manu Sawhney is the CEO.

## Hima Das 5th gold

- ❖ Hima Das won the women's 400m gold recording 52.09 seconds on the clock, in the Nove Mesto nad Metuji Grand Prix held at Czech Republic.
- ❖ This was Hima's first 400m Gold medal.
- ❖ In July 2019, she bagged a total of 5 gold medals in a month.
- ❖ Earlier she won four gold medals in 200m in July Month alone.
- ❖ She is an Indian sprint runner from the state of Assam.
- ❖ Hima Das is the second athlete from Assam after Bhogeswar Baruah to win a gold medal at an international event.



### **Indonesia Open final – Badminton**

- ❖ PV Sindhu lost the Indonesia Open final to Japanese Akane Yamaguchi held at Jakarata.
- ❖ This is only the 5th defeat for Sindhu in 15 meetings against Yamaguchi.

### **World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships**

- ❖ Indian shuttler Jerlin Anika, a Madurai born player, won gold medal at the International Deaf Youth Badminton Championship that was held in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei.
- ❖ She won the gold against the Finja Rosendahl of Germany.
- ❖ She has also won two silvers in the same competition.
- ❖ Jerlin was the only player from Tamil nadu who is part of the 16-member Indian contingent in Taipei.



### **Mohun Bagan Ratna**

- ❖ Two-time Olympic gold medallist Keshav Dutt and former India Football Captain Prasun Banerjee will be conferred the 'Mohun Bagan Ratna' during Mohun Bagan Athletic Club's annual day celebrations on the 29th of this month.
- ❖ The 94-year Olympian Keshav Dutt played and won the first Gold for India in Hockey in 1948 London Games and again in 1952 Helsinki Games.



### About

- ❖ Mohun Bagan Athletic Club is a professional association football club based in West Bengal, India.
- ❖ Established on 15 August 1889 by Bhupendra Nath Bose, it is the oldest existing association football club in India.
- ❖ It was the first Indian football club to win against an English football team 'East Yorkshire Regiment' in the 1911 IFA Shield final match.

### **Veteran Pin for PT Usha**

- ❖ Legendary athlete PT Usha has been nominated for the International Association of Athletics Federation's (IAAF) 'Veteran Pin' honour.



- ❖ This nomination is in recognition of her long and meritorious service to athletics.
- ❖ She will be awarded at the 52nd IAAF Congress in Qatar in September 2019.
- ❖ She is often called the "Queen of track and field".
- ❖ Usha's most memorable performance came in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.
- ❖ She became the first Indian to reach the finals of the 400m hurdles, but lost the bronze.

### **World Test Cricket Championship**

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) plans to start a World Test Championship similar to ODI World Cup tournament.
- ❖ The first match of the Championship will be played between England and Australia, from August 1 to 5 at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, England.



- ❖ All Teams will be allotted points for their performance over a period of two years.
- ❖ The Top two teams will face in the World Cup Finals Test match at 2021.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Ireland and Zimbabwe are not part of the tournament.

Matches in series	Points for a win	Points for a tie	Points for a draw
2	60	30	20
3	40	20	13.3
4	30	15	10
5	24	12	8

### **Kristof Milak breaks Phelps Record**

- ❖ Hungarian teenager Kristof Milak broke the 10 years old world record held by the great swimmer Michael Phelps.
- ❖ In the World Aquatics Championship event held in South Korea he won the 200 metres butterfly finals in 1:50.73 (one minute and fifty point seventy-three seconds).
- ❖ He was thus 0.78 seconds ahead off Phelps's previous world best record.





### **Indian Cricketers Association**

- ❖ The BCCI has approved the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA).
- ❖ The ICA is not affiliated to Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) and is only open to former men and women cricketers.
- ❖ Former India cricketers Kapil Dev, Ajit Agarkar and Shantha Rangaswamy are the directors at ICA.



### **Kiren Rijju Committee**

- ❖ A high-level 10-member Committee has been constituted to coordinate and strategize the preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics.
- ❖ It will function under Chairmanship of Sports Minister Kiren Rijju.
- ❖ Olympians like Leander Paes and shooter Gagan Narang are also in the committee.
- ❖ The committee aims to ensure that the performance of the Indian athletes is optimised in the Olympics and other multidisciplinary events.

### **2023 Cricket World Cup**

- ❖ The 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup will be held in India from February 9 to March 26, 2023.



- ❖ It will be the 13th edition of the men's Cricket World Cup and will also mark the first time that the tournament will be solely hosted by India.
- ❖ The country has previously hosted the tournament thrice (1987, 1996, 2011) but every time co-hosting it with its Asian neighbours.
- ❖ England have hosted the greatest number of World Cups - 5 in total (1975, 1979, 1983, 1999 and 2019).
- ❖ The 1987 World Cup remains the first edition to be hosted away from England in India and Pakistan.

Year	Winners	Runners-up	Host Nation
1975	West Indies	Australia	England
1979	West Indies	Australia	England
1983	India	West Indies	England
1987	Australia	England	India & Pakistan
1992	Pakistan	England	Australia & New Zealand
1996	Sri Lanka	Australia	Pakistan & India
1999	Australia	Pakistan	England
2003	Australia	India	South Africa
2007	Australia	Sri Lanka	West Indies
2011	India	Sri Lanka	India & Bangladesh
2015	Australia	New Zealand	Australia & New Zealand
2019	England	New Zealand	England
2023	–		India

### **Mary Kom – President's Cup**

- ❖ Six-time world champion MC Mary Kom claimed the gold medal in the 23rd President's Cup event held at Indonesia.
- ❖ Contesting in the 51 kg category, she defeated Australian April Franks 5-0.



### **Anjum Moudgil breaks Shooting Record**

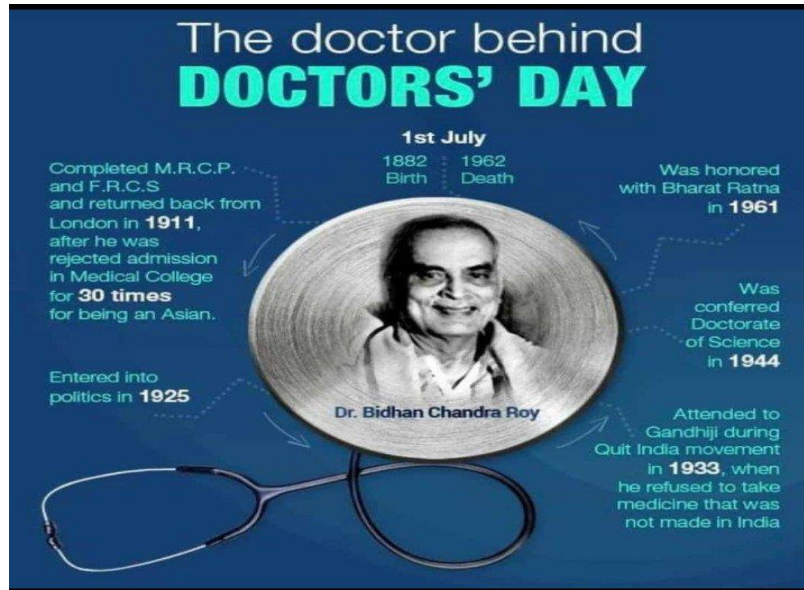
- ❖ World Championship silver medallist Anjum Moudgil shot 253.9 and broke the world record held by fellow compatriot Apurvi Chandela (252.9) in the women's 10m Air Rifle event.
- ❖ The record was created in the XII Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial Masters shooting competition at New Delhi.
- ❖ Anjum was also the first person to win the Olympic quota for shooting in Tokyo Olympics 2020.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Doctor's Day - July 01

- ❖ National Doctor's Day in India is observed on 1st July every year from 1991.



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the roles, importance and responsibilities of doctors.
- ❖ It also to promote medical professionals to come closer and take their responsibilities dedicatedly.
- ❖ The theme of National Doctor's Day 2019 is "Zero tolerance to violence against doctors and clinical establishment".
- ❖ This Day is observed to honour the legendary physician and West Bengal's second Chief Minister, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy whose birth and death anniversary coincides in the same day.

### GST Day – July 01

- ❖ 1st July 2019 is being celebrated as GST (Goods & Services Tax) Day.
- ❖ This year marks the 2nd anniversary of implementation of tax reforms.
- ❖ GST is a multi-stage, destination-based tax that is levied on every value addition.
- ❖ It has integrated country into a single common market by breaking barriers in inter-state trade and commerce.

### **Van Mahotsav Week / July 1 – 7**

- ❖ The annual van Mahotsav week is celebrated in India in the first week of July.
- ❖ During this festival thousands of trees are planted all over India.
- ❖ It was started in 1950 by K. M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food at that time.
- ❖ This celebration aims to create awareness in the minds of the people for the conservation of forests and planting of new trees.



### **World Sports Journalists Day - July 2**

- ❖ World Sports Journalists Day was observed on every year July 2.
- ❖ It is celebrated to mark the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports.
- ❖ It was established by the International Sports and Press Association in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of its foundation.

### **World UFO day - July 2**

- ❖ World UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) day was observed all over the world on every year July 2.
- ❖ It is celebrated to increase awareness among people about the existence of UFO.
- ❖ The first World UFO Day was celebrated in 2001.
- ❖ Earlier, the day was celebrated on June 24, but World UFO day Organization declared July 2 as the world UFO day to celebrate it on a larger scale.



## **USA Independence Day - July 4**

- ❖ United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States on every year July 4.
- ❖ It is the anniversary of the publication of the declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776.
- ❖ The Congress had voted to declare independence of the thirteen American colonies two days earlier, on July 2, but it was actually declared on July 4.

### **Thomas Jefferson**

- ❖ Thomas Jefferson who was the principal author of this Declaration.
- ❖ He was the Founding Father of the USA.
- ❖ He served as the third President of the United States from 1801 to 1809.
- ❖ Previously, he had served as the second vice president of the United States from 1797 to 1801.
- ❖ Jefferson was a proponent of democracy, republicanism, and individual rights.

## **International Day of Cooperatives – July 6**

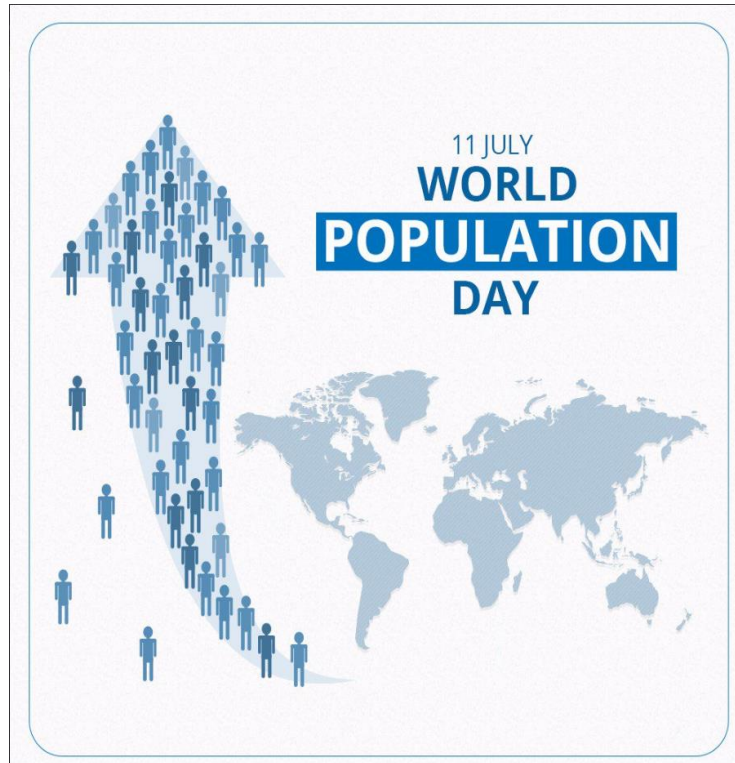
- ❖ The international day of cooperatives is an annual celebration of cooperatives movement held annually on July 6.
- ❖ It was first celebrated on the first Saturday of July in 1923.
- ❖ Since 1995 the first Saturday of July is observed the world over as UN International Day of Cooperatives.
- ❖ The event underscores the contributions of the cooperative movement in resolving the major problems addressed by the United Nations.
- ❖ Theme of celebration for 2019 is “Coops 4 Decent Work”.

## **World Zoonoses Day – July 6**

- ❖ World Zoonoses Day is held every year on July 6.
- ❖ The day commemorates July 6, 1885, when Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, a zoonotic disease.
- ❖ The day raises awareness about the risk of zoonotic diseases.
- ❖ 75 percent of the new or emerging diseases originate in animals.
- ❖ More than 60 percent of known infectious diseases in people, such as the rabies virus, ringworm and salmonella, are transmitted from animals.

## **World Population Day – July 11**

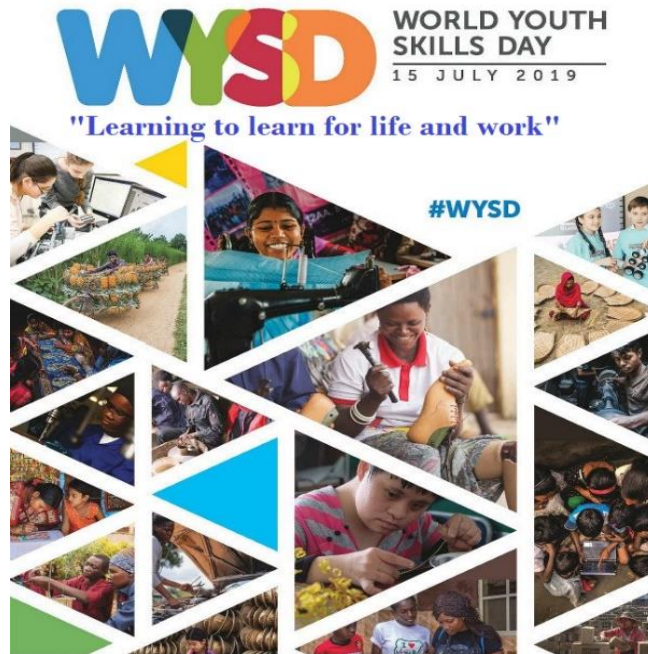
- ❖ World Population Day is adopted on July 11 every year.
- ❖ World Population Day seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues.
- ❖ It was established by the then Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989.



- ❖ The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990.
- ❖ Theme: None
  - This year's calls for global attention to unfinished business of 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

## **World Youth Skills Day - July 15**

- ❖ World Youth Skills Day observed on 15<sup>th</sup> July.
- ❖ In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring 15th July as World Youth Skills Day.
- ❖ The goal is to achieve better socio-economic conditions for today's youth as a means of addressing the challenges of unemployment and under employment.



- ❖ Theme: "Learning to learn for life and work".

### **International Malala Day – July 12**

- ❖ The UN has designated July 12 as International Malala Day in honour of the prominent Pakistani activist for female education - Malala Yousafzai.
- ❖ Talibans shot a young Malala in 2012 for her stance on women education.
- ❖ She survived and is now a global ambassador for women education.
- ❖ She is the youngest recipient of 2014 Nobel Prize for Peace in history winning it at age of 17.
- ❖ She shared it along with Kailash Satyarthi, a child's rights activist from India.
- ❖ On July 12, 2013 she made a passionate speech in UN for education of girls.

### **Kamaraj 117th Birth anniversary – July 15**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated a memorial for the former CM, the late K Kamaraj, coinciding with the latter's 117th birth anniversary on July 15.
- ❖ His memorial has been built at Virudhunagar.



- ❖ Then Chief Minister Kalaingar declared Kamaraj's birth anniversary July 15 as "Education Development day" in 2006.
- ❖ Since 2006, this day is celebrated as "Education Development day".

### **International Justice Day – July 17**

- ❖ World Day for International Justice, also referred to as Day of International Criminal Justice or International Justice Day, is an international day celebrated throughout the world on July 17.
- ❖ The aim of the day is to promote international criminal justice and as a way of supporting the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ❖ On 1 June 2010, at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala (Uganda), the Assembly of State Parties decided to celebrate 17 July as the Day of International Criminal Justice.

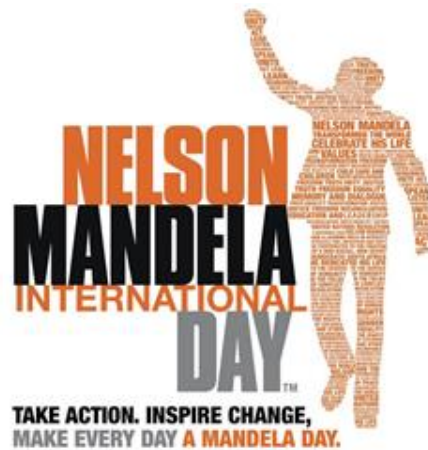


### **Nelson Mandela Day – July 18**

- ❖ Nelson Mandela International Day is an annual international day celebrated each year on 18 July in honour of Nelson Mandela and on his Mandela's birthday.



- ❖ The day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009 with the first UN Mandela Day held on 18 July 2010.
- ❖ This day is observed as a day to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's former President, and his values, through volunteering and community service.



### **50 years of Moon landing – July 20**

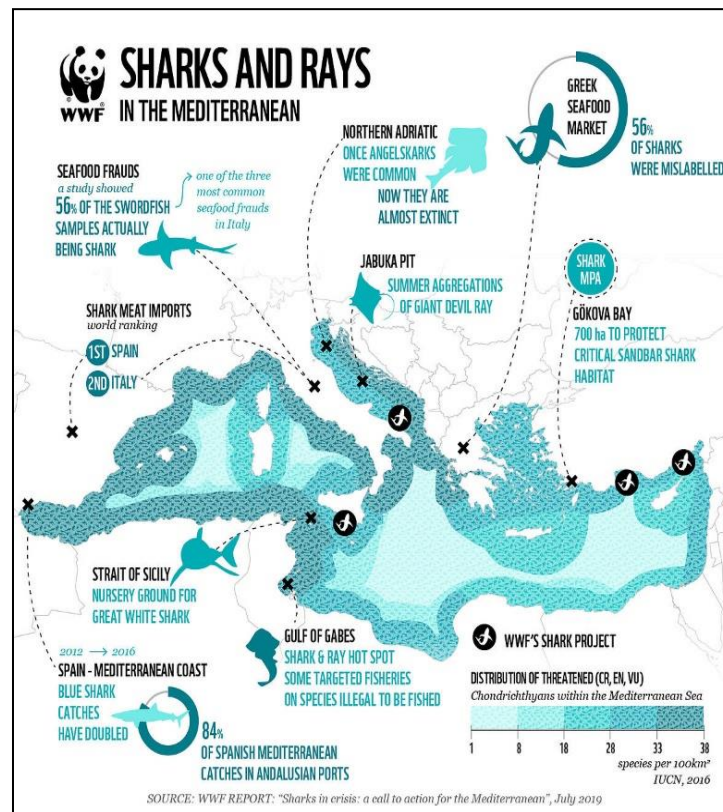
- ❖ July 20 marks the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 sent by the USA.
- ❖ It was sent with astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on board.
- ❖ Armstrong became the first person to step onto the lunar surface
- ❖ Aldrin joined him 19 minutes later.
- ❖ It was the first crewed mission to land on the Moon.
- ❖ To date, the United States is the only country to have successfully conducted crewed missions to the Moon.



## International Chess Day – July 20

- ❖ The International Chess Day is celebrated annually on July 20, the day the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded, in 1924.
- ❖ From 20 July, 1966, International Chess Day started celebrating to honour the founding of FIDE.
- ❖ To celebrate International Chess Day on 20 July was proposed by UNESCO.
- ❖ In 1851 in London, the first modern chess tournament was held and it was won by German Adolf Andersen.
- ❖ In 1951, Alan Turing developed the first computer program for playing chess.
- ❖ In India Chess was invented in fifth century.
- ❖ At that time, it was named as "Chaturanga".
- ❖ Then this game spread to Persia.

## Shark Awareness Day – July 14



- ❖ Shark Awareness Day is observed on July 14 of every year.



- ❖ Theme for the year 2019 is "The sharks in crisis: a call to action for the Mediterranean."
- ❖ The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) said that more than half of shark and ray species in the Mediterranean were under threat due to overfishing and plastic pollution.
- ❖ The report highlights the major crisis area at Libya and Tunisia three times that of the next biggest Mediterranean fisher, Italy.

### **National Broadcasting Day – July 23**

- ❖ The national broadcasting day in India is celebrated annually on July 23.



- ❖ On July 23, 1927 the first ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company.
- ❖ On 8th of June, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio (AIR).
- ❖ The motto of AIR is "Bahujan Hitaya Bahujan Sukhaya".

### **Income Tax Day – July 24**

- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrated the 159th Income Tax Day on July 24, 2019.
- ❖ It was on 24th July, 1860 that Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson.
- ❖ It was introduced to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the 1857 first war of independence against British Rule.



### **International Day for the Conservation of the Mangroves – July 26**

- ❖ The UN International Day for the Conservation of the Mangroves is observed every year on July 26.
- ❖ The day was first adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015.
- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem”.
- ❖ Mangroves act as a form of natural coastal defense against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion.
- ❖ Their soils are highly effective carbon sinks.

### **CRPF Day – July 27**

- ❖ 81st raising day of country's largest paramilitary force-Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was observed on July 27, 2019.
- ❖ On this day in 1939, CRPF had come into existence as the Crown Representative's Police.
- ❖ It was renamed to its present name after enactment of the CRPF Act on December 28, 1949.
- ❖ It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ It has been the lead force in dealing with
  - Militancy in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)
  - Fighting the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)
  - Insurgency in Northeast India.

### **World Hepatitis Day – July 28**

- ❖ World Hepatitis Day (WHD) 2019 is being observed every year on July 28.
- ❖ The 63rd World Health Assembly declared July 28 as WHD.
- ❖ The idea of Hepatitis day originated in Cuttack, Odisha as per Dr. Blumberg.
- ❖ July 28 is chosen as it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E and prevent infection.
- ❖ The theme of observance for 2019 is “Invest in eliminating hepatitis”.

- ❖ The host country for World Hepatitis Day 2019 is Pakistan.

### **World Nature Conservation Day – July 28**

- ❖ The World Nature Conservation day is observed every year on July 28.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about protecting the natural resources and to make people understand about the importance of the conservation of nature.



### **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - 30 July**

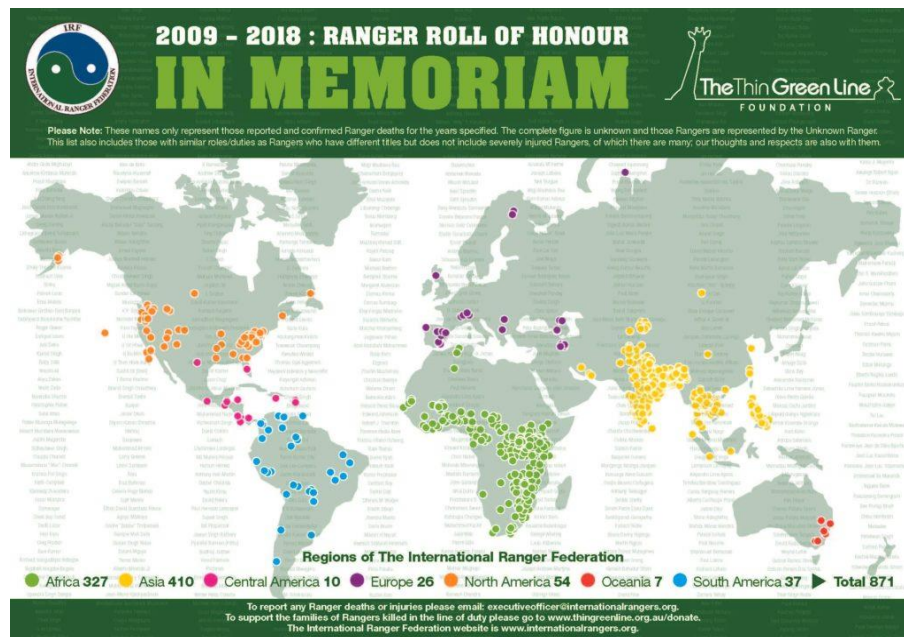
- ❖ In 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 30 July as the annual World Day against Trafficking in Persons.



- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.
- ❖ Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for several purposes including forced labour and sex.
- ❖ The theme of the day for 2019 is – "Human Trafficking: Call Your Government to Action".

## World Ranger Day – July 31

- ❖ World Ranger Day is celebrated around the world on July 31st.
- ❖ It is on the anniversary of the founding of The International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization that supports the work of “Rangers” as the key protectors of parks and conservation.



- ❖ It was held in 2007.
- ❖ This day is observed to thank rangers for their bravery and courage and to remember the sacrifice of the Rangers that died on service.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Expensive Cities – Mumbai

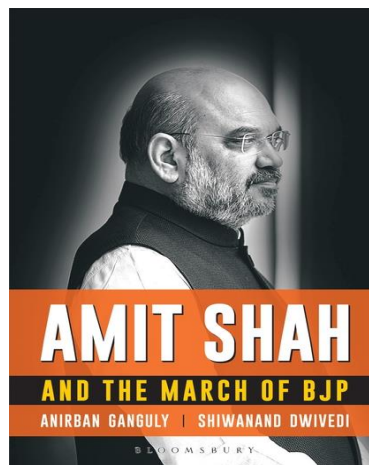
- ❖ Mumbai is India's most expensive city and among the top 20 costliest cities surveyed in Asia.
- ❖ Residential housing prices remain among the highest in the world.
- ❖ The survey was released by Mercer group.
- ❖ The other Indian cities in the list include, New Delhi at 118th place, Chennai (154), Bengaluru (179) and Kolkata (189).
- ❖ The costliest city in the world for the second consecutive year is Hong Kong followed by Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul.
- ❖ The world's least expensive cities for expatriates are Tunis (209), Tashkent (208), and Karachi (207).

### First battery-powered cruise ship voyage

- ❖ The world's first cruise ship propelled partially by battery power is set to head out from northern Norway on its maiden voyage.
- ❖ It is named after the Norwegian explorer- "Roald Amundsen" who navigated the Northwest Passage in 1903-1906 and was first to reach the South Pole in 1911.
- ❖ This ship heads for the Arctic from Tromsø and will sail the Northwest Passage to Alaska at last it will reach Antarctica.

### Book on Amit Shah

- ❖ Book: Amit Shah and the march of BJP.





- ❖ Author: Anirban Ganguly and Shiwanand Dwivedi

### **D-4-D initiative**

- ❖ The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has launched an initiative named Doctors 4 Doctors (D4D) aimed at preventing burn out, address mental health challenges; reduce the incidents of suicide among residents and clinicians.
- ❖ Under the initiative, IMA plans to setup counselling centres and a 24x7 helpline in all medical colleges and teaching institutions to help students deal with mental health issues.

### **'Butcher of Beijing' Li Peng**

- ❖ Former Chinese Premier Li Peng, who ordered martial law during the 1989 Tiananmen protests, has died at the age of 90.
- ❖ He is best known as the "Butcher of Beijing" for his role in the Tiananmen Square brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989.
- ❖ On April 1989, thousands of Chinese students had gathered at Tiananmen Square in Beijing in support of democratic reforms.
- ❖ Hundreds of people were killed, and the protest was brought to a sudden end.



## Operation Vijay - Kargil War 20

- ❖ The Kargil War was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan that took place between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and elsewhere along the Line of Control (LOC).
- ❖ It is also referred to as Operation Vijay.



- ❖ July 26, 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the successful culmination of Operation Vijay against Pakistani infiltrators.
- ❖ The Indian Army, supported by the Indian Air Force, forced the Pakistani forces to withdraw and won back all the high outposts.

-----