

August - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Authorities at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur have brought a four-year-old Rhino from Kaziranga National Park in Assam as part of an animal exchange programme.
 - The zoo was started in the year 1985 and had one rhino then. But it died in 1989.
- ❖ IIT-Guwahati team has developed a “portable device” with bio-compatible sensor to detect bacteria “without the time-consuming cell culture or microbiological assays”. It can be used to diagnose critical illnesses such as meningitis.
 - Such a rapid detection of bacteria, is not just important in healthcare, but also in Anti- bioterrorism measures and environmental monitoring.
- ❖ Securities and Exchange Board of India has approved Singapore Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd to operate jointly in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, Gandhinagar.
 - The two entities will create a new platform for trading called NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC)-SGX Connect.
- ❖ Hiroshima Day is observed on 6th August. It commemorates 6 August 1945, the day when an atomic bomb (Little Boy) was dropped from the Enola Gay Airplane on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.
 - The day is now a focus for anti-war and anti-nuclear discussions and demonstrations.

NATIONAL

Ayodhya Mediation Failed

- ❖ The three-member Babri Masjid - Ram Janmabhoomi land dispute case “mediation panel” including Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Shriram Panchu headed by former apex court judge FM Kalifulla has submitted its report.
- ❖ The efforts to arrive at an amicable settlement through mediation have failed.
- ❖ So, the Supreme Court is set to commence day-to-day hearing in the case.
- ❖ A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi will conduct the hearing.



Prisoner's Cannot Vote

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed the Delhi High Court that “prisoners” do not have voting rights under the Representation of People (RP) Act.
- ❖ The poll panel said the right to vote is a statutory right created under Section 62 of the RP Act and the law is settled that the “right to vote being a statutory right is subject to the restrictions prescribed in the RP Act”.
- ❖ Further ECI quoted the Supreme Court judgement in the Anukul Chandra Pradhan v Union of India (1997) case which denied voting rights to prisoners.

The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019 has been passed by both houses of Parliament.
- ❖ The Bill repeals 68 laws that have been listed in the First Schedule of the Bill. These include
 - The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976
 - The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2001
- ❖ The Bill makes minor amendments to two Acts which relate to substitution of certain words. The two Acts are
 - The Income Tax Act, 1961
 - The India Institutes of Management Act, 2017

ECONOMY

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by both houses of Parliament. It amends the Companies Act, 2013.

	Companies Act, 2013	2019 Amendments
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	If CSR money is not fully spent, companies must disclose the reasons for non-spending in their annual report.	Any unspent annual CSR funds must be transferred to one of the funds under Schedule 7 of the Act (e.g., PM Relief Fund) within six months of the financial year. Violations: A fine between Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,00,000
Debarring auditors	The National Financial Reporting Authority can	The Bill amends the punishment to provide for



	Debar a “member or firm” from practising as a Chartered Accountant for a period between six months to 10 years, for proven misconduct.	debarment from appointment as an auditor or internal auditor of a company, or performing a company’s valuation, for a period between six months to 10 years.
Change in approving authority	Change in period of financial year for a company associated with a foreign company, has to be approved by the National Company Law Tribunal.	Approval powers transferred to Union Government.

Commencement of business

- ❖ A company may not commence business, unless it
 - Files a declaration within 180 days of incorporation, confirming that every subscriber to the Memorandum of the company has paid for the shares agreed to be taken by him
 - Files a verification of its registered address with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) within 30 days of incorporation.
- ❖ Failure to comply with these provisions will result in removal of name from RoC.

ENVIRONMENT

Arctic Wildfires

- ❖ Wildfires ravaging parts of the Arctic are threatening to accelerate the melting of ice and permafrost (the permanently frozen ground layer).
- ❖ This will release greenhouse gases stored for thousands of years.
- ❖ The magnitude of wild fires is the highest than any other in the 16-year record.
- ❖ Scientists warn that the forest fires will ignite peat fires.
- ❖ Peat stores large amounts of carbon, which on burning releases record amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere.



STATES

Rajasthan Honour Killing and Mob Lynching Bill

- ❖ The Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019 was passed by the Rajasthan government.
- ❖ It aims to curb incidents of 'honour killing' and mob lynching in the State.
- ❖ Provisions have been made for death penalty or life imprisonment for murdering couples in the name of family honour.
- ❖ Manipur was the first state to pass a law in December, 2018 curbing lynching cases. Now Rajasthan became the 2nd state.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sushma Swaraj passed away

- ❖ Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, 67 who is appreciated for bringing empathy and human approach to India's diplomacy has passed away.
- ❖ Ms. Swaraj had many firsts to her credit
 - India's youngest-ever Cabinet Minister of Haryana State (Aged 25 in the year 1977)
 - First woman Chief Minister of Delhi in 1998
 - First woman spokesperson for any national political party
 - Second woman to hold the External Affairs Minister (2014-19) after Indira Gandhi.
 - Indian Parliament's first and the only female MP honoured with the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.
 - BJP's first female Chief Minister, Union Cabinet Minister, general secretary, Spokesperson, Leader of Opposition and Minister of External Affairs.
 - Second Female to the Office of Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha (2009-14) after Sonia Gandhi (1999-2004).

IMPORTANT DAYS

National handloom day – August 7

- ❖ India celebrates National handloom Day on August 7th of every year.



- ❖ The first such day was celebrated on August 7th, 2015.
- ❖ August 7 was chosen so as to commemorate Swadeshi Movement which was launched on 07.08.1905 in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British government.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to honour the handloom weavers in the country, increase the income of weavers and also highlight handloom industry's contribution to Indian economy.
- ❖ The 2019 main event of National Handloom Day will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

