

**June – 26**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Mongolia has launched construction of its first strategically important oil refinery funded by India in southern Dornogovi province. Its financing is part of \$1 billion soft credit line agreement between Mongolia and Export-Import Bank of India.

## **TAMILNADU**

### **AIIMS to come up at Madurai**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government announced that the much-anticipated All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) facility announced for the state by the Centre will come up near Madurai.
- ❖ The AIIMS facility was announced for Tamil Nadu in the Union Budget 2015-16 but had faced some delays over the location of the facility.

## **NATIONAL**

### **AADHAAR biometric data for criminal investigation - Not Permissible**

- ❖ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has notified that use of Aadhaar biometric data for criminal investigation is not allowed under Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- ❖ As per Section 29 of the Aadhaar Act,
  - The biometric data collected by UIDAI can be used only for purpose of generating Aadhaar and for authentication of the identity of Aadhaar holders and cannot be used for any other purpose.
- ❖ The very limited exception to this is allowed under Section 33 of Aadhaar Act,
  - which permits the use of or access to Aadhaar biometric data in cases involving national security only after pre-authorization by oversight committee headed by Cabinet Secretary.

## Two affiliates of al Qaeda and IS Banned

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has banned al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) under the anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.
- ❖ AQIS is an affiliate of al Qaeda and ISKP is Afghanistan wing of Islamic State (IS).
- ❖ Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 is anti-terrorist law aimed at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.

## Higher tariffs on 29 items imported from US

- ❖ India has notified higher tariffs on 29 items imported from United States (US).

### ITEMS FACING HIGHER DUTY

Final list of imports from US to see tariffs hiked #	Old tariff rate (% if not otherwise mentioned)	Revised tariff rate (% if not otherwise mentioned)
Almonds (in shell)	₹35/kg	₹42/kg
Laboratory reagent*	10%	20%
Phosphoric acid	10%	20%
Apples	50%	75%
Binders for foundry moulds	10%	17.5%
Walnuts (in shell)	30%	120%
Chickpea (garbanzos)	30%	70%
Lentils ( <i>mosur</i> )	30%	70%
Bengal gram ( <i>desi chana</i> )	30%	70%
Boric acid	10%	17.5%

- ❖ This was in retaliation against US announcement imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum items, 25% and 10% respectively, imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico in March 2018 to compensate from loss of revenue.

## INTERNATIONAL

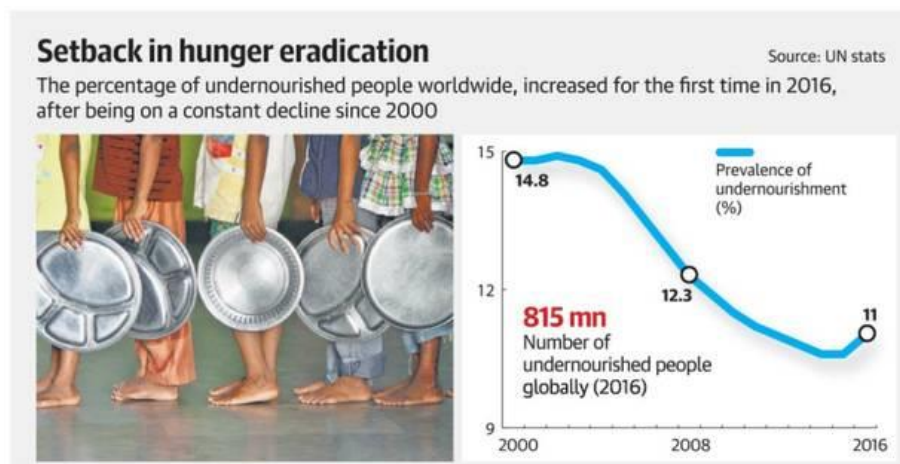
### India - the US to hold inaugural 2+2 Dialogue

- ❖ The inaugural India, United States 2+2 Dialogue will be held on July 6, 2018 in Washington. DC, the capital city of US.

- ❖ The 2+2 Dialogue between US and India aims to enhance strategic coordination between both countries and maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ The new dialogue format will replace earlier India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue.
- ❖ It is similar to India-Japan 2+2 dialogue format between foreign and defense secretaries of the two countries.

### **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2018 report**

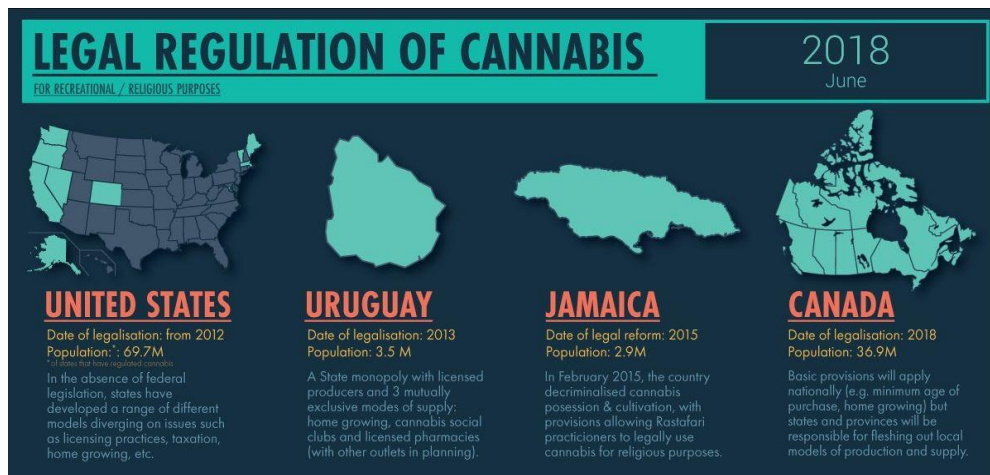
- ❖ According to United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2018 report, a number of hungry people in the world has risen for the first time in more than a decade.
- ❖ There are now approximately 38 million more undernourished people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016.



- ❖ The report said Conflict, drought, and disasters linked to climate change are among the key factors causing this reversal in progress.
- ❖ South Asia, which includes India, has seen child marriage rates plunge, with a girl's risk of getting married in childhood dropping by 40% from 2000 to 2017.
- ❖ On the other hand, water stress levels for many countries in the region are above 70%, indicating fast-approaching water scarcity.
- ❖ The report is an overview of progress towards achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), which consists of 17 goals and 169 targets.
- ❖ It was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015.

## Canada legalizes recreational use of marijuana

- ❖ The Parliament of Canada has passed Cannabis Act (or Bill C-45), a landmark law that legalizes recreational use of marijuana nationwide.
- ❖ It makes Canada the first G7 country to legalize the drug's recreational use and the second to have a nationwide, legal marijuana market, after Uruguay (permitted in December 2013).



- ❖ It allows adults to possess up to 30 grams of dried cannabis in public, but minimum legal age to buy and consume the drug has been set federally at 18.
- ❖ Cannabis is banned in most countries but it is legal for medicinal purposes in 14 European countries, Argentina, Israel, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama, Turkey, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

## ECONOMY

### Draft on cross-border insolvency resolution

- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has released a draft on cross-border insolvency in order to strengthen Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- ❖ The existing IBC provisions (234&235) are not adequate to effectively deal with default cases of the domestic corporate debtor having assets and operations outside India.
- ❖ The draft on cross-border insolvency favors adoption of UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Laws) Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, 1997.

- ❖ Under it, central government after entering into an agreement with other countries may bring overseas asset of domestic corporate debtor into consideration of insolvency resolution in India.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Koko passed away**

- ❖ Koko, a western lowland gorilla said to have mastered American Sign Language, has died aged 46.



- ❖ others primates of who could communicate using sign language include Washoe, a female chimpanzee in Washington state, and Chantek, a male orangutan in Atlanta.
- ❖ Koko was born Hanabi-ko (Japanese for “Fireworks Child”) on July 4, 1971 at the San Francisco Zoo.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### **UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan awarded**

- ❖ The Indian Army contingent comprising of 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry Battalion Group was awarded United Nations Medal for “selfless service”.
- ❖ The contingent is part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in South Sudan.

- ❖ India, with 2,237 troops, is the highest contributor in terms of troops to UNMISS.

### **Indian Sports Honours**

- ❖ The Commonwealth Games 2018 gold-medal winning shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, was adjudged as the Sportsperson of the Year for 2017 by the Sports Illustrated India magazine.
- ❖ The eight annual Sportsperson of the Year awards took place at the Roseate House, Aerocity in New Delhi.
- ❖ Other winners include,

Team of the Year	Women's Cricket Team
Coach of the Year	Stephen Constantine
Editor's Choice for Excellence (Team)	Aizawl FC
Editor's Choice for Excellence (Male)	Jitu Rai
Young Sportsperson of the Year	Manav Vikas Thakkar
Community Development in Sport	Sailen Tudu
Comeback of the Year	Sushil Kumar
Gamechanger of the Year	Shubhankar Sharma
Outstanding Contribution to Sport	Leander Paes
Lifetime Achievement Award	Dhanraj Pillay
Special Award Living Legend	Balbir Singh Sr.

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