

July- 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Government has appointed senior bureaucrat S Ramesh as chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes. He has been appointed as chairman of CBIC with the status of special secretary to the central government.
 - He will succeed Vanaja N Sarna who retired recently.
- ❖ Payments Council of India (PCI) has appointed Vishwas Patel, Director at Infibeam Avenues as its new Chairman. He will take over from Naveen Surya, who has been elevated to post of Chairman Emeritus.
- ❖ The 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) intersessional ministerial meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan. It was first RCEP ministerial gathering to be held outside ASEAN countries.
 - It was co-chaired by Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and his Japanese counterpart Hiroshige Seko.
- ❖ Kerala Government has declared Kozhikode and Malappuram districts free from Nipah virus infection. These districts were declared as temporarily Nipah free as no positive case of the infection was reported till completion of double incubation period of the virus.
- ❖ Brazil has accomplished the feat of scoring the highest number of goals in the history of world cup football. The team has so far scored 228 goals in World Cup matches.
 - Germany (226), Argentina (137), Italy (128), France (113) are in subsequent positions

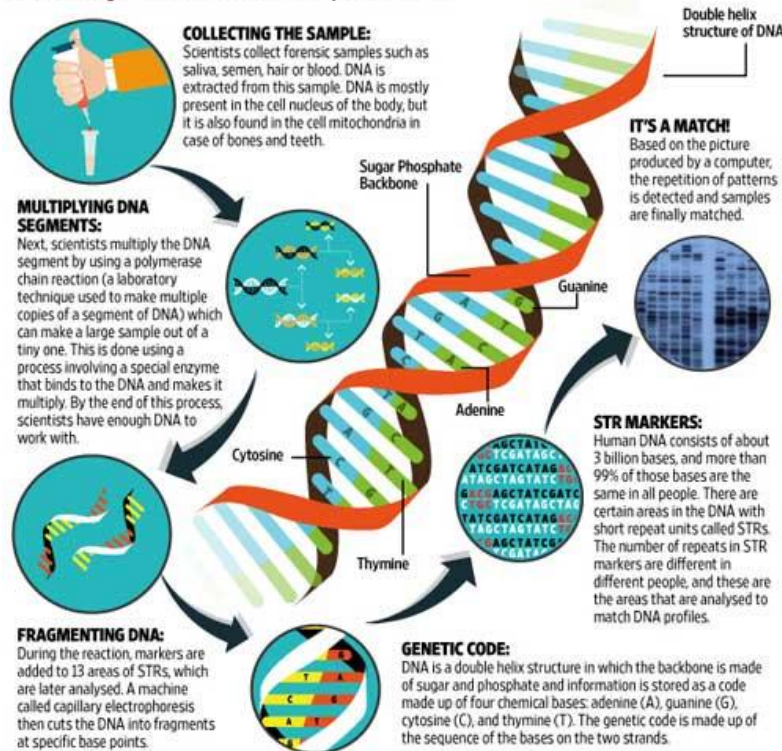
NATIONAL

DNA Technology Regulation Bill, 2018

- ❖ Cabinet has approved DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018.
- ❖ The primary intended purpose of the Bill is to regulate the use of DNA for criminal investigation and justice delivery, allowing the storage of genetic information of select persons but providing safeguards against its misuse.

MAKING A DNA PROFILE

The STR (short tandem repeat) technique used today can make a DNA profile using, say, saliva on a cigarette butt. Here is how the process works:



FAMOUS CASES AND DNA PROFILING

FIRST CASE:

The first time DNA profiling was used to solve a case was when two teenage girls were found raped and murdered in Narborough, Leicestershire, in the UK, in 1983 and 1986 (the same person was responsible for both murders). Alec Jeffreys at Leicester University, who had developed a technique for creating DNA profiles, helped solve the case when his technique showed that the prime suspect the police had was innocent. Eventually, the murderer was found and his DNA profile matched with the one at the murder scene.

40-YEAR NAZI HUNT:

After nearly 40 years of hunting Nazi prison doctor Joseph Mengele who escaped from the Allies after World War II, police received a tip that Mengele had drowned and was buried in Brazil. DNA samples were taken from the decomposed remains and blood samples from Mengele's wife and son were used to confirm his identity.

9/11 REMAINS:

After the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York City on 11 September 2001, DNA profiling techniques were used to identify body parts belonging to more than 2,000 people who died in the attacks. DNA profiling has also been used for the identification of victims after the tsunami in 2004 and the 2013 Uttarakhand floods.

Source: Mint research

- ❖ The Bill's provision will enable cross matching between persons who have been reported missing and unidentified dead bodies found in various parts of the country.

Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates

- ❖ Cabinet has also approved umbrella schemes for Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates.

- ❖ Cabinet has given its approval for continuation of eight existing schemes of Home Ministry up to March 2020 for relief and rehabilitation of migrants and repatriates.
- ❖ The schemes will cover benefit displaced families from Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Sri Lankan refugees, Bru families lodged in relief camps in Tripura, 1984 anti-Sikh riot victims, civilian victims of terrorist, communal and Maoist violence.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

cVIGIL mobile application

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has launched cVIGIL mobile application for citizens to report any violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.
- ❖ The app aims at empowering people across the country to share evidence of malpractice by political parties, their candidates and activists directly with ECI.
- ❖ At present its beta version has been released and will be made available for use during forthcoming Assembly elections Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Rajasthan.
- ❖ It will be active only in States where elections have been announced.

KVIC launches e-marketing system

- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched its in-house developed, single-umbrella e-marketing system named Khadi Institution Management and Information System (KIMIS) in New Delhi.
- ❖ KIMIS will serve as in-house single umbrella billing software for sale and purchase that could be monitored, round-the-clock, from any part of India.
- ❖ It has been developed by KVIC IT team.

STATES

Mandatory Dope Test

- ❖ Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh has ordered a mandatory dope test of all government employees, including police personnel



- ❖ The Punjab Chief Minister has ordered drug screening to be mandatorily done in all cases of recruitment and promotions, as well as the annual medical examination that certain employees are required to undergo in accordance with the nature of their duties.

Genome Valley 2.0.

- ❖ Telangana Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore-based engineering & consulting firm Surbana Jurong for preparing roadmap for Genome Valley 2.0.
- ❖ Genome Valley is India's first organized pharma-biotech cluster for life sciences R&D activities and largest life sciences destination in Asia.
- ❖ The cluster was conceptualized in 1999 in Shamirpet, Hyderabad, India. It is India's first systematically developed R&D cluster, boasting world-class infrastructure facilities
- ❖ Genome Valley 2.0 is vision to upgrade cluster into world-class knowledge led integrated corridor in self-sufficient life sciences ecosystem.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Angela Ponce - Miss Universe pageant

- ❖ Angela Ponce has become the first-ever transgender woman to be crowned Miss Universe Spain.



- ❖ She will also be seen competing in the coveted Miss Universe 2018 pageant
 - ❖ Ponce's crowning comes six years after the Miss Universe organisation put an end to the ban on transgender contestants in the competition.
-