

July – 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Austin Fernando, President Maithripala Sirisenas former secretary, has been named Sri Lankas next High Commissioner to India. He will replace Chitrangani Wagiswara.
- ❖ India and Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a sanitation sector project under which 3,400 toilets would be constructed in the Batticaloa district.
- ❖ Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) organised a nation-wide Kisan Mela as an outreach programme for farmers and to impart financial literacy.
- ❖ Former India off-spinner Ramesh Powar has been appointed the interim coach of the national women's cricket.

NATIONAL

Committee to review offences under Companies Act

- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a 10 Member Committee for review of the penal provisions in the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ This Panel, headed by the Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, is expected to examine 'de-criminalisation' of certain offences.
- ❖ The MCA seeks to review offences under the Companies Act, 2013 as some of the offences may be required to be decriminalised and handled in an in-house mechanism.
- ❖ The Committee shall submit its report within thirty days to the Central Government for consideration.

Pitch Black 2018 (PB-18)

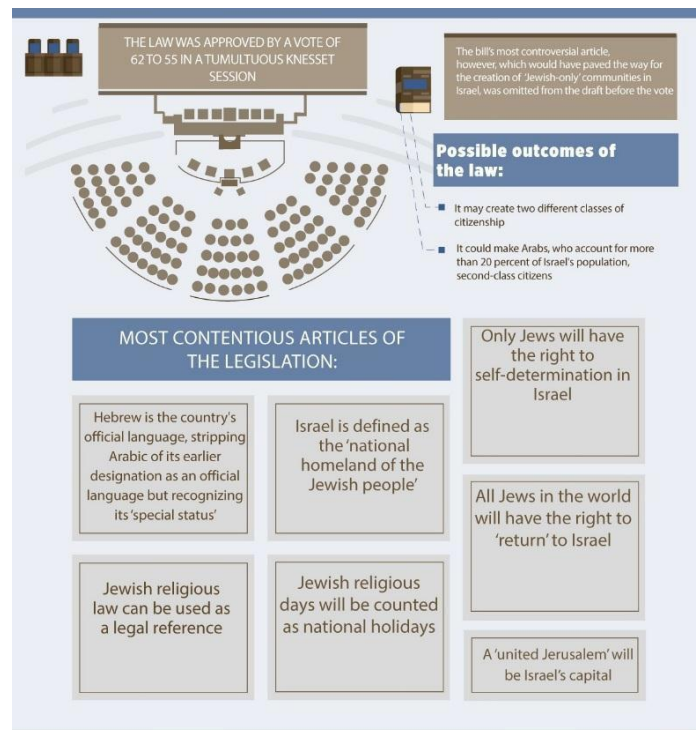
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is for the first time participating in the multinational "Pitch Black" warfare exercise in Australia.
- ❖ Pitch Black is hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and will see eight other nations participating with over 100 aircraft.

- ❖ Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial three-week multinational large force employment exercise.
- ❖ It is conducted from RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal.
- ❖ It was conducted for the first time on June 15-16 in 1981 between different RAAF units.

INTERNATIONAL

Jewish nation law

- ❖ The Israeli parliament, Knesset, passed into law the contentious nation-state bill that for the first time enshrines Israel as “the national home of the Jewish people” in its quasi-constitutional Basic Laws.



- ❖ The law also declares that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, sets the Hebrew calendar as the official calendar of the state.
- ❖ One clause of the bill downgrades the Arabic language from official to “special” standing.
- ❖ Currently, in Israel, 74.5% of the population are Jews. Arabs make up 20% of Israel’s population.

ECONOMY

GST Council cut tax rates on 88 items

- ❖ The sanitary napkins (12% tax at present) and fortified milk (which was taxed at 18%) have been exempted from the levy.
- ❖ 28% tax slab are shifted to the lower 18% slab - washing machines, refrigerators, up to 25-inch televisions, vacuum cleaners, perfumes, food grinders, mixers, water cooler, Lithium ion batteries, and paints.
- ❖ Common-use foot wares Rs 1,000 to be taxed at 5%.
- ❖ Ethanol oil for oil companies to be taxed at 5 % in place of 18 % earlier.
- ❖ GST (Goods and Services Tax) on handbags and handmade lamps has been reduced to 12%.
- ❖ The new GST rates would come into effect from July 27.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Drone delivery system for medical supplies

- ❖ Indian Institute of Public Health – Hyderabad (IIPH-H) is developing a drone delivery system for medical supplies,
- ❖ IIPH-H has partnered with the prestigious US-based Johns Hopkins University to develop the **temperature-controlled vaccine box**.
- ❖ The aim of the Digital Drone-based Real-Time Advanced Medical Modular Logistics system (2DREAM) project is to reach the remote areas and deliver the **temperature-sensitive payload** in 30 minutes.

Experiments to restore walking

- ❖ Researchers at Boston Children’s Hospital have successfully revived the ability to walk in mice that were paralyzed after a spinal cord injury.
- ❖ It has been found that an injection with a **small-molecule compound, CLP290**, had the most potent effect.
- ❖ It enabling the paralyzed mice to regain stepping ability after four to five weeks of treatment.

- ❖ CLP290 is known to activate a **protein called KCC2**, found in cell membranes, that transports chloride out of neurons.

ENVIRONMENT

TaxiBots

- ❖ India has planned to buy environmentally friendly TaxiBots, which can be used at the airports, developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- ❖ These Pilot-controlled and semi-robots will allow pilots to switch on the plane's engines only when it reaches the starting point of the runway hence reducing carbon emissions.
- ❖ IAI has announced that it had entered into an agreement with Gurugram-based KSU Aviation for the same.
- ❖ The use of TaxiBot at Indian airports in the next five years will bring about a saving of \$1.5 billion to Indian carriers and reduce environmental damage of greenhouse gases by four million tons.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

All India Football Federation Awards 2017

- ❖ The All India Football Federation (AIFF), the governing body of football in India named India and Bengaluru FC Captain Sunil Chhetri as the AIFF Player of the Year in the Federation's Executive Committee Meeting in Mumbai.



- ❖ The meeting was chaired by AIFF President Praful Patel.

- ❖ Kamala Devi bagged the 2017 AIFF Woman Player of the Year.

SPORTS

German Grand Prix

- ❖ Lewis Hamilton won the 2018 German Grand Prix held at Hockenheim in the Germany.
- ❖ The four-time world champion took victory at Hockenheim after having started 14th following a mechanical failure in qualifying.
- ❖ It was the first time he had won a Grand Prix from outside of the top six.

Swiss Open

- ❖ Top-seeded Alize Cornet of France defeated Mandy Minella of Luxembourg in the Swiss Open final, earning her sixth career title.
- ❖ Cornet, world No. 48 celebrated her first title since 2016, when she clinched the Hobart International crown.

MISCELLANEOUS

First person to ski down the world's 2nd highest mountain

- ❖ Poland's Andrzej Bargiel became the first person to ski down the world's second-highest mountain, the 8,611-metre high K2 peak in Pakistan.
- ❖ K2 also known as "Savage Mountain" is considered to be a more challenging climb than the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.
