

**July – 27**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) had organized 2nd meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan in New Delhi.
  - It was chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
- ❖ Sri Lankan-born Canadian author Michael Ondaatje has again made the Man Booker Prize list with his latest novel "Warlight", which tells the story of two orphans in London in the immediate aftermath of World War II.
  - Recently Ondaatje's 'The English Patient,' which won the Booker in 1992, was awarded the Golden Man Book to mark the prize's 50th anniversary.
- ❖ Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Construction of over two lakh toilets in the last two months ensured that Sitamarhi became the first open defecation free (ODF) district in Bihar. Sitamarhi became the 416th ODF district in India.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Tamil Nadu's forest policy unveiled**

- ❖ Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K. Palaniswami released the State's forest policy
- ❖ The norms stipulated by the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, would be strictly enforced to preserve the existing forest cover for ecological security.
- ❖ The Forest Department would also develop mangroves in the state as 'bio-shield' along the coast
- ❖ The policy also looks to increase forest and tree cover to at least 30% by 2025 and enhance participation of women in village forest committees (VFCs).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has about 30.92% of the forest declared as 'protected areas' and has 15 wildlife sanctuaries, five National parks, 15 bird sanctuaries, three biosphere reserves, four project tiger areas.

## NATIONAL

### Definition of hydrocarbon amended

- ❖ Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has amended Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959 to include shale in the definition of petroleum.
- ❖ This change will allow private companies to explore and produce the resource in the blocks they already operate.
- ❖ Earlier, definition excluded shale and therefore barred companies from exploiting it from fields that are producing conventional oil and gas or coal-bed methane.
- ❖ Shale is distinguished from other mudstones due to laminated and fissile nature.
- ❖ Shale gas is natural gas formed from being trapped within shale formations.
- ❖ Shale gas is cheaper than natural gas, releases 50% less CO<sub>2</sub>, hence better source for generating electricity.
- ❖ In India, potential shale gas sites are Cambay, Gondwana, Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery Basins.

### Invest India and Business France signs MoU

- ❖ Invest India and Business France have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote investment facilitation and cooperation between startups of India and France.
- ❖ Invest India is the official Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of Central Government.
- ❖ It is a non-profit venture under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
- ❖ Business France is an executive agency of the French government under the supervision of Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development.

### Prime Ministers three-nation tour (Africa)

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a three-nation tour to the African countries including Rwanda, Uganda, and South Africa.
- ❖ PM Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Rwanda.

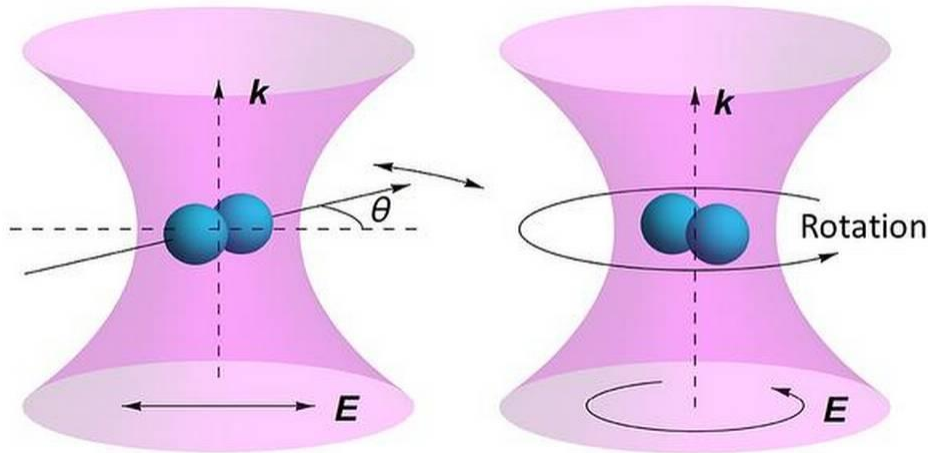


- ❖ India and Rwanda have signed eight agreements in the fields of defense, trade, agriculture, leather and allied products and dairy.
- ❖ PM Narendra Modi gifted 200 cows to villagers from Rweru villages as part of Rwandan Government's Girinka Programme.
- ❖ India and Uganda signed four agreements on defense cooperation, visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders, cultural exchange programme, and material testing laboratory.
- ❖ The Indian government has also decided to gift a cancer therapy machine to the Uganda cancer institute in Kampala.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### World's fastest man-made spinning object

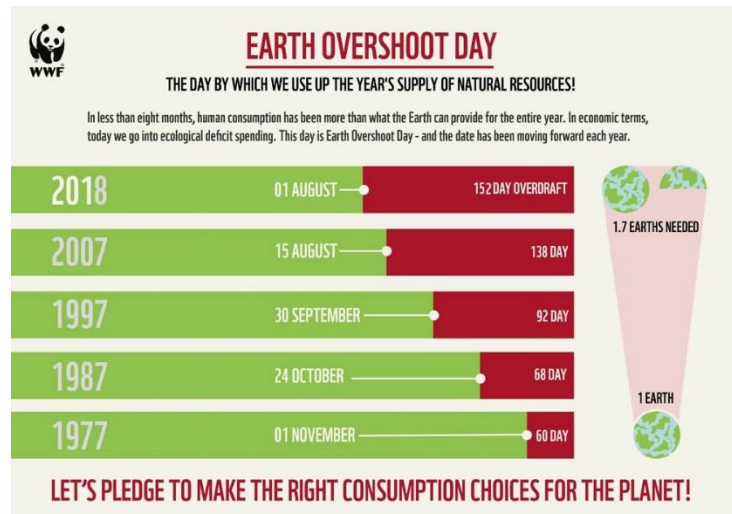
- ❖ Scientists have developed the world's fastest rotor, which will help in studying quantum mechanics.
- ❖ The rotor can spin at more than 60 billion revolutions per minute, making it the world's fastest man-made object.
- ❖ It is more than 100,000 times faster than a high-speed dental drill.
- ❖ To produce the fastest rotor, scientists had synthesized nanoscale dumbbell made from silica and had levitated it in a high vacuum using a laser.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Earth Overshoot Day

- ❖ 2018 Earth Overshoot Day will fall on August 1, the earliest date since ecological overshoot began in the early 1970s.
- ❖ It is calculated by Global Footprint Network and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- ❖ It is the date when, humanity's annual demand on nature, exceeds what Earth can regenerate over the entire year.
- ❖ In 2018, nature's budget for the entire year has already been used up in just span of 8 months only.
- ❖ It means humanity is currently using nature 1.7 times faster than Earth's ecosystems can regenerate.
- ❖ This year the overshoot day falls two days earlier than the last year's. Every day after August 1 will now be considered a strain on Earth's natural resources.





### **Fish losing smelling sense due to CO<sub>2</sub> level rise**

- ❖ According to a recent study, fish are losing their sense of smell as rising carbon emissions is turning water they live more acidic.
- ❖ CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed by seawater forming carbonic acid.
- ❖ Since 1800's ocean CO<sub>2</sub> levels have risen by 43%. It is predicted to be more than double current level by the end of the century.
- ❖ Due to ocean acidification, fish will lose some of their smelling sense, making it more difficult to survive.

## **STATES**

### **Green Mahanadi Mission**

- ❖ Odisha Government has launched 'Green Mahanadi Mission', a plantation drive under which 2 crore saplings will be planted along Mahanadi river and its tributaries.
- ❖ It will be implemented jointly by States Departments of Forest, Horticulture and Watershed Development.
- ❖ The main objective of the mission is to stop soil erosion on river banks and recharge the groundwater reserve.
- ❖ It originates from highlands of Chhattisgarh through a collection of an array of streams and reaches the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ Its left bank tributaries are Shivnath, Mand, Ib, Hasdeo and right bank are Ong, parry river, Jonk, Telen.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Kargil Vijay Diwas – 26 July**

- ❖ The 19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated across India to commemorate the success of Operation Vijay and remember the brave sacrifice of Indian soldiers during the 1999 India-Pakistan Kargil War.
- ❖ It is being celebrated every year for three days from 24th July - 26th July at the Drass War Memorial in Jammu and Kashmir.



- ❖ The war took place between May and July of 1999 in Jammu and Kashmir's Kargil district

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