

July – 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ An international conference on India-Vietnam economic ties was held in New Delhi. Its objective is to enhance the economic ties with Vietnam and enable government's Act East Policy.
- ❖ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has been appointed Chancellor of the Pondicherry Central University. The appointment was notified by the President in his capacity as Visitor of the university. The tenure of the Chancellor will be five years.
- ❖ The 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting was held in New Delhi where a range of issues on S&T cooperation between the two countries was discussed.

TAMILNADU

Indigenously developed Smart Air purifier - 'Vistar'

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT Madras) has launched the 1st indigenously developed Smart Air purifier, 'Vistar'



- ❖ It was developed by the IIT-incubated Start-up, 'AirOK'.
- ❖ 'Vistar' can filter a variety of pollutants such as particulate matter, microbes, fungus and gaseous substances
- ❖ The filter would have a life of about one year, which was twice that of the air purifiers currently available in the market.



NATIONAL

National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme

- ❖ Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme to control viral hepatitis C on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day (July 28).
- ❖ The programme aims at both prevention and treatment of hepatitis which is among leading causes of liver cancer, cirrhosis of the liver and acute liver failure.
- ❖ The programme is part of National Health Mission.
- ❖ Under it, an expensive antiviral for hepatitis B and C infections will be made available free of cost at all government hospitals.

Model to give flash floods warning to Asian nations

- ❖ World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has designated India as a nodal center for developing a customized model to issue an advance warning of floods to Asian countries, including Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand.
- ❖ The model will be called as Flash Flood Guidance System.
- ❖ Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences will work to customize this weather model.
- ❖ The model will be a customized weather model, originally developed by the US and donated to WMO to warn about flash floods at least 6 hours in advance.
- ❖ Pakistan was among the list of beneficiary countries of this forecast model, but it has refused to participate in it.

Mission Satyanishtha

- ❖ Indian Railways had organized a programme on Ethics in Public Governance and launched Mission Satyanishtha at a day-long event held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.
- ❖ It was first of its kind event organized by any government organization in the country.
- ❖ Mission Satyanishtha aims at sensitizing all railway employees about the need to adhere to good ethics and to maintain high standards of integrity at work.



Lok Sabha passes Anti-Trafficking Bill

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection, and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018.
- ❖ The Bill provides for the prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation of trafficked persons and seeks to establish the National Anti-Trafficking Bureau to investigate trafficking cases.
- ❖ The Bill provides for setting up designated courts in each district to complete the trial within a year.
- ❖ It also provides for the setting up of Anti-Trafficking Units (ATUs) at the district level.

PROVISIONS IN BILL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In aggravated trafficking crimes, punishment ranges from minimum 10 years' RI to life and fine not less than ₹1 lakh ➤ NIA to perform tasks of Anti-Trafficking Bureau at national level ➤ Bill provides for attachment & forfeiture of property and also proceeds from crime ➤ Time-bound trial and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> repatriation of victims - within a period of one year from taking cognisance ➤ Victims entitled to interim relief within 30 days to address their physical, mental trauma and appropriate relief within 60 days from the date of filing of charge sheet ➤ Rehabilitation fund, designated courts in each district for speedy trial

- ❖ The Bill mandates state government to appoint a State Nodal Officer who will be responsible for follow up action under the Bill as per the instructions of the State Anti-Trafficking Committee and for providing relief and rehabilitation services.
- ❖ It also provides for the establishment of Anti-Trafficking Relief and Rehabilitation Committees (ATCs) at the national, state, and district levels.
- ❖ The Bill lays down a stringent punishment of 10 years to life imprisonment for aggravated forms of trafficking.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ethanol-making directly from sugarcane juice, B-molasses

- ❖ Union Food Ministry has notified decision to allow sugar mills to manufacture ethanol directly from sugarcane juice or an intermediate product called B-molasses.
- ❖ In this regard, the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966 has been amended.
- ❖ The production of ethanol directly from sugarcane juice or B-molasses will help to divert the surplus production.
- ❖ Sugar mills are expecting revenue realization of over Rs. 5,000 crores from sale of ethanol to OMCs during the 2017-18 sugar season (October-September).
- ❖ OMCs procure ethanol from sugar mills for blending with petrol.
- ❖ It has mandated blending of up to 10% ethanol in petrol but inadequate availability has restricted this to under 4%.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Sharmila Tagore - Honoris Causa

- ❖ Bollywood actress Sharmila Tagore was today conferred D Litt (Honoris Causa) by West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi at Kazi Nazrul University
- ❖ S.M.Yusuf, a renowned scientist at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre was conferred D.Sc. (Honoris Causa)
- ❖ Previously, Kazi Nazrul University had conferred honorary D Litt on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during its third convocation.

SPORTS

Indian women's compound archery

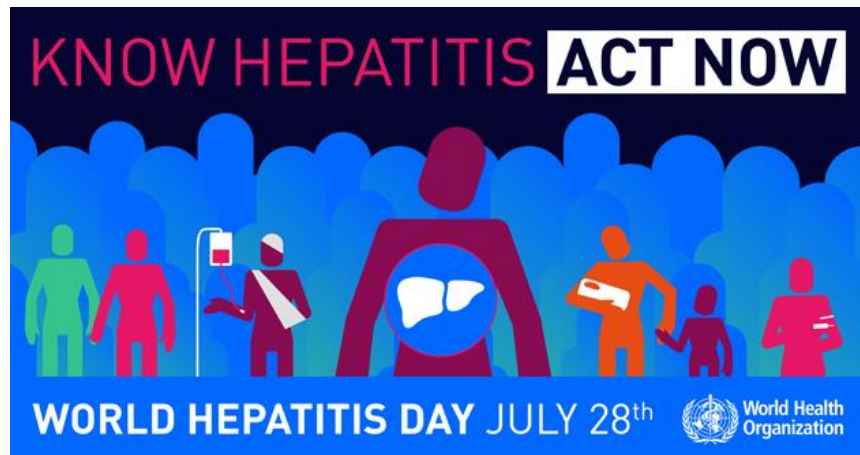
- ❖ The Indian women's compound archery team created history by achieving the top of the world rankings.
- ❖ With their twin silver medal-winning effort in the Antalya and Berlin World Cups, the Indian women's compound team lead the chart.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hepatitis Day - 28 July

- ❖ The World Hepatitis Day is being observed every year on July 28 around the globe to spread awareness about viral hepatitis.
- ❖ The theme for World Hepatitis Day 2018 is “Test. Treat. Hepatitis”.



- ❖ The day is being observed since 2010. It is one of the 8 official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The date 28 July was chosen to mark the birth anniversary of Professor Baruch Blumberg who had discovered the hepatitis B virus.
- ❖ He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1976) for this discovery.

International Tiger Day - 29 July

- ❖ The International Tiger Day (also known as Global Tiger Day) is celebrated every year on 29 July to raise awareness for tiger conservation.



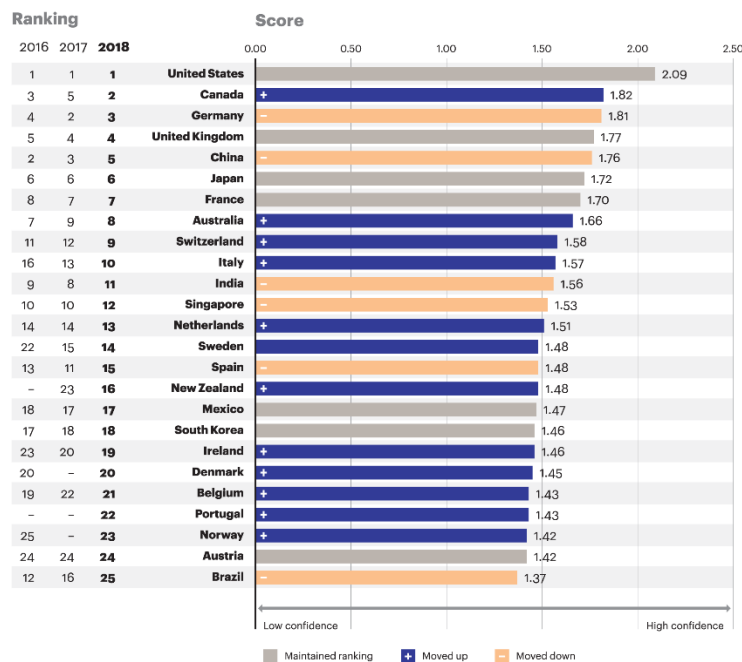
- ❖ The International Tiger Day was founded in 2010 at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit.
- ❖ The summit had issued St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation with an aim to double the big cat population by 2022 - the next "Year of the Tiger" on the Asian lunar calendar.

MISCELLANEOUS

FDI Confidence Index

- ❖ According to an AT Kearney report, India in 2018 has fallen out of the top 10 destinations for FDI in terms of its attractiveness.

Figure 1
2018 A.T. Kearney FDI Confidence Index®



- ❖ India ranks 11 in 2018 AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index, down from 8 in 2017 and 9 in 2016.
- ❖ The report highlighted the elimination of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, and the liberalization of foreign investment thresholds for the retail, aviation, and biomedical industries.
