



August – 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 61st World Santa Claus Congress (2018) was held at Copenhagen in Denmark.
- ❖ The appointments committee of the cabinet (ACC) has appointed Vijay Thakur Singh as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

TAMIL NADU

Valvil Ori festival

- ❖ The two-day Valvil Ori festival has been commenced on 02nd August at the Kolli Hills in Namakkal.
- ❖ The district administration is organising the festival every year to recall the glory of King Valvil Ori who ruled over Kolli Hills in 200 AD.
- ❖ The king is known for his archery skills and also for his generosity.

NATIONAL

Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to a law that will deter fugitive economic offenders to evade legal process in India and flee the country.
- ❖ A fugitive economic offender is any individual against whom warrants for arrest is issued for his involvement in select economic offences involving amount of at least Rupee 100 crore or more and has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution.
- ❖ The new law allows designated special court to declare a person as fugitive economic offender and to confiscate his property, including 'benami' ones.
- ❖ The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 25. The Lok Sabha had cleared the measure on July 19.
- ❖ The President has also given nod to other laws
 - Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018
 - State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Act, 2018



- Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018.

India's first Blockchain District

- ❖ Telangana State Information Technology, Electronics and Communication department (ITE&C) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tech Mahindra to launch India's first Blockchain district.
- ❖ The MoU was signed at International Blockchain Congress 2018 held in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Blockchain is decentralized incorruptible digital ledger for storing data across peer-to-peer network. It decentralizes information without it being copied.
- ❖ This database is not stored on physical servers but on cloud, which makes it easy to store unlimited data

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – Target Achieved

- ❖ Union Government has announced that it has reached target of providing 5 crore free LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) almost 8 months ahead of schedule (in 27 months instead of 35 months)
- ❖ UP, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Odisha are 6 states that have accounted for nearly 65% of connections provided under PMUY.
- ❖ 47% of overall beneficiaries are from weaker sections of society i.e., SC/STs
- ❖ The World health Organisation (WHO) has recognised PMUY as one of decisive intervention by Government to address indoor air pollution which accounts for nearly 10 lakh deaths in year in the country.

National Sports University Bill, 2018

- ❖ Lok Sabha has passed National Sports University Bill, 2018 by voice vote to set up the country's first National Sports University in Imphal (west), Manipur
- ❖ It is mandated to promote sports education in areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management, and sports coaching.
- ❖ The Bill replaces National Sports University Ordinance, 2018 promulgated by President in May 2018 to protect interests of students who already have been enrolled in National Sports University.



Integrate to Innovate (i2i) Programme

- ❖ Invest India in partnership with energy companies has launched Integrate to Innovate Programme for startups in energy sector.
- ❖ It is 3-month programme for startups in the power sector aims to foster collaboration between startups and large corporations of the energy sector.
- ❖ It is official Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of Central Government.
- ❖ It has been set up as non-profit venture under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

ECONOMY

20 percent cashback on digital payments

- ❖ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council recently cleared a pilot project to offer digital incentives, in the form of cashback of 20 percent of GST paid on business-to-consumer transactions using RuPay and BHIM platforms.
- ❖ The cashback offer is capped to RS 100 per transaction.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Assam have opted to join the digital incentives pilot project

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Shaur Nahin mobile application

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh has launched 'horn not ok' awareness campaign and 'shaur nahin' (no noise) mobile application in state capital Shimla.
- ❖ The first phase of campaign has been launched in Shimla and Manali.
- ❖ The mobile application is initiative of department of environment science and technology in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC), Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The app will enable general public to report cases of noise pollution.

WOW (Wellness of Women) mobile application

- ❖ FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the women's wing of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has launched WOW (Wellness of Women) mobile application.
- ❖ It is aimed at creating awareness on preventive healthcare for women across the country.
- ❖ WOW app is backed by Chennai-based Apollo Hospitals Group that offers access to renowned doctors and provides health tips.
- ❖ It provides easy to use platform that allows users to talk to doctors through video conferencing or connect with them via voice or email.
- ❖ FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organization in India, headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is a non-governmental and non-profit organization. It was established in 1927.

NASA's commercial spacecraft

- ❖ Indian-origin US astronaut Sunita Williams is among the nine astronauts named by NASA for its first human spaceflight programme since the retirement of the space shuttle in 2011.



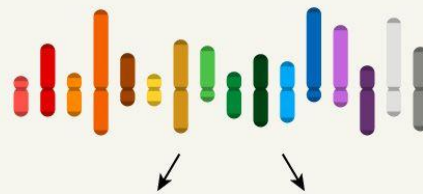
- ❖ The space agency announced that the nine astronauts will launch on the first crewed test flights and missions of new commercial spacecraft built and operated by The Boeing Company and SpaceX.
- ❖ The astronauts will launch on Boeing CST-100 Starliner and SpaceX Dragon capsules to the International Space Station beginning in 2019.

Single Chromosome Yeast

- ❖ Researchers from China's Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences have claimed to have created the world's first single-chromosome yeast.

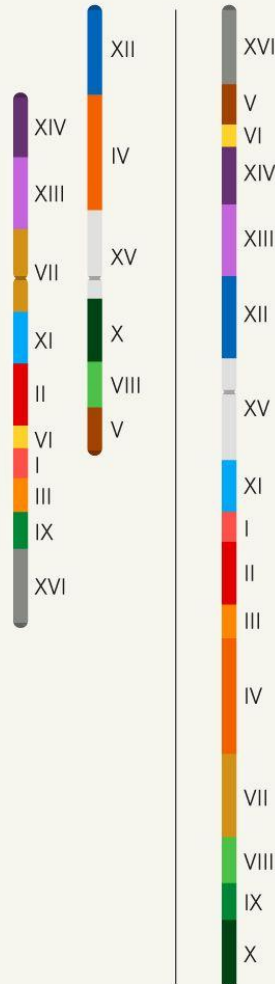
MINIMAL YEAST

Two separate teams have managed to pack nearly all of yeast's genetic material — usually spread over 16 chromosomes — into just one and two, respectively.



TWO CHROMOSOMES

A US team used CRISPR to remove genetic material at the ends and middle of chromosomes, known as telomeres and centromeres, respectively, and relied on yeast's natural DNA-repair mechanisms to produce a strain with just two chromosomes.



ONE CHROMOSOME

A team in China used CRISPR to remove 15 centromeres and 30 telomeres, in addition to 19 long, repeated sequences.





- ❖ The experiment was conducted on Brewer's yeast having 16 chromosomes and which shares its one-third genome ancestry with humans.
- ❖ Researchers had used CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing technology to create a single-chromosome yeast strain.
- ❖ The research had revealed that number of chromosomes of eukaryote has no correlation with amount of genetic information they possess.
- ❖ It also showed that all genetic information can be concentrated in just one chromosome.

STATES

Mughalsarai Railway Station

- ❖ The Mughalsarai Junction railway station in Uttar Pradesh was formally renamed after Deen Dayal Upadhyay
- ❖ Mughalsarai station got a new name after Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik gave his assent to the proposal of renaming.
- ❖ Deen Dayal Upadhyay was found dead in mysterious circumstances near the Mughalsarai station in February 1968.
- ❖ Mughalsarai is also the birth place of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Terminator train

- ❖ The Delhi division of Northern Railway launched the mosquito terminator special train, which will help in preventing mosquito breeding along the railway tracks.
- ❖ The 'Mosquito Terminator on Wheels' will cover a distance of 150km in each cycle over a period of two days.
- ❖ The South Delhi Municipal Corporation has provided a high-power sprayer and insecticide to the train, launched to control and mitigate the menace of mosquito breeding in the burrow pits along the railway tracks.
