



August – 19

NATIONAL

Bhaskar Ramamurthy Committee

- ❖ Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has proposed to set up 5-member committee to suggest changes to JEE (Advanced).
- ❖ The move comes in the wake of an inadequate number of candidates qualifying entrance test this year.
- ❖ The mandate of committee is to,
 - Develop robust and scientifically designed entrance exam system to test potential of candidates as well as to reduce their dependence on coaching institutes.
- ❖ The committee will be headed by IIT-Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurthy.
- ❖ Other members of the committee will include
 - Abhay Karandikar (Director of IIT-Kanpur),
 - Vineet Joshi (Director General of National Testing Agency) and
 - Professor Kannan Moudgalya of IIT-Bombay.

B Sesikeran committee

- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has constituted three-member committee to look into draft food labelling and display regulations-Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations 2018.
- ❖ The committee will be headed by B Sesikeran, former director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and comprises of current NIN director Hemalatha and AIIMS' endocrinologist Nikhil Tandon.
- ❖ FSSAI had released draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations 2018 in April 2018.
- ❖ It had proposed mandatory red-label marking on such packaged food products which are high in fat, sugar and salt contents.
- ❖ But, Union Health Ministry had put on hold on the draft regulations, and formed the committee of experts to look into the draft regulations.



Rural income from farming

- ❖ According to the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development's (NABARD) All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17, agricultural households receive only 43 % of their average income from cultivation of crops and rearing of animals.

AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS			
Income Source	Agricultural Households	Non-Agricultural Households	All Households
Cultivation	3,140	NA	1,494
Livestock Rearing	711	NA	338
Other Enterprises	489	851	679
Wage Labour	3,025	3,940	3,504
Govt/Pvt Service	1,444	2,326	1,906
Other Sources	122	152	138
All Sources	8,931	7,269	8,059

Figures in Rupees

- ❖ According to the survey, whose reference period is 2015-16, the average net monthly income of Indian rural households — after deducting expenses incurred in the course of economic activity — was Rs 8,059.
- ❖ Agriculture income from crop cultivation and livestock rearing contributed only Rs 1,832.

INTERNATIONAL

Committee to provide Relief to Kerala flood victims

- ❖ Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE has formed a special committee to provide Relief to Kerala flood victims
- ❖ The Chair of the committee will be
 - Emirates Red crescent and
 - Representatives from UAE's humanitarian organizations.

Saudi Arabia introduces free sleep pods for Hajj pilgrims

- ❖ Saudi Arabia is introducing free sleep pods for Hajj pilgrims in the city of Mina.



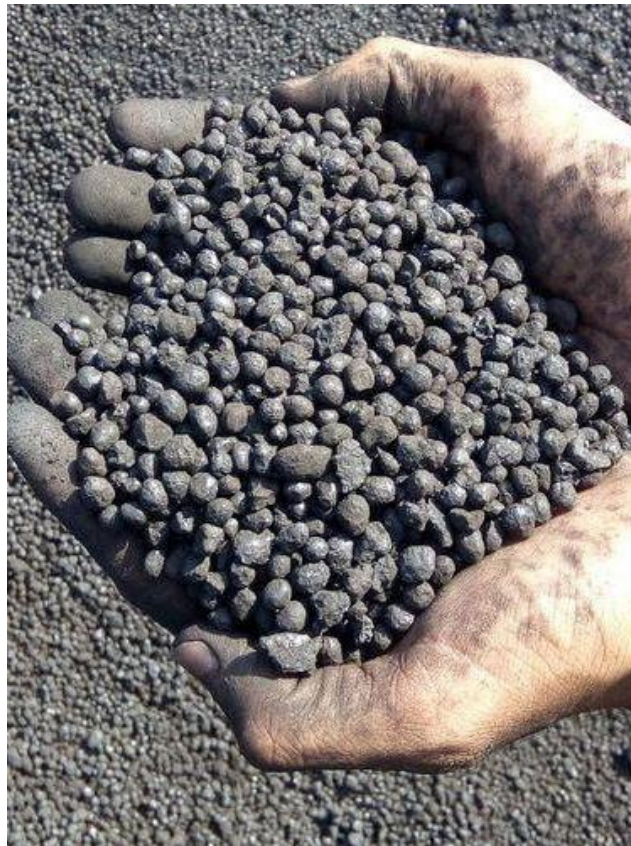
- ❖ The free nap pods will be rolled out in Saudi Arabia as a measure to modernise the centuries-old practice of Hajj.
- ❖ It aims at providing a place to rest for the pilgrims who cannot afford to book hotels on site during Hajj.
- ❖ They are part of measures to reduce the size of the sleeping unit at crowded places.
- ❖ These Nap-pods are inspired by Japan's famous 'Capsule hotels'.
- ❖ The government has also introduced apps for on-the-spot translation and emergency medical care.

ENVIRONMENT

Pet coke import for fuel use

- ❖ Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has banned import of petcoke for use as fuel.
- ❖ But it has allowed its import of only for use as feedstock in some select industries such as cement, lime kiln, calcium carbide and gasification industries.

- ❖ These industries were earlier affected by petcoke-related policy flip-flops, which began after Supreme Court judgment (Oct 2017) banning use its in and around New Delhi to curb pollution.
- ❖ There are two kinds of pet coke produced viz.
 - Fuel grade pet coke (80%) and
 - calcined pet coke (20%) during oil refining.
- ❖ Petcoke is much more potent pollutant than coal and causes greater harm to the environment and health.



- ❖ It contains whopping 74,000 PPM of sulphur content which is released into atmosphere as emissions which is much higher than vehicular emissions.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club annual awards

- ❖ India football captain Sunil Chhetri awarded the 'Best Sportsperson of the Year' honour at the Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club annual awards function held at Kolkata.



- ❖ The other award winners,
 - Best Junior Sportsperson of the Country: Ishan Porel
 - Lifetime Achievement awards: Aroon Ghosh, Arun Lal, Akhtar Ali
 - Best athlete (men): Safiqul Mondol
 - Best athlete (women): Bhairabi Roy.

WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award

- ❖ Delhi government's additional director of health S.K. Arora has been awarded the prestigious WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
- ❖ Tobacco prevalence in Delhi has come down by 6.5% in the past six years, which is more than the rest of India average figures.
- ❖ The National Health Policy 2017 has set targets of relative reduction in tobacco prevalence by 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2025.
- ❖ Delhi has already achieved these targets before 2017.



SPORTS

SAFF Under-15 Women's Championship

- ❖ India won South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Championship.
- ❖ In the final match held in Thimpu, Bhutan, India defeated Bangladesh by 1-0 score.
- ❖ This was 2nd edition of SAFF Under-15 Women's Championship.
- ❖ Bangladesh had won the inaugural edition in 2017 by beating India.
- ❖ SAFF U-15 Women's Championship is association football tournament for women's national teams under the age of 15 from 7 south Asian countries.

Asian Games - 18th edition

- ❖ The 18th edition of Asian Games has begun in Jakarta, Indonesia. It is going to be held from August 18 to September 2, 2018.



18th ASIAN GAMES

Jakarta
Palembang
2018



- ❖ For the first time, eSports, a form of competition using video games, and canoe polo will be contested as demonstration sports.
- ❖ The Indian contingent at the games was led by Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra, who was also India's flag-bearer at the glittering opening ceremony.

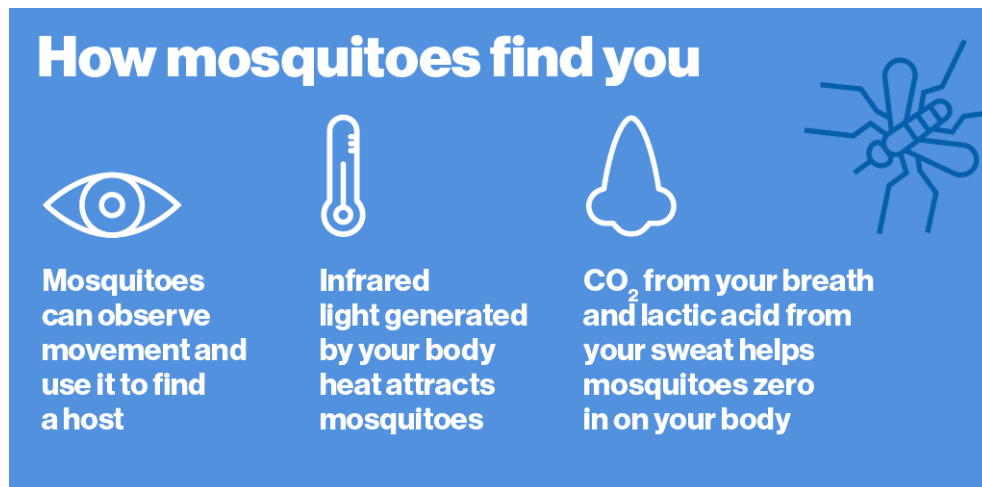
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Photography Day - August 19

- ❖ The World Photography Day (WPD) is observed every year on August 19 to inspire photographers across the planet to share a single photo with a simple purpose: to share their world with the world.

World Mosquito Day – August 20

- ❖ World Mosquito Day is observed annually on 20 August.



- ❖ It is a commemoration of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
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