



August – 08

TNPSC BITS

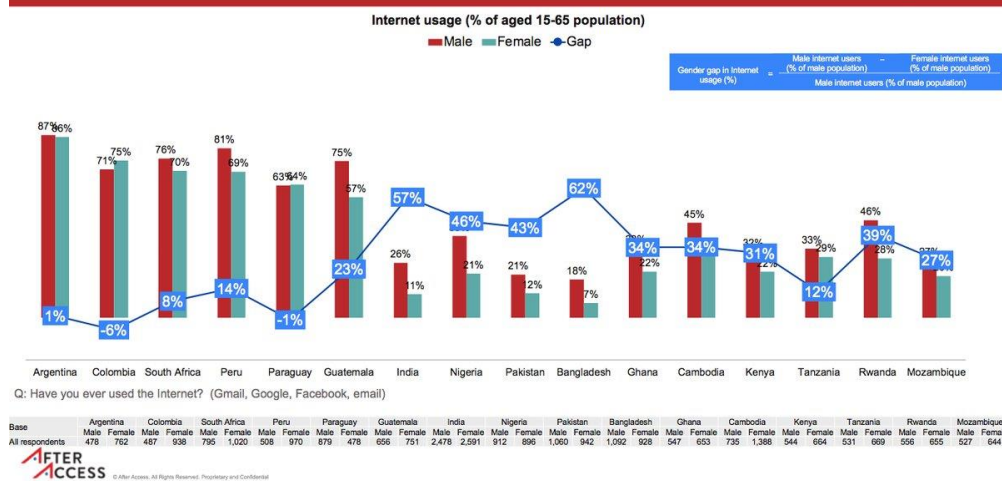
- ❖ Public sector non-life insurance firm United India Insurance Company announced the appointment of S Gopakumar as its Director and General Manager with immediate effect.
 - Earlier, Gopakumar was serving GIC Housing Finance Ltd as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ❖ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the value of transactions made through mobile wallets touched a record Rs14,632 crores in June, the rise of 4.2% from May.
 - The number of transactions fell around 5% to 309.62 mn in June after reaching an all-time high of 325.41 mn in May.
- ❖ PayU India has entered into a strategic partnership with Reliance Money, leading NBFC brands in India, to offer instant app-based personal loans, via LazyPay.
- ❖ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has integrated its MyCall and DND 2.0 apps on the Umang (Unified mobile application for new-age governance) platform for Android users.
- ❖ Poet Magudeeswaran has been conferred with 'Chirpi Literary' Award of Chirpi Foundation.
- ❖ Attorney General K K Venugopal on behalf of the center told the Supreme Court that Constitutional related judicial proceedings handled by Chief Justice of India - can be video recorded and live streamed – on a trial basis for a period of one to 3 months.
- ❖ Sri Lanka batsman Danushka Gunathilaka has been suspended from all forms of international cricket by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) after the violations of 'Code of Conduct' by the player.
 - It happened during the end of the third day's play in the 2nd and final Test between Sri Lanka and South Africa in Colombo.
- ❖ Germany midfielder Mesut Ozil has announced that he is quitting German National football team citing Racism. Mesut Ozil has dual citizenship with Turkey as his ancestors were from Turkey, even though he was born in Germany and plays football for Germany.

NATIONAL

Highest gender gap in mobile phone ownership - India

- ❖ According to a recent study released by LIRNEAsia, India has the highest gender gap in mobile phone ownership amongst 18 comparable countries.
- ❖ India ranks among the lowest in women's access to the Internet.

.....and a higher gender divide in Internet use



- ❖ LIRNEAsia is an information and communications technology (ICT) policy think tank that is involved in pro-poor, pro-market research in Asia-Pacific since 2005.
- ❖ Only 43% of women in India own mobile phones compared to almost 80% of Indian males mostly because of lack of awareness.
- ❖ This difference of almost half surpasses all other countries in the survey, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Rwanda.
- ❖ The gender gap is accentuated in rural regions — a 52 percent gap — compared to 34 percent in urban areas.
- ❖ 64 % did not know about the Internet – (higher % than the other countries except Pakistan and Bangladesh).
- ❖ Internet use in India is 19% (lower than that of Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Cambodia)

INTERNATIONAL

India to operate “World’s emptiest airport”

- ❖ Sri Lankan Civil Aviation Minister announced that India would operate Sri Lanka’s loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota.
- ❖ India would operate the airport as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture.
- ❖ Mattala International Airport is called as ‘World’s Emptiest Airport’ due to lack of flights



- ❖ It may be recalled that Hambantota Port has been earlier leased to China.

Venezuela to remove 5 Zeros from its Currency (Bolivar)

- ❖ Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has already decided to eliminate three zeros off the country's inflation-ridden currency, the bolivar. Now he decided to eliminate two zeroes totaling five zeroes.
- ❖ The move came after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that the country would see 1 million% inflation by the end of 2018.
- ❖ Venezuela's economic fall was among the world's deepest in the past six decades.
- ❖ The OPEC nation’s economy has been steadily collapsing since the 2014 crash of oil prices left it unable to maintain its socialist economic system that for years provided lavish subsidies while enforcing strict price controls.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

First Olympics to deploy facial recognition technology

- ❖ Tokyo 2020 will be the first Olympics to use facial recognition technology to increase security around all venues.
- ❖ For this, games organizers have partnered with Japanese telecommunications and information technology giant NEC to develop the first system of this kind to be implemented at an Olympics games.
- ❖ The technology takes only 0.3 seconds to match up to face with pre-registered photo, making it world's fastest such system.

ENVIRONMENT

Panel to monitor rejuvenation project of Ganga

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal has constituted a committee, to be headed by a former Allahabad High Court judge, for monitoring the rejuvenation project of Ganga from Haridwar to Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The green panel has asked Chief Justice of Allahabad HC to nominate a former judge who will head the committee.

Earth at risk of becoming an irreversible hothouse

- ❖ According to a recent study, Earth is at the risk of entering an irreversible hothouse condition – where the global temperatures will rise by 4 to 5 degrees even if targets under 2015 Paris climate deal are met.
- ❖ A “Hothouse Earth” climate will in the long-term stabilize at a global average of 4-5 degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial temperatures with sea level 10-60 meters higher than today
- ❖ Currently, global average temperatures are just over 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial and rising at 0.17 degree Celsius per decade.
- ❖ Keeping global warming to within 1.5-2 degrees Celsius as agreed in 2015 Paris climate agreement by around 200 countries may be more difficult than previously assessed.



- ❖ The study considered ten natural feedback processes, some of which are tipping elements that lead to abrupt change if a critical threshold is crossed.
- ❖ These feedbacks include,
 - Permafrost thaw,
 - Weakening land and ocean carbon sinks,
 - Loss of methane hydrates from the ocean floor,
 - Increasing bacterial respiration in oceans,
 - Boreal forest dieback - Amazon rainforest dieback,
 - Reduction of northern hemisphere snow cover/Antarctic sea ice/polar ice sheets.
 - Loss of Arctic summer sea ice

STATES

‘GOAMILES’

- ❖ Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajgaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation’s app-based taxi service called ‘GOAMILES’ in Panaji.
- ❖ It would ensure that commuters are not cheated as there would be transparency in fares for the customers.

Dog squad of City Armed Reserve Police

- ❖ Karnataka has become the 1st state in the country to have two Belgian Malinois into the dog squad of its City Armed Reserve Police



- ❖ This particular breed is used by the police in other countries including the U.S.
- ❖ They have more Sniffing power than other breeds and hence used for bomb detection, contraband goods detection, and crime scene investigations.

SPORTS

COTIF Cup 2018

- ❖ India's U-20 football team clinched a historic 2-1 win over six-time U-20 World Cup champions Argentina in the ongoing COTIF Cup 2018 in Spain.
- ❖ India was playing in the tournament for the first time.

West Asian Football Federation Cup

- ❖ The under-16 team of India defeated under-16 champions team of Iraq by 1-0 in the West Asian Football Federation Cup held at Amman in Jordan.
- ❖ This is the first-ever victory for any Indian football team against Iraq in any format and among all age groups.
