

September – 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India organised ‘Gandhi March’ from the iconic Peace Palace at the Hague in Netherlands to Grote Kerk on September 25 to launch the two-year long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The 8-day long famous Indra Jatra festival 2018, which is the most exciting and revered festivals of the Newari community, has begun at Kathmandu in Nepal. festival is observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the Interfaith Alliance Forum at the nation’s capital, Abu Dhabi on 19th and 20th November. The Forum will coincide with World Children’s Day (WCD), which is celebrated on 20th November.
- ❖ Senior IPS officers Rajni Kant Misra and S S Deswal were appointed as director general of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) respectively.
 - Misra presently serving as the SSB chief will replace K K Sharma and Deswal will replace Misra.
- ❖ The Hindu’s mobile app Briefcase bagged the silver trophy for Best Digital News Start Up at the 3rd South Asia Digital Media Awards at the 26th annual conference of WAN-IFRA India 2018 held at Hyderabad.
 - The silver medal was also shared by Sakal Media’s Agrowon App, while the gold trophy was bagged by Madras Courier.
- ❖ Google is celebrating its 20th anniversary today with a Doodle celebrating its most popular searches. Google celebrates its birthday every year on September 27th, even though it was incorporated on September 4th.

NATIONAL

Ease of Living Index rankings under AMRUT

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has topped the chart among the States in terms of “2018 Ease of Living Index” rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

- ❖ Odisha and Madhya Pradesh bagged the second and third best performing awards respectively.
- ❖ The Ease of Living Index is a transformative initiative of the Ministry under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation).
- ❖ The first edition of index, released in January 2018, had ranked 111 Indian cities and was topped by Pune.



MCC brought into force in Telangana

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) brought the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) into force in Telangana.
- ❖ The poll body also instructed that the caretaker government should abstain from taking any major policy decisions.
- ❖ Recently, ECI announced that the states where legislative assemblies have been dissolved prematurely will be immediately placed under the poll code which bars both central and state governments from announcing new schemes.
- ❖ This is perhaps for the first time that a state where polls have not yet been announced has been placed under the model code.
- ❖ The Telangana Assembly was dissolved earlier in September, before its term was due to end in June 2019.



MHA merges police forces in 6 UTs

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified new rules amalgamating police forces in six Union Territories (UTs).
- ❖ The rules effectively mean that officers who are not direct IPS (Indian Police Service) recruits could be posted in any of the six UTs and will be at the disposal of the Ministry.
- ❖ The MHA has notified this under the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh (Police Service) Rules 2018.
- ❖ This is the first step towards the creation of a central police cadre.

INTERNATIONAL

First-Ever Women-Only Foreign Minister Conference

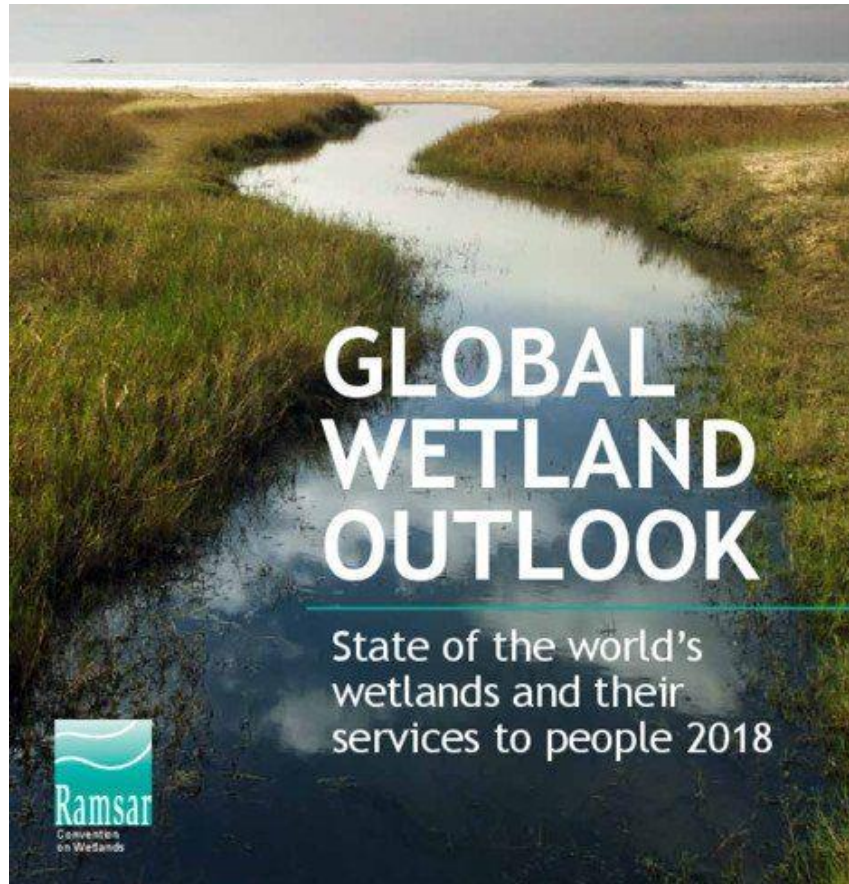
- ❖ The first-ever women-only foreign ministers conference was held in Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ The aim of the conference was to highlight women's key role in politics and decision-making processes.
- ❖ The meeting was co-chaired by Canada's top diplomat Chrystia Freeland, and the foreign affairs representative of the EU, Federica Mogherini.



Global Wetland Outlook Report

- ❖ Global Wetland Outlook Report, first-ever global report on the state of the world's wetlands, was released by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- ❖ The report states that,
 - Approximately 35% of the world's wetlands have been lost in 45 years between 1970-2015.
 - Average annual rate of loss of wetlands is 0.78% a year, which is presenting "severe consequences" for future.
 - Wetlands loss is 3 times faster than the average annual rate of natural forest loss between 1990-2015 at 0.24% a year threatening fresh water supplies.
 - More than 80% of waste water is released into wetlands without adequate treatment.
- ❖ Reasons for loss of wetlands are,
 - Climate change, Population increase, Urbanisation (particularly of coastal zones and river deltas).

- Changing consumption patterns fuelled changes to land and water use and to agriculture.



STATES

2nd largest Metro Rail (MR) network

- ❖ L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited has recently commissioned a 16 km stretch of elevated metro.
- ❖ It hence completed one full stretch of the 3 corridor Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) project.
- ❖ Now, the total stretch of Hyderabad metro will be 46 km. With this, it has become the 2nd largest operational metro rail network in India after the Delhi Metro.

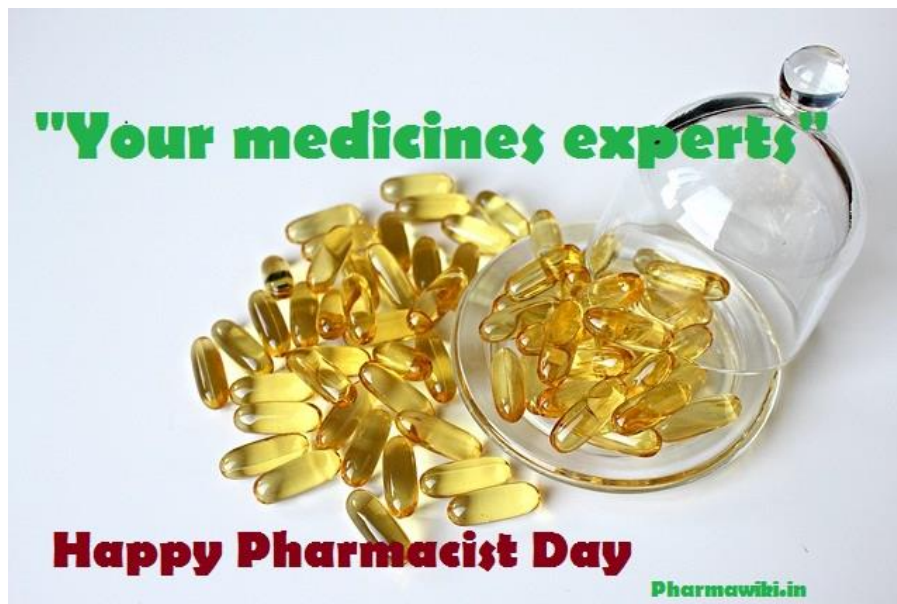
- ❖ The HMR project is also the world's largest Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Pharmacist Day – 25 September

- ❖ World Pharmacist Day is observed every year on 25th September to encourage pharmacists to promote and advocate their profession
- ❖ The theme of World Pharmacists Day 2018 is "Pharmacists: your medicines experts."
- ❖ World Pharmacist Day was first observed in 2009, by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Council in Istanbul, Turkey.



Antyodaya Diwas – 25 September

- ❖ 25th September was observed as Antyodaya Diwas across the country to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- ❖ Antyodaya means uplifting of the weakest section of the society.

World Tourism Day - 27 September

- ❖ The World Tourism Day (WTD) is being observed every year on 27th September to raise awareness about importance of tourism.
- ❖ The theme of this year's World Tourism Day is 'Tourism and the Digital Transformation'.
- ❖ Observance of day aims to foster awareness among international community of importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.
- ❖ The World Tourism Day marks adaptation of Statutes of UNWTO (United nations World Tourism Organization) on September 27, 1970.



World Maritime Day – 27 September

- ❖ The World Maritime Day (WMD) is observed every year on last Thursday of September month.
- ❖ It aims is to acknowledge the maritime industry and to highlight importance of shipping safety, maritime security and marine environment and to acknowledge maritime industry.
- ❖ This year it was observed on September 27 with theme as “IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future”.
- ❖ The World Maritime Day marks date of adaptation of International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention in 1958. The day was first observed in 1978.



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