

August - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Vaidehi Dongre, a 25-year-old girl from Michigan, has been crowned Miss India USA 2021 at the beauty pageant.
 - She won the 'Miss Talented' title in the pageant for giving a flawless performance of Indian classical dance form Kathak.
- ❖ The Sitio Burle Marx site, a landscape garden in Brazilian city Rio de Janeiro has been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.
 - The site has been named after Burle Marx, a Brazilian landscape architect.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil scholar R.Ilangumaranar passed away

- ❖ Tamil scholar R.Ilangumaran, the recipient of Tamil Nadu Government's Thiru.Vi.Ka Award, has recently passed away.
- ❖ He was 94 years old.
- ❖ He was born in Vazhavandaalpuram village in Nellai district.
- ❖ With his creativity he completed the story line of partially availed epic Kundalakesi.
- ❖ The epic was then launched in 1958 at the Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai.
- ❖ In 1963, the Prime Minister Nehru published his collection of essays on Tirukural.



Second Transgender Sub Inspector of Police - Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Prithika Yashini from Salem district became the first transgender sub-inspector of Tamil Nadu in 2017.
- ❖ Following her, Sivanya, a transgender from Tiruvannamalai district, has now become the second transgender Sub Inspector of Police of the state.
- ❖ Sivanya lives in Pavupattu village of Tiruvannamalai district.



NATIONAL

Higher Education in Regional Languages

- ❖ The All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has announced that it is creating a database of resources so that colleges can offer more programmes in the regional languages of the country.
- ❖ This step has been taken so as to promote regional languages in the field of technical education.
- ❖ In eight states, 14 engineering colleges are going to start engineering studies in five Indian languages.
- ❖ They are Bengali, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Marathi.

Reservation in medical and dental colleges

- ❖ The centre has announced 27% reservation for OBCs and a 10% quota for students from the economically weaker sections (EWS) for undergraduate and

postgraduate medical and dental courses under the All-India Quota (AIQ) scheme.

- ❖ Under the AIQ scheme, 15% of seats at the UG level and 50% seats at the PG level are kept domicile free in government medical and dental colleges against which students from other states to are offered admission.
- ❖ While the rest of the seats are kept only for students from within the state.
- ❖ The AIQ scheme was introduced in 1986 under the direction of the Supreme Court.

The Quota story | A brief timeline of reservations under the all India quota (AIQ):

- AIQ was introduced in 1986 for domicile-free merit-based opportunities to medical aspirants of a State to study in a college in another State

- Under it, 15% and 50% of the UG and PG seats, in government medical colleges are allocated

- In 2007, the Supreme Court introduced reservation of 15% of seats in the AIQ for the SCs and 7.5% for the STs

- On July 19, the Madras High Court said that the Centre cannot delay indefinitely the implementation of

reservation to OBCs under the scheme. It granted the Centre a week's time to indicate the mode and manner of implementation

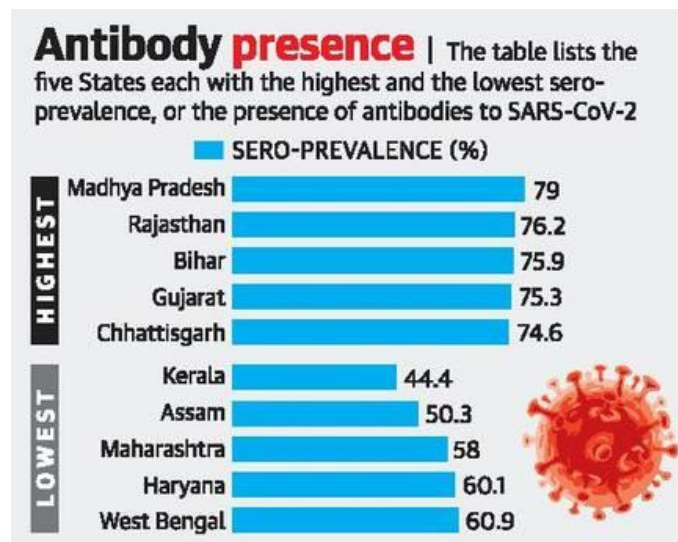


India's 14 Tiger Reserves Recognized by Global CA/TS

- ❖ The 14 Tiger Reserves in India received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS).
- ❖ 14 tiger reserves - Manas, Kaziranga, Orang (Assam), Satpura, Kanha, Panna (MP), Pench (Maharashtra), Valmiki (Bihar), Dudhwa (UP), Sunderbans (West Bengal), Parambikulam (Kerala), Bandipur (Karnataka) and Mudumalai and Anamalai (Tamil Nadu).
- ❖ Officially launched in 2013, CA|TS has been agreed upon as accreditation tool by the global coalition of Tiger Range Countries (TRCs).
- ❖ It sets minimum standards for effective management of target species and encourages assessment of these standards in relevant conservation areas.



National serology survey – state wise



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh (79%) has the highest seroprevalence, or the presence of antibodies to the novel coronavirus.
- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan (76%) and Bihar (75%).
- ❖ Kerala has the lowest among 21 States studied.
- ❖ After Kerala, the least antibody prevalence was in Assam (50%) and Maharashtra (58%).
- ❖ These are according to the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) fourth national serology survey.

Sambandar

- ❖ The National Gallery of Australia (NGA) has announced that it would return 14 works of art from its Asian art collection to India including Sambandar.
- ❖ Dancing child-saint Sambandar of 12th century belongs to Chola dynasty.
- ❖ Sambandar was one of the Nayanmars.
- ❖ Nayanmars is a group of sixty-three saints active in South India from the sixth to the ninth century.
- ❖ They were instrumental in popularizing the worship of Shiva through devotional poetry and song.



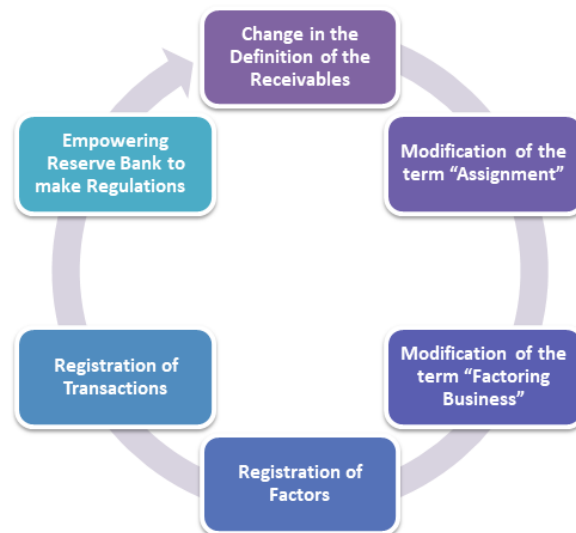
INTERNATIONAL

Triangular Cooperation for Global Development

- ❖ India and the US renewed for five years a global development partnership agreement to work together in African and Asian countries.
- ❖ They will work on key issues such as regional connectivity, clean energy and disaster risk reduction.
- ❖ The two countries signed the second amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development.
- ❖ The SGP agreement, originally inked in November 2014, provides a framework for development cooperation in third countries, especially in Asia and Africa.
- ❖ The second amendment to the SGP agreement extends the validity of the pact till September 2026.

The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill

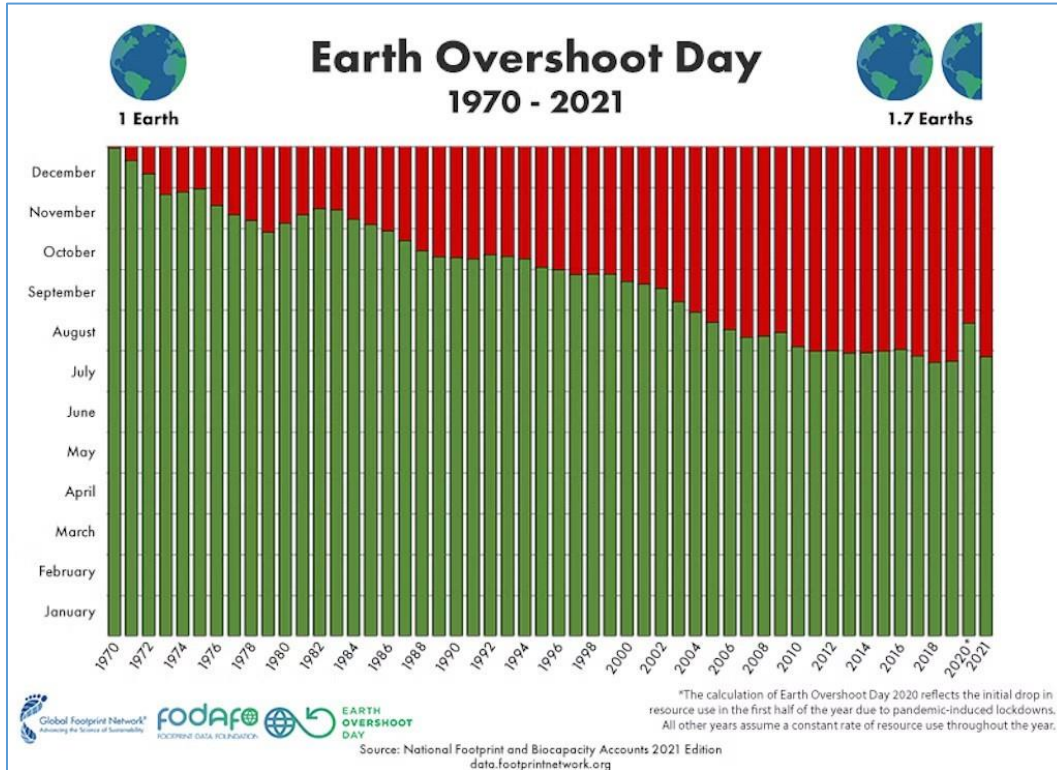
- ❖ The Bill that seeks to open up factoring business to non-bank lenders was passed in the parliament.
- ❖ The Bill will provide relief to micro, small and medium enterprises and help them, ensuring a smoother capital cycle and healthier cash flow.
- ❖ The current law on factoring business was enacted in 2011.
- ❖ It gave the Reserve Bank of India authority to allow non-bank finance companies to remain in factoring business only if it was their principal business.
- ❖ That is, more than half of assets were to be deployed and income earned from factoring business.
- ❖ The Bill removes this threshold.



ENVIRONMENT

Earth Overshoot Day, 2021

- ❖ Earth Overshoot Day 2021 happened on July 29, almost a month earlier than the year before.
- ❖ It was pushed forward because emissions are on the rise and biodiversity loss is speeding up.
- ❖ The date is announced annually by the Global Footprint Network.
- ❖ Each year, Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when we have used all the biological resources that the Earth can renew during the entire year.
- ❖ The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms.



STATES

Pink Protection project



- ❖ The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the Pink Protection project.
- ❖ This project is for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.

- ❖ The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying & humiliation in public places.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

NatWest Group Earth Heroes award

- ❖ The Satpura Tiger Reserve of the state has been awarded the NatWest Group Earth Heroes award in the Earth Guardian category for best management.
- ❖ The Satpura Tiger Reserve in the Hoshangabad district.
- ❖ It is the oldest forest wealth in the country.
- ❖ The Satpura Tiger Reserve is said to be the soul of the eco-system of the central region of India.

MISCELLANEOUS

National Moth Week July 17 - 25, 2021

- ❖ This year National Moth Week marks its 10th year.
- ❖ The National Moth Week celebrates the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths.
- ❖ It is being held, worldwide, during the last full week of July.
- ❖ The National Moth Week was founded in the United States in 2012.
- ❖ It was found by the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, a non-profit organization in New Jersey.

