

August - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Parliament passed a bill which allows the central government to prohibit strikes, lockouts, and layoffs in units engaged in essential defence services.
 - Essential defence services include units or undertakings involved in the production of goods or equipment required for defence.
- ❖ The International Space Station (ISS) was knocked off its course recently after the Russian research module Nauka was docked.
 - Nauka is a Multipurpose Laboratory Module of ISS funded by Roscosmos.
- ❖ The first G20 Culture Ministers Meeting was held in Rome, Italy.
 - The Colosseum and Palazzo Barberini hosted the G20 Summit in Rome.
- ❖ CA Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to represent the nation for the Olympics.
 - Bhavani was born in Chennai.
- ❖ The National Bone and Joint Day is observed on 4 August every year.
 - It creates awareness about the need to keep bones healthy.

NATIONAL

Self-repairing materials

- ❖ The Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata, in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur, have developed piezoelectric molecular crystals.
- ❖ These crystals can repair their own mechanical damages with electrical charges generated by the mechanical impact.
- ❖ The research supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India has been published in the journal 'Science'.
- ❖ The piezoelectric molecules developed by the researchers are called bipyrazole organic crystals.

National Farmers Database

- ❖ The government has been planning to create a federated National Farmers Database using digitized land records.
- ❖ It will help to offer proactive and personalized services to the farmers.

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is in the process of bringing out a data policy for the agriculture sector.

Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper

- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper.
- ❖ The plastic-mixed handmade paper was developed under Project REPLAN (REducing PLAstic from Nature).
- ❖ The project was launched in September 2018 as part of KVIC's commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind project in India.
- ❖ Here the plastic waste is de-structured, degraded, diluted and used with paper pulp while making handmade paper.

India's first Heart Failure Biobank



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

India's First National Heart Failure Biobank

The first **National Heart Failure Biobank** in the country that would collect **blood, biopsies, and clinical data** as a guide to future therapies was inaugurated at the **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology**.

“There are no heart failure biobanks in the country, and this would greatly help in guiding **future therapies** and **technologies** and would benefit the heart failure patients significantly.”

Professor Balram Bhargava,
Secretary, Department
of Health Research

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- ❖ The first Heart Failure Biobank in the country has come up at the National Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in HF (CARE-HF) at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Kerala.

- ❖ The Biobank is open to study genetic, metabolomics and proteomic markers of health outcomes in heart-failure patients.

Judge-population ratio

- ❖ The judge-population ratio in India stood at 21.03 judges per million people in 2020.
- ❖ The judge-population ratio in 2018 stood at 19.78 judges per million people and 20.39 in 2019.
- ❖ India has 25 high courts.
- ❖ The sanctioned strength of judges in Supreme Court increased from 31 in 2014 to 34 in the year 2020.
- ❖ The sanctioned strength of judges of high courts increased from 906 judges in June 2014 to 1,079 judges in December, 2020.
- ❖ The sanctioned strength of judges of district and subordinate courts increased from 19,518 in the year 2014 to 24,225 in 2020.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- ❖ The Parliament had passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 recently.
- ❖ The bill seeks to encourage smaller airports to expand air connectivity to relatively remote and far-flung areas.
- ❖ The Bill will amend the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) of India Act, 2008, by modifying the definition of 'major airport' under the AERA Act 2008.
- ❖ The Amendment of AERA Act 2008 will now refer to an airport with annual passenger traffic of 35 lakh as a 'major airport'.
- ❖ The previous traffic threshold was 15 lakh.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Lok Sabha passed AERA amendment Bill to modify definition of 'major airport'■ A major airport is one which handles or is designed to handle 3.5 mn passengers annually■ There are around 25 major airports in the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Amendment will allow the Centre to privatise a small loss-making airport, along with each of the six airports, by clubbing them■ Currently, AERA determines tariff of a single airport; amendment will allow for tariff fixation of more than one airport
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INTERNATIONAL

Forbes real-time billionaires list

- ❖ Louis Vuitton chairman Bernard Arnault has surpassed Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to become the world's richest person.
- ❖ This is according to Forbes real-time billionaires list.
- ❖ Tesla and SpaceX Chief Elon Musk is placed third.

DBS bank

- ❖ DBS has been honoured as the global winner for Most Innovative in Digital Banking by Financial Times publication, The Banker.
- ❖ The bank was also recognised as the Asia-Pacific winner and won in the Cyber Security category for its Secure Access and Remote Working Solution.
- ❖ DBS is named Asia's Best Bank & Asia's Best Digital Bank in the Euromoney Regional Awards.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- ❖ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) has been joined in by 25 countries and seven international organisations as member till date.
- ❖ Canada and Bangladesh are the new entrant to CDRI.
- ❖ Prime minister launched the CDRI on September 23, 2019 during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- ❖ Its primary objective is to promote research and knowledge sharing in fields of infrastructure risk management, financing, standards and recovery mechanisms.



Gilgit-Baltistan

- ❖ Pakistani authorities have finalised a law to award provisional provincial status to strategically located Gilgit-Baltistan.
- ❖ Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the disputed territories of India.
- ❖ It is a chunk of high-altitude territory located on the north western corner of the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ It is located strategically as it borders Pakistan, Afghanistan and China.
- ❖ The region is claimed by India as part of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu & Kashmir as it existed in 1947 at its accession to India.
- ❖ However, it has been under Pakistan's control since 4th November, 1947, following the invasion of Kashmir by tribal militias and the Pakistan army.
- ❖ Gilgit-Baltistan is an autonomous region now and after the bill is passed, it will become the 5th province of the country.
- ❖ Currently, Pakistan has four provinces namely Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh.



ECONOMY

Retrospective Tax

- ❖ The Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, introduced a Bill in Parliament to nullify the provisions of Income Tax Act.
- ❖ This Bill will withdraw the retrospective amendments in the Income Tax Act of 1961 that raised demands on Vodafone, Cairn and some others.
- ❖ This bill seeks to attract foreign investments.
- ❖ As per the bill, no tax demand would be raised in future based on the retrospective amendment for any indirect transfer of Indian assets, in case transaction was undertaken before May 28, 2012.

WAS INTRODUCED IN **MARCH 2012**

<p>2007: Hutch sells 67% interest in Hutch Essar to Vodafone's Dutch affiliate through a Cayman Islands entity holding direct and indirect stake in the Indian company telco</p> <p>➤ I-T demands \$2.2bn capital gains as it involved Indian firm. Vodafone refuses to pay, says deal carried out offshore. Bombay HC rules for tax dept</p>	<p>Jan 2014: Tax probe against Cairn</p>
<p>Jan 2012: Supreme Court rules in favour of Vodafone</p>	<p>March 2015: Cairn begins international arbitration under India-UK investment treaty</p>
<p>March 2012: Govt introduces 'retro amendment' to tax laws</p>	<p>2016: Vodafone seeks arbitration under India-Netherlands treaty</p>
	<p>Sept 2020: Vodafone wins arbitration award</p>
	<p>Dec 2020: Int'l tribunal rules in favour of Cairn, orders govt to refund \$1.4bn (with interest)</p>
	<p>2021: Govt challenges rulings</p>

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Order of British Columbia award

- ❖ The Leading Indian-origin entrepreneur Ajay Dilwari has been honoured with Canada's prestigious Order of British Columbia award.
- ❖ Mr Dilwari is the owner of Canada's largest automotive group (Dilawri Group).
- ❖ He is now among 16 "exceptional people" to be appointed to the Order of British Columbia.

