

August - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Environment Ministry notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 recently.
 - These new rules prohibit specific single-use plastic items with “low utility and high littering potential” by the year 2022.
- ❖ The Indian Team SoftWorthy has been conferred the prestigious National Science Foundation Innovation-Corps (NSF I-Corps) Teams Award in the United States.
 - SoftWorthy’s award-winning project focuses on the growth of novel technological applications like driverless vehicles and energy-efficient smart buildings.
- ❖ In the pandemic-hit financial year of 2020-21, the number of billionaires in India dropped from 141 in FY20 to 136 in FY21.
 - The count is based on the gross total income declared in the income tax returns.
- ❖ The International Wolf Day is marked every year on August 13.
 - This day is observed to raise awareness about these wild dogs.
- ❖ The World Organ Donation Day is celebrated every year on August 13.
 - The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.

TAMIL NADU

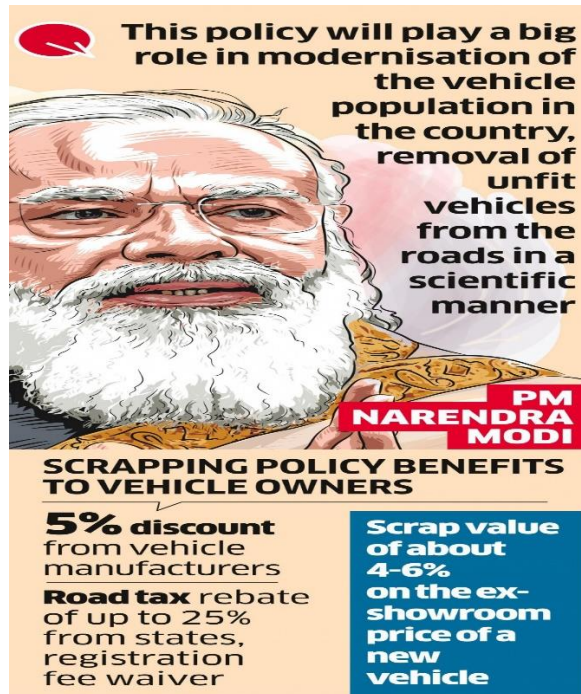
Rajendra Chola I birth anniversary

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu tourism, culture and religious endowments department announced that the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I will be celebrated as a government event.
- ❖ Rajendra Chola I’s birth anniversary is celebrated on the Thiruvathirai star in the Tamil month of Aadi.
- ❖ The 11th century Chola emperor had relocated the capital of Cholas to Gangai Konda Cholapuram in present-day Ariyalur district where he built the Peruvudaiyar temple.
- ❖ The temple was recognised as one of the world heritages sites by the UNESCO.



NATIONAL

National Vehicle Scrapage Policy



This policy will play a big role in modernisation of the vehicle population in the country, removal of unfit vehicles from the roads in a scientific manner

PM NARENDRA MODI

SCRAPPING POLICY BENEFITS TO VEHICLE OWNERS

5% discount from vehicle manufacturers

Road tax rebate of up to 25% from states, registration fee waiver

Scrap value of about 4-6% on the ex-showroom price of a new vehicle

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Vehicle Scrapage Policy recently.
- ❖ The National Vehicle Scrapage Policy is also dubbed as “voluntary vehicle-fleet modernisation programme”.
- ❖ This programme aims to modernise India’s “vehicular population”.

- ❖ It also seeks to remove unfit vehicles from roads in an environment-friendly and scientific manner.
- ❖ It is in line with India's goal for 21st century to achieve a clean, congestion-free and convenient mobility.
- ❖ Under the policy, vehicles will be scientifically tested through authorised and automated centres before it is finally scrapped.

APEDA exports apples to Bahrain



कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण

(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

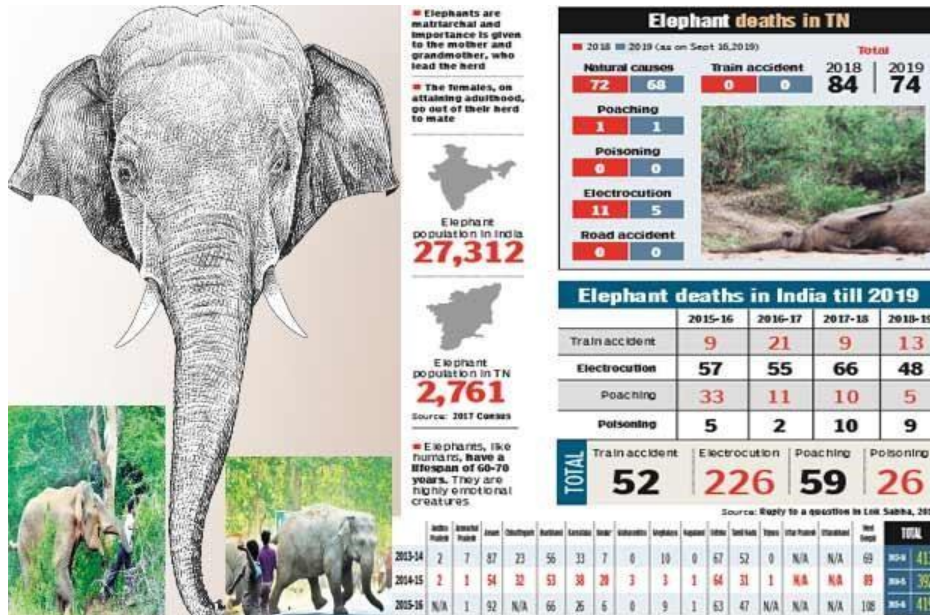


- ❖ The APEDA in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (HPMC) exported first consignment comprising of five unique varieties of apples.
- ❖ This is to promote agricultural and processed food products exports to newer destinations.
- ❖ Five varieties of apples including Dark Baron Gala, Royal Delicious, Scarlet Spur, Red Velox and Golden Delicious were exported to Bahrain.
- ❖ First consignment was exported by APEDA registered DM Enterprises.
- ❖ Apples will be showcased at the apple promotion programme organized by leading retailer called Al Jazira group.

- ❖ The apple promotion programme started from 15th August, 2021 on the occasion of commencement of 75th year of India's independence celebration.

Common survey to count elephants and tigers

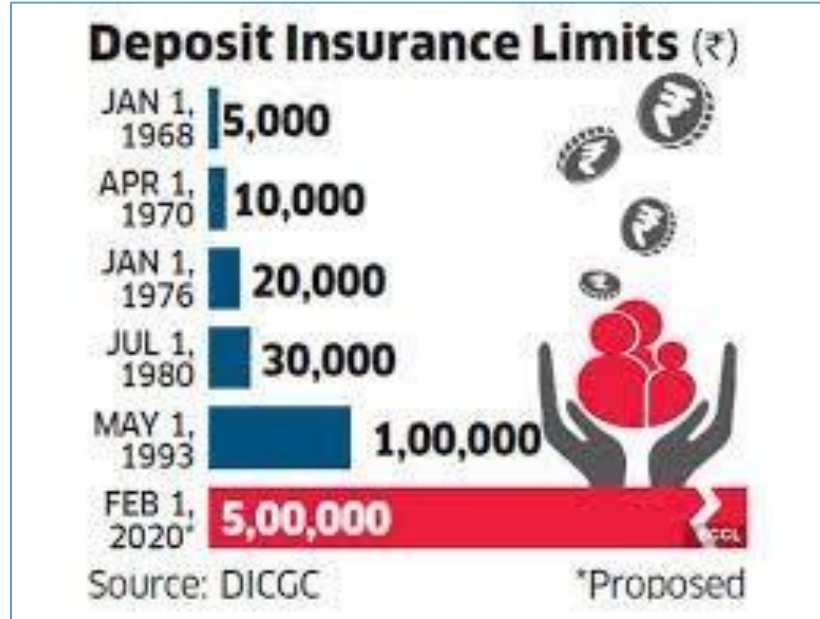
- ❖ India is planning to adopt the new population estimation protocol in the all-India elephant and tiger population survey in 2022.
- ❖ As per the new protocol, India will move to a system that will count tigers and elephants as part of a common survey.
- ❖ Currently, the tiger survey is usually held once in four years and elephants are counted once in five years.
- ❖ According to the most recent 2018-19 survey, there were 2,997 tigers in India.
- ❖ According to the last count in 2017, there were 29,964 elephants in India.



Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- ❖ The Parliament had passed this bill recently.
- ❖ The bill seeks to amend the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to provide depositors time-bound access to their insured deposit amount, in case they are restricted from accessing their bank deposits.
- ❖ It provides that the Corporation will be liable to pay the insured deposit amount to depositors on an interim basis.

- ❖ The Bill mandates the Corporation to pay the insured amount to the depositors within 90 days of the date such liability arises.
- ❖ Speaking on the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that insurance cover limit has been raised from one lakh to five lakh.



Fit India Freedom Run 2.0



- ❖ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur, launched a nationwide programme of Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 on August 13, 2021.

- ❖ This is to celebrate the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.
- ❖ The programme has been launched at 75 'iconic' locations.
- ❖ The Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 will conclude on October 2, 2021.
- ❖ During this period, people from each district and each village will participate in the freedom run movement.
- ❖ Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 was flagged off from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.
- ❖ Government has planned to reach out to every household with the mantra of 'Fitness ki dose 'aadha ghanta roz' in order to keep Indians fit.
- ❖ First edition of the 'Fit India Freedom Run' was organized from August 15 to October 2, 2020.

ECONOMY

4th IT firm to hit Rs 3 trillion market-cap – HCL

THE LEADERBOARD		
Rank	Name	Mcap (₹ Tn)
1	Reliance Industries	14.23
2	TCS	12.81
3	HDFC Bank	8.44
4	Infosys	7.26
5	Hindustan Unilever	5.65
6	ICICI Bank	4.88
7	HDFC	4.88
8	State Bank of India	3.85
9	Bajaj Finance	3.71
10	Kotak Mahindra Bank	3.54
11	Bharti Airtel	3.50
12	Wipro	3.37
13	HCL Technologies	3.04
14	Asian Paints	2.87
15	ITC	2.60

Source BSE; Compiled by BS Research Bureau

- ❖ The HCL Technologies' market capitalisation (market-cap) touched Rs 3 trillion for the first time.
- ❖ It became the fourth Indian information technology (IT) firm to achieve this milestone after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro.



- ❖ HCL Tech is the third-largest Indian IT services company by revenue, after TCS and Infosys.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Water molecules on the moon's surface

- ❖ ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 orbiter has detected water molecules on the moon's surface.
- ❖ There was widespread lunar hydration and unambiguous detection of OH and H₂O signatures on the moon between 29 degrees north and 62 degrees north latitude.
- ❖ The findings were published in Current Science Journal.
- ❖ According to the researchers, the formation of hydroxyl or water molecules occurs due to a process called space weathering.
- ❖ Space weathering happens when the solar winds blow over the lunar surface.

SPORTS

Tokyo Paralympics - Indian contingent

- ❖ The upcoming Tokyo Paralympics will witness the largest ever Indian contingent being send.
- ❖ 54 para-sportspersons are participating across 9 sports disciplines.
- ❖ The 2020 Summer Paralympics Games are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan from August 24 to September 05, 2021.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Left-Handers Day - August 13

- ❖ The day is observed every year to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of the left-handers and raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed in a predominantly right-handed world.
- ❖ Left-handers are likely to have better verbal skills than their right-handed counterparts, according to a 2019 study by Oxford University.
- ❖ The day was first observed in 1976 by Dean R Campbell, the founder of Lefthanders International Inc.



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