

August - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ TN Chief Minister inaugurated the Karur Government Medical College on 31 July 2019.
 - It is the 23rd government medical college in the State and First medical college in Karur district.
- ❖ Atish Dabholkar, a theoretical physicist from India has been appointed as the new director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy.

TAMIL NADU

TN ambitious Bus Rapid Transit System

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has revived the ambitious Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) along seven key stretches in Chennai.
- ❖ BRTS will encompass:
 - Old Mahabalipuram Road,
 - GST Road,
 - The stretch between Koyambedu and Poonamallee, and
 - Chromepet-Thoraipakkam Road.
- ❖ BRTS combines the flexibility and affordability of buses with the efficiency and quality of metro rail.

THE PROPOSAL

Length | **120 km**

30m to 40m dedicated lane at the centre of the road

4m to 5m wide bus stops

Ticket counters at all stops

2,000 new buses

9,000 passengers can be ferried in an hour

Platform-level boarding

240 bus stops, one every 600m

BRTS VS METRO RAIL

Parameter	Metro rail	BRTS
Investment	₹24,000cr	₹4,400cr
Daily footfall	1 lakh	20 lakh

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CMBT, Koyambedu | Aug 3-4

Poonamalle Bus Stand | Aug 5

Community Hall, CIT Nagar | Aug 6

Community Hall, Maduvankarai | Aug 7

Community Hall, Karapakkam | Aug 8

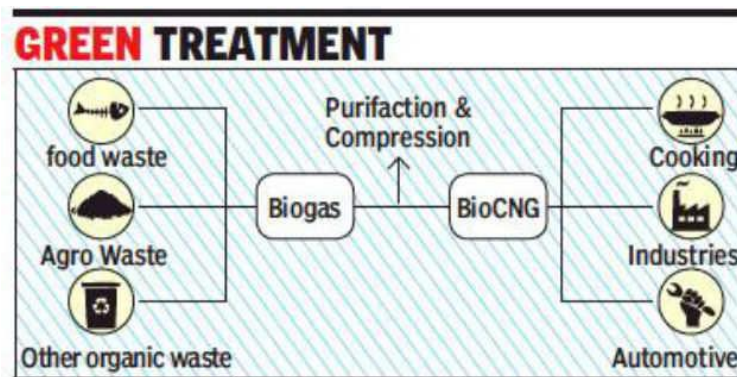
All meetings will be held between 10am and 5pm

“ BRTS combines the flexibility and affordability of buses with the efficiency and quality of metro rail

Shreya Gadepalli | SOUTH ASIA PROGRAMME HEAD, ITDP

Three bio-CNG plants - Chennai

- ❖ Greater Chennai Corporation will set up three bio-CNG plants that will bottle compressed natural gas produced from bio waste.
- ❖ They will be set up at Pallikaranai, Sholinganallur and the abandoned asphalt complex in Anna Nagar.
- ❖ The plants will be set up in private-public partnership where the private company will be in charge of manufacturing and maintenance of the facility.
- ❖ Bio-CNG can replace CNG as an automotive fuel (for CNG buses and tractors) and LPG for cooking purposes, as well as to power street lights.



V.O. Chidambaranar Port Creates Record

- ❖ V.O. Chidambaram Port created a new record by handling 1,80,597 Metric Tonnes of cargo in a single day on 27th July, 2019.
- ❖ It is surpassing the previous single day record of 1,77,639 Metric Tonnes on 16th November, 2017.
- ❖ Earlier, on 25th July, 2019, the port had set another record by handling a vessel with highest parcel size of 85,224 Tonnes, when the Cyprus vessel 'MV KMAX EMPEROR' arrived from UAE.
- ❖ The highest parcel size handled by the port before this was the vessel 'MV SFAKIA WAVE' with 84,502 tonnes of limestones on 11th February, 2019.

NATIONAL

Comprehensive information for Census 2021

- ❖ Census 2021 will for the first time seek information from households on smartphones, DTH/Cable TV connection, internet access, number of members of households having bank accounts, ownership of house other than the rented

accommodation of a household, bottled water availability and mobile number as part of the house listing procedure.

- ❖ The Census 2021 house listing questionnaire will no longer seek a breakup of male and female persons in a household.
- ❖ Importantly it will not collect caste data and will have a listing for third gender.
- ❖ Another fresh inclusion mainly pertains to new categories of disabilities as per the latest definition.
- ❖ The data collected during the 2021 Census will be stored electronically, the first time since the decennial exercise was conducted in 1951 in Independent India.

Disabled-friendly buses

- ❖ In a first, the road transport ministry has issued a draft norm to disabled-friendly features mandatory for buses to obtain fitness certificate.
- ❖ Buses with more than 13 seats will require to have provisions for ramp for wheelchairs, their locking system and other features to meet the requirement of physically challenged persons.

INTERNATIONAL

Asean-India summits

- ❖ Series of Asean-India summits held in Thailand.
- ❖ External affairs minister S Jaishankar represented the country in the meetings.
- ❖ The summits are;
 - Asean-India Ministerial Meeting,
 - 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting,
 - 26th ASEAN Regional Forum and
 - 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting.





SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

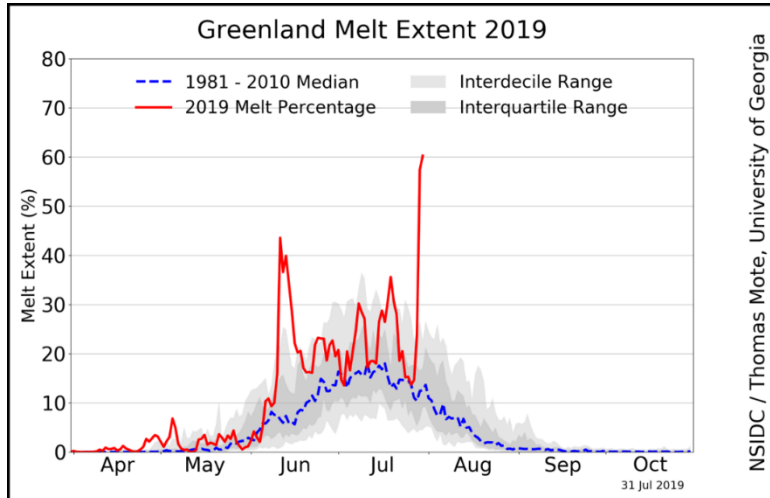
BrahMos cruise missiles to Thailand

- ❖ Thailand is negotiating with India about its purchase of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.
- ❖ Possibly it will be the first sale of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to another country.
- ❖ Thailand has made a request for repair and refurbishing their Dornier maritime patrol aircraft.
- ❖ Discussions are on to integrate Thailand into India's coastal surveillance radar chain network.
- ❖ India, Thailand and Singapore trilateral naval exercise announced by Prime Minister at Shangri-La dialogue in June 2018 is scheduled to be held later this year.
- ❖ India will host the first edition of the exercise in September this year.
- ❖ The two navies already conduct a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) and a new bilateral exercise is also in the works apart from the trilateral.

ENVIRONMENT

Greenland lost 11 billion tons of ice

- ❖ The heat wave that smashed high temperature is recorded in five polar European countries.
- ❖ It is accelerating the melting of the ice sheet and causing massive ice loss in the Arctic.
- ❖ More than 11 billion tons of ice was lost to the oceans by surface melt on July 31st alone due to high temperature (21°C) from Greenland.
- ❖ This would be enough to permanently increase the world's sea levels by 0.1 mm.
- ❖ While the melt from the ice sheets in July contributed to a rise of half a millimetre in global sea levels.
- ❖ Greenland, the world's largest island, is a semi-autonomous Danish territory between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans that has 82% of its surface covered in ice.



STATES

Assam's Maijan Gold Tea - New world record

- ❖ A rare variety of tea in Assam was auctioned for Rs. 70, 501 a kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC).
- ❖ Orthodox Golden Tips, from the Maijan tea estate, smashed the record set by another specialty tea-the Manohari Gold-that was sold for Rs. 50,000 at the same auction.
- ❖ The specialty tea comes from the Maijan garden in Assam's Dibrugarh district.
- ❖ The garden is owned by the Assam Company India, the oldest tea company in the world.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

World Debating Championship

- ❖ An Indian team emerged world champion at the World Debating Championships 2019, defeating Canada.
- ❖ The five-member Indian team includes Tejas Subramaniam (PSBB School), Chennai.
- ❖ The tournament, which was held in Thailand, saw 600 participants from 64 nations, and the Indian team reportedly did not lose a single round.
- ❖ After an elaborate selection process, the five students were chosen by the Indian Schools Debating Society (ISDS) and trained for months.



SPORTS

Biel International Chess Festival

- ❖ Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi showed his all-round ability to win the Biel International Chess tournament.
- ❖ He is the 24-year-old from Nashik, Maharashtra.



- ❖ When we look at the previous winners at Biel, the history of which goes back to 1968.

Para World Cup

- ❖ Para World Cup for shooting held in Osijek, Croatia.
- ❖ In the event, India's Rahul Jakhar clinched gold by defeating Chinese shooter Chao Yang at the men's 10m air pistol podium.
- ❖ On the other hand, Manish Narwal finished with silver with bettering his own junior finals World Record.
- ❖ In women's 10m air pistol final, Nisha Kanwar clinched gold medal.
- ❖ Her teammate, Rubina Francis took bronze.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Scout Scarf Day - August 01

- ❖ Scout Scarf Day is observed around the world on August 01.
- ❖ The date of the event commemorates the very first Scout Camp on Brown sea Island in 1907.
- ❖ It encourages current and former scouts to wear their scarves in pride as a symbol of the Scout's promise and the spirit of Scouting.

