

August - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 9-year old 'Valentina Elangbam' of Manipur's Kakching district has been appointed as Green Ambassador for the State government's Green Manipur Mission.
 - She had planted 2 Gulmohar trees few years back. These were cut down for road expansion. The kid kept crying inconsolably in a Facebook post and the issue was brought to the attention of Chief Minister.
- ❖ The Virasat-e-Khalsa museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town will enter Asian Book of Records soon for becoming the most visited museum in the Asian sub-continent on a single day. 20,569 visitors came on March 20, 2019 alone.
 - Virasat-e-Khalsa was built to commemorate the history and culture of Punjab and Sikhism and was inaugurated in November 2011.
- ❖ Former U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia and President, World Food Prize Foundation, Kenneth M. Quinn received the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the legislation for bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories on 09.08.19.
 - The Union Territories Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will come into existence on October 31. It is the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika (posthumously) and Pranab Mukherjee on August 08, 2019 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

TAMIL NADU

Heavy Rains at Nilgiris

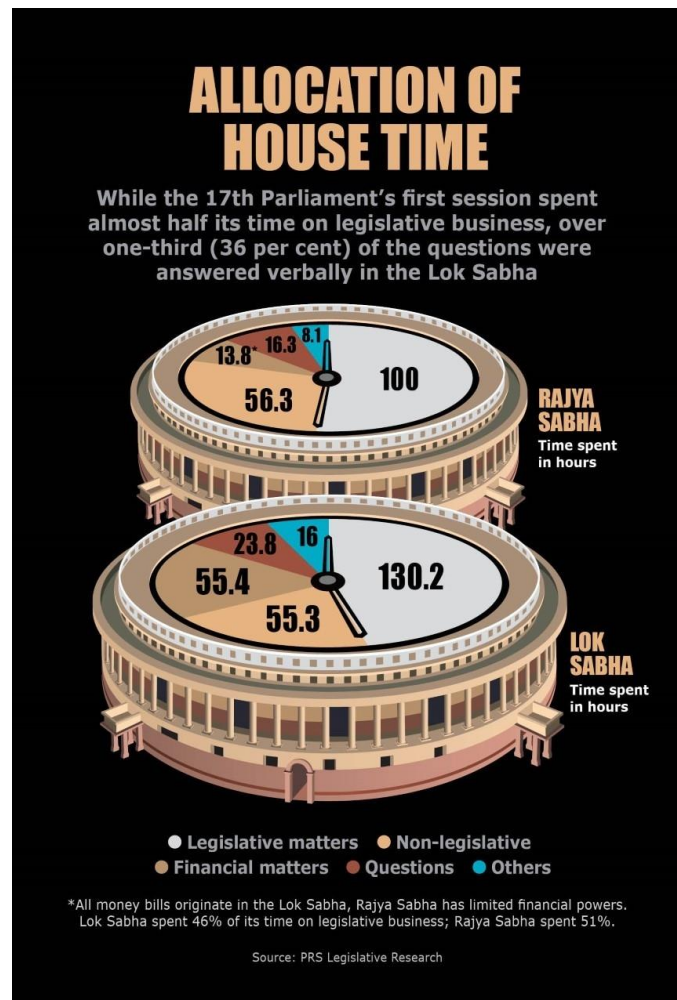
- ❖ The Avalanche region in the Nilgiris has recorded 820 mm rainfall in the 24-hour period till 08.08.19 and 2,136 mm in the 72 hours (09.08.19).
- ❖ It is claimed to be the highest in South India.
- ❖ In Tamilnadu, the previous highest rainfall recorded in a single day was at Cuddalore, in 1943 - 570 mm of rain.
- ❖ In Western Ghats region, no maximum rain was recorded beyond 400 mm.
- ❖ In 2015, Sembarambakkam lake has received 470 mm rainfall.

- ❖ Mahabaleshwar, situated in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, became the wettest place in India after Mawsynram in Meghalaya.
- ❖ It recorded 6,031.5 mm rainfall between June 1 and August 8 of 2019.
- ❖ Mawsynram is the wettest place on Earth. It receives an average annual rainfall of 11,872 mm.
- ❖ It is 15 km west of Cherrapunji. Earlier Cherrapunji was credited as the wettest place on Earth.

NATIONAL

Monsoon Session 2019

- ❖ The First Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha commenced on 17th of June, 2019 and 249th Session of Rajya Sabha commenced from 20th June, 2019.
- ❖ Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* on 6th August, 2019. Rajya Sabha was adjourned *sine die* on 7th August, 2019.





- ❖ The Union Budget for 2019- 20 was presented on 5th July, 2019.
- ❖ The first session of the newly elected Government is also known as the Budget Session.
- ❖ The Budget session of the Lok Sabha had 37 sittings and sat for 280 hours.
- ❖ During this Session a total of 40 Bills (33 in Lok Sabha and 07 in Rajya Sabha) were introduced.
- ❖ 36 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha.
- ❖ 32 Bills were passed by Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ 30 Bills have been passed by both the Houses of Parliament – This is a record in single first/effective Session after constitution of new Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The number of Bills passed in this session were more than the Bills passed in 1952.
- ❖ In the first session of the first Lok Sabha in 1952, the House had 67 sittings in which 24 bills were passed.
- ❖ The productivity of the Lok Sabha has been 135 per cent and of Rajya Sabha 100 per cent-the highest in the past 20 years.

Samjhauta Express Stopped

- ❖ Pakistan has unilaterally decided to suspend the train services on its side.
- ❖ The Samjhauta Express, commonly called the friendship express, is a bi-weekly train - running on Thursday and Monday.
- ❖ It runs between Delhi and Attari in India and Lahore in Pakistan.
- ❖ The train services began in July 22, 1976 under the Shimla Agreement signed between India and Pakistan in 1972.
- ❖ The word Samjhauta means "agreement" in both Hindi and Urdu.

Thar Express

- ❖ Pakistan has also suspended the Thar Express train service with India, which links the two countries across the Rajasthan border.
- ❖ It runs between Jodhpur's Bhagat ki Kothi station to Karachi every Friday night since services resumed on February 18, 2006 after a 41-year suspension.

National Entrepreneurship Awards, 2019

- ❖ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the fourth edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards, 2019.



- ❖ The annual awards have been instituted to honour outstanding young first-generation entrepreneurs and ecosystem builders for their exceptional contribution in entrepreneurship development.
- ❖ To be eligible for these awards, the nominee (entrepreneur)
 - must be under the age of 40 year
 - must be first-generation entrepreneurs
 - must hold 51% or more equity and ownership of the business (women entrepreneurs – 75% ownership)

ENVIRONMENT

India's Proposals to CITES

- ❖ India has submitted proposals regarding changes to the listing of various wildlife species in the CITES LIST.
- ❖ CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international treaty to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants do not threaten their survival.
- ❖ It aims to boost the protection of all the following animal species as they are facing a high risk of international trade.

Species

- Tokay gecko
- Wedgefish

Indian star tortoise

- ❖ India also proposed re-listing of the star tortoise from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I.
- ❖ The species faces two threats
 - Loss of habitat to agriculture
 - Illegal harvesting for the pet trade

Smooth-coated otter and Small-clawed otter

- ❖ Proposed that the listing be moved from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I for the more endangered species.

Indian rosewood

- ❖ For the Indian rosewood, the proposal is to remove the species from CITES Appendix II.

STATES

Uniform Civil Code in Goa

- ❖ The Goa government has announced that it would amend the Portuguese-era Uniform Civil Code (UCC) so as to allow non-Goans register their marriages in the state.
- ❖ Registration of marriage of non-Goans is currently banned in Goa.
- ❖ UCC was introduced in Goa in the year 1870 by the erstwhile Portuguese rulers.
- ❖ It was retained even after the territory was merged with India in the year 1961.
- ❖ In 1987 Goa was made a separate State.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison

- ❖ African-American Woman author and Nobel laureate Toni Morrison has passed away.
- ❖ She is well known for her works like Song of Solomon (1977), Beloved (1987).



- ❖ Morrison became the first Black woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993.
- ❖ She wrote extensively about the persecution faced by Black people in America.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Biofuel Day

- ❖ World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th of August.

- ❖ It is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.



- ❖ The purpose of the observance is to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by India in the biofuel sector.
- ❖ This year the theme of the World Biofuel Day is "Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)".

