

August - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamilnadu was the only and the first state government in India to have included 'bariatric surgery' under TN Chief Minister's comprehensive health insurance scheme. More than 100 people have benefitted till now.
- ❖ The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) have announced that a three-day "global investors summit" will be held in Srinagar from October 12.
- ❖ To improve standards of law education, the Bar Council of India (BCI) has imposed a '3-year moratorium' on opening of new institutions except for national law universities (NLUs), if proposed by a state.
 - BCI is a statutory body established by Parliament under the Advocates Act, 1961 to regulate and represent Indian bar.
- ❖ The Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea has the highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in the world (840), while India stands fourth with 453.
 - The year 2019 is designated as United Nations' International Year of Indigenous Languages.
- ❖ Rajasthan has won the "best innovation and initiative leadership award" for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's transsexual woman Naaz Joshi was crowned for third successive time in the beauty pageant "Miss World Diversity" held at Mauritius.
- ❖ Iran has unveiled three precision-guided air-air missiles: Yasin", "Balaban" and the "Ghaem".
- ❖ Scientists from University of Leeds, UK have reportedly created the world's thinnest gold which is just 0.47 nanometres. It is a 2D object because it is made of just 2 atoms.

TAMIL NADU

Best Corporation and Municipalities in TN

- ❖ The Commission of Municipal Administration (CMA) has recommended Salem as the best performing Corporation and Dharmapuri as the best performing Municipality in the state.
- ❖ The recommendations were accepted by the State government and the towns will get the Chief Minister's Award.

- ❖ Vedaranyam and Aranthangi were selected as the second and third best performing Municipalities
- ❖ In 2018, Tiruppur Corporation bagged the best performing Corporation Award while Kovilpatti, Cumbum and Sirkazhi Municipalities bagged the top three best performing Municipalities, respectively.

Kalaimamani Awards 2011-18

- ❖ Chief Minister presented the Kalaimamani awards to artistes for the years 2011 to 2018.
- ❖ He also announced that 'three special Kalaimamani awards' in the name of former Chief Minister J.Jayalalithaa will be constituted and awarded annually.
- ❖ Financial assistance given to elderly artistes every month was increased from ₹2,000 to ₹3,000.
- ❖ As many as 201 recipients were selected from 72 different art forms for Kalaimamani awards and 8 senior artistes were selected for a special cash award.

Name of the Award	Prominent Personalities
Bharathi Award	Writer Sivasankari and Villupaatu exponent Subbu Arumugam
Balasaraswathi Award	Dance exponents C.V. Chandrasekar, Vijayanthimala Bali, V.P. Dhananjayan and Shantha Dhananjayan
M.S. Subbulakshmi Award	Carnatic musicians C. Saroja and C. Lalitha (Bombay sisters) and T.V. Gopalakrishnan
Film Music Composers	Yuvan Shankar Raja, Vijay Antony
Film Actors	Vijay Sethupathi, Karthi, M.S. Baskar, Sasikumar, Pandiarajan, Thambi Ramaiah, Srikanth, Nalini, Soori

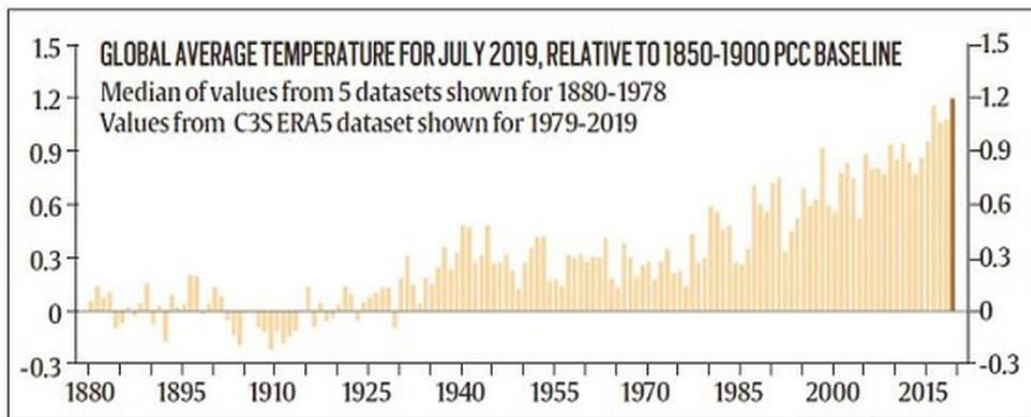
Palani Panchamirtham – GI Tag

- ❖ Palani panchamirtham, given as 'prasadam' at the Murugan temple there has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ This is the first time a temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu has been bestowed with the GI tag.

NATIONAL

July 2019 Hottest Recorded Month in History

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization has announced that July 2019 is recorded for the hottest month since climate analysis began in 1880.
- ❖ July 2019 was close to 1.2°C above the pre-industrial level.
- ❖ The previous warmest month on record was July 2016, and July 2019 was at least on par with it.
- ❖ Alarming situation: July 2016 was warmer because of El Nino. But July 2019 is the warmest month ever without El Nino.
- ❖ Immediate Results: Huge Ice melt in Greenland, in the Arctic, European glaciers and Wildfires in Arctic.



Source: Copernicus Climate Change Programme

Operation Number Plate – RPF

- ❖ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways has launched a Special Drive with a Code Name “Operation Number Plate”.
- ❖ It plans to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parking and even in the ‘No Parking’ areas for a longer duration.
- ❖ The unidentified vehicles are considered a serious threat to the security and safety of passengers and other stakeholders of railways.



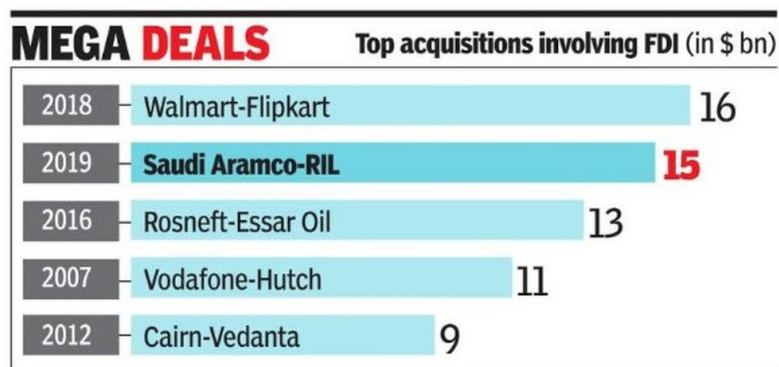
Cancer Treatment

- ❖ The Union Government plans to include all types of cancers and their treatment under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- ❖ It is because cancer care costs cause massive financial crisis among people and many had to go without treatment.
- ❖ Cancer is the second-most common disease in India.
- ❖ Lung cancer is the most common type of cancer in India, followed by breast cancer and oral cancers.

ECONOMY

Second Largest Foreign Investment

- ❖ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has announced that it was selling a 20% stake in its flagship oil and chemical business to Saudi Aramco for \$15 billion.
- ❖ This will be the second-largest foreign investment in India.
- ❖ Walmart-Flipkart deal is the largest ever foreign investment in India (\$16 billion).
- ❖ Saudi Aramco is the world's most profitable company.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Lead in PVC Pipes

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Union Government to submit a report on standards of lead and to phase out lead as a stabiliser in Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipes.
- ❖ The NGT was earlier informed that water passing through PVC pipes commonly used in most buildings may contain toxic materials like lead.
- ❖ Lead has a hazardous effect on human health.

ENVIRONMENT

National Policy on Efficient Management of Resources

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has brought out the National Draft Policy on Efficient Management of Resources.
- ❖ The policy aims to achieve the following goals
 - 100 per cent recycling of PET plastic by 2025
 - A total ban on disposal of any recyclable waste (plastic, metal, wood) into landfills by 2025
 - 90 per cent recycling of all vehicles made after 2000 that have reached the end-life stage
- ❖ For the first time in India, it introduces the idea of “extended producer responsibility”- i.e placing responsibility for a product's end-of-life environmental impacts on ‘producers’.

First Global Analysis of Nematodes

- ❖ According to the first global analysis of nematodes published in the journal Nature, there are about 57 billion nematodes for every human being on Earth.
- ❖ These nematodes play a crucial role in the environment as they are responsible for production of about 19% of ammonia of the soil.
- ❖ They are responsible for 2.2% of the total carbon emission from soils.
- ❖ Sub-Arctic regions have the highest abundance of nematodes followed by Temperate and Tropical regions.





PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

National Youth Awards

- ❖ Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju conferred the National Youth Awards for 2016-17 on twenty individuals and three organisations on the occasion of International youth day.
- ❖ The awards are presented to young persons and voluntary organizations in recognition of their outstanding work in the field of national development and social service.
- ❖ Also, three awards were also given to individuals for the photo exhibition on China through Eyes of Indian Youth-2019.

