

August - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ P.Ramyalakshmi, Assistant Director, Fisheries, Cuddalore has received the Tamil Nadu Government's Kalpana Chawla Award 2019 for her exemplary courage and daring enterprise in taking on the illegal practice of "purse seine fishing".
 - Purse seine fishing deprives traditional fishermen of catch and threatens the marine ecosystem as a whole in the region.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that country's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) will be established in Gujarat.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has fixed the retirement age for all Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel at 60 years.
 - Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Assam Rifles, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) together form CAPF.
- ❖ A new species of Jharkhand's burrowing frog has been confirmed and published in Records of the Zoological Survey of India.
 - It is named as Spahaerotherca Magadha and commonly called as 'Magadha Burrowing Frog'. It was discovered in 2015.
- ❖ Vice President inaugurate and dedicated to the nation 'Shyamali House' which is a heritage house of Rabindranth Tagore located in Santiniketan.
 - Shyamali was a mud house which was built by local Santhals of Santiniketan in 1934.
- ❖ According to the first-ever global assessment of 'forest biodiversity' by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) there has been a 53 per cent decline in the number of forest wildlife populations since 1970.
 - The new findings were based on the Forest Specialist Index, an index that tracks wildlife that lives only in forests.
- ❖ August 19th is observed as International Orangutan Day.

TAMIL NADU

Blue Glow in Chennai Beaches

- ❖ 'Sea tinkle' also known as bioluminescence was observed in Chennai beaches.



- ❖ Commonly known as sea tinkle, the Noctiluca algae were behind this phenomenon.
- ❖ The algae exhibit the phenomenon of bioluminescence or biologically produce light when disturbed.
- ❖ Then the light is produced by a chemical reaction in the presence of oxygen involving an enzyme called “luciferase”.
- ❖ Goa, Mumbai and the backwaters of Kerala have already witnessed these algal blooms.
- ❖ These algal patches are linked to coastal pollution.



NATIONAL

Committee to review Defence Procurement Procedure

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved setting up of a Committee to review the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) to strengthen ‘Make in India’.
- ❖ This 11-member Committee has been setup under the Chairmanship of Director General (Acquisition).
- ❖ It will try to remove bottlenecks in defence acquisition, promote Indian startups and research and development.

Know India Program for Indian origin Youth

- ❖ A group of Indian Origin youth have visited India under the 54th Edition of ‘Know India Programme’ (KIP).



- ❖ The 54th KIP is scheduled from 1st August to 25th August, 2019 in association with the partner states of Punjab and Haryana.
- ❖ KIP is organised by Ministry of External Affairs for Indian origin youth (between 18-30 years).

International Conference on Teacher Education – New Delhi

- ❖ Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurated an international conference on teacher education in New Delhi.
- ❖ The two-day event is being organized by the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as part of silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995.
- ❖ NCTE serves as an advisory body to Central and State Governments to ensure maintenance of standards and quality in Teacher Education.

Two New Fish Species

- ❖ Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India have discovered two new species of freshwater fishes.
 - *Glyptothorax gopii* – A new species of catfish found in Mizoram’s Kaladan river.
 - *Garra simbalbaraensis* – Discovered in Himachal Pradesh’s Simbalbara river.

Inter-State Council

- ❖ The Inter-State Council, which is mandated to investigate and advise on disputes between states, has been “reconstituted” with Prime Minister as its chairman and six Union ministers and all chief ministers as members.
- ❖ The Chief Ministers of the Union territories (UT) having legislative assemblies and the administrators of UTs not having a legislative assembly will also be members of the council.
- ❖ Ten other Union ministers have been made permanent invitees to the council.
- ❖ The Article 263 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an Inter-State Council.

Members	Amit Shah (Home), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance), Rajnath Singh (Defence),
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	Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj).
Other members	Thaawar Chand Gehlot (Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment) Hardeep Singh Puri (Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs).
Permanent invitees	Nitin Gadkari (Minister of Road Transport and Highways), Ram Vilas Paswan (Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution), Ravi Shankar Prasad (Minister of Law and Justice, Harmsimrat Kaur Badal (Minister of Food Processing Industries), Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Minister of External Affairs), Ramesh Pokhriyal (Minister of HRD).
Other permanent invitees	Arjun Munda (Minister of Tribal Affairs), Piyush Goyal (Minister of Railways), Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of Petroleum), Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Minister of Jal Shakti).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Parker Solar Probe – Completion of One Year

- ❖ On August 12, 2019 NASA's Parker Solar Probe completed a year in service.
- ❖ It is a part of NASA's "Living With a Star" programme that explores different aspects of the Sun-Earth system.
- ❖ The probe seeks to gather information about the Sun's atmosphere.
- ❖ It is the closest a human-made object has ever gone to the Sun.
- ❖ One of Parker's main objectives is to investigate why sun's corona is over a million degrees Fahrenheit while the solar layers below are only a few thousand degrees Fahrenheit each.



ENVIRONMENT

Largest Anthropogenic So₂ Emitter - India

- ❖ According to NASA data and environmental NGO Greenpeace, India is the world's largest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide, which is produced from coal burning.
- ❖ India has more than 15% of all anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) hotspots in the world detected by the OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.
- ❖ The Norilsk smelter complex in Russia being the largest SO₂ emission hotspot in the world.
- ❖ But according to country-wise world rankings, India was found at the top position in emitting SO₂ as it has the maximum hotspots.
- ❖ Tamilnadu is the highest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide, generated chiefly from coal fired power plants. Chennai is ranked 29 in world.

First Dead Glacier of Iceland - Okjokull Glacier

- ❖ Okjokull is the first Icelandic glacier to lose its status as glacier.
- ❖ What once was glacier now that has been reduced to a small patch of ice atop a volcano.
- ❖ It was officially declared dead in 2014 at the age of 700 when it was no longer thick enough to move.
- ❖ In Iceland, the loss of Okjokull glacier was commemorated by people with a plaque.

STATES

Madhya Pradesh – Latest Legislative Council

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government has indicated that it plans to initiate steps towards creation of a Legislative Council.
- ❖ Currently, six states have Legislative Councils.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir too had one, until bifurcation.



STATES WITH TWO HOUSES

State	MLA seats*	MLC seats
Andhra	176	58
Bihar	243	58
Karnataka	225	75
Maharashtra	289	78
Telangana	119	40
UP	404	100

** Including nominated members*

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Honey Bee Day – August 17

- ❖ World honey bee day was observed on August 17, 2019 (Every Third Saturday in August).
- ❖ It was started by beekeepers in the USA in 2009. Gradually other countries also started observing it every year.
- ❖ The day aims to build community awareness of the bee industry, through education and promotion.

World Humanitarian Day – August 19

- ❖ World Humanitarian Day is observed every year on August 19.
- ❖ It is an international day dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes.
- ❖ The day commemorates the August 19th, 2003 incident in which UN Diplomat Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 20 others were killed in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.
- ❖ Five years later, the UN General Assembly officially adopted a resolution designating 19th August as the world humanitarian day.

- ❖ The theme of the day for 2019 is 'Women Humanitarians'.
- ❖ It is as a mark of respect to women humanitarians who have been working on the front lines in war and other affected areas of the world.



World Photography Day – August 19

- ❖ The World Photography day is celebrated every year on August 19th.
- ❖ It is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science and history of photography.

