

August - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamilnadu government has won three awards for excellence under Union Government's Poshan Abiyaan scheme.
 - Poshan Abiyaan is a multi-ministerial convergence mission to attain malnutrition-free India and was launched in 2017.
- ❖ In a first in the history of Indian Metro rail projects, Pune Metro will get aluminium-bodied coaches. Thus far, Metros in the country have used stainless steel-bodied coaches.
 - Aluminium coaches are lighter in weight, more energy efficient and have better aesthetics and will be manufactured in Kolkatta.
- ❖ The 9-Day National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav" is being held at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh from 17th August. It is organised jointly by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
- ❖ Akilesh Ranjan Task Force for drafting a New Direct Tax Legislation has submitted its report and a draft of the new proposed version of the Income-tax law to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ Clinical trials conducted amid an Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have identified two new drugs that can dramatically cut mortality from the disease - REGN-EB3 and mAb114.
- ❖ Researchers from Dresden University, Germany have developed a new self-calibrating, lens-less endoscope that produces three-dimensional (3D) images of objects smaller than a single cell.
- ❖ In the run-up to the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet to be held on December 2019, the BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) has held its 28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change from 14th to 16th August, 2019 at Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- ❖ South Korea's Lee Duck-hee has become the 'first deaf player' to win a match in the main draw of a tournament on the ATP Tour.
 - He beat Switzerland's Henri Laaksonen at the Winston-Salem Open in North Carolina, USA.



TAMIL NADU

TN CM's Independence Day Awards

- ❖ The following awards were presented by the Tamil Nadu government on the occasion of Independence Day.

Award	Personality / Organisation
Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award	ISRO Chairman, K. Sivan
Kalpna Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise	P. Ramyalakshmi
Chief Minister's Special Award for Extraordinary Act of Bravery	P. Shanmugavelu and his wife Senthamarai, Kadayam, Thirunelveli for chasing away robbers.
Best Practices Award	1. Greater Chennai Police Commissionerate - for installation of 'Third Eye' CCTV Cameras and Facetagr App for crime detection
	2. Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj- for Naganathi River Rejuvenation Project in Vellore district under MGNREGS.
Award for Tax App	Dept. of Commercial Taxes - For developing a mobile app and establishing a 24x7 help desk to provide assistance for migration to GST system
Exemplary Service for the Welfare of the Differently-abled	Opportunity School for Intellectually Disabled in Vepery
Best Doctor Awards	Dr. V. Ramadevi of Government Kilpauk Medical College and Dr. S. Vetrivel Chezian of Government Coimbatore Medical College Hospital
Best Private Employer Award	Everest Stabilizers Pvt. Ltd
Best Social Worker Award	Chandra Prasad, Pathway organisation
Best cooperative bank award	Salem District Central Cooperative Bank
Award for services rendered towards the welfare of women.	M. Soosai Marian
Best institution for serving women	Bothimaram, Salem
Best Corporation	Salem
Best 3 Municipalities	Dharmapuri, Vedaranyam and Aranthangi
Chief Minister's State Youth Award	P. Naveenkumar, M. Anandakumar, R. Kalaivani

Invasive Plant Species in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

- ❖ The Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) which boasts the highest density of tiger population in Tamil Nadu, is facing a threat from an invasive plant species named “Cassia spectabilis (native of North America)”.
- ❖ MTR is already being eradicated of two other invasive species - lantana camara and parthenium.
- ❖ For any alien species, the new soil, environment and the climatic condition would work favourably.
- ❖ The food chain in the forest area gets disturbed by invasive species which prevent germination of native species of plants, including grass.

NATIONAL

National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL)

- ❖ India has got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL).
- ❖ The list has been finalised by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ NEDL is based on World Health Organisation’s EDL released in 2018.
- ❖ With this, India has become the first country to compile such a list.
- ❖ The NEDL list would provide guidance to the government for ‘deciding the kind of diagnostic tests’ that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require.
- ❖ The list is meant for facilities from village till the district level.

Environmental and Social Management Framework – Coastal States

- ❖ The Environment Ministry has unveiled a draft plan to assess prospective infrastructure projects situated along the coast before they can apply for clearance.
- ❖ The draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is part of a World Bank-funded project.
- ❖ The document lays out guidelines out for coastal States to adopt when they approve and regulate projects in coastal zones.
- ❖ It describes how “environmental and social aspects” ought to be integrated into the planning, design, implementation of projects.



- ❖ Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal are three coastal states that have already prepared Coastal Zone Management Plans with support from the World Bank.

2nd Uday Express

- ❖ The 2nd UDAY (Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada in the East Coast Railway zone.
- ❖ The 1st double-decker UDAY Express started service between Coimbatore and Bangalore in June 2018.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

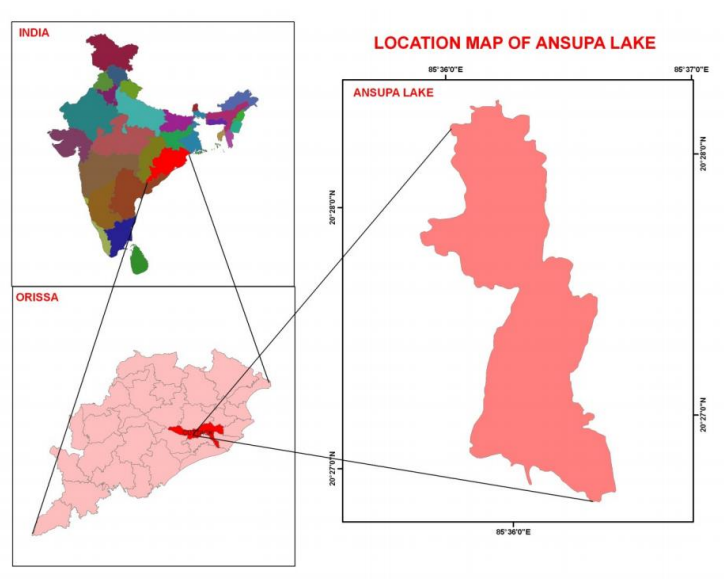
Biosimilar Medicines

- ❖ Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has launched the vital breast cancer treatment drug - Versavo (bevacizumab) in India.
- ❖ It is biosimilar of the internationally used Avastin drug.
- ❖ Biosimilarity means that the biological product is highly similar to the reference product not withstanding minor differences in clinically-inactive components.
- ❖ There are no differences in terms of safety, purity, and potency of the product.

STATES

Chilika and Ansupa lakes – Odisha

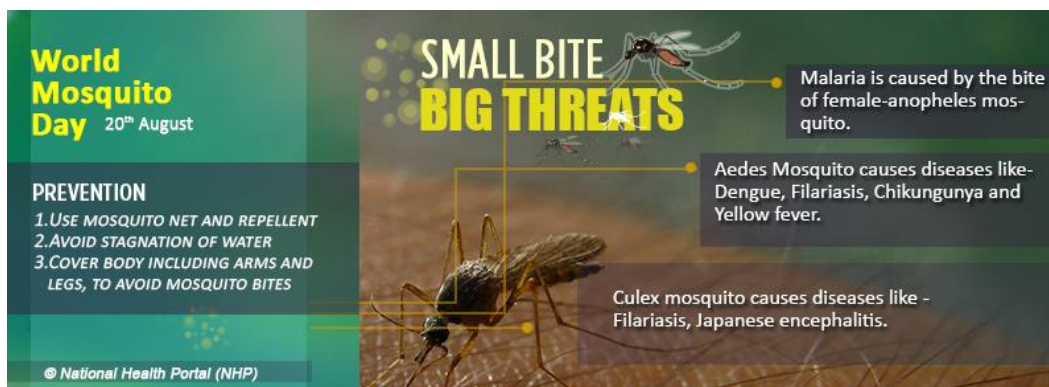
- ❖ The Odisha Wetland Authority has approved implementation of an integrated management plan to conserve two of its largest lakes.
 - Chilika - India's largest brackish water lagoon, famous for its endangered Irrawaddy dolphins and migratory birds during winter.
 - Ansupa – Odisha's largest freshwater lake, famous for sweet water fish. It is also wintering ground for 32 species of migratory birds.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Mosquito Day – August 20

- ❖ World Mosquito Day is observed annually on 20 August.
- ❖ World Mosquito Day was first established in 1897, when the link between mosquitos and malaria transmission was discovered by Sir Ronald Ross.
- ❖ The day commemorates the discovery by Ross.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented, as well as fund raising for research into the cure of malaria.
- ❖ Mosquitos are attracted more to O type bloods and they can smell carbon dioxide from 100 metres away.



World Mosquito Day 20th August

PREVENTION

1. USE MOSQUITO NET AND REPELLENT
2. AVOID STAGNATION OF WATER
3. COVER BODY INCLUDING ARMS AND LEGS, TO AVOID MOSQUITO BITES

SMALL BITE BIG THREATS

Malaria is caused by the bite of female-anopheles mosquito.

Aedes Mosquito causes diseases like- Dengue, Filariasis, Chikungunya and Yellow fever.

Culex mosquito causes diseases like - Filariasis, Japanese encephalitis.

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Sadbhavana Diwas (Communal Harmony Day) – August 20

- ❖ Every year 20 August is celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas or Communal Harmony Day to commemorate birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ This day is observed to encourage national integration, peace, affection and communal harmony among Indian people of all religions.
- ❖ 20 August 2019 marks 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

