

August - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The recent excavation carried out by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at Maharashtra's Phupgaon has revealed evidence of an Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region.
 - The site is situated near Purna river, which is a tributary of Tapi.
- ❖ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and tennis player Sania Mirza will be among co-chairs for India Economic Summit to be held in October by the World Economic Forum.
- ❖ Former Indian opener Vikram Rathour has been appointed as team India's new batting coach. He will replace Sanjay Bangar. While Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar were retained as bowling and fielding coaches.

NATIONAL

Op-Blue Freedom: Phase 2

- ❖ After the success of the Chandigarh leg, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and former India football captain Baichung Bhutia flagged off the Delhi leg of Op-Blue Freedom.
- ❖ Op-Blue Freedom is a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as the able bodied.
- ❖ The group of eight veterans, including from the elite special forces of PARA regiment and MARCOS (Special commando force of Indian Navy) trained people.
- ❖ The program aims to train adventure enthusiasts in special forces skills like survival techniques, emergency first response skills, unarmed combat, endurance and fitness.



SARAL – State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) launched SARAL - State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index.
- ❖ SARAL evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.
- ❖ It is the first of its kind index to provide a comprehensive overview of state-level measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment.
- ❖ Karnataka tops the SARAL index. It is followed by Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ SARAL has been designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), ASSOCHAM and Ernst & Young (EY).

INTERNATIONAL

Zambian President's India visit

- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, received Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the President of Zambia, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on his first state visit to India.
- ❖ They signed six MoUs in various fields including the e-VBAB network project.

About

- ❖ In 2018, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) signed an Agreement for the implementation of e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project.



- ❖ E-VBAB Network Project will provide free tele-education courses in various academic disciplines to 4000 students every year from African countries.

World Police and Fire Games' 2019

- ❖ World Police and Fire Games 2019 held at Chengdu, China's southwestern Sichuan province.
- ❖ Indian Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) sports personnel won 10 medals including 5 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.

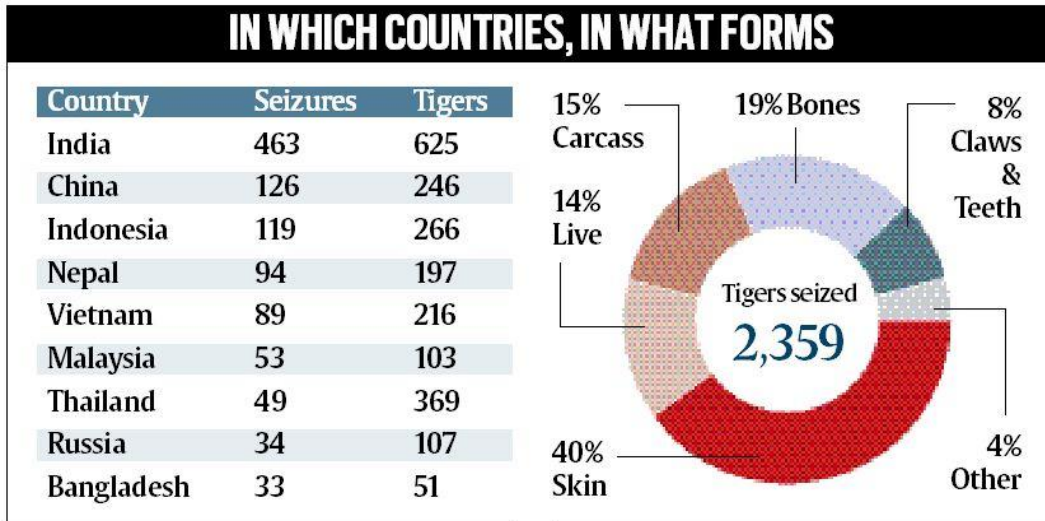
About

- ❖ It is a worldwide Olympic-style sporting event which is held every two years.
- ❖ The 2021 edition will be held in Rotterdam, Netherlands and 2023 will be in Winnipeg, Canada
- ❖ In this Olympic-style competition, Athletes from more than 70 countries participated and competed in more than 60 sports.

ENVIRONMENT

Illegal Trade in Tiger

- ❖ A new report by Traffic, an environmental NGO has quantified the illegal global trade in tigers and tiger parts over a 19-year period between 2000 and 2018.
- ❖ Although Tigers are listed in Appendix I of CITES recent years have revealed an increase in tiger captive breeding to fuel demand for various tiger products.
- ❖ All commercial international trade in animals listed in Appendix I of CITES is banned.
- ❖ The top three countries with the highest number of seizure incidents were India (625), followed by China and Indonesia.
- ❖ In terms of various body parts seized, India had the highest share among countries for tiger skins (38%), bones (28%) and claws and teeth (42%).



STATES

Kutch Desert – A Former Tropical Forest

- ❖ A team of Indian and French researchers have concluded that the hot arid desert of Kutch was once a humid sub-tropical forest with a variety of birds, freshwater fish and possibly giraffes and rhinos.
- ❖ Their conclusions are based on the discovery of a tranche of vertebrate fossils from nearly 14 million years ago in a geological period known as the Miocene.
- ❖ The fossils were found at a place called Palasava.
- ❖ The findings point to clues on how mammals dispersed between Africa and the Indian subcontinent nearly 300 million years ago.

Amazon at Hyderabad

- ❖ Amazon has opened its largest campus in the world in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The campus covers 1.8 million square feet and can accommodate 15,000 workers.
- ❖ This is Amazon's first owned-building outside of the US and is also its largest tech base outside the Seattle headquarters.

Highest ever rainfall in 70 years

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh received the highest ever rainfall for a 24-hour period, since records began almost 70 years ago.



- ❖ The state as a whole received 102.5 mm and this was 1,065 per cent more than normal for this day.
- ❖ The highest rainfall of 252 mm was recorded in Bilaspur district, which was 2,586 per cent more than its normal level.

SPORTS

3rd Nation's Cup 2019

- ❖ India's junior women boxers' team has clinched 12 medals at the 3rd Nation's Cup 2019 held in Serbia.
- ❖ It includes 4 gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze medals.
- ❖ The gold medal winner, Tamanna won the 'Best Foreign Boxer' award.

Medal	Winners
Gold	1. Tamanna 2. Ambeshori Devi 3. Preethi Dahiya 4. Priyanka
Silver	1. Anju Devi 2. Simran Verma 3. Manshi Dalal 4. Tanishbir Kaur Sandhu
Bronze	1. Aashreya Naik 2. Neha 3. Khushi 4. Alfiya Akram Khan Pathan



South Asian Spelling Bee contest

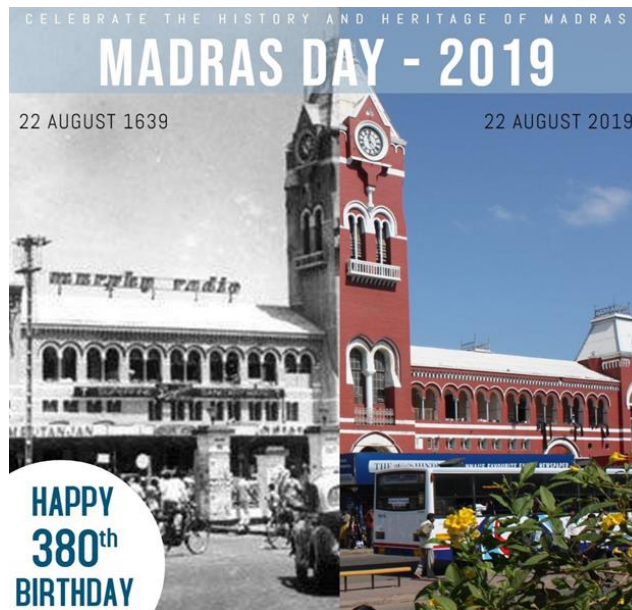
- ❖ Navneeth Murali, an Indian-American teenager from New Jersey, has won the 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest.
- ❖ The South Asian Spelling Bee (SASB) is an annual spelling bee platform in the US for children of South Asian descent.
- ❖ The competition is open to any student at or below the age of 14, who has at least one parent or grandparent who is of South Asian descent, or whose lineage can be traced to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and/or Sri Lanka.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Madras Day - August 22

- ❖ Madras Day is a festival organized to commemorate the founding of the city of Madras (now Chennai) in Tamil Nadu on 22 August every year.
- ❖ On 22 August 1639, it is being the widely agreed date for the purchase of the village of Madraspatnam or Chennapatnam by East India Company from Damarla Venkatadri Nayaka.
- ❖ Madras Week will be celebrated from August 18 to 25 with various events.
- ❖ The first recorded celebration of the founding of Madras was its commemoration in 1939.
- ❖ Recent idea to mark Madras Day celebrations was started by Chennai Heritage Foundation in 2004.



International Day for Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief – August 22

- ❖ On 22 August 2019, for the first time, the world is observing 'International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief'.
- ❖ It aims to honour victims and survivors of heinous acts who often remain forgotten.
- ❖ United Nation General Assembly on 28 May 2019, adopted resolution for designating 22 August as this International Day.

