

August - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the first World Youth Conference on Kindness in New Delhi on August 23, 2019.
 - It is organised by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi has launched redevelopment project of the 200-year-old Sri Krishna temple in Manama, Bahrain.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi has been honored with two prestigious state awards from monarchs in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
 - From Bahrain: The King Hamad Order of the Renaissance and from UAE: Order of Zayed.
- ❖ Nigeria has become the first country to approve open cultivation of genetically modified (GM) Bt cowpea. Earlier, Nigeria and Ethiopia had also approved GM cotton.
- ❖ Iran's President Hassan Rouhani inducted domestically built 'Bavar-373 air missile defense system' into their military.
- ❖ The Indian team of Sukhbeer Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare clinched a 'bronze medal' in the junior compound men's team event in the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid, Spain.
- ❖ India's 'Statue of Unity' and 'Soho House' in Mumbai have been featured in the Time's list of 100 greatest places in the world. The list is divided into places to visit, to stay and to eat and drink.

TAMIL NADU

Kalvi Tholaikkatchi

- ❖ Tamilnadu government has launched a TV Channel exclusively dedicated for school students in the state.
- ❖ Named as 'Kalvi Tholaikkatchi', it will telecast programmes from 6 am to 9.30 pm every day.
- ❖ Programmes will be based on board exam preparation for students, employment news and opportunities for the youth and career-guidance information.
- ❖ The channel will be available on Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV and Thamizhaga Cable TV Communication Private Limited.

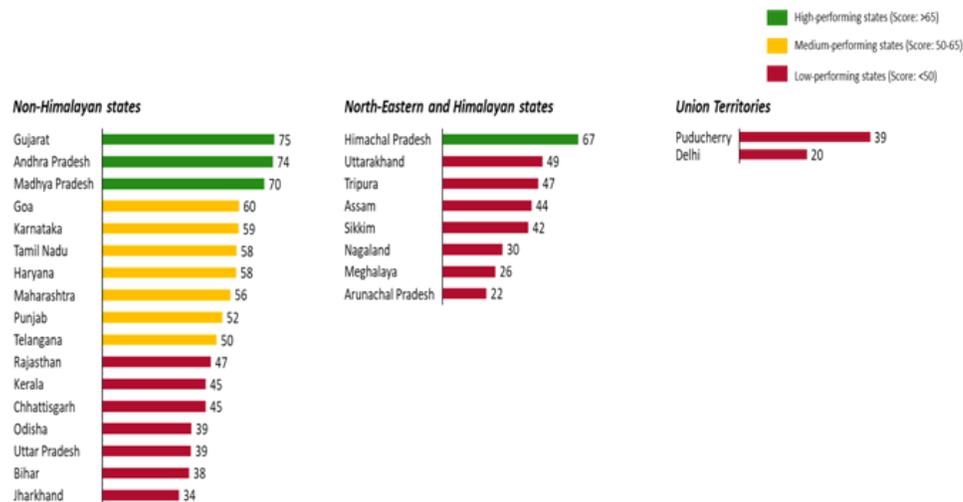
Ecotoxicology Centre at SACON, Coimbatore

- ❖ Union Environment and Forest Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences (SACON), Anaikatti, near Coimbatore.
- ❖ SACON was formed in 1990.
- ❖ The Centre would study the harmful effects of environmental contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals and drugs on birds, which reach them through the food chain.
- ❖ Ecotoxicological studies are important because ecological factors are unable to explain continued mortality of birds.
- ❖ Example: the near extinction of vultures, from 40 million to nearly one thousand.

NATIONAL

Composite Water Management Index 2.0

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0).



- ❖ It is a tool to assess and improve the performance of States/ UTs in efficient management of water resources.
- ❖ This assessment has been done in partnership with Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Rural Development and all the States/ Union Territories.
- ❖ The first such index was released in 2018.
- ❖ It has found that in 2019 rankings, 80% states have improved their water management scores.

Rankings

- ❖ Reference year for rankings: 2017-18.
- ❖ Gujarat topped the list followed by Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged number 1 followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura and Assam.

Mesovelia Insects

- ❖ Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India have discovered seven species of 'water treaders'. (Genus: Mesovelia).
- ❖ These are semi-aquatic insects that can walk or run on the surface of water.
- ❖ They have hydrophobic setae (bristles) on their legs.
- ❖ The combination of hydrophobic setae and water surface tension prevents them from sinking.



INTERNATIONAL

First Floating Nuclear Reactor - Russia

- ❖ Russia has launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor, the Akademik Lomonosov.
- ❖ It is on a 5,000 km journey between port of Murmansk and Pevek in Siberia.
- ❖ When it arrives in Pevek, it will 'replace' a local nuclear plant and a closed coal power plant.
- ❖ Power produced from the plant will be used by Russia in the exploitation of hydrocarbons in the Arctic.

- ❖ Environmental groups have long warned of the dangers of the project, dubbing it a potential "Chernobyl on ice" and a "nuclear Titanic."



South-South and Triangular Cooperation

- ❖ An international dialogue on South-South and Triangular Cooperation was recently held in New Delhi.
- ❖ South-South cooperation is a broad framework of collaboration among countries of the Southern Hemisphere in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains.
- ❖ It is collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South economic initiatives.



ECONOMY

Emergency Economic Measures – Finance Minister

- ❖ On concerns of a slowing economy Union Finance Minister Nirmala announced a number of measures to boost growth.

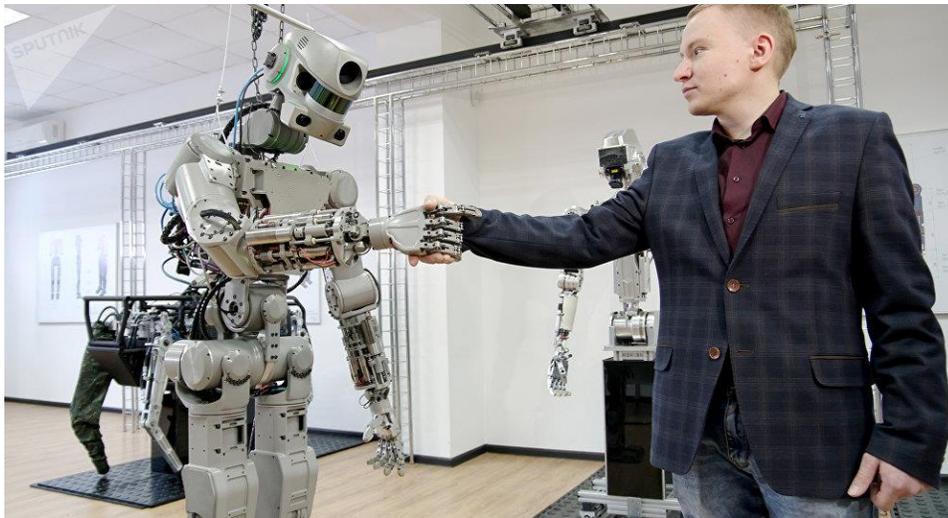
Some Key Measures

- ❖ ₹70,000 crore of capital infusion in public sector banks.
- ❖ Rescinded ban on the purchase of new vehicles by government departments.
- ❖ From October 1, IT department summons should be generated by a centralised computer with a unique code only.
 - Any other summon, sent by tax authorities and without unique code is considered invalid.
- ❖ An additional ₹20,000 crore of liquidity to the housing finance companies.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Fedor Robot

- ❖ Russia has launched an unmanned rocket carrying life-sized robot to the International Space Station (ISS) from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- ❖ The robot is named Fedor (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research).
- ❖ It is the first ever robot sent into space by Russia.



ENVIRONMENT

Amazon Forest Fires

- ❖ The Amazon rainforest has been burning at a rate which has alarmed environmentalists and governments worldwide.
- ❖ Amazon has lost more than 344,500 hectares of forest cover between January and June 2019.
- ❖ Brazil's current Far-right President, Jair Bolsonaro has been blamed for encouraging wide spread tree-clearing activities for agriculture and mining.
- ❖ Though forest fires are common in Amazon between the July – October dry season, most of them are due to natural reasons.
- ❖ Amazon rainforests are important because
 - It produces 20 per cent of the oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere.
 - It influences the water cycle on a global scale not just regional scale.
 - An area of rich biodiversity and home to indigenous communities whose live is now under threat.



Global Coal Usage

- ❖ According to the findings of International Energy Agency (IEA) and 2019 BP Statistical Review, Asia is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, accounting for 75 % of global demand.
- ❖ China is the world's largest consumer of Coal, followed by India, Japan and South Korea.

STATES

Women Government Drivers

- ❖ The Kerala government has decided to appoint women drivers in government departments and public sector undertakings.
- ❖ This is the first time any state government has decided to allow women to drive government vehicles.

SPORTS

PV Sindhu - BWF World Championships

- ❖ PV Sindhu defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara 21-7, 21-7 in the women's singles final to become the first Indian to win Gold at the BWF World Championships.
- ❖ This is Sindhu's fifth medal at the World Championships. (1 gold, 2 bronze, 2 silver)
- ❖ This record is the joint highest in women's singles in the history of the tournament along with Xhang Ning of China, a two-time Olympic gold medallist.
- ❖ In men's category, Sai Praneeth won the Bronze medal.

