

August - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kings College Hospital, London, to set up its branch in the state.

NATIONAL

12th India Security Summit

- ❖ The 12th India Security Summit was held in New Delhi with the theme “Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy”.
- ❖ India is the third largest user of internet and the cybercrime has increased manifold in the recent years.
- ❖ Various steps are taken by the Government to provide cyber security were discussed.

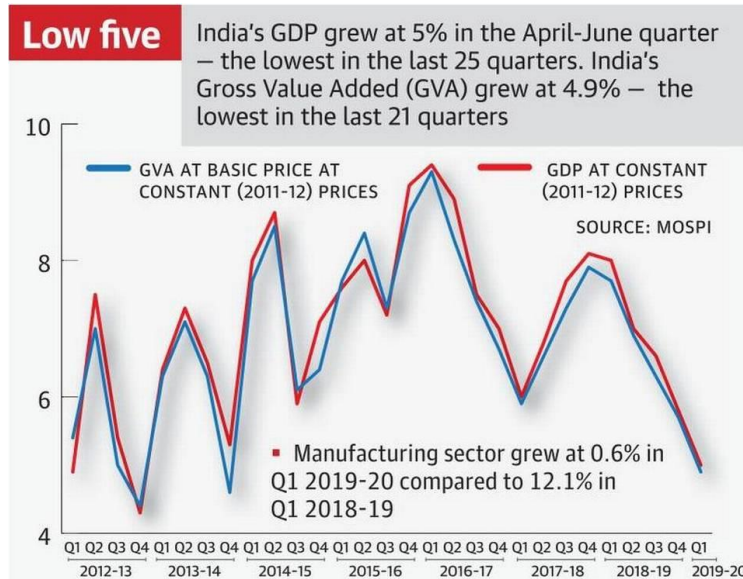
100% FDI in Coal

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has cleared the proposal to allow 100 % foreign investment in coal mining and contract manufacturing.
- ❖ 100 % FDI under automatic route in coal mining and sale of coal has been allowed to help attract international players to create an efficient and competitive coal market.

ECONOMY

GDP Growth

- ❖ India’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate slowed to a six-year low of 5% in the first quarter of the 2019-20 financial year.
- ❖ It was led by a dramatic slowdown in the manufacturing sector.
- ❖ The growth of Gross Value Added (GVA) stood at 4.9% in the first quarter of the financial year 2019-20, also the slowest in six years.



10 public sector banks to be merged

- ❖ 10 public sector banks are going to be merged into four.
- ❖ Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank are going to be merged.
- ❖ Union Bank, Andhra Bank and Corporate Bank are going to be merged.
- ❖ Punjab National Bank (PNB), Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India are going to be merged.

Strength in numbers

The government announced a series of mergers involving Public Sector Banks (PSB) on Friday. The move cut down the number of such banks from 27 in 2017 to 12. A look at the banks that will be merged:

Banks to be merged	Size of merged entity	Total business
Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank	2nd largest PSB	₹18 lakh cr.
Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank	4th largest PSB	₹15.2 lakh cr.
Union Bank, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank	5th largest PSB	₹14.6 lakh cr.
Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank	7th largest PSB	₹8.08 lakh cr.

- ❖ Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank are going to be merged.
- ❖ In place of 27 public sector banks in 2017, now there will be only 12 public sector banks.
- ❖ The largest of the mergers announced is that of Punjab National Bank with Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank.

- ❖ The above said amalgamated entity will become the second-largest public sector bank in India, after the State Bank of India.

STATES

Karnataka suspends Golden Chariot

- ❖ The Karnataka State government has temporarily suspended the operation of South India's only luxury train - the Golden Chariot.



- ❖ The service has been stopped due to heavy loss.
- ❖ It connects the important tourist spots in the Indian states of Karnataka, Goa, Kerala & Tamil Nadu as well as Pondicherry.
- ❖ It is named after the Stone Chariot in the Vitthala Temple at Hampi.
- ❖ The train, along with the Deccan Odyssey, is designed on the lines of the more popular Palace on Wheels.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Lalit Kala Akademi – 65th Foundation Day

- ❖ Lalit Kala Akademi celebrated its 65th Foundation Day on August 5th, 2019.
- ❖ Close to 500 postcards written and painted by artists from across India, form the massive installation that pays tribute to the Indian Army.
- ❖ Lalit Kala Akademi, the national academy of art, was inaugurated on August 5, 1954 in pursuance of a dream for a cultural and national identity.
- ❖ It is now chaired by sculptor Uttam Pacharne.

UEFA Awards

- ❖ Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk has been named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2018/19.



- ❖ He is the first defender ever to win the prestigious title.
 - UEFA Men's Player of the Year: Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool)
 - UEFA Women's Player of the Year: Lucy Bronze (Olympique Lyonnais)
 - Best players of the 2018/19 Champions League
 - Goalkeeper: Alisson Becker (Liverpool)
 - Defender: Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool)
 - Midfielder: Frenkie de Jong (Ajax)
 - Forward: Lionel Messi (Barcelona)

Amrita Pritam – Google Doodle

- ❖ Google celebrated the 100th birth anniversary of renowned Punjabi poet, Amrita Pritam with a Google Doodle on August 31, 2019.
- ❖ Amrit Kaur who became known by her stage name, Amrita Pritam was born in British India's Gujranwala, Punjab (present-day Pakistan).



- ❖ Notable works include Kala Gulab and Pinjar.
- ❖ The poet was known for her writings in the Punjabi language, Hindi and Urdu.
- ❖ Famous Awards conferred to Amrita
 - 1981 - Bharatiya Jnanpith literary Award.
 - 2005 - Padma Bhushan Award.

First astronaut in 2022 – Pakistan

- ❖ Pakistan announced that it will send its first astronaut to space in 2022 using close ally China's satellite launch facilities.
- ❖ In 2018, Pakistan launched two indigenously built satellites, onboard the Chinese Long March (LM-2C) rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre located at the Gobi Desert.
- ❖ One of them was a remote sensing satellite (PRSS1) — a dual purpose Earth observational and optical satellite.
- ❖ The second test satellite launched was a PAK-TES-1A to enhance satellite manufacture capabilities in the country.

We Care Film Fest

- ❖ Indian documentary film 'I'm Jeeja' bagged the top award in the 'Under 30 minute' category at the 14th edition of the 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues' held at New Delhi.
- ❖ The movies focussed on stereotypes about disability and the disabled.
- ❖ I'm Jeeja, directed by Swati Chakraborty tells the story of disability activist Jeeja Ghosh who suffers from cerebral palsy.



- ❖ Another Indian film Post Dark, directed by Vicky Khandpur's received a jury mention in 'Under 5 minutes' category.
- ❖ The festival is co-founded by UNESCO, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan, and Brotherhood - a New Delhi based NGO.

Yoga Awards

- ❖ The Prime Minister presented Yoga awards to the winners of *PM's Award for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga*.



- ❖ 12 commemorative postal stamps to honour eminent scholars, Practitioners and great Master Healers of AYUSH Systems were released.
- ❖ Winners of the year 2019 Yoga Awards

CATEGORY	AWARDEES
Individual - National	Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat
Individual - International	Ms. Antonietta Rozzi, Italy
Organisation - National	Bihar School of Yoga, Munger, Bihar
Organisation - International Organisation	Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan

- ❖ The Prime Minister also launched 10 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres (AYUSH HWCs) located in the state of Haryana.
- ❖ These Centres will be complementing the National Health Policy, 2017 that insisted upon integration and mainstreaming of AYUSH services in conventional health care delivery system.

SPORTS

Shooting World Cup - Elavenil Valarivan

- ❖ India's Elavenil Valarivan grabbed the Gold medal in the ISSF World Cup tournament.
- ❖ She secured top spot in the 10-metre Air Rifle category (Women) in the tournament.
- ❖ The competition took place in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.
- ❖ Elavenil hails from Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu.



- ❖ Elavenil has won a Gold in the ISSF Junior World Cup tournament in 2018.

Manasi Joshi – Para Badminton

- ❖ Manasi Joshi has won the BWF Para Badminton World Championships.
- ❖ The tournament is held at Basel in Switzerland.
- ❖ Joshi had previously won a bronze in the 2017 edition.
- ❖ Overall, India has bagged 12 medals in the BWF Para Badminton World Championships.
- ❖ Manasi became the first Indian to win the gold at the BWF World Champion.

Vismaya – 400m gold

- ❖ Vismaya clocked 52.12 seconds to clinch a gold in women's 400m run at the International Athletic Meeting.
- ❖ M.P.Jabir won the men's 400m hurdles.
- ❖ The event is held at Brno, Czech Republic.
- ❖ Men: 400m hurdles: M.P. Jabir (49.86s).
- ❖ Women's 400m:
 1. V.K. Vismaya (52.12s)
 2. M.R. Poovamma (53.47s)
 3. V. Subha (53.67s).

