

January - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ CPI (M) MP and Sahitya Akademi winner Su. Venkatesan has been selected for the Iyal award-2019.
 - This award is given by the Canada-based Tamil Literary Garden, an organisation dedicated to the promotion of Tamil internationally.
- ❖ Al-Shabaab has attacked a military base used by the United States of America (USA) and Kenyan forces in Kenya's coastal Lamu region.
 - Lamu Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is situated in the Indian Ocean in the East of Kenya.
- ❖ Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan announced Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) declaration in the scientific establishments on the lines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
 - If enacted, India would be possibly the first country in the world to implement a national policy on scientific social responsibility.

NATIONAL

Women Science Congress

- ❖ The 9th Women Science Congress (WSC) is organized as part of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
- ❖ The event highlighted opportunities that can help women overcome the hurdles they face because of their gender in the pursuit of Science.
- ❖ Indian Science Congress Association is a premier scientific organisation of India with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ The first meeting of the Congress was held in January 1914 at the premises of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta.

KIRAN Scheme

- ❖ KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing) is the women-exclusive scheme of DST (Department of Science and Technology).
- ❖ Its mandate is to bring gender parity in S&T through gender mainstreaming.
- ❖ Different programs and components of KIRAN deals with various crucial issues which are faced by women scientists in their career path.

Naseem Al Bahr Naval exercise

- ❖ Oman ships has arrived in Goa to participate in Naseem Al Bahr naval exercise.
- ❖ The Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr (sea breeze) is a bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and Oman.
- ❖ The exercise is being conducted since 1993.
- ❖ Other exercises between India and Oman:
 - Exercise Al-Najah: It is an army exercise conducted between the India and Oman.
 - Exercise Eastern Bridge: It is an Air Force exercise that is held between India and Oman.



ICMR report on Sugar Intake of India

- ❖ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released its report on sugar intake of India.
- ❖ The report was released based on a joint survey conducted by ICMR, NIN (National Institute of Nutrition), Hyderabad and ILSI (International Life Science Institute of India).
- ❖ The study is the first of its kind in the country.
- ❖ The report also stated that Intake of sugar by women was 20.2 g/day and that of men was 18.7 g/day.



INTERNATIONAL

Iran Nuclear Deal

- ❖ Iran had completely withdrawn from JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) nuclear deal.
- ❖ The announcement came after the US troops killed General Qassem Soleimani.
- ❖ The Iran nuclear deal also called as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed between Iran and the P5 plus Germany and the EU in 2015.
- ❖ P5 is the five permanent members of the UNSC (US, China, France, Russia, and UK).
- ❖ The deal restricts Iran's nuclear programme, in return for lifting most economic sanctions against it.

Implications for India:

- ❖ Iran is presently India's third biggest supplier (after Iraq and Saudi Arabia) of oil, and any increase in prices will hit both inflation levels as well as the Indian rupee.
- ❖ It would impact the development of Chahbahar port.

ECONOMY

NSE Knowledge Hub

- ❖ Union Commerce minister has inaugurated the NSE Knowledge Hub.
- ❖ It is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered learning ecosystem.
- ❖ The platform has been developed by NSE Academy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- ❖ This platform seeks to assist the banking, financial, securities and insurance (BFSI) sector in enhancing skills for their employees.

About NSE

- ❖ NSE is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai.
- ❖ The NSE was established in 1992.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Global Drosophila conference - Pune

- ❖ The fifth edition of the Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference (APDRC5) commenced at Pune.

- ❖ It was organised in the country for the first time by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).
- ❖ The conference is held twice a year.

Drosophila

- ❖ It is a small fruit fly and belongs to the Drosophilidae family.
- ❖ It is used as a model organism in researches.
- ❖ Its genome is entirely sequenced and there is an enormous amount of information available about its biochemistry, physiology and behaviour.



STATES

Deliver sand at door steps – AP government

- ❖ As a pilot project, The Andhra Pradesh Government announced that it will deliver sand at customers' door steps.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation will implement this initiative.
- ❖ The step will help address issues of sand scarcity and sand mafia.
- ❖ Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) act (MMDR act), 1957 provides rules to prevent illegal mining of sand.

Miyawaki method of afforestation

- ❖ The Miyawaki method of afforestation is to come up on the government office premises, residential complexes, school premises, and puramboke land in Kerala.
- ❖ The Miyawaki method involves planting saplings in small areas, causing them to “fight” for resources and grow nearly 10 times quicker.
- ❖ It originated in Japan, and is now increasingly adopted in other parts of the world, including Chennai.
- ❖ It has revolutionised the concept of urban afforestation by turning backyards into mini-forests.



Maharashtra - PMFBY

- ❖ Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to integrate its land records with the web portal of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- ❖ The integration of land records with the PMFBY has helped in saving of time and plugging leakages as the land records will be available online.

About PMFBY

- ❖ The PMFBY is the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme.
- ❖ It was launched in 2016.
- ❖ The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ❖ The scheme envisages a uniform premium of 2% to be paid by farmers for Kharif crops and 1.5% for Rabi crops.
- ❖ The premium for annual commercial and horticultural crops will be 5%.

MISCELLANEOUS

Year of Mobility – 2020

- ❖ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) observes 2020 as the “Year of Mobility” for the welfare of the troops.
- ❖ It will focus on construction of residential units and implementation of welfare measures.

CISF

- ❖ The CISF was initially established under the CISF act, 1968.
- ❖ It was converted into armed force under an amendment to the act in 1983.
- ❖ It is the largest security system in the world.
- ❖ The Force is operated under Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Conservation of Bibi Ka Maqbara

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will undertake scientific conservation of Bibi Ka Maqbara located in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The maqbara was commissioned in 1660 by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in the memory of his wife Dilras Banu Begum.
- ❖ The structure is known as the ‘Taj of the Deccan’ because of its striking resemblance to the Taj Mahal.

