

July - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari, virtually inaugurated India's first and only paint made from cow dung named 'Khadi Prakritk Paint'.
 - The minister also declared himself as the "Brand Ambassador" of paint, to promote it across the country.
- ❖ Two more international airports will be added in north eastern states at Imphal and Agartala.
 - This is done with an aim of increasing connectivity in the region.
- ❖ All COVID-19 lockdown restrictions including wearing face masks, social distancing, and work from home will end on July 19, 2021, in England.
 - This is according to the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's recent announcement.
- ❖ The Army inducted the first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10m.
 - It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation in association with Larsen & Toubro Limited.

NATIONAL

Firing Range - Vidya Balan



- ❖ The Indian Army has named a firing range in Gulmarg, Kashmir after an Indian cinema actress, Vidya Balan.

- ❖ She has contributed to Indian cinema for over two decades after she started her career on small screen.
- ❖ To recognise her contributions to cinema, this range was named after her.

mRNA vaccine technology

- ❖ A team of Indian researchers who have been working on developing mRNA vaccine technology have been awarded a grant by Ignite Life Science Foundation.
- ❖ The mRNA vaccines have reportedly been highly effective against COVID-19 infection, especially against severe cases
- ❖ Both Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine use mRNA technology to offer protection against SARS-CoV-2.

New penalty slabs for fraud messages

- ❖ The Department of Telecom (DoT) has proposed to fine Rs 10,000 for fraud messages in order to tighten noose on pesky callers.
- ❖ New penalties are,
 - Rs 1,000 per violation for 0-10 breaches,
 - Rs 5,000 each for 10-50 violations and
 - Rs 10,000 each for more than 50 violations.

CRACKING THE WHIP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ New rules come as Unwanted Commercial Communication (UCC) continues to remain a menace for users➤ Failure even after Do-No-Disturb (DND) directory➤ New rules censure both registered and unregistered telemarketers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Repeated troublemakers face disabling of their numbers and mobile devices➤ Disconnection will take place when unwanted communication continues for three months in particular cases, or exceeds 50 cases in a month for two months

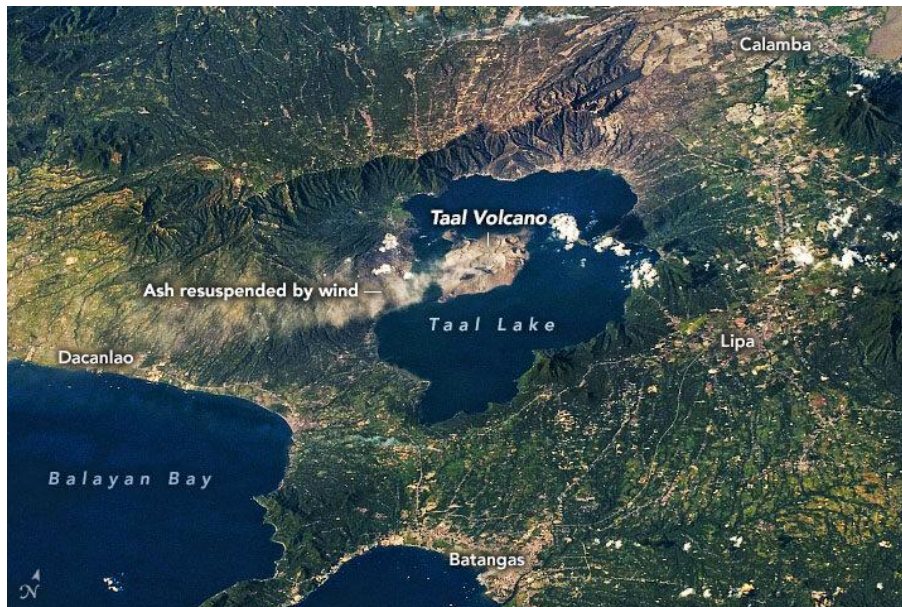
Mango diplomacy

- ❖ The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, has gifted 2,600 kg of Haribhanga variety of mangoes to Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- ❖ Truck carrying mangoes crossed Bangladesh-India border through Benapole port in Jessore.
- ❖ Mangoes are a “memento of friendship” between both the countries.
- ❖ The Mangoes are of “Haribhanga variety” which are grown in Rangpur region of Bangladesh.

INTERNATIONAL

Taal volcano

- ❖ The Philippine scientists warned that Taal volcano to the south of Manila could erupt again "anytime soon".
- ❖ This has forced thousands of people from vulnerable communities to flee from their homes.
- ❖ The volcano has been emitting sulphur dioxide for the past week.
- ❖ The Taal volcano had erupted last in January 2020.



Trafficking in Persons report 2021

- ❖ Trafficking in Persons report 2021 was recently released by US State Department.



- ❖ As per the report, Covid-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to human trafficking and interrupted existing anti-traffic efforts.
- ❖ The Countries were categorised on the basis of efforts they made to meet minimum standards of eliminating of human trafficking.
- ❖ There are totally three tiers.
- ❖ Countries whose governments do not comply with Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards completely are placed in Tier II.
- ❖ India is in this category.
- ❖ TVPA is US's law on human trafficking.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Asteroid Ryugu

- ❖ NASA has received its first sample of asteroid Ryugu that returned to Earth in December 2020 by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Hayabusa2 spacecraft.
- ❖ Samples from asteroid Ryugu is one of the first samples to leave Japan for preliminary investigation.
- ❖ Mike Zolensky was one of the first scientists to examine this sample so as to determine its basic nature.

Note

- ❖ Asteroid Ryugu is also called as 162173 Ryugu.
- ❖ It is provisionally designated as 1999 JU3.
- ❖ It is a near-Earth object and a potentially hazardous asteroid belonging to Apollo group.

Harit Dhara

- ❖ It is an anti-methanogenic feed supplement.
- ❖ It is developed by an Indian Council of Agricultural Research institute - National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru.
- ❖ When given to bovines and sheep, it cuts down their methane emissions by 17-20%.
- ❖ It also results in higher milk production and body weight gain.
- ❖ Methane is produced by animals having rumen, the first of their four stomachs.



- ❖ Harit Dhara has been prepared using condensed and hydrolysable tannin-rich plant-based sources.

Gravitational waves

- ❖ The Scientists have detected gravitational waves produced by collision of neutron star and black hole for the first time.
- ❖ Gravitational waves ripples were detected in fabric of space-time.
- ❖ This finding shows that there are neutron star-black hole systems.
- ❖ This system will help in answering several questions regarding cosmos ranging from star formation to expansion rate of universe.

Actual Shape of the Universe

- ❖ The Japanese astronomers have developed an artificial intelligence technique which will help in removing noise in astronomical data because of random variations in galaxy shapes.
- ❖ Scientists then applied this new technique to actual data from Japan's Subaru Telescope.
- ❖ They found that, mass distribution derived from this method is in consistent with currently accepted models of Universe.

STATES

Mishri cherries export

- ❖ The first commercial shipment of Mishri variety of cherries from the Kashmir valley has been exported to Dubai from Srinagar.
- ❖ The Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir produces more than 95% of the total country's production of commercial varieties of cherries.
- ❖ It produces four varieties of cherry - Double, Makhmali, Mishri and Italy.

Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22

- ❖ Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22 was launched for public recently.
- ❖ Delhi government has made new norms for bars in hotels, clubs and restaurants under the policy.
- ❖ As per policy document, Delhi is the 28th most visited city worldwide by foreign visitors.

- ❖ In India, Delhi holds first rank in the most visited city list.
- ❖ Excise is an important source of revenue in State.
- ❖ Thus, reforms were made in excise policy and new policy was put forward with the aim of boosting revenue in Delhi.
- ❖ It will also crack down on liquor mafia.
- ❖ As per new policy, bars in hotels, clubs & restaurants can remain open till 3 am.
- ❖ The Government will not be actively involved in retail liquor trade.
- ❖ This will lead to closure of state-run shops, hence promote private players in Delhi.

'Rules to ease access, target liquor mafia'

 <p>FOR THE CONSUMERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Age bar to be lowered from 25 to 21 ● Vends to have walk-in facility, be air-conditioned and well-lit ● New super vends with imported, expensive liquor to come up, will be open 1 hour longer ● People to be allowed to take away draught beer from restaurants, clubs ● Dry days to be brought at par with those in neighbouring states 	 <p>FOR CLUBS & RESTAURANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ID checks to restrict entry of those under 21 unless accompanied by someone older ● Licences and rules to be simplified to help ease of business ● No automatic 10% annual increase in licence fee
 <p>FOR TRADERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All liquor shops will need to be at least 500 sq ft in size and allow walk-in purchases ● Duties and taxes will mostly be paid as licence fees, with nominal rates applicable on sales ● No retail margin limit will be fixed by the government 	 <p>FOR STATE REVENUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revenue expected to grow by 20% in a year ● Equitable distribution across 30 zones to reduce hold of liquor mafia, help increase tax net ● Manufacturers will not be allowed to enter distribution cutting off-book sales

MISCELLANEOUS

Solar flare

- ❖ A team of scientists at NASA reported that the Sun erupted a huge solar flare from a sunspot known as AR2838.
- ❖ This was the largest solar flare since 2017.
- ❖ A solar flare is described as an intense burst of radiation coming from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots.
- ❖ Solar flares are the largest explosive events of our solar systems.

