



July - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Army has decided to place another order for 72,000 Sig 716 assault rifles under the fast-track procurement (FTP) programme from the United States.
- ❖ Andrej Sebastian Duda of the Law and Justice (PiS) party won the Presidential Election of Poland.
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under the Ministry of Defence is likely to acquire the remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle - Raven from the United States and Israel's Spike Firefly.

NATIONAL

Reservations for Divyangjan

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld a 2012 judgment of the Delhi High Court in Anamol Bhandari vs. Delhi Technological University.
- ❖ The decision highlighted Divyangjan are entitled to the same benefits of relaxation as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in public employment and education.

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

- ❖ The Supreme Court has upheld the rights of Travancore royal family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ❖ It is regarded as one of the richest temples of the country.
- ❖ The temple has six vaults, also known as nilavaras.
- ❖ These have been labelled as A to F.
- ❖ In June 2011, the Supreme Court directed the authorities from the archaeology department and the fire services, to open five vaults in the temple except for vault B.
- ❖ The vault B is by far the largest vault of the reported six.
- ❖ It has not been opened due to the belief that opening it would result in misfortune.



ECONOMY

Google for India Digitization Fund

- ❖ Google CEO Sundar Pichai has announced the launch of this fund.
- ❖ Through this fund, Google will be investing USD 10 billion or Rs. 75,000 crore in India over next 5-7 years.

Top trading partner of India

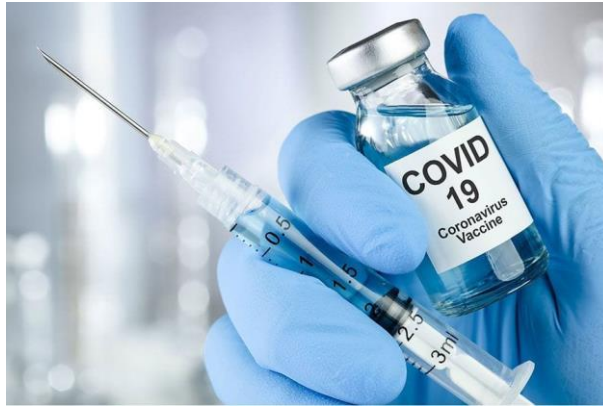
- ❖ The United States remains as the top trading partner of India during the Financial Year 2019-20.
- ❖ This is the second consecutive Financial Year that the United States has become the top trading partner of India.
- ❖ In the Financial Year 2018-19, United States surpassed the People's Republic of China to become the top trading partner of India.
- ❖ India continues to maintain a trade surplus over the United States as the trade deficit of the United States in Financial Year 2019-20 was USD 17.42 billion.
- ❖ It was as per the data from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Russia's vaccine on Covid

- ❖ Russia has become the first nation to complete clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccine on humans.
- ❖ It has successfully completed the clinical trials on volunteers at Sechenov State Medical University in Russia.

- ❖ The first vaccine, in the form of a solution for intramuscular administration, was carried out at the Burdenko Military Hospital.
- ❖ The second vaccine is in the form of a powder for the preparation of a solution for intramuscular administration.
- ❖ USA's Gilead Sciences, UK's Oxford University's researchers and American biotech company Moderna are at the forefront of developing a Covid-19 vaccine.



Snakebite Mortality

- ❖ India has recorded 1.2 million snakebite deaths in the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes snakebite as a top-priority neglected tropical disease.
- ❖ Around 70% of these deaths occurred in low altitude, rural areas of eight States namely Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- ❖ The numbers for annual snakebite deaths were highest in the States of Uttar Pradesh (8,700), Andhra Pradesh (5,200) and Bihar (4,500).
- ❖ Most of the envenomation was by Russell's vipers followed by kraits and cobras.
- ❖ Snakebite deaths occurred mostly in rural areas (97%), were more common in males (59%) than females (41%), and peaked at ages 15-29 years (25%).
- ❖ It was highlighted in the report 'Snakebite Mortality in India: A Nationally Representative Mortality Survey'.
- ❖ It was released by the Centre for Global Health Research (CGHR), Canada.



ENVIRONMENT

Forest Fires in India

- ❖ It was the report of the Forest Survey of India for the period of 2003–2017.
- ❖ About 54% of the forest cover in India is exposed to occasional fire.
- ❖ Most fire prone regions - Northeast India, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Himalayan Viagra

- ❖ Ophiocordyceps sinensis, also known as Himalayan Viagra, is a kind of fungus.
- ❖ It is the world's costliest fungus.
- ❖ It is endemic to the Himalayan and Tibetan plateau and is found in China, Bhutan, Nepal and India.
- ❖ In India, it is primarily found in Uttarakhand in the districts like Pithoragarh and Chamoli.
- ❖ Recently it has entered into the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ IUCN has placed this fungus, in the 'vulnerable' category.

Tiger Orchids

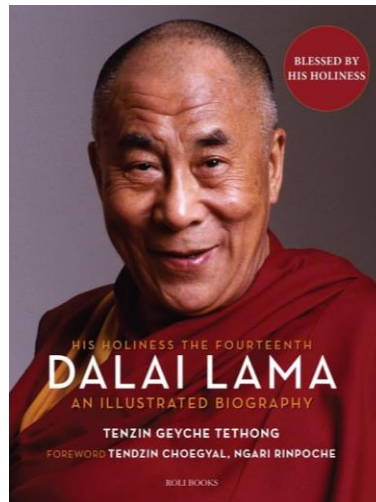
- ❖ These are called so for their large and resplendent flowers which resemble the tiger skin.
- ❖ They flower in alternate years.
- ❖ These epiphytic plants are not native to India.
- ❖ They are endemic to southeast Asia.
- ❖ The tiger orchid has an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records due to its massive size.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

14th Dalai Lama

- ❖ A book titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography' will be released in 2020.



- ❖ The book is authored by one of the Dalai Lama's closest aide Tenzin Geyche Tethong.
- ❖ The 14th Dalai Lama is Tenzin Gyatso.
- ❖ He now lives in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ He fled from Tibet and came to India at the age of 23.
- ❖ His teachings of peace and non-violence have won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

