

July -18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Maneesha S Inamdar has been part of the WHO Expert Advisory Committee on Developing Global Standards for Governance and Oversight of Human Genome Editing.
 - She is an Indian stem cell and developmental biologist.

TAMIL NADU

AK Rajan committee report

- ❖ The Former judge A.K. Rajan submitted his report on the people's response to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).
- ❖ The Justice Rajan told press persons that a majority of people who had responded were against NEET.
- ❖ NEET was introduced in the State in 2016 but it wasn't until 2018 that it became mandatory for admission to medical colleges.
- ❖ Last year, the State government introduced a special reservation of 7.5% of the total seats available in the State pool for government school students.
- ❖ Around 300 students benefited under this scheme.
- ❖ This year the Union Education Ministry has proposed to hold NEET on September 12.

NATIONAL

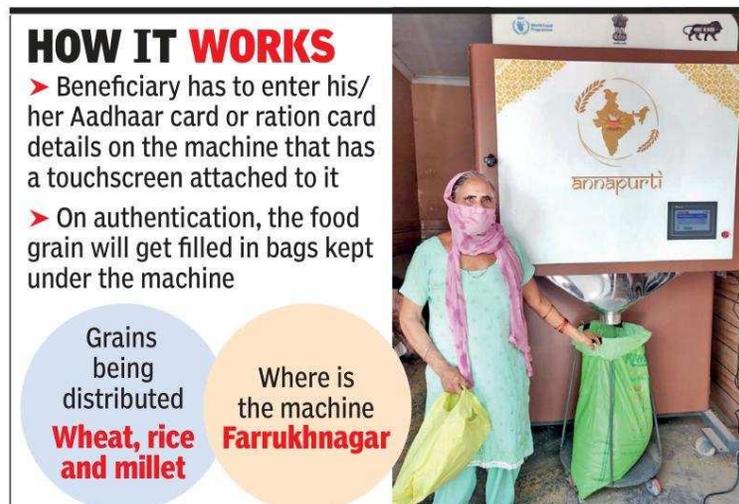
Tokyo Olympics cheer song



- ❖ Singer Ananya Birla has teamed up with music maestro AR Rahman to launch a cheer song for Indian sports personalities as they gear up for Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ Titled “Hindustani Way”, the song has been sung by Ananya and composed by Rahman.
- ❖ The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur also present in the launch of the song.

Country’s first Grain ATM

- ❖ The country’s first ‘Grain ATM’ has been set up as a pilot project in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ It works just like a bank ATM.
- ❖ This machine has been installed under the ‘World Food Programme’ of the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ It is called the ‘Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine’.
- ❖ Wheat, rice and millet can be distributed through this machine.
- ❖ At present, the distribution of wheat has been started from the ‘Grain ATM’ machine installed at Farrukh Nagar.



National Forensic Science University

- ❖ The Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a research-based centre of excellence at National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ This centre will help in research and analysis of drugs and narcotics seized in the different parts of the country and its routes.

- ❖ Home Minister also inaugurated the virtual training model on Investigation of Crime against women for Indian Police.

FIRs under Sec 66A of IT Act

- ❖ The Central Government has directed all states and Union Territories to ask police stations under their jurisdiction to withdraw FIRs registered under Section 66A of Information Technology Act, 2000.
- ❖ The Government also directed not to register cases under repealed Section 66A.
- ❖ Section 66A of IT Act provided for punishment of a maximum of three years in jail and a fine to a person accused of sending “offensive” messages using computer or any other communication device like mobile phone or tablet.
- ❖ The SC had struck down section 66A on March 24, 2015 after noting it as “vague and arbitrary”.
- ❖ It was dubbed as “draconian” because it allowed arrest of several innocent persons
- ❖ It was declared unconstitutional in Shreya Singhal v. Union of India case on March 24, 2015.

Ladakh signs MoU with Sikkim

- ❖ The Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh administration signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ‘Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency’ (SSOCA) regarding the implementation of ‘Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana’ (PKVY) and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) in the Ladakh region.
- ❖ The Objective is to convert Ladakh into a certified organic UT by 2025.
- ❖ The UT plans to achieve the organic status through 3 phases
- ❖ Sikkim was declared as the 1st ‘100 percent organic state’ in the world by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO).

INTERNATIONAL

Deep Dive Dubai

- ❖ Dubai has now opened the deepest swimming pool in the world.
- ❖ Deep Dive Dubai takes underwater explorers to depths of 60 m (196 ft).
- ❖ The pool resembles a “sunken city” that divers can explore.



G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meet

- ❖ The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) gathered in Venice in Italy for their third official meeting.
- ❖ The meeting was held under the Italian G20 Presidency.
- ❖ This was the first in-person Finance Track meeting since February 2020.
- ❖ G20 members continued their discussions on issues related to,
 - global economy and health, and
 - on the efforts to promote economic recovery and
 - the transition towards greener and more sustainable economies and societies.

World's smallest cow



- ❖ A tiny farm in Bangladesh claims to have bred the world's smallest cow.
- ❖ It's just 20 inches tall.
- ❖ Its name is Rani.
- ❖ Rani is 23-month-old dwarf cow.

- ❖ The mini cow is 26 inches long and weighs only 57 pounds.

Lower Arun Hydropower project

- ❖ Nepal has inked a USD 1.3 billion deal with Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam of India.
- ❖ This is to develop a 679-megawatt hydropower project in eastern Nepal.
- ❖ This will be the second mega venture in Nepal, undertaken by India.
- ❖ It is the single largest foreign investment project.
- ❖ This hydropower project will be developed under build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model.
- ❖ The first project undertaken by India in Nepal was USD 1.04 billion 900-MW Arun-3 hydroelectric project.
- ❖ Arun River is the largest trans-Himalayan River that passes through Nepal.
- ❖ River drains into Sapta Kosi river system.

BP's latest report

- ❖ The United States became the fourth-largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2020, according to BP's latest report.
- ❖ The US is behind Iraq, Saudi Arabia and UAE.
- ❖ US started exporting oil to India in 2017.
- ❖ It also turned out to be the fourth-largest natural gas supplier to India.

STATES

Kunwar Yatra

- ❖ The Supreme Court issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government for allowing the 'Kunwar Yatra' in the state.
- ❖ Kunwar Yatra is a pilgrimage, which is undertaken annually by the devotees of Lord Shiva.
- ❖ The devotees, mostly from northern states travel on foot to collect water from River Ganga at Haridwar in Uttarakhand to offer at Shiva temples in their areas.
- ❖ The Kunwar Yatra 2021 is scheduled to begin on July 25.
- ❖ The yatra was cancelled last year due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and ensuing lockdown.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2020 Millennium Technology Prize

- ❖ The 2020 Millennium Technology Prize, announced in May, has been awarded to Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman.
- ❖ It is awarded for their development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques.
- ❖ The award is given by the Republic of Finland, along with top Finnish academic institutions and industries.
- ❖ Shankar Balasubramanian was born in Chennai.

