

July - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Women can now register for annual Hajj pilgrimage without male guardian.
 - This is according to Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Saudi Arabia.

TAMIL NADU

28 crore saplings

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to plant 28 crore saplings in order to increase the forest cover.
- ❖ With a geographical area of 130,006 Sq Kms, the state has at present 23.8 per cent of forest cover.
- ❖ The Government is planning to increase it to 33 per cent.
- ❖ All the departments and other social welfare and NGOs will be involved in the drive to plant 28 crore saplings by removing trees like eucalyptus in another 10 years.

Dam across the Markandeya River

DISPUTE SO FAR		
1892 State of Madras and Mysore entered into an agreement on use, control and distribution of waters of the inter-state river. It was modified and amended in 1933		A tributary of Pennaiyar in Kelavarambali, Krishnagiri district
2012 Tamil Nadu objects to Karnataka's plan to divert Pennaiyar waters to about 160 tanks in Malur taluk	2018 TN moves SC to declare the unilateral action of Karnataka illegal	April TN blames Centre for failing to initiate action to stop the unauthorized diversions
2013 TN gets to know Karnataka proposed a check dam across river Markandeya, a tributary of Pennaiyar. Communications followed since then	Dec 2018 Centre says no request for appointment of arbitrator under the agreement was received from either state	July TN files interlocutory petition against construction of dam across river Markandeya
	Mar 2019 Karnataka argues that consent of TN government not required	Nov 14 Court dismissed the petition and posted the original suit for hearing on January 10

- ❖ The construction of the dam across the Markandeya River at Yargol in neighbouring Karnataka is likely to cast a shadow over the much-awaited Thenpennai-Palar river interlinking project.



- ❖ If the Karnataka government holds back water at the Yargol dam, it will lessen the flow into Pennaiyar.
- ❖ This will subsequently dim the prospects of the Krishnagiri dam receiving copious amount of water during the monsoon.
- ❖ This will have an adverse impact on the areas of northern Tamil Nadu downstream.

Note

- ❖ Thenpennai-Palar interlinking project envisages bringing 3 tmc water from Thenpennai river to Palar at Vaniyambadi in Tirupathur district.
- ❖ The project would benefit Vellore, Tirupathur and Ranipet districts.

NATIONAL

India - Nepal friendship rail project

- ❖ On July 18, 2021, the successful trial of movement of train was undertaken between Jaynagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.
- ❖ The length of the rail section is 34.50 km.
- ❖ This is the first section of the rail line links between the two countries.
- ❖ It connects Kurtha in the Mahottari district of Nepal to Jaynagar in the Madhubani district of Bihar.
- ❖ IRCON has set up the Jayanagar - Kurtha Railway under the India – Nepal friendship rail project.
- ❖ This is financed by the Indian government.
- ❖ The second section which is 17 km long will link Kurtha and Bhangaha.
- ❖ The 17 km long third phase will extend from Bhangaha to Bardibas.

NBDriver

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based Mathematical Model called 'NBDriver' (neighbourhood driver).
- ❖ This is used to identify cancer-causing alterations in cells.
- ❖ The algorithm uses a relatively unexplored technique of leveraging DNA composition to pinpoint genetic alterations responsible for cancer progression.

Kisan Sarathi

- ❖ The Digital platform called 'Kisan Sarathi' was launched recently.
- ❖ This will facilitate farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language.
- ❖ This initiative of Kisan Sarathi empowers farmers with technological interventions to reach farmers in remote areas.

LAUNCH OF KISAN SARATHI

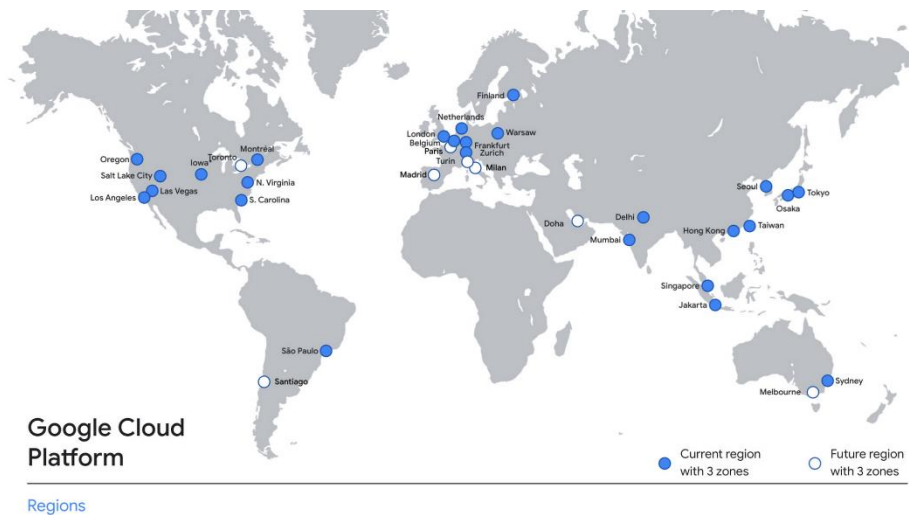


Joint Initiative by Indian Council of Agricultural Research & Digital India Corporation, MeitY

- ✔ Platform will leverage features of Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS)
- ✔ Personalized Advisory based on Farm and Farmer's profile
- ✔ LIVE interaction with domain experts from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)
- ✔ Anywhere, anytime access on past advisories
- ✔ Dashboard & MIS for Monitoring & Evaluation
- ✔ Access to Rich Agricultural Knowledge
- ✔ Push Alert Message on Location & Domain
- ✔ Call Facilities- Call on Mobile, Click to Call, Call Conferencing, Call Recording
- ✔ Enhances the outreach for Farmers

New Google Cloud Region

- ❖ Google Cloud has announced the launch of its new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR.
- ❖ This new Google Cloud region is the second such in India after Mumbai.
- ❖ Also it is the 10th in Asia-Pacific.
- ❖ Totally, 26 Google Cloud regions are present across the world.



TTX-2021

- ❖ Top defence officials from India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a virtual trilateral tabletop exercise “TTX-2021”.
- ❖ The exercise focused on maritime crimes like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue in the region.
- ❖ The two-day exercise was coordinated by the Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai.

INTERNATIONAL

Quadrilateral diplomatic platform

- ❖ The United States of America, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, have made a principal agreement to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform.
- ❖ Its primary aim is to enhance regional connectivity.
- ❖ This QUAD group was announced by the administration of Biden.



The India Story book



- ❖ Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan writes a new book titled ‘The India Story’.

- ❖ The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.
- ❖ He also authored the books 'India Then and Now', 'India Ahead'.

ENVIRONMENT

Vaquita porpoise

- ❖ Vaquita porpoise, the world's rarest and the smallest marine mammal, is on the edge of extinction.
- ❖ It is also known as "the panda of the sea" for the distinctive black circles around its eyes.
- ❖ This porpoise was discovered in 1958.
- ❖ It is unique among the porpoises as it is the only species of that family found in warm waters.
- ❖ It is found only in the northern Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) in Mexico.
- ❖ IUCN Status is noted as Critically Endangered.



STATES

One Block, One Product scheme

- ❖ The Haryana government will soon introduce the 'One Block, One Product' scheme.
- ❖ This is to encourage and promote small industries in the rural areas.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the state government plans to connect every block of the state with some industrial vision.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Cannes Film Festival

- ❖ Director Payal Kapadia's, "A Night of Knowing Nothing" won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary at the 74th Cannes Film Festival.
- ❖ She is a Mumbai-based filmmaker.
- ❖ Julia Ducournau won the Cannes' top prize, the Palme d'Or, for her film Titane.
- ❖ This made her the second woman to win the award.
- ❖ The first was Jane Campion in 1993 for the film "The Piano".
- ❖ The Best Director Award was won by Leos Carax for the pop-opera musical 'Annette'.
- ❖ Cannes Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Cannes, France.

Equator Prize 2021 - Indian organisations



- ❖ Aadhimalai Pazhangudiynar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust are among the 10 awardees of the prestigious Equator Prize 2021.
- ❖ They received the award for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity.
- ❖ The UNDP gives a biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.



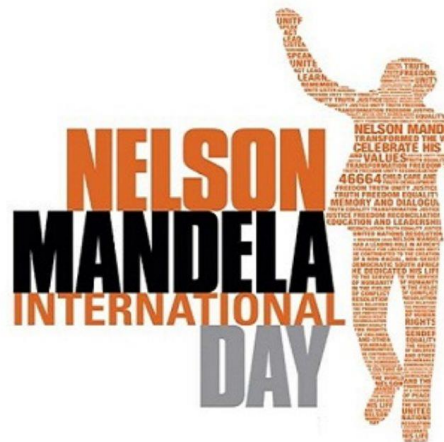
- ❖ Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited is run entirely by indigenous people from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Snehakunja Trust has protected sensitive wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Western Ghats and the Karnataka coast for 45 years.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Nelson Mandela Day – July 18

- ❖ The United Nations observes 18 July every year as Nelson Mandela International Day.
- ❖ The theme of this year for this Day is “One Hand Can Feed Another”.
- ❖ On 18 July 2009, the first Mandela Day was observed in New York.
- ❖ This year marks the 103rd birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
- ❖ He was the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa (1994-1999).

18th July



MISCELLANEOUS

Pegasus spyware

- ❖ The continued use of spyware Pegasus, which an Israeli company sells to governments worldwide, has been confirmed with fresh reports.
- ❖ It is a spyware tool developed by an Israeli firm, the NSO Group.
- ❖ Spyware spy on people through their phones.
- ❖ Pegasus spyware has been used to conduct surveillance on ministers, opposition leaders, journalists, government officials and scientists of India.

- ❖ India was among the 10 countries in the list with the most numbers.
- ❖ Mexico topped the list.

What Pegasus spyware can do

