



July - 23

TNPSC BITS



- ❖ The Union Power Minister R.K. Singh released 9th Integrated Ratings for State Power Distribution Utilities in New Delhi.
 - It was released on July 17th, the 36th Foundation Day of Power Finance Corporation (PFC), found in 1986.
- ❖ The Pakistan's Parliament passed a bill that criminalizes torture and prevents custodial killings by the police or other government officials.
- ❖ The Haryana Government announced that 'Khelo India Youth Games, 2021' will be organized in February 2022.
 - It will be a competition to be held in the 'under-18' category.
- ❖ The Kerala government is all set to launch a campaign called 'Mathru Kavacham' to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all the pregnant women in the state.
- ❖ The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has been extended to state agencies or Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs), national and state federations of cooperatives, federations self-help groups (SHGs) and federations of farmers producers organisations (FPOs).
 - This move is aimed at expanding "Rs 1-lakh-crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)".
- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to deliver the first batch of World's Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) to the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ❖ The Indian Navy received 10th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from US-based aerospace company, Boeing.
- ❖ The World's first 3D-printed steel footbridge was recently unveiled in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- ❖ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India and the Rajasthan government have joined hands to improve the Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in the state.
- ❖ Harela is the festival commemorating the new harvest and start of monsoon in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.

NATIONAL

Safe digital transmission of bail order

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India announced to implement a system for safe digital transmission of its bail orders to jails across India.
- ❖ Now the authorities will not be required to wait for authentic orders to release prisoners.
- ❖ Senior Advocate Dushyant Dave has been appointed as amicus curiae to aid implementation of scheme.
- ❖ One who is not a party to case but assists court by offering information, expertise, or insight with bearing on issues in any case are known as “Amicus Curiae”.
- ❖ Amicus Curiae is a Latin phrase that literally means ‘friend of the court’.

New Cabinet Committees

Key changes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Smriti Irani, Bhupendra Yadav, Giriraj Singh, Mansukh Mandaviya and Sarbananda Sonowal included in Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Virendra Kumar and Anurag Thakur included in Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs reduced in size from 11 members to eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth sees inclusion of Narayan Rane, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Ashwini Vaishnaw■ Bhupendra Yadav, G. Kishen Reddy and Ashwini Vaishnaw added to Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development

- ❖ The Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi reshuffled the different cabinet committees.
- ❖ There are eight cabinet committees that act as the final decision-making body on important political, economic, security and investment matters.



- ❖ There has been no change in the pecking order of the top ministers.
- ❖ The Home minister Amit Shah continues to be the second most powerful man in the government after PM Modi.
- ❖ He is part of all eight cabinet committees.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to head six of the eight committees.
- ❖ They are appointments, economic affairs, political affairs, security, investment and growth, and employment and skill development.

NEIFM rename



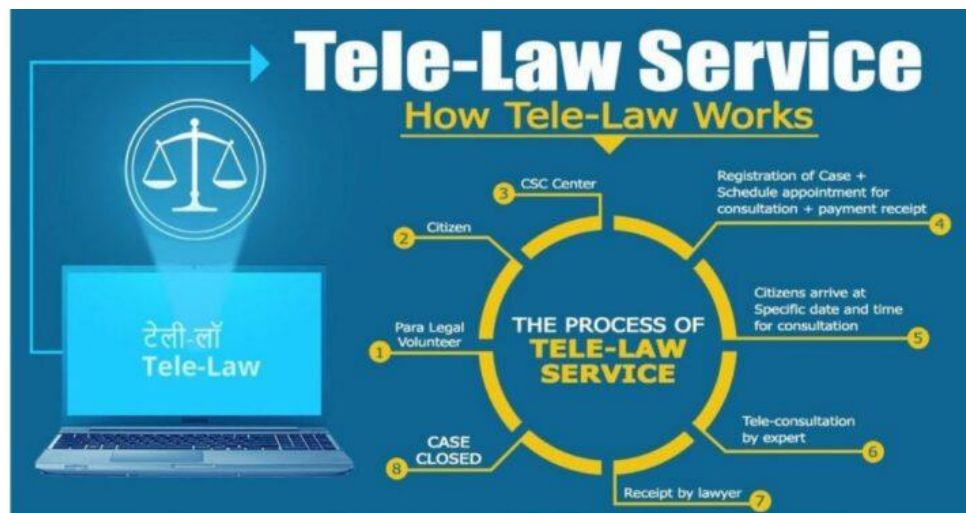
- ❖ The North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM), Pasighat at Arunachal Pradesh was renamed to North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine Research (NEIARMR).
- ❖ It is an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of AYUSH.

Operation Sagar Aaraksha II

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in coordination with Sri Lankan authorities, has been engaged in fighting a major fire in the container vessel MV X-Press Pearl anchored off Colombo.
- ❖ The ICG being an active member of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) remains committed to its responsibility of safeguarding of the ocean environment in the region.



Tele-Law programme



- ❖ Recently, the Justice Department commemorated the milestone of crossing 9 lakh beneficiaries under its Tele-Law programme through Common Service Centres.
- ❖ It was launched by the Ministry of Law and Justice in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in 2017 to address cases at the pre-litigation stage.



- ❖ It enables anyone to seek legal advice without wasting precious time and money.
- ❖ The service is free for those who are eligible for free legal Aid as mentioned under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.
- ❖ Common Services Centre (CSC) programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).
- ❖ It serves as the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India.

Kala Vishwa

- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has launched a new campaign called 'Kala Vishwa'.
- ❖ It aims to reach out to traditional folk artists, local artists/artisans coming from rural areas.
- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs.

INTERNATIONAL

International Finance Corporation (IFC)



**International
Finance
Corporation**

WORLD BANK GROUP

- ❖ The IFC will be investing \$16.5 million in genetics diagnostics and research company 'MedGenome'.



- ❖ It aims to increase the access to COVID-19 testing in India.
- ❖ IFC is a leading global development institution that focuses on the private sector in developing countries.
- ❖ It is a member of the World Bank Group founded in 1956.
- ❖ The institution advances economic development and improves the lives of the people.

World's first carbon border Tax

- ❖ The European Union unveiled a proposal to levy the world's first carbon border tax by 2026.
- ❖ It will see a cost placed on carbon emissions through a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).
- ❖ The mechanism will impose a tax linked to carbon prices on an array of products such as imported steel, aluminium, fertiliser and cement.
- ❖ The policy is aimed at companies not countries
- ❖ But it has triggered a sharp response from its trading partners, mainly Russia.
- ❖ Russia is Europe's biggest supplier of carbon-intensive products including coal, oil, rolled steel and aluminium.

IATA Issues



International Air Transport Association
(IATA)

- ❖ The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has launched a Global Mobility Aids Action Group in a bid to examine and improve transport journey of mobility aids, such as wheelchairs.
- ❖ This action group will be the first of its kind in the World.
- ❖ Qatar Airways joins IATA's Turbulence Aware Platform.
- ❖ It will be the first airline in Middle East to join this platform.

Assad at Syria

- ❖ The Syrian President Bashar Assad was sworn for a fourth seven-year term.
- ❖ He is in power since 2000 at Syria.
- ❖ He was accused by the European and the US governments for most of the civil war atrocities.
- ❖ But he is supported by Iran and Russia.



Sea Breaker – Israel

- ❖ The Israeli defence firm Rafael Advanced Défense Systems unveiled Sea Breaker.
- ❖ It is meant to hit high-value maritime and land targets.
- ❖ It is the precision-guided missile system and the long-range missile system.
- ❖ It has full operational capability in Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) denied arenas, in all weather conditions.



EAGLE Act - USA

- ❖ It is called as “Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment Act”.
- ❖ It is to eliminate per country cap on employment-based green card.
- ❖ It was introduced to benefit Indian IT professionals who are waiting over decades for green card.
- ❖ 75 percent of the backlog for employment-based visas was made up of Indians
- ❖ It will benefit the US economy by allowing American employers to focus on hiring immigrants based on their merit, not their birthplace.

Central-South Asia conference

- ❖ Uzbekistan hosted this high-level meeting in the capital city of Tashkent.
- ❖ It was titled "The International Conference on Central and South Asia Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities".
- ❖ The idea aimed at deepening economic and socio-cultural cooperation in Central and South Asia.
- ❖ For better connectivity, Uzbekistan has already established a railway route to Afghanistan.



ECONOMY

RBI Retail Direct' scheme

- ❖ RBI's Retail Direct Scheme is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities (G-Sec) by individual investors.

- ❖ The retail investors will be provided a facility to open and maintain Retail Direct Gilt Account with RBI.
- ❖ This facility was launched as part of continuing efforts towards increasing retail participation in government securities.
- ❖ It was launched to improve ease of access by retail investors by online access to primary as well as secondary government securities market.

DIRECT ACCESS TO GOVT BONDS

<p>What are government securities G-Secs are low-risk, sovereign-guaranteed bonds with assured interest paid every six months. Trading makes them liquid</p>	<p>auction only through an NSE platform or through Gilt MFs</p>
<p>Compare with stocks, FDs Stocks are high-risk, volatile assets, in which returns can fluctuate. FDs have assured returns, but don't have guarantee over Rs 5 lakh</p>	<p>How to invest directly Open an account on RBI's Retail Direct platform online. Guidelines will be published soon</p>
<p>RBI initiative It enabled retail investors to directly invest and trade G-Secs. Currently, it is possible to invest in G-Sec</p>	<p>What could be the obstacles The current lot size is ₹5 crore (to be cut), lack of awareness</p>
	<p>Global practice India is the first in Asia to allow retail investors in G-Secs. Other countries that allow include the US, the UK and Brazil</p>

The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC)


- ❖ It has finally become a legal entity registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) Mumbai.
- ❖ It is also called as bad bank, having a public sector character.
- ❖ It is considered as a one-stop solution for banking systems stressed assets menace.

EV Policy

- ❖ Maharashtra government has unveiled the "Maharashtra Electric Vehicle (EV) policy, 2021".
- ❖ All EVs sold in State will be exempted from road tax and registration charges.

- ❖ It also seeks to ensure that by 2025 EVs comprise at least 10% of new vehicles registered and 25% electrification of public transport in six urban centres namely, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Amravati, Aurangabad and Nashik.
- ❖ It will also set up 2,500 charging stations in urban areas and highways.

MAHARASHTRA'S NEW E-VEHICLES POLICY






To encourage environment-friendly cars so that Maharashtra is able to bring its vehicular carbon footprint to zero by 2030, the state government is offering several benefits to potential buyers and manufacturers

In November 2017, India's first electric charging station was opened in Nagpur by Indian Oil

GOVT'S AIM

- To generate investment worth ₹25,000 crore
- To generate employment for 1 lakh people

TAX REBATES FOR ELECTRIC CAR BUYERS

 <p>15% Maximum vehicle tax rebate as a percentage of a vehicle's cost that the first 1 lakh e-vehicles to be registered in the state will be eligible for</p>	<p>₹5,000 Rebate cap for two-wheelers</p> 	<p>₹1 lakh Rebate cap for four-wheelers</p> 
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Other benefits | Waiver on road tax and registration charge for e-vehicles

25% Funding by government as a percentage of the total cost of setting up a charging station, with a maximum grant of ₹10 lakh per station. Only first 250 stations to come up in state eligible

➤ Cheap electricity for charging stations set up under the policy. Tariff to be on a par with residential—not commercial—rates

BENEFITS FOR MANUFACTURERS

Electric car manufacturers will be allowed to set up **charging stations**, even at petrol pumps, provided they get safety clearances




SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Vikas Engine

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the third long duration hot test of liquid fuel powered, Vikas Engine.
- ❖ It was done at engine test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ With this testing, ISRO has moved further for its first human space mission Gaganyaan.
- ❖ It was conducted for core L110 liquid stage (engine) of human rated Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV Mk III).

Soaring high
The Vikas engine is aimed at improving the payload capability of PSLV, GSLV and GSLV Mk-III launch vehicles



- **Utility:** The engine is the workhorse liquid rocket engine powering the second stage of India's PSLV; second stage and the four strap-on stages of GSLV ; and twin engine core liquid stage (L110) of GSLV Mk-III
- **Performance:**
Thrust 800 kN₂
Specific impulse: 290 seconds
- **Dimension**
Length 3.70 m (12.1 feet)
- **Liquid-fuel engine:**
Propellant: N₂O₄
- **Cycle:** Gas generator

■ Vikas is a family of liquid fuelled rocket engines

ENVIRONMENT

Salt-secreting Mangrove Species - *Avicennia marina*

- ❖ For the first time a reference-grade whole genome sequence of a highly salt-tolerant and salt-secreting true-mangrove species was reported.
- ❖ The Scientists at the DBT-Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar and SRM-DBT Partnership Platform for Advanced Life Sciences Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Tamil Nadu have jointly reported this.
- ❖ *Avicennia marina* is one of the most prominent mangroves species found in all mangrove formations in India.
- ❖ It can excrete 40% of the salt through the salt glands in the leaves, besides its extraordinary capacity to exclude salt entry to the roots.



Third ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity

- ❖ It was the fifth and the final session of this conference.
- ❖ It was held on the theme 'Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature'.
- ❖ It is co-organized by the Government of Malaysia.
- ❖ It highlighted the progress made by the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- ❖ ASEAN contains three of the world's 17 mega-diverse countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines).

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- ❖ UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat released first official draft of this new Framework.

- ❖ This framework will be used to guide actions worldwide through 2030 in order to preserve and protect nature & its essential services to people.
- ❖ The post 2020 global biodiversity framework is important because the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 has ended.
- ❖ This is a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”.



STATES

Assam Issues

- ❖ The Assam Cabinet announced the creation of an independent department to protect and preserve the “faith, culture and traditions of tribes and indigenous communities” of the state.
- ❖ It also approves online sale, home delivery of liquor in Guwahati on trial basis.

Scene of crime officers

- ❖ The Karnataka State Police will induct 206 ‘scene of crime’ officers.
- ❖ They will inspect and gather crucial evidence from crime spots in the state.
- ❖ These officers will be given training at National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, and Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The police department is also planning to deploy a dedicated ‘Forensic mobile lab’ for these officers.
- ❖ It is the first time in Karnataka’s history as well as India’s history.

- ❖ In 1961 in London, the first such post was created.

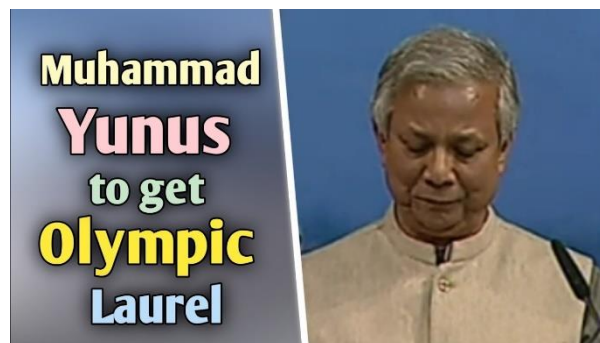
Satellite by Government School

- ❖ The Malleshwaram Government Boys High School in Bengaluru is to become a part of the satellite launch program in 2022.
- ❖ It will become the country's first government school to develop a satellite.
- ❖ The dream project of launching 75 satellites was conceived by the Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA) to celebrate the country's 75th Independence Day.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Olympic Laurel - Muhammad Yunus

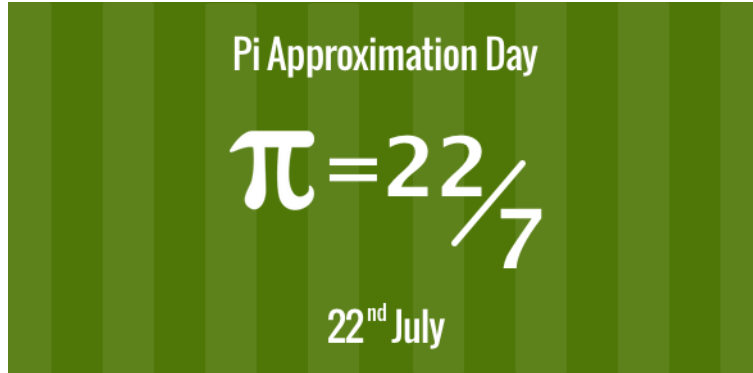
- ❖ The Nobel Peace Prize awardee Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh will become the second recipient of the Olympic Laurel at Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ The Kenyan Olympian and social changemaker Kip Keino received this honour at the Rio Olympics in 2016.
- ❖ He is often referred to as the “world’s banker to the poor”.
- ❖ Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in the 1983 at Bangladesh
- ❖ He was a proponent of microfinance and won the Nobel in 2006.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Pi Day – July 22

- ❖ It is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi).
- ❖ Pi (π) is the ratio of the circumference of a circle and its diameter.
- ❖ 22/7, day/month format, is an approximation of π .



National Mango Day - July 22

- ❖ Mango is the national fruit of India, Pakistan, and the Philippines.
- ❖ In India, mangoes are commonly harvested during the months March-May.
- ❖ It is called as “king of fruit”.
- ❖ Each year since 1987, “The International mango festival” is held in Delhi.

