

July – 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A 1984 batch IAS officer and currently Secretary, Ministry of Power, Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Ministry of Home Affairs with immediate effect.
 - Mr. Bhalla will have a fixed two-year tenure as Union Home Secretary till August 2021.
- ❖ On the occasion of 20th Kargil anniversary, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh released a book on XIV Corps of Indian Army named as ‘Fire and Fury Corps– Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice’.
 - The nick name of XIV corps is Fire and Fury corps. It is headquartered at Kumbathang, 28 km from Kargil.
- ❖ The PM Narendra Modi has released the book "Chandra Shekhar - The Last Icon of Ideological Politics." The book has been written by Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Ravi Dutt Bajpai.

NATIONAL

UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India

- ❖ A new India-UK bilateral scheme named “UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India” has been launched on a pilot basis.
- ❖ Its objective is to fund students from UK to visit India.
- ❖ Britain's universities will collaborate with Indian partners to send UK students to India during their studies.
- ❖ The program is part of “Go International: Stand Out” campaign by the UK.

IndSpaceEx - 1st Space War Drill

- ❖ The Indian armed forces are all set to conduct the country's first-ever simulated space warfare exercise "IndSpaceEx".
- ❖ The tri-Service integrated defence staff (IDS) under the defence ministry with all military and scientific stakeholders will conduct the drill.

- ❖ India successfully tested an anti-satellite (A-Sat) interceptor missile on March 27 this year.
- ❖ Such a capability is necessary as enemy countries can destroy or jam Indian satellites vital for surveillance, communication, missile early-warning and precision-targeting.

Occupational Health and Hygiene Institute

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH) with ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) - National Institute of Occupational Health.
- ❖ NIHM conducts applied research in occupational health and hygiene and provides tech support services to mining and mineral based industry.
- ❖ Registered Office: Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka
- ❖ It was set up by Government of India in 1990.

Hand-in-Hand Military Exercise

- ❖ The 2019 edition of India and China joint military exercise titled “Hand – in – Hand” will be held in Umroi near Shillong, Meghalaya in December 2019.
- ❖ It will be a two-week exercise which will be based on counter terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
- ❖ It will be a company level exercise, where around 120 troops from each side will be participating.

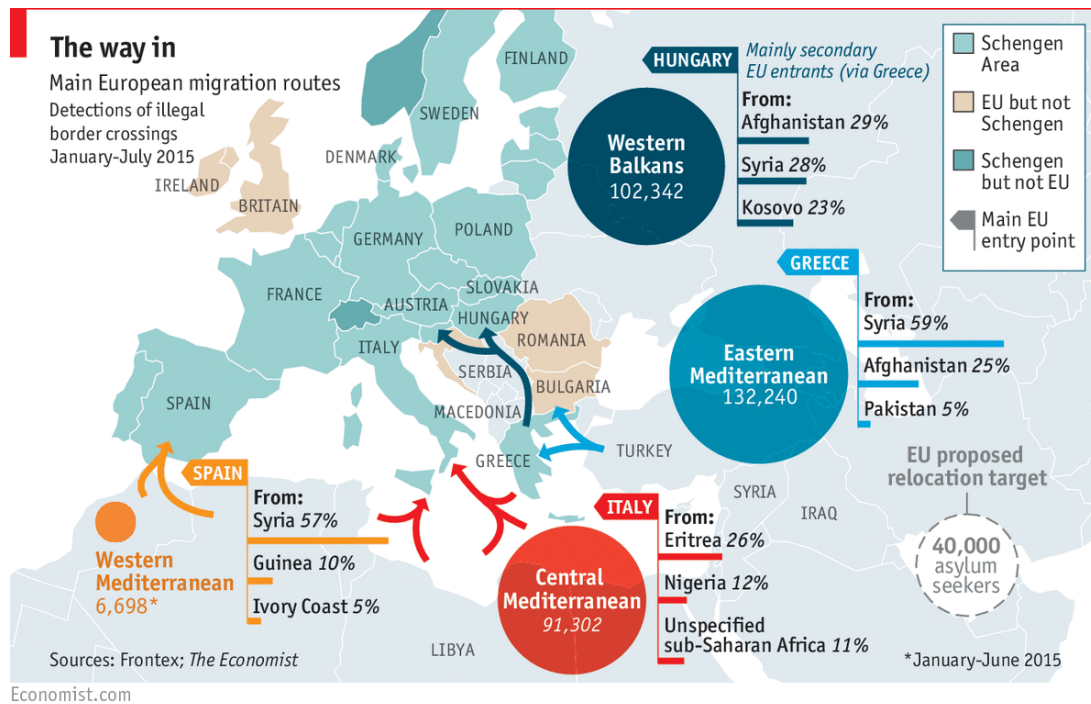
Metrolite Trains

- ❖ The Union government has proposed a light urban rail transit system named 'Metrolite'.
- ❖ It will be introduced in small cities and towns having lower projection of ridership.
- ❖ Each train will have three coaches and a restricted speed of 25 kmph.
- ❖ Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has issued standard specifications of the 'Metrolite' system which will be developed on surface and elevated stretches.
- ❖ Metrolite will not have Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) gates, platform screen doors, X-ray and baggage scanner.

INTERNATIONAL

Resettling Poor Migrants

- ❖ Eight European Union (EU) nations have agreed to a migrant resettlement plan proposed by France and Germany.
- ❖ They have agreed to share the lakhs of migrants rescued in the Mediterranean.
- ❖ Thousands of migrants attempt to cross the Mediterranean to Europe every year, and Libya is a key departure point.



Tiangong 2 – China

- ❖ Tiangong-2, a manned Chinese space station, was destroyed upon its controlled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean on July 19.
- ❖ Tiangong-2 was launched on September 15, 2016 and in late 2016, hosted two Chinese astronauts for 30 days.
- ❖ It was China's longest manned space mission so far.
- ❖ The Space debris fell near Point Nemo, the most remote location on Earth.

ECONOMY

Global Innovation Index 2019

- ❖ The Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal released Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 in New Delhi on July 24, 2019.
- ❖ India gained five ranks since last year and stood at 52nd rank.
- ❖ The report says that India continues to be the most innovative economy in Central and Southern Asia.
- ❖ GII is a leading reference for measuring an economy's innovation performance. This is the 12th edition.
- ❖ It is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

ENVIRONMENT

Sonali Carrying Bags

- ❖ Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named 'Sonali'.
- ❖ It can be used as wrapping material and carrying bag.



- ❖ The physical qualities of this invented jute fibre and plastic are quite similar.
- ❖ But these eco-friendly bags are not harmful to humans.

- ❖ It has been developed by the state-run Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

Rhesus Macaque monkeys

- ❖ Union environment ministry has declared monkeys (Rhesus Macaque) as ‘vermin’ in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It allows local authorities to cull this animal in certain identified non-forest areas in Shimla for one year.
- ❖ Rhesus Macaque monkeys are protected species under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ But Section 62 of the above act empowers the States to send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them “vermin”.

Dragon Tree Species

- ❖ Researchers have discovered “*Dracaena cambodiana*” a dragon tree species in the Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong district in Assam.
- ❖ This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India.
- ❖ Dragon tree species are those whose sap turns bright red after coming in contact with air.

SPORTS

World Test Cricket Championship

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) plans to start a World Test Championship similar to ODI World Cup tournament.
- ❖ The first match of the Championship will be played between England and Australia, from August 1 to 5 at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, England.
- ❖ All Teams will be allotted points for their performance over a period of two years.
- ❖ The Top two teams will face in the World Cup Finals Test match at 2021.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Ireland and Zimbabwe are not part of the tournament.



Matches in series	Points for a win	Points for a tie	Points for a draw
2	60	30	20
3	40	20	13.3
4	30	15	10
5	24	12	8

IMPORTANT DAYS

Income Tax Day – July 24

- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrated the 159th Income Tax Day on July 24, 2019.
- ❖ It was on 24th July, 1860 that Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson.
- ❖ It was introduced to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the 1857 first war of independence against British Rule.

MISCELLANEOUS

'Butcher of Beijing' Li Peng

- ❖ Former Chinese Premier Li Peng, who ordered martial law during the 1989 Tiananmen protests, has died at the age of 90.
- ❖ He is best known as the "Butcher of Beijing" for his role in the Tiananmen Square brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989.
- ❖ On April 1989, thousands of Chinese students had gathered at Tiananmen Square in Beijing in support of democratic reforms.
- ❖ Hundreds of people were killed, and the protest was brought to a sudden end.