

July – 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved creation of a buffer stock of 40 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of sugar.
 - This buffer stock would be created for one year starting from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020.
- ❖ The Standing Committee on Finance headed by Veerappa Moily has released a report titled ‘Status of Unaccounted Income/Wealth Both Inside and Outside the Country – A Critical Analysis’.
 - It states that the unaccounted wealth held by Indians was estimated in the range of \$216.48 billion to \$490 billion over various periods between 1980 and 2010.
- ❖ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has launched an online encyclopedia called Securitypedia and a video interface for its personnel called CISFTube.
 - CISF aims to empower its personnel by making technical know-how available to them at the click of a button.

TAMIL NADU

Tamilnadu Minorities Commission

- ❖ Tamilnadu assembly adopted a Bill to increase the number of members of the State Minorities Commission from six to nine.
- ❖ This number excludes Chairman.
- ❖ The strength of the panel had been increased taking into consideration “the increase in population and the welfare of the minorities.

New TN Rajya Sabha MP

- ❖ Six Rajya Sabha MPs from Tamilnadu were elected unopposed. They are
- ❖ Vaiko, Anbumani Ramadoss, AIADMK members A. Muhammathjohn and N. Chandrasekaran, DMK members N. Shanmugam and P. Wilson.

NATIONAL

National Data Quality Forum

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) to improve data collection and use.
- ❖ NDQF will integrate learnings from scientific and evidence-based initiatives.
- ❖ It will guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences.

Fair Price for Sugarcane

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the determination of 'Fair and Remunerative Price' (FRP) of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for 2019-20 sugar season.
- ❖ FRP is the minimum price at which rate sugarcane is to be purchased by sugar mills from farmers.
- ❖ It is fixed by Union government on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ❖ Besides FRP, states such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, UP and TN announce a State Advised Price, which is generally higher than the FRP.

R & D in India

- ❖ A special session was held to discuss India's Research and Development (R&D) expenditure eco-system report during the launch of Global Innovation Index (GII) – 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The report has been compiled by PMEAC.
- ❖ India invests a meagre 0.6% to 0.7% of GDP in R & D.
- ❖ This is much below the expenditure of countries like the US (2.8), China (2.1), Israel (4.3) and Korea (4.2).

50 Years of Bank Nationalization

- ❖ India celebrated the 50 years of bank nationalization on July 19, 1969.
- ❖ The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi initiated nationalization of 14 major lenders that accounted for 85 per cent of bank deposits in the country.

- ❖ The banks were acquired under Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1969 which later became a bill.
- ❖ Six more banks were later nationalised in 1980.
- ❖ The core objective for nationalisation was to energise priority sectors at a time when the large businesses dominated credit profiles.
- ❖ SBI is the largest lender in India.



Defence Dashboard

- ❖ Defence Minister launched dashboard of Department Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The dashboard will help the Ministry to keep track of the major components of Defence Production, including defence exports, defence offsets, Intellectual Property Rights and Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti.
- ❖ The dashboard is available for the general public at “ddpdashboard.gov.in”.

ECONOMY

Fortune Global 500

- ❖ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) becomes highest-ranked Indian company on Fortune Global 500 list.
- ❖ It has jumped 42 places and is ranked 106 this year.

- ❖ Indian Oil Company (IOC) is also in the list.
- ❖ Fortune Global 500 is an annual ranking of top 500 corporations worldwide as measured by revenue.
- ❖ The list is compiled and published annually by Fortune magazine, an American multinational business magazine.

ENVIRONMENT

Human-Elephant Conflicts

- ❖ A committee set up by the Union Environment Ministry has recommended that power poles should have spikes to keep away elephants.
- ❖ The power distribution companies are advised to use ABC (aerial bunched cables) or underground cables in forest areas.
- ❖ Between 2009- 2017 nearly 461 elephants have died due to electrocution. i.e 50 a year.



Scaly-foot Snail

- ❖ A rare snail species called 'Scaly-Foot Snail' has become the 1st species to be officially declared "Threatened" due to deep-sea mining.
- ❖ It is found at only three spots on Indian Ocean floor near Madagascar.
- ❖ It was added by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to its updated Red List of Endangered Species on 18 July 2019.

- ❖ At present there is a freeze on all ocean-floor mining activities globally.
- ❖ UN-agency International Seabed Authority (ISA) is currently formulating guidelines on how to conduct ocean-floor mining.

Rooftop Solar Projects

- ❖ Government has set a target for installation of Rooftop Solar projects (RTS) of 40,000 MegaWatt (MW) by 2022.
- ❖ As of 18 July 2019, over 1700 Mega Watt of grid-connected rooftop systems has been installed in India.
- ❖ Top Three states that have installed rooftop solar projects are: Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Vine Snake in Western Ghats

- ❖ Scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru have discovered a new vine snake species called *Proahaetulla antiqua* in Western Ghats.
- ❖ This is an ancient species which is endemic to southern Western Ghats.
- ❖ This is thought to have evolved around 26 million years ago during the mid-Oligocene period.
- ❖ Vine snakes get their names due to their slender bodies and vine-like appearances.



STATES

Nisagandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram

- ❖ Kerala government presented the Nishagandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram to musicians Parassala B. Ponnammal and T V. Gopalakrishnan.
- ❖ It is awarded by a cultural programme organized by the Tourism Department of Kerala every year.

SPORTS

Kristof Milak breaks Phelps Record

- ❖ Hungarian teenager Kristof Milak broke the 10 years old world record held by the great swimmer Michael Phelps.
- ❖ In the World Aquatics Championship event held in South Korea he won the 200 metres butterfly finals in 1:50.73 (one minute and fifty point seventy-three seconds).
- ❖ He was thus 0.78 seconds ahead off Phelps's previous world best record.



Indian Cricketers Association

- ❖ The BCCI has approved the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA).
- ❖ The ICA is not affiliated to Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) and is only open to former men and women cricketers.

- ❖ Former India cricketers Kapil Dev, Ajit Agarkar and Shantha Rangaswamy are the directors at ICA.


