

July – 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ During the 36th GST Council Meeting, it was announced that GST rate on all Electric Vehicles has been reduced from 12% to 5% and of charger or charging stations for EVs from 18% to 5%.
- ❖ Mahalaxmi Express which runs between Mumbai and Kolhapur was stranded with hundreds of passengers due to flooding and overflow of Ulhas river. All Passengers were later rescued.
 - Ulhas River is a west flowing river which drains into Arabian sea.

NATIONAL

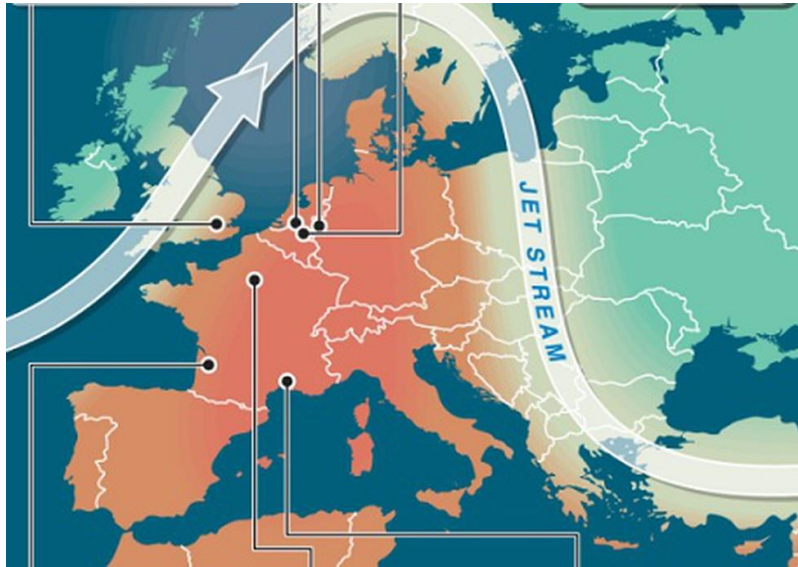
Vande Mataram Case

- ❖ The Delhi High Court has dismissed a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to declare "Vande Mataram" on par with "Jana Gana Mana".
- ❖ Vande Mataram is a Bengali poem written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1870s, which he included in his 1882 novel Anandamath.
- ❖ The poem was composed into song by Rabindranath Tagore.
- ❖ It was first sung in a political context by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress.

INTERNATIONAL

Omega Block – Climate Emergency in Europe

- ❖ Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands have recorded their highest ever temperatures consecutively for the second time.
- ❖ The latest heatwave is caused by an “Omega Block”.
- ❖ Western Europe’s weather is largely governed by the jet stream.
- ❖ Omega Block is a high-pressure pattern that blocks and diverts the jet stream.
- ❖ It allows a mass of hot air to flow up from northern Africa and the Iberian Peninsula.
- ❖ It is in omega shape. Hence the name Omega Block.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dolutegravir - HIV Medicine

- ❖ The World Health Organisation has recommended the use of HIV drug dolutegravir (DTG) as the preferred first-line and second-line treatment for all populations.
- ❖ It is also recommended for pregnant women and those of childbearing potential.
- ❖ DTG is sold under the brand name Tivicay.
- ❖ It is an antiretroviral medication used together with other medications to treat HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ DTG is more effective, easier to take and has fewer side effects than alternative drugs.
- ❖ This drug also has a high genetic barrier to developing drug resistance.

Cancer detecting Jacket

- ❖ A thermal-imaging jacket which can diagnose breast cancer has been unveiled.
- ❖ It was handed over to the District Women's Hospital in Maharashtra.
- ❖ It has been developed by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

- ❖ The jacket, to be worn by a person undergoing diagnosis for a few minutes, uses thermal imaging technology to detect cancerous growth.
- ❖ It will be manufactured in India under 'Make in India' initiative by Japanese firm Murata Manufacturing.



ENVIRONMENT

Species Extinction in India

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment has notified that 4 species of fauna and 18 species of flora have gone extinct in India in the past few centuries.

Fauna

- ❖ Among mammals, the following are considered extinct in India:
 - Cheetah - *Acionyx jubatus*
 - Sumatran rhinoceros - *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*
 - Pink-headed duck - *Rhodonessa caryophyllacei*
 - Himalayan quail - *Ophrysia supercilios*
- ❖ India has about 6.49% of all the fauna species in the world.

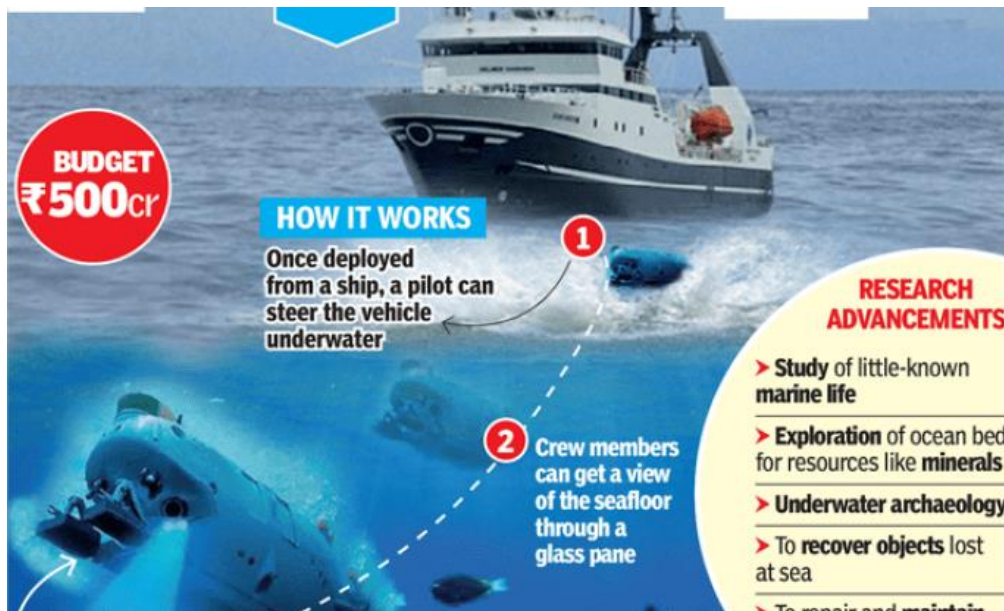
Flora

- ❖ 18 species of plants — 4 non-flowering and 14 flowering plants have gone extinct.
- ❖ Notable ones:
 - A fern from Manipur - *Lastreopsis wattii*
 - Three species from the genus *Ophiorrhiza* (*Ophiorrhiza brunonis*, *Ophiorrhiza caudate* and *Ophiorrhiza radican*)

- ❖ India is home to 11.5% of all flora in the world.

Deep Ocean Mission

- ❖ The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) has received in-principle approval from the Union government.
- ❖ It is to be led by the Union Earth Sciences Ministry.



- ❖ The mission proposes to explore the deep ocean similar to the space exploration started by ISRO about 35 years ago.
- ❖ A major thrust of the mission will be looking for metals and minerals.
- ❖ The mission will comprise of
 - An offshore desalination plant that will work with tidal energy.
 - To develop a submersible vehicle that can go to a depth of at least 6,000 metres with three people on board.

STATES

Nagaland's Banuo J Zamir Commission

- ❖ The Nagaland government has constituted a commission to frame the modalities of creating the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN).



- ❖ The Commission would be headed by retired Chief Secretary Banuo Z. Jamir as Chairman.
- ❖ It would recommend eligibility criteria, documents acceptable as proof and govern any other issue relating to implementation of the RIIN.

About

- ❖ RIIN is supposed to be a register of all the indigenous inhabitants of the State and exclude ineligible persons.
- ❖ Citizens who settled in Nagaland prior to December 1, 1963, the day it became a full-fledged State, will be included in the list.

SPORTS

Kiren Rijju Committee

- ❖ A high-level 10-member Committee has been constituted to coordinate and strategize the preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics.
- ❖ It will function under Chairmanship of Sports Minister Kiren Rijju.
- ❖ Olympians like Leander Paes and shooter Gagan Narang are also in the committee.
- ❖ The committee aims to ensure that the performance of the Indian athletes is optimised in the Olympics and other multidisciplinary events.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangroves – July 26

- ❖ The UN International Day for the Conservation of the Mangroves is observed every year on July 26.
- ❖ The day was first adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015.
- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem”.
- ❖ Mangroves act as a form of natural coastal defense against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion.
- ❖ Their soils are highly effective carbon sinks.

CRPF Day – July 27

- ❖ 81st raising day of country's largest paramilitary force-Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was observed on July 27, 2019.
- ❖ On this day in 1939, CRPF had come into existence as the Crown Representative's Police.
- ❖ It was renamed to its present name after enactment of the CRPF Act on December 28, 1949.
- ❖ It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ It has been the lead force in dealing with
 - Militancy in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)
 - Fighting the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)
 - Insurgency in Northeast India.

World Hepatitis Day – July 28

- ❖ World Hepatitis Day (WHD) 2019 is being observed every year on July 28.
 - ❖ The 63rd World Health Assembly declared July 28 as WHD.
 - ❖ The idea of Hepatitis day originated in Cuttack, Odisha as per Dr. Blumberg.
 - ❖ July 28 is chosen as it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.
 - ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E and prevent infection.
 - ❖ The theme of observance for 2019 is “Invest in eliminating hepatitis”.
 - ❖ The host country for World Hepatitis Day 2019 is Pakistan.
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