

July – 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has announced that an Inter-Ministerial panel has sanctioned 5645 electric buses for operations in 65 cities and for inter-city operations to 8 state transport undertakings.
- ❖ A 1984 batch IAS officer Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new Secretary, Finance Secretary of Government of India.
- ❖ Harvard Microrobotics Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts at USA have made the “lightest insect-scale aerial vehicle which has achieved sustained, untethered flight” called RoboBee X-Wing. Just like an insect it can flap its wings 120 times a second.
 - Practical applications include understanding the mechanical basis of natural selection and environmental monitoring.
- ❖ Britain has announced that it is planning a Europe-led force to escort tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, world's busiest oil shipping lane.
 - This was in response to seizure of Stena Impero, a UK-flagged vessel on July 19 by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

NATIONAL

IN LCU L-56 Ship Commissioned

- ❖ IN LCU L56 was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.





- ❖ LCU 56 is an amphibious ship with its primary role being transportation and deployment of Main Battle Tanks, Armoured Vehicles, Troops and Equipment from ship to shore.
- ❖ It would be administered and based in Port Blair under the NAVCC in ANC (Andaman Nicobar Command).
- ❖ It is the 100th warship built by GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers), Kolkata.

Sitting HC Judge Prosecution

- ❖ Justice SN Shukla of the Allahabad High Court has become the first sitting high court judge to be prosecuted while in office in nearly three decades.
- ❖ Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi has allowed the CBI to lodge a FIR against Justice Shukla.
- ❖ This is the first such case since the landmark Supreme Court Judgement in the K. Veeraswami vs Union of India, 1991.

K.Veeraswami Case

- ❖ In this case, the court issued an order that Chief Justice's permission was "mandatory" for the filing of even a first information report (FIR) against any Judge of the High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The sanctioning authority for Prosecution is the President of India.
- ❖ But the Court has also laid down the procedure that the President "shall" act in accordance with advice given by the Chief Justice of India.

Waqf Board – Justice (Retd) Zakiullah Khan Committee

- ❖ Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the national conference of Central Waqf Council (CWC) in New Delhi.
- ❖ He announced the Union Government's target to achieve 100 per cent digitisation of Waqf properties across the country in its first 100 days.
- ❖ Justice (Retd) Zakiullah Khan committee has also submitted its report for better utilisation and management of Waqf properties.

About

- ❖ Waqf is a type of large property which were dedicated in the name of God by generous Muslims.

- ❖ The proceeds of these properties will be used exclusively for welfare of the poor.

Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes

- ❖ Both houses of the Parliament have passed the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill 2019.
- ❖ A deposit-taking scheme is defined as “Unregulated”, if
 - It is taken for a business purpose
 - It not registered with the regulators listed in the bill.
- ❖ Competent Authority not under the rank of State/Central Secretary will be appointed as government officers who regulate such schemes.
- ❖ It aims to create a centralised database of all deposit takers.
- ❖ Designated Courts will try cases relating to any offences.

Green Ratings for Fertiliser Sector

- ❖ Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released the latest Report of Green Ratings on Fertilizer Sector in New Delhi called ‘Grain by Grain’.
- ❖ Ratings has been done by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi.
- ❖ Positives: India’s fertilizer sector is among the best in the world in energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- ❖ Concerns: Records on water use, water pollution and plant safety
- ❖ Top 3 Industries:
 - Indo Gulf Fertilizers unit at Jasdishpur, Uttar Pradesh
 - Hazira unit of KRIBHCO in Gujarat
 - Panambur unit of Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers, Karnataka.
- ❖ Established in 1980, CSE works as a think tank on environment-development issues in India.

National Minorities Commission

- ❖ The National Commission of Minorities (NCM) has clarified that only the Union Government has the power to declare new groups as “Minorities”.

- ❖ This was in response to a plea filed in Supreme Court to officially declare Hindus as “Minorities” in States where they do not form a majority of the population.

About

- ❖ Minorities Commission was set up in 1978 vide an Executive order.
- ❖ It became a statutory body in 1992 after enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Microdot Technology in Automobiles

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport has issued a draft notification allowing Motor Vehicles and their Parts to be Affixed with Microdots.
- ❖ Microdot technology involves spraying the body and parts of the vehicle with microscopic dots, which give a unique identification.
- ❖ They cannot be removed without damaging the asset, that is the vehicle itself.
- ❖ These nearly invisible microdots can only be read physically with a microscope and identified with ultra violet light source.
- ❖ This technology will help check theft of vehicles and also use of fake spare parts.

ENVIRONMENT

Red Mud Usage

- ❖ Union Ministry of mines, in association with the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC) Nagpur, organised a workshop in New Delhi on Effective utilization of ‘Red Mud’.



- ❖ Red Mud, a Bauxite Residue, is a solid waste generated during the aluminium production process.
- ❖ This is an environmental concern due to presence of impurities such as caustic soda and others minerals.

STATES

Bamboo Industrial Park

- ❖ Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) Jitendra Singh reviewed the status of implementation of various projects under MDoNER.
- ❖ He announced that India's first Bamboo Industrial Park will be set up in Manderdisa in Dima Hasao district of Assam.
- ❖ Another project for Bamboo Park would be established in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - 30 July

- ❖ In 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 30 July as the annual World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

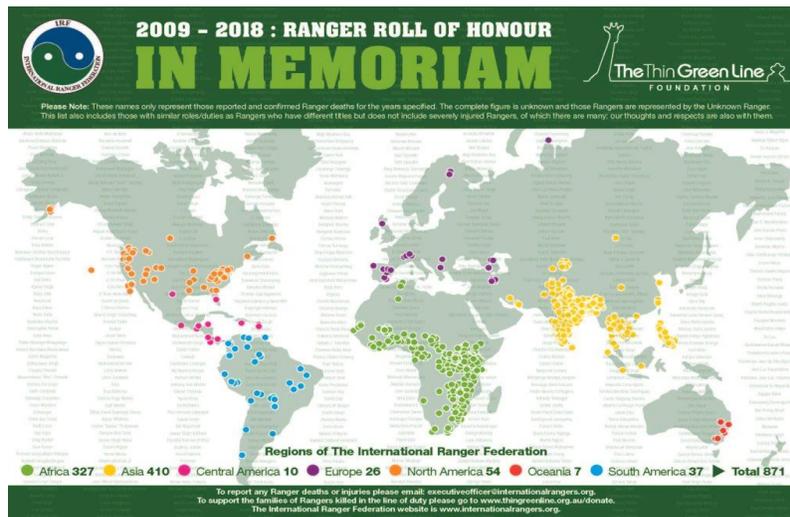


- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.

- ❖ Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for several purposes including forced labour and sex.
- ❖ The theme of the day for 2019 is – "Human Trafficking: Call Your Government to Action".

World Ranger Day – July 31

- ❖ World Ranger Day is celebrated around the world on July 31st.
- ❖ It is on the anniversary of the founding of The International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization that supports the work of “Rangers” as the key protectors of parks and conservation.



- ❖ It was held in 2007.
- ❖ This day is observed to thank rangers for their bravery and courage and to remember the sacrifice of the Rangers that died on service.
