

July - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ China sent a new high-resolution mapping satellite namely “Ziyuan III 03” from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Northern Province of Shanxi, China.
- ❖ Guwahati of Assam became the first city in the Northeast region to get a manhole cleaning robot named Bandicoot.
- ❖ The Bombay Flying Club has become the India’s first DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) approved drone training school.
- ❖ July 25 is celebrated as World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day.
- ❖ July 31 of this year is the 21st annual System Administrator Appreciation Day.

TAMIL NADU

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) award 2019

- ❖ Dr. Vinod Kumar Selvaraj of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University of Coimbatore was conferred the ICAR - Jawaharlal Nehru award under the crop protection category.
- ❖ It is given for his research work on “Emergence of tobacco streak virus infecting cotton: Investigations on symptom expression, transmission, spread and management”.

NATIONAL

Ranking of Aspirational districts

- ❖ Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur tops Niti Ayog’s delta ranking of Aspirational districts for Feb-June 2020 in the health sector.
- ❖ Bijapur has been followed by Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.
- ❖ The aspirational districts programme, launched in January 2018 by NITI Ayog, aims to transform districts.



INTERNATIONAL

New Security Law

- ❖ China announced the suspension of extradition treaties of Hong Kong with Canada, Britain and Australia.
- ❖ China has brought the suspension under its New Security Law in Hong Kong.
- ❖ According to the law, China gained control over external affairs and defence of Hong Kong.

ECONOMY

Implications of AI on the Indian Economy

- ❖ It was a report by National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) along with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Google.
- ❖ A unit increase (measured as the ratio of AI to total sales) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) intensity can result in a 2.5% increase in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the immediate term.

Bitumen agreement

- ❖ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has formed an equal (50:50) Joint Venture (JV) with France's Total S.A.
- ❖ It is to manufacture and market high-quality innovative bitumen derivatives and superior quality products like polymer-modified bitumen, crumb rubber modified bitumen for the growing road-building industry in India.

ENVIRONMENT

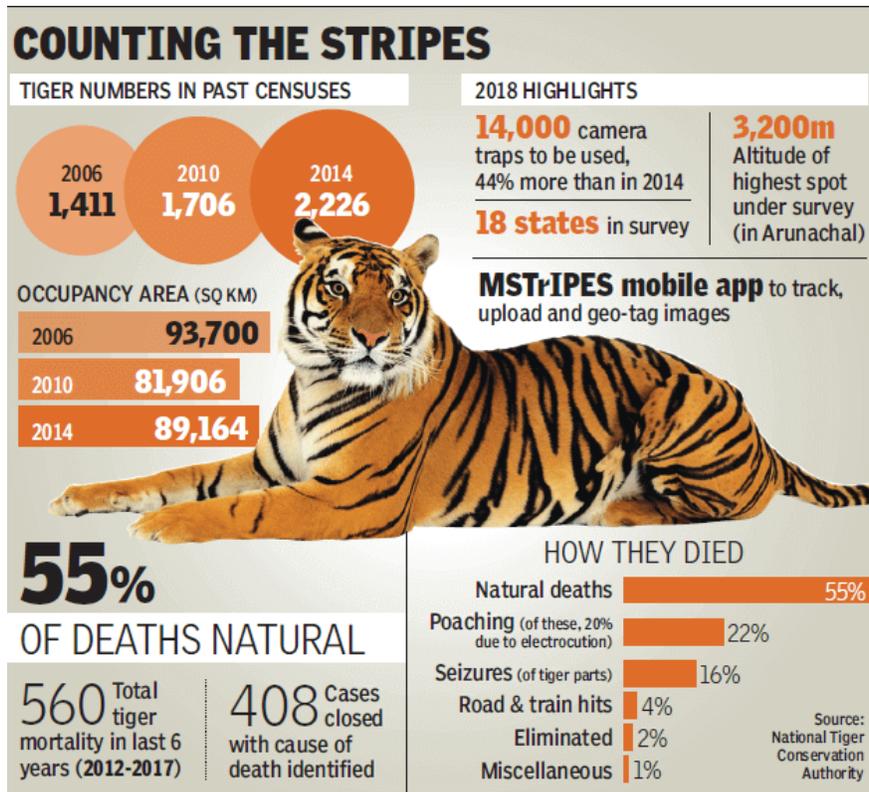
Blue poppy

- ❖ Blue poppy is considered the Queen of Himalayan Flowers.
- ❖ It is found from Kumaon to Kashmir at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters.



Status of Tigers in India Report - 2018

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released a detailed 'Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey in India Report' on the eve of the Global Tiger Day (29th July).
- ❖ India's Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with 9 tiger reserves.
- ❖ India has 70% of the world's tiger population.
- ❖ The national tiger status assessment of 2018-19 estimated the overall tiger population in India at 2,967 - 33% increase from 2014 (2,226).
- ❖ With 2,967 tigers, India is four years in advance, that has achieved the target set in the 2010 St Petersburg Declaration of doubling tiger population by 2022.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka (524) and Uttarakhand (442).
- ❖ Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in tiger population.
- ❖ The Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand has the highest number of tigers inside the reserve (231).
- ❖ While Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of tigers, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu registered the "maximum improvement" since 2014.
- ❖ The Dampa reserve (Mizoram), Buxa reserve (West Bengal) and Palamau reserve (Jharkhand) do not have any tigers.
- ❖ Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve is the largest Tiger Reserve in India.
- ❖ The reserve spreads over five districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- ❖ The area consists mostly of the Nallamala Hills.



Green Ag Project

- ❖ The Union government launched the Green-Ag Project in Mizoram.
- ❖ It aims to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.
- ❖ The project seeks to integrate biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture.
- ❖ The project covers the area of Mizoram including Dampa Tiger Reserve and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ It is funded by the Global Environment Facility.
- ❖ The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare is the national executing agency.
- ❖ Other key players involved in its implementation are Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ❖ Mizoram is one of the five states where the project will be implemented.
- ❖ Other states include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand.



IMPORTANT DAYS

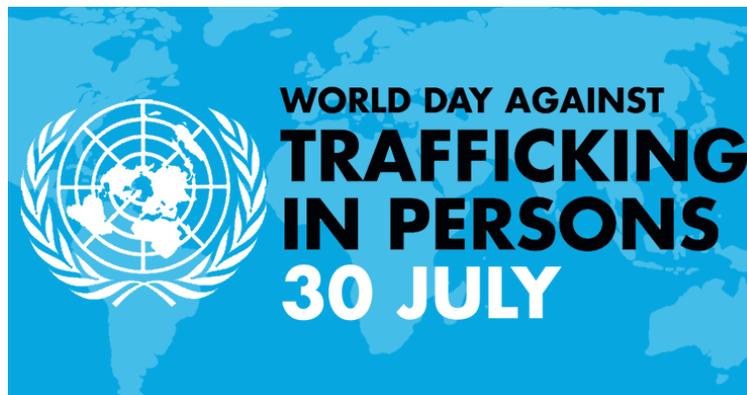
The International Day of Friendship – July 30

- ❖ It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UN) on July 30 since 2011.
- ❖ In India, however, it is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month of August (August 2 on this year).



World Day against Trafficking in Persons – July 30

- ❖ It is held on July 30th since 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ The UN has initiated 'The Blue Heart Campaign' to raise global awareness to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.



World Ranger Day – July 31

- ❖ It is annually celebrated on July 31 as a celebration of the founding of the International Ranger Federation.
- ❖ It is to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.



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