

November - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu released a monograph, 'Musical Excellence of Mridangam', a rare fusion of art and science of an ancient South Indian instrument in Chennai.
 - The monograph has been prepared by the renowned Mridangam exponent Dr Umayalpuram Sivaraman, scientist Dr T.Ramasamy and Dr Naresh.
- ❖ In the first eight months of 2019, growth in India's CO2 emissions slowed down sharply, and record its lowest annual increase in nearly 20 years.
 - It was just 2%, against an average of 5% per year over the past period.
- ❖ UN clarified that there is no declaration made by them to observe APJ Abdul kalam's birthday (15 October) as World Students' Day.
- ❖ The national anthem of Bangladesh, has been given a Sanskrit makeover on the eighth death anniversary of the Bhupen Hazarika.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker won gold in women's 10m air pistol event while Vivaan Kapoor and Manisha Keer won the bronze medal in junior trap mixed event at the Asian Shooting Championships here.

TAMIL NADU

Animal Medical Mobile Ambulance - 1962

- ❖ The Animal Medical Mobile Ambulance (AMMA) service, introduced nearly two years ago remains suspended for the past few months.
- ❖ Now it is again flagged off by Tamilnadu Chief Minister.
- ❖ The toll-free number is 1962.
- ❖ It was launched by former Chief Minister Jayalalitha in 2016.
- ❖ AMMA service was introduced to treat animals, especially livestock, at the doorstep.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) is the nodal agency for this project.
- ❖ The project is being funded by the National Agriculture Development Programme.
- ❖ The Animal Husbandry department was not involved in the scheme.



NATIONAL

Skills Build Platform

- ❖ Union Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship launches the Skills Build platform in Collaboration with IBM.
- ❖ The digital platform will provide a personal assessment of the cognitive capabilities and personality via MyInnerGenius to the students.
- ❖ As part of the programme, a two-year advanced diploma in IT, networking and cloud computing, co-created and designed by IBM, will be offered at the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
- ❖ The platform will be extended to train ITI & NSTI faculty on building skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

New app will help international travelers

- ❖ The Indian government has unveiled two new IT initiatives, ICEDASH and ATITHI, for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods.
- ❖ These initiatives will also facilitate arriving international passengers with e-filing of baggage and currency declarations.
- ❖ ICEDASH can be accessed through the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs website.
- ❖ ATITHI is a mobile app for international travellers to file the Customs declaration in advance.



INTERNATIONAL

Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support

- ❖ The 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation meeting held in Russia.
- ❖ The meeting was co-chaired by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ India and Russia agreed to form specific working groups for aftersales support of key defence platforms and intensify efforts to finalise a cooperation programme for 2021-2030.
- ❖ This logistics agreement will be beneficial to the Indian Navy as warships will get access to mutual ports and exclusive economic zones to refuel and pick up supplies.
- ❖ On the other hand, Russia can also use ports like Mumbai and Visakhapatnam. Besides ports, Russia would also be able to access airbases.

6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit

- ❖ The 6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of the G20 countries held in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ The summit was attended by Presiding Officers of Parliaments of G20 countries.
- ❖ The Parliamentary summit is unofficially called P20.
- ❖ It was jointly hosted and organised by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the House of Councillors of National Diet of Japan.
- ❖ The summit had sessions on separate themes pertaining to trade, technology and sustainable development.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Standing wheelchair

- ❖ A 'standing wheelchair' called 'Arise', was developed at the TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at the IIT Madras.
- ❖ Arise was formally launched by Thaawar chand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The wheel chair, indigenously-designed at IIT-M in collaboration with Phoenix Medical Systems, with the support of the UK-based Welcome Trust.

- ❖ Using Arise, a person with a disability can shift from a standing position to a sitting position and vice versa, independently or with assistance.



ENVIRONMENT

5th edition of Wastelands Atlas – 2019

- ❖ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar released the fifth edition of Wastelands Atlas - 2019.
- ❖ The Atlas, published jointly by Department of Land Resources and National Remote Sensing Centre, provides robust geospatial information on wasteland.
- ❖ It is helpful in rolling back the wastelands for productive use through various land development programmes and schemes.
- ❖ Wastelands Atlas 2019 also provides State and district wise distribution of different categories of wastelands area in the country and will be helpful in addressing land degradation.

Climate emergency

- ❖ In a paper published in the journal Bio-science, 11,258 signatories (69 from India) declared Global Climate Emergency.
- ❖ They presented climate change trends and methods to mitigate the threat.
- ❖ The report was titled “World Scientists”.
- ❖ The scientists present a list of measures called “Vital Signs” that better represent climate change.



New tree frog Discovery

- ❖ Herpetologists have discovered a new species of tree frog from West Bengal.
- ❖ It has been named Brown Blotched Bengal Tree Frog (*Polypedates bengalensis*).
- ❖ It belongs to the genus *Polypedates* - a genus of tree frog found throughout South and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The frog's body colour is yellowish - brown to greenish - brown.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme - SACEP

- ❖ Union Minister of Environment and Forest and Climate Change - Prakash Javadekar has attended the 15th meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organization and headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It was established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
- ❖ The members of SACEP includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ SACEP also acts as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme which comes under the purview of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.

STATES

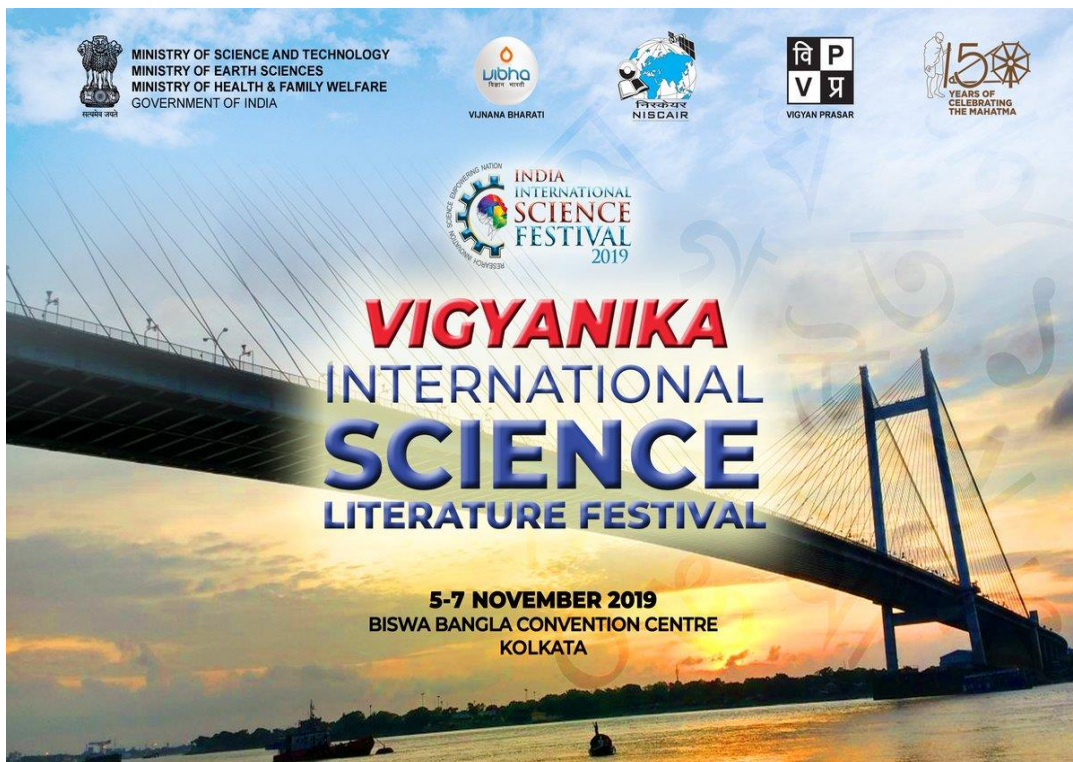
Gujarat anti-terror law

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime (GCTOC) Bill.
- ❖ One of the key features of the new Act is intercepted telephonic conversations, which would now be considered as a legitimate evidence.
- ❖ This bill also provides for the creation of a special court as well as the appointment of special public prosecutors.
- ❖ The bill, earlier named as the Gujarat Control of Organised Crime (GUJCOC) Bill, had failed to get the presidential nod thrice since 2004.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Vigyanika - International Science Literature Festival

- ❖ Vigyanika - International Science Literature Festival, was organised as part of the 5th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 at Kolkata.
- ❖ IISF 2019 is an annual event organised jointly by the Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).
- ❖ It is being coordinated by the CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR), Vigyan Prasar and Vigyan Bharati.
- ❖ The theme for this year's festival is RISEN India — Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation.



MISCELLANEOUS

World Records for the largest astrophysics' assembly

- ❖ The Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson (45 minutes) and assembly of spectroscopes was successfully achieved by Kolkata students at Science City, Kolkata.
- ❖ The record was attempted on the first day of 5th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 in which over 1,598 students participated.



- ❖ The session was dedicated to Meghnad Saha and Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.
- ❖ The session was organized by Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

