



November - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ To provide world-class treatment at affordable prices, Union Government plans has approved setting up four medical device parks at Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ Gujarat Government has given its nod to construct the world's first Compressed natural gas (CNG) port terminal at Bhavnagar.
- ❖ Gujarat based scientist Dhruv Prajapati has discovered 2 new species of spiders. He named one of them Marengo sachintendulkar, after Sachin and the other one as 'Indomarengo chavarapater' after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a crusader in spreading awareness about education in Kerala.
- ❖ Due to concerns over its shrinking size, the Jammu and Kashmir government has set up a ten-member committee to declare Srinagar's Dal Lake and its surrounding areas as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).
 - Eco-Sensitive Zones are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. ESZs are notified by the MoEFCC, Government of India under Environment Protection Act 1986.
- ❖ Sanskrit Bharati Vishwa Sammelan, a first-of-its-kind global conference on Sanskrit language was conducted at New Delhi.
 - The event was organised by the NGO Samskrita Bharati and co-partnered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ❖ Google celebrated the 30th anniversary of fall of the 'Berlin Wall' (November 9, 1989) with a doodle.
 - The Berlin Wall was a guarded concrete barrier that physically and ideologically divided Berlin from 1961 to 1989.
- ❖ New Zealand parliament has passed a new law called "The Zero Carbon" that aims to tackle climate change by setting a net-zero target for almost all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- ❖ Italy becomes the first country in world that has made it mandatory for school students in every grade to study climate change and sustainability.
- ❖ Palaeontologists in Poland recently unearthed the jaws and teeth of a monstrous 'pliosaur', an ancient marine reptile with a bite more powerful than that of Tyrannosaurus rex.
 - Pliosaurus, the biggest of the Jurassic period's ocean predators, lived around 150 million years ago.



- ❖ Dubai's Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) celebrated the 10th anniversary of Public Transport Day's initiative on November 1st, 2019.
 - This year's theme is 'Better transport for a better life'.

NATIONAL

Shilpotsav 2019

- ❖ Shilpotsav 2019 is being held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is the annual fair of artisans from across the country, belonging to the weaker sections of the society.
- ❖ The artisans are assisted by apex corporations of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The range of products in this fair include - silk sarees, durries, readymade garments, terracotta products, jute products, marble artefacts and handloom etc.

Maternity Mortality Ratio (MMR)

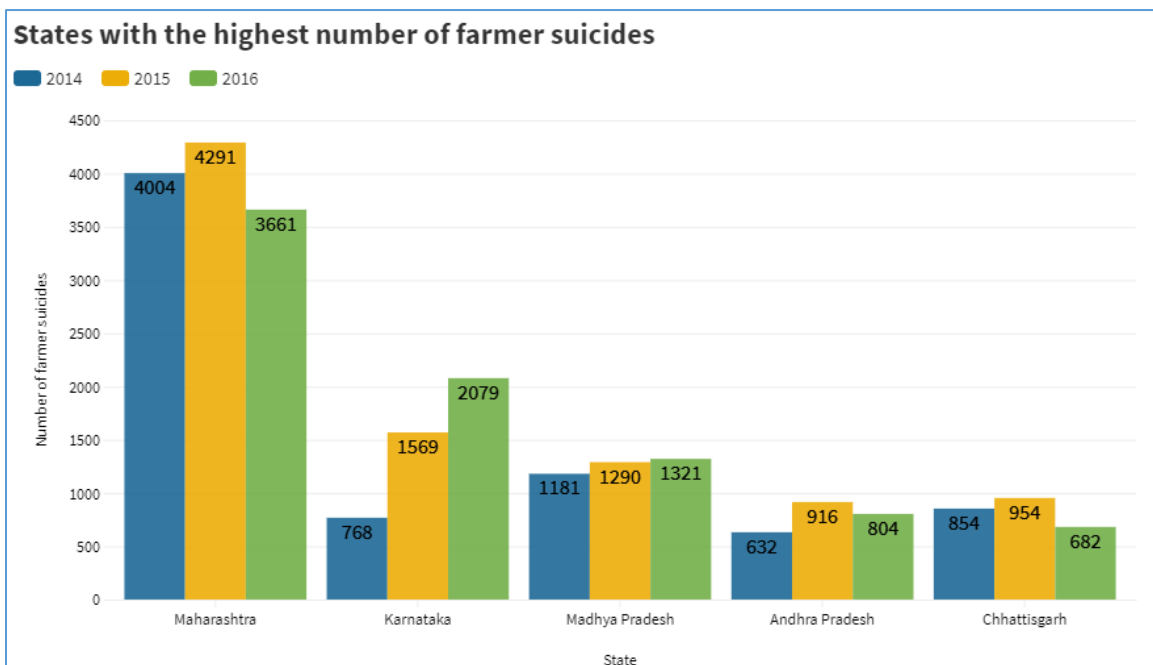
- ❖ According to the recent special bulletin on MMR released by the Registrar General of India, MMR of India has declined by 8 points in one year.
- ❖ It has declined from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 122 per lakh live births in 2015-17 (6.2% decline).
- ❖ Currently, 11 states in India have achieved the target - Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Karnataka and Haryana.
- ❖ Four states namely Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are lagging behind in containing MMR.

Targets

- ❖ Under the National Health Policy 2017, India has set the ambitious target of MMR of 100 per lakh live births by 2020.
- ❖ India is on track of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for reducing MMR by 2025, five years ahead of timeline of 2030.
- ❖ Initiatives such as LaQshya, POSHAN Abhiyan and SUMAN (Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Initiative) have been launched by Union Government for reducing MMR.

Farmer Suicide Data

- ❖ After a 3-year delay, The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released figures on “farmers’ suicides” for 2016.
- ❖ But it has excluded a key element from the previous editions — the reasons for the suicides.
- ❖ The latest report has revealed that at least 11,379 farmers committed suicide in the country in 2016.
- ❖ This translates into 948 suicides every month, or 31 suicides every day.
- ❖ Maharashtra continues to account for the highest number of farmer suicides in the country with 3,661 in 2016.
- ❖ Karnataka saw the second highest number of farmer suicides in 2016 at 2,079.
- ❖ For the first time that the NCRB had categorised farmers’ suicides due to debt or bankruptcy based on the source of loans.
- ❖ With the data for 2016, 3,33,407 farmers have died by suicide in India since 1995, when the NCRB started publishing farmer suicide data.
- ❖ Top 5 states



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

First Electric Plane

- ❖ NASA has showcased an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft called "X-57 "Maxwell".
- ❖ Maxwell is powered by 14 electric motors powered by specially designed lithium-ion batteries.
- ❖ Due to current battery limitations, the Maxwell may be used for short-haul flights as an air-taxi or commuter plane for a small number of passengers.

STATES

Suranga Bawadi – Ancient Water Supply System

- ❖ Suranga Bawadi, an integral part of the ancient “Karez system” of supplying water through subterranean tunnels in Karnataka has been included in the World Monument Watch list for 2020.
- ❖ The monument has been selected under the “Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau” by the NGO, World Monuments Fund (WMF).



- ❖ WMF monitors the restoration of ancient monuments across the globe.
- ❖ Karez underground system was built in the 16th century by Ali Adil Shah-I of the Bijapur Sultanate.
- ❖ His successor Ibrahim Adil Shah-II added more structures to strengthen it.



- ❖ 'Karez' is believed to be one of the best water supply systems in the world but it is in bad condition owing to lack of maintenance.

Largest Shivalingam - Kerala

- ❖ The 111.2-foot Shivalingam at the Maheswaram Sri Shiva Paravathi Temple, Chenkal, Kerala has entered the India Book of Records for being the tallest such structure in India.
- ❖ Once certified, it will make its way to the record books as the largest Shivalingam in the world in terms of height and width.
- ❖ Currently, the record is held by the Kotilingeshwara temple in Kolar, Karnataka, which measures 108 ft (33m).

Access to Internet - Kerala

- ❖ The Kerala Cabinet approved a fiber optic network project to provide "free" high-speed internet connection to around 2 million BPL (below poverty line) households in the state.
- ❖ The Kerala government has already promised to make internet access a 'citizen's basic right'.
- ❖ Only a few countries such as Finland, Estonia, France, Spain, Greece, and Costa Rica have declared the internet as a basic human right.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Education Day – November 11

- ❖ National Education Day is an annual observance in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- ❖ It is observed since 2008.
- ❖ Azad was independent India's first education minister.
- ❖ He established University Grants Commission (UGC) on 28 December 1953, IISCs, School of Architecture and Planning and was the brain behind IITs.
- ❖ He founded the Sangeet Natak Akademi (1953), Sahitya Akademi (1954) and Lalit Kala Akademi (1954) to promote education and culture in the country.
- ❖ The day is an occasion to remember Azad's contribution in laying the foundations of the education system in an independent India and evaluating current performance of education system.



National Education Day

Commemorating
Birth Anniversary of
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

*"Education imparted by
heart can bring revolution
in the society"*

