

October - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Centre has extended the services of Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary K. Shanmugam for another three months till January 31, 2021.
- ❖ Malayalam poet and 2019's Jnanpith winner Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away recently.
 - He was honoured with Padmashri in 2017.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Soyuz MS - 17 spacecraft

- ❖ Russia's Soyuz MS-17 spacecraft left for the International Space Station (ISS) on carrying Expedition 64 astronauts.
- ❖ They are Kathleen "Kate" Rubins and cosmonauts Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov.
- ❖ The three crew members will spend six months aboard the space station.
- ❖ This is Rubins' second voyage into space after she was aboard the Soyuz MS spacecraft on its first test flight to the ISS in July 2016.

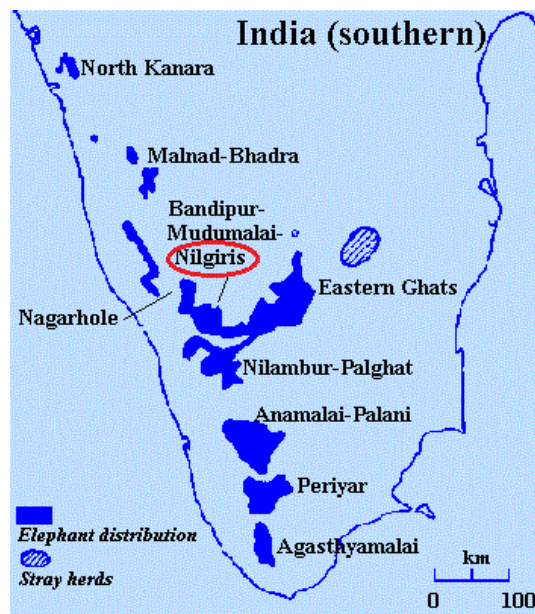


ENVIRONMENT

Right of Passage of the Animals

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the 2011 order of the Madras High Court on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and the closure of resorts in the area.

- ❖ In 2011, the Madras HC upheld the validity of the Tamil Nadu government's notification (of 2010) declaring an 'Elephant Corridor' in the Sigur Plateau of Nilgiris District.
- ❖ Elephant corridors allow elephants to continue their nomadic mode of survival, despite shrinking forest cover, by facilitating travel between distinct forest habitats.
- ❖ These corridors play a crucial role in sustaining wildlife by reducing the impact of habitat isolation.
- ❖ The Nilgiris Elephant corridor is situated in the ecologically fragile Sigur plateau, which connects the Western and the Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ It is situated near the Mudumalai National Park in the Nilgiris district.



STATES

Artificial Intelligence Research Centre at Hyderabad

- ❖ The Intel India announced the launch of an applied artificial intelligence (AI) research (INAI) center in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The research center would be launch in collaboration with the
 - Telangana government,
 - International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) and
 - Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).
- ❖ INAI mainly focus on identifying and solving the challenges in the healthcare and smart mobility segments.



Red Light on Gaadi off – Delhi

- ❖ "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" is an awareness campaign.
- ❖ It will be observed from October 21 to November 15.
- ❖ It is not an enforcement campaign.
- ❖ The onus is on individuals to follow.
- ❖ It is expected that, if 10 lakhs turn off the ignition at traffic signals, PM10 (Particulate matter) levels would go down by 1.5 tones and PM2.5 levels by 0.4 tonnes in one year.

World's biggest Zinc Smelter project

- ❖ Gujarat government has signed a pact with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) to set up a Greenfield zinc smelter in the state.
- ❖ The new facility – the first for Hindustan Zinc in Gujarat, will be set up with zero discharge technology and will be among the lowest-cost smelters in the world.
- ❖ Hindustan Zinc is one of the world's largest and India's only integrated producer of Zinc-Lead and Silver.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Intellectual Property Literacy Week - October 15 to 23

- ❖ Intellectual Property Literacy Week is observed from October 15 to 23.
- ❖ It aims to promote awareness in the field of Intellectual Property rights
- ❖ The Union Education Ministry's Institution Innovation Council (IIC) is conducting the Intellectual Property Literacy Week.
- ❖ The council has also presented IIC 2.0 annual report.
- ❖ Also, the launch of IIC 3.0 was also held.

MISCELLANEOUS

Global tuberculosis report 2020

- ❖ The World Health Organization recently released the Global Tuberculosis Report, 2020.

- ❖ The report says that COVID-19 could push Tuberculosis related deaths in the world to eight years back.
- ❖ In other words, it might increase the TB deaths by 0.2 to 0.4 million.

Highlights

- ❖ Philippines, Indonesia and South Africa account to 44% of global TB cases in the world.
- ❖ The three countries that have the largest burden of drug-resistant TB are India, China and Russia.
- ❖ The eight countries, that are home to two-thirds of global TB cases, are India, Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Russia.
- ❖ Between 2015 and 2019, there were 9% reduction of TB incidence and 14% reduction in TB deaths.
- ❖ India has the highest TB burden in the world.
- ❖ It accounts to 26% of total global TB cases.
- ❖ India registered a decline in notification of Tuberculosis cases by 85% in April 2020.
- ❖ The number of TB deaths could be between 200,000 and 400,000.

Intellectual Property India Report 2018-19



- ❖ The Intellectual Property India annual report was released by the Government of India.
- ❖ Along with that, annual rankings the year 2018-19 were also decided by Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Government of India.
- ❖ Chandigarh University Gharuan top the list among all university in India.
- ❖ It topped for filing the highest number of patents in a year counting 336.
- ❖ It is followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with 239 patent applications.



- ❖ CSIR comes the third with 202 applications and BHEL stands at fourth position with 173 patent applications.
- ❖ In the overall patents filing category, 27 Indian Institute of Technology (IIT's) have filed 557 patents collectively.

State's performance

- ❖ Punjab has managed into rankings of the Top 10 States of India in the field of Research & Innovation for the first time.
- ❖ Haryana with 507 applications comes at second position while Himachal Pradesh with 193 applications stands at third position.

