TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami was conferred an honorary doctorate, "Degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa)," at the 28th convocation of Dr MGR Educational and Research Institute, Chennai.
  - o This is the first honorary doctorate received by Palaniswami, who became Chief Minister in 2017.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, chancellor of the university, appointed professor P Kaliraj as the Bharathiar University's new vice chancellor.

- ❖ The National Highway starting from Kapurthala connecting Gobindwal Sahib and terminating near Taran Taran in the State of Punjab has been declared as new National Highway No. 703AA and named as "Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg.

- ❖ Born in India in 1936, Star music conductor Zubin Mehta took the stage in Tel Aviv for final performance as music director of the Israel Philharmonic.
  - o He retires after 50 years with the orchestra. He has also conducted thousands of concerts in New York, Los Angeles.

- ❖ Recently, 74-year-old Erramatti Mangamma of Andhra Pradesh has become mother to twin girls. She now become the World's oldest woman to give birth to a child.

- ❖ The AJK Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has partnered with UNICEF and conducted a capacity building workshop to raise awareness on pneumonia, diarrhoea, anaemia, breastfeeding and nutrition.

- ❖ Union Government plans to launch 'Vigyan Jyoti' programme to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education among girl students.

- ❖ 4500 students from Jammu and Kashmir have reported to the different colleges across the country for the undergraduate programmes under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS).
  - o This is the highest number in last six years. The scheme was launched in 2011.

- ❖ Italy has approved a new tax on digital companies, including US tech giants such as Facebook, Google and Amazon, as part of its 2020 draft budget.
  - o The levy, due to be introduced from next year, will oblige companies to pay a 3% levy on internet transactions.

- Department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has recently launched a website on intellectual property rights (IPR) and a mobile application, called 'Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation'.
    - Both were developed by DPIIT's Cell for IPR Promotion and Management in collaboration with Qualcomm and National Law University, Delhi.
- Reliance Mutual Fund has been renamed as Nippon India Mutual Fund and it becomes the largest foreign-owned Asset Management Company (AMC) in India.
- Thirteen-year-old Raunak Sadhwani from Nagpur is all set to become India's 65th Chess Grandmaster.

TAMIL NADU

40 Cyber Police Stations and Cyber Labs

- Tamilnadu will soon have 40 cybercrime police stations and six cyber labs to tackle the increasing number of crimes.
- Apart from handling cyber-crime cases, the new infrastructure will aid the police to collect digital evidence necessary to crack regular cases.
- The dedicated cyber stations and labs will be equipped with
    - tools to retrieve data, including deleted ones, from mobile phones, SIM cards, laptops and hard disks,
    - software for hacking and surveillance of computer systems.
- The government has sanctioned ₹28.97 crore for setting up the stations and labs.

IT-enabled Police Governance

- The Tamil Nadu police headquarters has become the first major organisation of the State government to go paperless.
- The entire administration in the office of the Director-General of Police, also known as the 'Chief Office', has been automated.
- Besides the DGP's office, three Commissionerates and 15 districts have been fully automated.

e-Office

- The police have deployed e-Office, a web application developed by the National Informatics Centre.
- e-Office is a secure network that not only facilitates speedy disposal of files but paves the way for
    - A more judicious utilisation of manpower, leading to better governance.

o Transparency

NATIONAL

World Giving Index

❖ On the list of 'charitable nations', India ranks 82 among the 128 countries surveyed by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

❖ CAF is an international organisation that promotes 'giving' to transform lives and communities across the World.

❖ CAF had surveyed 1.3 million people Worldwide over the past decade (2009 to 2018) and it is formulated as the World Giving Index (WGI).

❖ According to the WGI, USA stood at the top followed Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia.

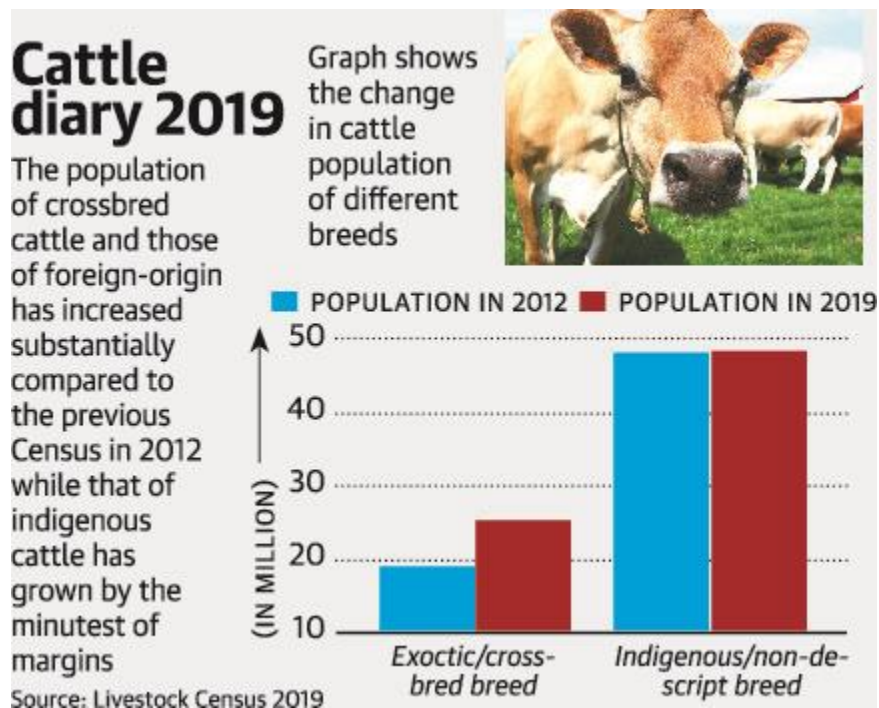❖ India falls below Sri Lanka (Nepal (53), Pakistan (69), Mexico (73) and Brazil (74).

'Made in India' Diagnostic Kits for Encephalitis, Bluetongue Virus

❖ The Union Government has launched the Bluetongue sandwich ELISA and the Japanese Encephalitis 1gm ELISA kits.

❖ It has been developed jointly by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI).

❖ The indigenously developed kits cost ten times lesser than the imported ones and have the potential to prevent the disease outbreak.

❖ Recently an outbreak of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) led to the death of more than 100 children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur.

20th Livestock Census

- ❖ According to data from the 20th Livestock Census released recently, there are 4.85 crore desi (native) milch cows in the country.

- ❖ It is less than 1% the 4.81 crore population in the last census in 2012.

- ❖ The milch population of exotic and crossbred cattle (Jerseys, Holsteins) saw a whopping growth of 32% over the last seven years from 1.9 crore to 2.5 crore animals.

- ❖ Milch cattle are cows kept for the purpose of milk production.

- ❖ The Rashtriya Gokul Mission was launched in 2014 to promote indigenous desi breeds.

Cattle diary 2019

Graph shows the change in cattle population of different breeds

The population of crossbred cattle and those of foreign-origin has increased substantially compared to the previous Census in 2012 while that of indigenous cattle has grown by the minutest of margins

POPULATION IN 2012 ■ POPULATION IN 2019

(IN MILLION)

Exoctic/cross-bred breed | Indigenous/non-descript breed

Source: Livestock Census 2019

Van Dhan Internship Programme of TRIFED

- ❖ Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched the "Van Dhan Internship Programme" organised by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- ❖ 18 interns were selected from reputed Institutes of Rural Management/ Management Institutions/Institutes of Social Work/Social Services of the country.

- ❖ They will support the TRIFED activities on livelihood promotion, value addition of NTFTs, marketing and credit linkages.

❖ They will develop tools and techniques on institutional development including mechanism for determination of a 'just price' or 'producer price' of Minor Forest Products.

INTERNATIONAL

Mahendraparvata – Hindu-Buddhist Empire @ Cambodia

❖ Researchers have identified the elusive ancient "lost city" of Khmer Empire of Cambodia for the first time.

❖ Mahendraparvata, sometimes dubbed the 'lost city of Cambodia', was an early capital city of the Khmer Empire.

❖ Khmer Empire was a Hindu-Buddhist regime of Southeast Asia that lasted from the 9th to 15th centuries of the common era.

❖ The discovery was made possible by using airborne laser scanning (Lidar).

❖ Lidar has "unique ability to 'see through' vegetation and provide high-resolution models of the forest floor.

World's Oldest Pearl @ UAE

❖ An 8,000-year-old pearl that archaeologists say is the World's oldest will be displayed in Abu Dhabi.

❖ The natural pearl was found in the floor of a room discovered during excavations at Marawah Island, United Arab Emirates.

❖ The excavation of the Marawah site, which has many collapsed Neolithic stone structures, has also yielded ceramics, beads made from shell and stone, etc.

❖ The "Abu Dhabi Pearl" will be displayed at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the outpost of the famous Paris museum.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Kayakalp Awards 2018-19: AIIMS

❖ The All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has bagged the first prize of ₹3 crore under the government's Kayakalp scheme for 2018-19 (Group A Category).

❖ The Kayakalp Award was instituted as part of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' on 15 May, 2015.

❖ It is a national initiative to recognize and felicitate public health facilities that demonstrate high levels of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control measure on promoting cleanliness in public spaces.

❖ JIPMER, Puducherry was judged as the runner-up with ₹1.5 crore prize money.

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