

September - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Two new species of marine eel were discovered and documented in August this year by Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Gopalpur-on-sea in Odisha.
 - They are: 'Gymnothorax andamanensis' and 'Gymnothorax smithi'
- ❖ "Obama: The Call of History" a book written by Peter Baker, the Chief White House Correspondent for The New York Times has been released. It chronicles the Presidential years of Obama.
- ❖ In the ongoing ISSF Shooting World Cup, Abhishek Varma and Saurabh Chaudhary have won gold and bronze respectively in the 10m Air Pistol event.
- ❖ The 10th edition of "The La Ultra-the High" marathon was conducted in Ladakh in 55, 111, 222, 333, 555 kms categories. It is one of the toughest marathons in the world due to extreme weather and altitude.

TAMIL NADU

Seed-embedded Vinayaka idols

- ❖ The Tamilnadu Horticulture department has introduced seed-embedded Vinayaka idols for sales this year.



- ❖ The Vinayaka statue has seeds of vegetables such as brinjal, tomato, chilly and green vegetables.
- ❖ Once Pooja is over, the statues can be developed into plants.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the burden of immersing the idols in water bodies and sea.



Underwater Archaeological Excavations – TN

- ❖ In a bid to unravel the past trade links of the ancient Tamils, the State Archaeology Department is planning to carry out underwater excavations.
- ❖ It will be in areas of the port cities and towns that existed during the Sangam and medieval periods.
- ❖ Objective: To probe trade contacts with Greek, Roman and Arab merchants.
- ❖ Areas off Mamallapuram, Poompuhar and Korkai and coastal areas near Arikamedu in Puducherry are likely to be focussed on.
- ❖ The last time the State Archaeology Department took up underwater excavations was in the 1990s, off Poompuhar.

NATIONAL

Shagun Portal

- ❖ The Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has launched one of world's largest integrated online junction for School Education called 'Shagun'.
- ❖ It is an initiative to improve school education system.
- ❖ The portal is a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- ❖ The portal seeks to connect approximately 92 lakh teachers and 26 crore students.

National Laboratory Directory

- ❖ The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Ram Vilas Paswan launched the National Laboratory Directory.
- ❖ It is an online platform created by the National Standards Body of India, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ❖ It is a one-stop-shop for all testing needs of the industries, academia, researchers and other stakeholders who need to get their Testing Facilities accredited / certified / recognised.
- ❖ 4500 labs have now been linked through this directory. (NABL accredited labs, BIS Recognised/Empanelled Labs, Hallmarking Labs...)
- ❖ All testing facilities for various labs can be searched by Products, IS standards, etc.

INTERNATIONAL

Largest Movable Metal Structure - Chernobyl

- ❖ Ukraine has inaugurated a new metal dome which encases the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl Nuclear plant.
- ❖ The dome has been named as New Safe Confinement.
- ❖ It is the world's largest movable metal structure.
- ❖ The Chernobyl nuclear power in Soviet Russia station saw the world's worst civilian nuclear accident on April 26, 1986.
- ❖ Hundreds of people died and 3,50,000 people were evacuated.



Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019

- ❖ The Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019 by Economist Intelligence Unit has been released.
- ❖ It ranks 60 countries worldwide across five continents and measures the multi-faceted nature of urban safety, with indicators categorised as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security.
- ❖ Cities in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region made up six of the top -10 safest cities with Tokyo taking the top spot.
- ❖ Mumbai has been ranked as the 45th safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI), while Delhi stood at the 52nd position.

Tokyo safest city, Delhi at 52nd: study

Tokyo is the safest city on the planet for the third year in a row, and six of the world's top 10 safest cities in the world are located in the Asia-Pacific, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index released on Thursday. Mumbai and Delhi rank low in the index even as the study points out that India and China will see the fastest rise in population—of 1.4%—over the next decade. The index ranks 60 countries across five continents and measures on urban safety indicators such as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security.



OVERALL SCORE

RANK	1	2	45	52	59	60
City	Tokyo	Singapore	Mumbai	New Delhi	Caracas	Lagos



DIGITAL SECURITY

1	Tokyo
2	Singapore
47	Mumbai
47	New Delhi
59	Ho Chi Minh City
60	Yangon



HEALTH SECURITY

1	Osaka
2	Tokyo
50	Mumbai
51	New Delhi
59	Karachi
60	Lagos



INFRA SECURITY

1	Singapore
2	Osaka
50	Mumbai
57	New Delhi
59	Dhaka
60	Caracas



PERSONAL SECURITY

1	Singapore
2	Copenhagen
37	Mumbai
41	New Delhi
59	Caracas
60	Lagos

ENVIRONMENT

CAMPA Funds – Afforestation Program

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment has released Rs 47,436 crore of CAMPA funds to various states for afforestation projects.
- ❖ The Supreme Court ordered for the establishment of Compensatory Afforestation Fund and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in 2001.

ABOUT CAMPA FUND

➤ The Campa fund is a national-level corpus fund where the compensation amount collected from user agencies like industries when forestland is diverted for non-forest purposes is deposited



➤ Fund is to be utilized for compensatory afforestation activities, protection of forests, forest-related infrastructure development, assisted natural regeneration of forests, etc.

- ❖ This fund to state aims to give a boost to forestry activities and increase forest and tree cover.
- ❖ The increase in forest and tree cover will create an additional carbon sink equivalent to 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by the year 2030.



STATES

NRC Final List – Assam

- ❖ Assam published the final list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- ❖ Out of 3,30,27,661 applicants, 3,11,21,004 people have been found eligible for inclusion in the final NRC list.
- ❖ 19 lakh people were excluded from the list.
- ❖ The government has given 120 days' time to those excluded from the NRC to appeal in the court.
- ❖ They will have to appeal against it at Foreigners' Tribunals (FT), a quasi-judicial court and subsequently in the high court or Supreme Court.

About

- ❖ NRC is a list of people who can prove that they came to Assam before 24 March 1971, a day before India's neighboring country Bangladesh declared independence from Pakistan.
- ❖ The first NRC was prepared in 1951 on the basis of year's census in Assam.
- ❖ This is the first time in 34 years that the NRC list has come out in Assam.

West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019

- ❖ The West Bengal Legislative Assembly has passed the West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019 to prevent and punish incidents of mob assaults and lynching.
- ❖ It proposes a jail term from three years to life for those involved in assaulting and injuring a person.
- ❖ The bill was passed in the aftermath of a string of incidents of people getting beaten to death over rumours of cattle smuggling and child theft.
- ❖ Rajasthan has also passed a similar bill and it awaits President's nod.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Kalinga-FCC Awards for Excellence in Journalism

- ❖ The Kalinga-FCC Awards for Excellence in Journalism are a first of its kind award in India.
- ❖ It aims to encourage extensive and informed coverage in the global media of India and the 7 SAARC Countries.

- ❖ It was instituted this year by the New Delhi-based Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCC) and the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ Reuters News agency journalists bagged top two awards.
- ❖ The BBC of the UK, Germany-based European Press Photo Agency (EPA), and PBS News Hour of USA shared the other three awards.

SPORTS

Champions Boat League (CBL) Snakeboat Race – Kerala

- ❖ Nadubhagam Chundan, the snake boat of Pallathuruthy Boat Club, lifted the 67th edition of the coveted Nehru Trophy at the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha.
- ❖ 'Chambakkulam Chundan' and "Karichal Chundan" came in the second and third positions respectively.



- ❖ Nation's first Prime Minister visited Alappuzha lake in 1952 and travelled on Nadubhagam Chundan (snakeboat).

About

- ❖ The CBL seeks to professionalise Kerala's largely scattered snake-boat races, while commercialising them without losing the conventional spirit.
- ❖ Hosted by Kerala Tourism, CBL is the country's first-ever boat race on the lines of the IPL.
- ❖ There will be 12 races in the CBL.
- ❖ It begins with the Nehru trophy and concludes with the President's Trophy Boat Race in Kollam on November 23.

