



September - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union government has put restrictions on the import of Agarbatti and other similar products from China and Vietnam.
 - The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has ordered that importers of these goods require a licence from the government.
- ❖ India's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora assumed Chairmanship of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) for the term 2019-21. India has taken over the AWEB Chair from Romania for a two-year period.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Garvi Gujarat', the second state bhawan of the Gujarat government in the national capital New Delhi.
 - This is the 'first eco-friendly' state Bhawan in national capital.
- ❖ About 70 hatchlings of the rare Black Softshell and Indian Softshell turtles bred in the ponds of two temples in Assam were released by in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam.
 - Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' because of similar landscape and a sizeable population of the one-horned rhino.
- ❖ Ashok Leyland has become 1st Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to meet BS-VI emission norms across its entire range of heavy-duty trucks.
 - It has received compliance certificates from the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI).
- ❖ Reliance Power has signed a partnership agreement with Japanese energy major Japan's Energy for a New Era (JERA). They will jointly set up 750-megawatt gas-based combined cycle power project at Meghnaghat, Bangladesh.
- ❖ Rishabh Pant became fastest Indian wicket-keeper to claim 50 dismissals in Test cricket in 11 matches. He broke previous record (16) held by MS Dhoni for India.
 - Kraigg Brathwaite of West Indies team was his 50th wicket.

NATIONAL

8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters

- ❖ The Indian Air Force inducted 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters at Pathankot Air Force station, Punjab.
- ❖ They are manufactured by US company Boeing and are expected to give a major boost to combat capabilities of Indian Air Force.

- ❖ This acquisition is part of a 22-helicopter deal signed by India and America in 2015.



Global Liveability Index 2019

- ❖ The Economic Intelligence Unit has released Global Liveability Index for 2019.
- ❖ The EIU's index ranks cities by five headline criteria
 - Stability and Culture and environment
 - Healthcare and infrastructure
 - Education
- ❖ New Delhi dropped six places to 118, from 112 last year.
 - Reasons: Rise in number of petty crimes, world's worst air quality index.
- ❖ Mumbai also fell in this year's index, by two places to 119, from 117 last year.
 - Reason: Downgrade in its culture category.
- ❖ The index is topped by Vienna and Melbourne.

South Asian Speaker's Conference

- ❖ The South Asian Speaker's conference was held at Maldives.
- ❖ The Indian delegation in the summit was led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- ❖ Pakistan speaker's attempt to raise the issue of abrogation of Article 370 provisions on Jammu and Kashmir was thwarted.

Samudrayaan Project

- ❖ India's ambition to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle is likely to be a reality in 2021-22 with the 'Samudrayaan' project.
- ❖ The project proposes to send a submersible vehicle with three persons to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out deep underwater studies.
- ❖ The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed for 72 hours.
- ❖ The 'Samudrayaan' is a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and is conducted by NIOT, Chennai.



Sagar Anveshika – Research Ship

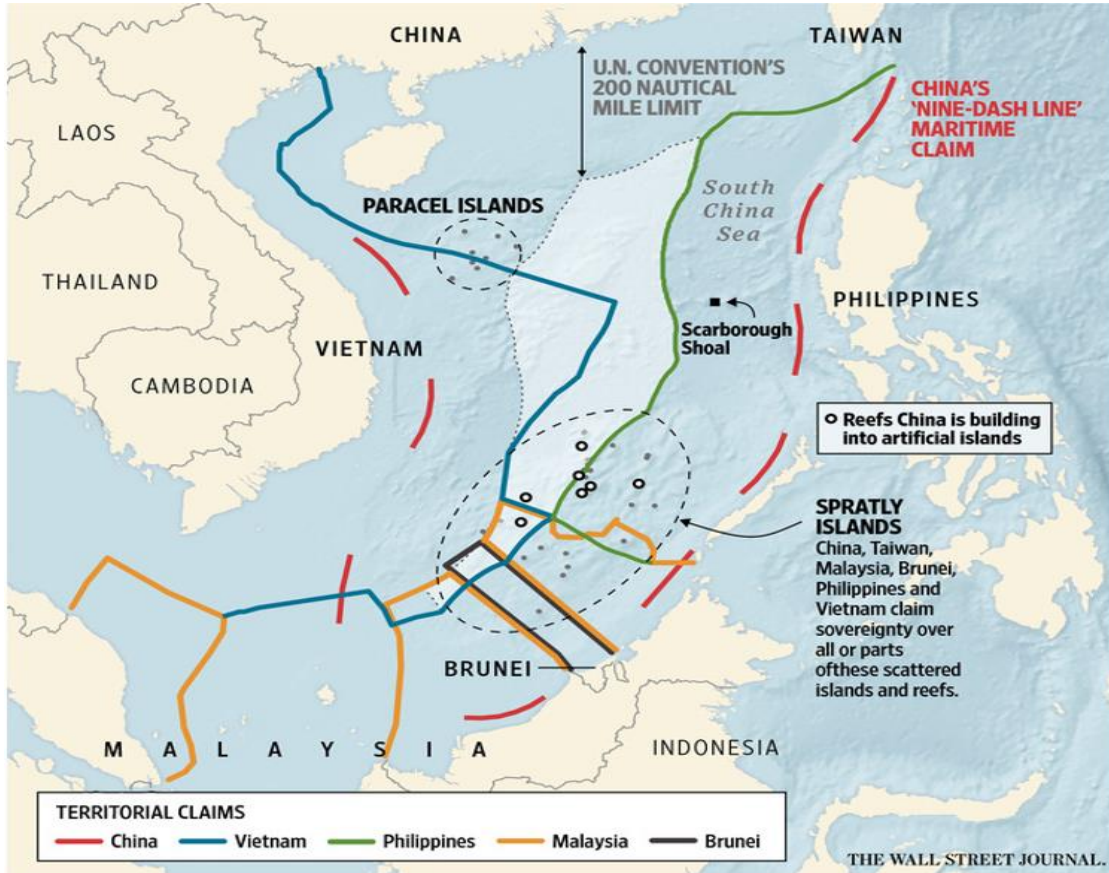
- ❖ Titagarh Marines, West Bengal has successfully developed and handed over the Research Vessel – Sagar Anveshika to NIOT, Chennai.
- ❖ It will conduct various oceanographic research missions.
- ❖ The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) functions under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ Titagarh had earlier launched the coastal research vessel “Sagar Tara” in 2018.

INTERNATIONAL

ASEAN – US Maritime Exercise

- ❖ For the first time, eight warships, four aircraft and more than 1,000 personnel from the United States and 10 Southeast Asian countries will join for the ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX).

- ❖ The 5-day exercise starts at Sattahip Naval Base, Thailand and ends in Singapore.
- ❖ Context: This exercise comes at a time of heightened tension over South China Sea between China and South East Asian Countries (Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines).



ECONOMY

Performance of 8 Core Sectors

- ❖ According to official data released by the government, Growth of eight core industries dropped to 2.1% in July mainly due to a contraction in coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products.
- ❖ Eight Core Industries are

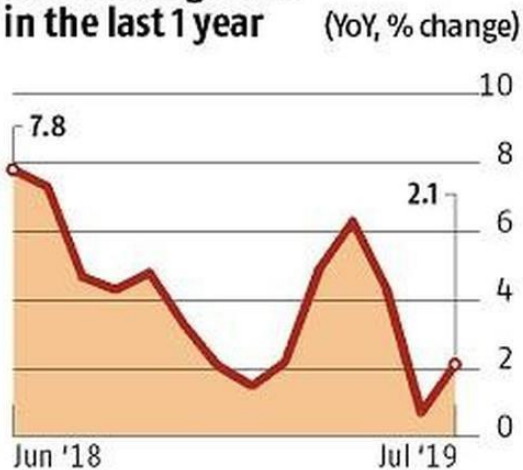
1. Coal	2. Crude Oil
3. Cement	4. Steel

5. Fertilisers	6. Electricity
7. Natural gas	8. Refinery Products

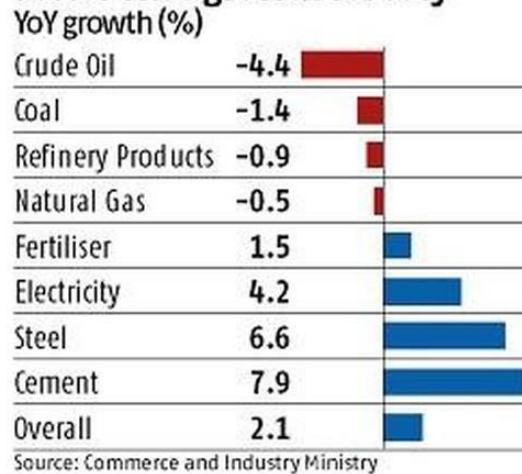
- ❖ They have a 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- ❖ IIP is a “key economic indicator” of the manufacturing sector of the economy.
- ❖ IIP data is compiled and published by Central Statistical Organisation every month.

4 OF 8 SECTORS SHOW CONTRACTION

Core sector growth in the last 1 year

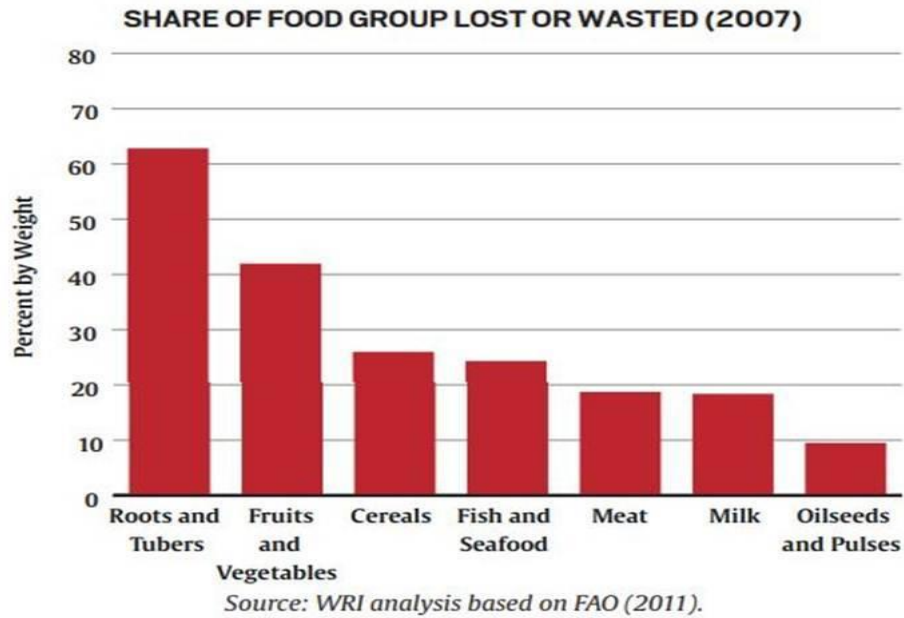


Sector wise growth for July



Reducing Food Loss and Waste Report

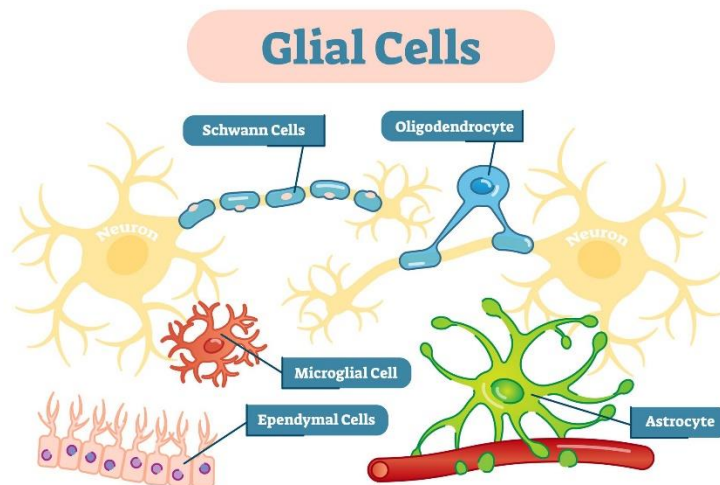
- ❖ A new report titled “Reducing Food Loss and Waste” by the World Resources Institute (WRI) with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation has “quantified” global food wastage.
- ❖ Nearly one-third of the food that is produced globally each year goes uneaten (Cost: \$940 billion).
- ❖ Uneaten food is responsible for emitting about 8 % of greenhouse gases.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New Pain Sensing Organ Discovered in Skin

- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new sensory organ in the skin that is able to detect painful mechanical damage, such as pricks and impacts.
- ❖ Organ responsible for pain: Glia Cells
- ❖ This is an advance that may help develop novel painkillers.
- ❖ The discovery is being published in the journal 'Science'.



ENVIRONMENT

Mussels against Water Pollution

- ❖ Scientists are deploying “mussels” across the oceans to absorb microplastics and other pollutants in the fight against water pollution.
- ❖ The mussel act as 'super-filters' - taking in phytoplankton for nourishment along with microplastics, pesticides and other pollutants.
- ❖ Mussels are mainly marine or freshwater creatures with a hard-outer shell.



STATES

Terracotta Grinder - Varanasi, UP

- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched first ever 'Terracotta Grinder' at Sewapuri in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This machine will grind the wasted and broken pottery items for re-using in pottery-making.
- ❖ It is expected to bring down production cost of terracotta products and supplement income of potters.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Nutrition Week September 1 – 7

- ❖ National Nutrition Week is celebrated each year from 1st September to the 7th September.
- ❖ The objective of the National Nutrition Week is to enhance the nutritional practice awareness among people.
- ❖ Especially Lactating mothers are encouraged to feed their new born baby the first milk known as the “colostrums”.
- ❖ The campaign was first started by the Union government in the year 1982.

World Coconut Day – September 2

- ❖ The world coconut day is observed every year on September 2.
- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness on the health benefits of the coconut as well as the economic benefits.
- ❖ India's Coconut Development Board will celebrate 21st World Coconut Day under the theme 'Coconut for Family Wellness' on September 2 at Odisha.

