

September - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A 27-year-old tribal woman, Anupriya Lakra, from Odisha's Maoist-hit Malkangiri district has become the first woman pilot from the region to fly a commercial plane.
 - She hails from Santhal tribal community.
- ❖ Justice Vikram Nath has been appointed as the chief justice of the Gujarat High Court as per recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium. He is at present posted as a judge in the Allahabad High Court.
- ❖ Noted Odia writer Pradeep Dash will be conferred with the 40th edition of prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work "Charu Chibar O Charjya".
 - Started in 1979, Sarala Puraskar is recognised as one of the foremost literary awards of Odisha.

TAMIL NADU

Second-best 'Swachh Iconic Place': Madurai Meenakshi Amman

- ❖ The Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple in Madurai has been adjudged the second-best 'Swachh Iconic Place' (clean place) in India.
- ❖ Madurai Corporation Commissioner S. Visakan received the award from the Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi recently.
- ❖ Ten places were identified by the Central government as part of the 'Swachh Iconic Places' initiative earlier this year.

Madras High Court Chief Justice Tahilramani

- ❖ On August 28, the Supreme Court collegium led by Chief Justice of India consisting of five senior-most judges recommended the transfer of Madras High Court Chief Justice VK Tahilramani to the Meghalaya High Court.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court, Ajay Kumar Mittal has been posted in her place.
- ❖ After that, Justice Tahilramani has submitted her resignation to the President.
- ❖ She became a judge of Bombay High Court in 2001.
- ❖ She was elevated as Chief Justice of Madras High Court in August 2018 and was due to retire from service in October 2020.

- ❖ She was the 3rd Women Chief Justice of Madras High Court after Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar (1992/93) and Indira Banerjee (2017/18).



NATIONAL

Nehru Yuva Kendras for Disaster Response

- ❖ Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) will constitute Disaster Response Teams at block level selected hazard prone districts.
- ❖ They will work as “first responders” in case of disasters in an area.
- ❖ The program is coordinated by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on a pilot basis in 32 multi-hazard prone districts in 28 States and Union Territories.

About

- ❖ NYKS is the largest grassroot level youth organization in the world.
- ❖ It was formed in 1972.
- ❖ It is an autonomous organization under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Common High Court: JK and Ladakh

- ❖ Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will become two separate Union territories from October 31 but will have a “common high court”.
- ❖ It was informed by State Judicial Academy's Director Rajeev Gupta.
- ❖ He also said that 108 Central Laws would be applicable for the two UTs.

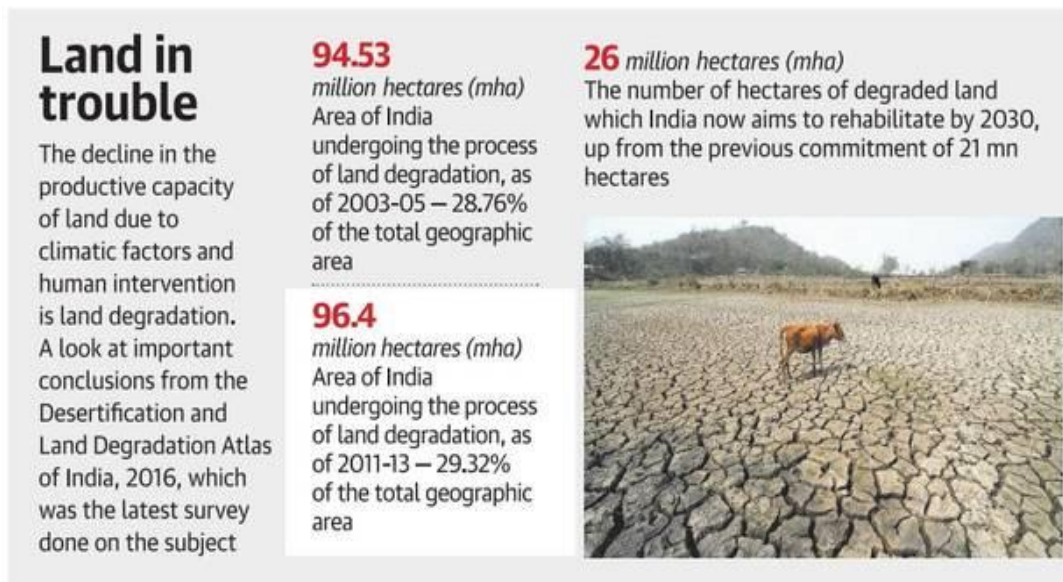
- ❖ 164 state laws would be repealed and 166 state laws will continue to be applicable.

Helicopter Summit - 2019

- ❖ Union Ministry of Civil Aviation organised country's first ever helicopter summit at Sahastradhara helidrome in Dehradun, capital of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The summit was based on theme of expanding connectivity through helicopters.
- ❖ Indian Air Force (IAF) was also invited at the summit to talk on 'Role of IAF helicopters in MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation at National level)'.

Restoring Degraded Land: Target Revised

- ❖ PM Modi has announced that India will aim to rehabilitate 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- ❖ Earlier the target was 21 million and it has now been revised.
- ❖ The decision was announced at the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) being held at New Delhi.



Findings submitted at UNCCD COP 14

- ❖ According to some researchers three animal species in India are under severe threat of extinction due to desertification.
- ❖ They are Indian Cheetah, pink-headed duck and Great Indian Bustard.



- ❖ Desertification is caused due to insecticides, pesticides, conversion to agricultural land, industries and chemicals.

INTERNATIONAL

Hurricane Dorian: Aiding Bahamas

- ❖ India has announced an immediate humanitarian assistance of \$1 million to help people in the Bahamas affected by Hurricane Dorian.
- ❖ It was an extremely powerful and destructive Category 5 hurricane.
- ❖ It was the first major hurricane of 2019 Atlantic hurricane season.

About

- ❖ The Bahamas was formerly a British colony and became an independent country within the Commonwealth in 1973.

ECONOMY

Aadhaar Enabled Payment System Services: India Post Payments Bank

- ❖ Union Government has announced the official rollout of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System Services by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
- ❖ IPPB has become the single largest platform in the country for providing interoperable banking services to customers of any bank.
- ❖ It is due to its extensive last mile connectivity of post offices.

About

- ❖ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is a 100% government owned payments bank operating under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications.
- ❖ It was founded on 1 September, 2018.

Gold Reserves of India

- ❖ India has pipped the Netherlands to move into the list of top ten countries in terms of total gold reserves.
- ❖ According to the World Gold Council, India has gold reserves totalling 618.2 tonnes and stands at 10th spot.
- ❖ U.S. leads the list with total gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes.



- ❖ The International Monetary Fund is ranked third with a holding of 2,451.8 tonnes.

TOP 10 COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST GOLD RESERVES, 2019



RANK	COUNTRY	GOLD RESERVES (IN US\$)	(IN METRIC TONNES)
1	UNITED STATES	\$334.5 BILLION	8,133
2	GERMANY	\$138.6 BILLION	3,370
3	ITALY	\$100.8 BILLION	2,452
4	FRANCE	\$100.2 BILLION	2,436
5	RUSSIA	\$86.9 BILLION	2,113
6	CHINA	\$76.2 BILLION	1,853
7	SWITZERLAND	\$42.8 BILLION	1,040
8	JAPAN	\$31.5 BILLION	765
9	NETHERLANDS	\$25.2 BILLION	612
10	INDIA	\$24.7 BILLION	600

Source: CEOWORLD magazine

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Vikram Lander

- ❖ Scientists at the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL), Trivandrum are continuing their efforts to establish contact with Vikram, the lander on the Chandrayaan-2.
- ❖ Out of the total 14 payloads aboard Chandrayaan-2, four are from the SPL.

About

- ❖ SPL is a premier science laboratory of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.
- ❖ It carries out research on the lower and upper atmospheres, ionospheres and magnetospheres of the Earth and other solar system bodies.

STATES

International Symposium on Buckwheat – Meghalaya

- ❖ In Meghalaya, a four-day international symposium on buckwheat crop.
- ❖ The theme of the symposium was "diversifying food systems for health and nutritional security".

About

- ❖ Buckwheat is a low input crop that has relatively high yields even in marginal soil.
- ❖ It adds nutrients to the soil and hence it makes a good cover crop or rotational crop.
- ❖ It extracts soil phosphorus from soil better than most grain-type cover crops.



SPORTS

US Open 2019

Women's Event

- ❖ 19-year-old Bianca Vanessa Andreescu beat Serena Williams of USA in the 2019 US Open Women's Singles final to become the first Canadian to win a Grand Slam title.
- ❖ Andreescu is also the first woman to win the U.S. Open in her tournament debut in the Open era since 1968.
- ❖ This is her first grand slam win.

Men's Event

- ❖ Spanish Rafael Nadal beat Daniil Medvedev of Russia and won his fourth U.S. Open title.
- ❖ This is his 19th Grand Slam title.
- ❖ Swiss player Roger Federer holds the highest number of Grand Slam titles (20).

MISCELLANEOUS

76th Venice International Film Festival

- ❖ 76th Venice International Film Festival was held at in Venice Italy.
- ❖ The award was founded in 1932 and it is world's oldest film festival.
- ❖ Malayalam film "Chola" directed by Sanal Kumar Sasidharan also competed in the film festival as part of the 'Orizzonti' (Horizons) competition category.
- ❖ Golden Lion Award for Best Film was given awarded to 'Joker' directed by Todd Phillips.

