

July – 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Iran made a failed attempt to capture a British Oil Tanker near Abu Musa islands, in the Strait of Hormuz.
 - Abu Musa island is claimed by both Iran and UAE but presently occupied by Iran.
- ❖ A documentary film club called "KSHITIJ" is being launched at Mumbai by Films Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in association with Indian Documentary Producers Association (IDPA).
 - The acclaimed documentary film "Secret Life of Frogs" by Ajay & Vijay Bedi will be screened as the inaugural film.
- ❖ It has been declared in the 10th World Tamil Conference in Chicago of USA that the 11th World Tamil Conference will be held at Annamalai University, Chidambaram.
- ❖ The Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna National Award for Artistic Excellence, Murali Nada Lahari, was conferred upon playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam.
 - The award was presented as part of the Balamurali Nada Mahotsav 2019 held by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and M. Balamuralikrishna Memorial Trust on the Carnatic singer's birthday.
- ❖ South Korean automaker Hyundai has launched India's first fully electric SUV "Kona Electric" in India. The vehicle promises a driving range of 452 km/charge.
 - 'Kona' Electric is named after the idyllic west-coast region of the Big Island of Hawaii.
- ❖ Robots were used as umpires for the first time in the American Professional baseball games by a team called 'Atlantic League'.
- ❖ The World Bank Group has announced that Anshula Kant, an Indian national, has been appointed as its next MD and CFO. Ms. Kant will be the first woman CFO of the Bank.
 - She was formerly employed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the State Bank of India.
- ❖ Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe made a "perfect" touchdown on a distant asteroid, collecting samples from beneath the surface in an unprecedented mission that could shed light on the origins of the solar system.

- This is the first time the sub-surface material from a celestial body further away than the moon is collected.
- ❖ The United States government has levied a fine of \$ 5 billion on Facebook on allegations that it clandestinely shared information belonging to 87 million users with the British political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica.

TAMIL NADU

Makkal Number

- ❖ Tamilnadu government plans to provide statutory services to people as a predictive service without citizens having to apply for it.
- ❖ Statutory services include providing government services like certificates, documents, licences, etc. to people through Arasu e-sevai centres after a request is made by people.

New Scenario

- ❖ The Tamilnadu e-governance agency plans to generate a unique id number for all 7-crore people of the state called “Makkal Number”.
- ❖ The Aadhaar data will be anonymised and a fool-proof id like Makkal Number will be used.
- ❖ These data will electronically reach the ‘Citizen Vault’, to be created for each resident of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Residents can view their certificates and documents in their vault, using their mobile number as the user ID and an OTP as the password.
- ❖ Blockchain technology will prompt the software of each department or agency to issue certificates as and when citizens become eligible for them.
- ❖ “Right from the Birth Certificate to the Death Certificate and numerous certificates/documents issued in-between by various government departments and agencies will be automatically stored in the ‘Citizen vault’.
- ❖ The “Makkal number” scheme and the subsequent verification of an individual’s data stored in the Citizen vault will be done only with the consent of the concerned person.

NATIONAL

Pawan Hans Helicopters

- ❖ The Union government has issued a fresh bid document for strategic “disinvestment” in Pawan Hans.
- ❖ The Government holds a 51% stake and 49% is with ONGC.
- ❖ Pawan Hans is a Mini Ratna-I category PSU started in 1985.
- ❖ It provides helicopter services to various state governments, especially the North East, Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands, Vaishnao Devi shrine.
- ❖ The slogan of the company is “We fly for you”.

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakthi

- ❖ In a major boost to Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti (MRGS) mission, a MOU was signed between the Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC), Department of Defence Production and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC).
- ❖ MRGS was launched in 2018 to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- ❖ The IPFC has facilitated filing of more than 1000 new patent applications.
- ❖ The overall objective of the mission is full utilization of new ideas and innovation towards achieving self-reliance in defence sector.



Operation Thirst

- ❖ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a new program called “Operation Thirst”.
- ❖ It is an All India action plan to crack down on the selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water in trains and railway stations.
- ❖ The unauthorised bottles were seized under the sections of 144 and 153 of the Railway Act.

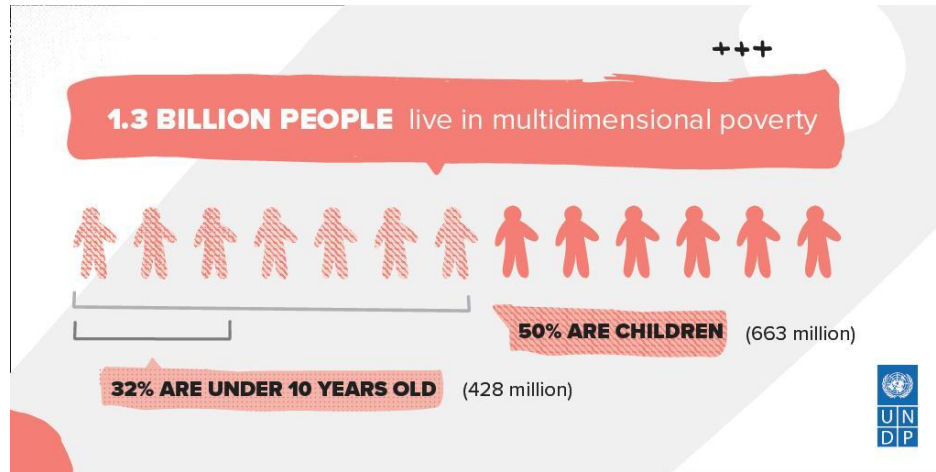
Operation Thirst” launched by RPF:



RPF launched “Operation Thirst” to crack down selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water in the railway premises. During the operation, 1371 persons were arrested for selling of packaged drinking water of unauthorised brands.

Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019

- ❖ The 2019 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) from the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) has been released.
- ❖ It states that India has lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016.
- ❖ Jharkhand has shown highest progress in India.
- ❖ It reduced the incidence of multidimensional poverty from 74.9% in 2005-06 to 46.5% in 2015-16.



INTERNATIONAL

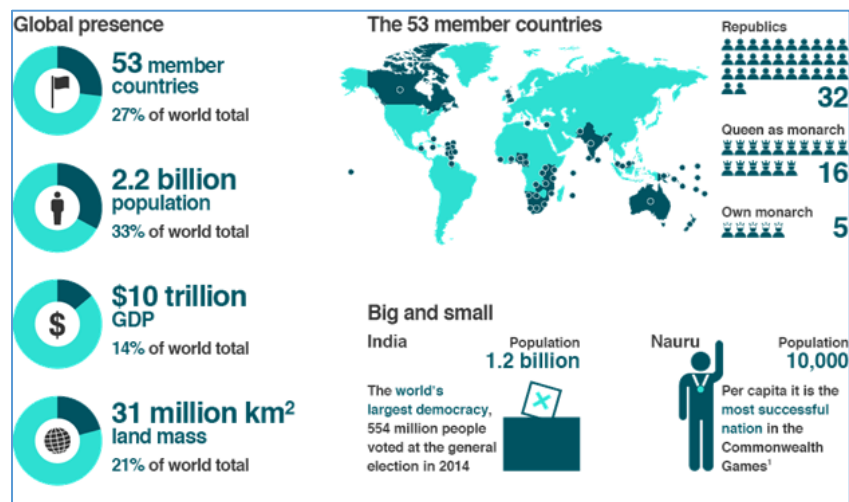
Vote on the appointment of the Independent Expert

- ❖ India abstained at the vote for extending the mandate of an important U.N. official who reports on violence and discrimination against sexual minorities.
- ❖ This Resolution aimed to grant an extension of three years to the Independent Expert to carry on reporting on incidents of violence against the LGBTQ community all over the world.
- ❖ The resolution received support from most of the member countries at the Human Rights Council.
- ❖ but India, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Hungary, Togo and Senegal abstained during the final voting.
- ❖ Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Qatar, Somalia opposed the resolution.
- ❖ India had also abstained during the 2016 vote on appointment of the Independent Expert.
- ❖ The current Independent Expert is Victor Madrigal Borlitz of Costa Rica.

India's support to Maldives

- ❖ India has urged the Commonwealth to expedite readmission of the Maldives as a member country.

- ❖ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar conveyed India's stand at the 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting in London.
- ❖ The Maldives withdrew from the Commonwealth during the tenure of President Abdullah Yameen in 2016.



About Commonwealth

- ❖ The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 independent and sovereign states, nearly all of them former territories of the British Empire.
- ❖ Headquartered in London, the Commonwealth was started in 1931.
- ❖ The last country to join the Commonwealth was Rwanda in 2009.
- ❖ All 53 members have an equal say, regardless of the size or economic stature.

No Reimbursement for Homeopathy - France

- ❖ The French government has decided to stop reimbursing medical bills of its citizens who undergo homeopathic treatment from 2021.
- ❖ In 2017, Britain decided to stop funding homeopathic care.
- ❖ Alternative medicine homeopathy was developed in 1796 by Samuel Hahnemann in Germany.

STATES

Women Startup Summit 2019 in Kerala

- ❖ The Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) is hosting the 'Women Start-up Summit' on August 1 in a bid to promote women entrepreneurship.
 - ❖ The meet will be open for all women professionals, aspiring entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and start-up founders.
 - ❖ About 20 women start-ups shortlisted from the "She Loves Tech" national grand challenge will be showcased in the summit.
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