

November – 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Veteran Kannada Actor and Politician M.H. Ambareesh, who was popularly known as “Rebel Star”, passed away on 24th November 2018, following lung and Kidney infection at the age of 66 in Bangalore.
- ❖ eNovus enterprises, the makers of the easyfone brand of phone have launched “Easyfone Star”, **India’s first mobile phone for kids** to help them be safer and connected to the parents.
 - Some of the features of the phone include restricting calls to only pre-configured numbers, GPS & SOS.
- ❖ Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty Kundra led India to achieve a new title on the **Guinness World Records** as 2,353 people held **the abdominal plank position for 60 seconds** simultaneously at the Armed Forces Medical College ground in Pune.
 - The record was made under the ‘Bajaj Allianz Life Plankathon’ event, organised by Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company.

NATIONAL

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- ❖ According to the Centre for Digital Financial Inclusion (CDFI), the government had transferred over Rs 1,600 crore to 48.5 lakh mothers under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
- ❖ The process has been conceptualized, designed and implemented by CDFI through the PMMVY-CAS (Common Application Software) System.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- ❖ According to the scheme, which became active from January 1, 2017,
 - Rs 5,000 would be given in **3 instalments** to pregnant women and lactating mothers for the **first child** through **Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT)**.
- ❖ The scheme excludes those in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking.
- ❖ The scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which cost sharing ratio
 - Between the Centre and the States & UTs with Legislature is 60:40

- For North-Eastern States & three Himalayan States, it is 90:10.
- Central assistance for Union Territories without Legislature is 100%.

Status check

A look at the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- Under the scheme, monetary benefits are extended to all pregnant women and lactating mothers, except those in government service, for the safe delivery of the first child
- On average, eligible beneficiaries get ₹6,000 each in three instalments
- The cash incentive is provided as compensation for wage loss, so that the beneficiary can take adequate rest before and after the delivery and immunisation of her first child



ENVIRONMENT

Zoological Survey of India – Report

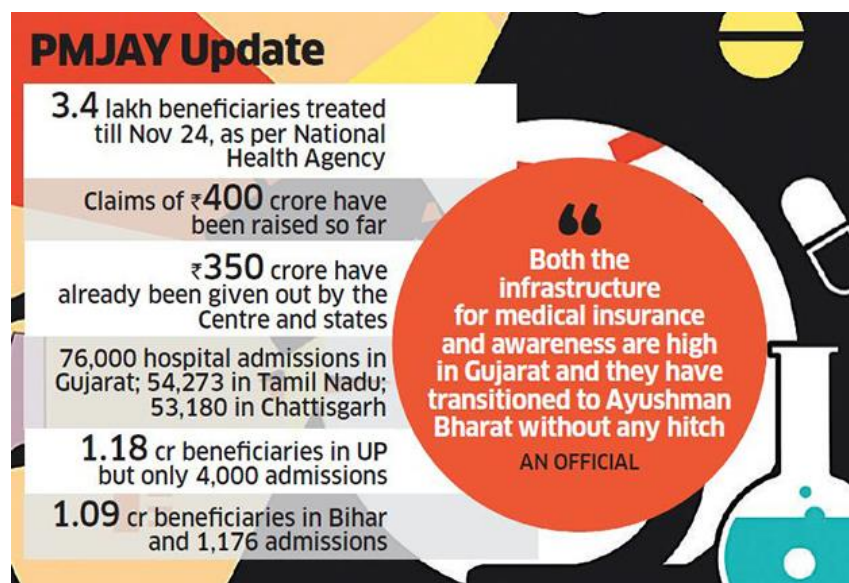
- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has recently published a report titled 'Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zones: Islands of India'.
- ❖ It has for the first time come up with a database of all faunal species found on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The documentation proves that the islands, comprising only 0.25% of India's geographical area, are home to more than 10% of the country's fauna species.
- ❖ 10 species of marine fauna found on the islands,
 - The dugong/sea cow, and
 - The Indo-Pacific humpback dolphinare both classified as Vulnerable under the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species.

- ❖ Totally 46 terrestrial mammalian species were found there. They have been categorised according to the IUCN.
 - 3 species have been categorised as Critically Endangered
 - Andaman shrew (*Crocidura andamanensis*),
 - Jenkin's shrew (*C. jenkinsi*) and
 - Nicobar shrew (*C. nicobarica*).
 - 5 species are listed as Endangered
 - 9 species as Vulnerable, and
 - 1 species as Near Threatened.
- ❖ Another unique feature of the islands' ecosystem is that 555 species of scleractinian corals (hard or stony corals) are found in the island.

STATES

Gujarat topped in implementing Ayushman Bharat

- ❖ According to the National Health Agency, after 2 months of the launch of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Gujarat has emerged as the top performer under the scheme.



- ❖ One reason behind Gujarat's success is that it has already been implementing a similar scheme, known as the Mukhyamantri Amrutam (MA) Yojana, since 2012.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranked second and Chhattisgarh ranked third followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

UNICEF appoints first 'Youth Advocate' of the North Eastern region

- ❖ The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has appointed popular singer Nahid Afrin (17) of Assam as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the north-eastern region to fight for child rights.



- ❖ The UNICEF engages 'Youth Advocates' to harness their voice as the agents of change in society.

SPORTS

Syed Modi International 2018

- ❖ The Badminton World Federation (BWF) had recently organized Syed Modi International Badminton Championship at Lucknow, India.
- ❖ Syed Modi International is a HSBC BWF World Tour Super 300 tournament named in the memory of the 1982 Commonwealth Games men's singles Champion Syed Modi.
- ❖ India's (24) Sameer Verma won the Men's single title by defeating China's Lu Guangzu in the final to retain the title.
- ❖ Saina Nehwal settled with silver after losing to China's Han Yue in Women's Singles event.

Other winners - India

- ❖ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty - silver medal (Men's Doubles)
- ❖ Ashwini Ponnappa and Reddy N. Sikki – Silver medal (Women's Doubles)
- ❖ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa - Bronze medal (mixed doubles)

ICC Women's World T20 cup

- ❖ The 6th edition of ICC Women's World T20 cup has been won by Australia by defeating England in the final at Antigua, West Indies.
- ❖ This is Australia's 4th world cup victory after 2010, 2012 and 2014.



- ❖ Australia's wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy was named the Player of the match in the finals.
- ❖ Australia were beaten by West Indies in the last world cup in 2016.
- ❖ In this World Cup, India lost to England in the semi-final match.
- ❖ Indian Team captain Harmanpreet Kaur became the first woman for India to score a century in WT20Is, a match against New Zealand and the third for any country to score one at an ICC Women's World Twenty20.
- ❖ She was the leading run-scorer for India in the tournament, with 183 runs in five matches.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National milk day – 26 November

- ❖ The National Milk Day (NMD) was observed on 26 November to mark the birth anniversary Dr. Verghese Kurien, father of the White Revolution in India, born in 1921 at Kozhikode.
- ❖ The first NMD was observed on 26 November 2014.
- ❖ Dr. Verghese Kurien was the architect of the “Operation Flood”, which was launched by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in the year 1970.
- ❖ This programme led India to become one of the largest producers of Milk and now India is self sufficient to meet its dairy needs.

Constitution Day - 26 November

- ❖ Constitution day which is also known as the Samvidhan Divas was celebrated on 26 November every year across the country.
- ❖ It has been celebrated to mark the day on which the Constitution of India was adopted.
- ❖ The adoption of the Constitution took place on November 26, 1949, it came into effect on January 26, 1950.
- ❖ The Government of India declared 26th November as Constitution Day on 19th November 2015 by a gazette notification.
- ❖ The year of 2015 was the 125th birth anniversary of Ambedkar.

MISCELLANEOUS

India marks 10th anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks

- ❖ India on November 26, 2018 marked the tenth anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- ❖ US has announced a reward of \$5 million for those who will help to find the people involved in the Attack.
- ❖ Ten years back in 2008, 10 terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group sailed into Mumbai and carried out the coordinated attacks that lasted for 3 days.

- ❖ In response to the terrorist attack, Operation Black Tornado was conducted by the National Security Guards (NSG) to catch the attackers at the Taj Hotel.
- ❖ Ajmal Kasab was the only attacker who was captured alive and was later executed at Yerwada Jail in Pune on November 21, 2012.
