

July – 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Hollywood actor Leonardo Di Caprio is joining with billionaire investors and philanthropists Laurene Powell Jobs and Brian Sheth to create an environmental organization called “Earth Alliance”.
 - It will work globally to protect ecosystems and wildlife, support renewable energy and secure indigenous rights to the benefit of all life on Earth.
- ❖ New Space India Limited (NSIL) has been incorporated as a ‘new’ commercial arm of Department of Space to tap the benefits of the Research & Development carried out by ISRO.
 - Antrix Corporation limited was the first commercial venture started in 1992 to market the products and services of ISRO.
- ❖ Chinese player Li Shi Feng has won the men’s singles title of Canada Open Badminton. He defeated India’s Parupalli Kashyap in the title clash.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a USD 6 billion loan over a period of 3 years for the cash strapped Pakistan.
 - The financial aid includes an immediate disbursement of USD 1 billion to help Pakistan address its Balance of Payment crisis.
- ❖ The Department of State of USA has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist outfit.
 - BLA is blamed for the civil war-like situation in Balochistan, which is Pakistan’s largest province.

NATIONAL

Coral Rehabilitation Program

- ❖ National Centre for Coastal Research has proposed to dispose plastic waste by converting them into ‘melted plastic rocks or slabs’.
- ❖ It plans to lay them on the seabed for growing coral reefs.
- ❖ The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park has opposed the program as it fears that corals would be destroyed.
- ❖ It has been implementing coral rehab program since 2002.

Women's Unit in Territorial Army

- ❖ For the first time, the Indian Army is recruiting 100 Women Jawans in the Corps of Military Police (CMP).
- ❖ It also plans to
 - Include 1,700 women in the PBOR (personnel below officer rank) category in CMP over the next 17 years
 - Raise All-Women 'Mahila Provost Unit' in Territorial Army



Heat Waves Predictor

- ❖ The researchers at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune have developed an extended range prediction system to monitor heat waves.
- ❖ It enables real time prediction of heat waves two to three weeks in advance.
- ❖ No such system was available before 2017.
- ❖ Based on observation data available from 1981 to 2017, it shows that two regions in India are prone to heat waves
 - South Coastal Regions
 - Northwest India

Jaipur's UNESCO Heritage Status

- ❖ The Pink City Jaipur has been selected as India's 38th UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❖ The decision was taken by UNESCO at the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee held at Baku, Azerbaijan.

- ❖ Govind Dev temple, City Palace, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal are some of the iconic monuments in Jaipur.
- ❖ Jaipur city was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Jai Singh II, who ruled Jaipur State between 1699–1744.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister has introduced a new program in Budget 2019 called Jal Jeevan Mission.



- ❖ It aims to supply piped water supply to all rural households by 2024.
- ❖ This Mission, under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, will focus on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.
- ❖ It aims to create local infrastructure like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.

INTERNATIONAL

Babylon Heritage Site

- ❖ UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has listed Iraq's "Babylon" as a World Heritage Site.
- ❖ This ancient Mesopotamian city was developed as a walled city of mudbrick temples and towers, constituting the Tower of Babel, and the Ishtar Gate.
- ❖ It was the centre of the ancient Babylonian empire more than 4,000 years ago.



- ❖ Famous rulers who ruled from Babylon include Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar.
- ❖ Babylon is world famous for its Hanging gardens.
- ❖ The other recently selected list of World Heritage sites are

- Ancient Ferrous Metallurgy Sites of Burkina Faso
- Paraty and Ilha Grande, Brazil
- Vatnajökull National Park, Iceland
- French Austral Lands and Seas, France
- Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, Albania - an extension from the North Macedonian side of the lake, which has been on the World Heritage List since 1979

ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife Population Control

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched a project to undertake 'immunocontraceptive measures' and control population of four species of wild animals.
 - Elephant
 - Wild Boar
 - Monkey
 - Blue Bull (Nilgai)
- ❖ This technology uses a female animal's immune system to build a protein around the egg that prevents it from fertilising.
- ❖ The project aims to minimise human-animal conflict and the resulting casualties.
- ❖ It will be started in Uttarakhand and then be extended to other States.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India and National the Institute of Immunology have developed the protocol of immunocontraception.

Arctic Fox Transcontinental Migration

- ❖ A young Arctic fox has travelled 2,175 miles from its original habitat in Norway to Canada in just 76 days.
- ❖ The areas are connected seasonally by sea ice and much of the journey was completed over stretches of the frozen Arctic Ocean.
- ❖ According to a study by the Norwegian Polar Institute, such a fast-transcontinental migration has “never” been documented earlier.
- ❖ The migration may be because of lack of food or need for a new habitat.



STATES

CRPF in Abujahmad Forests

- ❖ Nearly 7,000 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel will be deployed by the Union Home Ministry in the inaccessible areas of Abujahmad, South Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ These forests are not even on the revenue map and the dense jungles are used by Maoists as their hideouts.
- ❖ The security forces are expected to be a strong deterrent and flush out Maoists.



Sports Centres in Arunachal

- ❖ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju has announced that three Sports Centre of Excellence will be established in Itanagar.
- ❖ These centres will have a capacity of 300 sportspersons with residential facility.
- ❖ The three centres of excellence will be for Martial Arts, Weight Lifting and Boxing.

Kerala Snake Boats League

- ❖ Kerala government plans to transform the state's legendary and historically-significant 'vallamkali' (snake boat races) into a world-class sporting event.
- ❖ It aims to conduct Champions Boat League (CBL) on the lines of IPL tournament.
- ❖ The snake boat or 'chundam vallam' is a long canoe that can seat up to 100 rowers and 100 to 138 feet in length.
- ❖ These boats were used in 13th century for battles in Alleppey's backwaters.

SPORTS

Copa America

- ❖ Brazil has become the champions of South America, defeating Peru 3-1 in the Copa América finals.
- ❖ It won the tournament for the first time in 12 years.

About

- ❖ Started in 1916, Copa America is the oldest international continental football competition in the world.
- ❖ The 2019 Copa América was the 46th edition of the tournament.
- ❖ The event was held in Brazil.
