



July – 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The production of India’s first semi-high-speed train “Vande Bharath” has been stopped in ICF, Chennai due to design violations.
- ❖ Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled ‘Vivekadeepini’ which was initially written by 8th century philosopher and theologian Adi Shankaracharya.
 - He consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta.
- ❖ The Former Indian Cricket captain Rahul Dravid was appointed as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), Bengaluru.

NATIONAL

Jai Shankar in Rajya Sabha

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar took oath as Rajya Sabha member.
- ❖ He has been elected to the Upper House from Gujarat.
- ❖ Article 84 of the Constitution lays down the qualifications for membership of Parliament.
- ❖ A 1977-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar played a major role during the 2017 Doklam stand-off negotiations with China.
- ❖ He was also involved in negotiating the landmark Indo-US Nuclear deal.

Rainwater Harvesting Cell

- ❖ As part of the first phase of Jal Shakti Abhiyan campaign (July 1 - September 15), Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has released its Guidelines for urban water conservation.
- ❖ All Urban Local Bodies across the country have been asked to set up a cell for monitoring of Rain Water Harvesting.
- ❖ The cell should monitor the extent of groundwater extraction and groundwater aquifer recharge and display the data in a prominent public place.

Operation Sudharshan

- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise code-named Operation Sudharshan on July 1.
- ❖ It will cover the entire over the 1,000 km length of the India-Pakistan International Border.
- ❖ Jammu shares about 485-km of the border with Pakistan, Punjab shares 553-km and the rest are in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- ❖ The BSF is the primary force guarding this frontier as the 'first line of defence'.
- ❖ Please go here for additional read about BSF: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/52nd-raising-day-of-bsf-observed-1-december/>

Kashmir Investor Summit

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir will host its first-ever investor summit in September-October of this year in Srinagar and Jammu.
- ❖ In addition to tourism, horticulture and handicrafts, focus will be on power sector and manufacturing.

Conference at Patel Statue

- ❖ For the first time ever, the Foreign Ministry's annual Heads of Missions (HoMs) conference will be held next to Patel's Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Narmada district.
- ❖ It is a gathering of all Indian ambassadors and high commissioners who work to promote India's interests abroad.
- ❖ Annual conference of state DGP was also held at the same venue in 2018.
- ❖ Sardar Vallabhai Patel is widely called as Bismarck of India.

INTERNATIONAL

Five Eyes Program

- ❖ The United States has threatened to stop sharing intelligence data with Five Eyes countries if they use Chinese telecom company Huawei's network equipment.

- ❖ The Five Eyes name refers to the security classification of intelligence documents which is available only for
 - Australia
 - Canada
 - New Zealand
 - UK
 - USA
- ❖ This program was started in 1946 between US and UK to share intelligence. Then the rest of the countries joined.
- ❖ During the Cold war era they spied Russia. After 9/ 11 Twin Tower attacks, they are also monitoring global terrorists.

Torture Goods UN Resolution

- ❖ India joined with Russia and 42 other nations to abstain from voting on a recent UN General Assembly resolution introduced by Romania.
- ❖ The resolution aimed at examining options to end trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture.
- ❖ India abstained from voting on it because
 - It is against Indian statutory law which allows capital punishment in rarest of the rare cases
 - It may be an attempt to place capital punishment on par with torture.

Model Village in Sri Lanka

- ❖ The first model village built with Indian assistance under the Model Villages Program was inaugurated at Ranidugama in Gampaha in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It is a part of housing project meant for Tamil people displaced due to war.
- ❖ India plans to construct 100 such model villages with 2400 houses each.
- ❖ India's contribution also includes the largest University Auditorium in Ruhuna University in Matara in Sri Lanka.

ECONOMY

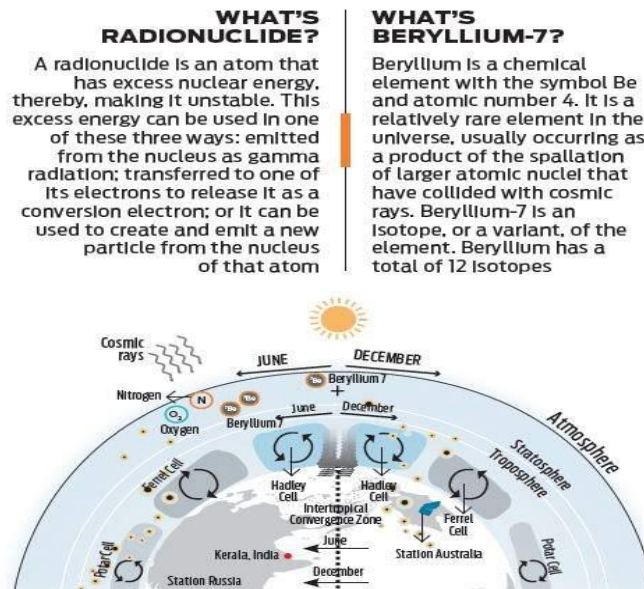
Sovereign Gold Bonds

- ❖ The government fixed the price of the new series of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) at Rs 3,443 per gram opening July 8, 2019.
- ❖ Under SGB scheme, launched in November 2015, bonds are denominated in units of one gram of gold.
- ❖ Minimum Investment in bonds is 1 gram and the maximum limit of subscription is 500 gram/person/fiscal year.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Monsoon Prediction using Beryllium-7 radionuclide

- ❖ Lucrezia Terzi of Belgian Nuclear Research Centre used data from monitors meant to detect nuclear explosions to decode the 'complex' Indian monsoon.
- ❖ The International Monitoring System stations set up under Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) regularly detect the level of radioisotopes in the atmosphere.



- ❖ She used data from the CTBTO monitors in Russia and Australia to know the levels of radioactive isotope Beryllium-7 to predict the monsoon.
- ❖ Whenever Beryllium-7 level is high in Russia it is low in Australia vice versa.

- ❖ The point at which the data of both countries intersect is called Hadley-Ferrell Convergence Zone (HFCZ).
- ❖ HFCZ can be linked to monsoon rains.
- ❖ This system predicts monsoon with unprecedented accuracy - about two months in advance with an error margin of about three days.

STATES

Green Tax in Uttarakhand

- ❖ The government of Uttarakhand has decided to levy a “eco tax” for tourists visiting the state.
- ❖ The tax would be decided by the urban local body of the concerned place.
- ❖ It will be used to dispose the waste generated in the fragile ecosystem by visiting tourists.
- ❖ An estimated 8 lakh pilgrims visit Uttarakhand every year.
- ❖ Mussoorie and Nainital are the two hill towns that levy ‘entry tax’ for visitors.

Operation Milap Delhi Police

- ❖ The Delhi Police crime branch conducted Operation Milap to rescue missing children.
- ❖ They rescued 333 missing children from the city and handed them over to their families in different parts of the country.
- ❖ These children were missing since January 2019 from various parts of the country and were found in Delhi.
- ❖ Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Delhi Police was set up in 2014.

Mountain Medicines Institute

- ❖ Uttarakhand government plans to set up Asia’s first Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High-Altitude Rescue in Rudraprayag district.
- ❖ The institute would also train armed forces as well as paramilitary personnel in Mountain Medicines.

- ❖ It would provide necessary high-altitude medical services to pilgrims and tourists visiting the state.

SPORTS

Wrestling Grand Prix of Spain

- ❖ India's top wrestler Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal in 53 kg category by beating Netherlands' Jessica Blaszka in the finals of Wrestling Grand Prix.
- ❖ Divya Kakran claimed the gold medal in 68kg by beating an opponent from Poland.
- ❖ India finished overall second in the tournament. Russia topped.

FIFA Women's World Cup

- ❖ The United States of America won the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 held in Lyon, France.
 - ❖ They scored 2 goals and beat Netherlands.
 - ❖ Team coach Jill Ellis became 1st coach to win back-to-back World Cups in men's or women's game since Italy's Vittorio Pozzo in 1930s.
 - ❖ US women's team has also won earlier in 1991, 1999 and 2015.
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