

July - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Deputy U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has said that the U.S. will consider a “301 investigation” against India if the trade issues between the two countries are not resolved quickly.
 - A “301 investigation” is a probe by US which happens before it lays high tariffs and other harsh trade measures against a country.
- ❖ There are over 10.38 crore senior citizens in India. Uttar Pradesh accounts for more than 1.54 crores senior citizens, followed by Maharashtra with 1.11 crores.
 - Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana has been implemented since 2017 for senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, who are suffering from age-related disabilities.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu Ministry of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department has proposed to introduce a mobile application for transgenders to enrol themselves and avail the benefits of various government schemes.

NATIONAL

National Green Tribunal

- ❖ The Supreme Court has agreed to examine whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has the power to take cognisance of a matter “suo motu” (on its own).
- ❖ NGT is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- ❖ It was established in 2010 under National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- ❖ It has the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
- ❖ It has the original jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to environment is concerned.

Agri Business Incubation Centre

- ❖ An Agri Business Incubation Centre has been set up by the Union Agriculture Ministry at Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.



- ❖ It has been set up under the National Agriculture Development Scheme - RAFTAAR.
- ❖ Under this scheme, technology and infrastructure will be provided to youth and entrepreneurs for start-ups in different areas of agriculture.

INTERNATIONAL

Rohingya Refugees

- ❖ India has handed over 250 completed prefabricated homes to the Myanmar government for use by the Rohingya refugees when they return.
- ❖ In 2017, India had committed to spend \$25 million over five years on Rohingya Rehabilitation.
- ❖ Nearly 7,00,000 Rohingyas Muslims fled to Bangladesh and subsequently to India due to ethnic cleansing by Myanmar government.

New North Korean Constitution

- ❖ In a new Constitution to North Korea, Kim Jong-un has been formally named “head of state of North Korea” and the Commander-in-Chief of the military.
- ❖ A previous Constitution simply called Mr. Kim “supreme leader” who commands the country’s “overall military force”.
- ❖ The title change is presumed to be a precursor to a Peace Deal with the USA.

Measles eradicated in Sri Lanka

- ❖ Sri Lanka has been declared to be free of the highly infectious “measles” disease by the World Health Organization.
- ❖ It reported the last case of the homegrown virus infection in May 2016.
- ❖ In recent times, measles has seen resurgence in high-income countries like the US and Europe.

ECONOMY

Borrowing from Overseas Markets

- ❖ Union Government plans to raise a portion of its gross borrowing from overseas markets.
- ❖ So far, the government of India has only issued bonds in the domestic market.
- ❖ It now plans to issue overseas sovereign bonds.
- ❖ Government issues bonds with the promise to pay periodic interest payments and also repay the entire face value of the bond on the maturity date.

Concerns

- ❖ Overseas borrowing will lead to a stronger rupee.
- ❖ A stronger rupee would encourage imports at a time when the government is trying to curb them.

India - ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers Meet

- ❖ India – ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers’ meeting was held in New Delhi today for informal consultation on the ongoing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- ❖ The meeting was attended by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ He stressed that market access issues with China for Indian goods have been particularly problematic.
- ❖ RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement between
 - 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam)
 - 6 Indo-Pacific states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Neutrino Observatory at Theni

- ❖ The Government of India has approved a project to build the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Pottipuram in Theni District of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The project aims to set up a 51000-ton Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector.
- ❖ It will observe naturally occurring atmospheric neutrinos in a cavern at the end of a 2 km long tunnel in a mountain.
- ❖ It is built as an underground observatory to reduce the noise from cosmic rays that is ever present over-ground.
- ❖ There is no other neutrino detector anywhere in India at present.
- ❖ INO would be the first of its type.
- ❖ For a detailed read please go here:
- ❖ <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/neutrino-observatory/>

Salem Soil for Chandrayaan 2 Test

- ❖ U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) has created a 'simulated surface' by fetching soil from Salem, Tamil Nadu for testing 'Chandrayaan-2's lander and rover on earth.
- ❖ It is an ISRO lead centre for building satellites and developing associated satellite technologies.
- ❖ It was established in 1972 at Bengaluru.

Why Salem's soil?

- ❖ ISRO needed a soil which resembles lunar soil in texture, lunar temperatures, low gravity and the same amount of sunlight as on the moon.
- ❖ The 'anorthosite' rocks from Sithampoondi and Kunnamalai villages in Salem were crushed and used to simulate lunar soil.
- ❖ The moon-rover was test run on this soil.

Compatible Time-Sharing System

- ❖ Fernando Corbató, whose work on Compatible Time-Sharing System (CTSS) paved the way for the personal computer and the computer password has passed away at the age of 93.

- ❖ CTSS allowed multiple users in different locations to access a single computer simultaneously through telephone lines.
- ❖ It was developed at MIT Computation Centre in the USA during the 1960s and 70s.
- ❖ CTSS gave way to more modern MS-DOS systems in the 1980s and on to modern Windows and OSx systems in use today.

Russia's Spektr-RG Telescope

- ❖ In a joint project with Germany, Russia has launched Spektr-RG, a space telescope from the cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ It is a space observatory intended to observe black holes, neutron stars and magnetic fields.
- ❖ This telescope is called as Russia's "Hubble Telescope".

ENVIRONMENT

Elektorornis chenguangi Bird

- ❖ The extinct bird with an extra-long toe, 'Elektorornis chenguangi' has been described in a study published in the journal Current Biology.
- ❖ In 2014, the fossil of Elektorornis chenguangi were discovered in Myanmar's Hukawng Valley.
- ❖ It had lived 99 million years ago with a distinct feature - an abnormally elongated toe.
- ❖ Its elongated toe structure has never been observed in other birds, living or extinct.
