

July – 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by Rajya Sabha. It awaits passage in Lok Sabha.
 - It defines major airports as those with annual passenger traffic of over 35 lakhs instead of existing 15 lakhs.
- ❖ Palau, an archipelago of more than 500 islands in Oceania, has become 76th signatory country to join the 121 nation International Solar Alliance (ISA). ISA was jointly launched by India and France in 2015. For related read about ISA: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/international-solar-alliance/>
- ❖ The “Find the Incredible You” campaign of the Union Tourism Ministry, has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award, 2019.
 - The campaign won the award under the “Marketing – Primary Government Destination” category.

NATIONAL

Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019

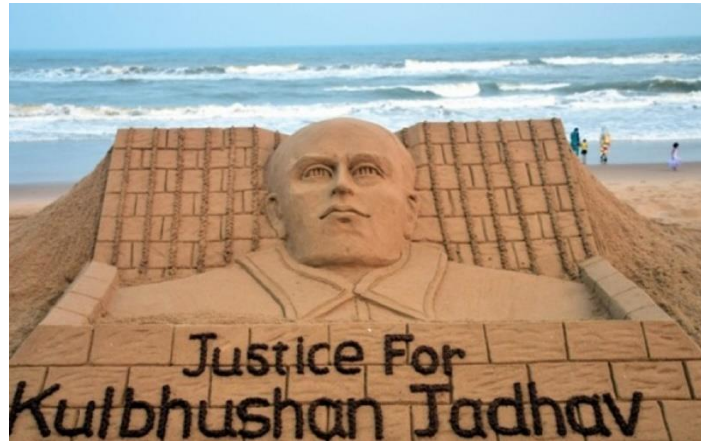
- ❖ The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by both the houses of Parliament.
- ❖ It seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 which establishes universities for teaching and research in various states.
- ❖ The Bill provides for establishment of two Central universities in Andhra Pradesh
 - The Central University of Andhra Pradesh
 - The Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ With this, all states in India have a central university except Goa.

Internet Saathis

- ❖ Google India's 'Internet Saathi' programme has now added Punjab and Odisha.
- ❖ It was started in 2015 along with Tata Trust.
- ❖ The program aims to educate rural women on how to use the Internet.
- ❖ It is now run in 20 states.

Kulbhusan Jadhav – International Court of Justice

- ❖ International Court of Justice (ICJ) has directed Pakistan to review conviction order of the alleged Indian spy Kulbhusan Jadhav and put his death sentence on hold.
- ❖ ICJ also asked Islamabad to allow New Delhi consular access at earliest.
- ❖ Pakistan has been accused of violating Article 36 of Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, 1963.
- ❖ It has failed to inform India about Jadhav's arrest immediately after Pakistan Army had taken him into custody in 2016.



About

- ❖ ICJ is located at The Hague, Netherlands.
- ❖ It was established in 1945.
- ❖ It comprises a panel of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
- ❖ India's Former Supreme Court Justice Dalveer Bhandari serves at ICJ since 2012.

ECONOMY

Extension to 15th Finance Commission

- ❖ Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved extension of term of 15th Finance Commission (FC) up to 30 November 2019.

- ❖ The government has also broadened the ambit of FC's recommendation to include funds for defence and internal security.
- ❖ Extension is given due to various fiscal and budgetary reforms introduced between 2014-19.

About

- ❖ The 15th Finance Commission was constituted by Presidential Order on November 2017 under the Chairmanship of N. K. Singh.
- ❖ It will decide formula for devolution of revenue/funds between Centre and States, for a 5-year period between April 2020 to March 2025.

ENVIRONMENT

Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican

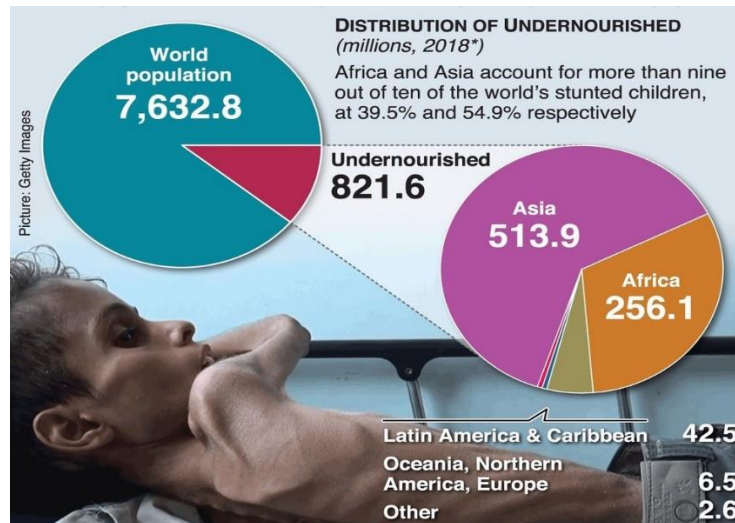
- ❖ The Supreme Court has constituted a high powered committee to urgently frame an emergency response plan for the protection of
 - Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*)
 - Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indicus*)



- ❖ Over the last 50 years the population of both these birds has seen a sharp decline of 80% and an alarming rate of extinction.
- ❖ The lesser florican is the smallest bustard in the world, barely weighing 500-750 gms.
- ❖ The Great Indian Bustard is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World

- ❖ The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other UN agencies including the World Health Organization have released a report called “State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World”.



- ❖ The number of people going hungry without food has risen for the third year running to more than 820 million.
- ❖ Africa and Asia account for more than nine out of ten of the world's stunted children, at 39.5% and 54.9% respectively.
- ❖ India's undernourished population has dropped from 253.9 million in 2004-06 to 194.4 million in 2016-18.
- ❖ India's poverty reduction rate was 48.9 % in 1987 to 21.2 % in 2011 to 13.4 % in 2015.

STATES

1 Crore for Maharashtra's Martyred Soldiers

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has approved an increase in financial assistance given to families of martyred and disabled soldiers hailing from state who lay down their life in the line of duty.
- ❖ The compensation is increased from Rs.25 lakh to Rs.1 crore for the kin of martyred soldiers.
- ❖ It will be implemented from January 1, 2019.

- ❖ This decision replicates enhanced compensations announced by Centre and some other states, including Madhya Pradesh.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Sangeet Natak Academy Annual Awards

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Academy has announced the three category of following honours for 2018.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships:

- ❖ It is the highest and rare honour. At any time, the number of Fellows is restricted to 40. The four new Fellows are
 - Zakir Hussain (Tabla Maestro)
 - Sonal Mansingh (Dancer)
 - Jatin Goswami (Choreographer)
 - Kalyanasundaram Pillai (Bharatnatyam Exponent)

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar):

- ❖ 44 artists have been selected from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/ Folk /tribal music in the Performing Arts category.
- ❖ This is awarded since 1952 to recognize sustained individual work and contribution towards arts.
- ❖ The Awards will be conferred by the President of India at a special investiture ceremony.
- ❖ Noted 2018 awardees: Radha Sridhar for Bharatanatyam, Akham Lakshmi Devi for Manipuri, Rajiv Naik for Playwriting and Malini Awasthi in Folk Music

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskars:

- ❖ 32 Young artists below 40 years of age who have made a mark as young talents in their respective fields of the performing arts are accorded this honour.
- ❖ The Chairman of Sangeet Natak Academy presents this award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Malala Day – July 12

- ❖ The UN has designated July 12 as International Malala Day in honour of the prominent Pakistani activist for female education - Malala Yousafzai.
- ❖ Talibans shot a young Malala in 2012 for her stance on women education.
- ❖ She survived and is now a global ambassador for women education.
- ❖ She is the youngest recipient of 2014 Nobel Prize for Peace in history winning it at age of 17.
- ❖ She shared it along with Kailash Satyarthi, a child's rights activist from India.
- ❖ On July 12, 2013 she made a passionate speech in UN for education of girls.

Kamaraj 117th Birth anniversary – July 15

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated a memorial for the former CM, the late K Kamaraj, coinciding with the latter's 117th birth anniversary on July 15.
- ❖ His memorial has been built at Virudhunagar.



- ❖ Then Chief Minister Kalaignar declared Kamaraj's birth anniversary July 15 as "Education Development day" in 2006.
- ❖ Since 2006, this day is celebrated as "Education Development day".
