

July – 21

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that 20 thousand wellness centres will be completed by the end of the 2019 under Ayushman Bharat programme.
  - A total of 1.5 lakh wellness centers are to be established in the country under this programme.

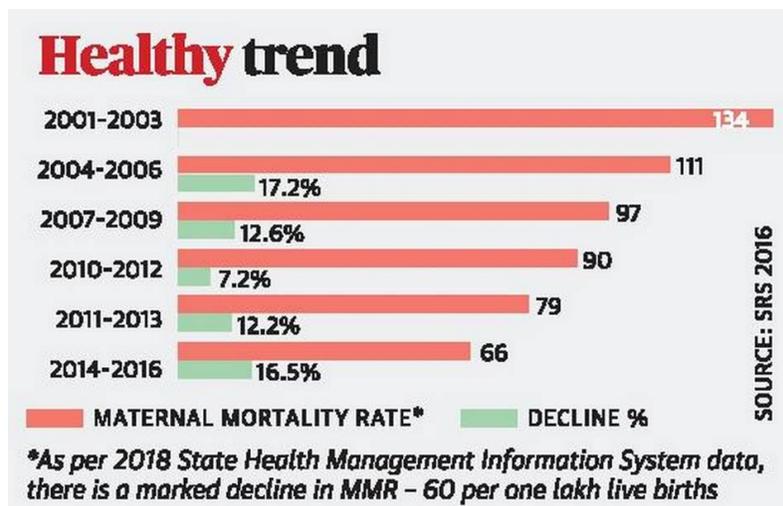
## TAMIL NADU

### MMR of Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is down six points.
- ❖ It has dipped from 66 to 60 per one lakh live births, according to the 2018 State Health Management Information System data.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu achieved the Sustainable Development Goal of bringing MMR down to under 70 per one lakh live births by 2030 back in 2014-2016.
- ❖ The country's maternal mortality rate stood at 130.

### About MMR

- ❖ Maternal mortality refers to deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth.
- ❖ It is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births.



## INTERNATIONAL

### **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**

- ❖ Amazon chief Jeff Bezos is the still richest man in the world, with a total net worth of \$125 billion.
- ❖ Bill Gates stands at Number 3 with net worth of \$107 billion.
- ❖ Microsoft Corp co-founder Bill Gates, who has never been ranked below the second spot on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index has been pushed to the Number 3 rank by Bernard Arnault, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LVMH.
- ❖ It must be mentioned that Gates' philanthropic endeavours was one of the biggest reasons for his slip in ranking.
- ❖ Gates donated more than \$35 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ❖ The richest Indian, Mukesh Ambani is on the 13th spot, with a net worth of \$51.8 billion.
- ❖ Azim Premji is the second-richest Indian to be on the list at the 48th rank with \$20.5 billion, followed by Shiv Nadar in the 92nd spot and Uday Kotak on the 96th spot.

### About

- ❖ Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking of the world's billionaires published by Bloomberg News since March 2012.
- ❖ It tracks the 500 wealthiest people in the world.

## ECONOMY

### **Most Digitized State**

- ❖ Bengaluru-based payment solutions company Razorpay launched the second edition of its digital transactions report, 'The Era of Rising Fintech'.
- ❖ According to the report, Karnataka topped the list of most digitised States, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranked fourth, followed by Andhra Pradesh.

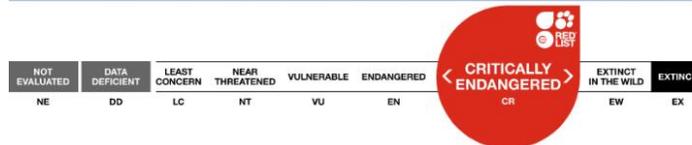
## ENVIRONMENT

### Aceclofenac – Vultures

- ❖ The Government of India is also likely to ban the analogue NSAID aceclofenac for veterinary use.
- ❖ NSAID - Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug
- ❖ Aceclofenac has potential to kill Indian vultures.

#### Previous bans

- ❖ The Government of India banned “Diclofenac and its formulations for veterinary use” in July 2008 with a view to conserving vultures.
- ❖ Since July 2015 use of the drug as a single-dose injection for humans alone is allowed.
- ❖ Animals are fed (NSAID) diclofenac as painkiller.
- ❖ When the gyps Vulture, also called as Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*) species fed on these carcasses, they faced acute renal failure and died.



### Herbicide Tolerant BT Cotton

- ❖ The Maharashtra state government has lodged police complaint against 12 farmers for sowing Herbicide Tolerant Bt Cotton (HT Bt Cotton) illegally.

- ❖ Under the Environment Protection Act 1986, growing GM crops that have not been approved by the government is illegal.
- ❖ HT Bt is the third generation of BT cotton in India.
- ❖ The first two generations used Cry 1 Ab and Cry 1 Ac and were instrumental in controlling pink bollworm attack in cotton plants.
- ❖ Cry1Ac and Cry1Ab are proteins produced by the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) during sporulation.
- ❖ Bt crops are the crops that are genetically engineered to produce the same toxin as Bt in the plant to protect them from pest.

**PINK BOLLWORM**

இளஞ்சிவப்புக் காப்பிப்புழு



Moth  
அந்திப்புழி



Rosette flower  
நஞ்சுபட்ட நஞ்சுமூலம்



Early instar larva  
இளம்பருவ புழு



Larval feeding  
காயில் புழுவின் தாக்குதல்



Grownup larva  
முதிர்ந்த புழு



Damaged boll  
சேதம் அடைந்த காய்

**Arogyapacha – Genome decoded**

- ❖ Scientists from the University of Kerala have decoded the genetic make-up of Arogyapacha (*Trichopus zeylanicus*)
- ❖ It is a highly potent medicinal plant endemic to the Agasthya hills.
- ❖ This 'miracle plant' is known for its traditional use by the Kani tribal community to combat fatigue.
- ❖ The plant has anti-oxidant, aphrodisiac, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, anti-tumour, anti-ulcer, anti-hyperlipidaemic, hepatoprotective and anti-diabetic properties.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Shiela Dixit passed away**

- ❖ Former chief minister of Delhi (1998-2013) and veteran Congress leader Sheila Dikshit passed away at the age of 81 in the national capital in July 20th.
- ❖ She was one of the longest-serving chief ministers of Delhi, as well as the longest-serving female chief minister of any Indian state, serving for a period of 15 years from 1998 to 2013.
- ❖ She was sworn in as Governor of Kerala on 11 March 2014. However, she resigned on 25 August 2014.
- ❖ In 2010 first time in India Commonwealth Games were organized during her tenure.



## SPORTS

### **Hima Das 5th gold**

- ❖ Hima Das won the women's 400m gold recording 52.09 seconds on the clock, in the Nove Mesto nad Metuji Grand Prix held at Czech Republic.
- ❖ This was Hima's first 400m Gold medal.
- ❖ In July 2019, she bagged a total of 5 gold medals in a month.
- ❖ Earlier she won four gold medals in 200m in July Month alone.
- ❖ She is an Indian sprint runner from the state of Assam.
- ❖ Hima Das is the second athlete from Assam after Bhogeswar Baruah to win a gold medal at an international event.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **50 years of Moon landing – July 20**

- ❖ July 20 marks the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 sent by the USA.
- ❖ It was sent with astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on board.
- ❖ Armstrong became the first person to step onto the lunar surface
- ❖ Aldrin joined him 19 minutes later.
- ❖ It was the first crewed mission to land on the Moon.
- ❖ To date, the United States is the only country to have successfully conducted crewed missions to the Moon.



### **International Chess Day – July 20**

- ❖ The International Chess Day is celebrated annually on July 20, the day the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded, in 1924.
- ❖ From 20 July, 1966, International Chess Day started celebrating to honour the founding of FIDE.
- ❖ To celebrate International Chess Day on 20 July was proposed by UNESCO.
- ❖ In 1851 in London, the first modern chess tournament was held and it was won by German Adolf Andersen.
- ❖ In 1951, Alan Turing developed the first computer program for playing chess.
- ❖ In India Chess was invented in fifth century.
- ❖ At that time, it was named as "Chaturanga".
- ❖ Then this game spread to Persia.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **D-4-D initiative**

- ❖ The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has launched an initiative named Doctors 4 Doctors (D4D) aimed at preventing burn out, address mental health challenges; reduce the incidents of suicide among residents and clinicians.
- ❖ Under the initiative, IMA plans to setup counselling centres and a 24x7 helpline in all medical colleges and teaching institutions to help students deal with mental health issues.

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