

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.

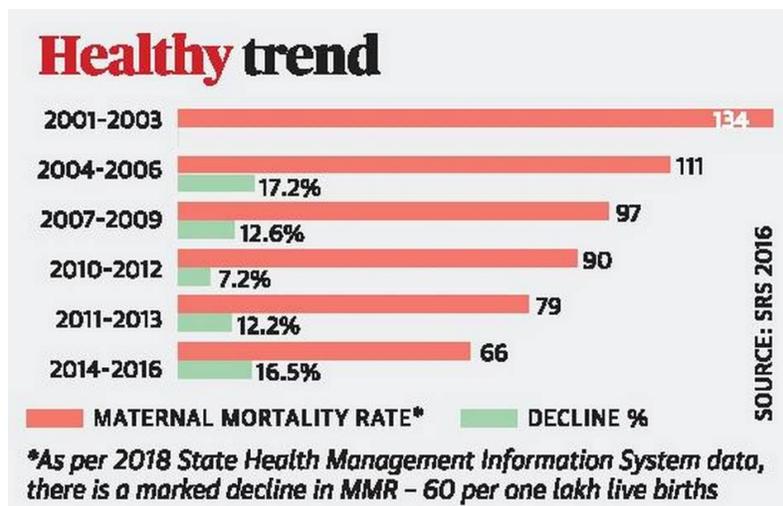
TAMIL NADU

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.

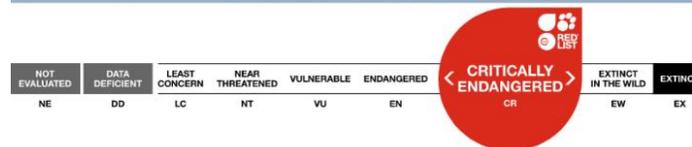
ENVIRONMENT

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 நஞ்சுமூலக்கு



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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