

July - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of new buildings in the Tamil Nadu House (Vaigai House) in New Delhi.
- ❖ President of India has announced the renaming of two halls in the Rashtrapati Bhavan – ‘Durbar Hall’ and ‘Ashok Hall’ – as ‘Ganatantra Mandap’ and ‘Ashok Mandap’, respectively.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Coal and Mines has launched the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Portal to gather the information on the District Mineral Foundations across the country.
- ❖ Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus Helicopters will establish its first assembly line for the H125 helicopter in India.
- ❖ Ooty’s beloved librarian Daphne Samson celebrated her 100th birthday recently.
- ❖ The World Leaders Summit 2024 took place at the House of Lords in the UK Parliament.
- ❖ The book ‘Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings for Corporate Success’ was authored by R Gopalakrishnan and Harish Bhat.
 - This extract is from the chapter titled ‘Tata: a leader of leaders’.

NATIONAL

Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme - 2024

GOVT EXTENDED ELECTRIC TWO-WHEELER SUBSIDY EMPS 2024 TILL SEPTEMBER 30!

- Scheme increased from Rs 500 crore to Rs 778 crore.
- Benefit to 5,60,789 electric vehicles (5,00,080 electric two-wheelers and 60,709 electric three-wheelers)
- Both private or corporate-owned registered electric two-wheelers are also eligible.



- ❖ The heavy industries ministry announced a two-month extension of the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024).

- ❖ It also announced an additional outlay of Rs 278 crore.
- ❖ EMPS was launched on 1 April 2024 with an outlay of ₹500 crores.
- ❖ The EMPS was initially planned for only four months, following the expiry of the FAME II scheme in March.
- ❖ The scheme now targets to support over 5 lakh electric two-wheelers and around 61,000 e-three wheelers.

New Employment-linked incentives

The infographic features the Union Budget 2024-25 logo, the Ministry of Finance emblem, and a group photo of students. It details three schemes under the Prime Minister's Package:

UNION BUDGET 2024-25

**वित्त मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
FINANCE**

विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते

पिबि

Employment & Skilling

**Prime Minister's Package: 3 schemes
announced under "Employment Linked Incentive"**

Scheme A: First Timers

- Direct benefit transfer of 1-month salary in 3 installments up to ₹ 15,000 to first-time employees registered in EPFO

Scheme B: Job Creation in Manufacturing

- Incentive to be provided directly to both employee and employer as per their EPFO contribution, in the first 4 years of employment

Scheme C: Support to Employers

- Reimbursement to employers up to ₹ 3,000 per month for 2 years towards their EPFO contribution for each additional employee

- ❖ The Union Budget has unveiled three significant schemes under Employment-linked incentives.
- ❖ It also announced a substantial allocation of Rs 2 lakh crore aimed at job creation over the next five years.
- ❖ Scheme A will provide a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of one month's salary in three instalments, up to Rs 15,000, to first-time employees registered in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- ❖ Scheme B focuses on job creation in the manufacturing sector.



- ❖ Incentives will be directly provided to both employees and employers based on their EPFO contributions during the first four years of employment.
- ❖ Scheme C includes support to employers, with a reimbursement of up to Rs 3,000 per month for two years.
- ❖ It provides towards their EPFO contributions for each additional employee hired.

NCB Annual report 2023

Major Narcotics Drugs & Controlled Substances Seized During 2018-2023						
YEAR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Heroin	1,258	3,231	3,838	7,197	5,410	2,986
Opium	4,307	4,488	5,212	5,161	3,805	8,533
Morphine	20	125	11	131	129	210
Cannabis	3,91,275	3,42,045	5,81,644	8,12,545	7,18,376	6,28,612
Hashish	3,911	3,572	6,643	4,197	3,495	3,320
Cocaine	35	66	19	364	218	292
Ephedrine/ Pseudo ephedrine	337	686	841	325	1,001	969
Acetic Anhydride	9,717	214	121	24,265	333	40
ATS	431	1774	1,357	387	1,224	3,406

- ❖ The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Annual Report 2023 was released recently.
- ❖ The consumption of drugs among the youth is increasing and there are roughly around 10 crore Indians who consume drugs.
- ❖ It is used to be around 2 crores, 15 years ago.
- ❖ Huge quantity of drugs had been seized from 2014 to 2024, three times more than from 2003 to 2013.

Shiksha Saptah 2024

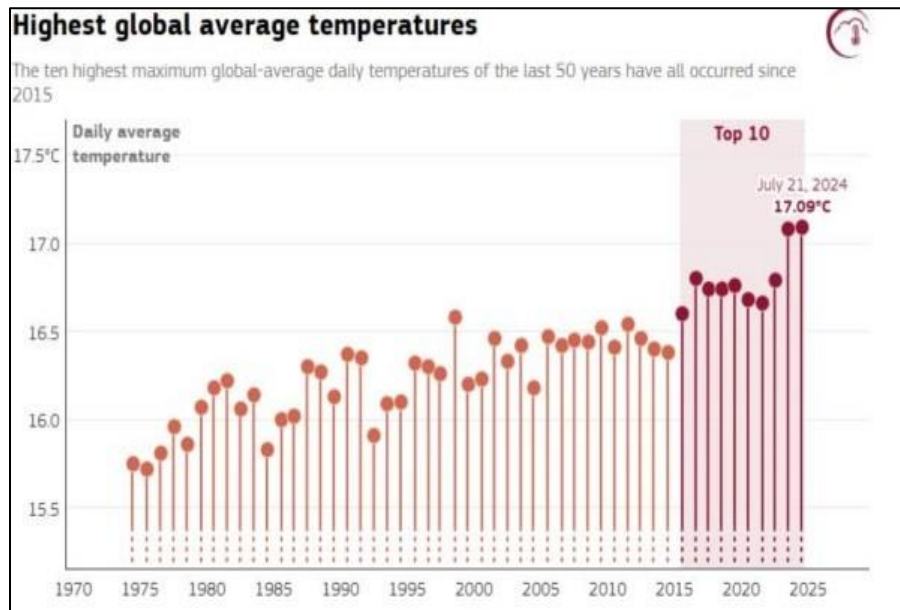
- ❖ Shiksha Saptah (Education Week) is an annual initiative aimed at promoting awareness and celebrating the importance of education in India.
- ❖ It is directed by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).

- ❖ This week-long event focuses on promoting collaboration and highlighting the educational reforms introduced by NEP 2020.



ENVIRONMENT

Hottest Day - Globally Ever



- ❖ July 21 was the warmest day on record for the Earth, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

- ❖ On that day, the daily global average temperature touched 17.09 degree Celsius.
- ❖ It was breaking the previous record of 17.08-degree Celsius set on July 6, 2023.
- ❖ Last year was the first time ever that the daily global average temperature crossed the 17-degree Celsius mark.

Ecozen - Asia 1st low carbon green zinc

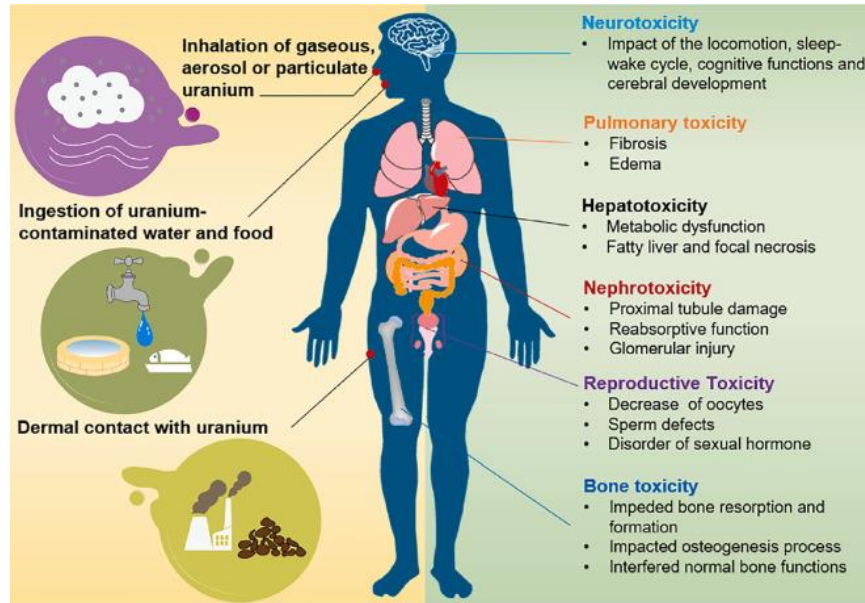


- ❖ Hindustan Zinc has launched EcoZen, Asia's first low-carbon green zinc brand.
- ❖ Hindustan Zinc is the world's second-largest integrated zinc producer.
- ❖ They manufactured using renewable energy.
- ❖ The carbon footprint of EcoZen is about 75 per cent lower than the global average.
- ❖ EcoZen claims to have less than one tonne of carbon emission produced for every tonne of zinc made.
- ❖ The use of EcoZen in galvanising one tonne of steel is expected to avoid around 400 kilograms of carbon emissions.

Uranium in drinking water

- ❖ Concentration of uranium, a radioactive substance, up to 60 micrograms per litre (millionth of a gram per litre or $\mu\text{g/l}$) in drinking water was entirely safe.
- ❖ In 2021, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced a new limit of 30 $\mu\text{g/l}$, in line with recommendations of the WHO.
- ❖ Finland and Slovakia — two nations with considerable amounts of uranium consumption — have prescribed safety limits of 100 and 350 $\mu\text{g/l}$ respectively.

- ❖ Another uranium-rich country, South Africa, has a limit of 70 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$.
- ❖ The limits in countries like Canada and Australia that have the largest deposits of uranium among others are 20 and 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$, respectively.
- ❖ Germany, which does not have uranium, has even lower limits.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

International Mathematics Olympiad 2024



- ❖ A six-member team of Indian students has represented India at the International Mathematics Olympiad 2024.



- ❖ The team clocked four gold and one silver medal at the event which was held in Bath, United Kingdom.
- ❖ The team rank is 4 out of 108 participating countries.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems 2024 - July 26



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as a unique, special, and vulnerable ecosystem.
- ❖ It also promotes solutions for mangrove's sustainable management, conservation and uses.
- ❖ It was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2015.
- ❖ The extent of mangroves in India has increased from 4,046 square kilometre (sq km) in 1987 to 4,992 sq. km in 2019.
- ❖ Between 2006 and 2018, the natural coastal wetlands declined from 3.69 million ha to 3.62 million ha.
- ❖ The intertidal mudflats have decreased by a whopping 116,897 ha, and salt marshes by 5,647 ha.

CRPF Foundation Day 2024 - July 27

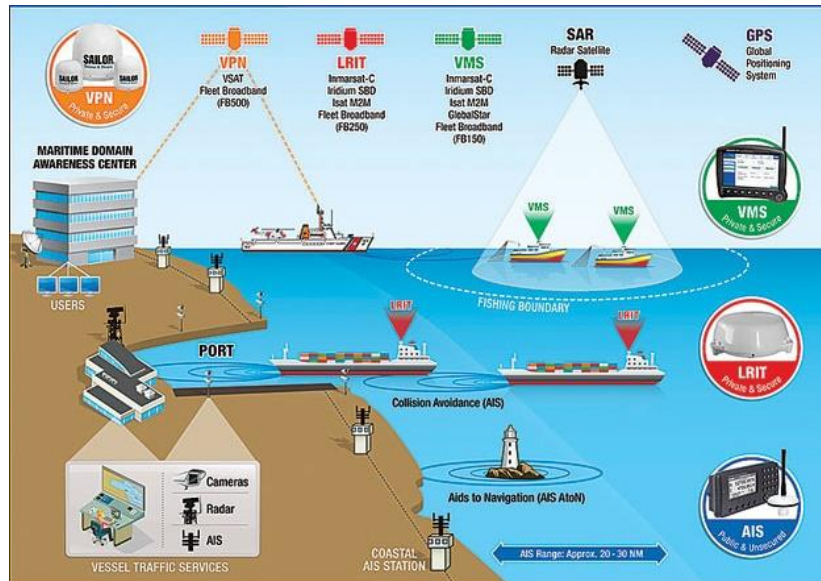
- ❖ It was originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939.
- ❖ CRPF was the internal combat force in India.

- ❖ The force was renamed as CRPF by an Act of Parliament passed on December 28, 1949.
- ❖ The force is headed by a Director General and is further divided into four zones located in Jammu, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Guwahati.



MISCELLANEOUS

National Maritime Domain Awareness Centre



- ❖ India is going to open a National Maritime Domain Awareness Center (NMDAC).
- ❖ It aims to fight new dangers in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- ❖ The NMDAC will focus on terrorism, piracy, trafficking, and illegal fishing.



- ❖ The 2008 terrorist strikes in Mumbai led to the creation of the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in 2014.
- ❖ The Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) opened in 2018.

Kalarippayattu Federation



- ❖ The Indian Kalarippayattu Federation has been recognized as the Regional Sports Federation to promote Kalarippayattu in India.
- ❖ This traditional martial art, originating in Kerala, is believed to have been established by the warrior sage Parasurama.
- ❖ The term "Kalaripayattu" combines "kalari" (place of combat) and "payattu" (fighting) in Malayalam.

