

## International Affairs

### Today is International Tiger Day.

The day is held annually on 29th July to raise awareness for tiger conservation.

It was founded in 2010 at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit, with the aim to double the big cat population by 2022.

The goal of this day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation.

**The Afghan government has lost territory to the Afghan Taliban, with districts under government forces down to 65.6% from 70.5% in January, according to a US military report.**

**Note :** This report comes after Obama's statement that America shall limit withdrawal of troops from the country, leaving 8,400 troops in Afghanistan instead of the originally-planned 5,500 troops until 2017.

## National Affairs

**I&B MoS Rajyavardhan Rathore is going to inaugurate European Union Film Festival at Siri Fort Auditorium in tomorrow.**

The Rajya Sabha today passed the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015, which seeks to unlock over ₹41,000 crore earmarked for afforestation projects.

Passed by the Lok Sabha in May, the bill envisages the establishment of National and State Compensatory Afforestation Funds.

In the absence of these authorities, the allocated amount has been lying unspent for the last four years.

## Science & Technology

**A team of scientists will recalculate and shift Australia's latitude and longitude coordinates, which are currently inaccurate by over 1.5 metres.**

The continent moves north by about 7 centimetres each year, causing a difference between actual coordinates and those currently used by Global Navigation Satellite Systems like GPS.

The Australian coordinates were last updated in 1994.

## Awards & Honors

**A 14-year-old boy, Tushar Talawat won the International Mathematics Competition organised in Indonesia.**

The student of Ahmedabad-based Hemchandracharya Sanskrit Pathshala won among 1,300 students from 18 countries.

**BCCI President and MP Anurag Thakur commissioned into Territorial Army in the rank of Lieutenant.**

**Note :** The Territorial Army is the second line of defence in the country after the regular army, whose volunteers receive month-long military training so that they can be mobilised in case of an emergency.

**Two-time Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman is set to become the second Indian to perform at the United Nations General Assembly, as part of India's 69th Independence Day celebrations.**

Rahman will reportedly perform a musical rendition of Rabindranath Tagore's poem 'Where the mind is without fear'.

**Important Note :** Carnatic singer MS Subbulakshmi was the first Indian to perform at UN in October 1966.

## Business & Economy

**The government today extended the due date of filing the Income Tax Return from July 31 to August 5 across India, except Jammu and Kashmir.**

**Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia informed that the IT return filing date for J&K has been extended to August 31.**

The date was extended in view of bank strike and disturbance in Kashmir.

**The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation will provide an insurance cover to travellers for a premium of ₹1 beginning September, under a trial scheme.**

The premium will be provided in case of casualties and injuries due to incidents such as terrorist attacks and train accidents.

Compensation of up to ₹10 lakh will be provided in the event of death.

**German automaker Volkswagen AG is the world's largest automobile manufacturer as per data available for the first half of 2016.**

Volkswagen sold 5.11 million units, around 80,000 units ahead of Japan's Toyota, and 360,000 units ahead of USA's General Motors, the second and third-largest automobile manufacturers.

**Important Note :** Volkswagen had been involved in an emissions test tampering scandal last year.

32-year-old Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is the youngest among the world's ten richest people.

He first appeared on the Forbes 400 list in September 2008 with a net worth of \$1.5 billion at the age of 24.

**Today, Zuckerberg became the fifth richest person with his net worth touching an estimated high of \$56.7 billion, surpassing Carlos Slim.**

## **General Knowledge**

**Usain Bolt is the first man in Olympic history to win 100m & 200m races in world record times in 2008.**

The International Space Station (ISS) is the world's most-expensive man-made object, with a total cost of over \$100 billion.

With a capacity to support a 6-member crew, its construction was completed in 2011.

**The spacecraft was created by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), 53 years after the space research agency's establishment on this day (29th July) 1958.**

India's Business Tycoon J R D Tata was born on this day (29th July) in the year 1904. Here are some important points to note :

**India's first cosmetics brand Lakmé was founded in 1952 by JRD Tata, as a subsidiary of the Tata Oil Mills.**

The brand was named after the French opera Lakmé, the French form of Indian Goddess Lakshmi.

Tata, widely regarded as the father of Indian civil aviation.

He became the first person to obtain a commercial pilot license in India in 1929, with 'No. 1' printed on his license.

He launched India's first airmail service three years later, which later became the country's national carrier, Air India.

He is the only industrialist to have received India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna.

## **Sports**

**Uvena Fernandes becomes 1st Woman Referee from INDIA to get selected to officiate in FIFA U-17 Women's World sCup**

Germany's football captain Bastian Schweinsteiger, who won the 2014 FIFA World Cup with the team, retired from international football today.

**South Pacific island nation Tuvalu will have the smallest contingent at the 2016 Rio Olympics, consisting of only one member in 100-metre sprint.**

Ten nations, including Afghanistan, will be represented by three athletes, while nine countries, including Bhutan, Liberia and Somalia, will be represented by two members.

**Important Note :** India is sending a 100-plus contingent, its largest ever, for the first time.