

April - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) 2023 was organized by the National Innovation Foundation, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ❖ Raj Subramaniam, the Indian-American CEO of FedEx, has been presented with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman.
 - This is the highest civilian award given by India to persons of Indian origin and Indian diaspora.
- ❖ As per the recent data, the UAE remains India's second largest export destination after USA and third largest source of imports` after China and Russia.
- ❖ Union Culture Ministry and the International Buddhist Confederation organized 1st International summit on Buddhism in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Union Minister of State (IC) Science & Technology launched 'Yuva' portal aimed to help in connecting and identifying potential young start-ups across the country.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government will celebrate V D Savarkar's birthday, May 28, as 'Swatantrya Veer Gaurav Din'.
- ❖ Elon Musk is planning a "TruthGPT", an AI initiative to rival OpenAI and Google's DeepMind.
- ❖ The Buzi Bridge in Mozambique was virtually inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister of India.
 - It has been built by India as part of the 132 km Tica-Buzi-Nova-Sofala Road project.

NATIONAL

Incident Management Services

- ❖ India plans to extend its marquee Incident Management Services (IMS) to all national highways to reduce road fatalities and improve safety for road users.
- ❖ As part of this initiative, highways would be equipped with ambulances, cranes, round-the-clock patrol vehicles.
- ❖ It also provides skilled workers capable of providing quick post-crash response, critical in saving lives of accident victims.
- ❖ Road accidents claimed 156,000 lives in 2021 in India - or 457 lives per day.

- ❖ Indian roads report one accident every minute, and one fatal accident every four minute.

Support for Irrigation Modernization Program

- ❖ Support for Irrigation Modernization Program (SIMP) is a new initiative taken up by Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- ❖ The Technical Assistance is provided by the Asian Development Bank.
- ❖ It aims to modernize Major/ Medium Irrigation (MMI) projects in the country.
- ❖ SIMP is proposed to be taken up in 4 phases.
- ❖ Objective of the programme
 - Improve water use efficiency,
 - Increase crop water productivity and
 - Increase farmer's income in the command area of the project

INTERNATIONAL

World's first human death from H3N8 bird flu

About Bird Flu

What is Bird Flu?
Bird flu is an infectious disease in birds caused by avian influenza type A viruses. It may cause mild to severe illness or sudden death in birds. Domestic poultry like chickens are particularly vulnerable.

Avian influenza viruses do not usually infect humans but may sometimes be transmitted to humans who have contact with infected poultry and their secretions and faeces, or contact with contaminated surfaces.

Signs in infected birds

- Lack of energy and appetite
- Combs and wattles of chickens turn purplish
- There is discharge from the nose, and coughing and sneezing
- Diarrhoea
- Head region and legs swell

How does bird flu spread between birds?

- Direct contact with nasal and respiratory secretions from infected birds
- Direct contact with infected bird faeces
- Contamination of feed and water
- Contact with contaminated equipment and humans

Keeping pet birds safe

- Keep your pet birds away from wild birds and their droppings.
- Use a bird-proof cage or enclosure with fine wire mesh netting preferably with a roof over the aviary.
- Separate all new birds from existing ones for at least 21 days to monitor for signs of illness.
- Adopt hygiene practices such as washing hands thoroughly with soap after handling birds and their cage(s).
- Do not bring birds back to Singapore without a valid import permit from NParks/Animal & Veterinary Service.

What if my pet bird falls sick or dies?

- Immediately bring your sick bird to see a vet.
- Keep it away from healthy birds.
- Wash and disinfect the cage regularly while wearing a mask and gloves.
- Wear a mask and gloves when disposing of dead birds. Place the bodies in a plastic bag tightly sealed with a rubber band or cable tie.
- Adopt hygiene practices such as washing hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling the bird and its cage.

Is it safe for me to come into contact with free-roaming chickens in Singapore?

- As a precaution, please avoid touching or feeding free-roaming chickens.
- If you come into contact with free-roaming chickens, you should practise good hygiene habits and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.



- ❖ A Chinese woman has become the first person to die from a type of bird flu (H3N8).
- ❖ She was the third person known to have been infected with the H3N8 subtype of avian influenza.
- ❖ All of the 3 cases have been in China, with the first two cases reported last year.
- ❖ Though rare in people, H3N8 is common in birds in which it causes little to no sign of disease.
- ❖ It has also infected other mammals.

ECONOMY

IT Tariff dispute

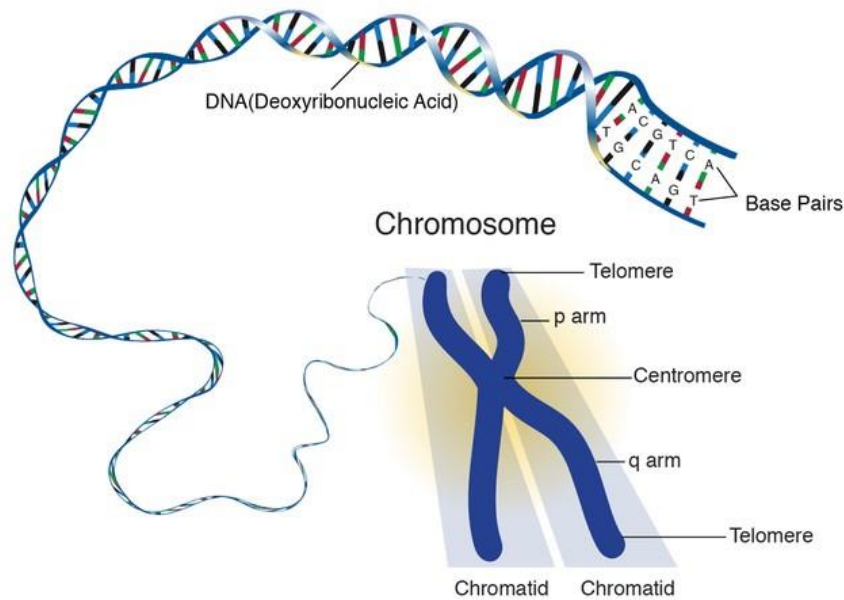


- ❖ The WTO ruled that, India violated trade rules by imposing huge import duties on certain information and communication technology products.
- ❖ India will challenge the ruling of the Geneva-based multilateral organisation.
- ❖ The WTO was hearing a dispute on India imposing a 10 percent custom duty on mobile phones and some other tech products in 2017.
- ❖ India later raised the custom duty from 10 to 20 percent which upset countries like the US, China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Japan.
- ❖ India has been arguing that the 2017 decision was taken in order to curb imports and encourage domestic production of tech products.

- ❖ India also, added that these tech products were not part of the 1996 agreement on Information Technology.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Complete Human Genome

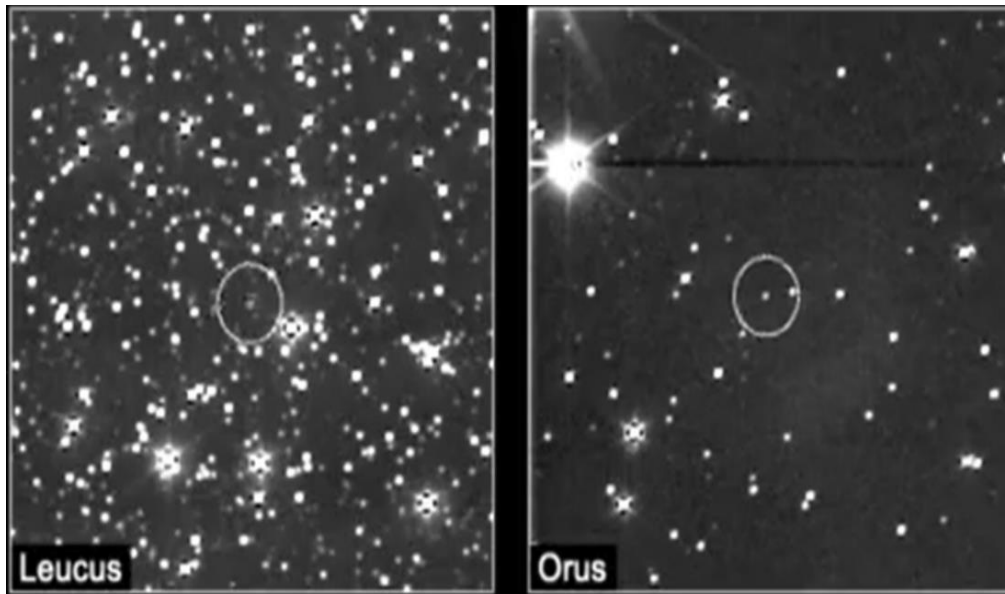


- ❖ The Human Genome Project announced that they had completed the first human genome in 2003.
- ❖ For the first time, the DNA blueprint of human life was unlocked.
- ❖ But they weren't actually able to put together all the genetic information in the genome.
- ❖ There were gaps: unfilled, often repetitive regions that were too confusing to piece together.
- ❖ With advancements in technology that could handle these repetitive sequences, scientists finally filled those gaps in May 2021.
- ❖ The first end-to-end human genome was officially published on March 31, 2022.
- ❖ This year, for the first time, the entire genome of a single human being – a man named Leon Peshkin – is due to be released.

Jupiter's asteroids

- ❖ NASA's Lucy spacecraft has spotted Jupiter's asteroids for the first time ever.

- ❖ The NASA probe was able to capture deep-space images of four asteroids known as the Trojans.
- ❖ The four Trojan asteroids were captured between March 25 and 27.
- ❖ The asteroids that were captured for the first time are called Eurybates, Polymele, Leucus, and Orus.
- ❖ They all part of two large groups of rocks that follow Jupiter's orbit around the Sun.
- ❖ To click these images, Lucy used L'LORRI (Lucy Long Range Reconnaissance Imager).
- ❖ Lucy is 530 million kilometres away from its asteroid targets.
- ❖ The spacecraft is expected to reach its asteroid targets in 2027 and 2028 after it was launched in October 2021.

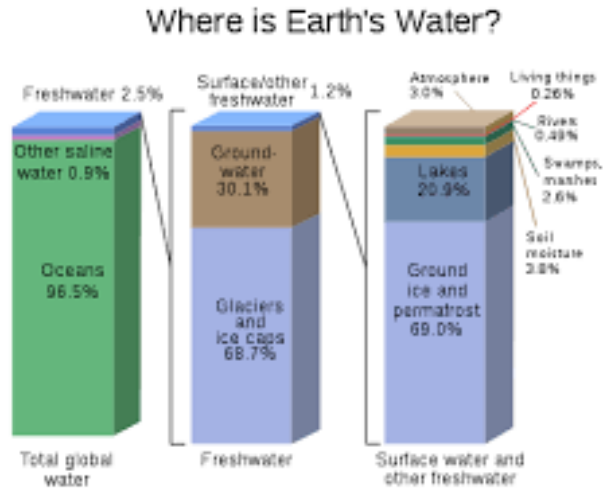


STATES

First water budget

- ❖ Kerala became the first state to adopt a water budget.
- ❖ It came up with a solution to water scarcity in certain regions there.
- ❖ The water budget would be helpful in properly utilising the resource and preventing wastage.
- ❖ The first phase of the project would cover 94-gram panchayats and 15 block panchayats.

- ❖ Specific recommendations have been provided to each panchayat as part of the Water Budget.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

International Prize in Statistics 2023



- ❖ Noted Indian-American statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao has been awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics.
- ❖ This is often referred to as the Nobel prize of statistics.
- ❖ The prize is awarded biennially by a collaboration among five leading international statistics organizations.
- ❖ Rao is one of the architects of Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata.



- ❖ He conferred with the Padma Bhushan in 1968 and Padma Vibhushan in 2001.
- ❖ Rao received the SS Bhatnagar prize in 1963 and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1967.

Best Social Impact Award



- ❖ A Varanasi-based start-up, Beggars' Corporation, received the Best Social Impact Award in the Innopreneurs Global Startup Contest.
- ❖ The startup has been recognized for its innovative way to address the problem of begging.
- ❖ The Beggars' Corporation aims to use this donated money to train beggars into employment generators and build their capacities for startups.
- ❖ West Bengal has 85,000 beggars, followed by Uttar Pradesh which has 65,835 beggars in the state.
- ❖ As per the various data, Indians donate ₹34,242 crore annually to India's 413,670 beggars.

