

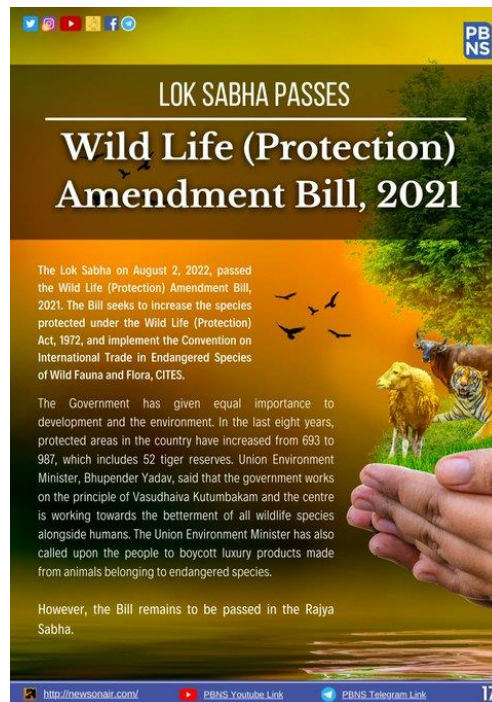
August - 05

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Marine biologist Ellen Prager wrote a book titled “Dangerous Earth: What we wish we knew about volcanoes, hurricanes, climate change, earthquakes and more”.
- ❖ A book titled “Lion of The Skies: Hardit Singh Malik” was authored by Stephen Barker.

## NATIONAL

### Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021



- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill 2021.
- ❖ It seeks to provide for the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- ❖ The bill also provides powers to the central government to regulate and stop the import, trade, possession, or proliferation of invasive alien species.
- ❖ The new bill will ensure that the government designates a management authority to provide export, and import permits for species, and a scientific authority to advise the government on it.

- ❖ The amendment bill was first introduced in Parliament on December 17, 2021.
- ❖ It was sent to a standing committee on December 25 of the same year.

### School Innovation Council

- ❖ The Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi has shared information on the School Innovation Council.
- ❖ It was launched by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell.
- ❖ It is a council of teachers, students, and experts from industry and academia.
- ❖ It aims to conduct round the year activities for students and teachers on Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- ❖ It will promote out-of-the-box ideas in school education as envisioned in National Innovation and National Education Policy 2020.
- ❖ It will enable the ranking system for schools on the level of innovation-oriented activities.

### Tiranga Utsav

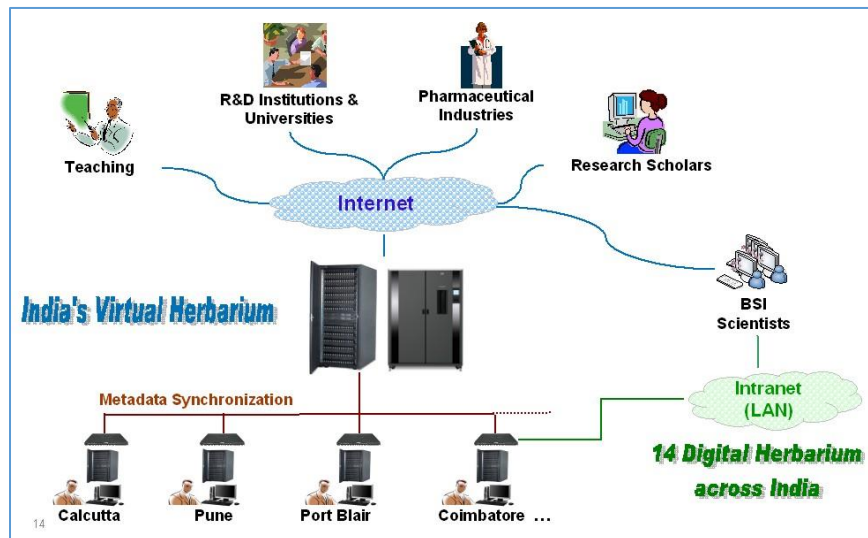


- ❖ The Ministry of Culture organized “Tiranga Utsav” in New Delhi on the occasion 146<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Pingali Venkayya.
- ❖ It aims to celebrate the contributions of Pingali Venkayya to the country.
- ❖ ‘Amar Chitra Katha’ was released in his memory.

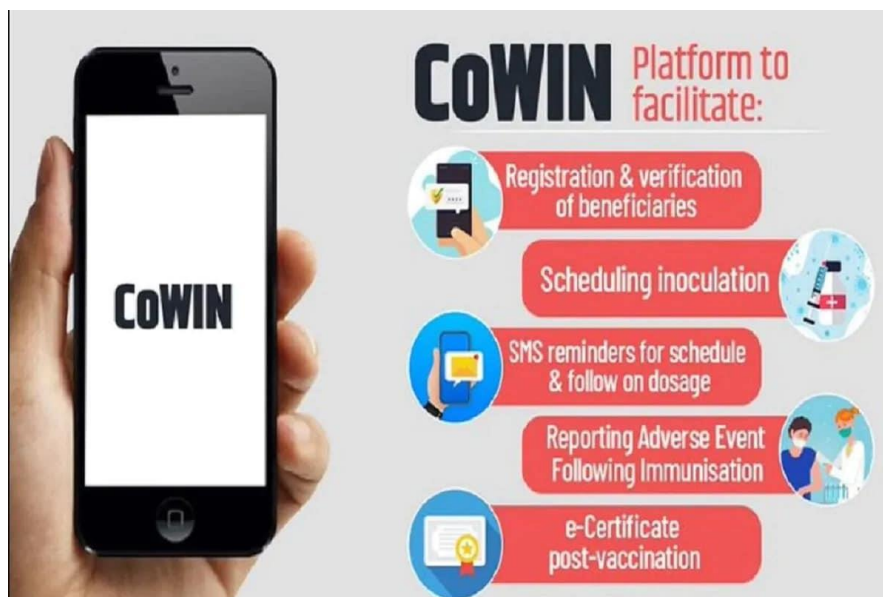
- ❖ The Tiranga Anthem was also released.

### Indian virtual herbarium

- ❖ The Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated India's largest online herbarium database, the 'Indian Virtual Herbarium' web portal.
- ❖ The portal has been developed by the Botanical Survey of India.
- ❖ Botanical Survey of India is a subordinate office under the Environment Ministry.



### Repurposed for Universal Immunization program

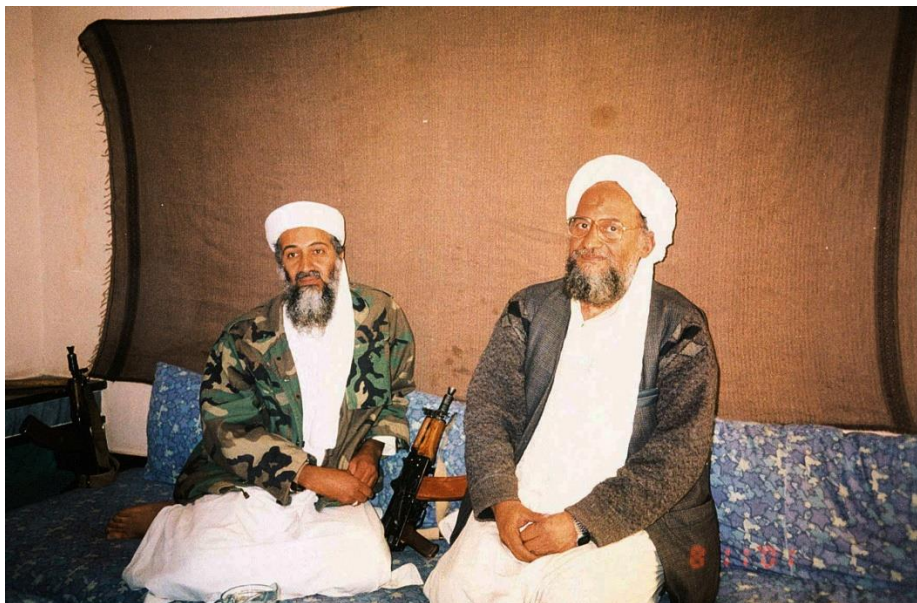


- ❖ The Co-WIN is set to be repurposed for Universal Immunisation program as well as blood donation.
- ❖ This platform will later be used for organ donation.
- ❖ CoWIN stands for “Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network”.
- ❖ It is a web portal for COVID-19 vaccination registration in India.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Assassination of Al-Qaeda leader**

- ❖ The US has killed the leader of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, in a drone strike in Afghanistan.
- ❖ He was killed in a counter-terrorism operation carried out by the CIA in the Afghan capital Kabul.
- ❖ He and Osama Bin Laden plotted the 9/11 attacks together.
- ❖ And he was one of America's most wanted terrorists.



### **Pitch Black 2022**

- ❖ India will be part of the mega air combat exercise “Pitch Black 2022” to be held in Australia.
- ❖ Over 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will be part of the drill.





- ❖ Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise, hosted by Royal Australian Air Force.

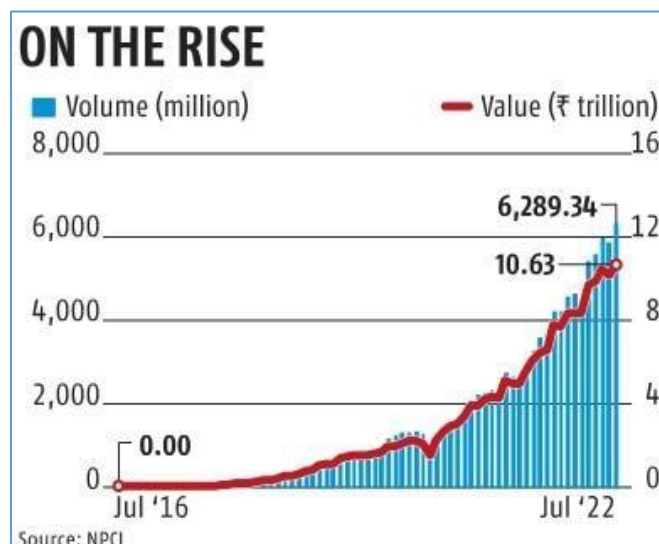
## ECONOMY

### 75,000 recognized Start-ups

- ❖ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade recognised over 75,000 start-ups.
- ❖ Start-up ecosystem in India is picking up through innovation, enthusiasm, and entrepreneurial spirit.
- ❖ Start-up India Program was launched in 2016 to provide an enabling environment for the start-ups.



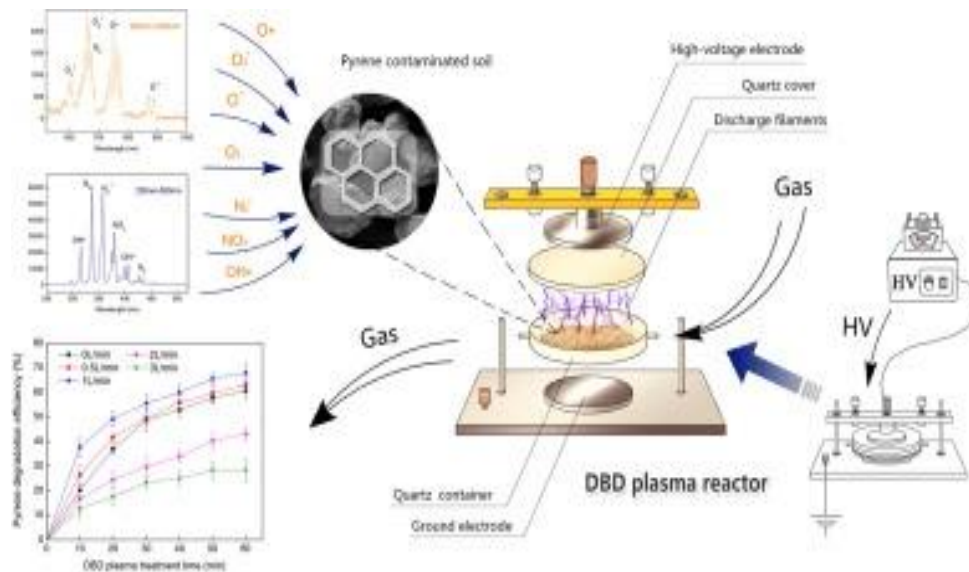
### 6 billion transactions



- ❖ UPI crossed more than 6 billion transactions in July 2022.
- ❖ It is the highest since UPI platform was launched in 2016.
- ❖ In July 2022, UPI recorded 6.28 billion transactions, accounting for Rs 10.62 trillion.
- ❖ Volume of transactions increased by 7.16 per cent.
- ❖ While value increased by 4.76 per cent, month-on-month.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Pyrene Remediation



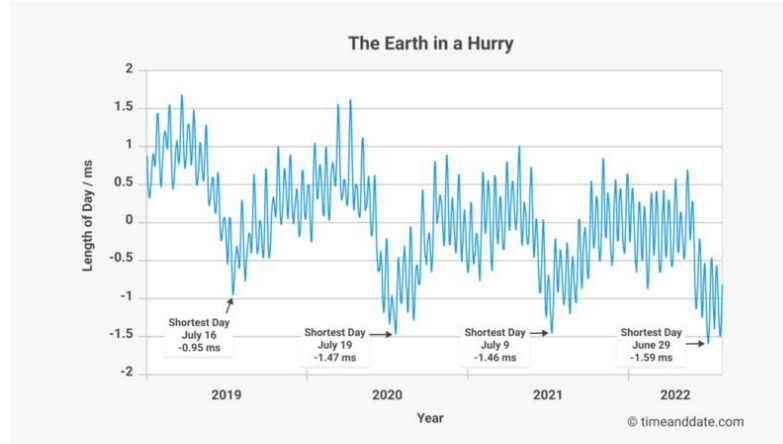
- ❖ The CSIR-IIP, Dehradun, have identified a fungus capable of removing toxic, recalcitrant, and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from the environment.
- ❖ They have identified a white-rot fungus called *T.maxima* which has the potential to cause microbial degradation of pyrene.
- ❖ It Growing on dead plants, the fungus causes pyrene degradation using special enzymes.
- ❖ The fungus can cause microbial degradation, thereby improving the soil quality.

### Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

- ❖ Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a class of chemicals that occur naturally in coal, crude oil, and gasoline.
- ❖ They result from burning coal, oil, gas, wood, garbage, and tobacco.
- ❖ PAHs can bind to or form small particles in the air.

- ❖ High heat when cooking meat and other foods will form PAHs.

## Negative leap second



- ❖ Planet Earth made rotation on its axis in less than 24 hours.
- ❖ On July 29, it broke its own record for shortest day, by completing the rotation in less than 1.59 milliseconds.
- ❖ So, this day on earth was shorter by 1.59 milliseconds, than usual 24-hour day.
- ❖ Earlier, the shortest day on Earth was recorded on July 19, 2020 since the 1960s.
- ❖ In 2020, Earth's rotation was shorter by 1.47 milliseconds, than the usual 24-hour day.
- ❖ Earth continued to rotate faster in 2021 as well.
- ❖ However, it did not create any new records.

## STATES

### 100% Quota to Locals

- ❖ The Supreme Court quashed the Jharkhand government's 2016 decision to grant 100% reservation to locals of 13 Scheduled Areas in public jobs.
- ❖ It upheld a High Court decision that had termed the government decision discriminatory and impermissible.
- ❖ The move is unconstitutional and ultra vires Articles 14, 16(2), 16(3) and 35 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ For reservation outer limit is 50% as specified in the Indra Sawhney case, 1992.
- ❖ In 2016, the Jharkhand government had invited applications for appointment to the posts of Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT) in government secondary schools,

with 100% reservation for local candidates/residents of 13 Scheduled Areas in the State.

### Receiving data from Google's EIE

- ❖ The Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data from Google was officially released in Aurangabad.
- ❖ This makes Aurangabad the first city in the nation to experience this.
- ❖ The data would aid research groups in formulating sustainable solutions for the city.



The infographic features logos for Aurangabad Smart City, Smart City Mission, and Google at the top. The main text reads: 'Aurangabad becomes the **FIRST CITY IN INDIA** for which Google has publicly launched **Environmental Insights Explorer Data**'. It further states: 'Four Indian cities - Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune and **Aurangabad** are now using transport emissions data from EIE to develop their Climate Action Plans'. Below this is a graphic of a globe with a Google Cloud logo and green leaves. At the bottom, two text boxes provide details: 'Google India publicly launched the Environmental Insights Explorer data for Aurangabad on July, 27 2022' and 'Aurangabad's EIE data, will help research organizations to help propose sustainable solutions to the city'.

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