

August - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ State Bank of India achieved its highest-ever quarterly profit in Q1 2023-24.
 - It was driven by improved asset quality and increased interest income.

TAMIL NADU

Foundation stone for Adichanallur museum



- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lays foundation stone for Adichanallur museum.
- ❖ This is the first onsite archaeological museum in the country.
- ❖ It will exhibit 3,000-year-old artefacts.
- ❖ An excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India, in Adichanallur in Thoothukudi district, has unearthed a number of burial urns, metal and bronze products and even a gold diadem.

- ❖ Though an excavation in Adichanallur was taken up in 1876 itself, it has been realized today after 145 years.

Tamil manuscripts from Italy



- ❖ Palm manuscripts from the 18th Century titled Gnanamuyarchi have been discovered in an Armenian monastery in Northern Italy.
- ❖ Tamil Bharathan, a doctoral scholar, was allowed access to the manuscripts.
- ❖ It could be a copy of the first translation of Ignatius' Spiritual Exercise in Tamil.
- ❖ This translation is most likely by Michele Bertoldi, known in Tamil as Gnanaprakasasamy.
- ❖ This is a prose text from the early 18th Century (likely the 1720s).






- ❖ It has been printed several times in the 19th Century by the Mission Press in Puducherry.
- ❖ The library had categorised the manuscripts as 'Indian Papyrus Lamulic Language-XIII Century'.

NATIONAL

Age of Consent for voting

Who Is An Adult?

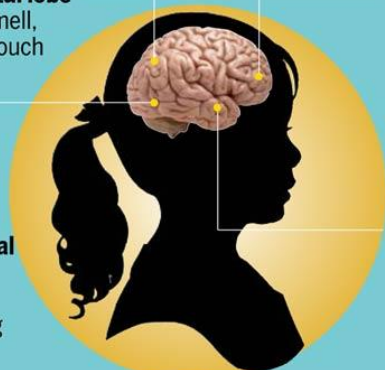
Definitions of adulthood by statutes

<p>Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 LAW Age of marriage for men and women is 21 and 18 respectively.</p>  <p>18 Women 21 Men</p>	<p>Child Labour Prohibition Act, 1986 LAW Children below 14 can't work.</p>  <p>14</p>	<p>Indian Penal Code LAW Protection against kidnapping of girls and boys is 18 and 16 respectively.</p>  <p>16 Boys 18 Girls</p>
<p>Indian Evidence Act, 1872 LAW Admissibility of evidence in courts. The age of minor is below 16 under this law.</p>  <p>16</p>	<p>Right to Education Act, 2009 LAW End of compulsory education is at 14.</p>  <p>14</p>	

Anatomy of Age

The way the brain develops

- By 16** Temporal lobe doubles in size.
- By 19-24** Maximum growth in frontal lobe.
- Till 16** Parietal lobe stays immature.
- By 20** Occipital lobe matures.



- ❖ A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievance, Law and Justice has recommended reducing the age for contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections to 18 years.
- ❖ It is the minimum age of voting in India.
- ❖ It said that the viewpoint for reducing the age was reinforced by a vast amount of evidence, such as global practices, the increasing political consciousness among young people, and the advantages of youth representation.

- ❖ However, this view was contested by the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ It has found that it is unrealistic to expect 18-year-olds to possess the necessary experience and maturity for these responsibilities.
- ❖ India's age of consent for sex is set at 18 years under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, regardless of gender.
- ❖ In 1892, the marital rape and subsequent death of a 10-year-old girl, Phulmoni Dasi, caused the age of consent to be raised from 10 to 12 years.
- ❖ In 1949, it was raised to 16 years after agitation from women's groups about the adverse effect of early pregnancy.
- ❖ The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, of 2013 increased the legally permissible age for sexual consent from 16 to 18.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations spread across the country.
- ❖ It is a plan that envisions the re-development of railway stations.
- ❖ It aims to improve the infrastructure of selected railway stations on a continuous basis.
- ❖ The identified 508 stations include 87 in Gujarat, 83 in Rajasthan, 80 in Madhya Pradesh and 34 in Haryana.
- ❖ Out of a total of 1,309 stations, 508 have been chosen for the initial phase of redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Scheme.
- ❖ These stations are located in 10 states: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Chennai Egmore station is also included in this.

Rajiv Gauba



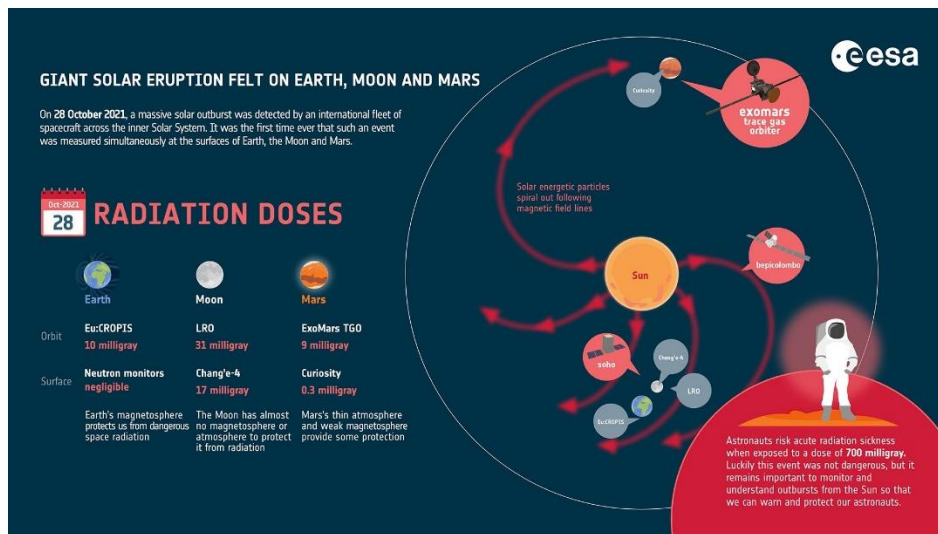
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has given another one-year extension in service to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba.
- ❖ It was making him the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's history.
- ❖ The Central government has the authority to grant an extension in service to the cabinet secretary in the public interest.
- ❖ However, this extension cannot exceed four years in total.
- ❖ By relaxing the All-India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, this extension was made.
- ❖ The ACC committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India (ex-officio Chairman) and the Minister of Home Affairs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)

- ❖ A coronal mass ejection (CME) exploded from the Sun recently.
- ❖ This time it was spread so wide that it was detected on both Mars and Earth.
- ❖ This is the first time that a solar event was recorded on Earth, on the Moon and on Mars simultaneously.
- ❖ The two planets were on opposite sides of the Sun, around 250 million kilometres apart.

- ❖ Yet they still received the blast of energetic particles.
- ❖ Neither the Moon nor Mars generate their own magnetic fields.
- ❖ And therefore, solar particles can easily reach their surfaces.
- ❖ However, Mars does have a thin atmosphere
- ❖ It stops a lot of the lower-energy solar particles and slows down the higher-energy ones.
- ❖ CMEs are large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's corona.
- ❖ They can eject billions of tons of coronal material and carry an embedded magnetic field (frozen in flux).
- ❖ It is stronger than the background solar wind interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) strength.
- ❖ CMEs travel outward from the Sun at speeds ranging from slower than 250 kilometers per second (km/s) to as fast as near 3000 km/s.
- ❖ The fastest Earth-directed CMEs can reach our planet in as little as 15-18 hours.



ENVIRONMENT

Endangered Himalayan Vulture

- ❖ The first instance of captive breeding of Himalayan vulture was recorded in India at the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati.
- ❖ The species is categorised as 'Near Threatened' with an estimated population of 66,000
- ❖ These Vultures are native to the high Himalayas.
- ❖ It is the second instance in the world, after France.


- ❖ Vulture population have experienced drastic declines in recent years.
- ❖ It was leading to 'Critically Endangered' status for three resident Gyps vulture species.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

9 RECORDED SPECIES:
Oriental white-backed, long-billed, slender-billed, Himalayan, red-headed, Egyptian, bearded, cinereous and the Eurasian Griffon.

(4 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, 1 ENDANGERED, 3 NEAR THREATENED)

THE CRISIS:
A massive dip in vulture populations came into limelight in the mid-90s, and in 2004 the cause of the crash was established as diclofenac, a veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.



WHAT NEXT AFTER 2006 PROJECT:

- Testing of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on vultures, development of new NSAIDs
- endangereD species
- Covering two more species in the breeding programme that earlier focussed on 3 critically
- Additional conservation breeding centres and four rescue centres planned across India
- Nationwide vulture survey once in four years

Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has imposed a ban on the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of ketoprofen and aceclofenac to protect vultures in the country.
- ❖ It is prohibited under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

- ❖ These are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
- ❖ They are frequently employed to relieve pain and inflammation in both humans and animals.
- ❖ The recommendation of this ban was made by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- ❖ DTAB is the apex authority for making statutory decisions on technical drug-related matters in India.
- ❖ It was established under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940.
- ❖ This authority operates as part of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ❖ It operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

