

August - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Ethiopia declares the State of Emergency in Amhara Region.
 - It is the surge in violence between the local ethnic militia called Fano and the national army.

NATIONAL

India's sugar surplus



- ❖ India became the world's top sugar producer in 2021-2022, surpassing Brazil.
- ❖ But the extensive use of resources in sugar production is depleting rapidly, leading to a potential crisis in the future.

- ❖ The sugar surplus and high exports are a result of policies favouring sugarcane cultivation, such as the fair and remunerative price (FRP) scheme and State government subsidies.
- ❖ India's top sugarcane-growing states rely heavily on groundwater for irrigation, leading to concerns over groundwater depletion.

ECONOMY

Oil India – Maharatna



- ❖ The Finance Ministry upgraded two oil sector companies, Oil India and ONGC Videsh, to Maharatna and Navratna categories of central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), respectively.
- ❖ The new status will help the companies take decisions on large investments on their own, both within India and abroad.
- ❖ Oil India was earlier a Navratna company, while ONGC Videsh was a Miniratna company.
- ❖ OIL will be the 13th Maharatna amongst the CPSEs
- ❖ Its origins are dating back to 1889 — the year of oil discovery in India.
- ❖ The state-owned enterprise is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and
- ❖ OIL is the second largest national oil and gas company in India.
- ❖ The Maharatna scheme was introduced for CPSEs in 2010 in order to empower them to expand operations and emerge as global giants.

- ❖ CPSEs fulfilling the following criteria may be considered for Maharatna status: Holding Navratna status; listed on the Indian stock exchange, with a minimum prescribed public shareholding under SEBI regulations.
- ❖ An average annual net profit exceeding Rs 2,500 crore during the last three years; and the significant global presence or the international operations will also be considered.
- ❖ OVL will be 14th Navratna amongst the CPSEs.
- ❖ A Navratna CPSE can incur capital expenditure, without any monetary ceiling, on the purchase of new items or for replacement.
- ❖ It can enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances. It can obtain, through purchase or other arrangements, technology and knowhow.
- ❖ It can raise debt from the domestic capital markets and international market, subject to the approval of RBI/Department of Economic Affairs.
- ❖ It can establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad within an investment ceiling of Rs 1,000 crore.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Bhu-Vision (Krishi-RASTAA)



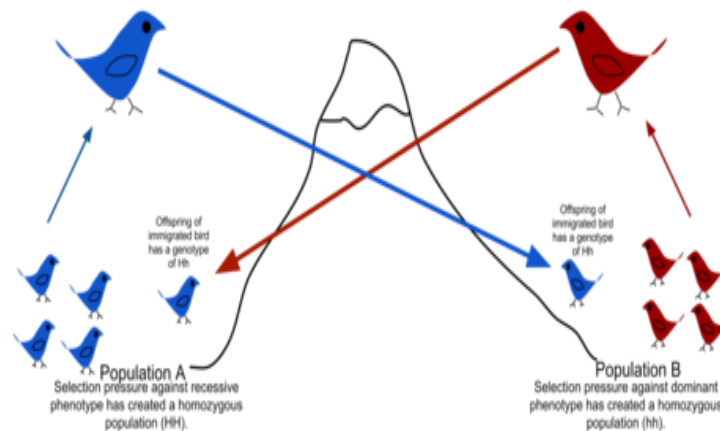
- ❖ It is an IOT-based Automated Soil Testing and Advisory Platform.

- ❖ It will play a vital role in completing the nation's soil health map.
- ❖ It has been jointly developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Rice Research of Hyderabad (ICAR-IIRR) and Krishi Tantra.

ENVIRONMENT

Endogamy - harmful genetic variants

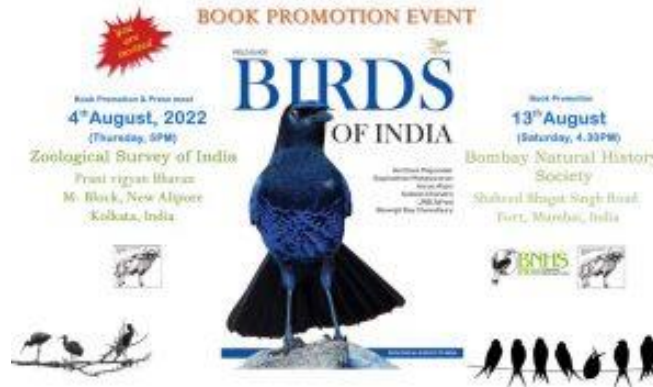
- ❖ A new study has found higher frequency of homozygous genotypes in South-Asian populations, most likely as a result of caste, endogamy, and consanguineous sexual unions.
- ❖ Such a frequency could lead to higher risk of genetic disorders.
- ❖ South-Indian and Pakistani subgroups were estimated to have a high degree of inbreeding.
- ❖ The study found stark genetic differences between people from different regions of the subcontinent.
- ❖ Humans typically have two copies of each gene.
- ❖ When an individual has two copies of the same variant, it is called a homozygous genotype.



5 percent of birds in India - endemic

- ❖ A recent publication titled as, 75 Endemic Birds of India, was released by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) on its the 108th foundation day.
- ❖ It points out that about 5% of the birds found in the country are endemic.
- ❖ They are not reported in other parts of the world.

- ❖ India is home to 1,353 bird species.
- ❖ It represents approximately 12.4% of the global bird diversity.
- ❖ Of these, 78 (5%) are endemic to the country.



SPORTS

GM Gukesh record

Following in the footsteps of Anand

The tables and graphs are based on data collated from olimpbase.org, 2700chess.com, fide.org. The ratings and rankings are after D. Gukesh's win against SL Narayanan on Sunday



Table 1 | The table shows the top five players from India at various points of time

INDIA TOP 5, JANUARY 1998				
No.	Player	Rating	Ranking	Age
1	Praveen Thipsay	2485	149	27
2	V. Anand	2405	560	17
3	Dibyendu Barua	2395	641	20
4	Raja Ravishekar	2390	706	32
5	N Sudhakar Babu	2380	810	21

INDIA TOP 5, JULY 1996				
No.	Player	Rating	Ranking	Age
1	V. Anand	2420	438	17
2	V. Devekki Prasad	2410	523	32
3	Dibyendu Barua	2400	621	20
4	Raja Ravishekar	2395	658	32
5	Pravin Thipsay	2375	835	27

INDIA TOP 5 AS ON MARCH 15, 2016 (LIVE RATINGS)				
No.	Player	Rating	Ranking	Age
1	P. Hanukrishna	2763.3	13	29
2	V. Anand	2763	14	46
3	B. Achhiban	2663	83	23
4	S.P. Sethuraman	2658	92	23
5	Abhijeet Gupta	2654	98	27

INDIA TOP 5 AS ON AUGUST 6, 2023 (LIVE RATINGS)				
No.	Player	Rating	Ranking	Age
1	D. Gukesh	2758.6	9	17
2	V. Anand	2754	10	53
3	Vidit Gujrathi	2718.0	25	28
4	R. Praggnanandhaa	2714.6	27	17
5	P. Hanukrishna	2711	30	37

Chart 2 | The chart shows Viswanathan Anand's world rankings over time. He has remained within the top 17 players in the world from January 1991 till now

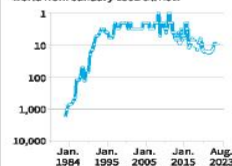


Chart 3 | The chart plots Gukesh and Anand's FIDE ratings against their age in months. Anand began his chess journey in a different era when there were fewer Super GMs

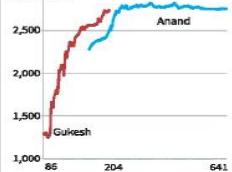


Table 4 | Oldest players in top 100 and their ranking

55 years	Boris Gelfand (84th)
54 years	Vasyl Ivanchuk (67th)
53 years	V Anand (10th)
51 years	Alexei Shirov (61st)
51 years	Michael Adams (75th)
48 years	Veselin Topalov (21st)
47 years	Peter Svidler (41st)
46 years	Evgeny Najer (96th)
43 years	Kasimdzhanov (66th)
43 years	Peter Leko (70th)
42 years	Matakhov (98th)

- ❖ Chess Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh has now become India's top-ranked chess player.



- ❖ He is surpassing India's first GM Viswanathan Anand in live ratings.
- ❖ This comes after the 17-year-old from Chennai Gukesh qualified for the third round of the FIDE Chess World Cup, a major single-elimination tournament held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ Anand has been India's top chess player for the last 36 years.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Hiroshima Day 2023 - August 06



- ❖ On August 6, 1945, during World War II, a U.S. plane Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan.
- ❖ Seventy-seven years have elapsed since then.
- ❖ And every year the world remembers August 6 as a day of solemn remembrance and reflection.
- ❖ This day stands as a poignant reminder of the cataclysmic impact of nuclear warfare
- ❖ It makes the urgent call for global unity in pursuit of peace and disarmament.

Friendship day 2023 - August 06

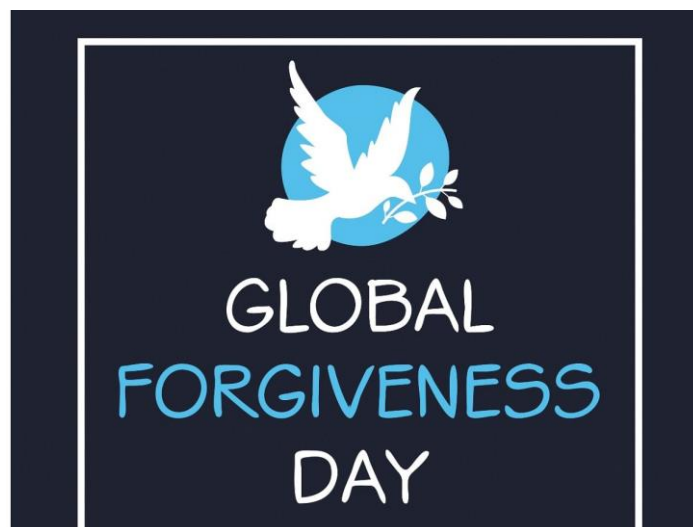
- ❖ National Friendship Day occurs every year on the first Sunday of August.



- ❖ It can be traced back to 1958 when Joce Hall, the owner of Hallmark Cards, proposed the idea of celebrating Friendship Day in Paraguay.
- ❖ However, it was in 2011 when United Nations announced an official date to mark the festival.
- ❖ They declared July 30 as International Friendship Day.
- ❖ The theme for Friendship Day 2023 is "Sharing the Human Spirit through Friendship."
- ❖ Though it has since been moved to 7 August due to de-synchronisation in the United States.



International Forgiveness Day 2023 - August 06



- ❖ It takes place on the first Sunday in August each year.

- ❖ The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”- Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ It was incepted in 1994 by the Christian Embassy of Christ’s Ambassadors (CECA).

National Handloom Day 2023 - August 07



- ❖ It is observed annually on 7th August to honour the handloom weavers in across the country.
- ❖ It will be under the coordination of the Ministry of Textiles.
- ❖ The Union Government had declared this day in July 2015.
- ❖ August 7 was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement.
- ❖ It was launched on this day in 1905 in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government.
- ❖ The theme of this Day in 2023 is "Handlooms for Sustainable Fashion".
- ❖ The handloom sector is key to women empowerment as over 70% of handloom weavers and allied workers are women.

