

August - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Sashidhar Jagdishan, the CEO of HDFC Bank has taken the top spot as the highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs. 10.55 crore pay.

NATIONAL

Red sanders export quota

The potential and the problem



1,000 metric tonnes

The annual market demand for Red Sanders

Rs 50 lakh - 1 cr

The price commanded by a tonne of this timber in international markets

50-80%

The population decline in this species over the last 3 generations



1,000 sq km

The area of occupancy by Red Sanders that's endemic to the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh

117

Smuggling cases of Red Sandalwood registered in 2011



60-100 years

For Red Sanders to reach good harvestable width

- ❖ The commerce ministry notified an annual export quota of 900 tonnes for artificially propagated red sanders wood for Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It has also notified a zero-export quota for wild specimens of red sanders, subject to certain conditions.

- ❖ Red sanders are an Indian endemic tree species, with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ The species is a native and endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Red Sanders usually grow in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and hot and dry climate.
- ❖ It is a very slow-growing tree species that attains maturity in natural forests after 25-40 years.
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) recently categorised the Red Sanders (or Red Sandalwood) again into the 'endangered' category in its Red List.
- ❖ It is listed under Schedule IV of The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- ❖ China remains the largest importer for this, followed by Hong Kong and Singapore.

INTERNATIONAL

World rice price index



- ❖ The FAO All Rice Price Index, reached an average of 129.7 points in July this year.
- ❖ It stands as the highest level observed since September 2011.
- ❖ Robust rice demand is among the key drivers behind the increasing rice prices.
- ❖ An additional factor is India's recent decision to limit exports.
- ❖ Countries such as India, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Pakistan are prominent rice exporters.
- ❖ Whereas China, the Philippines, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, and Malaysia play a crucial role as rice importers.

- ❖ US, Thailand, Italy, Spain, and Sri Lanka are the noteworthy destinations for India's non-basmati white rice exports.

ECONOMY

Anti-dumping duty on optical Fibre imports



- ❖ The Finance Ministry has enforced anti-dumping duties on particular optical fiber imports from China, South Korea, and Indonesia.
- ❖ It aims to mitigate the adverse effects on the domestic industry.
- ❖ It was based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).
- ❖ Anti-dumping actions are implemented to uphold equitable trade practices.
- ❖ And it aims to establish a balanced competitive environment for the domestic industry.
- ❖ Their purpose is not to hinder imports or unjustly inflate product costs.
- ❖ They impose duties in accordance with the global framework set by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

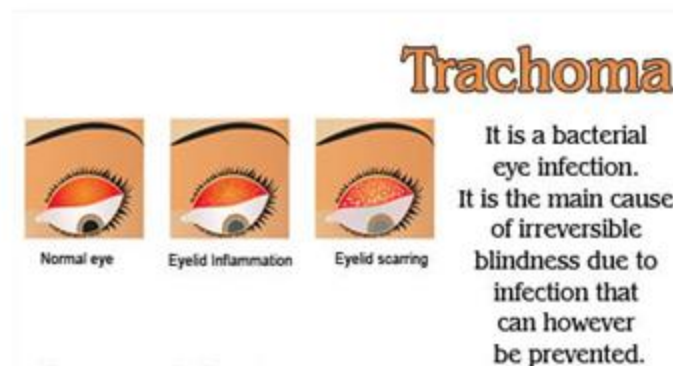
Neerakshi

- ❖ It is an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) designed to detect mines.
- ❖ A first of its kind in the country was launched.

- ❖ It is a collaboration of Kolkata-based warship maker Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd and MSME entity AEPL.
- ❖ It is expected to undergo user trials by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Army before a commercial launch.



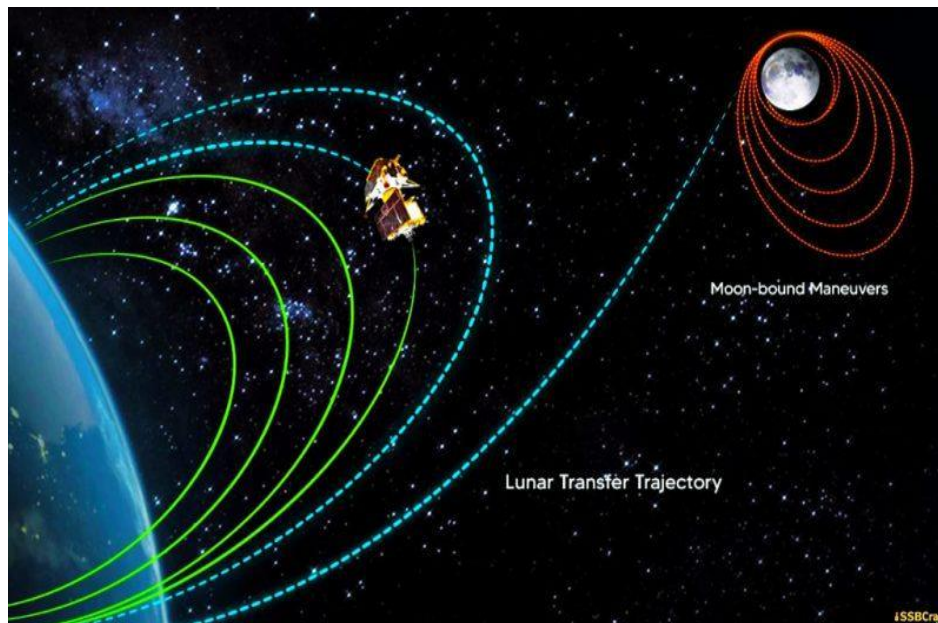
Eliminating Trachoma



- ❖ Iraq has been officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the 18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma as a public health concern.
- ❖ This achievement also marks Iraq as the fifth nation within the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to accomplish this milestone.
- ❖ Additionally, the WHO has acknowledged Iraq as the 50th country to eliminate at least one Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) on a global scale.
- ❖ This accomplishment signifies a significant step towards the goal of having 100 countries achieve similar milestones by 2030, as outlined in the 2021-2030 NTD roadmap.

- ❖ Trachoma is a contagious bacterial eye infection caused by bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis.
- ❖ It primarily affects the surface of the eye and the inside of the eyelid.
- ❖ It is transmitted through direct contact with the eye or nose secretions of infected individuals or from fomites and flies or indirectly through contaminated objects like towels or clothes.

Chandrayaan 3 – Lunar Orbit



- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 was successfully inserted into lunar orbit after a journey of twenty-three days.
- ❖ It marks a significant step in India's endeavour to become the first nation to achieve a soft landing on the moon.
- ❖ As the spacecraft started circling the moon, it began transmitting signals to the Mission Operators Complex (MOX) at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).
- ❖ As of now, Chandrayaan-3 is in an elliptical orbit around the moon, situated approximately 18,074 km from the lunar surface at its farthest point and 164 km at its nearest.
- ❖ However, this elliptical orbit is not the final configuration.
- ❖ The mission aims to achieve a circular orbit, with an altitude of 100 km x 100km above the moon's surface.
- ❖ ISRO will carry out four orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit.

- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 consists of a lander module (LM), a propulsion module (PM) and a rover.
- ❖ The lander is expected to touch down on the moon surface on August 23.

STATES

Kuttikkanam Palace



- ❖ Kuttikkanam is a picturesque hill station lying between Wagamon and Thekkad in Kerala's Idukki district.
- ❖ It will soon get a historical monument of its own with the State Archaeology department.
- ❖ It is also known as Ammachi Kottaram.
- ❖ The palace was constructed around 1890.
- ❖ The 130-year-old palace once served as the summer residence of the kings of erstwhile Travancore.
- ❖ The palace was constructed during the reign of Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma who ruled the Travancore princely state from 1885 to 1924.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Bone and Joint Day 2023 – August 04

- ❖ The first week of August is observed as National Bone and Joint week since 2012.
- ❖ But This country-wide health campaign on the year basis was started by the Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) in 2021.

- ❖ The theme for this year is 'Each one Train one Save one'.
- ❖ The main reasons for deteriorated bone and joint health include lack of awareness about essential physical activities, lack of proper nutrition enriched with vitamin D, habits like alcohol consumption, tobacco chewing and smoking, and lack of calcium intake in young and postmenopausal women.
- ❖ Dairy products are the main food sources providing bone-beneficial nutrients, such as calcium, phosphorus and magnesium.
- ❖ Fermented milk products, such as yogurt or soft cheese, are also an important source of calcium, phosphorus and protein.



3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' – August 07



- ❖ The Athletics Federation of India, the apex governing body for athletics in the nation, made a decision to mark this day as National Javelin Day.



- ❖ On August 7th of 2021, a remarkable chapter in Indian athletics history was etched by Neeraj Chopra.
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra made this during the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

