

August - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) program has successfully completed its eight-year tenure since 2015, garnering an enrolment of over 5.25 crore subscribers.

TAMIL NADU

Weighing unit made of crystal quartz - Keeladi

- ❖ A weighing unit made of crystal quartz was found in the 9th phase of the excavations in Keeladi.
- ❖ It was the first time a crystal quartz had been unearthed in Keeladi since 2014.
- ❖ It is transparent in nature.
- ❖ It is black-and-red ware and red slipped ware.
- ❖ The excavation also yielded a fragment of a snake figurine made of terracotta.
- ❖ It is located in Sivagangai District dates from the Sangam-Era site near Madurai.
- ❖ The archaeological excavations in Tamil Nadu threw up the following surprises
- ❖ Artefacts unearthed in Keeladi near Madurai pushed the Sangam Era to 600 BCE from 300 BCE
- ❖ Rice husks found in a burial urn in Sivakalai was found to be 3,200 years old
- ❖ Tamils were aware of iron technology in 2172 BCE, 4,200 years ago.



MSSRF's research centre

- ❖ The MSSRF's Fish for All Research and Training Centre at Poompuhar is one of the seven winning proposals.

- ❖ It is one out of 260 applications to bag the “Women Connect Challenge” Award for 2023 given by Reliance Foundation and USAID.
- ❖ The Poompuhar Centre is developing a range of information, communication, technologies (ICT) to reduce the gender digital divide among women.
- ❖ The Women Connect Challenge is a global call for solutions to improve women’s participation in everyday life.
- ❖ The Former WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan is the head to M S Swaminathan Research Foundation.
- ❖ It was founded by her father, the legendary agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan.

Session VII
Panel Discussion on Enabling Policy Environment for Millets as 'Climate Smart Nutri-Cereals'

Chair

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
Chairperson, MSSRF

Draft Recommendations from the deliberations

Dr. R. Rengalakshmi
Director, Ecotechnology, MSSRF, Chennai

Panelists:

- Dr. Alessandro Meschinelli**
Research Innovation & Partnership Facilitator, GFAR, Rome
- Mr. C Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.)**
Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority
- Dr. Rajeev Ahal**
Director, Natural Resource Management & Agroecology, GIZ India
- Ms Urjaswi Sondhi**
Project Officer, United Nations Development Programme
- Dr. Sonajharia Minz**
Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Former Vice-Chancellor, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka
- Prof. Nitya Rao**
Professor, Gender & Development, University of East Anglia, UK

August 8, 2023
3.30 - 5.00 pm

Work on airport mighty complex in Vellore



- ❖ Work on the multi-crore airport complex on Chennai-Bengaluru Highway (NH 44) in Vellore is nearing completion.

- ❖ It will start operation by November after a safety audit is completed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.
- ❖ Airports Authority of India has decided to operate small flights on the new runway in Vellore from November.
- ❖ The new airport in Vellore was sanctioned a few years ago under the second phase of the UDAN - Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN-RCS).
- ❖ UDAN aims to improve connectivity in smaller towns.
- ❖ The new airport will be helpful to domestic travellers in areas like Ambur, Arcot, Vanniyambadi, and Vellore.

NATIONAL

Unmesha Festival



- ❖ The President inaugurated the 'Unmesha' International Literature Festival in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The festival is organized by the Sahitya Akademi.
- ❖ The 'Unmesha' festival brings together literary enthusiasts from around the world.
- ❖ It is Asia's largest literary gathering.
- ❖ With over 575 authors participating in 102 languages across more than 75 events, 'Unmesha' is on the path to becoming the world's largest literature festival.

Utkarsh Festival

- ❖ The President inaugurated the 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ The festival is organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- ❖ Through 'Utkarsh,' India proudly displays a vivid tapestry of its cultural diversity, fostering appreciation for indigenous arts and showcasing their value in a modern, interconnected world.



INTERNATIONAL

G20 Principles for Financing Cities of Tomorrow



- ❖ In the third IWG meeting, substantive progress will be discussed towards the work streams of the 2023 infrastructure agenda.
- ❖ The flagship priority to be discussed in this meeting is 'financing cities of tomorrow: inclusive, resilient and sustainable'.
- ❖ The third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) concluded in Gandhinagar.

- ❖ This meeting marked a significant milestone in addressing key global financial issues, building upon the agenda set during the first meeting under the Indian Presidency in February 2023.
- ❖ Multilateral development banks (MDBs) face increasing demands from donor and borrowing countries to expand their lending operations.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Anti-tank guided missiles



TANK KILLERS

- Anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) are meant to **destroy advancing enemy armoured units**
- **Range** from shoulder-launched to larger tripod-mounted systems for infantry soldiers
- Army has a shocking **60% shortage** in its 'authorised holding' of ATGMs
- **Big operational gap**, especially on the western front with Pakistan
- Army demanding 3rd-generation ATGMs with

night-fighting capabilities & higher range for a decade

- Defence Acquisitions Council in June 2009 gave nod for 8,356 ATGMs, 321 launchers & 15 simulators for ₹3,200 crore
- This included transfer of

technology to Bharat Dynamics for mass production

- Israeli company Rafael's Spike ATGM underwent trials in a single-vendor situation. Tender scrapped in late-2017
- Separate process to acquire Javelin ATGMs from US also didn't materialise

Infantry battalions making do with 2nd-Generation Milan (2 km) & Konkurs (4 km) ATGMs

- ❖ India's indigenous Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and the variant of HELINA (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System called 'Dhruvastra' are set to be inducted into the Indian armed force.
- ❖ Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ And they are manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- ❖ Nag is the surface-to-air missile.
- ❖ Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile.

Nag ATG

- ❖ NAG, also known as Prospina, is a third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile with Fire and Forget top attack capability.
- ❖ Nag ATGM is developed under the integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP).

- ❖ IGMDP also includes four other missiles Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi.
- ❖ The Nag has an operational range of up to 4 km.
- ❖ It is armed with a tandem High- Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead.



SPORTS

World Archery Championships 2023



- ❖ The Indian women's compound team won the gold medal after defeating the Mexico.

- ❖ It was held at Berlin, Germany.
- ❖ Indian archery team has won a gold medal for the first time since making its debut at World Archery Championships in 1981.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Cat Day 2023 - August 08

- ❖ It was created in 2002 by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.
- ❖ International Cat Care has been the custodianship of International Cat Day since 2020.
- ❖ It is a British non-profit group working in favour of cats since 1958.



Nagasaki Day 2023 - August 09



- ❖ The day marks the horror of the second atomic attack in Japan.

- ❖ On 9 August 1945, the US dropped the second nuclear bomb 'Fat Man' on the Nagasaki region of Japan
- ❖ It was just after three days after the Hiroshima bombing.
- ❖ The Plutonium Bomb was used for the nuclear attack on Nagasaki.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples or World Tribal Day 2023 - August 09

- ❖ It is also known as World Tribal Day.
- ❖ It was chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in Geneva in 1982.
- ❖ In December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples should be observed on August 9th each year.
- ❖ The UN designated 2019 to be the International Year of Indigenous Languages
- ❖ This year's theme for World Tribal Day is "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."
- ❖ They make up about 5% of the world's population, but they account for more than 15% of the world's poorest people.

