

August - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The President of India has assented the bills, namely the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Priya Malik secured a gold medal at the ongoing U20 World Wrestling Championships at Amman, Jordan.
- ❖ India's Anahat Singh clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships held at China.
- ❖ Every year August 21 observed as World Senior Citizens' Day to honour the efforts and contributions made by them.
- ❖ Every year on August 22, the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed.

TAMIL NADU

Southeast Asia's largest desalination plant



- ❖ Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a new desalination plant to come up at Perur, Chennai.
- ❖ It will have a capacity to treat 400 million litres of seawater per day.
- ❖ Once set up, the plant will be the biggest of its kind in Southeast Asia.

- ❖ The project having funding support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Category 1 university

- ❖ The University of Madras has been graded as A++ University in the recent NAAC assessment.
- ❖ This means the University Grants Commission has granted it full autonomy as the University is now a top-ranked institution in the country.
- ❖ In the previous cycle in 2014, the university had received A grade.
- ❖ It can have two off-campus and offshore campus, develop any curriculum in any general discipline.



Green Fellowship Program

- ❖ Chief Minister launched the Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme (CMGFP).
- ❖ The scheme was announced in the Assembly as part of the 2021-22 Budget demand for the Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- ❖ The programme was "designed to provide a platform to passionate young individuals who are committed to environmental conservation, renewable energy, biodiversity protection, and other aspects of sustainable living".

- ❖ The fellows will also be introduced to the three missions of the State — Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, and Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.



NATIONAL

Bharat New Car Assessment Programme



- ❖ It aims to improve road safety by raising the safety standards of motor vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes in India.
- ❖ It provides a tool to the car customers to make a comparative assessment of crash safety of motor vehicles available in the market.

- ❖ Under this programme, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars tested as per Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.
- ❖ Based on the performance of the car in the tests, car will be awarded star ratings for Adult Occupants (AOP) and Child Occupant (COP).

Jan Dhan Accounts

- ❖ The total number of Jan Dhan accounts in the country has crossed 50 crore-mark.
- ❖ 56 per cent of the accounts are belonging to women.
- ❖ About 67 per cent of these accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas.
- ❖ The National Mission on Financial Inclusion (PMJDY) was launched on August 28, 2014.



Global Initiative on Digital Health

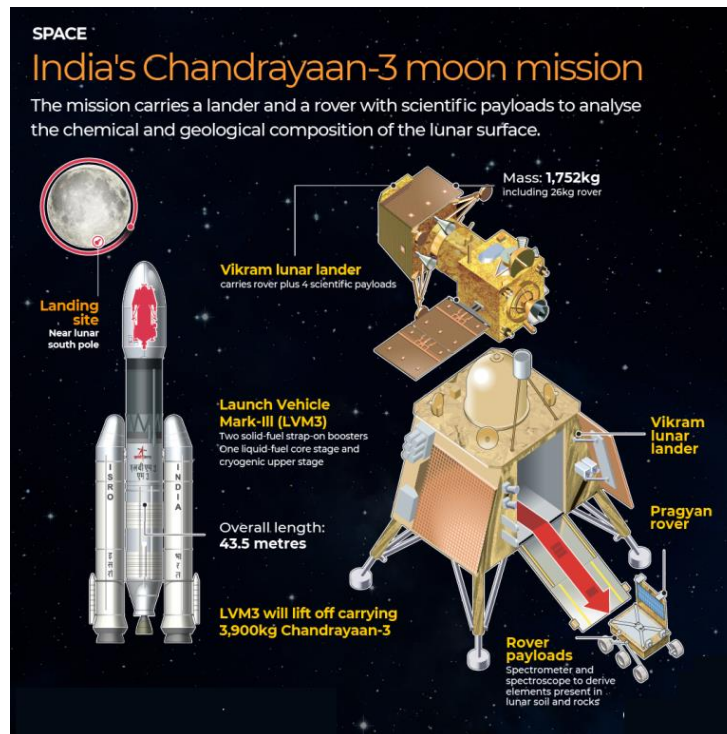


- ❖ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the 'Global Initiative on Digital Health'.

- ❖ GIDH is one of the key deliverables of India's G-20 Presidency.
- ❖ It will consolidate the evidence and “amplify recent and past gains in global digital health”.
- ❖ The GIDH will be a WHO-managed network that will promote equitable access to digital health by addressing challenges.
- ❖ It aims to support the implementation of the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan 3 mission



- ❖ The Chandrayaan 3 mission launched on July 14 onboard Launch Vehicle Mark III.
- ❖ It took 41 days to touch down on the moon's surface.
- ❖ The successful moon mission has made India the fourth country to achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface after the US, China, and the erstwhile Soviet Union.
- ❖ India also became the first country to land on the moon's south pole.
- ❖ The 'Pragyaan' rover has been deployed on the south pole.
- ❖ It will be used by ISRO, over the next 14 days to explore the composition of lunar soil and rocks.

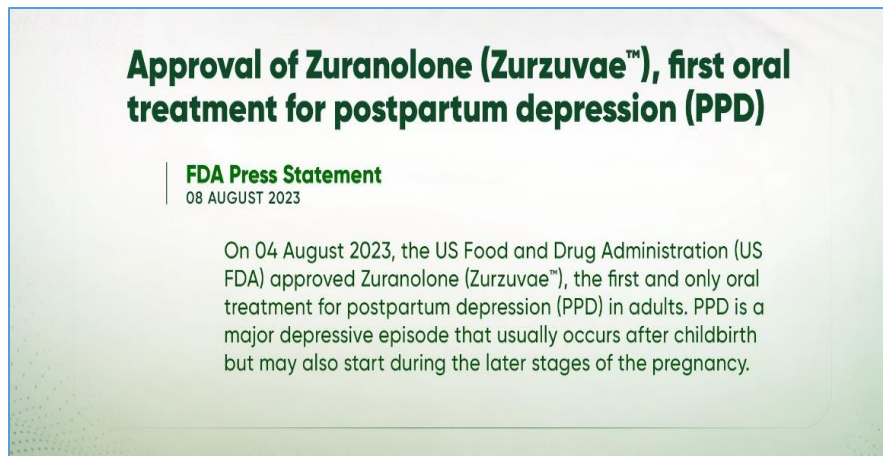


- ❖ The south pole is expected to have ice deposits and minerals.

15 Minutes of Terror

- ❖ The critical landing sequence for Chandrayaan-3, commenced at approximately 5:45 pm and spans 15 minutes, aptly dubbed "15 minutes of terror".
- ❖ Throughout this period, the spacecraft operates autonomously, rendering engineers and scientists' mere spectators.
- ❖ Everything hinges on the onboard computers of the Vikram Lander.
- ❖ This manoeuvre involved transitioning the craft from a high-speed horizontal orientation to a gradual vertical descent, facilitating a gentle touchdown on the lunar surface.

FDA's Approval for Zurzuvae



- ❖ The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Zurzuvae (zuranolone) for the treatment of postpartum depression (PPD) in adults.
- ❖ PPD has far-reaching consequences on the lives of women who experience it.
- ❖ The disorder severely hampers their ability to return to normal functioning after pregnancy.

ENVIRONMENT

IWC's First Extinction Alert

- ❖ The International Whaling Commission (IWC) issued its first 'extinction alert' for the endangered vaquita porpoise.
- ❖ This species is teetering on the edge of extinction with a mere 10 individuals remaining in the Gulf of California, Mexico.

- ❖ This alert aims to encourage wider recognition of the warning signs of impending extinctions, and to generate support and encouragement at every level for the actions needed now to save the vaquita.



STATES

World's Highest Motorable Road



- ❖ The BRO is working on constructing the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road in Ladakh.
- ❖ It will be the new highest motorable road in the world.
- ❖ The strategic road, 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche', will pass through an altitude of about 19,400 feet, the highest anywhere in the world.

- ❖ Currently, the world's existing highest motorable road at Umling La in Ladakh is at an altitude of 19,024 feet.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2023 International Young Eco-Hero award

- ❖ 17 teen environmental activists from across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award.
- ❖ Five youths from India have been named among the 17 awardees.
- ❖ They were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, "Action For Nature".
- ❖ The Indian awardees are
 - Eiha Dixit from Meerut,
 - Manya Harsha from Bengaluru,
 - Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and
 - Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.

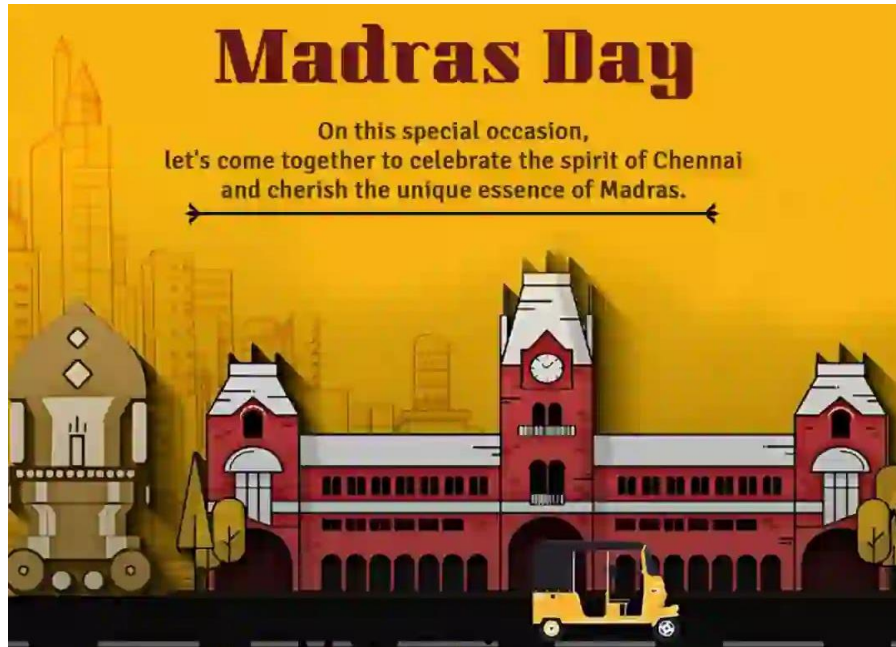


IMPORTANT DAYS

Madras Day 2023 - August 22

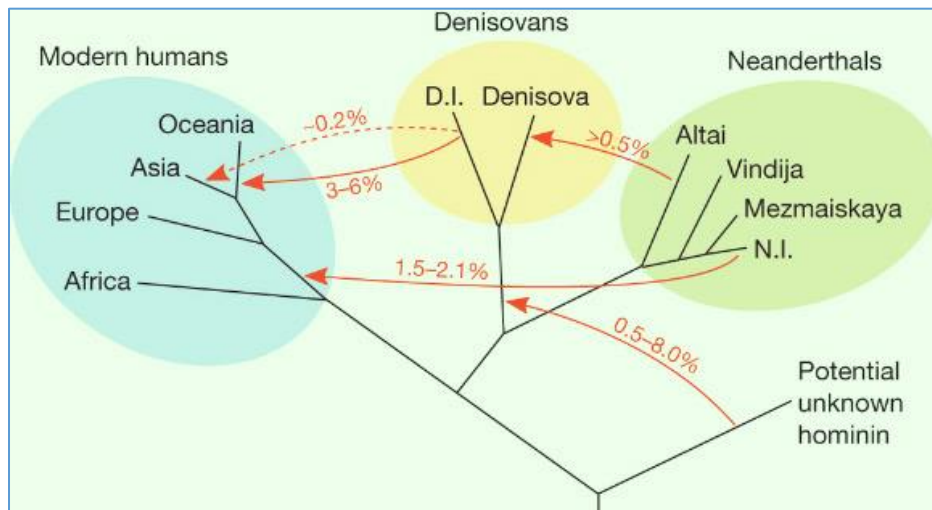
- ❖ The Madras Day, the founding day of city of Madras, now called Chennai, is observed on 22 August every year.
- ❖ Madras was founded on August 22, 1639.
- ❖ On this day, a piece of land known as Chennapatnam was acquired by the British East India Company from the local Nayak rulers.

- ❖ The first Madras Day celebration was held on August 22, 2004.



MISCELLANEOUS

HLD 6



- ❖ International team of scientists has described an ancient human fossil in China unlike any other hominin found before.
- ❖ It resembles neither the lineage that split to form Neanderthals, nor Denisovans, nor us.

- ❖ It is suggesting our current version of the human family tree needs another branch.
- ❖ The jaw, skull, and leg bones belonging to this yet-to-be classified hominin, labelled HLD 6.
- ❖ These HLD 6 does not resemble the Homo erectus species, which survived in Indonesia until about 100,000 years ago.

Megalithic hat stones

- ❖ A large number of megalithic hat stones were found from a single site during a recent archaeological salvage excavation at Nagaparamba in Kuttippuram village.
- ❖ Hat stones are popularly called Thoppikkallu in Malayalam.
- ❖ They are hemispherical laterite stones used as lid on burial urns during the megalithic period.
- ❖ It could ostensibly throw light on the life and culture of people who lived in those parts more than 2,000 years ago.

