

August - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has given Anna University a rating of 3.54 (A++) out of 4 in its recent assessment.
- ❖ The Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has introduced the CSIR Prima ET11, the country's first indigenous e-Tractor.
- ❖ Tulip Garden Srinagar has been included in the World Book of Records as Asia's largest tulip garden.
 - It has displayed 1.6 million tulips of 68 varieties.
- ❖ The weight loss drug Wegovy was shown to reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke or heart-related death by 20%.

NATIONAL

Longest Scorpene Submarine Deployment



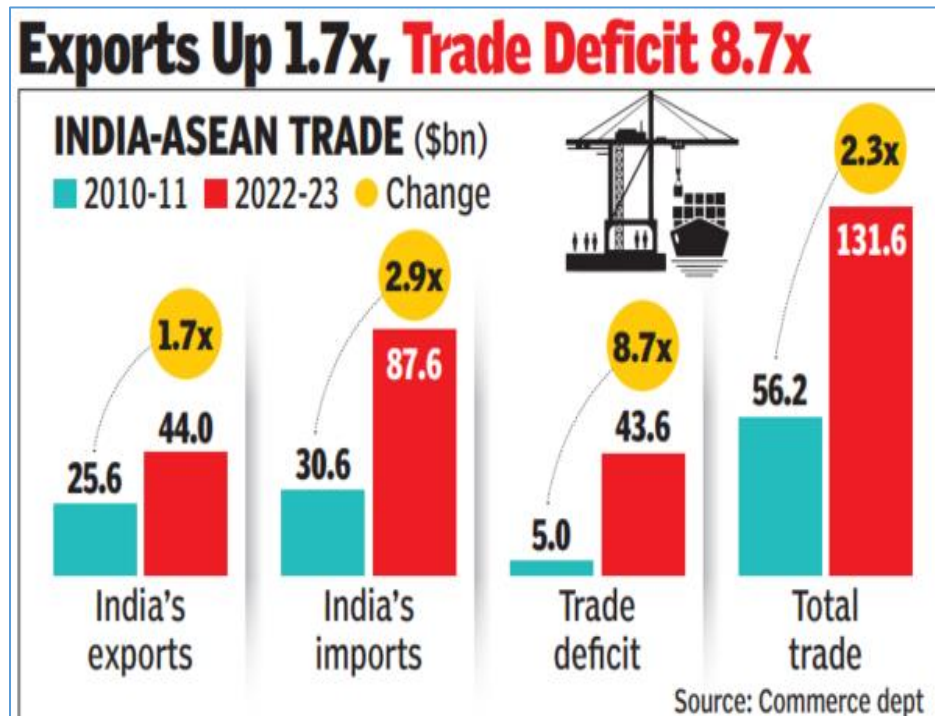
- ❖ India's Scorpene submarines, INS Vagir, has made its way to Australia, covering a distance of nearly 7,000 km or a little over 4,000 nautical miles.
- ❖ This is a first-of-its-kind and longest ever deployment of India's Scorpene submarines.
- ❖ This trip is aimed at participating in underwater drills with the Royal Australian Navy.

- ❖ INS Vagir is the fifth Scorpene-class submarine.

INTERNATIONAL

ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement

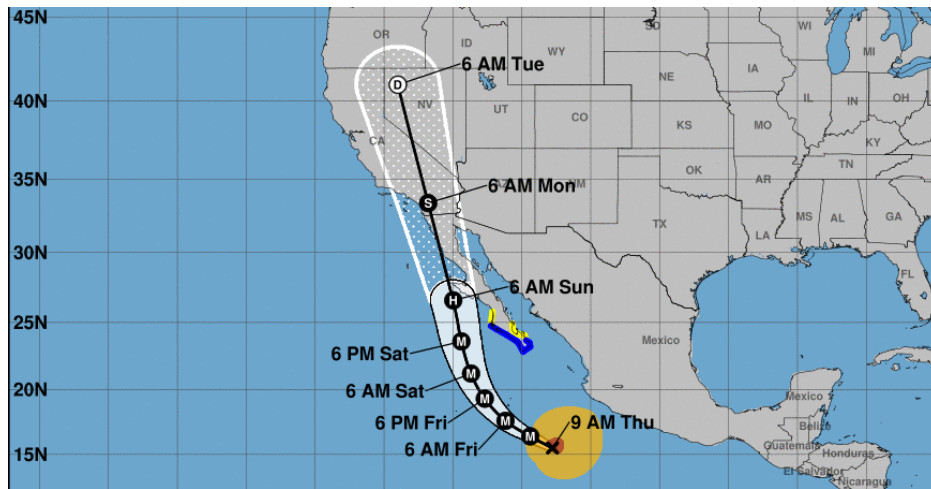
- ❖ India and the ASEAN countries reached an agreement to review their free trade pact for goods.
- ❖ ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was signed in 2009.
- ❖ The review of the AITIGA was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses and the early commencement of the review would help in making trade facilitative and mutually beneficial.
- ❖ The review of AITIGA is expected to enhance and diversify trade while addressing the current asymmetry in the bilateral trade.



Hurricane

- ❖ Hurricane Hilary, a major tropical cyclone, hits Southern California.
- ❖ Also, an earthquake with magnitude 5.1 hit the same area.
- ❖ The epicentre of the earthquake was in Ojai, between Santa Barbara and Ventura.

- ❖ The quake occurred along the Sisar fault.
- ❖ The term “hurriquake” trended on social media due to this rare occurrence.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Vela Constellation



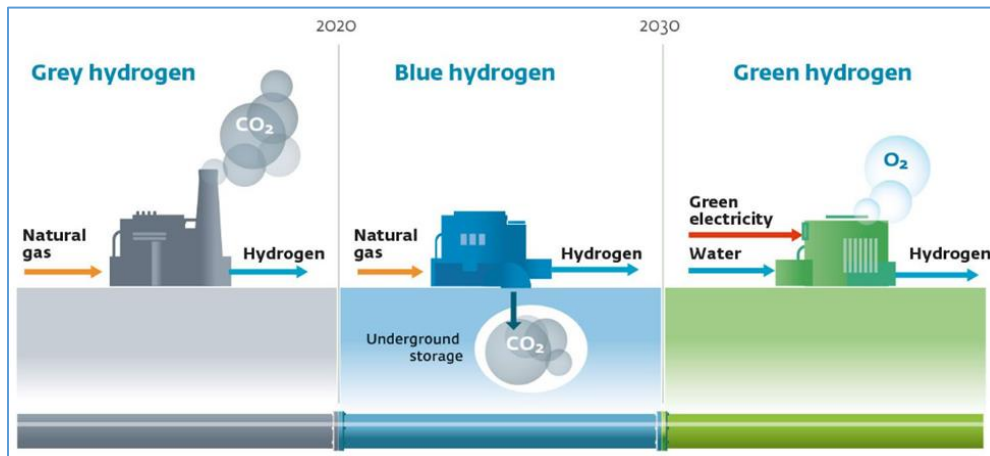
- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope has delivered a unique insight into a pair of actively forming stars.
- ❖ This pair of young stars is named Herbig-Haro 46/47.
- ❖ This is located 1,470 light-years away from Earth in the Vela Constellation.
- ❖ This can provide insights into how much mass stars gather over time.

- ❖ This could help in modelling the Sun and decoding how our relatively low-mass star and the solar system formed.

ENVIRONMENT

Green Hydrogen Standards

- ❖ The ministry of New and Renewable Energy notified the green hydrogen standard for India
- ❖ It is outlining the emission thresholds for production of hydrogen that can be classified as 'green'.
- ❖ India became one of the few countries to have a definition for green hydrogen.
- ❖ The notification specifies that a detailed methodology for measurement, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification and certification of green hydrogen.
- ❖ The government launched National Green Hydrogen Mission early this year with an aim to produce 5 million metric tonne (MMT) green hydrogen per annum.



Antarctic Strawberry Feather Star

- ❖ Researchers have discovered an otherworldly, 20-tentacled creature in Antarctic Ocean.
- ❖ This is one of four new species of crinoids that scientists found at the bottom of the ocean.
- ❖ The Antarctic strawberry feather star gets its name from the strawberry-like nub on its body.
- ❖ Crinoids like these dominated the young seas of our planet.

- ❖ But they were largely wiped out — along with 95% of life on Earth — during the Permian mass extinction roughly 251 million years ago.



STATES

Plastic Free Mysuru Palace



- ❖ The iconic Mysuru Palace will soon become 'plastic-free'.
- ❖ It will be the second tourist destination after the Mysuru zoo to plastic free.

- ❖ This concept has worked really well at the Mysuru zoo.
- ❖ Visitors deposit a sum of ₹20 per bottle to carry inside the zoo.
- ❖ After the visit, they would get back the money in return for the bottle.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Water Week 2023 - August 20 to 24

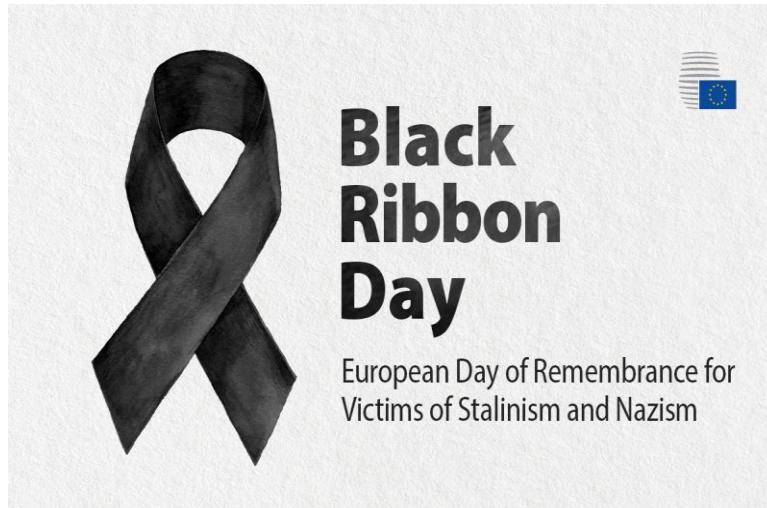
- ❖ This is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute every year since 1991.
- ❖ In 1969, India launched the National Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme.
- ❖ In 1972-73, the country rolled out the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme (ARWS).
- ❖ In 1991, it was renamed to Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.
- ❖ Theme for this year is - Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World.
- ❖ The Bharat Nirman Programme, launched in 2005, had a rural drinking water supply component.
- ❖ In 2017, the Centre launched the Har Ghar Jal programme with the objective of ensuring safe drinking water to all households, with piped supply.



European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism - August 23

- ❖ The purpose of the Day of Remembrance is to preserve the memory of the victims of mass deportations and exterminations, while promoting democratic values to reinforce peace and stability in Europe.

- ❖ This day was created by the European Parliament in 2008.
- ❖ It is also the day on which in 1939 the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact was signed.
- ❖ This Pact allowed Germany under Hitler and Soviet Union under Stalin to divide much of Europe.



MISCELLANEOUS

Ancient Mailara cult



- ❖ Two sculptures discovered which resembles one belonging to 15th century A.D. and 17th century A.D., at Basrur, near Kundapura, in Udupi district of Karnataka.

- ❖ The find sheds light on the historical significance of the Mylareshwar cult that once thrived in the Deccan and Coastal Karnataka regions.
- ❖ Recently, a mutilated but unique sculpture was found in a well at Basrur.
- ❖ The Mailara cult is a religious tradition centred around the worship of a folk deity named Mailara.
- ❖ Mailara is believed to be a manifestation of Lord Shiva.
- ❖ This cult is prevalent in parts of southern India, particularly in the Deccan region, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

Plant-eating dinosaur species



- ❖ Scientists have discovered the oldest fossil remains of a long-necked, plant-eating dicraeosaurid dinosaur in Jaisalmer.
- ❖ It is suggesting that India was a major centre of dinosaur evolution.
- ❖ The remains are 167 million years old and belong to a new species, unknown to scientists thus far.
- ❖ It has been named 'Tharosaurus indicus'.
- ❖ The first name is referring to the 'Thar desert' where the fossils were found, and the second is after its country of origin.
- ❖ Theories so far had suggested that the oldest dicraeosaurid was from China (about 166-164 million years old).

Tutcetis rayanensis

- ❖ Paleontologists in Egypt unearthed fossilized remains of a miniature whale species that lived 41 million years ago.

- ❖ This extinct family, the basilosaurids, represents one of the earliest whale species to become fully aquatic.
- ❖ The newfound whale was only 8.2 feet long—12 times smaller than today's blue whale.

