



June - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed pleas challenging the GO issued by the Human Resource Management Department mandating the candidates to secure a minimum qualifying mark of 40% in Tamil Paper in the examination conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.
- ❖ IAS officer Rakesh Ranjan has been appointed as the Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC).
- ❖ The Indian Air Force joined a 16-day multi-nation mega military exercise - Red Flag in Alaska, USA.
- ❖ The Tata Group, Serum Institute of India (SII), and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) were named by TIME magazine as some of the most important companies in the world in 2024.
- ❖ Indian space startup Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched its first sub-orbital test vehicle, powered by a revolutionary world's first single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine.
 - The launch vehicle has been designed to launch from its mobile launchpad, called Dhanush, from any location.
- ❖ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences has launched a groundbreaking initiative called "PRAGATI-2024" (Pharma Research in Ayur Gyan And Techno Innovation).
 - It aims to foster collaborative research and innovation in the field of Ayurveda.

NATIONAL

Gratuity limit hike

- ❖ The Central government increased the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) by 4% in March 2024.
- ❖ It has resulted in a substantial revision in other allowances, including retirement gratuity.
- ❖ The maximum limit for Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity is increased by 25%, from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, effective January 1, 2024.



- ❖ Gratuity is a defined benefit plan given by the employer to the employee for rendering services continuously for five years or more.

GRATUITY CALCULATION FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES	
For employees covered under the Gratuity Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Formula for calculation: $\text{Gratuity} = (n \times b \times 15) / 26$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> n = Tenure of service completed in the company b = Last drawn basic salary + dearness allowance ■ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you have worked for XYZ company for 15 years ● Last drawn basic salary with dearness allowance: ₹30,000 ● Gratuity amount $= (15 \times 30,000 \times 15) / 26$ $= ₹259,615$ 	For employees not covered under the Gratuity Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Formula for calculation: $\text{Gratuity} = (15 \times \text{your last drawn salary} \times \text{the working tenure}) / 30$ ■ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basic salary: ₹30,000 ● Continuous service: 7 years ● Gratuity amount $= (15 \times 30,000 \times 7) / 30$ $= ₹105,000$

New Guidelines for Faster Health Insurance Claims

	Nitty-gritties	Until March 31, 2024	April 1, 2024 onwards*	Impact for policyholders
Pre-existing disease waiting period	Period when health insurers will not pay claims related to pre-existing diseases	Maximum four years	Maximum three years	Positive
Moratorium period	Period after which policies/ claims become incontestable on the grounds of non-disclosure or misrepresentation, except frauds.	Eight years	Five years	Positive
Entry age	Maximum age at the time of buying a policy	Insurers had to provide for an entry age of at least 65 years	No mention of 65 years; insurers could specify maximum age at entry as per their discretion	Unclear^

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) released a new master circular on health insurance.

- ❖ Insurers must decide on cashless authorisation within one hour of receiving a request.
- ❖ The insurer shall grant final authorisation within three hours of receiving the discharge authorization request from the hospital.
- ❖ In no case shall the policyholder be made to wait to be discharged from the Hospital.
- ❖ If there is any delay beyond three hours, the additional amount, if any, charged by the hospital shall be borne by the insurer from the shareholder's fund.

INTERNATIONAL

Taliban - Terrorist Group List

- ❖ Russia will remove the Taliban from a list of banned terrorist organisations, three years after they returned to power in Afghanistan.
- ❖ The Taliban has been designated a terrorist organisation in Russia since 2003.
- ❖ Kazakhstan removed the Taliban from its list of banned organisations at the end of 2023.
- ❖ The Taliban seized power in 2021 from a US-backed government.
- ❖ They have enforced an extreme form of Islamic law that effectively bans women from public life.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OSIRIS-APEX 2024

- ❖ Nasa's asteroid-exploring spacecraft OSIRIS-APEX has passed its first major test on the journey to asteroid Apophis.

- ❖ The probe, originally known as OSIRIS-REx, successfully navigated its closest approach to the Sun.
- ❖ The spacecraft is now operating normally on an elliptical solar orbit that will bring it even closer to the Sun five more times before reaching Apophis in 2029.
- ❖ Its next perihelion, or closest solar approach, is scheduled for September 1, 2024 at just 46.5 million miles from the Sun.
- ❖ It is roughly half the Earth-Sun distance.



World's First Wooden Satellite 2024



- ❖ In a world-first, Japanese researchers have built a tiny wooden satellite named LignoSat that will be launched into space on a SpaceX rocket.
- ❖ This innovative project aims to reduce space debris by burning up completely upon re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

- ❖ It will be delivered to the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ Then it will be deployed for a series of tests to assess its strength and ability to withstand extreme temperature fluctuations.

Anti-Radiation Missile 'RudraM-II' 2024

- ❖ India successfully test-fired an air-surface anti-radiation missile from a Su-30MKI fighter jet.
- ❖ The Rudram-II anti-radiation supersonic missile is developed by DRDO.
- ❖ Rudram-II is one of the finest and meant to neutralise many types of enemy assets.
- ❖ The missile has a range of 300 km and powered by a solid-propellant rocket motor.
- ❖ India currently operates the Russian Kh-31, an anti-radiation missile.
- ❖ The Rudram missiles will replace the Kh-31s.



ENVIRONMENT

New algal species

- ❖ *Oedocladium sahyadricum* has been discovered in the natural forests of the Kumbhavuratty region in Kollam, Kerala.
- ❖ This is the first time a species in the Oedocladium category has been recorded in Kerala.

- ❖ The name 'sahyadricum' refers to the Western Ghats, also known as Sahyadri.
- ❖ Species of *Oedocladium* have more potential practical applications in medicine, agriculture, and in the production of a natural pigment, astaxanthin.



Eurasian Whimbrel

Adult

plain brownish

relatively narrow, pointed wings

Fresh adult (Nov-Mar)

overall uniform gray-brown with intricate pattern

long downcurved bill

gray legs

Adult

bold crown-stripes

Worn adult (Apr-Oct)

APPEARANCE

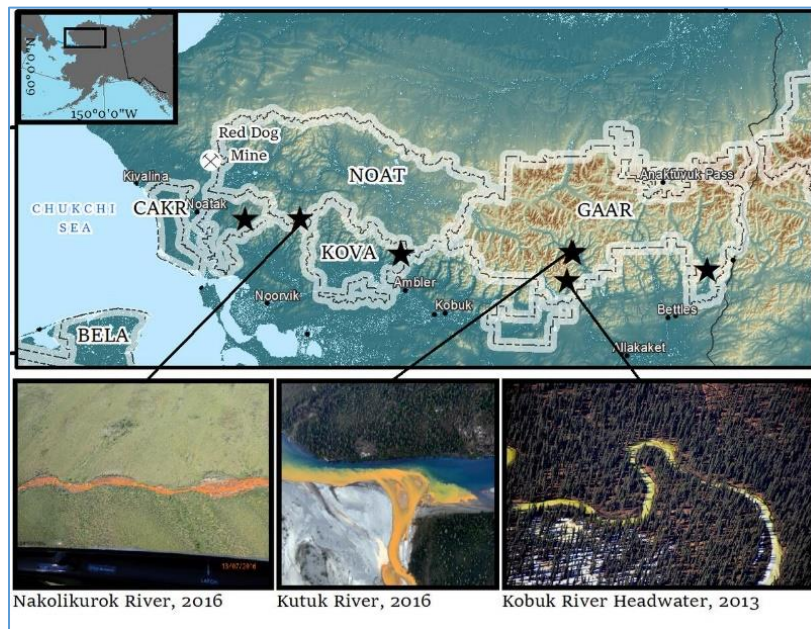
1. It is a fairly large wader, though mid-sized as a member of the curlew genus.
2. It is mainly greyish brown, with a white back and rump and a long curved beak with a kink rather than a smooth curve.

- ❖ First the time, a long-distance migratory bird, the Eurasian or common whimbrel, was captured on camera in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Eurasian Whimbrel is a wading bird in the large family Scolopacidae.
- ❖ They have an extensive range that spans across five continents: North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

- ❖ They are migrating from south to wintering grounds in southern USA, Central America, South America, Africa, and South Asia, including Nepal.

Alaska Rivers turning orange

- ❖ Rivers and streams in Alaska are changing color – from a clean, clear blue to a rusty orange – because of the toxic metals released by thawing permafrost.
- ❖ The discoloration and cloudiness are being caused by metals such as iron, zinc, copper, nickel and lead.
- ❖ In some cases, the pH levels dropped to 2.3, similar to the acidity of vinegar.
- ❖ Arctic environments are warming up to four times faster than the globe as a whole.
- ❖ This is resulting in deterioration of water quality in the most pristine rivers in North America.






STATES

Highest number of political rallies

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has granted permission to about 94,975 applications for holding rallies and meetings for the election campaign in West Bengal.

- ❖ About 1,19,276 applications were made to the ECI during the seven-phase campaign and the Commission granted permission to 94,975 rallies, public meetings and other forms of campaign.
- ❖ The number of applications and permission granted is highest in the country.
- ❖ Of the 890 applications the ECI had allowed use of helicopters in 669 cases.

Leveraging Technology- 27 IT Apps/Systems

 VHA Apply Forms online. मतदाता सूची में अपना नाम जर्चि View polling booth details Connect with your BLO/ERO Download e-EPIC	 cVigil Single App for recording, reporting, and resolving violation. Response in 100-minute timeline Complaints can be made anonymously	 KYC Candidate Affidavit available on affidavit portal & KYC App Candidates with Criminal Antecedents must publish information publicly. Mandatory for Political parties to publish information publicly across designated channels	 Suvidha Portal Online portal for filing nomination & Affidavit Candidates can use the portal for seeking permissions for meetings, rallies etc. Ensures Level Playing Field – First in First Out
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SPORTS

Asian Arm-wrestling Championship 2024



- ❖ The Asian Arm-wrestling Championship was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Shrimat Jha secured India's only gold in the left-hand para category and a bronze in the right-hand para category.



- ❖ Laxman Singh Bhandari and Sachin Goyal won two and one bronze medals, respectively.
- ❖ Ibi Lollen won two bronze medals in women's categories.
- ❖ India finished with one gold and six bronze.

