

June - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has given permission to the Uttarakhand government to continue mining activities till June 30 in the Gaula River in Nainital district.
- ❖ Former Director-General of Police, M. Shakeel Akhter, has been appointed the Chief Information Commissioner of the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.
 - Former ADGP P. Thamarai Kannan, R. Priyakumar, Dr. K. Thirumalaimuthu and Dr. M. Selvaraj have been appointed as State Information Commissioners.

TAMIL NADU

Menhir and megalithic burial sites



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology has declared five 'menhir' (single stone) and megalithic burial sites at Kodumanal in Erode district as protected monuments.

- ❖ Kodumanal is located on the northern banks of the Noyyal and about 42 km from Erode.
- ❖ Potsherds containing names inscribed in Tamil-Brahmi script were found in a large number, apart from Roman silver coins, precious stones and quartz.
- ❖ These findings showed that an industrial and trade centre had existed here about 2,300 years ago.

Mettur dam opening 2023

- ❖ Chief minister M K Stalin released water from the Stanley reservoir in Mettur.
- ❖ It was the 19th time that the water was released from the dam on June 12.
- ❖ It is the traditional date for water release for kuruvai crop cultivation.
- ❖ The CM announced a Rs 75.95crore Kuruvai Nel Sagupadi Thogppu thittam (kuruvai crop cultivation scheme).
- ❖ Under this, farmers will be given fertilizers and farm materials at subsidized prices.

Cauvery realisation over the last five years		
Year	Quantity realised (in TMC)	Excess quantity (in TMC)
2018-19	405.43	228.18
2019-20	275.16	97.90
2020-21	211.38	34.13
2021-22	281.06	103.81
2022-23	667.55	490.30

INTERNATIONAL

Air Defender 23

- ❖ The NATO military exercise Air Defender 23 has begun recently.
- ❖ It's the biggest drill of its type since the military alliance was formed in 1949.

- ❖ Germany serves as the host and logistical hub.
- ❖ Up to 250 aircraft stationed across six military bases, with 25 countries taking part.



Fraser Island Name change



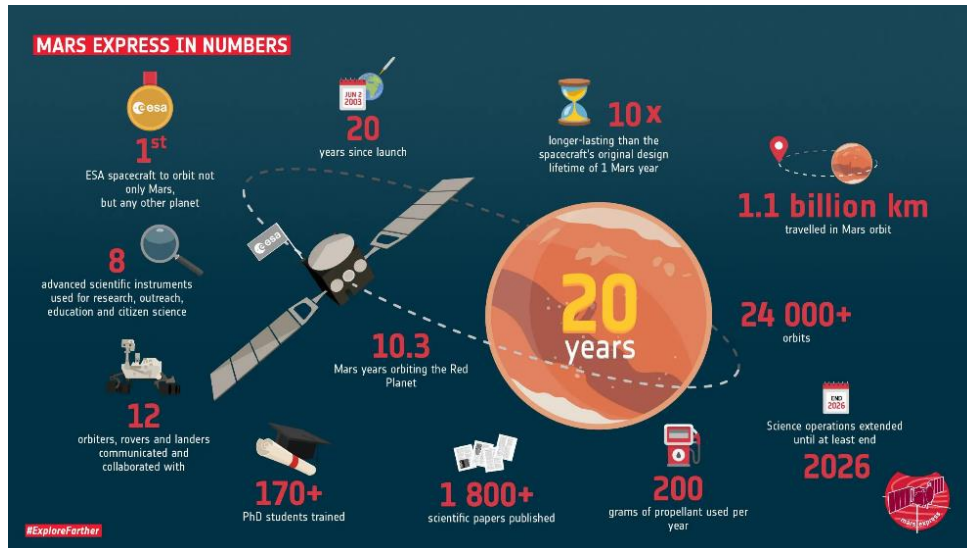
- ❖ The iconic Fraser Island in Australia has been officially renamed Kgari.
- ❖ Formerly known as Fraser Island, the decision to rename the island as Kgari is a tribute to its traditional owners, the Butchulla people.
- ❖ Kgari holds immense cultural significance for the Butchulla people, who have inhabited the land for thousands of years.
- ❖ The name "Kgari" translates to "paradise" in the Butchulla language.

- ❖ The renaming serves as a symbolic gesture of reconciliation, recognizing the importance of Indigenous languages, histories, and traditions.
- ❖ It is the largest sand island in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

20th Anniversary of Mars Express

- ❖ On 2 June 2003, European Space Agency celebrated the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Mars Express spacecraft.
- ❖ Mars Express is Europe's first planetary mission was launched in 2003.
- ❖ It carries eight instruments and deployed a lander, Beagle 2.



Virgin Birth in Crocodiles

- ❖ Scientists say they have documented the first virgin (without male partner) birth in a crocodile.
- ❖ The crocodile named Coquita, had been living alone in a Costa Rican Zoo called Parque Reptilandia for 16 years.
- ❖ In 2018, a cluster of 14 eggs was found in the enclosure.
- ❖ One of those eggs was later found to contain a fully formed crocodile fetus.
- ❖ The ability of reproducing without males is not new in the animal kingdom.
- ❖ It's called facultative parthenogenesis, where the offspring only has DNA from the mother.

- ❖ It has been previously observed in snakes and lizards and some types of fish such as sharks, rays and sawfish.
- ❖ However, this is the first time that such an occurrence has been documented in Crocodylia order.



ENVIRONMENT

Global Ocean Census



- ❖ A new initiative called the Ocean Census aims to expand marine biodiversity knowledge by finding 100,000 new marine species within a decade.

- ❖ A team of scientists sailed on a research vessel to the waters of the Barents Sea in the Arctic.
- ❖ They aim to find new marine species around cold seeps - cracks on the seafloor from which hydrogen sulfide, methane and other gases bubble up.
- ❖ It is jointly established by The Nippon Foundation - Japan and Nekton Foundation - U.K to discover unknown marine life.
- ❖ Scientists estimate that only about 10% of marine species have been formally described, and about 2 million species have yet to be identified.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

SMOPS-2023

- ❖ The International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations (SMOPS-2023), was organised by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- ❖ The ISRO collaborated with the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and in association with industry partners for this event.
- ❖ The conference brought together Space agencies, start-ups, industry, and academia to discuss emerging technologies and automation in Space mission operations and ground segment.



Spinoza Prize

- ❖ Indian-origin scientist Joyeeta Gupta has been awarded the Spinoza Prize.



- ❖ This was awarded for her outstanding, pioneering and inspiring scientific work in which she focuses on a just and sustainable world.
- ❖ It is the highest distinction in Dutch science which is also referred to as the 'Dutch Nobel Prize'.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Albinism Awareness Day - June 13



- ❖ This day spread awareness about the human rights of the Albinos across the world and also to condemn attacks on them.
- ❖ Albinism is a rare and genetically inherited condition resulting in little or no pigmentation (melanin) in the skin, hair, and eyes.
- ❖ It is causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light.

- ❖ It is a non-contagious health condition but people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer.
- ❖ In 2013, the UNHRC adopted a resolution called “Attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism.”
- ❖ The theme of this year’s celebration is “Inclusion is strength.”

MISCELLANEOUS

Homo Naledi Burials and Carvings

- ❖ Researchers have uncovered evidence that members of archaic human species buried their dead and carved symbols on cave walls.
- ❖ This is the earliest evidence of burials by modern humans.
- ❖ The burials are older than any known Homo sapiens burials by at least 100,000 years.
- ❖ The brains belonging to Homo naledi, were around one-third the size of a modern human brain.
- ❖ Homo naledi, an extinct human species that lived hundreds of thousands of years ago.
- ❖ Fossils belonging to Homo naledi were first discovered in the Rising Star cave system in South Africa during excavations in 2013.

