

November - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ G20 Standards Dialogue 2023 was organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the aegis of India's G20 presidency.
- ❖ Ms Saima Wazed has been nominated as the next World Health Organization Regional Director for South-East Asia.
- ❖ India-born author Nandini Das has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, for her book 'Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire'.
- ❖ Bhutan became the first country in the world to have completely sterilised and vaccinated its entire stray dog population, following a 14-year dog population control programme.
- ❖ The abbreviation of artificial intelligence (AI) has been named the Collins Word of the Year for 2023.
- ❖ Thailand is scrapping visas between Nov 10, 2023 to May 10, 2024 for attracting Indian tourists.
- ❖ Mohammed Shami became the leading wicket taker for India in the World Cup with 45 scalps, surpassing the likes of Zaheer Khan (44) and Javagal Srinath (44).
- ❖ The ozone hole over Antarctica had reached approximately 26 million square kilometers in size, the largest ozone holes on record.

TAMIL NADU

Namma salai app



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government launched a mobile application 'Namma Salai' that helps identify potholes in the city with public inputs.

- ❖ It aims to achieve the goal of an 'accident-free' Tamil Nadu and ensure pothole-free roads.
- ❖ Through this app, people can upload photos of potholes in highways along with their geographical coordinates.
- ❖ They will be sent to the engineer and the potholes will be repaired within a stipulated time period.
- ❖ Then, photos of the repaired roads will also be uploaded in the application.

Tamil Nadu Digital Transformation Strategy



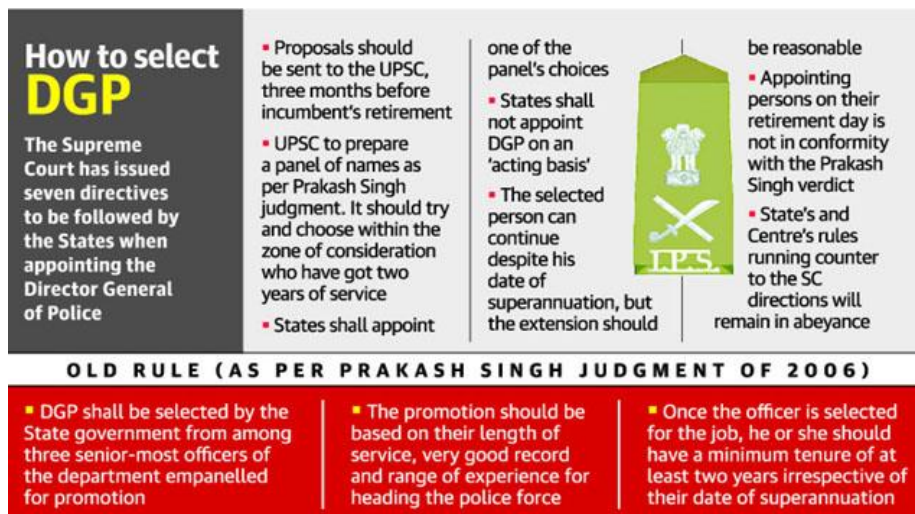
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government has released the Tamil Nadu Digital Transformation Strategy.
- ❖ It is expected to improve the efficiency of governance and administration.
- ❖ It aiming at improving accessibility, transparency, efficiency and accountability to citizens.
- ❖ It focuses on strengthening the ecosystem and developing talent pool and incubation centres to make Tamil Nadu a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship.

NATIONAL

Appointment of State DGPs

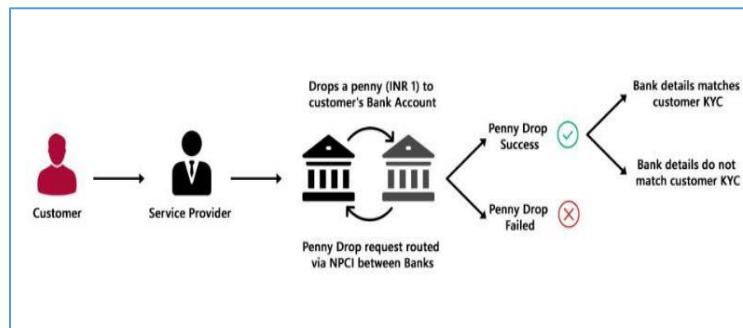
- ❖ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) amended guidelines issued last month.

- ❖ Only police officers with at least six months of service left before retirement will be considered for appointment as the Director General of Police of a State.
- ❖ The guidelines were revised to discourage States from appointing “favourite officers” about to retire, in a bid to extend their tenure.
- ❖ Some States, choosing to appoint acting DGPs instead of regular DGPs, bypassing the requirement to go through the UPSC-selected panel of eligible officers.
- ❖ In fact, Uttar Pradesh has not had a full-time DGP since 2022.
- ❖ The UPSC had first framed guidelines for the preparation of a panel for appointment to the post of State DGPs in 2009, after the Supreme Court verdict in the police reforms case of 2006, also known as Prakash Singh case.



ECONOMY

‘Penny drop’ verification

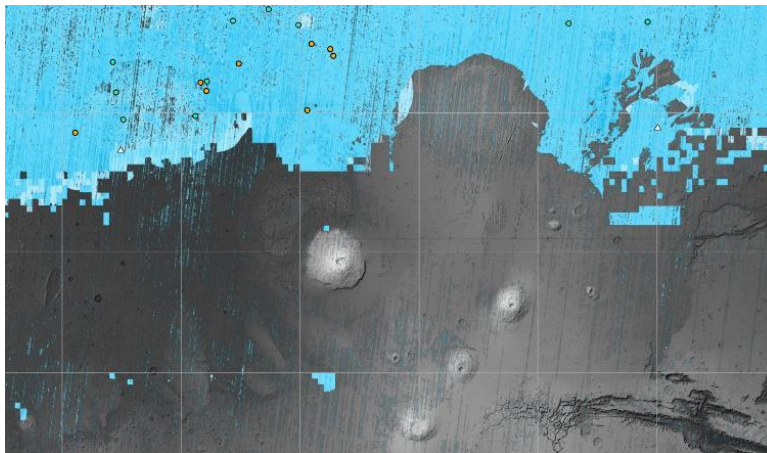


- ❖ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has made ‘penny drop’ verification.

- ❖ It is mandatory for the withdrawal of funds by subscribers of the National Pension System (NPS) for the timely transfer of money.
- ❖ Through the 'penny drop' process, Central Recordkeeping Agencies (CRA) check the active status of the savings bank account.
- ❖ It matches the name in the bank account number with the name in the PRAN (Permanent Retirement Account Number), or according to the documents submitted.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Subsurface Water Ice Mapping project

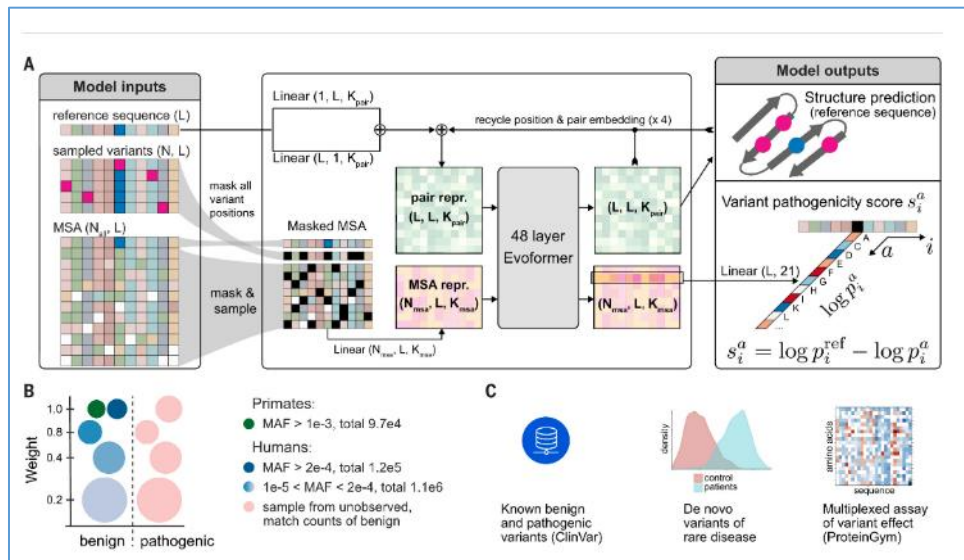


- ❖ The NASA-funded Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth and most recent map of where on Mars.
- ❖ This map will help mission planners decide where on Mars to actually send the first humans to traverse the planet.
- ❖ The recently released fourth set of maps is the most detailed and accurate since the project started in 2017.
- ❖ The new map includes sightings of so-called “polygon terrain.”
- ❖ There are the seasonal expansion and contraction of subsurface ice causes the ground to form polygonal cracks, indicating more ice hidden beneath the surface.

DeepMind's AlphaMissense

- ❖ Scientists at Google DeepMind have developed an AI program called AlphaMissense.

- ❖ It can predict the potential harm or harmlessness of genetic mutations, particularly missense mutations that involve single-letter changes in the DNA code.
- ❖ These mutations can lead to disorders such as cystic fibrosis, cancer, and brain development issues.
- ❖ AlphaMissense assessed 71 million single-letter mutations in human proteins.
- ❖ It achieved a 90% precision rate, categorizing 57% as likely harmless and 32% as potentially harmful, leaving some uncertainty.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Champions of the Earth Award 2023

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced a Champions of the Earth 2023 recently.
- ❖ The winners are
 - Josefina Belmonte Belmonte, mayor of Quezon City in the Philippines (Policy Leadership),
 - The UK-based Ellen MacArthur Foundation (Inspiration and Action),
 - China's Blue Circle (Entrepreneurial Vision),
 - José Manuel Moller of Chile (Entrepreneurial Vision) and
 - Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Science and Innovation)
- ❖ The annual Champions of the Earth award is the UN's highest environmental honour.

- ❖ It has recognised 116 laureates: 27 world leaders, 70 individuals and 19 organisations since its inception in 2005.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Zojila Day 2023 - November 01



- ❖ This day celebrates the gallant action by Indian troops in 'Operation Bison' in 1948.

- ❖ It was launched on the icy heights of Zojila pass, the gateway to Ladakh.
- ❖ This battle was also historic for the reason that tanks were used for the first time at such heights.
- ❖ Zojila is a pass connecting the Kashmir Valley with the cold Indus valley desert in Ladakh region.

International Day for Biosphere Reserves 2023 - November 03



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the importance of biosphere reserves and to promote their conservation and sustainable use.
- ❖ According to UNESCO, there are currently 748 biosphere reserves across 134 countries, including 22 transboundary sites.
- ❖ They impact the lives of more than 250 million people in 134 countries; 12 sites can be found in India alone.
- ❖ Recently, UNESCO and India conducted the 10th South and Central Asian Biosphere Reserve Network Meeting (SACAM) in Chennai, With the theme “Ridge to Reef.”

World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023 - November 05

- ❖ The aim of the days is to build a culture of tsunami and coastal hazards awareness for all peoples at risk.
- ❖ Tsunamis, born from diverse underwater disturbances, are formidable natural disasters with the potential to inflict massive harm.

- ❖ They typically result from underwater disturbances, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and even extraterrestrial collisions.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is “Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future.”

