

November - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister virtually unveiled a statue of Rao Bahadur Cruz Fernandes in Thoothukudi.
 - He was known for his efforts to ensure drinking water supply to the coastal city from the Thamirabarani river.
- ❖ Chief Justice of India inaugurated the Mitti Cafe's newest branch on the Supreme Court premises.
 - The café exclusively hires differently-abled people and has more than 30 branches around India.
- ❖ The 4th edition of Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ Samsung unveiled its own generative AI model like ChatGPT, Samsung Gauss, at the Samsung AI Forum 2023.

NATIONAL

Indian students in USA 2022-23

Indian students in the US			
	2021/22	2022/23	%increase
Indian international students in the United States	199,182	268,923	35%
Undergraduate students	27,545	31,954	16%
Graduate students	102,024	165,936	62.6%
Optional Practical Training	68,188	69,068	1.3%

- ❖ India registered a 35% rise in the number of students travelling to the U.S. in the past year.

- ❖ About 25% of the over 10 lakh foreign students enrolled in colleges in the U.S. this academic year are from India.
- ❖ For the first time since 2009-10, India is set to surpass China in the number of students travelling to the U.S. for higher education.
- ❖ 10,57,188 international students enrolled in U.S higher education institutions in 2022-23.
- ❖ In 2021-22, a total of 9,48,519 students had travelled to the U.S. for higher education.
- ❖ The U.S. also registered an 8% growth in students pursuing optional practical training (OPT).

Rules for Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme and PPF



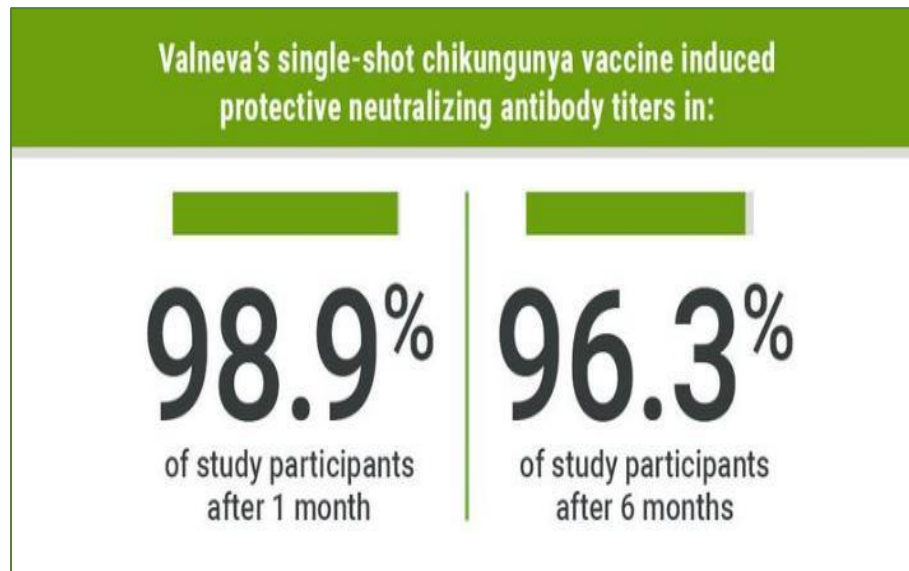
- ❖ The government made several important changes in the popular Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme (SCSS), Public Provident Fund (PPF) and 5-year post office time deposit.
- ❖ A retired individual of more than 55 years of age but below 60 years of age will now have three months' from earlier one month time.
- ❖ The new rules allow the spouse of a government employee to invest the financial assistance amount in the scheme.
- ❖ The account holder can continue to extend the account for n number of block - the block being of three years each.

- ❖ Earlier, the extension was allowed only once.
- ❖ The closure of the existing account or accounts, new accounts or accounts may be opened again as required by the depositor subject to the maximum deposit limit.

INTERNATIONAL

Valneva's Chikungunya Vaccine

- ❖ The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval to Valneva's single-shot vaccine, Ixchiq.
- ❖ Now, this can be used for the prevention of chikungunya virus in adults aged 18 and older.
- ❖ This marks a major milestone as the first preventive shot approved in the United States for adults suffering from chikungunya, a mosquito-borne disease.
- ❖ Chikungunya virus is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes.
- ❖ At least 5 million cases reported in the past 15 years.



Humanoid robot CEO

- ❖ The Polish rum company Dictador announced that it has appointed AI-powered humanoid robot 'Mika' to lead the firm.
- ❖ As the first CEO female robot, Mika is a board member who steers operations on Dictador's behalf.

- ❖ Meanwhile, according to Dictador, Mika has been hailed an honorary professor.
- ❖ The female humanoid robot was given the award at the 2023/24 Collegium Humanum University inauguration in Warsaw.
- ❖ She gave a speech on stage and highlighted the strengths of artificial intelligence.



New Volcanic Island – Japan



- ❖ Recently, an undersea volcano eruption led to the creation of a new island near Japan's Ogasawara island chain.
- ❖ The new island, which has not been named yet, is about 100 meters in diameter and was created due to phreatomagmatic eruptions.

- ❖ It happens when magma comes into contact with seawater and creates explosive bursts of ash and steam.
- ❖ Iwo Jima is an active volcano to the south of Ogasawara Island.
- ❖ It is also about 60 km north of the Fukutoku-Okanoba underwater volcano.

STATES

Nagaland Municipal Bill 2023

- ❖ The Nagaland Assembly passed the Nagaland Municipal Bill, 2023 and retained 33 per cent reservation for women.
- ❖ Earlier, the House had withdrawn the Nagaland Municipal Act, 2001 by voice vote.
- ❖ Several Naga organisations claimed that the reservations for women in the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) would go against their community's customary laws.
- ❖ Since then, no civic body election has been conducted in the northeastern state.
- ❖ The provision for one-third reservation of the offices of the Chairperson in the ULB for women, which was there in the earlier Municipal Act, was also not included in the Nagaland Municipal Bill, 2023.
- ❖ The elected body of a particular Municipal or Town Council would decide on taxes or fees in their own jurisdiction.



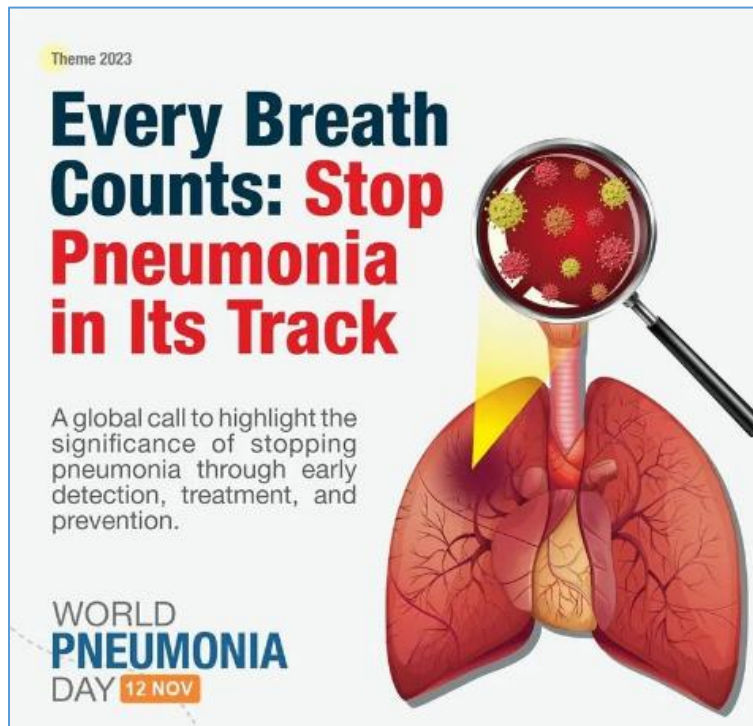
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Pneumonia Day 2023 - November 12

- ❖ On 12 November 2009, the first World Pneumonia Day was observed.



- ❖ Pneumonia is a treatable disease, yet a child dies from it every 20 seconds around the world.
- ❖ This day provides a significant platform to educate the public about the disease, its symptoms, and possible treatment options.
- ❖ This year theme is "Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Track".



World Kindness Day 2023 - November 13



- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness of acts of kindness in the community, emphasising the power of positivity and the compassion that unites us all.

- ❖ This day dates back to 1997 when the World Kindness Movement held its first conference in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2023 is “Be Kind Wherever Possible.”

World AMR Awareness Week 2023 - November 18/24



- ❖ Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial agents.
- ❖ It is a global campaign to raise awareness and understanding of AMR and promote best practices among One Health stakeholders to reduce the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.
- ❖ The theme for WAAW 2023 will remain "Preventing antimicrobial resistance together", as in 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS

Old Iron Age geoglyph circle



- ❖ A geoglyph in the form of a circle, said to be 3,000 years old, has been unearthed in the Medchal-Malkajgiri district of Telangana.



- ❖ The geoglyph spans 7.5 metres in diameter and has a perfect circular shape.
- ❖ Surrounding the circle is a 30-centimetre-wide rim, and within the circle are two triangles.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind discovery in Telangana.
- ❖ The team identified several grooves.
- ❖ They believe it to be from the Neolithic period, dating to 4000 BCE
- ❖ It is located five metres away from the geoglyph.

