

October - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Agricultural College and Research Institute in Eachangkottai in Thanjavur district would be named after renowned agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, who recently passed away.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1987 amendment bill was passed to provide for an online trade platform for the conducting of any trading in any agricultural produce.
- ❖ The 49th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) is scheduled to be organized by the Uttarakhand Police.
 - Theme of the event was “Policing in Amrit Kaal”.
- ❖ Indian Air Force (IAF) unveiled a new Ensign for the force on its 91st anniversary.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have convened its annual meetings in Marrakesh, Morocco.
 - This is marking their first annual meetings on African soil in half a century.

TAMIL NADU


Second spaceport of ISRO




- ❖ The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will come up at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ It will be dedicated exclusively for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) developed by the private sector.
- ❖ This project will be taking off in about two years from now.
- ❖ SSLV is a 3-stage launch vehicle capable of launching approximately 500 kg satellites in 500-km planar orbit.

Life tax rate for a new motor vehicles

COST OF COMMUTE COULD GO UP			
CARS			
PRESENT TAX RATES		REVISED RATES	
Cost of vehicle (₹ lakh)	Life tax (%)	Cost of vehicle (₹ lakh)	Life tax (%)
<10	10	<5	12% of vehicle cost
>10	15	5-10	13
		10-20	18
		>20	20

TWO-WHEELERS			
Present tax: 8%		Revised rates: 10% for two-wheelers costing less than ₹1 lakh and 12% for all other motorcycles	

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has decided to hike the rate of life tax of these vehicles, after a decade.
- ❖ A Bill amending the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1974 to this effect, was adopted by the Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The rate of life tax for a new motorcycle would be 12%, if its total cost exceeds ₹1 lakh and 10%, if its total cost does not exceed ₹1 lakh.
- ❖ In case of new cars and other new motor vehicles, the rate of life tax would be 20% if the cost of the vehicle exceeds ₹20 lakh.
- ❖ For new cars and other new motor vehicles whose costs are between ₹10 lakh and ₹20 lakh, the rate of life tax would be 18%.
- ❖ The vehicles costing between ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh, it would be 13%.
- ❖ In case of vehicles costing below ₹5 lakh, the rate of life tax would be 12%.
- ❖ The Bill also specified a green tax of ₹1,500 for five years for motor vehicles (other than transport vehicles) that have completed 15 years from the date of their registration.

- ❖ For motorcycles that have completed 15 years since their registration, the green tax would be Rs.750 for five years.

Protected agricultural zone

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill to include the newly-formed Mayiladuthurai district as a protected agricultural zone.
- ❖ It also included 'animal husbandry and inland fishery' within the ambit of the term 'agriculture'.
- ❖ The State government had enacted the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020 to convert Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, and Tiruvarur districts and a few blocks in Pudukkottai and Cuddalore districts into a Protected Agricultural Zone.



NATIONAL

SHRESHTA Scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched its new programme, 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA).
- ❖ Under this scheme, students of Scheduled Castes (SC) will be provided with high quality school education by different method.
- ❖ It will also help the government to expand the reach of its development initiatives in SC-dominant areas within the education sector.

- ❖ The scheme will be operated in selected grant-in-aid institutions run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and residential high schools offering high-quality education.
- ❖ Under this mode, the meritorious students will get admission in selected private schools of CBSE and State Boards.
- ❖ These students will be selected through the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS), conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

SHRESHTA

Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High School in Targeted Areas

- ✔ The scheme will provide access to high-quality education (free of cost from Class 9 to 12) to the meritorious poor students from Scheduled Caste (SC) communities, whose parental income is under ₹2.5 Lakh per annum.
- ✔ Under the scheme, around 3,000 such students are selected each year through a National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- ✔ For the selection of schools, the Ministry has selected the best performing private residential schools affiliated with the CBSE based on certain parameters such as –
 - School is in existence for at least for last 5 years
 - Board results of the school were more than 75% in Class 10 and 12 for the last 3 years, and
 - The schools have adequate infrastructure for admitting additional students.
- ✔ Provisions have also been incorporated in the scheme for a Bridge Course for a period of 3 months, for the students, joining the CBSE based schools from State Schools, Rural Areas, or from Regional language Schools, to adapt in the new environment of the selected schools.
- ✔ The scholarships will cover the school Fee (including tuition fee) and Hostel Fee (including mess charges) via DBT (Direct Bank Transfer).

SPORTS

Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

- ❖ Cricket is set to be included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic programme.
- ❖ Five sports have been proposed by the @LA28 Organising Committee for inclusion at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in five years' time.
 - Baseball-softball
 - Cricket
 - Flag football
 - Lacrosse

- Squash
- ❖ Cricket has been played in the Olympics only once before, in Paris in 1900, when England and France battled for the gold medal.



Marathon World Record



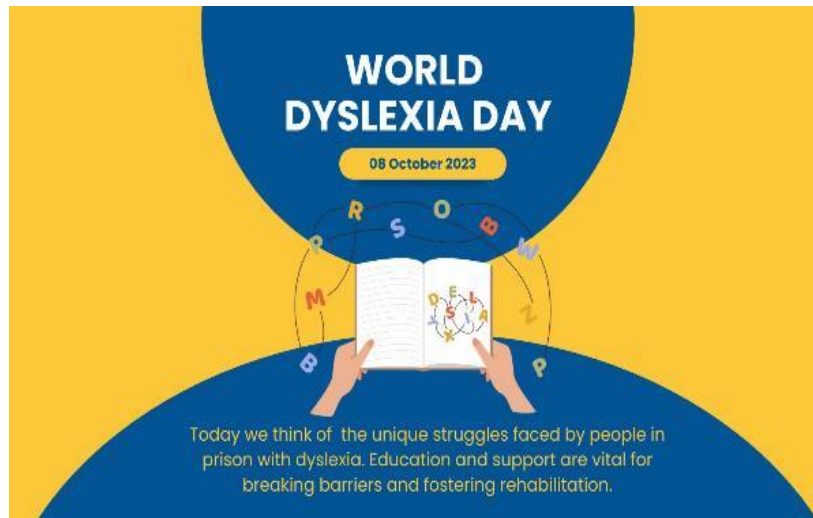
- ❖ Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum set a world record to win Sunday's Chicago Marathon men's title.
- ❖ He completed the race by an unofficial time of two hours and 35 seconds.
- ❖ He shattered the old-world record of 2:01:09 set by Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge to win the 2022 Berlin Marathon.
- ❖ The old Chicago Marathon record of 2:03:45 was set by Kenyan Dennis Kimetto in 2013.
- ❖ Dutch runner Sifan Hassan won the Chicago Marathon women's title in an unofficial time of two hours, 13 minutes and 44 seconds.

- ❖ This is the second-fastest women's time in marathon history after Ethiopian Tigist Assefa.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Dyslexia Day 2023 - October 08

- ❖ This day is observed every year to shed light on dyslexia, a learning difference that affects millions of individuals worldwide.
- ❖ The Dyslexia awareness week is celebrated annually from 2nd to 8th October.
- ❖ Persons with Dyslexia might struggle with reading, writing, vocabulary, and tasks that require hand-eye coordination.
- ❖ This day aims to promote inclusivity, access to education, and the implementation of effective strategies to support individuals with dyslexia in their learning endeavours.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'Uniquely You'.



World Day Against the Death Penalty 2023 - October 10

- ❖ This day serves as a global platform to raise awareness about the practice of capital punishment.
- ❖ It also advocates for its worldwide abolition, and champion human rights and justice.
- ❖ 112 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- ❖ The 5 countries that executed the most in the world in 2022 are, in order: China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and USA.

- ❖ 28,282 individuals are known to be under a sentence of death around the world at the end of 2022, of which less than 5% are women.



International Day of the Girl Child 2023 - October 11

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2012 as a way to raise awareness about gender inequality and to advocate for girls' rights and empowerment.
- ❖ This day aims to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being"

