

September - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ UNICEF India appointed Ayushmann Khurrana as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign, For Every Child.

ENVIRONMENT

13 Million Year Old Fossil - Ape fossil

- ❖ The fossil of a molar tooth unearthed in Ramnagar, Uttarakhand, in 2015, belongs to the earliest ancestor of gibbons.
- ❖ The fossil provides an evidence to understanding the migration of the great apes (chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, bonobos and even humans) from Africa to Asia 13 million years ago.
- ❖ The fossil is a complete lower molar tooth and belongs to a previously unknown genus and species, which has now been classified as *Kapi ramnagarensis*.
- ❖ It is the first ape species discovered at the location in nearly a century.
- ❖ It predates the oldest-known fossil record of gibbons by at least five million years.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

WSIS award 2020

- ❖ West Bengal government won WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) award 2020 for its Sabuj Sathi scheme.
- ❖ After Kanyashree scheme, another West Bengal government project has received a global prize under the e-government category.

- ❖ This Project Started in 2015, bicycles are given to students of state-run, state-sponsored, aided schools and madrasas studying between classes 9 and 12.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the issue of dropping out of school, especially in rural Bengal and also to ensure they continue school education till at least class 12.
- ❖ In 2017, Kanyashree Prakalpa, which is a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme, received the United Nations highest award.

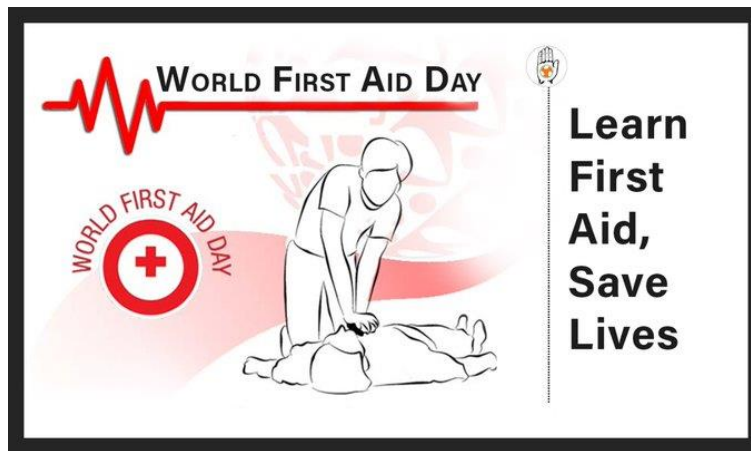
IMPORTANT DAYS

Himalaya Diwas - September 09

- ❖ Himalaya Diwas or Himalaya Day is annually celebrated particularly in Uttarakhand to create and spread awareness on the conservation of the Himalayan Ecosystem.
- ❖ Theme of this year celebration is: 'Himalayas and Nature'
- ❖ In 2014, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Harish Rawat accepted the proposal and declared the 9th of September.
- ❖ This day is celebrated every year by the Government of Uttarakhand from 2015.

World First Aid Day - September 12

- ❖ World First Aid Day is celebrated on the second Saturday in the month of September every year.
- ❖ First aid day is celebrated to raise public awareness of how first aid can save lives in everyday and crisis situations.
- ❖ The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) introduced the World First Aid Day in 2000.





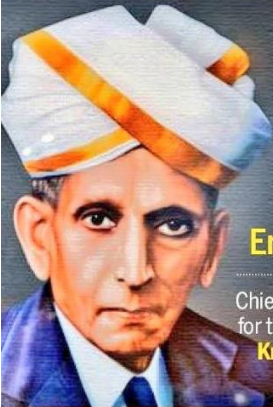
Hindi Diwas - September 14

- ❖ It aims to commemorate the adoption of Hindi as one of the official languages of India.
- ❖ Under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script (a script that is used by over 120 languages) was adopted as the official language.
- ❖ This decision was ratified by the Constitution of India that came into effect on the 26th of January 1950.

National Engineers Day - September 15

- ❖ This day is remembrance and tribute to the greatest Indian engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, or M Visvesvaraya on his birthday.
- ❖ He became India's most prolific civil engineer, dam builder, economist, statesman, and can be counted among the last century's foremost nation-builders.
- ❖ He was also the Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918.
- ❖ He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.
- ❖ He was also the chief designer of the flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad.
- ❖ He also designed and patented the automatic weir water floodgates, first installed at the Khadakwasla reservoir, Pune 1903.
- ❖ He transformed the Mysore state into what was then known as 'model state'.
- ❖ Due to his outstanding contribution to the society, Government of India conferred 'Bharat Ratna' on this legend in the year 1955.
- ❖ He was also awarded the British knighthood by King George V.

Celebrated engineer and scholar **M Visvesvaraya** was born on Sept 15, 1860



A STALWART OF INDIAN ENGINEERING

His birthday is celebrated as **Engineer's Day**

Chief engineer responsible for the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagara dam in Mysore**

Received the **Bharat Ratna** in 1955

Lived till the **age of 101**

Designed and patented the automatic **weir water floodgates**, first installed at the **Khadakwasla Reservoir, Pune in 1903**

Designed a **flood protection system** for Hyderabad, giving him celebrity status

MISCELLANEOUS

Global Economic Freedom Index 2020

- ❖ India has been ranked 105th position “Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 Annual Report” by Canada’s Fraser Institute.
- ❖ It has been released in India in conjunction with Center for Civil Society, New Delhi-based think tank.
- ❖ This is the 24th edition of Economic Freedom of the World.
- ❖ Top 5 countries are - Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland and United States.
- ❖ The 5 lowest-rated countries are the African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Algeria.

Living planet report 2020

- ❖ It is Published by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Zoological Society of London.
- ❖ It has found that there has been a reduction of 68 % in the global wildlife population between 1970 and 2016.

Key Findings

- ❖ 75 % of the Earth’s ice-free land surface has already been significantly altered, most of the oceans are polluted.
- ❖ More than 85% of the area of wetlands has been lost during this period.

- ❖ The highest biodiversity loss due to land use change globally has been found in Europe and Central Asia at 57.9 %, then in North America at 52.5 %, Latin America and Caribbean at 51.2 %, Africa at 45.9 % and then Asia at 43 %.
- ❖ The largest wildlife population loss, has been in Latin America at an alarming 94 %.
- ❖ India, a “megadiverse country” with over 45,000 species of plants in only 2.4 % of the world’s land area, has already lost six plant species to extinction.
- ❖ India has lost 12 per cent of its wild mammals, 19 per cent amphibians and 3 per cent birds over last five decades.
- ❖ Vertebrate population has been declining at a rate of about 60 per cent in India.

