

September - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian-Origin Author Chetna Maroo's Novel 'Western Lane' is shortlisted in Booker Prize 2023.
- ❖ The International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS) was organised by Ministry of Jal Shakti at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

INTERNATIONAL

Biden Impeachment Inquiry



- ❖ The Republican-led US House of Representatives is set to hold its first committee hearing.
- ❖ First, the inquiry will consider an August memorandum of the House Oversight Committee.
- ❖ They claimed that Mr. Biden involved in, unauthorized Foreign Payments, Influence Peddling and Impropriety in Hunter Biden's Business Dealings.

Climate Ambition Summit (CAS) 2023

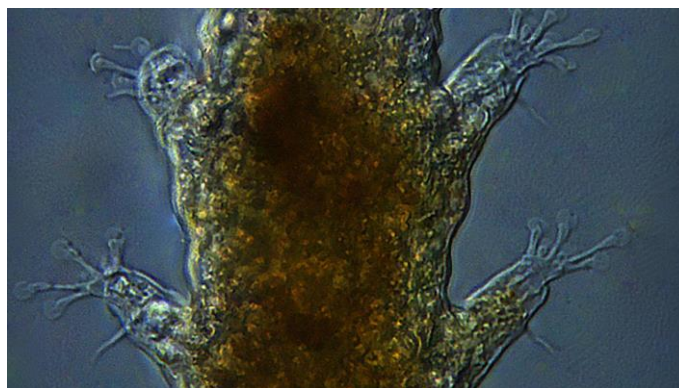
- ❖ The Climate Ambition Summit (CAS) was held in New York, as part of the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ Only representatives from 34 states and 7 institutions were given the floor on the day of the summit.
- ❖ China, United States and India were all absent in the summit.

- ❖ They have collectively account for about 42% of global greenhouse gas emissions and are the top three emitters in that order.
- ❖ India last updated its climate pledges in 2022 of reducing emissions intensity by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030, a 10% increase from what it agreed to in 2015.
- ❖ Nepal and Portugal announced a revised target of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2045 instead of 2050



ENVIRONMENT

Marine Tardigrade



- ❖ Researchers have identified a new species of marine tardigrade.

- ❖ They have named after the late former President and scientist A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ Tardigrades are extremely tiny animals whose size is measured in micrometres.
- ❖ They are known for their extraordinary resilience and survival instincts.
- ❖ The new species were discovered from Mandapam in south-east Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ They belong to the genus Batillipes and has been named Batillipes kalami.

World's Largest Flower Near Extinction

- ❖ Rafflesia, the flower species which contains some of the world's largest flowers, is at risk of extinction.
- ❖ 60% of the 42 known species of Rafflesia are facing a severe risk of extinction.
- ❖ Rafflesia is a genus of parasitic flowering plants native to Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Rafflesia is commonly found in Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.
- ❖ These plants are renowned for producing the largest individual flowers in the world, both in terms of size and weight.
- ❖ They are often referred to as "corpse flowers" due to their foul odour.
- ❖ They are massive and can reach up to 3 feet (almost 1 meter) in diameter and weigh up to 7 kg.



REPORTS AND INDICES

World's Freest Economy

- ❖ Singapore has dethroned Hong Kong to become the world's freest economy.

- ❖ This is as per report released by Canadian think tank Fraser Institute.
- ❖ For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong slipped to second place from the number one spot
- ❖ Switzerland, New Zealand and the U.S. occupy the third, fourth and fifth positions respectively.

Ranking		Economic Freedom Scores
1	Singapore	8.56
2	Hong Kong	8.55
3	Switzerland	8.47
4	New Zealand	8.43
5	United States	8.14
6	Ireland	8.11
7	Denmark	8.1
8	Australia	8.0
9	United Kingdom	8.0
10	Canada	7.98

STATES

Mithuns - food animal

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The mithun, or <i>Bos frontalis</i> of the Bovidae family, is endemic to Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. ● On an average, an adult mithun weighs between 400 and 650 kg. ● Semi-domesticated 	<p>and reared in a free-range forest ecosystem, the only supplementary feeding it needs is salt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The slaughter of the mithun is traditionally reserved for special occasions such as festivals or weddings – and, these days, elections
<p>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), recognised the mithun as a 'food animal' with effect from September 1. With that, the mithun can be commercially farmed and its meat processed for pickles, soups, wafers and biryani.</p>	

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is accepted a proposal on Mithun (NRCM) and declared it a food animal.
- ❖ Mithun meat is consumed by various tribal communities of the North East region.

- ❖ But FSSAI's approval will help farmers benefit economically from the rearing of the animal.
- ❖ The Mithun or gayal (*Bos frontalis*) is considered a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison.
- ❖ It is distributed in Northeast India, Bangladesh, northern Myanmar and in Yunnan, China.
- ❖ It is known as the 'cattle of the mountain'.
- ❖ The gayal is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- ❖ Mithun meat contains significantly low (2-3%) fat compared to beef and buffalo (10-12%).
- ❖ It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN list.

Gig Workers Insurance Scheme



- ❖ The Karnataka Labour Department issued a government order, notifying the Rs 4 lakh health insurance cover for gig workers of the state.
- ❖ The exact number of gig workers in the state is estimated to be over 2 lakhs.
- ❖ Once the scheme is rolled out, the gig workers employed as full time/part time delivery personnel in e-commerce companies are set to benefit from this accidental cover.
- ❖ Hospital expenses of up to Rs 1 lakh will be reimbursed and benefits will apply in cases of accidents on duty and off duty, but only for active workers.
- ❖ Karnataka is only second after Rajasthan to provide health insurance for gig workers.

- ❖ Gig workers aged between 18 and 60, those not falling under the tax bracket, and individuals not currently availing of PF/ESI benefits are eligible for the insurance.
- ❖ Anyone who has been working as a gig worker with any e-commerce company for at least six months will also be eligible for the scheme.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Day for the Welfare of Cancer Patients 2023 - September 22

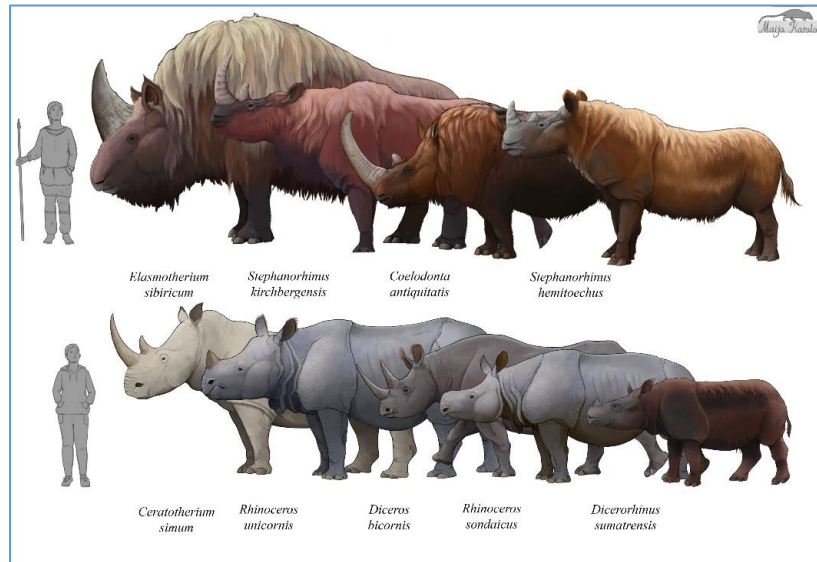
- ❖ The Day for the Welfare of Cancer Patients is also known as World Rose Day.
- ❖ This day is dedicated to the welfare of cancer patients - encouraging them to live a better quality of life with hope and courage.
- ❖ It is also encouraging people around the world to work towards bringing cheer and hope into the lives of all those people who have been affected by cancer.
- ❖ This day was first observed in honour of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada.
- ❖ She was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer known as Askin's Tumour.



World Rhino Day 2023 - September 22

- ❖ The day is dedicated to spread awareness and support the conservation efforts to save all five species of the rhinoceros.
- ❖ The greater one-horned rhino population India stood at 3,262.
- ❖ Assam's Kaziranga National Park is reporting the highest number of rhinos at 2,613.
- ❖ Currently, three species of rhinos — black, Javan and Sumatran — are classified as critically endangered.
- ❖ White Rhino is listed as Near Threatened.

- ❖ Greater One Horned is listed as Vulnerable.



International Day of Sign Languages 2023 - September 23



- ❖ The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) proposed the idea for the day on behalf of the estimated 70 million deaf people around the world.
- ❖ The date was chosen to honour the day in 1951 when the WFD was established.
- ❖ In 2018, as part of the International Week of the Deaf, the International Day of Sign Languages was observed for the first time.
- ❖ The International Week of the Deaf was first observed in September 1958.
- ❖ There are over 70 million deaf people in the world.
- ❖ More than 80% of them live in underdeveloped countries.

