

September - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ BCCI secretary Jay Shah is all set to replace the incumbent Greg Barclay as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- ❖ The World Bank introduces a new kind of nine-year bond, \$225 million note to help raise funds for reforestation in the Amazon.
- ❖ Diana Pundole was becoming the first Indian woman to claim the MRF Saloons title at the National Car Racing Championship 2024 held in Chennai.
- ❖ The Union government is set to spotlight and support talented individuals on the global stage through the inaugural 'Create in India Challenge - Season 1' at the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES).
- ❖ Maharashtra becomes first state to adopt centre's Unified Pension Scheme for its employees.
- ❖ The National Association of Software and Service Companies, or Nasscom, has appointed Sindhu Gangadharan, as its chairperson.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B) signed MoU to establish India's first Global Centre of Excellence focused on the Private Equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC).
- ❖ India is set to sign the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, also known as the High Seas Treaty, at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ Apple Inc has announced that Indian-origin Kevan Parekh will take over as its chief financial officer (CFO) from January.

NATIONAL

Vigyan Dhara scheme

- ❖ The Union Cabinet decided to merge several existing science promotion programs being run by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under a new initiative called Vigyan Dhara.
- ❖ It merges schemes including the INSPIRE programme that works to attract young talent to science research.
- ❖ Vigyan Dhara has three broad components
 - Science and technology institutional and human capacity building
 - Research and development; and

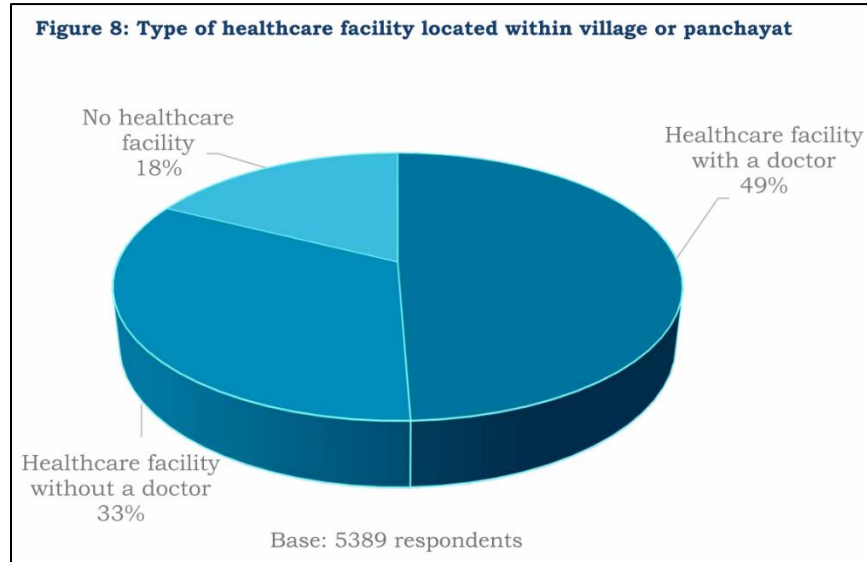
- Innovation, technology development and deployment.
- ❖ Cabinet also approved the Bio E3-Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment policy to foster high-performance biomanufacturing.
- ❖ The Bio E3 Policy will promote a future that is more sustainable, innovative, and responsive to global challenges.



State Of Healthcare in Rural India 2024

- ❖ The survey was jointly undertaken by the non-government organisation (NGO) Transform Rural India and Development Intelligence Unit.
- ❖ Only about half of the rural households in the country have government health insurance.
- ❖ 34% lack any health insurance coverage at all, and 61% of those surveyed lack life insurance.
- ❖ Only 12.2% households of the survey have access to subsidised medicines from Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras, while 21% lack a commutable medical store.
- ❖ One in five reported no drainage system in their villages.
- ❖ Only 23% had a covered drainage network system in their villages.
- ❖ 43% of households did not have any scientific system of waste disposal and they ended up with dumping their waste everywhere.

- ❖ Only 11% burn the dry waste and convert their wet waste into compost.
- ❖ 28% reported that the local panchayat has made plans to collect household waste.
- ❖ Only 10% of the households rely on neighbourhood support in the absence of family caregivers.
- ❖ Key caregivers for pregnant women include husbands (62.7%), mothers-in-law (50%), and mothers (36.4%).



Blueberry imports from Poland

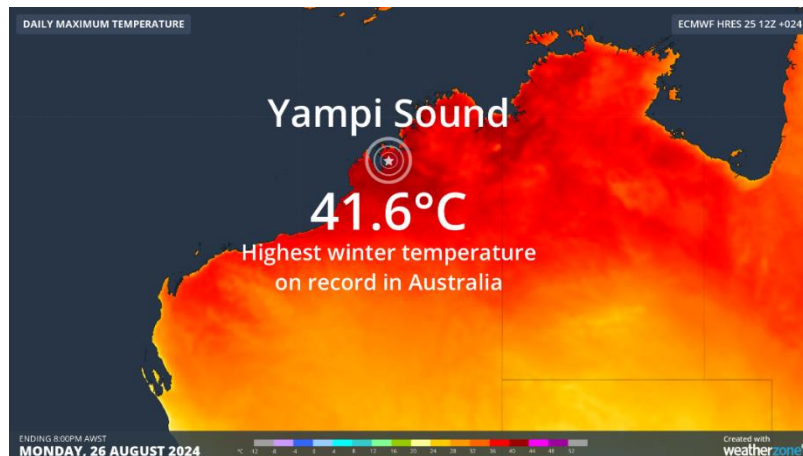


- ❖ The government has mandated that the antioxidants-rich fruit imported from Poland be sourced from orchards registered with that country's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO).

- ❖ The certificates must include a declaration confirming that they are free from *acalitus vaccinii* (blueberry bud mites pest) and *pseudomonas viridiflava* (blossom blight disease).
- ❖ NPPO is a country-level institution that works to curb the spread of pests and protect agriculture.
- ❖ India is a signatory of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- ❖ The blueberry market in India is currently valued at around \$60 million.

INTERNATIONAL

Historic Winter Temperature – Australia



- ❖ Australia registered a record-high winter temperature, 41.6 degrees Celsius in part of northwest coast.
- ❖ It is higher than the previous record by 0.4 C.
- ❖ The previous record of 41.2C was set in August 2020 at nearby West Roebuck.
- ❖ About 18 percent of Australia is desert and searing heat is common year-round away from temperate zones.
- ❖ From January to July, the global temperatures were 0.7C above the 1991-2020 average.

Largest Cargo Drone – China

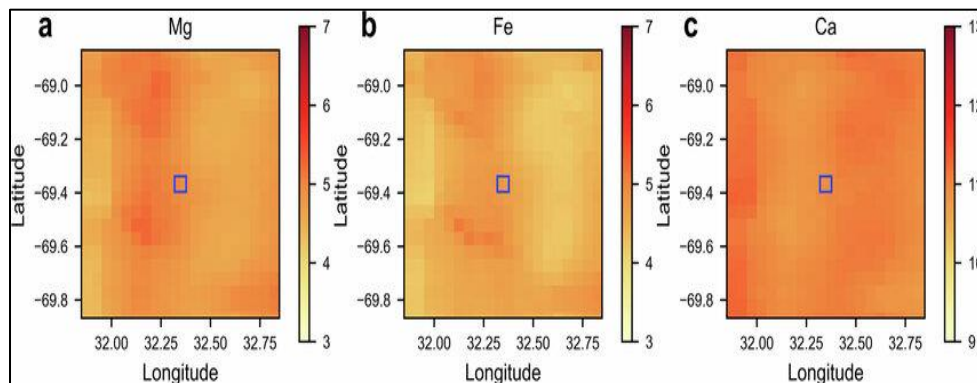
- ❖ Chinese aviation tested a flight of an unmanned civilian drone capable of carrying up to 3.2 metric tons of cargo.
- ❖ The aircraft can operate as high as 7,300 metres (24,000 feet) and fly as far as 2,200 kms (1,367 miles).

- ❖ Cargo drones promise shorter delivery times and lower transport costs.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Elemental Abundance Measurements of Lunar Soil



- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 mission has provided the first in-situ elemental abundance measurements of lunar soil in the South Polar Region of the Moon.
- ❖ Data of the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) on the Pragyan Rover used for this.
- ❖ These measurements support the Lunar Magma Ocean (LMO) hypothesis.
- ❖ This hypothesis suggests that the Moon's primordial crust formed as lighter minerals floated to the surface.
- ❖ The findings endorsed the theory that magma formed the Moon's surface around 4.5 billion years ago.
- ❖ APXS also detected the higher levels of magnesium-rich minerals, indicating contributions from deeper lunar layers.

- ❖ Scientists also found evidence of a huge meteorite crash in the region four billion years ago.
- ❖ The crash is thought to have made the South Pole–Aitken basin, one of the largest craters in the solar system, measuring 2,500 km across.

Tanager 1

- ❖ NASA has launched satellite known as Tanager-1a by using SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ The satellite can detect major emitters of carbon dioxide and methane.
- ❖ The satellite will use imaging spectrometer technology to track methane and carbon dioxide emissions.
- ❖ Methane is an invisible but strong greenhouse gas, and the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide.
- ❖ According to a 2022 report, exposure to ground-level ozone could be contributing to one million premature deaths every year.

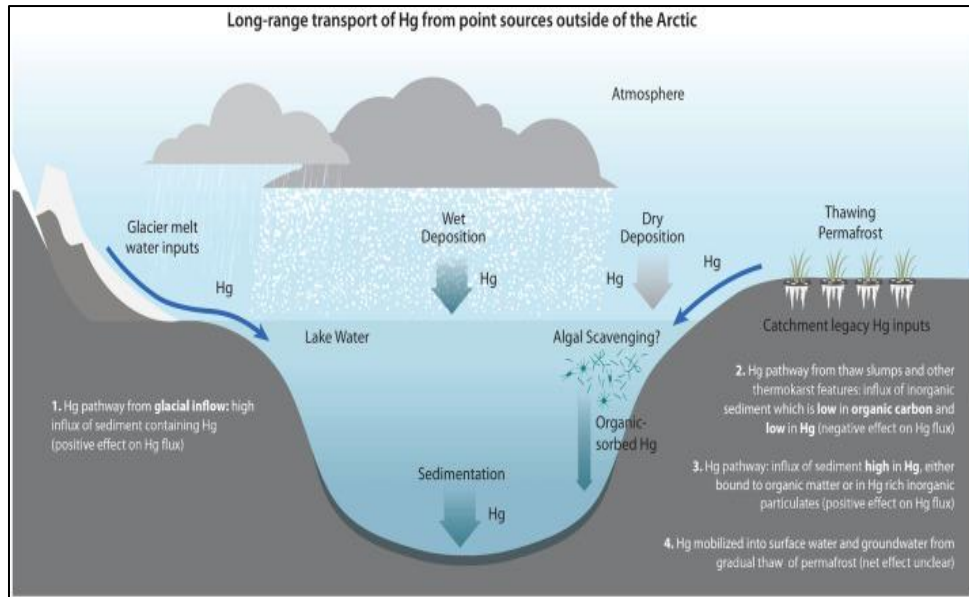


ENVIRONMENT

Toxic mercury in Arctic's permafrost

- ❖ Scientists have discovered that the melting permafrost in the Arctic is releasing toxic mercury into the water system.
- ❖ It could have severe consequences for the food chain and the communities that rely on it.
- ❖ Researchers has analyzed samples from the top three meters of permafrost in the Yukon River.

- ❖ They found that "significant" amounts of mercury is released when riverbanks erode.
- ❖ The mercury has likely been trapped in the permafrost for thousands of years.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Central Banker Report Cards 2024

Grade	Central Banker	Country
A+	Christian Kettel Thomsen	Denmark
A+	Shaktikanta Das	India
A+	Thomas Jordan	Switzerland
A	Roberto Campos Neto	Brazil
A	Rosanna Costa	Chile
A	Harvesh Kumar Seegolam	Mauritius
A	Abdellatif Jouahri	Morocco
A	Lesetja Kganyago	South Africa
A	Nandalal Weerasinghe	Sri Lanka
A	Nguyen Thi Hong	Vietnam

- ❖ The Global Finance magazine released the Central Banker Report Cards 2024.
- ❖ It announced the names of central bank governors from 100 countries.

- ❖ It ranked “A+” to “F” scale for success in areas such as inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability, and interest rate management.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

24th International Mother Teresa Awards

- ❖ This prestigious event was organized by All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council in Dubai.
- ❖ Notable recipients included the late João Bernardo Vieira II, from Guinea-Bissau, Sidharth Srivastava and Namit Bajoria from the industry sector, and Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman, Chairman of NRB Bank Limited.
- ❖ The arts were represented by Irka Bochenko, while education saw MP Rozario honored, among others.
- ❖ Social work awards went to Murli Panjabi and Sureandar Singh Khandari from the UAE.

