

September - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The third edition of World Food India 2024 was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Dhruvi Patel, a Computer Information System student from the USA, has been declared the winner of Miss India Worldwide 2024.
- ❖ The United States (US) International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has announced an investment of USD 70 million in India's private sector to strengthen key priorities of both governments.
- ❖ The two-time world boxing champion Nikhat Zareen joined the Telangana Police as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Special Police).
- ❖ The United States Federal Reserve has cut the benchmark interest rate - the Federal Funds Rate - by 50 basis points, or half a percentage point.
- ❖ Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has climbed to 24th place in the latest ranking of global "Megahub" airports, up from its previous 25th position.
- ❖ Indian cricketer Jasprit Bumrah has become the 10th Indian bowler to reach the illustrious milestone of 400 international wickets.
- ❖ The South Korea's Ambassador to Austria Ham Sang-wook has been elected as the president of the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- ❖ Taiwan will recognise the same-sex marriages between Taiwanese-Chinese nationals, giving couples the right to register their unions.
 - Same-sex marriage has been legal in Taiwan since 2019, making it the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage.

TAMIL NADU

CM Research Fellowship 2024

- ❖ The state government has sanctioned ₹50 lakh for giving a fellowship of ₹1 lakh each to 50 students with the disabilities under the Chief Minister's Research Fellowship.
- ❖ The fellowship would support their research for their Ph.D. program.
- ❖ Only students with disabilities, pursuing Ph.D., are eligible.

- ❖ There is no bar on the income and candidates should pursue Ph.D. either part-time or full time at any recognised educational institution in the country.



Statue of archaeologist John Marshall



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will install a life-size statue of British archaeologist John Marshall to mark 100 years of the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation.



- ❖ Marshall was the director-general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from 1902 to 1928.
- ❖ During this time the Harappa and Mohanjodaro, two main cities that comprise the Indus Valley Civilisation, were discovered.
- ❖ 100 years ago, on 20th September 1924, Sir John Marshall had announced the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

NATIONAL

Production of various Horticultural Crops 2023-24

- ❖ The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has released the Third Advance Estimates of 2023-24 of Area and Production of various Horticultural Crops.
- ❖ The horticulture production in the country in 2023-24 (Third Advance Estimates) is estimated to be about 353.19 million Tonnes.
- ❖ It is decrease of about 22.94 Lakh Tonnes (0.65%) over 2022-23 (Final Estimates).
- ❖ Increase in production of Fruits, Honey, Flowers, Plantation Crops, Spices and Aromatics & Medicinal Plants is seen over 2023-24.

Total Horticulture	2022-23	2023-24 (2nd Adv. Est.)	2023-24 (3rd Adv. Est.)
Area (in Million Ha)	28.44	28.63	28.98
Production (in Million Tonne)	355.48	352.23	353.19

White Revolution 2.0

- ❖ The Operation Flood, launched in 1970, has ushered in the White Revolution and transformed the dairy sector in India.
- ❖ Dairy cooperatives procured 660 lakh kg of milk per day in 2023-24.
- ❖ The government wants to increase this to 1,007 lakh kg/ day by 2028-29.

- ❖ There are about 1.7 lakh dairy cooperative societies (DCSs), which cover around 2 lakh villages (30% of the total number of villages in the country), and 22% of producer households.
- ❖ These cooperative societies procure about 10% of the country's milk production and 16% of the marketable surplus.
- ❖ In the states of Gujarat, Kerala, and Sikkim, and the Union Territory of Puducherry, more than 70% of villages are covered by dairy cooperatives.
- ❖ In the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh, and the UT of Jammu & Kashmir coverage is only 10-20%.
- ❖ In West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and the smaller states of the Northeast, less than 10% of villages are covered.
- ❖ The national per capita availability of milk is 459 grams/ day, which is higher than the global average of 323 g/ day.
- ❖ This number varies from 329 g in Maharashtra to 1,283 gram in Punjab.
- ❖ India is the world's top milk producer, with production having reached 230.58 million tonnes during 2022-23.
- ❖ In 1951-52, the country produced just 17 million tonnes of milk.



**White Revolution 2.0
led by Cooperatives**

OBJECTIVE

To Increase Milk Procurement of **Dairy Cooperatives by 50% from Present Level Over Next Five Years** by Providing Market Access to Dairy Farmers in Uncovered Areas and Increasing the Share of Dairy Cooperatives in Organised Sector.

The infographic features a circular image of a hand pouring milk from a metal can into a larger metal can, with a cow in the background. The background is blue and white with a milk splash effect.

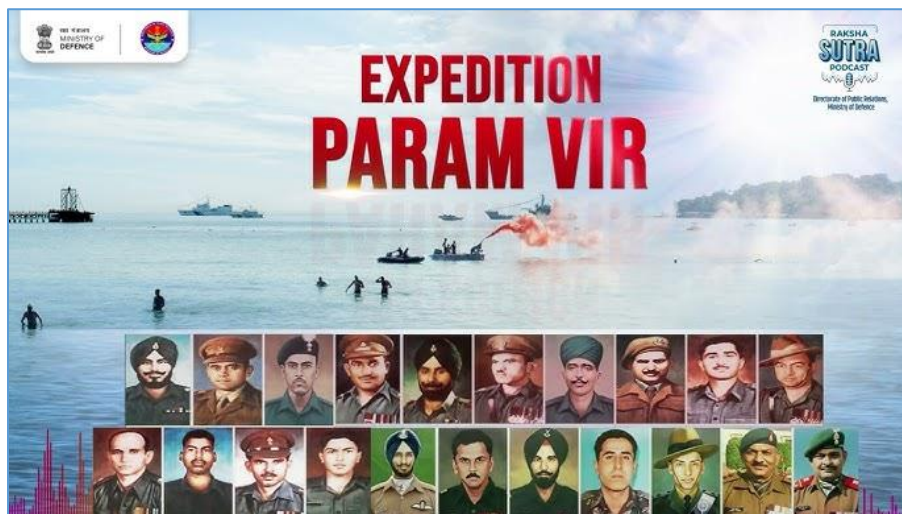
Fencing Myanmar border

- ❖ The Union government has approved ₹31,000 crore to fence the Myanmar border.

- ❖ The 1,643-km Myanmar border runs along the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km) and Mizoram (510 km).
- ❖ The Union Home Ministry earlier this year scrapped the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border.
- ❖ It allows people residing close to the border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents.



Expedition Param Vir



- ❖ The Andaman & Nicobar Command Tri-service launched 'Expedition Param Vir'.

- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind Open Water Swimming Expedition to the 21 Islands of the Andaman & Nicobar archipelagos named after the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Awardees.
- ❖ The team swam to all 21 islands, more than 300 kms, over a period of five months.
- ❖ The 11-member expedition team was led by Wing Commander Paramvir Singh.

6th Food Safety Index 2024

- ❖ This ranking was released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ❖ Kerala has once again secured the top position in the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024.
- ❖ This marks the second consecutive year that Kerala has topped the index.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, which had slipped to the third position last year, secured second position this time.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, and Nagaland follow in the top five.
- ❖ In 2022, Tamil Nadu had topped the Index, replacing Gujarat at the number one slot.

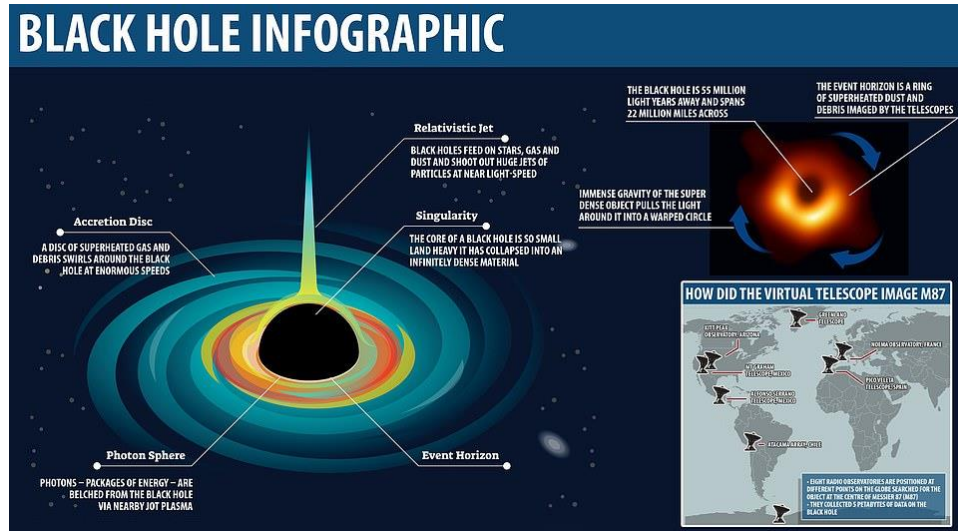


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Black Hole Finder App

- ❖ The Dutch Black Hole Consortium recently unveiled a new app called Black Hole Finder.

- ❖ This will aid astronomers identify new black holes.
- ❖ The app is free-to-use and is available on Android and iOS and can also be accessed from a web browser.
- ❖ The app description states that users who identify 1000 transients will be granted the “Super User” status.



ENVIRONMENT

Rare Dung Beetle Species



- ❖ Entomologists have discovered a new species of dung beetle, *Onitis visthara*.
- ❖ *Onitis* is a relatively rare genus of dung beetles found in the Afrotropical, Oriental, and Palearctic regions.
- ❖ Before the discovery of the three new species, only 176 species of *Onitis* had been reported globally.



- ❖ All species of this genus are tunnellers, meaning they bury large quantities of cattle dung beneath the dung pat to provide food for their larvae.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Peace 2024 - September 21



- ❖ It serves as a global reminder of the need to foster a culture of peace.
- ❖ In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had passed a resolution declaring this day.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Cultivating a Culture of Peace'.

MISCELLANEOUS

ISO/UNDP PAS 53002



- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) along with the International Organization for Standardization have launched 'ISO/UNDP PAS 53002'.



- ❖ It is the world's first international guidelines to accelerate contributions toward the United Nations (UN)'s Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ This provides a valuable resource for organizations to place SDGs into their core operations and increase their positive impact.

