

September - 29

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated on September 25 annually in India to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

## TAMIL NADU

### Carnelian beads in Keeladi

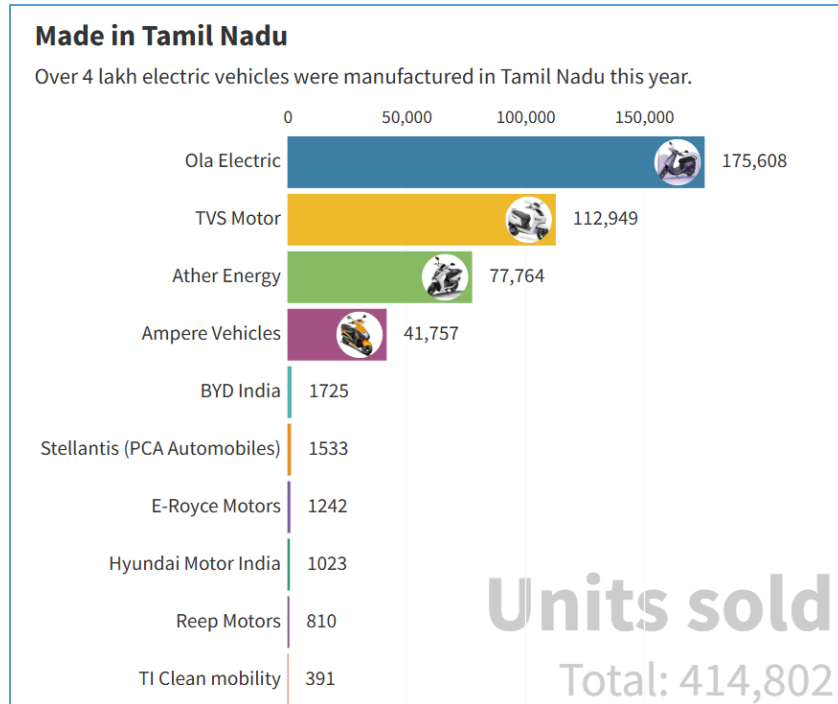
- ❖ Excavation in Keeladi has yielded two carnelian beads.
- ❖ It is reaffirming Tamil country's trade links with the western part of India such as Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- ❖ Last year, they unearthed 74 carnelian beads.
- ❖ Carnelian stones are normally found in Gujarat and Maharashtra.



### Tamil Nadu's EV production

- ❖ Of the ten lakh electric vehicles (EVs) sold in India this year, over four lakhs were manufactured in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ 10,44,600 EVs were registered with RTOs till September 20, 2023.
- ❖ Manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu contribute more than 4,10,000 (0.41 million) units – over 40%.
- ❖ After being called the automobile capital and the Detroit of India, the state is now aiming to create a name in the EV sector too.

- ❖ Six cities – Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Salem and Chennai – have been identified for developing as EV hubs.
- ❖ Ola Electric has sold 1,75,608 units from its manufacturing plant at Krishnagiri.
- ❖ TVS Motor plant at Krishnagiri, has sold 1,12,949 units.



## NATIONAL

### New Vande Bharat Trains



- ❖ Prime Minister on September 24 flagged off nine Vande Bharat trains, connecting 11 states.

- ❖ It includes the rail service between the Tirunelveli- Chennai Egmore route.
- ❖ This is the second Vande Bharat service to the State of Tamilnadu after Coimbatore.
- ❖ With these nine trains, the total number of Vande Bharat trains has increased to 34.
- ❖ They will improve connectivity in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat.

### **Arogya Manthan 2023**

- ❖ The National Health Authority (NHA), is organised 'Arogya Manthan' to celebrate five years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- ❖ It also celebrates two years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY was launched on 23rd September 2018.
- ❖ The ABDM was launched on 27th September 2021.
- ❖ This scheme is aimed at creating a digital highway connecting different stakeholders of healthcare ecosystems.



### **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar**

- ❖ The Centre has introduced a new set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

- ❖ It is named as the "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar" (RVP).
- ❖ These awards aim to recognize the remarkable contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators in various fields of science and technology.
- ❖ It is set to be one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India.
- ❖ It will be awarded across four categories.
  - The 'Vigyan Ratna' - Lifetime achievements in any field of science and technology.
  - The 'Vigyan Shri' - acknowledges the distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
  - The 'Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar' - To recognize and encourage young scientists under the age of 45 who have made exceptional contributions in any field of science and technology.
  - The 'Vigyan Team' award - Given to a team of three or more scientists, researchers, or innovators who have made exceptional contributions in any field of science and technology.



### **Draft Patents (Amendment), Rules, 2023**

- ❖ The government has released Draft Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2023 rule, under the Patents Act of 1970.
- ❖ Under this, Patents are granted for new and useful inventions and are intended to encourage innovation by providing legal protection and exclusive rights to inventors.
- ❖ There will be a variable fee for Pre-Grant Opposition (PGO) filing (previously free).
- ❖ PGO is a pre-grant opposition filed after patent publication but before its grant.

- ❖ PGO filing, previously open to anyone, will now be determined by Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.
- ❖ Disclosure of the patented product's manufacturing location and price is no longer required.

## Body blow to pre-grant opposition

The draft patent amendment rules give the controller the power to determine the maintainability of representation of those filing pre-grant oppositions



**Worrying:** The draft amendment rules create needless hurdles. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Currently, the Patents Act explicitly permits "any person" to file a pre-grant opposition without the discretion of the Controller. But as per the draft rules, the Controller will decide maintainability

- Big pharma had questioned the maintainability of petitioners opposing patents, leading to delays. The same can happen with pre-grant opposition

- The present amendments present the most significant challenge to the Indian Patent System since 2005

- Pharma companies are averse to pre-grant opposition. The draft patent amendment rules help them by

making the process difficult

- There are innumerable instances when patient groups and civil society organisations have filed pre-grant opposition, leading to rejection of patent extension

- The latest pre-grant opposition ruling that was not in favour of a pharma company is the Bedaquiline drug for MDR-TB patients

## ODF Plus villages

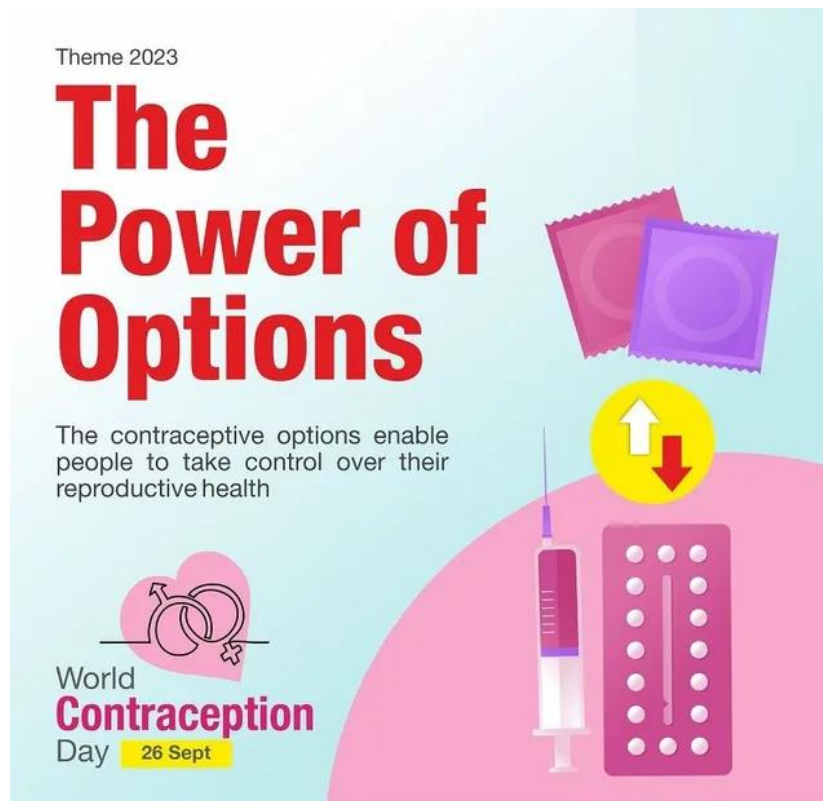


- ❖ About 4.4 lakh or 75 per cent of India's villages have achieved the open defecation free-plus status.

- ❖ An 'ODF Plus' village is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems.
- ❖ All villages in 14 states and Union Territories (UT) have achieved ODF Plus Status, of which four have been declared 'ODF Plus Model'.
- ❖ The top performing states and UTs which have 100 per cent ODF Plus villages are Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Tripura.
- ❖ Of these, Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim have achieved the 'ODF Plus Model' status.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Contraception Day 2023 - September 26



- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the myriad contraceptive methods.
- ❖ The day is an occasion to empower women to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health.
- ❖ This day was first observed in 2007.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "The Power of Options".

- ❖ Contraception or birth control is used to prevent pregnancies.
- ❖ Condom, birth control pills, Intra Uterine Contraceptive Devices like Copper T and injectable contraceptives are some of popular contraceptives.

### **World Environmental Health Day 2023 - September 26**

- ❖ This day aims to creating awareness about the impact of environmental health on human lives.
- ❖ This day was founded by the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) in 2011
- ❖ The theme for this year is - Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day.



### **International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons 2023 - September 26**

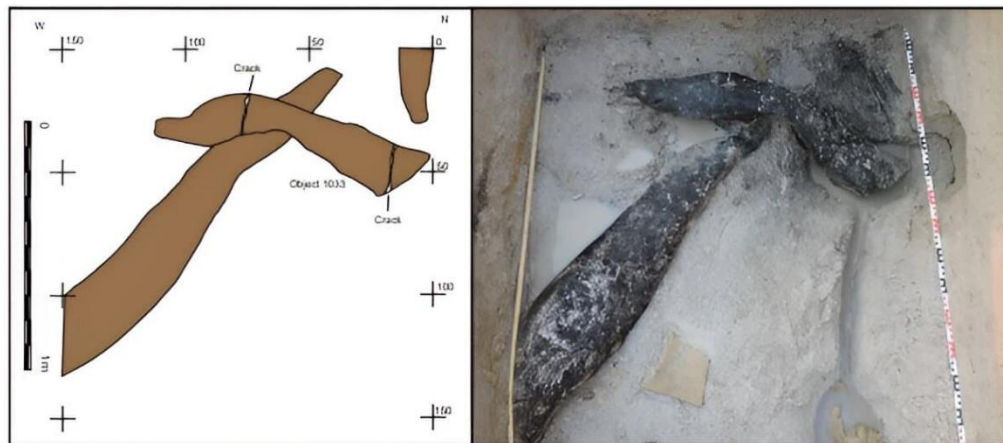
- ❖ The aims of the day are to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination.
- ❖ September 26 is also the anniversary of the incident in 1983 when a nuclear war was almost launched due to malfunctions in the Soviet nuclear weapons early warning system, which erroneously detected a US ballistic missile attack against Moscow.
- ❖ In 1959, the UNGA endorsed the objective of complete nuclear disarmament.

- ❖ In 1996, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature.
- ❖ Yet, today around 12,512 nuclear weapons remain.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### World's Oldest Wooden Structure



- ❖ Archaeologists have unearthed the oldest known wooden structure, and it's almost half a million years old.
- ❖ The simple structure has been found along a riverbank in Zambia.
- ❖ The structure consists of two interlocking logs from a large-fruited willow tree.
- ❖ It is believed to be the world's oldest known wooden structure.
- ❖ The structure is estimated to be over 476,000 years old.





- ❖ It is pre-dating the existence of modern humans by a significant margin.
- ❖ The structure's age suggests that it may have been crafted by Homo heidelbergensis.
- ❖ This hominin species is believed to have inhabited the area between 700,000 to 200,000 years ago.

