

August - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Biochemist Govindarajan Padmanabhan, the Chancellor of Central University of Tamil Nadu in Tiruvarur, was selected for the first 'Vigyan Ratna' award, the top-most science award in the country.
- ❖ The final 'Report of India's G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure' by 'India's G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure for Economic Transformation, Financial Inclusion and Development' was released in New Delhi.
- ❖ Nagaland has become the first state in India to start a disaster management insurance scheme by signing an agreement with SBI General Insurance.
- ❖ Zimbabwe became a 11th African country and 54th Party to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UN Water Convention).
- ❖ National Book Lovers Day is celebrated on August 9th every year.

TAMIL NADU

Loan scheme of NCDC - Tamilnadu

A rundown on lending

Loans disbursed by the National Cooperative Development Corporation since 2019-20 (₹ in crore)

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Kerala	Tamil Nadu	Telangana	Sub-total for southern States	Grand total (all-India)
2019-20	400.31	149.03	359.88	18.23	3,553.70	4,481.15	27,569.16
2020-21	575.05	170.11	295.53	16.77	685.11	1,742.57	24,421.57
2021-22	2,828.57	163.57	362.45	46.56	990.66	4,391.81	33,939.08
2022-23	9,686.20	111.48	677.05	24.59	9,091.26	19,590.58	40,513.29
2023-24	13,269.90	259.96	272.33	-	11,931	25,733.19	60,218.53
2024-25*	500	225.22	120.29	-	12,001.06	12,846.57	19,256.53

* As on June 30, 2024. Note: The Union Territory of Puducherry did not draw any loan in all these years. Since 2023-24, Tamil Nadu, too, did not take any loan from the Corporation

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has displayed a perceptible lack of interest towards the loan scheme of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- ❖ It provides the assistance for weaker-section programmes and other purposes.
- ❖ Since 2019-20, the State took loans to the extent of ₹106.15 crore.

- ❖ From 2023-24, it stopped drawing any loan from the NCDC, even though it received grants of ₹5.78 crore in the two years.
- ❖ State of Andhra Pradesh had availed itself of ₹ 27,260.03 crore and Telangana, ₹38,252.79 crore.
- ❖ The rate of interest in respect of loans, if applied through State governments, for the weaker section programmes is 11.5%.
- ❖ In the event of direct funding, the rates are 11.8% (if the project cost up to ₹1 crore) and 11.92% (exceeding ₹1 crore).
- ❖ The NCDC's rates of interest are "very high" with "many conditions".

Verdict on Uthapuram temple



- ❖ The Madras High Court ordered to open the Sri Muthalamman; Sri Mariamman temple situated in Uthapuram village in Peraiyur taluk in Madurai district.
- ❖ It had remained closed for 10 years due to the community clash.
- ❖ The court also held that, the idol housed in a temple is to be treated as a living person and the closure of the temple without customary pujas will amount to its imprisonment.
- ❖ An idol is considered as a juristic personality in law.
- ❖ This is understood as enabling the idol to hold property and to sue and be sued in its name.
- ❖ No temple can be locked and sealed on the grounds of law and order.
- ❖ Any temple is an abode of deity.
- ❖ The question is whether a temple can be closed by citing public order.



- ❖ So long as there is no practice of untouchability or offending the rights of others, a temple cannot be closed or shut down indefinitely.
- ❖ This is as much the right of a devotee to offer worship as well as the right of the deity to observance of the customary rituals.
- ❖ The court has to exercise parens patriae jurisdiction when the interest of minors, the mentally ill and idols are at stake.
- ❖ The fundamental right of the petitioner guaranteed under the Constitution to visit the temple and take part in the worship of the deity shall not be taken away for any reason.

NATIONAL

Waqf board bill 2024

BILL SEEKS TO VERIFY PROPERTY CLAIMS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Wakf Act, passed in 1954 and replaced with a new version in 1995, is meant to regulate 'auqaf' (assets donated and notified as waqf) by a wakif, the person who dedicates a property for any purpose recognised by Muslim law as religious or charitable ➤ Govt proposes to amend Act, make verification mandatory for claims on properties by waqf boards ➤ This will also apply to 	<p>properties on which claims and counter-claims have been made by waqf boards and individual owners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Currently, waqf boards enjoy powers to tag any property as waqf asset. Around 8.7 lakh properties spanning 9.4 lakh acres are under jurisdiction of waqf boards in the country ➤ Bill also proposes changes in composition of waqf boards, it is learnt

- ❖ The Union government has tabled the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ This legislation aims to reform the registration process for the waqf properties through a centralised portal.
- ❖ It seeks to rename the existing Waqf Act of 1995 to the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act.

- ❖ The Waqf pertains to properties that are designated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes in accordance with Islamic law.
- ❖ Once a property is established as waqf, it cannot be revoked.
- ❖ With approximately 30 waqf boards managing over 9 lakh acres of land valued at an estimated Rs 1.2 lakh crore.
- ❖ Waqf boards rank as the third-largest landowners in India, following the Railways and the Defence Ministry.
- ❖ The bill proposes the establishing of a Central Waqf Council alongside state Waqf Boards.
- ❖ Notably, these bodies will have representation from Muslim women and non-Muslims.
- ❖ It also has a provision to appoint two women to all state boards as well as to the central council.
- ❖ It designates the District Collector as the primary authority in determining whether a property is classified as waqf or government land.
- ❖ This shifts the responsibility away from the Waqf Tribunal.
- ❖ The legislation outlines the creation of a separate Board of Auqaf specifically for the Boharas and Aghakhanis, ensuring representation for Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, and Aghakhanis within waqf boards.

National Communications Academy



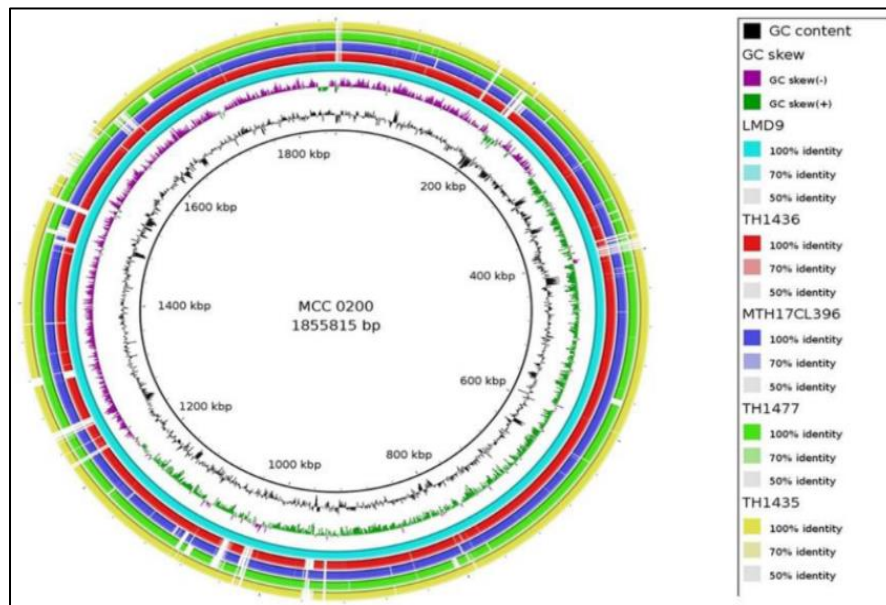
- ❖ Three training institutes of DoT (Department of Telecommunications) have been merged into a single administrative entity, named 'National Communications Academy' (NCA) with immediate effect.

- ❖ They are:
 - National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT),
 - The National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) and
 - Wireless Monitoring Training & Development Centre (WMTDC).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Strain MCC0200

- ❖ Scientists at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in India discovered a new strain of lactic acid bacteria, dubbed MCC0200.
- ❖ MCC0200 has a strong affinity for intestinal surfaces, which allows it to interact with host cells and promote gut health.
- ❖ In addition, MCC0200 has antioxidant properties, which can help to reduce the oxidative stress-induced damage.
- ❖ MCC0200 has the ability to assimilate cholesterol, which could help to lower serum cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.



Dark oxygen

- ❖ An unknown process is producing oxygen deep in the world's oceans, where it is too dark for photosynthesis.

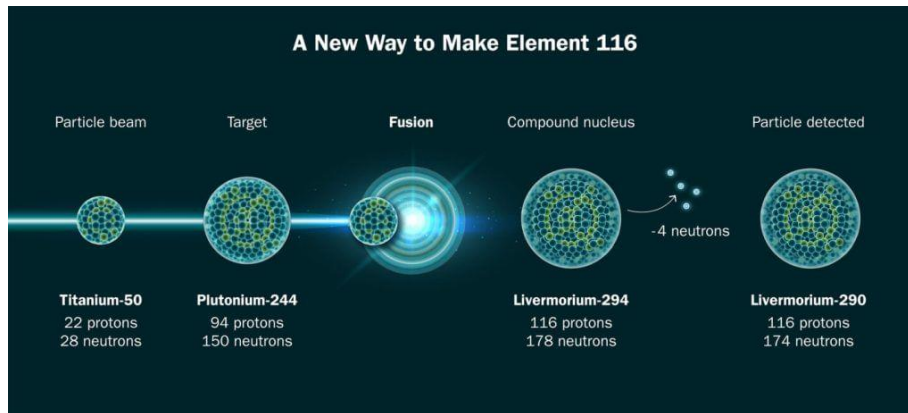
- ❖ Scientists were conducting the experiments at a depth of 4 kms, they noticed the oxygen concentration in some places rapidly increased instead of decreasing.
- ❖ They measured the physical characteristics of the polymetallic nodules; they found their surfaces to have a voltage of up to 0.95 V.
- ❖ Splitting one water molecule requires 1.5 V.
- ❖ The researchers have suspected the voltage could build up if many nodules are close together, like the cells of a battery.
- ❖ Polymetallic nodules are lumps of iron, manganese hydroxides, and rock partially submerged in many parts of the ocean floor.
- ❖ If their concentration exceeds 10 kg per sq. m, mining them is considered to be economically feasible.
- ❖ The Clarion-Clipperton Zone is to be considered to have the world's highest concentration of polymetallic nodules.
- ❖ It is including 6 billion tonnes of manganese and more than 200 million tonnes each of copper and nickel.
- ❖ China alone is expected to mine 17% of the Clarion-Clipperton Zone.



Livermorium

- ❖ Scientists have successfully created the superheavy element 116 using a beam of titanium-50.
- ❖ Element 116, which is named livermorium, is part of the “superheavy” category of elements.

- ❖ These are elements that exist beyond the known elements in the periodic table and are typically very unstable.
- ❖ Titanium-50 was chosen because of its specific number of protons and neutrons.
- ❖ Previous superheavy elements were made using a different isotope, calcium-48.
- ❖ It has been considered a “magic” isotope due to its favourable properties for fusion.
- ❖ Creating a high-intensity beam of titanium-50 involved heating titanium metal to nearly 3000 degrees Fahrenheit.



SPORTS

Neeraj Chopra – Olympics 2024



- ❖ Neeraj Chopra of Haryana won the silver medal in the men’s javelin throw competition at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

- ❖ He became the first track-and-field athlete from India to win medals in the consecutive Olympics.
- ❖ Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the gold medal with an Olympic record-shattering 92.97m throw.

IMPORTANT DAYS

August Kranti Day 2024 - August 08



- ❖ August Kranti Day, or Quit India Movement Day, commemorates the historic launch of the Quit India Movement on August 8, 1942.
- ❖ On August 8, 1942, during the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay, the Quit India Resolution was adopted.
- ❖ It resulted in the deaths of at least 1,000 Indians, as well as the arrests of about 60,000 by the end of 1943.
- ❖ By March 1943 the Quit India Movement was definitively over.
- ❖ In 2024, as India celebrates the 82nd anniversary of the Quit India Movement.

International Day of World's Indigenous People 2024 - August 09

- ❖ The day is intended to raise awareness about the needs of indigenous peoples.
- ❖ It also gives Indigenous peoples the opportunity to communicate their thoughts and issues on a worldwide scale.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared this special day in 1994.

- ❖ This year's theme is "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact".

