

August - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 'Parvat Prahaar' military exercise, a significant strategic initiative, was conducted by the Indian Army in the high-altitude regions of Ladakh.
- ❖ Purandar Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd has achieved a significant milestone by exporting India's first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland.
- ❖ State Bank of India appointed Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as chairman of the bank for three years with effective from 28th August 2024.
- ❖ Noah Lyles clinched the title of the fastest man on Earth in a thrilling 100m race at Paris Olympic by beating Jamaica's Kishane Thompson by just 0.005 seconds.
- ❖ The Indian men's hockey team beats Spain and win the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat secured the men's 57kg freestyle bronze medal at the Paris Olympics.
- ❖ PR Sreejesh and Manu Bhaker were selected as flag-bearers for the Indian delegation at the 2024 Olympic Games closing ceremony.

TAMIL NADU

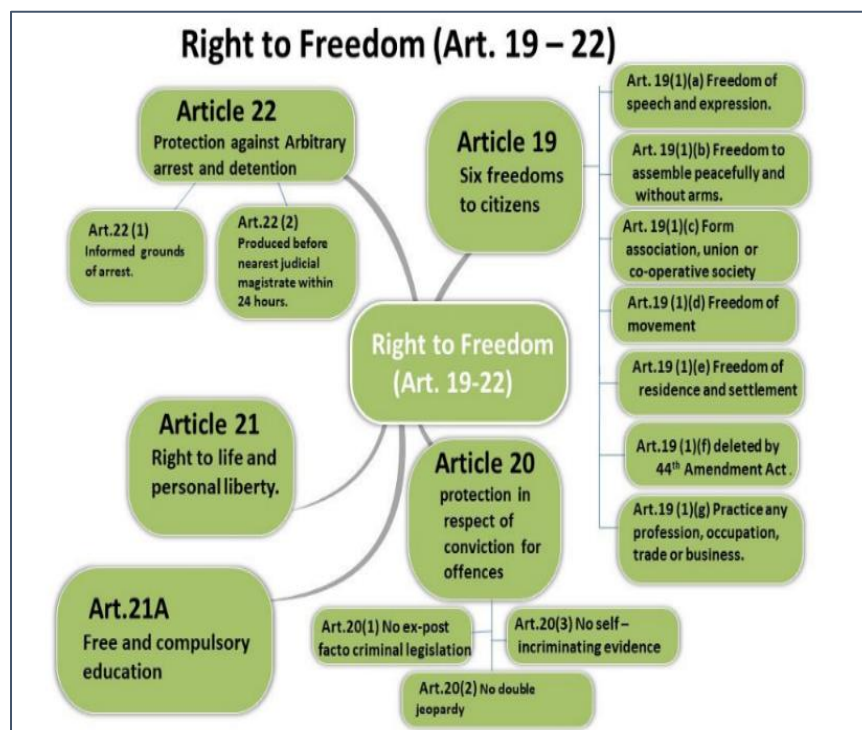
Tamil Pudhalvan scheme 2024



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on August 9, launched the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme in Coimbatore.

- ❖ Under this, boys of the state government schools who join colleges will get ₹1,000 per month.
- ❖ It is on the lines of Pudmaipen Scheme for girl students.
- ❖ A total of three lakh girl students have been benefitted by the scheme launched by the Chief Minister in September 2022.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, a total of 7,72,000 students complete school education in government schools and government-aided schools
- ❖ A total of 2,09,365 girls had been benefitted by the Pudmaipen scheme in 2022-23 and their number had increased to 2,73,596 in 2023-24.
- ❖ The scheme was extended to students of Tamil medium in government aided schools in 2024-25.
- ❖ The state's Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education is higher than the national average.

Detention under Goondas Act



- ❖ The Madras high court quashed the detention of Youtuber Shankar under the Goondas Act.
- ❖ It is highlighted the Article 19(1)(a) and held “soul of a healthy democracy lies in free speech.”

- ❖ He was booked under Section 509 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) read with Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 1998, Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

NATIONAL

Broadcast Services Bill 2024

- ❖ The government is set to replace the 30-year-old Cable TV Networks Act 1995 with Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill 2024.
- ❖ It has proposed introducing onerous regulations on independent creators of news events on platforms like YouTube, Instagram and X.
- ❖ The new version also defines a “digital news broadcaster” in sweeping terms, and requires prior registration with the government to prescribing standards for content evaluation.



Boilers Bill 2024

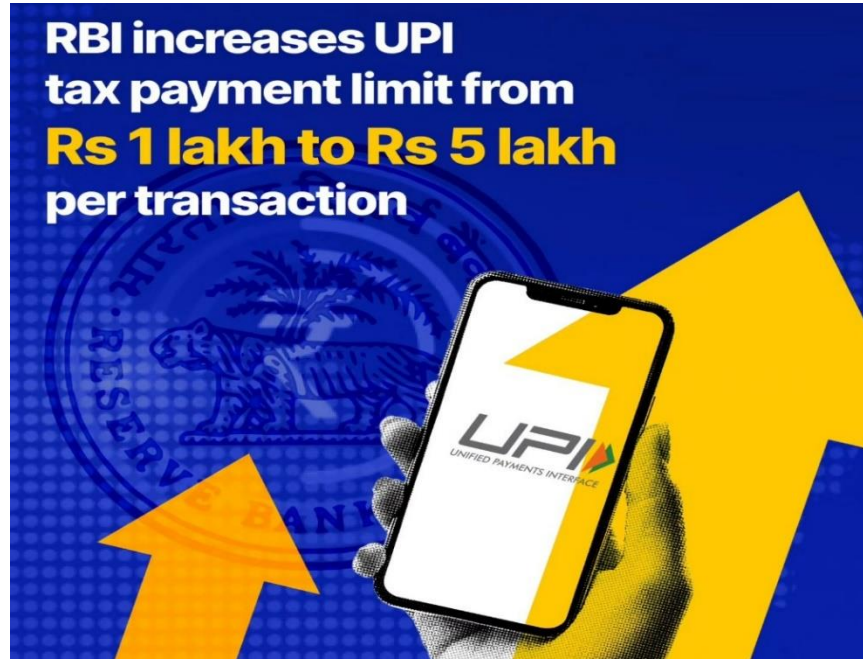
- ❖ It repeals the Boilers Act, 1923 (5 of 1923).
- ❖ It was comprehensively amended in the year 2007 by the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Act, 2007
- ❖ Out of the seven offences, to ensure safety of boilers and personnel dealing with boilers, in four major offences which may result in loss of life and property, criminal penalties are retained.
- ❖ For other offences, provision is being made for fiscal penalty.

- ❖ Moreover, for all non-criminal offences ‘fine’ has been converted into ‘penalty’ to be levied through executive mechanism instead of courts as existed earlier.



ECONOMY

UPI Limit for Tax Payments



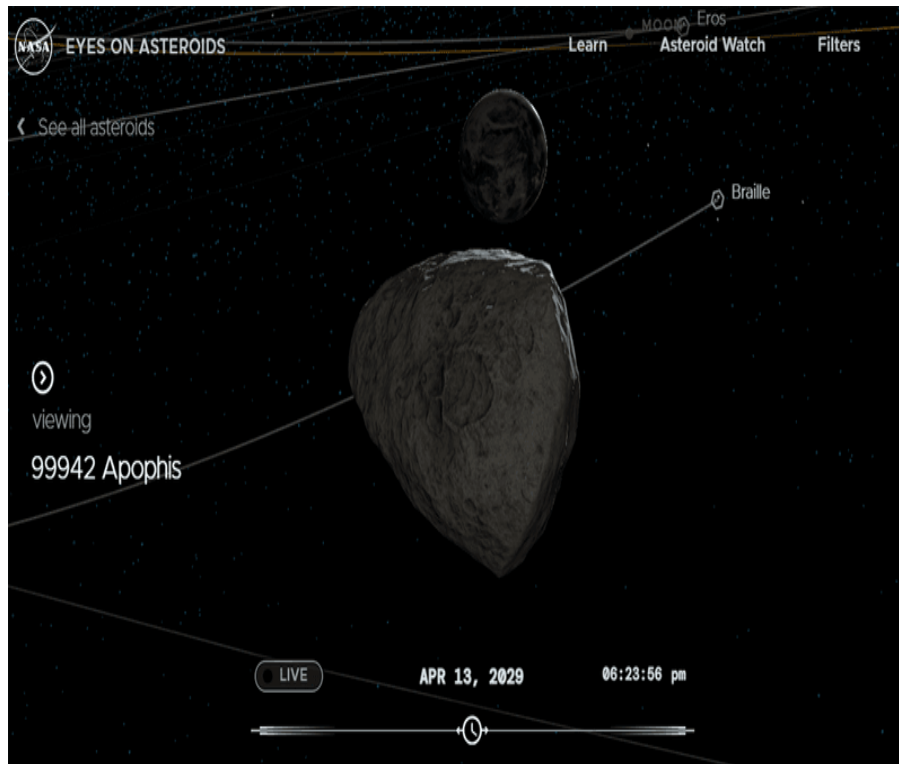
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India announced the UPI tax payment limit increase from the current limit to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.
- ❖ Currently, the transaction limit for UPI is Rs 1 lakh except for certain category of payments which have higher transaction limits.

- ❖ It has now been decided to enhance the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mission to Apophis asteroid

- ❖ The European Space Agency (ESA) has announced a mission to study the Apophis asteroid when it passes by Earth at a very close distance in 2029.
- ❖ The mission is named as the Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (Ramses).
- ❖ Roughly 375 m across, the asteroid Apophis will pass within 32 000 km from Earth's surface on 13 April 2029.
- ❖ An asteroid of such large size comes this close to the Earth only once in about 5,000 to 10,000 years.



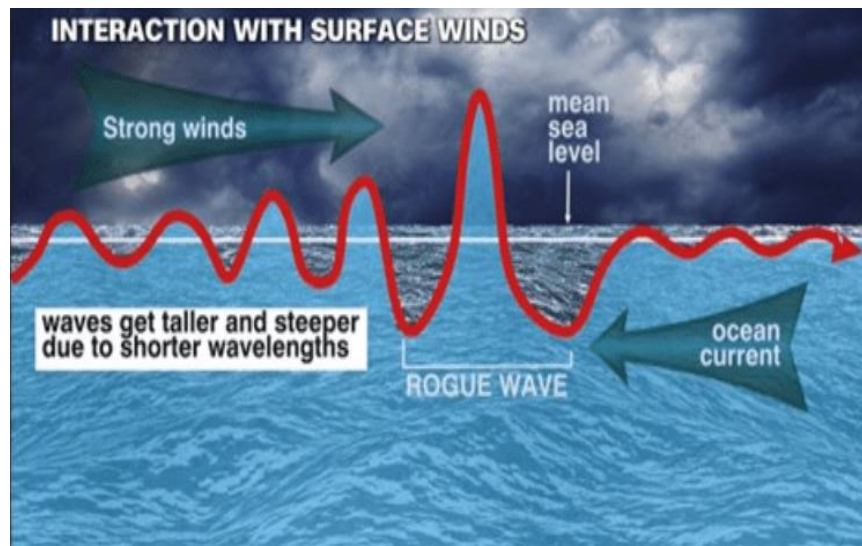
Small Modular Reactors

- ❖ The Indian government is planning to team up with the private sector to study and test small modular reactors (SMRs).
- ❖ SMRs, of 10 MWe-300 MWe each, are smaller versions of their conventional counterparts.

- ❖ They can be installed without time and cost overruns, and can consume power locally at the SMR site.
- ❖ Their ability to integrate with RE can offer a resilient grid and manage the intermittency, the cost being around ₹4/kWh.



Rogue Waves prediction



- ❖ Rogue waves are unusually large waves compared to ones which come before and after, pose a threat to ships, coastal and offshore infrastructure, and human lives.
- ❖ There is no method existed to forecast rogue waves until now.
- ❖ Using billions of data points collected by a network of 172 ocean buoys, an artificial intelligence has trained to distinguish wave patterns that preceded rogue waves, up to five minutes in advance.

- ❖ The WMO sea state code characterises sea state based on wave height on a scale of 0 (no waves) to 9 (waves over 14 m).

ENVIRONMENT

Methane mitigator by India

- ❖ The first cultures of indigenous methane-mitigating agents, are discovered in rice fields and wetlands primarily in Western India.
- ❖ Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with 26 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.
- ❖ It is naturally counteracted by methanotrophs—methane-eating bacteria.
- ❖ *Methylococcus oryzae* bacterium is a novel genus and species.
- ❖ These bacteria oxidise methane, producing CO₂ and H₂O, thereby preventing methane levels from skyrocketing.
- ❖ *Methylococcus oryzae* promotes rice plant growth, inducing early flowering and increasing grain yield.



STATES

2-Child policy – Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government decided to abolish a rule that barred individuals having more than two children from contesting local body elections.
- ❖ The fertility rate in Andhra Pradesh is 1.5.
- ❖ The two-child policy was first introduced in united Andhra Pradesh in 1994.

- ❖ It prevented individuals with more than two children from contesting in the urban local body elections.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024



- ❖ The first-ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) awardees 2024 were announced recently.
- ❖ These awards honour individuals who have made distinguished contributions through impactful research, innovation, or discovery that benefits Indian communities or society.

- ❖ It was replacing the existing science awards, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize.
- ❖ Vigyan Ratna honours lifetime achievements and substantial contributions in any field of science and technology.
- ❖ Vigyan Shri recognizes distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
- ❖ Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar recognizes and encourages the young scientists under 45 years of age.
- ❖ This year's Vigyan Ratna was awarded to G. Padmanabhan for his work on the malaria parasites.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 Team was awarded with the Vigyan Team for their successful mission in 2023.
- ❖ Vigyan Shri was given to Annapurni Subramaniam, Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar, Naba Kumar Mondal.
- ❖ Vigyan Yuva was awarded to Vivek Polshettiwar, Urbasi Sinha, Roxy Mathew Koll.

Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee



- ❖ Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, CPI(M) leader and former West Bengal Chief Minister, died recently.
- ❖ He served as Bengal Chief Minister from 2000 to 2011.



- ❖ Bhattacharjee made the Calcutta Book Fair a world-class event, almost single-handedly.
- ❖ Simultaneously, he established the Calcutta Film Festival.
- ❖ He gave up the membership of the party's state secretariat in 2018.
- ❖ The mortal remains were handed over to state government Medical College and Hospital for the research work.

