

August - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Government of India and the World Bank have entered into an agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) of 781Kms.
- ❖ India's gold industry has launched the Indian Association for Gold Excellence and Standards (IAGES) as a new self-regulatory organisation with support from the World Gold Council.

TAMIL NADU

Investment proposals in Tamilnadu 2024



**எங்கெங்கு எவ்வளவு முதலீடுகள்.. ?
அமைச்சர் பகிர்ந்த தகவல்கள்..**

- ₹44,125 கோடி முதலீட்டு திட்டங்களுக்கு அமைச்சரவை ஒப்புதல். புதிய தொழில் முதலீடுகள் மூலம் 24,000 பேருக்கு வேலைவாய்ப்பு.
- ஈரோட்டில் மில்சிகி மிஸ்ட் நிறுவனம் ₹1770 கோடி முதலீடு
- கிருஷ்ணகிரியில் கிரீன் டெக் நிறுவனம் ₹1,779 கோடி முதலீட்டு திட்டம் தொடக்கம்
- காஞ்சிபுரத்தில் மதர்ஸ் எலக்ட்ரானிக்ஸ் நிறுவனம் ₹2200 கோடி முதலீடு.
- ஸ்ரீபெரும்புதூர் அருகே வல்லம்படுகையில் ₹206 கோடியில் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கான தங்கும் இடம் வரும் 17ம் தேதி திறப்பு. நாட்டிலேயே முதல்முறையாக 18,000 படுக்கை வசதியுடன் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு தங்கும் இடம் ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அமைச்சரவை சவட்டத்திற்கு பின் நிதியமைச்சர் தங்கும் தென்னரைசு தகவல்..!

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved investment proposals to the tune of ₹44,125 crore into the State.
- ❖ The investment proposals by 15 companies are expected to generate employment for over 24,000 people.
- ❖ The Sembcorp would invest ₹21,340 crore in Thoothukudi district generating employment for over 1,100 people.
- ❖ The Motherson would invest ₹2,600 crore in Kancheepuram district to generate employment for over 2,500 people.

- ❖ Milky Mist would invest ₹1,777 crore in Erode district and Lohum Tech would invest ₹1,597 crore in Krishnagiri district on lithium battery recycling.

NATIONAL

Nandini Sahakar Yojana

- ❖ It aims to assist women cooperatives to take up business model-based activities under the purview of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- ❖ This is a women focused framework of financial assistance, project formulation, hand-holding and capacity development.
- ❖ There is no minimum or maximum limit on financial assistance to projects by women cooperatives.
- ❖ NCDC provides 2% interest subvention on its rate of interest on term loan portion for new and innovative activities.
- ❖ 1% interest subvention on its rate of interest on term loan portion for all other activities resulting in lower borrowing costs of women cooperatives.



Nandini Sahakar
Empowering Women through Cooperatives

Objective:

- ▶ Enhance the socio-economic status of women.
- ▶ Support entrepreneurial dynamism via women cooperatives.

Eligibility:

- ▶ Cooperative societies with at least 50% women as primary members.
- ▶ Minimum of three months in operation.

Benefits:

- ▶ Credit linkage for infrastructure term loan and working capital.
- ▶ Subsidy or interest subvention from other government schemes/agencies.

Incentives:

- ▶ NCDC provides a 2% interest subvention on its term loan interest rate for new and innovative activities.
- ▶ 1% interest subvention on its term loan interest rate for all other activities, lowering borrowing costs.

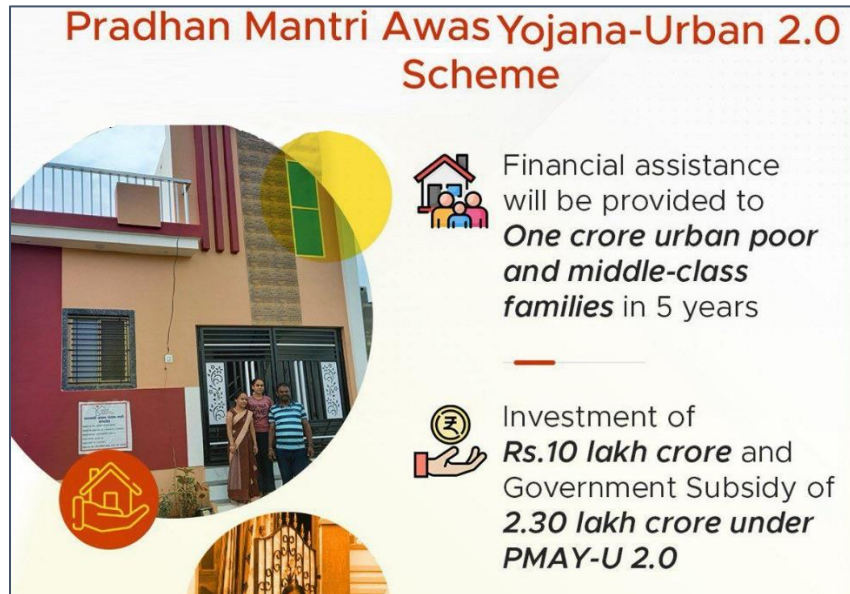
The infographic features three diamond-shaped illustrations on the right side: the top one shows a group of diverse women standing together; the middle one shows three women sitting around a table, possibly in a meeting; the bottom one shows a woman working at a desk with a laptop.

PMAY-U 2.0

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0, with the aim of constructing 1 crore houses.
- ❖ It aims to give financial support to the middle class as well as impoverished urban families for building, buying, or renting reasonably priced urban homes.

- ❖ The eligible income criteria are as follows:
 - EWS households with an annual income up to ₹3 lakh.
 - LIG households with an annual income between ₹3-6 lakh.
 - MIG households with an annual income between ₹6-9 lakh.

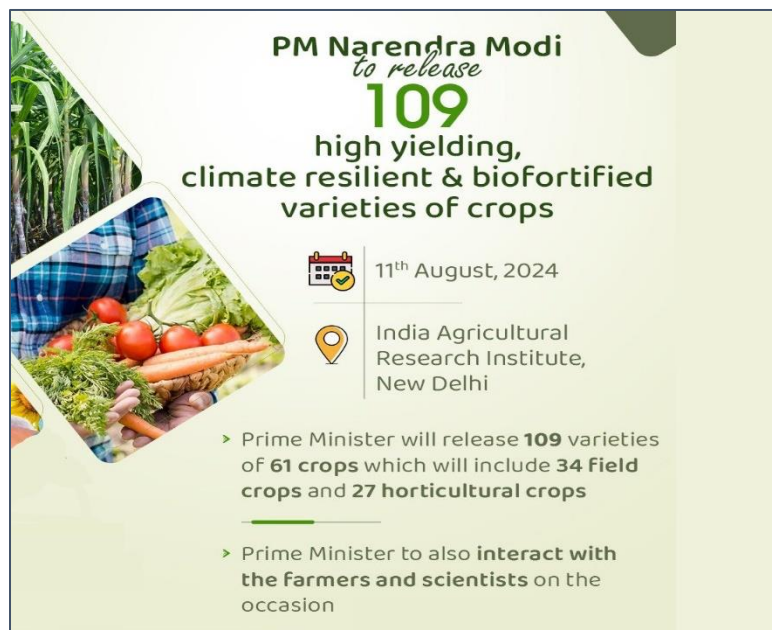
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 Scheme




Financial assistance will be provided to **One crore urban poor and middle-class families** in 5 years


Investment of **Rs.10 lakh crore** and Government Subsidy of **2.30 lakh crore under PMAY-U 2.0**

109 high-yielding climate-resilient crop varieties



PM Narendra Modi
to release
109
high yielding,
climate resilient & biofortified
varieties of crops

 11th August, 2024

 India Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

- > Prime Minister will release **109** varieties of **61** crops which will include **34** Field crops and **27** horticultural crops
- > Prime Minister to also **interact with the farmers and scientists** on the occasion

- ❖ The Prime Minister released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties of crops in New Delhi.

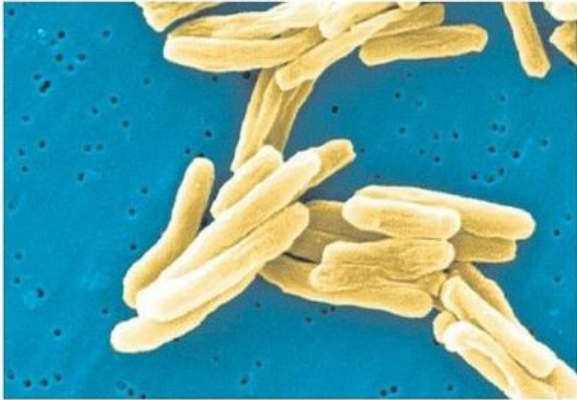
- ❖ The 109 varieties of 61 crops released by the Prime Minister includes 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops.
- ❖ Among the field crops, seeds of various cereals including millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, fibre and other potential crops were released.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New treatment for drug-resistant TB 2024

BPaL regimen for pre-XDR TB shows promise

- Pre-XDR TB patients on BPaL regimen will consume over 500 tablets over 26 weeks compared with over 4,300 tablets over 18 months with the conventional treatment for drug-resistant TB
- Treatment adherence is high and outcomes are better when fewer drugs are used and for a shorter duration
- BPaL regimen to treat people with pre-XDR TB has been approved by WHO. India is yet to roll out BPaL regimen though it aims to reduce TB incidence by 80% and TB deaths by 90% by 2025
- As of date, nearly 70% of the 400 trial participants have completed the treatment lasting for 26 weeks and the cure rate is



Severely diseased: Most of the trial participants had advanced TB at the time of enrolment. PHOTO: JANICE HANEY CARR

well above 85%

- In the case of conventional DR-TB treatment, the cure rate is 60-65% even with strict treatment adherence
- The trial in India has found the three-drug BPaL

regimen to be safe

- Three cases of TB relapse have been seen, one per each arm. Final outcome will be known only after one year of follow-up

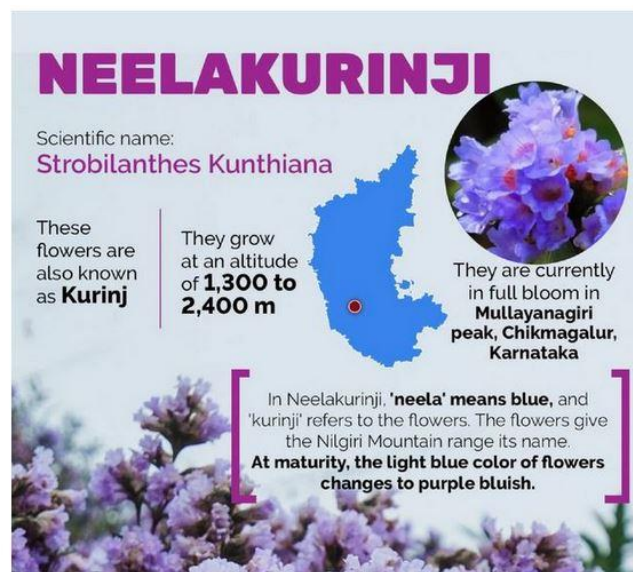
- ❖ India is getting ready to roll out BPaL (bedaquiline, pretomanid, and linezolid) regimen for all multi/extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis patients.
- ❖ This is a significant move in the country's battle against M/XDR-TB with the new regime.
- ❖ It is indicating good results in such countries including Pakistan, South Africa, Ukraine, etc.
- ❖ Currently, India has a 56% treatment success rate for MDR/RR-TB cases, and 48% for XDR-TB cases.
- ❖ In 2022, WHO has recommended the six-month regimens BPaL (bedaquiline + pretomanid + linezolid) and BPaLM (BPaL + moxifloxacin) as treatment options for most forms of drug-resistant TB.

- ❖ The estimated number of drug-resistant TB in India has been reduced by 21% from 1.4 lakh in 2015 to 1.1 lakh in 2022.

ENVIRONMENT

Neelakurinji - Threatened Species

- ❖ Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), has been included on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) official Red List of threatened species.
- ❖ The purplish flowering shrub blooms once in 12 years.
- ❖ This is the first ever Global Red List assessment for this flagship species of the montane grasslands of southwest India.
- ❖ Almost 40% of the habitat has been lost, the remaining is under pressure from invasion of exotic species such as eucalyptus and black wattle.

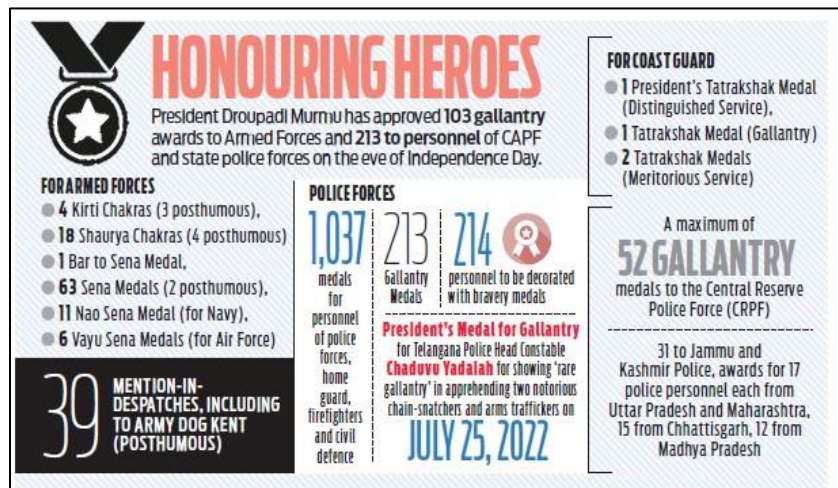


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Gallantry awards update - 2024

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has approved 103 gallantry awards for the Armed Forces and 213 for personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces and state police forces.
- ❖ In addition to these gallantry awards, a total of 1,037 awards were given, including those for distinguished and meritorious service.

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence announced the following:
 - Four kirti chakras (three posthumous),
 - 18 shaurya chakras (4 posthumous),
 - One bar to sena medal (gallantry),
 - 63 sena medals (gallantry, including two posthumous),
 - 11 nao sena medals (gallantry), and
 - Six vayu sena medals (gallantry).
- ❖ Sena medals are awarded to the Indian Army, while Nao sena and Vayu sena medals are for the Navy and Air Force.
- ❖ The President has also approved 39 mention-in-despatches, including one posthumous award to Army dog Kent, for contributions in military operations.
- ❖ Additionally, she has approved one President's tatrakshak medal (distinguished service), one tatrakshak medal (gallantry), and two tatrakshak medals (meritorious service) for Indian Coast Guard personnel.
- ❖ These honours recognise exceptional bravery and service.
- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has been conferred with a total of 52 Gallantry medals, the highest among all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and state police forces as well as five Shauryas.



SPORTS

Paris Olympics 2024 medal tally

- ❖ The U.S. and China will share the title for most golds in 2024 with 40 gold medals each.
- ❖ The U.S. won the total medal count with 126 (40 gold, 44 silver, and 42 bronze).

- ❖ China came in second in the total medal race with 91 (40 gold, 27 silver, and 24 bronze).
- ❖ India, with a total of 6 medals, including one silver and five bronze medals, got the 71st spot in the overall medal tally.
- ❖ It is lower than their 48th overall finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with 7 medals, including one gold, two silver, and four bronze medals.
- ❖ This year's winners
 - Manu Bhaker - Bronze
 - Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh – Bronze
 - Swapnil Kusale – Bronze
 - Indian hockey team – Bronze
 - Neeraj Chopra – Silver
 - Aman Sehrawat - Bronze

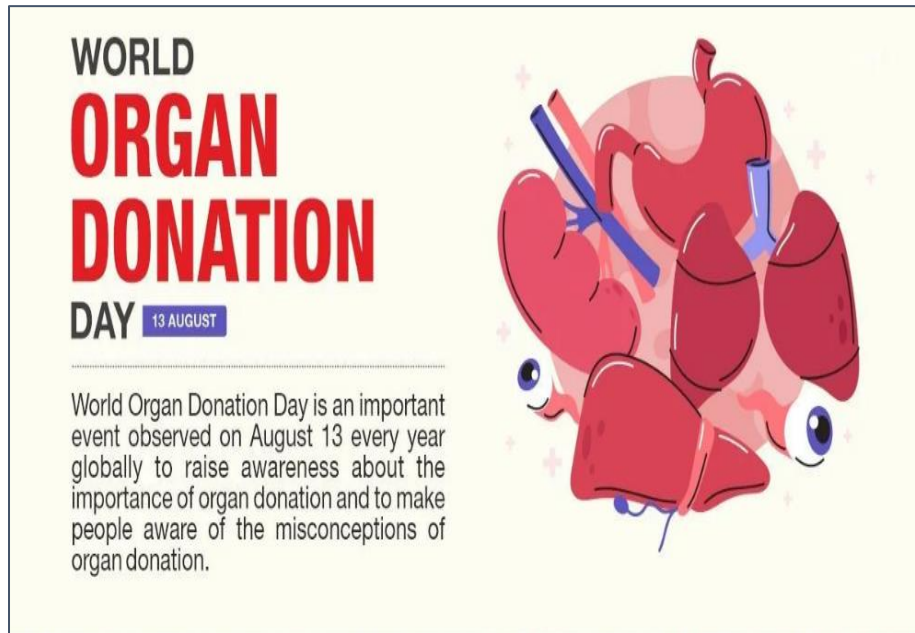


IMPORTANT DAYS

World Organ Donation Day 2024 - August 13

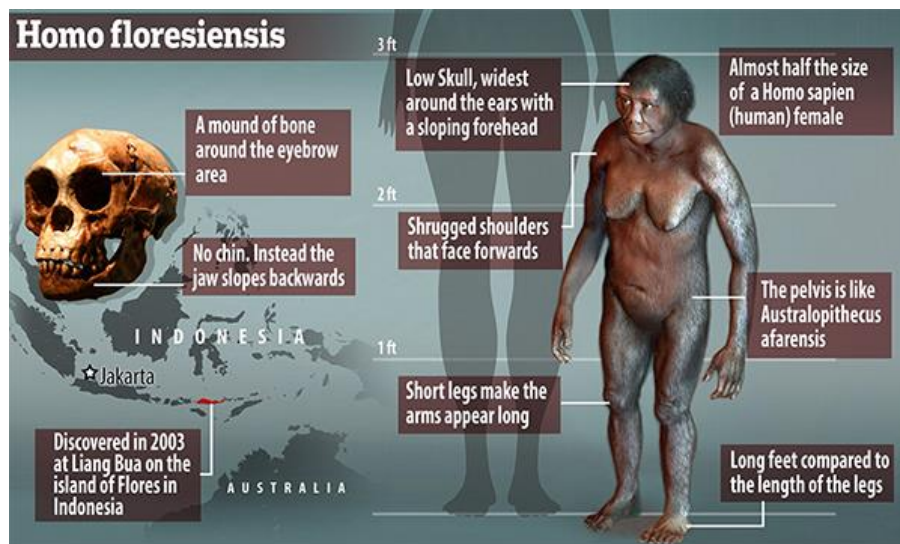
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage individuals to consider becoming donors.
- ❖ Asper UNOS, about 1,03,993 people need a lifesaving organ transplant.
- ❖ Ronald Lee Herrick was the first person to donate his organ.

- ❖ In 1954, he denoted his kidney to his twin brother, and Dr Joseph Murray was the doctor who carried out this successful organ transplantation process.
- ❖ This year's slogan is "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!".



MISCELLANEOUS

Homo floresiensis



- ❖ Researchers discovered three hominin fossils dating to 700,000 years from Mata Menge in the So'a Basin of central Flores of Indonesia.
- ❖ With this, Scientists have come up with two theories to describe their origin.



- ❖ The first argues that Homo floresiensis was a dwarfed descendant of early Asian Homo erectus.
- ❖ An extinct human species, Homo erectus may have lived between 100,000 and 1.6 million years ago.
- ❖ The second theory suggests that Homo floresiensis is a descendant of a more ancient hominin from Africa like Homo habilis or the famous 'Lucy' (Australopithecus afarensis).
- ❖ They were also smaller in stature and existed before Homo erectus.
- ❖ The new study found that the three fossils had slightly smaller jaws and teeth than Homo floresiensis.
- ❖ This suggests that their small body size evolved early in the history of Flores hominins.
- ❖ These hominins likely witnessed a drastic body size reduction from large-bodied Asian Homo erectus sometime between 1 and 0.7 million years ago.

