

August - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has launched the new helpline number - 102 to monitor pregnant women.
- ❖ The first-ever Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League is scheduled to take place in Haryana.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force participated in Exercise 'Udara Shakti 2024' in Malaysia.
- ❖ For the 1st time in the History of Supreme court, the gender equality based Hindi movie 'Laapataa Ladies' was recently screened at the Supreme Court for all the Supreme Court judges, their spouses, and members of the registry.
- ❖ India and Israel have joined hands for the establishment of a new water technology centre at IIT Madras.
- ❖ The 3rd Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival took place at Thiruvidanthai Beach, Mahabalipuram with over 40 kite flyers from various countries.
- ❖ International Left Handers Day is an international day observed annually on August 13 to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of left-handed individuals.

TAMIL NADU

Athikadavu-Avinashi project 2024



- ❖ The Athikadavu-Avinashi project in Tamil Nadu, which was conceived 67 years ago, is finally commissioned recently.

- ❖ The project proposes to divert 1.5 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of surplus water from the downstream of Kalingarayan anicut of the Bhavani River at Kalingarayanpalayam in Erode district.
- ❖ It diverted to fill 1,045 water bodies and irrigate 24,468 acres of farm land in Erode, Tiruppur, and Coimbatore districts.
- ❖ The then Chief Minister K. Kamaraj in 1957 to divert the water through open canals and fill the dry pockets in the erstwhile Coimbatore district.
- ❖ The scheme was initially named the Upper Bhavani Project.
- ❖ In 2009, a technical expert committee was constituted under the chairmanship of A. Mohanakrishnan, that investigated the viability of the scheme.
- ❖ In 1972, the project was re-christened the Athikadavu-Avinashi Ground Water Recharge and Drinking Water Supply Scheme.
- ❖ The foundation stone for the ₹1,652-crore project was laid on February 28, 2019 and the project commenced on December 25, 2019.

NATIONAL

Clean Plant Program 2024



Clean Plant Programme (CPP) under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture

- Investment of **Rs.1,765.67 Cr**
- CPP will provide access to virus-free, high-quality planting material to farmers regardless of their landholding size or socioeconomic status
- Streamlined certification processes & infrastructure support to nurseries
- Nine world class state-of-the-art Clean Plant Centers will be established across India
- It will address diverse agro-climatic conditions across India by developing region-specific clean plant varieties & technologies



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Clean Plant Program (CPP).
- ❖ It is aimed at increasing the yield and productivity of horticulture crops in India.
- ❖ The CPP is also targeted at enhancing the quality of fruit crops across the nation.
- ❖ The programme has three main components geared towards helping farmers obtain virus-free, high-quality planting material to increase crop yields and improve income opportunities.



- ❖ India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world after China.
- ❖ From 2013-14 to 2023-24, the area under horticulture crops has risen from 24 million hectares to 28.63 million hectares.
- ❖ Its Production has increased from 277.4 million metric tonnes (mt) to 352 million mt.
- ❖ India is also a major importer and exporter of fresh fruits.
- ❖ In the financial year 2023-24, India exported fresh fruits worth \$1.15 billion, while it imported fruits worth \$2.73 billion.

'Bail is the rule, and jail is the exception' principle

'Bail is the rule and jail is the exception'

Regular bail: granted to a person who has been arrested or is in police custody. A bail application can be filed for the regular bail under section 437 and 439 of CrPC.

Interim bail: for a short period of time and it is granted before the hearing for the grant of regular bail or anticipatory bail.

Anticipatory bail: Anticipatory bail is granted under section 438 of CrPC either by session court or High Court. Applicable only to a non-bailable offense.

Constitutional foundations-

Article 21 of the Constitution which safeguards not only life but also liberty by commanding that liberty can be deprived only through the procedure established by law, which must be "just, fair and reasonable"

- ❖ The Supreme Court revived a principle that 'jail and not bail is the exception' while granting bail to former Deputy CM of Delhi, Manish Sisodia.
- ❖ The adage 'bail is the rule, jail is an exception' came from the pen of Justice Krishna Iyer, in 1977.
- ❖ It was first used in the judgment of the 'State of Rajasthan vs Balchand alias Baliya' case.
- ❖ The ruling underscored that bail should be denied only in circumstances where there is a risk of the accused fleeing from justice, obstructing justice, repeating offenses, or intimidating witnesses.

INTERNATIONAL

UN cybercrime treaty 2024

- ❖ The United Nations Cybercrime Convention which has been under negotiation for the past three years, was unanimously approved by UN members.
- ❖ It aims to "prevent and combat cybercrime more efficiently and effectively," notably regarding child sexual abuse imagery and money laundering.

- ❖ For the first time, it proposes a global-level cybercrime and data access-enabling legal framework.
- ❖ It establishes “a global criminal justice policy,” to protect society against cyber-crime.
- ❖ It calls states to put in place legislation that will make it illegal to breach an information and communications system people don’t have access to.
- ❖ The treaty would enter into force once 40 member nations will ratify it.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Earth Terminator from ISS



- ❖ NASA captured an image of the Earth's terminator from the ISS, 267 miles above the Pacific Ocean near New Zealand.
- ❖ The terminator, marking the boundary between day and night, highlights Earth's rotation and changing seasons.

- ❖ The ISS experiences 16 sunrises and sunsets daily.
- ❖ The terminator's shape varies with the equinoxes and solstices, displaying the Earth's axial tilt.
- ❖ The terminator, also known as twilight, is a moving line that divides Earth—or any other planet or celestial object—between daytime and nighttime.
- ❖ This line passes over Earth twice each day: once at sunrise and once at sunset.

JUICE Mission



- ❖ The JUICE mission of the European Space Agency is set to complete a new manoeuvre and break two records.
- ❖ This is the first time the spacecraft will use two objects to carry out a gravity assist manoeuvre, and for the first time, it will also attempt Lunar-Earth flyby.
- ❖ The spacecraft will first go around the Moon and losing some of its speed.
- ❖ After 25 hours, it is expected to approach Earth.
- ❖ Because of Earth, it will slow down further and go towards Venus.

ENVIRONMENT

Warmest Waters in 400 Years

- ❖ Water temperatures in and around Australia's Great Barrier Reef have risen to their warmest in 400 years over the past decade.
- ❖ The reef stretches for some 2,400 km off the coast of the northern state of Queensland.

- ❖ Temperatures increased by an average of about 0.12 degrees Celsius (0.22 degrees Fahrenheit) for January to March from 1960 through 2024.
- ❖ The reef is home to a wide variety of natural life, with 600 types of coral and 1,625 fish species alone.
- ❖ Since 2016, the world-famous reef has suffered from five rounds of massive coral bleaching due to warming temperatures.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Former Foreign Minister Natwar Singh

- ❖ Former external affairs minister K Natwar Singh died recently.
- ❖ Natwar Singh was selected into the Indian Foreign Service in 1953.
- ❖ In 1984, he resigned from the service and contested the Lok Sabha elections.
- ❖ He won the election and served as a union minister of state until 1989.
- ❖ Natwar Singh again became a union minister in 2004 and resigned after 18 months.
- ❖ Between 1966 and 1971, he was India's ambassador to Pakistan.

- ❖ He had also authored several books including, 'The Legacy of Nehru: A Memorial Tribute' and 'My China Diary 1956-88'.
- ❖ His autobiography is titled 'One Life is Not Enough'.
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1984.



70th National Film Awards

Complete List of Winners: 70th National Film Awards 2024	
Best Feature Film: Aattam	Special Mentions:
Best Actor: Rishab Shetty	Manoj Bajpayee: Gulmohar
Best Actress: Nithya Menen and Manasi Parekh	Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury: Kalikhan
Best Director: Sooraj Barjatya	Technical Awards:
Best Supporting Actress: Neena Gupta	Best Action Direction: KGF: Chapter 2
Best Supporting Actor: Pawan Malhotra	Best Choreography: Tiruchitrabalam
Best Feature Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Kantara	Best Lyrics: Fouja
Best Debut: Fouja, Pramod Kumar	Best Music Director: Pritam (Songs), AR Rahman (Background Score)
Regional Film Awards:	Best Makeup: Aparajito
Best Telugu Film: Kartikeya 2	Best Costumes: Kutchh Express
Best Tamil Film: Ponniiyin Selvan – Part 1	Best Production Design: Aparajito
Best Punjabi Film: Baaghi Di Dhee	Best Editing: Aattam
Best Odia Film: Daman	Best Sound Design: Ponniiyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Malayalam Film: Saudi Velakka CC.225/2009	Best Screenplay: Aattam
Best Marathi Film: Vaalvi	Best Dialogues: Gulmohar
Best Kannada Film: KGF: Chapter 2	Best Cinematography: Ponniiyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Hindi Film: Gulmohar	Best Female Playback: Saudi Velakka
	Best Female Playback: Brahmastra

- ❖ Feature and non-feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, were eligible for contention.
- ❖ The Malayalam-language drama Aattam won the Best Feature Film award.
- ❖ Rishab Shetty won the Best Actor award for Kantara.
- ❖ The Best Actress honour was shared by Nithya Menen (Thiruchitrabalam) and Manasi Parekh.



- ❖ Ponniiyin Selvan - Part1 won the most (4) awards - Best Tamil Film, Best Sound Design, Best Cinematography and Best Music Director (Background Music).
- ❖ Best Music Director award was given to Pritam (Songs), AR Rahman (Background Score).
- ❖ This is the 7th National Film Awards for AR Rahman.

