

August - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Senior IRS officer Rahul Navin has been appointed as Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- ❖ The Assembly elections for Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir will be held from September 18 to October 1.
- ❖ Wings EV, an Indore-based firm, is set to launch the Electric Microcar “Robin” in 2025.
- ❖ Propshare, a fractional real estate platform, recently became the first player to secure a small and medium Real Estate Investment Trust licence from SEBI.
- ❖ PR Sreejesh, who recently led India to a bronze medal at the 2024 Olympics, has been appointed as the new head coach of the Indian junior men's hockey team.
- ❖ Paetongtarn Shinawatra was elected as Thailand’s youngest prime minister at the age of 37.

TAMIL NADU

Sipcot’s industrial housing facility



- ❖ TN Chief minister inaugurated a 706-crore industrial housing facility for women employees of Foxconn company’s Sriperumbudur plant.
- ❖ The residential complex is now the largest of its kind for workers in India.

- ❖ Foxconn employs 41,000 workers in the state, of which 35,000 are women.
- ❖ Foxconn's largest workforce outside China is India now, and the largest number is in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Sipcot (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) would soon build creches in its industrial estates.
- ❖ TN has the most women factory workers in the country at 42%.

Tamil Nadu's New Chief Secretary 2024



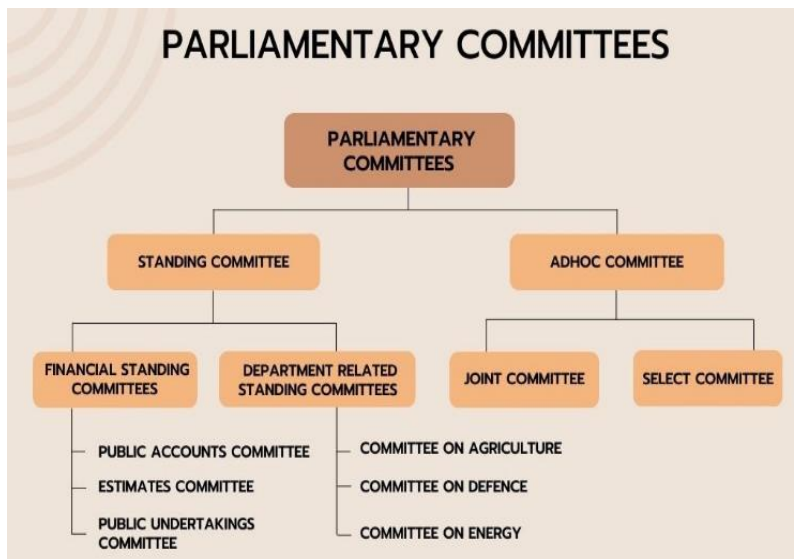
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has appointed senior IAS officer N. Muruganandam as the Chief Secretary, replacing Shiv Das Meena.
- ❖ He became the 50th chief secretary of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Also, he is the third Dalit chief secretary of Tamil Nadu after A Padmanaban (1985) and A P Muthusamy (1999).
- ❖ Mr. Meena, who is set to retire in October, has been appointed chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA).

NATIONAL

New Parliamentary Committees 2024-25

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker constituted six new Parliamentary Committees, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

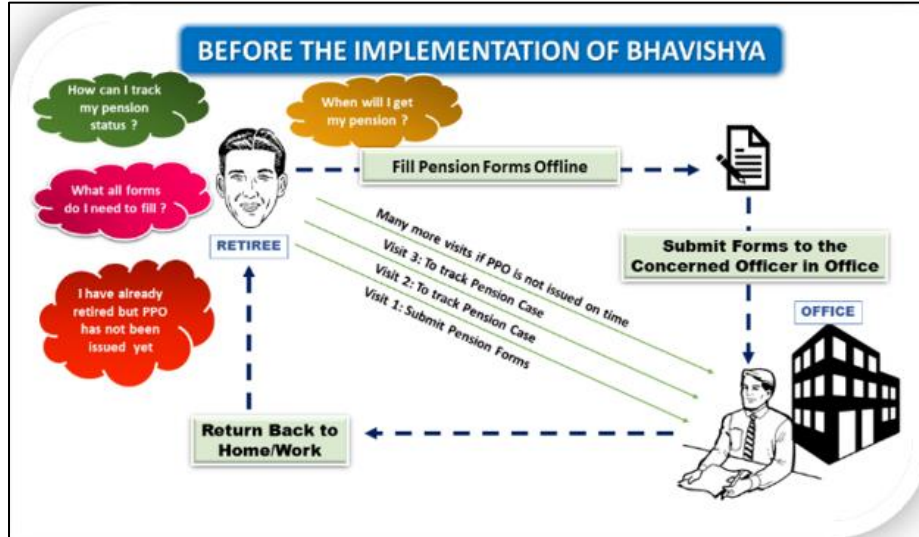
- ❖ Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 and Article 118 of the constitution.
- ❖ PAC is headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal.
- ❖ The Public Accounts Committee was introduced in 1921.
- ❖ It is not an executive body, and can only make decisions that are advisory by nature.
- ❖ It presently comprises 22 members (15 members elected by the Lok Sabha Speaker, and 7 members elected by the Rajya Sabha Chairman)
- ❖ Two other financial committees — the Estimates Committee and the Public Undertakings Committee — will be chaired by ruling Party leaders.
- ❖ The Speaker has appointed Ganesh Singh as Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes.
- ❖ Faggan Singh Kulaste has been appointed Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ All the above-formed committees have a tenure of one year and have members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha Speaker is yet to constitute the 24 departmentally-related Standing Committees.



BHAVISHYA platform

- ❖ The DOPPW (Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare) introduced a unique innovative centralized pension processing software called 'Bhavishya' for all central government Ministries/Departments.

- ❖ It aims to overcome the problems of delay & clerical errors in processing the pension cases, as well as financial loss and harassment to the pensioners.
- ❖ Bhavishya has been ranked 3rd best in NeSDA (National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment), 2021.



INTERNATIONAL

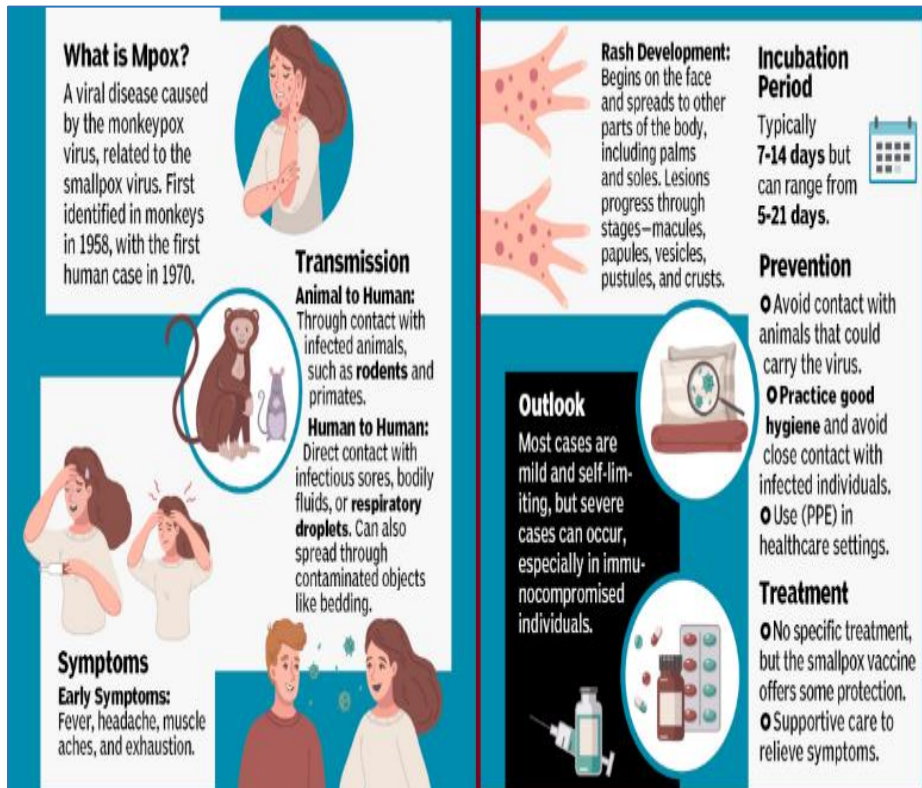
Germany in U.N. Command



- ❖ Germany joined the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea.

- ❖ Germany became the 18th nation in the group.
- ❖ UNC helps police the heavily fortified border with North Korea and has committed to defend the South in the event of a war.
- ❖ Current UNC members, among them Australia, Britain, Turkey and the United States, sent troops or contributed medical support during the 1950-53 Korean War.
- ❖ Established in 1950, the UNC was mandated to restore peace and enforce the armistice while serving as a channel of communication with North Korea.
- ❖ It is led by the commander of the U.S. military stationed in South Korea.
- ❖ It is not affiliated with the United Nations.

Mpox - Health Emergency



What is Mpox?
A viral disease caused by the monkeypox virus, related to the smallpox virus. First identified in monkeys in 1958, with the first human case in 1970.

Transmission
Animal to Human: Through contact with infected animals, such as **rodents** and primates.
Human to Human: Direct contact with infectious sores, bodily fluids, or **respiratory droplets**. Can also spread through contaminated objects like bedding.

Symptoms
Early Symptoms: Fever, headache, muscle aches, and exhaustion.

Rash Development: Begins on the face and spreads to other parts of the body, including palms and soles. Lesions progress through stages—macules, papules, vesicles, pustules, and crusts.

Incubation Period
Typically **7-14 days** but can range from **5-21 days**.

Prevention
❏ Avoid contact with animals that could carry the virus.
❏ Practice **good hygiene** and avoid close contact with infected individuals.
❏ Use (PPE) in healthcare settings.

Treatment
❏ No specific treatment, but the smallpox vaccine offers some protection.
❏ Supportive care to relieve symptoms.

Outlook
Most cases are mild and self-limiting, but severe cases can occur, especially in immunocompromised individuals.

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared mpox as a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC).
- ❖ Mpox is caused by an orthopox virus.
- ❖ It was first detected in humans in 1970 and is endemic to countries in central and west Africa.

- ❖ More than 2,100 laboratory-confirmed cases of the disease, as well as 13 deaths, have been reported this year in the DRC and 11 other countries.
- ❖ WHO also reported that Sweden was the first country outside of Africa to report a case of the mpox Clade 1 variant.

Croatia - Compulsory Military Service

- ❖ Croatia will reintroduce a two-month compulsory military service starting January 1 next year.
- ❖ The move comes amid heightened tensions in Europe following the Russian aggression against Ukraine.
- ❖ The conscription was suspended in 2008 when the country shifted to a volunteer-based system.

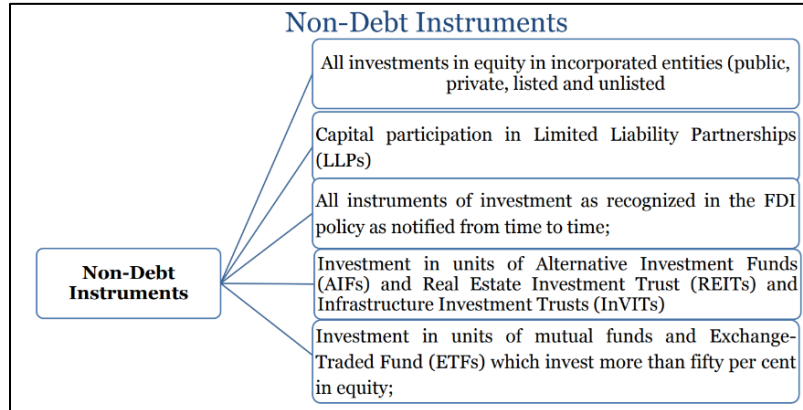


ECONOMY

Forex Management (Non-debt Instruments) Amendment Rules, 2024

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance has amended Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 vide notification dated 16.08.2024.
- ❖ It aims to simplify cross-border share swaps and provide for the issue or transfer of Indian company equity instruments in exchange for foreign company equity instruments.

- ❖ This will facilitate the global expansion of Indian companies through mergers, acquisitions, and other strategic initiatives, enabling them to reach new markets and grow their presence worldwide.
- ❖ It brings further clarity on the treatment of downstream investments made by the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)-owned entities on a non-repatriation basis, aligning it with the treatment of Non-Resident Indian (NRI)-owned entities.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SSLV-D3 - EOS-08

LAUNCH PROVIDER
ISRO - Indian Space Research Organisation

MISSION TYPE
Technology Demonstration

LAUNCH WINDOW
AUGUST 16 03:47Z UTC
09:17 IST
2024
AUGUST 16 23:47 EDT
20:47 PDT
(instantaneous launch window)

PAYLOADS(2)
EOS-08 (Earth Observation Satellite - 08)
Payload mass: ~175.5 kg
Configuration: Indian Mini Satellite-1 (IMS-1) bus by ISRO/URSC
The satellite hosts an Electro-Optical Infrared Payload (EOR) for Earth observation, a Global Navigation Satellite System Radiometry payload (GNSS-R) for weather studies, and an UV Dosimeter to measure UV radiation in low Earth orbit.

SR-0 DemoSat / Deployer-X (Space Rickshaw)
Payload mass: ~560 grams
The SR-0 carries two specialized payloads: LaPa Store and Forward M2M Messaging System from SPIN Public School and Tri-Diode Based Dosimeter from AVS Academy

LAUNCH VEHICLE
SSLV-D3
SSLV (Third Dev Flight #03)
Height 34 m
Diameter 2 m
LV mass 120 t (Mg)

ENGINE BLOCKS

STAGE/ENGINES	PROPELLANTS	TOTAL THRUST(SP)
16 x 50N Thrusters (VLM)	MON-3/AMNH (0.05 tons)	16 x 50 N
01 SS3 4.9t MOTOR (SOLID)	HTPB (4.5 tons)	160 kN (12t)
2) SS2 77t MOTOR (SOLID)	HTPB (77 tons)	250 kN (12t)
1) SS1 87t MOTOR (SOLID)	HTPB (87 tons)	2,600 kN (117t)

LAUNCH SPACEPORT
First Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, India (Republic of India)

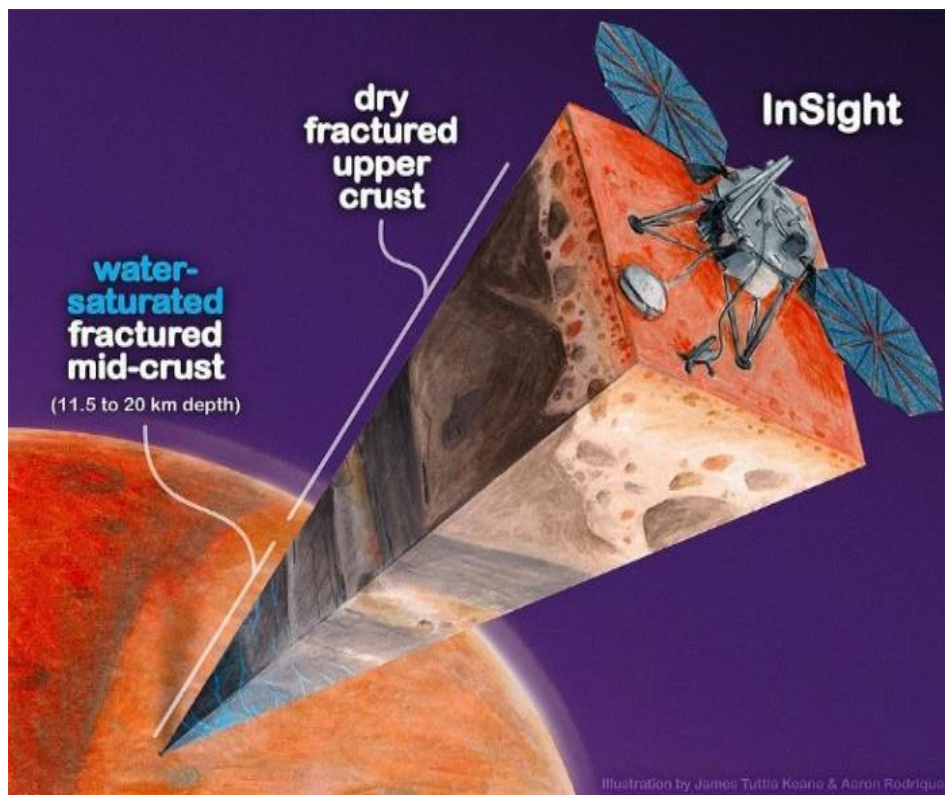
DESTINATION
Low Earth Orbit
Altitude: ~475 km
Inclination: 37.4°

RECOVERY
Launch vehicle is Expendable

- ❖ ISRO launched the EOS-08 Earth Observation Satellite onboard the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 from Sriharikota.

- ❖ The SSLV-D3 is its third and final development flight.
- ❖ The SSLV is capable of launching Mini, Micro or Nanosatellites (10 to 500kg mass) into a 500 km planar orbit.
- ❖ The EOS-08 satellite is designed for Earth observation and carries advanced technology for various tasks such as disaster monitoring, environmental observation, and surveillance.
- ❖ It includes multiple payloads that can capture images in infrared, monitor UV radiation, and measure soil moisture and ocean winds.

Water reservoir in Mars 2024



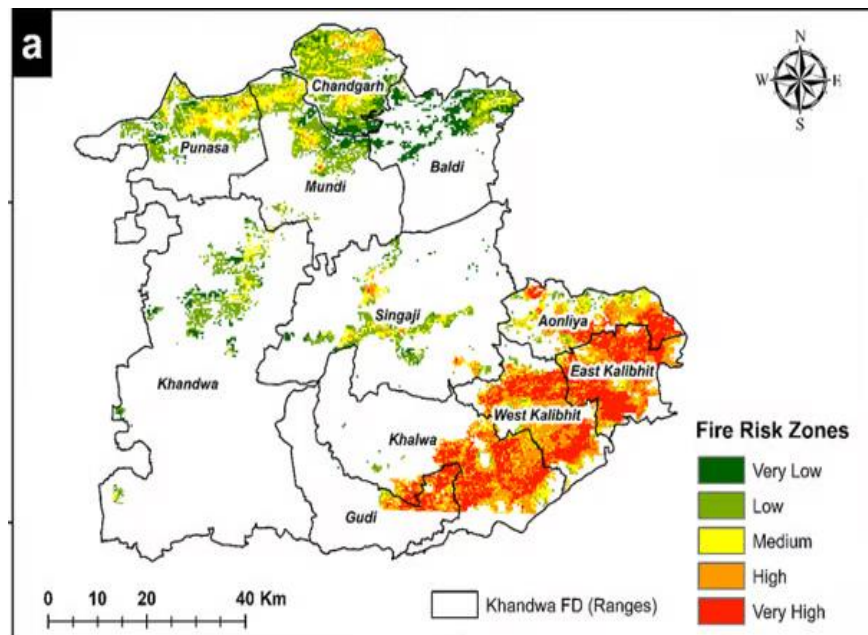
- ❖ Scientists have discovered a reservoir of liquid water on Mars - deep in the rocky outer crust of the planet.
- ❖ This is the first time liquid water has been found on the planet.
- ❖ Nasa's Mars Insight Lander has recorded four years of vibrations - Mars quakes - from deep inside the Red Planet.
- ❖ The analysis revealed reservoirs of water at depths of about six to 12 miles (10 to 20km) in the Martian crust.
- ❖ It is thought that Mars' water vanished when the planet lost its magnetic field and atmosphere billions of years ago.

- ❖ There is water frozen at the Martian poles and evidence of vapour in the atmosphere.

ENVIRONMENT

Risk of Central India Forests

- ❖ Forests in Central India's Khandwa and North Betul divisions are at high risk of forest fires.
- ❖ The scientists noticed a slight increase in the number of fires, with about three more per year in Khandwa and one more in North Betul.
- ❖ 45 per cent of Khandwa's Forest and 50 per cent of North Betul's forest fall into high or very high fire risk zones.
- ❖ In Khandwa, these high-risk areas are mainly in the northern and southeastern parts, including the Khalwa, East Kalibhit, West Kalibhit, Chandgarh and Aonliya ranges.
- ❖ In North Betul, they are located in the northwestern and northeastern regions, such as Shahpur, Betul, Sarni and Bhaura.



Gastrodia indica

- ❖ A unique orchid species, *Gastrodia indica*, was recently discovered in Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary, Sikkim.
- ❖ This orchid never opens its flower.



- ❖ This is the first known cleistogamous orchid in India.
- ❖ This discovery increases the number of Gastrodia species in India to ten.

