

August - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, hosted the 17th Divya Kala Mela for Divyang artists.
- ❖ The South India's first Adivasi library, 'Kaanu' (means evergreen forest), was inaugurated at BR Hills in Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.
- ❖ Maria Branyas, who was the world's oldest living person (117 years and 168 days), has died in Spain.
- ❖ India and Denmark collaborated to create a 'smart laboratory on clean rivers' in Varanasi, aimed at rejuvenating the Varuna River within 2-3 years.
- ❖ Amul was recently recognised as the world's strongest food brand with an AAA+ rating by Brand Finance's Food and Drink 2024 Report.
- ❖ Elon Musk's X AI has released its latest large language models named Grok-2 and Grok-2 mini chatbot.
- ❖ South Korea and the United States kicked off annual summertime military exercises named Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises.
- ❖ Net foreign direct investment (FDI) during the April-June period of the current financial year was \$6.9 billion, compared to \$4.7 billion in the year-ago period.
 - With around 75 per cent of the flows, the major source countries were Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands, the US, and Belgium.
- ❖ The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce's (IACC) first Centre of Excellence for MSMEs in India was inaugurated in Ahmedabad.
 - It aims to enhance and support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to better serve export markets.

TAMIL NADU

1,300 artefacts in Vembakottai

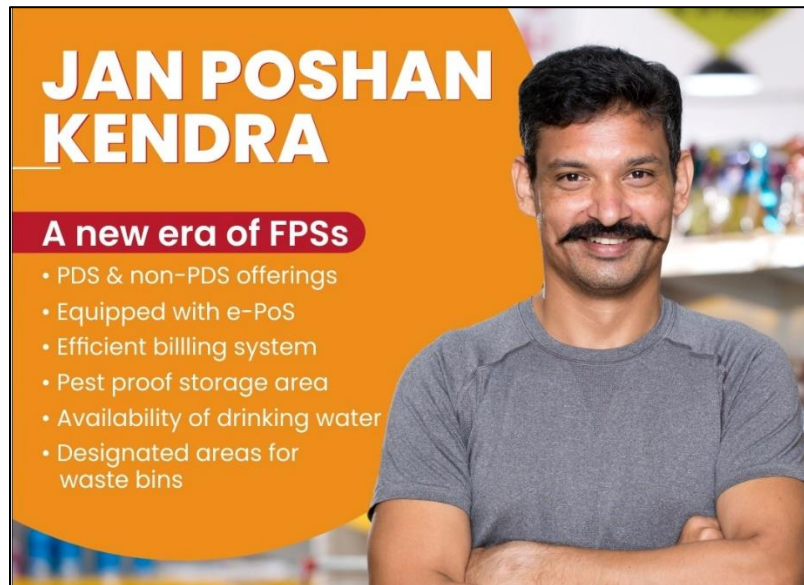
- ❖ More than 1,300 artefacts have been unearthed during the excavations at Vembakottai in Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ A carnelian intaglio showing a humped bull was also found at this site.
- ❖ This is the second such carnelian intaglio found during archaeological excavation in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Another one such material on a wild boar was found in Keezhadi near Madurai in the past.

- ❖ Carnelian are generally found only in Maharashtra and Gujarat and intaglio technique is from Rome.
- ❖ The carnelian intaglio found in Keezhadi and Musiri belonged to the Sangam era.



NATIONAL

Jan Poshan Kendra



- ❖ Ration shops will soon have a new name as the Centre launched a pilot project to rechristen 60 FPS in various parts of the country as 'Jan Poshan Kendra'.
- ❖ The selected shops in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh will provide a solution to the demand of ration dealers to raise their income level.

- ❖ The Kendras will offer a diverse range of nutrition-rich food items to consumers as well as provide an additional source of income to the fair price shops dealers.
- ❖ They will have provision for storing 50% products under the category of nutrition while the rest for keeping other household items.
- ❖ The Centre also launched FPS Sahay application, Mera Ration app 2.0, Quality Management System, Quality Manual Handbook.
- ❖ Approximately 5.38 lakh fair price shops are operational across India.

INTERNATIONAL

Madeira Wildfires

- ❖ The southern part of the Portuguese island of Madeira has been witnessing forest fires that have devastated more than 5,000 hectares of wilderness.
- ❖ It is the largest surviving laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) forests in the world.
- ❖ This is also deemed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

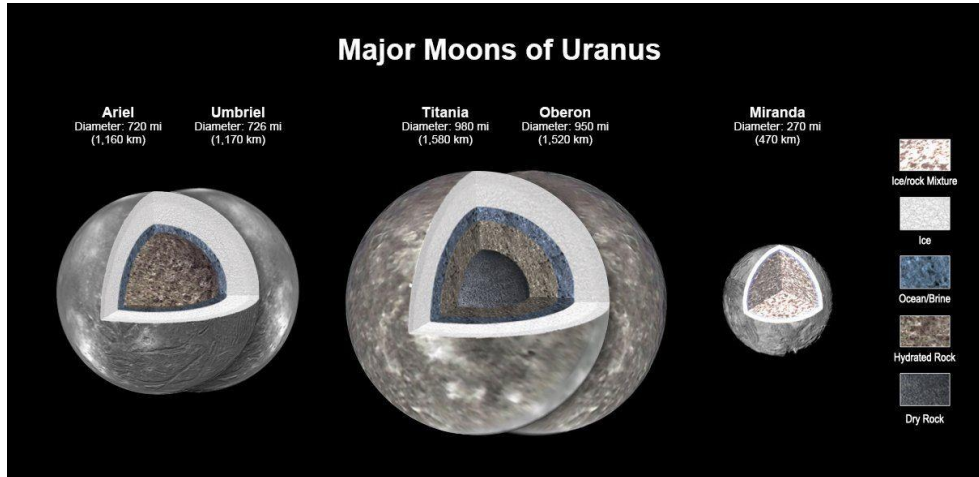


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Underground Ocean on Ariel

- ❖ Scientists discovered carbon dioxide ice on Ariel, one of Uranus' moons.
- ❖ It suggests that the presence of a liquid ocean beneath the moon's icy crust.
- ❖ Underground ocean could be undergoing chemical reactions, releasing carbon dioxide that then escapes to the surface through ice fissures.

- ❖ Alternatively, it was suggested that Uranus' magnetic field might be breaking down molecules to produce carbon dioxide ice.
- ❖ In addition to carbon dioxide, the scientists also detected carbon monoxide and traces of carbonates on Ariel.
- ❖ These minerals typically form when water interacts with rocks.
- ❖ Ariel is one of the 27 moons orbiting Uranus, the third largest planet in our solar system.



ENVIRONMENT

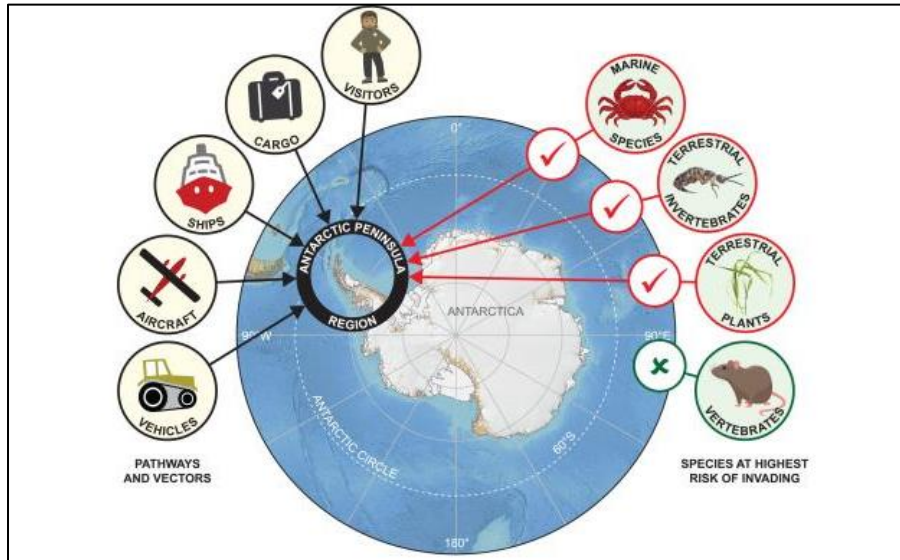
Tagging of horseshoe crabs



- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Odisha Forest Department have joined hands to tag horseshoe crabs along the State's coast.
- ❖ It aims to understand the population and habitat utilisation for its conservation and management.

- ❖ Horseshoe crabs are one of oldest living creatures on the Earth, and a valuable species medicinally.
- ❖ India is home to two species of horseshoe crabs — *Tachypleus gigas* and *Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* (mangrove).
- ❖ Horseshoe crabs are a Schedule 2 species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Non-Native Species in Antarctica



- ❖ Antarctic Peninsula is the area most vulnerable to the introduction of non-native species.
- ❖ Objects that wash ashore in Antarctica could carry non-native floral and faunal species.
- ❖ They can disrupt native species if they are able to survive the cold conditions.
- ❖ Macquarie Island exhibits the highest connectivity with Antarctica, followed by Kerguelen Islands and South Georgia.
- ❖ Australia (Tasmania) has demonstrated the lowest connectivity with Antarctica, closely followed by South Africa and Gough Island.


STATES

Ratnagiri 'protected monuments'

- ❖ Maharashtra government has notified geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri as 'protected monuments'.

- ❖ This is 'protected under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960.
- ❖ The group of petroglyphs at Deud, Ratnagiri, dates back to the Mesolithic era (roughly 20,000-10,000 years ago).
- ❖ Geoglyphs and petroglyphs are different types of ancient art forms, both involving the creation of images or designs on the earth's surface or rock surfaces.

CONSERVATIONISTS CONCERNED OVER REFINERY



➤ Conservationists have expressed concerns over a proposed oil refinery in Barsu, Ratnagiri, warning that it could damage the geoglyphs in the area

➤ Officials noted that in June 2021, the state gov't issued a two-month notice of its intention to declare the geoglyphs as protected monuments, and no objections were raised against the declaration.

“ Rock art in India is one of the oldest material evidence of the country's early human creativity. Typically found in the form of rock paintings, etchings, cup marks, and ring marks across India, (their) dense concentration on the laterite plateaus of the Konkan stands as the most remarkable open-air ensemble of prehistoric human expression in the region – **Unesco's description**

Justice Hema Committee Report



- ❖ The Justice Hema Committee was formed by the Kerala Government in 2017.

- ❖ This was based on a petition by the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) to study the challenges faced by women in the film industry.
- ❖ The 233-page document provides a damning indictment of the discrimination and exploitation faced by women in the Malayalam film industry.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

24th Handicrafts Export Awards



- ❖ The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) had organised its 24th Handicrafts Export Awards event.
- ❖ A total of 123 awards were conferred upon 62 winners of the year 2019-20 and to 61 winners of the year 2020-21.
- ❖ Also, one Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed.
- ❖ The Awards, instituted in 1989, are presented across four broad categories:
 - The Top Export Award,
 - Platinum Performer Certificate,
 - Product Group-wise Awards,
 - Woman Entrepreneur Award,
 - Regional Awards.

- ❖ Muzafar Hussain from Jammu and Kashmir won the Lifetime Achievement Award.

SPORTS

Lausanne Diamond League 2024

- ❖ Neeraj Chopra threw the javelin to a season best distance of 89.49m with his final throw at the Lausanne Diamond League, held at Switzerland.
- ❖ He finished second behind Grenada's Anderson Peters, who threw a distance of 90.61m.
- ❖ Germany's Julian Weber was third with a best throw of 87.08 metres.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Space Day 2024 - August 23

- ❖ India celebrated its first National Space Day on August 23, 2024.
- ❖ It was commemorating the one-year anniversary of the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface.
- ❖ On this day ISRO achieved a successful landing of the Vikram Lander on the moon.
- ❖ This mission made India the fourth country to land on the moon and the first to land near the southern polar region.

- ❖ The theme of 2024 is “Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India’s Space Saga”.



International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2024 - August 23



- ❖ This day was intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (1998) and Gorée Island in Senegal (1999).
- ❖ But the international recognition for this day was set up by UNESCO in 2016.
- ❖ The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 was passed by the British Parliament and received royal assent on August 1, 1834.



- ❖ Roughly 12 million slaves were shipped between 1500-1800.
- ❖ By 1804, Haiti became the first slavery-free country in the world.

