

July - 05

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ General Upendra Dwivedi took charge as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff.
- ❖ Air India is set to launch South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation at Amravati in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Adani Defence & Aerospace has collaborated with Thales Group, to build 70 mm rockets for India's attack helicopters.
- ❖ Doon School Srinagar was honoured with the “Award for Transformative Education Excellence” at the Indo-Norway International Education Summit, Norway.
- ❖ Arundhati Roy has been chosen for the 2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize for her courageous and unswerving writing.
- ❖ India hosted the 64th International Sugar Organization (ISO) Council Meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa has been formally appointed as next President of the European Council.

## TAMIL NADU

### Tamili-inscribed potsherd - Keeladi



- ❖ Archaeologists have unearthed a potsherd with Tamil letter ‘Tha’ inscribed on it from Keeladi, Sivagangai District.
- ❖ It is a Sangam-era urban settlement site on the banks of River Vaigai in Madurai.

- ❖ This is the first recovery of Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) inscribed potsherd in the 10th season of digging
- ❖ Keeladi is 12 km southeast of Madurai where excavations first began in 2014.
- ❖ This site has borne enough evidence of an urban industrialised settlement, with carbon-dating of artefacts from the site establishing its age to be 2,600 years old.

## NATIONAL

### Smart Cities Mission extension

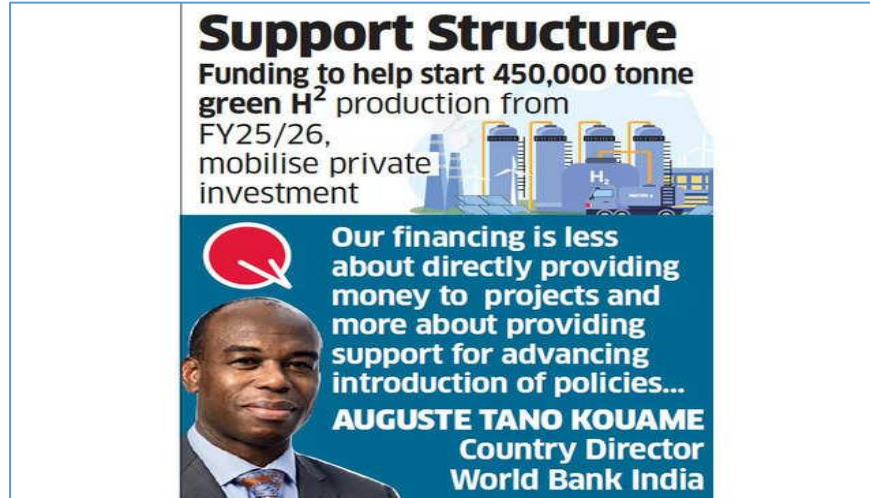
- ❖ The union government has extended the Smart Cities Mission till March 2025.
- ❖ The Centre has earlier set the target of the completion of the Smart City mission by June-end.
- ❖ The Smart Cities mission was launched in 2015.
- ❖ It aims to promoting cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to their citizens.



### World Bank aid to India's hydrogen plans

- ❖ The World Bank has approved the second round of a \$1.5 billion loan to help India push its low-carbon energy development.
- ❖ The funds will help promote a vibrant market for green hydrogen, scale up renewable energy, and stimulate finance for low-carbon energy investments.

- ❖ In June 2023, the World Bank approved the first \$1.5 billion First Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation.
- ❖ It is expected to result in the production of at least 450,000 metric tons of green hydrogen and 1.5 GW of electrolysers per year from fiscal 2025-26 onwards.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Banknotes with hologram



- ❖ Japan introduced its first new banknotes featuring three-dimensional portraits of pioneers in finance, women's education, and medical science.
- ❖ They employed a unique technology to create holograms of the portraits that face different directions depending on the viewing angle.

- ❖ The 10,000-yen note features Eiichi Shibusawa (1840-1931), who is known as "the father of Japanese capitalism."
- ❖ The 5,000-yen bill portrays Umeko Tsuda (1864-1929), a pioneer in women's education.
- ❖ The 1,000-yen bill showcases Shibasaburo Kitasato (1853-1931).

## ENVIRONMENT

### Didymocarpus janakiae



 **CSIR pays tribute to Padma Shri Dr. E.K. Janaki Ammal on her birth anniversary**

The eminent botanist played a primordial role in organizing botanical research in India. 4 November 1897 – 7 February 1984

Dr. E K Janaki Ammal was also an Officer on Special Duty at the Regional Research Laboratory, J&K (now CSIR-IIIM).

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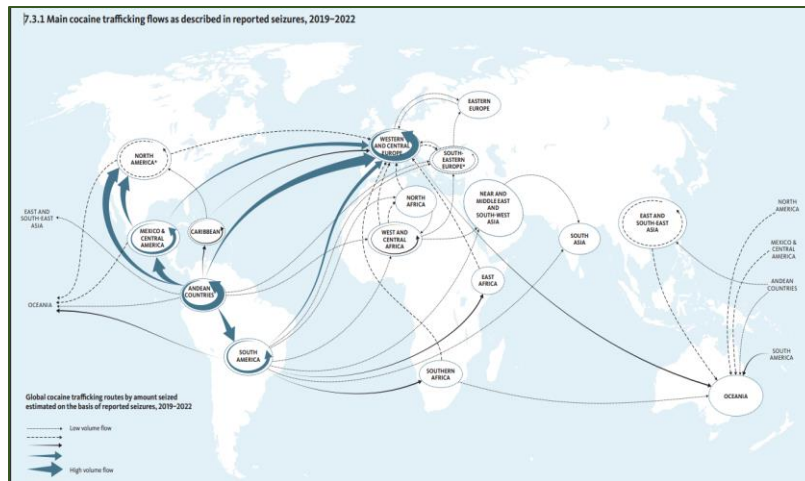
- ❖ A new plant species was found in Arunachal Pradesh named as *Didymocarpus janakiae*.
- ❖ It belongs to the plant genus *Didymocarpus* commonly known as stone flower which is part of the African Violet family (*Gesneriaceae*).
- ❖ The genus consists of 111 species out of which 27 species are present in India, including now the newly described species.
- ❖ This is named in honour of Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal, who is a pioneering Indian botanist.
- ❖ In 1931, she became the first Indian woman to be awarded a doctorate in botany in the US (University of Michigan).

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Annual World Drug Report 2024

- ❖ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released this report on World Drug Day.

- ❖ In the decade to 2022, the number of people using illicit drugs increased to 292 million.
- ❖ Most users worldwide consume cannabis – 228 million people, followed by opioids, amphetamines, cocaine and ecstasy.
- ❖ There was an increase in overdose deaths following the emergence of nitazenes.
- ❖ In 2022, cocaine production hit a record high with 2,757 tons produced – a 20 per cent increase from 2021.
- ❖ Cannabis was legalised across Canada, Uruguay, and 27 jurisdictions in the US.



## STATES

### Full Functional Literacy Under ULLAS



- ❖ Ladakh has become the first administrative unit to achieve full functional literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Program).

- ❖ The Union Territory has surpassed 97% literacy, marking a major success for the centrally sponsored scheme.
- ❖ This scheme is aimed at empowering adults aged 15 and above with foundational literacy, numeracy, and critical life skills.
- ❖ NILP is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented from 2022-2027.

### **Shyok river**

- ❖ Five soldiers died after a tank was swept away by strong water currents in the Shyok river during a military training in Ladakh.
- ❖ A 550 km long Shyok originates from the Rimo Glacier, part of the Siachen Glacier.
- ❖ It is a tributary of the Indus River.
- ❖ It flows through northern Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir and enters the Pakistan-administered region of Gilgit-Baltistan, where it joins the Indus River.

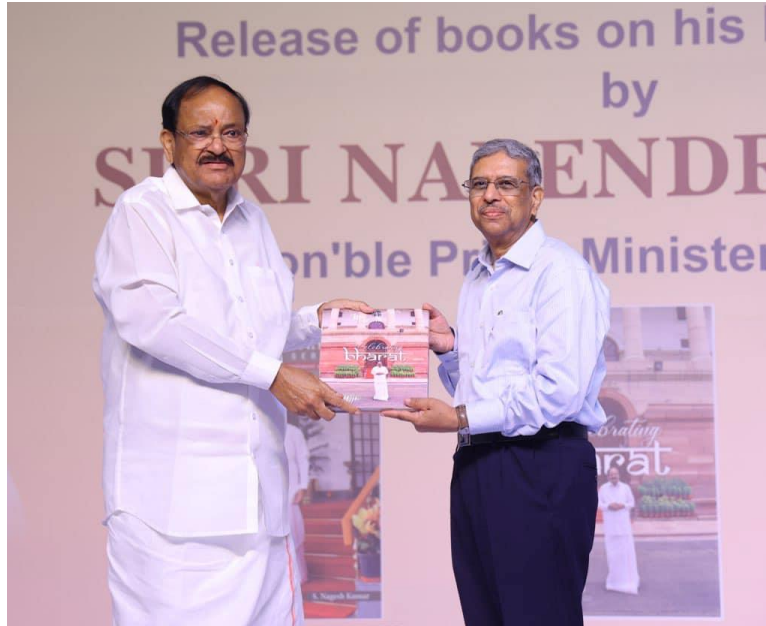


## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Books on Life Journey of Venkaiah Naidu**

- ❖ Prime Minister released the following three books on the life and journey of former Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu.
- ❖ Biography of the former Vice President is titled “Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service” authored by S Nagesh Kumar.
- ❖ “Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India” is a Photo chronicle compiled by Dr I.V. Subba Rao.

- ❖ Pictorial biography in Telugu is titled as “Mahaneta: Life and Journey of M. Venkaiah Naidu” authored by Sanjay Kishore.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World UFO Day 2024 - July 02



- ❖ This day aims to bring people together who love UFOs and to raise awareness about these unidentified flying objects.
- ❖ This date marks the anniversary of the Roswell incident in 1947.
- ❖ Initially it was proposed to coincide with the reported sighting of a UFO by pilot Kenneth Arnold in 1947, the date eventually changed to July 2nd.

### World Sports Journalists Day 2024 - July 02

- ❖ The International Sports Press Association (AIPS) established this day.

- ❖ It is commemorating the formation day of AIPS as an organisation in 1994 during the Summer Olympics in Paris.
- ❖ Sports journalism is a form of reporting that focuses on matters pertaining to any subject or topic related to sports.
- ❖ They work on various media platforms including print, broadcast, and the internet.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### 41,000-Year-Old Ostrich Nest



- ❖ Archaeologists in Andhra Pradesh have found a 41,000-year-old ostrich nest, which is the oldest in the world.
- ❖ It is one of the megafaunas went extinct around 40,000 years ago from all over the world.
- ❖ The animals weighing more than 40kg are called megafauna, which literally means large animals — such as horses, elephants, cattle, and hippopotamuses.





- ❖ The oldest ostrich eggshell was discovered from the Siwalik Hills on the Indian side of the Himalayas.
- ❖ They date back more than 20 lakh years.

