

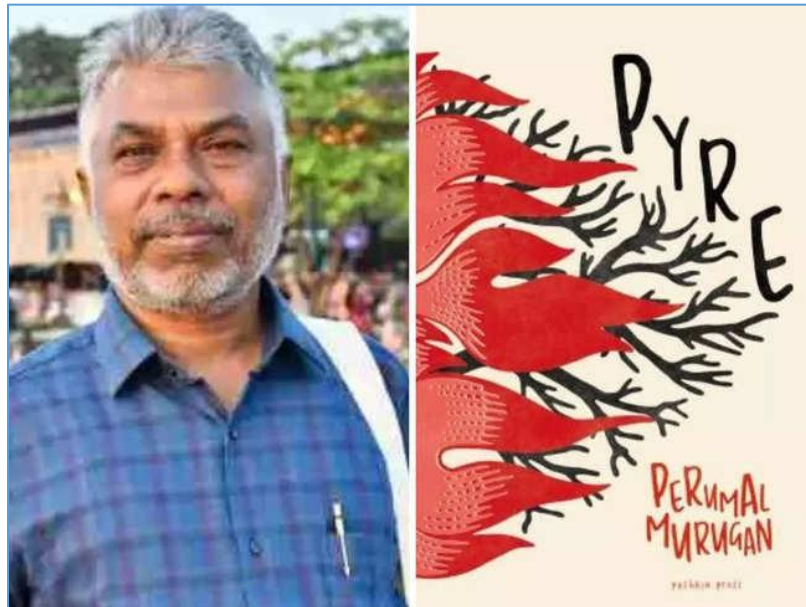
March - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The BVK Biryani, Chennai-based food startup has launched India's first 'manless takeaway' in Kolathur.
- ❖ 3rd edition of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Mumbai-headquartered Central Railway has achieved a significant milestone with 100 per cent electrification of the entire (3,825 km) broad gauge network.
- ❖ The Chief Election Commissioner and other members of ECI inaugurated Vote Fest 2023 to create awareness on the election process in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The B20 meeting under India's G20 Presidency took place in Sikkim's capital Gangtok.
- ❖ Gianni Infantino has been re-elected as president of FIFA for four more years.

TAMIL NADU

Pyre novel



- ❖ Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's novel 'Pookkuzhi' was translated as 'Pyre' in English by Anirudh Vasudevan.
- ❖ It has made it to the International Booker Prize 2023 longlist.
- ❖ Thus, it was becoming the first Tamil novel to be nominated for the Bookers.

- ❖ Set in rural Tamil Nadu in the 1980s, the book explores caste-based violence through the elopement of a young inter-caste couple.
- ❖ In total, 13 novels have made it to the longlist this year.
- ❖ In 2022, Geetanjali Shree became the first Hindi novelist to win an International Booker for 'Ret Samadhi'.
- ❖ This was translated into English as 'Tomb of Sand' by Daisy Rockwell.

NATIONAL

B2B Global Conference & Expo on Traditional Medicine

- ❖ The business-to-business conference and Expo on Traditional Medicine held in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ The first-of-its kind conference is being held under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- ❖ It aims to promote traditional medicines at the global level.



INTERNATIONAL

Common Currency for Brazil and Argentina

- ❖ Brazil and Argentina are starting preparatory work on having a common currency.
- ❖ The new currency Brazil suggests called as "sur" (south).
- ❖ It could boost regional trade and reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar.

- ❖ It would at first run in parallel with the Brazilian real and Argentine peso.
- ❖ A currency union that covered all of Latin America would represent about 5 per cent of global GDP.
- ❖ The world's largest currency union, the euro, encompasses about 14 per cent of global GDP when measured in dollar terms.

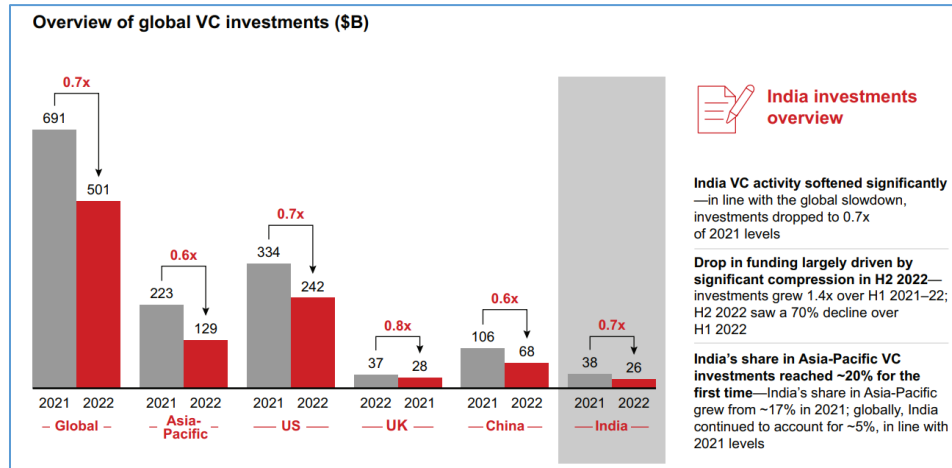


ECONOMY

India Venture Capital Report 2023

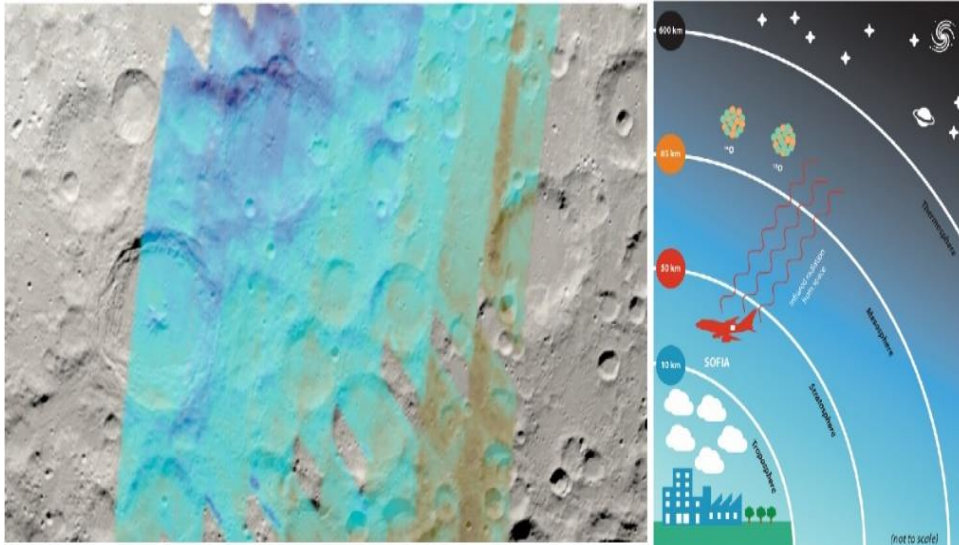
- ❖ Bain & Company released its annual India Venture Capital Report 2023.
- ❖ As per the report, venture capital investments in India saw a decrease in deal value of 33% from \$38.5 billion to \$25.7 billion in 2022.
- ❖ Software-as-a-service and fintech will continue to be significant segments for investors
- ❖ The two sectors together contributed roughly 35% and 25% to the overall funds that came to Indian startups in 2022 and 2021.
- ❖ Investments grew 1.4x over the first half of 2021–2022.

- ❖ It saw a 70% decline in the second half of 2022 compared to the second half of 2021.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

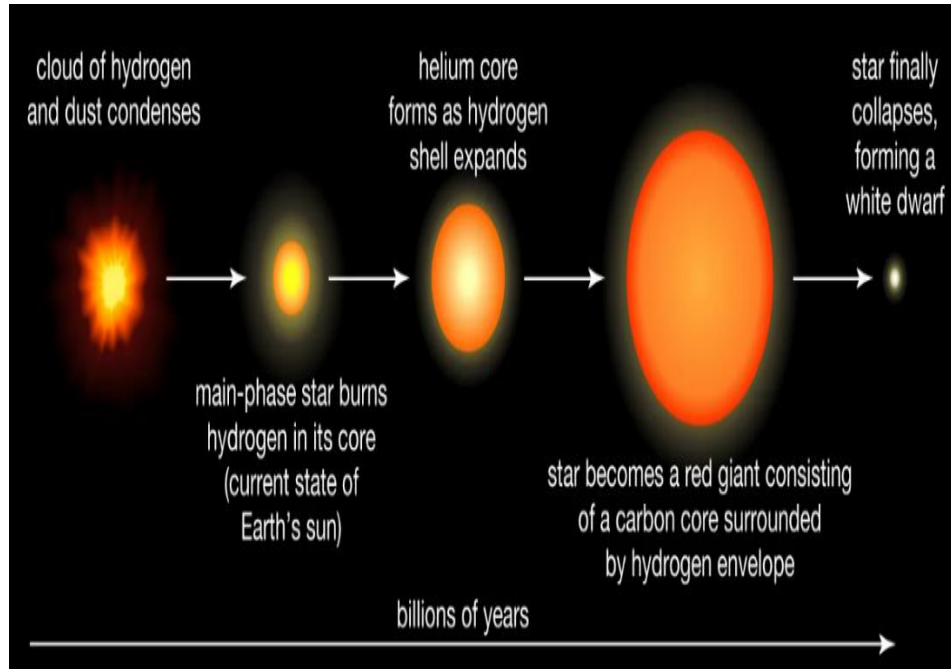
SOFIA Telescope's findings



- ❖ Scientists used Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) to formulate a detailed map displaying the distribution of water on the moon.
- ❖ The telescope also detected heavy atomic oxygen in the upper layers of Earth's atmosphere, the mesosphere, and the lower thermosphere.
- ❖ This is the first-time heavy oxygen has been found outside a laboratory.
- ❖ The oxygen 18 is stable isotope of oxygen.
- ❖ It has eight protons and 10 neutrons.

- ❖ Oxygen-18 is used to determine the temperature at which ice forms at temperatures in Arctic and Antarctic regions.

High-speed process of star formation



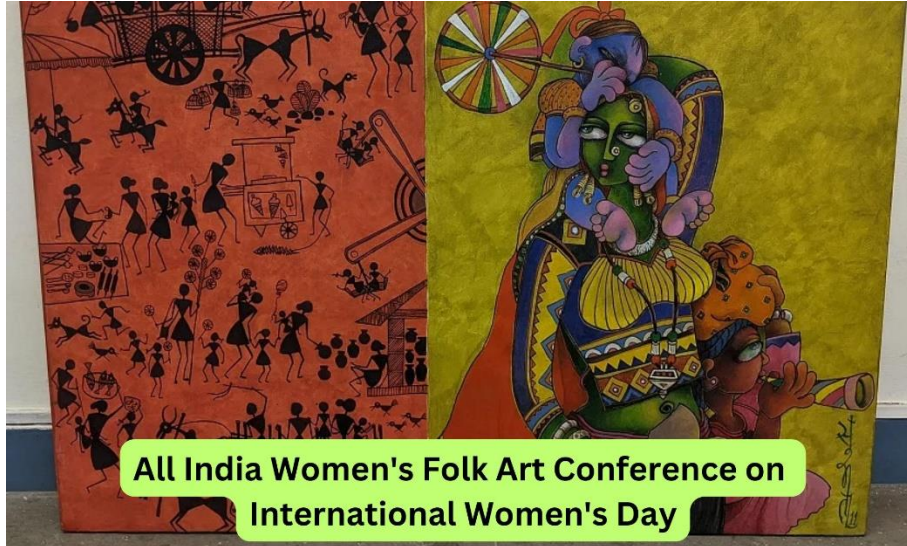
- ❖ SOFIA Telescope have revealed a much more accelerated process of star formation than previously believed.
- ❖ The Cygnus X region is a stellar nursery about 5,000 lightyears from the Earth, with a vast luminous cloud of gas and dust.
- ❖ In the Cygnus X region, the gas clouds were found to consist of dense cores of molecular hydrogen, surrounded by atomic shells.
- ❖ These clouds then interact with each other at high speeds, to dynamically and quickly form new stars.
- ❖ The new findings can better explain the process by which particularly massive stars can be formed.

STATES

All India Women's Folk Art Conference

- ❖ On the occasion of International Women's Day, an All-India Women's Folk Art Conference was organised in Mumbai.

- ❖ It was organised by P. L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Academy, Government of Maharashtra in association with Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- ❖ Two seminars on 'Contribution of Indian Saint Poetess' and 'Folk Art on Silver Screen' also organised during the event.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

First woman to command an army battalion

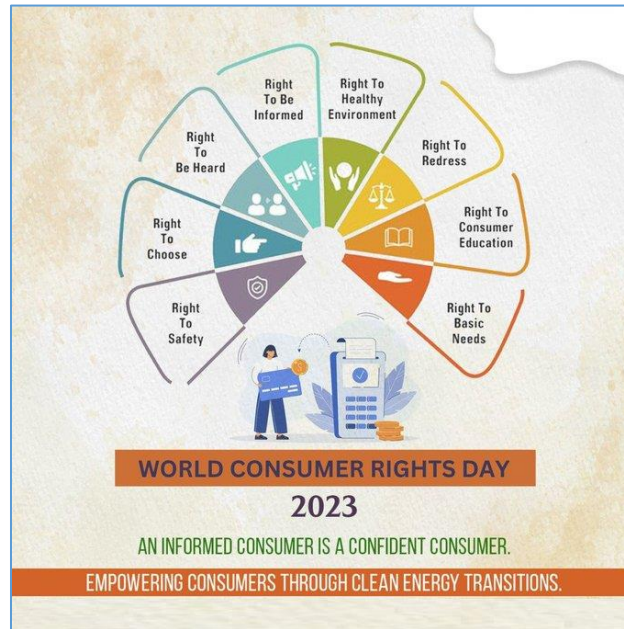


- ❖ Colonel Geeta Rana has taken charge of an independent field workshop in a forward and remote location in eastern Ladakh.
- ❖ A woman officer has, for the first time, taken over the command of an independent unit in the sensitive Ladakh sector.

- ❖ In early January, the army for the first time deployed a woman officer, Captain Shiva Chouhan, at Siachen, the world's highest and coldest battleground.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Consumer Rights Day - March 15

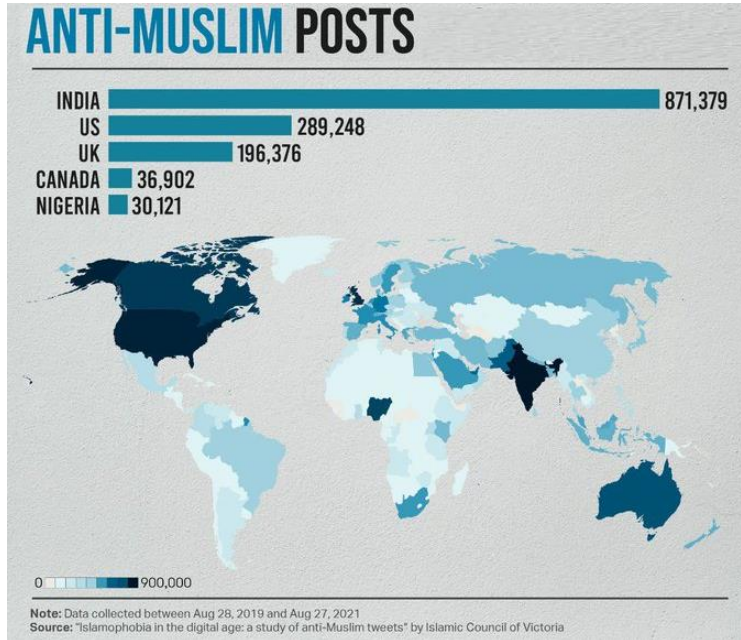


- ❖ The day is observed to create global awareness about the rights and needs of consumers.
- ❖ It aims to recognise consumer rights and ensure that they are respected and protected.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Empowering consumers through clean energy transitions”.
- ❖ World Consumer Rights Day has been inspired by former President of the United States John F Kennedy in 1962 March 15.
- ❖ World Consumer Rights Day was first marked in 1983.
- ❖ On December 9, 1986, the consumer protection act was passed in the Indian Parliament to empower the consumers.

International Day to Combat Islamophobia - March 15

- ❖ The UN General Assembly approved a resolution for setting March 15th as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

- ❖ The resolution was introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- ❖ Islamophobia is a fear, prejudice and hatred of Muslims that leads to provocation, hostility and intolerance.



National Immunization Day - March 16

National Immunization Day | March 16

India vaccinates over **30 million** pregnant women and **26 million** children each year under the **universal immunization programme**

Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 launched to increase immunisation coverage to over 90%

World Health Organization India

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the importance of vaccines in the human health.

- ❖ The day was first observed in 1995 when the government of India officially launched the Pulse Polio Immunisation program to eradicate polio from the country.
- ❖ On March 16, 1995, the first dose of the oral polio vaccine was administered in India.

