

September - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Three years after exiting India, Ford Motor Company announced the revival of its manufacturing facility in Maraimalai Nagar near Chennai to roll out cars for the export market.
- ❖ The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) launched Saarthi, a reference application designed to assist businesses in creating their own customised buyer-side apps, co-developed with Bhashini.
- ❖ The Indian Navy had participated in the 16th edition of Exercise Kakadu 2024 alongside more than 30 nations with the theme of 'Regional Cooperation through Trusted and Proven Partnerships.'
- ❖ Suzlon Energy Ltd has won an order of 1,166 MW, the largest wind energy order in India from NTPC Green Energy Ltd.
- ❖ ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) has developed a mobile app 'Rangeen Machhli' for providing crucial information about ornamental fisheries to fish farmers and aquarium shop owners.
- ❖ The Indian Army contingent is participating the 5th edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise AL NAJAH in Oman.
- ❖ The 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79) has opened on 10 September 2024 and will conclude on 30 September 2024.

TAMIL NADU

Increase of death gratuity

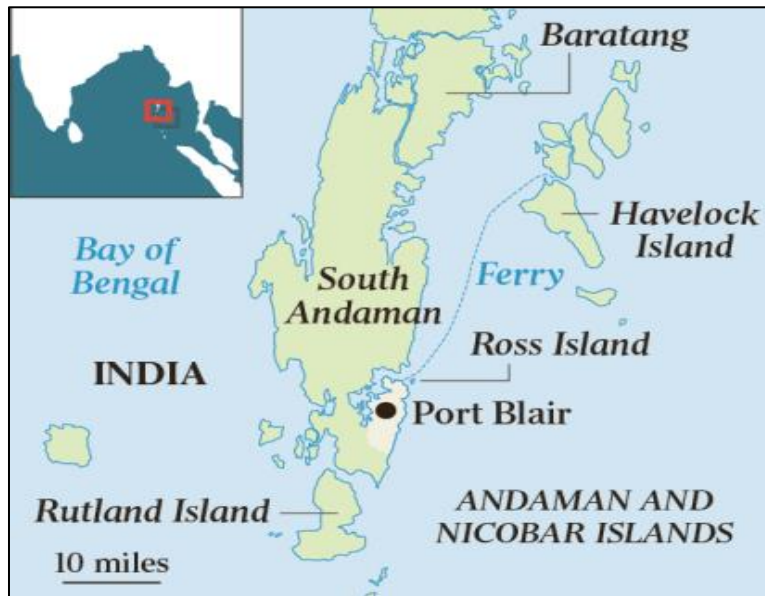
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has recently increased the maximum limit of death-cum-retirement gratuity (known as DCRG) from ₹20 lakh to ₹25 lakh.
- ❖ The revision is to take retrospective effect from January 1 this year.
- ❖ This is in line with the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission.
- ❖ The Government of India was to the effect of 25% with retrospective effect from January 1, 2024.
- ❖ However, it is applicable to only those who get a basic pay of at least ₹84,000 a month would get the retirement or death gratuity.
- ❖ The majority of employees in old pension scheme would not be eligible to receive the enhancement.

- ❖ The pension and gratuity were dealt with by two different Acts and rules – the Tamil Nadu Pension Rules, 1978 and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

GRATUITY CALCULATION FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES	
<p>For employees covered under the Gratuity Act:</p> <p>■ Formula for calculation: $Gratuity = (n \times b \times 15) / 26$</p> <p>n = Tenure of service completed in the company</p> <p>b = Last drawn basic salary + dearness allowance</p> <p>■ Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you have worked for XYZ company for 15 years ● Last drawn basic salary with dearness allowance: ₹30,000 ● Gratuity amount $= (15 \times 30,000 \times 15) / 26$ $= ₹259,615$ 	<p>For employees not covered under the Gratuity Act</p> <p>■ Formula for calculation: $Gratuity = (15 \times \text{your last drawn salary} \times \text{the working tenure}) / 30$</p> <p>■ Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basic salary: ₹30,000 ● Continuous service: 7 years ● Gratuity amount $= (15 \times 30,000 \times 7) / 30$ $= ₹105,000$

NATIONAL

Renaming of Port Blair



- ❖ Port Blair, the capital city of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will now be known as 'Sri Vijaya Puram'.



- ❖ The city of Port Blair is the entry point of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ It was named after Archibald Blair, a naval surveyor and lieutenant in the Bombay Marine.
- ❖ Blair was the first officer to carry out a thorough survey of the Andaman Islands.
- ❖ After joining the Bombay Marine in 1771, Blair set out on a survey mission along the coasts of India, Iran, and Arabia next year.
- ❖ In December 1778, Blair left for his first surveying voyage to the Andamans from Calcutta, along with two ships, Elizabeth and Viper.
- ❖ Historical records suggest that the Andaman Islands were used as a strategic naval base by the 11th century Chola emperor, Rajendra I.
- ❖ It was used to carry out an attack on Srivijaya, which is in present day Indonesia.
- ❖ As per an inscription found at Thanjavur dated to 1050 CE, the Cholas referred to the island as Ma-Nakkavaram land, which possibly led to the modern name of Nicobar under the British.

INTERNATIONAL

Judicial reform bill – Mexico

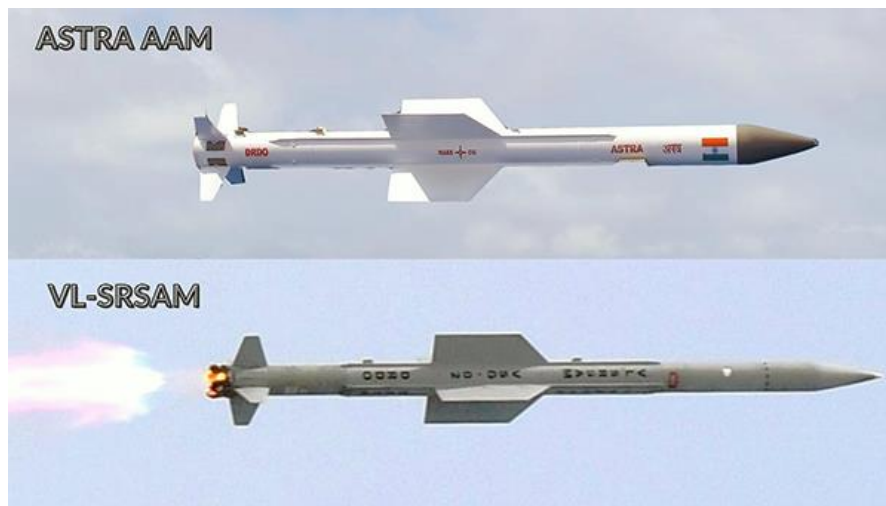


- ❖ Senators in Mexico have approved the controversial Judicial reform bill.
- ❖ Under the new measures, Mexico will become the world's first country to allow voters to elect judges at all levels – including the country's Supreme Court.
- ❖ Judges for the top court have typically been affirmed by the Senate from a shortlist submitted by the president.

- ❖ It has slashed the number of Supreme Court judges to nine from 11, reduced the length of their terms to 12 years.
- ❖ It also abolished a minimum age requirement of 35 and halved necessary work experience to five years, among other things.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VL-SRSAM Missile 2024



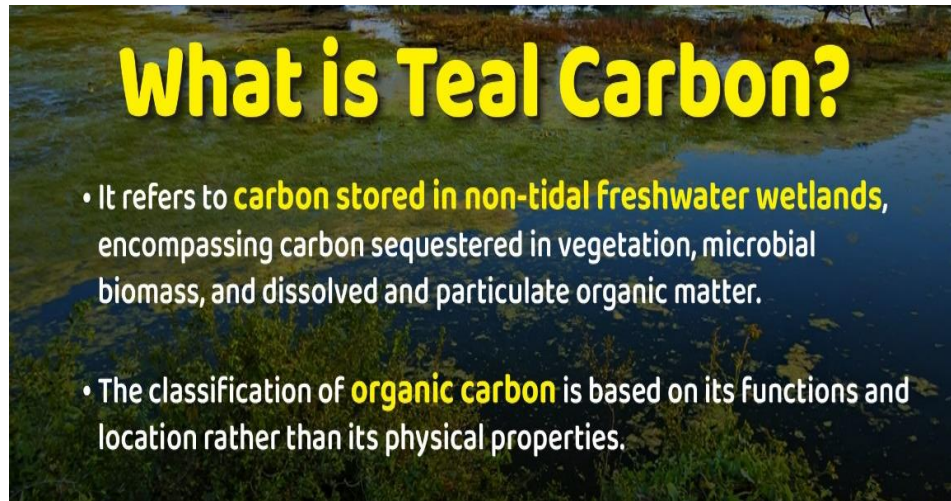
- ❖ DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully conducted the flight test of the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).
- ❖ VL-SRSAM is a quick reaction missile, which can identify and neutralise threats coming from all directions.
- ❖ Initially designed for the Indian Navy for a strike range of 40 km, it can now attack targets up to 80 km.
- ❖ With a maximum speed of Mach 4.5, the weapon system can reach an altitude of 16 km.

ENVIRONMENT

India's first study on 'teal carbon'

- ❖ India's first study on 'teal carbon' was undertaken at the Keoladeo National Park (KNP) in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district.
- ❖ The pilot project had sought to develop holistic nature-based solutions to address climate change.

- ❖ Teal carbon refers to carbon stored in the non-tidal freshwater wetlands, encompassing carbon sequestered in vegetation, microbial biomass, and the dissolved and particulate organic matter.
- ❖ 'Teal carbon' being a colour-based terminology reflects the classification of the organic carbon based on its functions and location rather than its physical properties.
- ❖ As opposed to teal carbon, black and brown carbon are primarily produced by incomplete combustion of organic matter from sources such as wild fires, fossil fuel combustion, and industrial activities.



India's second largest butterfly species



- ❖ India's second largest butterfly species, Southern Birdwing, has been found in Madurai district.
- ❖ India's largest butterfly species, the Golden Birdwing is widely found in the Himalayan region.
- ❖ The Southern Birdwing can be seen in Western and Eastern Ghats regions.

- ❖ These species are found in abundance in Sirumalai hills near Dindigul.

Veli-Akkulam Lake



- ❖ A new study has revealed significant ecological degradation in the Veli-Akkulam Lake, primarily driven by bio invasion.
- ❖ The research employed the Eco path Model to assess the ecological efficiency and food web structure.
- ❖ It revealed a decline in the Veli-Akkulam lake's indigenous aquatic species and an increase in invasive species.
- ❖ By the 2000s, the native species were replaced by the exotic and invasive Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*), which has now been overtaken by the Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*).

STATES

AYUSH doctors in PHCs

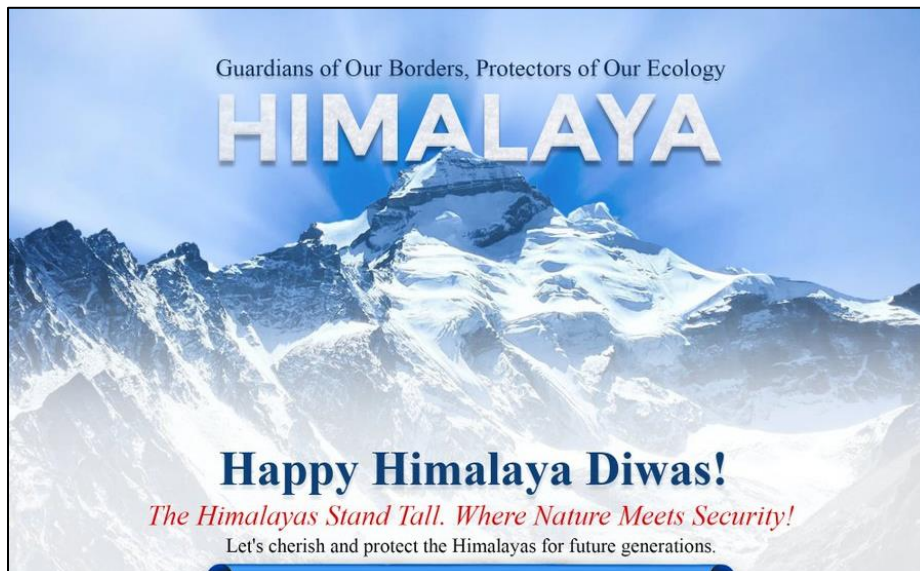
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has topped among States for having AYUSH facilities at all 328 primary health centers in urban areas.
- ❖ In tribal pockets, there are AYUSH doctors available at 228 primary and community health centers, placing the State third at national level.
- ❖ Odisha ranks first with 296 AYUSH doctors and Chhattisgarh is second with 279.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has been among the first six states in India to have significantly increased the number of sub-health centers in rural areas since 2005.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is among the top three states in terms of the number of sub-divisional and district hospitals.

- ❖ The state has 144 sub-divisional hospitals, with Tamil Nadu leading with 281 and Karnataka second with 147.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh also ranks second in the number of district hospitals with 52, following Uttar Pradesh (125) and ahead of Delhi (40).



IMPORTANT DAYS

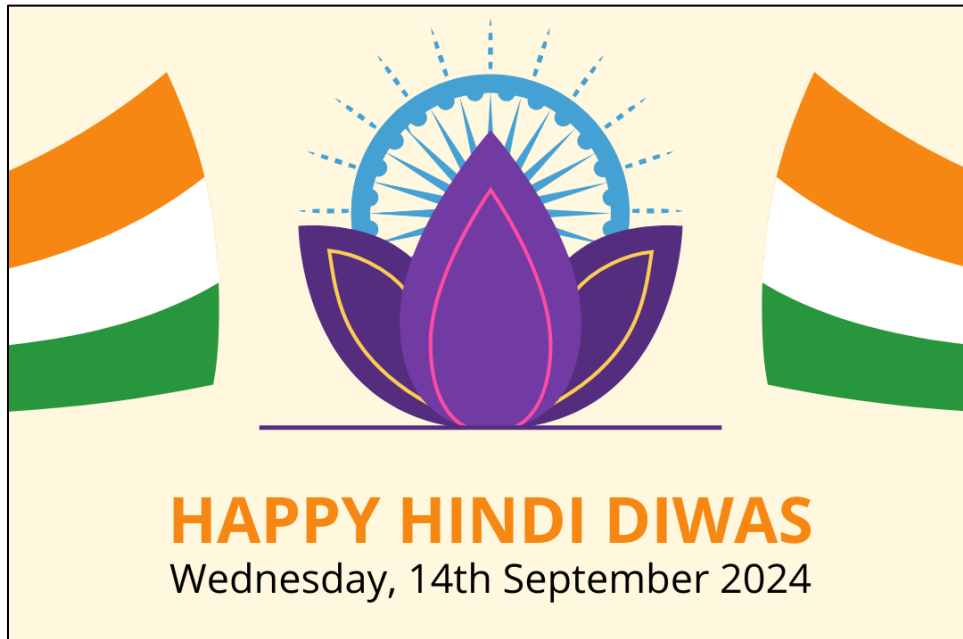
Himalaya Diwas 2024 - September 09



- ❖ This is launched by the Uttarakhand Government in 2014.
- ❖ It aims encourages sustainable practices to protect this crucial region.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Sustainable Himalayas: Preserving Nature and Culture”.

- ❖ The Himalayan Range spans 2400 kilometres from the west-northwest to east-southeast.
- ❖ The Himalayas are the world's youngest mountain ranges, dating back around 70 million years.
- ❖ The Himalayas cover an area of about 4.2 million square kilometres and hold the most snow and ice after the North and South poles.

Hindi Diwas 2024 - September 14



- ❖ On September 14, 1949, Hindi was given the status of an official language of the country.
- ❖ It aims to promote the use of Hindi language and make people aware of its importance.
- ❖ About 60.88 million people all over the world use Hindi language as the native language.

