

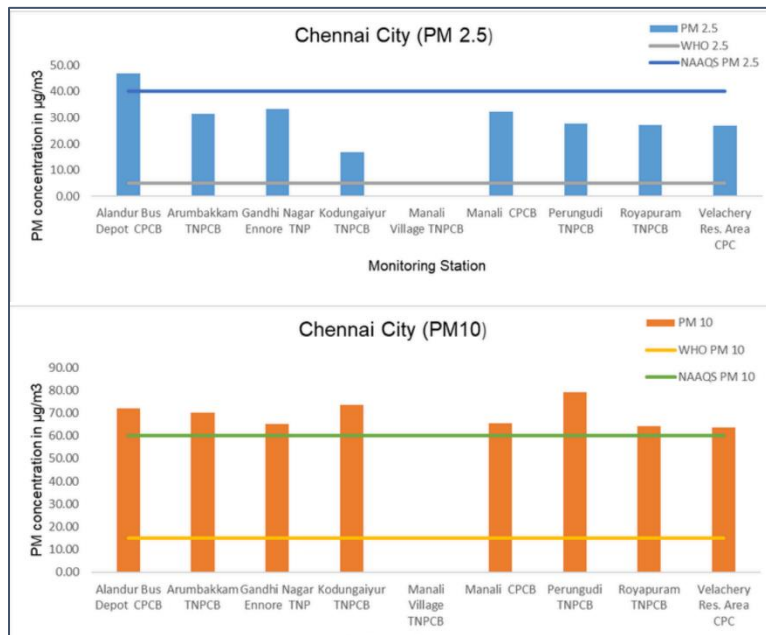
September - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ To improve the infrastructure and facilities at government schools across Tamil Nadu, the State Bank of India (SBI) has contributed ₹1.37 crore to the 'Namma School Namma Ooru Palli' programme.
- ❖ The 3-day 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet (RE-INVEST) 2024 was held in Gujarat's Gandhinagar.
- ❖ Typhoon Bebinca (named by Japan) has made landfall in Shanghai, the strongest storm to hit China's biggest city since 1949.
- ❖ The third edition of the INDUS-X Summit was held in the United States.
- ❖ UNEP's scientific assessment report projects that global stratospheric ozone will return to 1980 levels around 2040.
- ❖ India holds bilateral meetings with the USA, Brazil, Germany, the UK, Japan, Spain, and UAE on the sidelines of the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting in Brazil.

TAMIL NADU

Chennai's air pollution 2024



- ❖ The report titled 'Spare the Air 2.0' compared the air quality to World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

- ❖ The annual average level of PM2.5 is six to seven times higher in six cities, including Chennai.
- ❖ In Chennai, the monthly average trend indicated that PM2.5 levels are four to seven times higher.
- ❖ The PM10 levels are up to six times higher than WHO annual guidelines.
- ❖ The annual average NAAQS standard for PM10 is 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, while the WHO standard is 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- ❖ For PM2.5, the NAAQS standard is 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, compared to the WHO standard of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

NATIONAL

BHASKAR platform



- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is set to unveil Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) soon.
- ❖ It is a new digital platform designed to enhance and support India's start-up ecosystem.
- ❖ It will help unlock the potential of India's startup ecosystem, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation.
- ❖ India is the third-largest startup hub globally after the U.S. and China and it has over 1,46,000 recognized startups.

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre

- ❖ The Centre has launched 4 new initiatives under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) on its foundation day (September 10).

- ❖ It aims to make the fight against cybercrime more robust, effective and successful.
- ❖ The I4C scheme was approved in 2018 and dedicated to the nation in 2020.
- ❖ The 4 new initiatives are:
 - Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre.
 - ‘Cyber Commandos’ Program.
 - Samanvay Platform (Joint Cybercrime Investigation Facilitation System).
 - Cyber Suspect Registry



Operation Sadbhav



- ❖ India has launched Operation Sadbhav to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) to Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- ❖ These countries have been hit by severe flooding caused by Typhoon Yagi.

- ❖ India has committed \$1mn worth of flood relief assistance to Vietnam and \$1,00,000 worth of assistance to Laos.
- ❖ Typhoon Yagi (named by Japan), which has been termed the strongest tropical cyclone, hit Asia in 2024.

INTERNATIONAL

Turkey in BRICS



- ❖ Turkey recently requested to join the BRICS alliance.
- ❖ BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- ❖ It is a group of emerging market countries that seek to deepen their economic ties.
- ❖ This year, it gained four new members: Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE.
- ❖ Turkey has been a longtime Western ally and NATO member since 1952.
- ❖ Turkey has faced consistent rejection from joining the EU.

ECONOMY

Floor Price on Basmati Rice

- ❖ The Government of India has now decided to completely remove the floor price on Basmati Rice exports.
- ❖ The government on August 27, 2023, decided not to allow exports of basmati rice below USD 1,200 per tonne.

- ❖ In October last year, the government has reduced the floor price for basmati rice exports to USD 950 per tonne from USD 1,200 per tonne.
- ❖ India's total exports of basmati rice stood at USD 4.8 billion in 2022-23 in terms of price, while in volume terms it was at 45.6 lakh tonne.

Price Ceiling	Price Floor
Upper price limit imposed by the government	Lower price limit imposed by the government
Imposed on necessary items like wheat, rice, kerosene, etc.	Imposed on agricultural goods like Paddy, coconut, etc., and minimum wages for workers
It will always be less than equilibrium price	It will be more than equilibrium price
Creation of excess demand	Creation of excess supply
Fair price shops are opened	Excessively demanded quantity may be purchased by the government

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Polaris dawn mission



- ❖ The Polaris Dawn mission, a landmark journey in private space exploration, concluded with a successful splashdown in Florida.
- ❖ This mission marked the highest altitude ever reached by a crewed spacecraft since 1972 and the first commercial spacewalk.

- ❖ Polaris Dawn ascended to an impressive altitude of 870 miles.
- ❖ This is more than three times higher than the International Space Station.
- ❖ This is the furthest, the humans had ever travelled from Earth since the Apollo missions to the Moon.
- ❖ During the historic spacewalk, Isaacman and Gillis have tested SpaceX's new spacesuits, assessing their functionality and mobility.

STATES

9th Ladakh Zanskar Festival 2024



- ❖ The 9th Ladakh Zanskar Festival 2024 was celebrated in the Zanskar district of Ladakh.
- ❖ This is the first celebration since Zanskar was officially declared a district.
- ❖ Zanskar is one of the known Buddhist kingdoms of the western Himalayas.
- ❖ Its highlights include the performances by the Purgi tribes from Kargil, the Shina community of Drass, the Dard-Aryans from Aryan Valley, and the Changpa nomads from Changthang.

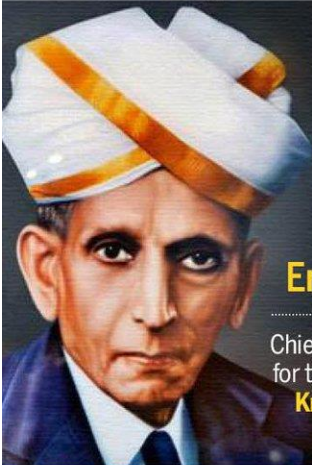
IMPORTANT DAYS

National Engineer Day 2024 - September 15

- ❖ This day commemorates the birth anniversary of Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

- ❖ Among his most notable achievements are the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.
- ❖ He received the Bharat Ratna in the year 1955 and was also conferred the British knighthood.
- ❖ He served as Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918.
- ❖ In 1968, the Government of India declared this day.
- ❖ In addition to India, Engineer's Day is also observed in Sri Lanka and Tanzania on September 15.

Celebrated engineer and scholar **M Visvesvaraya** was born on Sept 15, 1860



A STALWART OF INDIAN ENGINEERING

His birthday is celebrated as **Engineer's Day**

Chief engineer responsible for the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagara dam in Mysore**

Designed and patented the automatic **weir water floodgates**, first installed at the **Khadakwasla Reservoir, Pune in 1903**

Designed a **flood protection system** for Hyderabad, giving him celebrity status

Received the **Bharat Ratna** in 1955

Lived till the **age of 101**

International Day of Democracy 2024 - September 15

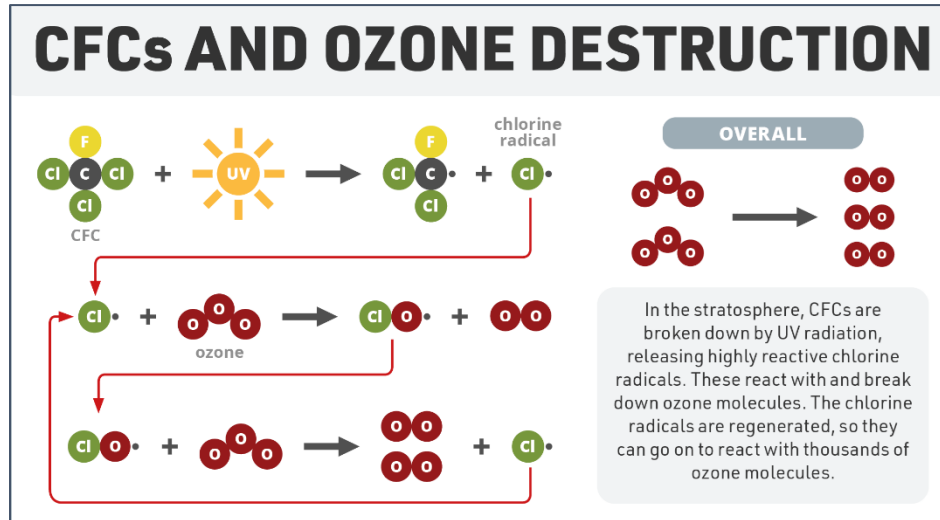


" Ensuring effective governance of Artificial Intelligence at all levels ".

- ❖ This special day was established by the UN General Assembly in 2007 to promote and strengthen democratic values.

- ❖ In 1997, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted the Universal Declaration on Democracy.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Artificial Intelligence as a tool for good governance'.

World Ozone Day 2024 - September 16



- ❖ On September 16, 2009, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol became the first treaties in United Nations history to be universally ratified.
- ❖ Ozone (O₃) is a reactive gas, consisting of three oxygen atoms.
- ❖ It can be natural or man-made and found in the Earth's high atmosphere (stratosphere).
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions".
- ❖ The Montreal Protocol was adopted on September 16, 1987.
- ❖ It is the multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the production and consumption of man-made chemicals referred to as ozone-depleting substances (ODS).
- ❖ The stratospheric ozone layer is damaged by these ODS.

MISCELLANEOUS

Unemployment and risk of heart disease

- ❖ An ICMR-led study found that those unemployed were at a significantly higher risk, followed by those having high blood sugar levels.
- ❖ The Men were twice as likely as women to have more than a 10% chance of heart disease.

- ❖ High blood sugar increases the risk of heart disease significantly
- ❖ Women faced an 85% higher risk, while men had a 77% higher risk.
- ❖ Only 54% of the unemployed had a low risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), compared to 87-88% of employed people and homemakers.

