

September - 27

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is set to open two more mini TIDEL parks — one in Thanjavur (1<sup>st</sup> in delta) and another in Salem.
- ❖ Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park in Maharashtra's Amravati.
- ❖ The second edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 14th edition of the Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship is taking place in Chandigarh.
- ❖ Tata Steel successfully commissioned India's largest blast furnace at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district, Odisha.
- ❖ The union government has approved a joint venture (ASHVINI) between NPCIL and NTPC to build four 700 MWe nuclear power plants at Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan.
- ❖ India's third home-built 700 MWe nuclear power reactor has achieved criticality and is set to start commercial electricity generation soon.
- ❖ ICMR has received the prestigious 2024 UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award for achievements in advancing multi-sectoral action on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health.
- ❖ The Union health ministry has proposed mandatory display of "non-skippable" anti-tobacco health spots of at least 30 seconds and audio-visual disclaimer on ill-effects of tobacco use for 20 seconds on OTT platforms.
- ❖ The USA has hosted the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad summit, which comprises India, the United States, Australia and Japan.

## NATIONAL

### **INSPIRE – MANAK Program**

- ❖ The 11<sup>th</sup> National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) of INSPIRE–MANAK winners were felicitated in New Delhi.
- ❖ Notably, 52% of the participants were girls, is further underlining the inclusive nature of the initiative.
- ❖ It is a flagship scheme under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India.

- ❖ The scheme promotes creativity and innovation, helping students address societal needs and become responsible citizens and leaders.



**INSPIRE AWARDS  
MANAK**

Targeting **1 million** original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications

Eligibility:  
**Students of age group 10-15 years**

Contest period:  
**Every year until 31st July**

For details visit:  
<http://nif.org.in>

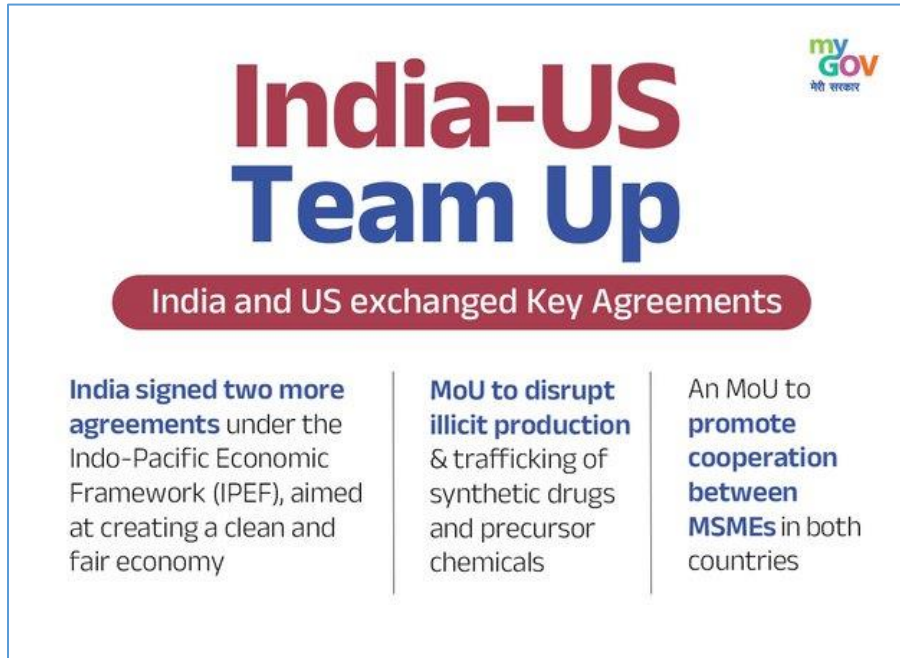
### **Amrit Catla Fish**



- ❖ A genetically-improved variety of catla fish (*Labeo catla*) unveiled at Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ It has demonstrated its ability to reach an average weight of 1.8 kg in polyculture systems, compared to 1.2 kg for local strains in one year.
- ❖ It aims to enhance fish seed quality and income of fish farmers.

- ❖ During the event, the 'Rangeen Machhli' app, a digital platform for the ornamental fisheries sectors was also launched.

### Key IPEF Agreements



**India-US Team Up**

India and US exchanged Key Agreements

<b>India signed two more agreements</b> under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), aimed at creating a clean and fair economy	<b>MoU to disrupt illicit production</b> & trafficking of synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals	An MoU to <b>promote cooperation between MSMEs</b> in both countries
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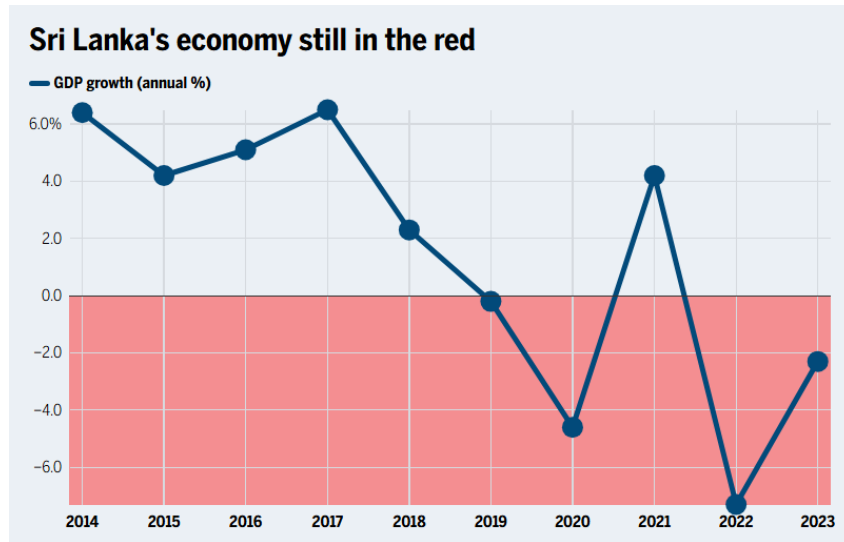
- ❖ India has signed three Key agreements under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).
- ❖ These agreements are focusing on the pillars of Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and an overarching IPEF administrative framework.
- ❖ Framework of IPEF was launched on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo.
- ❖ IPEF is an initiative aimed at enhancing economic cooperation and engagement among its 14 member countries.
- ❖ The framework is structured around four key pillars -Trade (Pillar I), Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II), Clean Economy (Pillar III), and Fair Economy (Pillar IV).

## INTERNATIONAL

### New President of Sri Lanka 2024

- ❖ Sri Lanka has elected Anura Kumara Dissanayake as its new president.
- ❖ This is marking the first time in the country's history that a Marxist leader has assumed the role.

- ❖ His party earlier, vehemently opposed the Indo-Lanka accord of 1987 – signed by Sri Lanka's then-president JR Jayewardene and India's Rajiv Gandhi.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### New blood group system – MAL



**New MAL blood type discovered  
after 50 years of mystery,  
becomes the 47th system.**

- ❖ Scientists have identified a new blood group system called MAL, solving a 50-year-old mystery about the AnWj antigen.

- ❖ This discovery will improve care for rare patients and help find compatible blood donors.
- ❖ This invention addresses a mystery that has persisted for nearly 50 years concerning the AnWj blood group antigen, first noticed in 1972.
- ❖ MAL is now recognized as the 47th blood group system, encompassing the AnWj antigen.

### **Chang'e-6 Mission's Lunar Soil Samples**

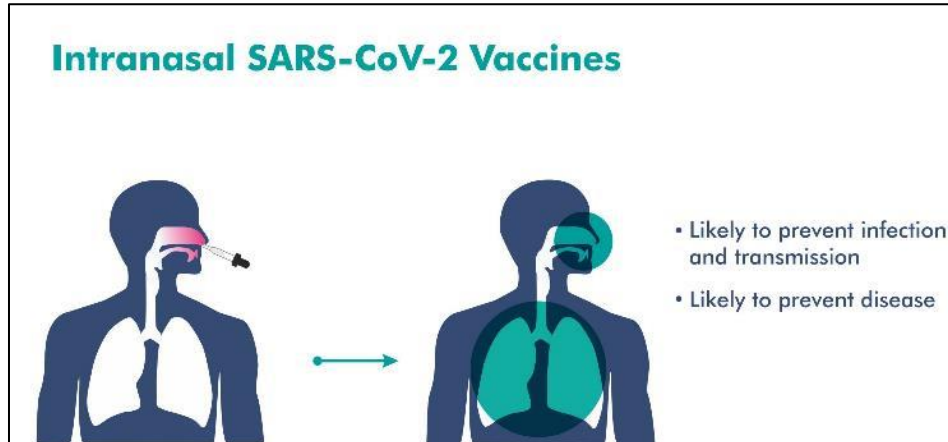


- ❖ This year, China became the first and so far, the only country to collect samples from the far side of the Moon.
- ❖ It collected over 1.9 kg (4.26 pounds) of lunar material from the South Pole-Aitken basin, the Moon's largest, deepest, and oldest impact basin.
- ❖ The study discovered that the far side is composed of basalts and foreign ejecta, distinct from previously collected lunar samples.
- ❖ The soil also contains more light-coloured particles like feldspar and glass compared to the samples collected by the 2020 Chang'e 5 near side mission.
- ❖ This shows that the far side of the moon has experienced a variety of volcanic and impact events, making its history different from other parts of the moon.

### **Needle-free COVID-19 vaccine**

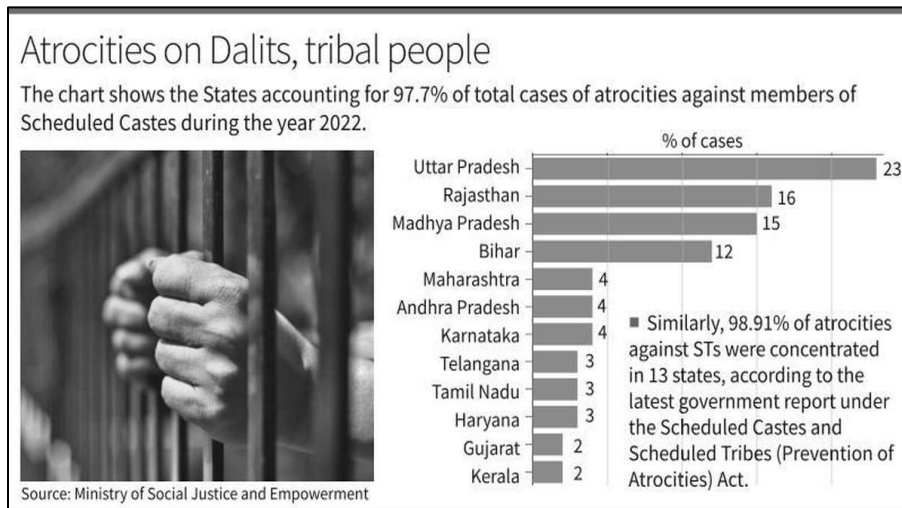
- ❖ The India-Australia collaboration has developed a needle-free intra-nasal booster vaccine against SARS-CoV-2.

- ❖ This live-attenuated booster has been developed using ‘codon de- optimisation’ technology.
- ❖ Codon de-optimisation involves decreasing the frequency of under-represented codon pairs (genetic determinants for amino acids) without changing the amino acid sequences.



## STATES

### Atrocities against SCs in 2022



- ❖ The recent report has revealed that Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 2022.
- ❖ 97.7 per cent of all cases of atrocities against SCs were recorded in 13 states.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh accounted for 12,287 cases, or 23.78 per cent of the total.

- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan with 8,651 cases (16.75 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh with 7,732 cases (14.97 per cent).
- ❖ Other states with a significant number of cases include Bihar with 6,799 cases (13.16 per cent), Odisha with 3,576 cases (6.93 per cent), and Maharashtra with 2,706 cases (5.24 per cent).
- ❖ These six states alone accounted for nearly 81 per cent of the total cases reported under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 2022.
- ❖ The report further highlighted that the majority of cases of atrocities against STs were concentrated in 13 states.
- ❖ Out of 9,735 cases involving STs, Madhya Pradesh reported 2,979 cases (30.61 per cent).
- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan reported 2,498 cases (25.66 per cent), and Odisha recorded 773 cases (7.94 per cent).

## SPORTS

### Chess Olympiad 2024



- ❖ India has won a double gold medal at 45th Chess Olympiad 2024, Hungary.

- ❖ GMs Gukesh Dommaraju, Arjun Erigaisi, and Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu all won as the Indian men wrapped up gold.
- ❖ India trumped Azerbaijan in the final round to claim a first-ever gold medal in the women's section.
- ❖ India also retained the Gaprindashvili Trophy, awarded to the team with the best overall performance across the open and women's sections.
- ❖ D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Divya Deshmukh also won individual gold medals.
- ❖ The Chess Olympiad is a biennial chess tournament in which teams representing nations of the world compete.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### FTI-TTP program



- ❖ The Indira Gandhi International Airport has recently introduced a fast-track immigration program for certain passengers at Terminal 3.
- ❖ The Fast Track Immigration Trusted Travellers Program (FTI-TTP) is designed to reduce the wait period for frequent and trusted travellers during international trips.
- ❖ It is only verified for Indian nationals and Overseas citizens of India (OCI) cardholders.
- ❖ The program is expected to reduce the immigration process from 15-20 minutes to a few seconds.
- ❖ The FTI-TTP will be launched in other cities too in the coming months.

