

September - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Madras High Court Acting Chief Justice D. Krishnakumar administered the oath of office to three judicial officers R. Poornima, M. Jothiraman and Augustine Devadoss Maria Clete as additional judges of the High Court for a period of two years.
- ❖ Playback singer P. Susheela and poet Mu Metha will get the Kalaignar Memorial Kalaithurai Vithakar Viruthu for 2023 to mark the centenary of former CM M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is planning to create a London's Hyde Park-like low-maintenance urban park in Guindy.
- ❖ The Indian scientists have developed a sustainable pheromone dispenser with a controlled release rate which could act as an innovative solution to substantially reduce the costs of pest control and management.
- ❖ The International Center for Research and Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (ICAIRE) was classified as a Category 2 (C2) centre under UNESCO's auspices.
- ❖ The Kiran Rao directorial Laapataa Ladies (“Missing Women”) became India’s official entry for the Best International Feature Film category at the 97th Academy Awards or the Oscars.
- ❖ Harini Amarasuriya (54) was sworn in as the 16th prime minister of Sri Lanka.
 - She is the third woman politician from Sri Lanka to hold the office of the prime minister.

TAMIL NADU

Organ Donation Day in Tamil Nadu - September 23

- ❖ The practice of observing September 23 as Organ Donation Day began in Tamil Nadu after the tragic death of 15-year-old AP Hitendran in 2008.
- ❖ Since the inception of the deceased donor organ transplant programme in 2008, there were 1,998 donors in the State.
- ❖ A total of 7,207 major organs, including 892 hearts, 912 lungs, 1,794 liver, 3,544 kidneys, 42 pancreas, 15 small bowels and seven hands, were utilised so far.
- ❖ A total of 4,204 tissues were retrieved and utilised, he said.
- ❖ CM had announced State honours for the mortal remains of deceased donors on September 23, 2023.

- ❖ Since then, the honours were accorded to 272 deceased donors from whom 1,461 organs were retrieved.
- ❖ The state has retrieved 7,200 organs from 1,988 donors over the past 16 years.



NATIONAL

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' App



- ❖ The Union government has launched 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' app.
- ❖ This app aims to promote environmental conservation while celebrating the bond between mothers and their children.

- ❖ It is a unique platform where users can plant and dedicate a tree in honour of their mothers.
- ❖ The app automatically records the location, latitude, longitude, and timestamp of the dedicated tree.

Robotic Dog - Indian Army

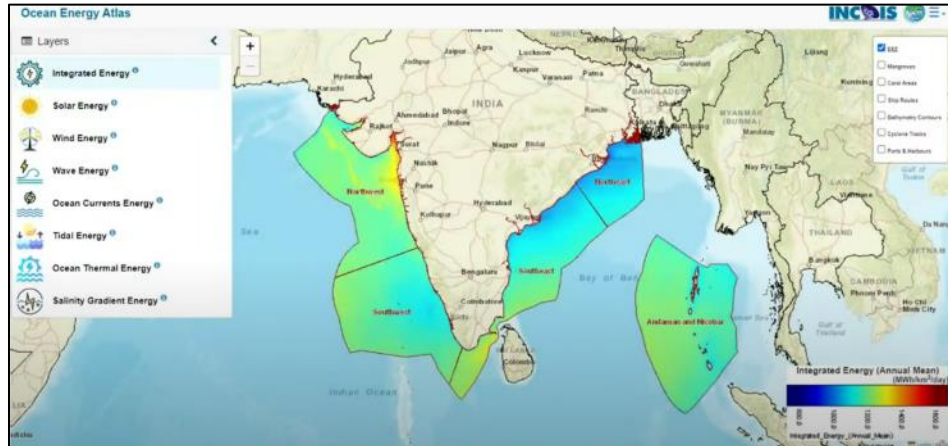
- ❖ The Army has procured and inducted 100 robotic mules (multi-utility legged equipment) to support and movement to forward areas, especially in the higher altitudes.
- ❖ A new tent for high-altitude areas is under evaluation for the deployment at temperatures up to -40 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The robotic mule is a high-endurance, agile and durable all-weather ground robot for use in a broad range of unstructured urban and natural environments for defence applications.



Integrated Ocean energy atlas

- ❖ The Researchers at the Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) have developed the Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas.
- ❖ It maps sites along India's coastline with the potential to generate energy from blue renewable sources like tidal waves and currents.
- ❖ It provides estimated values of renewable energy that can be generated from either individual or integrated blue renewable sources at potential sites along the coast.

- ❖ Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) holds the potential to generate about 9.2 lakh terawatt hours (TWh) from multiple blue renewable energy sources.
- ❖ India has a vast coastline of over 7,000 km that offers ample scope for the energy generation.



INTERNATIONAL

Cancer Moonshot Initiative

**Uniting for a
Cancer-Free Future**

Quad Cancer Moonshot event

Praised the initiative to improve cervical cancer care in the Indo-Pacific

India announced \$7.5M for cancer testing and diagnostics

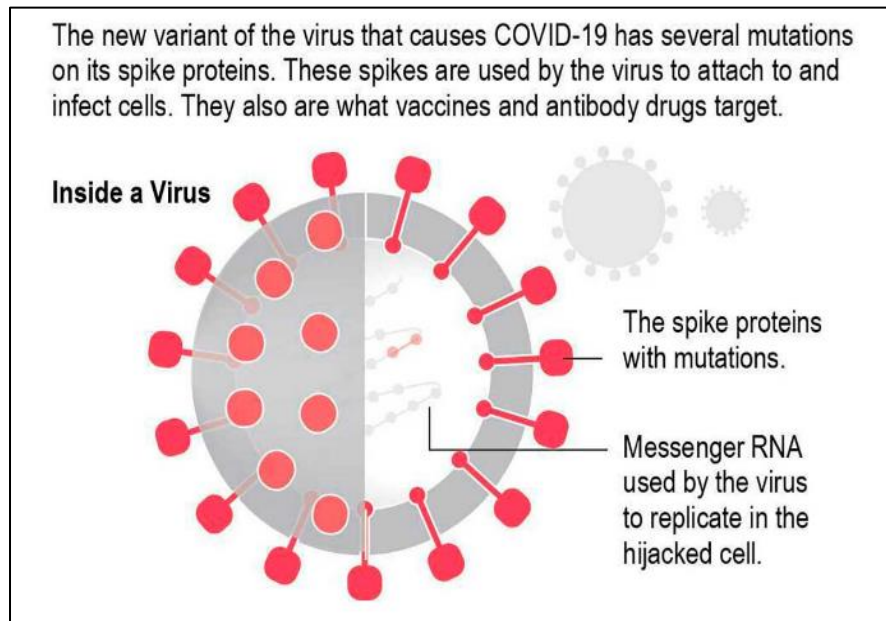
Committed to supplying 40 million vaccine doses through GAVI & QUAD programs

Emphasized Quad's efforts prioritize people's health & well-being

- ❖ The Quad grouping launched a cancer initiative globally called the Quad Cancer Moonshot Initiative.
- ❖ It will focus on
 - Expanding cervical cancer screening;

- Increasing vaccinations against the human papillomavirus, or HPV, a common sexually transmitted infection that is the primary cause of cervical cancer; and
 - Treating patients.
- ❖ India has dedicated a grant of US \$7.5 million to cancer testing, screening, and diagnostics in the Indo-Pacific region.

New COVID Variant XEC



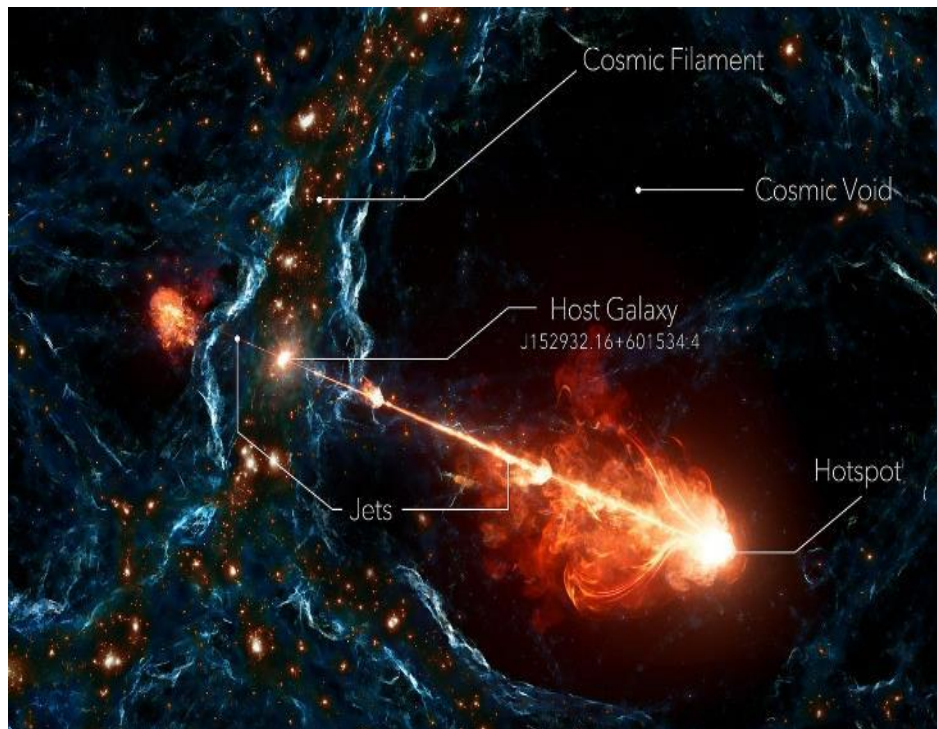
- ❖ The latest strain, identified as the COVID-19 XEC variant, has garnered attention from health experts and has concerned public.
- ❖ The recombinant strain of two closely related variants called KS.1.1 and KP.3.3 - both descendants of JN.1 strain, collectively known as XEC.
- ❖ The new Covid-19 variant XEC has a bunch of additional mutations, which means it is more infectious than other strains.
- ❖ In total the variant has been spotted in 27 countries.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Supermassive Black hole 2024

- ❖ The Scientists have discovered two colossal beams of energy emerging from a supermassive black hole in a distant galaxy.
- ❖ These jets are the largest ever recorded.

- ❖ They are extending about 23 million light-years, approximately 140 times the diameter of the Milky Way.
- ❖ The black hole resides at the heart of a galaxy about 7.5 billion light-years from Earth.
- ❖ A light-year is the distance light travels in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km).
- ❖ The researchers have nicknamed these two jets Porphyryon named after a giant from ancient Greek mythology.
- ❖ Porphyryon is about 30% longer than the previous record-holder for such jets.



ENVIRONMENT

White Rhinos status 2024

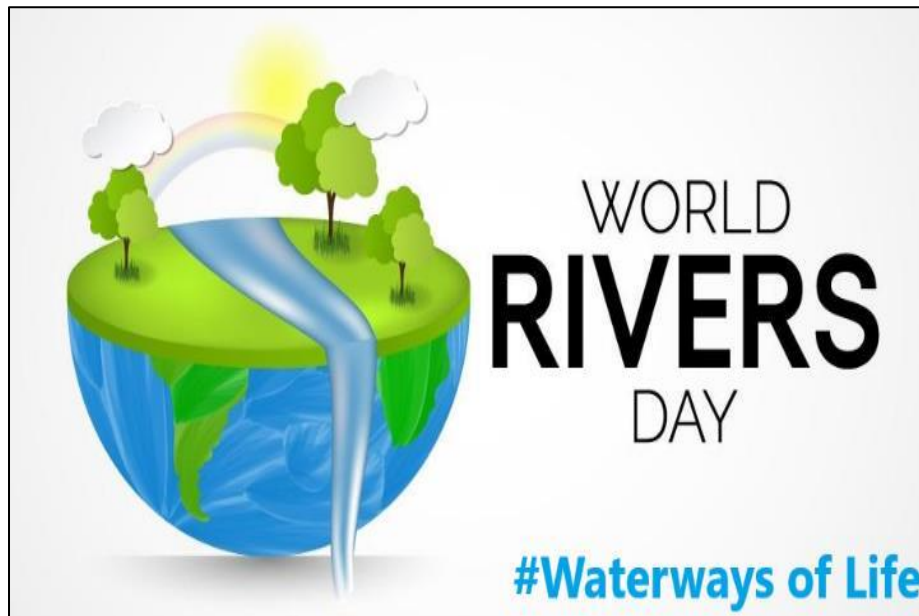
- ❖ The white rhino is also known as the Square-lipped rhino due to the shape of its mouth compared with its African cousin, the black rhino.
- ❖ There are two subspecies of white rhino:
 - Southern white rhinos: *Ceratotherium simum simum*
 - Northern white rhinos: *Ceratotherium simum cottoni*
- ❖ The Southern white rhino is one of the more prevalent species, with a population of approximately 17,000 individuals.

- ❖ The Northern white rhino is Critically Endangered with only two individuals left, living at Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World River Day 2024 - September 22



- ❖ This day is annually observed on the fourth Sunday of September.

- ❖ This day provides a platform for reflecting on the essential role rivers play in sustaining life on Earth.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2005, initiated by the International River Network.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Waterways of Life."

International Sign Language Day 2024 - September 23



- ❖ The day is marked to raise awareness about the rights of the deaf community and other sign language users.
- ❖ According to the United Nations (UN), they are fully-fledged natural languages, distinct from spoken languages.
- ❖ It commemorates the establishment of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) in 1951.
- ❖ The day was first celebrated in 2018 as part of the International Week of the Deaf.
- ❖ The theme for the 2024 is 'Sign up for Sign Language Rights'.

World Gorilla Day 2024 - September 24

- ❖ It aims to celebrate these amazing animals and to take actions to protect them.
- ❖ The word 'gorilla' was first used in 1847 by two people—Thomas Staughton Savage, a doctor, and Jeffries Wyman, a naturalist.
- ❖ Exactly 1,063 mountain gorillas are known to remain in the wild today.
- ❖ Mountain gorillas live in east-central Africa in just two isolated groups – one in the Virunga Volcanoes and one in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda.

- ❖ Males between 8-12 years are called 'blackbacks'.
- ❖ Then from 12 years old, they develop a silver section of hair over their back and hips, earning them the name 'silverback'.



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