

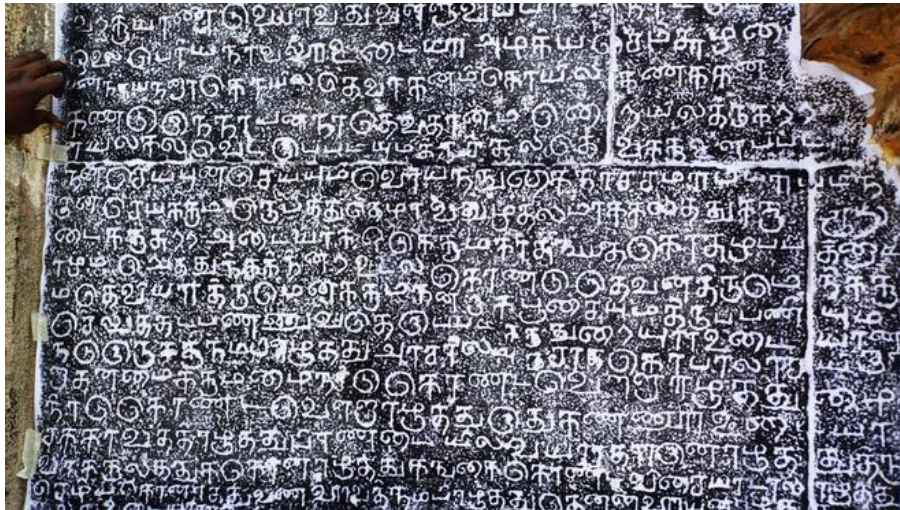
December - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Assam Forest Department captured the first photographic evidence of a Royal Bengal Tiger in Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ RBI plans to enable Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to offer pre-approved credit lines via UPI.
- ❖ India has co-sponsored a UN General Assembly draft resolution that was unanimously adopted to proclaim December 21 as World Meditation Day.
- ❖ The Fertiliser producer IFFCO, which has introduced nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP, has now developed nano NPK nutrient.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil inscriptions from Alathudaiyanpatti temple

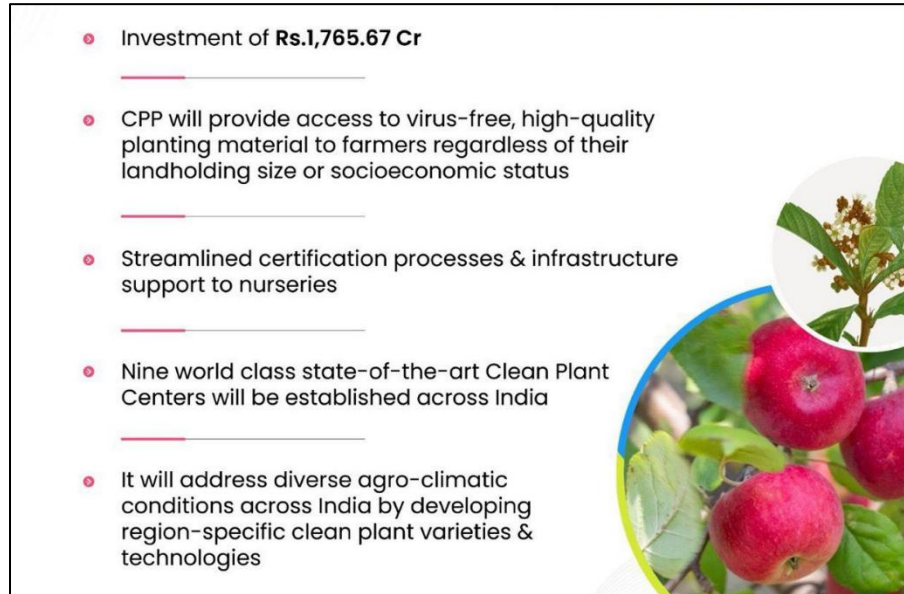


- ❖ The Tamilnadu state Epigraphy Division has recently deciphered two inscriptions copied from Arulmigu Somanathar Temple at Alathudaiyanpatti near Thuraiyur in Tiruchi district.
- ❖ The inscriptions were dated back to the Chola period.
- ❖ The two inscriptions written in Tamil were deciphered by the experts recently and found to be dating back to 13th century.
- ❖ One inscription has information about giving orders to Thirugnanasammandha Pandidhar for a specific period to carry out thirupani in the temple.
- ❖ It dates back to the period of Chola King Rajaraja - III.

- ❖ Another inscription records an order of the Nattars Valluvappadi (Nattolai) to Devarkanmi and accountant of the Azhagiya Someswaramudiya Nayanar Temple at Periyanaivalur covenying the grant of dry and wet lands.

NATIONAL

Atma Nirbhar Clean Plant Program



The infographic features a list of five bullet points on the left, each followed by a horizontal line. On the right, there is a circular image showing several bright red apples hanging from a tree branch with green leaves.

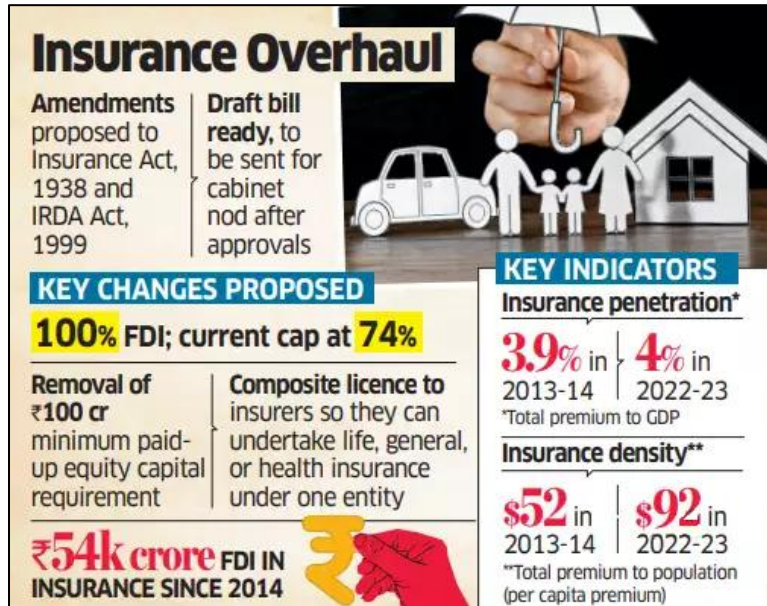
- Investment of **Rs.1,765.67 Cr**
- CPP will provide access to virus-free, high-quality planting material to farmers regardless of their landholding size or socioeconomic status
- Streamlined certification processes & infrastructure support to nurseries
- Nine world class state-of-the-art Clean Plant Centers will be established across India
- It will address diverse agro-climatic conditions across India by developing region-specific clean plant varieties & technologies

- ❖ India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$98 million loan deal.
- ❖ It aims to improve the horticulture crop farmers' access to certified disease-free planting materials.
- ❖ The project supports the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme (CPP) that enhances plant health management.
- ❖ CPP is part of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- ❖ It will be implemented from 2024 to 2030 with 50% financial assistance from ADB.
- ❖ Horticulture occupies 18% of agricultural land and accounts for 33% of the gross value of agricultural GDP.

Insurance Amendment Bill 2024

- ❖ It aims to amend the Insurance Act 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- ❖ This new Insurance Amendment Bill, proposes 100 per cent FDI in the insurance sector.

- ❖ The FDI limit in Indian insurance companies will be raised from 74 per cent to 100 per cent.
- ❖ The requirement of net-owned funds for foreign re-insurers is also proposed to be reduced from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 1,000 crore.
- ❖ Currently, there are 25 life insurance companies and 34 non-life or general insurance firms in India.



‘Anna Chakra’ and SCAN Portal



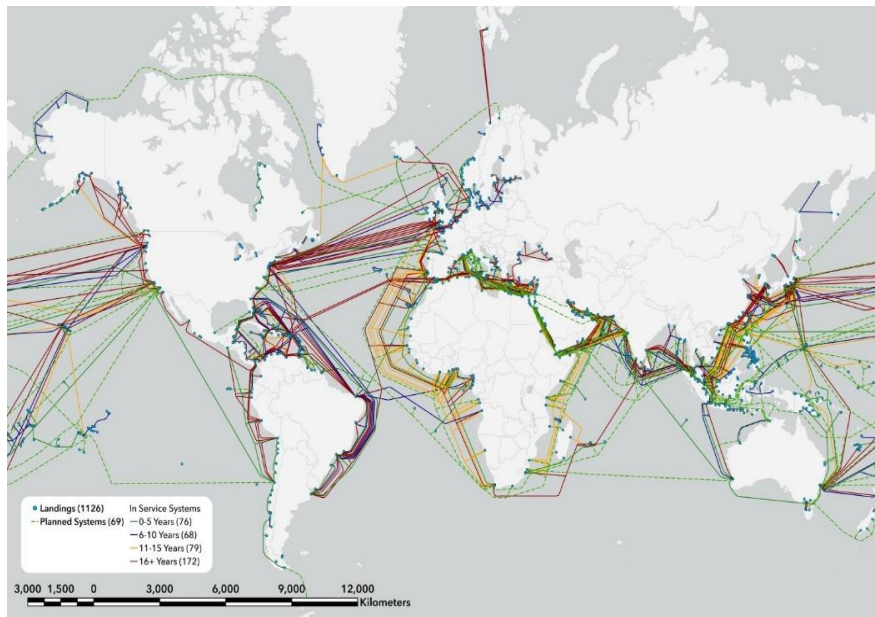
- ❖ The centre launched “Anna Chakra” and the SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) portal.
- ❖ They aim to modernize India's Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ❖ Anna Chakra is a pioneering tool for optimizing the supply chain of the PDS in India.

- ❖ It will identify optimal routes for the transportation of food grains.
- ❖ The SCAN portal will streamline the subsidy claim process for states under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013.

INTERNATIONAL

International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience

- ❖ The International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) have jointly launched the International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience.
- ❖ This body aims to address the challenges posed by ageing infrastructure, growing environmental threats, and increasing global traffic.
- ❖ The 40-member advisory body includes ministers, regulatory heads, and telecom experts from across the globe.
- ❖ India hosts around 17 international subsea cables across 14 distinct landing stations located in Mumbai, Chennai, Cochin, Tuticorin, and Trivandrum.



Business4land initiative

- ❖ The Business 4 Land Forum was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ UNCCD's Business4Land (B4L) Initiative releases a guide to help the private sector assess land degradation risks and report on mitigation actions.
- ❖ B4L's call to action urges companies to contribute to one or more of the Business 4 Land (B4L) initiative's pillars.

- ❖ \$44 trillion, over half of global GDP, is at risk from nature loss.



ECONOMY

RBI's Global Gold Purchases 2024



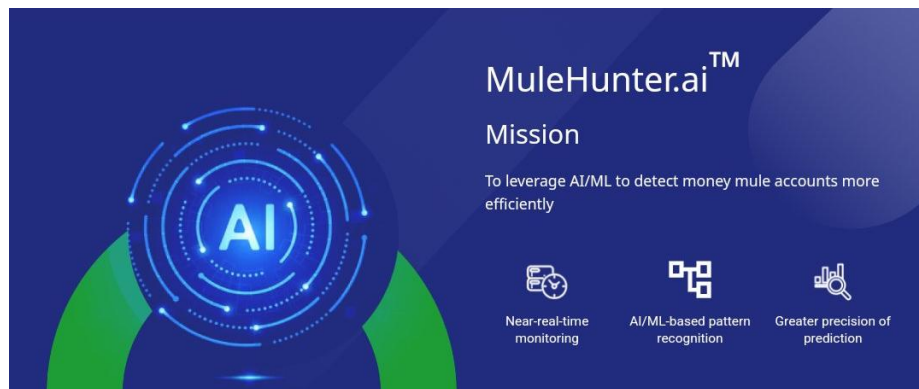
Reserve Bank of India purchases
27 tonnes of gold in October

- ❖ The Reserve Bank has bought 48% of all the gold that the central banks bought in October.
- ❖ It was adding a whopping 27 tonne to its home reserves, taking the total tonnage to 882.
- ❖ Gold buying by all central banks are totalled only 60 tonne in October.

- ❖ Between January and September, the central bank had bought 24 tonnes, taking the total to 854.73 tonne.
- ❖ RBI is the second biggest central bank buyer of the yellow metal.

MuleHunter.AI

- ❖ Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is making progress in combating financial fraud by promoting the use of MuleHunter.AI.
- ❖ It is an advanced artificial intelligence tool.
- ❖ This technology specialises in detecting and flagging mule accounts, which are often exploited for money laundering activities.
- ❖ 'Mule accounts' are bank accounts used by criminals to funnel illicit funds.

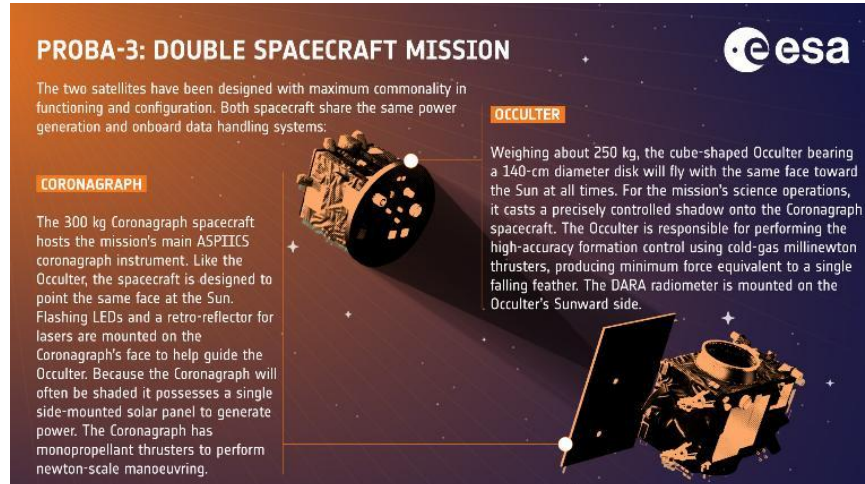


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

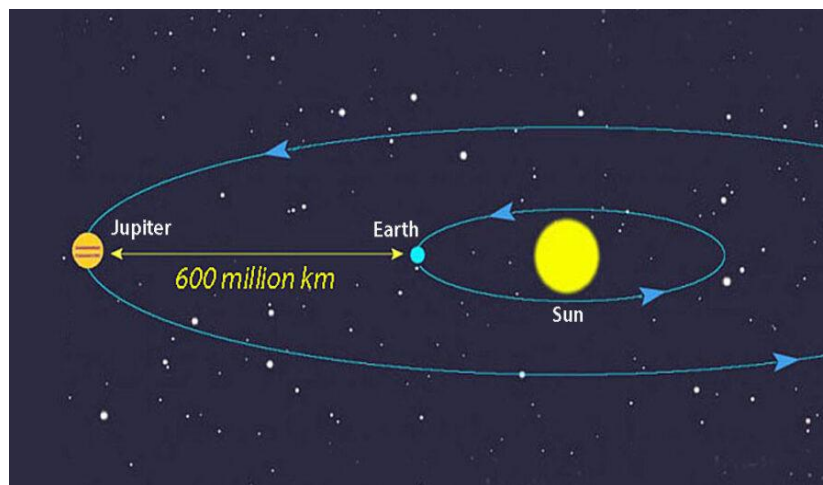
Proba-3 satellite

- ❖ ISRO successfully launched the European Space Agency's PROBA-3 satellite in its 61st commercial mission 'C-59'.
- ❖ PROBA-3 aim is to study the Sun's corona at a level of precision never done before.
- ❖ It is designed to demonstrate precision formation flying.
- ❖ The two satellites will maintain a separation of about 150 meters with millimeter accuracy.
- ❖ Together, they will create an artificial solar eclipse, a unique event in space science.
- ❖ It aims to study the Sun's corona for extended periods - far exceeding the brief duration of natural eclipses.
- ❖ There are two types of formations.

- ❖ In the Fixed Formation, the spacecraft maintains a fixed distance and orientation relative to each other.
- ❖ In Dynamic Formation, the spacecraft may change their relative positions, such as in missions where spacecraft need to move between different regions of space.



Jupiter reaches opposition



- ❖ Jupiter reached the perihelion point (spot closest to the Sun) in the sky.
- ❖ During this phase the Sun, Earth, and Jupiter will be in a perfectly straight line or in the opposition phenomenon.
- ❖ It happens once every 13 months.
- ❖ Since Earth is situated exactly between the Sun and Jupiter at opposition, we can view the planet at its closest point to Earth and in full light.
- ❖ Jupiter will look especially bright and conspicuous in the night sky this year because it will be closer to Earth than it has been since November 2023.

- ❖ At this point, Jupiter will be closest to Earth and theoretically should appear double in size compared to its farthest or aphelion point.
- ❖ Jupiter will next oppose on January 10, 2026, and then again on February 10, 2027, and March 13, 2028,

ENVIRONMENT

World's oldest known wild bird

- ❖ The world's oldest known wild bird, a Laysan albatross named Wisdom.
- ❖ The bird has laid an egg at the ripe age of about 74
- ❖ This was its first in four years in Hawaii.
- ❖ Wisdom, first tagged as an adult in 1956, has returned annually to Midway Atoll since 2006 to nest.
- ❖ The typical lifespan of a Laysan albatross is 68 years.



STATES

25th Hornbill Festival of Nagaland

- ❖ The vibrant 25th edition of the Hornbill Festival was held at Naga Heritage Village in Kisama.

- ❖ This year, it coincided with the 62nd Nagaland Statehood Day celebrations.
- ❖ The festival brings together Nagaland's 17 major tribes, and each showcase their unique customs, traditional attire, and vibrant dances.
- ❖ Japan, Wales, Peru, and Bulgaria were the part of the event.
- ❖ This event is held annually since December 1999.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Genocide Prevention Day 2024 - December 09



- ❖ It is also known as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.
- ❖ The date marks the United Nation's adoption of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

- ❖ On 10 December 1948, the first human rights treaty was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

International Anti-Corruption Day 2024 - December 09



- ❖ This day aims to spread awareness about the corruption practices.
- ❖ The United Nations Convention against Corruption was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2003.
- ❖ Theme for 2024 is “Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow’s Integrity”.
- ❖ The Corruption Perception Index is published annually by the Transparency International.

MISCELLANEOUS

Homo juluensis

- ❖ A new human species called Homo juluensis discovered with distinctively large skulls, dubbed with "Large Head People."
- ❖ This mysterious group once lived alongside Homo sapiens in eastern Asia.
- ❖ These fossilised remains unearthed from sediment layers dated over 200,000 years ago.
- ❖ Initial measurements indicate that their braincases were up to 30% larger than those of Homo sapiens.

- ❖ *Homo juluensis* lived approximately 300,000 years ago in eastern Asia and disappeared around 50,000 years ago.

