

December - 13

## TNPSC BITS

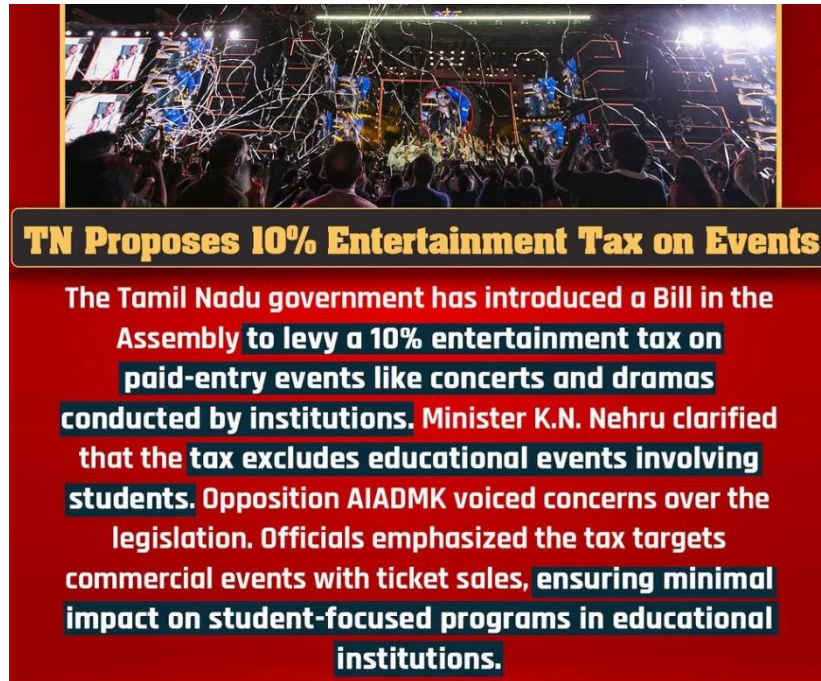
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has adopted a resolution in the Legislative Assembly urging the Union government to immediately cancel the tungsten mining rights granted to Hindustan Zinc Limited in Nayakkarpatti village, Melur taluk, in Madurai district.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has released a book titled 'Sattamandra Nayakar Kalaignar', a compilation of important speeches of the late leader M Karunanidhi delivered in the state Assembly.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has temporarily suspended the initiative to radio-collar individual Nilgiri tahr in the State as part of Project Nilgiri Tahr.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister visited Vaikom in Kerala and share dais with Kerala CM at the valedictory of the Vaikom Satyagraha centenary celebrations.
  - During his visit, he inaugurated a memorial to 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy and a library renovated by the Tamil Nadu's Public Works Department.
- ❖ ICAR-CIFA developed the "Rangeen Machhli" app which provides multilingual information on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages.
- ❖ IndiGo was named the '2024 Airline of the Year' by CAPA - Centre for Aviation (CAPA) - at its 2024 Global Aviation Awards for Excellence.
- ❖ Sanjay Malhotra, 56, officially assumed office as the 26th governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term.
- ❖ Bangladesh won their second consecutive title beating the India in U-19 Asia Cup Final 2024.
- ❖ Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) won two prestigious awards at the 3rd PSU Transformation Awards 2024.
- ❖ The Supreme Court impleaded ASI and the UNESCO's Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in a plea filed for the restoration of two heritage buildings in Mysore city.
  - The plea has sought the restoration of the Devaraja Market building and Lansdowne Building in Mysore city.

## TAMIL NADU

### Tax for entertainment shows

- ❖ The state government has tabled a bill in the Assembly to amend the Tamil Nadu Local Authorities Entertainments Tax Act, 2017.

- ❖ The proposed amendment aims to empower the local bodies to levy a 10% entertainment tax on event where an admission fee is charged.
- ❖ It includes concerts, dramas, and other events conducted by any institution, including educational institutions,
- ❖ At present, there is no enabling provision for the levy and collection of the entertainment tax in such cases.



### **Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019**



- ❖ The Assembly passed a bill to amend Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019, in order to include eight private universities into the Schedule of the Act.
- ❖ These eight universities were not fully aligned with the UGC Act and Regulations.
- ❖ Though the State government had earlier notified these eight private universities through notifications, the UGC said a university could be established either by the Act of the Parliament or by the Act of the State Legislature.

- ❖ Another Bill tabled to amend relevant rules that disqualified deaf-mute and those with leprosy from holding positions of authority in the University of Madras.

## NATIONAL

### Digital Agriculture Mission 2024 Milestone

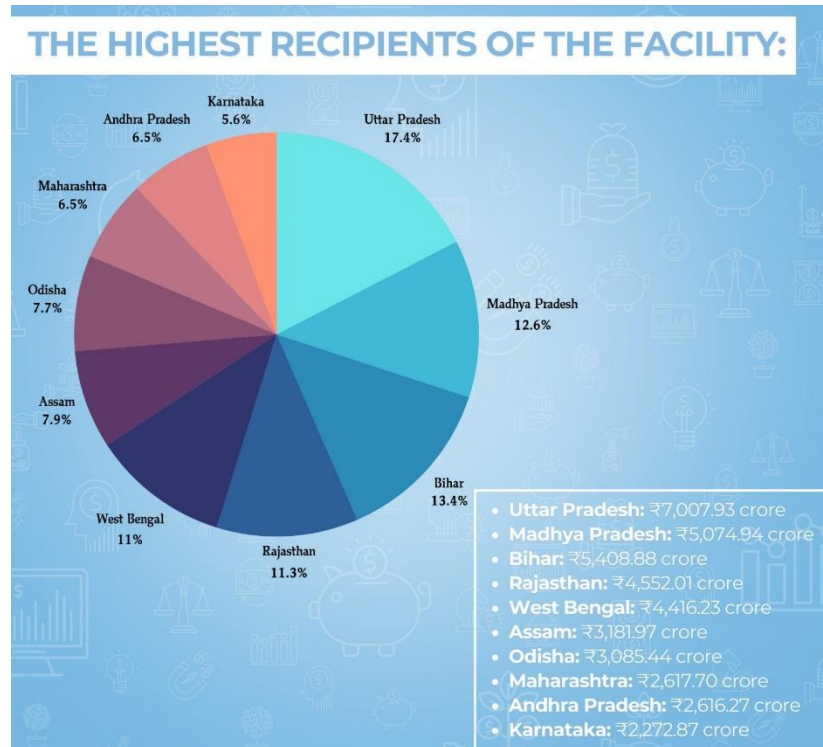


- ❖ Gujarat has become the first state in India to achieve a significant milestone under the Digital Agriculture Mission.
- ❖ It generated 'Farmer IDs' for 25 per cent of the targeted farmers in the state.
- ❖ The Farmer ID, dynamically linked to the state's land records system and based on Aadhaar, ensures seamless updates with changes in land ownership details.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has generated Farmer IDs for 9 per cent of its farmers registered under PM KISAN, followed by Maharashtra at 2 per cent.
- ❖ The other states, which includes Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Rajasthan, have also begun implementing this system.

### Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment

- ❖ The Union government has released Rs 50,571.42 crore to states under its 'Special Assistance for Capital Investment' scheme.
- ❖ It aimed at boosting funding for various development projects during the first eight months of the current financial year.
- ❖ 23 out of 28 states have availed the interest-free assistance provided by the Centre, with Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Punjab, and Telangana being the exceptions.

- ❖ This scheme provides 50-year interest-free loans to state governments to boost capital expenditure.



## World's largest grain storage plan 2024

**Grain Storage Plan**  
**Ensuring Food Security**

- Farmers will be able to store their produce in **godown constructed at PACS**
- They can also **avail bridge finance** for the next cycle of crop
- Farmers can **sell the produce at a time** of their choice
- They can also choose to sell their **whole crop to the PACS at MSP**
- Farmers can also get **various agri inputs & services** at the Panchayat/ village level itself

- ❖ Under the pilot phase of the ambitious World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the cooperative sector, godowns have been successfully constructed at Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in 11 states across India.

- ❖ These include Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Telangana, Tripura, and Rajasthan.
- ❖ It has achieved a total storage capacity of 9,750 metric tonnes.
- ❖ Now the government has extended the project over 500 additional PACS across the country.

## INTERNATIONAL

### End of Assad rule in Syria



- ❖ Rebels in Syria seized control of the capital, Damascus and proclaimed the end of President Bashar al-Assad's decades-long rule.
- ❖ Under his rule, country became a critical ally of Iran, remaining hostile toward Israel and the United States.
- ❖ Assad's dismissal would end his 24-year iron rule and the 54-year Assad family reign.
- ❖ The Syrian war has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million.

## ECONOMY

### Secured Overnight Rupee Rate

- ❖ RBI has announced Introduction of the Secured Overnight Rupee Rate (SORR) a benchmark based on the secured money markets.
- ❖ The RBI had set up the Committee on the MIBOR Benchmark to review the Rupee interest rate benchmarks in the country.

- ❖ SORR is a benchmark based on secured money markets.
- ❖ It will be based on secured money market transactions in both the market repo and tri-party repo or TREP segments.
- ❖ SORR will be more representative of the overnight market funding rate rather than just the call money rate.



## ENVIRONMENT

### 2030 Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands



- ❖ CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), a global leader in the agricultural research, has launched its 2030 Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands (GSRD).
- ❖ It was unveiled at the COP 16 of UNCCD in Riyadh.

- ❖ Drylands are critical for global population.
- ❖ It is home to one in every three of world's people, nearly half of the livestock and 44 per cent of food systems.
- ❖ But some 20-35 per cent of them are degraded.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Top 100 Arms-producing and Military Services Companies, 2023

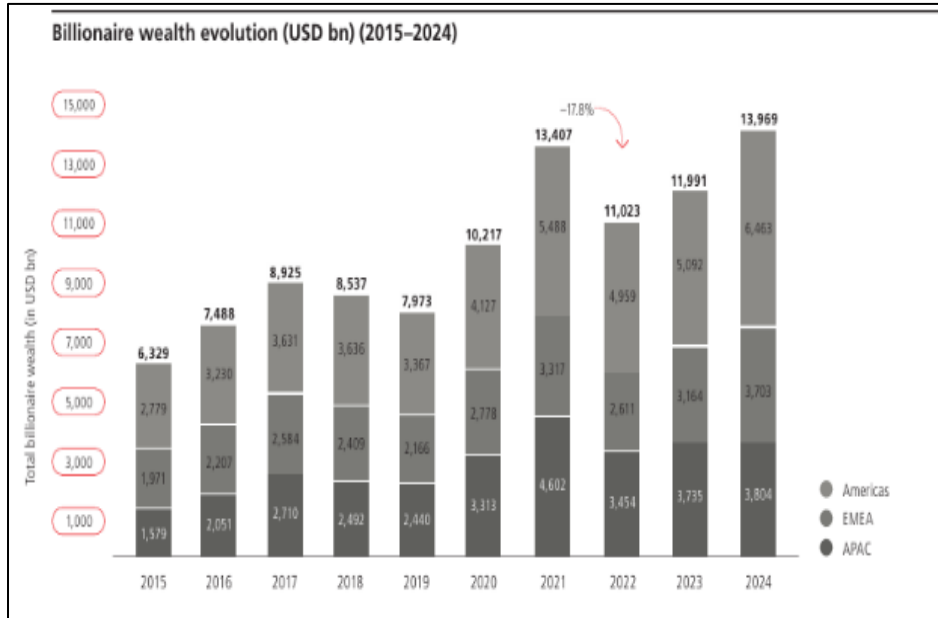
- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) revealed in its 2024 report that global arms revenues reached \$632 billion in 2023.
- ❖ It is a 4.2% increase from the previous year.
- ❖ Among these, US firms contributed \$317 billion, or half of the global total.
- ❖ Lockheed Martin, RTX, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and General Dynamics are the top 5 companies in the list.
- ❖ Three Indian companies in Top 100 are reporting a combined 5.8% increase in revenues to \$6.7 billion.
- ❖ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the largest arms producer in India, saw its arms revenues rise by 6.9% to \$3.7 billion.

| TOP LINE CHECK |           | Sipri top 100 arms companies 2023 |         |                           |  |            |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|--|------------|
| Rank 2022      | Rank 2023 | Company                           | Country | Arms revenue 2023 (\$ bn) |  | Change (%) |
| 1              | 1         | Lockheed Martin                   | US      | 60.81                     |  | -1.6       |
| 2              | 2         | RTX                               | US      | 40.66                     |  | -1.3       |
| 3              | 3         | Northrop Grumman                  | US      | 35.57                     |  | 5.8        |
| 4              | 4         | Boeing                            | US      | 31.1                      |  | 2.0        |
| 5              | 5         | General Dynamics                  | US      | 30.2                      |  | 3.2        |
| 43             | 43        | Hindustan Aeronautics             | India   | 3.71                      |  | 6.9        |
| 65             | 67        | Bharat Electronics                | India   | 1.94                      |  | 0.5        |
| 96             | 94        | Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders         | India   | 1.09                      |  | 12.4       |

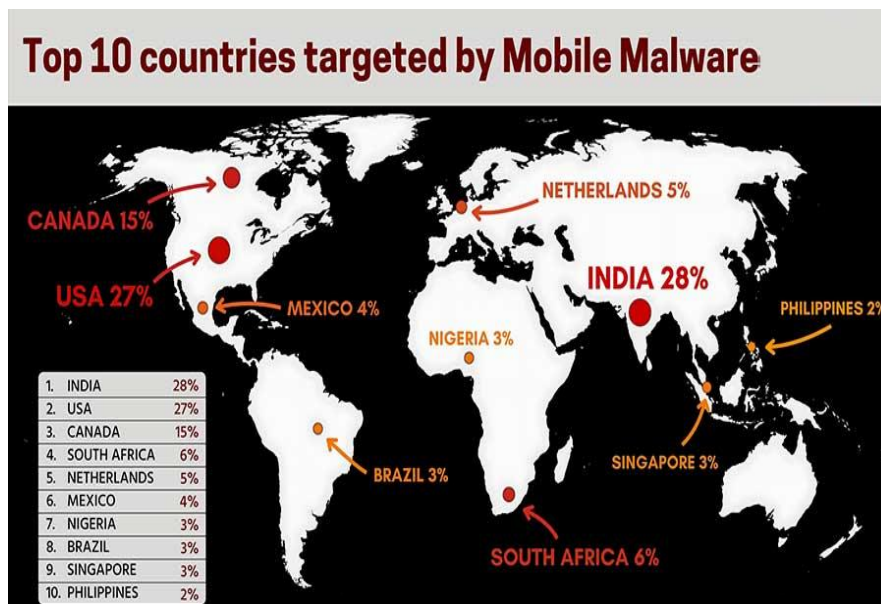
### UBS Billionaire Ambitions Report 2024

- ❖ The wealth held by the world's billionaires has jumped by about 17 per cent over the past year.
- ❖ The total number of billionaires had risen to 2,682 from 2,544 a year earlier, and their worth to \$14 trillion from \$12 trillion.

- ❖ In 2015, their total wealth stood at \$6.3 trillion.
- ❖ In the United States, the number of billionaires jumped to 835 from 751.
- ❖ In mainland China, the number of billionaires dropped to 427 from 520.
- ❖ India's number of billionaires increased during the past year by over a fifth to 185 and their wealth by more than 40 per cent to almost \$906 billion.



### Global List for Mobile Malware Attacks



- ❖ India is now on top of the list for mobile malware attacks globally.



- ❖ India now accounts for 28% of total mobile malware attacks worldwide.
- ❖ It is even surpassing the United States (27.3%) and Canada (15.9%).
- ❖ But India has improved its ranking as a malware origin point, moving from 5th to 7th place in the APAC (Asia-Pacific) region.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **World Maritime Technology Congress 2024**

- ❖ WMTC is held once in 3 years under the auspices of World Maritime Technology Congress.
- ❖ The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Chennai Branch has hosted this year's WMTC.
- ❖ The WMTC consists of 21-member organisations from 17 countries connecting professionals the field of maritime technology and allied sectors.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Human Rights Day 2024 - December 10**

- ❖ This day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.



- ❖ This day is dedicated to celebrating and promoting rights that protect people and ensuring that everyone can live with dignity and respect, regardless of their race, gender, religion, nationality, or any other characteristic.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now.'

