

December - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a Bill that seeks to include a member of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department in the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission.
- ❖ IIT Madras has completed a 410-meter India's First Hyperloop Test Track.
- ❖ The first-ever Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav was held in New Delhi to offer a dynamic stage for showcasing Northeast India's products.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 28 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) across the country.
- ❖ Gujarat signed a MoU with Thailand-based Bodhigaya Vijjalaya 980 Institute to conserve and promote places of Buddhist heritage.
- ❖ The 4th Mekong Ganga Dhamma Yatra was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ India has been chosen to Chair the 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).
- ❖ The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has unveiled an Air Quality Dashboard, a public platform offering real-time and forecasted data on air pollution.
- ❖ Merriam-Webster dictionary announced 'Polarization' as Word of the Year 2024.
- ❖ Aarit Kapil (9) from Delhi has defeated Grandmaster Raset Ziatdinov in a classical chess match at the KIIT International Open and become the youngest Indian and third youngest globally to achieve this feat.
- ❖ Hyderabad has been chosen as the site for India's first Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC).
 - This the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region, and only the 5th globally.
- ❖ Every year on December 11th, International Mountain Day is observed to increase awareness of the value of mountains in preserving the ecological balance of the globe and promoting human well-being.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu's GSDP for 2022-2023

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2022-2023 grew 14.16% when compared to the previous year.

- ❖ It was driven primarily by the industry and services sectors.
- ❖ The per capita GSDP of the State was nearly 56% higher than the national average.
- ❖ This data was released by the CAG's audit report on 'the State Finances – the Government of Tamil Nadu 2022-2023'.
- ❖ During 2021-22, there was a significant boost in GSDP growth, which stood at 15.84%.
- ❖ The GSDP in 2022-23 at current prices was ₹23,64,514 crore, and the GDP in 2022-23 at current prices was ₹2,72,40,712 crore.
- ❖ Further, the per capita GSDP of Tamil Nadu for 2022-23 was ₹3,08,020, while that of the country was ₹1,96,983.
- ❖ From 2018-19 to 2022-23, the revenue receipts grew from ₹1,73,741 crore to ₹2,43,749 crore, with an average annual growth rate of 11.13%.
- ❖ The Capital receipts increased from ₹54,850 crore to ₹1,02,182 crore during this period.
- ❖ The share of grants-in-aid in revenue receipts rose marginally from 13.45% in 2018-19 to 15.48% in 2022-23.
- ❖ The State government received ₹15,270 crore as Central share for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) that year.
- ❖ There were 393 cases of misappropriation and losses amounting to ₹30.81 crore by the end of 2022-23.

வருடம்	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
தமிழ்நாடு மாநிலம்					
GSDP தற்போதைய விலையில் (2011-12 வரிசை)	16,30,209	17,43,144	17,88,074	20,71,286	23,64,514
GSVA	14,90,042	16,01,332	16,54,821	19,15,234	21,76,648
முந்தைய ஆண்டுடன் ஒப்பிட்டவாறு GSDP வளர்ச்சி விகிதம் (விழுக்காடு)	11.27	6.93	2.58	15.84	14.16
முந்தைய ஆண்டுடன் ஒப்பிட்ட வகையில் GSVA வளர்ச்சி விகிதம் (விழுக்காடு)	11.99	7.47	3.34	15.74	13.65
தனிநபர் GSDP (₹)	2,15,785	2,29,657	2,34,486	2,70,629	3,08,020

Losses of PSUs in TN

- ❖ Around 30 out of 68 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) incurred losses during 2021-22.
- ❖ But the losses incurred by these PSUs decreased to ₹22,192.94 crore in 2021-22 from ₹25,476.43 crore during 2020-21.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence for an Advanced Manufacturing, a new PSU also reported loss in its first year of operation.
- ❖ Out of total loss, ₹15,357.90 crore was contributed by three PSUs in power sector and ₹6,622.19 crore by eight PSUs in transport sector.
- ❖ Representation of Independent Directors was below the required number in 10 PSUs.
- ❖ There was no women director on the Board of Directors of two PSUs.
- ❖ In six PSUs, the Independent Directors did not attend the general meetings of the PSU.
- ❖ Audit Committee was not constituted in two PSUs and majority of the members of Audit Committee were not Independent Directors in 13 PSUs.
- ❖ Nomination and Remuneration Committee was not constituted by 22 PSUs.
- ❖ There was no whistle blower mechanism in 12 PSUs.

அட்டவணை 5.8: 2020-21 முதல் 2022-23 வரையிலான ஆண்டுகளில் இழப்பு ஏற்பட்டுள்ள பொதுத்துறை நிறுவனங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை (₹ கோடியில்)

ஆண்டு	இழப்பை சந்தித்த பொதுத்துறை நிறுவனங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை	நடப்பாண்டின் நிகர இழப்பு	திரண்ட இழப்பு	நிகர மதிப்பு ⁸
2020-21	33	25,542.52	1,64,785.03	(-)1,05,425.53
2021-22	34	22,232.33	1,83,123.14	(-)1,25,300.27
2022-23	35	16,047.99	2,26,051.29	(-)1,67,419.82

Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act - 1958

23. Penalties. - (1) Any employer who contravenes any of the provisions of sections 3-A, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11,11-A, 12 and 14-A or fails to pay wages or compensation in accordance with any order of the appellate authority passed under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 19 shall, on conviction, be punishable ¹ [with fine which, for a first offence, may extend to five thousand rupees and for a second or subsequent offence, with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees] or with imprisonment which may extend to three months or with both.

(2) (a) Any employer who fails to reinstate an employee in accordance with any order of the appellate authority passed under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 19 shall, on conviction, be punishable ¹ [with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.]

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has tabled a Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act, 1958.
- ❖ It aims to remove the punishment of imprisonment and to provide only for the imposition of fine for contravention of certain offences specified in the act.
- ❖ The government has decided to “remove the punishment of imprisonment and to provide for punishment of fine alone” for contravention of minor offences.



- ❖ It will facilitate the ease of doing of catering business by employers of the catering establishments.
- ❖ Earlier, the Act provided for the punishment of imprisonment for contraventions of provisions of Sections 3-A, 4, 5, 6, 11-A and 14-A.

NATIONAL

Bima Sakhi Yojana Scheme

LIC Bima Sakhi Yojana Overview

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Life Insurance Corporation of India's Bima **Sakhi Yojana** at a program in **Panipat, Haryana**.
- **LIC's Bima Sakhi Yojana** is for educated women. Its aim is to make them financially strong and self-reliant.
- **10th pass women** between **18** and **70 years** of age are eligible for the Bima Sakhi Yojana.
- Women who become a part of the scheme will be known as "**Bima Sakhi**". They will help women in their area to get insurance. This will give them an opportunity for **self-employment**.

- ❖ The union govt launched this scheme to empower women and further financial inclusion.
- ❖ This is an initiative of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- ❖ Through the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana', women in the age group of 18 to 70 years who have passed 10th will be empowered.
- ❖ Under this scheme, women will be given special training and stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.
- ❖ After training, women can work as LIC agents and graduate insurance Sakhis.
- ❖ They will also get an opportunity to work in the role of development officer in LIC.

Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024

- ❖ The Merchant Shipping Bill of 2024 seeks to repeal the Merchant Shipping Act of 1958.

- ❖ This bill redefines and simplify ownership criteria for merchant vessels in the country.
- ❖ Currently, only Indian citizens or companies can register ships under the Indian flag.
- ❖ It is making it easier for Indian-flagged vessels to operate, and also streamline a variety of regulations that deal with marine casualties.
- ❖ It has been proposed to expand the eligibility criteria for ownership of the vessels and increasing tonnage under the Indian flag.
- ❖ The Bill also makes provision for temporary registration of vessels seeking to be recycled in India.
- ❖ It provides for the constitution of a limitation fund for certain claims and aims to streamline administrative processes with electronic registration and digital records.



REWRITING MARITIME MAP

- Centre to introduce 4 key Bills: Merchant Shipping, Coastal Shipping, Bill of Lading, and Carriage of Goods by Sea
- Govt aims to simplify vessel registration under Indian flag for NRIs, OCIs, and LLPs
- Vessels on bareboat charter-cum-demise may register before final payment
- Proposed law will allow Indian vessels to operate in coastal waters without a general trading licence and enable interoperability between coastal and riverine vessels
- Govt wants to make vessel registration under the Indian flag easier

INTERNATIONAL

20th Manama Dialogue



- ❖ It is held annually since 2004 in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- ❖ The Dialogue is a central element of the Middle East's security architecture.

- ❖ It facilitates the policy discussions on geopolitics, security trends, and conflict resolution.
- ❖ Theme of this year's event is "the Middle East Leadership in Shaping Regional Prosperity and Security".

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Hanle observatory - quantum signals

- ❖ The Scientists from the Raman Research Institute (RRI) have identified optimal locations in India for beaming quantum signals into space.
- ❖ The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) in Hanle is had the least signal loss among the sites studied
- ❖ This is due to its dry climate and low atmospheric water vapor levels.
- ❖ A quantum signal refers to the information transmitted using the principles of quantum mechanics.
- ❖ Quantum mechanics governs the behaviour of particles at extremely small scales, such as photons, electrons, or atoms.

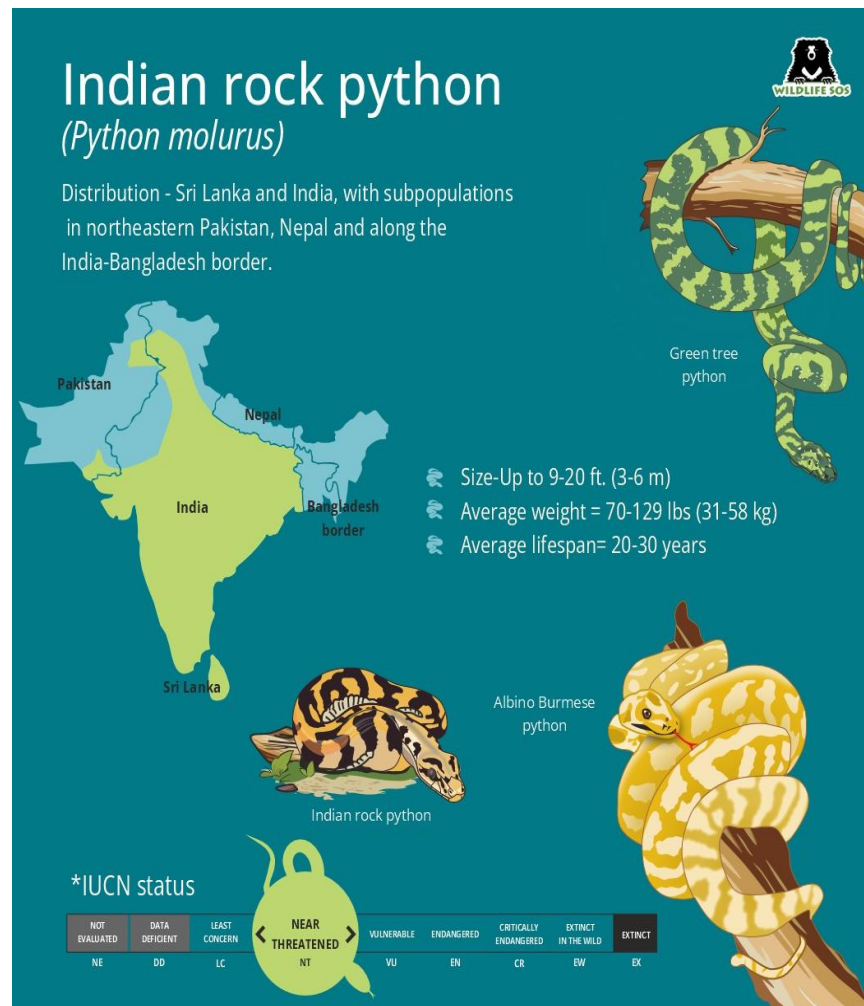


ENVIRONMENT

Indian rock python population status 2024

- ❖ The Indian rock python (*Python molurus*) is used to be a common sight across Tamil Nadu, especially in agricultural areas and rocky foothills.

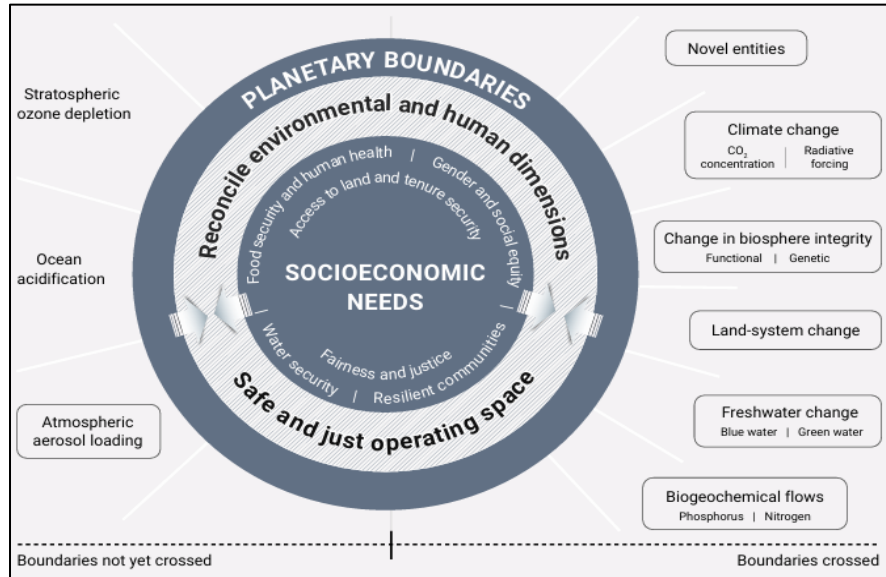
- ❖ However, due to habitat loss, the species is believed to have declined across the State, except in the Moyar Valley.
- ❖ It is Classified as “near threatened” in the IUCN Red list.
- ❖ Between 2018 and 2020, the number was at least 80 individual rock pythons in MTR, STR and Bhavani Sagar.
- ❖ Rock pythons are non-venomous, and usually avoid humans.



Report on Land Management 2024

- ❖ The ‘Stepping back from the precipice: Transforming land management to stay within planetary boundaries’ report released by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in collaboration with UNCCD.
- ❖ The Land degradation affects an area of 15 million sq km, and 1.2 billion people globally.

- ❖ The Economic cost of the land degradation is estimated to range between 6.3 and 10.6 trillion US Dollar annually.
- ❖ Land is central to seven of the nine planetary boundaries, which are scientifically determined thresholds within which humanity can operate safely.



STATES

Government e-Marketplace 2024

FOCUS ON TRANSPARENCY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No conditions contrary to GeM rules are permitted ➤ Price discovery bids, offline contracts, and unit quantity-based GeM bids are strictly prohibited ➤ Requesting samples during bid evaluation is prohibited ➤ To encourage micro & small enterprises, tender eligibility (turnover and past performance) criteria have been relaxed ➤ All depts are required to procure at least 25% of their annual purchase from MSEs ➤ Penalty will be imposed if service providers fail to pay outsourced personnel in time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum wage, EPF, and ESI benefits to outsourced employees is mandatory ➤ Service providers can't arbitrarily remove or replace outsourced employees after hiring ➤ In cases of collusion or manipulation in GeM bids, there is provision of sending bids to GeM team for probe ➤ Compliance-related complaints can be sent to gemcellup@gmail.com and gemcellgoup@gmail.com ➤ Complaints are resolved by high-level committee chaired by UP chief secy, with additional secys/principal secys as members

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to fully integrate its procurement procedure with the Centre's Govt e-Marketplace (GeM).



- ❖ This integration mandates that all service providers strictly adhere to central govt regulations.
- ❖ Any deviation from the GeM protocols could result into the disqualification from conducting business with the Uttar Pradesh govt.

