

December - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Government of Tamil Nadu, has allocated ₹10 crores for the current financial year (2024-2025) to implement the 6% interest subvention scheme for the textile mills that want to invest and upgrade technology.
- ❖ In a bid to tackle coastal violations, the Tamil Nadu government has planned to establish coastal units in 14 districts.
- ❖ Madras High Court give node to the Music Academy and The Hindu for giving award under the title 'Sangita Kalanidhi M.S. Subbulakshmi Award' to Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu owned Aavin is set to launch a new milk variant, Green Magic Plus, fortified with vitamins A and D.
- ❖ The Keeranatham panchayat of Coimbatore has won the award for the 'best self-sufficient infrastructure' category in the National Panchayat Awards 2024.
- ❖ The Periyar Technology Business Incubator of the Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology, Vallam (Tanjavur), has been adjudged as the “Best Startup-Incubators Promoting facility” in the Aerospace Startup sector.
- ❖ The Southern Railway's Chennai division will receive an air-conditioned coach for suburban routes by January 2025.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary was declared India's 57th tiger reserve.
- ❖ India, France, and the UAE held a major air combat exercise, “Desert Knight” over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Former Secretary General Indian Olympic Association Rajeev Mehta has been elected as the Secretary General of the Fencing Confederation of Asia (FCA).
- ❖ Time magazine has named President-elect Donald Trump as its person of the year for 2024 once again after 2016.

TAMIL NADU

CAG report on inconsistencies

- ❖ The CAG of India has highlighted significant delays, violations, and lapses in the enforcement of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011, in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ From 2015 to 2022, the TNSCZMA directly approved 114 out of 175 projects without recommending them to the union Ministry of Environment.

- ❖ As many as 23 projects involving the effluent discharge were approved without the obtaining mandatory No-Objection Certificates from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ Around 90 unauthorised constructions were identified in the No Development Zone across Chennai, Chengalpattu, and Thoothukudi.
- ❖ Also, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department not produced any records to CAG for the audit.
- ❖ As per the HR&CE department, there was no jurisdiction for the scrutiny of the records pertaining to religious institutions.
- ❖ The scope of the CAG audit was to be restricted to the funds released from the consolidated fund of the State.
- ❖ The grants released by the government HR&CE department to the alone could be audited under Section 14 of the DPC Act.

Coastal Zone Regulations

CRZ - I

Ecologically Sensitive Areas

CRZ - II

Urban (developed) areas up to the shoreline of the coast

CRZ - III

Rural and urban areas which fall outside CRZ-I and CRZ-II

CRZ-III (Rural Area)

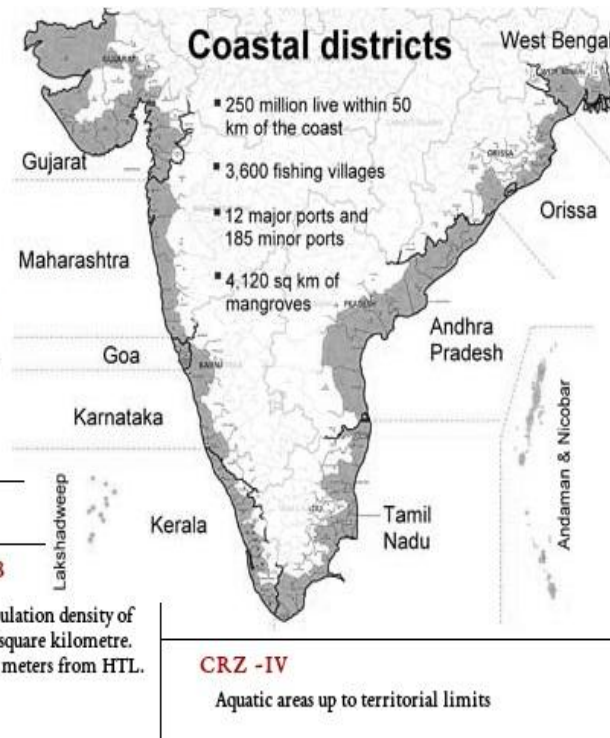
CRZ-III A

Densely populated areas with a population density of 2161 per square kilometre. A NDZ of 50 meters from HTL.

CRZ-III B

Areas with population density of below 2161 per square kilometre. A NDZ of 200 meters from HTL.

Coastal districts

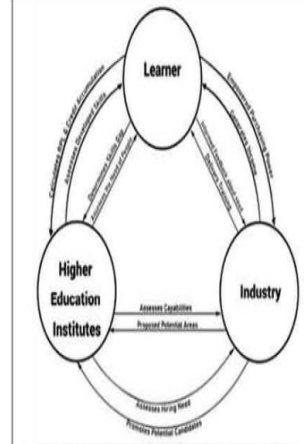
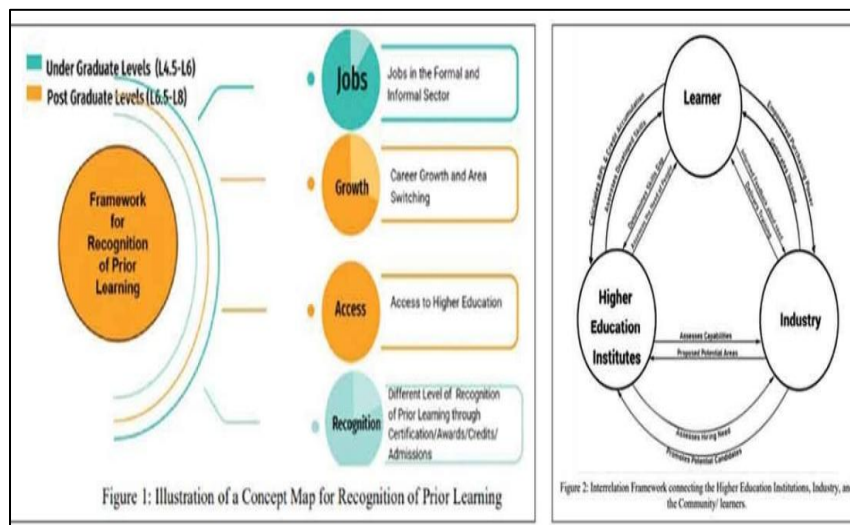


NATIONAL

Prior learning in higher education

- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has unveiled the draft guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

- ❖ It aims to bridge the gap between informal, non-formal, and formal education by assessing and recognising previously acquired knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- ❖ This framework enables the individuals to formalise their competencies and earn credits, paving the way for their integration into the formal education system.
- ❖ Through this, the student can earn up to 30 percent of the required credits for a degree programme.
- ❖ The UGC aims to implement RPL for university admissions and job placements by 2026.
- ❖ It creates diverse and flexible pathways for individuals with various educational backgrounds and learning experiences to access higher education based on their demonstrated competencies.



New Rules for Clinical Thermometers

Calling All Stakeholders!

The Draft Rules for Clinical Electrical Thermometers are now live on the Department's website!

Have Your Say:

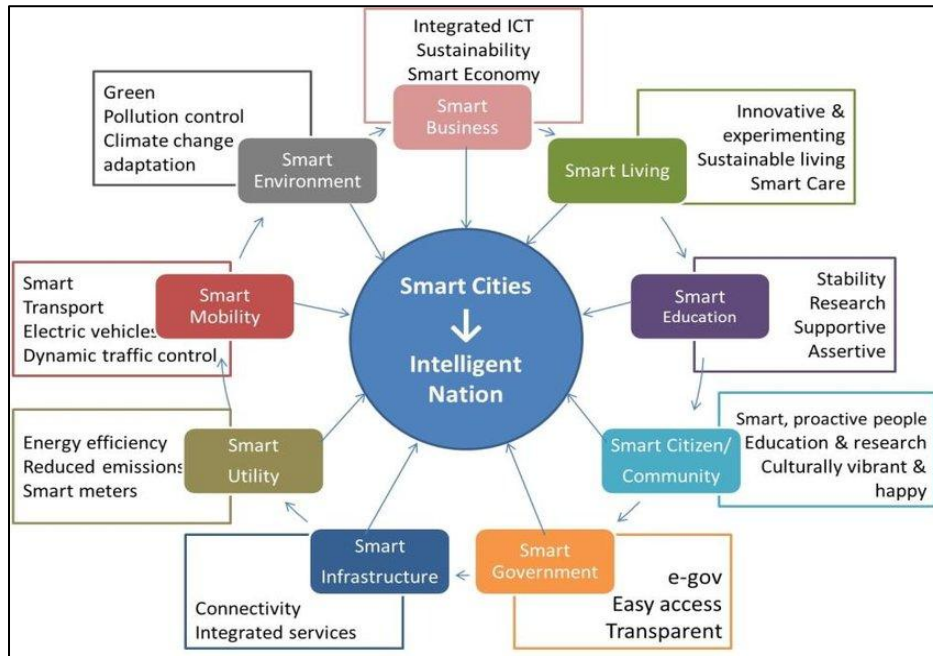
Deadline: 30th December 2024

Visit QR CODE to review the draft and share your valuable feedback.

- ❖ The Department of Consumer Affairs has proposed amendment as per the OIML recommendations under the Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011.

- ❖ These rules will standardize the accuracy and reliability of the Clinical Electrical Thermometers.
- ❖ The provisions mandate verification and stamping of these devices to ensure their compliance with prescribed standards
- ❖ The proposed rules aim to foster trust in their measurements, ensuring that the diagnosis and treatment decisions are based on reliable data.

8 New Smart Cities

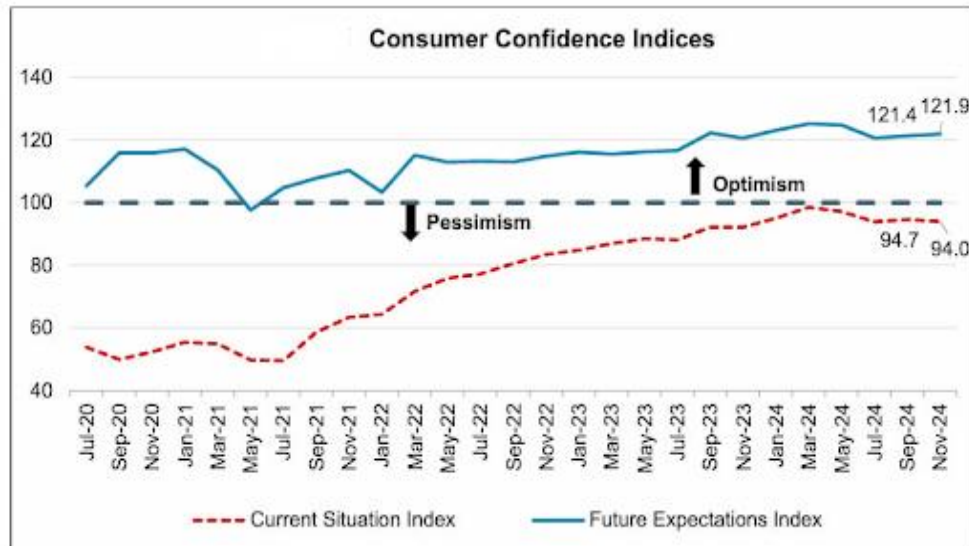


- ❖ The Centre has launched a new scheme as an extension of the Smart City Mission where an allocation of Rs 8,000 crore for the incubation of 8 new cities.
- ❖ A State can have only one new city through this fund.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Thirumazhisai is also part of this list.

Consumer Confidence Survey 2024

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the results of November 2024 round of its bi-monthly consumer confidence survey (CCS).
- ❖ The Indian consumer confidence about general economic situation, employment scenario, their income and spending have weakened.
- ❖ Their confidence for the current period declined marginally owing to the weaker sentiments across the survey parameters except household spending.

- ❖ The future expectations index (FEI) is improved by 0.5 points to 121.9 in the latest survey.



Policy initiatives for agriculture sector



- ❖ The Centre has launched several key initiatives aimed at transforming the agriculture sector by improving production, enhancing farmer's incomes, and by promoting sustainable practices.

- ❖ The Clean Plant Programme (CPP) has been approved to enhance horticultural productivity by providing disease-free planting materials.
- ❖ The Digital Agriculture Mission was sanctioned funds to revolutionize agriculture with digital solutions.
- ❖ The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Expansion was approved to include community farming assets, integrated processing units, and convergence with PM-KUSUM-A projects.
- ❖ The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) was launched to increase domestic oilseed production to reduce reliance on imports.
- ❖ The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) was introduced to promote natural farming practices as a sustainable alternative, marking a significant shift towards eco-friendly agriculture.

Performance Rating System for Highways



- ❖ The NHA has launched a mechanism to rate the contractors engaged in the operation and maintenance of such stretches.
- ❖ The Contractors scoring less than 60 out of 100 will be declared “non-performers” reducing their chances of securing new projects.
- ❖ The scores and ratings will be based on an objective assessment of the five main parameters: roughness, potholes, rut depth, surface cracking, patchwork, and ravelling.
- ❖ The NHA will also deploy network survey vehicles (NSVs) fitted with cameras and sensors on the NH network to assess the condition.

Voronezh Radar

- ❖ India and Russia are in the advanced discussions on a \$4 billion defence deal to strengthen India’s air defence infrastructure.

- ❖ The deal focuses on the acquisition of the state-of-the-art Voronezh radar system.
- ❖ It will enhance India's ability to detect and respond to aerial threats across an extensive region.
- ❖ It has a vertical range exceeding 8,000 kilometres and a horizontal reach of over 6,000 kilometres.
- ❖ The radar can detect and track the multiple threats, including ballistic missiles, stealth aircraft, fighter jets, and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).
- ❖ According to the Russian claims, the system can monitor more than 500 objects simultaneously and even track near-Earth objects in space.
- ❖ The deal also includes a provision for at least 60% of the radar system to be manufactured domestically.



INTERNATIONAL

Schengen Zone - Bulgaria and Romania

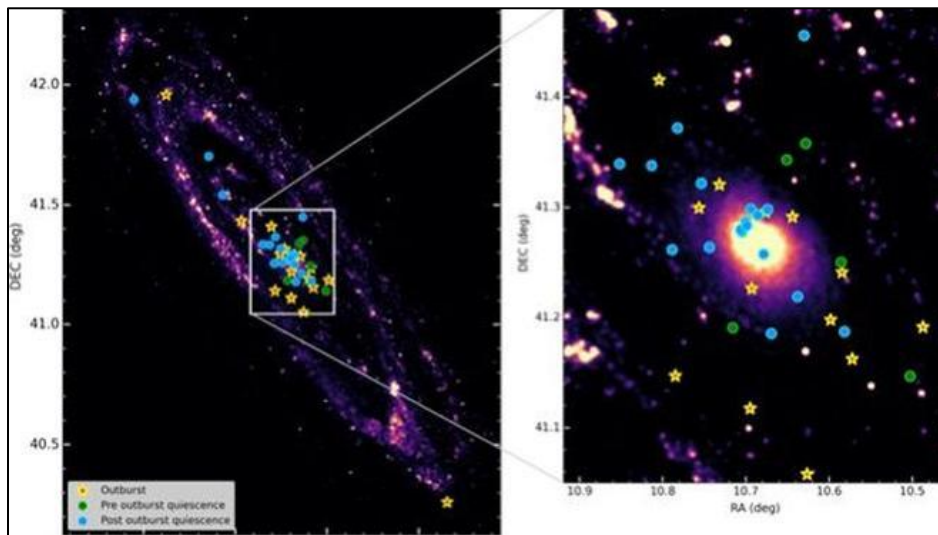
- ❖ The European Union has cleared Bulgaria and Romania to become full members of the borderless Schengen zone from the start of next year.
- ❖ Bulgaria and Romania, both are members of the European Union since 2007.
- ❖ But Austria had objected to expanding the zone, fearing more illegal immigration.
- ❖ Created in 1985, the Schengen zone now comprises 29 members.
- ❖ It also has 25 of the 27 European Union member states plus Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

- ❖ It is the world's biggest area without internal border controls, where more than 400 million people can travel freely inside the zone.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ultraviolet emissions from novae in Andromeda galaxy

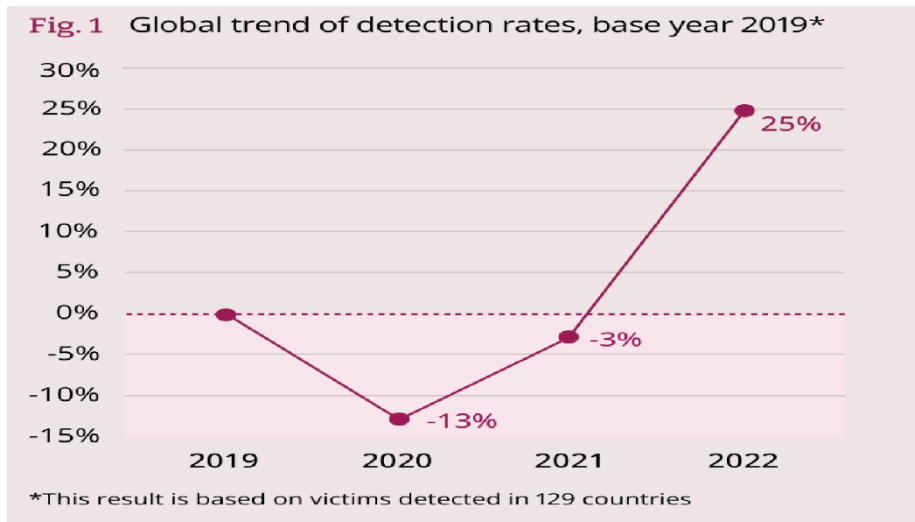


- ❖ Astronomers have spotted far ultra violet (FUV) emissions from novae for the first time in the neighbouring Andromeda galaxy.
- ❖ This is a special class of transient astronomical event that causes the sudden appearance of a bright.

- ❖ It is apparently due to a new star that slowly fades over weeks or months, during their outburst.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UNODC global report on human trafficking



- ❖ The Report records a 25 per cent increase in the number of trafficking victims detected globally in 2022 compared to 2019 pre-pandemic figures.
- ❖ Between 2019 and 2022, the global number of victims detected for trafficking for forced labour surged by 47 per cent.
- ❖ The global number of detected child victims were increased 31 per cent in 2022 compared to 2019, with a 38 per cent rise recorded for girls.
- ❖ The Women and girls also continue to account for the majority of victims detected worldwide (61 per cent in 2022).
- ❖ Some 45 per cent of detected boys are trafficked for forced labour and another 47 per cent are exploited for other purposes.
- ❖ In total, 162 different nationalities were trafficked to 128 different countries of destination in 2022.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Gukesh – 18th World Chess Champion

- ❖ D Gukesh from India (Chennai) defeated defending champion Ding Liren of China at the World Chess Championship, held at Singapore.

- ❖ The win made the Indian Grandmaster the youngest-ever world champion at the age of 18.
- ❖ Before Gukesh, Russian legend Garry Kasparov was the youngest to become the world champion at the age of 22 in 1985.
- ❖ The first grandmaster and world champion from India won the title in 2007 and held it until 2013, winning four times.

