

December - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The present system of passing every child till Class 8th will continue in Tamil Nadu schools even though amendments brought by the Union government in the Right to Education Act of 2009.
- ❖ The IIT Madras has launched a research centre to develop next generation Amoled displays for smartphones, tablets, watches and wearables.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt will be bearing the entire cost of undergraduate (UG) education of the government school students who secure admission in premier higher education institutions like IIT, IISc and AIMS.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of the top global destinations for 2025, highlighting its rich heritage, wildlife, and stunning landscapes.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence announced that the theme for the Republic Day 2025 tableaux is “Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas” (Golden India: Heritage and Development).
- ❖ Indore’s Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport has officially become the first zero-waste airport in the country.
- ❖ OpenAI unveiled its video generation model Sora, which is designed to take text, image, and video inputs and generate a new video as an output.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has participated in the Christmas Celebrations hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) in New Delhi.
 - This is the first time a Prime Minister has attended such a programme at the Headquarters of the Catholic Church in India.
- ❖ Google recently unveiled the Willow, a quantum chip that has reduced the error tendencies of some of its predecessors.
 - Willow will perform a computation in under five minutes that would take one of today’s fastest supercomputers 10 septillion years to solve.

TAMIL NADU

Insurance cover for accident victims

- ❖ The Tamilnadu state government has raised the insurance cover for the treatment up to ₹2 lakh for accident victims under the ‘Innuvir Kappom Nammai Kaakkum 48’ scheme.

- ❖ So far 3,20,264 persons had benefited under the scheme which was launched on December 18, 2021, by absorbing the cost of hospitalisation for the first 48 hours of accident victims.
- ❖ Currently, 721 healthcare facilities, including 248 government and 473 private facilities, are empanelled to provide treatment under the scheme.
- ❖ The Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai, and the Government Medical College hospitals in Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai were given awards for their performance in connection with the scheme.
- ❖ A special prize was also given to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General hospital, Chennai.




Shoreline analysis of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ An analysis was done as part of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), mandated by the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011.
- ❖ The Shoreline analysis, conducted by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), has identified 69 erosional stretches along the Tamil Nadu coast, and flagged 20 sites that require reformation.

- ❖ Nearly 13.5% of Tamil Nadu’s coastline is occupied by artificial structures.
- ❖ Kanniyakumari and Tiruvallur stand out for having the highest concentration of coastal structures.

Sea change	
Coastal zone rules, 2011	Coastal zone rules, 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No development in CRZ-1, the most ecologically sensitive zone, except for defence, strategic purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism activities such as mangrove walks, tree huts and nature trails, among others, in identified stretches, subject to permissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 500-metre CRZ is apportioned into 4 subdivisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are now further subdivisions within these 4 regions. For instance, the CRZ-1 is split into CRZ-1a and CRZ-1b and CRZ-3 has 3a and 3b
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Regulation Zone shall apply to the land between high tide line to 100 metres on landward side of creeks, estuaries, rivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRZ shall apply to the land area between high tide line to 50 mts on the landward side of creeks, estuaries, backwaters and rivers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States have no discretion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 metre-limit after approval of State



NATIONAL

TRAI New Telecom Regulations 2024



- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued the Telecom Consumers Protection (Twelfth Amendment) Regulations 2024.
- ❖ It is mandating the operators to issue tariff plans with only SMS and voice call benefits.

- ❖ The move is expected to help around 150 million 2G users and those who have two SIM cards.
- ❖ This allows users to pay only for the services that they want to use.
- ❖ TRAI has also mandated telcos to increase the validity of Special Tariff Vouchers (STV) from 90 days to 365 days to benefit consumers.

New Consumer Protection Apps

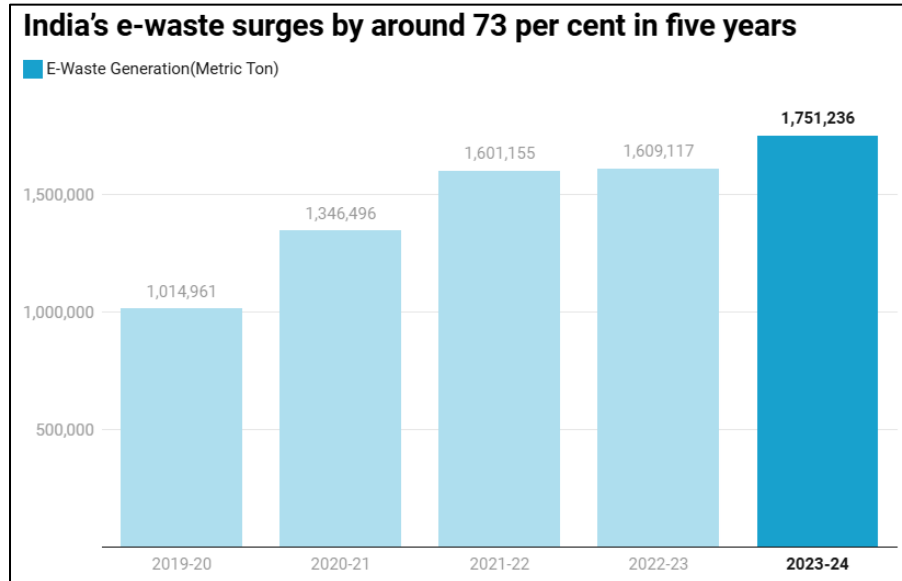


- ❖ The government has launched the revamped Jagriti App to enhance consumer protection and promote digital access to justice.
- ❖ The app was along with the newly introduced 'Jago Grahak Jago App' and 'Jagriti Dashboard'.
- ❖ It aims to equip consumers with tools to identify and address dark patterns on e-commerce platforms, ensuring fair practices and consumer rights protection.
- ❖ Additionally, the revamped National Consumer Helpline Portal, featuring AI-enabled NCH 2.0, was also introduced.
- ❖ The Organic Food Testing Laboratory and the Low Voltage Switch Gear Testing Facility was also launched at the National Test House in Guwahati and Mumbai, respectively.

India's E-Waste Surge 2023/24

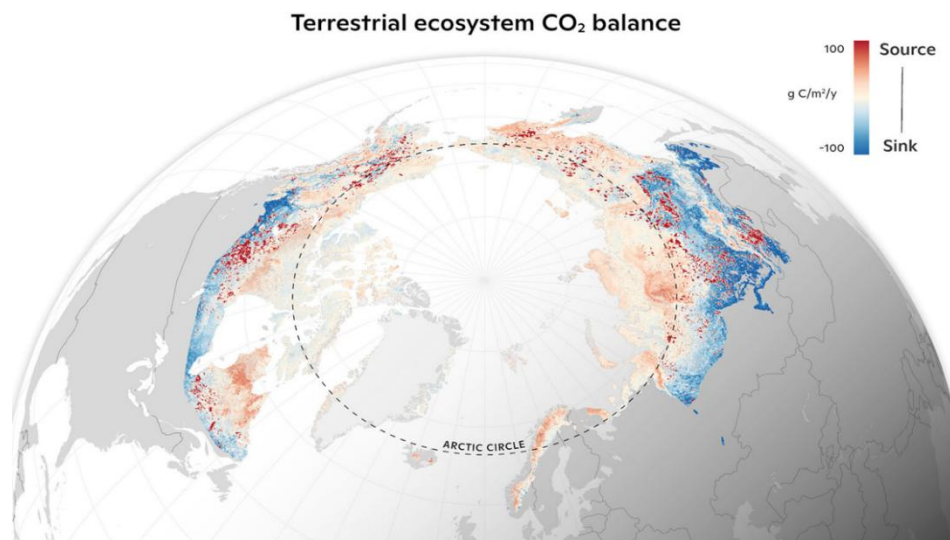
- ❖ India witnessed a surge in electronic waste (e-waste) generation over the past five years, rising from 1.01 million metric tonnes (MT) in 2019-20 to 1.751 million MT in 2023-24.
- ❖ The national-level figures reveal a concerning 72.54 per cent increase in e-waste generation since 2019-20.

- ❖ The proportion of e-waste processed rose from 22 per cent in 2019-20 to 43 per cent in 2023-24.
- ❖ Despite this progress, approximately 57 per cent of the e-waste — equivalent to 990,000 metric tonnes — remains unprocessed in the country.



ENVIRONMENT

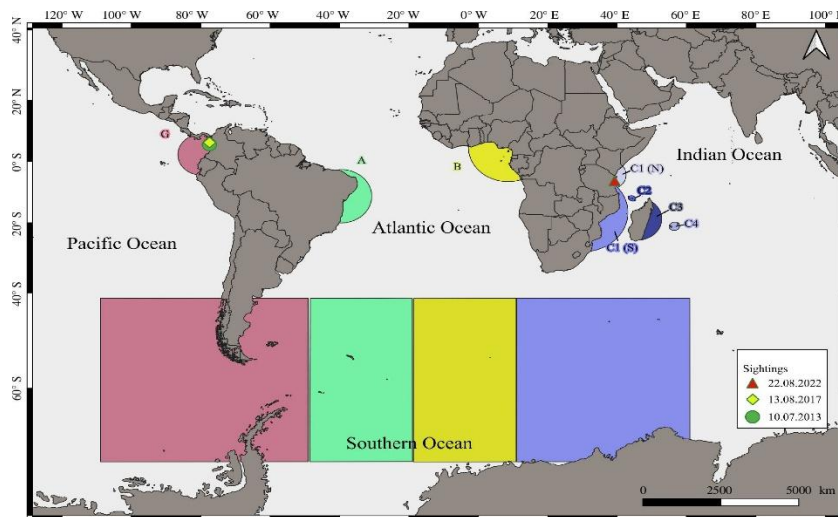
Arctic Tundra's Carbon Release Crisis



- ❖ The Arctic tundra has now become a source of heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHGs).

- ❖ The Increased wildfires and unusually high temperatures are the main reasons behind the dramatic transformation of this Arctic ecosystem.
- ❖ The Plant and animal remain can stay trapped for thousands of years in a layer of its permafrost.
- ❖ Arctic soils store more than 1.6 trillion metric tonnes of carbon across the region.
- ❖ That is about double the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.
- ❖ The annual surface air temperatures in the Arctic in 2024 were the second-warmest on record since 1900.

Humpback Whale Migration



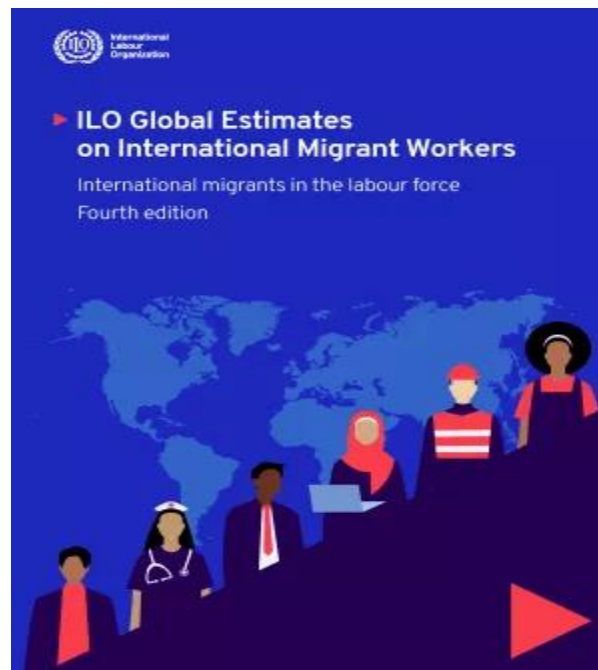
- ❖ A male humpback whale swam 13,046 km from South America to Africa.
- ❖ This creates a record for the longest migration and crossing the two breeding populations.
- ❖ This marks the first time an adult male humpback whale has been observed for travelling between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- ❖ Typical humpback whale migrations span around 4,971 miles (8,000 km) one way.

REPORTS AND INDICES

4th edition of ILO Global Estimates

- ❖ It was the latest report by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❖ International migrants continue to play a vital role in the global labour market, accounting for 4.7 per cent of the labour force in 2022.

- ❖ 167.7 million migrants were part of the labour force of their destination countries in 2022.
- ❖ Of these, around 102.7 million were men and 64.9 million were women.
- ❖ This represents an increase of more 30 million since 2013, an increase that was mainly observed between 2013-2019.
- ❖ The majority of migrants in the labour force were concentrated in high-income countries.
- ❖ It accounted for 68.4 per cent of the total (114.7 million people), followed by 17.4 per cent (29.2 million) in upper-middle-income countries.
- ❖ Of the 167.7 million migrants in the labour force in 2022, 155.6 million were employed, while 12.1 million were unemployed.
- ❖ Migrants had faced a higher unemployment rate (7.2 per cent) compared to non-migrants (5.2 per cent).
- ❖ Migrant women (8.7 per cent) are experiencing higher unemployment levels than men (6.2 per cent).



STATES

Jharkhand - Private Sector Job Quota

- ❖ The Jharkhand High Court has stayed the implementation of the 75% reservation for locals in jobs in private companies in the State.

- ❖ The law has been in force in the State from 2021 under which it is mandatory to appoint local people in 75% of the posts with salary up to ₹40,000 in private sector companies.
- ❖ Earlier the Haryana government had also implemented a similar law, which had been struck down by the Punjab-Haryana High Court.

All talk, no action

Gujarat
85% quota for locals in industries that get government benefits
STATUS: Not implemented

Chhattisgarh
Private sector asked to give preference to locals
STATUS: Advisory in nature

Maharashtra
Private sector to employ 80% domiciled workers
STATUS: Not implemented

Andhra Pradesh
Up to 75% quota for locals
STATUS: Law passed, yet to be implemented

Goa
Incentives to private industries if 80% employees are Goans
STATUS: Companies find it cheaper to hire from outside

Karnataka
Private industries to give priority to Kannadigas in blue-collar jobs
STATUS: Follow-up law not passed yet

SPORTS

FIFA Best Awards 2024

- ❖ Real Madrid's Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior won the Best FIFA Men's Player award.
- ❖ Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Aitana Bonmati has won the Best FIFA Women's Player title.
- ❖ Manchester United youngster Alejandro Garnacho received the Puskas award.

- ❖ Brazil's Marta won the first-ever 'Marta' award for her goal against Jamaica in a friendly this year.
- ❖ Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez (Men's Goalkeeper) and British coach Emma Hayes (Women's Coach) won awards in their respective categories for the second time in their career.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Consumer Day 2024 - December 24



- ❖ It commemorates the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

- ❖ It aims to raising awareness about consumer rights, emphasising the importance of safeguarding consumers, and promoting fair trade practices.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice."

MISCELLANEOUS

Dinga Virus Disease - Uganda



- ❖ This mysterious illness is marked by uncontrollable shaking resembling a dance-like movement.
- ❖ Women and girls are mainly affected by the disorder.
- ❖ Till date, there is no scientific evidence that herbal and any other medicine can treat this disease.

