

February - 04

TNPSC BITS

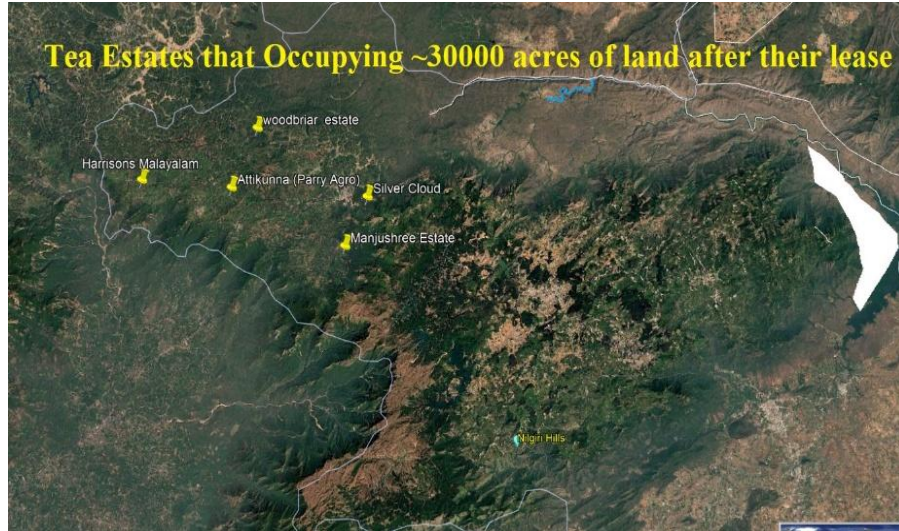
- ❖ For the first time in the country, the Andhra Pradesh state government has launched WhatsApp Governance titled 'Mana Mitra', which can deliver 161 civil services through WhatsApp.
- ❖ The central government has signed agreements with the three local miners to commence scientific coal mining in two districts of Meghalaya (West Khasi Hills and East Jaintia Hills districts).
- ❖ The Ministry of Railways on Friday launched a new app - SwaRail as a one-stop shop for offering public-facing services such as reserved ticket booking, ordering food on trains, and PNR enquiries.
- ❖ The three-day Araku Utsav titled 'Chali' was held in the Araku Valley of Alluri Sitharama Raju district, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has inaugurated the 38th National Games in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The Odisha Warriors became the first-ever Women's Hockey India League champion 2025 in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ❖ Niger becomes the first country in Africa to eradicate onchocerciasis, which had particularly impacted populations living near certain waterways.
- ❖ The first Raisina Middle East Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- ❖ The UAE President announced 2025 as the Year of Community and launched a national initiative aimed at fostering unity and inclusion across society.
- ❖ American long jump great Greg Bell, who had been the oldest living Olympic gold medallist in athletics (1956), has died recently.

TAMIL NADU

Janmam lands in Gudalur

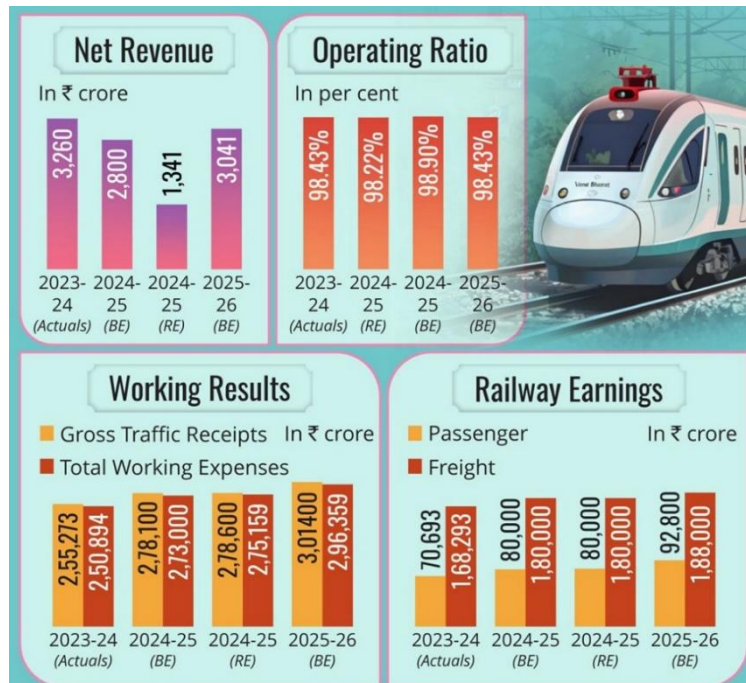
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to approach the Supreme Court to lift the temporary stay that prevents the creation of basic facilities on Janmam lands in Gudalur, located in the Nilgiris district.
- ❖ It will request the Supreme Court to allow the cases related to the Tamil Nadu Gudalur Janmam Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1969, to be heard separately from other pending cases.

- ❖ Since the lands had reached the end of their lease period, the Govt started to reclaim Janmam lands covering an area of 34,986 acres.



NATIONAL

Railway Budget 2025

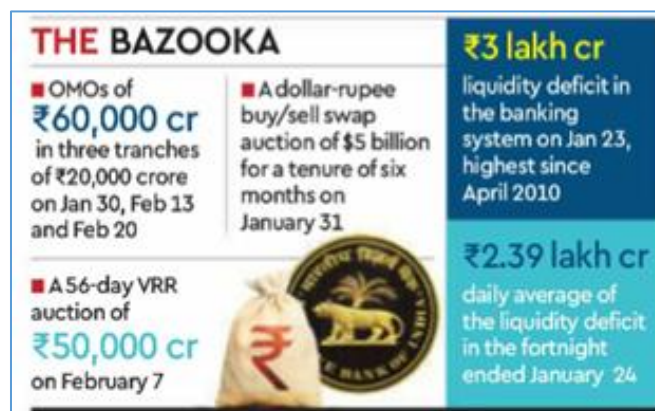


- ❖ The Budget allocation for Indian Railways for FY 2025-26 stands at ₹2.65 lakh crore, the same as last year's allocation.

- ❖ The Railway Capex stands at ₹2.52 lakh crore from the total ₹2.65 lakh crore allocation that include(s) Public Private Partnership investments.
- ❖ The allocation to develop customer amenities in Indian Railways has continued to decline to ₹12,118.39 crore in the FY 2025-26.
- ❖ Also, the allocation for investment in the Public Sector Units (PSU) and Joint Ventures (JV) has gone down from the revised estimate of ₹27,570.77 crore in FY 2024-25 to ₹22,444.33 crore in FY 2025-26.
- ❖ By March 2025, the Indian Railways will achieve an important milestone of carrying 1.6 billion-tonne cargo carrying capacity.
- ❖ With this, it become the second largest cargo carrying railway in the world, next only to China, which has the capacity of 3.7 billion tonnes.
- ❖ The allocation for 'Bullet' train project has been reduced to ₹19,000 crore in the Budget for FY 2025-26.
- ❖ The Railways is set to achieve 100% electrification of its network in FY 2025-26.
- ❖ For the first time, the Railways is projected to achieve ₹3 lakh crore in passenger revenue in FY 2025-26.
- ❖ The Railway Budget was first separated from the General Budget in 1924.
- ❖ The practice came to an end after 92 years when then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the Merged Union Budget for the year 2017-18.
- ❖ The decision to merge these two budgets was based on the recommendations of a committee headed by Bibek Debroy.

ECONOMY

RBI 5 billion Dollar-Rupee Swap Auction



- ❖ The swap auction is the part of the central bank's latest measures to inject Rupee liquidity aggregating about Rs 1.50 lakh crore into the banking system.

- ❖ The RBI received bids from 253 participants aggregating \$25.59 billion at the auction against the notified amount of \$5 billion.
- ❖ The RBI will credit the Rupee funds to the current accounts of the successful bidders.
- ❖ In the reverse leg of the swap transaction, Rupee funds will be returned to the RBI along with the swap premium after six months to get the US Dollars back.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Discovery of LID-568

- ❖ NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and the Chandra X-ray observatory has discovered a bizarre black hole.
- ❖ The newfound black hole was designated LID-568.
- ❖ It is a low-mass supermassive black hole that existed just 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang.
- ❖ The black hole was feeding 40-times greater than the Eddington limit on a surrounding cloud of matter.
- ❖ The rate at which a black hole feeds on matter is governed by what astronomers call the Eddington limit.



ENVIRONMENT

Ocean Coordination Mechanism

- ❖ It was announced by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the UNESCO with focus on the Caribbean and the North Brazil shelf.

- ❖ These areas are rich in biodiversity, their coral reefs and fisheries support local economies, contributing about \$610 million each year.
- ❖ The North Brazil Shelf was classified as a Large Marine Ecosystem.
- ❖ It is home to over 500 fish species and acts as a natural barrier against storms.
- ❖ It has secured an initial \$15 million investment from the Global Environment Facility through the UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ Project.
- ❖ The initiative has also benefited from a substantial co-financing total of \$126.02 million facilitated by the GEF.
- ❖ The other such initiative – Global Fund for Coral Reefs - has raised around \$225 million to date and aims to leverage up to \$3 billion by 2030.



Mount Taranaki - Legal Person

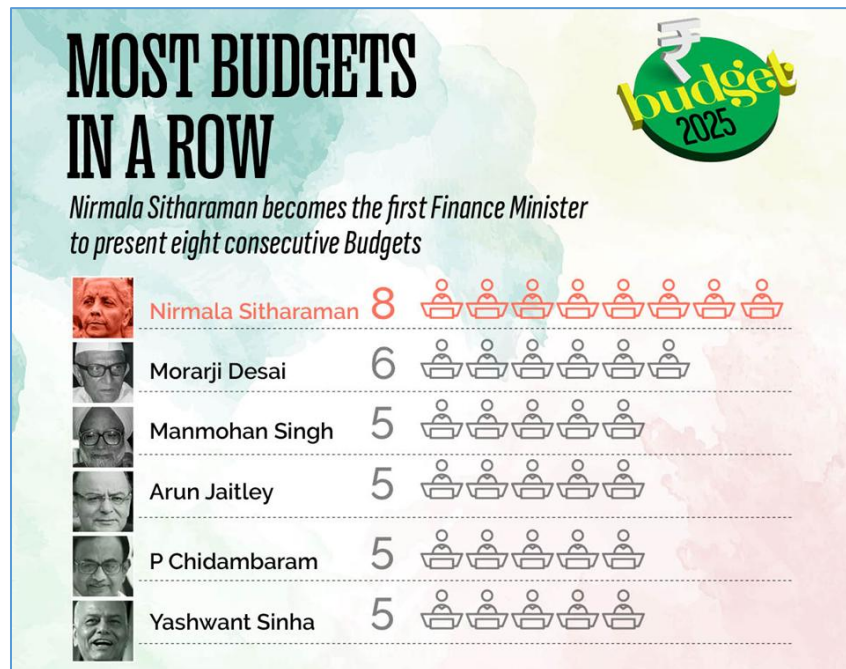


- ❖ New Zealand has granted Mount Taranaki, now officially known as Taranaki Maunga, the same legal rights as a human being.

- ❖ This recognition makes Taranaki Maunga the third natural feature in the country to be accorded individual status.
- ❖ Earlier the Whanganui River and Te Urewera National Park got received the same legal rights.
- ❖ Indigenous people view Mount Taranaki-now known by its Maori name, Taranaki Maunga-as an ancestral entity.
- ❖ Mt Taranaki will effectively own itself, with representatives of the local tribes, iwi, and government working together to manage it.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Nirmala Sitharaman's 8th budget



- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made history as she presented a record eighth consecutive budget.
- ❖ This will take Ms. Nirmala closer to the record of 10 budgets that were presented by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai over different time periods.
- ❖ She will continue to hold the record of presenting the maximum number of the budgets on the trot - eight straight budgets under same PM
- ❖ Desai has presented a total of 6 budgets during his tenure as finance minister from 1959 to 1964, and 4 budgets between 1967 and 1969.
- ❖ Former finance ministers P. Chidambaram and Pranab Mukherjee had presented nine and eight budgets, respectively, under different prime ministers.

- ❖ The first-ever Union Budget of independent India was presented on November 26, 1947, by the nation's first finance minister R K Shanmukham Chetty.
- ❖ Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented five straight budgets between 1991 and 1995.
- ❖ Sitharaman holds the record for the longest budget speech when her presentation on February 1, 2020, lasted two hours and 40 minutes.
- ❖ Hirubhai Mulljibhai Patel's interim Budget speech in 1977 is so far the shortest at just 800 words.
- ❖ The Budget presentation date was in 2017 changed to the 1st of February to allow the government to complete the Parliamentary approval process by March-end.

Sunita Williams New Spacewalk Record 2025



- ❖ Sunita Williams has set a new record for the longest spacewalking time by a woman, clocking 62 hours and 6 minutes at the ISS.
- ❖ She was breaking Peggy Whitson's record of 60 hours and 21 minutes.
- ❖ In 2012, she became the first person to finish a triathlon in space.

SPORTS

BCCI Annual Awards 2025

- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah was honoured with the Polly Umrigar Award for Best Men's International Cricketer of 2023-24.

- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar was conferred with the Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ Smriti Mandhana was conferred with the Best International Cricketer of 2023-24 in women's category.
- ❖ Spin great Ravichandran Ashwin was bestowed with a special award.
- ❖ Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan grabbed the Best International Debut among men.
- ❖ Among women, Asha Sobhana was given the award for Best International Debut.
- ❖ Mandhana was also honoured with the Highest Run Getter in ODIs medal.
- ❖ Off-spinner Deepti Sharma was awarded with the Highest Wickets in ODIs medal.
- ❖ Tanush Kotian awarded with the Best Performance in the BCCI Domestic Tournaments trophy.
- ❖ The Mumbai Cricket Association was given the Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments Trophy.
- ❖ Akshay Totre from Indore was adjudged the Best Umpire in Domestic Cricket for the season.

