

February - 05

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Fintech platforms MobiKwik and CRED rolled out an e₹ wallet for users on the platforms becoming the first non-banks to offer the central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- ❖ Christine Carla Kangaloo, the President of Trinidad and Tobago, was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for her contributions to public affairs and promoting India's global prestige.
- ❖ The Marshall Islands (central Pacific Ocean) has declared its first national marine sanctuary, which covers 48,000 square kilometres of Pacific Ocean water.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Textiles launched Handloom Weavers E-Pehchaan portal and Online module for Handloom Awards.
- ❖ SEBI launched a web-based portal called Integrated SEBI Portal for Technical Glitches (iSPOT) for submitting root cause analysis (RCA) reports on technical glitches.
- ❖ Tata Steel became the first Indian company to develop the pipes designed for transporting hydrogen, marking an important step in India's clean energy efforts.
- ❖ Tripura became the first northeastern state to sign a MoU with the Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ Shailesh Kumar Davey, a co-founder of Zoho Corp, has been appointed as the new group CEO, replacing Sridhar Vembu.
- ❖ SEBI has launched a digital knowledge repository, "Dharohar - Milestones in the Indian securities market", on the occasion of the country's 76<sup>th</sup> Republic Day.
- ❖ The India Women's Team won the Women's U19 T20 Cricket World Cup 2025 final held at Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) after defeating South Africa Women's team by 9 wickets.
- ❖ The Indian Navy recently concluded a massive biennial maritime exercise – the Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX-25) at the naval base of Karwar, Karnataka.

## NATIONAL

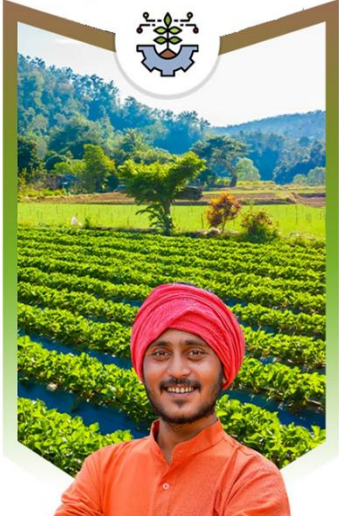
### TEAM Initiative

- ❖ The Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative was launched Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.

- ❖ It has been launched under the "Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP)" Programme.
- ❖ It is aimed to enable MSMEs to embrace digital commerce and expand their market presence.
- ❖ RAMP is the World Bank supported Central Sector Scheme is run over the 5-year period 2022-23 to 2026-27.

<h3>Digital Push</h3> <p>Trade marketing scheme for small enterprises in the works</p> <p>TEAM scheme to aid MSEs onboard Open Network for Digital Commerce</p> <p>MSME ministry to launch ₹277 crore scheme soon</p> <p><b>MSEs TO GET SUBSIDIES FOR CATALOGUE CREATION, ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT, LOGISTICS</b></p>	<p>Sellers have to pay <b>30-40%</b> commission to sell on other e-commerce platforms</p> <p><b>COST SAVING, HIGHER VISIBILITY FOR MSEs EXPECTED</b></p>	
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## PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

<h3>PRIME MINISTER DHAN-DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Govt will undertake 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' in partnership with states to help around <b>1.7 crore farmers</b></li><li>It will cover <b>100 districts</b> with low productivity, moderate crop intensity and below-average credit parameters</li><li><b>It aims to:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enhance agricultural productivity</li><li>Adopt crop diversification &amp; sustainable agriculture practices</li><li>Augment post-harvest storage at Panchayat &amp; Block level</li><li>Improve irrigation facilities</li><li>Facilitate availability of long-term &amp; short-term credit</li></ul></li></ul>	
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- ❖ The 2025 Budget announced the launch of the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, aimed at benefiting 1.7 crore farmers across the country.

- ❖ The scheme is designed to enhance the agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification, strengthen post-harvest storage at panchayat and block levels.
- ❖ It will also improve irrigation infrastructure, and increase the availability of both short and long-term credit for farmers.
- ❖ Additionally, a Makhana Board also established in Bihar to support farmers in the region.

### **Jal Jeevan mission extension**



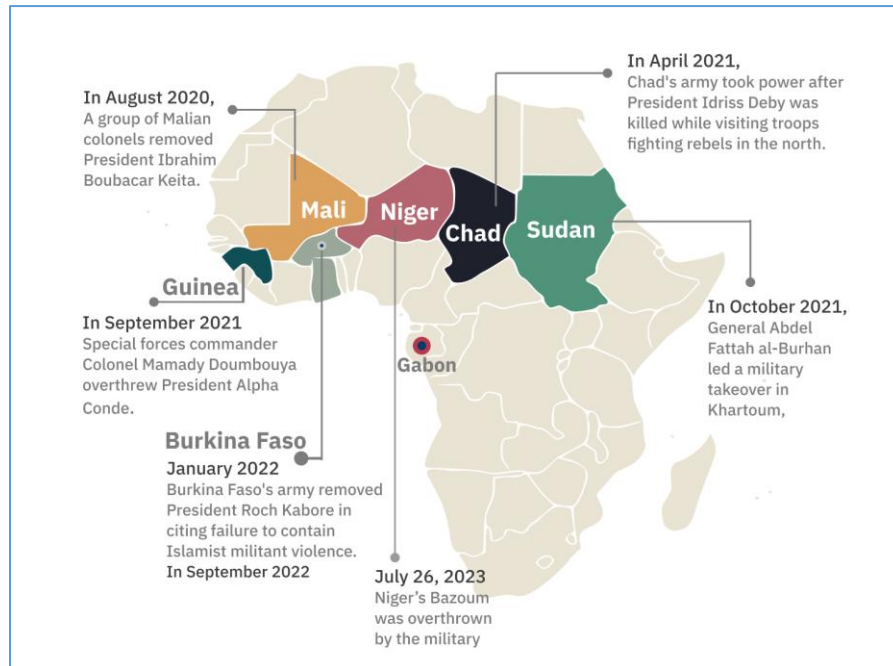
- ❖ The 2025-26 Budget speech announced the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028, with an enhanced total outlay.
- ❖ Since 2019, 150 million households — representing 80 per cent of India's rural population have gained access to potable tap water connections.
- ❖ To achieve 100 per cent coverage, the Jal Jeevan Mission has been extended to 2028.
- ❖ The total budget outlay for 2024-25 was about Rs 70,163 crore.
- ❖ This year, the outlay stands at Rs 67,000 crore — Rs 3,163 crore less than last year's allocation.

- ❖ The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in August 2019 with the ambitious goal of providing tap water to every rural household by 2024.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger – ECOWAS

- ❖ Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso officially left West Africa's main political and trade group ECOWAS.
- ❖ The three countries are founding members of ECOWAS.
- ❖ Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have now formed their own confederation, the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).
- ❖ The three have largely cut their security ties with France and turned towards Russia, Iran and Turkey for assistance.



### U.S. Tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China

- ❖ The U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs of 25% on imports from Canada and Mexico, and an additional 10% on goods from China.
- ❖ US. imports from Canada and Mexico covered nearly \$900 billion in goods as of 2023.
- ❖ Mexico and Canada also account for significant U.S. agriculture imports.

- ❖ Nearly 80% of Canadian goods exports go to the United States, amounting to some \$410 billion in value.
- ❖ Mexico's exports to the United States represented 84% of the goods it sold to the world.
- ❖ Mexico supplied 63% of U.S. vegetable imports and nearly half of U.S. fruit and nut imports in 2023.



- 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico & Canada
- 10% tariffs on Chinese goods
- Retaliatory tariffs from Canada, Mexico, and China

**How This Affects the Secondhand Industry**

- ✓ Higher costs for graders, thrift stores & wholesalers
- ✓ Shipment delays & supply chain disruptions
- ✓ Need for market diversification & new strategies

## ECONOMY

### New MSME classification 2025

New classification of MSME				
Type	INVESTMENT		TURNOVER	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
MicroEnterprise	Rs 1cr	Rs 2.5cr	Rs 5cr	Rs 10cr
Small Enterprise	Rs 10cr	Rs 25cr	Rs 50cr	Rs 100cr
Medium Enterprise	Rs 50cr	Rs 125cr	Rs 250cr	Rs 500cr

*Source: Budget 2025-2026, Speech of Nirmala Sitharama, Union Minister of Finance February 1, 2025.*

- ❖ The investment and turnover limits for classification of all MSMEs will be increased 2.5 and two times respectively.
- ❖ The investment limit is to be classified as a micro enterprise goes up to Rs 2.5 crore.



- ❖ For small enterprises, this limit goes up to Rs 25 crore, and for medium ones, it becomes Rs 125 crore.
- ❖ Similarly, the turnover limit for these classifications goes up to Rs 10 crore for micro enterprises, Rs 100 crore for small ones, and Rs 500 crore for medium enterprises.
- ❖ Currently, over one crore registered MSMEs, employing 7.5 crore people, and generating 36% of our manufacturing

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Deep Seek AI – China

- ❖ Recently, Deep Seek launched its AI models—DeepSeek-V3 and DeepSeek-R1, a reasoning model.
- ❖ These models quickly, surpassing ChatGPT to become the most downloaded app on the App Store.
- ❖ Deep Seek models are open-source, unlike the closed models from OpenAI and Google.

<b>IT TOOK ONLY \$5.6MN TO CREATE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Founded in May 2023 by Liang Wenfeng, who also founded and runs a hedge fund called High-Flyer</li> <li>&gt; DeepSeek's headquarters is in the Chinese city of Hangzhou</li> <li>&gt; Paid access to its new model reportedly comes at 3% of what OpenAI charges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; The AI model sidetracks questions on itself and Chinese politics</li> <li>&gt; DeepSeek's first AI model – launched in Nov 2023 – was called DeepSeek Coder</li> <li>&gt; DeepSeek became #1 downloaded free app on Apple App Store, displacing ChatGPT which, though, has higher total downloads</li> </ul>

## ENVIRONMENT

### Spotted Hyena in Egypt

- ❖ The Egyptian researchers have discovered a spotted hyena (*Crocutta crocutta*) appeared in southern Egypt after 5,000 years.
- ❖ The spotted hyena became extinct in Egypt 5,000 years ago.

- ❖ Two other hyena species -- the striped hyena and the aardwolf -- can be found in Egypt.
- ❖ Warthogs and zebras also disappeared from Egypt at this time.



## STATES

### Chocolate War - Jharkhand Police



- ❖ The Jharkhand Police has adopted a unique initiative to check opium cultivation among the state's rural population, naming it the "Chocolate War."
- ❖ Under the initiative, police personnel visit weekly village markets and distribute chocolates in wrappers containing information about the legal repercussions of opium cultivation.

- ❖ Notably, the state's Khunti district is among the worst affected, where opium has become a 'major crop.'
- ❖ Large scale cultivation of opium is done in Arki, Sayko, Murhu and Maranghada aras of Khunti.
- ❖ Apart from Khunti, the districts of Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Latehar, Palamu, and Chatra have also become fertile grounds for the "opium mafia."

## SPORTS

### 23rd National Para Athletics Championship 2025

- ❖ The official logo and mascot for the 23rd National Para Athletics Championship 2025 were unveiled in Chennai.
- ❖ The championship will bring together over 1,700 para-athletes from across the country.
- ❖ The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Para Sports Association, is supporting the event.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Indian coast guard day 2025 - February 01

- ❖ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 49th Raising Day on February 01.
- ❖ This force came into being on August 18, 1978, as a result of the Coast Guard Act of 1978.
- ❖ The objectives of this force included the protection of India's sea-based borders, search and rescue missions, and tackling smugglers and illegal actions in the Indian Ocean.



- ❖ It takes measures to mitigate marine pollution, dumping of waste materials, oil spills, etc.



### **World interfaith harmony week 2025 – February 01/07**

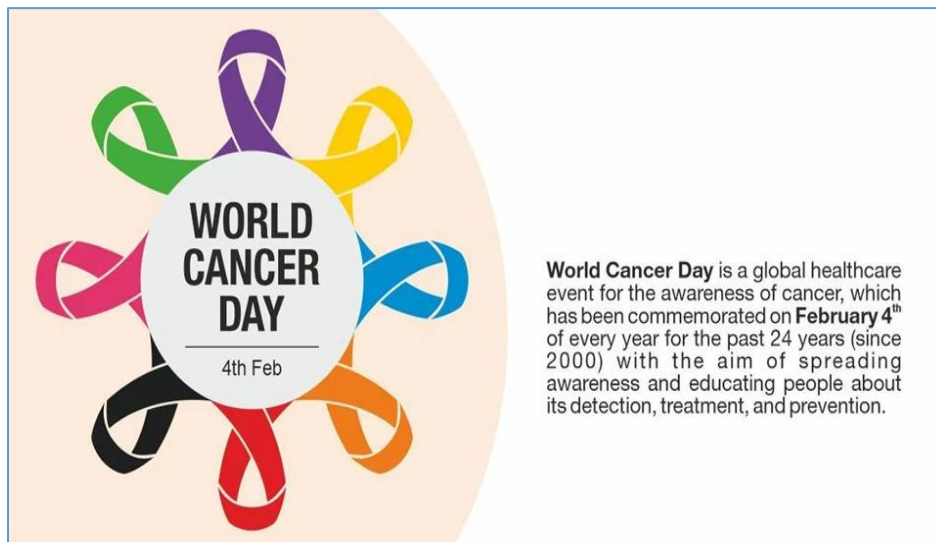


- ❖ It is an annual celebration observed every year in the first week of February.
- ❖ It serves as a platform to promote peace and understanding among the religious communities globally.

- ❖ It was established in 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ The week focuses on increasing dialogue, respect, and collaboration among the different faiths.
- ❖ It also encourages citizens to reflect and take action aimed at uplifting the spirit of harmony.

### **World Cancer Day 2025 - February 04**

- ❖ This global initiative aims to raise awareness about cancer prevention, detection and treatment.
- ❖ Globally, cancer is the leading cause of mortality, accounting for over one crore deaths in 2020.
- ❖ In India, the incidence rate was reported between 19 and 20 lakhs (estimated) cases in 2022.
- ❖ The theme for World Cancer Day 2025-2027 is 'United by Unique.'



## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Etikoppaka Bommalu**

- ❖ It is a Tableau from Andhra Pradesh crafted with wooden toys, the ancient art of Etikoppaka Bommalu.
- ❖ It is a 400-year-old craft that has become synonymous with eco-friendly creativity and cultural heritage.
- ❖ In Etikoppaka, a small village nestled in the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh, artisans have perfected this tradition of toy-making.

- ❖ The toys, often the mythological figures or animals, have long stood out for their seamless curves, vibrant hues, and delicate details.



## Rhodamine B



**NOT HEALTHY**

**What is food colouring made up of?**  
Synthetic dyes (chemicals) or natural sources like plant extracts

**FSSAI stand**  
Regulations permit use of both natural and synthetic food colours, but only in certain amounts and for specific purposes

**Issues with coloured cotton candy**  
Food analysis lab found the presence of Rhodamine B and another "unidentified" chemical

**What is Rhodamine B?**  
> Rhodamine B or RhB, is a chemical compound used in the leather and textile industry, diagnostic centres and chemical labs to impart colour

**Harmful effects on human body**  
> Rhodamine, which usually enters the body when mixed with food, tampers with the balance between the production of oxygen and antioxidant defences on cells and tissue  
> Prolonged consumption of RhB-contaminated food can cause kidney or liver damage, besides cancer  
> It can also damage or kill cells in the cerebellum and brainstem tissue  
> Its presence in excess can cause toxicity and increase the risk of cancer

- ❖ Rhodamine B is a synthetic dye known for its bright pink hue, commonly utilised in industries such as textiles, paper, and leather.
- ❖ Its application extends to scientific research due to its fluorescent properties.

- ❖ However, its use in consumable products is fraught with health risks.
- ❖ Studies have indicated that Rhodamine B can cause DNA damage, leading to mutations and potentially triggering cancerous growths.
- ❖ Animal research has demonstrated tumour development in organs like the liver and bladder following prolonged exposure to the dye.
- ❖ The European Union was among the first to ban Rhodamine B in cosmetics in the early 1990s. In the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has long prohibited its use in food products, classifying it as unsafe for the human consumption.
- ❖ In February 2024, Tamil Nadu banned the production and sale of cotton candy.
- ❖ Karnataka, in March 2024, prohibited the use of Rhodamine B in popular street foods.

