

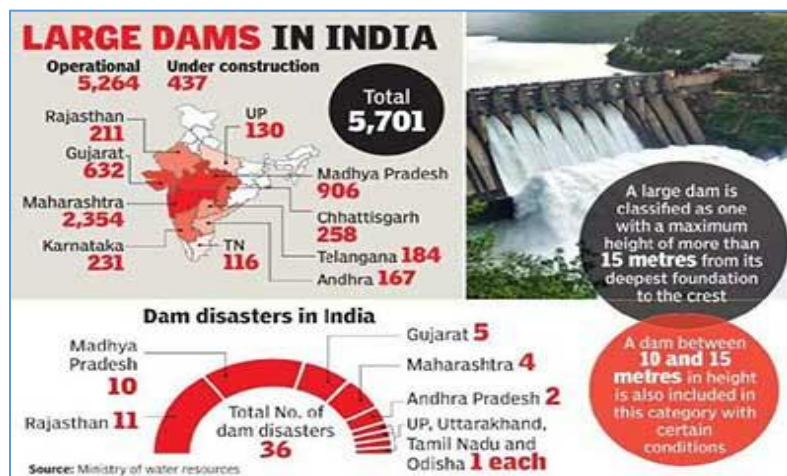
February - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company has introduced the Kotak MSCI India ETF (Morgan Stanley Capital International), the country's first exchange-traded fund (ETF) designed to track the MSCI India Index.
- ❖ The DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT Hyderabad achieved the application demonstration of Large Area Additive Manufacturing (LAAM) System.
- ❖ India's first national cooperative university, Tribhuvan Sahkari University, will be established in Gujarat at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).
- ❖ The Union Govt has announced that gig workers would be eligible for healthcare facilities under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) scheme.
- ❖ The Union government has set a target of achieving 3,000 million tonnes (mt) of cargo by 2030.
- ❖ The Hyderabad-based Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has been awarded the prestigious Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award for 2025 in the institutional category.

TAMIL NADU

Dam Rehabilitation under DRIP II – Tamilnadu



- ❖ Five major dams in the State, which are over five decades old, are proposed to be rehabilitated soon under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)-II with the World Bank assistance.



- ❖ The projects aim to ensure the dam safety and to improve the operation of the structures, are in various stages of implementation.
- ❖ The department is awaiting the World Bank's nod to start renovation works in Anaikuttam dam in Virudhunagar district, Mirugandanadhi dam in Tiruvannamalai district and Amaravathy dam.
- ❖ It is also preparing proposals for dam rehabilitation project in Wellington (Cuddalore district) and catchment area treatment works at Mettur dam.
- ❖ Two other dams-Kelavarapalli and Upper Nirar have been renovated.
- ❖ Vaigai dam was inaugurated in 1959 and benefited residents of the districts, including Ramanathapuram and Madurai.
- ❖ The Bhavanisagar dam was built across Bhavani River.

Committee on Old Pension Scheme - Tamilnadu

Parameter	Old Pension Scheme (OPS)	National Pension Scheme (NPS)	Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)
Pension Amount	50% of the last basic pay, increases with DA	10% salary contribution, 14% government contribution, market dependent pension	Pension amount is 50% of the average basic pay of the last 12 months
Family Pension	Family gets the entire pension	Depends on corpus and annuity	Family gets 60% of the employee's pension
Contribution	No cut in salary, 100% government contribution	Employee 10% and government 14% contribution	Employee 10% and government 18.5% contribution
Compliance	Government employees before 2004	All government employees after 1 January 2004	All government employees having 10–25 years of service
Additional benefits	Gratuity up to Rs. 20 lakh on retirement	No fixed additional benefit	Gratuity + 1/10th of salary paid for every six months of service

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a three-member committee to study the Old Pension Scheme, Contributory Pension Scheme and the Unified Pension Scheme.
- ❖ IAS officer Gagandeep Singh Bedi, former Director of Madras School of Economics K.R. Shanmugam are members of the Committee.
- ❖ It will submit a detailed report with recommendations within nine months.
- ❖ The CPS was introduced for State government employees, who joined service on April 1, 2003.

- ❖ The National Pension System was introduced for the employees of the Union government from January 1, 2004.
- ❖ However, the CPS was followed for the State government employees.
- ❖ The Union government introduced the Unified Pension Scheme on January 24 this year.

NABARD's State Focus Paper 2025-26

- ❖ The State Focus Paper 2025-26 of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) releasing at the State Credit Seminar.
- ❖ For 2025-26, NABARD has prepared district-wise Potential Linked Credit Plans, aggregated and published as the State Focus Paper.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu continues to demonstrate the strong resilience with a compounded annual growth rate of 11-12 percent over the past decade.
- ❖ NABARD has projected, for 2025-26, a priority sector credit potential of around ₹10 lakh crore, with ₹4,34,583 crore allocated for agriculture and allied activities.



NATIONAL

SC/ST Act - Intellectual Property

- ❖ The Supreme Court uphold the Bombay High Court's ruling on the intellectual property loss compensation under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and its 1995 Rules.
- ❖ Petitioners approached the Bombay High Court seeking a just assessment of compensation payable for damaging property under Section 15A (11)(d) of the Atrocities Act read with Rule 12(1) of the 1995 Rules.

- ❖ The Bombay High Court ruled that the term "property" should be interpreted broadly to include intellectual property such as data, electronic material, and intellectual rights, whether tangible or intangible.
- ❖ Patents, copyrights, and designs, are property, even though they lack physical existence, and are capable of being valued for compensation under the SC/ST Act, 1989.
- ❖ Notably, Section 8 establishes a reverse burden of proof, shifting the onus onto the accused to prove their innocence.

Intellectual property theft comes under SC/ST Act, says Supreme Court, upholds HC relief to Dalit researchers



GARBH-INi-Drishti

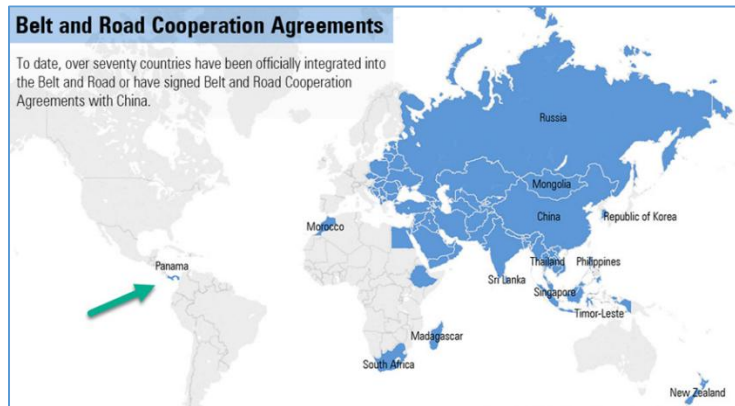


- ❖ The IIT Madras and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, have collaborated to develop an India-specific artificial intelligence model named Garbhini-GA2.

- ❖ It is a data dashboard that provides a comprehensive overview of one of South Asia's largest pregnancy cohort datasets.
- ❖ GARBH-Ini GA-2 is based on genetic algorithms.
- ❖ This genetic algorithm is an optimisation technique inspired by evolution and natural selection principles.
- ❖ This initiative is a part of the GARBH-Ini programme, addressing the critical need for precision in prenatal care.

INTERNATIONAL

Panama and BRI Initiative



- ❖ Panama President announced its withdrawal from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- ❖ The BRI was launched by China in 2013.
- ❖ It has served as a key mechanism for Beijing to extend its global economic influence by financing infrastructure projects in various countries.
- ❖ Panama had joined the initiative in 2017 during the administration of former President Juan Carlos Varela
- ❖ Panama Canal was built by the US in the early 20th century and handed over to Panama in 1999.

ENVIRONMENT

International Big Cat Alliance 2025

- ❖ The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) has officially come into force as a treaty-based, inter-governmental organisation.
- ❖ It is becoming a fully functional international legal entity on January 23.

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was acting as the Depository for the Framework Agreement.
- ❖ Recently five countries – the Republic of Nicaragua, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Republic of India, the Federal Republic of Somalia, and the Republic of Liberia – have deposited their instruments of the ratification making them the founding members of the IBCA.
- ❖ The IBCA was launched by India on April 9, 2023, during an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
- ❖ The initiative's main objective is the conservation of seven major big cat species: the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- ❖ As of now, 27 countries, including India, have agreed to join the IBCA.



Rusty-Spotted Cat



- ❖ For the first time ever, the rusty-spotted cat was found frolicking in the jungles of West Bengal's Purulia district.



- ❖ It is the world's smallest and lightest known cat.
- ❖ The rusty-spotted cat is only found in India and Sri Lanka, and was only recently discovered in the forests of Nepal.
- ❖ India holds 80 percent of the cat's total population, with a major portion of its habitat at risk of land conversion.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Top 10 most powerful countries – 2025

S.No	Country	GDP	Population	Region
1.	United States	\$30.34 trillion	34.5 crore	North America
2.	China	\$19.53 trillion	141.9 crore	Asia
3.	Russia	\$2.2 trillion	144.4 crore	Asia
4.	United Kingdom	\$3.73 trillion	6.91 crore	Europe
5.	Germany	\$4.92 trillion	8.45 crore	Europe
6.	South Korea	\$1.95 trillion	5.17 crore	Asia
7.	France	\$3.28 trillion	6.65 crore	Europe
8.	Japan	\$4.39 trillion	12.37 crore	Asia
9.	Saudi Arabia	\$1.14 trillion	3.39 crore	Asia
10.	Israel	\$550.91 billion	93.8 lakh	Asia

- ❖ Forbes has released its 2025 list of the world's 10 most powerful countries.
- ❖ The United States is leading the global rankings, followed by China in second place and Israel rounding up the list at the tenth spot.
- ❖ Russia, with a \$2.2 trillion GDP and a population of 84 million, has been ranked third.
- ❖ The United Kingdom is fourth on the list this year, with a GDP of \$3.73 trillion.
- ❖ Germany has been ranked fifth on the list. It possesses a \$4.92 trillion economy.
- ❖ India is ranked 12th among the world's most powerful countries, with its GDP estimated at \$3.55 trillion and a population of 1.43 billion.

STATES

Rajasthan Anti-Conversion Bill 2025

- ❖ Rajasthan Assembly introduced a Bill to prevent religious conversions carried out by force, fraud or inducement.
- ❖ This bill named Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025.

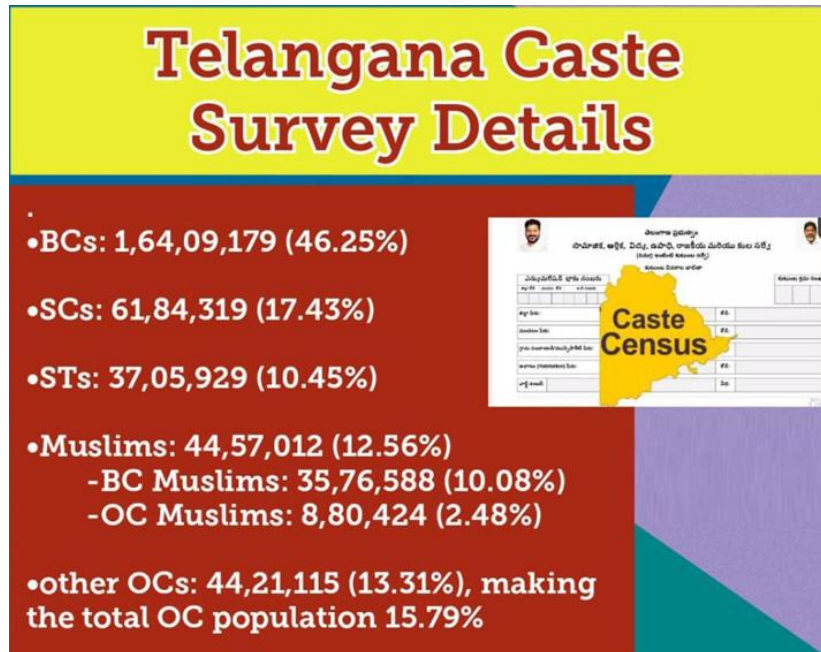
- ❖ This bill states that those involved in unlawful conversion can be punished with one to five years in jail with a minimum fine of Rs 15,000.
- ❖ In case of an unlawful conversion targeting a minor, a woman or a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST), the punishment can be between two to 10 years with a fine of Rs 25,000.
- ❖ For an unlawful mass conversion, the imprisonment would be three to 10 years with a minimum fine of Rs 50,000.

10 YRS IN PRISON FOR VIOLATIONS	
What the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025, says:	of conversion by up to ₹5 lakh
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Proposes to prevent unlawful conversions by force, fraud or marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Penal clause includes minimum fine of ₹15,000; ₹25,000 (for conversion of SC/ST); or ₹50,000 (for mass conversions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Marriage on account of "unlawful conversion" to be annulled, court empowered to invalidate such marriages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Registration of institutions or organisations violating provisions of proposed law to be cancelled
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Forced conversions a non-bailable and cognizable offence, and could invite a stringent punishment of up to 10 years in prison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Vasundhara Raje govt had passed the Rajasthan Religious Freedom Bill in 2008. It however, was not enacted and returned to the govt without the governor's assent on Jan 31, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Accused to compensate victim	

Telangana Caste Survey

- ❖ The cabinet approved the survey and placed it before the state assembly recently.
- ❖ The non-Muslim Other Backward Classes (OBCs) constitute 46.25 per cent.
- ❖ Muslim OBCs constitute 10.08 per cent of the state's population, while Scheduled Castes constitute 17.43 per cent and Scheduled Tribes 10.45 per cent.
- ❖ Non-Muslim general castes (Other Castes) are at 13.31 per cent.
- ❖ Non-Muslim OBCs also include Christians, Sikhs and Buddhists, not just Hindus, although their numbers are small.
- ❖ Out of a total 12.56 per cent Muslims, only 2.48 per cent would not claim the OBC status.
- ❖ Bihar was the first state government to do its own caste survey.
- ❖ The survey showed that OBCs formed 63.14 per cent of the state's population.

- ❖ Based on this data, the Bihar government tried to increase the OBC reservation of the state, but the Patna High Court struck it down as “unconstitutional”.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Mrs World 2025



- ❖ South Africa's Tshego Gaelae has been crowned Mrs World 2025.
- ❖ She becomes the first black woman to win the title in the competition's 40-year history.

- ❖ Ishadi Amanda, representing Sri Lanka, was placed as the 1st Runner Up at the 2025 Mrs. World Pageant.
- ❖ The 2nd runner up at the 2025 Mrs. World Pageant was claimed by the contestant from Thailand.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bharat Cancer Genome Atlas

- ❖ IIT Madras Launches Bharat Cancer Genome Atlas (BCGA) is a First-of-Its-Kind Cancer Genome Database to Transform Cancer Research in India.
- ❖ It has a data on 960 whole exomes sequencing it has completed so far from tissue samples collected from 480 breast cancer patients.
- ❖ The database will be an invaluable resource to identify the cancer-specific bio markers in India, helping in early detection of breast cancers.

