

February - 08

## TNPSC BITS


- ❖ The Global Nature Foundation of Thuraiyur bagged the 'Sutrusoozhal Sudaroli' award (second prize, organisation category) at the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 3.0.
- ❖ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), headquartered at Chennai, has become a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).
- ❖ After Indore, the Bhopal district administration has imposed a ban on begging, giving alms and purchasing any goods from the beggars in the Madhya Pradesh capital.
- ❖ India has become the world's 2nd largest mobile manufacturer, producing 99.2% of mobile phones sold domestically.
- ❖ The largest Hindu temple and cultural complex in the southern hemisphere was unveiled in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ❖ The Late Chaman Arora has been chosen for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri Language for his book 'Ik Hor Ashwthama'.
- ❖ Dubai is going to host the inaugural Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit in April 2025.
- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles has approved 04 Start-Ups with a grant of approx INR 50 Lakhs, each, under the 'Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)' scheme.
- ❖ Maharashtra is going to establish India's first AI university to advance education, research, and innovation.
- ❖ New Delhi has hosted the 15th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias recently.
  - Pharmacopeia is a legally binding collection of the standards and quality specifications for medicines used in a country.

## TAMIL NADU

### **Grain procured by Tamilnadu government**

- ❖ 10,41, 583 metric tonnes of the grains have been procured this year, which is 2,99,248 metric tonnes more than last year.
- ❖ Until February, 4, 2024, 7,42,335 metric tonnes were procured.

- ❖ However, until February, 4, 2025, only around 10,41,583 metric tonnes were procured.
- ❖ Paddy has been procured at an increased rate of ₹2,450 for Grade A varieties and ₹2,405 for common varieties from September 1, 2024.
- ❖ Around 2,444 direct procurement centres have been set up and grains have been procured from 1,44,248 farmers.
- ❖ ₹2,247.52 crore has been deposited in the bank accounts of the farmers.



**Nearly eight lakh tonnes of paddy procured from farmers in State**

**T. Ramakrishnan**  
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu civil supplies authorities have procured nearly eight lakh tonnes of paddy from farmers in the State.

The Cauvery delta districts account for a major chunk of the paddy procured – around 6.2 lakh tonnes. Thanjavur leads the pack with about two lakh tonnes, according to the data compiled by the

**The Cauvery delta districts account for a major chunk of the paddy procured**

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TN CSC) on January 30. Thanjavur is placed second, accounting for approximately 1.6 lakh tonnes, followed by Mayiladuturai - 85,400 tonnes; and Cuddalore - 70,500 tonnes.

As for the non-Cauvery delta districts, Chengalpattu leads with around 35,000 tonnes, followed by Erode - 31,000 tonnes; and Tiruvallur - 23,300 tonnes. These districts have supplied 1.67 lakh tonnes.

The authorities have opened around 1,680 direct purchase centres (DPCs) in the Cauvery delta and 480 DPCs in other parts of the State. Besides TN CSC, the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation has procured 14,000 tonnes through 23 DPCs.

For the corresponding period last year, the paddy procured was 6.05 lakh tonnes, around two lakh tonnes less than the current year's procurement.

Farmers say the procurement is expected to gather momentum only in February, owing to the delay in the harvest of the samba crop by at least a few weeks in the delta.

**Paddy Procurement in Tamil Nadu Rises to 8 Lakh Tonnes**

- ❖ TN CSC procured **8 lakh tonnes of paddy**, up from 6.05 lakh tonnes last year.
- ❖ Cauvery delta contributed **6.2 lakh tonnes**, led by Thanjavur (2 lakh tonnes).
- ❖ Non-delta districts supplied **1.67 lakh tonnes**, with Chengalpattu on top.

**A total of 2,160 DPCs were set up for procurement.**

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## NATIONAL

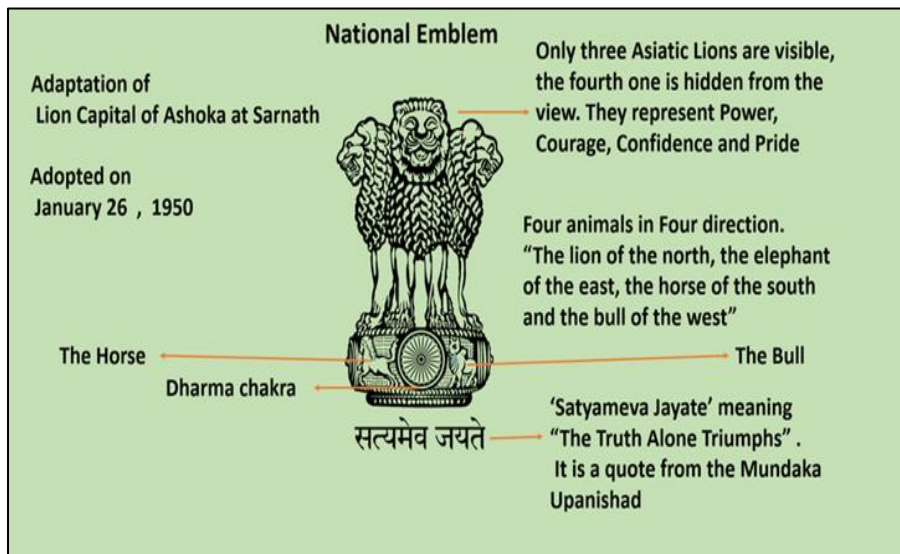
### Rise in Female Labour Force Participation 2024

- ❖ There had been a consistent increase in Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) over the past seven years.
- ❖ The FLFPR had increased over the past seven years from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24.
- ❖ Participation of women increased in economic activities across various categories, including rural and urban.
- ❖ Currently, 21 States have a FLFPR in the range of 30-40%.
- ❖ Seven States or Union Territories reported FLFPR greater than 40%, with Sikkim reporting the maximum rate of 56.9%.

- ❖ While in 2017-18, 20 States and Union Territories had FLFPR of less than 20%, in 2023-24 it is only three states.
- ❖ Rural FLFPR, which was the primary driving force behind overall increase in women's workforce participation, rose from 24.6% in 2017-18 to 47.6% in 2023-24.
- ❖ As of October 31, 2024, a total number of 73,151 start-ups with at least one-woman director were recognised under the Startup India Initiative.



## Home Ministry on State Emblem



- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has asked State governments to prevent the misuse and improper depiction of the State Emblem of India.



- ❖ It is emphasising that the Lion Capital logo is incomplete without the motto — Satyamev Jayate — in Devanagari script.
- ❖ The design is must in conformity with the design set out in the Appendix I & II of the Schedule of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.
- ❖ The Emblem consists of the profile of the Lion Capital showing the three Lions mounted on the abacus, with a Dharma Chakra in the Centre, a bull on the right, a galloping horse on the left and outlines of Dharma Chakras on the extreme right and left.
- ❖ Also, the motto 'Satyameva Jayate' - written in Devanagari script below the profile of the Lion Capital.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **US withdrawal from UN Rights Council**



- ❖ United States President is planning to cut off US engagement with the UN Human Rights Council and extend a funding ban on the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.
- ❖ After US announced Israel also join the US in its decision not to participate in the UNHRC.

- ❖ Trump has already withdrawn the US from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the 2015 Paris climate agreement.
- ❖ Earlier the Trump administration quit the Human Rights Council in 2018.

## ECONOMY

### India's gold investments 2024

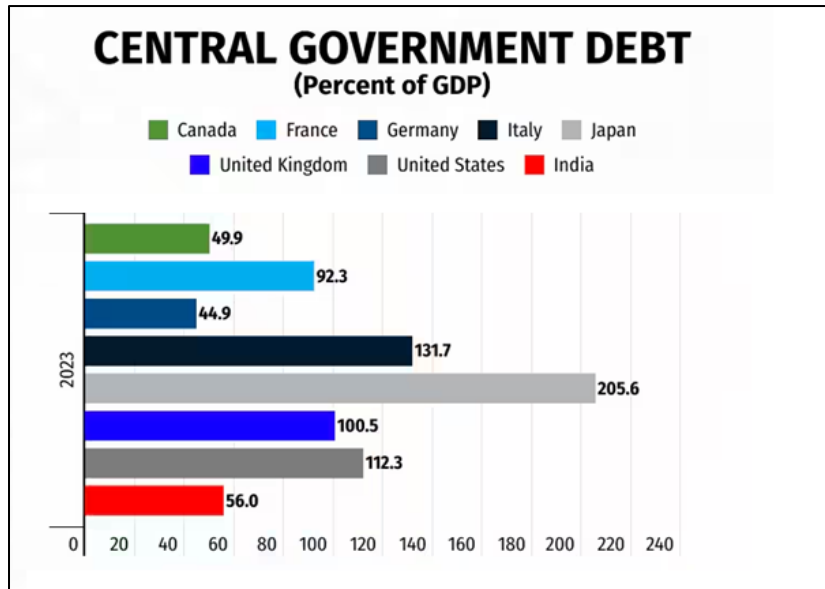
- ❖ The Gold investments in India surged by 60% in 2024, reaching \$18 billion (approximately Rs 1.5 lakh crore), compared to 2023.
- ❖ The World Gold Council (WGC) report added that gold investment demand stood at 239 tonnes, marking its highest level since 2013.
- ❖ This was a 29% increase from the 185 tonnes recorded in 2023.
- ❖ At 239 tonnes, the country's gold investment accounted for 20% of the global demand in this category, which stood at 1,180 tonnes in 2024.
- ❖ Worldwide demand also grew by 25% compared to 945.5 tonnes in 2023.

- The annual overall investment in gold **climbed 25%** to hit a four-year high of 1,180 tons, largely fueled by gold exchange-traded funds.
- Demand for gold bars and coins remained firm, lifted by **strong demand from China and India.**
- A mix of domestic economic uncertainty, persistent equity market volatility and record low government bond yields pushed Chinese investors into gold.
- In India, gold demand was lifted after its government **reduced gold import duties** from 15% to 6% in July, the World Gold Council noted.

### Debt-to-GDP Ratio - primary fiscal anchor

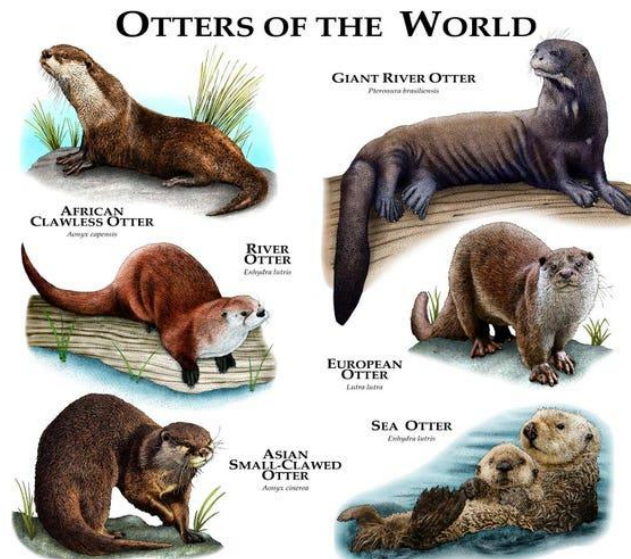
- ❖ The Union Budget has outlined a plan to reduce the central government's debt-to-GDP ratio to 50 per cent by 2031.
- ❖ It was marking a significant shift from a qualitative goal to a specific, measurable target.
- ❖ The debt-to-GDP ratio is a widely accepted indicator of a country's fiscal health.

- ❖ India's central government debt-to-GDP ratio presents a healthy range.
- ❖ Compared to its G7 counterparts, India's debt-to-GDP ratio is remarkably low, except for Canada and Germany.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Eurasian Otters in Kashmir



- ❖ The Eurasian otters have resurfaced in the Valley of Kashmir over the last 3 years.
- ❖ This is first live documentation of the species for the last 25 years.

- ❖ In 1997, people spotted them in the back waters of famous Dal Lake.
- ❖ The Eurasian otters is locally known as Vodur belongs to Mustelidae family and inhabits semi-aquatic environments.
- ❖ The species feeds on fish and is responsible for maintaining healthy ecosystem.
- ❖ IUCN listed the Eurasian otters as near threatened on its red list in 2004 and 2008.

## STATES

### **'Dhimsa' dance**

- ❖ The Tribal families from Neelabandha, a hilltop hamlet in Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh received electricity for the first time after Independence.
- ❖ They have performed 'Dhimsa', a popular tribal dance, in excitement under the lights.
- ❖ Dhimsa is a popular tribal dance in Andhra Pradesh performed by Bagata, Valmiki, Poraja, Khond, Gadaba, Kondadora, Mukadora, and Kotia tribes.
- ❖ It symbolizes the unity and cultural heritage, with themes based on mythology, folktales, economic activities, kinship, and marital life.
- ❖ There are 12 varieties of Dhimsa and its origin can be traced to the Koraput Area the home to Ghond Tribe.
- ❖ It is accompanied by wind and percussion instruments, the dance changes by the music, and a troupe comprises 20.

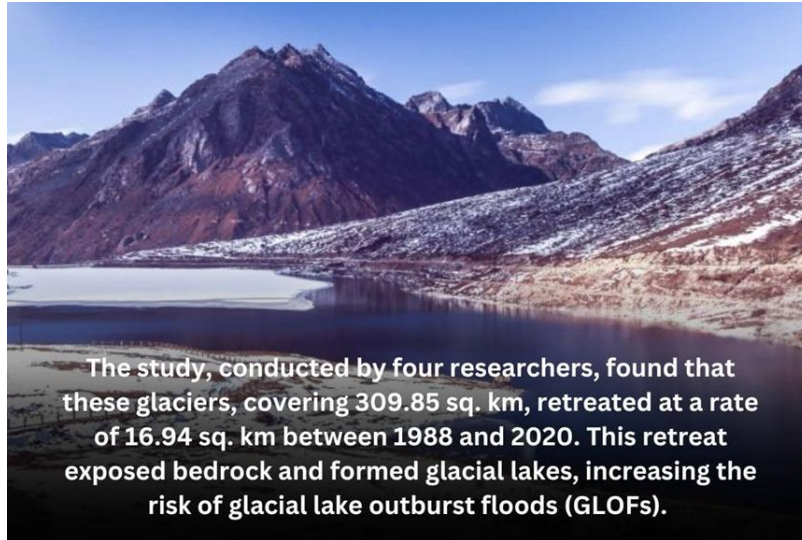


Dhimsa Dance is Performed by the Tribes of Andhra Pradesh

### **Loss of glaciers – Arunachal Pradesh**

- ❖ The section of the eastern Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh lost 110 glaciers in 32 years.

- ❖ These glaciers covering an area of 309.85 sq. km disappeared at a retreat rate of 16.94 sq. km during the study period from 1988 to 2020.
- ❖ The largely snow-covered Himalayan belt is considered the ‘Third Pole’ as it has the largest collection of glaciers outside the polar regions.
- ❖ It serves as a freshwater source for more than 1.3 billion people living in the downstream regions.



## **Makhana board in Bihar**



**₹** UNION BUDGET 2025-26

### Makhana Board in Bihar

*To improve production, processing, value addition, and marketing of Makhana*

- People engaged in these activities to be organized into FPOs
- Board to provide handholding and training support to Makhana farmers
- Will also work to ensure they receive benefits of all relevant Government schemes

- ❖ The Union Budget announced the establishment of “Makhana Board” in Bihar.
- ❖ It will improve the production, processing, value addition, and marketing of makhana.



- ❖ Bihar contributes to 90% of makhana production in India.
- ❖ In 2022, 'Mithila Makhana' was conferred a Geographical Indication (GI) tag,

## IMPORATNT DAYS

### International Development Week 2025 - February 02/08



- ❖ During the first full week of February, the International Development Week (IDW) is celebrated.
- ❖ It aims to educate, uplift, engage and commemorate people's contributions to the worldwide development.
- ❖ The theme for this year is — Building a better world together.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Army's Eastern HQ - Fort William

- ❖ Fort William in Kolkata, the headquarters of the Eastern Army Command, has been renamed Vijay Durg.
- ❖ Additionally, Kitchener House inside Fort William has been renamed Manekshaw House, and South gate, formerly known as St. George's Gate, is now Shivaji Gate.
- ❖ Fort William, named after the King William III of England, was constructed by the British in 1781.

- ❖ The new name, Vijay Durg, is derived from the oldest fort along the Sindhudurg coast in Maharashtra.
- ❖ It was served as a naval base for the Marathas under Chhatrapati Shivaji.

### SOUTH GATE NOW SHIVAJI GATE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Original Fort William built by East India Company in 1696. Was named after Britain's William III</li> <li>&gt; Captured by Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah in 1756</li> <li>&gt; Existing fort commissioned by Robert Clive in 1758. Completed in 1781</li> <li>&gt; Now serves as HQ of Eastern Command</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Kitchener House inside has been renamed Manekshaw House</li> <li>&gt; South Gate or St George's Gate is now Shivaji Gate</li> </ul>
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### Passenger loads on domestic flights

- ❖ India's domestic flights achieved a passenger load factor of 86.4 percent in 2024, the highest globally.
- ❖ It was surpassing the US (84.1 percent) and China (83.2 percent), which ranked second and third, respectively.
- ❖ Brazil secured the fourth position with a load factor of 81.9 percent.
- ❖ It is followed closely by Australia at 81.8 percent and Japan at 78 percent.

Air Passenger Market in Detail - 2024					
2024 (% YEAR-ON-YEAR)	WORLD SHARE <sup>1</sup>	RPK	ASK	PLF(%-PT) <sup>2</sup>	PLF(LEVEL) <sup>3</sup>
Total Market	100%	10.4%	8.7%	+1.3%	83.5%
Africa	2.2%	13.2%	9.9%	+2.2%	74.9%
Asia Pacific	33.5%	16.9%	12.3%	+3.2%	83.4%
Europe	26.7%	8.7%	8.1%	+0.5%	84.8%
Latin America	5.3%	7.8%	7.1%	+0.6%	83.7%
Middle East	9.4%	9.5%	8.4%	+0.8%	80.8%
North America	22.9%	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	84.3%

### Brucellosis in Kerala

- ❖ An Eight-year-old girl from Kottakkal in Malappuram district of Kerala died due to brucellosis.
- ❖ Brucellosis is a bacterial disease caused by various Brucella species, which mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs.

- ❖ Humans acquire it through direct contact with infected animals, by eating or drinking contaminated animal products or by inhaling airborne agents.
- ❖ Most cases are caused by ingesting unpasteurised milk or cheese from infected goats or sheep.
- ❖ Human-to-human transmission is very rare.

