

February - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister will inaugurate the Trichy Bird Park and India's largest Aviary in Kambarasampettai, located on the banks of the Kaveri River.
- ❖ After a pilot run, the 108-ambulance network has rolled out its application - 'Avasaram 108 Tamilnadu' to enable persons seeking ambulances for medical emergencies to track the vehicles on their mobile phones.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has approved the establishment of a native species seed vault with cryogenic facilities at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Coimbatore to conserve the rare, endangered, and threatened plant species through the cryopreservation.
- ❖ To mark 75 years of the Constitution, Sankara Eye Hospital in collaboration with CII Young Indians (Yi) Bengaluru, has brought out a Braille-enabled version of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) has joined the United Nations Global Compact, reinforcing its commitment to corporate sustainability.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for north India's first 1-MW green hydrogen plant at Dabhota in Solan district.
- ❖ Zepto, India's quick commerce startup, became the world's second most downloaded food and drink app, surpassing KFC and Domino's, per Sensor Tower's report.
- ❖ The 38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, one of the largest crafts fairs in the world is being held in Surajkund, Faridabad, Haryana.
- ❖ Israel announced its withdrawal from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) following a decision by the USA.
- ❖ Australia women's cricket team has won the ICC Women's Championship 2025 for the third consecutive time.

TAMIL NADU

Real Money Games Regulations


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority has introduced some new regulations governing real money online games.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority (Real Money Games) Regulations, 2025, prohibits minors under 18 from playing online real money games.

- ❖ According to the regulations, know your customer (KYC) verification is required for account creation.
- ❖ The initial login must be authenticated by using the Aadhaar-based verification, including a one-time password sent to the linked phone number.
- ❖ Real money games will be restricted between midnight and 5 am and No logins will be allowed during these hours.

How is a “Real Money Game” Defined?


The regulations define a real money game as an online game where users make a **deposit in cash or kind** with the expectation of earning winnings.

Winnings refer to a prize, in cash or kind, which is distributed to the user based on their performance according to the rules of the game.



Prohibition on Minors from Playing Real Money Games

The regulations prohibit all individuals below the **age of 18** from playing real money games.



NATIONAL

Watershed yatra 2025



- ❖ The Union Minister of Rural Development has launched a national level mass outreach campaign “Watershed Yatra”.

- ❖ It aims to generate the people's participation and create the awareness about the Watershed Development activities carried out under the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) in project areas.
- ❖ A total of about 800 Gram Panchayats and more than one lakh people have participated in the Watershed Yatra launch program.

Child road safety crisis



- ❖ A national roadmap for child and adolescent road safety in India, released on February 4 by UNICEF in collaboration with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Injury Prevention and Safety at NIMHANS.
- ❖ It highlights alarming figures on road traffic injuries (RTIs) among children.
- ❖ RTIs are now the leading cause of death among children and adolescents in India, accounting for 10% of all road crash fatalities.
- ❖ Every day, nearly 45 children under 18 lose their lives in road crashes across the country.
- ❖ In 2022 alone, 16,443 fatalities were recorded in this age group, though actual numbers maybe 20% higher due to underreporting.
- ❖ Between 2011 and 2022, an estimated 198,236 children and adolescents lost their lives in road crashes.
- ❖ Notably, 75% of these fatalities occurred among 14- to 17-year-olds, and the numbers more than doubled in this group over the past decade.

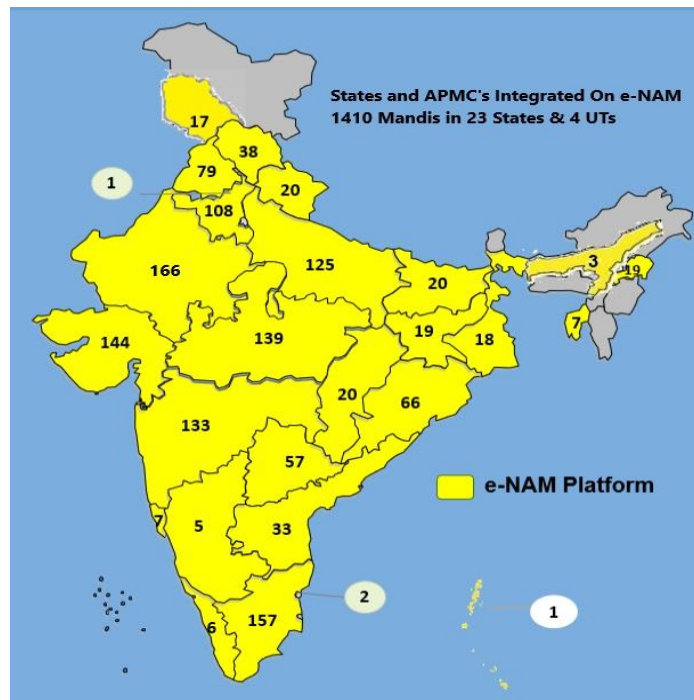
SARAT Version 2

- ❖ The Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched the latest version 2 of Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT).

- ❖ It offers the Indian search and rescue agencies improved efficiency, the faster response times, and higher success rates in search-and rescue operation.
- ❖ It is a satellite-based distress alert system aiding vessels, aircraft, and individuals in remote or high-risk areas at sea.



e-NAM portal expansion



- ❖ The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has decided to further expand the scope of trade under e-NAM.

- ❖ This initiative aims to increase the coverage of agricultural commodities and offer more opportunities for farmers and traders to benefit from the digital trading platform.
- ❖ The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) has formulated tradable parameters for 10 additional agricultural commodities.
- ❖ DMI has formulated tradable parameters for 221 agricultural commodities and following 10 additional commodities will make the list to 231 commodities.

Top 50 tourist destinations - 'Challenge Mode'



TOURISM

2025

- **Top 50 tourist destination sites** to be developed in partnership with states through a challenge mode
- **Special focus** on destinations related to the life and times of Lord Buddha
- **MUDRA loans** for homestays to be provided

- ❖ The Union Budget has allocated funds for the development of the top 50 tourist destinations in the country in partnership with State governments through a “challenge mode”.
- ❖ The States will be responsible for providing land for essential infrastructural development.
- ❖ Hotels at these destinations will be included in the Harmonised Master List (HML) of infrastructure projects.

- ❖ Additionally, the country will streamline the e-visa facilities and provide visa fee waivers for select tourist groups to attract international visitors.
- ❖ There will be a special focus on destinations related to the life and times of Lord Buddha.

INTERNATIONAL

Donkey Route

- ❖ A US military aircraft carrying over 100 Indian migrants had landed in Amritsar marking the first mass deportation under President Trump.
- ❖ Most of them attempted the dangerous "donkey route."
- ❖ It is an illegal migration path, controlled by human traffickers, spanning multiple countries and posing extreme risks.
- ❖ The "donkey route" is a term used to describe the dangerous journey migrants take to reach the US or European countries in search of jobs and better living.
- ❖ It is named after a Punjabi idiom referring to an arduous, unplanned journey.



Sarandí Stream in Argentina

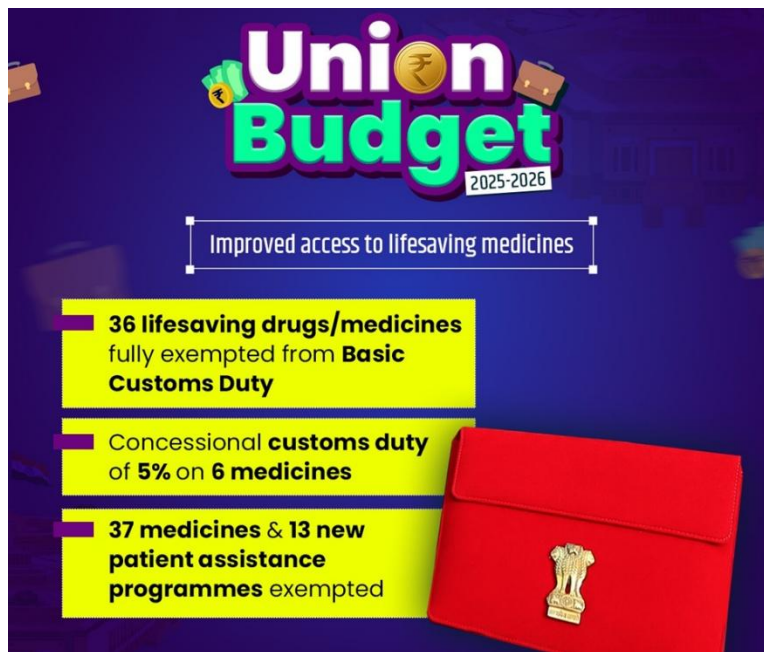
- ❖ A stream on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has turned a striking crimson red.
- ❖ Experts suspect the presence of aniline, a toxic chemical used in dyes and the pharmaceuticals.
- ❖ The stream has changed colours multiple times before—gray, green, violet, blue, and brown—often with an oily surface.

- ❖ The Matanza-Riachuelo River basin has been called one of the most polluted waterways in Latin America.



ECONOMY

Import Duty Waiver on Life-Saving Drugs



Union Budget
2025-2026

Improved access to lifesaving medicines

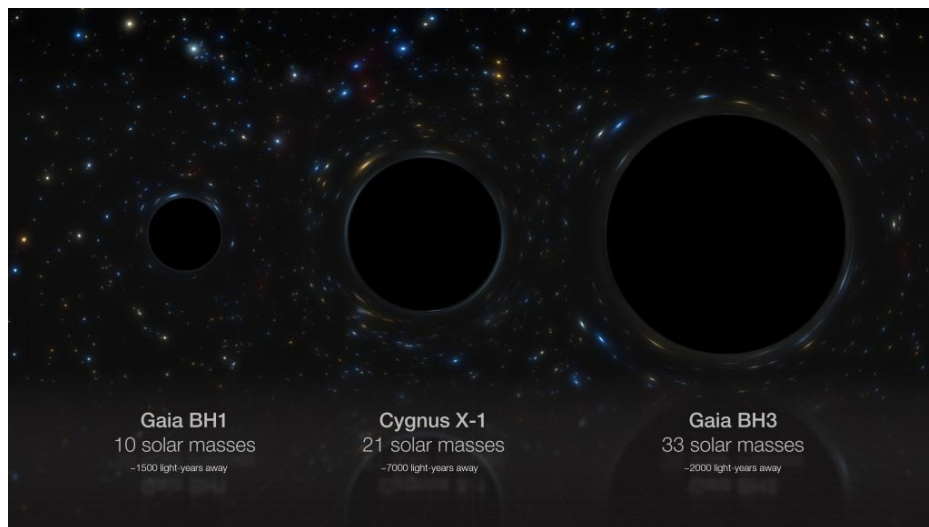
- 36 lifesaving drugs/medicines fully exempted from **Basic Customs Duty**
- Concessional **customs duty** of **5%** on **6 medicines**
- 37 medicines & 13 new patient assistance programmes** exempted

- ❖ The Budget proposes to add 36 lifesaving drugs and medicines to the list of medicines fully exempted from Basic Customs Duty.

- ❖ The Budget also proposes to add 6 lifesaving medicines to the list attracting concessional customs duty of 5%.
- ❖ The Full exemption and concessional duty will also respectively apply on the bulk drugs for manufacture of the above.
- ❖ The Budget proposes to add 37 more medicines along with 13 new patient assistance programmes to the list.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Gaia BH3 black hole

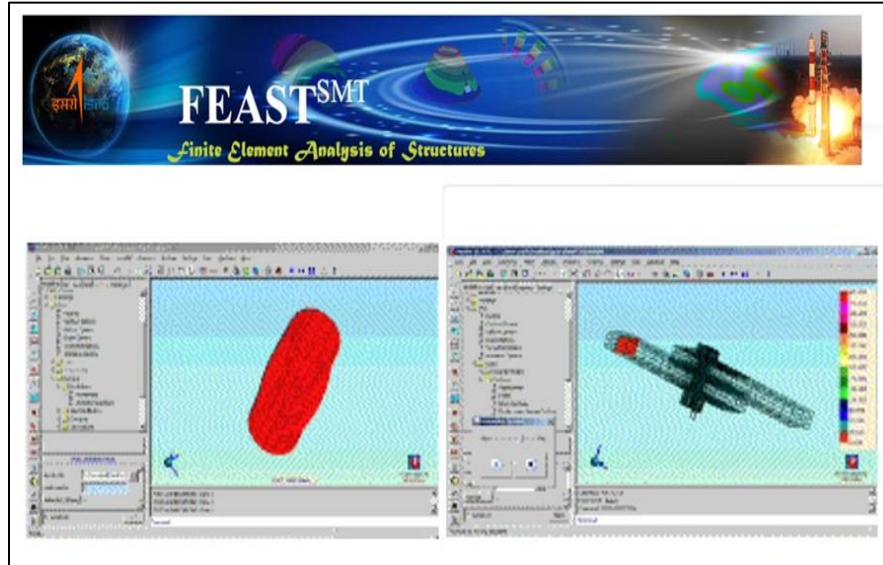


- ❖ Astronomers have discovered a gigantic black hole named Gaia BH3 hiding close to the earth, the third of its kind.
- ❖ BH3's 33 solar masses easily surpass Cygnus X-1, the galaxy's prevailing heavyweight, by 12 solar masses.
- ❖ Gaia BH3 is located about 2,000 light years away in the constellation Aquila.
- ❖ All three were discovered by the European Space Agency's Gaia telescope.
- ❖ The 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded for confirming black hole formation as a key prediction of general theory of relativity.

FEAST software by ISRO

- ❖ ISRO unveiled the latest version of Finite Element Analysis of Structures (FEAST) software.

- ❖ FEAST software is a structural analysis software based on finite element method used for analysing the behaviour of structures under various loads in fields of aerospace, automobile, civil, mechanical, and marine engineering.
- ❖ It allows engineers to test designs virtually before physical construction.



1st Kangaroo embryos



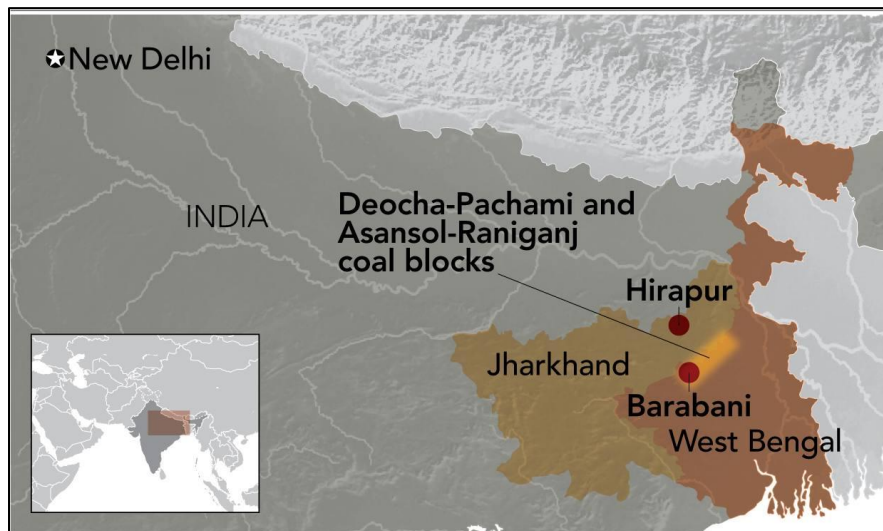
- ❖ Scientists have successfully produced the first kangaroo embryos through in vitro fertilisation (IVF).

- ❖ IVF is being explored around the world for conserving endangered species.
- ❖ In January 2024, scientists in Germany transferred a rhino embryo, the world's first produced through IVF, into a surrogate.

STATES

Basalt Mining – Deocha Pachami

- ❖ The Work on the Deocha Pachami Coal Mining project in West Bengal's Birbhum district began recently.
- ❖ Mining of basalt is considered the first major step towards making the coal mine functional as the coal reserve lies under a thick layer of basalt.
- ❖ In the project area, the thickness of basalt is between 100 metres and 350 metres.
- ❖ The ₹35,000 crore project is considered the biggest project of the West Bengal government.
- ❖ Under the revised relief and rehabilitation (R&R) package announced in March 2022, a person having land in the area will get double its market value along with 100% solatium as land cost.

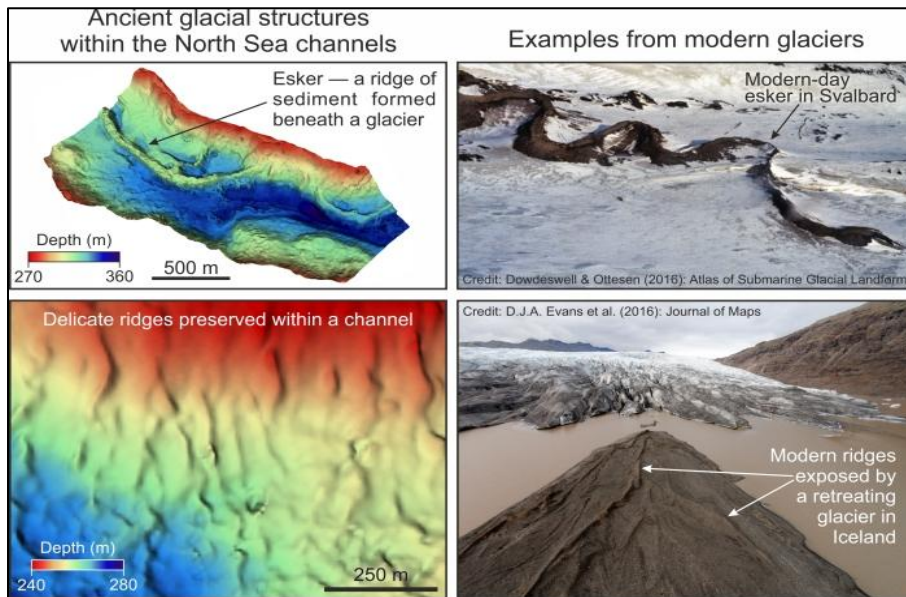


MISCELLANEOUS

Giant ice age landforms - North Sea

- ❖ The Buried landforms from a massive ice sheet that existed approximately 1 million years ago have been uncovered deep beneath the North Sea.

- ❖ The ice sheet, which extended from present-day Norway to the British Isles, left behind significant imprints before retreating.
- ❖ The discoveries are helping scientists understand historical glacial dynamics and their relation to shifting climatic patterns.
- ❖ The giant ice sheet formed during a period of the last ice age known as the mid-Pleistocene transition (MPT) that lasted between 1.3 million and 700,000 years ago.
- ❖ The ice age itself began approximately 2.6 million years ago and ended 11,700 years ago.



USGBC LEED Green Building certification report 2024



- ❖ The US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) released recently.

- ❖ India ranks third in USGBC's LEED green building certification globally during 2024.
- ❖ LEED certifications in India are managed by the Green Business Certification Inc (GBCI).
- ❖ It works to accelerate the adoption of green buildings nationwide.
- ❖ China topped the top 10 rankings for 2024 with over 25 million GSM certified followed by Canada with 10 million GSM.

