

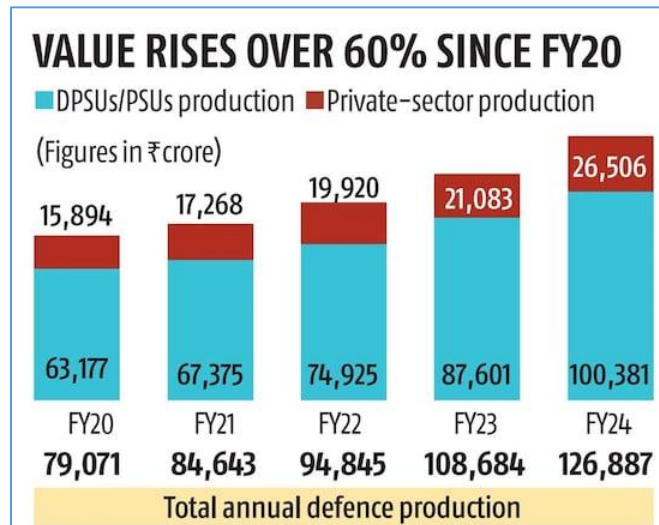
February - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Varun Chakravarthy became India's second-oldest cricket player to debut in ODIs, behind Farokh Engineer (36 years, 138 days).
- ❖ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned after two years of ethnic violence broke out in the state.
- ❖ The five-day long 16th edition of biennial Aero India 2025 is taking place at Yelahanka Indian Air Force station in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The third edition of Exercise Cyclone 2025, a joint military exercise between Special Forces of India and Egypt, began in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Manush Shah and Diya Chitale won the men's and women's singles titles, respectively, at the Senior National Table Tennis Championships 2025.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump officially renamed the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America" and declared February 9 as "Gulf of America Day".
- ❖ OpenAI's ChatGPT Gov is a new tailored version of ChatGPT designed to provide US government agencies with an additional way to access the OpenAI's frontier models.

NATIONAL

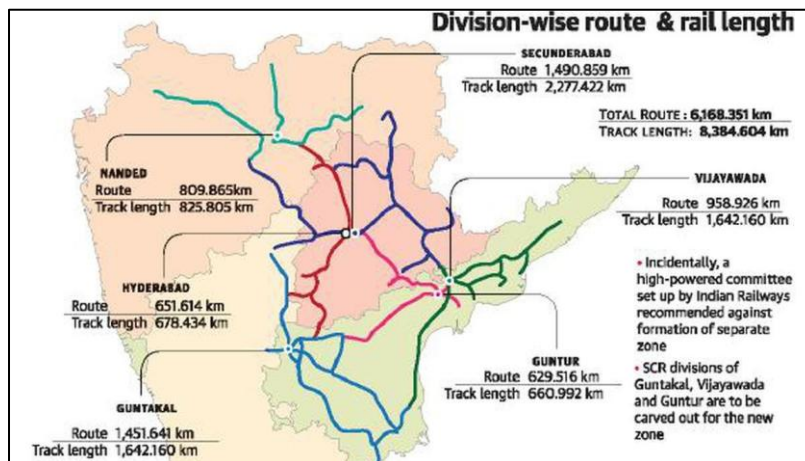
Domestic Defense Production 2024



- ❖ The country's defence budget, which stood at ₹2,53,346 crore in 2013-14, has seen a significant rise, reaching ₹6,21,940.85 crore in 2024-25.

- ❖ In FY 2023-24, India's domestic defence production reached ₹1.27 lakh crore, marking a record high.
- ❖ It is an increase of approximately 174% from ₹46,429 crore in 2014-15.
- ❖ India is on track to achieve a target of ₹1.75 lakh crore in defence production in the current fiscal year.
- ❖ India aims to reach ₹3 lakh crore in defence production by 2029, further establishing itself as a global defence manufacturing hub.
- ❖ India's defence exports have surged from ₹1941 crore in FY 2014-15 to ₹21,083 crore in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ A 32.5% growth in defence exports was recorded over the previous fiscal year 2022-23, rising from ₹15,920 crore.
- ❖ The top three destinations for India's defence exports in 2023-24 were the USA, France, and Armenia.

The South Coast Railway Zone



- ❖ The Union Cabinet ex post facto approved the plan to create the new South Coast Railway Zone.
- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the South Coast Railway headquarters in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The SCoR zone will be the 18th zone of the Indian Railways.
- ❖ Its jurisdiction has been carved out from parts of the East Coast Railway and South-Central Railway zones.
- ❖ It will cover a significant portion of Andhra Pradesh, along with the parts of Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Cabinet also divided the Waltair Railway Division (earlier under the East Coast Railway) into two parts.

- ❖ Citing its colonial-era name, the government has renamed the first part as the Visakhapatnam Railway Division and included it under the new zone.
- ❖ The other part will also be converted into a new division with headquarters at Rayagada, Odisha, under the East Coast Railway.
- ❖ The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has surpassed all records of Indian Railways in Freight Loading in the Financial Year 2023-24.
- ❖ From April 1, 2023, to March 25, 2024, ECoR loaded 250 million tons of freight, surpassing the record set during the 2022-23 fiscal.

Shatavari – For Better Health

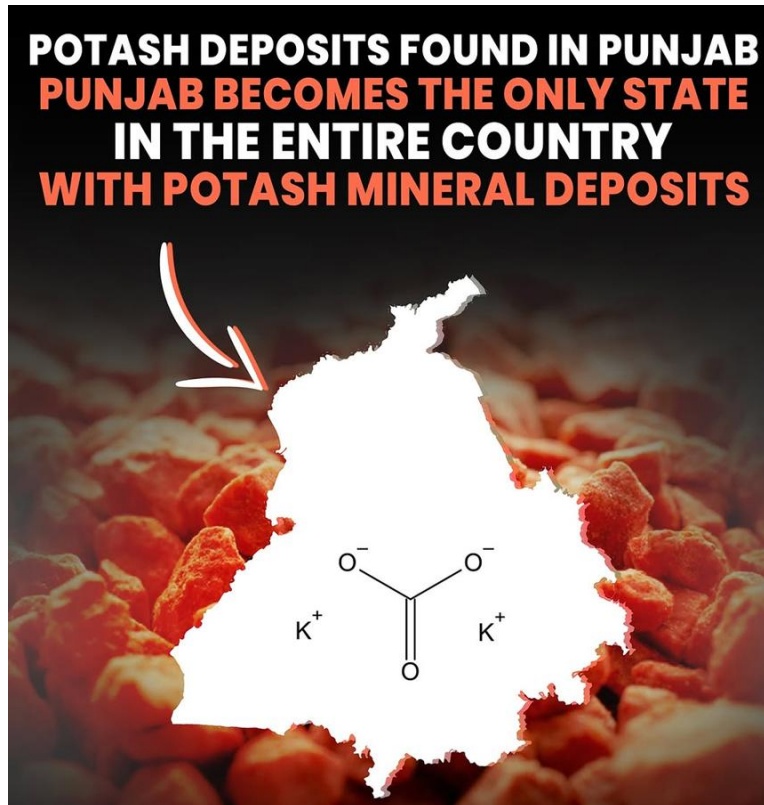
- ❖ To raise awareness about the health benefits of medicinal plants, a species-specific campaign titled “Shatavari –For Better Health” was launched.
- ❖ The previous successful campaigns led by NMPB are those for Amla, Moringa, Giloe, and Ashwagandha.
- ❖ These initiatives have contributed to spreading knowledge of the health benefits of medicinal plants across the country.



Potash reserves

- ❖ The Surveys of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) have also identified reserves in parts of Rajasthan.
- ❖ Punjab is now the second state after Rajasthan to have the significant potash reserves.

- ❖ The three mining blocks with potash reserves — Kabarwala (Muktsar Sahib), Sherewala and Ramsara (Fazilka) and Shergarh and Dalmir Khera (Fazilka) — are spread over nearly 18 square kilometres.
- ❖ Two districts of Punjab were located approximately 450 metres below the surface.
- ❖ Potash refers to potassium-bearing minerals that are primarily used in fertilisers.
- ❖ Over 90% of potash is used as fertilizer and it is one of the three primary agricultural nutrients in N-P-K.



INTERNATIONAL

M23 Rebels in DR Congo – Goma

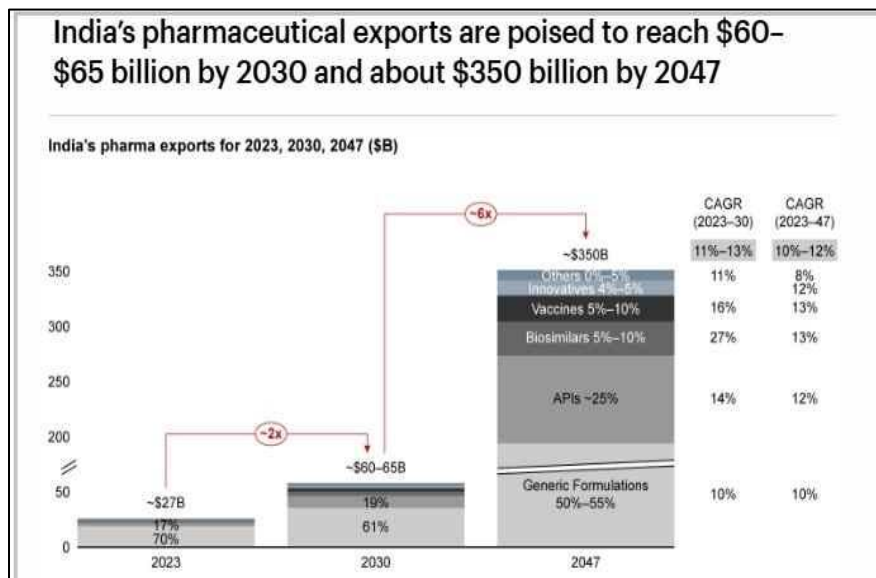
- ❖ M23 rebels backed by the Rwandan troops entered the city of Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo and taken control of the city.
- ❖ Goma, a regional hub of over 2 million people, is on the DRC's border with Rwanda.
- ❖ The conflict is a legacy of multistate wars that played out in Congo after the 1994 Rwandan genocide.
- ❖ During this event, as many as 1 million people, mainly of the Tutsi ethnic group, were killed by Hutu extremists.

- ❖ Tutsi rebels led by current Rwandan President Paul Kagame put an end to the killing, and many Hutu offenders fled across the border into Congo.
- ❖ The rebel group, led by Congolese Tutsi commanders, formed in 2012 and is a successor to earlier Tutsi-led rebellions.



ECONOMY

India's pharma exports 2047

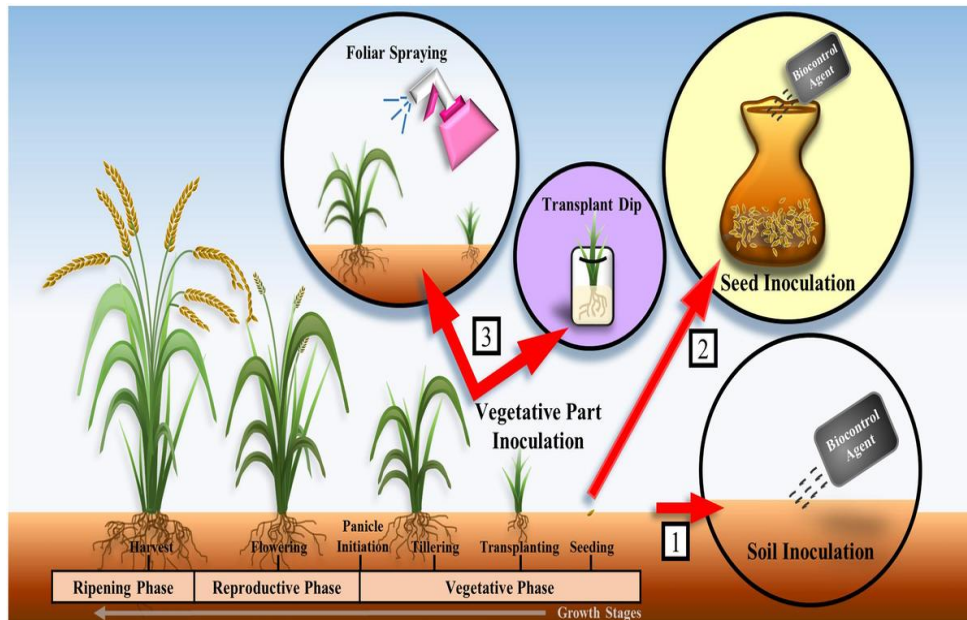


- ❖ India's pharmaceutical industry exports are projected to reach \$350 billion by 2047.
- ❖ This is an estimated 10-15 times increase from the current levels.

- ❖ India currently ranks at 11th in pharmaceutical export value and India can secure a position among the top five nations by 2047.
- ❖ The country's pharma exports are expected to grow from approximately \$27 billion in 2023 to \$65 billion by 2030.
- ❖ The Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) exports are currently valued at \$5 billion.
- ❖ It is projected to reach \$80-90 billion by 2047.
- ❖ Indian biosimilar exports, presently valued at \$0.8 billion, are expected to grow fivefold to \$4.2 billion by 2030 and reach \$30-35 billion by 2047.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

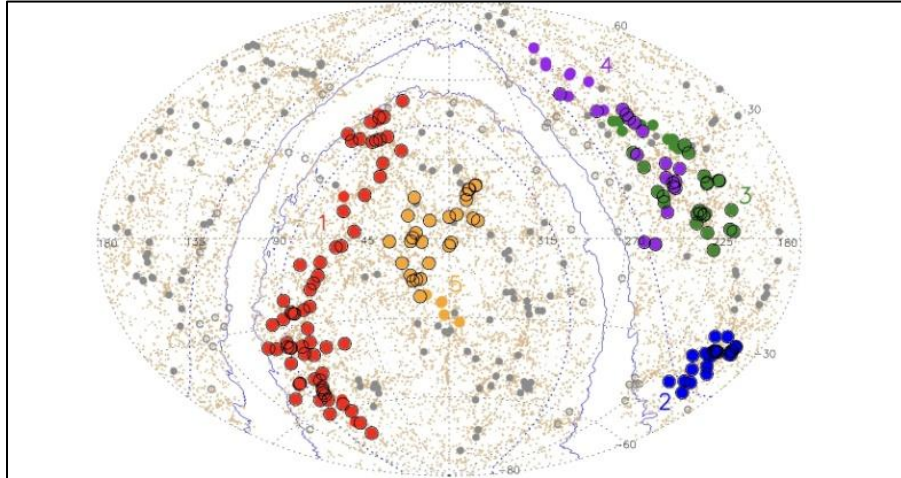
Pyricularia Spp Infection



- ❖ The ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) have identified a new fungal disease, Pyricularia Spp, that severely affected ginger crops.
- ❖ Pyricularia Spp is a fungal pathogen cause a blast disease, which is a new threat to ginger cultivation.
- ❖ Pyricularia is well known for causing blast diseases in monocot plants like rice, wheat, and barley.
- ❖ Pyricularia has been 1st time reported in ginger crop in 2024 in parts of Kodagu district in Karnataka.
- ❖ Once the infection takes hold, it spreads rapidly and can cover the entire field within hours.

- ❖ Over large areas in 10 hours with some affected fields located up to 20 km apart.

Quipu superstructure



- ❖ Astronomers have identified what could be the largest structure ever found in the known universe.
- ❖ This massive formation is named “Quipu.”
- ❖ It stretches an astonishing 1.3 billion light-years approx. across and contains an estimated 200 quadrillion solar masses.
- ❖ Quipu’s immense is scaled over 13,000 times the length of the Milky Way.
- ❖ This is the longest-known structure in the universe and surpassing the previous record-holders like the Laniākea supercluster.
- ❖ Along with it, four other massive superstructures were also found: the Shapley supercluster, the Serpens-Corona Borealis superstructure, the Hercules super cluster and the Sculptor-Pegasus superstructure.
- ❖ These five superstructures together make up about 45 per cent of galaxy clusters, 30 per cent of galaxies and 25 per cent of the matter in the universe.
- ❖ They cover roughly 13 per cent of the universe’s volume.

STATES

Goby Fish in Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The Researchers discovered two species of goby fish – Hemigobius hoevenii and Mugilogobius tigrinus at the Coringa wildlife sanctuary near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ They had not been recorded in Andhra Pradesh previously.

- ❖ This discovery is significant as *M. tigrinus* has been found along the eastern coastline of India for the first time.
- ❖ Both species belong to a group of fish commonly known as "gobies."
- ❖ Most gobies found in estuarine areas, especially around mangroves.
- ❖ Since 1988, extensive studies along the Andhra coast have recorded 615 finfish species, spanning 352 genera and 140 families.
- ❖ However, goby fish have not been studied as extensively.



IMPORTANT DAYS

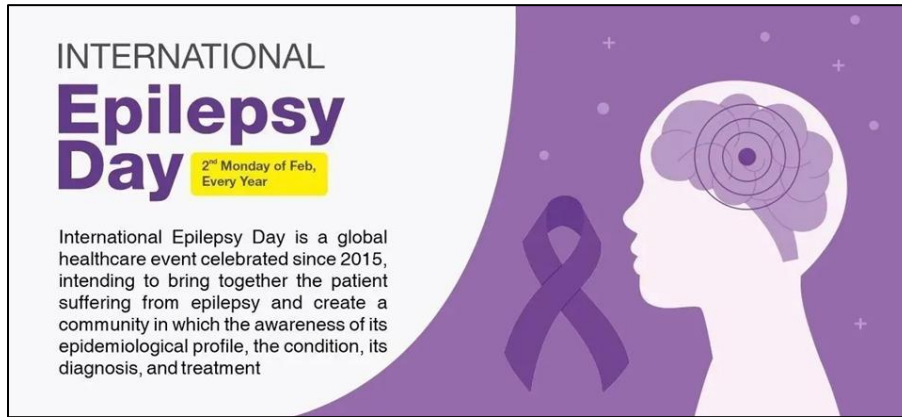
International Day of the Arabian Leopard 2025 - February 10

Arabian Leopard The Endangered Mountain Cat	
<p>▶ Scientific Name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Panthera Pardus Nimr</i> 	<p>▶ Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefers foothills with vegetation over open, exposed areas • Inhabits rocky terrains and mountain woodlands with reliable water sources
<p>▶ Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wild cat with short legs and sharp claws • Can reach up to two meters in length • Males weigh up to 35 kg, while females weigh up to 25 kg 	<p>▶ Diet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nocturnal hunter that preys on mammals, birds, rodents, and insects • Can survive on minimal water intake
<p>▶ Reproduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Females give birth to 3-4 cubs, which stay with their mother for up to 18 months • Cubs are born blind and remain in the den for a month after birth 	<p>▶ Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically endangered according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- ❖ This observance was celebrated for the first time in 2024.
- ❖ This day promotes the attention for the Arabian leopard and galvanize the public engagement in conservation initiatives.

- ❖ The Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus Nimr*) is a critically endangered leopard subspecies that inhabits the Arabian Peninsula.

International Epilepsy Day - February 10



- ❖ International Epilepsy Day (IED) is celebrated on the 2nd Monday of February every year since 2015
- ❖ It is organized by International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE).
- ❖ Epilepsy is a prevalent medical condition affecting the patients and caregivers psychologically and emotionally.
- ❖ Of the 650 lakh epilepsy patients distributed worldwide, roughly 80% are from developing nations, where new cases occur between 40-70 per 1,00,000 persons.
- ❖ The overall epilepsy prevalence in India is 5.59-10 per 1000.
- ❖ Over one crore patients who have epilepsy are in India, representing more than about 1% of our population.
- ❖ Rural people had a greater prevalence (1.9%) than urban people (0.6%).
- ❖ This year's Theme is "MyEpilepsyJourney".

National Deworming Day 2025 - February 10

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare created National Deworming Day in February 2015.
- ❖ This program was extended to all districts nationwide in 2016.
- ❖ Since then, in India, February 10 and August 10 are the two times the day is commemorated annually.
- ❖ The main goal is to provide the children with pills of albendazole, a deworming medication.

❖ The theme for 2025 is “Eliminate STH: Invest in a healthier future for children”.



DPH தேசிய குடற்புழு நீக்க திணம்
முதல் சுற்று: 10 பிப்ரவரி 2025
இடம்: பள்ளிகள், கல்லூரிகள், துணை சுகாதார நிலையங்கள்
மற்றும் அங்கன்வாடி மையங்கள்

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
தேசிய சுகாதாரப் பணியம்
தமிழ்நாடு

குடற்புழு தொற்றினை நீக்குவோம்!
ஆரோக்கியமான எதிர்காலத்தை உருவாக்குவோம்!!

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