

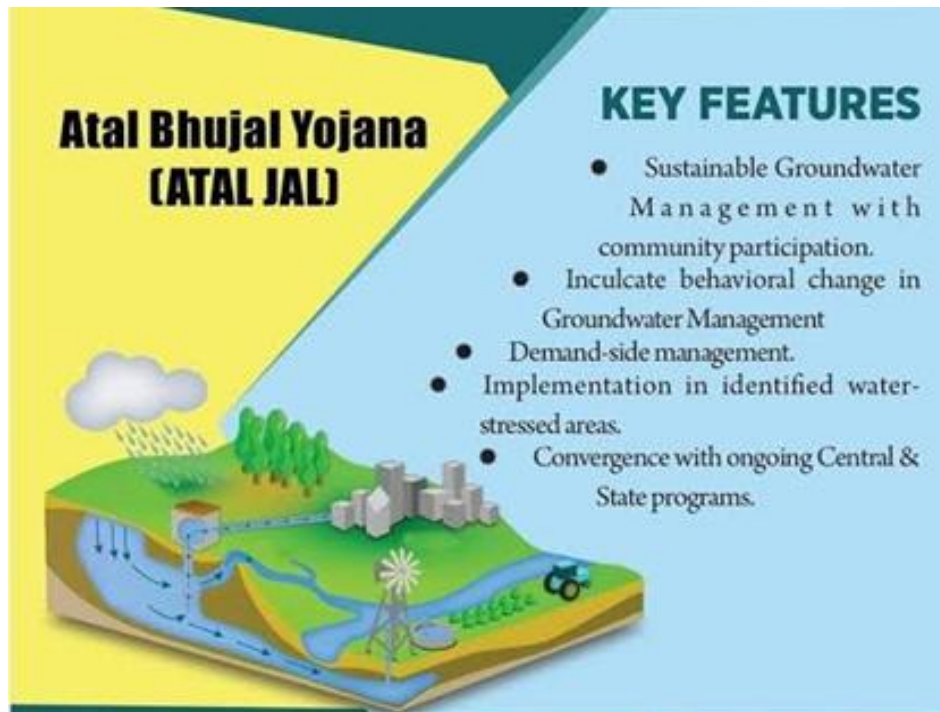
February - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Hindustan Jet Trainer HJT-36, the flagship training aircraft of HAL, has been renamed 'Yashas' after extensive modifications.
- ❖ The Bangladesh interim government has started a special drive named 'Operation Devil Hunt' to curb unrest and ensure public safety across the country.
- ❖ Meghalaya has been selected as the host for 39th National Games 2027.

NATIONAL

Atal Bhujal Yojana Expansion



- ❖ The Centre plans to extend the Atal Bhujal Yojana, to five more states, including Bihar, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This scheme is aimed at improving groundwater sustainability in seven water-stressed states.
- ❖ Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) has been in place since April 2020.
- ❖ It is covering 8,774 water-stressed gram panchayats in 222 administrative blocks or talukas across 80 districts in seven states -- Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ The scheme is set to run for five years.

UDAN 5.5

- ❖ The Centre has launched the next phase of its flagship UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme to enhance regional air connectivity.
- ❖ The UDAN 5.5 intends to promote last-mile connectivity in remote regions, hilly areas, and island territories.
- ❖ The latest phase of the scheme will award routes that will be serviced exclusively with seaplanes, choppers, and small aircraft with a seating capacity of less than 20 passengers.
- ❖ The 5.5 version is offering the operators a chance to chart out seaplane routes between 80 water bodies, which include waterdromes, ponds, and dams.
- ❖ Around 400 helipads are also included in the scheme for operators to map out the chopper routes.



Klub-S Missile System

- ❖ India has signed a contract with Russia to procure anti-ship cruise missiles for the country's submarine fleet.
- ❖ It will arm the Indian Navy's Sindhu Ghosh-class diesel-electric submarines, a domestic variant of Moscow's Kilo-class submarines.
- ❖ The Klub-S missile is the Russia's submarine-launched export version of the 3M-54 Kalibr anti-ship missile.

- ❖ This variant is noted for its supersonic capabilities, making it difficult for enemy defences to intercept.
- ❖ It is providing a long-range precision strike capabilities, as each missile operates at an altitude of 10 to 15 meters (32 to 49 feet) against naval and ground targets for a maximum range of 300 kilometers (186 miles).



INTERNATIONAL

Netzarim Corridor



- ❖ The Israeli military has withdrawn from an area of Gaza known as the Netzarim corridor, which separates the enclave's north from south.
- ❖ This move is a part of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Palestinian militant group.

- ❖ The ceasefire, initiated on January 19, 2025, marked a pause in the ongoing war.
- ❖ It allowed for the movement of Palestinians back to their homes, particularly in the war-torn northern regions.
- ❖ The ceasefire has facilitated the exchange and release of some of the hostages by the Hamas.


ECONOMY

AFA for International Transactions

- ❖ RBI announced the implementation of Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) for cross-border “Card Not Present” (CNP) transactions.
- ❖ AFA has already proved its effectiveness in reducing fraud in the domestic digital payment ecosystem.
- ❖ Until now, AFA was not mandated for international transactions.
- ❖ Now, AFA will be a must at the time of mandate registration, modification, or deletion.
- ❖ Under the new system, even for auto-debits Customers will need to approve the payment via an OTP or another authentication method, as mandated by their bank.

RBI MONETARY POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Repo Rate Cut** : Reduced by 25 bps to 6.25% SF: 6.5% | SDF: 6% Reverse Repo: 3.35% | CRR: 4%
- ◆ **Economic Outlook**: GDP Growth FY26: 6.75% (Q1: 6.7%, Q2: 7%, Q3 & Q4: 6.5%) Inflation Projection FY26: 4.2% (Q1: 4.5%, Q2: 4%, Q3: 3.8%)
- ◆ **Additional Announcements:**
 - Two-Factor Authentication to be extended to international online payments.
 - Banks & NBFCs urged to enhance cyber risk detection & prevention.
 - Proposal to include long-term contracts in Govt Securities.



NDS-OM platform

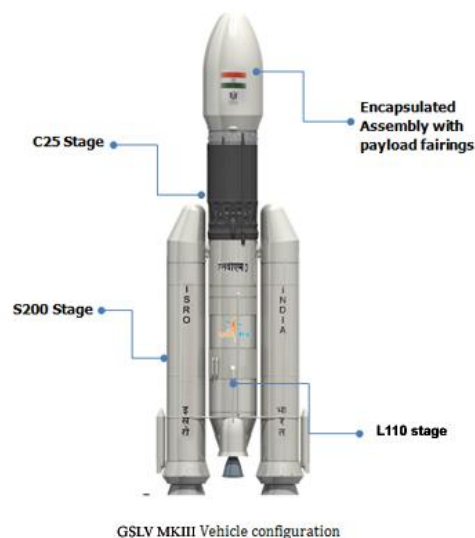
- ❖ RBI will allow non-bank brokers registered with the SEBI to access the Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching (NDS-OM) platform.

- ❖ The NDS-OM platform, operated by the RBI, is an anonymous order-matching system for secondary market trading in government securities (G-Secs).
- ❖ Currently, membership to the NDS-OM system is open to entities such as banks, primary dealers, insurance companies, and mutual funds, which maintain the Subsidiary General Ledger (SGL) accounts with the RBI.

	Primary Bond Market	Secondary Bonds Market
Definition	Here, newly issued debt securities are introduced for the first time and subsequently sold to investors.	Here, previously issued debt securities are bought and sold among investors.
Participants	Companies, governments, financial institutions, individual investors, etc.	Institutional investors, individual investors, traders, etc.
Issuer Involvement	The issuer directly sells the debt securities to investors through merchant bankers or by themselves.	The issuer is not directly involved here.
Pricing	Price is typically set through auctions. In case of private placement, prices are pre-fixed.	Prices are based on supply and demand dynamics and prevailing market conditions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LVM-3's cryogenic engine

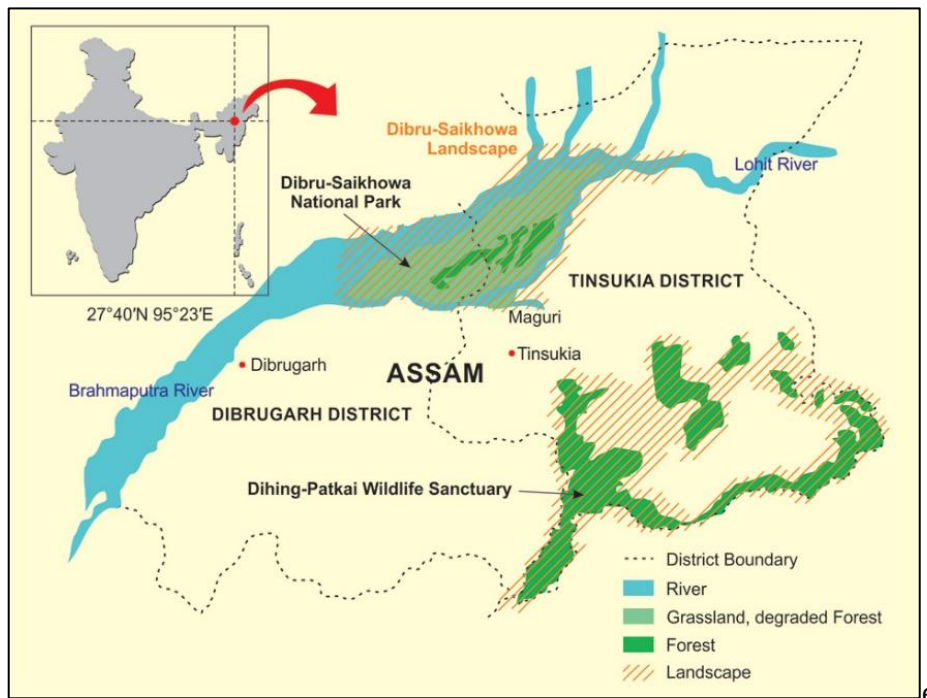


- ❖ ISRO successfully conducted the ignition trial of the indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine.

- ❖ It will power the upper stage of ISRO's mighty Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM-III).
- ❖ The Cryogenic engines are highly complex as they use supercooled fuels (liquid hydrogen and oxygen).
- ❖ The human-rated version of LVM-III will be used in the Gaganyaan mission that will require in-orbit ignition.

ENVIRONMENT

Oil Exploration - Dibru Saikhowa National Park



- ❖ The Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) recommended the R&D proposal subject to the condition that it will be used purely for the research purposes.
- ❖ According to OIL, the ERD (extended reach drilling) technology can drill at a depth of 3,500-4,000 metres without disturbing the surface.
- ❖ Last August, the FAC rejected the proposal for drilling seven wells inside Dibru Saikhowa National Park using the ERD technology from the three existing wells of the Baghjan oil field.
- ❖ In 2006, the Supreme Court ruled that no permission "by whatever name called" would be granted for mining inside national parks, sanctuaries and forest areas.
- ❖ In 2023, it extended the no-mining zone by one kilometre around the national parks and sanctuaries.

- ❖ In September 2023, the Environment Ministry exempted the ERD projects from securing forest clearance, except inside the national parks, sanctuaries and the surrounding eco-sensitive zones.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024

Score	Country	Rank
90	Denmark	1
88	Finland	2
84	Singapore	3
83	New Zealand	4
81	Luxembourg	5
81	Norway	5
81	Switzerland	5
80	Sweden	8
78	Netherlands	9
77	Australia	10



CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2024

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.

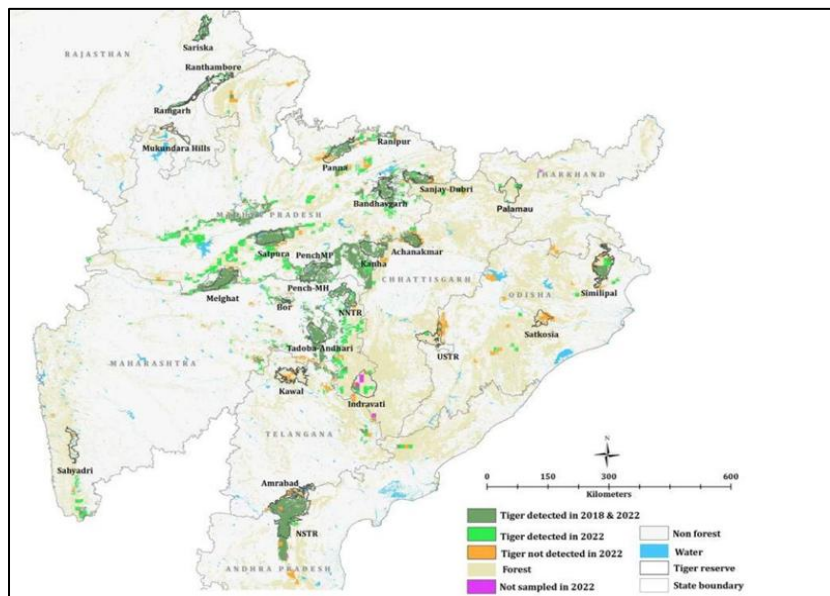
- ❖ Transparency International releases Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024.
- ❖ Denmark topped the list of being the least-corrupt nation, followed by Finland and Singapore.
- ❖ India ranked 96 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024 as its overall score dropped a point to 38.
- ❖ It uses a scale of zero to 100, where "zero" is highly corrupt and "100" is very clean.
- ❖ In 2024, India's overall score was 38 while it was 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022.
- ❖ India's rank in 2023 was 93.
- ❖ Among India's neighbours, China ranked 76, Pakistan (135) and Sri Lanka (121) and Bangladesh's ranking stood further down at 149.
- ❖ South Sudan and Somalia remained at the bottom of the index, with scores of 8 and 9, respectively.
- ❖ Venezuela and Syria also ranked among the most corrupt, with scores of 10 and 12.

- ❖ The global average of 43 has also stood still for years, while more than two-thirds of countries have scored below 50.

STATES

Morand-Ganjal Irrigation Project

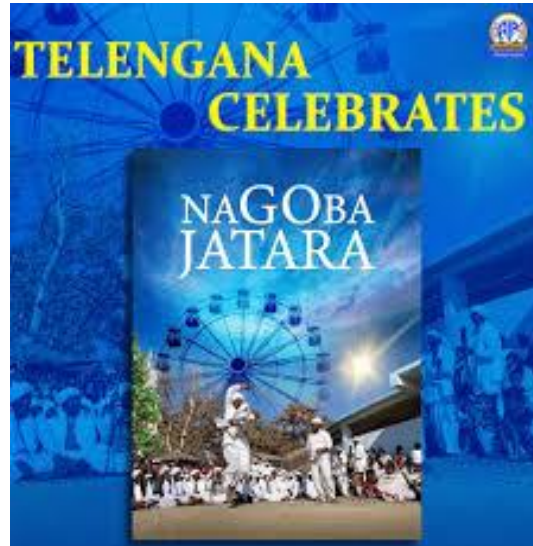
- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has warned that construction of the Morand-Ganjal Irrigation Project in Madhya Pradesh could submerge the forested areas used by tigers.
- ❖ The project involves the building of two dams on the Morand and Ganjal rivers to improve irrigation in Hoshangabad, Betul, Harda, and Khandwa districts of the state.
- ❖ The construction of the dams and related infrastructure will also displace 644 families, including 604 tribal families, who rely on the forest for their livelihood.
- ❖ Over seven lakh trees will be affected at full reservoir level, with 5.75 lakh trees marked for felling.



Nagoba Jatara 2025 - Telangana

- ❖ Keslapur village in Indervelli mandal of Telangana is celebrated the 'Nagoba jatara'.
- ❖ It is the famous annual tribal fair of the Boigutta branch of Mesram clan of the aboriginal Raj Gond and Pradhan tribes

- ❖ It is the second biggest tribal festival in India, after the Sammakka Saralamma Jatara, of Telangana.
- ❖ Gonds are one of the largest tribal groups in the world and subdivided into four tribes.
- ❖ Pradhans are considered to be the junior branch of Gond tribe.
- ❖ They are traditional bards to Gonds and recite mythologies, folk tales and songs of their gods and goddesses.



SPORTS

Para archery Asia cup 2025

ASIA PARA ARCHERY CUP 2025				
STANDINGS				
GROUP STAGE	🥇	🥈	🥉	TOTAL
1. 🇮🇳 INDIA	6	3	3	12
2. 🇹🇭 THAILAND	3	1	4	8
3. 🇮🇩 INDONESIA	1	4	1	6
4. 🇸🇮 SLOVENIA	1	0	0	1
5. 🇨🇹 CHINESE TAIPEI	0	2	0	2
6. 🇵🇭 PHILIPPINES	0	0	2	2
7. 🇸🇬 SINGAPORE	0	0	1	1

- ❖ The 2025 Para Archery Asia Cup - World Ranking Tournament was held in Bangkok, Thailand

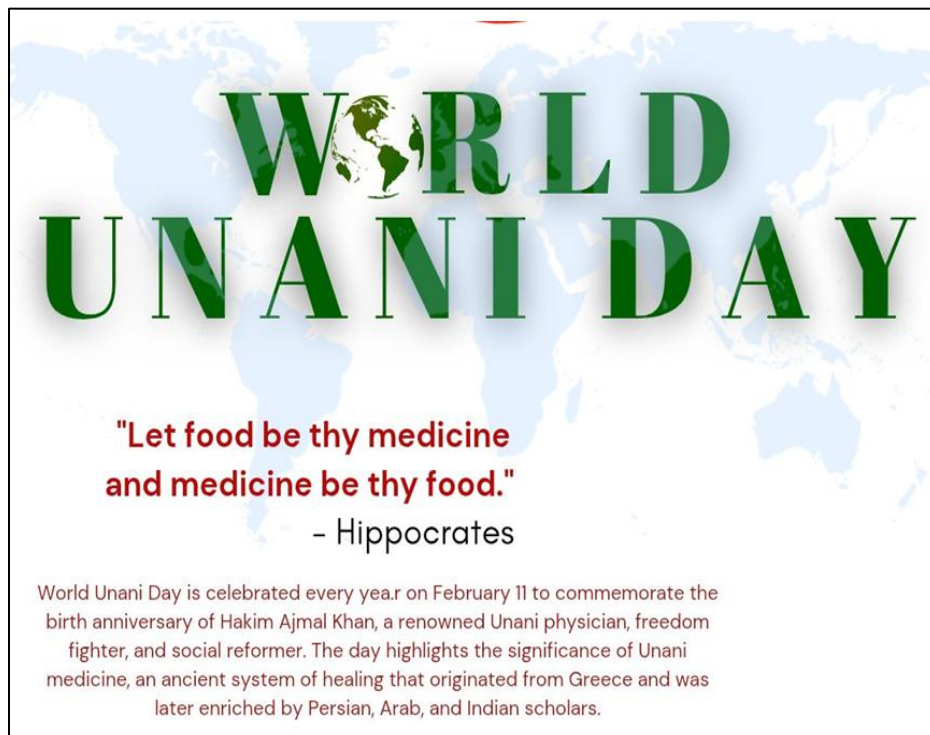


- ❖ The 27-member Indian archery contingent won six gold medals to top the medals tally.
- ❖ Overall, the Indian contingent won 12 medals - six gold, three silver, and three bronze in the tournament.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Unani Day 2025 - February 11

- ❖ This day marks the birth anniversary of Unani practitioner, scholar and visionary Hakim Ajmal Khan.
- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness about this ancient health system with experts expressing their views on the importance and efficacy of Unani medicine.
- ❖ This year's theme will be 'Innovations in Unani Medicine for Integrative Health Solutions'.



Safer Internet Day 2025 - February 11

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about Internet safety and helps people browse with safety walls.
- ❖ The day first started as an initiative of the EU Safe Borders project in 2004.

- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Together for a Better Internet.”



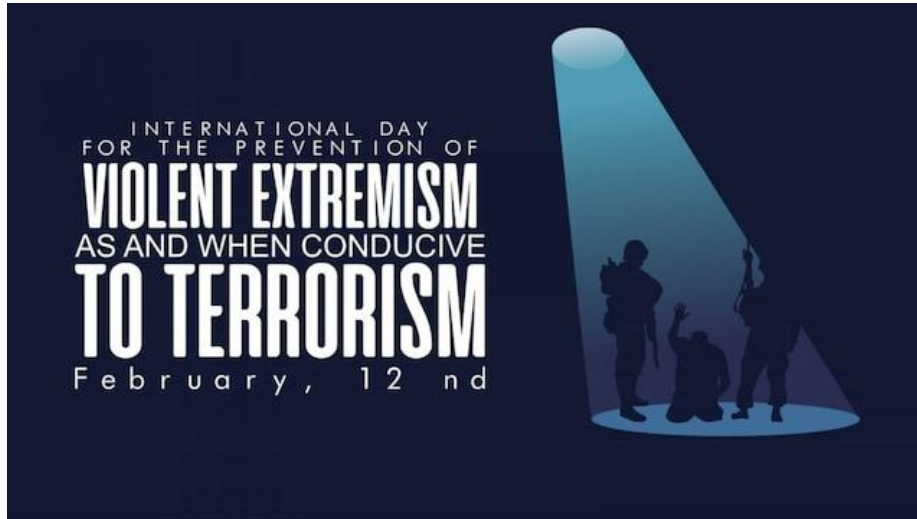
National Productivity Day 2025 - February 12



- ❖ It aims to generate awareness about the importance of productivity in achieving economic growth and sustainability.
- ❖ It is observed under the guidance of the National Productivity Council (NPC).
- ❖ This day is a part of a week-long event, taking place from February 12 to 18.
- ❖ This day commemorates the establishment of the National Productivity Council (NPC) which was registered on February 12, 1958.

- ❖ Theme for 2025 will be “From Ideas to Impact: Protecting Intellectual Property for Competitive Startups.”

International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism 2025 - February 12



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the threats linked to violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism, and to enhance international cooperation in this regard.
- ❖ It was established by UNGA in 2022 and observed 1st time in 2023.
- ❖ To address the global rise in violent extremism, the UN introduced the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism on January 15, 2016.
- ❖ This framework emphasises a comprehensive approach, going beyond security-based counterterrorism measures.

