

February - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker announced the extension of translation services in the House to six additional languages of the present 10 — Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit and Urdu.
- ❖ The World Government Summit (WGS) 2025 was held in Dubai under the theme Shaping Future Governments.
- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister had visited the Mazargues War Cemetery in France's Marseille which contains a memory of Indian soldiers who made the sacrifice while defending foreign lands during the World Wars.
- ❖ Rajasthan's 132-year-old Foy Sagar Lake is now called Varun Sagar, and the 113-year-old King Edward Memorial Bhawan has been renamed Maharishi Dayanand Vishrant Grih.
- ❖ Tulsi Gabbard was sworn in as the US Director of the National Intelligence and became the First Hindu to lead US Intelligence but has no links to India.

## TAMIL NADU

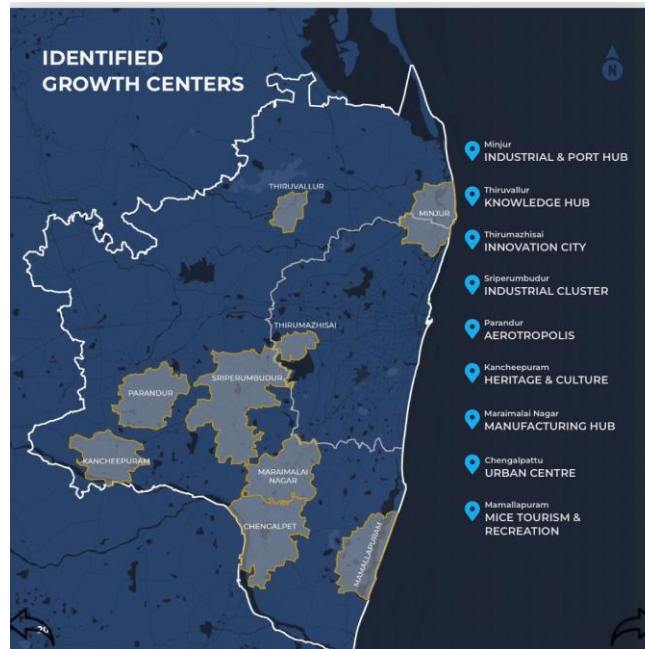
### Tamil Nadu Prison Rules 2024



- ❖ The Rule 348 of the Tamil Nadu Prison Rules, which came into force in November 2024, defines the eligibility criteria for life convicts seeking premature release.
- ❖ The revised rule explicitly states that “Prisoners convicted for sexual offences or under the POCSO Act, 2012”, shall not be considered for premature release.

- ❖ The government recently brought in amendments to Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act and the BNS and BNSS in their application to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It aims to make the punishments stringent for certain types of the sexual offences and enabling complainants of sexual harassment to obtain protection orders to prevent the accused from contacting them in any way in the future.

## 9 growth centers around Chennai



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has started of preparing the new town development schemes for nine growth centres around Chennai.
- ❖ The Nine growth centres around Chennai — Minjur, Tiruvallur, Thirumazhisai, Mamallapuram, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Maraimalainagar, Thiruninravur and Parandur — will get new town development schemes.
- ❖ The aim of the new town development schemes was to decongest Chennai, boost economic growth, improve transport connectivity, and ensure sustainable growth of the city and its suburbs.

## NATIONAL

### U.S.-India COMPACT Initiative

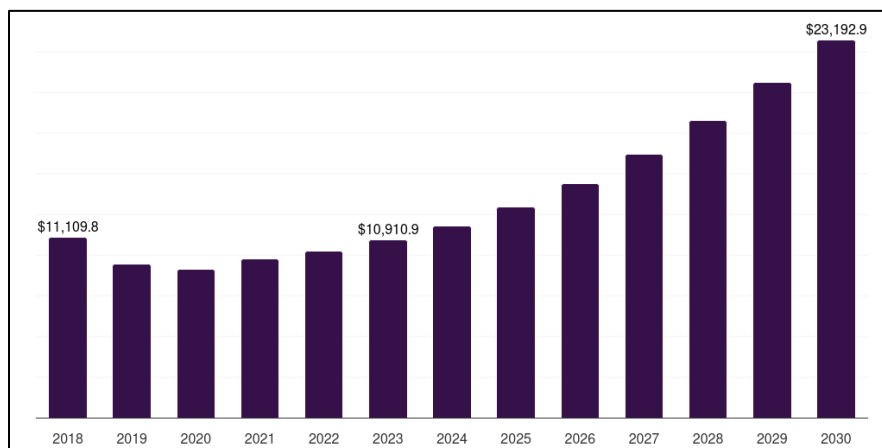
- ❖ US-India reaffirmed the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership during the meeting in Washington.

- ❖ The Both have launched a new initiative named ‘US-India COMPACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century’.
- ❖ It aims to “drive transformative change across key pillars of cooperation”.
- ❖ It plans to sign new 10-year framework for U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership.
- ❖ Mission 500 is goal to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.
- ❖ They have also launched the "U.S.-India TRUST" initiative to promote emerging technologies in defense, AI, semiconductors, and space.
- ❖ U.S. approved the extradition of Tahawwur Rana to India for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
- ❖ The US vision of Make America Great Again (MAGA) and India’s idea of Make India Great Again (MIGA) can translate into a “mega partnership”.

## BOLSTERING COOPERATION, LINKS

Defence	Trade	Tech	Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ten-year US-India framework to deepen defence ties.</li> <li>India to buy ‘Javelin’ guided missiles and ‘Stryker’ combat vehicles.</li> <li>US “paving way to” to ultimately provide India F-35 stealth fighters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Mission 500” to push trade to \$500bn by 2030.</li> <li>Plans to negotiate the first tranche of a Bilateral Trade Agreement by fall 2025.</li> <li>Early steps to demonstrate mutual commitment to fix bilateral trade barriers welcomed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both sides to work with private players for a road map on accelerating AI infrastructure by end-2025.</li> <li>To build supply chains, including for semiconductors, critical minerals, advanced materials and pharmaceuticals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trump and Modi pledged to sustain high-level engagement between governments, industries, and academic institutions.</li> <li>Resolve to strengthen law enforcement cooperation to take decisive action against illegal immigration.</li> </ul>

### India Gas Market report - Outlook 2030

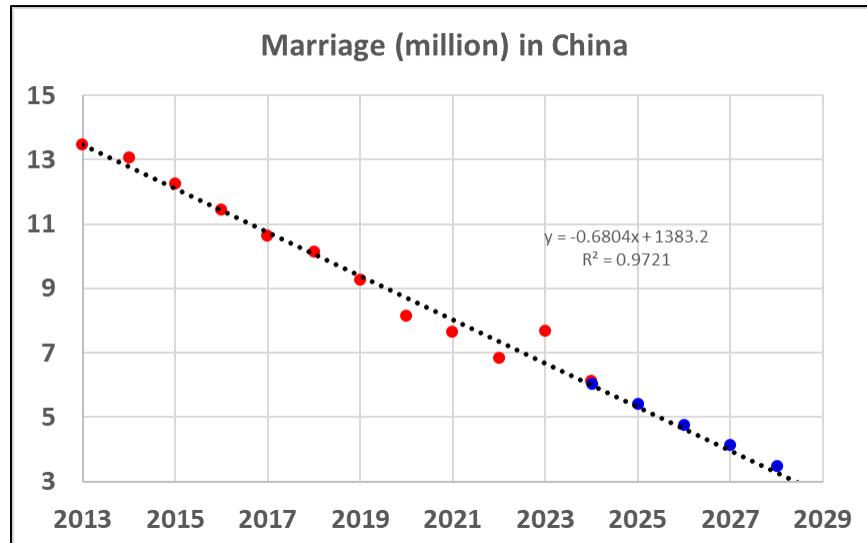


- ❖ The ‘India Gas Market Report: Outlook to 2030’ was released by the IEA.
- ❖ Natural gas consumption in India is projected to grow by nearly 60 per cent to 103 billion cubic meters (bcm) annually while gas imports will double by 2030.

- ❖ India's natural gas demand grew by more than 10 per cent in both 2023 and 2024.
- ❖ Since 2019, India has nearly quadrupled the number of compressed natural gas (CNG) stations and more than doubled residential gas connections.
- ❖ The transmission pipeline network has been expanded by 40 per cent.
- ❖ Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports into India increased by 10 percent in 2023 and 2024.
- ❖ The Domestic production met 50 per cent of the country's demand in 2023, and is projected to grow gradually to just under 38 bcm by 2030.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Marriages in China 2024

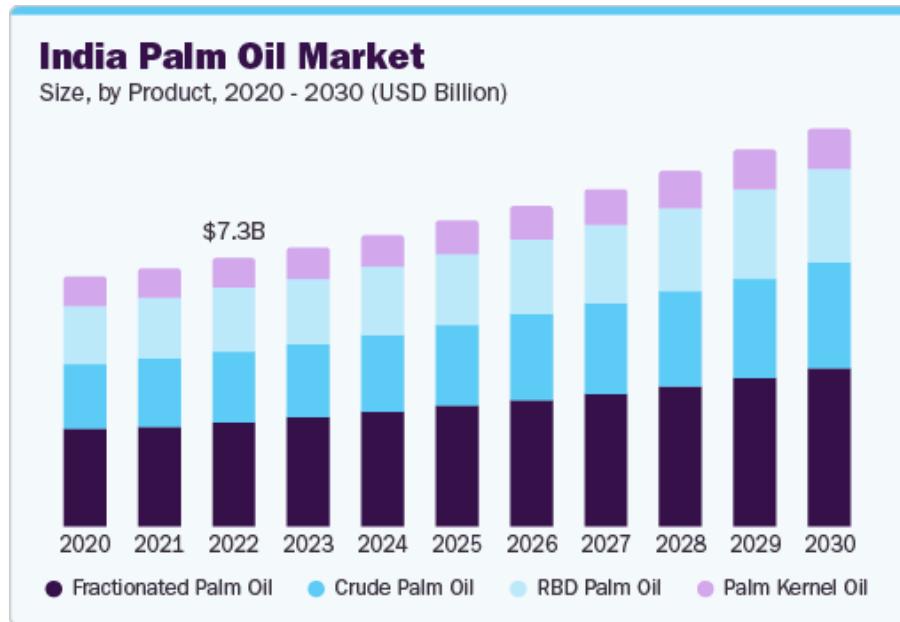


- ❖ The number of new marriages in China dropped to its lowest level ever in 2024.
- ❖ Only 6.1 million couples registered their marriages last year—a sharp 20.5% drop compared to 2023.
- ❖ This is the lowest figure since the ministry began publishing such data in 1986.
- ❖ Last year's number of marriages was less than half of the 13 million recorded at the peak in 2013.
- ❖ Meanwhile, divorces slightly increased, with nearly 2.6 million couples filing for divorce—28,000 more than the previous year.
- ❖ China's population has been shrinking for three consecutive years, even though the birth rate saw a small increase last year.
- ❖ The working-age population (ages 16 to 59) fell by 6.83 million in 2024.

- ❖ The number of people over 60 continued to grow, now making up 22% of the population.

## ECONOMY

### India's palm oil import 2025



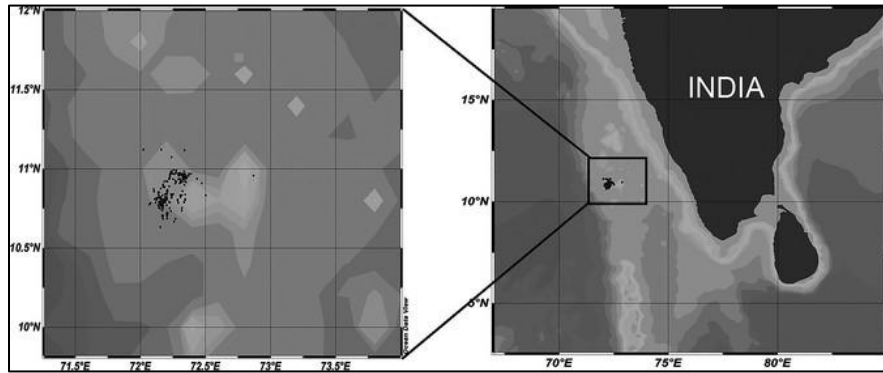
- ❖ India's palm oil imports in January fell to their lowest in nearly 14 years as the refiners turned to cheaper soy oil.
- ❖ Palm oil imports in January fell 45% from December to 275,241 metric tons, the lowest since March 2011.
- ❖ Palm oil usually trades at a discount to soy oil and sunflower oil.
- ❖ Imports of soy oil in January increased 5.6% to 444,026 tons, the highest in seven months, and sunflower oil imports rose 8.9% to 288,284 tons.
- ❖ India buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, and imports soy oil and sunflower oil from Argentina, Brazil, Russia and Ukraine.

## ENVIRONMENT

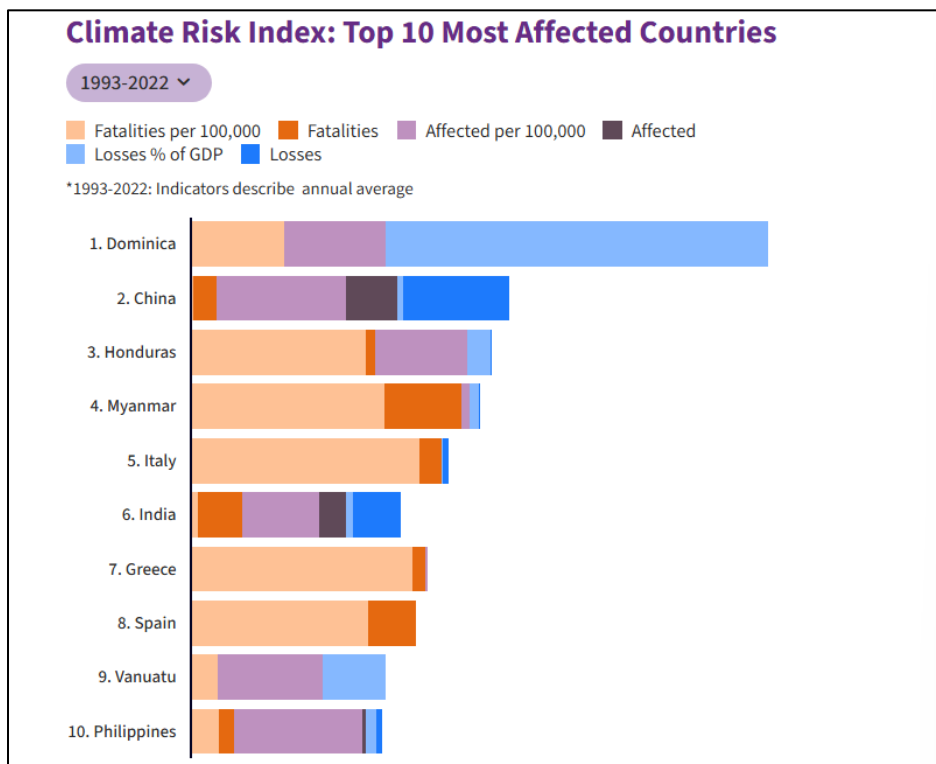
### New fishing grounds in Arabian Sea

- ❖ The FSI (Fishery Survey of India) conducted a deep-sea expedition using a trawler and explored waters as deep as 540m, from Kollam in Kerala to Goa.

- ❖ It has revealed several highly productive, potentially untouched fishing grounds in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The newly discovered grounds are located approximately 100 -120 nautical miles off India's western coast.
- ❖ It boasts an impressive average catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 150-300 kg/hr.



## Climate Risk Index 2025



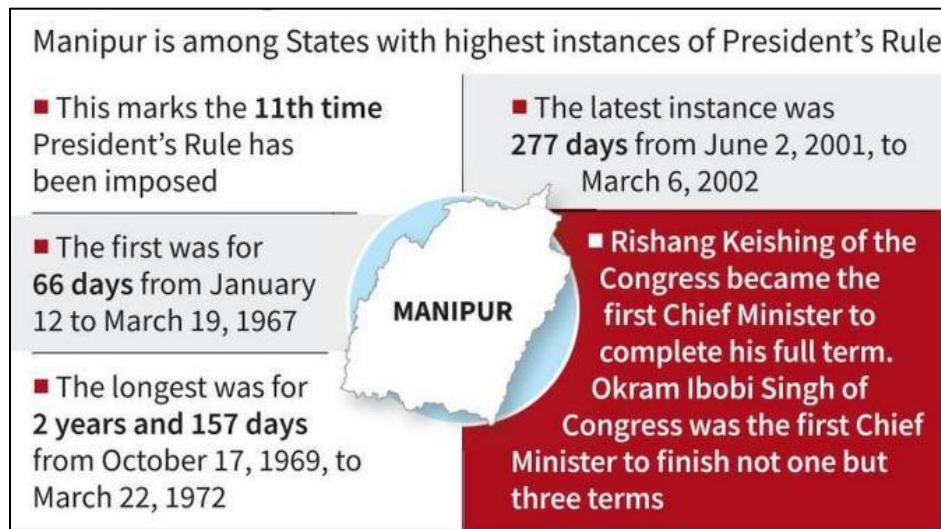
- ❖ India has improved its Climate Risk Index (CRI) rank from seventh worst affected country globally due to extreme weather events in 2019 to 49th in 2022.
- ❖ However, historically it remains among the top 10 most affected ones by figuring as the sixth worst in long-term (1993-2022) assessment.



- ❖ The findings are part of the CRI 2025, released by the environmental think tank Germanwatch.
- ❖ India reported loss of 80,000 lives and nearly \$180 billion in 400 extreme weather events in 30 years (1993-2022).
- ❖ Globally, more than 7,65,000 people lost their lives due to more than 9,400 extreme weather events in the 30 years until 2022.
- ❖ It caused economic damages totalling \$4.2 trillion (inflation-adjusted).
- ❖ Storms (35%), heat waves (30%) and floods (27%) caused the most fatalities during 1993-2022.
- ❖ Italy, Spain, and Greece are the three EU nations which are among the 10 most affected countries worldwide over the past three decades.
- ❖ Dominica, China, Honduras, Myanmar and Italy are the top five most affected in the list of 1993-2022.
- ❖ India experienced devastating floods in 1993, 1998, and 2013, along with severe heat waves in 2002, 2003, and 2015.

## STATES

### President Rule in Manipur



- ❖ The northeastern hill state of Manipur - rocked by violence for around two years and staring at a constitutional crisis was brought under President's Rule.
- ❖ This is the 11<sup>th</sup> time President's Rule has been declared in the state since 1951.
- ❖ Article 174(1) of the Constitution says that state Assemblies have to be convened no later than six months after their last sitting.

- ❖ The last imposition of President's Rule in Manipur began from June 2, 2001 and ended on March 6, 2002, lasting for 277 days.
- ❖ Since the Constitution came into force in 1950, the President's Rule has been imposed a total of 134 times.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Congestion Heart Defect Awareness Day 2025 - February 14



- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness of CHDs, or congenital heart defects, which can be mild or severe and occur at birth.
- ❖ These heart defects can influence the structure of a child's heart and the manner in which it works.
- ❖ In India, around 2 lakh kids are born every year with congenital heart illness.
- ❖ Around one-fifth of these experience the ill effects of critical heart illness.

### India Energy Week 2025

- ❖ The third edition of India Energy Week (IEW) 2025 concluded recently.
- ❖ The world's second-largest energy event, held at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.
- ❖ It is organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and jointly by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI).
- ❖ The event well emphasizes the energy access, security, sustainability, and the decarbonization efforts.
- ❖ The BPCL and Eco Wave Power (Israel) to set up India's first wave energy pilot in Mumbai.



- ❖ UrjanovaC Pvt Ltd emerged as the winner of Avinya'25 award for its synthetic catalyst technology that enables scalable and cost-competitive CO<sub>2</sub> capture and conversion.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Dokra artwork**



- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister gave the curated and hand-crafted gifts to the French President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron.
- ❖ The Dokra craft, a technique older than 4000 years, is a traditional metal-casting technique from Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The artform requires precise and intricate craftsmanship, and the structures are usually made of brass, nickel and zinc alloys.



- ❖ He gifted a silver engraved table mirror to French First Lady during his visit to the country for the AI Summit.
- ❖ The exquisite hand-engraved mirror was crafted by artists from Rajasthan.

