

February - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The birthday of U.V. Swaminatha Iyer (February 19), popularly known as 'Tamil Thatha' was celebrated as Tamil Literary Renaissance Day in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Indian Ambassador unveiled the statue of noted Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar in the Philippines.
- ❖ G Kamalini from Chennai, a member of India's U-19 T20 World Cup-winning team, became the youngest player to debut in the Women's Premier League (WPL).
- ❖ The 23rd National Para Athletics Championship, Chennai edition has set a new benchmark with an unprecedented 1,476 para-athletes competing across 155 events, representing 30 teams.
- ❖ India's first "Open Air Art Wall Museum", a unique open-air art museum, was inaugurated at the "Mausam Bhawan" in Delhi, which is also celebrating the 150 years of milestone journey of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ A national conclave on "Waste Recycling & Climate Change 2025" is organized by the Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) showcased India's organic legacy at BIOFACH 2025 in Germany with leading organic exporters from across India.
- ❖ In Rajasthan, Ajmer hosts Maiden All India Conference of Transgenders in memory of Anita Bai, the mentor of Gaddipati Saloni Nayak of the Ajmer's transgender community and 2,000 attended it.
- ❖ CheQ, leading credit management platform, has unveiled CheQ Wisor, country's first AI-powered credit card expert.
- ❖ The Central Silk Board organizes the International Conference on the Emerging Technologies in Silk Sector - SILKTECH-2025 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has launched its eighth Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, LSAM 11 in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has announced the formation of a "Deregulation Commission" to reduce government interference in the society.
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has (APEDA) successfully completed India's first-ever commercial trial shipments of premium Sangola and Bhagwa pomegranates respectively to Australia via sea.
- ❖ Hindu College in Delhi celebrated its 126th Founder's Day recently.

- ❖ The first edition of the Olympic Esports Games will be held in Riyadh of Saudi Arabia.

TAMIL NADU

Pink uniform for women drivers

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu state government has proposed to amend the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- ❖ According to the draft amendment, 'pink auto' is the auto rickshaws owned and driven by women drivers under Pink Auto Scheme of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department and they would be in pink colour uniform.
- ❖ The pink autos would also be installed with GPS/VLTD connected to the police helpline to ensure rapid response during emergencies.
- ❖ In June last year, the Minister had announced the pink auto would be introduced in Chennai and that a subsidy of ₹1 lakh each would be provided to 200 women auto drivers.

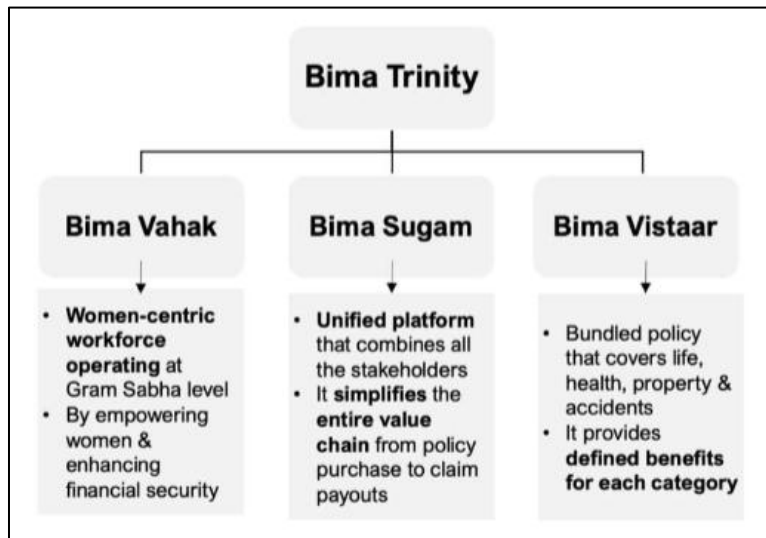


NATIONAL

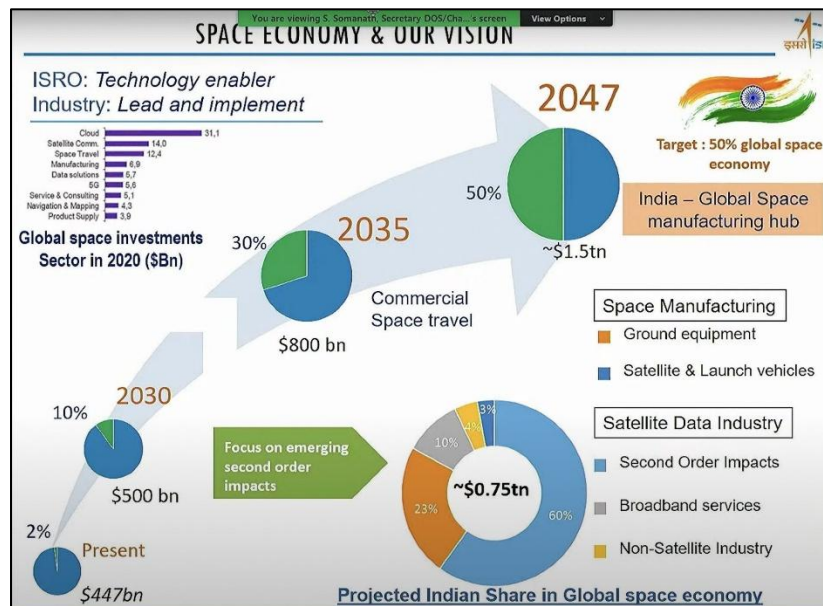
'Bima Trinity' Initiative

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) held the 9th edition of Bima Manthan.
- ❖ During the event, IRDAI unveiled the plan for its ambitious 'Bima Trinity' plan.
- ❖ Bima Trinity comprises of Bima Sugam, Bima Vistaar and Bima Vahaak.

- ❖ Bima Sugam is an open marketplace for the sale, service and claims of the all-insurance policies across insurance companies.
- ❖ Bima Vistaar is the first ever composite product covering the death, personal accident, property, and surgical hospitalisation.
- ❖ Bima Vahaak is a localised women-centric insurance field sales force.



India's Space Roadmap for the Next 10 Years



- ❖ ISRO unveiled the future roadmap of India's space missions for the Next 10 Years.
- ❖ ISRO's immediate priority is the Gaganyaan program, followed by enhancing low-cost access to space.

- ❖ The Mark III vehicle will be upgraded with a new propulsion system to increase its capacity by 25 per cent, all while reducing launch costs.
- ❖ ISRO is also working on liquid oxygen and a 200-tonne thrust engine.
- ❖ The next-generation launcher aims to be 1,000 times more capable than the SLV III.
- ❖ Upcoming scientific missions include the Venus mission, Mars Orbiter Mission, Chandrayaan-4, and Chandrayaan-5.

INTERNATIONAL

Brazil on OPEC+

- ❖ Brazil's government approved to joining OPEC+, a group of major oil-exporting nations.
- ❖ OPEC+ officially invited Brazil to join the organization in late 2023.
- ❖ Brazil is the largest oil producer in South America, with an output of around 4.32 million barrels of oil per day.
- ❖ The U.S. is the world's largest producer at nearly 22 million barrels daily, with Saudi Arabia, the largest producer in OPEC, at about 11 million barrels.



World Economic Forum 2025

- ❖ The 2025 World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting concluded in Davos, Switzerland.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age."
- ❖ The 2025 WEF highlighted that Artificial Intelligence and green tech offer both opportunities and challenges.

- ❖ India had secured over Rs 20 lakh crore in investment commitments, with Maharashtra securing nearly 80% of the total.
- ❖ Telangana secured Rs 1.79 lakh crore investment.
- ❖ A German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab in 1971 founded the European Management Forum, it became the WEF in 1987.
- ❖ In 2015, the WEF was officially recognized as an international organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ WEF Annual Meeting was held in Davos, Switzerland.



International Fleet Review 2025



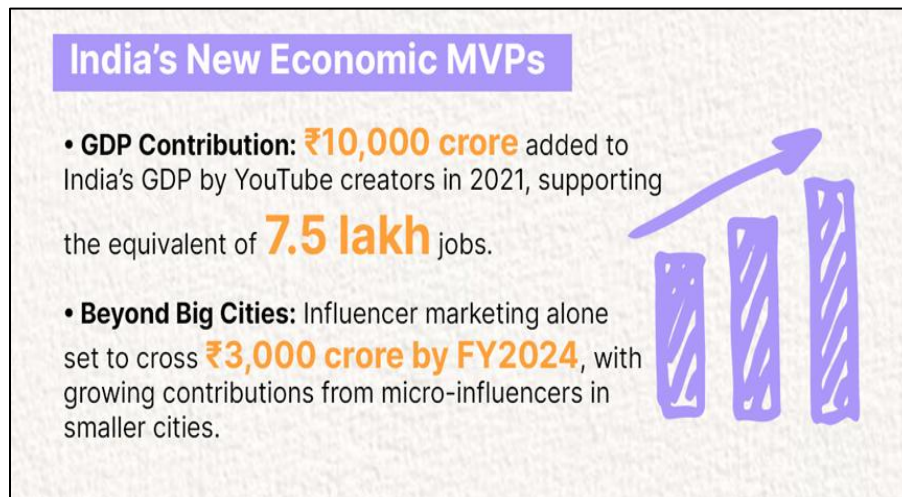
- ❖ The International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025 is currently taking place now in Bali, Indonesia.

- ❖ IFR is a prestigious multinational naval event that showcases naval forces from various countries and is reviewed by the President of Indonesia.
- ❖ It facilitates the discussions on maritime security and encourages goodwill among naval forces.

ECONOMY

India's Digital Economy Contribution

- ❖ India's digital economy has emerged as a significant contributor to its economic growth.
- ❖ It was accounting for 11.74% of the GDP (INR 31.64 lakh crore or USD 402 billion) in 2022-23.
- ❖ It was employing 14.67 million workers (2.55% of the total workforce) and the digital economy is nearly five times more productive than the rest of the economy.
- ❖ Projections indicate the digital economy's share will grow to 20% of GVA by 2029-30, outpacing agriculture and manufacturing.



India's Smartphone Exports 2025

- ❖ India's smartphone exports had reached Rs 1.55 trillion during the April-January period
- ❖ These exports surpassed Rs 1.31 trillion in FY24.
- ❖ January (2025) alone recorded the highest-ever monthly exports at Rs 250 billion.
- ❖ It was marking a 140 per cent increase over January 2024.



- ❖ Apple's iPhone vendors accounted for nearly 70 per cent of these exports, with Foxconn's Tamil Nadu facility contributing about half.
- ❖ Foxconn's exports grew by 43 per cent compared to the previous fiscal year.
- ❖ Pegatron, another firm based in Tamil Nadu, contributed 12 per cent.
- ❖ Samsung contributed around 20 per cent of total smartphone exports.

Year	Value of smartphone exports
FY21	\$ 3.1 billion
FY22	\$ 5.8 billion
FY23	\$ 11.1 billion
FY24	\$ 15.6 billion

India-Qatar Trade by 2030

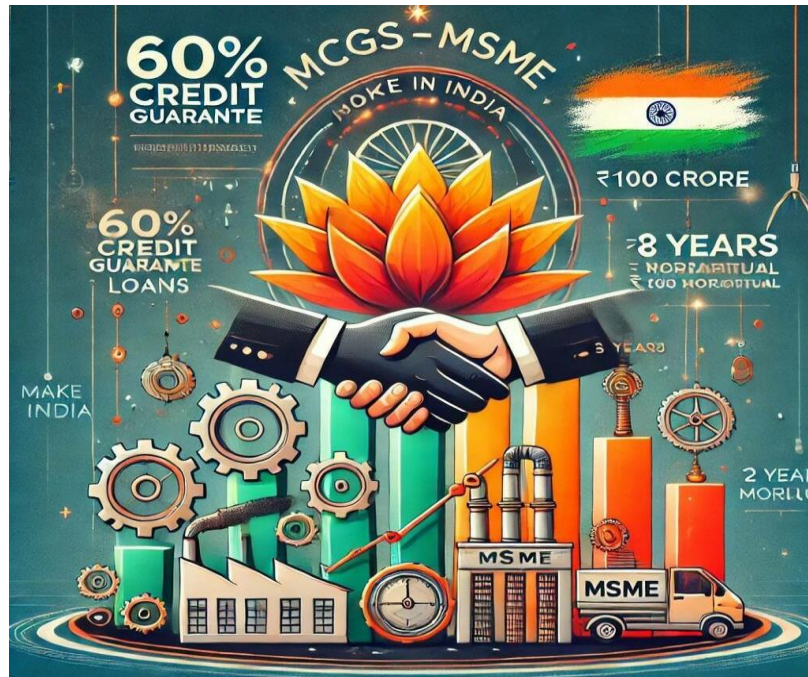
Trade and Investment

- Qatar will invest \$10 billion in India. The Qatar Investment Authority will open an office in India, strengthening bilateral trade and investment flows.
- Operationalization of India's UPI at Qatar National Bank (QNB) Point of Sales in Qatar
- Both sides set the target to double bilateral trade by 2030.
- Both sides agreed to explore an India-Qatar Free Trade Agreement

- ❖ India and Qatar have decided to upgrade their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, and energy.

- ❖ Both nations aim to double bilateral trade from the current \$14.08 billion to \$28 billion over the next five years.
- ❖ The Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) has already invested \$1.5 billion in India

MCGS for MSMEs



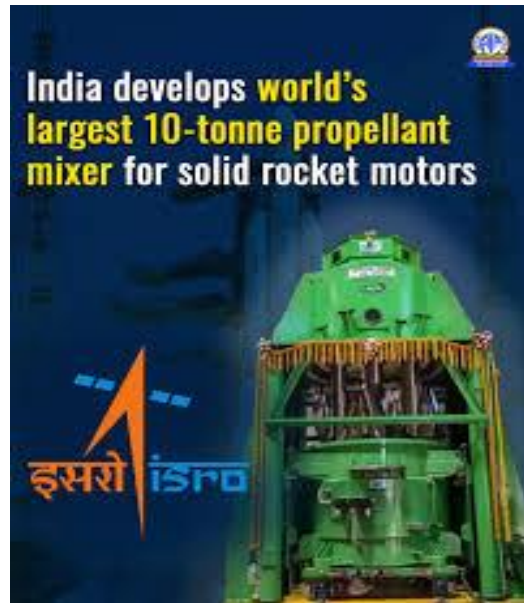
- ❖ The Centre launched the 'Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs'.
- ❖ It was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 to boost the micro, small, and medium enterprises.
- ❖ The scheme facilitates collateral-free loans to MSMEs by providing loans up to Rs 100 crore for the purchase of plant, machinery, or equipment.
- ❖ The scheme would provide 60 per cent guarantee coverage by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) to member lending institutions (MLIs) for a credit facility up to Rs 100 crores.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's Largest Vertical Propellant Mixer

- ❖ ISRO successfully developed a 10-tonne 'vertical planetary mixer', the largest of its kind for solid propellants globally.
- ❖ Solid propulsion plays a crucial role in Indian space transportation systems.

- ❖ A propellant mixer is a machine that mixes the ingredients of rocket propellants, specifically fuel and oxidiser.
- ❖ It will ensure a uniform and reliable mixture for solid rocket motors.



Grok 3 AI



- ❖ Elon Musk's xAI has released the new Grok 3 series of models.
- ❖ Grok-3 has more than 10 times the computing capability of its predecessor.
- ❖ Grok 3 is expected to be powered by xAI's Colossus supercomputer.
- ❖ It is claimed that this is the Smartest AI on Earth.

ENVIRONMENT

Faunal survey in Parambikulam TR

- ❖ A faunal survey by the Forest Department at the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in Palakkad has added 15 new species to the protected area's checklist.

- ❖ The survey recorded a total of 206 bird species.
- ❖ With the new additions, the total number of bird species in the reserve to 302 species.
- ❖ Five new butterfly species were also added to the reserve's checklist.
- ❖ The addition of these species brings the butterfly count at the reserve to 273.
- ❖ Moreover, the survey has identified 39 species of odonates, including three new species.
- ❖ They are increasing the reserve's odonate checklist to 69 species.



CPCB report on Ganga water

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has raised concerns over high faecal coliform bacteria levels in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Prayagraj.
- ❖ A report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) indicated high levels of faecal bacteria at various points along both the rivers near Prayagraj's Sangam
- ❖ Contamination of faecal coliform occurred in water due to the mixing of human or livestock excreta.
- ❖ Its levels indicate water quality and help in monitoring the presence of disease-causing bacteria.
- ❖ The total coliform levels (faecal plus other) in the Ganga were found to be around 1,400 times the standard.
- ❖ In the Yamuna, they were 660 times higher at certain locations in Prayagraj.



- ❖ A 2004 committee formed by the Ministry of Urban Development recommended that the desirable limit of faecal coliform should be at 500 MPN/100ml.

Date	River	Location	pH (6.5 - 8.5)	Color (Hazen)	DO (≥ 5 mg/l)	Temp (°C)	Turbidity (NTU)	COD (mg/l)	BOD (≤ 3 mg/l)	Fecal Coliform (≤ 2500 MPN/100ml)
04.02.2025	Ganga	Shringverpur Ghat	8.37	10	9.5	19.5	3	15.9	2.47	<1.8
	Ganga	Lord Curzon bridge	8.42	10	9.3	19.5	39	16.5	2.52	200
	Ganga	Before shashtri bridge near Nagvasuki Mandir Pantoon Pul No. 15	8.27	10	8.3	19.5	4.3	16.2	2.81	11000
	Ganga	Sangam	8.41	10	8	19.2	3	14.6	2.07	7900
	Ganga	Deeha Ghat	8.41	15	8.8	19.5	30	14.2	3.32	4900
	Yamuna	Old Naini Bridge	8.48	10	8.2	19.3	23	15.9	2.45	3300
	Yamuna	Before confluence to river Ganga at Sangam	8.32	15	8.1	19.3	13	12.1	2.51	4900

REPORTS AND INDICES

World's largest military spender in 2025

Rank 2025	Country	Defence Budget 2025 (USD)
1	United States	\$895,000,000,000 (\$895 billion)
2	China	\$266,850,000,000 (\$266.85 billion)
3	Russia	\$126,000,000,000 (\$126 billion)
4	India	\$75,000,000,000 (\$75 billion)
5	Saudi Arabia	\$74,760,000,000 (\$74.76 billion)
6	United Kingdom	\$71,500,540,000 (\$71.5 billion)
7	Japan	\$57,000,000,000 (\$57 billion)
8	Australia	\$55,700,000,000 (\$55.7 billion)
9	France	\$55,000,000,000 (\$55 billion)
10	Ukraine	\$53,700,000,000 (\$53.7 billion)

- ❖ The global defence expenditures reached \$2.46 trillion in 2024.
- ❖ This marked an increase from the \$2.24 trillion in the previous year, bringing the average defence spending to 1.9% of global GDP.

- ❖ It is increased from 1.6% in 2022 and 1.8% in 2023.
- ❖ The United States is the world's largest military spender in 2025.
- ❖ US not only continues to dominate the rankings but also makes up 62.3 per cent of the global top five military spenders.
- ❖ US is also followed by China and Russia with 18.6 per cent and 8.8 per cent, respectively.
- ❖ India is recognised as one of the world's leading military powers, ranking fourth on the Global Firepower Index.
- ❖ The Union Budget for FY 2025, the government has allocated Rs 6.81 lakh crore to the Defence Ministry.
- ❖ It was representing 13.45% of the overall Union Budget.
- ❖ This was making it the highest allocation among government ministries.

STATES

nPROUD Initiative

nPROUD

- ⚙️ The Kerala Drugs Control Department is going to launch the 'nPROUD' initiative.
 - Full name of nPROUD is New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs.
- ⚙️ The initiative aims to ensure safe disposal of expired drugs.
- ⚙️ Kerala will be the first state in India to launch such a project.



- ❖ Kerala is set to launch nPROUD (New Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs).
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India to collect and scientifically dispose of expired and unused medicines.

- ❖ The project also aims to tackle the lack of proper disposal systems, preventing environmental pollution, health hazards, and antimicrobial resistance.

Kerala's healthcare revolution

- ❖ The state's notable achievements are its drive toward oxygen self-sufficiency, with a total storage capacity of 2,095.63 MT of liquid oxygen now available.
- ❖ The government has also made significant strides in primary healthcare with the establishment of 709 Family Health Centers.
- ❖ Out of the 885 Primary Health Centers in the state, 709 have also been upgraded, broadening the reach of essential health services to communities across Kerala.
- ❖ In the last three and a half years, 2,517,000 people have benefited from the free treatment.
- ❖ A total of 5,415 Community Health Centers is now operational, alongside 380 Urban Public Health Centers spread across 93 urban areas.
- ❖ Kerala is the only State with Cath labs in all districts as well as the first State to achieve the status of having the dialysis units in all the District/General/Taluk headquarter hospitals.
- ❖ Kerala is the first Indian state to have stroke care units in all the district-level hospitals.
- ❖ Thiruvananthapuram Medical College also becomes the first in the country to establish a very comprehensive stroke unit with a neuro-Cath lab, significantly enhancing the care available for stroke patients
- ❖ Kerala has seen the closure of 99 private hospitals since 2011.

Kerala, Scaling New Heights in Healthcare

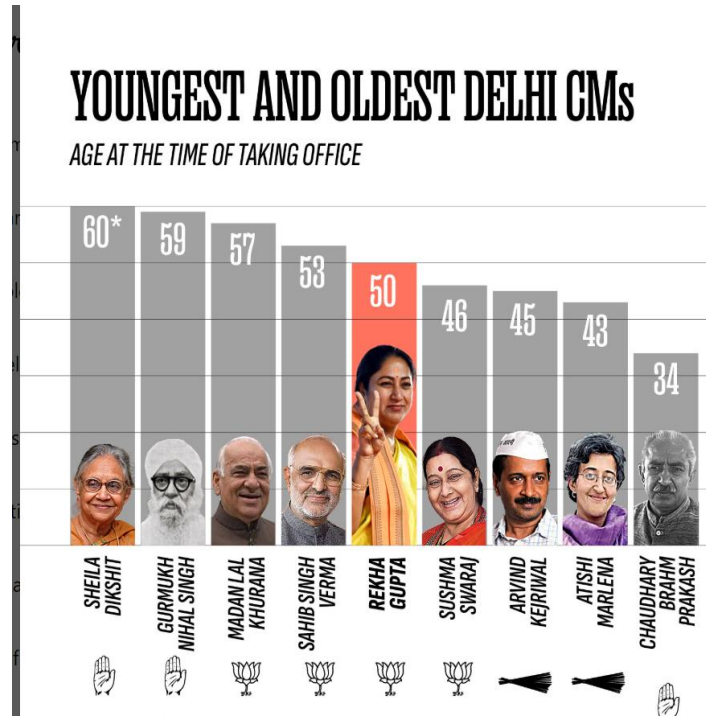
Kerala is known for "Good Health at Low Cost" but now, it is aiming higher



Delhi's New Chief Minister

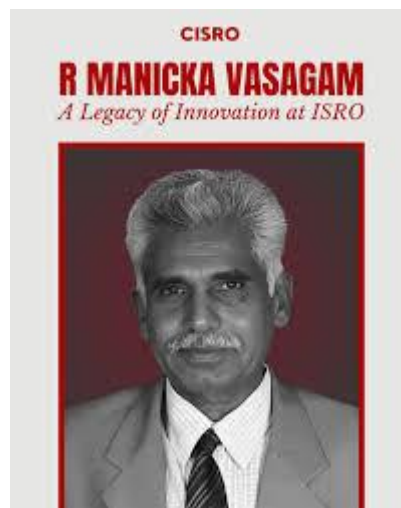
- ❖ First-time MLA Rekha Gupta sworn as Delhi's new chief minister.

- ❖ The BJP party returns to power in the national capital after 27 years, securing 48 seats in the 70-member House.
- ❖ She was elected as a councillor from North Pitampura in 2007.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

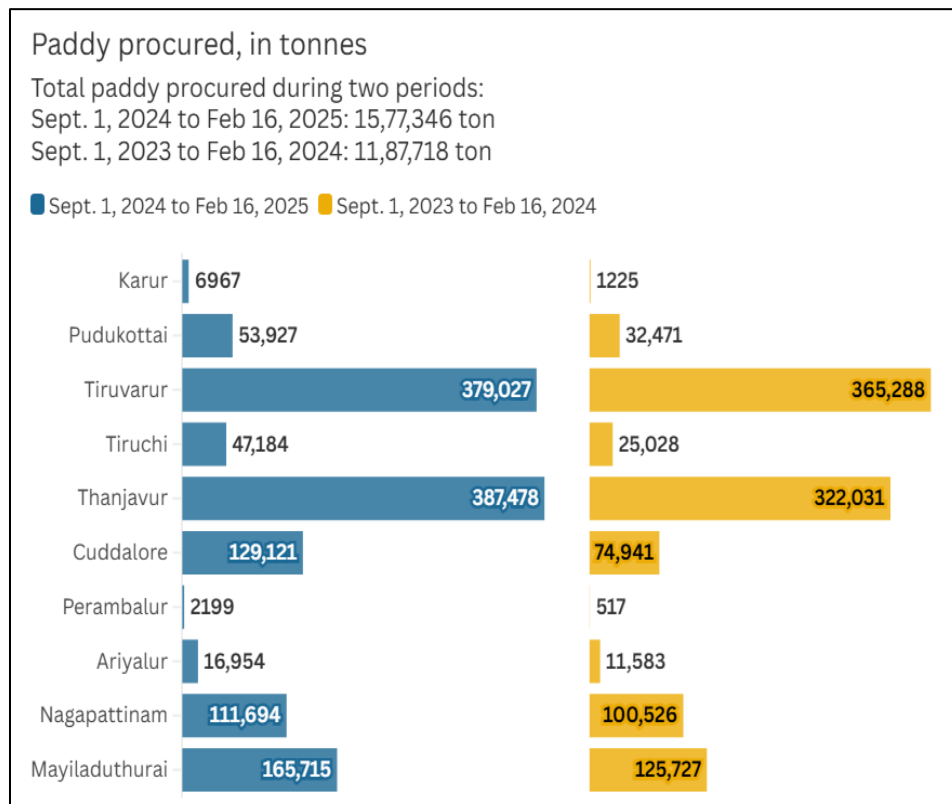
Veteran scientist R.M. Vasagam



- ❖ R. Manicka Vasagam, veteran space scientist and former Vice Chancellor (V-C) of Anna University, Tamil Nadu, passed away.

- ❖ He was the youngest among the ISRO scientists to have received the Padmashree award.
- ❖ He was the project director of India's Baskara satellite.
- ❖ He was the founder-director of the erstwhile Tamil Nadu Institute of Information Technology (TANITEC).
- ❖ He served as the senior and distinguished scientist of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

SHGs for paddy procurement

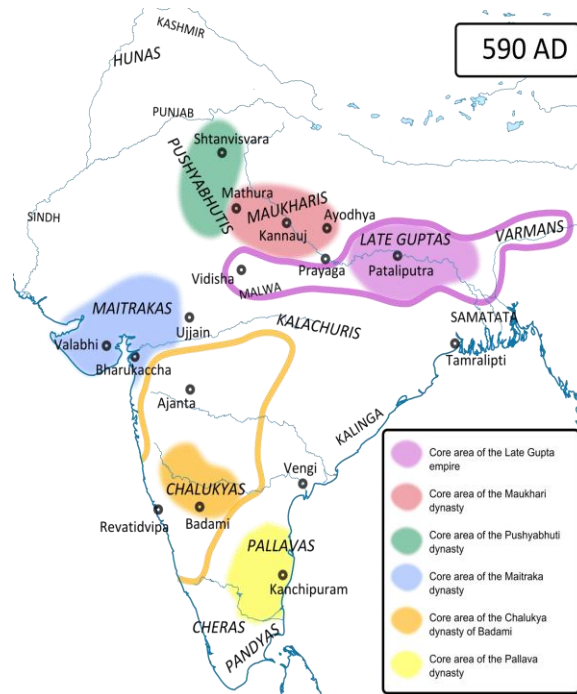


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC), concerned over complaints of corruption at direct purchase centres (DPC) for the paddy procurement in the Cauvery delta.
- ❖ It is also receptive to the idea of having a senior officer of the Indian Police Service to head its vigilance wing.
- ❖ This is now led by an additional registrar of cooperative societies.
- ❖ The region, constituting 10 districts, accounts for at least 80% of the total paddy procurement made in the State, going by the data for the years from 2011-12 to 2020-21, and the current year.

- ❖ Within the region, the share of the total composite Thanjavur district - Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai - is around 85%.
- ❖ Out of the procurement made across Tamil Nadu, the share of the four districts is in the range of 67% to 68% or about two-thirds.

MISCELLANEOUS

Kalyana Chalukya Era Kannada inscriptions

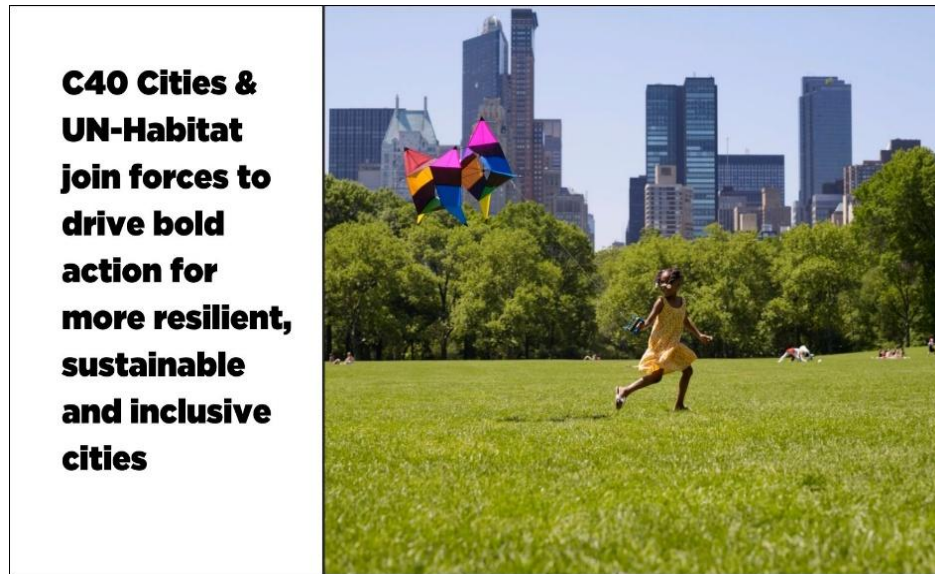


- ❖ Three new Kannada inscriptions of the Kalyana Chalukya era were noticed for the first time at Kankal village, Pudur mandal in Vikarabad, Telangana.
- ❖ They were also issued during the 4th, 5th and 6th regal years of Someswara-III, Bhulokamalla, the Emperor of the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty ruled from the Kalyana.
- ❖ They were dated to 25th December 1129 CE, 5th October 1130 CE and 8th January 1132 CE respectively.

C40 Cities and UN-Habitat

- ❖ The Green & Resilient Urban Shift Africa Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ C40 Cities and UN-Habitat have announced a landmark partnership to transform urban planning.

- ❖ The partnership will create a new Urban Planning Accelerator to help cities cut emissions by 25% by 2050.
- ❖ They will create safer, fairer, and more inclusive urban environments.



Future Brand Index 2024

FBI Global Ranking 2024	2024 vs 2023	Company	FBI Global Ranking 2023	PwC 2024 Position	Sector	FBI Global Ranking 2024	2024 vs 2023	Company	FBI Global Ranking 2023	PwC 2024 Position	Sector
1	↑4	SAMSUNG	5	21	Information Technology	11	-	INTUITIVE	NEW ENTRY	100	Healthcare
2	↑11	Reliance Industries	13	46	Energy	12	↑7	NETFLIX	19	40	Communication Services
3	↓2	Apple	1	2	Information Technology	13	-	APPLIED MATERIALS	NEW ENTRY	74	Information Technology
4	↑8	Nike	12	98	Consumer Discretionary	14	↓8	Microsoft	6	1	Information Technology
5	↑4	ASML	9	25	Information Technology	15	-	NEW ENTRY	NEW ENTRY	84	Consumer Discretionary
6	↑8	Danaher	14	67	Healthcare	16	↑41	中國農工銀行	57	85	Financials
7	↑19	The Walt Disney Company	26	49	Communication Services	17	↑5	intel	22	66	Information Technology
8	↑13	Walmart	21 (2023)	33	Consumer Staples	18	↑2	NESTLE	20	37	Consumer Staples
9	↓5	IBM	4	10	Information Technology	19	↓4	TOYOTA	15	28	Consumer Discretionary
10	-	IHC	NEW ENTRY	45	Industrials	20	↑34	中國農業銀行	54	60	Financials

- ❖ India's largest and the most valuable company Reliance Industries Ltd has been ranked at the second.
- ❖ Reliance ranks ahead of well-known global brands like Apple, Nike, Walt Disney, Netflix, Microsoft, Intel and Toyota.
- ❖ The company was ranked at 13th place in 2023.

- ❖ The list is led by Korean brand Samsung.

Forbes India 30 Under 30 2025

- ❖ It was showcasing 42 young achievers under the age of 30 across 19 diverse categories including a new AI category.
- ❖ This year, 11 women feature on the list.
- ❖ The National Award-winning actress Aparna Balamurali earns a spot for her contributions to Indian cinema.
- ❖ Devan Chandrasekharan (18) is the youngest honouree.
- ❖ Preethi Pal, the para-athlete who won 2 bronzes in Paralympics Paris in 2024 also featured in the list.

