

February - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Over 100 partners, including 37 technical companies, 11 countries and 5 international organizations, have joined the forces with the UN under the Coalition for Environmentally Sustainable Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the first edition of the SOUL Leadership Conclave in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a high-powered committee, led by Dinesh Khara to scrutinise various aspects of the Insurance Act 1938 and suggest amendments.
- ❖ Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani made a 2-day visit to India as second visit to the country since March 2015.
- ❖ Centre inaugurated the Inland Waterways Terminal (IWT) at Jogighopa of Assam which will play a crucial role in India's trade with Bangladesh and Bhutan.
- ❖ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) has launched a new fund with a huge corpus of Rs 500 crore to support the growth of India's space startups.

TAMIL NADU

Ethnographic documentation of five tribal communities

Characteristic features	Todas	Kotas	Kurumbas	Irulas	Paniyas	Kattunayakas
Subdivisions/ other names	Todas, Todar, Tudavans, Toras	Koter, Kotharu, Kothewar, Kohatur	Alu or Palu Kurumbas, Beta Kurumbas, Jenu or Teen Kurumbas, Mullu Kurumbas, Urali Kurumbas	Erlar (or) Poosari, Eralollu, Irulas, Shikari, Pujari, Iriligar, Iruliga, Iruvan, Villiar	Kattupaniyar	Sikarinayakan, Kadu or Shola Nayakans, Golla, Irula, Korava, Thottiyar
Language	Dravidian language family of Toda (Tamil and Malayalam)	Dravidian language family of Kota (Tamil and Kannada)	Dravidian language family of Kurumba (Tamil and Kannada)	Dravidian language family of Irula (Tamil, Yerukala, Sholaga, and other Tamil languages)	Dravidian language family of Paniya (Tamil and Malayalam)	Dravidian language family (Tamil and Telugu and Malayalam and Kannada)
Occupation	Cultivation of vegetables such as potato and cabbage; embroidery	Pottery and carpentry; blacksmiths	Hunters and food gatherers; painting and witchcraft	Rat and snake catchers; fishing	Hunters and food gatherers	Hunters and food gatherers; collection of honey and wax
Deity/worships	Lord Shiva and worship many mountains and hills	Worship fire, the moon, and nature	Lord Shiva in the name of Bhairavan and worship animals, birds, trees, rock hillocks, and snakes	Goddess Kanniamma	Kali and worship banyan tree	Lord Shiva in the name of Bhairavan and worship the Goddess Jakkamma and Mallaiyar

- ❖ The Department of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare of Tamilnadu, under its very flagship Tholkudi scheme, has issued guidelines for ethnographic documentation of five Scheduled Tribe communities.

- ❖ In the 2024-25 budget, the State government allocated ₹2 crore for a project to create digital records of the language and culture of tribal communities living in the State.
- ❖ It involves digital recording of linguistic resources and phonetic forms of Irulas, Todas, Narikuravars, Kanikkarars and Kurumbars.
- ❖ The digital documentation involves interviews and audio-visual recordings of the tribal community members to capture their way of life, stories, rituals and the customs associated with them without affecting their privacy and regular life.

Asia Economic Dialogue 2025

- ❖ The Asia Economic Dialogue 2025, annual geoeconomics conference is being held in Pune.
- ❖ It is organised by the ministry of external affairs (MEA) and Pune International Centre (PIC).
- ❖ This 9th edition's theme is "Economic Resilience and Resurgence in an Era of Fragmentation".



ECONOMY

Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWRs

- ❖ Centre launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR based Pledge Financing (CGS-NPF).

- ❖ This scheme provides a corpus of Rs 1,000-crore for post-harvest finance availed by farmers against electronic negotiable warehouse receipts (e-NWRs).
- ❖ Farmers will get loans after depositing commodities in Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) accredited warehouses.
- ❖ Guarantee coverage will be 85% for loans up to Rs. 3L.
- ❖ 80% guaranteed for loan is between 3 to 75 lakhs for small and marginal farmers / women / SC / ST / PwD.



Objectives of
CREDIT
Guarantee Scheme

- To increase the post- harvest finance to farmers and avoiding distress sale
- To encourage banks to extend pledge against e- NWRs to farmers and traders on the agricultural / horticultural produce
- To address default arising out of both credit risk and warehouseman risk
- Augmenting Digital initiatives of Government of India

SCAN THE QR TO VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES 

Periodic Labour force survey 2025

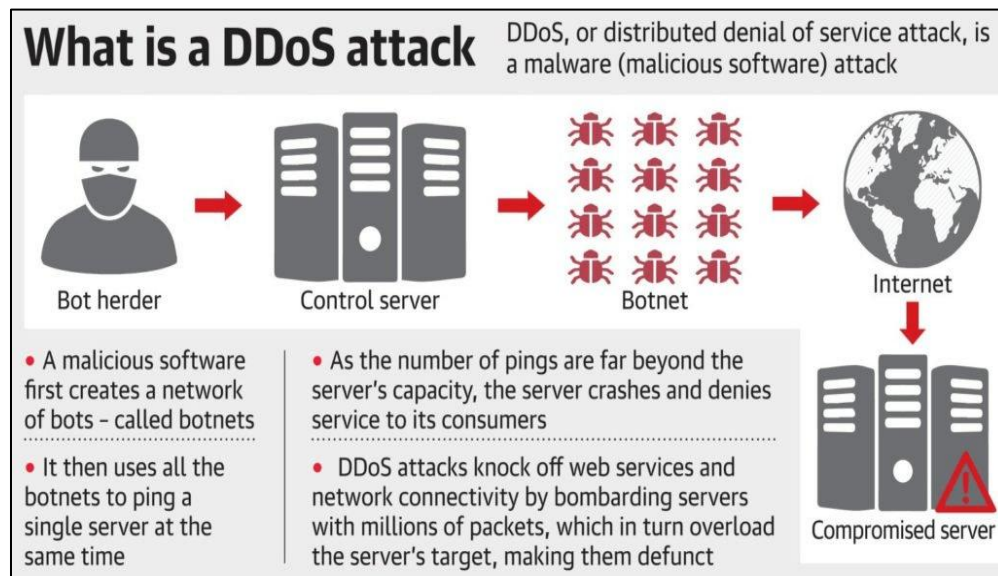
- ❖ Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in urban areas among persons of age 15 years and above has increased from 49.9% during October - December, 2023 to 50.4% in quarter October – December, 2024.
- ❖ LFPR for male of age 15 years and above in urban areas increased from 74.1% to 75.4% during the same period.
- ❖ LFPR among female of age 15 years and above for urban areas increased from 25.0% to 25.2%.
- ❖ Unemployment Rate (UR) in urban areas among persons of age 15 years and above decreased from 6.5% to 6.4%.

- ❖ UR among males of age 15 years and above remained same as 5.8%.
- ❖ UR among female of age 15 years and above decreased from 8.6 % to 8.1%.

Statement 1: LFPR (in per cent) in CWS in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above			
all-India			
survey period	Male	Female	Person
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
October – December 2023	74.1	25.0	49.9
January – March 2024	74.4	25.6	50.2
April – June 2024	74.7	25.2	50.1
July – September 2024	75.0	25.5	50.4
October – December 2024	75.4	25.2	50.4

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DDoS attack on Kaveri 2.0

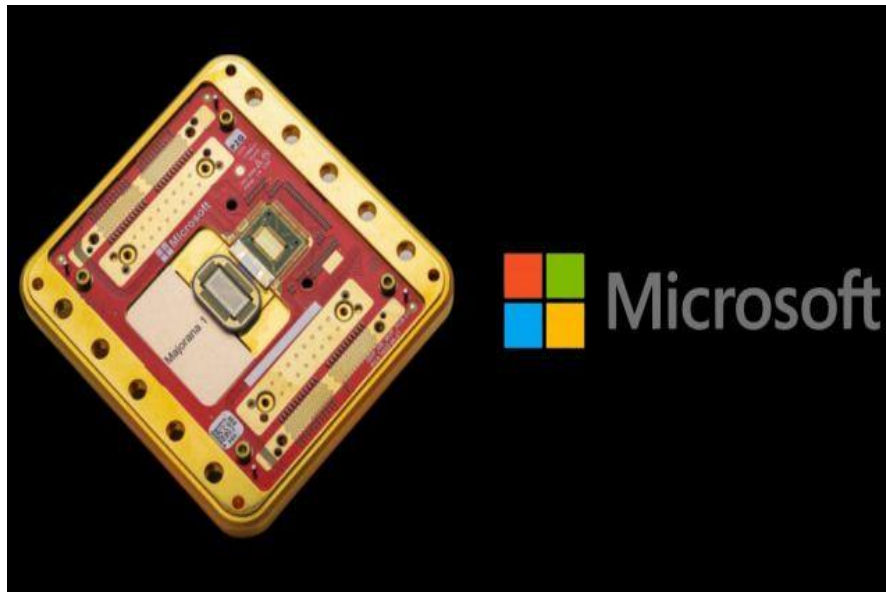


- ❖ In January, the web-based portal Kaveri 2.0, which streamlines the property registrations in Karnataka, faced sporadic, crippling server outages.
- ❖ As a result, property registration and document-related citizen services went almost to a standstill in the state.
- ❖ It is a “motivated Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack”.

- ❖ A DDoS attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal functioning of a targeted server, service, or network by overwhelming it with a flood of internet traffic.
- ❖ Unlike a Denial of Service (DoS) attack, which typically involves a single source, a DDoS attack leverages multiple compromised systems, often infected with malware, to generate the traffic.
- ❖ These compromised systems are collectively known as a botnet.

Microsoft - Majorana 1

- ❖ The Microsoft has announced the arrival of Majorana 1, a new quantum chip that produces more reliable and scalable qubits than its predecessors.
- ❖ Qubits are the building blocks of quantum computers.
- ❖ The Majorana 1 is an eight-qubit chip, which may seem modest when compared to quantum chips developed by rivals such as Google's Willow (106-qubit chip) and IBM's R2 Heron (156-qubit chip).



Einstein ring around galaxy NGC 6505

- ❖ Recently, the Euclid space mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) spotted an Einstein ring in the galaxy NGC 6505.
- ❖ This is located just 590 million lightyears from the earth.
- ❖ An Einstein ring is a special case of strong gravitational lensing.
- ❖ Astronomers discovered the first Einstein ring in 1998, more than 80 years after Einstein predicted their existence.

- ❖ An Einstein ring is created when a gravitational lens distorts light coming from a distant background object, like a star or a galaxy.



ENVIRONMENT

Record of Blue-cheeked Bee-eater



- ❖ The first breeding site of the Blue-Cheeked Bee-eater (*merops persicus*) in peninsular India has been discovered in Aandivilai near the Manakudy Mangroves in Kanniyakumari district.
- ❖ Its breeding was primarily recorded in regions such as Nile Delta, Pakistan, and Iran while its wintering grounds include parts of Africa.
- ❖ Some breeding burrows of the bird were eventually found along the saltpans of Pazhayar river basin.

Aravali safari park project

- ❖ It is the Haryana state government's ambitious 3,858-hectare Aravali safari park project.

- ❖ It is envisaged to be the world's largest safari park.
- ❖ The proposed Aravali safari park will have animal cages, guest houses, hotels, restaurants, auditoriums, animal hospital, children's parks, botanical gardens, aquariums, cable cars, a tunnel walk with exhibits, an open-air theatre and eateries.
- ❖ Of the approximately 80,000-hectare Aravali hill area in Haryana, a majority is protected under various laws and by orders of the Supreme Court and NGT.



WHAT THE PARK MAY HAVE

Entertainment zone | It would be designed along specific themes inspired from fiction or Indian mythological characters

The Safari Club | The recreation club would have leisure activities. It would also have venues to host conferences, large gatherings and even accommodation. An aquarium, zip flyer, cable car, canopy safari and tunnel walk will also be there

Eco village | It will take visitors through a cultural and culinary journey. It will have space for handicraft and handloom products and even fine dining. There may be open-air theatre, stalls, display galleries, kiosks and food outlets

Infrastructure | Road networks along with space for pedestrians. There would be elephant or horse rides as well as eco-trekking trails

REPORTS AND INDICES

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2025

2025 Asia-Pacific SDGs Partnership Report

Delivering a Just Transition:

Advancing Decent Work, Gender Equality, and Social Protection

Launch event at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development hosted by the Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership
25 February 2025 17:30-18:30 | Bangkok, Thailand and live via Youtube









- ❖ It is released by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- ❖ Asia and the Pacific has improved, with 54 per cent of indicators having at least two data points in 2024.



- ❖ Significant gaps prevail, particularly concerning the disaggregated data by age, disability, sex and location.
- ❖ The report had warned that an urgent action is required if the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to be met by 2030.

WEF report on Quantum Economy



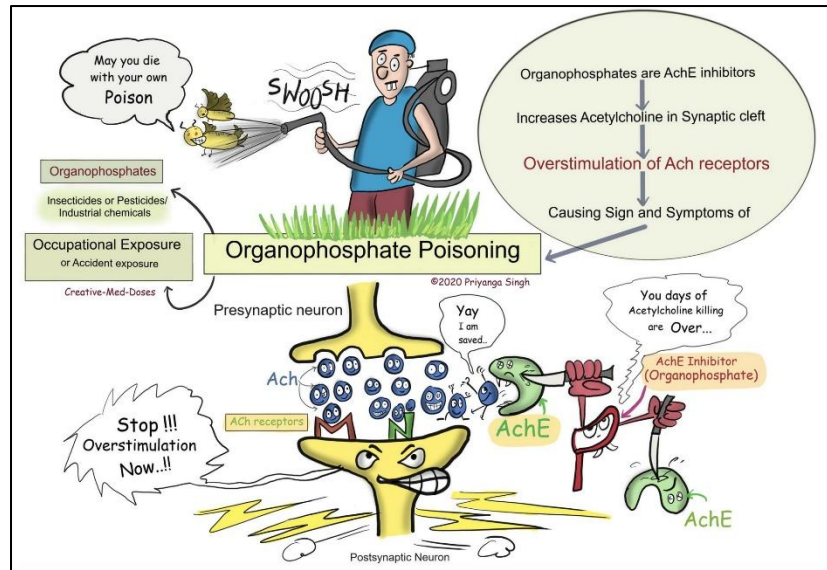
- ❖ This report was named “Embracing the Quantum Economy: A Pathway for Business Leaders”.
- ❖ It highlights the transformative potential of quantum technologies and provides a roadmap for businesses to harness their economic value.
- ❖ The global quantum technology market is projected to reach \$125 billion by 2030.
- ❖ The Sectors like healthcare, finance, logistics, and energy stand to benefit very significantly.
- ❖ Countries investing in quantum R&D, such as the U.S., China, and India, aim to secure strategic advantages in defence, economy, and technological leadership.

STATES

Organophosphate Poisoning in Baddal

- ❖ Organophosphate could be behind the 17 deaths that had spread panic in the J&K’s Baddal village.
- ❖ These chemicals are used in pesticides and insecticides.
- ❖ Organophosphates are generally used to protect crops from pests and even to control the spread of disease by insects.
- ❖ They work by disrupting the transmission of nerve signals in exposed organisms with fatal results.

- ❖ Organophosphates are synthetic chemicals.
- ❖ Initially developed for military use as nerve agents, they were later adapted for agricultural purposes.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

BBC Awards 2024 winners



- ❖ The Olympic medal-winner shooter Manu Bhaker has won the BBC Indian Sports woman of the Year award for 2024.
- ❖ Sheetal Devi (archery) has won BBC Emerging Player of the Year.

- ❖ Mithali Raj (cricket) has won Lifetime Achievement.
- ❖ Indian Para-sportswoman of the Year was given to Avani Lekhara (shooting)

MISCELLANEOUS

Neo Tethys Oceanic Plate

- ❖ The Researchers have uncovered the Neo Tethys oceanic plate, which once lay beneath the Arabian and Eurasian continents, is fracturing horizontally.
- ❖ This immense structural shift is taking place beneath the Zagros Mountains.
- ❖ It is a sprawling range that extends across southeast Turkey, northwest Iran, and the Kurdistan region of Iraq.
- ❖ For millions of years now, the Arabian and Eurasian plates have been colliding, which has pushed the oceanic plate downward into the Earth's mantle.
- ❖ As the process continued, the descending oceanic plate functions like an anchor, dragging down the Earth's crust and forming a vast depression that has been accumulated millions of years' worth of sediment.
- ❖ The Arabian and Eurasian plates are colliding, pushing up the Zagros Mountains and creating the Mesopotamian plains as eroded sediments build up over time.

