

January - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The BEML Ltd has recently revealed the BD475-2 Dozer, the largest and most advanced in the country.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister launched a Tamil Teaching Programme in Fiji, supported by the Indian government.
- ❖ A Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was inaugurated by the Indian Army on the banks of Pangong Tso Lake of Ladakh at an altitude of 14,300 feet.
- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan (17) from Mumbai has achieved a milestone by becoming the youngest female to scale the highest peaks on all seven continents.
- ❖ Sikkim's Kagyed Dance Festival, which Celebrates peace and prosperity for the new year through masked dances was held at Tsuklakhang Palace, Gangtok.
- ❖ Jeju Air flight has crashed on the runway at South Korea's Muan International Airport killed 179 out of 181 people onboard.
- ❖ The Indian Army established an AI Incubation Centre (IAAIIC) at Bengaluru in collaborates with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to accelerate the development and adoption of AI technologies.
- ❖ IIT Bombay has developed a shockwave-based needle-free syringe that ensures painless and safe drug delivery with lesser damage to skin and lower risk of infection.
- ❖ The 18th Elephant and Tourism Festivals was held in Sauraha, Nepal.
- ❖ The US Mission in India has issued more than one million non-immigrant visas in 2024, marking the second consecutive year this milestone has been achieved.

TAMIL NADU

Kamarajar Port performance

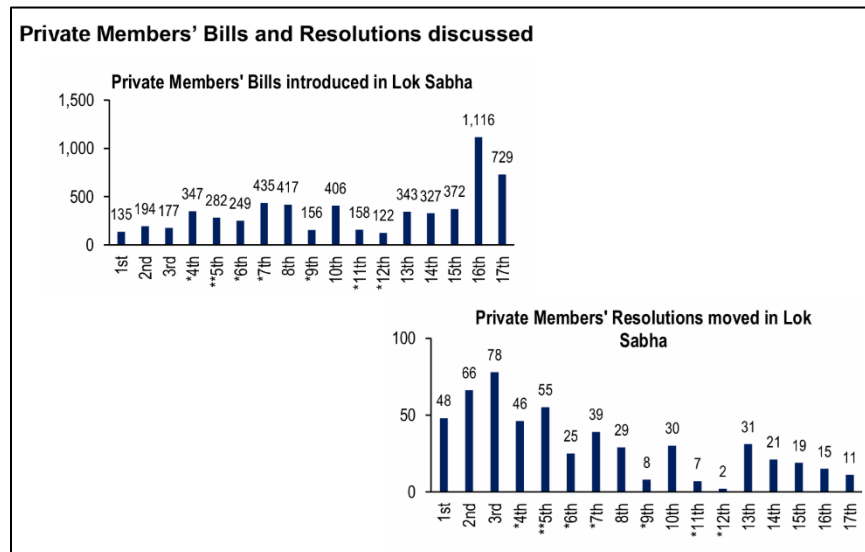
- ❖ The Chennai Port Trust and its subsidiary Kamarajar Port Ltd have set a target of crossing 100 million metric tonne of cargo in the current financial year.
- ❖ The Kamarajar Port handled 43.51 million metric tonne of cargo in 2022-23.
- ❖ This is a growth by 12.31 per cent from 38.74 million metric tonne recorded the previous year.
- ❖ Kamarajar Port exported 1,48,307 units in 2022-23 as compared to 1,35,702 in 2021-22.

- ❖ The financial performance of this port surpassed Rs 1,000 crore mark as income to reach Rs 1,002.45 crore.
- ❖ This is an increase of 17.82 per cent from Rs 850.84 crore registered in 2021-22.

Cargo Handled in MMT													
Berth	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (upto Aug 24)
CB1	8.10	9.76	11.03	11.66	10.06	10.16	9.97	8.31	6.20	7.46	7.88	9.36	4.01
CB2	1.78	4.31	4.1	5.34	6.30	6.55	7.40	5.80	3.49	6.06	7.65	5.53	2.34
ECT	5.05	8.42	9.22	8.61	6.74	6.46	7.67	6.15	5.55	7.96	8.71	9.30	4.17
MLT1	1.22	2.43	3.32	3.99	4.17	4.44	4.83	4.72	4.12	4.36	4.20	4.16	1.72
GCB	1.74	2.42	2.58	2.61	2.75	2.63	2.18	2.45	1.17	1.77	1.93	1.51	0.79
AECT	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	1.10	2.52	3.87	9.27	10.62	12.96	5.68
EBT	-	-	-	-	-	0.16	1.32	1.29	0.85	1.16	1.89	1.47	0.50
LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.51	0.64	0.70	0.63	0.99	0.51
Total	17.89	27.34	30.25	32.21	30.02	30.45	34.50	31.75	25.89	38.74	43.51	45.28	19.72

NATIONAL

Private Members' Bills in 17th Lok Sabha



- ❖ During the five-year term of the 17th Lok Sabha that ended in 2024, only 9.08 hours were spent on Private Members' Bills.
- ❖ The Rajya Sabha spent 27.01 hours on them during the period.

- ❖ The Lower House spent 16.43 hours and the Upper House 20.78 hours on Private Members' Resolution.
- ❖ In the two sessions of the 18th Lok Sabha, 0.15 hours was spent on such Bills, while the Rajya Sabha spent 0.62 hours.
- ❖ The Lower House has spent 1.98 hours on resolutions and the Upper House 2.09 hours.
- ❖ Till date, only 14 Private Members' Bills have been passed in both houses and received the assent.
- ❖ None have been passed in both Houses since 1970.

Overseas Indian voters in Lok Sabha polls, 2024



- ❖ As many as 1,19,374 registered as the overseas electors in 2024, with Kerala witnessing the highest registrations at 89,839.
- ❖ In 2019, as many as 99,844 had registered as overseas electors.
- ❖ Only 2,958 overseas electors flew down to India to participate in the largest democratic exercise in the world.
- ❖ Of these, an overwhelming 2,670 were from Kerala alone.
- ❖ Several large States such as Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu saw zero turnout of overseas electors.
- ❖ Gujarat saw only two out of 885 overseas electors casting their votes.
- ❖ In Maharashtra, only 17 of the 5,097 NRI electors voted.
- ❖ There were 7,927 registered NRI electors in Andhra Pradesh, only voted.



- ❖ In August 2018, the 16th Lok Sabha passed a bill to allow proxy voting rights to eligible overseas Indians.
- ❖ The bill, however, could not be brought to the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ In 2020, the EC proposed to the Union Law Ministry to extend the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) facility, so far available only to service voters, to eligible overseas Indian voters as well.

PM CARES Fund 2022-2023

- ❖ The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund's voluntary contribution peaked at ₹7,184 crore in 2020-21 and then fell to ₹1,938 crore in 2021-22.
- ❖ These voluntary contributions dropped to Rs 912 crore in 2022-23.
- ❖ It is the lowest since its establishment in March 2020.
- ❖ Foreign contribution has registered a high of ₹495 crore in 2020-21, and falling to ₹40 crore and ₹2.57 crore in the next two years.
- ❖ The total expenditure in 2022-23 was around ₹439 crore, with ₹346 crore of it used by the "PM Cares for Children".

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND		
(In Rs crore)		
Year	Voluntary	Foreign
2019-20	3,076.85	0.39
2020-21	7,183.77	494.93
2021-22	1,896.76	40.12
2022-23	909.64	2.57
Total	13,067.02	538.01

Supreme Court on coconut oil

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that small bottles of coconut oil should be classified as edible oil for taxation purposes.

- ❖ Also, the court had clarified that if coconut oil is packaged in small bottles and labelled for use on hair, it should be classified as hair oil under the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.
- ❖ Currently, under the GST regime, edible oil is taxed at 5%, while hair oil attracts 18%.
- ❖ Coconut oil marketed as edible oil must comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and use edible-grade plastic containers.



Is coconut oil an edible oil or a haircare product?

The SC ends a 15-year debate: Coconut oil is classified as an edible oil (5% GST), not hair oil (18%). Rejecting packaging size and market perception, the court relied on HSN norms and edible oil standards. Justice for coconut oil!

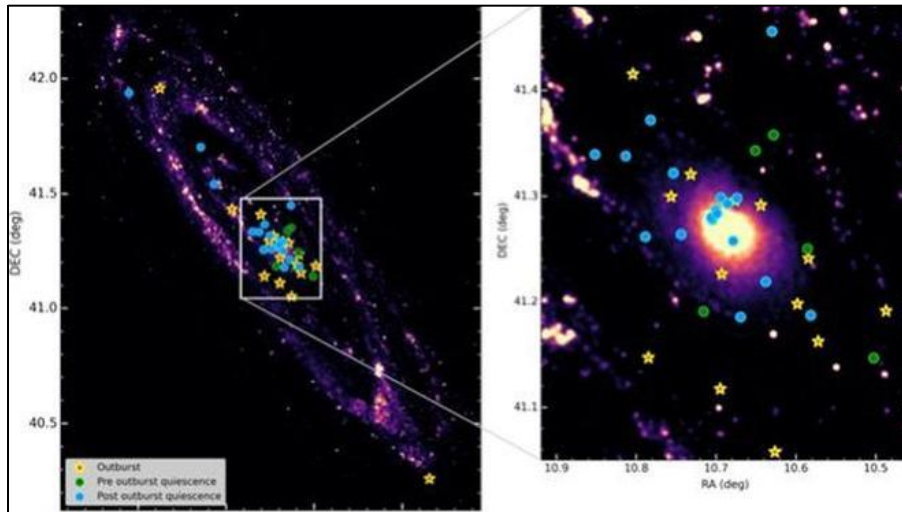
INTERNATIONAL

Denmark Strait Cataract

- ❖ The Denmark Strait cataract holds the title of the largest waterfall on Earth, with a vertical drop of 11,500 feet.
- ❖ This is about three times the height of Angel Falls, the tallest land-based waterfall.
- ❖ This immense phenomenon spans 300 miles (480 kilometers) in width and operates underwater.
- ❖ It is hidden beneath the Arctic waters between Greenland and Iceland.

- ❖ The mission deployed two spacecraft—SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target).
- ❖ It aims to develop and demonstrate India’s capabilities in the space docking using two small spacecrafts.
- ❖ After the successful docking and rigidization, electrical power transfer between the two satellites will be demonstrated.
- ❖ After undocking and separation of the two satellites, they will start the operation of their respective payloads for the expected mission life of up to two years.
- ❖ This launch of PSLV-C60 is crucial to ISRO’s aim for building India’s own space station ‘Bharatiya Antariksh Station’ (BAS).

FUV Emissions from Novae



- ❖ Astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have recently spotted Far Ultraviolet (FUV) emissions from novae for the first time in the neighbouring Andromeda galaxy.
- ❖ Novae is a transient astronomical event that causes the sudden appearance of a bright, apparently new star that slowly fades over weeks or months.
- ❖ FUV is a radiation that refers to the wave band of ultraviolet radiation with the wavelengths ranging from around 200 to 280 Nano-meters.

New Treatment for Crohn’s Disease

- ❖ About 10 million people globally live with the inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease.
- ❖ Mirikizumab is a drug currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of ulcerative colitis.

- ❖ Researchers revealed that, the long-term efficacy and safety of Mirikizumab for not only ulcerative colitis, but also Crohn’s disease.
- ❖ Inflammation from ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease can lead to disruptive symptoms.


Crohn's Disease

Crohn's disease is an immunologically mediated inflammatory bowel disease of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract that extends along the whole gut wall thickness, from the mucosa (inner layer) to the serosa (outer layer). Crohn's disease can advance from mild /moderate inflammatory conditions to severe piercing (fistulisation) or structuring illness with multiple relapses.



ENVIRONMENT

2nd fishing cat census



Meet the Fishing Cat

(*Prionailurus viverrinus*)

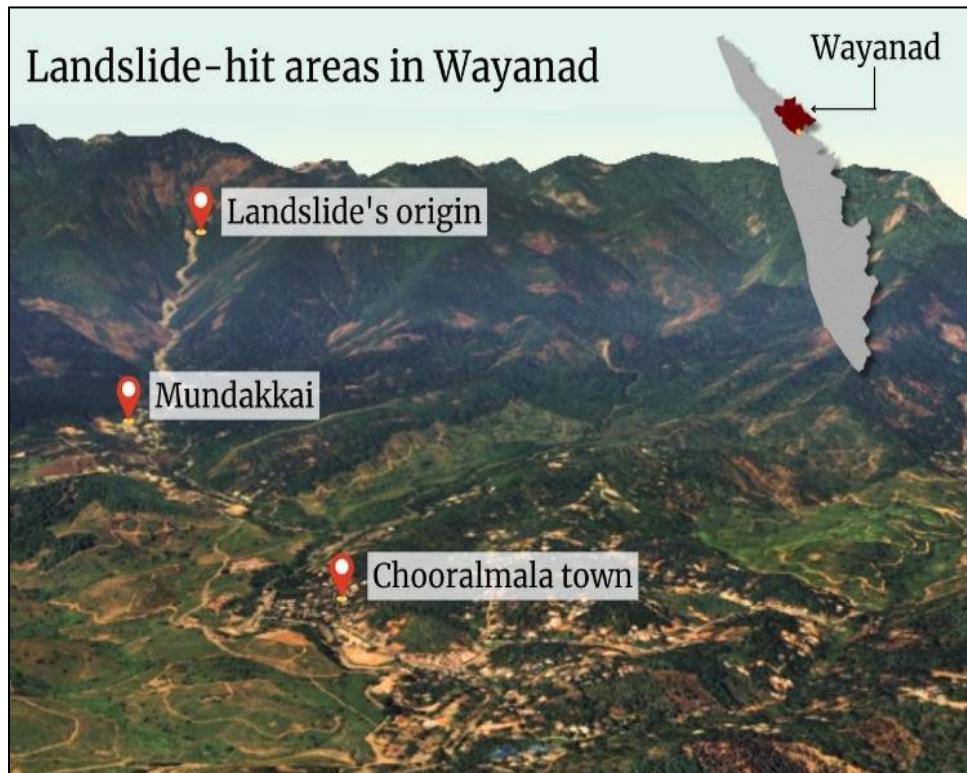
<p>Region</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p>South and Southeast Asia</p> </div>	<p>IUCN Listing</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;"> VU </div> <p>Vulnerable</p> </div>
<p>Aquatic Adaptations</p> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Partially-webbed feet</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Long, protruding claws</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p>Can fully submerge underwater</p> </div> </div>	<p>Threats</p> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Human encroachment into habitat</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Human-conflict due to food competition</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p>Overfishing and pollution to aquatic habitats</p> </div> </div>

- ❖ The Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) of Andhra Pradesh, India’s second-largest mangroves, is home to the endangered fishing cat, *Prionailurus viverrinus*.
- ❖ By 2018, the population of fishing cats was 115, as per the first survey of fishing cats.

- ❖ The second census of the fishing cat is expected to be completed within a few weeks.
- ❖ The ongoing fishing cat census is part of India's first Fishing Cat Collaring Project.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India-Dehradun is executing the Collaring Project.

STATES

Wayanad landslide 2024



- ❖ The Union government has declared the Wayanad landslide a disaster of 'severe nature' for all practical purposes.
- ❖ However, there is no mention of any special fund for the state.
- ❖ The classification would help the state to source funds, including the local area development funds of MPs, for the rehabilitation efforts.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

39th U.S. President - Jimmy Carter

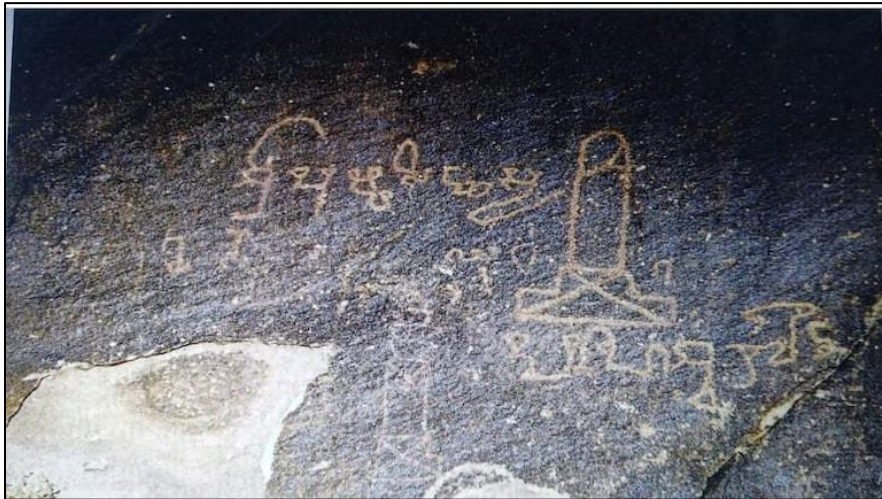
- ❖ Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, from a democratic party, passed away.

- ❖ He served as president from 1977 to 1981.
- ❖ He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his human rights work around the world.
- ❖ Carter was the first U.S. president to reach his 100th birthday.



MISCELLANEOUS

Sanskrit inscription in PoK's Gilgit



- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India has unearthed a Sanskrit inscription discovered on a rock outside Gilgit in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.
- ❖ It is written in Brahmi script; it reportedly belongs to approximately 4th-century CE.



- ❖ There were earlier instances wherein Sanskrit inscriptions were found in Pakistan.

