

January - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's R Vaishali has created a history by securing the bronze medal in the women's section of the World Blitz Chess Championship, held at Newyork, USA.
- ❖ The fourth annual Chennai Flower Show was inaugurated at Semmozhi Poonga.
- ❖ Bhuvnesh Kumar, an Additional Secretary of MeitY, has assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- ❖ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has achieved a perfect 100% conviction rate with 68 accused convicted across 25 cases in 2024.
- ❖ Kerala team won their first-ever Senior National Men's Handball Championship title by defeating Chandigarh, held at Kerala.

TAMIL NADU

100 percent transition rate

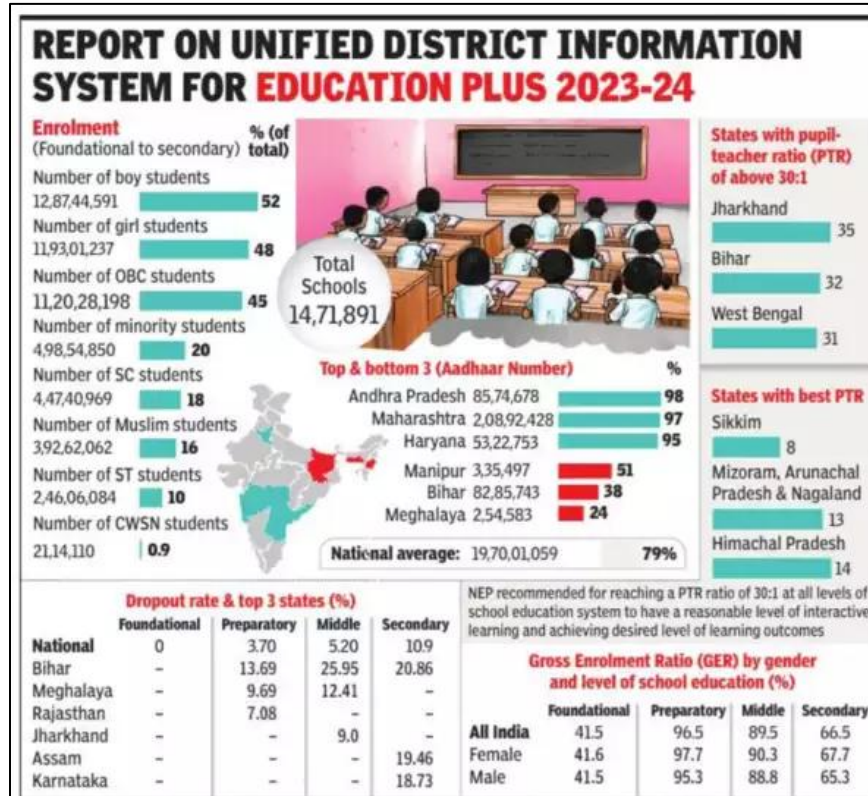


- ❖ Tamil Nadu school education has achieved a 100% transition rate from primary to upper primary.
- ❖ This means that all students who join Class I are completing up to Class VIII in the state.

- ❖ The transition rate increased from primary to upper primary from 99% in 2019 to 100% in 2024.
- ❖ Among girls, the transition rate increased from 97.5% in 2019 to 100% in 2024.

NATIONAL

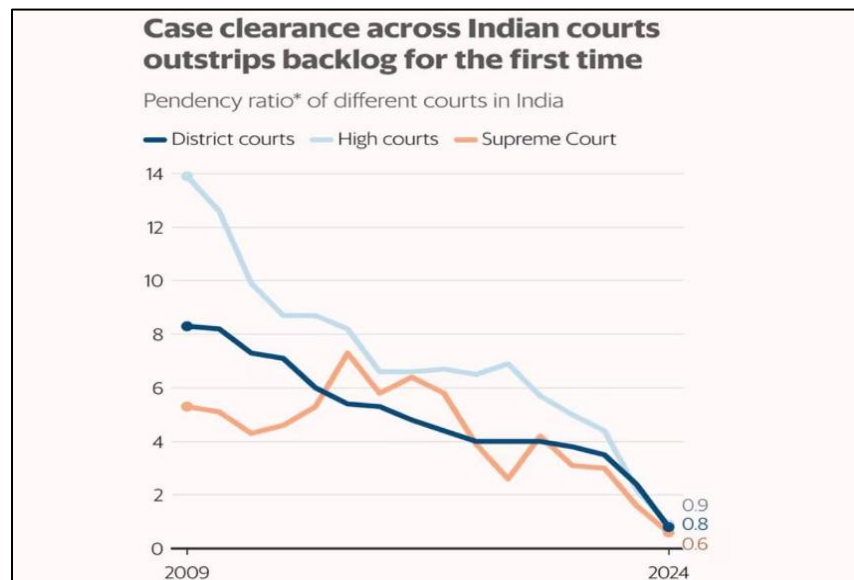
UDISE+ 2023-24 Report



- ❖ Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report was released by the Union Ministry of Education.
- ❖ A total of 24.8 crore students enrolled in the academic year 2023-24.
- ❖ The total enrolment of students has been dropped by over a crore in 2023-24 as compared to the previous years
- ❖ In 2018-19, the total enrolment of students in school was 26.02 crore, which increased in 2019-20 by 1.6% and crossed 26.45 crore.
- ❖ This was an increase of more than 42 lakh students.
- ❖ The enrolments slightly fell in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20.
- ❖ In 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21, total enrolment increased by 0.76%.
- ❖ Even according to data from back in 2012-13, the total enrolment was 26.3 crore.

- ❖ In 2022-23, there was a drop in enrolment with 25.18 crore students being registered and there was a further fall in 2023-24 to 24.8 crore in the total enrolment.
- ❖ This was a drop of 6% (nearly 1.22 crore students) as compared to 2018-19.
- ❖ In 2018-19, 13.53 crore boys were enrolled, this saw a drop to 12.87 crore enrolments in 2023-24 a decrease of 4.87%.
- ❖ While enrolment of girls decreased from 12.49 crore in 2018-19 to 11.93 crore in 2023-24, a decrease of 4.48%.
- ❖ Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra saw among the highest drop in the enrolments.
- ❖ In Telangana, Punjab, West Bengal, Haryana, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Bihar, the percentage of available schools is significantly less as compared to enrolled students, indicating better utilisation of infrastructure
- ❖ The representation of minorities in total enrolment stood at around 20 per cent.
- ❖ Among the minorities, 79.6 per cent were Muslims, 10 per cent Christians, 6.9 per cent Sikhs, 2.2 per cent Buddhists, 1.3 per cent Jains, and 0.1 per cent Parsis.
- ❖ At the national level, 26.9 per cent students registered in UDISE+ were from the general category, 18 per cent from Scheduled Caste, 9.9 per cent from Scheduled Tribe, and 45.2 per cent from the Other Backward Class category.

Case Disposals of Courts of India in 2024

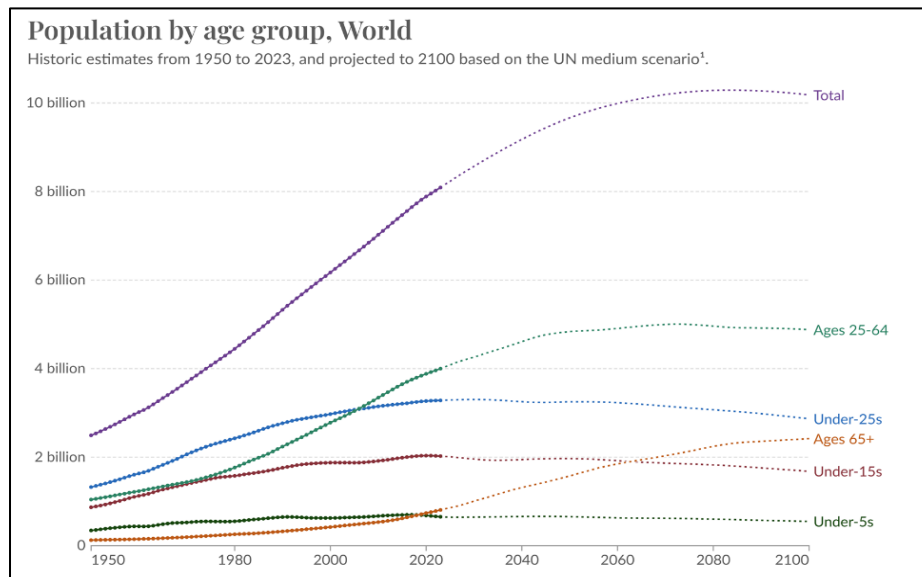


- ❖ The district courts resolved over 13.4 million cases, leaving approximately 10.5 million pending.

- ❖ Only 3.14 million cases were disposed in 2023.
- ❖ The High courts cleared more than 1.2 million cases in 2024, while the Supreme Court addressed 36,969 cases.
- ❖ The ratio of disposed cases to pending matters dropped from 2.38 in 2023 to 0.79 in 2024.

INTERNATIONAL

Aging Society 2024



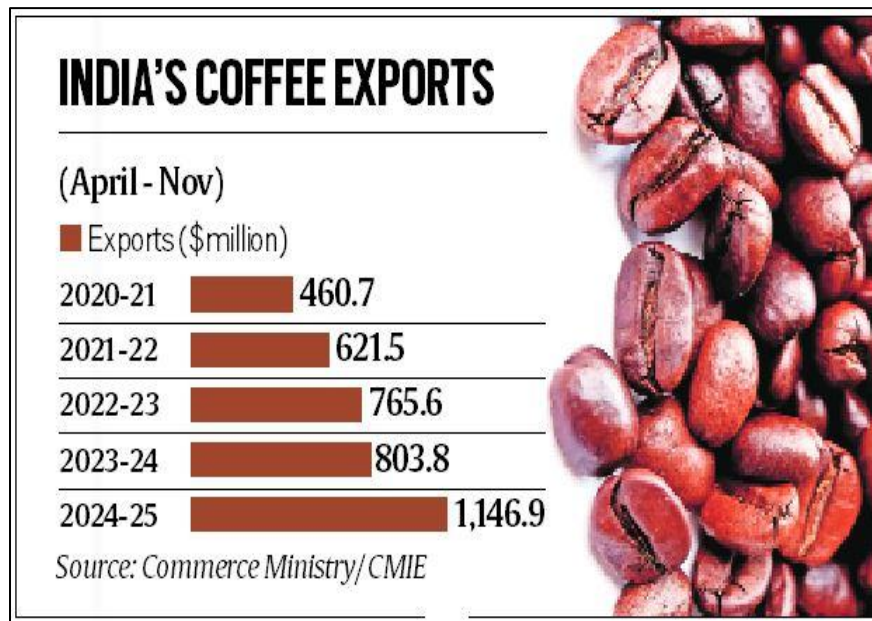
- ❖ According to a 143-nation survey, India appears far from the prepared, ranking 123rd in its readiness to tackle the challenges of an aging population.
- ❖ Switzerland emerged as the readiest country, followed by Norway and Denmark.
- ❖ Singapore ranked 10th—first among Asian countries—while the UK was ranked 14, followed by Japan (15), the US (24), and China (46).
- ❖ India is at present the youngest nation in the world, with over 50% of its population below the age of 25 and over 65% below the age of 35.
- ❖ At present, as per the 'Nature Aging', India's neighbours fared relatively better—Bangladesh (86), Sri Lanka (94), Nepal (102), and Pakistan (118).
- ❖ India ranked 106 on the universal healthcare access.
- ❖ Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were the best.
- ❖ On food security, India was at the 97th place, while Denmark emerged as the best.

- ❖ On pension, Argentina and Armenia were among the best, while India was ranked 102.
- ❖ On mental health: Kuwait was ranked the best, while India was at the 93rd place.

ECONOMY

India's Coffee Exports in FY24

- ❖ India's coffee exports rose to a record high of \$1,146.9 million between April and November in FY24.
- ❖ It was \$803.8 million during the same period last year, registering a 29 per cent rise.
- ❖ This figure is nearly double the exports during the same period in FY21, which stood at \$460 million.
- ❖ Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu and Hassan in Karnataka with 2,48,020 MTs during 2022-23 is the largest producer of Arabica and Robusta coffee.
- ❖ Kerala comes a distinct second at 72,425 MTs followed by Tamil Nadu at 18,700 MTs.



India's bananas export 2023-24

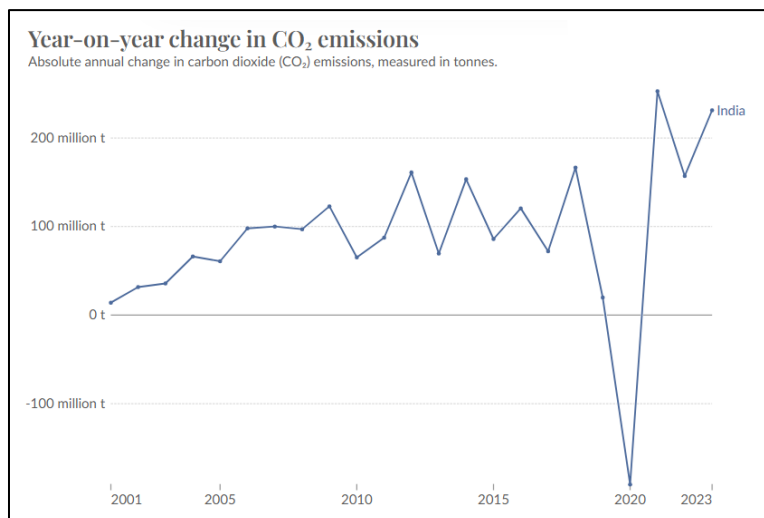
- ❖ India has set a target of \$1 billion banana exports in the coming years.
- ❖ At present, the exports of most of the fruits, including banana, from India are happening by air route.

- ❖ India exported bananas worth \$ 300 million in 2023-24.
- ❖ It was \$ 176 million in 2022-23.
- ❖ The country's share in global banana exports has expanded from a mere 0.21 per cent in 2013 to 1.74 per cent in 2023.



ENVIRONMENT

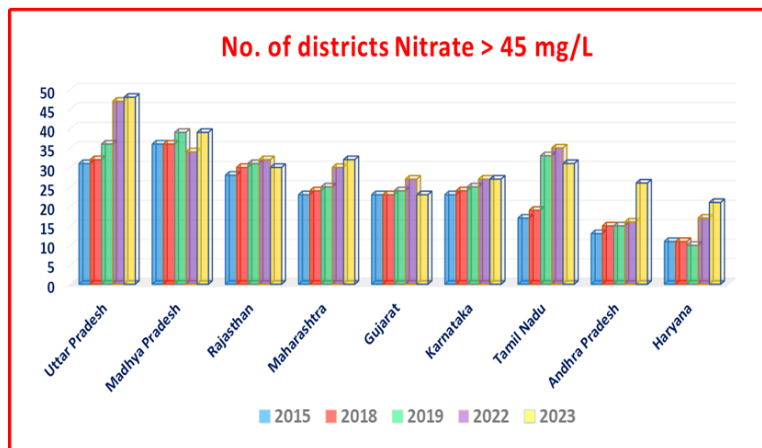
India's emission reduction since 2005



- ❖ Between 2005 and 2020, carbon emission was down by 7.93% compared to 2019, while emissions intensity reduced by 36%.

- ❖ The share of non-fossil sources in the installed electricity generation capacity was 46.52% by October 2024.
- ❖ Total installed capacity of renewable power is 156.25 GW.
- ❖ Renewable energy sources have grown by over 10.94 % in generation and over 14.7 % in installed capacity in the year 2023-24.
- ❖ The industrial sector was the largest energy consumer in the country, accounting for 48.95% of the total final energy consumption in FY 2022-23.
- ❖ The most energy-intensive subsector of the industrial sector was the iron and steel sector, accounting for 15.15% of energy use.
- ❖ Chemicals and petrochemicals accounted for 4.56% of energy use, followed by construction sector which was 1.80%.
- ❖ Top five emission intensive sectors were energy (75.66%), agriculture (13.72%), industrial process and product use (8.06%); and waste (2.56%).

Excessive Nitrates in India – CGWB (Central Ground Water Board)



- ❖ High nitrate levels have been found in groundwater of 440 districts across India.
- ❖ This is an increase from 359 such districts in 2017
- ❖ 20 per cent of the samples collected are exceeding the permissible nitrate concentration of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- ❖ 9.04 per cent of samples had fluoride levels above the safe limit.
- ❖ 3.55 per cent showed arsenic contamination.
- ❖ Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had over 40 per cent of samples above the limit.
- ❖ There was high contamination in samples from -- Maharashtra at 35.74 per cent, Telangana at 27.48 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at 23.5 per cent and Madhya Pradesh at 22.58 per cent.

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Jharkhand and Bihar reported lower percentages.
- ❖ In Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, all samples were within safe limits.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

The Music Academy - Chennai awards



- ❖ The Carnatic musician T.M. Krishna was conferred the title of Sangita Kalanidhi 2024.
- ❖ Parassala Ravi and Geetha Raja were conferred the title of Sangita Kalaacharya and Dr. Margaret Bastin was the recipient of Musicologist Award 2024.
- ❖ Thiruvaiyyaru Brothers S. Narasimhan and S. Venkatesan, and violinist H.K. Narasimhamurthy received the TTK Award.

National Sports Awards 2024

- ❖ Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2024.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh and Praveen Kumar have been honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- ❖ The Sports ministry names 32 athletes, including 17 para-athletes, for Arjuna awards.
- ❖ Former cyclist Sucha Singh and former para-swimmer Murlikant Rajaram Petkar were awarded Arjuna Awards (Lifetime) for outstanding performance in Sports and Games.

- ❖ Thulasimathi, Nithya Sree and Manisha, badminton Paralympians from Tamil Nadu has been chosen for the Arjuna Awards.
- ❖ Asian Games gold and bronze medallist squash player Abhay Singh from Tamil Nadu was also chosen for Arjuna Award.
- ❖ Subhash Rana (para-shooter), Deepali Deshpande (shooting) and Sandeep Sangwan (hockey) were named Dronacharya Award 2024 recipients.
- ❖ S Muralidharan (badminton) and Armando Agnelo Colaco (football) were awarded the Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category.




MISCELLANEOUS

Nimesulide drug ban

- ❖ The Centre has banned the manufacture, sale, and distribution of the all formulations of Nimesulide — widely used as a painkiller for animals.
- ❖ The department of health and family welfare's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) enforced the ban under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ It aims to safeguard vultures and other scavenger species vital to maintaining the ecosystem's balance.
- ❖ Nimesulide has been widely used as a painkiller for animals, including cattle, pigs, and horses.
- ❖ While formulations differ for human and animal use.



- ❖ Nimesulide has already been banned for children in many countries due to safety concerns.

Toxic Painkiller Pulled Off Shelves	
<p>2 vultures died in 2 days: Rapid kidney failure, elevated uric acid levels indicate drug's toxicity</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Drug still available in rural areas though it has been banned for kids globally➤ Safer alternatives recommended - Meloxicam and Tolfenamic acid➤ Research spanned 2023-24. Next phase to focus on paracetamol toxicity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Veterinary researchers confirm toxicity – lethal doses found in treated livestock carcasses	

