

January - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated a 13-km section of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) connecting Sahibabad in Uttar Pradesh to New Ashok Nagar in Delhi (Delhi Metro rail).
- ❖ Vietnam's capital Hanoi has been covered in thick smog over recent weeks, putting it at the top of a list of the world's most polluted cities.
- ❖ West Bengal claim a record 33rd title of the Santosh Trophy, India's top state-level football competition.

TAMIL NADU

TN Governor speech 2025



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor has left the Legislative Assembly without reading out the customary address for the first session of the New Year.
- ❖ Since July 1991, as per the convention in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, the State song has been played at the beginning and the national anthem at the conclusion of the Governor's address.
- ❖ Speaker M. Appavu read out the Tamil version of the Governor's speech prepared by the State government.
- ❖ The House adopted a resolution to take on record, only the address approved by the Governor and distributed to the members.

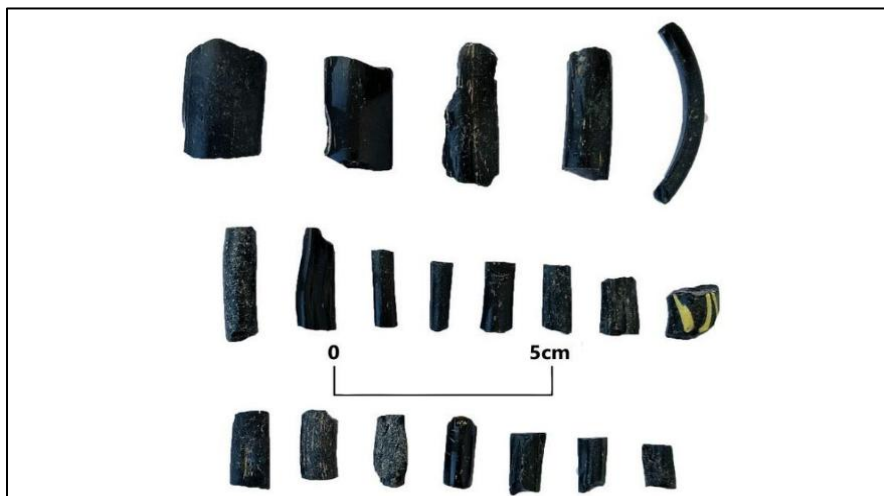
Special Officers for village panchayats 2025

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has appointed special officers (SO) for 9,624 village panchayats, 314 panchayat unions, and 28 district panchayats in the State.

- ❖ The decision followed the expiry of the term of office of elected representatives of the rural local bodies (RLBs) on January 5.
- ❖ The Block Development Officers (BDO - village panchayats) of the respective Panchayat Unions had been made SOs for all the village panchayats.
- ❖ Likewise, Assistant Directors (Panchayats) and (Audit) in the RD&PR department in the respective districts would be SOs for the panchayat unions.
- ❖ The Additional Collectors or Additional Directors or Joint Directors or Project Directors of District Rural Development Agencies will be for district panchayats.

Office/seat	Number of vacancies
Village Panchayat president	9,624
Village Panchayat ward member	76,746
Panchayat Union Chairperson	314
Panchayat Union ward member	5,090
District Panchayat chairperson	28
District Panchayat ward member	515
TOTAL	92,317

Sangam period habitation near Villupuram



- ❖ Researchers has uncovered archaeological evidence of habitation sites dating to the Sangam period near Villupuram.
- ❖ These evidences found on the bank of the Pambai river at Ayyankoyilpattu and Thennamadevi-Anaimedu.

- ❖ The cultural mound at Thennamadevi-Anaimedu stretches to a length of 500 to 600 metres covering an expanse of 10 acres.
- ❖ The mound at Ayyankoyilpattu covers a land mass of more than 15 acres.

NATIONAL

Hotan Prefecture

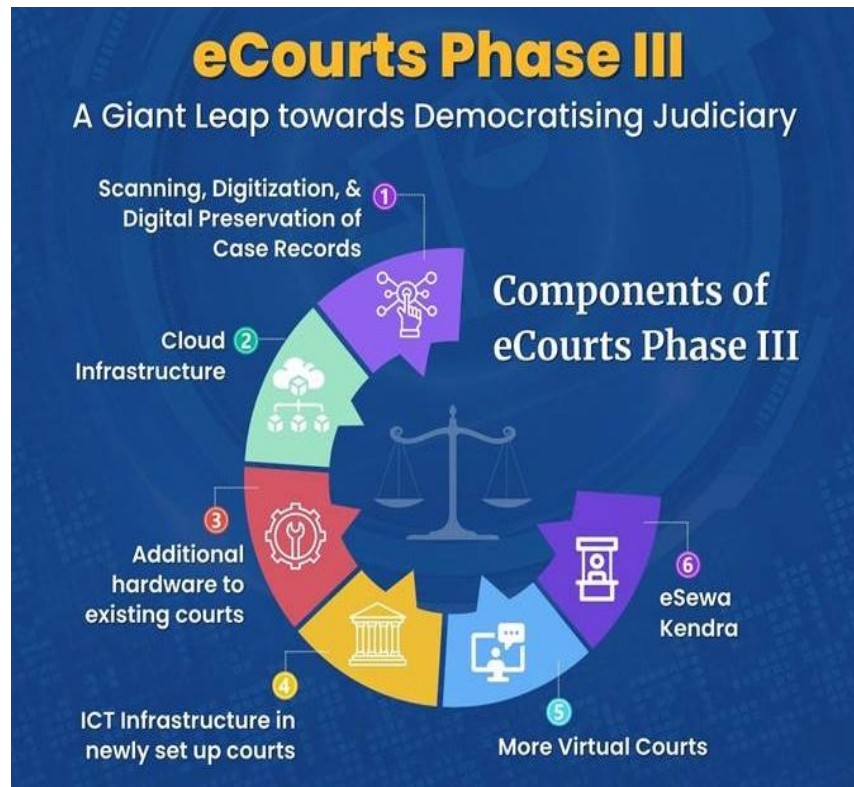
- ❖ India condemned the China over the announcement of two new counties - He'an and Hekang in China's Hotan Prefecture.
- ❖ Parts of jurisdiction of these so-called counties fall in India's Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ Hotan Prefecture is an administrative division in southwestern Xinjiang, China.
- ❖ Earlier in 2017, China had released the initial list of 'standardised' names for six locations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ In 2021, it released a second list comprising 15 places, with another list featuring the names of 11 additional places released in 2023.



Phase III of e-Courts Mission mode project

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved e-Courts Phase III (2023-2027) in September 2023, with an allocated outlay of Rs. 7,210 crores.

- ❖ It is a flagship initiative aimed at leveraging the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the modernization and development of the Indian Judiciary.
- ❖ Some of its digital measures are
 - Establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts to digitize court proceedings.
 - Comprehensive digitization of court records, including legacy records and pending cases.
 - Expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails, and hospitals.
 - Broadening the scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations.



INTERNATIONAL

Justin Trudeau resignation

- ❖ Justin Trudeau resigned as the leader of his Liberal Party of Canada effectively ending his nine-year tenure as Canada's Prime Minister too.
- ❖ He took office on November 4, 2015, after leading the Liberal Party to victory in that year's federal elections.
- ❖ He became the second-youngest prime minister in Canada's history.

- ❖ He is the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada and the son of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.



ECONOMY

BAANKNET Portal

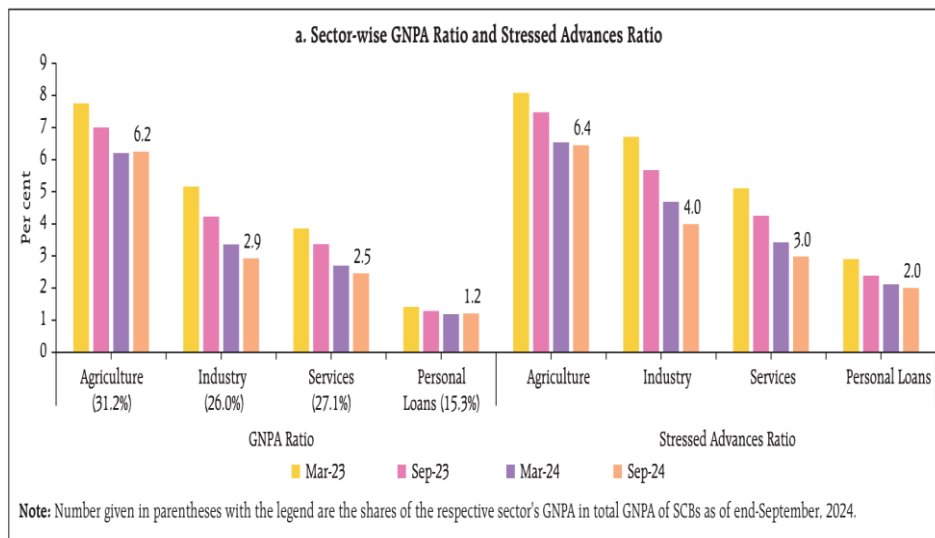


- ❖ The government launched a revamped e-auction portal 'Baanknet'.
- ❖ It will consolidate information on all properties that put up for e-auction by public sector banks (PSBs).
- ❖ The portal is a one-stop destination for buyers and investor offering a wide range of properties.

- ❖ The portal simplifies the process of finding and participating in property e-auctions, making it easier for buyers and investors to identify valuable opportunities.

RBI Financial Stability Report - December 2024

- ❖ Indian bank's gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio dropped to 2.6% of total advances in September 2024.
- ❖ This marks the lowest level in the past 12 years.
- ❖ The net NPA ratio stood at approximately 0.6%.
- ❖ The profitability of scheduled commercial banks improved during H1 2024-25, with profit after tax (PAT) rising by 22.2% year-on-year.
- ❖ Public sector banks (PSBs) and private sector banks (PVBs) recorded PAT growth of 30.2% and 20.2%, respectively.
- ❖ The foreign banks (FBs) experienced a modest growth of 8.9%.

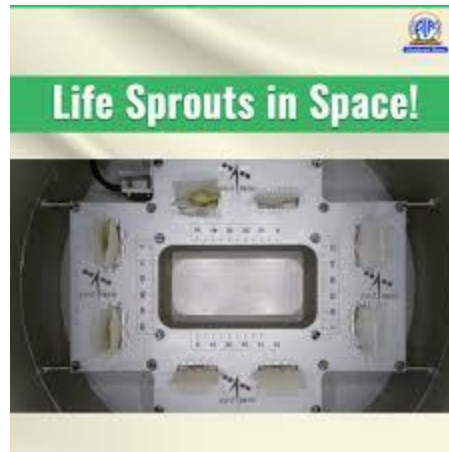


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CROPS experiment of ISRO

- ❖ ISRO has achieved a remarkable milestone with its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS) aboard the PSLV-C60 mission.
- ❖ The cowpea seeds sent into space have successfully sprouted their first leaves.
- ❖ It was marking a significant advancement in understanding plant growth in micro gravity conditions.

- ❖ The CROPS experiment is designed to study how the plants adapt and grow in the unique environment of space.



India's first space robotic arm demo

- ❖ ISRO has successfully operated its first space robotic arm aboard the POEM4 platform in space.
- ❖ The robotic arm is known as the Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD).
- ❖ The RRM-TD is India's first space robotic manipulator with walking capability.

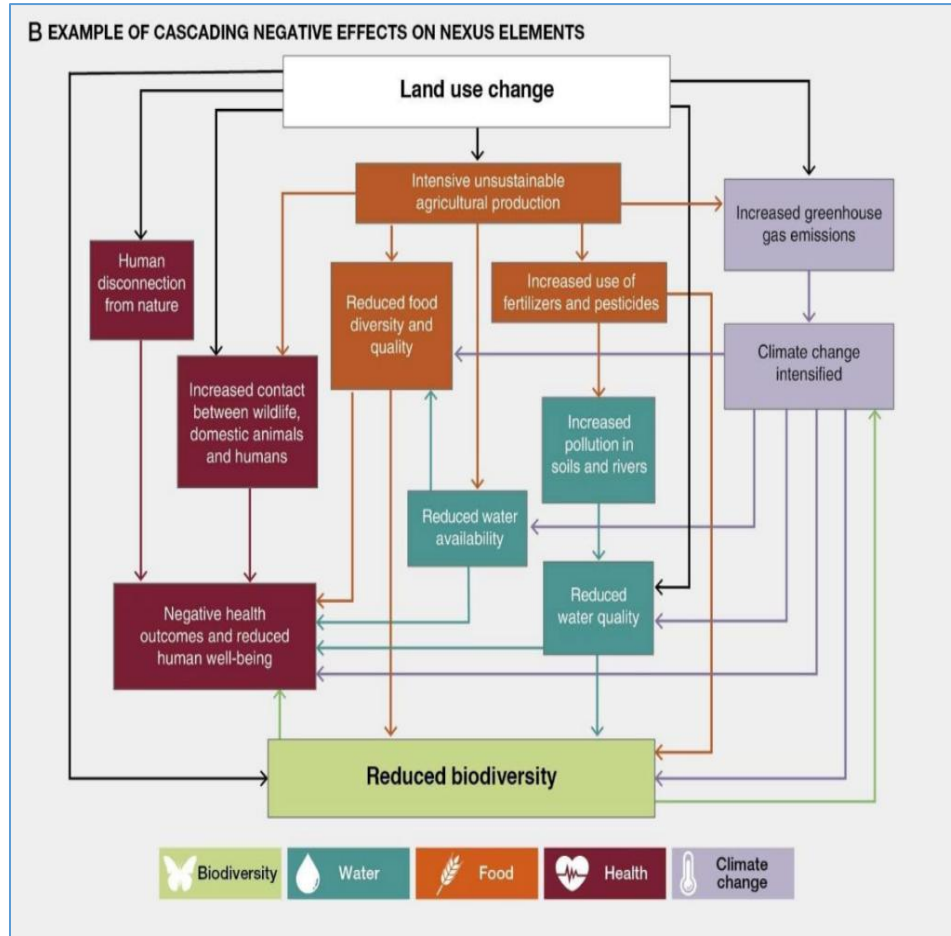


REPORTS AND INDICES

IPBES Nexus Report

- ❖ This report was released by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

- ❖ The Assessment Report on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health also known as the Nexus Report.
- ❖ Biodiversity decline per decade for last 30-50 years is 2-6%.
- ❖ Around 50% of the emerging infectious diseases are driven by interconnections between ecosystem, animal and human health.
- ❖ Unaccounted-for costs of current economic activity are at least \$10-25 trillion per year.

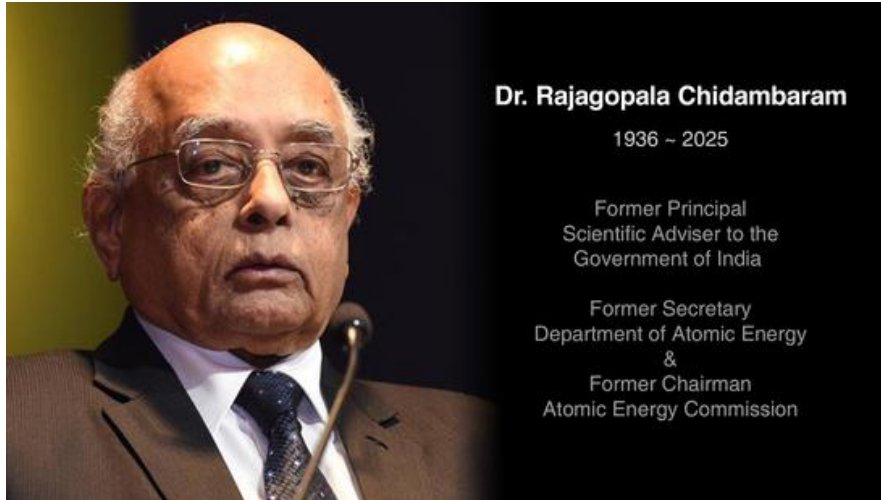


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Nuclear scientist Chidambaram

- ❖ The veteran nuclear scientist Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram from Tamilnadu passed away.
- ❖ He played a pivotal role in India's nuclear weapons programme.

- ❖ He was instrumental in India's first nuclear test in 1974 and the Pokhran-II tests in 1998.
- ❖ He was also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- ❖ He got Padma Shri in 1975 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1999.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World War Orphans Day 2025 - January 06



On 6 January every year, World Day of War Orphans is celebrated to create awareness about the plight of the war orphans and to address the traumatic conditions faced by them.

World Day of War Orphans
6 January

- ❖ It acknowledges the hardships faced by children who lose their parents to war.

- ❖ Millions of children worldwide endure the devastating impacts of conflict, climate change, displacement, and poverty, stripping them of the basic rights and the opportunities for a brighter future.
- ❖ This day serves as a global call to action, urging collective efforts to provide these vulnerable children with care, education, and protection.
- ❖ By the end of 2023, approximately 47.2 million children had been displaced due to conflict and violence.

MISCELLANEOUS

FSSAI on Methylcobalamin



- ❖ FSSAI has provided clarity on use of Methylcobalamin, a form of Vitamin B12, in health supplements, medical purposes and nutraceutical products.
- ❖ FSSAI Regulations, 2022's permitted forms of Vitamin B12 currently include cyanocobalamin and hydroxocobalamin.
- ❖ Vitamin B12, a crucial water-soluble vitamin, is integral to DNA synthesis, red blood cell production, and neurological function.
- ❖ Deficiency in this vitamin can lead to the serious health consequences, often requiring supplementation.

First Generation Beta Baby of India

- ❖ The birth of the first recorded Generation Beta baby, Frankie Remruatdika Zadeng, born in Aizawl, Mizoram, at 12:03 am on January 1.
- ❖ The term was coined by Australian futurist Mark McCrindle.

- ❖ This Generation Beta includes children born between 2025 and 2039.
- ❖ These individuals will be the offspring of Millennials (Generation Y) and older Gen Z parents.
- ❖ By 2035, Gen Beta is expected to constitute 16% of the global population, reflecting their significant role in the future social and economic landscape.



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