

January - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ INS Utkarsh, the second multi-purpose vessel for the Indian Navy was launched at Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh govt signed an MoU with Indichip Semiconductors Limited and its joint venture of Japan for setting up an India's first private semiconductor manufacturing facility.
- ❖ India has successfully tested its first domestically developed micro-missile system - Bhargavastra, at Gopalpur of Odisha engineered to counter the swarm drone threats with 6Km range.
- ❖ Congress party inaugurated the new Congress headquarters, Indira Bhavan, in New Delhi, named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

TAMIL NADU

International Balloon Festival 2025



- ❖ The 10th edition of the Tamil Nadu International Balloon Festival (TNIBF) was held in Pollachi.

- ❖ The TNIBF is conducted by the State Tourism department in collaboration with Global Media Box.
- ❖ It is recognised as the only annual hot air balloon festival in the country.
- ❖ The festival features 10+ hot air balloons from 8+ countries: United Kingdom, France, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0

- ❖ The third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangaman (KTS) celebrates the timeless bonds between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- ❖ The programme much aims to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- ❖ 3.0 will be a celebration of one of India's most revered sages Agasthyar's legacy.



NATIONAL

IMD Vision-2047

- ❖ India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Vision-2047 document was released by Prime Minister.
- ❖ India aims to achieve 100-per cent detection of all types of severe weather at the village and household levels by 2047 and reduce the loss of life from such events to zero.
- ❖ The weather department targets 100-per cent forecast accuracy for up to three days, 90 per cent for up to five days, 80 per cent for up to seven days and 70 per cent for up to 10 days.
- ❖ It will be covering all severe weather events at the block and panchayat levels.

- ❖ It also outlines targets for the next two years, the next 10 years (by 2035) and the next 22 years (by 2047), considering advancements in science and technology.
- ❖ The prime minister also released a special ₹150 commemorative coin and a postal stamp of IMD.
- ❖ For the first time, the IMD will showcase its own tableau in the Republic Day parade 2025.

KEY GOALS UNDER IMD VISION 2047	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Global leadership Attain recognition as a leading meteorological agency at the global level > Exporting instruments to meet the global demand > Substantial improvement in quality, accuracy & efficiency in service delivery and forecast accuracy > Use of UAVs for surface and boundary layer meteorological observations > Setting up one million observations at voluntary homes (neighbourhood meteorological network) > Involvement of all stakeholders in weather reporting (aviation, railways, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> power, wind and solar farms) > Setting up 300 electronic sensors-based observatory > Using mobile weather station; application of AI/ML; application of robotics > Utilisation of energy from waste to power all surface observatories and automated stations > Implementation of advanced algorithms and data analytics for real-time lightning detection and prediction systems > Precise observations and continuous monitoring to map sea-level rise > Constant observations of glacier monitoring and hydrological data

National Turmeric Board 2025



- ❖ The National Turmeric Board (NTB) was inaugurated recently in Nizamabad of Telangana as headquarters and Ganga Reddy was its first chairperson

- ❖ Turmeric, known as 'Golden Spice', are spread across Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and others.
- ❖ NTB will help boost their incomes and also give impetus to increase production especially in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana where there is a lot of potential.
- ❖ Last year, an area of 3.05 lakh hectare was under turmeric cultivation in the country.
- ❖ The production of Turmeric is 10.74 lakh tonnes or over 70% of global turmeric production.
- ❖ There are 30 varieties of turmeric produced in India.
- ❖ India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world with more than 62% share of world trade.
- ❖ During 2023-24, 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products valued at \$226.5 million was exported.
- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce will be the nodal department providing funds and infrastructure for the NTB.

India-Saudi Arabia Hajj Agreement 2025




- ❖ India signed a Hajj agreement with Saudi Arabia, securing a quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for the year 2025.
- ❖ As per the Haj Policy 2025 30% of India's total Hajj quota, or 52,507 slots, will be allocated to private Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs).
- ❖ Other 70% will be handled by the Hajj Committee of India (HCoI).

Review Petition on Same-Sex Marriage

- ❖ Supreme Court rejected a petition seeking a review of an October 2023 judgment (Supriyo v. Union of India) which refused to legalise same-sex marriage.

- ❖ Earlier the Supreme Court in a majority view held that homosexual couples cannot claim an unqualified right to marry.
- ❖ The court leaving it to Parliament to legislate on the subject.
- ❖ It also ruled that the Constitution does not recognise marriage as a fundamental right.
- ❖ But all the five judges on the Bench agreed that the Special Marriage Act of 1954 was not unconstitutional for excluding same-sex marriages.
- ❖ The Special Marriage Act of 1954 only provides a civil form of marriage for couples who cannot marry under their personal law.

'NO REASON TO INTERFERE WITH VERDICT'



- In Oct 2023, bench led by CJI Chandrachud unanimously ruled that **right to marry not a fundamental right**. Said legislature had power to regulate it according to societal conditions
- CJI and Justice SK Kaul had favoured social rights to queer couples; the other three said it was **for Parliament to decide on nature of social rights**. By 3:2 majority, the bench also **refused adoption rights** to queer couples
- On Thursday, in a chamber hearing, five-judge bench found no reason to interfere with majority opinion of 2023

LGBTQ community can still move a curative petition, which would also be taken up by a 5-judge bench in chamber without the assistance of lawyers

EmpowHER Biz Initiative

- ❖ Recently, the EmpowHER Biz – Sapno Ki Udaan was launched to boost women entrepreneurship in retail.
- ❖ Under the initiative, fifty participants aged 18–35, will be selected through an online application process based on specific criteria.
- ❖ Top twenty of these participants will receive a 100% waiver on New Shop franchise fees.

- ❖ The program is being launched for women from Delhi NCR, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- ❖ New Shop operates a network of over 200 round-the-clock convenience retail stores located in high-density neighbourhoods, highways, and gas stations.



Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform



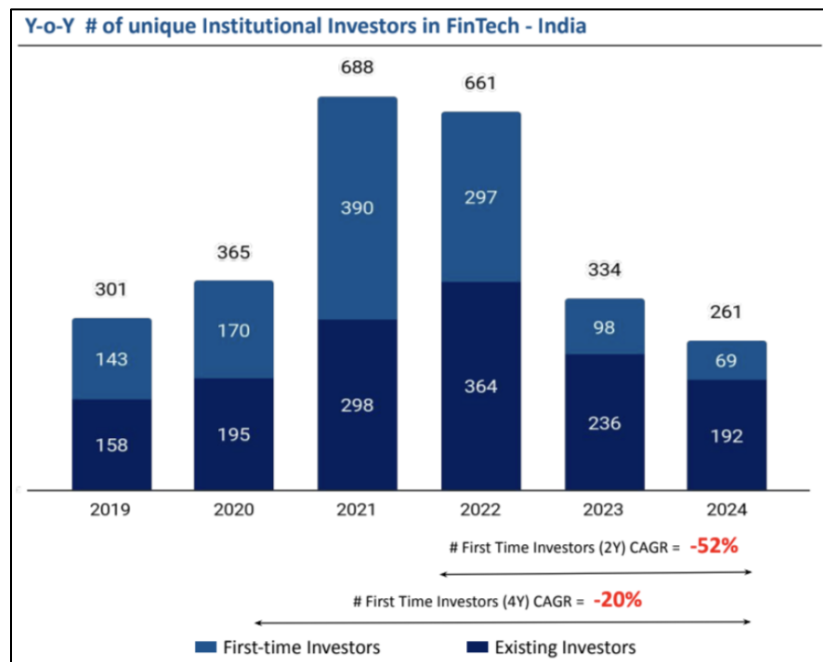
- ❖ The Centre unveiled the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi.
- ❖ This is an initiative designed to enhance India's cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors.
- ❖ The platform aims to strengthen India's position in the global cleantech market.

- ❖ It encourages the collaboration among businesses to secure financing and share resources.

ECONOMY

Annual India fintech report 2024

- ❖ India ranked third globally in terms of funding received in the fintech segment only after the US and the UK.
- ❖ The fintech sector experienced a notable decline in funding in 2024, with a total of USD 1.9 billion raised.
- ❖ This represents a 33 per cent decrease from the USD 2.8 billion secured in 2023.
- ❖ The sector had raised USD 5.6 billion in 2022.
- ❖ The year 2024 witnessed the emergence of two unicorns, Money View and Perfios.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Space Docking Exercise

- ❖ ISRO successfully docks two satellites in space and India became fourth country to achieve feat after US, Russia, China.
- ❖ The SpaDex (Space Docking Exercise) mission is intended to be a technology demonstrator for the docking of two small satellites launched by the PSLV.

- ❖ ISRO has launched two small spacecraft — SDX01, the Chaser, and SDX02 on December 30.
- ❖ In the mission, after the initial 20 km inter-satellite separation, the Chaser satellite approaches the Target satellite by reducing the distance to 5 km, 1.5 km, 500 m, 225 m, 15 m, and 3 m, before the final docking of the two spacecraft.



First Private Satellite Constellation

FIREFLY
OVERVIEW

Total satellites in Phase 1(2025)	6
Satellite Mass	60 kg
Spatial resolution (GSD)	5 m
Revisit frequency	24 hours
Bands	150 +
Swath	40 km
Wavelength	450-900 nm

- ❖ A Bengaluru-based space startup has made history by giving India the first private earth imaging satellite constellation.
- ❖ The constellation -'Firefly' - has been developed by Pixxel.

- ❖ In April 2022, they launched 'Shakuntala', India's first private Earth-imaging hyperspectral satellite.
- ❖ Three 'Firefly' satellites were launched into 550-kilometre low Earth orbit, using a SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket.
- ❖ The 'Fireflies', is the world's highest-resolution commercial-grade hyperspectral satellites currently.
- ❖ ISRO has about 52 different satellites in space.

STATES

Gaan-Ngai 2025

- ❖ The Rongmei Women Cultural Dance Troupe (RWCDT) of Delhi NCR celebrated Gaan-Ngai 2025.
- ❖ This festival showcasing the cultural heritage and identity of the Rongmei Naga community.
- ❖ The event was held under the theme "Our Festival, Our Identity".



IMPORTANT DAYS

Armed Forces Veterans' Day 2025 - January 14

- ❖ It aims to pay the respects to the armed forces veterans for their selfless duty and sacrifices and to reinforce solidarity towards the next of kin of the Bravehearts.

- ❖ The first Armed Forces Veterans Day was organised in 2017.
- ❖ On this day in 1953, Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army post independence, retired after glorious service.



77th Indian Army Day - January 15



- ❖ On this day in 1949, Field Marshal Cariappa took over the command of the Indian Army from General Sir FRR Bucher.



- ❖ This day commemorates the courage, valour, and sacrifice of the soldiers of the Indian Army who have continuously served in challenging conditions.
- ❖ The 77th Army Day Parade was marked by the presentation of 52 prestigious awards.
- ❖ It was including 15 Sena Medals (Gallantry)- with 8 posthumous awards, and 37 Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Unit Appreciations.

