

January - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A delegation from Tamil Nadu, led by Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, is set to attend the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025 held in Davos, Switzerland.
- ❖ The Twipra Student Federation (TSF) of Tripura is demanding the adoption of the Roman script for the Kokborok language.
- ❖ Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, India's leading mobility show, has been held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Centre has recently established eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) around the Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ RBI deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the Department of Monetary Policy, which Dr Patra earlier headed.

TAMIL NADU

Planting Conocarpus trees



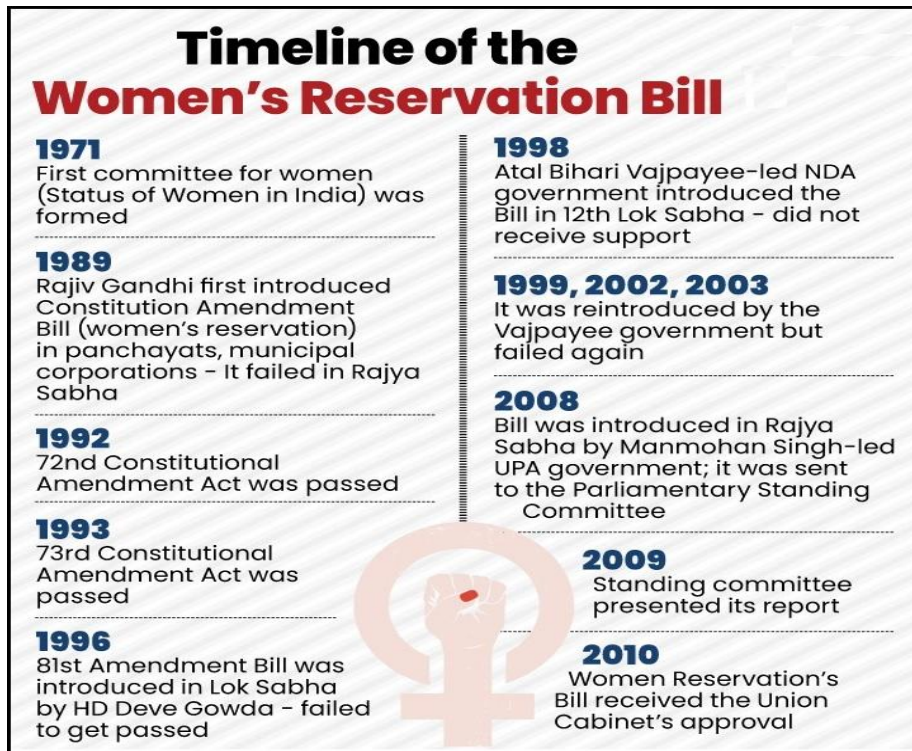
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has issued a new advisory to restrict the planting and sale of the exotic tree species Conocarpus.
- ❖ Known for its fast growth and evergreen foliage, Conocarpus has been a popular choice in the greening initiatives along roadsides, in road medians, and public gardens.
- ❖ The tree's ability to thrive in a variety of soil and climatic conditions makes it an ideal ornamental species for urban development.

- ❖ Numerous cases of pollen-related illnesses have been reported frequently.
- ❖ Now, the concerns about its impact on public health and the environment have led the government to reconsider its use.

NATIONAL

SC on 106th amendment

- ❖ The Supreme Court dismissed petitions filed in 2023 which challenged provisions of the 106th amendment act.
- ❖ This law provides 33% reservation for the women in the Lok Sabha, the State legislative assemblies, and the Delhi legislative assembly.
- ❖ The Court remarked that there is no question of violation of fundamental rights least Article 14 and therefore, Article 32 jurisdiction will not applicable for this.



INTERNATIONAL

Donald Trump's conviction

- ❖ Donald Trump became the first felon in the White House after a US court upheld his conviction in a hush money case.

- ❖ He has been sentenced to an 'unconditional discharge'.
- ❖ This means that the President-elect has been found guilty of his charges, but will not face any jail time or penalty because he has been elected President of USA.



US Entity List update 2025

USA PAVES WAY FOR 3 INDIAN NUCLEAR ENTITIES TO AVAIL EASIER LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

- USA Removes Indian Rare Earths, Bhabha Atomic Research Center From Restricted List
- USA Removes Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center From Restricted List

USA SAYS

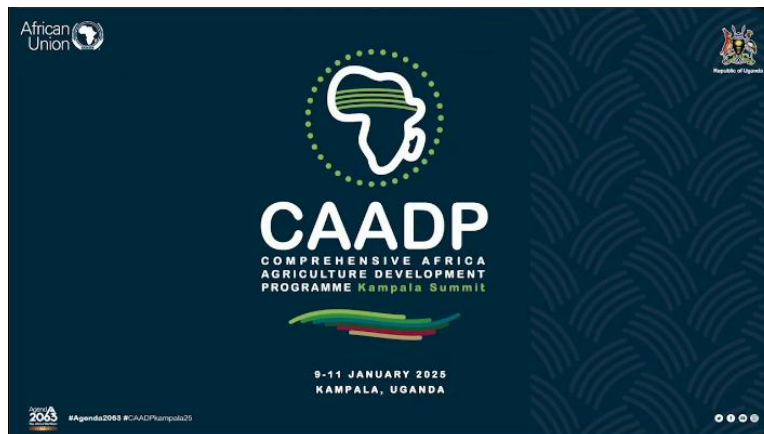
- Removal Of 3 Indian Entities From Restricted List To Support US Foreign Policy Objectives
- Removal Of 3 Indian Entities From Restricted List To Reduce Barriers To Advanced Energy Cooperation
- USA & India Share A Commitment To Advancing Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation & Associated R&D

- ❖ The US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) added 11 entities to its restrictive Entity List related to national security.
- ❖ Additionally, the BIS removed three Indian entities - Indian Rare Earths, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center (IGCAR), and Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC)-from the Entity List.

- ❖ The Entity List is a powerful tool that can be used to shape behavior that advances U.S. national security and global cooperation.

Kampala Declaration 2025

- ❖ The African Union Summit on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) concluded in Kampala, Uganda.
- ❖ The event adopted the transformative Kampala Declaration for Africa's agri-food systems from 2026 to 2035.
- ❖ The new declaration is the successor to the Malabo Declaration, whose implementation period concludes this year.
- ❖ During the summit, African leaders also endorsed the groundbreaking ten-year CAADP action plan (2026–2035)
- ❖ The CAADP was officially launched in July 2003 during the Second Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique.
- ❖ At this session, the Maputo Declaration on the Agriculture and Food Security was adopted.
- ❖ It is urging the AU Member States to allocate at least 10 per cent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development and to achieve annual agricultural productivity growth of at least 6 per cent.

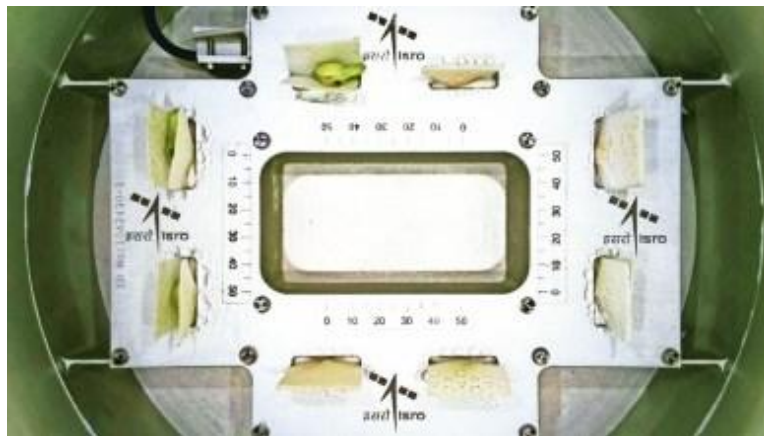


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Black-eyed Pea Seeds in Space

- ❖ ISRO has successfully germinated black-eyed pea (lobia) seeds in space using its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies.

- ❖ As the humans venture out on lengthy space missions to colonise celestial bodies like Mars and the Moon, the space-grown plants can provide a sustainable food source.
- ❖ Since plants release oxygen during photosynthesis, growing them in space can help keep the air aboard spacecraft breathable.
- ❖ But, the lack of gravity precludes plants' roots from the growing downwards, in addition to making nutrient delivery a difficult task.
- ❖ Since water tends to cling to any surface it touches in microgravity, when sprayed onto the base of a plant, it does not trickle down to the roots.
- ❖ The space garden aboard the International Space Station, known as 'Veggie' or the Vegetable Production System, is the size of the average carry-on bag.



ENVIRONMENT

DDT-Contaminated Soils

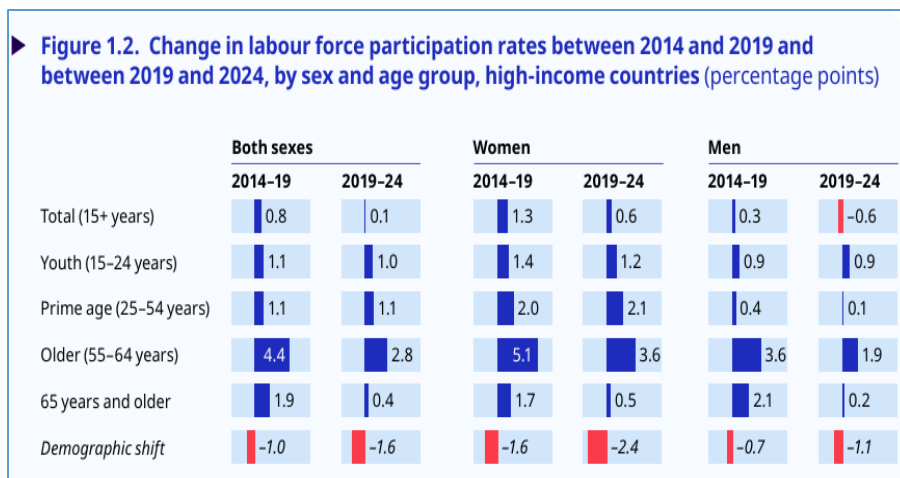


- ❖ DDT or di-chloro-di-phenyl-tri-chloro-ethane was introduced as an insecticide in 1939.

- ❖ It is effective against a wide range of pests; it also degraded the soil and rendered it infertile after prolonged usage.
- ❖ In order to recover those infertile tracts, Swedish researchers have found that DDT-contaminated soils, when mixed with biochar, tend to regain fertility.
- ❖ Biochar, which is similar to charcoal in properties, is an environmentally friendly product that is economic to produce.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Employment and Social Outlook Report 2025



- ❖ The International Labour Organization's (ILO) has released a report - World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025 - in Geneva.
- ❖ In 2024, the report said, global employment grew in line with the labour force, keeping the unemployment rate steady at 5%.
- ❖ However, the youth unemployment showed little improvement, remaining high at 12.6%.
- ❖ Economic growth stood at 3.2% in 2024, down from 3.3 and 3.6% in 2023 and 2022, respectively.
- ❖ The estimated number of people who want to work but do not have a job – reached 402 million in 2024.
- ❖ This includes 186 million unemployed people, 137 million who are temporarily unavailable to work, and 79 million discouraged workers who have stopped looking for jobs.
- ❖ The rates of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) have risen.

- ❖ In low-income countries, the young men’s NEET rates increased by 4 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels.
- ❖ It is affecting 15.8 million young men and 28.2 million young women in 2024.

QS World Future Skills Index 2025

- ❖ India was ranked second in terms of preparedness for jobs of the future including artificial intelligence (AI) and green skills, only behind the United States.
- ❖ India was ranked 25th across all indicators, which includes the alignment between the skills and employer needs, academic readiness, and the economic transformation.
- ❖ India’s overall ranking puts it as a “future skills contender,” as per the report.
- ❖ Countries like the USA, UK, Germany, Australia, and Canada, among others in the top ten have been categorised as “future skills pioneers”.
- ❖ India has been ranked second in the ‘future of work’ indicator.

Skills Fit		Academic Readiness		Future of Work		Economic Transformation	
Country	Score	Country	Score	Country	Score	Country	Score
UK	100.00	UK	100.0	United States	100.0	South Korea	100.0
US	94.4	Germany	99.6	India	99.1	Israel	98.9
Canada	90.9	Netherlands	99.3	Mexico	98.2	United States	97.9
Germany	89.2	Australia	98.9	Canada	97.4	Switzerland	96.8
Netherlands	88.6	United States	98.6	Australia	96.5	Japan	95.8

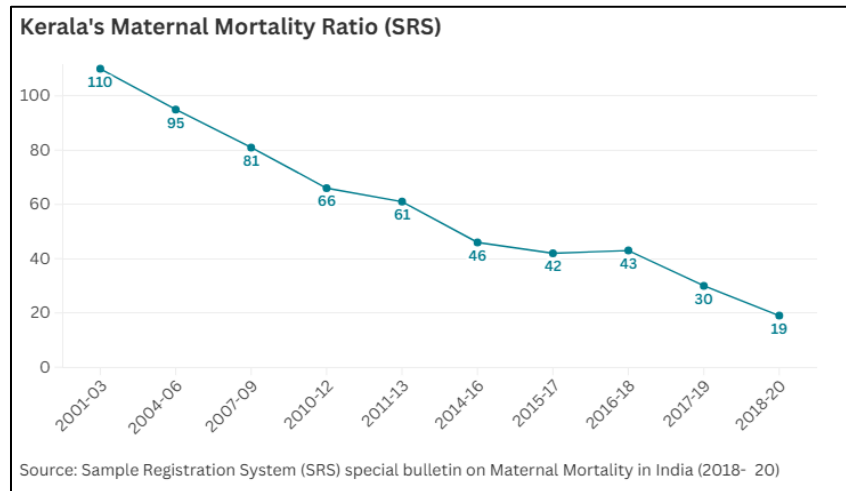
INDIA					
Indicator	Skills Fit	Academic Readiness	Future of Work	Economic Transformation	Overall
Score	59.1	89.9	99.1	58.3	76.6
Global position	37th	26th	2nd	40th	25th

STATES

Kerala's MMR Status 2024

- ❖ Kerala’s maternal mortality ratio, currently the lowest in the country at 19 per one lakh live births is now climbing steadily.
- ❖ The State, which used to have an average of 5-5.5 lakh live births annually, has now hit an all-time low of 3,93,231 births.
- ❖ Except during 2020-21, the State has consistently maintained a firm grip over maternal mortality.

- ❖ From an average of 5.5 lakh annual births since the 1980s, the graph went below the five-lakh mark for the first time in 2016, when 4,96,262 live births were recorded.
- ❖ Since 2018, the figure has been plummeting steadily, never going above the five-lakh mark again.
- ❖ The last published VSR (2021) recorded the total number of live births in Kerala as 4,19,767.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Sports Awards Winners 2025



- ❖ Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh and Praveen Kumar received their Khel Ratna awards.

- ❖ 32 athletes were honoured with the Arjuna Award on Friday at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ Olympic medallists Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale were also amongst the athletes who received the Arjuna Award.
- ❖ Murlikant Rajaram Petkar, India's first Paralympic gold-medallist in swimming, received a Lifetime Achievement award.
- ❖ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy was given to Chandigarh University, Lovely Professional University, and Guru Nanak Dev University.
- ❖ Murlikant Petkar, the 80-year-old war hero and Paralympic gold medallist, has received a lifetime Arjuna Award.
- ❖ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar was awarded to the Physical Education Foundation of India for promoting sports.
- ❖ Deepali Deshpande (Shooting coach) and Armando Agnelo Colaco (Football) have won the Dronacharya Award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Startup Day 2025 - January 16



- ❖ It is an annual observance in India dedicated to recognising and promoting the vibrant startup ecosystem.
- ❖ This day aims to mark the spirit of entrepreneurship to boost economic growth, innovation, and job creation.



- ❖ More than 1.59 lakh startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as of January 15, 2025.
- ❖ India has the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.

