

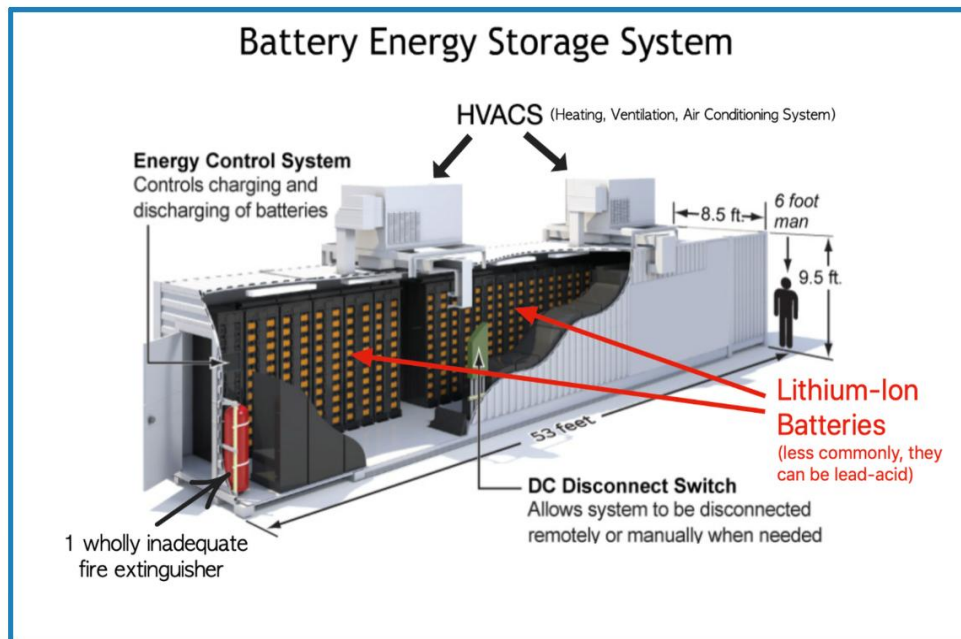
January - 23

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Assam has ranked 4th rank on New York Times' list of 52 destinations to visit in 2025.
- ❖ IIT-M's Centre of Biodegradable Packaging establishes centre to develop zero-waste bioplastics.
- ❖ The Professor Urbasi Sinha, faculty at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), was honored with the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ❖ The United Nations will observe year 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, and March 21 marked annually as the World Day for Glaciers from 2025.

## TAMIL NADU

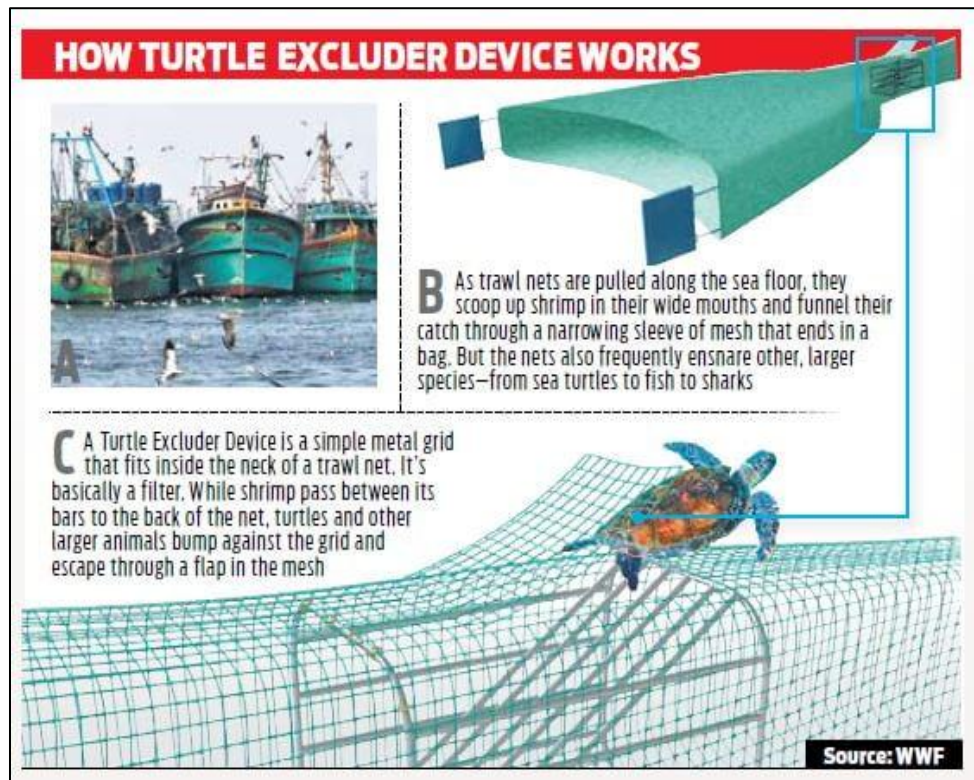
### Battery energy storage system in Tamilnadu



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) will soon float a tender for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for solar energy.
- ❖ The Energy Storage Systems (ESS) can be used for storing available energy from renewable energy and further can be used during peak hours of the day.
- ❖ BESS is one of the storage options available.

- ❖ The Central government provides Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of up to 30% of capital cost or ₹27 lakh per Megawatt (MW) whichever is lower for BESS.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's installed renewable energy capacity was 24,274 MW as on December 31, 2024.
- ❖ Out of which the wind energy accounted for 11,409.04 MW and solar energy accounted for 9,518.37 MW.

### Olive Ridley Turtles death



- ❖ Numerous dead olive ridley turtles have been washed ashore in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Chennai.
- ❖ Olive ridley turtles arrive near the Tamil Nadu coast around September-October to breed.
- ❖ Their nesting season begins in late November and ends in March.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1983, prohibits the fishing by mechanised vessels within five nautical miles of identified nesting and breeding sites during the nesting season.
- ❖ Olive ridley turtles lay eggs across several coastal states on India's east coast and west coast.

- ❖ However, mass nesting takes place in Odisha, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Odisha's Gahirmatha and Rushikulya beaches witness the arrival of lakhs of female olive ridley turtles every year.

## NATIONAL

### PM' Museum and Library Society



- ❖ The Centre has reconstituted the society and Executive Council of the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML).
- ❖ The executive council, previously had 29 members, has now been expanded to 34 members.
- ❖ Nripendra Mishra, has been reappointed for a five-year term as the chairperson of the organization.
- ❖ The former Union Minister Smriti Irani, the ex-NITI Aayog Vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar, retired Army General Syed Ata Hasnain, renowned filmmaker Shekhar Kapur were added as new members.
- ❖ The Prime Minister is the President of the NMML Society and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is the Vice President.

### 6.5 million 'SVAMITVA Property' cards

- ❖ The Prime Minister distributed over 65 lakh property cards under the 'SVAMITVA Scheme' to property owners in over 50000 villages.
- ❖ The SVAMITVA scheme was launched to ensure that the people residing in the rural areas receive their property cards.

- ❖ Over 1.5 crore people have been issued SVAMITVA cards in the past 5 years.

**65 Lakh**  
Property Cards

**230**  
Districts

**50,000**  
Villages

**10**  
States

THE  
RUNDOWN

**What is the 'SVAMITVA' Scheme?**  
Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas is an initiative launched by the GoI in April 2020 under the Min. of Panchayati Raj. It aims to provide villagers with legal ownership rights through property cards.

Key Features

- Property Ownership:** Villagers receive legal possession of their property
- Tech-Driven Mapping:** The scheme uses drone tech to create rural maps
- Financial Empowerment:** Villagers may gain economic benefits, Ex-Loans
- Reduction in Disputes:** The scheme ends long-standing property disputes

### AnSI and TRIs' findings



- ❖ The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) have, for the first time, comprehensively categorised 268 Denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes that previous commissions believed had never been classified.
- ❖ The three-year-long study was commissioned by a NITI Aayog panel.
- ❖ It has recommended the inclusion of 179 of these communities in SC, ST, and OBCs (Central) lists of 26 States and union territories.
- ❖ At least 85 of these are being recommended as fresh additions to these lists.
- ❖ Among the fresh additions, 46 communities have been recommended for OBC status, 29 for SC status, and 10 for Scheduled Tribe status.

- ❖ The greatest number of fresh additions were recommended for Uttar Pradesh (19), followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan at eight each.
- ❖ The study had also concluded that 63 communities (over 20%) studied were “not traceable” anymore.

### **Mission SCOT**

- ❖ Indian space startup Digantara launched the Space Camera for Object Tracking (SCOT) mission.
- ❖ Digantara launched its SCOT satellite aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission recently.
- ❖ Mission SCOT is the world's first commercial Space Situational Awareness (SSA) satellite.
- ❖ It will monitor Low Earth Orbit (LEO) with improved efficiency.
- ❖ It will ensure surveillance of objects as small as 5 cm orbiting the Earth to ensure safer space operations.
- ❖ On the same day, Bengaluru-based Pixxel also launched its first three satellites of its Firefly constellation -- India's 1st private satellite constellation.



### **HAL's Combat Air Teaming System**

- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully conducted the engine ground run of a full-scale demonstrator, Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) – Warrior.

- ❖ CATS-Warrior is a stealth UCAV designed to accompany manned fighter jets on missions as a loyal wingman platform.
- ❖ It can carry the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAAWs) and Next-Generation Close Combat Missiles (NG CCMs).
- ❖ CATS-Hunter is an air-launched low-observable cruise missile capable of the precision strikes deep inside enemy territory.
- ❖ CATS-Infinity Pseudo Satellite is an ultra-high-altitude, solar-powered pseudo satellite designed to operate at an altitude of approximately 70,000 feet.
- ❖ With an endurance of 90 days, it bridges the surveillance gap between satellites and UAVs.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Partner country of BRICS**

- ❖ Nigeria has been admitted as a "partner country" of the BRICS bloc of developing economies.
- ❖ Nigeria becomes the ninth BRICS partner country, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ BRICS was formed by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009, with South Africa added in 2010.
- ❖ In 2023, the bloc added Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the UAE, while Saudi Arabia has been invited to join.

- ❖ Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia have formally applied to become the BRICS members.



## 47<sup>th</sup> US President

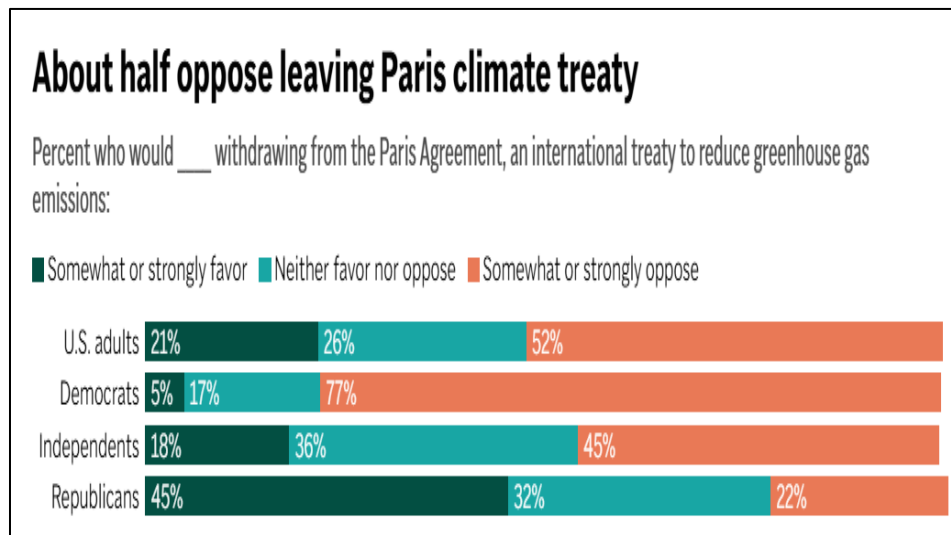


- ❖ Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States.
- ❖ The ceremony, held at U.S. Capitol (Washington), moved indoors for the first time in 40 years due to very low temperatures.
- ❖ Trump has become the first US President since the 19th century to win a second term after losing re-election.

- ❖ Grover Cleveland was the 22nd (1885-89) and 24th (1893-97) president of the United States.
- ❖ Donald Trump's net worth was \$5.6 billion.

### **US withdrawal from Paris climate agreement**

- ❖ President Donald Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement.
- ❖ The first Trump administration made a similar move in 2017, but that step was promptly reversed by the ex-President Joe Biden.
- ❖ The US will now have to wait a year before it will be officially out of the pact.
- ❖ The 196 parties Paris agreement is not a legally binding treaty.
- ❖ The US will now join Iran, Yemen and Libya as the only countries to currently stand outside the agreement.
- ❖ Since 2016, the production of American oil has gone up by 70%.
- ❖ US is now the world's dominant producer and exporter.
- ❖ US last month offered a plan to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by more than 60% by 2035.



## **ECONOMY**

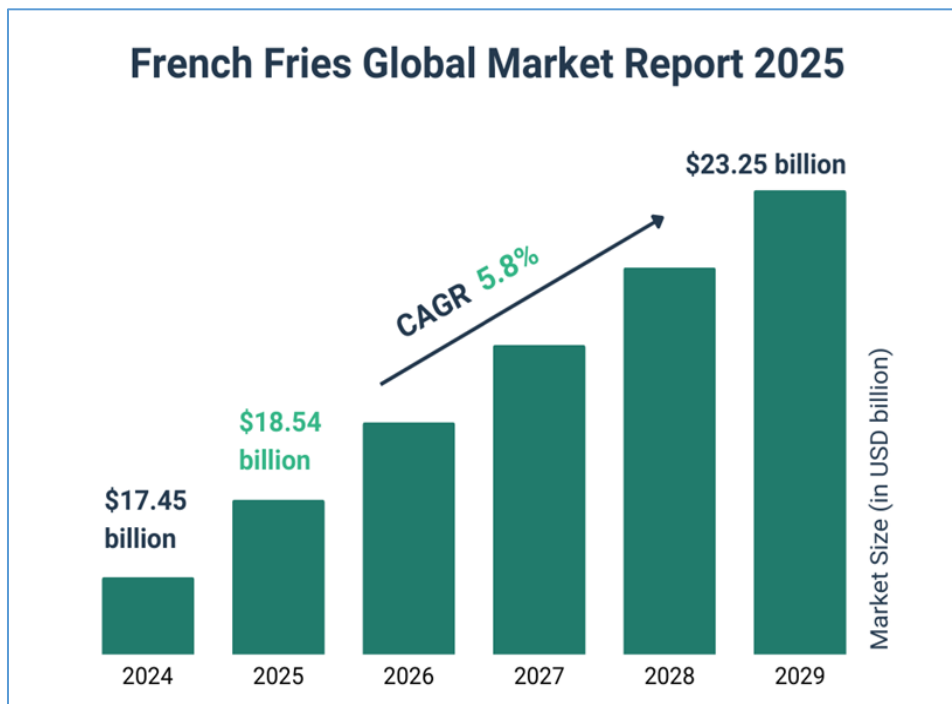
### **India's French Fries Exports 2025**

- ❖ India exported 135,877 tonnes of FF valued at Rs 1,478.73 crore.





- ❖ During April-October 2024, exports were 106,506 tonnes and worth Rs 1,056.92 crore.
- ❖ Indian FF exports are mostly to Southeast Asia (Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam), Middle East (Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman) and even Japan and Taiwan.
- ❖ India's export of FF exceeds its estimated domestic consumption of 100,000 tonnes.
- ❖ Varieties of potato for FF are Santana, Innovator, Kennebec, Kufri Frysona and Kufri FryoM.
- ❖ India's potato production, at 60-odd million tonnes (mt), is next only to China's 95 mt.
- ❖ In 1992, the American processed food company, Lamb Weston, began importing frozen French Fries (FF) for supplying to star hotels in India.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Restart capability of Vikas engine**

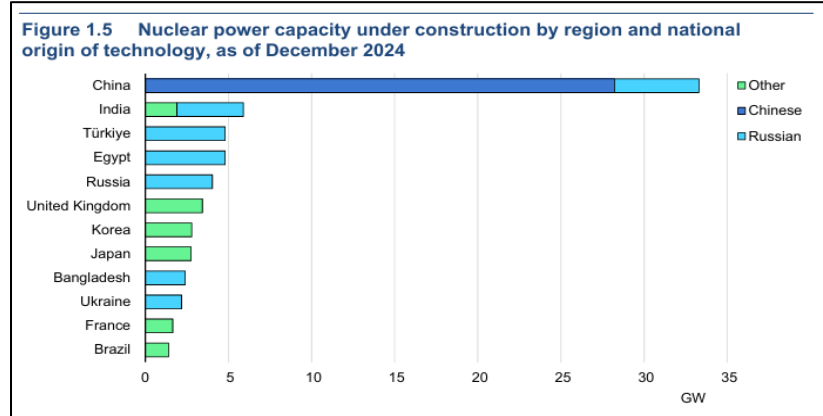
- ❖ ISRO has achieved a significant milestone with the successful demonstration of restarting its Vikas liquid engine.
- ❖ The Vikas engine, a very reliable workhorse for powering the liquid stages of Isro's launch vehicles, is being refined to enable stage recovery and reusability.

- ❖ In the very latest test, the engine was fired for 60 seconds before being shut off for 120 seconds.
- ❖ It was then successfully restarted and fired again for seven seconds.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### New era of nuclear energy – IEA



- ❖ International Energy Agency (IEA) released a report titled 'A new era of nuclear energy'.
- ❖ Currently nuclear provides just under 10% of global electricity supply.
- ❖ As of the end of 2024, there were 63 nuclear reactors (71 GW) under construction.
- ❖ More than 40 countries around the world have plans to expand Nuclear's role in their energy systems.
- ❖ Since 2017, China has started construction on 25 reactors, and Russia on 23 reactor more than 99% of the enrichment capacity takes place in four supplier countries, with Russia accounting for 40% of global capacity.

- ❖ The annual investment in nuclear energy needs to double to USD 120 billion by 2030 to meet projected demand.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **All India Presiding Officers conference 2025**

- ❖ Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Patna, Bihar.
- ❖ The last time Bihar hosted the conference was in 1982 when Radhanandan Jha was the Speaker.
- ❖ Prior to this, the state hosted the conference on 6th and 7th January 1964 when Lakshmi Narayan Sudhanshu was the Assembly Speaker.
- ❖ The first session of the AIPOC was held in 1921 in Shimla.
- ❖ The 84<sup>th</sup> AIPOC was held at the Maharashtra Legislature premises in Mumbai last year.
- ❖ The 82<sup>nd</sup> AIPOC, which marked the completion of 100 years of the first AIPOC session, was once again held in Shimla in November 2021.

