

January - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu labour department has registered the Samsung India Workers Union (SIWU), followed by a Madras High Court's directives.
- ❖ The Meteorological Department said that the northeast monsoon has ceased over south peninsular India, including Andhra Pradesh on January 27, 2025.
- ❖ The State Fisheries Department has planned to install artificial coral reefs in 39 locations across two fishing villages in Nagapattinam district to boost the fish production.
- ❖ India's first-of-its-kind, the CSIR Mega "Innovation Complex", was inaugurated at Mumbai.
- ❖ The Indian Army has inaugurated two newly built bailey bridges across the Shyok River, improving connectivity between the Shyok and Nubra valleys in Ladakh.
- ❖ The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf Amendment Bill approved the draft with incorporating 14 amendments proposed by its members.
- ❖ Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Udaipur (Rajasthan) became the first two cities from India to join the global list of accredited Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- ❖ The Indian Grandmaster Iniyam Panneerselvam (from Erode in Tamilnadu) has showcased an exceptional performance to win the 9th Johor International Open Chess Tournament in Malaysia.
- ❖ Jannik Sinner of Italy has won his second consecutive Australian Open Tennis championship by beating Germany's Alexander Zverev, and third Grand Slam title overall.
- ❖ The International Day of Clean Energy was observed on January 26th to raise the awareness and mobilize action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy.

TAMIL NADU

Tamilnadu Republic day awards 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM handed over various awards to recipients.
- ❖ Leading Fireman K. Vetrivel, who rescued three people from drowning in Adyar in Chennai, received the Anna Medal for Gallantry, 2025.
- ❖ S.A. Ameer Amsa from Ramanathapuram district, who has assisted in the burial of bodies of over 1,000 bodies so far, received the Kottai Ameer Award, 2025.

- ❖ R. Murugavel of Theni district has received the Narayanasamy Naidu Paddy Productivity Award.
- ❖ Inspector P. Chinnakamanan, head constables K. Mahamarx and K. Karthick, Grade II police constables K. Siva and P. Poomalai received the Gandhi Adigal police medals.
- ❖ CM's Trophies for best police stations: Madurai City (1st), Tiruppur City (2nd) and Tiruvallur district (3rd).



NATIONAL

Unified Pension Scheme implementation

UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME (UPS)
EXPLAINED IN 10 POINTS

- 1 Assured Pension: 50% of last 12 months' average basic pay for retirees with 25 years of service; proportionate for less
- 2 Government Contribution: Increased from 14% to 18.5%; no change in employee contribution
- 3 Family Pension: 60% of the pension for the family if a pensioner passes away.
- 4 Minimum Pension: Rs 10,000 per month as pension, on superannuation after minimum 10 years of service
- 5 Inflation Protection: Pensions linked to inflation via AICPI-IW.
- 6 Lump-Sum Payment: Additional lump-sum at retirement, not affecting the assured pension
- 7 UPS Provisions: Applies to past NPS retirees with arrears paid with PPF interest
- 8 UPS available as an Option: Existing NPS / VRS with NPS as well as future employees will have an option of joining UPS. Choice, once exercised, will be final
- 9 UPS is being implemented by Central Government benefiting 23 lakh Central Government employees
- 10 State Adoption: Can potentially benefit over 90 lakh employees if adopted by State Governments

- ❖ The central government officially issued a gazette notification for the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

- ❖ The scheme will come into effect on April 1, 2025.
- ❖ It aims to strike a balance between the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and the National Pension Scheme (NPS).
- ❖ It will provide guaranteed pensions to government employees after retirement to ensure their financial security.
- ❖ The UPS will apply only to the central government employees who are under the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and choose the UPS option.
- ❖ Under UPS, Employees with 25 or more years of service will receive a guaranteed pension of 50% of their average basic salary in the last 12 months.
- ❖ Employees with less than 25 years of service will receive a proportional pension.
- ❖ Employees with at least 10 years of qualifying service will receive a guaranteed pension of Rs 10,000 per month.

SANJAY Battlefield Surveillance System



- ❖ The Centre flagged off 'Sanjay', a battlefield surveillance system (BSS), which will be inducted into the Indian Army.
- ❖ SANJAY is an automated system which integrates the inputs from all ground and aerial battlefield sensors.
- ❖ It is processing them to confirm their veracity, preventing duplication and fusing them to produce a common surveillance picture of the battlefield over a secured army data network and satellite communication network.

- ❖ It will enhance the battlefield transparency and transform the future battlefield through a centralised web application.

India's first Mini Budget



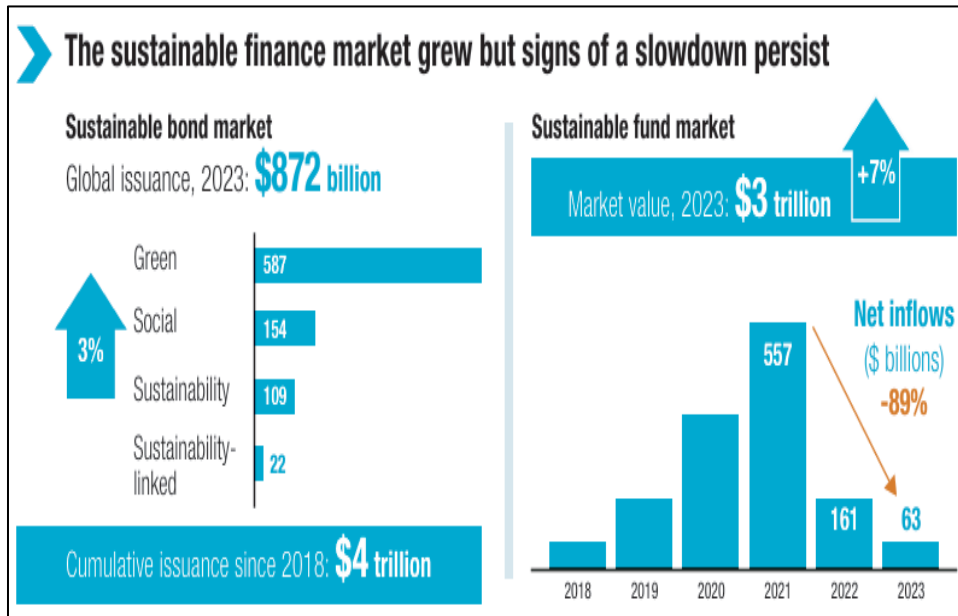
- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1, marking her eighth consecutive budget.
- ❖ A 'Mini Budget' is a special-occasion budgetary proposal.
- ❖ It is presented when an interim budget has already been presented in an election year by the outgoing government and the new government presents another in the same year.
- ❖ The first Mini Budget in the India's history was presented on November 30, 1956 by T.T. Krishnamachari, India's fourth Finance Minister.
- ❖ A decade later and the second Mini Budget was also presented by him in August 1965.

INTERNATIONAL

Global FDI Decline in 2024

- ❖ Global foreign direct investments (FDI) dipped by eight per cent in 2024.
- ❖ This assessment was released by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ In developing economies, FDI was decreased by 2%.
- ❖ FDI related to the SDGs fell by 11% in 2024.
- ❖ FDI into China decreased by 29%, following its 2023 downward trend.

- ❖ But India saw a rise of 13% in FDI, increasing in both numbers and overall value.
- ❖ For ASEAN group FDI grew by just 2%.



Thailand - Marriage Equality law

EQUAL UNIONS

Key points in the Marriage Equality Bill

References related to gender "man", "woman", "husband" and "wife" are changed to gender-neutral terms.

A couple can be married when they reach the age of 18 or if the marriage is allowed by a court due to certain circumstances.

Marriage is prohibited if one party has a mental disorder or is

deemed incapable or is closely related. Bigamy is prohibited.

Divorce is completed upon registration. Reasons for divorce include adultery, neglect for more than a year and physical and mental abuse.

One party can seek compensation and file for divorce if the other has a relationship with another individual. A 310-day

wait period is required for a woman to remarry another male partner to prevent a dispute about the paternity of a baby.

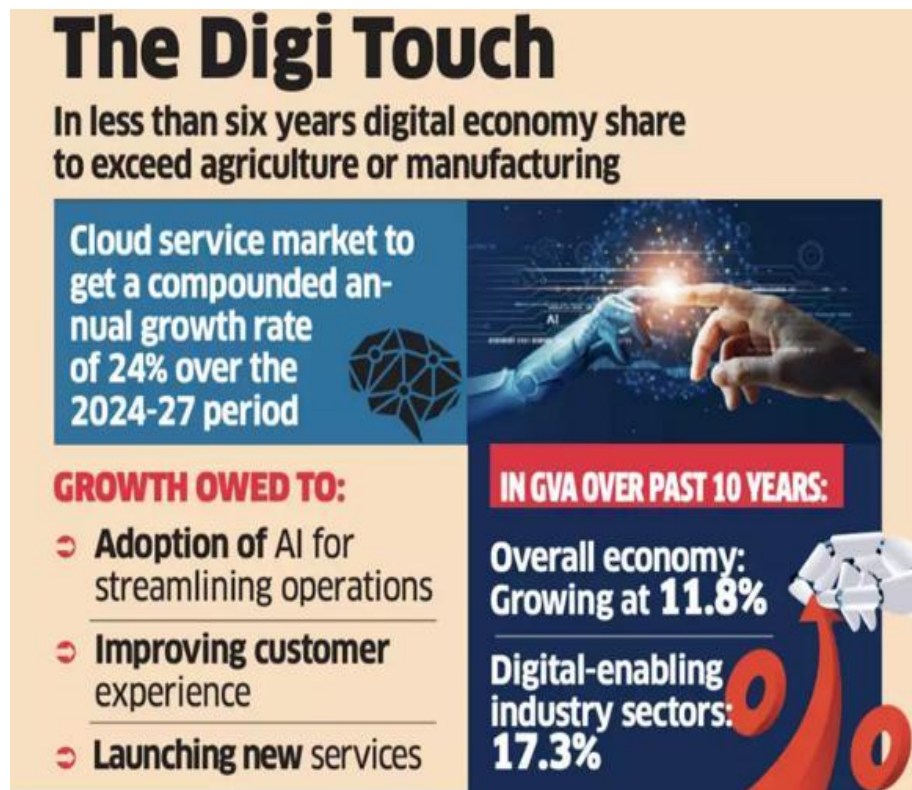
Married couples, regardless of the gender of the partners, are eligible for the same legal benefits and rights as heterosexual couples, including inheritance, adoption and access to welfare benefits.

- ❖ Thailand's legal landscape officially legalized same-sex marriage.

- ❖ The Marriage Equality Legislation is replacing gender-specific terminology such as “man,” “woman,” “husband,” and “wife” with the inclusive terms such as “individual” and “spouse.”
- ❖ It is ensuring the equitable division and ownership of assets acquired during marriage between same-sex couples.
- ❖ It is granting the same-sex spouses the right to claim financial support in cases of separation or divorce.
- ❖ The first Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage was Taiwan (2017).

ECONOMY

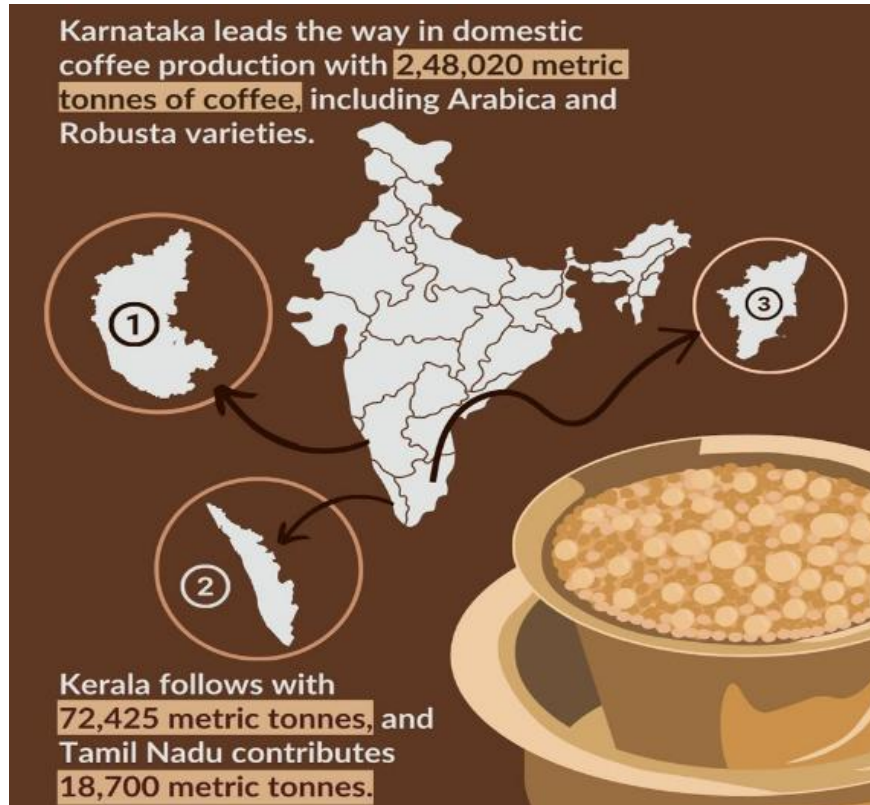
India's digital economy 2024-25



- ❖ India's digital economy will grow twice as fast as the rest of the economy.
- ❖ It constitutes 13.42% of the national income by the end of 2024–25, as against 11.74% in 2022–23.
- ❖ The report was prepared by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).
- ❖ By 2030, India's digital economy will account for nearly a fifth of overall GDP.

- ❖ The digital economy in 2022–23 was equivalent to ₹28.94 lakh crore (~\$368 billion) in (GVA) and ₹31.64 lakh crore (~\$402 billion) in GDP

Coffee production in India 2023-24



- ❖ India has emerged as the world’s seventh-largest coffee producer, with exports reaching \$1.29 billion in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ This is almost double the \$719.42 million recorded in 2020-21.
- ❖ Domestic consumption has increased to 91,000 tonnes in 2023 from 84,000 tonnes in 2012.
- ❖ Karnataka leads in production, contributing 248,020 million tonnes in 2022-23, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.


Sachetisation Plan

- ❖ SEBI floated a consultation paper on ‘sachetisation’ of mutual funds.
- ❖ It aims to increase the reach and facilitate participation from low-income groups in mutual funds.
- ❖ SEBI has proposed a sachetised mutual fund product – small ticket systematic investment plan (SIP) of ₹250.

- ❖ Further, small ticket SIPs can be offered in any scheme except for debt schemes, sectoral and thematic schemes, small-cap and mid-cap schemes under equity schemes category.
- ❖ Sachetisation of mutual funds will enable small ticket investment in mutual funds gradually on a periodic basis.

‘SACHETISATION’ OF MFs

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Some fund houses already offer SIPs with small-ticket sizes➤ Sebi has proposed SIPs for ticket size as low as Rs 250... and to popularise them, it has proposed to subsidise the costs for market intermediaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Such SIPs can be offered in any scheme except debt, and sectoral & thematic, small & mid-cap funds➤ To limit the subsidy, the number of SIPs per PAN card will be restricted to three
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PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Gallantry Awards 2025

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 93 Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous.
- ❖ These include two Kirti Chakras, including one posthumous; 14 Shaurya Chakras, including three posthumous; one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry); 66 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous; two Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and eight Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), including one posthumous.
- ❖ The President also approved 305 defence decorations to Armed Forces and other personnel.
- ❖ These include 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals; five Uttam Yudh Seva Medals; 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals; 10 Yudh Seva Medals; one Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 43 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 15 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); four Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 132 Vishisht Seva Medals.
- ❖ In addition, the President has also approved the President’s Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal to eight Coast Guard personnel.
- ❖ 21 police officers of the Tamil Nadu police are on list of President’s Medal.

- ❖ Under the Home Guard and Civil Defence category, Manjit Singh Nayar, Assistant Commandant General of Home Guards, Tamil Nadu, received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service.



Dr. K.M. Cherian



- ❖ A pioneer of cardiac surgery Dr KM Cherian died recently.
- ❖ He performed the country's first heart bypass surgery in 1975.

- ❖ He was the finder and curer of heart diseases, especially in children born with various defects.
- ❖ He was the honorary surgeon to the President of India between 1990 and 1993.
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shree in 1991.
- ❖ He was born at Kayamkulam of Kerala and passed away at Bengaluru.

SPORTS

ICC Cricketers of the Year 2024



- ❖ Smriti Mandhana was crowned ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2024.
- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah was named ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year for 2024.
- ❖ Rohit Sharma was named the captain of the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024.
- ❖ Arshdeep Singh won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024 award.
- ❖ ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year was Amelia Kerr (New Zealand).



- ❖ Arshdeep Singh, along with Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Rohit Sharma, was also named in the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year.
- ❖ While the ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year 2024 included Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma.
- ❖ Azmatullah Omarzai of Afghanistan, first person from that country, was named ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Customs Day 2025 - January 26

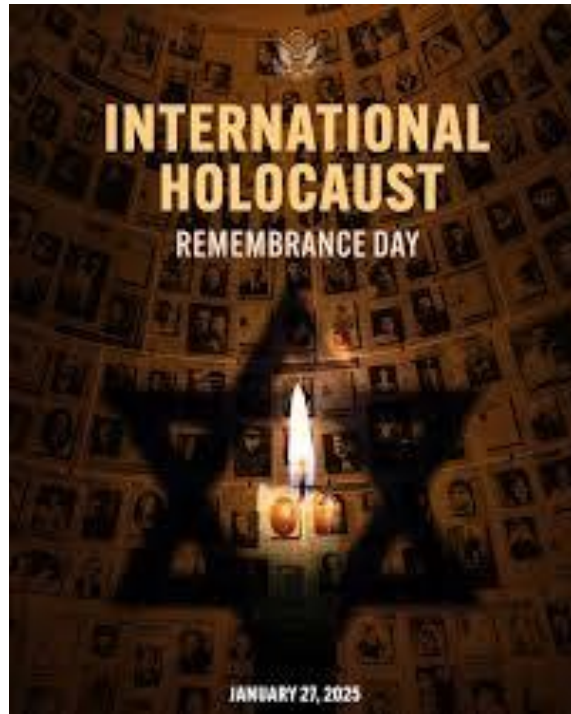


- ❖ It aims to celebrate the role of the customs officials in security, trade compliance, and major anti-smuggling achievements.
- ❖ The Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), currently known as the World Customs Organisation (WCO), was established in 1952.
- ❖ Its inaugural session took place on January 26, 1953, in Brussels, Belgium, with 17 participating member nations.
- ❖ Currently, the WCO features 183 member states from all parts of the world overseeing nearly 98 per cent of world trade.

- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security and Prosperity”.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2025 - January 27

- ❖ It is also known as International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.
- ❖ This Day was chosen by the UNGA to mark the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp in 1945.
- ❖ 2025 marks 80 years since the end of the Second World War and the Holocaust.
- ❖ The theme of this year is “Holocaust Remembrance for Dignity and Human Rights”.



MISCELLANEOUS

Kerala tribal king

- ❖ Raman Rajamannan, the tribal king from Kerala's Idukki and his wife, Binumol, are attended the Republic Day 2025 ceremony in New Delhi.
- ❖ There are more than 300 Mannan community families in 48 Scheduled Tribe villages in Idukki.
- ❖ The king has a special place in their rituals.

- ❖ He is selected from the royal families according to the traditional matrilineal inheritance system.
- ❖ The king has no rights or duties in civil society, but oversees community matters with the help of four upa rajas (deputies), one ilayaraja (prince), and a 50-member council of ministers, known as kaanis.



Operation Sard Hawa 2025



- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) has heightened the vigil along the border with Pakistan at Jaisalmer to foil infiltration attempts.
- ❖ The special exercise is aimed at thwarting attempts of infiltration due to reduced visibility caused by fog during winter.
- ❖ Usually, the BSF conducts 'Operation Garam Hawa' in the summer and the operation 'Sard Hawa' in the winter.
- ❖ On the other ride, the BSF unearthed the three underground iron bunkers with banned cough syrup worth crore of rupees at the India-Bangladesh border.



- ❖ 62,200 bottles of Phensedyl syrup worth Rs 1.41 crore was found inside the bunker.
- ❖ Phensedyl, a codeine-based cough syrup, is banned in Bangladesh but often smuggled from India due to high demand in the neighbouring country.

