

July - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ TN govt has announced the extension of the Kalaingar Sports Kit Scheme to town panchayats, municipalities and municipal corporations and an allocation of ₹100 crore for the purchase of 33 types of sports equipment.
 - Earlier, the scheme was only being implemented in panchayats.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu assembly has passed a resolution against the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, urging the Union government to scrap it.
 - The resolution called for state governments to allow medical admissions based on class 12 marks, as before NEET was introduced.
- ❖ India's World Cup-winning cricket captain Kapil Dev has been appointed the president of the Professional Golf Tour of India.
- ❖ Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary has been appointed as the convenor of the GoM on GST rate rationalisation.
- ❖ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders company was granted with 'Navratna' status by the centre.
- ❖ The 'India Africa Postal Leaders Meet' was organised in India to strengthening ties among the administrations of African countries and India in the postal sector.
 - This is an initiative under the "South- South and Triangular Cooperation" programme of the Universal Postal Union.
- ❖ The global financial crime watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had removed Turkey from its "grey list" of countries that require special scrutiny.
- ❖ International Pineapple Day is observed on June 27 to honouring the tropical pineapple and its many contributions to our lives.
- ❖ The National Insurance Awareness Day is observed every year on June 28 as a reminder of the crucial role insurance plays in securing our financial futures.

TAMIL NADU

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act – 1978

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a Bill to amend the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1978, (Tamil Nadu Act 28 of 1978).
- ❖ It aims to decriminalise minor offences, as recommended by the Guidance Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The law makes getting a sewer connection mandatory for the owner or occupier of any premises on a private street where there is a sewer of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board within 30 metres.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, states that any area where the population is estimated at not less than three lakhs and the annual income is “not less than thirty crores of rupees” may be constituted as a municipal corporation.



Tamil Nadu special seed fund

<p>Special Seed Fund to support Startups run by differently abled and transgender people in Tamil Nadu will be introduced.</p>	<p>Global Startup Coordination Centres (GCC) will be established in Singapore and the United States of America. These will help startups to expand their business and find new market opportunities in foreign shores.</p>
<p>Regional Startup Hubs will be established in Coimbatore & Tiruchi cities. Hubs are already functioning in Madurai, Tirunelveli, Erode, Salem, Hosur, Cuddalore, Thanjavur and Chennai (as Metro Hub)</p>	<p>Tamil Nadu Startup Thiruvizha will be conducted in Madurai this year. It is the second edition following the successful event in Coimbatore last year.</p>

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will introduce a special seed fund to support start-ups run by persons with disabilities and transgender persons.



- ❖ A special seed fund, in the form of a grant, will be introduced for start-ups run by these people to achieve inclusive growth in new-age entrepreneurship development, and ₹50 lakh will be earmarked for this scheme.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN) would identify beneficiaries.
- ❖ New regional start-up hubs would be established in Coimbatore and Tiruchi at a cost of ₹1.5 crore.
- ❖ In the last two years, regional start-up hubs had been established in Madurai, Tirunelveli, Erode, Salem, Hosur, Cuddalore, and Thanjavur.

NATIONAL

FATF 'regular follow-up' category

India Excels in FATF Mutual Evaluation!

- **FATF Places India in the 'regular follow-up' category**, a distinction shared by only four other G20 countries!
- FATF recognizes India's efforts to combat **Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing**
- Indian authorities have had success in **dismantling the terror funding network using actionable intelligence inputs.**



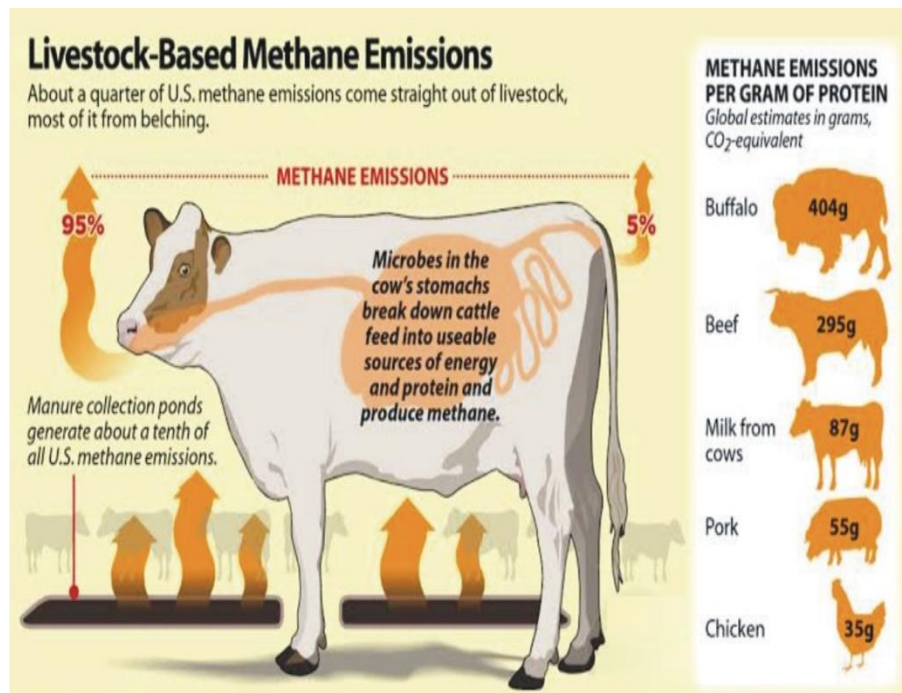
FATF Recognition Highlights India's Rigorous Measures Over the Past Decade

- ❖ India has achieved an outstanding outcome in the Mutual Evaluation conducted during 2023-24 by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ❖ It places India in the 'regular follow-up' category, a distinction shared by only four other G20 countries.
- ❖ India is already a member of the FATF Steering Group.

- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1989 as the international watchdog.
- ❖ It aims to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- ❖ India became a member of FATF in 2010.

INTERNATIONAL

World's First Carbon Tax on Gassy Cattle

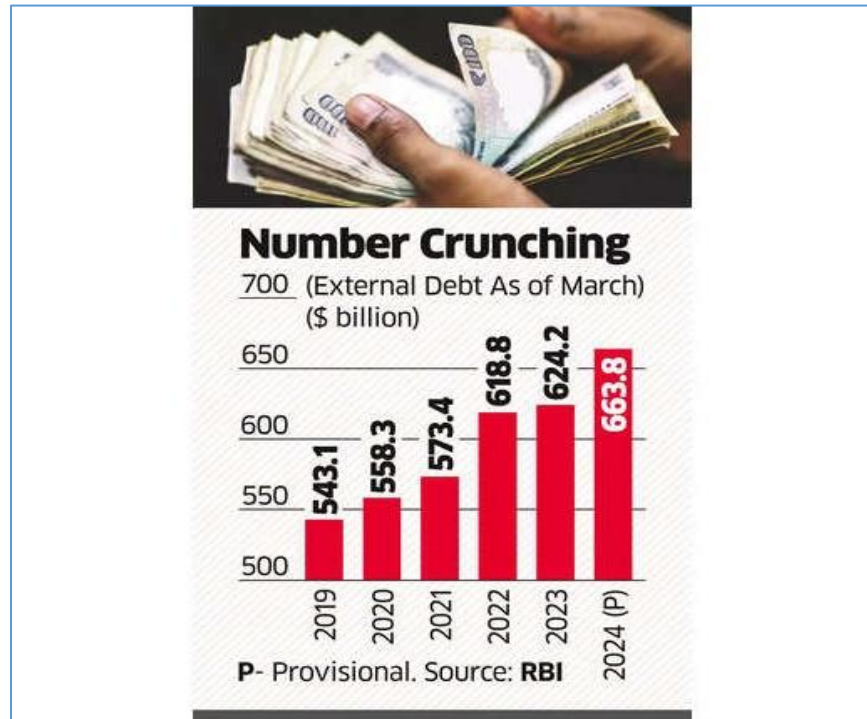


- ❖ Denmark will tax livestock farmers for the greenhouse gases emitted by their cows, sheep, and pigs starting in 2030, becoming the first country to do so.
- ❖ The tax targets a major source of methane emissions, one of the most potent gases contributing to global warming.
- ❖ The Danish government aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% from 1990 levels by 2030.
- ❖ Methane, though less discussed than carbon dioxide, traps about 87 times more heat over a 20-year period.
- ❖ A single cow can generate up to 200kg of methane annually, primarily through burping.
- ❖ A typical Danish cow produces 6 metric tons (6.6 tons) of CO₂ equivalent per year.

- ❖ New Zealand had passed a similar law set to take effect in 2025, but it was repealed after heavy criticism and a change in government.

ECONOMY

Short-Term Debt's Share of India



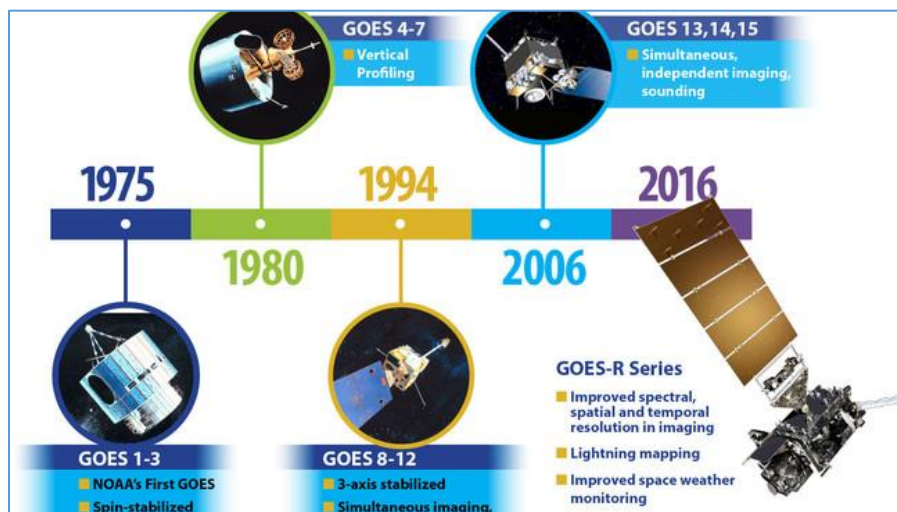
- ❖ The share of short-term debt with an original maturity of up to one year in total external debt declined to 18.5 per cent at end-March 2024 from 20.6 per cent at end-March 2023.
- ❖ The ratio of short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves declined to 19.0 per cent at end-March 2024 from 22.2 per cent at end-March 2023.
- ❖ India's external debt stood at \$663.8 billion at the end of March 2024.
- ❖ This is an increase of \$39.7 billion over its level at end-March 2023.
- ❖ Excluding the valuation effect, the external debt would have increased by \$48.4 billion instead of \$39.7 billion at end-March 2024 over end-March 2023.
- ❖ The external debt to gross domestic product ratio declined to 18.7 per cent at end-March 2024 from 19.0 per cent at end-March 2023.
- ❖ The long-term debt (with an original maturity of above one year) was \$541.2 billion at the end of March 2024.
- ❖ This is an increase of \$45.6 billion over its level at end-March 2023.

- ❖ Components of the largest component of external debt:
 - Share of Loans 33.4 per cent
 - Currency and deposits (23.3 per cent)
 - Trade credit and advances (17.9 per cent), and
 - Debt securities (17.3 per cent).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NOAA Weather Satellite

- ❖ SpaceX successfully launched the fourth and final satellite for NASA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) program.
- ❖ The series of advanced satellites called GOES-R (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite).
- ❖ They are expected to aid with "continuous coverage of weather and hazardous environmental conditions across much of the Western Hemisphere".



REPORTS AND INDICES

Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index 2024

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released an Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) 2024.
- ❖ It is tracking 174 economies globally for AI readiness.
- ❖ Singapore (0.80), Denmark (0.78), and the United States (0.77) are among the highest-rated in the list.



- ❖ India ranks 72 in a total of 174 countries, with Bangladesh (0.38) on 113, Sri Lanka (0.43) on 92, and China (0.63) on 31.

Countries Most Prepared for AI			Countries Least Prepared for AI		
Rank	Top Countries	Index	Rank	Bottom Countries	Index
1	Singapore	0.800	164	Yemen	0.253
2	Denmark	0.778	165	Sao Tome	0.253
3	United States	0.771	166	Congo	0.247
4	Netherlands	0.766	167	Libya	0.244
5	Estonia	0.754	168	Chad	0.233
6	Finland	0.758	169	Sudan	0.232
7	Switzerland	0.757	170	Mauritania	0.232
8	New Zealand	0.753	171	Somalia	0.201
9	Germany	0.753	172	C.A.R	0.184
10	Sweden	0.747	173	Afghanistan	0.132
*72	India	0.492	174	South Sudan	0.105

