

July - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tata Group, with a brand value of \$28.6 billion, has retained its title as India's most valuable brand.
- ❖ Indian writer Sanjana Thakur wins the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story "Aishwarya Rai".
- ❖ Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) Vikram Misri was named as the next Foreign Secretary.
- ❖ K-pop group SEVENTEEN was appointed as UNESCO's inaugural (First ever) Goodwill Ambassador for Youth at a ceremony in Paris.
- ❖ The Iberian Lynx of Europe has improved from Endangered to Vulnerable on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ Three major European space industry players have inked contracts with the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop large low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite platforms adhering to Zero Debris standards.
- ❖ NATO has named Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as its next Secretary-General.

TAMIL NADU

Impact of Naan Mudhalvan scheme 2024

STUDENTS WHO WERE PLACED IN VARIOUS SECTORS			
Sectors	Students placed	Sectors	Students placed
Agriculture	157	Iron and Steel	597
Apparel	177	IT-ITeS	632
Automotive	16,619	Leather	73
Beauty and Wellness	44	Logistics	112
BFSI	27	Media & Entertainment	112
Capital Goods	377	Mining	13
Construction	882	Plumbing	141
Electronics & Hardware	3,509	Power	453
Food Processing	88	Retail	86
Gems and Jewellery	18	Rubber	129
Green Jobs	66	Telecom	358
Healthcare	140	Textiles & Handlooms	187
Infrastructure Equipment	193	Tourism & Hospitality	6
Instrumentation	692	Grand Total	25,888

■ About 252 colleges have participated in the job drive so far. Officials say placements are still under way, and around 58,000 students are in the final year of their course

PAY SCALE	
Salary range	No. of students
< 2 Lakh	18,250
2 to 3 Lakh	7,259
2 to 4 Lakh	88
3 to 4 Lakh	229
4 to 5 Lakh	42
5 to 6 Lakh	8
6 to 8 Lakh	12
Grand Total	25,888

- ❖ A total of 25,888 students from polytechnic colleges across Tamil Nadu have landed jobs in various sectors through the State government's Naan Mudhalvan scheme.



- ❖ Under the scheme, the government is helping students from polytechnic colleges secure lucrative jobs in domestic and multinational firms.
- ❖ About 252 colleges have participated in the job drives so far.
- ❖ Around 58,000 students were in the final year of their course.

State's block development program - Tamilnadu



- ❖ The State government made Madras Institute of Development Studies as the knowledge partner for focus block development programme.
- ❖ The State government had announced the launch of Focus Blocks Development Programme in its 2023-24 budget.
- ❖ Under the scheme, ₹5-crore worth projects would be implemented in 50 most backward blocks in the State.

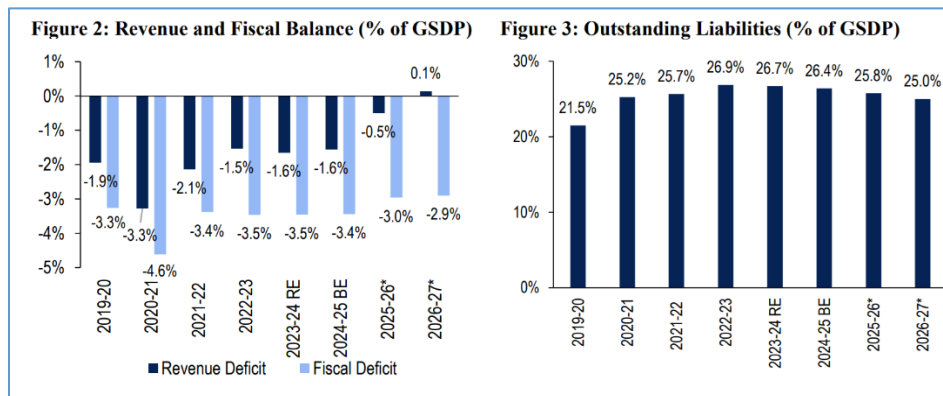
Removal of gravel from waterbodies

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided against allowing potters, farmers and members of the public to remove “gravel” free of cost from beds of waterbodies.
- ❖ They would be able to quarry “clay and silt” for free, but under a revised procedure.
- ❖ Earlier, the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, allowed quarrying of “clay, silt and gravel” for free from the beds of tanks, channels and reservoirs across the State.
- ❖ The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, calls gravel a “minor mineral”.

- ❖ The State government amended the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, in December 2022 to replace the word savudu with the term “ordinary earth”.

(b) Any person engaged in the making of pots or any registered Pottery Labourers Co-operative Society registered under the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 30 of 1983) for making pots, the public for bonafide domestic purpose and the farmers for agriculture purpose be allowed to quarry clay, silt, savudu and gravel, on free of charges from the beds of tanks, channels and reservoirs under the control of the Public Works Department or Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department which are notified by the District Collector in the District Gazette under this rule [after obtaining permission from the District Collector concerned]² for quarrying:

Tamil Nadu borrowings in Q2 (2024-25)



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹24,000 crore in the second quarter of fiscal 2024-2025.
- ❖ To bridge the fiscal deficit, the State government borrows from the market through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs).
- ❖ The Centre fixes the borrowing ceiling for the State governments.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow a total amount of ₹1,55,584.48 crore during 2024-25 and make repayment of ₹49,638.82 crore, as per the State Budget.
- ❖ The outstanding debt as on March 31, 2025 is expected to be ₹8,33,361.80 crore, constituting 26.41% of GSDP in 2024-25.
- ❖ It is within the norms prescribed by the Finance Commission.

- ❖ In the first quarter of 2024-25, the Tamil Nadu government borrowed ₹20,000 crore.

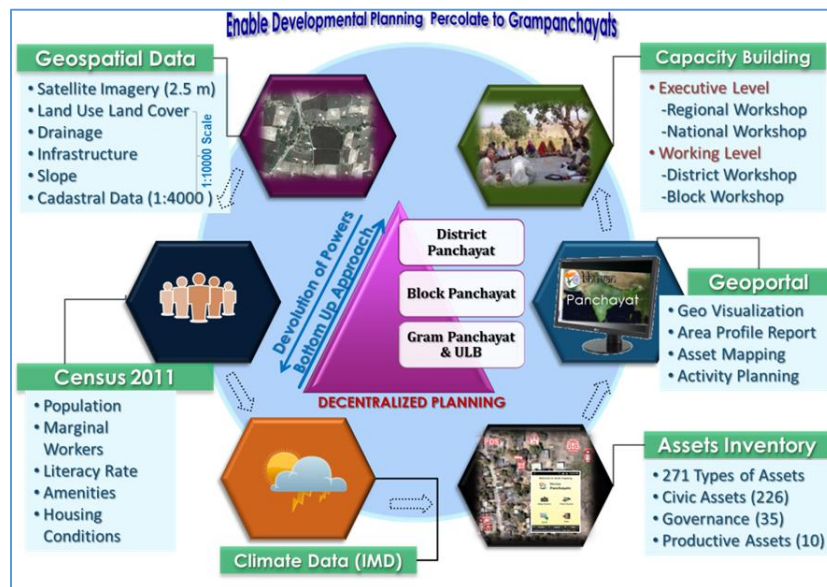
Chiretolpis erubescens

- ❖ Rare moth endemic to Western Ghats was 'rediscovered' in Nilgiris after 132 years.
- ❖ It was first recorded by British entomologist George Francis Hampton in 1891.
- ❖ The butterfly relies on species of viola plants that usually populate wetland areas.



NATIONAL

Bhuvan Panchayat Geoportal 4.0



- ❖ Centre has launched following two Geoportals developed by the Indian Space research Organization (ISRO).

- 'Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0)" portal for rural land record and
- "National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0)"
- ❖ These latest geospatial tools are meant for visualisation and planning to provide high resolution satellite imagery of 1:10K scale for different locations across the entire country.
- ❖ The 'Bhuvan Panchayat Portal' provides "Space based Information Support for Decentralized Planning (SISDP)" and empower the citizens at the grass root level in Panchayats'.

INTERNATIONAL

Contract to Destroy the ISS

- ❖ NASA has announced to give SpaceX a \$843 million contract to destroy the International Space Station (ISS) and land it safely back on Earth.
- ❖ The deorbit vehicle designed by SpaceX will be used to push ISS out of its orbit after 2030 when its operational life ends.
- ❖ The football field-sized space station will crash into the ocean after travelling at a speed of over 17,000 mph (27,500 km/h) in Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ ISS was first launched in 1998 and has been operated by space agencies in the US, Canada, Europe, Japan, and Russia.



China's 'Five Principles' of Foreign Policy - 70 years

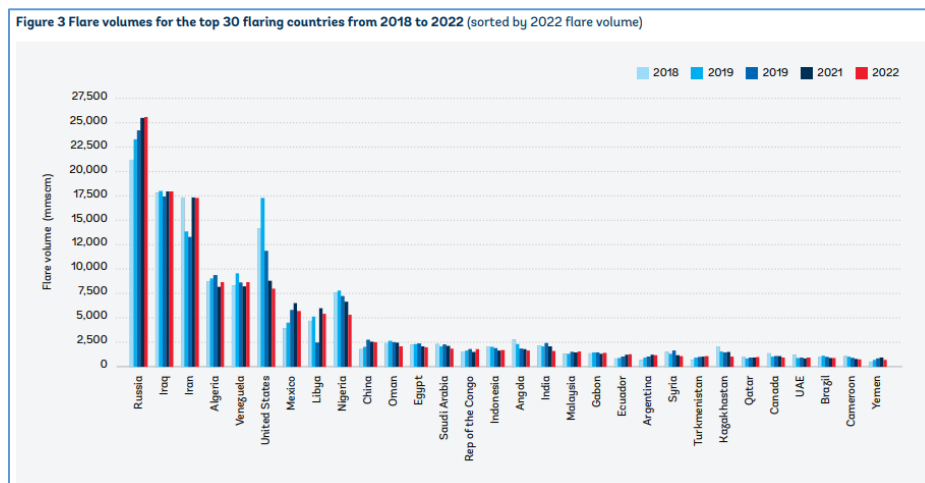
- ❖ China holds commemorative events to mark the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence- a foreign policy concept.
- ❖ It was first articulated in an agreement with India in 1954.
- ❖ China calls the Five Principles is known in India as Panchsheel.

- ❖ In 1954, while inaugurating bilateral talks between India and China over Tibet, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai proposed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.
- ❖ The Panchsheel Agreement, formally known as The Agreement on Trade and Intercourse with Tibet Region, was signed on April 29, 1954.
- ❖ A year after the Sino-Indian Agreement, the Five Principles would feature prominently at the first African-Asian Conference in Bandung, Indonesia.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report 2023



- ❖ Nigeria is one of the top nine gas-flaring countries in 2023, as per the latest Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report by the World Bank.
- ❖ The global gas flaring volumes rose by about 7% to 148 bcm in 2023 from 139 bcm in 2022.

- ❖ Oil production remained relatively stable, resulting in an increase in the global average flaring intensity.
- ❖ The total increase of 9 bcm in gas flaring resulted in an additional 23 million tonnes of CO₂e emissions.
- ❖ The top nine flaring countries continue to account for 75% of all flaring but only 46% of global oil production.
- ❖ Over 60 countries comprise the remaining 25 per cent of global gas flare volumes.
- ❖ 75% of the world's flared gas comes from Nigeria, Russia, Iran, Iraq, the US, Venezuela, Algeria, and Libya.

Global livability index 2024

- ❖ For the third year in a row, Vienna, the capital of Austria, is the world's most livable city, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- ❖ Copenhagen, Denmark got second place and Zurich, Switzerland, in third place.
- ❖ Melbourne, Australia (4th globally) is the top Asia's liveable city.
- ❖ The bottom 10 are dominated by cities in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa regions.
- ❖ Damascus, Syria and Tripoli, Libya rank as the two lowest cities for livability.

City	Location	Rank	Index	Culture &				
				Stability	Healthcare	Environment	Education	Infrastructure
Vienna	Austria	1	98.4	100.0	100.0	93.5	100.0	100.0
Copenhagen	Denmark	2	98.0	100.0	95.8	95.4	100.0	100.0
Zurich	Switzerland	3	97.1	95.0	100.0	96.3	100.0	96.4
Melbourne	Australia	4	97.0	95.0	100.0	95.8	100.0	96.4
Calgary	Canada	5	96.8	100.0	100.0	90.0	100.0	96.4
Geneva	Switzerland	5	96.8	95.0	100.0	94.9	100.0	96.4
Sydney	Australia	7	96.6	95.0	100.0	94.4	100.0	96.4
Vancouver	Canada	7	96.6	95.0	100.0	97.2	100.0	92.9
Osaka	Japan	9	96.0	100.0	100.0	86.8	100.0	96.4
Auckland	New Zealand	9	96.0	95.0	95.8	97.9	100.0	92.9

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Allergy Week 2024 - June 23 to 29

- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness of allergic diseases and other related medical conditions.
- ❖ In 2005, the first World Allergy Day was celebrated.



- ❖ In 2011, World Allergy Awareness Week was established.
- ❖ This year's theme topic is childhood food allergy.

