

July - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A project by the IIIT-Delhi has won the joint second prize in Trinity Challenge's second competition, on tackling the escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- ❖ India has become the world's third-largest domestic aviation market after the U.S. and China.
- ❖ The Smritivan Earthquake Memorial Museum in Gujarat has been shortlisted for the prestigious UNESCO Prix Versailles Award 2024.
- ❖ South African Revenue Service (SARS) head Edward Kieswetter has been elected chairperson of the council of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a second one-year term.
- ❖ Viswanathan Anand of India has won the Leon Master chess championship for the 10th time.
- ❖ The third United Nations Conference on Afghanistan took place in Doha, Qatar, with the first time of Taliban participation.

TAMIL NADU

Mayors' resignation

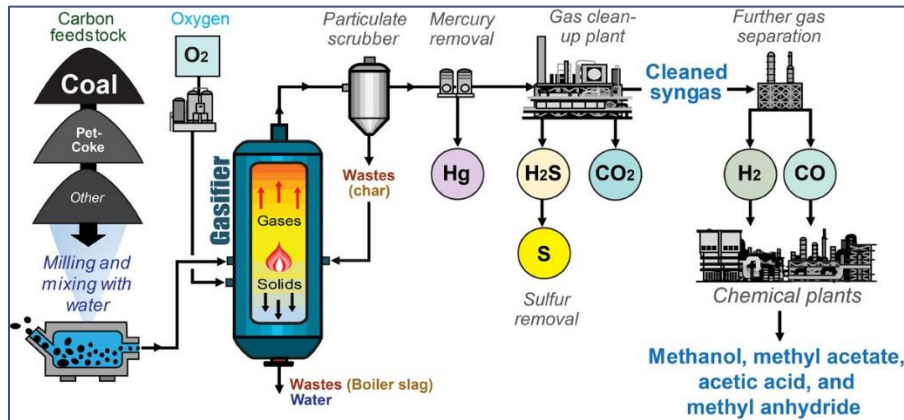


- ❖ The Mayors of Coimbatore and Tirunelveli resigned from their post recently.
- ❖ Coimbatore Mayor Kalpana Anandakumar has submitted her resignation to the Corporation Commissioner.
- ❖ Tirunelveli Mayor P.M. Saravanan, also tendered his resignation to Corporation Commissioner.

- ❖ In accordance with Section 37 of the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981, a special council meeting is to be held for the approval of her resignation by the elected body.
- ❖ Her exit marks the second such resignation mid-way through a tenure in Coimbatore.
- ❖ The first instance had occurred in 2014, when S.M. Velusamy stepped down as Mayor.

NATIONAL

India's First Coal Gasification Pilot Project



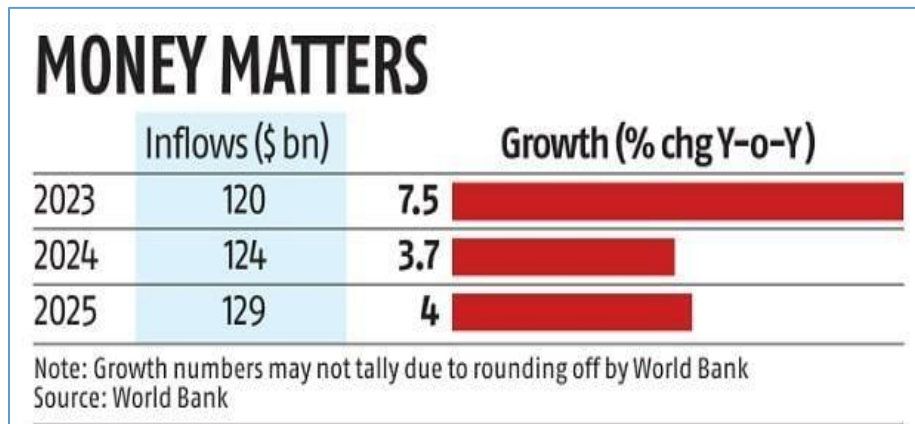
- ❖ India's first-ever pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) comes at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara district, Jharkhand.
- ❖ It intends to use in-situ gasification to transform coal into useful gasses, including carbon dioxide, methane, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide in order to revolutionise the coal business.
- ❖ These gases are used in many industrial processes, such as the synthesis of synthetic natural gas and the chemistry of chemical feedstocks used to make explosives, fertilisers, and fuels.
- ❖ India's use of fossil fuels increased by 8% in 2023, accounting for nearly all of the growth in demand.
- ❖ Its share of total consumption was 89%.

Migration and Development Brief 2024

- ❖ The growth in remittances to India is likely to halve in 2024 to 3.7 per cent from 7.5 per cent in 2023.



- ❖ India received remittances worth \$120 billion in 2023, supported by strong labour markets in the United States and Europe.
- ❖ As per the World Bank, Remittances are projected to rise marginally to \$124 billion in 2024 and to \$129 billion in 2025.
- ❖ India remained the top recipient among remittance-recipient countries, followed by Mexico (\$66 billion), China (\$50 billion), the Philippines (\$39 billion), and Pakistan (\$27 billion).
- ❖ India also remained the largest origin countries of emigrants (18.7 million), followed by Ukraine (11.9 million), China (11.1 million), Mexico (11 million), and Venezuela (8.9 million).



INTERNATIONAL

Spain's Renewable Energy generation

	Country / dependency	% ren.	Ren. gen. (GWh)	% hydro	% wind	% solar	% bio.	% geo.
1	Ethiopia	100%	15,817	94.5%	5.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0%
2	Bhutan	100%	10,823	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	Albania	100%	8,963	99.5%	0%	0.5%	0%	0%
4	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	100%	0.8	98.7%	1.3%	0%	0%	0%
5	Nepal	100%	8,107	98.7%	0%	1.2%	0.1%	0%
6	Paraguay	100%	40,848	99.3%	0%	0%	0.7%	0%
7	Iceland	100%	19,617	70.4%	0.03%	0.03%	0%	29.6%
8	Costa Rica	100%	12,656	73.4%	12.4%	0.8%	0.7%	12.7%

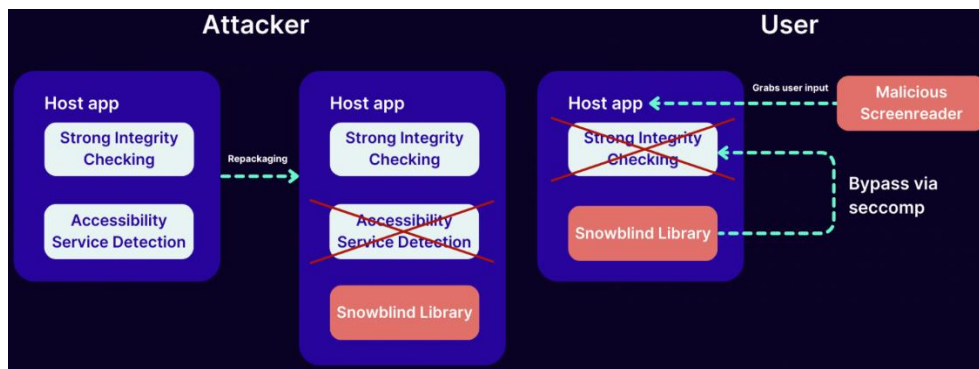
- ❖ Spain has generated almost 60 per cent of its electricity from renewable energy sources in the first half of 2024.

- ❖ Renewables accounted for 51 per cent of the total a year earlier.
- ❖ Spain aims to generate four-fifths of its electricity from renewables by 2030 under a government plan.

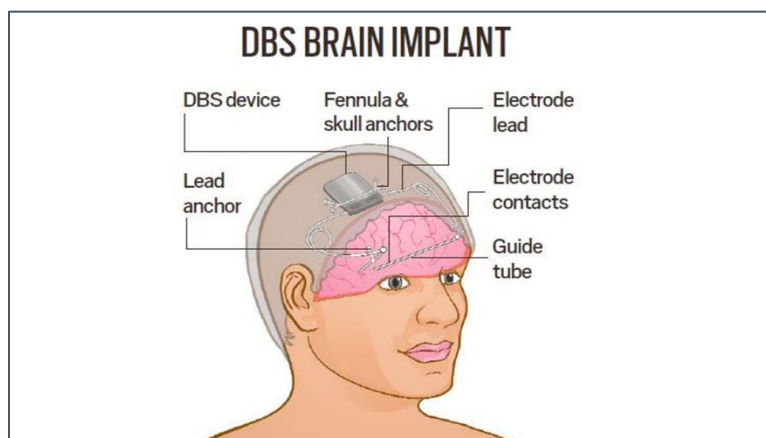
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Snowblind Malware

- ❖ A new malware called 'Snowblind' is targeting Android users and stealing banking credentials.
- ❖ This malware can take banking login details and perform unauthorised transactions.
- ❖ This Snowblind is mostly active in Southeast Asia.



World's First Brain Implant for Epilepsy Control

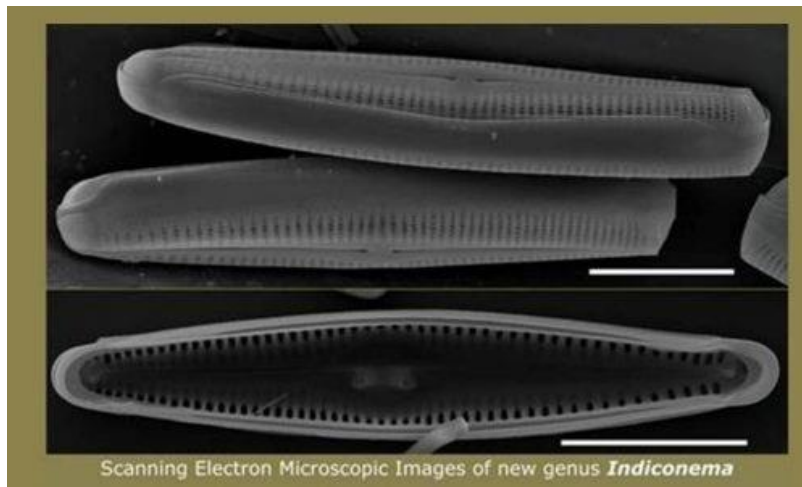


- ❖ A UK-based teenager has become the first person in the world to be fitted with a brain implant to help bring his epileptic seizures under control.

- ❖ The deep brain stimulation (DBS) device sends electrical signals deep into the brain and has reduced her daytime seizures by 80%.
- ❖ The neurostimulator delivers constant electrical impulses to the brain to disrupt or block abnormal seizure-causing signals.
- ❖ Epilepsy is a condition that leads to recurring seizures.
- ❖ In India, between 3 and 11.9 per 1,000 people suffer from epilepsy.

ENVIRONMENT

Gomphonemoid diatom



- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new genus of the Gomphonemoid diatom found in the clean water river of the Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ The genus distinguishes it from the other members in the group Gomphonemoid in terms of valve symmetry and other certain valve features.
- ❖ It has been named *Indiconema* to value its restricted distribution in the country.
- ❖ Diatoms are microscopic algae that play a crucial role in our everyday lives by producing 25 per cent of global oxygen.
- ❖ Diatoms are First recorded in India by Ehrenberg in 1845.

New Species of Horned Frog

- ❖ The Researchers have identified a new species of horned frog, named *Xenophrys apatani*, in the Tale Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is named *Xenophrys apatani*, in honour of the Apatani tribe, known for their conservation efforts of wild flora and fauna.

- ❖ The frog was previously thought to be *Xenophrys maasonensis* from.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Blue Planet Prize 2024



Professor Robert Costanza

Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

- ❖ Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is one of the two recipients of the 2024 Blue Planet Prize.
- ❖ The other awardee is Robert Costanza from the Institute for Global Prosperity, University College London.
- ❖ IPBES is the intergovernmental organisation established in Panama City in 2012.
- ❖ It is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- ❖ The Blue Planet Prize is awarded annually by Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation.

- ❖ It is awarded to individuals and organisations to recognise outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application, which have helped provide solutions to global environmental problems.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Hul Diwas 2024 - June 30

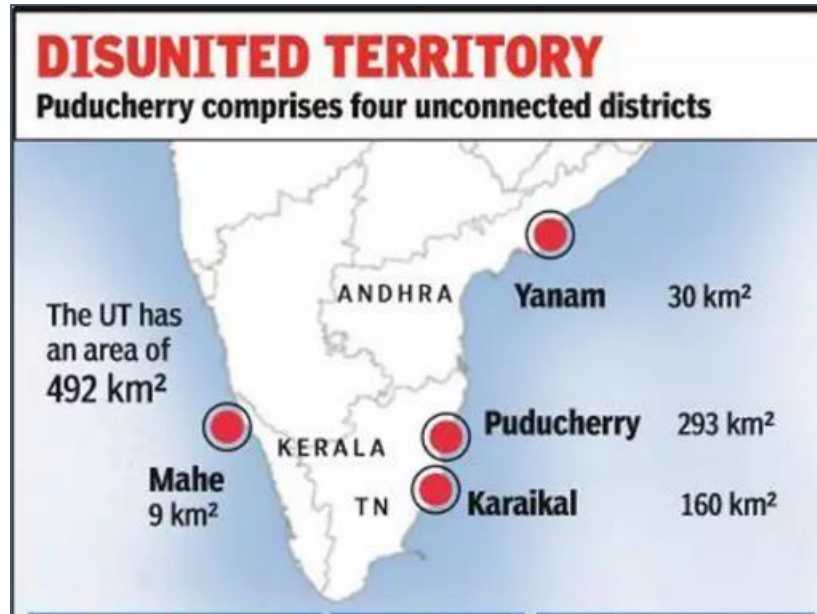
- ❖ Hul Divas is observed annually in memory of tribal leaders Sidho and Kanhu Murmu.
- ❖ They led the Santhal hul (rebellion) on June 30, 1855, at Bhognadih in Sahebganj district (now Jharkhand).
- ❖ This is often referred to as “the first war for Indian independence”.
- ❖ The rebellion took place in the lush Damin-i-Koh region – ‘Damin-i-Koh’.
- ❖ The Santal people or Santalis – were not the original inhabitants of modern day Santhal Pargana.
- ❖ They had migrated from the Birbhum and Manbhum regions (present-day Bengal), starting around the late 18th century.



Foundation Day of Puducherry 2024 - July 01

- ❖ On this day, the Government of Union Territories Act 1963 was came into force.
- ❖ It provides Puducherry with Legislative Assemblies and Council of Ministers.
- ❖ Puducherry was captured by the Dutch in 1693 but was returned to the French company by the Treaty of Ryswick in 1699.
- ❖ In 1674, Francois Martin was appointed as the first Governor by the French East India Company.

- ❖ Puducherry is officially transferred from French India to the Republic of India and became a Union Territory in 1954.



International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024 - July 03



- ❖ It was dedicated to eliminating single-use plastic bags and promoting sustainable alternatives.
- ❖ Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE), initiated this day in 2008.
- ❖ Plastic bags are made from non-renewable fossil fuels, contributing to resource depletion and greenhouse gas emissions during production and disposal.



- ❖ The goal is to urge individuals and governments to recognise this concern and take action to reduce plastic use and pollution.

