

July - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh holds a remarkable position in India's renewable energy landscape, with the potential to generate 24 per cent of the nation's compressed biogas (CBG).
- ❖ Kerala has introduced gender-neutral images in school textbooks to promote equality, challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes by showing husbands and fathers working in the kitchen.
- ❖ Four Armed Forces Medical Service (AFMS) Officers clinching a record 32 Medals in the 43rd World Medical and Health Games held in Saint-Tropez, France.
- ❖ India will start an e-medical visa facility for Bangladesh nationals coming to India for medical treatment.
- ❖ India has surpassed Brazil and Indonesia to become the third largest domestic aviation market.
- ❖ Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation, Thrissur, received Spice Award 2024, instituted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research.
- ❖ The Indian Army is participating in 13th edition of India-Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE in Tak Province of Thailand.
 - Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in September 2019.
- ❖ The Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) Rajinder Khanna was appointed as additional NSA and Intelligence Bureau special director T.V. Ravichandran was appointed as deputy NSA.

NATIONAL

Agenda for the 16th Finance Commission 2024

- ❖ The 16th Finance Commission (FC) has begun its work, primarily focusing on the devolution of the consolidated fund.
- ❖ It was established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ In the absence of the 2021 Census, reliance on 2011 data is inadequate for the evidence-based fiscal devolution.
- ❖ India has approximately 4,000 statutory towns and an equal number of Census towns, with an estimated 23,000 villages, all of which are effectively urban.

- ❖ These figures must be captured by the 16th FC, including the significant migration to Tier-2 and 3 cities.
- ❖ Intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India are about 0.5% of GDP.
- ❖ It is much lower than the 2-5% typical of other developing nations.
- ❖ For instance, South Africa allocates 2.6%, Mexico 1.6%, the Philippines 2.5%, and Brazil 5.1% of their GDPs to their cities.
- ❖ Increasing the quantum of IGTs as a percentage of GDP is necessary.

16th Finance Commission

The Government of India, on **31-Dec-2023** with the approval of the President of India, has constituted the Sixteenth Finance Commission, in pursuance to **Article 280(1) of the Constitution**.

- It is a **constitutionally mandated body** that is at the centre of **fiscal federalism**.
- Its core responsibility is to evaluate the state of finances of the Union and State Governments, recommend the **sharing** of taxes between them.
- The first Finance Commission was setup in **1951**.



सत्यमेव जयते

Dr Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, and Professor in Columbia University will be the Chairman of the **16th Finance Commission**.



Sampoornata Abhiyan

- ❖ NITI Aayog launched a nationwide campaign namely Sampoornata Abhiyan.
- ❖ It focuses to attain saturation in 12 key social sector indicators in 500 aspirational blocks and 112 aspirational districts.

- ❖ This comprehensive three-month campaign is to be focused on themes including health, nutrition, agriculture, social development and education.



National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024

A Step Towards Making Health a Social Movement
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Key actions when child gets Diarrhoea

Dissolve 1 big packet of ORS in 1 litre of clean drinking water in a clean vessel	Give ORS solution by spoon frequently and definitely after every loose stool	Give Zinc tablet dissolved in 1 spoon of water for 14 days even if Diarrhoea stops	Continue feeding (breast feeding) during Diarrhoea. Give extra feed during and after illness

Prevent Diarrhoea in children

Always wash your hands with soap before cooking, feeding child & after cleaning stool of child/toilet use	Dispose your child's stool quickly & safely. Use latrines & maintain personal hygiene

• Use ORS Solution within 24 hours of preparation
• The 'Jodi' of ORS and Zinc works better and is more effective

Contact ASHA for free supply of ORS & Zinc tablets

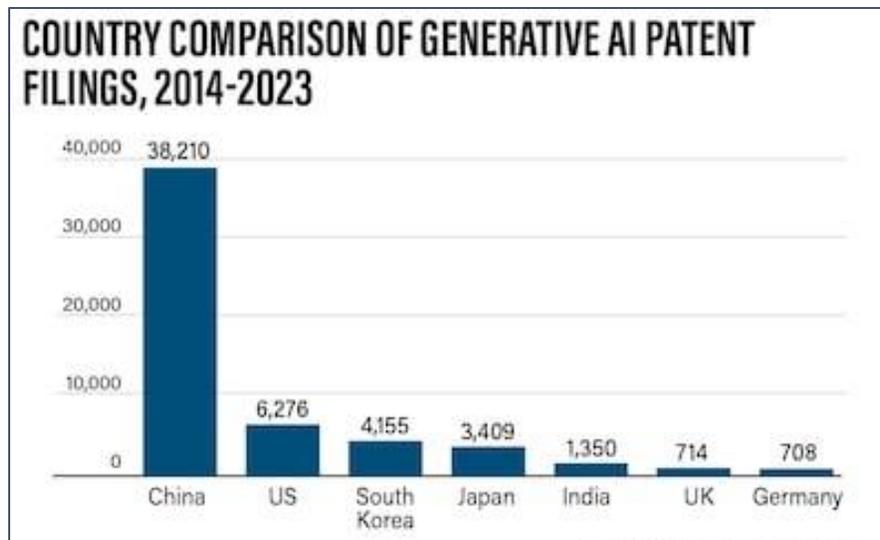
- ❖ The Union govt launched the two-month long National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024.
- ❖ The campaign aims at reducing the under 5 child deaths due to diarrhoea.

- ❖ The campaign's 2024 slogan is "Diarrhea ki Roktham, Safai aur ORS se rakhen apna dhyaan,"
- ❖ ORS (Oral Rehydration Salt) sachets and zinc tablets will be provided to children

INTERNATIONAL

GenAI patents

- ❖ China dominates the global race in generative artificial intelligence patents, filing more than 38,000 patents from 2014 to 2023.
- ❖ It is six times more than those filed by U.S.-based inventors.
- ❖ The Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence that allows users to generate content such as text, images, music, audio, and videos.
- ❖ Geographically, China leads with 38,210 inventions, far surpassing the U.S. (6,276), Republic of Korea (4,155), Japan (3,409) and India (1,350).

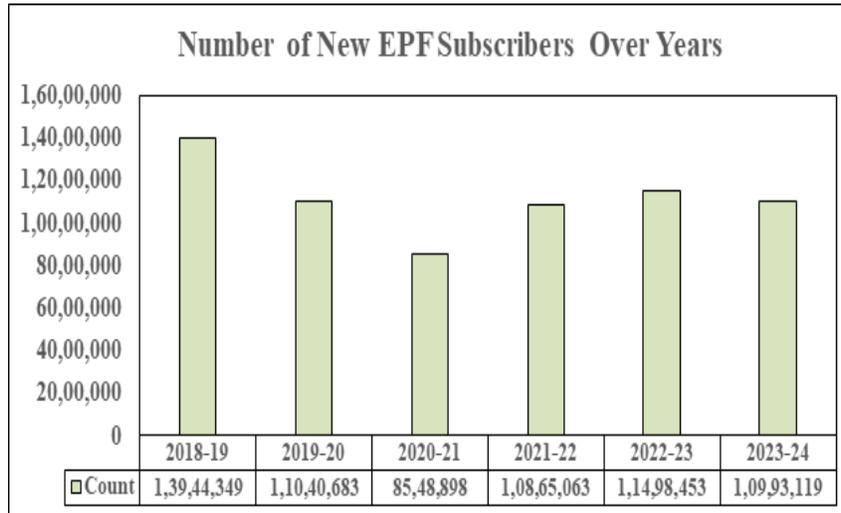


ECONOMY

Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective

- ❖ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) saw a decline of over 4 percent in gross new subscriber additions.
- ❖ It saws the total falling to 1.09 crore in 2023-24 compared to the previous year.
- ❖ EPFO recorded a gross addition of 1,09,93,119 new members in 2023-24, down from 1,14,98,453 in 2022-23.

- ❖ Over the past five fiscal years up to 2023-24, the gross addition of new EPFO members has not returned to pre-pandemic levels seen in 2018-19.
- ❖ That year, the gross addition of new members was 1,39,44,349.
- ❖ But, the National Pension Scheme (NPS) saw an increase in new subscriber additions, rising to 9,37,020 in 2023-24 from 8,24,735 in the previous fiscal year.



ENVIRONMENT

Senna spectabilis

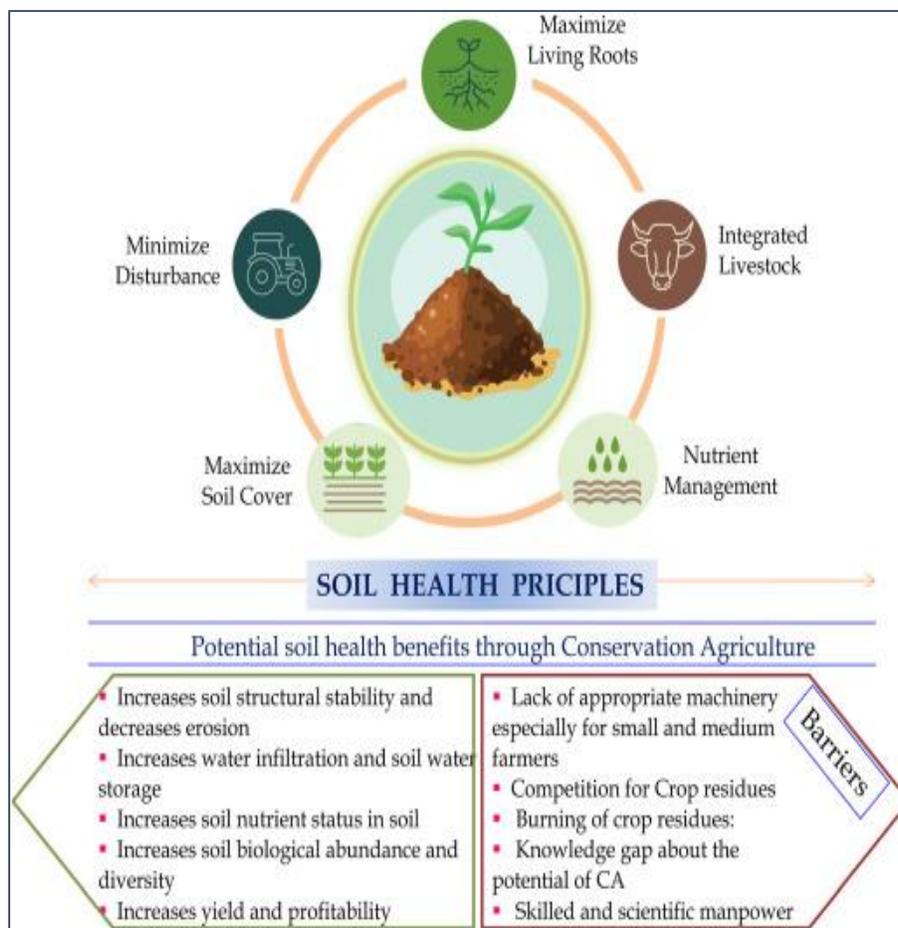


- ❖ *Senna spectabilis*, is an invasive plant, poses a major threat to the wildlife habitat in the Nilgiri biosphere, from the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.

- ❖ It grows quickly and has allelopathic qualities that stop native plants from growing.
- ❖ This lowers the diversity of life in the area.
- ❖ It is a deciduous tree from tropical South America.
- ❖ The tree's bright yellow flowers provide nectar for bees, and it is used in reforestation projects on degraded lands.

REPORTS AND INDICES

New World Soil Health Index



- ❖ The UNESCO International Conference on Soils held in Morocco.
- ❖ UNESCO warned that a staggering 90 per cent of the planet's land surface could be degraded by 2050.
- ❖ According to the World Atlas of Desertification, 75 per cent of soils are already degraded, directly affecting 3.2 billion people.

- ❖ If business as usual continues, the current trend may increase the impact to 90 per cent by 2050.
- ❖ In India, about 32% of land is under degradation and 25% is undergoing desertification.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

International Toy Fair 2024



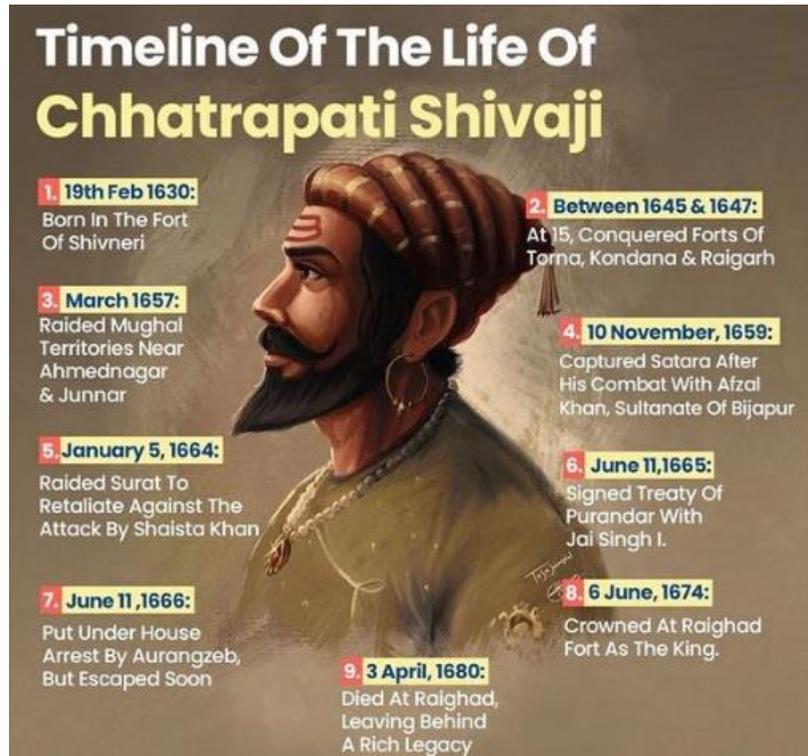
- ❖ More than 300 domestic companies and over 100 foreign buyers from the US, Germany and other countries participating in the four-day international toy fair in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 15th Toy Biz International B2B Expo 2024 is the largest fair in South Asia.
- ❖ The country's toy exports declined marginally to \$ 152.34 million in 2023-24 from \$ 153.89 million in the previous financial year.
- ❖ In 2022, the global market imported toys valued at about USD 60.3 billion.
- ❖ Dominating this market, China exported toys worth USD 48.3 billion, securing an 80 per cent share of the global exports.
- ❖ India's share in the global toy export market is only 0.3 per cent of the global exports, ranking it 27th.
- ❖ On the import side, India ranks even lower, at 61st, with toy imports amounting to USD 60 million.

MISCELLANEOUS

350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji

- ❖ This year marks the 350th year since the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

- ❖ The coronation of Shivaji as the king of the Marathas was conducted on June 6, 1674 at Raigad fort.
- ❖ The exhibition depicting 115 oil paintings of Shivaji Maharaj was organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) recently.



Timeline Of The Life Of Chhatrapati Shivaji

1. 19th Feb 1630:
Born In The Fort Of Shivneri

2. Between 1645 & 1647:
At 15, Conquered Forts Of Torna, Kondana & Raigarh

3. March 1657:
Raided Mughal Territories Near Ahmednagar & Junnar

4. 10 November, 1659:
Captured Satara After His Combat With Afzal Khan, Sultanate Of Bijapur

5. January 5, 1664:
Raided Surat To Retaliate Against The Attack By Shaista Khan

6. June 11, 1665:
Signed Treaty Of Purandar With Jai Singh I.

7. June 11, 1666:
Put Under House Arrest By Aurangzeb, But Escaped Soon

8. 6 June, 1674:
Crowned At Raighad Fort As The King.

9. 3 April, 1680:
Died At Raighad, Leaving Behind A Rich Legacy

