

July - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union government has granted its approval for Parandur site (Kanchipuram District) to develop Chennai's second airport.
- ❖ T. Kurien, distinguished economist and former professor of the Madras Christian College passed away recently.

TAMIL NADU

Food Safety in TN Schools

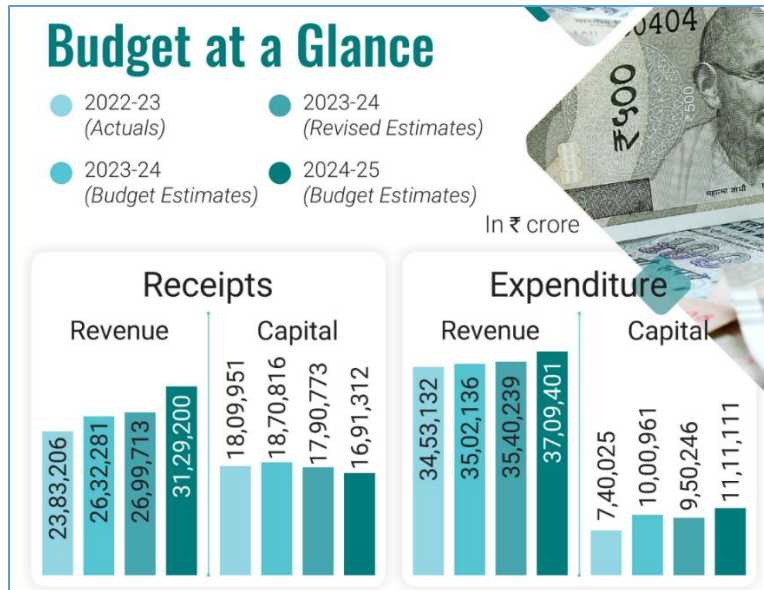


- ❖ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently revised IS 6541: 2024, a code that recommends hygienic conditions required for the preparation of food/meals in schools.
- ❖ BIS would soon approach the State government to discuss the revised code and seek coordination on implementation of the standard in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The code was published in 1972 to prescribe a basic standard for maintaining hygienic conditions in kitchens and food transport vehicles and covered only noon meal programmes then.
- ❖ The new code has covered the broad contours of food safety and hygiene measures to be adopted in various levels of schools, including creches.

- ❖ It has excluded facilities for infants up to 22 months for now.

NATIONAL

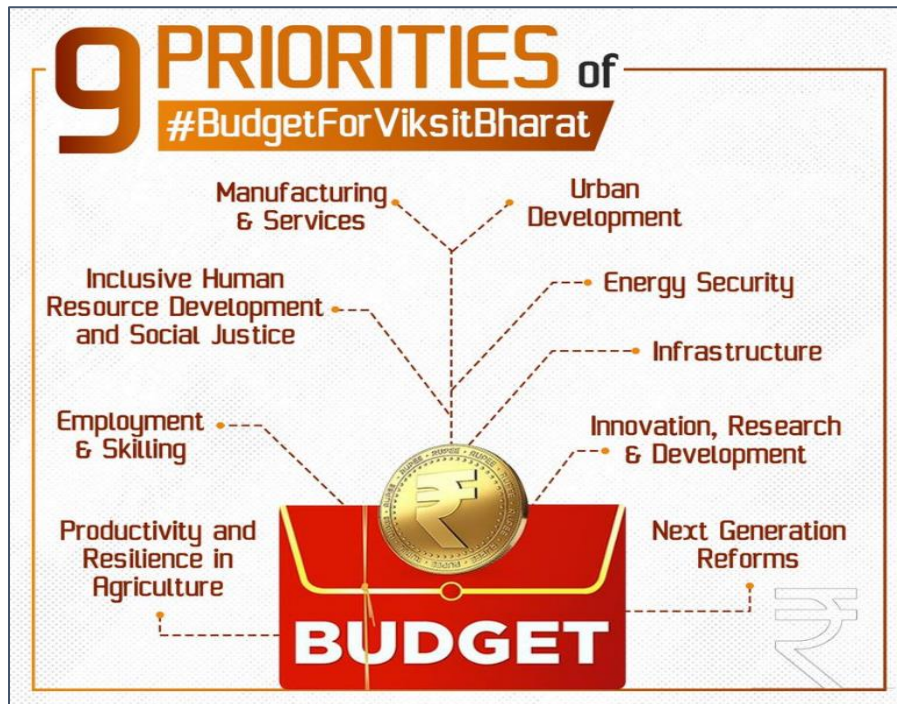
Budget 2024 Highlights



- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her seventh straight Budget on July 23 for the fiscal 2024-25.
- ❖ She surpassed the record of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai.
- ❖ The total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at Rs 32.07 lakh crore and Rs 48.21 lakh crore respectively.
- ❖ The net tax receipts are estimated at Rs 25.83 lakh crore and the fiscal deficit is estimated at 4.9% of GDP.
- ❖ Also, the government will aim to reach a deficit below 4.5% next year.
- ❖ The gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 14.01 lakh crore and Rs 11.63 lakh crore respectively.
- ❖ She announced three new employee-linked incentive schemes in the Union Budget.
- ❖ Students who have not yet benefited from any government schemes will get support loans of up to ₹10 lakh for education in domestic institutions.
- ❖ The standard deduction for salaried employees will be hiked to ₹75,000, from ₹50,000 under the new income tax regime in FY25.
- ❖ This Budget proposed a reduction in the basic customs duty on gold and silver to 6 per cent and platinum to 6.4 per cent.

- ❖ The finance minister announced several schemes for Bihar in her speech. The schemes are a part of a larger plan titled “Purvodaya”.
- ❖ It covers the all-round development of eastern States including Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The government will support building of expressways in Bihar at a total cost of ₹26,000 crore.
- ❖ For promoting women-led development, the budget carries an allocation of over ₹3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.
- ❖ The rate of taxation remains unchanged, the size of each of the slabs, excluding the initial zero to ₹3 lakh, remains unchanged.
- ❖ The erstwhile slab of ₹3 lakh to ₹6 lakh would now be expanded to ₹3 lakh to ₹7 lakh.
- ❖ However, the rate of taxation, that is 5%, remains unchanged.
- ❖ Similarly, the other slabs, that is, ₹6 to 9 lakhs, ₹9 to 12 lakhs, ₹12-15 lakhs and thereby beyond, would be revised to ₹7-10 lakhs, ₹10-12 lakhs, ₹12-15 lakhs and thereby beyond.

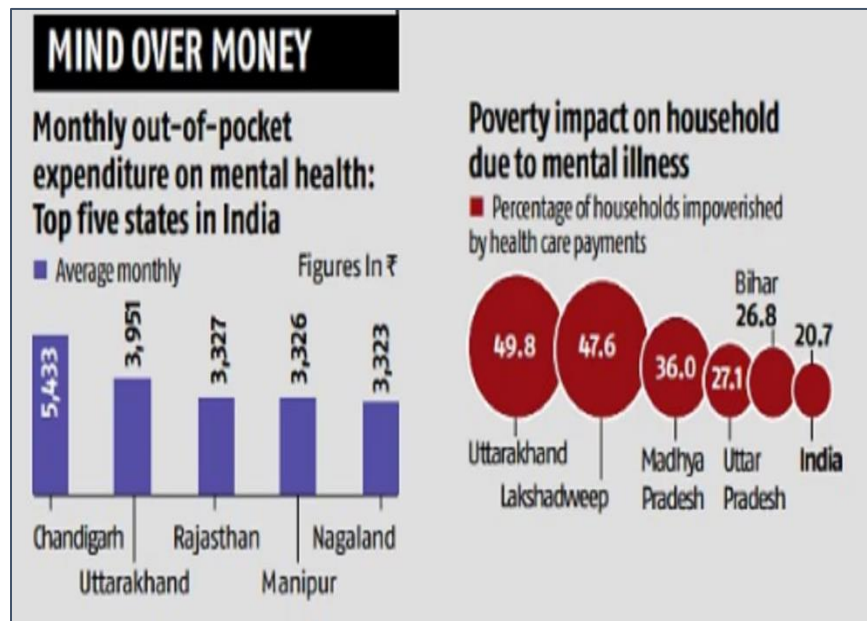
Nine priorities of Budget 2024



- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her seventh straight Budget on July 23 for the fiscal 2024-25.

- ❖ The finance minister laid down nine priorities of the Budget:
 - Productivity and resilience in agriculture
 - Employment and skilling
 - Inclusive Human resource development and social justice
 - Manufacturing and services
 - Support for promotion of MSMEs
 - Urban development
 - Energy security
 - Infrastructure
 - Innovation, research and development.

Mental health coverage in Economic survey



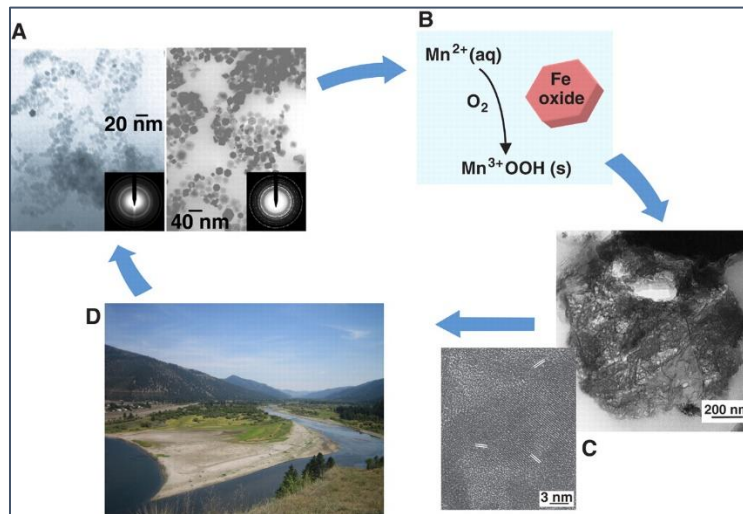
- ❖ The National Mental Health Survey 2015-16 found 10.6% adults in India suffered mental health issues.
- ❖ The Treatment gap was ranged between 70% and 92% for different disorders.
- ❖ The Economic Survey 2023-24 extensively highlights this health issue, and its significance and implications on policy recommendations for the first time.
- ❖ Further, the prevalence of mental morbidity was higher in the urban metropolitan regions (13.5%) compared with the rural areas (6.9%) and urban non-metro areas (4.3%).

- ❖ After the COVID-19 pandemic, with 11% of students reported as feeling anxious, 14% as feeling extreme emotion and 43% experiencing mood swings.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mineral nanoparticles

- ❖ IIT Madras research have shown that the common minerals be broken into nano-sized particles in milliseconds by charged tiny water droplets or microdroplets.
- ❖ These minerals are including river sand, ruby and alumina, which are very hard.
- ❖ Microdroplets are known to enhance the chemical reactions, and as a result new chemical bonds form.
- ❖ Soil forms through gradual weathering of rocks, a process that takes 200-400 years to produce one centimetre of soil comprising different sized particles.
- ❖ With the new innovation, in just 10 ms, the mineral microparticles broke up into nanoparticles.



ENVIRONMENT

Global Forest Area Gain

- ❖ It was titled as the “State of world forest report 2024” by the FAO.
- ❖ China led the world with the maximum forest area gain of 19,37,000 hectares.
- ❖ It is followed by Australia with 4,46,000 hectares, and India.
- ❖ India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest area annually from 2010 to 2020.

- ❖ India securing the third spot among the top 10 countries with the most significant forest area gains during this period.
- ❖ Other countries in the top 10 include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.
- ❖ It also said the rate of gross global mangrove loss decreased by 23% during the periods — 2000 to 2010 and 2010 to 2020.

TABLE 8. Top ten countries for average annual net gain in forest area, 2010–2020

Ranking	Country	Annual net change	
		1 000 ha/yr	%
1	China	1 937	0.93
2	Australia	446	0.34
3	India	266	0.38
4	Chile	149	0.85
5	Viet Nam	126	0.90
6	Turkey	114	0.53
7	United States of America	108	0.03
8	France	83	0.50
9	Italy	54	0.58
10	Romania	41	0.62

Note: The rate of change (%) is calculated as the compound annual change rate.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Pi Approximation Day 2024 - July 22

Pi gets celebrated twice a year!

March 14 (3/14): This is International Pi Day, a play on the first digits of pi (3.14). People celebrate with pie (baked goods) or explore the mathematical side of pi.

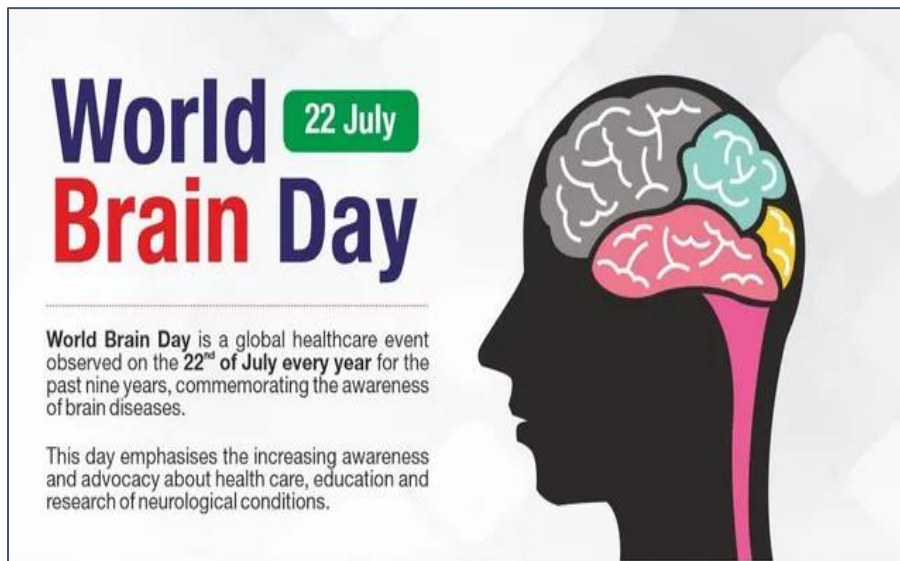
July 22 (22/7): This is Pi Approximation Day. The date (22/7) is a common approximation of pi. It's a lesser-known celebration but honors pi in a different way.

- ❖ The date (22/7) is commonly used as an approximation for the mathematical constant π (pi).

- ❖ This fundamental constant represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.
- ❖ Also, Pi Day is celebrated on March 14, as the date marks the actual value of Pi - 3.14 (22/7).
- ❖ Greek letter π was first used by William Jones in 1706 but it was later popularised by Leonhard Euler in 1737.

World Brain Day 2024 - July 22

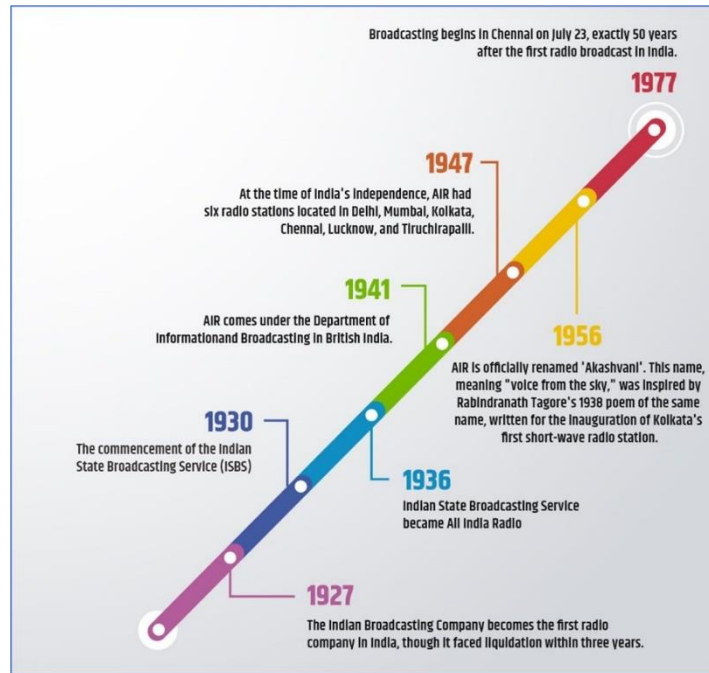
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a healthy brain.
- ❖ The World Federation of Neurology was established on July 22, 1957.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Brain Health and Prevention".
- ❖ Since the last three decades (1990-2019), the percentage of non-communicable and injury-related neurological diseases in India's overall disease burden has more than doubled.



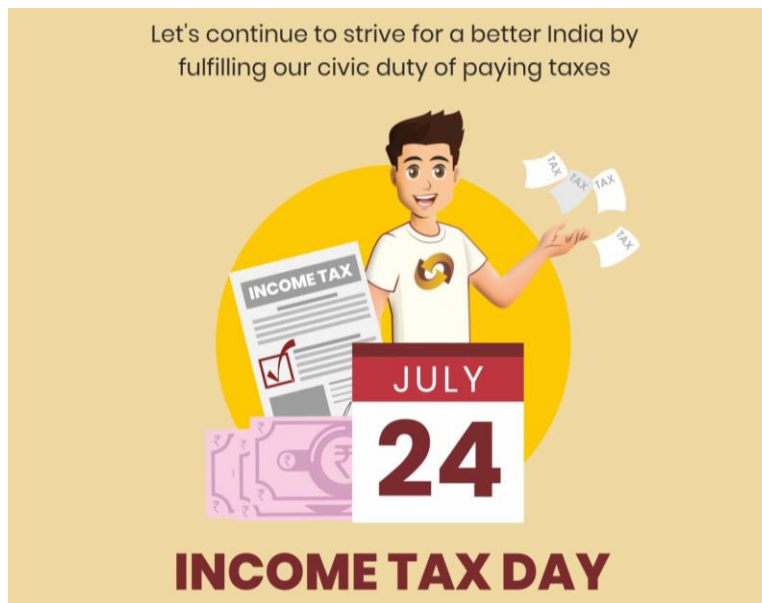
National Broadcasting Day 2024 - July 23

- ❖ In June 1923, the Radio Club of Bombay initiated India's first radio broadcast.
- ❖ The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was established as the nation's first radio company on July 23, 1927.
- ❖ The IBC was later taken over by the government and renamed All India Radio (AIR) in 1936.
- ❖ By the time of India's independence in 1947, the nation had six AIR radio broadcasts in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Lucknow and Tiruchirappalli.

- ❖ The name of AIR was later changed to Akashvani in 1956.
- ❖ Nearly 650 news bulletins in 90 languages are broadcast by the 262 radio stations that make up AIR today.



National Income Tax Day 2024 - July 24



- ❖ This day honours the establishment of income tax by Sir James Wilson in 1860.
- ❖ This first tax was intended to tax income from different sources, as stated in the Income Tax Act's Section 2(24).



- ❖ But the nation's tax system was genuinely revolutionised by the Comprehensive Income-tax Act of 1922.
- ❖ In 1924, the Central Board of Revenue Act further strengthened this structure by constituting the Board as a statutory body.
- ❖ Group A officers were recruited in 1946 and had their initial training in Bombay and Calcutta.

