

June - 16

## TNPSC BITS

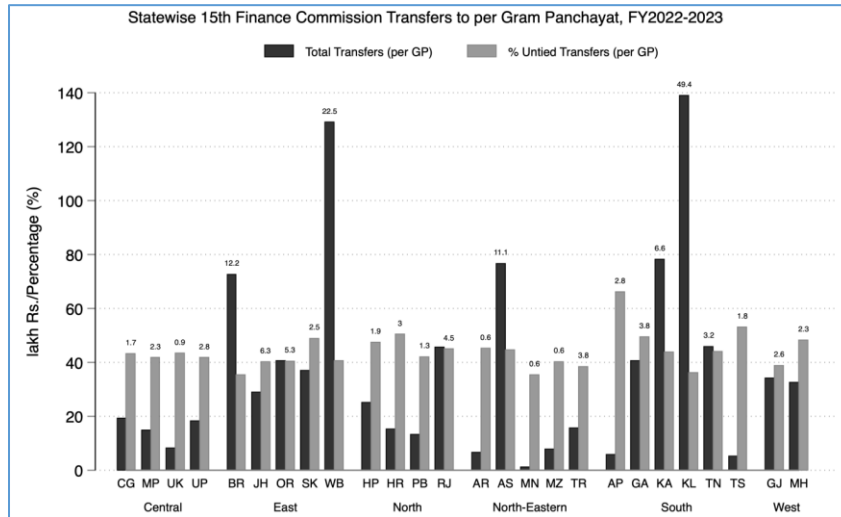
- ❖ India's Puja Tomar became the first mixed martial arts fighter from the country to win a bout at the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), held at USA.
- ❖ The Centre appointed Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi as the next Army Chief.
- ❖ The United Nations has designated 2025 as the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'.
- ❖ The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Japan India Maritime Exercise – 24 (JIMEX – 24) commenced at Yokosuka Japan.
- ❖ Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, has become the acting chairperson of the central body with effect from June 2.
- ❖ According to the Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands Report 2024, Infosys (74<sup>th</sup>) has been ranked among the 100 most valuable brands in the world, for the third consecutive year.
  - TCS, Infosys, and Airtel from India are among the Top 100 list which is topped by Apple, Google, Microsoft and Amazon.
- ❖ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) has appointed Jyoti Vij as its director general.
- ❖ GAIL has announced that it intends to set up 1500 KTA ethane cracker project at Ashta, district Sehore in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Ariarne Titmus of Australia set a world record in the women's 200-meter freestyle by finishing in 1 minute, 52.23 seconds in the final, held at Australia.
- ❖ Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima's plane had crashed in the Chikangawa mountain range of Malawi, killing ten people including him.

## NATIONAL

### A Review of Village Government in India

- ❖ The Policy Research Working Paper titled 'Two Hundred and Fifty-Thousand Democracies: A Review of Village Government in India' was released by the World Bank Group.
- ❖ In 1992, the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution created 250,000 village democracies (called Gram Panchayats) covering 800 million citizens.

- ❖ Panchayati Raj Institutions rely almost entirely on grants made by state and national authorities.
- ❖ On average, 0.67 Panchayat Secretaries per Gram Panchayat only available, with the number falling to 0.33 in states like Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 gave constitutional status to the PRIs and established a system of uniform structure, elections, reservations.



## Biannual University Admissions



- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has allowed higher education institutions to admit students twice a year from 2024-25 academic session.

- ❖ Earlier regulations allowed students to be admitted only during July-August only.
- ❖ In 2023 the Commission has permitted biannual admissions under open and distance learning (ODL) and online modes in January and July during an academic year.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) framework

Annex. Reported incidence of visceral leishmaniasis, 2010–2022

| Country      | 2022        | 2021        | 2020        | 2019        | 2018        | 2017          | 2016          | 2015        | 2014          | 2013        | 2012          | 2011          | 2010          | Total          | Average of 13 years (2010–2022) |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Chad         | 96          | 59          | 74          | 0           | 2           | 0             | ND            | ND          | ND            | ND          | ND            | ND            | ND            | 231            | 18                              |
| Djibouti     | 16          | 35          | 9           | 1           | 12          | 34            | 9             | 10          | ND            | ND          | ND            | ND            | ND            | 126            | 10                              |
| Eritrea      | 283         | 268         | 1034        | 514         | 502         | ND            | ND            | ND          | ND            | ND          | ND            | ND            | ND            | 2601           | 200                             |
| Ethiopia     | 881         | 794         | 1077        | 1360        | 1828        | 1490          | 1593          | 1990        | 2705          | 1732        | 2381          | 2032          | 1936          | 21 799         | 1677                            |
| Kenya        | 1573        | 1746        | 1178        | 1621        | 590         | 950           | 692           | 894         | 880           | 181         | 457           | 406           | ND            | 11 168         | 859                             |
| Somalia      | 793         | 831         | 471         | 294         | 411         | 857           | 780           | 1165        | 1045          | 936         | 394           | 290           | ND            | 8267           | 636                             |
| South Sudan  | 1058        | 792         | 827         | 1013        | 1867        | 3567          | 4285          | 2840        | 7472          | 2364        | 4353          | 10 468        | 9166          | 50 072         | 3852                            |
| Sudan        | 4347        | 3323        | 2563        | 2851        | 2711        | 3894          | 3810          | 2829        | 3415          | 2389        | 5153          | 7418          | 6957          | 51 660         | 3974                            |
| Uganda       | 262         | 129         | 55          | 101         | 29          | 31            | 35            | 34          | 32            | 141         | 86            | 77            | 78            | 1090           | 84                              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>9309</b> | <b>7977</b> | <b>7288</b> | <b>7755</b> | <b>7952</b> | <b>10 823</b> | <b>11 204</b> | <b>9762</b> | <b>15 549</b> | <b>7743</b> | <b>12 824</b> | <b>20 691</b> | <b>18 137</b> | <b>147 014</b> | <b>11 309</b>                   |

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a new visceral leishmaniasis framework to guide to eradicate the disease in eastern Africa.
- ❖ Its targets include a 90 per cent reduction in VL incidence in the eastern Africa sub-region to fewer than 1,500 cases per year by 2030.
- ❖ It is called as kala-azar in Hindi, spreads through the bite of infected female sandflies and is endemic in 80 countries.
- ❖ In 2022, eastern Africa accounted for 73 per cent of global VL caseload, 50 per cent of which occurred in children aged under 15 years.
- ❖ Earlier, between 2004 and 2008, Bangladesh, India and Nepal collectively accounted for 70 per cent of the global caseload.
- ❖ In October 2023, WHO announced that Bangladesh had successfully eradicated VL – making it the first country in the world to achieve the landmark.

## ENVIRONMENT

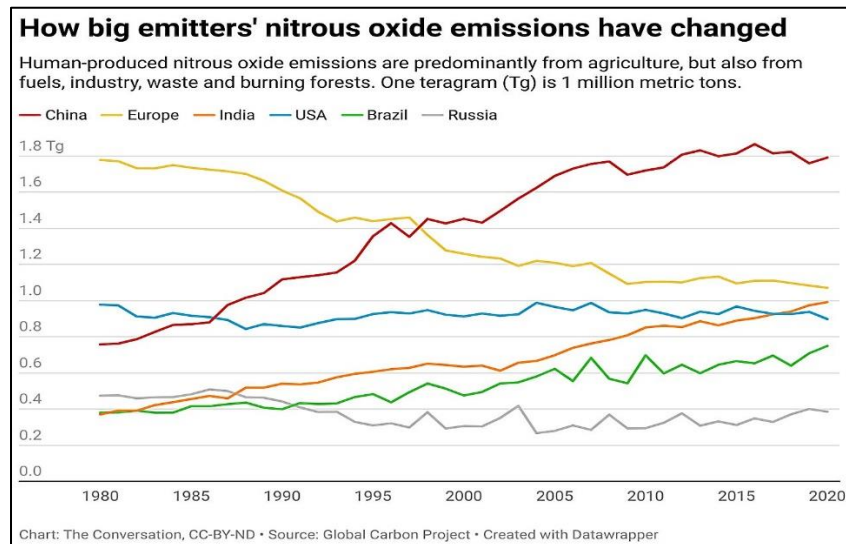
### Record Olive Ridley hatchlings 2024

- ❖ Over 2 lakh Olive Ridley Sea turtle hatchlings were released into the sea during the nesting season from January to May in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ This marks the highest number of hatchlings released from Tamil Nadu so far.
- ❖ The highest number of Olive Ridley hatchlings were released from Cuddalore (89,648), Nagapattinam (60,438), and Chennai (38,230) coasts.
- ❖ Across the State, as many as 28,971 turtles were found dead this season.



## Nitrous Oxide Emitters 2024



- ❖ India is the world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).
- ❖ N<sub>2</sub>O is a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide.
- ❖ Nearly 11% of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by China at 16%.
- ❖ The major source of these emissions comes from fertiliser usage.

- ❖ N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from human activities have increased by 40% (three million metric tons of N<sub>2</sub>O per year) in the past four decades.
- ❖ The top five country emitters by volume of anthropogenic N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in 2020 were China (16.7%), India (10.9%), the United States (5.7%), Brazil (5.3%), and Russia (4.6%).

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Gender Gap Index 2024

- ❖ The World Economic Forum's released the Global Gender Gap Index 2024.
- ❖ India saw a drop of two positions, now ranking 129th out of 146 countries in the Index.
- ❖ The index ranked India's neighbours Bangladesh at 99, China at 106, Nepal at 117, Sri Lanka at 122, Bhutan at 124 and Pakistan at 145.
- ❖ Iceland (93.5%) is again ranked first and has been leading the index for a decade and a half.
- ❖ It is followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden.

| Southern Asia |          |        |       |
|---------------|----------|--------|-------|
| Economy       | Rank     |        | Score |
|               | Regional | Global |       |
| Bangladesh    | 1        | 99     | 0.689 |
| Nepal         | 2        | 117    | 0.664 |
| Sri Lanka     | 3        | 122    | 0.653 |
| Bhutan        | 4        | 124    | 0.651 |
| India         | 5        | 129    | 0.641 |
| Maldives      | 6        | 132    | 0.633 |
| Pakistan      | 7        | 145    | 0.570 |

### UNEP report on NDCs 2024

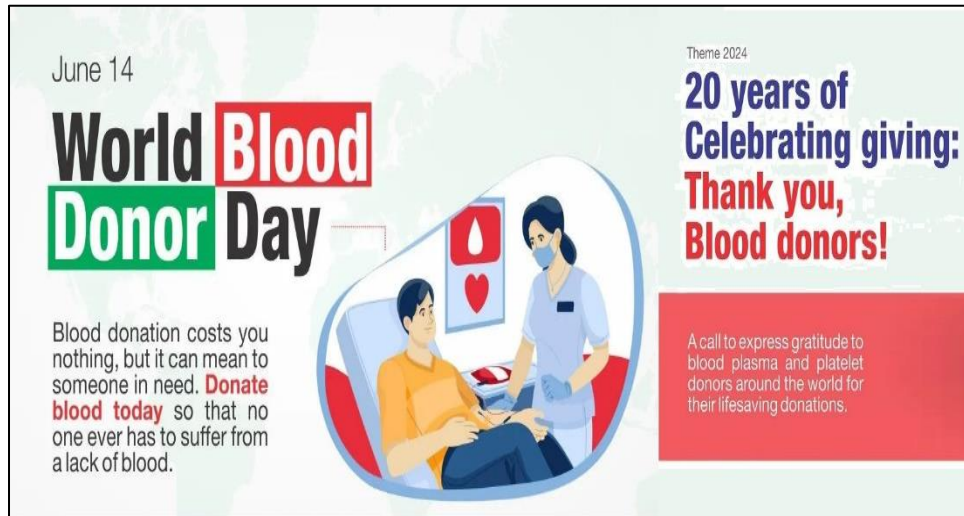
- ❖ The UNEP has released a report named "Raising Ambition, Accelerating Action: Towards Enhanced NDCs for Forests".
- ❖ This report highlights significant gaps in forest protection in current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

- ❖ From 2019-2023, the tropical deforestation emitted 5.6 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually in the top 20 countries.
- ❖ Only 8 countries have quantified deforestation targets, and just 38% of UNFCCC Parties include forest conversion reduction measures.
- ❖ Agriculture and weak land-use policies are major deforestation drivers.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Blood Donor Day 2024 - June 14

A poster for World Blood Donor Day 2024. The date "June 14" is at the top left. The main title "World Blood Donor Day" is in large, bold letters, with "World" in black, "Blood" in white on a red background, and "Donor Day" in white on a green background. Below the title, a circular illustration shows a male donor sitting in a chair while a female healthcare worker in a blue uniform and mask attends to him. To the right of the illustration, the theme for 2024 is stated: "20 years of Celebrating giving: Thank you, Blood donors!". At the bottom right, a red box contains the text: "A call to express gratitude to blood plasma and platelet donors around the world for their lifesaving donations." On the left side, below the title, there is a short paragraph: "Blood donation costs you nothing, but it can mean to someone in need. **Donate blood today** so that no one ever has to suffer from a lack of blood."

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of donating blood and supporting communities.
- ❖ It is celebrated on the birthday anniversary of Karl Landsteiner (June 14, 1868).

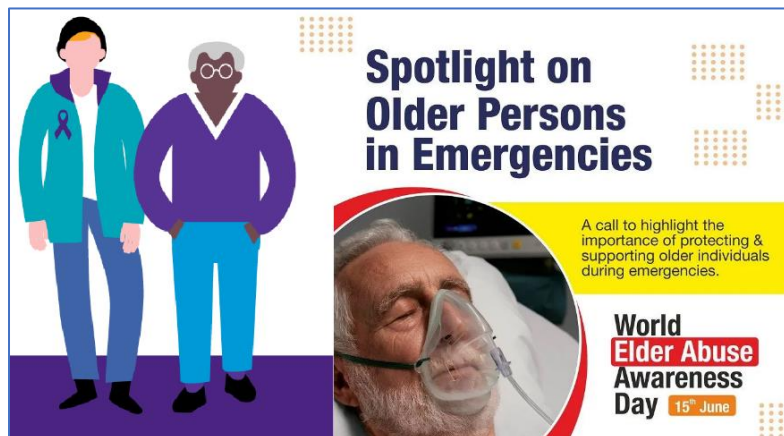
- ❖ Landsteiner was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the ABO blood group system.
- ❖ The theme of this year's is - 20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors.

### Global Wind Day 2024 - June 15

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of wind energy and its power to alter the globe.
- ❖ It is an effort to promote the use of wind energy as a sustainable and renewable source of energy.
- ❖ The first Wind Day was celebrated in 2007 by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA).



### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2024 - June 15



- ❖ It aims to encourage world to pay greater attention to the well-being and adequate health care of older people.



- ❖ Between 2019 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 38%, from 1 billion to 1.4 billion.
- ❖ Theme for 2024 is: Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies.

