

March - 06

## TNPSC BITS

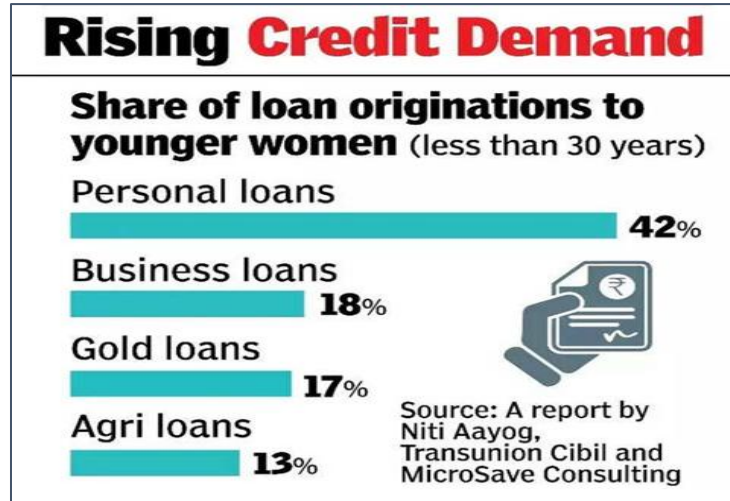
- ❖ India's first comics library was recently inaugurated at a government school in Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar District.
- ❖ Padmakar Shivalkar from Maharashtra, one of the finest left-arm spinners of the country in the cricket, passed away.
- ❖ The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun, launched the 'Sugamya Yatra' (Accessible Journey) to promote accessibility and inclusivity for persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- ❖ The World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB), along with the key partners have launched Mission 300 to provide electricity to 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.
- ❖ Himmat Shah from Gujarat, a famous Indian artist known for his sculptures and modern art, passed away.
- ❖ India's first World Peace Center has been inaugurated in Gurugram, Haryana to promote peace, non-violence, and global harmony.
- ❖ Ron Draper, who was the oldest living Test cricketer, has died in South Africa at the age of 98 years and 63 days.
- ❖ Vidarbha won their third Ranji Trophy title in seven seasons, defeating Kerala in the 2024-25 final.
  - For Kerala, it was the first-ever Ranji Trophy final.
- ❖ The Assam government has officially notified the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve as the 8th national park in the state.
  - The new national park will be named Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Share of women borrowers in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest share of women borrowers at 44%, as per the report released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The Southern States have higher shares of women borrowers with at least one live loan in their wallet – Tamil Nadu (44%), Andhra Pradesh (41%), Telangana (35%), Karnataka (34%).
- ❖ Overall country level as of December 2024 was 31%.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has witnessed a 10% compounded annual growth rate in live women borrowers over the last five years.
- ❖ Maharashtra's share of women borrowers is 30%, while Rajasthan is at 26%, Madhya Pradesh is 25% and Uttar Pradesh is 23%.
- ❖ In 2024, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana accounted for 49% of all self CIBIL information monitoring women.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu alone is accounted for 11%.



## NATIONAL NEWS

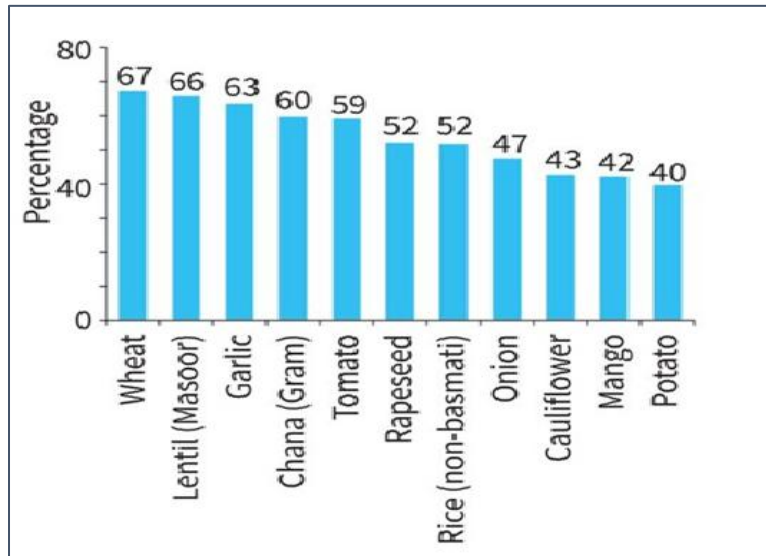
### IRCTC and IRFC - Navratna status



- ❖ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) became country's 25th and 26th Navratna companies respectively.

- ❖ All seven listed Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) of the Indian Railways now have Navratna status.
- ❖ The Indian Railways have a total 12 CPSEs.

### **Pan-India Survey on Farmers' Share**



- ❖ This pan-India survey was conducted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials.
- ❖ Farmers received a share ranging from 40-67 per cent of consumer prices for the major rabi crops.
- ❖ The Wheat farmers emerged as the biggest beneficiaries, with a 67 per cent share of consumer prices.
- ❖ Rice farmers received an estimated 52 per cent share of retail prices.
- ❖ The farmers' share in the prices of perishable commodities (fruits and vegetables) is estimated around 40-63 per cent.
- ❖ Within oilseeds, farmers' share for rapeseed and mustard (R&M) stood at 52 per cent, compared with the 55 per cent estimate reported by a 2021.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Crypto strategic reserve – USA**

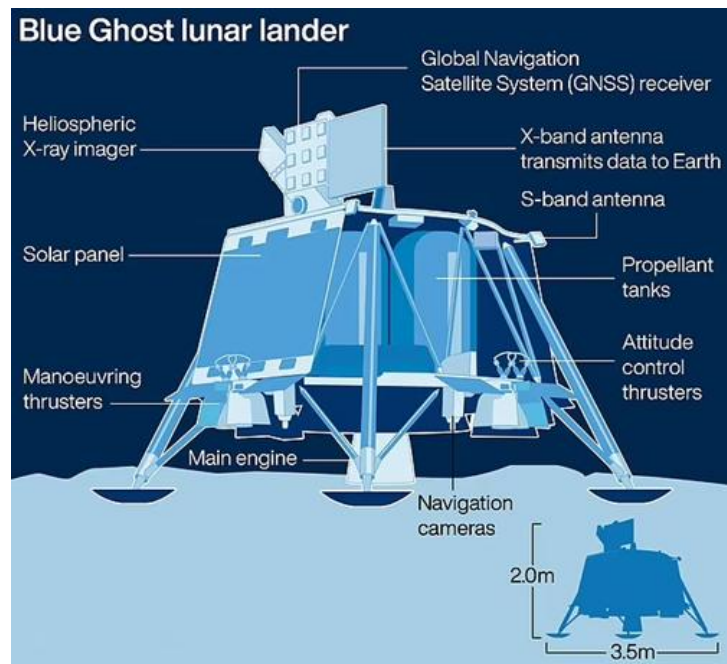
- ❖ US President Trump has announced plans for a "Crypto Strategic Reserve," which would set up the United States to buy and sell cryptocurrency.
- ❖ The reserve is slated to hold five cryptocurrencies — bitcoin, ether, XRP, solana and cardano.

- ❖ The U.S. is believed to hold around 200,000 bitcoin tokens from the criminal seizures.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Blue Ghost Mission 1



- ❖ Firefly Aerospace, a US company, successfully landed its spacecraft on the Moon.
- ❖ It is near Mons Latreille, a volcanic formation in Mare Crisium on the Moon's northeastern near side.

- ❖ This was marking only the second private mission to achieve the milestone -- and the first to do so upright.
- ❖ Only five nations—the Soviet Union, the U.S., China, India, and Japan—had accomplished soft lunar landings.

### **Aditya-L1 - First-ever Image of Kernel**

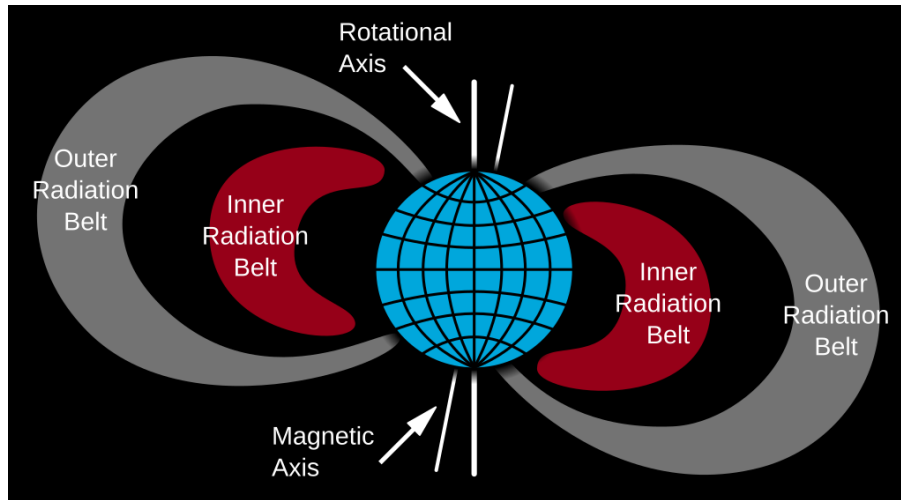


- ❖ India's Aditya-L1 mission has captured the very first-ever image of a solar flare of 'kernel.'
- ❖ This rare observation was made in the lower solar atmosphere.
- ❖ The captured image also shows the phenomenon in the photosphere and the chromosphere.

### **Link Between Lightning and Radiation Belts**

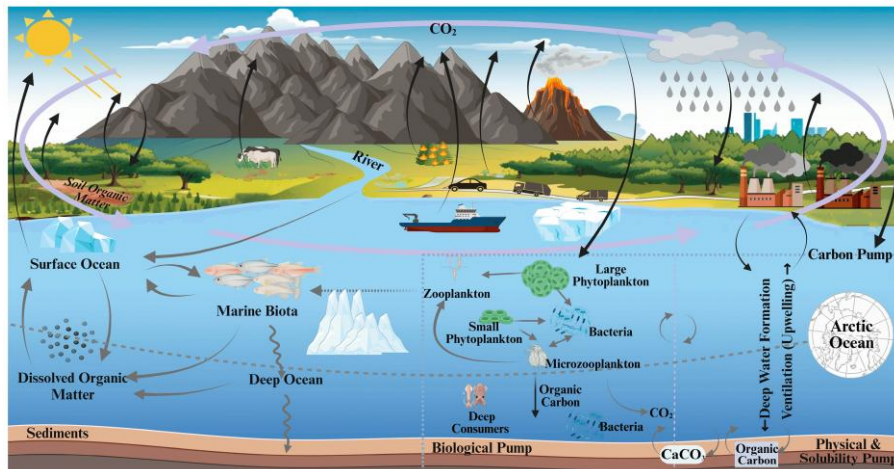
- ❖ Researchers has found that the electromagnetic waves generated by lightning can trigger these electron showers.
- ❖ The inner radiation belt is peaking about 621 miles (1000 kilometers) from Earth.
- ❖ It is composed of electrons and high-energy protons and is relatively stable over time.
- ❖ Lightning is the large electromagnetic discharges that light up the sky during the thunderstorms.
- ❖ They can actually generate electromagnetic waves known as lightning-generated whistlers.
- ❖ Geomagnetic storms are disturbances in the near-Earth space environment often caused by large eruptions on the Sun's surface.

- ❖ The solar activity disturbs the Earth's radiation belts and populates the inner belt with very high-energy electrons.
- ❖ Then the lightning interacts with these electrons and creates the rapid bursts.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Arctic Glaciers Leaking Methane



- ❖ Scientists have discovered that the Arctic glaciers are leaking significant amounts of methane into the atmosphere.
- ❖ Methane concentrations in the melt river were found to be up to 800 times higher than the atmospheric equilibrium level.
- ❖ The methane that was being released was not produced by the microbial activity beneath the ice.

- ❖ Rather it came from thermogenic sources — methane that had been trapped in the region's ancient geological formations for millions of years.
- ❖ Methane is one of the main drivers of climate change, responsible for 30 per cent of the warming since preindustrial times, second only to carbon dioxide.
- ❖ Over 20 years, methane is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide

### **Sea unicorns – Narwhals**

- ❖ In a first, scientists from Canada have studied and captured footage of the iconic narwhals of the Arctic using their tusks to hunt.
- ❖ The narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) lives in remote Arctic waters.
- ❖ Males are known for their long, spiral tusks, which is really an elongated tooth.



### **Cobitis Beijingensis**

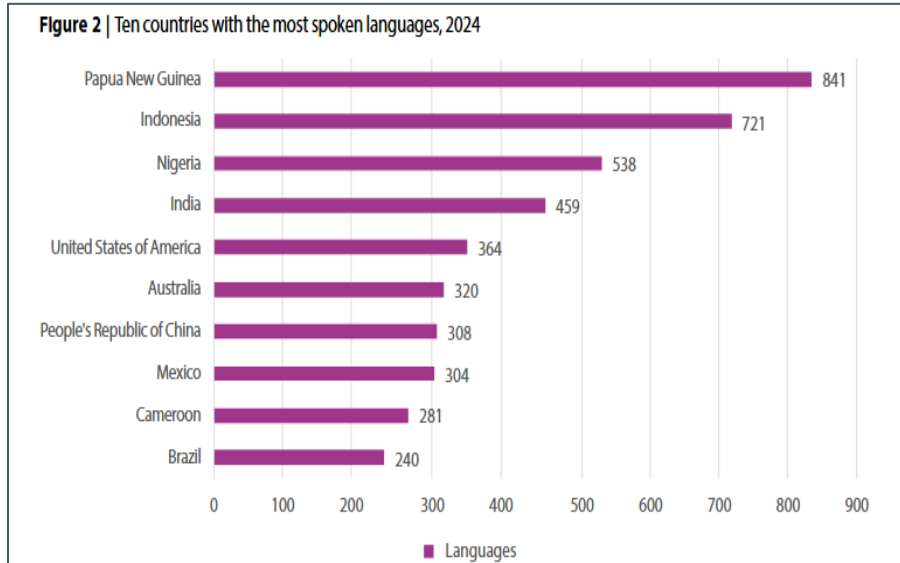


- ❖ A new species of spined loach, officially named the *Cobitis beijingensis*, has been discovered in the Beijing area in China for the first time in over 40 years.

- ❖ This is the first time a fish species has been named using the pinyin "Beijing".
- ❖ Historically, Beijing was home to 78 species of indigenous fish.
- ❖ But in 2010 only about 40 species could be collected.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### UNESCO's Report on Multilingual Education 2025



- ❖ The report titled 'Language Matter: Global Guidance on Multilingual Education', was released by UNESCO.
- ❖ 40 percent of the global population does not have access to the education in the language they speak or understand.
- ❖ This figure rises to an alarming 90% in some low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ Over 31 million displaced youths facing language barriers in education.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Oscars 2025

- ❖ The 97th edition of the Academy Awards has concluded recently.
- ❖ This year's ceremony honoured outstanding achievements across 23 categories.
- ❖ Sean Baker's romantic comedy-drama Anora has emerged as the ceremony's biggest winner, and taking home five awards — Best Picture, Best Actress (Mikey Madison), Best Director, Best Film Editing and Best Original Screenplay.
- ❖ Adrien Brody won the Oscar for Best Actor - The Brutalist.

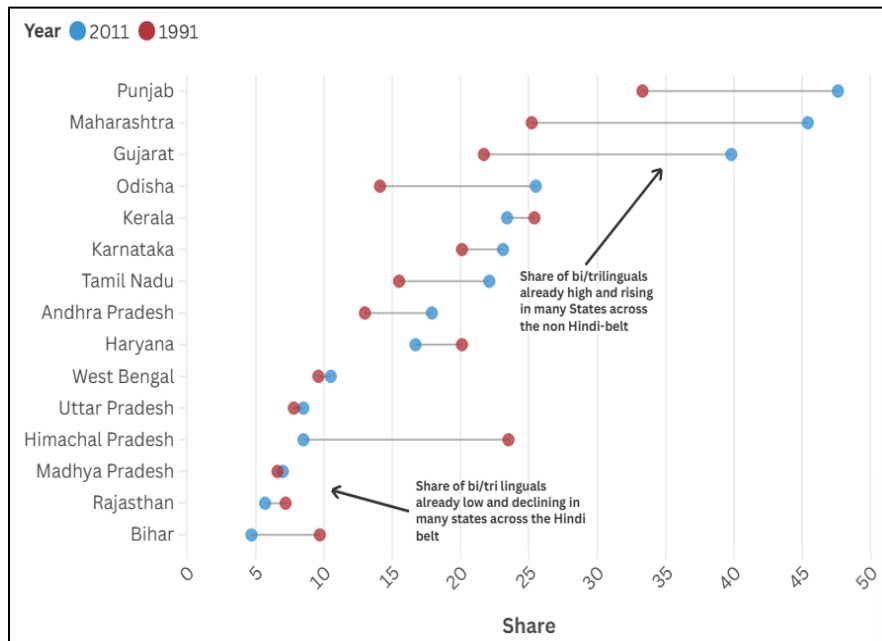


- ❖ Best supporting actress was given to Zoe Saldña - Emilia Pérez.
- ❖ Best international feature was - I'm Still Here – Brazil.



## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Linguistic Data in India



- ❖ Non-Hindi speakers are generally more open to learning new languages, whereas Hindi speakers exhibit lower multilingualism.
- ❖ In 1991, 84.5% of native Tamil speakers in Tamil Nadu (those who speak Tamil as their first language in the state) were monolingual, a figure that dropped to 78% by 2011.

- ❖ Similarly, the share of native Odia speakers in Odisha who were monolingual declined from 86% to 74.5%.
- ❖ In contrast, States where Hindi is the predominant first language already had a high share of monolinguals, and in many cases, this share increased over time.
- ❖ For instance, in 1991, 90.2% of Hindi speakers in undivided Bihar were the monolingual.
- ❖ By 2011, in the divided Bihar, this figure had risen to 95.2%.
- ❖ Similarly, in Rajasthan, the share of monolinguals among the Hindi speakers had increased from 93% in 1991 to 94.3% in 2011.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, 13.5% of native Tamil speakers also spoke the English in 1991, a figure that rose to 18.5% by 2011.
- ❖ In contrast, in Haryana, the share of native Hindi speakers who also spoke the English declined from 17.5% to 14.6% over the same period.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, only 0.5% of native Tamil speakers also spoke Hindi in 1991, a figure that rose slightly to 1.3% in 2011.
- ❖ But, the share of native language speakers who also spoke Hindi saw a significant increase in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

