

March - 07

TNPSC BITS

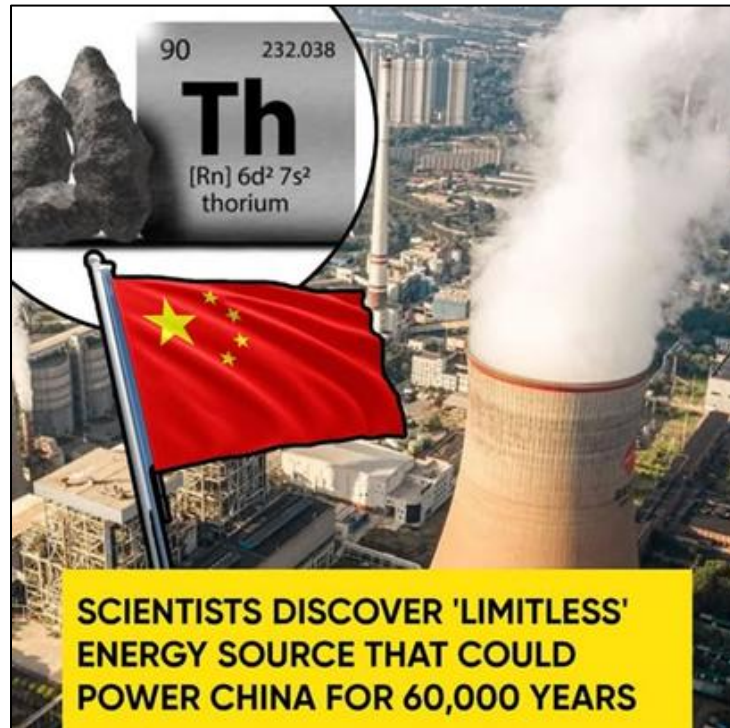
- ❖ The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) has instituted an award in the name of Lakshmi Vijayakumar, psychiatrist and Founder of the SNEHA Suicide Prevention Centre, Chennai.
- ❖ Noted Tamil poet and writer Neduncheliyan Singaravelu, known widely by his pen name 'Nandalala,' passed away recently.
- ❖ The 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ India has emerged as the world's third-largest biofuel producer and achieved 19.6% ethanol blending in petrol as of January.
- ❖ The Centre for Fuel Cell Technology (CFCT) has successfully demonstrated the hydrogen-powered fuel cells as a reliable backup power solution for telecom towers.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj is organized a National Workshop of Women Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and has launched the "Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan" in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the NITI Aayog launched the Swavalambini programme aimed to provide the structured support to female students in higher education institutions (HEIs) across the country.
- ❖ Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation becomes India's first local body to include a climate chapter in its budget, allocating ₹5,619.58 crore for climate action.
- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the National Referral Centre for Wildlife at Junagadh in Gujarat, which will function as the hub for the coordination and the governance of various aspects related to wildlife health and disease management.
- ❖ Prime Minister chaired the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife at Gir National Park in Gujarat.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

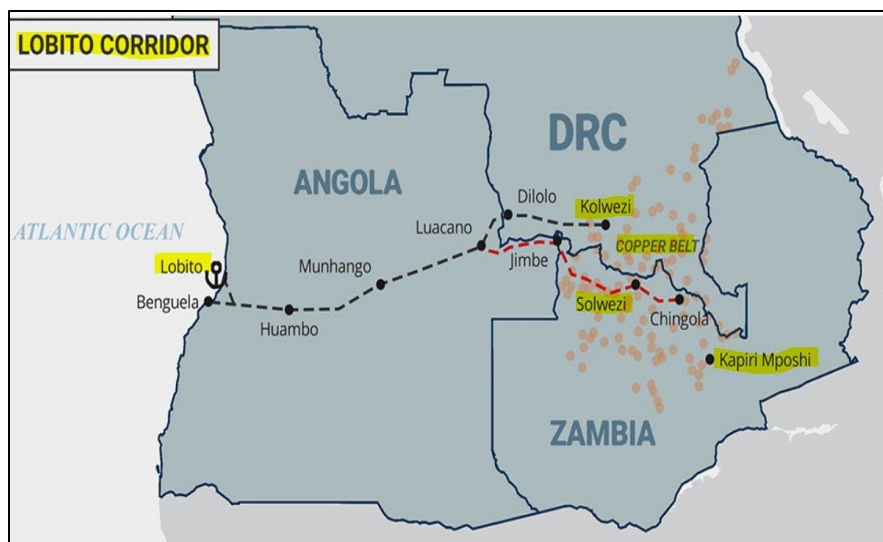
Massive thorium in China

- ❖ China may have discovered a nearly limitless energy source capable of sustaining the country for tens of thousands of years.

- ❖ New geological survey suggests that China's thorium reserves could be far more abundant than previously believed.
- ❖ Scientists estimate that the Bayan Obo mining complex of China, if fully utilised, could yield 1 million tonnes of thorium.
- ❖ It is enough to sustain China's energy needs for an astonishing 60,000 years.



Copper and cobalt exploration in Zambia

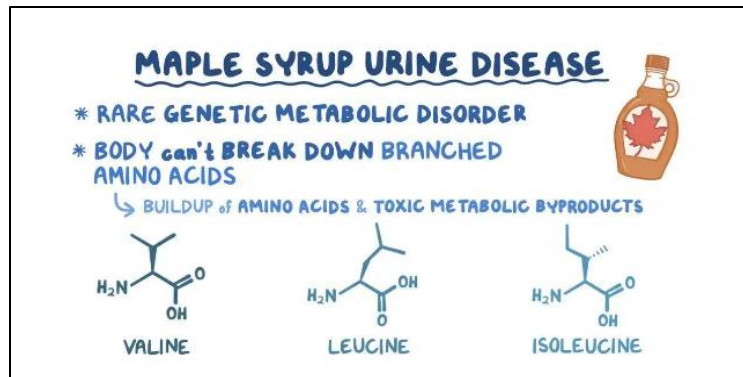


- ❖ The Indian government has secured 9,000 square kilometres of greenfield land in Zambia for the exploration of copper and cobalt.
- ❖ Zambia ranks 7th globally in copper production (after Chile, Peru, and the DRC).
- ❖ India's domestic ore production in 2023-24 was 3.78 million tonnes, 8% lower than in 2018-19.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Maple Syrup Urine Disease

- ❖ The Scientists have created a new gene therapy for a debilitating genetic disorder called maple syrup urine disease (MSUD).
- ❖ The treatment can prevent recurrence of deadly symptoms in a cow calf born with the disease.
- ❖ Classic MSUD arises from mutations in the three genes that encode the protein subunits of branched chain alpha-keto acid dehydrogenase complex (BCKDH).



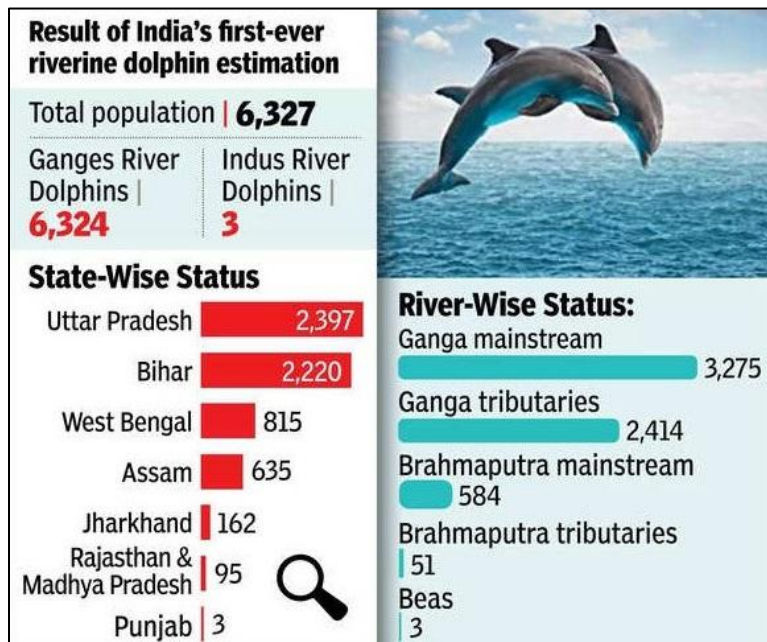
Blue Origin Tourism



- ❖ The Billionaire Jeff Bezos' space company Blue Origin launched its 10th space tourism mission.
- ❖ It will be sending six passengers, including Indian-origin Tushar Mehta.
- ❖ The six crew members on the New Shepherd (NS) spacecraft named themselves “Perfect 10”.
- ❖ Mehta became the second Indian-origin person after Gopi Thotakura to take a Blue Origin flight.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Dolphin Survey 2025



- ❖ India's first-ever riverine dolphin estimation report has recorded 6,327 dolphins across 28 rivers in eight states.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.
- ❖ In India, Ganges River dolphins inhabit the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna River system and its tributaries.
- ❖ A small population of Indus River dolphins resides in the Indus River system.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA) 2025

- ❖ The Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025 have also celebrated the very impactful contributions beyond the traditional business realm.
- ❖ The BrowserStack, spearheaded by Ritesh Arora and Nakul Aggarwal, was named Outstanding Startup of The Year.
- ❖ The Icons of Excellence award has celebrated industry veterans Ajay Singh of SpiceJet and Katrina Kaif of Kay Beauty.
- ❖ The BugWorks Research was recognized for its exceptional innovations in the biotechnology.
- ❖ Icons of Excellence was awarded to Jay Shah (ICC).
- ❖ Rajesh Jejurikar (Mahindra & Mahindra) was chosen as CEO of the Year.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hearing Day 2025 - March 03

World Hearing Day 3 March

World Hearing Day is a global healthcare event celebrated on the 3rd of March to bring together the patients suffering from hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care, along with spreading awareness of the condition, diagnosis and treatment.

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about hearing health and how to avoid hearing loss.
- ❖ Over 5% of the global population (approx. 43 crores) need rehabilitation to treat 'disabling' hearing loss.
- ❖ By 2050 it was estimated that over 70 crore individuals, or about one out of every ten people, are expected to suffer debilitating hearing loss.
- ❖ Hearing loss that is 'disabling' is defined as hearing loss higher than 35 decibels (dB) in the better-hearing ear.
- ❖ Almost 80% of people with hearing loss reside in low- and middle-income nations.
- ❖ This year's theme will be “Changing mindsets: Empower yourself to make ear and hearing care a reality for all!”.

National Safety Day 2025 - March 04



- ❖ This day aims to raise the awareness of the importance of prioritising safety and precautionary measures in every industry.
- ❖ The National Safety Council (NSC) was established on March 4, 1966.
- ❖ This organization works to promote safety awareness and encourage voluntary efforts to maintain safe practices in workplaces.
- ❖ NSC designated March 4 as National Safety Day in 1972.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Safety & Well-Being Crucial for Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).

International Women’s Day 2025 - March 08

- ❖ It is celebrated to honour women's achievements and advocate for gender equality worldwide.
- ❖ The United Nations officially designated this day in 1977, following their initial observance in 1975.

- ❖ The first National Women's Day was observed in the United States on February 28, 1909.
- ❖ On March 8, 1913, Russian women protested against World War I.
- ❖ This became a global benchmark for Women's Day rallies.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Accelerate Action".



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Selenium and Hair Loss

Unwillingness to be transparent, a recurring tale

Over 300 people in Shegaon taluka in Buldhana district, Maharashtra, experienced sudden hair loss

- 1** Scientists from ICMR institutes and AIIMS Delhi visited villages from **January 14-17** and collected wheat, rice, water, soil and various human samples
- 2** ICMR submitted an interim report to the Health Ministry on **January 28**, nearly a month before PTI published the results of an independent researcher
- 3** Selenium levels in the blood were about **31 times** higher. Hair had high selenium content
- 4** Selenium in wheat samples collected from ration shops was **two-eight times** higher
- 5** Selenium levels in the affected people were **three times more** than the unaffected individuals from the same household

PHOTO CREDIT: CDC



Selenosis: Intake of excessive selenium leads to a condition called selenosis, which is characterised by sudden hair loss

- 6** Wheat collected from rations shops and affected households had high levels of selenium, establishing a link between high selenium in wheat and sudden hair loss
- 7** A 2016 report in an Indian journal found 15 individuals from two families with high to extreme selenium toxicity had high selenium levels. Selenium in wheat was 250 times higher

- ❖ Wheat supplied through government ration or PDS shops, imported from Punjab and Haryana contained dangerously high amounts of selenium.

- ❖ Selenium helps our bodies fight oxidative damage and supports thyroid hormone function.
- ❖ But, too much of it can lead to a condition called the selenosis, which causes hair loss, brittle nails, skin problems, and other health issues.
- ❖ The unwashed wheat had 14.52 mg per kilogram of the selenium, and even the washed wheat had 13.61 mg per kilogram.
- ❖ These are almost eight times the safe level of 1.9 mg/kg, which is normal for wheat.
- ❖ The rocks of the range contain selenium naturally, and in the rainy season, rainwater dissolves these rocks and carries selenium-rich sediments.
- ❖ The sediments get dissolved in water and drain through the Punjab's agricultural lands, enriching the soil with selenium.

Animal Rescue Facility – Vantara

The infographic features a central image of a man speaking at a podium with an elephant in a circular inset. To the right, a blue box titled 'Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre' lists statistics: 200 elephants, 300 large felines, 300 herbivores, 1200 reptiles, and 2,100 staff. It also mentions a 1 lakh square foot hospital and medical research centre. Text at the bottom of the infographic reads: 'Anant Ambani's Vantara Honored with Prani Mitra Award for Outstanding Animal Welfare Efforts. RKTEWT's award-winning commitment ensures elephants receive the love and care they deserve.'

- ❖ The project, which was spread over 3,500 acres, has the “world’s largest cheetah conservation project”.
- ❖ Vantara is to be home to more than 2,000 species and over 1.5 lakh rescued, endangered, and threatened animals from across the world.
- ❖ The Central government recently conferred Vantara with the prestigious ‘Prani Mitra’ National Award, India’s highest honour in animal welfare.
- ❖ The facilities offer the ICU, MRI, CT scan, X-ray, ultrasound, endoscopy, dental scalars, lithotripsy, dialysis, and the cutting-edge technology for the live video conferences during surgical procedures.

