

March - 09

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The DRDO has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft.
- ❖ Tata Motors launched the first-ever trials of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks in order to assess their viability for long haul transportation solutions.
- ❖ ICMR has published an addendum to the ICMR National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research Involving Human Participants (2017) to provide a structured ethical framework for Research in Integrative Medicine (RIM).
- ❖ The World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is observed on March 4 to fight against human trafficking and sexual abuse.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Livestock Health and Disease Control Program

**CABINET APPROVES REVISION OF LIVESTOCK HEALTH & DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMME**

**COMPONENTS**

- National Animal Disease Control Programme
- Livestock Health & Disease Control
- Pashu Aushadhi

Total outlay: ₹3,880 crore for 2 years (2024-25 and 2025-26)

**BENEFITS**

- Help **prevent & control livestock diseases** through vaccination, surveillance & upgradation of healthcare facilities
- Improve **productivity**, generate **employment**, and encourage **entrepreneurship** in rural area
- Prevent **economic losses** of farmers due to disease burden

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Revision of Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP).
- ❖ The scheme has three components namely the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), LH&DC and Pashu Aushadhi.
- ❖ The LHDCP will facilitate the reduction in these losses by preventing diseases through immunization.

- ❖ The Scheme supports the door-step delivery of livestock health care through the subcomponents of Mobile Veterinary Units (ESVHD-MVU).
- ❖ It also provides at improving the availability of generic veterinary medicine- Pashu Aushadhi through network of PM-Kisan Samriddhi Kendra and Cooperative Societies.

### **Vividhta ka Amrit Mahotsav**

- ❖ “Vividhta ka Amrit Mahotsav” is an annual cultural festival that celebrates India’s diverse heritage by showcasing the unique traditions of different regions.
- ❖ The first edition, held last year, has focused on North-East India.
- ❖ The second edition highlights South India, featuring the five states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, along with Lakshadweep and Puducherry.



### **Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Program**

- ❖ The Union government inaugurated the first batch of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Program.

- ❖ It aims to fostering a stronger sense of Seva Bhav (spirit of service) among the government officials who are solution oriented, compassionate, and citizen-focused.
- ❖ The programme features four short training sessions (approximately 1.5 hours each).



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India

**12<sup>th</sup> Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific**

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 | Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur, India

**Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs & Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific**

<b>38</b> Countries	<b>15</b> Ministries/ Departments	<b>1000</b> Participants (approx.)
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**Objectives**

- To promote **circular economy principles** across different sectors in Asia-Pacific to ensure **sustainable resource management & waste reduction**
- To discuss **circular economy policies & practices** to accelerate achievement of **SDGs**

- ❖ The 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was held in Jaipur, India.



- ❖ Theme of the event was 'Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific'.
- ❖ The Forum focused on the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3R), aiming to create a roadmap for sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- ❖ The last Forum was hosted in 2023 by Cambodia.
- ❖ India has previously hosted the Forum in 2018, when the 8th edition was held in Indore.
- ❖ The Forum concluded with the unanimous adoption of the 'Jaipur Declaration' by the member countries.

### **Camp Hill Virus - USA**

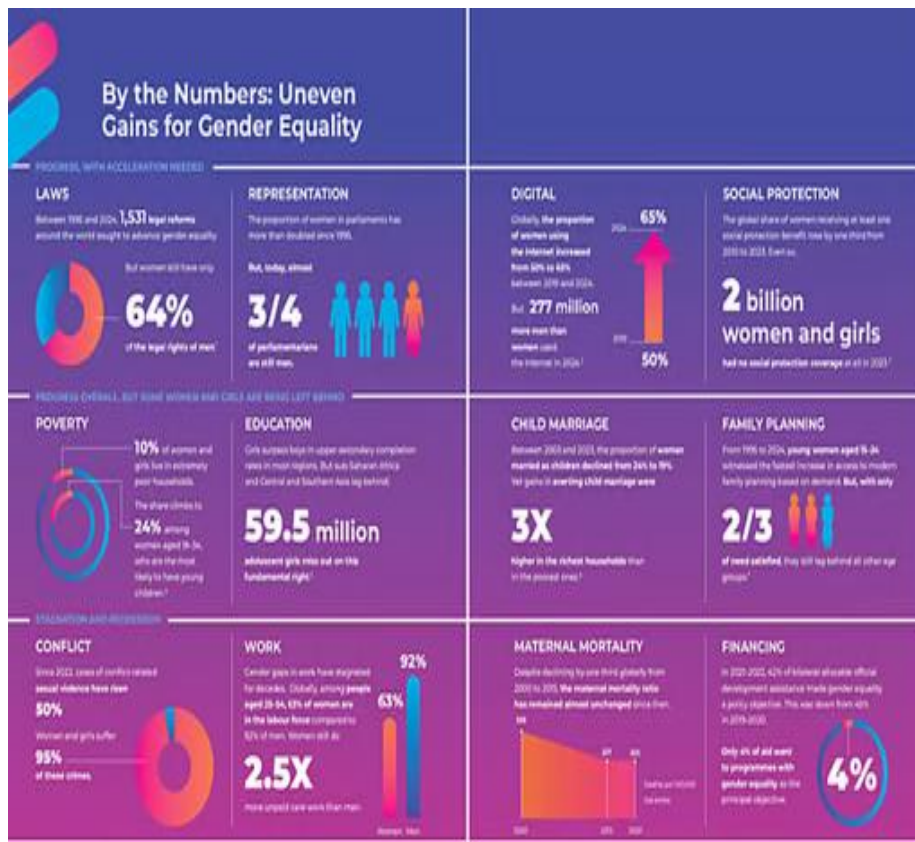


- ❖ A mysterious virus discovered in Alabama dubbed the Camp Hill virus after the small town where it was found.
- ❖ This the first henipavirus ever found in North America.

- ❖ Henipaviruses are among the deadliest viruses known to science, with fatality rates ranging between 40% and 75%.
- ❖ Henipaviruses can infect many animals, including bats, horses, monkeys, dogs, cats and even rodents.
- ❖ Previous henipavirus outbreaks, including the Nipah virus in Southeast Asia and Hendra virus in Australia.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### UN Report on Women's Rights

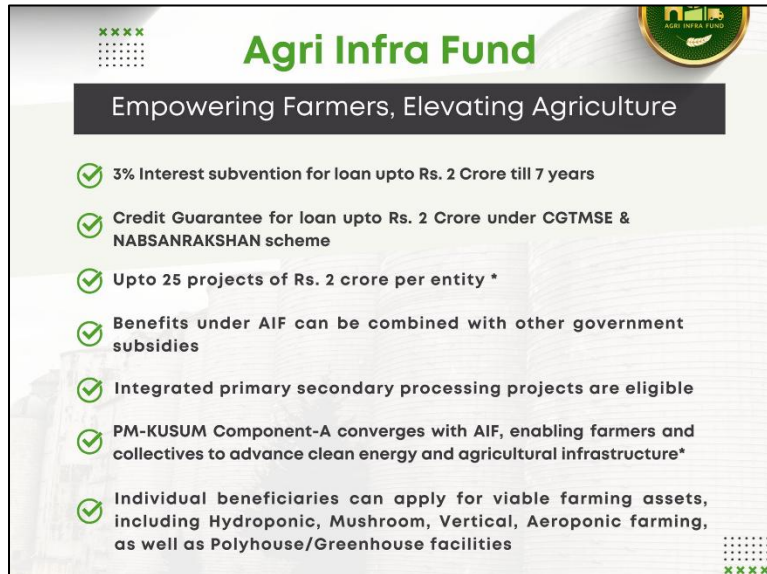


- ❖ The report named Women's Rights in Review 30 Years After Beijing was released by UN Women.
- ❖ UN Women has also launched the Beijing+30 Action Agenda.
- ❖ While 1,531 legal reforms have been enacted since 1995 to support the gender equality, women still hold only 64 per cent of the legal rights that men enjoy.
- ❖ Although 88 per cent of countries have laws against the gender-based violence, enforcement remains inconsistent and financial support for critical services is inadequate.

- ❖ Women are earning on average 20 per cent less than men.
- ❖ Women now occupy 27 per cent of parliamentary seats globally, up from 11 per cent in 1995.

## STATES' NEWS

### Punjab - Agriculture Infrastructure Fund scheme



The infographic for the Agri Infra Fund scheme features a green and white color scheme. At the top, it says 'Agri Infra Fund' in green, with 'Empowering Farmers, Elevating Agriculture' in a dark grey box below it. A list of seven benefits is presented with green checkmarks. The background shows a stack of papers and a small circular logo for the Agri Infra Fund.

- 3% Interest subvention for loan upto Rs. 2 Crore till 7 years
- Credit Guarantee for loan upto Rs. 2 Crore under CGTMSE & NABSANRAKSHAN scheme
- Upto 25 projects of Rs. 2 crore per entity \*
- Benefits under AIF can be combined with other government subsidies
- Integrated primary secondary processing projects are eligible
- PM-KUSUM Component-A converges with AIF, enabling farmers and collectives to advance clean energy and agricultural infrastructure\*
- Individual beneficiaries can apply for viable farming assets, including Hydroponic, Mushroom, Vertical, Aeroponic farming, as well as Polyhouse/Greenhouse facilities

- ❖ Punjab has utilised 100% of the Rs 4,713 crore allocated to it by the Centre under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme.
- ❖ With this, Punjab ranks at number 1 in the country in implementing this scheme.
- ❖ The AIF was started in July 2020 to provide medium to long-term financing for agriculture infrastructure projects at the post-harvest stage.
- ❖ As of February 28, with 21,740 projects, Punjab is at the No.1 position in the country for the highest number of sanctioned projects.
- ❖ The scheme provides 3% interest subvention on eligible loans.
- ❖ Maximum interest rate is capped at 9% for 7 years, for loans up to Rs 2 crore.

### Ropeway projects in Uttarakhand

- ❖ The union cabinet has approved the two major ropeway projects - Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji (12.4 km) and Sonprayag to Kedarnath (12.9 km)- in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is expected to be built at a cost of ₹7,000 crore under the National Ropeways Development Programme, Parvatmala Pariyojana.

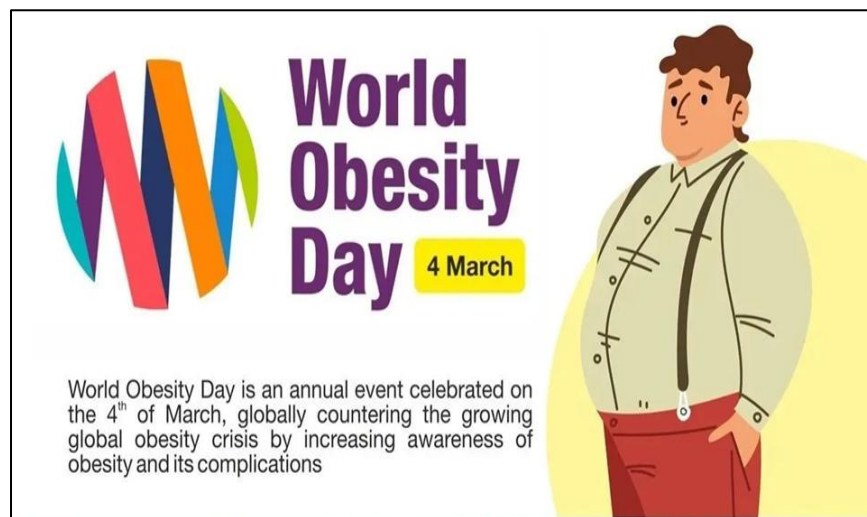


- ❖ The ropeways will cut the travel time to the pilgrimage sites situated over 3,500 metres above sea level.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

**World Obesity Day 2025 - march 03**



- ❖ It aims to increase the awareness of the obesity epidemic, its causes, and the preventative measures.

- ❖ This day is organised by World Obesity Federation since 2015.
- ❖ The theme of 2025 is “Changing System, Healthier Lives”.
- ❖ In 2005-06, 13% of the women and nine percent of men of the age group of 15-49 years were overweight or obese.
- ❖ In 2015-16, 21% of women and 19% were overweight or obese (BMI 25.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), according to NFHS-4 data.

### **World Engineering Day 2025 - March 04**

- ❖ In November 2019, UNESCO declared this day.
- ❖ The day focuses the Engineering’s importance in combating climate change and promoting sustainable development.
- ❖ The theme of this year’s celebration is "Unleashing the power of the engineers to advance the Sustainable Development Goals”.



### **International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day 2025 - March 05**

- ❖ It seeks to promote better awareness and understanding of disarmament issues among the public.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established this significant day in 2021.
- ❖ This day raises the awareness about the dangers of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.



- ❖ The UN also observes the United Nations Disarmament Week from October 24 to 30 every year.



**International Day  
for Disarmament and  
Non-Proliferation Awareness**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Approximately **12,400 nuclear weapons** remain a threat globally today
- Only **3 of 37 arms control agreements**, signed since 1945, have **gender provisions**
- The themes of disarmament and non-proliferation are important to the “**Prevention**” Pillar of the WPS Agenda

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

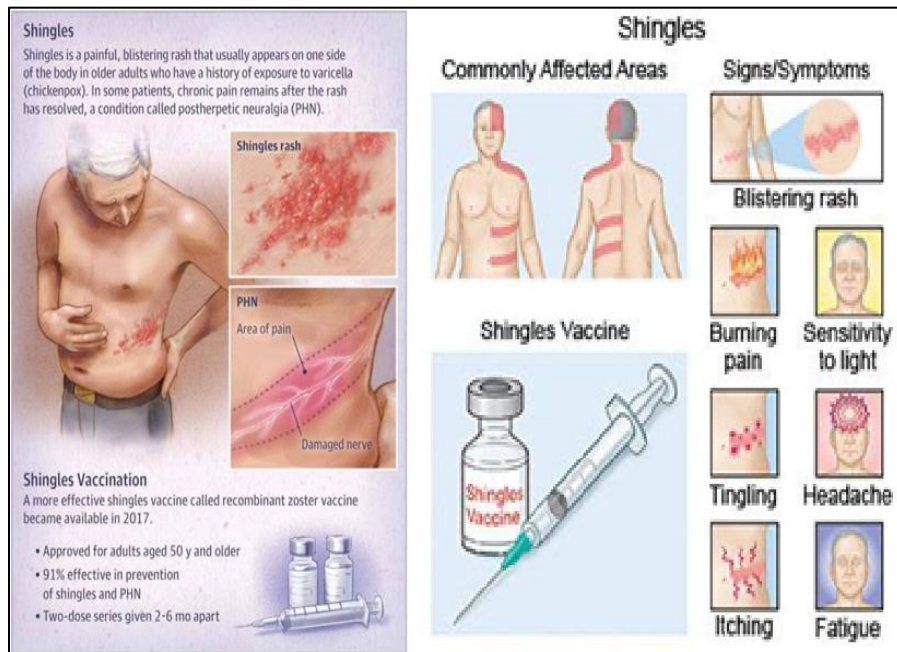
### Lankamala Shaivite Centre – Andhra Pradesh



- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Mysore, has uncovered some ancient inscriptions and prehistoric rock art in Lankamala Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ They have documented 12 label inscriptions written in Siddhamatrika, Shankha script, and Devanagari.
- ❖ The findings are dating from the fourth to 16th century Common Era (CE).

- ❖ It indicates that Lankamala was a major Shaivite pilgrimage centre visited by the North Indian devotees.
- ❖ The team also identified 15 additional label inscriptions, including 14 in the rare Shankha script and one in Brahmi.
- ❖ This marks the 1st discovery of Shankha script inscriptions in the Rayalaseema region.
- ❖ A significant find was 2 inscriptions on the same rock from different periods,
  - One in Brahmi from the 4th century and
  - Another in Shankha script from the 6th century, providing insights into the evolution of writing styles in South India.
- ❖ The team also uncovered three rock shelters, one containing the prehistoric rock paintings.
- ❖ The site is believed to date back to the Megalithic (Iron Age) and Early Historic periods (2500 BCE - 2nd century CE).

## Shingles disease



- ❖ The Shingles Awareness Week was observed during February 24 to March 2.
- ❖ A new global survey shows that 56.6% of Indian participants aged 50 and above know little to nothing about shingles.
- ❖ More than 90% of the adults above 50 years have this virus in their body, and are vulnerable to the disease.



- ❖ Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus (VZV), the same virus that causes chickenpox.
- ❖ Shingles is a painful disease that can have serious and have very long-lasting complications.

