

March - 13

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has inaugurated Godrej Consumer Products Limited's ₹515-crore manufacturing facility in Thiruporur taluk of Chengalpattu district.
- ❖ The Mayiladuthurai forest Division will start functioning from April 1 with Sirkazhi and Mayiladuthurai Forest Ranges besides a Forest Extension Range.
- ❖ The Amrut Biodiversity Park was inaugurated in of New Delhi with 14,500 native plants and tree species and 3,20,000 riverine grasses.
- ❖ Pranav Venkatesh from India has secured the first position in the World Junior Chess Championship in the under-20 category held in Montenegro.
- ❖ The Professor Suman Chakraborty from IIT Kharagpur has been awarded the 2026 TWAS Award in Engineering and Computer Sciences by UNESCO.
- ❖ The Joint Military Exercise Khanjar-XII, between the special forces of India and Kyrgyzstan, is being held at Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri has made a comeback to the national team at the age of 40, reversing his retirement decision from last year.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### **Authoor betel leaf cultivation**



- ❖ Cultivation of the famous betel leaves from Authoor (Authoor vetrilai) has been dwindling over the past year due to the severe pest infestation and unpredictable climatic conditions.
- ❖ The Climate plays a huge role in producing a good yield and any disruption significantly impacts it.

- ❖ Known for its unique alkali taste with a subtle punch, 'Authoor Betel' received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2022.
- ❖ The distinct flavour of these leaves is attributed to the region's soil composition, climatic conditions, and irrigation using 'Thenkaal pasanam.'
- ❖ It is a branch of irrigation canal from Tamirabarani river.
- ❖ The farmers produce six types of betel leaves - 'Chakkai,' 'Maathu,' 'Payirraasi,' 'Mudhukaalraasi,' 'Payirsadha' and 'Mudhukaal.'
- ❖ Among these varieties, 'Chakkai' and 'Maathu' are majorly exported to markets of other States, especially in northern parts of India.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Project NAMAN



The banner for Project NAMAN Phase-II features the logos of HDFC Bank, Indian Army, and CSC Academy. Below the banner, a photo shows the signing ceremony with officials from all three organizations. To the right, a list of bullet points describes the project's phases, and another photo shows the project's expansion to various locations.

- The first phase of the project was signed off in September 2023 with the establishment of Common Service Centres (CSCs) at 14 Indian Army's Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) locations.
- In the second phase, the project will be expanded to 26 DIAV locations across Rajasthan, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Bihar, Odisha and New Delhi.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Satyen Modi, Business Head, Alternate Banking Channels & Partnerships – HDFC Bank, Mr. Pravin Chandekar, CEO-CSC Academy and Brigadier, Directorate of Indian Army Veterans in the presence of Ms. Smita Bhagat, Group Head – HDFC Bank, Lieutenant General, DG (DC &W)– Indian Army, Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, Chairman- CSC Academy and senior officials from the Indian Army, HDFC Bank and CSC e Governance India Limited.

- ❖ HDFC Bank, Indian Army, and CSC Academy expand the Project NAMAN.
- ❖ This initiative honors veterans and will now be implemented at 26 Directorates of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) locations.
- ❖ Project NAMAN is designed to provide support and services to Army veterans, their families, and their next of kin.
- ❖ The first phase of the project was flagged off in September 2023.
- ❖ In the second phase, the project will be expanded to 26 DIAV locations.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### AHAIC 2025

- ❖ The Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC 2025) was convened recently in Kigali, Rwanda.

- ❖ It has called for urgent reforms in health financing to ensure sustainability and reduce dependence on donor funding.
- ❖ The 1978 Alma-Ata Declaration remains a landmark in the global public health, recognising PHC as essential to achieving Health for All.
- ❖ The Alma-Ata Declaration is advocating primary healthcare (PHC) as the bedrock of universal health coverage (UHC).



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Brahmastra Missile 2025



- ❖ The Indian scientists have developed a modern-day 'Brahmastra' with an amazing speed of 12,144 km per hour.

- ❖ This weapon, named the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM), is a hypersonic glide missile developed by DRDO.
- ❖ This missile operates at 10 Mach, making it 10 times faster than the speed of sound.
- ❖ Unlike China's DF-17, which has a 1,000 km range, India's LRAShM boasts a 1,500 km range.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Bar-Headed Goose - Arunachal Pradesh



- ❖ A rare migratory bird bar-headed goose was rescued in Lish village here in West Kameng district.
- ❖ The bar-headed goose, which migrates across Asia and Europe, is listed as 'least concern' on IUCN Red List.
- ❖ It is known to be one of the highest-flying birds in the world.

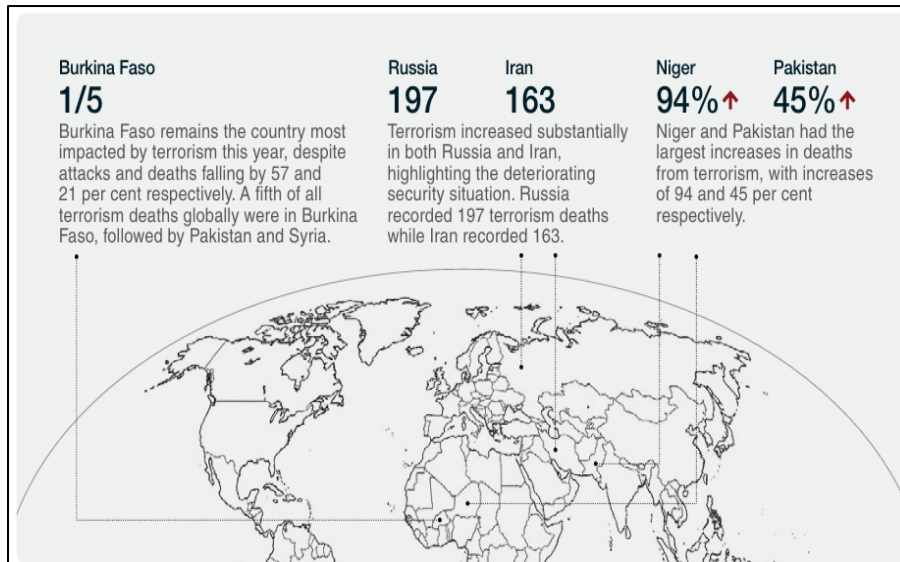
## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Terrorism Index 2025

- ❖ The number of countries with a recorded terrorist incident increased from 58 to 66 countries in 2024.
- ❖ The Sahel is the most affected region globally, accounting for over half of all the deaths from terrorism in 2024.
- ❖ Burkina Faso remains the country most impacted by terrorism this year.
- ❖ Niger and Pakistan had the largest increases in deaths from terrorism.
- ❖ Terrorist attacks jumped by 63% in the West and Europe was most affected where attacks doubled to 67.
- ❖ Seven Western countries are in the first 50 most impacted countries.



- ❖ Islamic State (IS) has expanded its operations to 22 countries and remains the deadliest organization (active in Syria and DRC).
- ❖ India is ranked at 14<sup>th</sup> place.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### National Public Bus Transport Awards for 2023-24



- ❖ The State Transport Corporations of Tamil Nadu had bagged 19 National Public Bus Transport Awards for 2023-24.
- ❖ Kumbakonam Division, has bagged five National Public Bus Transport Awards given away by the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTU) for 2023-24.
- ❖ The TNSTC Salem and Madurai divisions had bagged four awards each.

- ❖ The State Express Transport Corporation won three awards.
- ❖ The MTC, Chennai got two awards and the TNSTC, Villupuram Division got one.

### **Ilaiyaraaja symphony 2025**

- ❖ The Veteran composer Ilaiyaraaja has unveiled his "first-ever Western classical Symphony," Valiant, at London.
- ❖ He is the first musician from Asian cinema to achieve this feat in London.
- ❖ Ilaiyaraaja recorded Valiant alongside the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.
- ❖ He is also among the first composers from India to utilise elements of Western classical music for film music, as well as the first to compose a full-length symphony.



### **e-Toycathon 2025**



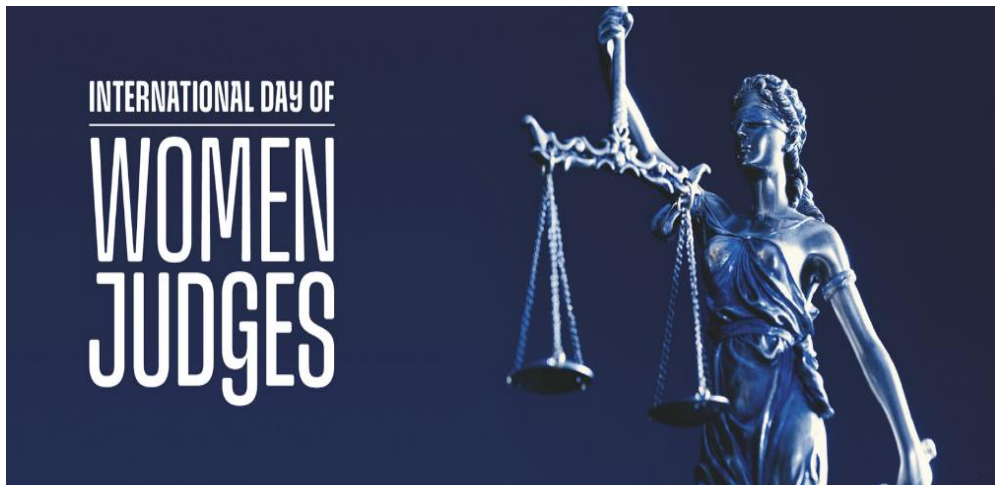
- ❖ For the first time in India the C-DAC has organized “e-Toycathon 2025” under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology’s research initiatives.



- ❖ The first prize was awarded to Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore for Play Mat Toy.
- ❖ The second prize was awarded to Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida, for Robo-Mentor AI.
- ❖ NIT Durgapur secured the 3rd place for Interactive Educational Chart.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Women Judges 2025 - March 10**



- ❖ This day honours female judges and their contributions to justice and equality.
- ❖ Anna Chandy is the first female judge of a high court in 1937.
- ❖ Fathima Beevi became the first female judge of the Supreme Court of India in 1989.
- ❖ As of August 1, 2024, around 14 percent of sitting judges across High Courts in India were women, but only two High Courts had women Chief Justices.
- ❖ In August 2024, 106 out of 754 judges in high courts were women.

## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **YouGov India Value Rankings 2025**

- ❖ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) has been ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most valued brand in India in the prestigious YouGov India Value Rankings 2025.
- ❖ Amul is the only Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand in the top three list.

- ❖ Amazon ranks first with a score of 56.5, followed by Flipkart at 53.0.
- ❖ They cover six key industries, which includes airlines, electronics, automobiles, insurance, travel booking, and e-commerce.

