

March - 25

TNPSC BITS

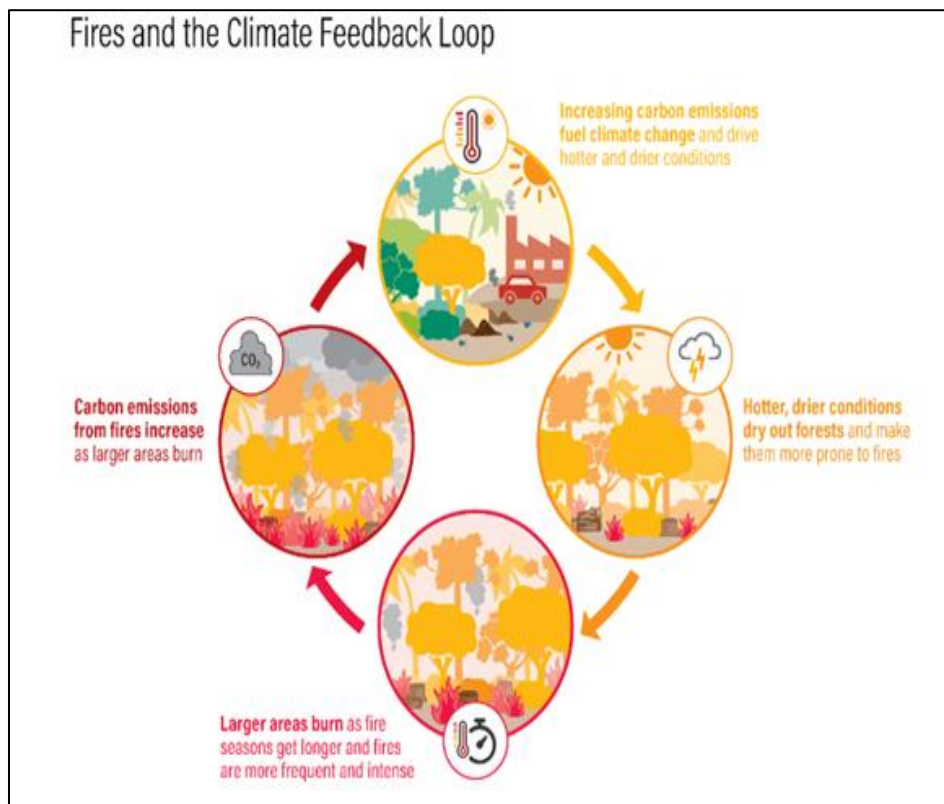
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has organised the first Joint Action Committee (JAC) meeting for the states to be affected by the delimitation exercise.
- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) has launched the Sagar mala Startup Innovation Initiative (S2I2) to drive maritime innovation in green shipping, smart ports, and logistics.
- ❖ The Ministry of Finance launched an Incentive Scheme for the Promotion of Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions - Rs. 2,000 or less (Person to Merchant) for the financial year 2024–25.
- ❖ Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has launched India's first frozen zoo to preserve the genetic material of endangered Himalayan species.
- ❖ Tata Communications Ltd has launched Vayu, the next-gen cloud fabric to provide cost effective cloud to enterprises.
- ❖ To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of India's maiden Hockey World Cup victory in 1975, a book titled 'March of Glory', co-authored by hockey historian K. Arumugam and journalist Errol D'Cruz, was launched recently.
- ❖ Khelo India Para Games 2025 has launched its anthem, mascot (Ujjwala) and logo in New Delhi.
- ❖ Nayara Energy signed MoUs with the Gujarat government's forest department for the conservation and restoration of the Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has set a historic milestone in freight loading by becoming the first railway zone in India to achieve 250 million tons (MT) of originating freight in the financial year 2024-25.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has announced the 58-foot statue of the freedom fighter Potti Sriramulu - the man known for being instrumental in the creation of the separate Telugu-speaking state of Andhra Pradesh in 1953 - in Amaravati.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Wildfire Crisis in Tamil Nadu 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has witnessed a staggering 3,380 forest fire incidents in 2023-24: the highest in four years.
- ❖ This represents a dramatic increase from the 1,035 incidents recorded in 2021-22 and 1,998 fires in 2022-23.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu lost 1.04-kilometre hectare (kHa) of the tree cover from fires between 2001 and 2023.
- ❖ 2023 seeing the highest loss at 148 hectare (Ha) - representing 6.8 per cent of all tree cover lost that year.
- ❖ The Monitoring systems like VIIRS (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) have detected unusually high fire alerts in recent periods.
- ❖ Ooty recorded its highest-ever temperature of 29 degree Celsius in 2024, since records began in 1951.
- ❖ One of the most devastating forest fires in recent Tamil Nadu history occurred in March 2018 at Kurangani in Theni district.



NATIONAL NEWS

Samarth Incubation Program

- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) launches the first cohort of Incubation Program named as “Samarth”.
- ❖ It is to focus on fostering innovation and promoting technological advancements in India’s telecommunications and IT sectors.

- ❖ It will support the startups and innovators in Telecom Software Applications, Cybersecurity, 5G/6G, AI, IoT, and Quantum Technologies.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ottawa Treaty



- ❖ Poland and the Baltics - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are preparing to exit the Ottawa Treaty.
- ❖ The Ottawa Treaty, also known as the Mine Ban Treaty, came into force in 1997.
- ❖ It aims to ban the anti-personnel mines - those aimed at humans - worldwide, and has been signed by more than 160 countries.
- ❖ But some major military powers - including China, India, Russia, Pakistan, and the US - never signed up to it.

- ❖ All of the Baltic states had signed the convention by 2005, while Poland joined in 2012.
- ❖ Although Ukraine is a signatory to the Ottawa Treaty, it has received land mines from the US during Russia's attack.
- ❖ Article 20 of the convention specifically states however that a nation cannot withdraw from the treaty if it is currently at war.
- ❖ The UN estimates the Ukraine is now the most mined nation in the world.

ECONOMY NEWS

India's tobacco exports 2024/25

- ❖ India's tobacco exports have doubled over the past four years in dollar terms on rising global demand.
- ❖ India's shipments have increased in value from \$923 million in 2021-22 to over \$1,840 million till February in the current fiscal.
- ❖ They are likely to touch \$2-billion mark by the end of March.
- ❖ Tobacco exports registered 38.59 per cent growth during April-February 2024-25 at \$1,840.70 million compared with \$1,328.17 million a year ago.
- ❖ During February, tobacco exports were \$141.80 million (\$111.87 million).

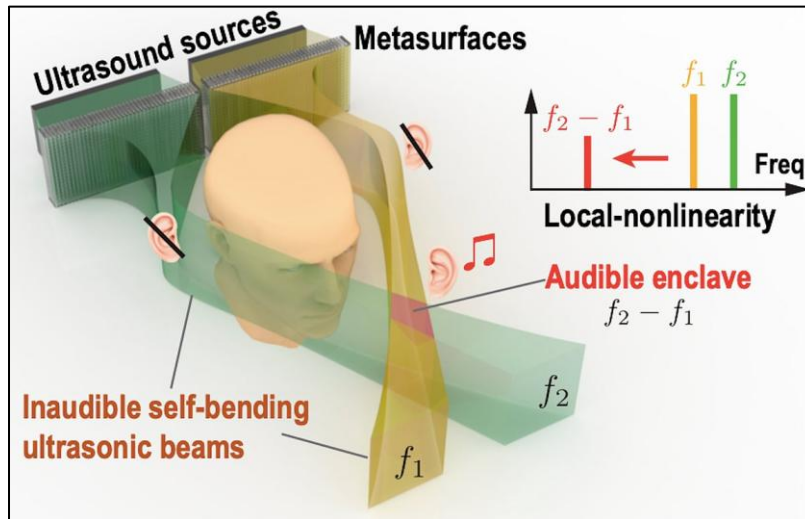
Financial Year	In \$ million	In ₹ crore
2024-25 (April-Feb)	1,840.70	15,529.81
2023-24	1,449.54	12,005.89
2022-23	1,213.37	9,739.75
2021-22	923.4	6,880.21
2020-21	876.58	6,496.09
2019-20	897.78	6,408.15

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Audible Enclaves

- ❖ The Audible enclaves are small pockets of sound that are not disturbed by surrounding noise.

- ❖ They are produced by new technologies designed to deliver sounds that only one specific person can hear, even if they are in a crowd.
- ❖ Researchers in the US doing this by using two high-frequency waves of different frequencies.
- ❖ They are inaudible in this form.
- ❖ But when they intersect, non-linear interactions cause them to produce a sound wave at that spot, audible only to people nearby.
- ❖ The technology is based on the sound wave manipulation, ensuring that only intended listeners can hear the transmitted sound.

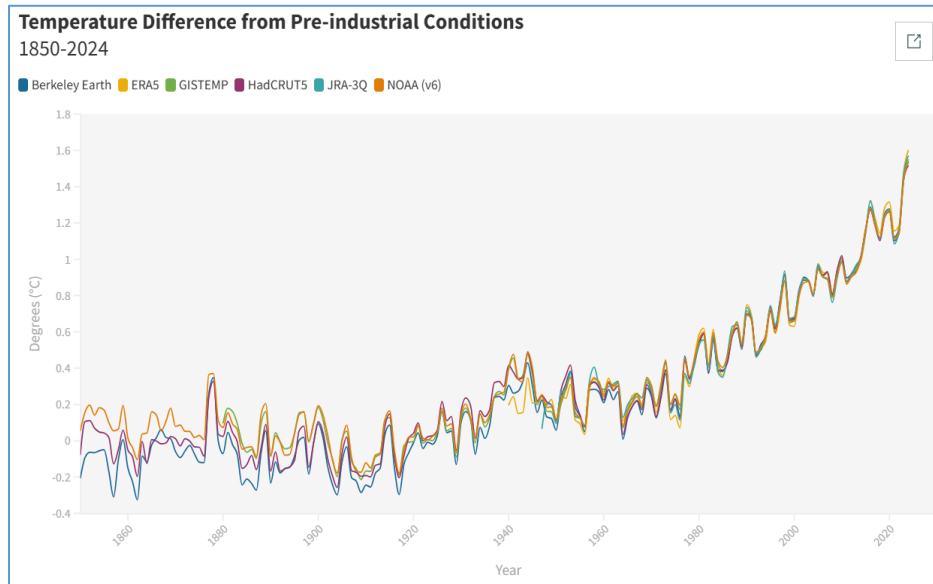


REPORTS AND INDICES

State of climate report 2024

- ❖ 2024 is the warmest year in the 175-year observational record.
- ❖ It was likely the first calendar year to be more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era.
- ❖ The global mean near-surface temperature of $1.55 \pm 0.13^\circ\text{C}$ above the 1850-1900 average.
- ❖ 2024 saw the highest ocean heat content in 65 years, with the warming rates doubling since 1960.
- ❖ The rise of 2.1 millimetres per year recorded between 1993 and 2002 has been dwarfed by a 4.7-millimeter increase between 2015 and 2024.
- ❖ Tropical cyclones, floods, droughts and other hazards in 2024 have displaced the highest number of people since 2008.

- ❖ 36 million people were forced from their homes in 2024.
- ❖ In eight countries, at least one million more people faced acute food insecurity compared with 2023.
- ❖ In 2023, atmospheric CO₂ reached 151% of pre-industrial levels, the highest in 800,000 years.



STATES' NEWS

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

9 Years of Bridging Rural-Urban Divide

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

300 Rurban clusters identified in rural India
Covering **34 States & UTs***

BUT WHAT IS RURBAN CLUSTER?

Swipe >>

*Union Territories

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

9 Years of Bridging Rural-Urban Divide

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

A cluster of **geographically contiguous villages** with a population of:

About **25,000 - 50,000** in plains & coastal areas

5,000 - 15,000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas

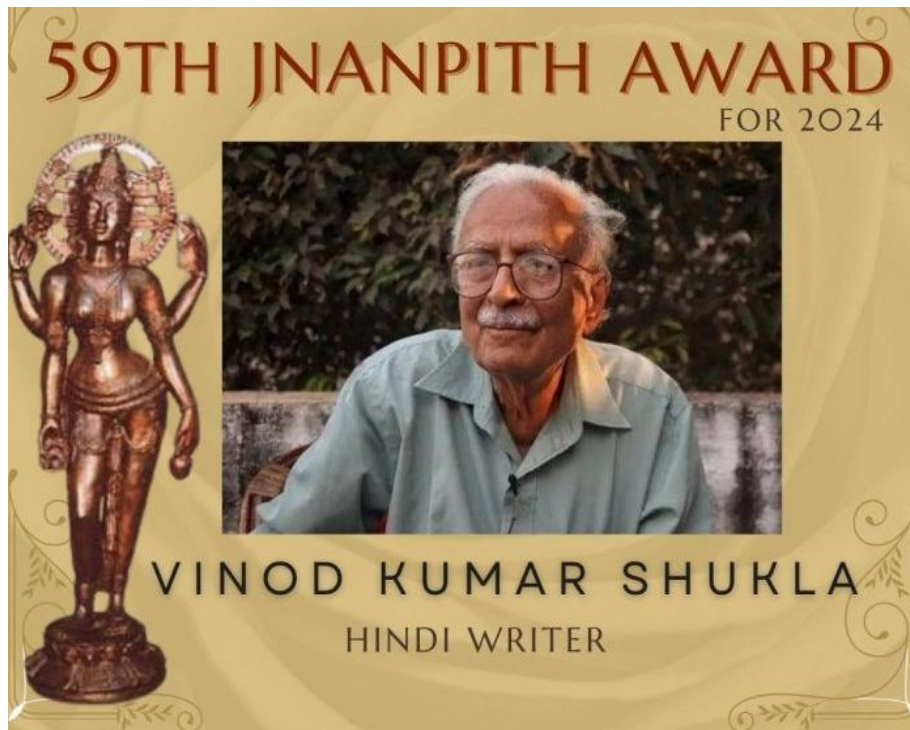
- ❖ The mission aims to develop 300 clusters of villages while preserving rural community life and ensuring access to urban-like facilities in rural India.
- ❖ It is covering 34 States and UTs with the objective of bridging Rural-Urban divide.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has topped the national rankings with a score of 96.32, followed by Mizoram (93.96), Uttar Pradesh (92.37), and Telangana (91.87).

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

59th Jnanpith Award

- ❖ The Renowned Hindi poet and novelist Vinod Kumar Shukla has been selected to receive the 59th Jnanpith Award for 2024.
- ❖ He is the first from the state of Chhattisgarh to have bagged this very prestigious award.
- ❖ The Jnanpith Award was instituted in 1961.
- ❖ It was first given to Malayalam poet G Sankara Kurup in 1965 for this anthology of poems "Odakkuzhal".
- ❖ The award is given only to Indian and living authors.

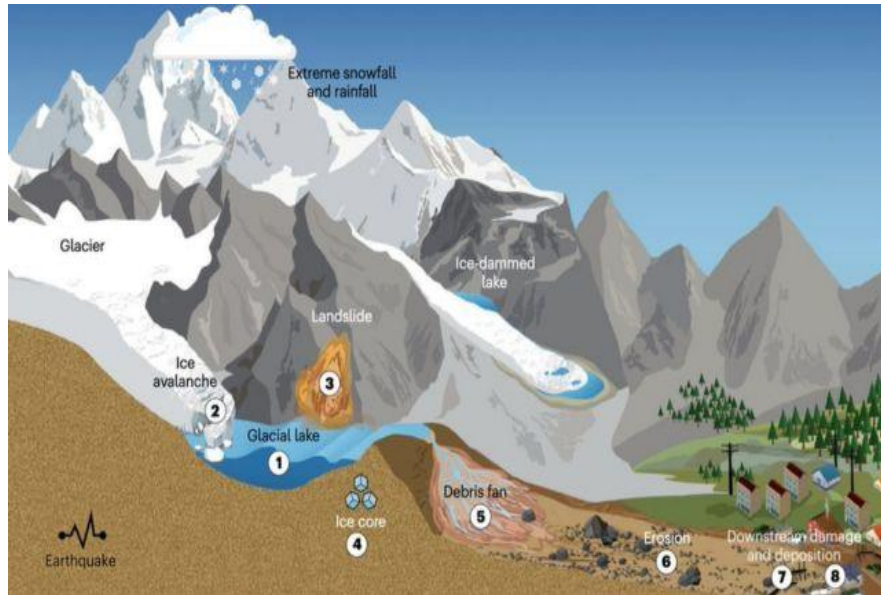


IMPORTANT DAYS

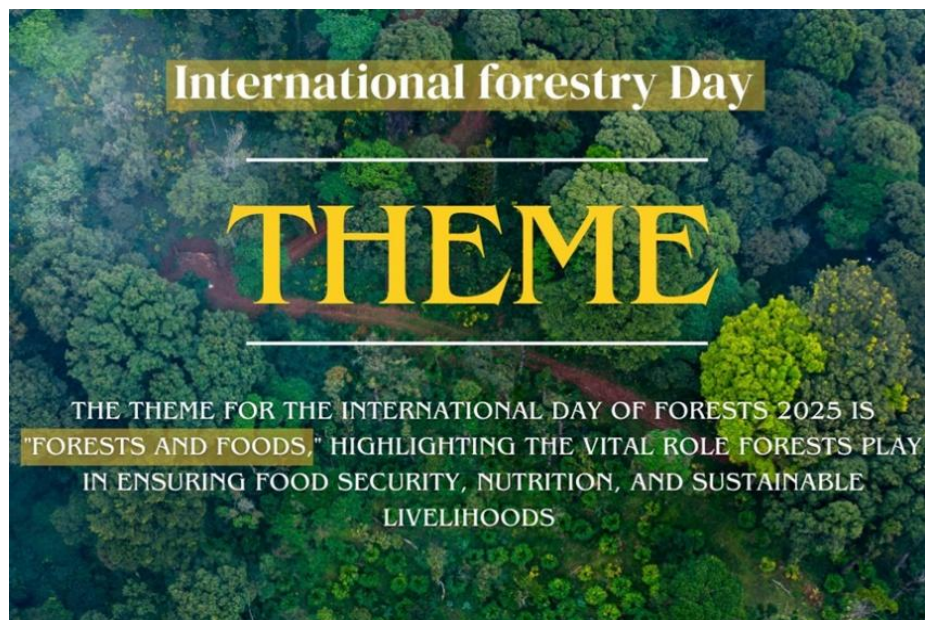
World Day for Glaciers 2025 - March 21

- ❖ United Nations declared 2025 the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and March 21 the first World Day for Glaciers.

- ❖ It aims to highlight the critical role of glaciers and the urgent need for their very conservation amidst climate change threats.
- ❖ Europe's Alps and Pyrenees lost 40 percent of their glacier volume from 2000 to 2023.
- ❖ A glacial lake outburst flood today could threaten the lives of an estimated 35,000 people living in the water's path.



International Day of Forests 2025 - March 21



- ❖ It was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2012.

- ❖ This day aims to focus on the vital role of forests in climate regulation, human well-being and biodiversity.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Forest and Food".

World Down Syndrome Day 2025 - March 21

- ❖ This day is helping people understand, support and promote the rights of those with Down syndrome.
- ❖ This genetic condition occurs when a person takes birth with an extra copy of chromosome 21.
- ❖ The date, "3/21" symbolises the triplication of the 21st chromosome, which is referred to as the genetic cause for Down syndrome.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Improve Our Support Systems."

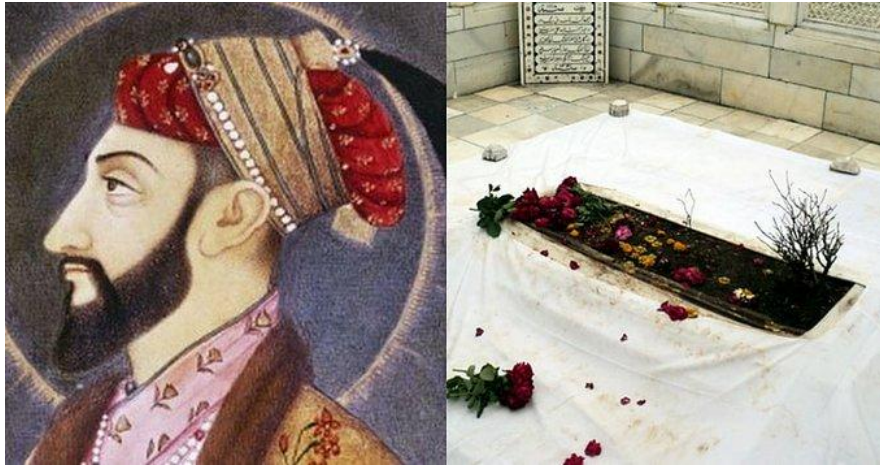


MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

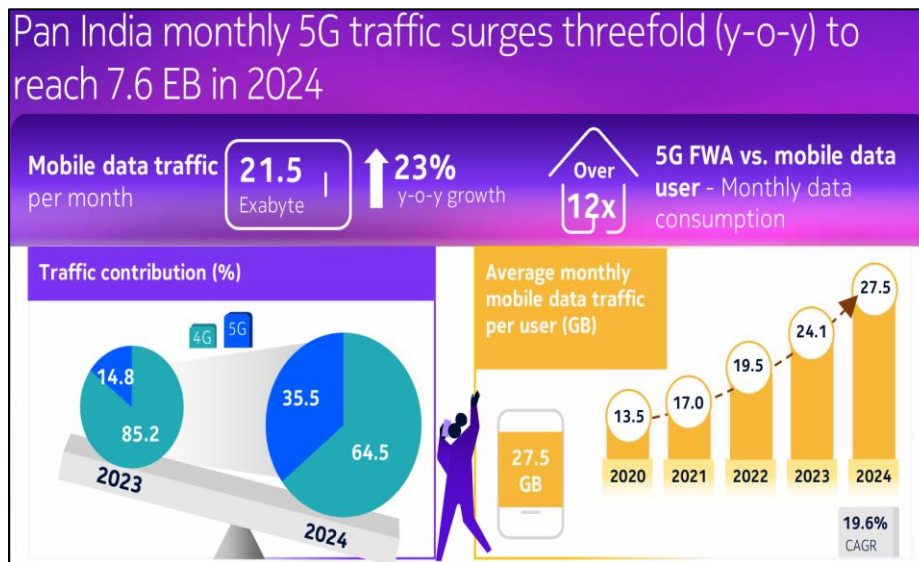
Aurangzeb's Tomb issue - Maharashtra

- ❖ Nagpur saw violent clashes on the issue of tomb of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb which is located in Khuldabad of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district.
- ❖ Aurangzeb died more than 300 years ago, on February 20, 1707.
- ❖ His grave lies inside the complex of the dargah (shrine) of Sheikh Zainuddin, a 14th-century Chishti saint.

- ❖ Also buried in the complex are Azam Shah, one of Aurangzeb’s sons who briefly succeeded him as emperor, the first Nizam of Hyderabad, Asaf Jah I (1724-48), and Asaf Jah’s son, the second Nizam, Nasir Jung (1748-50).



Mobile Broadband Index



- ❖ Nokia disclosed the findings of its annual Mobile Broadband Index (MBiI).
- ❖ India saw a three-fold year-on-year increase in 5G data traffic in 2024.
- ❖ The average monthly data consumption per user will increase to 27.5 gigabytes in 2024.
- ❖ The number of active 5G devices doubling year-on-year to reach 271 million in 2024.

