

November - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India and France have been elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a two-year term from 2024 to 2026.
- ❖ Coal India Ltd (CIL), under the Ministry of Coal, marked its 50th Foundation Day on 1<sup>st</sup> November at its headquarters in Kolkata.
- ❖ The 352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is underway in Geneva.
- ❖ Collins Dictionary has declared “brat” (The album title that became a summer-living ideal) its 2024 word of the year.
- ❖ Yang Ji-in of Republic of Korea and Liu Yukun of China have been awarded the ISSF Athlete of the Year 2024.
- ❖ DBS Bank India has been recognised as one of the Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI) 2024 for the ninth successive year.

## TAMIL NADU

### RC Morris Report and Kodo Millet



**KODO MILLET**

**வரகு**

- ❖ While investigating the mysterious deaths of 10 elephants within 72 hours in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh forest department officials have come across R.C. Morris report.

- ❖ It is a 90-year-old report dated May 22, 1934 detailing the deaths of 14 elephants in Vannathiparai Reserve Forest, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It attributes the deaths of these elephants to the consumption of Kodo millet, locally known as 'Varagu.'
- ❖ The antidote for this poison is believed to be tamarind water or buttermilk in large quantities.
- ❖ The incident was recounted on December 17, 1933.
- ❖ The same kind of millet is now being linked to the recent elephant fatalities in Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh.

### **Senna spectabilis in Tamil Nadu**



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has informed the Madras High Court that the forests of the state would be made free of one of the invasive weeds — *Senna spectabilis* by the next 12 months.
- ❖ It was introduced to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) after being sourced from South and Central America.
- ❖ It is a fast-growing species, particularly on deep soils, and is fire- and termite-resistant and tolerant of strongly acidic soils.

- ❖ In November 2021, the Tamil Nadu Policy on Invasive Plants and Ecological Restoration (TNPIPER) experts found 196 alien invasive plant species in forest areas, of which 23 were 'priority invasives'.

## NATIONAL

### First in the World Challenge

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has announced a new initiative called "First in the World Challenge".
- ❖ It is aimed at encouraging Indian scientists to come up with innovative ideas for finding solutions to difficult health problems.
- ❖ The proposals aiming for 'incremental knowledge' or 'process innovation' will not be funded through this scheme.



### DICSC project

- ❖ The Centre launched the Digital India Common Service Center (DICSC) project, in Pilibhit and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This initiative will establish one model DICSC center in nearly all gram panchayats across 10 districts, totalling 4,740 centers nationwide.
- ❖ The implementation and centralized technical monitoring of these centers will be managed by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.

- ❖ It aims to create an integrated platform that provides essential e-governance services along with financial and commercial services to rural citizens.



## National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2024



- ❖ India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024 was released at the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 16), Colombia.
- ❖ It is a vital roadmap to address the strategies to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, with a longer-term vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.
- ❖ India had adopted the 'Whole-of-Government' and 'Whole-of-Society' approach in updating its NBSAP.
- ❖ India commits to protect at least 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas and the loss of highly biodiverse areas is close to zero by 2030.
- ❖ India, recognised as one of the 17 megadiverse countries, became a party to the CBD in 1994.
- ❖ It harbours about 7-8% of the world's recorded species within just 2.4% of the global land area.

- ❖ India is home to more than 55,000 plant taxa and over 100,000 species of animals.
- ❖ First NBSAP was created in 1999.

## INTERNATIONAL

### ARIN-AP

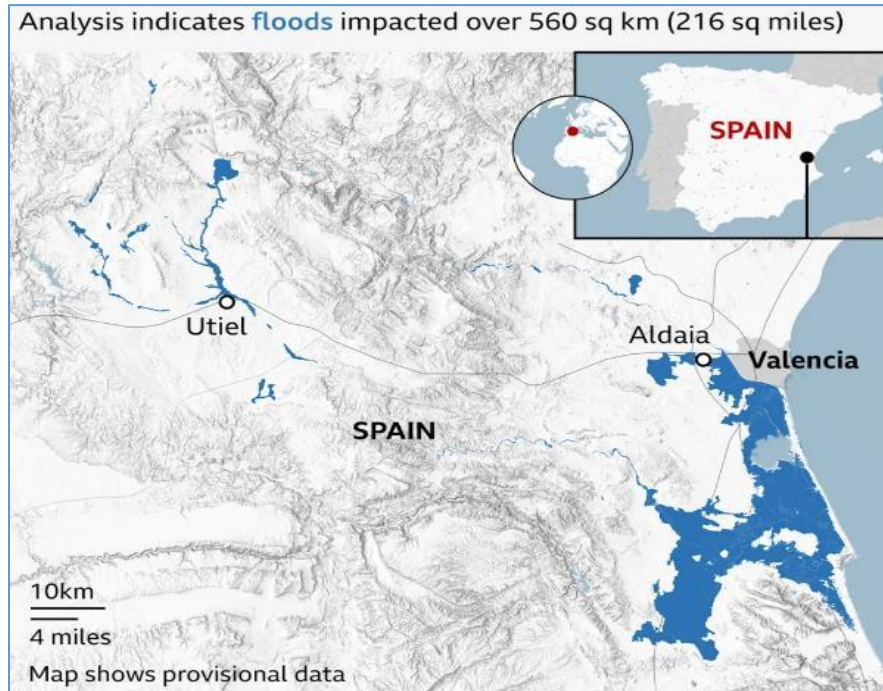
- ❖ India, represented by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), has been included in the Steering Committee of the Asset Recovery Interagency Network-Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP).
- ❖ It is a prominent multi-agency network dedicated to tackling the proceeds of crime in the Asia-Pacific region and a member of the Global CARIN Network.
- ❖ India will assume the presidency of the network and host the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2026.
- ❖ ARIN-AP was established to facilitate cross-border collaboration on asset tracing, freezing, and confiscation.
- ❖ It includes 28 member jurisdictions and nine observers and serves as an informal yet robust network as part of CARIN Network.



### Flash floods in Spain

- ❖ The Spanish city of Barcelona was hit by flood due to torrential rains.
- ❖ The flooding was caused by a Dana phenomenon - when warm, moist air meets cold air, creating an unstable weather system.
- ❖ This is the Europe's worst flood-related disaster since 1967 when at least 500 people died in Portugal.

- ❖ The extreme weather event came after Spain battled with prolonged droughts in 2022 and 2023.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

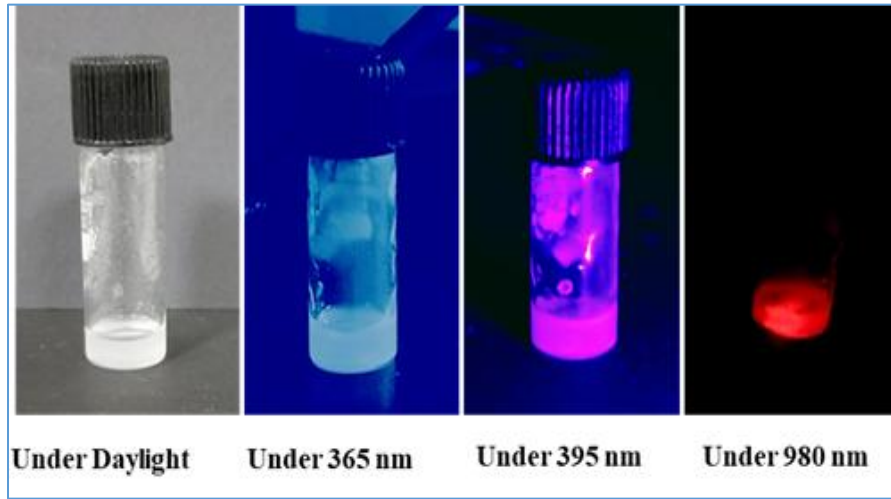
### Analogue Space Mission – Leh



- ❖ ISRO has started the country's first analog space mission at Leh in Ladakh, where space agency will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat.

- ❖ The move assumes significance as India is planning to send a human to the Moon in the near future.
- ❖ Analog space missions are field tests in locations on Earth that have physical similarities to the extreme space environments.
- ❖ It also plays a significant role in problem solving for spaceflight research.

## **Luminescent Nanomaterials**



- ❖ The Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), have developed a novel security ink using luminescent nanomaterials.
- ❖ It aims to combat counterfeiting in currency, certificates, branded goods, and medicines.
- ❖ This ink exhibits different colors under various light wavelengths, enhancing its security features.
- ❖ The synthesis process involves rare earth doping and a co-precipitation method, allowing the ink to remain effective under diverse conditions.
- ❖ This new innovation provides a reliable solution for verifying authenticity and preventing counterfeit products.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Rise of Himalayan Glacial Lakes**

- ❖ The Himalayan glacial lakes are rapidly expanding posing an increasing threat to communities and ecosystems.
- ❖ From 2011 to 2024, these lakes grew by 10.81% in surface area, driven primarily by climate change.

- ❖ In India side, glacial lakes expanded by 33.7% over the same period.
- ❖ 67 lakes in India alone have seen a more than 40% increase in size, marking them as high-risk for potential flooding.
- ❖ Glacial lakes in India expanded from approximately 1,962 hectares in 2011 to 2,623 hectares by 2024.
- ❖ Across the entire Himalayan range, the surface area of glacial lakes grew from 533,401 hectares in 2011 to 591,108 hectares by 2024.



## STATES

### Thadou Tribe – 10 points declaration



- ❖ The Thadou tribes released a 10-point declaration to protect the tribe's distinct identity and heritage amid the ethnic crisis in Manipur.
- ❖ Thadou Convention have agreed to place a demand for recognition of the Thadou tribe as a separate and distinct Scheduled Tribe in Assam, Mizoram, and Nagaland.





- ❖ As per the declaration, Thadou is not Kuki, or underneath Kuki, or part of Kuki, but a separate, independent entity from Kuki.
- ❖ Thadou is one of the original 29 native/indigenous tribes of Manipur, India.
- ❖ It has been the single-largest tribe in Manipur consistently since the first census of India in 1881 till the latest census in 2011 that recorded Thadou population at 2,15,913.
- ❖ Any Kuki Tribes (AKT) had a population of 28,342 in the latest Manipur census in 2011, the first time Kuki was ever recorded in a census.

