



November - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has inaugurated the state's first government-run co-working and learning space, 'Muthalvar Padaippagam' in Kolathur, Chennai.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) at Delhi.
- ❖ The 5th Edition of Vietnam Indian Bilateral Army Exercise "VINBAX 2024" is held at Ambala, Haryana.
- ❖ The Cairn Oil & Gas, has signed a MOU with the UN Environment Programme's flagship methane reporting and mitigation initiative - Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0.
 - It the first oil and gas producer in India to commit to effective reduction of methane emissions.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu Fellowship for Tribal Research 2024

Fellowship:	
a) No of Fellowships:	
I.	Total Number of fresh fellowships in each year for Under Graduate and Post Graduate course is 25.
II.	Total Number of fresh fellowships in each year for Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Post Doctorate is 45.
b) Value of Fellowship:	
Course	Fellowship amount per month
Under Graduate and Post Graduate	Rs.10,000/-
Doctor of Philosophy and Post Doctorate	Rs.25,000/-

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Fellowship for Tribal Research was introduced by the State government.
- ❖ It aims to support 70 students, including 45 research scholars, who are working on subjects related to tribal communities.
- ❖ The state government has recently issued some guidelines for granting these fellowships.



- ❖ Each of the selected 45 research scholars pursuing their Ph.D. or post-doctoral research would get a fellowship of ₹25,000 per month for a maximum period of three years.
- ❖ Each of the selected 25 undergraduate and post-graduate students would be granted a fellowship of ₹10,000 a month for six months.
- ❖ The maximum age for applying is 50 years for men and 55 years for women and transgender people.

INTERNATIONAL

DRRWG Ministerial Meeting

- ❖ The G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) Ministerial Meeting was held in Belem, Brazil.
- ❖ This event finalized the first Ministerial declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
- ❖ The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) now includes 40 countries and 7 international organizations as members.
- ❖ The DRR Working Group was established on India's initiative during its G20 Presidency in 2023.

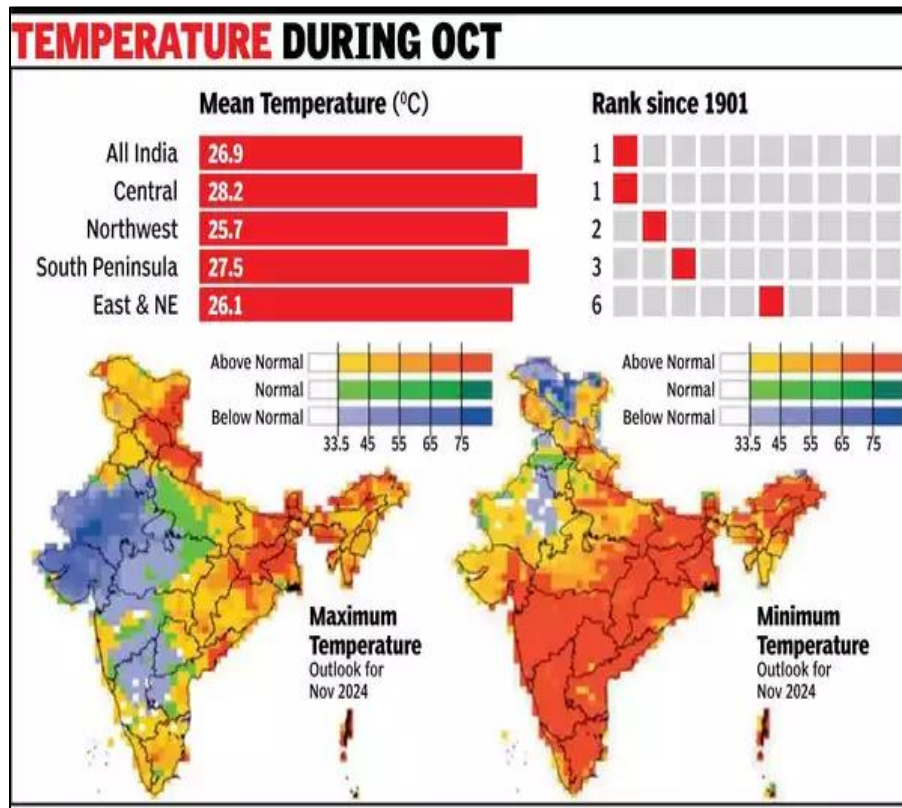


ENVIRONMENT

Record Heat in October 2024

- ❖ October 2024 was the warmest October in India in the last 124 years (since 1914).

- ❖ It witnessed an average temperature of 26.92 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ It was exceeding expected levels by 1.23 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The Minimum temperatures for October also reached unprecedented levels, the highest since the IMD began keeping records in 1901.
- ❖ The monthly maximum and minimum averages over Safdarjung of Delhi were recorded as 35.1 degrees Celsius and 21.2 degrees Celsius respectively.

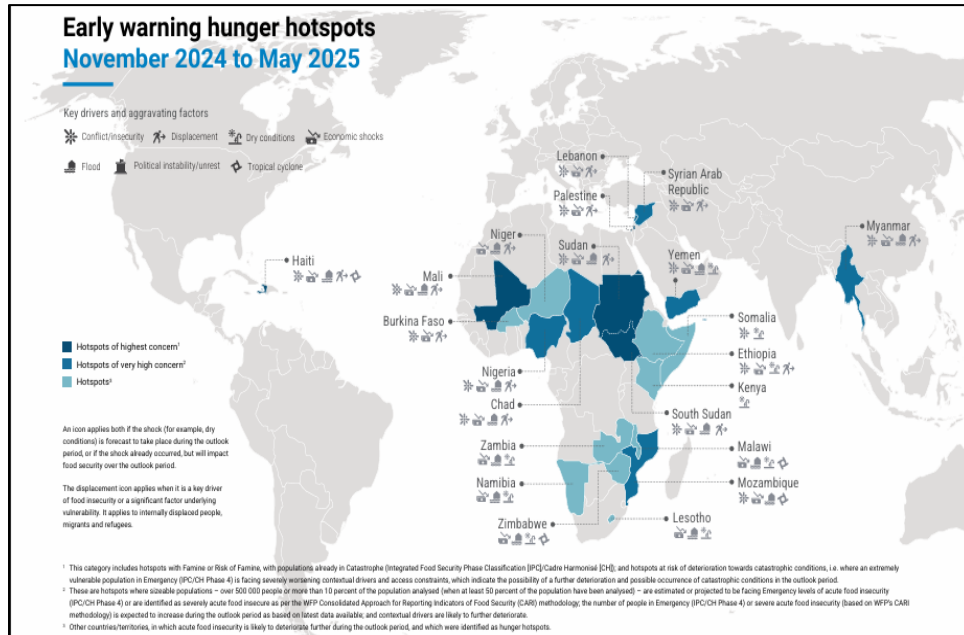


REPORTS AND INDICES

Hunger Hotspots report 2024

- ❖ FAO and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) released a report Hunger Hotspots: FAO–WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2024 to May 2025 outlook.
- ❖ The Acute food insecurity is projected to worsen in 14 countries and two regional clusters, covering a total of 22 countries / territories during the next six months.
- ❖ Ongoing conflict and armed violence remain the main causes of hunger in many areas
- ❖ Sudan, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti and Mali are on the highest alert.

- ❖ Other affected areas with the high alert levels are Chad, Lebanon, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.



Henley Passport Index 2024

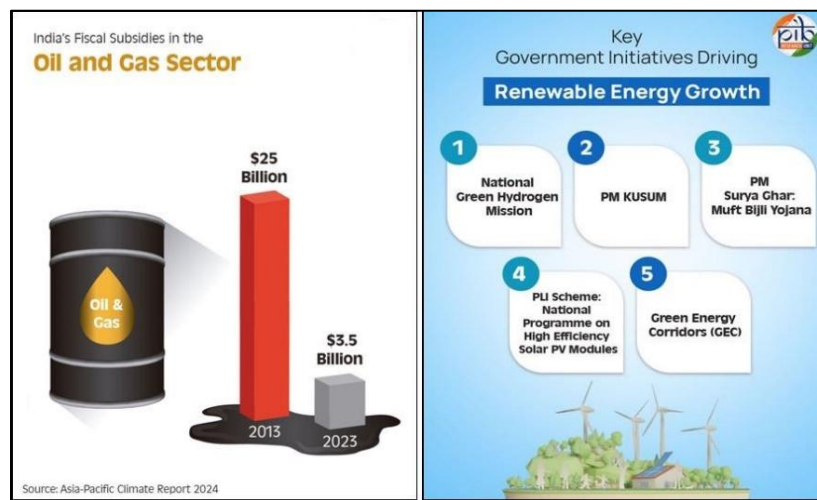
Where does your passport rank?

Rank	Countries	Visa-free Access Score
1	Singapore	195
2	France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain	192
3	Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden	191
4	Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom	190
5	Australia, Portugal	189
6	Greece, Poland	188
7	Canada, Czechia, Hungary, Malta	187
8	United States	186
9	Estonia, Lithuania, United Arab Emirates	185
10	Iceland, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia	184

- ❖ Singapore has been named the world’s most powerful passport again, with its citizens visa-free access to 195 countries.

- ❖ France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain shared the second place, granting their citizens visa-free access to 192 countries
- ❖ The United States was ranked at 8th, giving its citizens visa-free entry to 186 countries.
- ❖ India was ranked at 83rd, providing its citizens with the visa-free access to 58 countries.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan are the least powerful indexes in the world.

Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2024

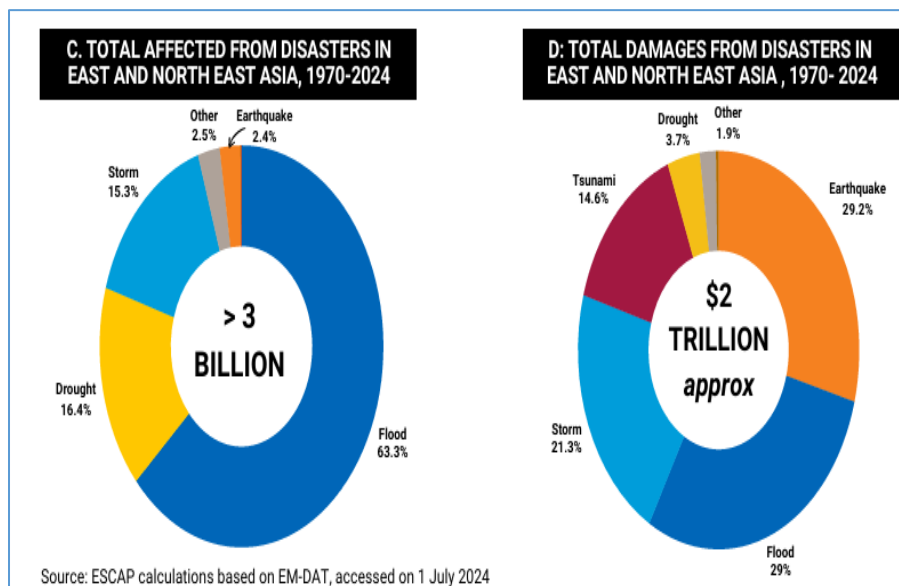


- ❖ The Asian Development Bank released its recent Asia-Pacific Climate Report.
- ❖ It highlights India's efforts and actions in the major shift from fossil fuels to clean energy sector.
- ❖ India's reforms have led to an 85% reduction in fossil fuel subsidies, from \$25 billion in 2013 to \$3.5 billion in 2023.
- ❖ India implemented a cess on coal production from 2010 to 2017 to fund clean energy projects.
- ❖ But the coal cess was diverted to GST compensation post-2017.
- ❖ Despite reforms, fossil fuels still play a significant role in India's energy consumption.

Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2024

- ❖ UNDRR hosts the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in Manila, Philippines.

- ❖ The "Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2024" focuses on the transformative disaster resilience in East and North-East Asia.
- ❖ From 1970 to 2024, disasters caused close to half a million fatalities.
- ❖ It affected 3 billion people and caused an estimated damage of around \$2 trillion in East and North-East Asia
- ❖ Particularly, drought risk will increase in North and West China under a 1.5°C and under 2°C, it shifts further to Western China, becoming more severe.
- ❖ China recorded the highest cumulative number of fatalities in the subregion, with over 450,000 deaths, followed by Japan with over 32,000 deaths.
- ❖ In East and North-East Asia, early warning systems have the potential to prevent \$107.5 Billion to \$ 161.3 Billion annually.

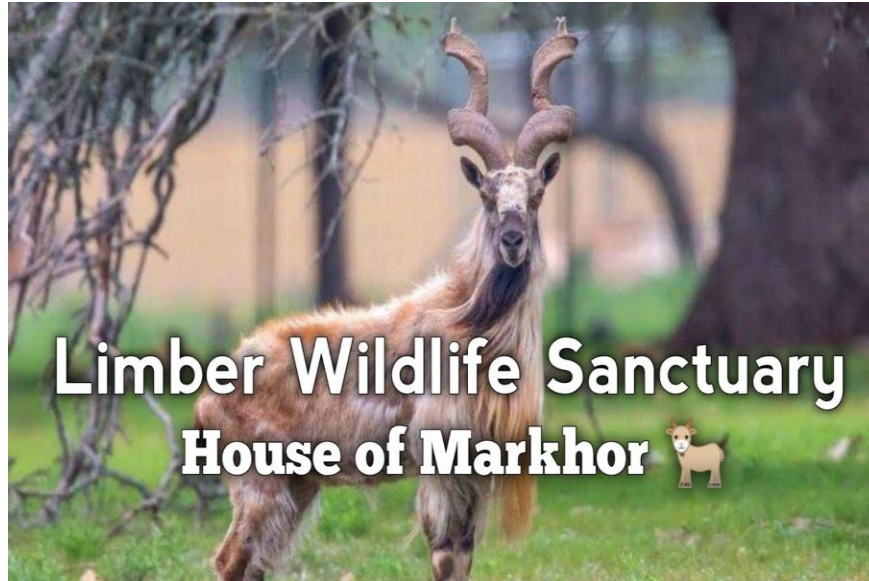


STATES

Markhor in Jammu and Kashmir

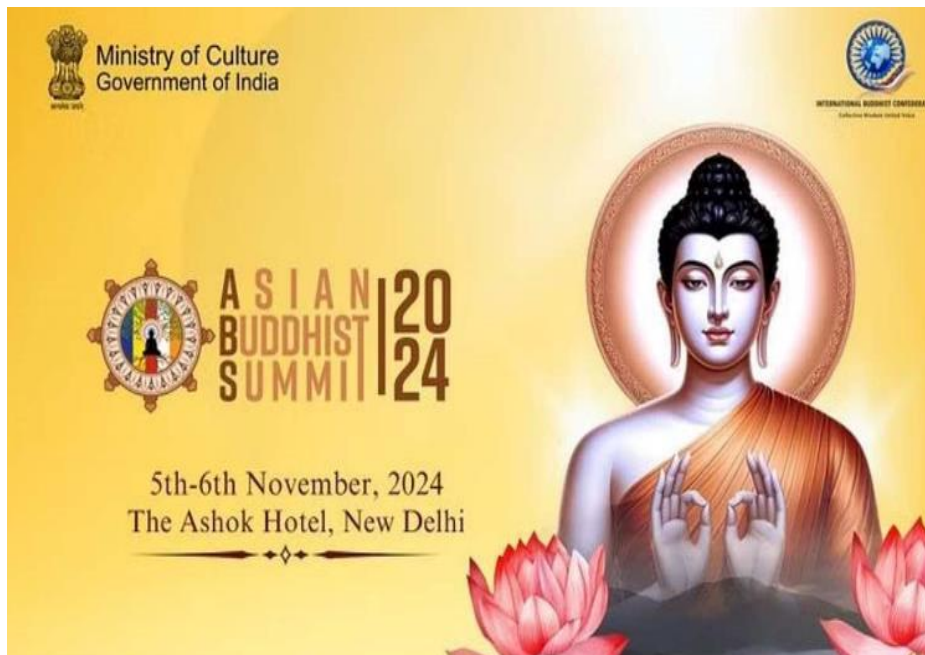
- ❖ Scientifically known as Capra falconer, Markhor is fighting a battle for its survival due to habitat loss, illegal hunting and climate change.
- ❖ It is presents in Kazinag National Park in north Kashmir's Baramulla district and the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary in Shopian district in south Kashmir.
- ❖ It is considered to be the largest wild goat in the world.
- ❖ Markhor in India is found only in J&K.
- ❖ The species is enlisted in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and categorised as 'Near Threatened' under the IUCN Red List.

- ❖ The UNGA has proclaimed May 24 from this year as the International Day of the Markhor.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

First Asian Buddhist Summit



- ❖ India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), is holding the first Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The summit was themed 'Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia'.

- ❖ A special exhibition was curated on the theme “India as the Dhamma Setu (Bridge) connecting Asia.”

COP 16 Outcomes 2024



- ❖ The 16th edition of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) in Cali, Colombia.
- ❖ It has accepted the Establishment of a body to include indigenous groups in biodiversity discussions.
- ❖ Debates on fair benefit-sharing from the use of genetic data, with plans for a multilateral mechanism yet unresolved.
- ❖ They have agreed on technical support for biodiversity mainstreaming, addressing invasive species, and enhancing biodiversity-climate synergy.
- ❖ On the other side, only a fraction of the estimated \$200 billion required annually for biodiversity goals has been pledged.
- ❖ No consensus on contributions to the DSI fund or mechanisms for financial and technical resource allocation.
- ❖ The KMGBF targets remain non-binding, very potentially impacting the global commitment to these goals.
- ❖ India has presented an updated biodiversity plan, projecting an expenditure of ₹81,664 crore for biodiversity and conservation from 2025-30.
- ❖ This convention follows meetings in 2022 at Montreal, Canada.

- ❖ At that meet, countries agreed to protect 30% of land and water by 2030, known as the '30-by-30 agreement.
- ❖ Targets include reducing the introduction of invasive alien species by 50% and minimising their impact by 2030.

Kemi Badenoch

- ❖ Britain's Conservative Party named Kemi Badenoch, 44, its new chief.
- ❖ This is making her the first black politician and black woman politician to lead a major British party.
- ❖ She replaced Rishi Sunak.
- ❖ Former British Indian home secretary Priti Patel has been chosen as her shadow foreign secretary.



SPORTS

Under-19 World Boxing Championships

- ❖ India has secured 17 medals at the Under-19 World Boxing Championships in Colorado, USA.
- ❖ It was including four golds, across the men's and women's categories.

- ❖ The Indian squad, featuring 19 boxers, 9 men and 10 women, saw 12 athletes reach the finals, with every female boxer winning a medal.
- ❖ The four gold medalists included Hemant Sangwan, the only male champion, and female champions Krisha Verma, Parthavi Grewal, and Vanshika Goswami.

