

November - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has announced that the state government will cover the entire educational expenses of children whose parents, employed at firecracker factories, lost their lives in accidents.
- ❖ A renowned Tamil intellectual, writer, and researcher Raj Gowthaman has passed away.
- ❖ IIT- Madras has collaborated with the O.P. Jindal Global University to develop a robot for guiding visitors to the latter's 'Constitution Museum'.
- ❖ IIT Madras has collaborated with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to establish a Centre of Excellence for research in 'Fluid and Thermal Sciences'.
- ❖ In a first, the Home Ministry has approved a decision to establish an all-women battalion of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), comprising over 1,000 personnel.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Power chaired the Conference of Power Ministers of States and Union Territories in New Delhi, aimed at addressing key issues in the power sector.
- ❖ The 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25) was held at New Delhi.
- ❖ Brazil will host the G20 Leaders' Summit on November 18 - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Rio de Janeiro.
- ❖ Britain's Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel 'Orbital', a story about a single day aboard the International Space Station.
- ❖ Dr. Davendra Kumar Dhodawat, Additional Secretary to the Governor of Kerala authored a book named 'Maa-Mother'.
- ❖ The Defence Space Agency hosted a first-ever 3-day space exercise - Antariksha Abhyas-2024 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Pankaj Advani has secured his 28<sup>th</sup> world title at the IBSF World Billiards Championship 2024 held at Qatar.

## TAMIL NADU

### Phase II of 'Uttachathai Uruthi Sei'

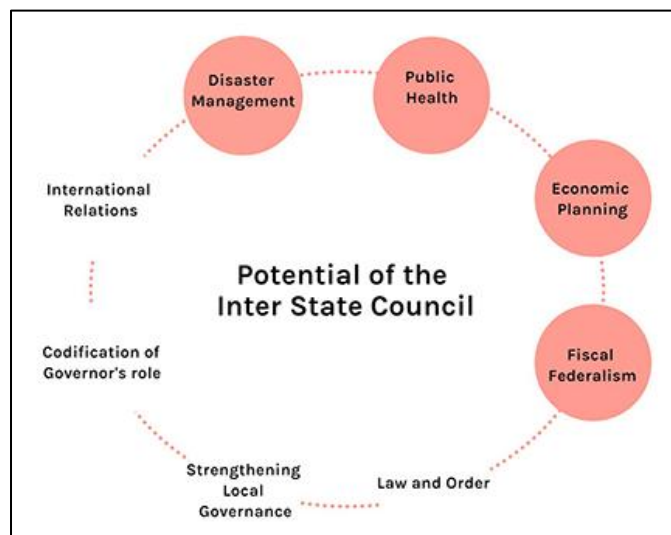
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government launched the second phase of 'Uttachathai Uruthi Sei' programme in Ariyalur.

- ❖ It is a nutritional intervention programme for malnourished children and their mothers.
- ❖ Mothers of over 76,700 babies in the age group of zero to six months are identified as malnourished.
- ❖ They would be covered under Phase II of the programme at a total cost of ₹22 crore.
- ❖ Phase I of the programme launched in 2022 identified the malnourished children.
- ❖ After the government's intervention, 77.3% of them have showed an improvement and progressed to normal levels.



## NATIONAL

### New Standing Committee for Inter-State Council



- ❖ The Union government reconstituted the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council (ISC), naming Home Minister as its chairman.

- ❖ The new committee includes 12 other members.
- ❖ They comprise the senior Union ministers and chief ministers from seven states, including Maharashtra, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is tasked with facilitating continuous consultations on matters to be considered by the broader Inter-State Council.
- ❖ The ISC works to foster Centre-state and interstate coordination and cooperation.
- ❖ This committee includes all chief ministers, nine Union ministers as members, and 13 Union ministers as permanent invitees.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Arrow-3 Missile Interception System

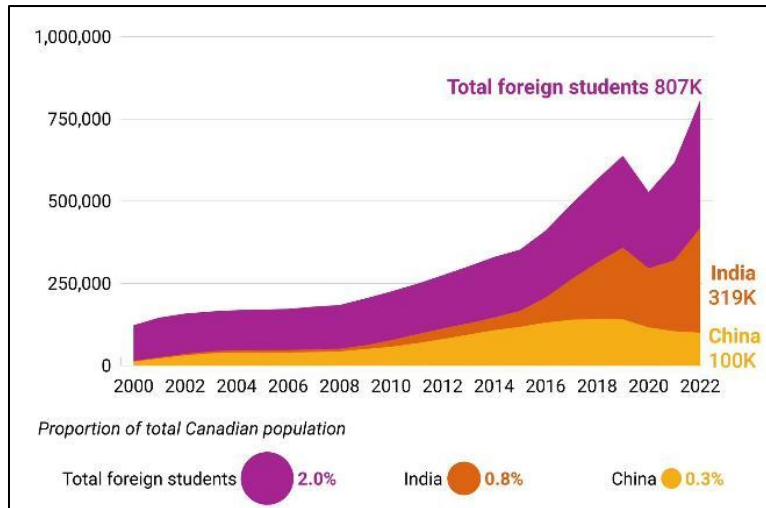


- ❖ The initial deployment of Israel's Arrow-3 missile interception system on German soil will take place in 2025.
- ❖ The Arrow system includes the Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 interceptors.
- ❖ It was developed in cooperation between Israel and the United States to counter long-range ballistic missile threats.
- ❖ Israel agreed last year to sell the Arrow-3 system to Germany in a \$3.5 billion deal, its biggest defence sale to date.
- ❖ Arrow-3 specialises in knocking out missiles before they re-enter the Earth's atmosphere.

### Canada - SDS Visa Program

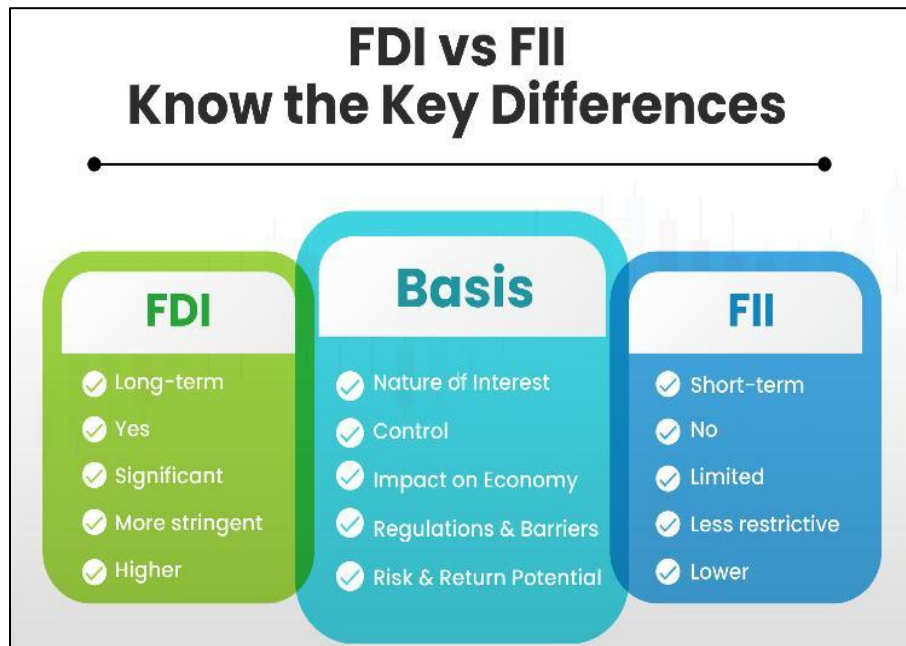
- ❖ Canada closed its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program for students from 14 countries, including India, China and Pakistan.
- ❖ However, the regular visa route allows ample opportunity to secure approvals.

- ❖ The SDS program allowed for faster processing of student visa applications.
- ❖ It was launched in 2018 for admission into post-secondary Designated Learning Institutions (DLI).



## ECONOMY

### Reclassification of FPI and FDI

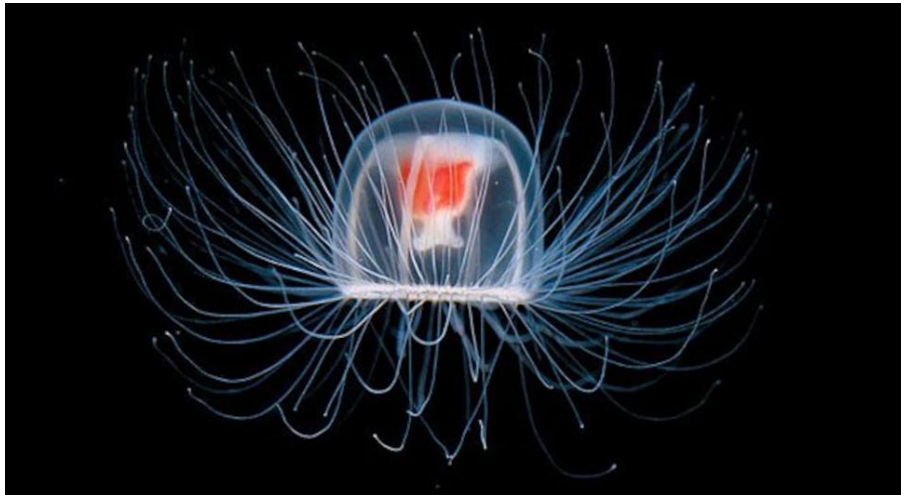


- ❖ RBI has finalised a framework to allow foreign portfolio investors to convert their investments to foreign direct investment (FDI).

- ❖ Any Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) whose investments would be reclassified as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) the moment it breaches the 10% stake threshold in an Indian company.
- ❖ This is issued under the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019.
- ❖ Currently, an investment made by foreign portfolio investor along with its investor group (FPI) should be less than 10 per cent of the total paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis.
- ❖ As per the framework, the FPI concerned will have to take necessary approvals from the government and concurrence of the Indian investee company concerned.
- ❖ FDI is the investment through capital instruments by a person resident outside India.
- ❖ FPI is an Indirect investment in financial assets like stocks and bonds.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Turritopsis dohrnii

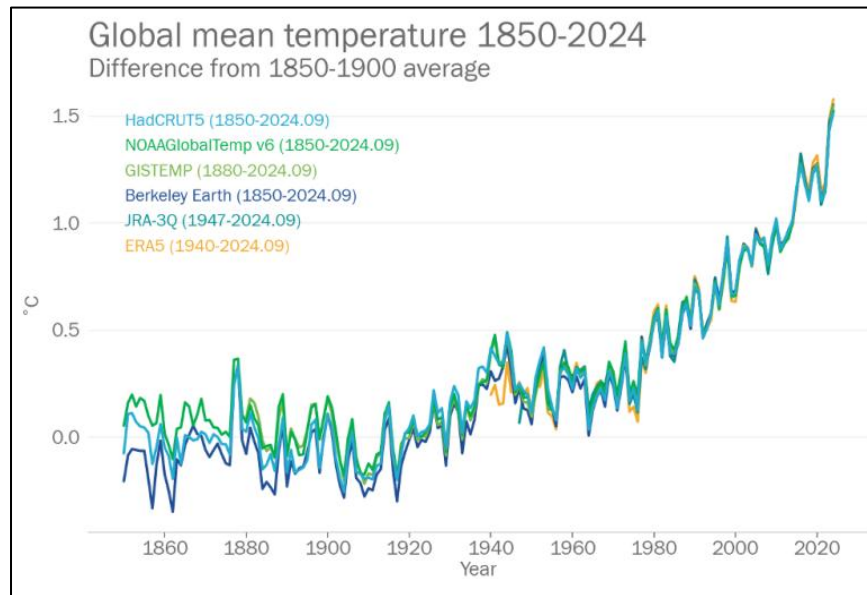


- ❖ The Turritopsis dohrnii is also known as the "immortal jellyfish".
- ❖ They have a remarkable ability to reverse its ageing process and avoid death.
- ❖ When they faced with environmental stress or physical damage, this jellyfish can revert to an earlier stage of its life cycle.
- ❖ It is transforming its adult cells back into a polyp stage (youth form).
- ❖ This transformation process is called "transdifferentiation" and allows the jellyfish to start its life cycle over again.
- ❖ The creature was first described by scientists in 1883.

- ❖ It is originally discovered in the Mediterranean Sea and also found in the oceans worldwide.

## ENVIRONMENT

### State of the Climate 2024 Report

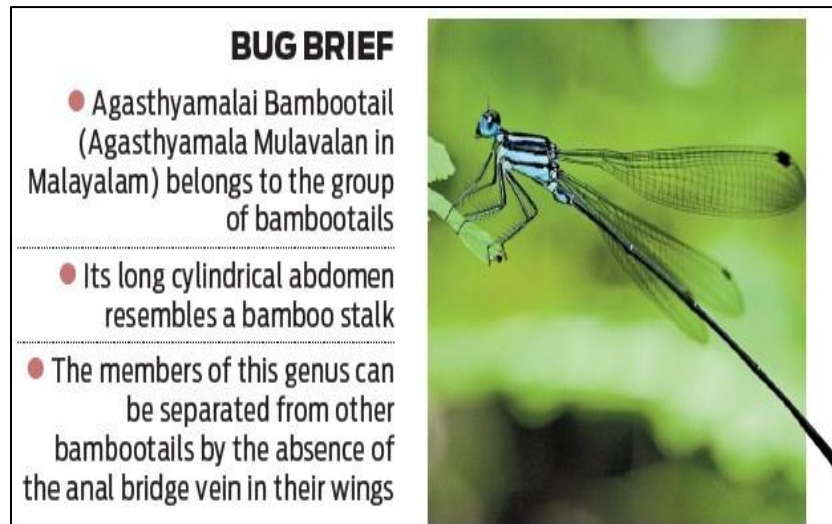


- ❖ The WMO's State of the Climate 2024 report was released during the United National Climate Conference (COP29), in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ The report issued a red alert as the year 2024 is on track to be the warmest year on record.
- ❖ From January to September of this year, the global average temperature was 1.54 degrees above the pre-industrial level.
- ❖ However, long-term warming measures over decades remain below 1.5 degrees.
- ❖ WMO report says from 2014-2023, global mean sea level rose at a rate of 4.77 mm per year.
- ❖ It was more than double the rate between 1993 and 2002.
- ❖ India experienced extreme weather events on 93% of the days in the first nine months of the year
- ❖ Punjab and Haryana were the worst hit, as they experienced extreme weather events on 34 days.
- ❖ They were followed by Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan that experienced extreme weather events on 27 and 26 days, respectively.

- ❖ Only 55% of countries are having Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) as of March 2024.

### **Agasthyamalai Bamboo Tail**

- ❖ Researchers has discovered a new species of damselfly from Manjadininnavila in Thiruvananthapuram district.
- ❖ It is named as the Agasthyamalai Bambootail (Agasthyamala Mulavalan in the language of Malayalam).
- ❖ The damselfly is a rare species belonging to the group of bambootails.
- ❖ The only other species in this genus is the Malabar Bambootail (Melanoneura bilineata) that is found in the Coorg-Wayanad landscape of the Ghats.



### **STATES**

#### **Moran and Mottock Communities**

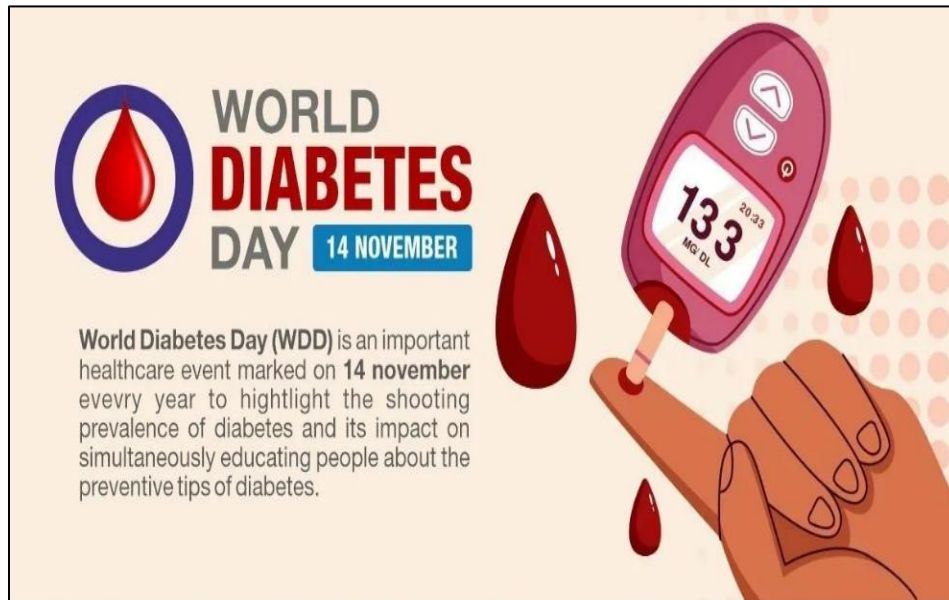
- ❖ Student from the Moran and Mottock communities protested for the decade-long delay in granting them Scheduled Tribe (ST) status in Assam.
- ❖ The demand for ST status is also raised by the Tai Ahoms, Koch Rajbongshis, Chutias and Adivasis, who are currently classified as Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- ❖ Moran is the Indigenous group from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Tai Ahoms is the prominent community in Assam with historical ties to the Ahom kingdom.
- ❖ Koch Rajbongshis peoples are Indigenous to Assam and Bengal.

- ❖ Adivasis are indigenous tribes, largely comprising tea garden workers.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Diabetes Day 2024 - November 14

A graphic for World Diabetes Day 2024. On the left, there is a logo consisting of a red blood drop inside a blue circle. To the right of the logo, the text reads "WORLD DIABETES DAY 14 NOVEMBER". Below this, a paragraph of text explains the significance of the day. On the right side of the graphic, there is an illustration of a hand holding a finger with a blood drop, and a pink glucometer displaying a reading of 133 mg/dL. The background is a light beige color with a pattern of small red dots.

**WORLD DIABETES DAY 14 NOVEMBER**

World Diabetes Day (WDD) is an important healthcare event marked on **14 november** every year to highlight the shooting prevalence of diabetes and its impact on simultaneously educating people about the preventive tips of diabetes.

- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness around the disease and importance of its proper management, treatment, and prevention.
- ❖ It was established in the year 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and WHO.



- ❖ The day is observed on the birthday of Dr. Frederick Banting, one of the scientists who helped co-discover insulin, a treatment for diabetes.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps."

## MISCELLANEOUS

### COVID-19 Vaccine - Rare Blood Disorder

- ❖ Recent findings indicate a potential association between the CoronaVac vaccine and immune thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP).
- ❖ TTP is a rare blood disorder.
- ❖ It is characterised by the formation of small blood clots throughout the body.
- ❖ This condition leads to a low platelet count, anaemia, and organ damage.

Four Key Points: COVID-19 Vaccination and Immune Thrombocytopenia	
De Novo ITP Risk	De novo ITP is not associated with mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) in adults, but there is a possible slightly increased risk during the immediate post-vaccination period following adenoviral vector vaccines (Oxford-AstraZeneca and Janssen).
Acute ITP Exacerbation Risk	There is a 5-15% risk of provoking a clinically-relevant acute ITP exacerbation with COVID-19 vaccination in adult patients with pre-existing ITP. The risk is similar irrespective of the type of COVID-19 vaccine.
Treatment and Natural History of Post-COVID-19 Vaccine ITP	Both de novo ITP and acute ITP exacerbations occurring in adults following COVID-19 vaccination are usually readily treated with typical ITP therapies. Their natural history appears similar to ITP episodes not associated with COVID-19 vaccination.
Subsequent COVID-19 Vaccinations	The occurrence of an acute ITP exacerbation following COVID-19 vaccination does not preclude the adult patient from receiving further COVID-19 vaccinations, although the risk of acute exacerbation in these individuals appears to be modestly higher than the baseline 5-15% overall risk.

