

November - 19

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tiruppur textile industry cluster, which contributes 55 per cent of the country's total knitwear exports, has posted a 13 % increase in the first five months of this financial year (FY25).
- ❖ India's First Railway Test Track Worth Rs 820 Crore nears its completion in Rajasthan, which is to be operational by 2025.
- ❖ The 43rd India International Trade Fair is held in New Delhi with the theme of "Viksit Bharat @2047."
- ❖ The Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan chaired the 35th Tri-services Commanders' Conference (TSTCC) at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.

## NATIONAL

### Decentralized Green Hydrogen Initiative



- ❖ The government has announced a ₹200-crore scheme for the implementation of pilot projects for the production and use of green hydrogen.
- ❖ It will use innovative methods or pathways in the residential, commercial, local community, decentralised or non-conventional applications”.
- ❖ The projects under this scheme includes floating solar-based green hydrogen production, biomass-based green hydrogen, and green hydrogen from waste water.
- ❖ Decentralised use of green hydrogen could include cooking, heating, off-grid electricity generation or powering off-road vehicles.

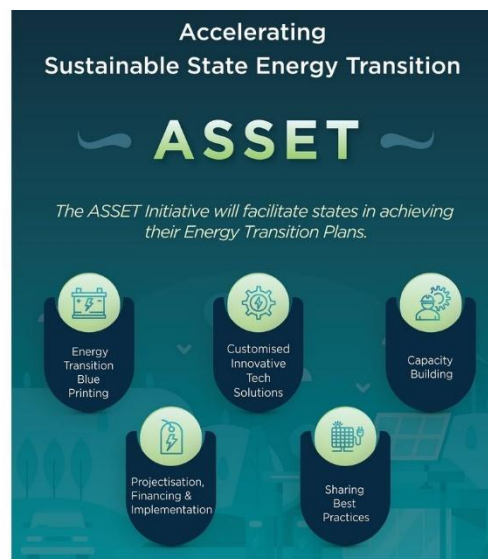
### New Guidelines for Coaching Sector Ad

- ❖ The central Government has issued new guidelines aimed at curbing misleading advertisements by coaching institutes.

- ❖ These guidelines are developed by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- ❖ It is titled 'Prevention of Misleading Advertisement in the Coaching Sector'.
- ❖ They apply to all forms of advertising related to academic support, education, and guidance services but exclude sectors such as counselling, sports, and the arts.
- ❖ It specifically prohibiting false promises such as "100 per cent selection" or "100 per cent job security".
- ❖ Under these rules, coaching centres are barred from using the names, photos, or testimonials of successful candidates without their written consent.
- ❖ This written consent must be secured post-selection.



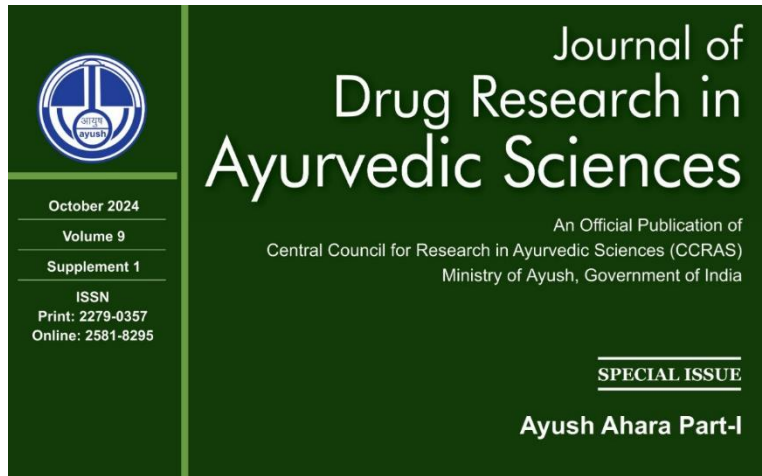
## ASSET Platform



- ❖ A symposium was held on the “Green Transition in States” in New Delhi.
- ❖ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the ministry of power and the ministry of new and renewable energy, launched the ASSET platform.

- ❖ ASSET stands for ‘Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition’.
- ❖ It aims to support states in accelerating their green transition.
- ❖ The platform will assist in formulating state energy transition blueprints along with aiding in its implementation.

## **Advancements - Ayurveda Aahara**



- ❖ Ministry of Ayush launched a special edition of the Journal of Drug Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (JDRAS) dedicated to the emerging field of Ayurveda Aahara.
- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush had earlier introduced the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022.
- ❖ The Regulation defined “Ayurveda Aahara” as food prepared according to recipes, ingredients, or processes described in authoritative Ayurveda texts.
- ❖ This initiative safeguards the identity and authenticity of Ayurveda-based dietary practices, preserving the original principles of Ayurveda food preparation.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **First Biodiversity and Nature Bond**

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has issued its first biodiversity and nature theme bond.
- ❖ It aims to finance a pool of eligible projects across Asia and the Pacific.
- ❖ The A\$150 million (equivalent to US\$100 million), 10-year issue was purchased by the Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, of Japan.
- ❖ ADB is a founding partner of the Coral Triangle Initiative established in 2009.

- ❖ In 2023, ADB launched the Nature Solutions Finance Hub along with partners, as well as the Natural Capital Fund, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility.



### 8<sup>th</sup> South and South-West Asia Subregional Forum



- ❖ India chaired SDG 8 session on the progress of Decent Work & Economic Growth at the forum.
- ❖ This forum was co-hosted by NITI Aayog and UN ESCAP.
- ❖ India's unemployment rate down from 6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2022-23.
- ❖ Concurrently, the employment rate rose from 46.8% to 56% in the same period.
- ❖ The e-Shram portal has registered over 300 million workers in the unorganised sector.
- ❖ India has consolidated 29 labour laws into four simplified codes.

## ECONOMY

### Export restrictions in 2023

- ❖ Indian farmers were implicitly taxed \$120 billion in 2023, the highest among 54 countries, due to export bans, duties or other policies.

- ❖ Among analysed 54 countries, net support to farmers in India has been negative throughout the last two decades but fluctuated markedly.
- ❖ Budgetary transfers and subsidies were to the tune of \$10 billion.
- ❖ Overall, this led to a negative total market price support of \$110 billion.
- ❖ India had the highest negative price support, followed by Vietnam and Argentina.
- ❖ India's negative support had constituted 62.5 per cent of all such taxes globally in 2023.

**TABLE 3 DISTRIBUTIONAL CHALLENGES AND MECHANISMS TO ADDRESS SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL DIVIDES BETWEEN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS ACTORS FOR TRANSFORMATION**

Potential stakeholders	Distributional challenges	Barriers to addressing challenges	Local versus global	Today versus tomorrow	Mechanisms today for a sustainable and inclusive tomorrow
Primary producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beneficiaries of hidden costs are spread throughout the value chain, but the burden of addressing hidden costs falls on producers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asymmetric power relations</li> <li>Polluters are not beneficiaries of abatement</li> <li>Difficulty in assessing who bears the risk and uncertain cost of change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental pollution with local impact versus global impact of GHG emissions</li> <li>Social hidden costs at primary production level versus cheaper products globally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hidden costs linked to flows with immediate impact (e.g. water shortages downstream in the same season) versus those linked to stocks (e.g. GHGs in the atmosphere, groundwater depletion)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collective action (e.g. cooperatives) can provide a greater say on sharing the burden of addressing social and environmental hidden costs</li> <li>Regulatory and financial frameworks to support the cost of transition</li> <li>Inclusive rural transformation to address social hidden costs</li> </ul>
Food supply chain actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unfair arbitrage</li> <li>Concentration of power and downward price pressure on suppliers</li> <li>Intertemporal trade-offs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty in determining who should contribute along the value chain for a fair solution</li> <li>Vulnerable groups lack access to decision-making processes</li> <li>Addressing hidden costs of tomorrow affects competitiveness of today</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social hidden costs along value chains are more visible at local than global level</li> <li>Potential to externalize costs through imports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value chain actors tend to maximize profits in the short term, but also manage future risks</li> <li>Shorter time horizons than needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voluntary standards</li> <li>ESG reporting</li> <li>Compliance with laws and regulations</li> <li>Labelling and certification</li> <li>Industry-wide coalitions to address hidden costs</li> </ul>

### Systemically Important Banks 2024



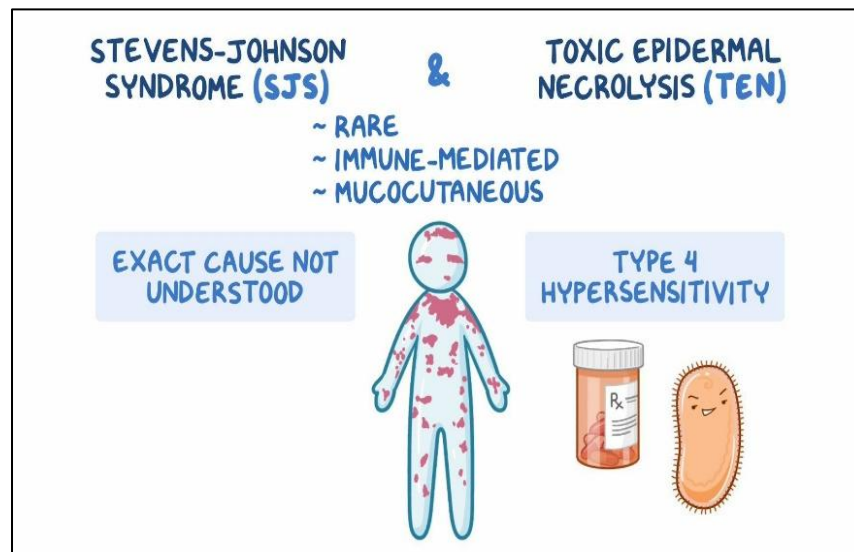
- ❖ The State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank remain classified by RBI as systemically important banks.
- ❖ SBI and HDFC Bank required to maintain additional capital buffers starting April 2025.
- ❖ Systemically important banks are those considered too big to fail due to their size and some other criteria.

- ❖ RBI had classified SBI and ICICI Bank as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) in 2015 and 2016, respectively.
- ❖ In 2017, HDFC Bank was also classified as a D-SIB.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis Treatment

- ❖ A team of researcher's collaboration found the new treatment approach for TEN.
- ❖ Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) is a rare but extremely severe adverse reaction to common medications or certain antibiotics.
- ❖ It causes widespread blistering and detachment of the skin.
- ❖ With a mortality rate of up to 30 percent, it rapidly transforms from a seemingly harmless rash into a life-threatening condition.

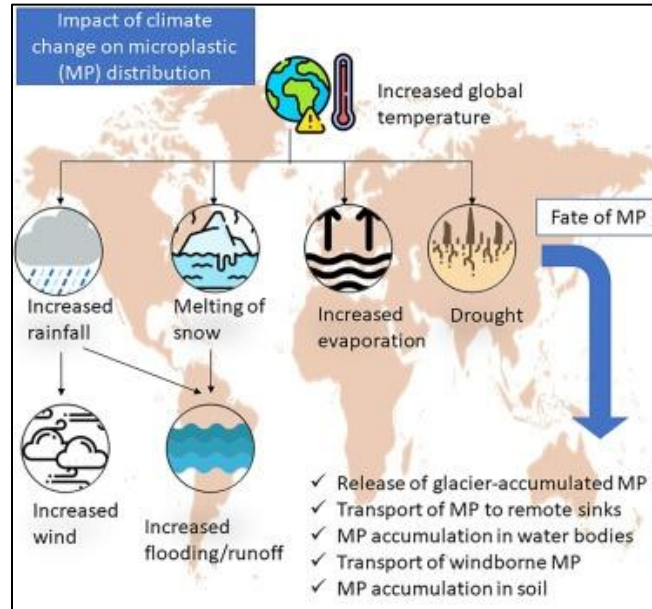


## ENVIRONMENT

### Microplastics and Weather and Climate Patterns

- ❖ Microplastics act as ice nucleating particles, microscopic aerosols that facilitate the formation of ice crystals in clouds.
- ❖ Microplastics found in clouds freeze at a warmer temperature.
- ❖ Cloud defects, such as the presence of microplastics, change how clouds form, impacting rainfall.

- ❖ This could have an impact on everything from thunderstorms to the global temperatures.
- ❖ This means microplastics could have an impact on precipitation patterns, weather forecasting, climate modelling and even aviation safety.



## H5N1 in Elephant Seal



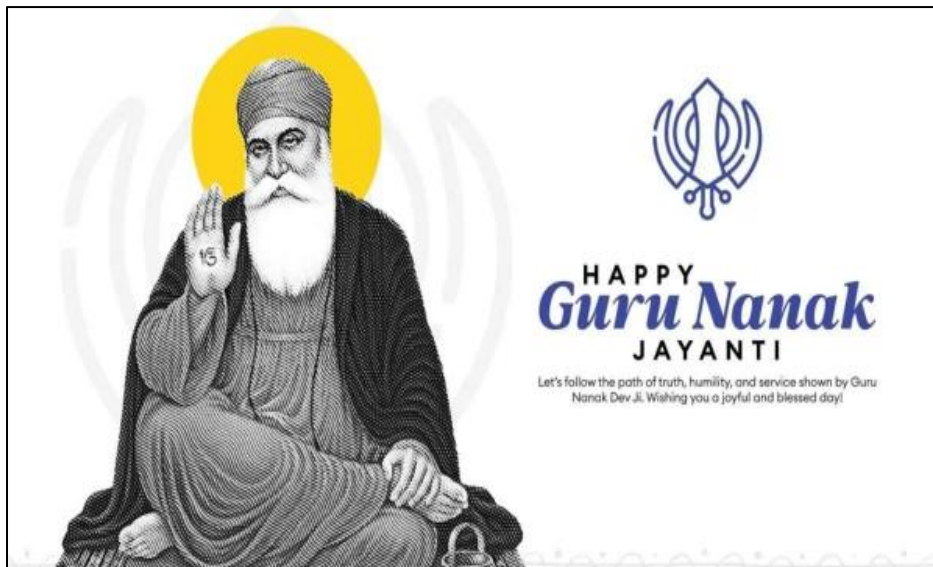
- ❖ The H5N1 strain of avian influenza has led to the deaths of over 17,000 elephant seals in a year.
- ❖ It had wiped out 95 per cent of the pups in 2023.
- ❖ The virus spread along the coasts of Peru and Chile between 2022 and 2023.
- ❖ It was transmitted by porpoises, dolphins and other marine mammals.



- ❖ The outbreak has severely impacted the breeding populations, particularly in Patagonia, Argentina.
- ❖ H5N1 (HPAI-highly pathogenic avian influenza) is a severe viral infection affecting birds and mammals.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **Guru Nanak Jayanti 2024 – November 15**



- ❖ It celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak.
- ❖ This year is marking the 555th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.
- ❖ He was born on November 15, 1469, at Rai Bhoi Ki Talwandi, near Lahore, the modern-day Pakistan.
- ❖ Guru Nanak is regarded as a spiritual teacher who founded Sikhism in the 15th century.
- ❖ He started writing the Guru Granth Sahib and completed 974 hymns.

### **International Day against Transnational Organized Crime 2024 - November 15**

- ❖ This year marks the first-ever observation of this International Day.
- ❖ It aims to raise an awareness of the threats posed by all forms of transnational organized crime and to enhance international cooperation.
- ❖ This day highlights the urgent need for global solidarity to counter the rising threat of organized crime, which undermines peace, security and progress.



- ❖ The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly in 15 November 2000.
- ❖ Theme for 2024 is “It’s time we pull together to push back”.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### 10 years of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)



- ❖ A decade ago, India became the first country to legally mandate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- ❖ Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 outlines the rules and regulations governing CSR.
- ❖ According to the National CSR Portal, from 2014 to 2023, Rs 1.84 lakh crore of CSR funds were disbursed.
- ❖ CSR is a means of corporates contributing directly for the welfare of the society through socio, economic, environmental contributions.
- ❖ Schedule VII (Sections 13) mentions activities that can be taken by companies in their Corporate Social Responsibility Policies.

