

October - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the ₹9,000-crore Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Tata Motors' manufacturing facility in Ranipet.
- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology launched the Women in Space Leadership Programme (WiSLP) in collaboration with the British Council as part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative.
- ❖ The Ninth Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- ❖ India is set to host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Nasa astronaut Sunita Williams has officially taken command of the International Space Station (ISS) for the 2nd time.
- ❖ Veteran Bollywood actor Mithun Chakraborty will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- ❖ Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh succeeded Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari as the new Air Force chief.
- ❖ The Annual International Conference and Exhibition (AICE) 2024 has been relocated for their 10th edition from Bari, Italy, to Dubai, the UAE.
 - It took place in Dubai under the new name, World FZO 10th World Congress.

TAMIL NADU

Ramsar tag for two bird sanctuaries

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission is pursuing Ramsar designation for two more bird sanctuaries in Ramanathapuram.
- ❖ Ramanathapuram is home to five bird sanctuaries — Therthangal, Sakkara kottai, Melaselvanoor-Keelaselvanoor, Kanjirankulam, and Chitrangudi.
- ❖ Of them, the Chitrangudi and Kanjirankulam sanctuaries received the Ramsar status in 2021 and 2022 respectively.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu now boasts 18 Ramsar sites, the highest in India.
- ❖ The State's wetlands constitute 6.92% of the total geographical area, above the national average of 4.86%.



- ❖ The Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary, the first to receive the Ramsar tag in 2002.

GREEN AND GOOD

List of 13 wetlands identified as potential wetlands of international significance and proposed to be designated as Ramsar sites

WETLAND	DISTRICT
Koonthakulam bird sanctuary	Tirunelveli
Chitragudi bird sanctuary	Ramanathapuram
Vembanur	Kanyakumari
Suchuindraram-Theroor wetland complex	Kanyakumari
Vaduvur bird sanctuary	Tiruvarur
Udayamarthandapuram bird sanctuary	Tiruvarur
Vellode bird sanctuary	Erode
Pallikaranai marsh	Chennai
Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere reserve	Ramanathapuram
Kanjirankulam bird sanctuary	Ramanathapuram
Pichavaram mangrove	Cuddalore
Vedanthangal bird sanctuary	Chengalpattu
Karikili bird sanctuary	Chengalpattu

NATIONAL

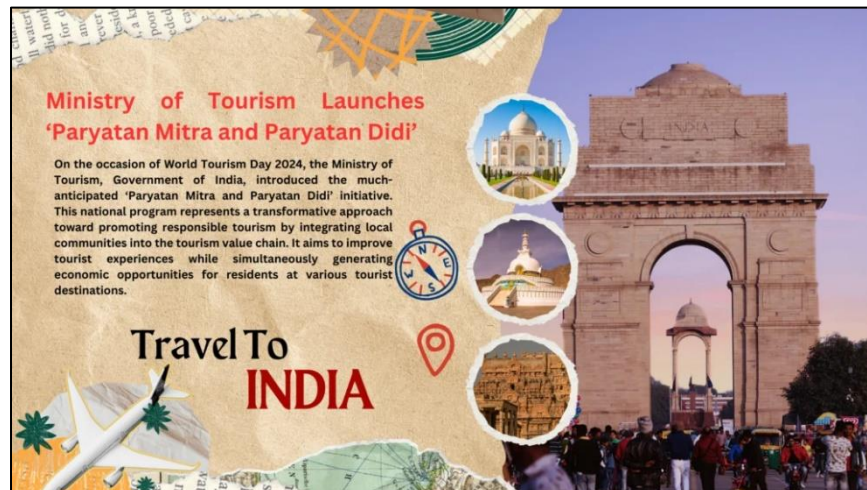
Free visa for friends of diaspora

- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind initiative, India will allow “friends” of diaspora members to get free visas.
- ❖ Up to five foreign nationals nominated by the OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) card holders on a special website will be eligible for the gratis e-visa.
- ❖ The initiative is to be launched as part of a “Chalo India” campaign.

- ❖ OCI cardholders will need to register on the special website, which goes live in a few weeks, and enter the details of their nominated friends.
- ❖ They will then be assigned a unique code after verification.
- ❖ The designated friends can then use the special code to avail of a free visa.
- ❖ There are about four million OCI cardholders, as per the government records.
- ❖ They can invite as many friends as possible and will also earn rewards for each foreign visitor they successfully attract to India.



Paryatan Mitra & Paryatan Didi

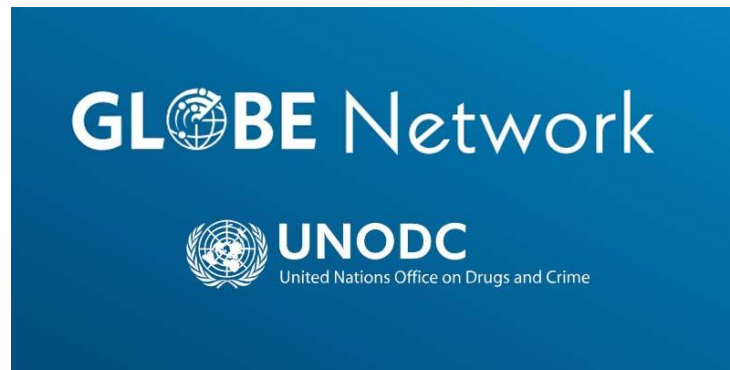


- ❖ Ministry of Tourism has launched a national responsible tourism initiative titled Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi.

- ❖ It aims to elevate the overall experience for tourists in destinations, by having them meet 'tourist-friendly' people who are Ambassadors and Storytellers for their destination.
- ❖ In pilot mode, around 3,000 people have been trained in the 6 pilot destinations on the importance of creating a positive experience for tourists

INTERNATIONAL

Steering Committee of the GlobE Network



- ❖ India has secured a position on the 15-member Steering Committee of the GlobE Network, an international anti-corruption body.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs serves as India's Central Authority for the GlobE Network.
- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) acting as member authorities.
- ❖ The GlobE Network originated as an initiative from the G-20, supported by India in 2020.
- ❖ The GlobE Network was officially launched on 3 June 2021.
- ❖ The network has 121 member countries and 219 member authorities.

Joint ministerial meeting of L.69 and C-10 groupings


- ❖ India participated in the first-ever Joint Ministerial Meeting of the L.69 and C-10 groupings of nations on the sidelines of the 79th session of UNGA.
- ❖ The Committee of Ten (C10) is a group of African countries that is part of the African Union (AU).
- ❖ It is dedicated to advancing Education, Science, and Technology.

- ❖ The L69 grouping consists of 32 developing nations (including India) from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (Small Island Developing States).
- ❖ It stands for expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of UNSC.
- ❖ It derives its name from the draft document number “L.69”, tabled in 2007-08.
- ❖ This led to the initiation of the Intergovernmental Negotiation (IGN) process.



ECONOMY

China Shock 2.0

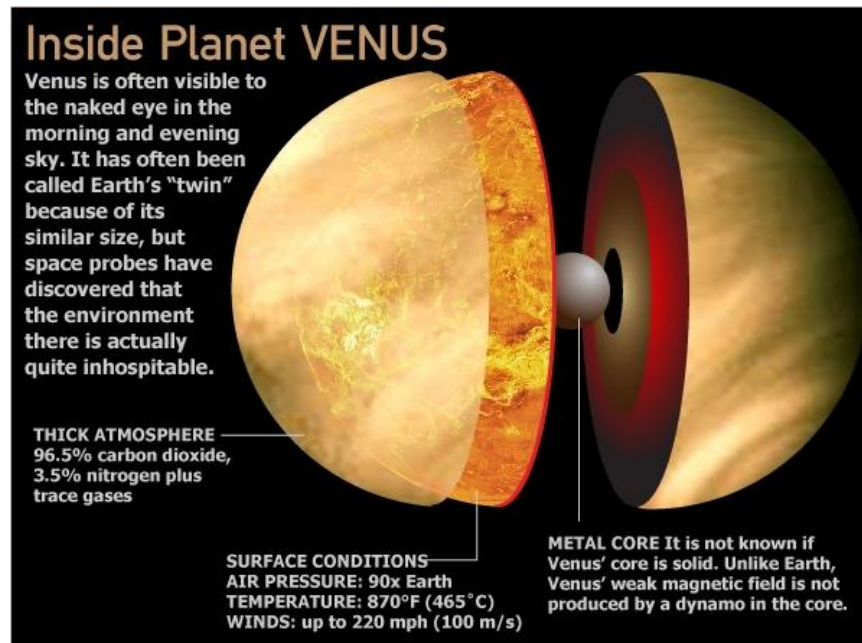
TAMING THE DRAGON	
■ US imposes a 100% duty on EVs and 50% duty on solar cells on China	■ India and a dozen other countries, including the US, have moved to impose a fresh wave of anti-subsidy measures
	■ They fear a repeat of the manufacturing job losses that occurred in the years since China joined WTO in the early 2000s
■ Imports from China crossed \$100 billion in 2023-24 despite curbs imposed by India	

- ❖ A 100 per cent duty on electric vehicles imposed by the US on imports from China.
- ❖ The US tariff hikes also include a 50 per cent duty on solar cells and 25 per cent on steel, aluminium, EV batteries and some minerals.

- ❖ China's surpluses stem from industrial policies aimed at bolstering exports amid weak domestic demand, prompting fears of a potential "China shock 2.0".
- ❖ India's imports from China grew at a much faster pace than from the rest of the world.
- ❖ Goods imports from China surged from \$10.87 billion in 2005-06 to \$61.71 billion in 2015-16.
- ❖ Despite many economic restrictions on Chinese businesses, imports from China surpassed a record \$100 billion in 2023-24.
- ❖ China's exports surged significantly in the post Covid period compared with the pre-pandemic period.
- ❖ According to IMF calculations, China's share of global exports increased by 1.5 percentage points
- ❖ Bill Clinton, the then US President supported China's accession to the WTO.
- ❖ This led to inexpensive Chinese goods, backed by abundant labour, flooded global markets, resulting in manufacturing job losses internationally.
- ❖ Thus, China's entry into the WTO came to be known as the "China shock".

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's First Mission to Venus



- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently approved India's first mission to Venus that ISRO aims to launch in March 2028.

- ❖ This will be the country's second interplanetary mission after the Mars Orbiter Mission launched in 2013.
- ❖ It aims to examine the surface and sub-surface of Venus, its atmosphere, its ionosphere, and its interaction with the Sun.
- ❖ Venus is often called Earth's twin because it is similar in mass, density, and size.
- ❖ Therefore, studying Venus may offer scientists clues about the evolution of Earth.
- ❖ Notably, Venus is thought to have had water at some point in its history but has now become a dry and dusty planet.
- ❖ It has an extremely high surface temperature of around 462 degrees Celsius, even hotter than Mercury.
- ❖ The atmospheric pressure on Venus is much higher than on Earth.
- ❖ 96.5% of the atmosphere of Venus is made up of carbon dioxide and there are sulphuric acid clouds on the planet.
- ❖ Venus rotates very slowly on its axis as compared to Earth and one rotation of Venus lasts around 243 Earth days.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Best Tourism Villages Competition - 2024



- ❖ Ministry of Tourism announced winners of the Best Tourism Villages Competition 2024 on the occasion of World Tourism Day.
- ❖ To promote tourism to the Soul of India (India's villages), the Best Tourism Villages Competition was introduced in 2023.



- ❖ Totally 36 villages recognized as winners across 8 categories.
- ❖ Keeladi from Tamil Nadu topped in the Heritage Category.
- ❖ Melkalingam Patti from the Namakkal District won the award in Spiritual and Wellness Category.

