

October - 04

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Lay's is named Official Sponsor of FIFA World Cup 26™ & FIFA Women's World Cup 2027.
- ❖ India's first Oxygen Bird Park near Nagpur (Maharashtra) is spread across 8 hectares housing over 8,000 diverse plant species.
- ❖ Former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishida became the 102<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister of Japan.
- ❖ The seventh edition of the Global Aerospace Summit, a premier forum for the world's aerospace supply chain, was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

## NATIONAL

### Constitution amendment bills for ONOE

### VOTE FOR CHANGE

**Kovind panel's recommendations**

<p>■ Implement simultaneous polls in two phases</p>	<p>■ 1st phase: LS and Assembly elections simultaneously</p>	<p>■ 2nd phase: Local body elections within 100 days of general elections.</p>	<p>■ Common electoral roll for all elections</p>
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**Amendments needed**

■ First constitution amendment bill for amendments/insertions in Articles 82(A); duration of LS under 83(2), 83(3) 83(4); duration of state assemblies under 172(3), 172(4), 172(5), 327

<p>■ First constitution amendment bill will not require ratification of states</p>	<p>■ Second amendment related to electoral rolls (Article 325) and for municipalities/ panchayats (Article 324A)</p>	<p>■ Also, amendments to J&amp;K Reorganisation Act, GNCTD Act, Govt of UT Act</p>
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■ Second amendment will require states to ratify

- ❖ The government is likely to bring three bills, including two to amend the Constitution, to put in place its plan to hold simultaneous elections.
- ❖ The proposed Bill would seek to amend Article 82A by adding sub-clause (1) relating to the 'appointed date'.
- ❖ It will also seek to insert sub-clause (2) to Article 82A relating to the end of terms of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies together.



- ❖ The Bill also proposes to amend Article 83(2) and insert new sub-clauses (3) and (4) relating to the duration and dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ It also has provisions related to the dissolution of the legislative assemblies and amending Article 327 to insert the term 'simultaneous elections'.
- ❖ The second Bill will create provisions to hold simultaneous elections to municipalities and panchayats, along with elections to Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies by inserting a new Article 324A.
- ❖ This Bill is required ratification by at least 50% of the states.
- ❖ The third Bill will be an ordinary one to amend provisions in three laws dealing with Union Territories with legislative assemblies — Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It aims to align the terms of these Houses with other legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha as proposed in the first Constitutional Amendment Bill.
- ❖ The statutes it proposes to amend are the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019.
- ❖ To pass the Constitutional Amendment Bills, a special majority of not less than two-thirds of the House will be required.
- ❖ So, the government needs the support of 362 members, but it has only 292 members in the House.

## Fact Check Unit

<b>FCU AN ARBITER IN ITS OWN CAUSE: JUDGE</b>	
<p>➤ Rules introduced by amending IT Act permits <b>Fact Check Unit (FCU) to flag as 'false, fake, or misleading' content on social media/online about business of govt</b></p> <p>➤ In this case, as <b>central govt itself is aggrieved by 'fake, false and misleading' news</b>, FCU will be an arbiter in govt's own cause, judge observes</p>	<p><b>Timeline</b> <b>Apr 10, 2023</b>   Standup comic Kunal Kamra files petition challenging FCU</p> <p><b>Jan 31, 2024</b>   <b>Split verdict</b> by Bombay HC 2-judge bench. <b>Justice Gautam Patel strikes it down, Justice Neela Gokhale upholds it</b></p> <p><b>Feb</b>   <b>Justice A S Chandurkar</b> listed as <b>third judge</b>. Declines to stay FCU rule</p> <p><b>Mar 21</b>   SC stays FCU rule</p> <p><b>Sept 20</b>   HC holds <b>FCU rule to be unconstitutional and against fundamental rights of freedom of speech, equality, and trade</b></p>
<p>“ Since the amended Rule attempts to identify 'information' (on) business of the central govt as fake or false or misleading by the FCU, it is necessary the said expressions are either defined or explained to give an idea of what could be termed to be fake or false or misleading</p>	

- ❖ The Bombay High Court has formally struck down the amended Information Technology Rules, 2023.



- ❖ This amendment allowed the Centre to set up a fact check unit (FCU) to identify fake, false and misleading information about the government and its establishments on social media.
- ❖ As per the court, these Amendment Rules, 2023, violated “Article 14 (right to equality), 19 (freedom of speech and expression) and 19(1)(g) (freedom and right to profession) of the Constitution”.

## SBI ERD report 2024

Age-wise Distribution				
	1991	2001	2011	2024 P
<b>Population by broad age- group (in crore)</b>				
18 years and above	44.7	56.5	76.3	99.0
0-14	31.2	36.4	37.4	34.0
15-59	46.5	58.6	73.5	91.0
60+	6.1	7.9	10.2	15.0
<b>Share (in %)</b>				
0-14	37.2	35.3	30.9	24.3
15-59	55.4	56.9	60.7	65.0
60+	7.3	7.7	8.4	10.7
Median age (years)	24.3	28.2	24.9	29.0

Source: SBI Research, Census reports, NHP

- ❖ SBI’s economic research department (ERD) released a new report, “Precursor to Census 2024: The Fine Prints of a Rapidly Changing Nation.”
- ❖ The average annual exponential growth of India is expected to decline from 2.20 per cent in 1971 to 1 per cent in 2024.
- ❖ The national population will be in the range of 138-142 crore in 2024.
- ❖ The median age of India is expected to increase from 24 years in 2021 to 28-29 years in 2023/24.
- ❖ The working age population (15-59) is likely to increase to 65.2 per cent in the 2031 census.
- ❖ The elderly population will cross 15 crores (Female: 7.7 crore; Male: 7.3 crore), with a growth of 4.6 crore during 2011-2024.
- ❖ Southern States, chiefly Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, in incremental population growth is set to decline (vis-à-vis 2011).
- ❖ Northern States, led by UP and Bihar (with a 33 per cent share in incremental growth), will drive the growth.
- ❖ The northern and eastern regions together are expected to have a 52 per cent share of the entire population (51 per cent in 2011).

- ❖ Apart from the Union Territories, Goa and Kerala are highly urbanised.
- ❖ Among the major states, Tamil Nadu continues to be the most urbanised State, with 54 per cent of the population living in urban areas, followed by Maharashtra (48.8 per cent).
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh (10.3 per cent), followed by Bihar (12.4 per cent), Assam (15.7 per cent), and Orissa (19.0%) form the bottom end of the spectrum.

## INTERNATIONAL

### DF-41 missile

- ❖ China successfully test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile- D-41, into the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It has an operational range of up to 12,000–15,000km, capable of reaching the US mainland.
- ❖ An ICBM typically has a range greater than 5,500km and is designed to carry nuclear warheads.
- ❖ In May 1980, a DF-5 -China's first ICBM flew more than 9,000 kilometres.

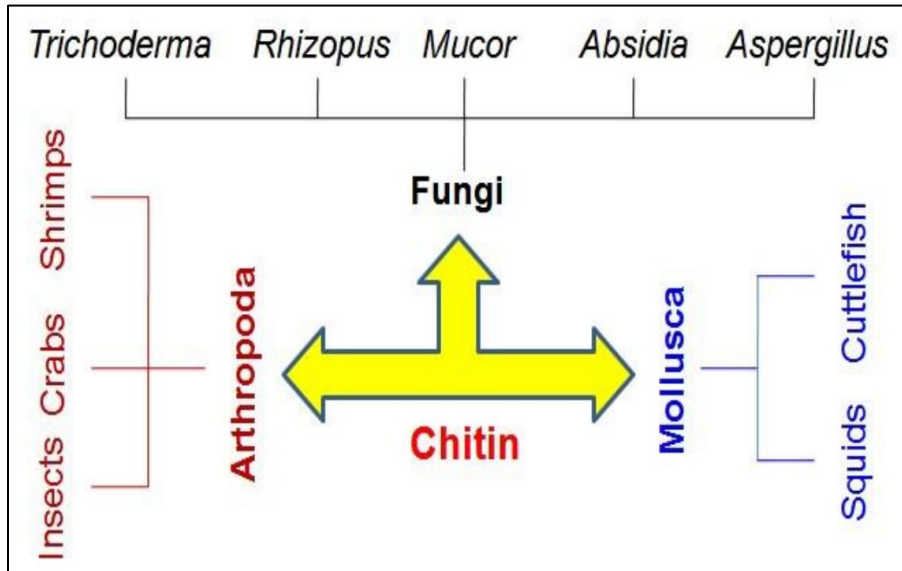


## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### New Drug delivery method

- ❖ The Scientists have used a chitin synthesis fungicide, Nikkomycin, produced by the bacterial *Streptomyces* spp. to develop Nikkomycin loaded polymeric nanoparticles.
- ❖ Chitin is the chief component of fungal cell walls and is absent in the human body.

- ❖ The drug loaded nanoparticles were found to disrupt the growth of *Aspergillus* spp and found effective against fungal infection known as Aspergillosis.
- ❖ The nano formulation developed was found to be free of cytotoxic and hemolytic effects.
- ❖ The use of polymeric nanoparticles is the most advanced method of drug delivery.



### Spiral galaxy - Caldwell 45





- ❖ NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has shared a video of a Spiral galaxy known as Caldwell 45, or NGC 5248.

- ❖ The spiral galaxy is located 59 million light-years away from Earth.
- ❖ It is home to starburst regions – places where stars form at a much higher rate than usual.

## STATES

### Kasturirangan Committee Report - Karnataka

<b>TIMELINE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>MARCH 2010:</b> Ministry of environment and forests invites Madhav Gadgil to lead a committee to study the Western Ghats</li><li>■ <b>UP TO AUGUST 2011:</b> The committee travels across the Western Ghats and holds 14 panel meetings, eight consultations with government agencies and 40 with the environmental organizations</li><li>■ <b>SEPTEMBER 2011:</b> Committee submits its report to the ministry</li><li>■ <b>AUGUST 2012:</b> The ministry forms a committee under the chairmanship of K Kasturirangan to advise the government on Gadgil's report</li><li>■ <b>APRIL 2013:</b> Kasturirangan committee submits its report to the ministry</li><li>■ <b>OCTOBER 2013:</b> Ministry gives in-principle acceptance to the Kasturirangan report</li><li>■ <b>MARCH 2014:</b> Ministry issues draft notification following the recommendations of the Kasturirangan report</li></ul>	 	<b>GADGIL REPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Recommended that the entire stretch of the Western Ghats should be declared an <b>Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)</b></li><li>➤ It divided the region into three zones – <b>ESZ1, ESZ2 &amp; ESZ3</b> – and gave a broad outline of certain restrictions for each zone</li><li>➤ It recommended the determination of an area as ESZ1 or ESZ2 or ESZ3 be done at the block/taluka level</li><li>➤ No new polluting industries (red and orange category) were to be permitted in ESZ1 &amp; ESZ2. Existing industries were to be phased out by 2016</li></ul> <b>KASTURIRANGAN REPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Divided the Western Ghats into two: natural landscape and cultural landscape</li><li>➤ Of the natural landscape, it picked out merely 37% as <b>"biologically rich"</b> and <b>"with some measure of contiguity."</b> Any restrictions were only placed in this area</li><li>➤ It proposed the demarcation of ESA be done at the village level</li><li>➤ Only red category industries (heavily polluting such as mining) were completely restricted</li></ul>
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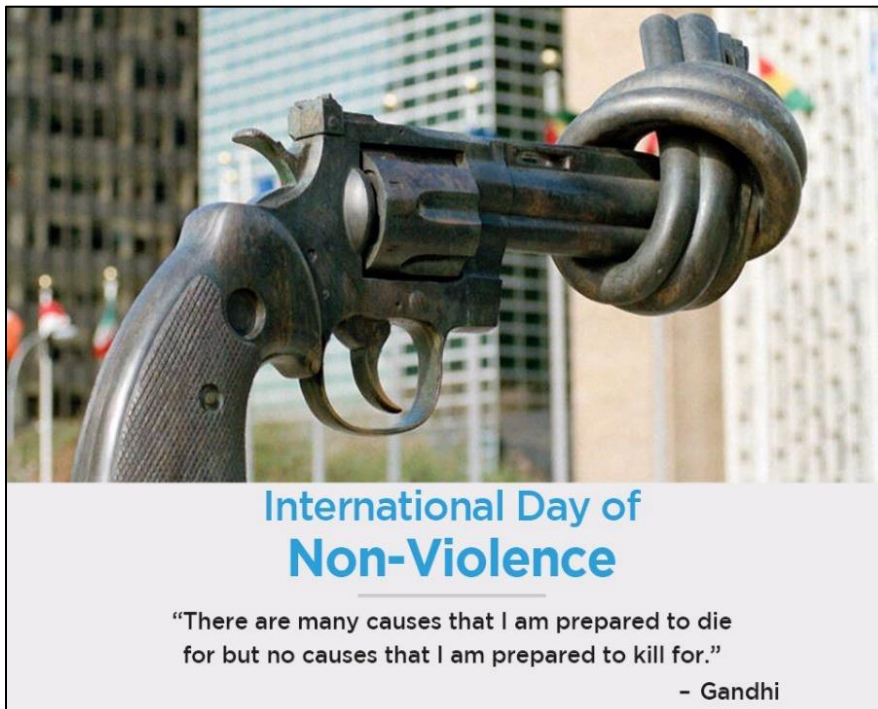
- ❖ The Karnataka government has rejected the Kasturirangan committee report - 2014.
- ❖ It gave recommendation for the protection of the fragile Western Ghats region from environmental degradation.
- ❖ It proposes that 37 per cent of the total area of Western Ghats, which is roughly 60,000 square kilometres, to be declared as eco-sensitive area.
- ❖ Out of this, 20,668 sq. km of the area falls in Karnataka covering more than 1,500 villages.
- ❖ A state-level expert committee conducted meetings in the Western Ghats districts and prepared a report in 2015.

- ❖ It has recemented only 153 (as opposed to 1,553 villages) in Karnataka should be declared ecologically sensitive areas.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of Non-violence 2024 - October 02

- ❖ The day is observed on the birth anniversary of MK Gandhi and reflects upon his philosophy and commitment to non-violence as a means of social and political change.
- ❖ His struggles guided by non-violence and peaceful resistance.
- ❖ The principle of non-violence/non-violent resistance rejects the use of physical violence in order to achieve social or political change.
- ❖ In June 2007, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared this day.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Shankh Air

- ❖ Shankh Aviation Private Limited, has received a no objection certificate (NOC) from the Union Civil Aviation Ministry, allowing it to begin operations.

- ❖ The NOC is valid for three years.
- ❖ It will be the first scheduled airline to launch from Uttar Pradesh, with hubs in Lucknow and Noida.



### **Nazca Lines – Peru**

- ❖ Archaeologists assisted by artificial intelligence, have discovered 303 previously unknown giant symbols carved in the Nazca Desert.
- ❖ The carvings include birds, plants, spiders, humanlike figures with headdresses, decapitated heads and an orca wielding a knife.
- ❖ These mysterious artworks formed in the ground by moving stones or gravel that date back some 2,000 years.

