

October - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India, Nepal, and Bangladesh have signed a trilateral agreement to export 40 megawatts of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh via India's power grid.
- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, as of September 30, 2024, a total of 13,822 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been established across the country.
- ❖ In a step forward towards landing astronauts on the Moon by 2030, China has unveiled the design of its special 'lightweight' lunar spacesuit.
- ❖ NATO will set up a new land command in Finland near the Russian border next year.
- ❖ The 26th Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) 2024 was held in Dubai.
- ❖ Kerala has inaugurated India's first supercapacitor manufacturing facility in Kallyassery, Kannur.
- ❖ Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024, themed 'Global Synergy in Ayush: Transforming Health and Wellness through Medical Value Travel' was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated GAIL's first CBG Plant in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
 - It will process 150 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste to produce 5,000 kg Bio-CNG and 25 tons of fermented bio manure per day.
- ❖ Euronaval 2024, the world's largest naval defence trade show, is to be held in November at Paris.

TAMIL NADU

Herpetofauna survey – MTR 2024

- ❖ A recent herpetofauna survey, conducted in the buffer forests of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), discovered a new species.
- ❖ It also resulted in the identification of 33 reptile species and 36 amphibian species,
- ❖ The survey revealed four potential new species:
 - Two geckos (one from the *Cnemaspis* genus and another from *Hemidactylus*),
 - A skink and
 - A frog from the *Sphaerotheca* genus.

- ❖ The total number of identified species now stands at 55 reptile species and 39 amphibian species, with approximately 40% being endemic to the Western Ghats.
- ❖ Of these species, 16 are classified as threatened, and three are considered near-threatened according to the IUCN.



NATIONAL

PM Internship Scheme 2024

Key Highlights		ELIGIBILITY	
BENEFITS FOR INTERNS/OTHER FEATURES		Unemployed youth aged 21-24	Parents, spouse not earning above ₹8 lakh/year & not govt employees
₹60,000 a year, and a one-time grant of ₹6,000	Exposure to real biz environments		
Insurance coverage at govt cost	A single portal for both companies and interns	Reservation to apply	No degree from IITs and IIMs, NLU, IISER, NIDs and IIITs
Internship in one's own district/state	Grievance redressal mechanism Tele help line 1800-116-090		
		No degree like CA, CMA, CS, MBBS, BDS, MBA & master's or higher degree	Not taking skill training under govt schemes

- ❖ The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme was launched on October 3.
- ❖ The PM Internship Scheme aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth in the top 500 companies over the next five years.
- ❖ It will enhance youth employability in India by offering them hands-on exposure to real-world business environments.
- ❖ The scheme represents a transformative opportunity to bridge the skills gap and drive sustainable growth in India.

- ❖ The scheme is to provide on-job training to youth and an exposure to real-life work environment.
- ❖ A monthly stipend of ₹4,500 will be provided to the interns from the central government via DBT (Direct Benefit transfer), with an additional ₹500 offset provided by the company's CSR fund.
- ❖ The Candidates, aged between 21 and 24 years who are not engaged in full-time employment, are eligible for the one-year internship programme.

ANNA DARPAN Initiative



- ❖ The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is making big changes with a digital transformation plan.
- ❖ This plan is focused on improving the way FCI manages the supply chain with a new system called ANNA DARPAN.
- ❖ ANNA DARPAN is a new digital platform that will replace FCI's old system, the Depot Online System.
- ❖ It uses advanced technology to make managing food supply chains (like mandis, mills, and depots) smoother and more efficient.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana 2024

- ❖ The Union Cabinet decided to merge all Central schemes in the agriculture sector into following two new schemes.

- Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and
- Krishonnati Yojana (KY).
- ❖ The schemes will have a Central share of ₹ 69,088.98 crore and the States will have to add the remaining ₹32,232.63 crore.
- ❖ PM-RKVY is aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ KY will address food security and agricultural self-sufficiency.
- ❖ The schemes will be implemented through State governments.




**PM Rashtriya
Krishi Vikas Yojana
(PM-RKVY) and
Krishonnati Yojana
(KY)**

- Cabinet approves rationalization of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) operating under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's into **two-umbrella Schemes**
- **PM-RKVY** will promote sustainable agriculture, while **KY** will address **food security & agricultural self-sufficiency**
- Total proposed expenditure is **Rs.1,01,321.61 crore**
- States given flexibility to reallocate funds from one component to another based on their specific requirement

National Mission on Edible Oils 2024

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds).
- ❖ It aims to boosting domestic oilseed production and achieving self-reliance in edible oils.
- ❖ The Mission will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31.

- ❖ The newly approved NMEO-Oilseeds will focus on enhancing the production of key primary oilseed crops such as Rapeseed-Mustard, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower, and Sesamum.
- ❖ The mission aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.



NATIONAL MISSION ON EDIBLE OILS - OILSEEDS (NMEO-OILSEEDS)

- Mission will be implemented over a **seven-year period**, from **2024-25 to 2030-31**
- Total financial outlay of **₹ 10,103 crore**
- It aims to increase primary oilseed production from **39 million tonnes** (2022-23) to **69.7 million tonnes** by 2030-31
- It will introduce **SATHI Portal** enabling States to coordinate with stakeholders for timely availability of quality seeds
- It seeks to expand oilseed cultivation by an additional **40 lakh hectares**

SARTHIE 1.0



- ❖ The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched the SARTHIE 1.0.
- ❖ It will bridge the awareness gap and provide legal assistance to ensure the effective implementation of social welfare programmes.

- ❖ It aims to empower disadvantaged communities, including the SCs, STs, OBCs, Senior Citizens, Transgender Persons, Victims of Alcoholism and more.
- ❖ The NALSA constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987.
- ❖ It has a mandate to provide legal aid to disadvantaged groups and spread legal literacy.

INTERNATIONAL

Return of Chagos Archipelago



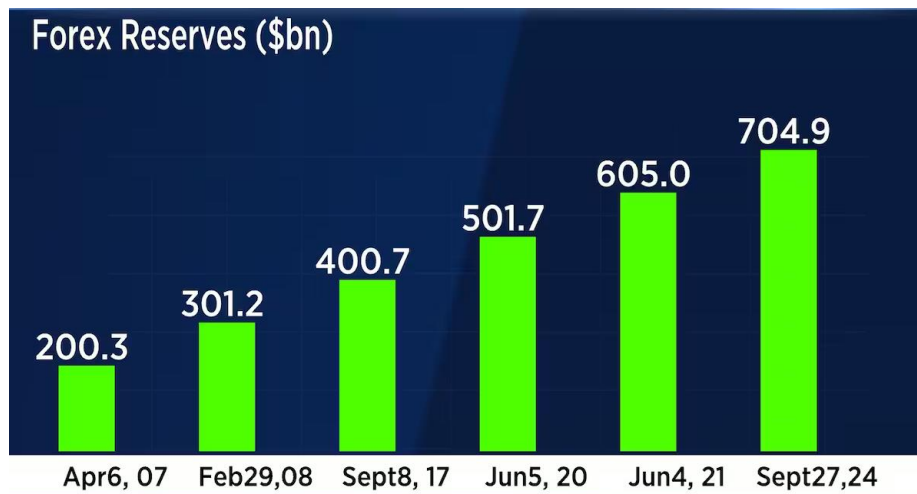
- ❖ The United Kingdom ceded sovereignty of the strategically important Chagos Islands to Mauritius.
- ❖ The UK has long controlled Chagos and the Diego Garcia military base located there, jointly operating it with the United States.
- ❖ The Chagos archipelago, comprising 58 islands, lies roughly 500 km to the south of the Maldives archipelago in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ In 1814, France ceded the islands to the British.
- ❖ In 1965, the UK constituted the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), of which the Chagos Islands were a central part.
- ❖ A few other BIOT islands were later ceded to the Seychelles in 1976 after it gained independence from Britain.
- ❖ Chagos was attached to Mauritius, another British colony in the Indian Ocean, for administrative purposes.

- ❖ But when Mauritius gained the independence in 1968, Chagos remained with Britain.

ECONOMY

700 billion USD forex reserves

- ❖ India's forex reserves have crossed the \$700 billion mark for the first time.
- ❖ With this milestone, India becomes the fourth economy in the world to surpass \$700 billion in foreign reserves, joining China, Japan, and Switzerland.
- ❖ The increase of \$12.6 billion is also the largest weekly addition since July 14, 2023.
- ❖ India's reserves first crossed \$100 billion in December 2003, taking more than three years to add the next \$100 billion.
- ❖ The third \$100 billion (from \$200 billion to \$300 billion) was achieved in less than one year, with reserves surpassing \$300 billion on February 29, 2008.
- ❖ The increase from \$200 billion to \$300 billion was the fastest, occurring in about ten months.
- ❖ After peaking at \$642 billion in September 2021, the reserves dropped to \$525 billion within the following year, primarily due to revaluation losses.

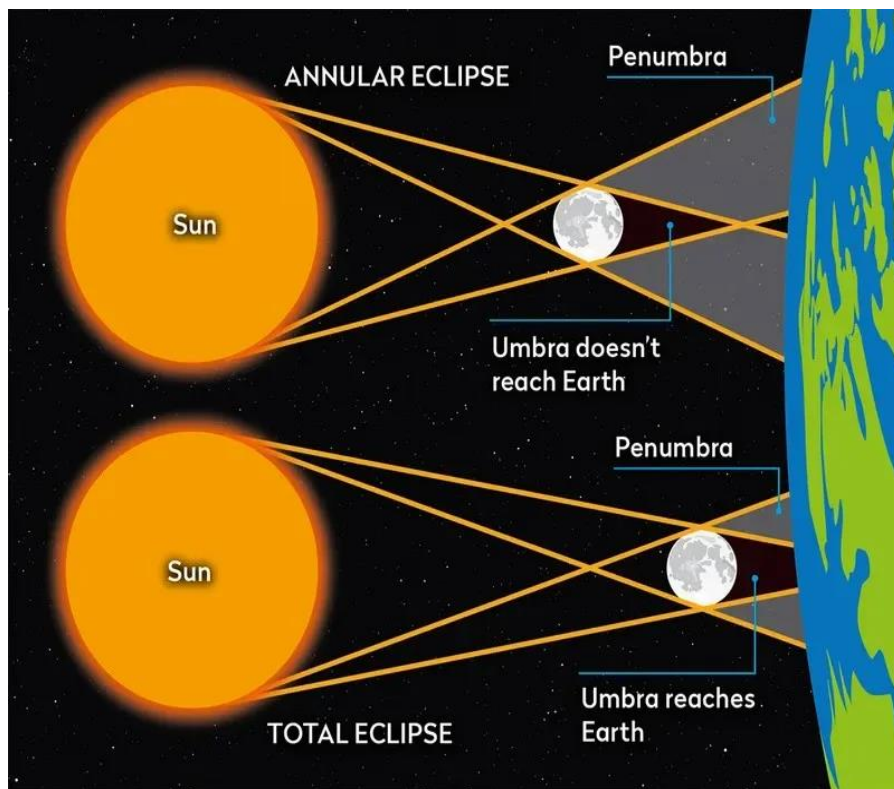


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Annular solar eclipse 2024

- ❖ An annular solar eclipse was occurred recently, following the partial lunar eclipse on September 17.

- ❖ Only Easter Island and a small area near the southern tip of Chile and Argentina witnessed an annular eclipse.
- ❖ An annular eclipse happens when the moon is too far away from the Earth to completely blot out the sun.
- ❖ Thus, it creating a dark silhouette surrounded by a bright ring of light called an antumbra, or a "ring of fire".
- ❖ The next such eclipse, will be visible on March 29, across Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America.
- ❖ The second solar eclipse will be seen on September 21 in Australia and Antarctica.



C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan–Atlas)

- ❖ Bengaluru witnessed the Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan–ATLAS) passing above the city at a close range.
- ❖ The Comet C/2023 A3 was first discovered by China's Purple Mountain Observatory.
- ❖ C/2023 A3 is a non-periodic comet.
- ❖ This means there is no set timeline on when the comet will appear.
- ❖ The comet is revisiting our solar system almost after 80,000 years.

- ❖ It will travel at some 129.6 million kilometres away from Earth.
- ❖ It is said to be a part of the Sextans constellation.
- ❖ The Halley comet is the periodic comet, which appears once every 75 years.



ENVIRONMENT

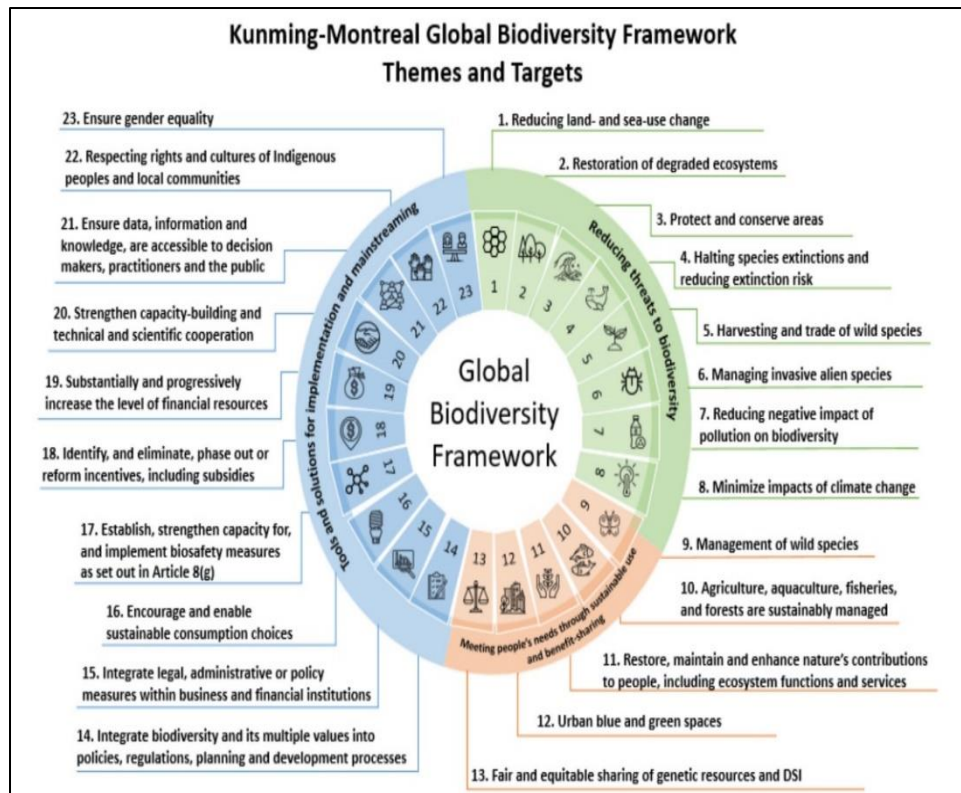
Honey Badger in India



- ❖ A honey badger, also known as the Ratel, has been captured on camera for the first time in the Terai East Forest Division (TEFD) of Uttarakhand.

- ❖ Honey badgers are omnivorous mammals that belong to the weasel family.
- ❖ These nocturnal creatures' diet is diverse, consisting of small animals, fruit and honey.
- ❖ IUCN Red List listed it as "Least Concern".

NBSAP Tracker



- ❖ The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans Tracker (NBSAP), a new tool developed by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).
- ❖ It is monitoring the progress of countries in developing their NBSAPs that align with the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- ❖ Adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework was a crucial commitment by 196 countries who pledged to "halt and reverse" biodiversity loss by 2030.
- ❖ Only 10 per cent of nations have met their pledges to protect biodiversity, raising significant concerns.
- ❖ Currently, just 20 countries have fully revised their NBSAPs since COP15.
- ❖ Only nine countries, along with the European Union, have submitted these updated plans as of June 2024.

- ❖ This leaves 186 countries lagging behind, including India, which has not yet submitted its report.
- ❖ The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted in 2022.

STATES

Assam's Traditional Products - GI Tags



- ❖ GI tag was given to following eight products from the Assam region, including traditional food items and several unique varieties of rice beer.
- ❖ The first is the variant of rice beer 'Bodo Jou Gwran', which has the highest percentage of alcohol (about 16.11%).
- ❖ The second variant is 'Maibra Jou Bidwi', known locally as 'Maibra Jwu Bidwi' or 'Maibra Zwu Bidwi'.
- ❖ The third variant, called 'Bodo Jou Gishi', is also a traditionally fermented rice-based alcoholic beverage.
- ❖ A GI tag has been secured by 'Bodo Napham', an important and favourite dish of fermented fish.
- ❖ The other one is 'Bodo Ondla', a rice powder curry flavoured with garlic, ginger, salt, and alkali.
- ❖ The 'Bodo Gwkha' has also received the GI tag.
- ❖ 'Bodo Narzi' is a semi-fermented food prepared with jute leaves.

- ❖ The 'Bodo Aronai', a small beautiful cloth, also has the GI tag.

25th Hornbill Festival



- ❖ The 25th edition of Nagaland's iconic Hornbill Festival, or the "Festival of Festivals," will take place in December 2024.
- ❖ The 10-day event showcase of Nagaland's rich and traditional cultural heritage in all its ethnicity, diversity and grandeur.
- ❖ The festival is a tribute to this bird, known for its qualities of majesty and alertness.
- ❖ The IUCN Status of the bird is Near Threatened.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Teachers' Day 2024 - October 05



- ❖ It is established by UNESCO to recognise the importance of teachers in society.
- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 1994.
- ❖ It aims to honour the essential role that teachers play in shaping our lives.
- ❖ The 2024 celebrations will focus on “Valuing teacher voices: towards a new social contract for education”.

92nd Indian Air Force Day 2024 - October 05



- ❖ Also known as ‘Bharatiya Vayu Sena’, the IAF was officially established on October 8, 1932, by the British Empire.
- ❖ The air force is divided into five operational and two functional commands.
- ❖ IAF ranks as the fourth largest operational air force in the world.
- ❖ This year's theme is “Bhartiya Vayu Sena – Saksham, Sashakt, Atma Nirbhar”.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a mega airshow on the Marina Beach in Chennai on October 6 to commemorate this day.
- ❖ The event drew an estimated 15 lakh people, setting a new record in the Limca Book of Records for the largest attendance at an air show.
- ❖ The last event held 21 years ago was on a small-scale in Chennai.

World Postal Day 2024 - October 09

- ❖ This day is the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.
- ❖ In 2024, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) celebrates its 150th anniversary.

- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations”.



MISCELLANEOUS

Judge's Asset Disclosure

HC	Total judges at present	Assets in Public domain	For others what website states
Delhi High Court	39	11	"File not uploaded"
Punjab and Haryana	55	31	No mention
Himachal Pradesh	12	10	No mention
Chhattisgarh	17	2	No mention
Karnataka	50	2	No mention
Kerala	39	37	No mention
Madras	62	5	No mention

- ❖ Of the 749 judges currently shown as posted in the 25 High Courts across the country, the assets of only 98 are available in the public domain through the declarations.
- ❖ Of these, three High Courts constitute over 80 per cent of the asset declarations.
- ❖ The Kerala High Court tops with the details of 37 out of 39 judges available on its website.
- ❖ The Punjab and Haryana High Court has uploaded the information of 31 of 55 judges.
- ❖ Thirdly, the Delhi High Court has posted details of 11 of 39 judges.

- ❖ From Tamil Nadu, 5 of 62 has uploaded their information.

Treatment for retinal diseases

- ❖ IIT Madras, have identified a method to treat the retinal tears and diabetic retinopathy.
- ❖ They used mild laser-induced convection to enhance the delivery of drugs injected into the retina of the eye.
- ❖ There are around 11 million people in India with retinal disorders.

