

October - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India will host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) of the International Telecommunication Union in New Delhi.
- ❖ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has been elected as the Chairperson of the 77th Session of the WHO South-East Asia Region.
- ❖ India participated in the 44th session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) held in Dresden, Germany.

TAMIL NADU

Pig Breeding Policy 2024




The infographic features the Tamil Nadu state emblem and the Animal Husbandry Department logo. The title 'Pig Breeding Policy 2024' is prominently displayed in red. The text describes the policy's goal of enhancing pig rearing for nutritional security and lists key components: infrastructure development (bacon factory), value addition of pork products, cooperative-based market chain, and quarantine facilities for imported animals.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has unveiled a 'pig breeding policy' aimed at enhancing pig rearing in the state to ensure nutritional security.
- ❖ The policy includes infrastructure development, such as
 - Establishment of a bacon factory,
 - Promoting value addition of pork products for higher farmer profitability,
 - Development of a cooperative-based market chain, and
 - Implementing quarantine facilities for imported animals.
- ❖ The govt would provide subsidies, tax holidays, and financial support to boost the pig farming sector.

- ❖ The policy also mandates a systematic process for identifying animals using 12-digit UID ear tags as prescribed by the Union govt, with registration on the 'Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH)'.

NATIONAL

Supreme Court on Casteism in Prison



Removing bias

The Bench says “everyone is born equal” and cannot suffer lifelong due to stigma attached to their caste.

The directions include:

- States and UTs should revise their Prison Manuals/Rules in three months
- Centre should address caste-based discrimination in the Model Prison Manual 2016 and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2023 in three months
- “Caste columns” and references to caste in prisoners’ registers should be removed

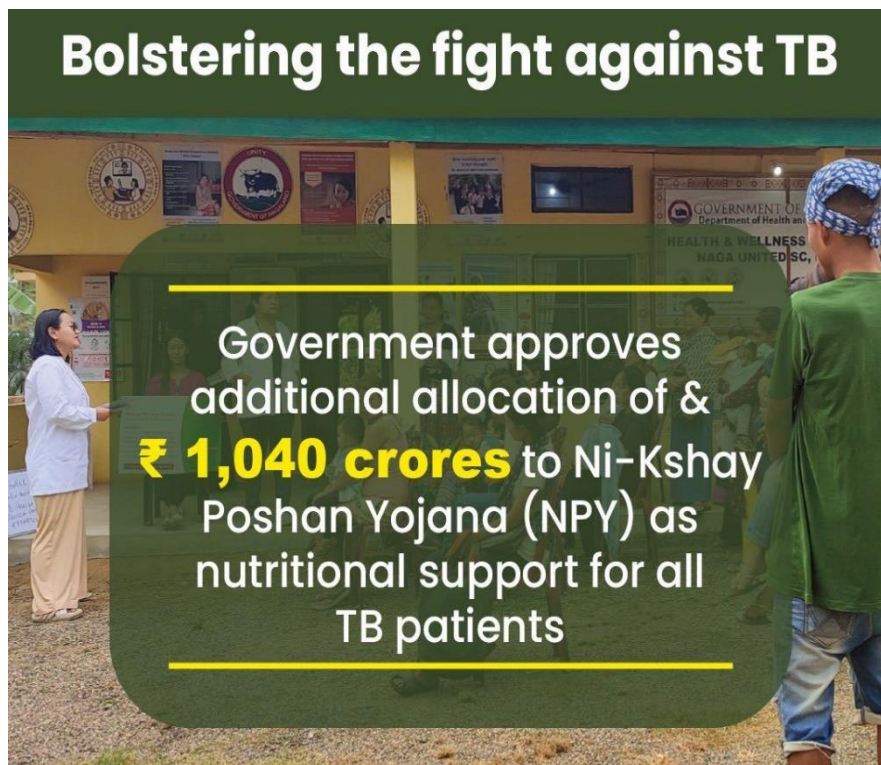
The illustration shows a man in a white kurta sitting on a scale pan labeled 'EQUALITY', which is being held up by a hand. The man is looking thoughtful, with his hand to his chin.

- ❖ The Supreme Court declared that caste-based division of labour in prisons is “unconstitutional”.
- ❖ It highlighted the provisions in prison manuals in States such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala that legitimised caste inequalities.
- ❖ The Rajasthan Prison Rules, 1951, allocated latrine duties to the “Mehtar” caste, a SC community and Brahmins or “sufficiently high caste Hindu prisoners” were assigned to the kitchens.
- ❖ Segregating prisoners on the basis of caste would reinforce caste differences or animosity that ought to be prevented in the first place.
- ❖ The differentiating between inmates based on “habit,” “custom,” “superior mode of living,” and “natural tendency to escape” offends principles of substantive equality.
- ❖ All States and Union Territories were directed to amend their prison manuals and rules within three months to abolish such discriminatory practices.
- ❖ The court also mandated the removal of the “caste column” and any references to caste in the registers of undertrials and convicts maintained in prisons.

- ❖ The court also ordered that necessary reforms be implemented in both the 2016 manual and the 2023 Act within three months.

Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana for TB

- ❖ The centre doubled the monthly nutrition support under Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) for tuberculosis (TB) patients under treatment from ₹500 to ₹1,000.
- ❖ Additionally, all household contacts of TB patients will be covered under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA).
- ❖ All TB patients will now receive nutritional support of ₹3,000 to ₹6,000 under NPY.
- ❖ Elimination of tuberculosis is one of the SDG to be achieved by 2030 by the world, India has set the target of 2025.



National Anubhav Awards Scheme - 2025

- ❖ An Annual Awards Scheme was devised in 2015 to incentivize and encourage the submission of the experiences through write ups.
- ❖ Till date, 10,886 write-ups have been published and 78 outstanding write ups have been conferred with 59 Anubhav Awards and 19 Jury Certificates.

- ❖ For the first time, apart from the employees of Central Government, employees of Central PSUs will also be eligible for submitting their write ups for 2025.

NATIONAL ANUBHAV AWARDS SCHEME, 2025

- * The National Anubhav Awards Scheme, 2025 recognizes the contributions of Central Government employees through the Anubhav Awards organized by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW).
- * Launched in March 2015, the initiative aims to document and share experiences of retiring employees, fostering good governance and administrative reforms via the Anubhav Portal.
- * Eligible participants include retiring Central Government employees and pensioners, with submissions considered for awards during a specific timeframe.

INTERNATIONAL

Bilateral investment treaty (BIT) 2024



- ❖ The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed between India and the UAE has been enforced from August 31 this year.
- ❖ It gives continuity of investment protection to investors of both the countries.

- ❖ UAE is the seventh largest with a share of 3% in the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received in India.
- ❖ The earlier Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) treaty between India and UAE was signed in December 2013 and expired on 12th September, 2024.

ECONOMY

India's First Blue Loan



- ❖ The International Finance Corporation (IFC), has partnered with Axis Bank to provide a \$500 million loan aimed at scaling up green finance and developing the blue finance market in India.
- ❖ This marks IFC's first blue investment in the country and the largest green financing by the institution.
- ❖ Blue loans are designated for projects in areas like water and wastewater management, marine plastic reduction, sustainable tourism, and the offshore renewable energy.

ENVIRONMENT

Rare black panthers in Odisha

- ❖ A Black Panther has been spotted in the forest of Sundergarh district in Odisha.

- ❖ The panther was seen in the Daghora section jungle in Hemagiri Forest Range in the district.
- ❖ So far, Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) is known as the country's only habitat that has the melanistic Royal Bengal tigers (RBT).



New potter wasp species

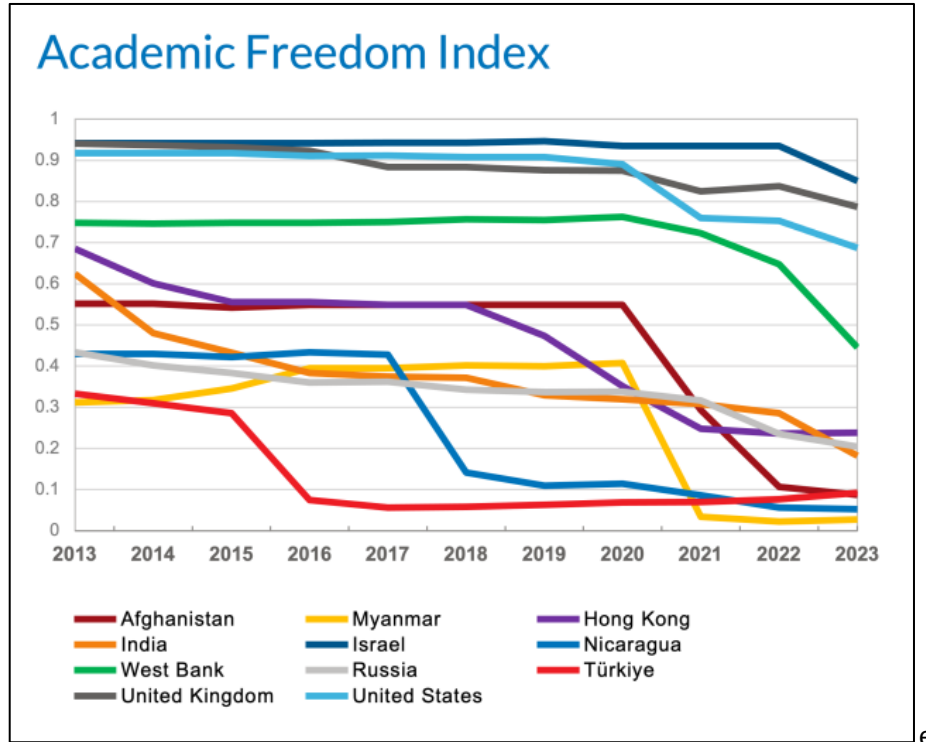


- ❖ Entomologists have discovered a new species of potter wasp from Arunachal Pradesh, in the Eastern Himalayas.
- ❖ The new species, *Pseumenes siangensis*, was found in Upper Siang.
- ❖ The new species differs from others in having specific morphological features and colour patterns.

- ❖ Around 3,795 species of these wasps have been described across 205 genera.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Free to Think 2024 annual report

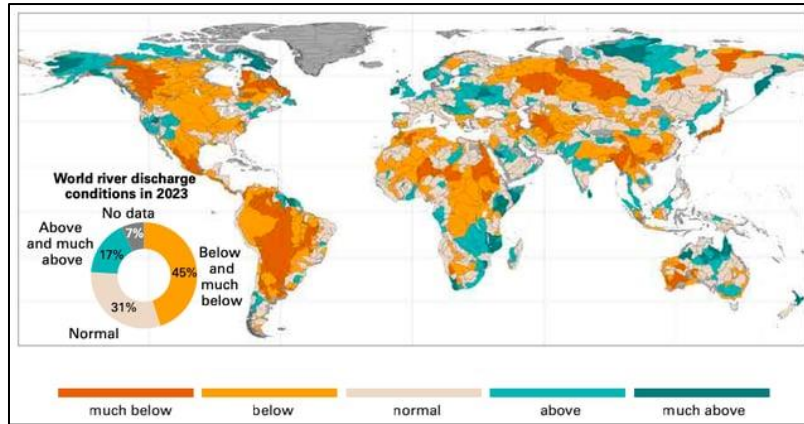


- ❖ This annual report was published by the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Academic Freedom Monitoring Project.
- ❖ It has documented 391 attacks on higher education communities in 51 countries between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.
- ❖ India’s academic freedom slipped from 0.6 points to 0.2 points from 2013 to 2023.
- ❖ India now ranks as “completely restricted”, its lowest score since the mid-1940s.

State of Global Water Resources Report 2023

- ❖ This new report was coordinated by World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ 2023 is the second consecutive year in which all regions in the world with glaciers reported ice loss.
- ❖ 2023 was driest year for global rivers in 33 years.
- ❖ Glaciers suffer largest mass loss in 50 years.

- ❖ Currently, 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water at least a month per year.
- ❖ This is expected to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Postal Week 2024 – October 09/15



- ❖ It aims to honour this integral service of the postal system.
- ❖ It is celebrated every year to highlight the importance of the postal services in connecting people, supporting businesses, and contributing to the global communication.
- ❖ October 10 is celebrated as the National Postal Day.
- ❖ The structured Postal service was introduced in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.
- ❖ In 1852, the first postage stamp of India, known as the “Scinde Dawk,” was introduced.

- ❖ India has 23 postal circles and 9 postal zones including Army Post Office.
- ❖ Post offices in India follows a 6-digit PIN Code system, which was introduced in India in 1972.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Connecting India: The Role of Postal Services in Nation Building".

MISCELLANEOUS

Doddalathur Megalithic Site - Karnataka



- ❖ Excavation works have started at the Doddalathur Megalithic burial site in Hanur taluk of the Chamarajanagar district.
- ❖ The west of the village is a small hillock and in the adjacent fields are hundreds of burials of the megalithic period which corresponds to the Iron Age.
- ❖ The burials consist of circles made of large boulders hence the name “megalithic”.
- ❖ Since iron technology came into use during this period, it is also known as Iron Age.
- ❖ In south India, this period has been broadly placed in the time bracket of 1200 BCE to 300 CE.

