

October - 28

## TNPSC BITS

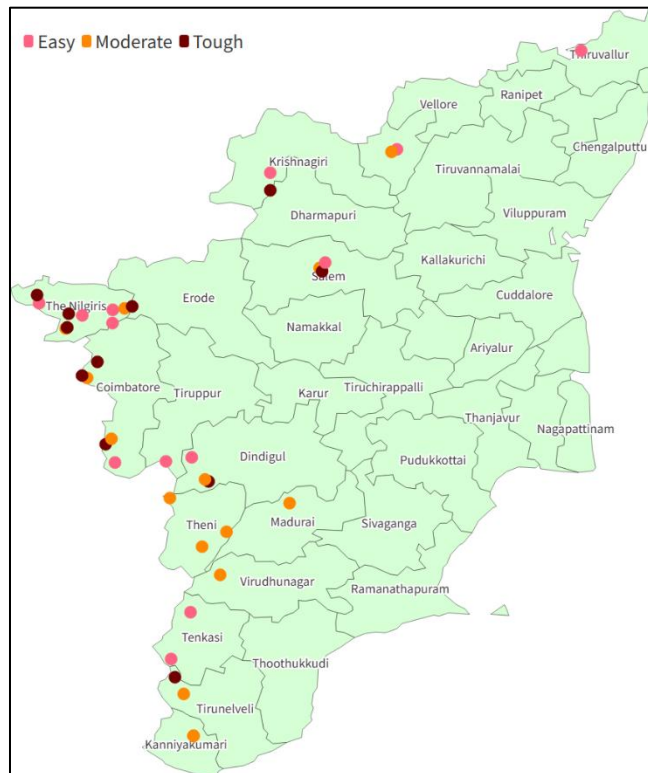
- ❖ 25 years after Kamarajar Port was named the country's 12th major port, the mega international container transshipment port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay in the Great Nicobar Island has been notified as the 13<sup>th</sup> major port.
- ❖ India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), referred to as S4\*, was launched in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ Three new airports are inaugurated in Chhattisgarh's Surguja, Madhya Pradesh's Rewa and Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur.
- ❖ The government of India will commemorate Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary with a two-year-long nationwide celebration from 2024 to 2026.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary near Bhopal will be notified as the state's eighth tiger reserve.
- ❖ India's Deepika Kumari won the silver medal in the women's recurve event at the Archery World Cup Final 2024 in Tlaxcala, Mexico.
- ❖ Urmila Chaudhary of Nepal won the Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024.
- ❖ Israel officially joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its 69<sup>th</sup> member and 20<sup>th</sup> nonregional member.
- ❖ Google has named its Senior Vice President and IIT-Madras Alumnus Prabhakar Raghavan as its new Chief Technologist.
- ❖ The 2024 edition of the Embassy's flagship diaspora engagement event, Pravasi Parichay, was inaugurated at the Embassy Auditorium in Riyadh.
  - This week-long cultural celebration was titled "Classical Languages of India" designed to showcase the country's rich linguistic diversity.

## TAMIL NADU

### 40 Trekking trails

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has put together a comprehensive list of 40 trails.
- ❖ It also launched a portal under the 'Trek Tamil Nadu' project featuring 40 trails.
- ❖ The portal [www.trektamilnadu.com](http://www.trektamilnadu.com) facilitates online bookings.
- ❖ All those above the age of 18 are permitted to book the treks.

- ❖ All those below the age of 18 can trek with the consent letter of the parents / guardian.
- ❖ Kids below the age of 10 (allowed only for the easy treks) needs accompaniment of parent or guardian.
- ❖ These 40 curated trails are spread over 14 districts across Tamil Nadu, including the popular destinations such as the Nilgiris, Kodaikanal and Kanniyakumari.
- ❖ The treks are in compliance of the Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife (Regulation of Trekking) Rules, 2018.



## NATIONAL

### Bharat Chana Dal Phase II

- ❖ The Centre expanded its subsidised pulses program, introducing chana whole and masur dal under the 'Bharat' brand.
- ❖ The initiative aims to provide these pulses at the discounted rates through the cooperative networks, ensuring affordability for the public.
- ❖ The Bharat brand provides staples such as rice, flour, and pulses at subsidised rates.

- ❖ It was launched as a part of the government's broader aim to make essential goods more affordable for middle-class consumers.
- ❖ Phase I of the brand was rolled out in October 2023 and Phase II was announced earlier this month.



**Rights of Persons with disabilities rules 2024 (Amendment)**



- ❖ The government has enforced new amendments to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) rules.

- ❖ It aims to streamline the application process for disability certificates and Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Cards.
- ❖ It will improve accessibility and provide more efficient services for persons with disabilities.
- ❖ Now, individuals with specified disabilities can apply for disability certificates and UDID cards through the UDID Portal.
- ❖ The amendments also introduce the color-coded UDID cards, signifying different levels of disability:
  - White for disabilities below 40 per cent,
  - Yellow for 40-79 per cent and
  - Blue for those with 80 per cent or higher disability.
- ❖ 4% reservation in government jobs is available for people with disabilities.
- ❖ But the people with blood disorders like thalassemia, haemophilia, and sickle cell disease are not eligible for job reservations under the PwD category.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Kazan Declaration**

- ❖ The 16<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit concluded with the adoption of the Kazan Declaration.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive document outlining key areas of cooperation and the bloc's unified stance on global issues.
- ❖ The theme of the Declaration is "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security".
- ❖ The declaration emphasises the need for peaceful resolution through diplomacy.
- ❖ The summit underscored the importance of the G20 in global decision-making.
- ❖ The BRICS nations has reiterated their pledge to improve global governance by advocating for a more agile, responsive, and representative multilateral system.
- ❖ BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) is focussing on facilitating and expanding innovative financial practices.
- ❖ The declaration has welcomed the use of local currencies in BRICS financial transactions and supported the exploration of an independent cross-border settlement infrastructure.
- ❖ Establishing a BRICS Grain Exchange and studying the feasibility of a BRICS Cross-Border Payment System and BRICS (Re)Insurance Company.
- ❖ India's initiative to create an International Big Cats Alliance received recognition.



- ❖ It supports the initiatives of the BRICS R&D Vaccine Center, further development of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks and the operations of the BRICS TB Research Network.

## Highlights of the declaration

### ON UKRAINE

'All states should act consistently with the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter in their entirety and interrelation'

### ON WEST ASIA

'We reiterate our grave concern at the deterioration of the situation and humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular the unprecedented escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip and in West Bank as a result of the Israeli military offensive'

### ON WESTERN SANCTIONS

'We are deeply concerned about the disruptive effect of unlawful unilateral coercive measures, including illegal sanctions, on the world economy, international trade, and the achievement of the sustainable development goals'

### ON G20

'We recognise the importance of the continued and productive functioning of the G20, based on consensus with a focus on result-oriented outcomes'

## ENVIRONMENT

### Great Indian Bustard - Artificial Insemination



- ❖ The first Great Indian Bustard chick born through artificial insemination.
- ❖ Scientists at the National Conservation Breeding Centre in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan made this process.

- ❖ The great Indian bustard is a highly endangered bird species found in the Thar area of Rajasthan.
- ❖ Now, only 173 birds are left, of which, 128 are found in the wild, while others are bred in captivity.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Economic Outlook 2024

- ❖ The latest World Economic Outlook is released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ❖ The IMF expects the US economy the world's largest to expand 2.8 per cent this year.
- ❖ It is slightly down from 2.9 per cent in 2023 but an improvement on the 2.6 per cent it had forecast for 2024 back in July.
- ❖ The 20 European countries that share the euro currency are collectively expected to eke out 0.8 per cent growth this year.
- ❖ The German economy isn't expected to grow at all this year.
- ❖ Worldwide inflation has been cooling from 6.7 per cent in 2023 to a forecast 5.8 per cent this year and 4.3 per cent in 2025.
- ❖ India's economy is expected to 7 per cent this year and 6.5 per cent in 2025.

	2023	2024	2025
World Output	3.3	3.2	3.2
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	4.4	4.2	4.2
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.7	5.3	5.0
China	5.2	4.8	4.5
India	8.2	7.0	6.5
Emerging and Developing Europe	3.3	3.2	2.2
Russia	3.6	3.6	1.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.2	2.1	2.5
Brazil	2.9	3.0	2.2
Mexico	3.2	1.5	1.3
Middle East and Central Asia	2.1	2.4	3.9

### Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2024

- ❖ It is released by Oxfam and Development Finance International.

- ❖ It assessed the commitment of 164 countries and regions to fighting inequality.
- ❖ India was ranked at 127<sup>th</sup> place.
- ❖ The other South Asian countries such as Nepal (115) and Sri Lanka (118) have performed better than India.
- ❖ Norway, Canada, and Australia have topped in the list.
- ❖ South Sudan and Nigeria are ranked in the bottom rank.

**TABLE 1 TOP AND BOTTOM 10 COUNTRIES IN THE CRI 2024 INDEX**

Top and bottom ten countries in the CRI 2024 Index				
Top ten		Bottom ten		
Rank	Country	Rank	Country	
1	Norway	164	South Sudan	
2	Canada	163	Nigeria	
3	Australia	162	Vanuatu	
4	Germany	161	Haiti	
5	Finland	160	Zimbabwe	
6	Denmark	159	Uganda	
7	Austria	158	Central African Republic	
8	Japan	157	Liberia	
9	Slovenia	156	Sierra Leone	
10	France	155	Burundi	

## STATES

### Bihar - First Dry Port



- ❖ Bihar's first dry port was inaugurated at Bihta, a town near state capital Patna.
- ❖ A dry port, or inland container depot (ICD), provides a logistics facility away from a seaport or airport for cargo handling, storage, and transportation.
- ❖ It acts as a bridge between sea/air ports and inland regions, facilitating efficient movement of goods.
- ❖ It is being run in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.



- ❖ Bihar is a major producer of fruits and vegetables such as potato, tomato, banana, litchi and makhana (fox nuts).
- ❖ The state recorded exports worth Rs 20,000 crore in 2022-23.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Snow Leopard Day - October 23

- ❖ This day was started in 2013, following the adoption of the Bishkek Declaration.
- ❖ The snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) thrives in harsh, high-altitude environments.
- ❖ They are native to the mountains of Central and South Asia.
- ❖ They typically found at elevations between 9,800 and 17,000 feet in mountain ranges
- ❖ The snow leopard lives in 12 of the most mountainous countries in the world.
- ❖ They are Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ It is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN.

