

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2024

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CONTENTS

TNPSC BITS	12
TAMIL NADU	24
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act – 1978.....	24
Tamil Nadu special seed fund	24
Various New bills and amendments	25
Four New municipal corporations	26
Impact of Naan Mudhalvan scheme 2024	27
State’s block development program - Tamilnadu	27
Removal of gravel from waterbodies	28
Tamil Nadu borrowings in Q2 (2024-25).....	28
Chiretolpis erubescens	29
Draft Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2024	29
Draft State Education Policy of Tamil Nadu 2024.....	30
Tamili-inscribed potsherd - Keeladi	31
Mayors’ resignation.....	31
3 Testing facilities	32
AI teaching assistant - Vidya	32
TN liquidity position 2023-24	33
Advisory on amoebic meningoencephalitis	33
K. Sathyanarayanan committee	34
Renewable energy production in Tamilnadu - 2024	34
SDG India Index 2023-2024	35
Representation before RBI ombudsman.....	36
Ooty lake under Wetland Rules, 2017.....	36
Language Atlas of Tamil Nadu 2011.....	37
Renaming of TANGEDCO	38
Expansion of breakfast scheme 2024.....	38
Vulture Study in Tamil Nadu 2024	39
Warning about the term ‘Chandala’	40
Tamilnadu Awards to crafts persons and artisans 2024	41



Performance of Tamilnadu in SDG Index 2023-24	41
Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam 2022-2027	43
Tamil Nadu Day 2024	43
TN-RISE initiative 2024	44
First complete Ram Setu Map	44
Periyar Vision OTT	45
Food Safety in TN Schools.....	45
Tamilnadu State Minorities Commission 2024	46
Tamil Pudhalvan scheme 2024	46
One Health panel - Tamilnadu	47
NATIONAL	48
FATF 'regular follow-up' category	48
E-Flow Ecological Monitoring System.....	48
Bhuvan Panchayat Geoportal 4.0.....	49
India's 3 New Criminal Laws	50
Smart Cities Mission extension	51
World Bank aid to India's hydrogen plans.....	51
India's First Coal Gasification Pilot Project	52
Migration and Development Brief 2024	53
Agenda for the 16th Finance Commission 2024	53
Sampoornata Abhiyan	54
National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024.....	55
Renegotiation of Ganga Waters Treaty.....	55
Reconstitution of Cabinet panels	56
India's Defense Production 2023-24	56
Central Railway's Floating Solar Plant.....	57
Fauna of India Checklist Portal	57
New Weapon systems school.....	57
Most powerful non-nuclear bomb - SEBEX 2	58
SBI - MSME Sahaj.....	58
Gallantry Awards 2024	59
Indo-French Liver and Metabolic Disease Network.....	59
Safai Apnao Bimaari Bhagao initiative.....	59
eSankhyiki Portal.....	59



NQAS Assessment.....	60
Historic Chadwick House	61
22nd yearly summit of India and Russia	61
Indigenous Light Tank ‘Zorawar’	62
Haj Committee	62
NIRMAN Portal	63
CAMCOPTER S-100	63
Classical Language criteria 2024	64
New Food Packaging Rules 2024	64
Agri SURE fund	65
SDG Index 2024 – India	65
Five-Member Advisory Council of 16th FC.....	66
‘One Scientist, One Product’ Scheme	67
Toll free helpline for Narcotics Crimes - 1933	67
WHO-UNICEF report 2024	68
All India Services (conduct) Rules, 1968.....	69
Muslim women’s right to maintenance 2024	70
NITI Aayog reconstitution 2024	70
UGC’s ASMITA Project.....	71
India’s 5th Indigenization List.....	72
Digital Bharat Nidhi	73
Project PARI.....	73
Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises 2022-23	74
Operation Nanhe Farishtey.....	75
Business Advisory Committee 2024	75
India-Taiwan MRA for Organic Products	76
4th ICCPR Human Rights Review	76
Economic Survey 2023-24.....	76
National Landslide Forecasting Centre	77
Budget 2024 Highlights.....	78
Nine priorities of Budget 2024	80
Mental health coverage in Economic survey.....	80
New Pension Scheme ‘VATSALYA’	81
U-WIN portal.....	82



KIRTI Program	82
Data of Poshan Tracker June 2024	83
PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyaan	84
Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme - 2024	84
New Employment-linked incentives	85
NCB Annual report 2023	86
Shiksha Saptah 2024	87
9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog	87
Right to tax mineral-rich lands	88
India's Nuclear Power Capacity 2031-32	88
INTERNATIONAL	89
World's First Carbon Tax on Gassy Cattle	89
Space MAITRI Mission – Australia	90
Contract to Destroy the ISS	90
China's 'Five Principles' of Foreign Policy - 70 years	91
INSTC - First shipment	91
Banknotes with hologram	92
Spain's Renewable Energy generation	93
GenAI patents	93
New British PM Keir Starmer	94
24th SCO Summit	94
RIMPAC naval exercise	94
Framework to fight online misinformation	95
NATO Summit 2024	95
Rhisotope Project	96
Iran's next president	96
Russian orbital station	97
Exercise Pitch Black	97
Colombo Security Conclave 2024	98
MeDevIS Database	98
Preferred FPI Destinations for India	99
High efficacy malaria vaccine - Africa	99
New Microcontinent Discovery	100
MV Sea Change	100



NATO’s Eastern Flank Mobility.....	101
UN Water Convention 2024	101
Project 2025	102
World’s First Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train	102
Apollo 11 Anniversary 2024	103
UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2024	103
Clarion-Clipperton Zone	104
Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024	105
ECONOMY	105
Short-Term Debt’s Share of India	105
India’s remittance in 2023	106
SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024-2027	107
Financial accommodation for States/UTs.....	108
Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective.....	108
RBI’s 29th Financial Stability Report	109
Project Nexus by RBI.....	110
Job Creation in Fiscal 2023-24.....	110
Financial inclusion Index 2024	111
Liberalized Remittance Scheme - RBI.....	112
Trade in Indian Rupee with Russia	113
India’s Electronic Manufacturing target 2030.....	113
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....	114
NOAA Weather Satellite	114
Snowblind Malware.....	115
World’s First Brain Implant for Epilepsy Control	115
CAR-T cancer therapy	116
Olympus Mons	116
Junk DNA.....	117
First commercial spacewalk	118
ISRO’s Aditya-L1 mission 2024	118
Velmenni’s Li-Fi technology	119
Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket	120
Syntrichia caninervis	120
Habitable Worlds Observatory.....	120



Anti-Insecticide Fabric	121
Unusual Ionospheric Shapes	121
IISc - 3D Hydrogel	122
Europe’s Ariane 6 Rocket	123
NASA’s CHAPEA project	123
Massive Black Hole in Omega Centauri	123
Extreme Solar Particle Event	124
New type of “Time Crystal”	125
Earth Revolution around the Sun	125
Quasar’s ‘Einstein Ring’	126
Wolbachia Bacteria	127
Open-source tool for Thirty Meter Telescope	127
Hydrogen peroxide Nebulization	128
Bimetallic NiFe systems	129
Low-Frequency Array	129
Scientific deep-drilling program	130
Weight Loss Drug – Tirzepatide	130
OJ 287 and Black Hole Pairs	131
Cave on the Moon	131
Blue Screen of Death	132
Six New Exoplanets - 2024	133
Mineral nanoparticles	134
New NOvA data	134
Talwar Class frigate	135
Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defense System 2024	135
ENVIRONMENT	136
Painted lady Butterfly	136
Lone mainland serow	137
Didymocarpus janakiae	138
Gomphonemoid diatom	138
New Species of Horned Frog	139
Senna spectabilis	139
Vaquita - Marine Mammal	140
Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement - India	140



11 New Biosphere Reserves - 2024	141
IUCN Red List Update 2024	141
Uropeltis caudomaculata	142
Zinc's role in climate change resilient.....	143
Salvinia molesta.....	143
Squalus Hima	144
World Population Prospects 2024	144
Mackenzie River - Historic low water	145
Planet on the Move: Reimagining Conservation report	146
CITES's Report on Rosewoods	147
Global Forest Area Gain.....	147
New flower flies in India	148
Hottest Day - Globally Ever	149
Ecozen - Asia 1 st low carbon green zinc	149
Uranium in drinking water	149
Mid-Year Air Quality Assessment for India 2024.....	150
REPORTS AND INDICES	151
Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index 2024.....	151
Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report 2023	152
Global livability index 2024.....	153
Annual World Drug Report 2024	153
New World Soil Health Index	154
Top Expensive Cities 2024	155
World's Most Affordable Countries for Immigrants 2024.....	155
Digital Economy Report 2024 - UNCTAD	156
Kantar's Brand Inclusion Index 2024.....	157
UNEP Foresight Report 2024.....	158
World's Most Powerful Passports 2024	158
State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024.....	159
STATES	160
Full Functional Literacy Under ULLAS.....	160
Shyok river	161
Indian Gaur in Srisailam Tiger Reserve	161
Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal River linking project	162



Gujarat FDI in 2023-24	162
Bioplastic Park by Uttar Pradesh	163
AI System for forest fire detection	163
People’s Biodiversity Register – Thazhakara	164
Karnataka Social Security and Welfare Bill.....	164
Vizhinjam Port 2024	165
Upper Siang hydropower project.....	166
Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary - Telangana	166
Ratna Bhandar - Odisha.....	167
Child Labour Free Mica mine.....	167
Chandipura virus.....	168
Tizu and Zungki River - Nagaland	168
Harela festival – Uttarakhand	169
Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Act, 2024	169
Geological Links with Gondwana Supercontinent	170
Shadow Cabinet in Odisha.....	171
Telangana Crop Loan Waiver Scheme 2024	171
Ladkha Bahu Yojana – Maharashtra	172
Panchamasali Lingayats	173
Bhil Pradesh.....	173
Kharchi Puja – Tripura	174
GEP index for environment – Uttarakhand	174
Project Cheetah - Banni grasslands	175
Discovery of Lithium Resources – Karnataka.....	176
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS.....	176
Books on Life Journey of Venkaiah Naidu.....	176
Blue Planet Prize 2024	177
International Toy Fair 2024	177
National Literary Award 2024.....	178
Frank Duckworth	178
Principal Advisor for National TB Program	179
9th IASRM Annual World Congress	179
1st International Conference on Steel Slag Road.....	180
Missy Elliott’s “The Rain” song.....	180



SVANidhi Scheme awards 2024	181
UPSC chairman resignation – Manoj Soni	181
International Mathematics Olympiad 2024	182
Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman 2023-24 Award	182
10th National Community Radio Awards	183
SPORTS.....	183
Archery World Cup 2024	183
Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli Retirement.....	184
Asian Billiards Championship 2024	185
Wimbledon Tennis 2024.....	185
Olympics 2024	186
Gender Equality in Paris Olympics 2024	187
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	187
World Allergy Week 2024 - June 23 to 29	187
National Doctor’s Day 2024 - July 01	188
National Chartered Accountant Day 2024 - July 01.....	188
GST Day 2024 - July 01.....	189
World UFO Day 2024 - July 02	189
World Sports Journalists Day 2024 - July 02.....	190
Hul Diwas 2024 - June 30	190
Foundation Day of Puducherry 2024 - July 01	190
International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024 - July 03.....	191
International Day of Cooperatives 2024 - July 6.....	192
World Zoonoses Day 2024 - July 06.....	192
World Kiswahili Language Day 2024 - July 07	192
National Fish Farmer’s Day 2024 - July 10.....	193
First International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica 2024 - July 11	193
World Population Day 2024 - July 11	194
Global Energy Independence Day 2024 - July 10.....	194
International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms 2024 - July 12.....	195
Malala Day 2024 - July 12.....	195
Bastille Day 2024 - July 14	195
World Youth Skill Day 2024 - July 15.....	196



ICAR Foundation and Technology Day 2024 - July 16	196
World Day for International Justice 2024 - July 17	196
Nelson Mandela International Day 2024 – July 18	197
CSIR - CRRI foundation Day 2024 - July 16	197
International Moon Day 2024 - July 20	198
International Chess Day 2024 - July 20	198
National Flag Day 2024 - July 22	198
National Mango Day 2024 - July 22	199
Pi Approximation Day 2024 - July 22	199
World Brain Day 2024 - July 22	200
National Broadcasting Day 2024 - July 23	200
National Income Tax Day 2024 - July 24	201
World Drowning Prevention Day 2024 - July 25	202
World Embryologist Day 2024 - July 25	202
Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024 - July 26	203
World Hepatitis Day 2024 - July 28	203
International Day for Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems 2024 - July 26	204
CRPF Foundation Day 2024 - July 27	204
International Tiger Day 2024 - July 29	205
World Nature Conservation Day 2024 - July 28	205
World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2024 - July 30	206
World Ranger Day 2024 - July 31	206
MISCELLANEOUS	207
41,000-Year-Old Ostrich Nest	207
350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji	208
World’s Oldest Cave Painting	208
Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network	209
Brain-Eating Amoeba Infection	209
100 years of electroencephalography (EEG)	210
Largest coal mines in India	211
Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex – Madhya Pradesh	211
Peru – Mashco Piro tribes	211
National Maritime Domain Awareness Centre	212
Kalarippayattu Federation	213



Digital Postal Index Number	213
RTI for Cheetah Management.....	214



TNPSC BITS

- ❖ TN govt has announced the extension of the Kalaigiar Sports Kit Scheme to town panchayats, municipalities and municipal corporations and an allocation of ₹100 crore for the purchase of 33 types of sports equipment.
 - Earlier, the scheme was only being implemented in panchayats.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu assembly has passed a resolution against the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, urging the Union government to scrap it.
 - The resolution called for state governments to allow medical admissions based on class 12 marks, as before NEET was introduced.
- ❖ India's World Cup-winning cricket captain Kapil Dev has been appointed the president of the Professional Golf Tour of India.
- ❖ Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary has been appointed as the convenor of the GoM on GST rate rationalisation.
- ❖ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders company was granted with 'Navratna' status by the centre.
- ❖ The 'India Africa Postal Leaders Meet' was organised in India to strengthening ties among the administrations of African countries and India in the postal sector.
 - This is an initiative under the "South- South and Triangular Cooperation" programme of the Universal Postal Union.
- ❖ The global financial crime watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had removed Turkey from its "grey list" of countries that require special scrutiny.
- ❖ International Pineapple Day is observed on June 27 to honouring the tropical pineapple and its many contributions to our lives.
- ❖ The National Insurance Awareness Day is observed every year on June 28 as a reminder of the crucial role insurance plays in securing our financial futures.
- ❖ India won their second T20 Cricket World Cup 2024 title since their first championship in 2007.
- ❖ Suzlon Vice Chairman Girish Tanti has been elected as the Chair of Global Wind Energy Council India (GWEC India).
- ❖ DRDO has successfully carried out six consecutive developmental trials of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS'.
- ❖ Tata Group, with a brand value of \$28.6 billion, has retained its title as India's most valuable brand.
- ❖ Indian writer Sanjana Thakur wins the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story "Aishwarya Rai".



- ❖ Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) Vikram Misri was named as the next Foreign Secretary.
- ❖ K-pop group SEVENTEEN was appointed as UNESCO's inaugural (First ever) Goodwill Ambassador for Youth at a ceremony in Paris.
- ❖ The Iberian Lynx of Europe has improved from Endangered to Vulnerable on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ Three major European space industry players have inked contracts with the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop large low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite platforms adhering to Zero Debris standards.
- ❖ NATO has named Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as its next Secretary-General.
- ❖ Bank of India has been felicitated with the Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24 by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
- ❖ Dr Usha Thakur was awarded 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman for her contribution in development of Hindi literature.
- ❖ The United States conducted its first Trilateral multidomain exercise - Freedom Edge with Japan and South Korea in the East China Sea.
- ❖ The Bornean elephant, or *Elephas maximus borneensis*, has been classified as 'endangered' under the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The 67th meeting of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Council took place in Washington, DC.
- ❖ General Upendra Dwivedi took charge as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff.
- ❖ Air India is set to launch South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation at Amravati in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Adani Defence & Aerospace has collaborated with Thales Group, to build 70 mm rockets for India's attack helicopters.
- ❖ Doon School Srinagar was honoured with the “Award for Transformative Education Excellence” at the Indo-Norway International Education Summit, Norway.
- ❖ Arundhati Roy has been chosen for the 2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize for her courageous and unswerving writing.
- ❖ India hosted the 64th International Sugar Organization (ISO) Council Meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa has been formally appointed as next President of the European Council.
- ❖ A project by the IIIT-Delhi has won the joint second prize in Trinity Challenge's second competition, on tackling the escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



- ❖ India has become the world's third-largest domestic aviation market after the U.S. and China.
- ❖ The Smritivan Earthquake Memorial Museum in Gujarat has been shortlisted for the prestigious UNESCO Prix Versailles Award 2024.
- ❖ South African Revenue Service (SARS) head Edward Kieswetter has been elected chairperson of the council of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a second one-year term.
- ❖ Viswanathan Anand of India has won the Leon Master chess championship for the 10th time.
- ❖ The third United Nations Conference on Afghanistan took place in Doha, Qatar, with the first time of Taliban participation.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh holds a remarkable position in India's renewable energy landscape, with the potential to generate 24 per cent of the nation's compressed biogas (CBG).
- ❖ Kerala has introduced gender-neutral images in school textbooks to promote equality, challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes by showing husbands and fathers working in the kitchen.
- ❖ Four Armed Forces Medical Service (AFMS) Officers clinching a record 32 Medals in the 43rd World Medical and Health Games held in Saint-Tropez, France.
- ❖ India will start an e-medical visa facility for Bangladesh nationals coming to India for medical treatment.
- ❖ India has surpassed Brazil and Indonesia to become the third largest domestic aviation market.
- ❖ Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation, Thrissur, received Spice Award 2024, instituted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research.
- ❖ The Indian Army is participating in 13th edition of India-Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE in Tak Province of Thailand.
 - Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in September 2019.
- ❖ The Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) Rajinder Khanna was appointed as additional NSA and Intelligence Bureau special director T.V. Ravichandran was appointed as deputy NSA.
- ❖ The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, will be hosted by India at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 16th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2024 began at the Foreign Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- ❖ Ashwin Ramaswami, the first Gen-Z (born in 1995-2012) Indian-American candidate contesting for the Georgia state Senate seat in District 48.



- ❖ Senior Indian Information Service officer Dharendra K Ojha has been appointed as the principal spokesperson of the central government.
- ❖ Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Hemant Soren was sworn in as Jharkhand Chief Minister for the third term.
- ❖ Around 120 people killed in a crush during a satsang (a Hindu religious festival) in Hathras district, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Srinagar has become the fourth Indian city to be recognised as a 'World Crafts City' by the World Craft Council (WCC).
 - Jaipur, Malappuram and Mysore are the other three Indian cities that have earlier been recognised as World Craft Cities.
- ❖ Writer, critic and feminist activist P. Geetha was presented with the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award.
 - This was instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala, for feminist studies.
- ❖ An India-Russia joint venture that was set up to produce the AK-203 assault rifles has completed its first phase with the delivery of 35,000 sets to the Indian Army.
- ❖ Divya Kala Shakti and Divya Kala Mela, a Unique Confluence of Creativity and Talent of Disabled Entrepreneurs, starts at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ The Indian Army recently got its first 4G mobile base station made in India, which was built by Signaltron in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Jaipur Military Station has become the second military station in the country to have a road made of plastic waste, following Narangi Military Station in Assam.
- ❖ Former Bank of England economist Rachel Reeves became a Britain's first woman finance minister.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force with Rafale fighter jets participated in the 4th joint Exercise - HOPEX in Egypt.
- ❖ The Government of India hosted the 'Global IndiaAI Summit' in New Delhi.
- ❖ 28-member Indian athletics team for the upcoming Paris Olympics, will lead by javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.
- ❖ The first International Dairy Federation Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024 was held in Kochi, Kerala.
- ❖ Bajaj Auto has launched the world's first CNG motorcycle-Freedom 125 with twin-tank setup - one for petrol and the other for CNG.
- ❖ BlinkX, the digital stockbroking arm of JM Financial, has set up BlinkX Gen AI Lab in Mumbai for the operational efficiencies and enhancing customers' experiences.



- ❖ The Dr Shyama Narang Foundation, Bangalore, in collaboration with Nimhans, hosted the third annual conference on Motor Neuron Disease.
 - Theme of the event is "Awareness, Care, and Management of MND/ALS".
- ❖ The Hindu Group of publications has brought out a coffee-table book, 'Samayapuram - The Sacred Seat of Shakti'.
- ❖ The government has mandated conformity to the BIS for stainless steel and aluminium utensils to enhance kitchen safety, quality and efficiency.
- ❖ Tata Group-owned Air India got its first narrow-body aircraft, Airbus A320 Neo to its fleet.
- ❖ The Global Conclave on Plastics Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) and Blue Origin announced India as a partner nation in their human spaceflight programme for citizens from countries who have sent a few or no astronauts to space.
- ❖ A robot servant employed in South Korea has recently been found unresponsive, termed as the first robot suicide.
 - It allegedly threw itself down a flight of stairs.
- ❖ The total number of passports granted by Chennai Regional Passport Office (RPO) during 2023 was 5,19,682.
 - This was 4,74,472 for 2022 and 4,72,274 for 2019.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister released two coffee table books titled – 'Folk Deities of Tamil Nadu: Worship, Tradition and Custom' and 'Forts of Tamil Nadu: A Walk-Through'.
- ❖ Maharashtra has been honoured with the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024 by the 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee.
- ❖ Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of HCL Tech, has been awarded the "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by France.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister was officially awarded the 'Order of St. Andrew the Apostle' by Russian President in recognition of his exceptional contributions to enhancing bilateral relations between India and Russia.
- ❖ Ahom era 'Moidams' in Assam's Charaideo district have been recommended for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List by its international advisory body ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites).
- ❖ Former Indian Cricket opener Gautam Gambhir has been appointed as Team India head coach, by succeeding Rahul Dravid.
- ❖ Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico has assumed the presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for a two-year term from July 2024 to June 2026.



- ❖ Rajasthan is set to become the first State in the country to adopt an action plan for road safety for the next 10 years.
 - The action plan will be aimed at reducing road accidents in the State by 50% till 2030.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a Selection Committee under the retired Madras High Court judge K.B.K. Vasuki for the selection of social worker members to the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) as well as for a chairperson and members to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).
- ❖ Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. has been honoured with the "Sustainable Governance Champion Award" at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.
- ❖ OpenAI recently announced a new model called CriticGPT based on GPT4 to write critiques of ChatGPT responses to help human trainers spot mistakes during reinforcement learning from human feedback.
- ❖ The Adani Group has announced that the conglomerate will be sponsoring the Indian team travelling to Paris for the 2024 Olympics Games.
- ❖ Shuttler PV Sindhu will be the female flag bearer for India during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ❖ Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine broke the world record for the highest jump (2.10m) by a woman.
 - The old record (2.09m) had stood since 1987.
- ❖ Supreme court of India held that stereotyping differently-abled persons in visual media and films perpetuate discrimination and creators ought to provide an accurate representation of disabilities rather than mocking or mythifying them.
- ❖ Azerbaijan Army and Kazakhstan is to take part in "Birlestik-2024" operational-tactical command-staff exercise held at Kazakhstan.
- ❖ The Construction of the 'world's largest Ramayan temple' began in Bihar's East Champaran district with an estimated cost of ₹500 crore.
 - This will be taller than the 12th-century Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia.
- ❖ For the first time in history of the Indian civil service, an appeal by a senior Hyderabad-based Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer to change her name and gender has been approved by the Union Finance Ministry.
 - He had requested a change of her name to M Anukathir Surya, and gender from female to male.
- ❖ The Governor gave assent to Tamil Nadu amendments to Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act of 1937, increasing penalties for offences relating to illicit liquor, including manufacture, sale and possession.



- ❖ Tata Mutual Fund announced the launch of the Tata Nifty India Tourism Index Fund.
 - It is India's first such Index.
- ❖ 2012 Olympic bronze medallist Gagan Narang has been appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for the 2024 Paris Olympics by replacing Mary Kom.
- ❖ The Philippines has been chosen to host the board of the "Loss and Damage" fund created by U.N. talks.
 - It was providing financial help for countries to recover and rebuild from the impact of global warming.
- ❖ Retired Professor K. Chockalingam was honoured with the Prestigious Hans von Hentig Award for his contributions to the field of victimology.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's power consumption increased over 7% to 35,385 million units in April-June 2024, from 32,909 million units in the same period last year.
- ❖ The three-day mango festival was recently held at Awadh, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Narendra Modi becomes the Most Followed World Leader surpassing 100 million followers on his social media account X.
- ❖ Indian sand artist Sudarsan Patnaik has won Golden sand master award with a gold medal at international sand sculpture championship, held at St. Petersburg (Russia).
- ❖ Justice Aalia Neelum took oath as the first woman Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Pakistan.
- ❖ The Union government has issued a 100 Rs commemorative coin on the occasion of the 100th Year birth centenary of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalamandalam Kamarajar.
- ❖ Spain secured their fourth European Tennis Championship trophy on a victory over England at the Olympiastadion in Berlin of Germany.
- ❖ Argentina secured its second consecutive and its 16th Copa America Football championship title after beating Colombia in Florida of USA.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) initiative, launched in 2016, has won the 2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity.
- ❖ India Champions cricket team emerged victorious over Pakistan Champions in the 2024 World Championship of Legends final in Birmingham, England.
- ❖ Union government has announced that June 25, the day the Emergency was proclaimed back in 1975, will hereafter be observed as Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas.
- ❖ The leader of Nepal's largest communist party KP Sharma Oli was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time.



- ❖ RBI has allowed resident individuals to open Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) at GIFT City in Gujarat under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- ❖ Nagaland has been adjudged as the best state in Horticulture in the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024.
- ❖ The Indian Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, participated in the 132nd session of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, England.
- ❖ Germany will phase out components made by Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE from its 5G wireless network over the next five years.
- ❖ India will host the second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in September 2024.
- ❖ For first time, South Korea is hosting the biennial global conference on space research in Busan city.
- ❖ Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the trial operation of the world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology.
- ❖ Nitish Singh from Uttar Pradesh, has achieved a remarkable feat by conquering Mount Kinabalu of Malaysia in an impressive time of 19 hours.
- ❖ The Jharkhand government is planning to establish eastern India's first university dedicated to physically challenged students in Ranchi.
- ❖ The 2nd Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Foreign Ministers' meeting held in New Delhi.
- ❖ ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched the ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF, which is India's first exchange traded fund (ETF) in the oil and gas sector.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government has set world record for planting over 12 lakh trees within 24 hours in Indore.
- ❖ Justice Kotiswar Singh became the first Supreme Court judge from Manipur.
- ❖ The Indian team, which participated at the 35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2024, won a one GOLD medal and three SILVER medals.
- ❖ Asia's First Health Research "Pre-Clinical Network Facility" was inaugurated in Faridabad, Haryana.
- ❖ Uttarakhand Forest Department established Uttarakhand's first bird gallery in Dehradun.
- ❖ INS Delhi has been adjudged the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet at the annual 'Fleet Awards Function-2024' held in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The Maltese politician Roberta Metsola has been re-elected as President of the European Parliament till 2027.



- ❖ The Supreme Court is attaining its full strength (34) with the recent appointment of Justices N. Kotiswar Singh and R. Mahadevan.
- ❖ Tim Walker published his second book titled 'The Prisoner of Bhopal', a historical fiction novel based on the real incident.
- ❖ Subhash Dandekar, the founder of stationery brand Camlin, has passed away recently.
- ❖ The North East Region Agri Commodity E-Connect (NERACE) web portal and mobile app was launched to integrate farmers and sellers, enhancing agricultural connectivity in the North Eastern Region.
- ❖ The NLCIL had emerged as the successful bidder for Machhakata (Revised) coal block in Angul district of Odisha under the commercial coal block e-auction
- ❖ In the series of its publication on Responsible Artificial Intelligence (RAI), NITI Aayog brings the third paper titled "Responsible AI for All: Adopting the Framework – A use case approach on Facial Recognition Technology".
- ❖ As per the amended Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the sittings of the Tamil Nadu Assembly will henceforth commence at 9.30 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.
 - The extension of the proceedings beyond the official hours of business is allowed with the consent of the Speaker.
- ❖ A Book "Power Within": A Landmark Book on Leadership" was authored by Dr. R Balasubramaniam.
- ❖ BTS member Jin carried the Olympic flame through Paris as the first torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 240.5 million to finance rooftop solar systems in India to expand energy access through renewable energy.
- ❖ Indian astrophysicist Prahlad Chandra Agrawal has been awarded the COSPAR Harrie Massey Award 2024 at the 45th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Busan, South Korea.
- ❖ Palakkad based Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust, has been honoured with the "Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024".
- ❖ Union govt announced the theme of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024 as "The Future is Now."
- ❖ The Indian men's national football team remained at 124th place in the latest FIFA rankings.
- ❖ The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, was re-elected and will serve for another five years.



- ❖ Rwanda's President Paul Kagame has been re-elected to a fourth term in office with more than 99 percent of the vote.
- ❖ The centre of excellence on "Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G" was inaugurated at IIT-Madras Research Park, Chennai.
- ❖ The Sixth East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The tiger claw, that Maratha emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji is believed to have used to kill General Afzal Khan, is back in Maharashtra after 350 years from London.
- ❖ India's first overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra was inaugurated in Mauritius.
- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has inaugurated the International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL) in Rajkot, Gujarat.
 - It is the first of its kind in India and aims to set global standards for auditing local governance bodies.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has launched a single window system through which building permissions for plot sizes up to 2,500 sq. Ft. and built-up area up to 3,500 sq.ft. could be obtained based on self-certification.
- ❖ The Work on the first bed dam at the confluence of Goddar and Palar rivers at Erayangadu village in Vellore was commenced recently.
- ❖ Captain Supreetha C.T has become the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence, to be operationally deployed at Siachen Glacier.
- ❖ Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Mench° Tum has been honoured with the Gandhi Mandela Award 2020, given by Gandhi Mandela Foundation trust.
- ❖ US President Joe Biden announced his decision to drop out of the US presidential election race and endorses Kamala Harris as the next Democratic presidential candidate.
- ❖ The Union government has granted its approval for Parandur site (Kanchipuram District) to develop Chennai's second airport.
- ❖ T. Kurien, distinguished economist and former professor of the Madras Christian College passed away recently.
- ❖ Abhinav Bindra has been awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement.
- ❖ Charaideo Maidam of Assam has been nominated to become the North East India's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in the cultural category.
- ❖ The Padma Shri awardee (2019) and noted organic farmer of Odisha Kamala Pujari passed away recently.
 - She also won the 'Equator Initiative Award' in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002.



- ❖ Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel, India's longest (11.8 km) urban tunnel, was inaugurated recently.
 - It will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali to 12 minutes cut the distance by 12 km.
- ❖ To recognize the hard work and dedication of those in thermal engineering, the United States observes July 24 as National Thermal Engineer Day.
- ❖ Nita Ambani has been unanimously re-elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from India.
- ❖ Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, is set to become the fourth state capital in North east India to have a direct rail link by next year.
- ❖ Asia's first health research-related "Pre-clinical Network Facility" under the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) was inaugurated at Faridabad, Haryana.
- ❖ India's Chandrayaan-3 won the prestigious World Space Award for its remarkable contributions to space exploration.
 - The award is presented by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF).
- ❖ Indian tennis stars Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj were formally inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame as its 265th and 267th members.
 - Thus, they became the first two exponents of the sport from Asia to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame.
- ❖ The Meghalaya government launched Hello Meghalaya, an Over-The-Top (OTT) platform to promote content creators and musicians of Meghalaya.
 - It is the second state in the country to launch such an initiative after Kerala.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of new buildings in the Tamil Nadu House (Vaigai House) in New Delhi.
- ❖ President of India has announced the renaming of two halls in the Rashtrapati Bhavan – 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall' – as 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap', respectively.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Coal and Mines has launched the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Portal to gather the information on the District Mineral Foundations across the country.
- ❖ Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus Helicopters will establish its first assembly line for the H125 helicopter in India.
- ❖ Ooty's beloved librarian Daphne Samson celebrated her 100th birthday recently.
- ❖ The World Leaders Summit 2024 took place at the House of Lords in the UK Parliament.



- ❖ The book ‘Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings for Corporate Success’ was authored by R Gopalakrishnan and Harish Bhat.
 - This extract is from the chapter titled ‘Tata: a leader of leaders’.
- ❖ Rahaab Allana was honoured by France as an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters for his work in the South Asian photography and fostering Indo-French cultural ties.
- ❖ The French Alps are set to host the XXVI Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2030.
- ❖ Salt Lake City-Utah of USA will host the XXVII Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2034.
- ❖ Shah Rukh Khan is set to receive the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera award at the Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland.
 - Recently, he was honoured with the customised gold coins by Paris' Grevin Museum.
- ❖ International Friendship Day is celebrated every year on July 30.
 - But, countries such as India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, the UAE, and the USA observe Friendship Day on the first Sunday of August.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu chief minister presented social welfare department’s best transgender award for 2024 to Sandya Devi of Kanyakumari.
 - She has performed more than 1000 villu paattu (bow-song) programmes, creating awareness on Covid-19, dowry harassments and violence against women.
- ❖ Rajamundry Airport in Andhra has topped in the Customer Satisfaction Survey from January to June 2024 among 61 airports in the country.
 - It is followed by Kangra Airport (second), Leh (third), Madurai (fourth).
- ❖ Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024 was launched as the part of “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” program and took place in 300 places in 47 districts across 11 coal- and lignite-rich states.
- ❖ Rajendra Singh, the Head of the Department of National Disaster Management Authority, assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.
- ❖ India's first integrated agri-export facility will come up at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai.
- ❖ The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has been converted into an “attached office” of the Ministry of Home Affairs since July 1.
- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to create Olympic E-sports Games.
 - The first edition will be held in 2025 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



- ❖ India and the U.S. have signed a cultural property agreement aimed at enhancing cooperation to protect cultural heritage of the two countries.
 - It aims to prevent the illegal trade of cultural property and simplify the process by which looted and stolen antiquities may be returned to their country of origin.

TAMIL NADU

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act – 1978

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a Bill to amend the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1978, (Tamil Nadu Act 28 of 1978).
- ❖ It aims to decriminalise minor offences, as recommended by the Guidance Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The law makes getting a sewer connection mandatory for the owner or occupier of any premises on a private street where there is a sewer of the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board within 30 metres.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, states that any area where the population is estimated at not less than three lakhs and the annual income is “not less than thirty crores of rupees” may be constituted as a municipal corporation.

Tamil Nadu special seed fund

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will introduce a special seed fund to support start-ups run by persons with disabilities and transgender persons.
- ❖ A special seed fund, in the form of a grant, will be introduced for start-ups run by these people to achieve inclusive growth in new-age entrepreneurship development, and ₹50 lakh will be earmarked for this scheme.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN) would identify beneficiaries.
- ❖ New regional start-up hubs would be established in Coimbatore and Tiruchi at a cost of ₹1.5 crore.
- ❖ In the last two years, regional start-up hubs had been established in Madurai, Tirunelveli, Erode, Salem, Hosur, Cuddalore, and Thanjavur.

<p>Special Seed Fund to support Startups run by differently abled and transgender people in Tamil Nadu will be introduced.</p>	<p>Global Startup Coordination Centres (GCC) will be established in Singapore and the United States of America. These will help startups to expand their business and find new market opportunities in foreign shores.</p>
<p>Regional Startup Hubs will be established in Coimbatore & Tiruchi cities. Hubs are already functioning in Madurai, Tirunelveli, Erode, Salem, Hosur, Cuddalore, Thanjavur and Chennai (as Metro Hub)</p>	<p>Tamil Nadu Startup Thiruvizha will be conducted in Madurai this year. It is the second edition following the successful event in Coimbatore last year.</p>

Various New bills and amendments

தமிழ்நாடு மதுவிலக்கு

தீருத்த சட்ட மசோதா

- கள்ளச்சாராயத்தை முற்றிலுமாக ஒழிக்கும் வகையில் அதை தயாரித்து விற்பனை செய்பவர்களுக்கு ஆயுள் வரை கடுங்காவல் தண்டனையோடு, ரூ. 10 லட்சம் அபராதம் விதிக்கப்படும்
- கள்ளச்சாராய விற்பனைக்கு பயன்படுத்தப்படும் அனைத்து அசையா சொத்துகளும் பறிமுதல் செய்யப்படும்
- இந்த குற்றங்களை செய்து தண்டனை தீர்ப்பு வழங்கப்பட்ட ஒருவரை அந்தப் பகுதியில் இருந்தே நீக்கம் செய்வதற்கு மதுவிலக்கு அதிகாரி அல்லது புலனாய்வு அதிகாரியால் நீதிமன்றத்தில் விண்ணப்பம் செய்வதற்கும் சட்ட திருத்தம் மேற்கொள்ளப்படும்

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly approved an amendment to the State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act.
 - This bill aims at enhancing the age limit for the Chief of the Commission from 70 to 75 years.
- ❖ The House passed a Bill to amend the Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act to promote gender equality.
 - This amendment provides rights to unmarried women on a par with those of unmarried men.
- ❖ The Government brought an amendment to the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937.

- It enhances the punishment term to a maximum of 10 years rigorous imprisonment and fine up to Rs 5 lakh for offences like brewing and sale of liquor.
- In case of death due to consumption of illicit liquor, the punishment for bootleggers will be life imprisonment with a fine of not less than Rs 10 lakh.
- ❖ The Assembly passed a bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998.
 - It aims to omit the Tamil Nadu Water Investment Company Limited and the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation Limited from the purview of clause (j) of Section 16 of the Act.

Four New municipal corporations



- ❖ TN assembly introduced a bill to clear the decks for elevating four municipalities — Karaikudi, Tiruvannamalai, Pudukkottai and Namakkal — into municipal corporations.
- ❖ The bill revised the population and income criteria stipulated for declaring a local body into a municipal corporation.
- ❖ At present, a local body with a population of not less than three lakh and annual income of not less than Rs 30 crore can be declared as a municipal corporation.
- ❖ But as per the bill introduced to amend the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, any local body with two lakh population and Rs 20-crore income can be declared as a municipal corporation.
- ❖ They also, introduced another bill to further amend the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, to add certain new provisions to implement this Act effectively.

Impact of Naan Mudhalvan scheme 2024

STUDENTS WHO WERE PLACED IN VARIOUS SECTORS			
Sectors	Students placed	Sectors	Students placed
Agriculture	157	Iron and Steel	597
Apparel	177	IT-ITeS	632
Automotive	16,619	Leather	73
Beauty and Wellness	44	Logistics	112
BFSI	27	Media & Entertainment	112
Capital Goods	377	Mining	13
Construction	882	Plumbing	141
Electronics & Hardware	3,509	Power	453
Food Processing	88	Retail	86
Gems and Jewellery	18	Rubber	129
Green Jobs	66	Telecom	358
Healthcare	140	Textiles & Handlooms	187
Infrastructure Equipment	193	Tourism & Hospitality	6
Instrumentation	692	Grand Total	25,888

■ About 252 colleges have participated in the job drive so far. Officials say placements are still under way, and around 58,000 students are in the final year of their course

PAY SCALE	
Salary range	No. of students
< 2 Lakh	18,250
2 to 3 Lakh	7,259
2 to 4 Lakh	88
3 to 4 Lakh	229
4 to 5 Lakh	42
5 to 6 Lakh	8
6 to 8 Lakh	12
Grand Total	25,888

- ❖ A total of 25,888 students from polytechnic colleges across Tamil Nadu have landed jobs in various sectors through the State government's Naan Mudhalvan scheme.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the government is helping students from polytechnic colleges secure lucrative jobs in domestic and multinational firms.
- ❖ About 252 colleges have participated in the job drives so far.
- ❖ Around 58,000 students were in the final year of their course.

State's block development program - Tamilnadu



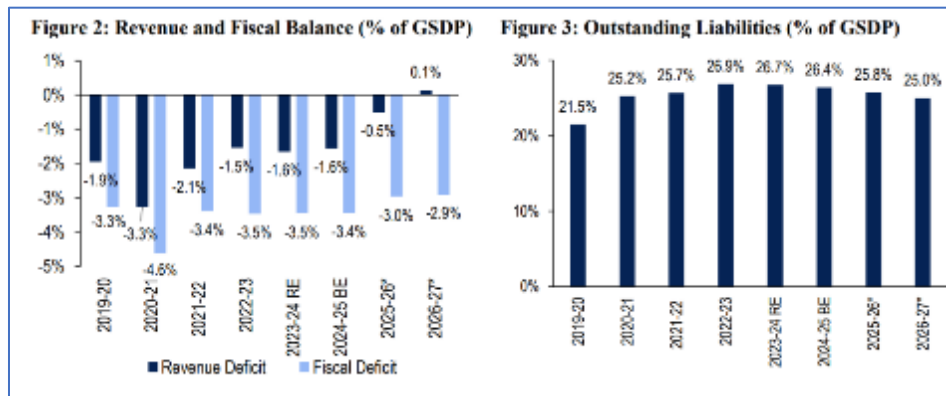
- ❖ The State government made Madras Institute of Development Studies as the knowledge partner for focus block development programme.
- ❖ The State government had announced the launch of Focus Blocks Development Programme in its 2023-24 budget.
- ❖ Under the scheme, ₹5-crore worth projects would be implemented in 50 most backward blocks in the State.

Removal of gravel from waterbodies

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided against allowing potters, farmers and members of the public to remove “gravel” free of cost from beds of waterbodies.
- ❖ They would be able to quarry “clay and silt” for free, but under a revised procedure.
- ❖ Earlier, the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, allowed quarrying of “clay, silt and gravel” for free from the beds of tanks, channels and reservoirs across the State.
- ❖ The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, calls gravel a “minor mineral”.
- ❖ The State government amended the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, in December 2022 to replace the word savudu with the term “ordinary earth”.

(b) Any person engaged in the making of pots or any registered Pottery Labourers Co-operative Society registered under the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 30 of 1983) for making pots, the public for bonafide domestic purpose and the farmers for agriculture purpose be allowed to quarry clay, silt, savudu and gravel, on free of charges from the beds of tanks, channels and reservoirs under the control of the Public Works Department or Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department which are notified by the District Collector in the District Gazette under this rule [after obtaining permission from the District Collector concerned]² for quarrying:

Tamil Nadu borrowings in Q2 (2024-25)



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹24,000 crore in the second quarter of fiscal 2024-2025.
- ❖ To bridge the fiscal deficit, the State government borrows from the market through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs).
- ❖ The Centre fixes the borrowing ceiling for the State governments.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow a total amount of ₹1,55,584.48 crore during 2024-25 and make repayment of ₹49,638.82 crore, as per the State Budget.
- ❖ The outstanding debt as on March 31, 2025 is expected to be ₹8,33,361.80 crore, constituting 26.41% of GSDP in 2024-25.
- ❖ It is within the norms prescribed by the Finance Commission.
- ❖ In the first quarter of 2024-25, the Tamil Nadu government borrowed ₹20,000 crore.

Chiretolpis erubescens

- ❖ Rare moth endemic to Western Ghats was 'rediscovered' in Nilgiris after 132 years.
- ❖ It was first recorded by British entomologist George Francis Hampton in 1891.
- ❖ The butterfly relies on species of viola plants that usually populate wetland areas.



Draft Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2024

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has released the draft Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2024.
- ❖ It aims to create direct and indirect employment prospects for nearly 10,000 persons in 10 years.
- ❖ It also promised a slew of incentives to the players in the sector.
- ❖ The policy would be applicable for all enterprises engaged in the manufacturing and services pertaining to the space sector.
- ❖ The State government has already partnered with private industries to establish a common facility at Tiruchi termed as TREAT.

- ❖ It has capabilities to support the heavy engineering needs of the space industry.



Draft State Education Policy of Tamil Nadu 2024

தமிழ்நாடு மாநில	தமிழ்நாடு மாநில
<p>கல்விக்கொள்கையின் முக்கிய அம்சங்கள்</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • பள்ளிக் கல்வியில் தமிழை முதல் மொழியாக நிலைநிறுத்தவது அவசியம்; தொடக்க நிலை முதல் பக்கலைக்கழக நிலை வரை தமிழ் வழிக் கல்வியை வழங்குதல் • இந்மொழிக் கொள்கையை கடைபிடிக்க வேண்டும் • 3, 5 மற்றும் 8ம் வகுப்புகளுக்கான பொது தேர்வுகள் இரக்கக்கூடாது; கல்வி மாநில பட்டியலில் வரவேண்டும் • நீட நேரவு இரக்கக்கூடாது; நீட உள்ளிட்ட தேர்வுகளுக்கு பயிற்சி அளிக்கும் ஊழல்கள் மற்றும் தனியார் கல்வி நிறுவனங்கள் விளம்பரப் படுத்திவதை தடை செய்ய வேண்டும் • கல்லூரிகளில் 3ஏ பிளஸ்-2 மதிப்பெண் மட்டும் போதாது பிளஸ்-1 மதிப்பெண்களையும் சேர்க்க வேண்டும் 	<p>கல்விக்கொள்கையின் முக்கிய அம்சங்கள்</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'சீயோக்கன் இங்கிலிஷ்' தவிர 'சீயோக்கன் தமிழ்' மீது முதன்மைமாக கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டும் • அங்கன்வாடி ஊழல்களுக்கு தாப்-குழந்தை பராமரிப்பு ஊழல்கள் என பெயரிட வேண்டும் • சிறப்பற்ற மற்றும் யுத்தியுயினர் பகுதிகளில் உள்ள குழந்தைகளுக்கு அதிக விளையாட்டு வசதிகள் மற்றும் முறையான பரிநரி, விளையாட்டு ஊழல்கள் மற்றும் விளையாட்டு பொதுட்கள் வழங்கப்பட வேண்டும் • இந் பெற்றோர்களையும் இயுந்த மாணவர்களுக்கு உபர் கல்வியில் ஒரு சதீதம் இட ஒதுக்கீடு வழங்கப்பட வேண்டும் • பொதுப்பொதுள் பயன்பாட்டை வழிக்க, ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்திற்கும், ஆட்சியர் தலைமையில், 1 மனநல ஆலோசகர், 1காநா அலிகர், 1 பொலிசு அலிகர் மற்றும் தள்ளாடு தொண்டு நிறுவனத்தல் சேர்ந்த 1 உறுப்பினர் ஆலோசகரைக் கொண்ட தனிக் குழு அமைக்கணம்

- ❖ A draft of the state education policy has been in the making in Tamil Nadu in opposition to the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
- ❖ It has been submitted to the government by the Justice Murugesan-led panel.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu continues its dual-language policy of Tamil and English as the medium of instruction and to abolish public examinations for class 3, 5, and 8.
- ❖ It has recommended against conducting entrance examination of any kind for admission to all higher education courses
- ❖ The consolidated marks obtained both in Class XI and Class XII board examinations should be the basis for admission to all courses in higher education.

- ❖ The State-aided schools in Tamil Nadu should be treated on a par with the government schools.
- ❖ The panel has recommended “banning” coaching centres run parallelly to schools/colleges by individuals/corporate companies in Tamil Nadu either physically and virtually.
- ❖ The government should act on by creating a regulatory body with appropriate powers to control coaching centres.
- ❖ There is a need to bring all private higher educational institutions under the ambit of a single Act irrespective of discipline.
- ❖ The panel also called for amendments in the 1976 Act to streamline the collection of fees for arts and science courses run by private management.

Tamili-inscribed potsherd - Keeladi



- ❖ Archaeologists have unearthed a potsherd with Tamil letter ‘Tha’ inscribed on it from Keeladi, Sivagangai District.
- ❖ It is a Sangam-era urban settlement site on the banks of River Vaigai in Madurai.
- ❖ This is the first recovery of Tamili (Tamil-Brahmi) inscribed potsherd in the 10th season of digging
- ❖ Keeladi is 12 km southeast of Madurai where excavations first began in 2014.
- ❖ This site has borne enough evidence of an urban industrialised settlement, with carbon-dating of artefacts from the site establishing its age to be 2,600 years old.

Mayors’ resignation

- ❖ The Mayors of Coimbatore and Tirunelveli resigned from their post recently.
- ❖ Coimbatore Mayor Kalpana Anandakumar has submitted her resignation to the Corporation Commissioner.
- ❖ Tirunelveli Mayor P.M. Saravanan, also tendered his resignation to Corporation Commissioner.

- ❖ In accordance with Section 37 of the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981, a special council meeting is to be held for the approval of her resignation by the elected body.
- ❖ Her exit marks the second such resignation mid-way through a tenure in Coimbatore.
- ❖ The first instance had occurred in 2014, when S.M. Velusamy stepped down as Mayor.



3 Testing facilities

- ❖ The Defence Ministry will be establishing three state-of-the-art testing facilities in Chennai.
- ❖ Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), Electronic Warfare (EW) and Electro Optics (EO) domains testing facilities comes under the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor.
- ❖ Totally seven testing facilities were approved — four in TN and three in Uttar Pradesh.

AI teaching assistant - Vidya

- ❖ Retired computer science teacher Eswari Jayaraman, 63, based in Kumbakonam, has designed “Vidya”.
- ❖ It is an educational robot powered by artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ It will transform the classroom experience for teachers and students in the coming years.
- ❖ It is unveiled at National Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School in Kumbakonam.

TN liquidity position 2023-24

High-Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA) Categories	
CATEGORY	INCLUSIONS
Level 1	Cash, Central Bank Reserves, and Marketable Securities
Level 2A	Securities Issued by Government-Sponsored Enterprises Securities Issued/ Guaranteed by Certain Multilateral Development Banks or Sovereign Entities
Level 2B	Investment-Grade Corporate Debt Securities From Non-financial Sector Corporations Publicly Traded Common Stock

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently increased the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for Tamil Nadu from ₹3,601 crore to ₹4,582 crore.
- ❖ In recent years, Tamil Nadu has not utilised the short-term borrowing facility.
- ❖ This is an indication that the State has adequate liquidity.
- ❖ The RBI provides short-term financial assistance to States in the form of WMA.
- ❖ This helps states to overcome temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.
- ❖ At the end of April 30, 2024, the State government had an investment of ₹3,964 crore in auction treasury bills.

Advisory on amoebic meningoencephalitis



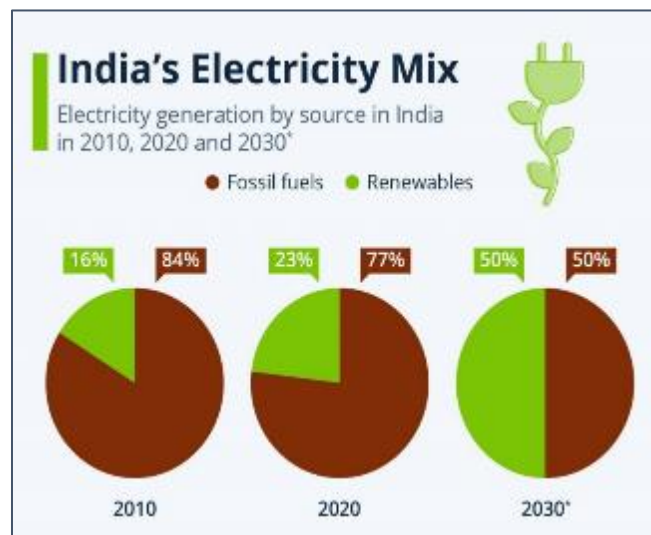
- ❖ The Director of Public Health of Tamilnadu issues advisory on the amoebic meningoencephalitis.
- ❖ All medical practitioners in Tamil Nadu have been advised to look for suspected cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis based on history and symptoms.

- ❖ The department has instructed the district health officials that environmental sanitation should be maintained around stagnant waterbodies, such as ponds, lakes, and pools.

K. Sathyanarayanan committee

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to appoint a one-man committee under retired Madras High Court judge K. Sathyanarayanan.
- ❖ It will examine the three new criminal laws and suggest State amendments to them.
- ❖ The committee would examine, among other issues, the “change in nomenclature” of the new laws at the State level, and submit its recommendations to the State government.
- ❖ The new criminal laws replacing the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Evidence Act were enacted by Parliament and came into force from July 1.

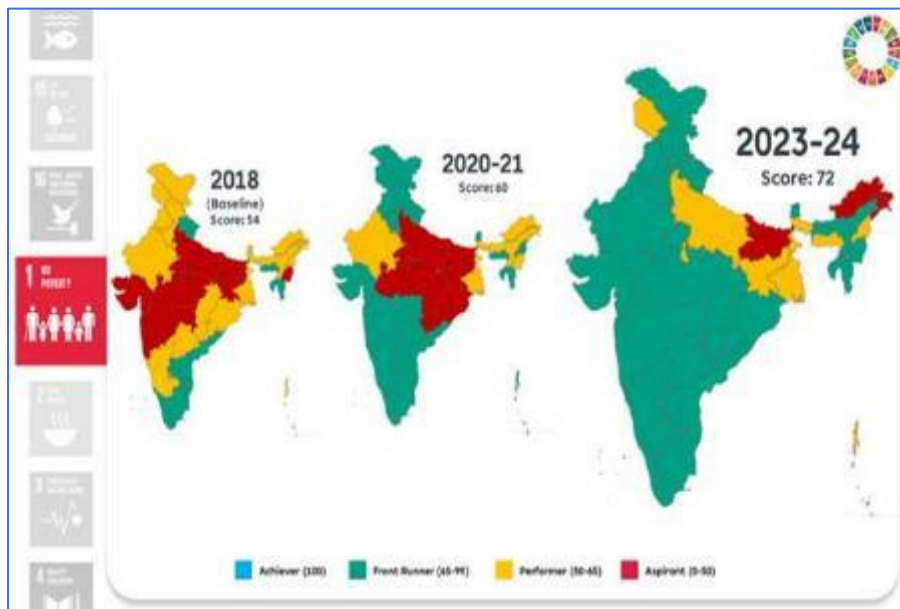
Renewable energy production in Tamilnadu - 2024



- ❖ The renewable energy generation in the State has crossed the 50% mark with April witnessing the highest - 52%.
- ❖ Renewable energy comprises wind, solar, hydro and cogeneration.
- ❖ The highest energy demand recorded being 20,830 megawatts (MW) on May 2 and highest consumption per day, 454 million units (MUs).
- ❖ The State electricity utility, had a total renewable energy generation in March, April, May and June at 24,530 Mus.

- ❖ The total generation of the state is 48,835 MUs, showing an average of 50% of clean energy composition.
- ❖ The State has, total generation power capacity of 34,700 MW.
- ❖ The renewable generation capacity was 18,300 MW including hydro power (2,300 MW), wind (8,750 MW), solar (6,550 MW) and cogeneration power (700 MW).
- ❖ The energy demand in the State breached the 20,500 MW touching 20,700 MW with the city recording 4,380 MW on April 30.
- ❖ In the same month the highest renewable energy generation of 6,900 MUs out of a total generation of 12,960 MUs was recorded.

SDG India Index 2023-2024



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has emerged as a frontrunner in the latest SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) India Index 2023-2024, unveiled by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The state, which increased its composite score from 66 in 2018 to 78 in the latest edition, is in the third spot in the index.
- ❖ TN reported institutional delivery rate of 97.18% in 2023-2024.
- ❖ It had prioritised the environmental sustainability, with nearly 25% of its geographical area designated as forest cover.
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY has provided health insurance to over 300 million beneficiaries.
- ❖ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan facilitated the construction of 11 million toilets.

Representation before RBI ombudsman



Single window for resolution of complaints against RBI regulated entities

- Complaints not resolved within 30 days or not resolved satisfactorily by Banks/ NBFCs/Credit Information Companies/ Payment System Participants regulated by RBI, can be lodged with the RBI Ombudsman
- Lodge complaints online at <https://cms.rbi.org.in> or by post to Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre, Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh - 160017
- All complaints regarding deficiency in services covered, except those in the exclusion list
- Track the status of your complaint on Complaint Management System (<https://cms.rbi.org.in>)

Call **14448** for more information.
Timings: Weekdays except National Holidays:
• 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM for English and Hindi
• 9:30 AM to 5:15 PM for 10 Regional Languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu)

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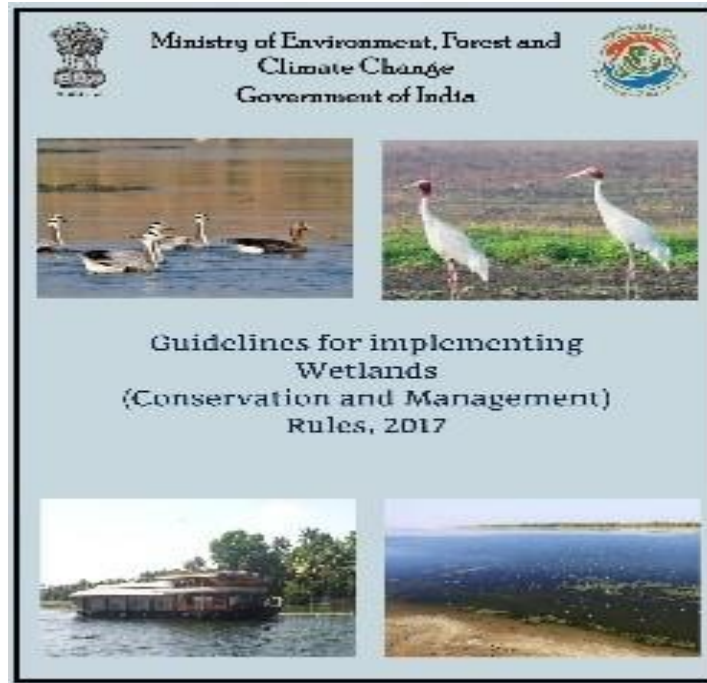
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- ❖ The Madras High Court has upheld the Constitutional validity of the Reserve Bank of India - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RBI-IOS) 2021.
- ❖ It prohibits complainants from engaging advocates to represent their cases in proceedings before the ombudsman.
- ❖ The Court refused to declare provisions 3(1)(c) and 10(2)(f) of the RBI-IOS 2021 unconstitutional.
- ❖ It held that advocates enjoy only a statutory right and not a fundamental right to appear before judicial and quasi-judicial fora.
- ❖ The scheme permits the complainants to approach the ombudsman either directly or through authorised representatives.
- ❖ But makes it clear that the representatives should not be an advocate.

Ooty lake under Wetland Rules, 2017

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority has informed the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the Ooty lake had to be protected under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- ❖ The Nilgiris district administration had earlier contended before the Bench that the lake was 'man-made', and could not be considered as a wetland.

- ❖ The lake, spanning over 2.25 hectares, was covered under the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment Report, 2011.
- ❖ Consequently, it has to be protected under the Rule 4 of the 2017 Rules in accordance with a direction of the Supreme Court.



Language Atlas of Tamil Nadu 2011

A delve into the distribution of monolingual, bilingual and trilingual speakers in the State in 2011

Major languages	Speakers (mother tongue)	Monolinguals	Bilinguals (excluding trilinguals)	Trilinguals
Tamil	6,37,53,997	4,96,87,022	1,30,47,336	10,19,639
Telugu	42,34,302	9,56,866	26,60,016	6,17,420
Kannada	12,86,175	2,80,564	7,84,735	2,20,876
Urdu	12,64,537	3,40,243	7,15,784	2,08,510
Malayalam	7,26,096	1,99,740	3,34,020	1,92,336
Hindi	3,93,380	1,63,375	1,68,116	61,889
Gujarati	2,75,023	48,129	1,68,116	65,633
Marathi	85,454	17,741	42,237	25,476
English	24,495	8,516	12,927	3,052
Tulu	2,636	348	987	1,301
Others	1,00,935	28,216	41,688	31,031
TOTAL	7,21,47,030	5,17,30,760	1,79,69,107	24,47,163

■ As per the T.N. Language Atlas, 96.2% of the total population in T.N. could speak Tamil, 8.05%, Telugu; 2.59%, Kannada; and 1.40%, Malayalam – either as their mother tongue or as their first or second subsidiary language

- ❖ It was published by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.



- ❖ The Atlas has used the 2011 Census data for Tamil Nadu for its analysis, and puts the population of the State at 7,21,47,030.
- ❖ 96.20% of the total population in the State could speak Tamil; 8.05%, Telugu; 2.59%, Kannada; and 1.40%, Malayalam – either as their mother tongue or as their first or second subsidiary language.
- ❖ About 18.49% of the total population in Tamil Nadu could speak English.
- ❖ The five major languages, classified on the basis of the total number of speakers in the State, are – Tamil (6,37,53,997), Telugu (42,34,302), Kannada (12,86,175), Urdu (12,64,537), Malayalam (7,26,096).
- ❖ Besides, there are 8,81,923 speakers of other languages.
- ❖ Over 24 lakh persons in the State could speak three languages.
- ❖ Excluding the trilingual, over 1.79 crore people in the State could speak two languages.
- ❖ Of the 17 Dravidian languages, speakers of 14 languages were found in Tamil Nadu, while those of Jatapu, Kolami and Koya were not present in the State.
- ❖ There are 60 million Tamil speakers, mainly in south India, and 68 million Tamil speakers worldwide.
- ❖ The first version of the country's Language Atlas was published in 2004, using the 1991 Census data.

Renaming of TANGEDCO

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) was renamed as the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC).
- ❖ There are about 3.37 crore consumers of various categories.
- ❖ As many as 8.11 lakh new service connections were provided during 2023-24.
- ❖ Recently, the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) has been merged with TNGECL.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL) to take over fossil fuel-related (coal, naphtha and gas) production.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) to handle hydro, wind and solar generation.

Expansion of breakfast scheme 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the expansion of the breakfast scheme for primary school children to state-aided private schools.

- ❖ He was inaugurating the scheme at St Anne's school in Tiruvallur district.
- ❖ The move will benefit 2,23,536 children in 3,995 government-aided primary schools across the state.
- ❖ The chief minister inaugurated the breakfast scheme on September 15, 2022.
- ❖ 1.14 lakh students in Classes 1 to 5 studying in 1,545 government primary schools were covered under the scheme.
- ❖ With the expansion of the scheme across the state on August 25, 2023, about 18.50 lakh students in all the 30,992 state-run primary schools were brought under the initiative.



Vulture Study in Tamil Nadu 2024

- ❖ A study on the awareness of vulture conservation across the species' key habitats in Mudumalai (MTR) and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves (STR) conducted recently.
- ❖ The communities living in the region have yet to fully realise "vulture-safe" practices in raising livestock and the importance of the birds to the region.
- ❖ Three of the four species – the white-rumped vulture, the long-billed vulture and the Asian king vulture, are resident to the landscape and are known to nest and breed within the two reserves.

- ❖ The Egyptian vulture is believed to be a migratory species.
- ❖ The availability of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) are harmful to vultures.
- ❖ Other NSAIDs harmful to the vultures such as Ketoprofen, Aceclofenac and Nimesulide were still available in these veterinary pharmacies.



Warning about the term 'Chandala'

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has issued an advisory to the State government to avoid employing the term 'Chandala'.
- ❖ The Commission is issuing a warning against using the word 'Chandala' either to insult others or as a joke or on the political stage.
- ❖ It has recommended that those who use it be booked under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ❖ 'Chandala' is listed in Code No. 48 in the List of Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu.



Tamilnadu Awards to crafts persons and artisans 2024

- ❖ The Chief Minister handed over various awards to craftpersons and artisans, who have excelled in their respective fields.
- ❖ He had handed over 'Living Craft Treasure' awards to eight best craftpersons and handed over Poompuhar State Awards to 10 best artisans.
- ❖ N. Balakrishnan, K.P. Umamathi, S. Rajagopal, N. Mani Achari, C. Muthusamy Achari, S. Govindharaj, B. Sulaikan Beevi and S. Thangajothi received the 'Living Craft Treasure' awards for 2022-23.
- ❖ The 'Living Craft Treasure Award' honours craftspersons of eminence, who are over 65 years or age.
- ❖ The Poompuhar State Awards are given to C. Ravi, S. Nagalakshmi, M. Rajappa, M. Murugesan, R. Loganathan, N. Poovammal, B. Varadhan, M. Rajarathinam, R. Sakthivel and S. Lilly Mary for 2022-23.
- ❖ These awards are given to 10 best artisans in the field who have contributed to the development of the crafts of Tamil Nadu every year.

Performance of Tamilnadu in SDG Index 2023-24

- ❖ SDG India Index 2023-24 has analysed the performance of States and Union Territories in achieving the goals on the basis of 70 targets and 113 indicators.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu stands third with a composite score of 78, surpassing national average of 71.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been classified a 'front runner' in 13 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

- ❖ The report categorises the performance of the States based on their scores as ‘aspirant’ (0-49), ‘performer’ (50-64), ‘front runner’ (65-99), and ‘achiever’ (100).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu took the third spot with a composite score of 78, surpassing the national average of 71.
- ❖ The State also retained its position as a front runner.
- ❖ The composite score of Tamil Nadu was 74 in the previous report released in 2020-21.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu tops in the goal of eradicating poverty, compared with the other States and the Union Territories.
- ❖ According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index, Tamilnadu stands at 2.2%, as against the national average of 14.96%.
- ❖ The report says 22% and 25% of the children aged below five in the State are underweight and stunted respectively.
- ❖ The Maternal Mortality Ratio for one lakh live births and Under-five Mortality Rate for 1,000 live births stood at 54 and 13 respectively.
- ❖ The rate of deaths in road accidents per one-lakh population was 23.31, one of the highest in the country.
- ❖ The gross enrolment ratio of students in higher secondary and higher education was 81.5% and 47% respectively,
- ❖ The national average of the same is 57.6% and 28.4%.
- ❖ Further, 81.87% of the rural households in Tamil Nadu are getting safe and adequate piped drinking water.
- ❖ The unemployment rate and labour force participation rate in the State in the age group of 15-59 were 4.8% and 62.3% respectively.

Status report

Tamil Nadu's score in eleven sustainable development goals, according to a NITI Aayog report (2023-24), has been higher than the national average. For two of the goals, the State's indicators have been on a par with the national average

Goal No.	Sustainable Development Goals	Tamil Nadu (out of 100)	National Average (out of 100)
1	No poverty	92	72
2	Zero hunger	75	52
3	Good health and well being	77	77
4	Quality education	76	61
5	Gender equality	53	49
6	Clean water and sanitation	90	89
7	Affordable and clean energy	100	96
8	Decent work and economic growth	81	68

Goal No.	Sustainable Development Goals	Tamil Nadu (out of 100)	National Average (out of 100)
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	67	61
10	Reduced Inequalities	76	65
11	Sustainable cities and communities	81	83
12	Responsible consumption and production	78	78
13	Climate action	81	67
14	Life below water	61	*
15	Life on land	72	75
16	Peace justice, and strong institutions	78	74

- ❖ Nearly 92.8% of the households own at least one mobile phone.
- ❖ The percentage of the population covered by Aadhaar is 97.94.
- ❖ The unemployment rate has come down from 7.2% to 4.8%.

Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam 2022-2027



- ❖ The School Education department has identified over six lakh illiterate people over the age of 15 across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It has begun classes to provide basic literacy education for them this year under the New India Literary Programme (NILP) or Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Thittam 2022-2027.
- ❖ Krishnagiri district has recorded the maximum number of illiterates at 61,622.
- ❖ The department plans to strategically take steps to declare districts with over 90% literacy as 100% literate districts soon.
- ❖ Thoothukudi, Kanyakumari and nine others district's literacy rate is about 94-98%.

Tamil Nadu Day 2024

- ❖ After Indian Independence on 15 August 1947, the Madras Presidency became the Madras Province.
- ❖ As a result of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, the state's boundaries were re-organized following linguistic lines.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was created on 1 November 1956 with the name Madras State.
- ❖ On July 18, 1967, a resolution moved by former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai was adopted by the State Assembly to rename the then Madras Presidency as Tamil Nadu.

TN-RISE initiative 2024



- ❖ Around 130 enterprises will get mentored under the Tamil Nadu Rural Incubator and Start-up Enabler (TN-RISE) initiative.
- ❖ It is including start-ups from across Tamil Nadu, which are led by women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ From January to June, we have conducted 31 district boot camps which attracted approximately 2,500 enterprises.
- ❖ TN-RISE operates as a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP).
- ❖ TN-RISE will enable:
 - Rural women entrepreneurs to have access to the government and its schemes;
 - Access to entrepreneurial and corporate community; access to support community; and
 - Access to be a part of the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the State.

First complete Ram Setu Map



- ❖ ISRO scientists have collaborated with NASA's ICESat-2 satellite to successfully map out a comprehensive map of submerged Ram Setu also called Adam's Bridge.
- ❖ The entire bridge can be seen through a 10-meter resolution map.
- ❖ The data has been collected over the due course of 6 years between October 2018 to October 2023.
- ❖ This is a first of its kind undersea map, which is 29 meters long and is 8 meters above the seabed.
- ❖ This ancient bridge connects Dhanushkodi in India to Talaimannar Island in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ According to the temple records in Rameswaram, the bridge was above sea level until 1480 when it was destroyed by a storm.

Periyar Vision OTT

- ❖ Periyar Vision OTT platform was launched by Dravidar Kazhagam.
- ❖ This is the world's first OTT platform dedicated to social justice.
- ❖ The OTT platform features content on various superstitions associated with religion, interviews with prominent political party leaders, on rationalism, films, short films, documentaries and other programmes.
- ❖ It aimed at further disseminating Periyar's ideology of self-respect and social justice to a wider audience.

Food Safety in TN Schools



Food Safety and Standards (Safe food and balanced diets for children in school) Regulations

Food Safety Standard

- ✓ Responsibilities of School Authority to ensure safe food and balanced diets on school Premises
- ✓ Promotion of safe food and balanced diet in and around school campus
- ✓ Food marketing and advertisement and selling to children in school
- ✓ Monitoring and surveillance
- ✓ General Guidance for Providing Safe food and balanced diet to Children



- ❖ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently revised IS 6541: 2024, a code that recommends hygienic conditions required for the preparation of food/meals in schools.
- ❖ BIS would soon approach the State government to discuss the revised code and seek coordination on implementation of the standard in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The code was published in 1972 to prescribe a basic standard for maintaining hygienic conditions in kitchens and food transport vehicles and covered only noon meal programmes then.
- ❖ The new code has covered the broad contours of food safety and hygiene measures to be adopted in various levels of schools, including creches.
- ❖ It has excluded facilities for infants up to 22 months for now.

Tamilnadu State Minorities Commission 2024

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government reconstituted the State Minorities Commission with Rev. Fr. Joe Arun as its Chairperson.
- ❖ The State government also posted M.M. Abdul Kuthoos alias Iraianban Kuthoos as its Vice Chairperson.
- ❖ It also named Hamilton Welson, A. Sornaraj, Nagore A.H. Nazimuddin, Praveen Kumar Thatiya, Rajendra Prasad, Rameet Kapoor, J. Mohammed Rafi and S. Vasanth as its members.
- ❖ The State government also named C. Fernandas Rathina Raja as the chair of the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation.

Tamil Pudhalvan scheme 2024

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has expanded the scope of Tamil Pudhalvan scheme.
- ❖ Now, it also covers students who studied in the Tamil medium in government-aided schools across the State.
- ❖ The Govt sanctioned financial approval to the tune of ₹360 crore for the Tamil Pudhalvan scheme.
- ❖ Over 3.28 lakh boys are expected to benefit from the scheme during 2024-25.
- ❖ It is similar to the Pudhumai Penn scheme that provides a monthly assistance of ₹1,000 to each of the girls who have studied Classes VI-XII in State government schools and are pursuing higher education.



One Health panel - Tamilnadu

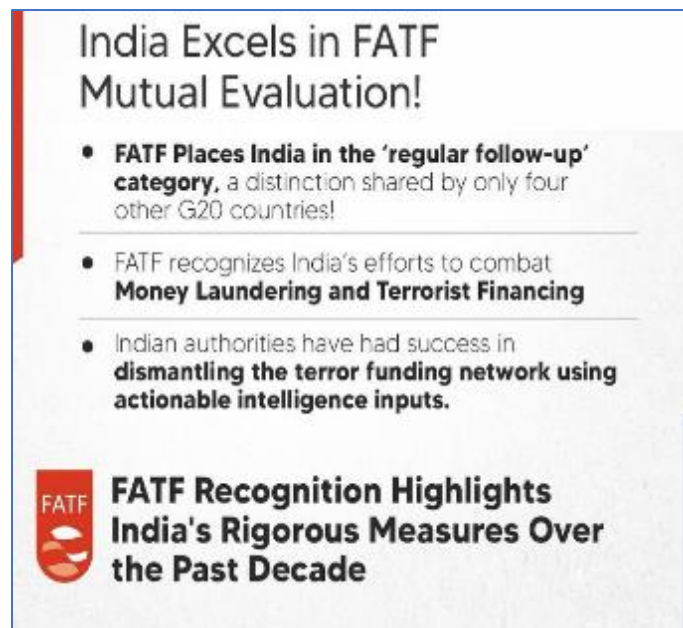
- ❖ The State has constituted the 'One Health and Climate Change Strategic Committee' with the Chief Secretary as the Chairperson.
- ❖ The 23-member committee aims to promote a comprehensive response to the public health challenges posed by climate change.
- ❖ Experts included are Soumya Swaminathan, G. Sundar Rajan, Kalpana Bala Krishnan and WASH specialist Ananya Ghoshal.
- ❖ The effects of climate change, combined with land use and lifestyle changes, may lead to the emergence of various diseases affecting both humans and animals.



NATIONAL

FATF 'regular follow-up' category

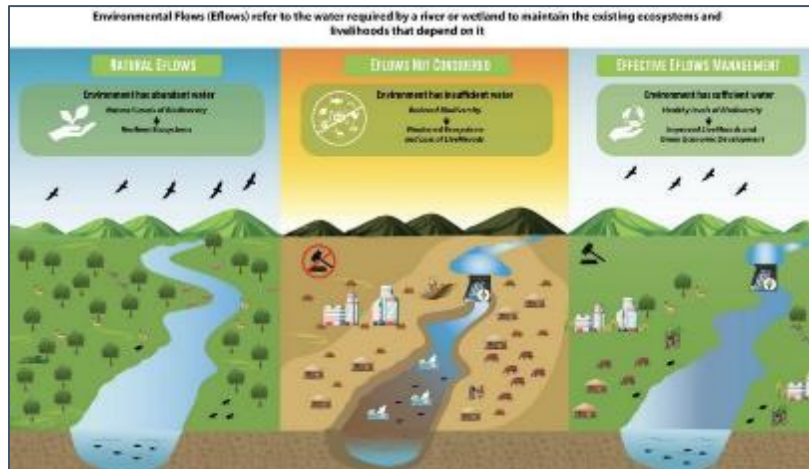
- ❖ India has achieved an outstanding outcome in the Mutual Evaluation conducted during 2023-24 by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ❖ It places India in the 'regular follow-up' category, a distinction shared by only four other G20 countries.
- ❖ India is already a member of the FATF Steering Group.
- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1989 as the international watchdog.
- ❖ It aims to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- ❖ India became a member of FATF in 2010.



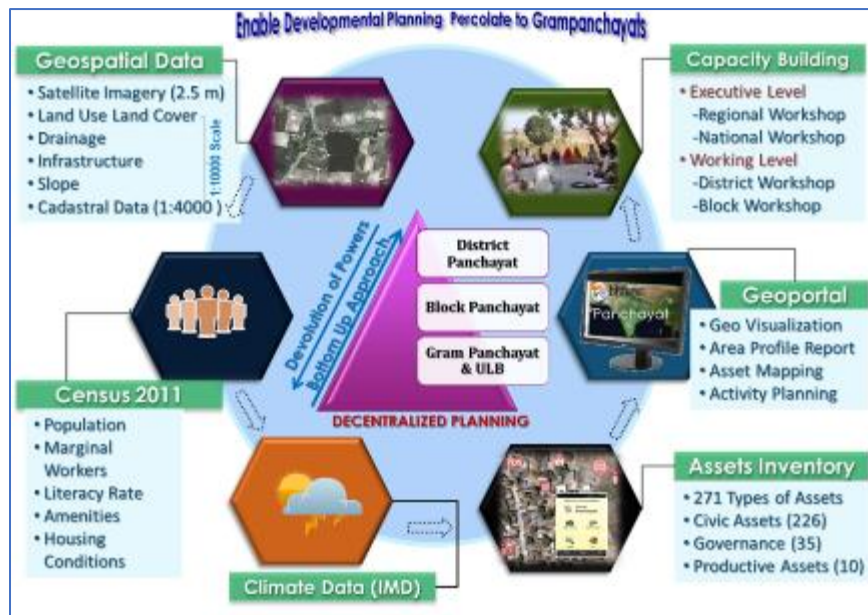
E-Flow Ecological Monitoring System

- ❖ The Union Jal Shakti Ministry launched an e-flow ecological monitoring system that allows real-time monitoring of river quality.
- ❖ This will aid the planning and monitoring of projects, river water quality, and other key parameters.
- ❖ It provides real-time analysis of the water quality of the Ganga, Yamuna, and their tributaries.

- ❖ It also allows monitoring of the Namami Gange programme activities at the central level.
- ❖ This includes monitoring the performance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), and ensuring that they operate at their rated capacity.
- ❖ River water quality is also monitored at various locations.



Bhuvan Panchayat Geoportal 4.0



- ❖ Centre has launched following two Geoportals developed by the Indian Space research Organization (ISRO).
 - ‘Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0)’ portal for rural land record and
 - “National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0)”

- ❖ These latest geospatial tools are meant for visualisation and planning to provide high resolution satellite imagery of 1:10K scale for different locations across the entire country.
- ❖ The ‘Bhuvan Panchayat Portal’ provides “Space based Information Support for Decentralized Planning (SISDP)” and empower the citizens at the grass root level in Panchayats’.

India's 3 New Criminal Laws

 <p>THE BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA (BNS) BILL, 2023 Proposed to replace Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860</p> <p>The IPC, which was framed by the British, is the official criminal code of India that lists various crimes and its punishments</p> <p>KEY TAKEAWAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sedition deleted, but another provision penalising secessionism, separatism, rebellion and acts against sovereignty, unity and integrity of India brought in ● Provision of death penalty for gang rape of minors and for mob lynching ● Community service introduced as one of the punishments for the first time 	 <p>THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA, 2023 Proposed to replace Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973</p> <p>The CrPC lays down the procedure for investigation, arrest, court hearing, bail and punishment in criminal cases</p> <p>KEY TAKEAWAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Time-bound investigation, trial and judgment within 30 days of the completion of arguments ● Video-recording of the statement of sexual assault victims to be made mandatory ● New provision for attachment of property and proceeds of crime
 <p>THE BHARATIYA SAKSHYA BILL, 2023 Proposed to replace the Indian Evidence Act, 1872</p> <p>The IEA applies to all judicial proceedings in the country and defines the particulars of evidence produced and admissible in courts</p>	<p>KEY TAKEAWAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Documents to also include electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smart phones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mails, messages on devices ● Digitisation of all records including case diary, FIR, charge sheet and judgement ● Electronic or digital record shall have the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as paper records

- ❖ India has completely overhauled its criminal justice system with three new criminal laws coming into effect on July 1.
- ❖ The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- ❖ Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) has replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- ❖ The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) replaced the Indian Evidence Act.
- ❖ The three laws were passed in parliament in December 2023.
- ❖ The three new laws focus on justice rather than punishment and are aimed at providing speedy justice.

- ❖ It is also strengthening the judicial and court management system emphasising "access to justice by all".
- ❖ A probable first case under the new law was registered at the Nishatpura police station in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Smart Cities Mission extension

- ❖ The union government has extended the Smart Cities Mission till March 2025.
- ❖ The Centre has earlier set the target of the completion of the Smart City mission by June-end.
- ❖ The Smart Cities mission was launched in 2015.
- ❖ It aims to promoting cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to their citizens.

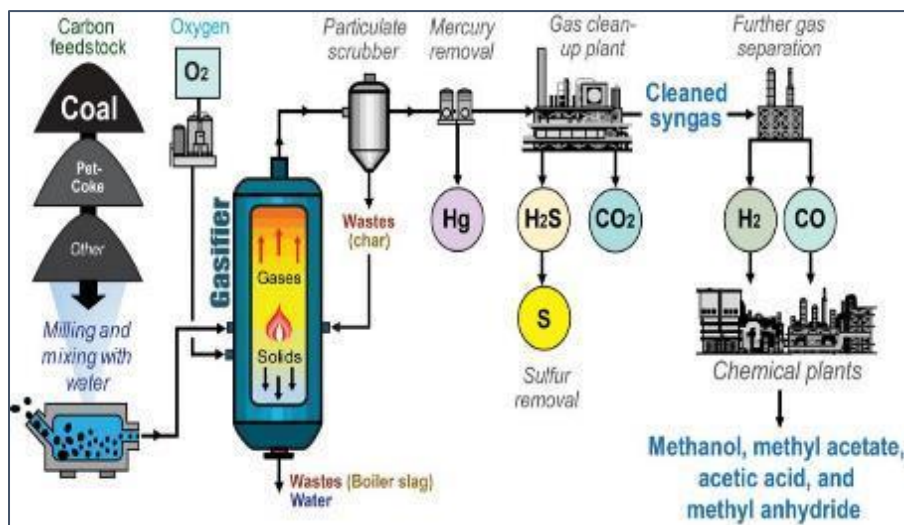


World Bank aid to India's hydrogen plans

- ❖ The World Bank has approved the second round of a \$1.5 billion loan to help India push its low-carbon energy development.
- ❖ The funds will help promote a vibrant market for green hydrogen, scale up renewable energy, and stimulate finance for low-carbon energy investments.
- ❖ In June 2023, the World Bank approved the first \$1.5 billion First Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation.
- ❖ It is expected to result in the production of at least 450,000 metric tons of green hydrogen and 1.5 GW of electrolysers per year from fiscal 2025-26 onwards.



India's First Coal Gasification Pilot Project



- ❖ India's first-ever pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) comes at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara district, Jharkhand.
- ❖ It intends to use in-situ gasification to transform coal into useful gasses, including carbon dioxide, methane, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide in order to revolutionise the coal business.
- ❖ These gases are used in many industrial processes, such as the synthesis of synthetic natural gas and the chemistry of chemical feedstocks used to make explosives, fertilisers, and fuels.
- ❖ India's use of fossil fuels increased by 8% in 2023, accounting for nearly all of the growth in demand.
- ❖ Its share of total consumption was 89%.

Migration and Development Brief 2024

- ❖ The growth in remittances to India is likely to halve in 2024 to 3.7 per cent from 7.5 per cent in 2023.
- ❖ India received remittances worth \$120 billion in 2023, supported by strong labour markets in the United States and Europe.
- ❖ As per the World Bank, Remittances are projected to rise marginally to \$124 billion in 2024 and to \$129 billion in 2025.
- ❖ India remained the top recipient among remittance-recipient countries, followed by Mexico (\$66 billion), China (\$50 billion), the Philippines (\$39 billion), and Pakistan (\$27 billion).
- ❖ India also remained the largest origin countries of emigrants (18.7 million), followed by Ukraine (11.9 million), China (11.1 million), Mexico (11 million), and Venezuela (8.9 million).

MONEY MATTERS		
	Inflows (\$ bn)	Growth (% chg Y-o-Y)
2023	120	7.5
2024	124	3.7
2025	129	4

Note: Growth numbers may not tally due to rounding off by World Bank
Source: World Bank

Agenda for the 16th Finance Commission 2024


- ❖ The 16th Finance Commission (FC) has begun its work, primarily focusing on the devolution of the consolidated fund.
- ❖ It was established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ In the absence of the 2021 Census, reliance on 2011 data is inadequate for the evidence-based fiscal devolution.
- ❖ India has approximately 4,000 statutory towns and an equal number of Census towns, with an estimated 23,000 villages, all of which are effectively urban.
- ❖ These figures must be captured by the 16th FC, including the significant migration to Tier-2 and 3 cities.
- ❖ Intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India are about 0.5% of GDP.

- ❖ It is much lower than the 2-5% typical of other developing nations.
- ❖ For instance, South Africa allocates 2.6%, Mexico 1.6%, the Philippines 2.5%, and Brazil 5.1% of their GDPs to their cities.
- ❖ Increasing the quantum of IGTs as a percentage of GDP is necessary.

16th Finance Commission


The Government of India, on **31-Dec-2023** with the approval of the President of India, has constituted the Sixteenth Finance Commission, in pursuance to **Article 280(1) of the Constitution**.

- It is a **constitutionally mandated body** that is at the centre of **fiscal federalism**.
- Its core responsibility is to evaluate the state of finances of the Union and State Governments, recommend the **sharing** of taxes between them.
- The first Finance Commission was setup in **1951**.



सत्यमेव जयते

Dr Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, and Professor in Columbia University will be the Chairman of the **16th Finance Commission**.



Sampoornata Abhiyan

- ❖ NITI Aayog launched a nationwide campaign namely Sampoornata Abhiyan.
- ❖ It focuses to attain saturation in 12 key social sector indicators in 500 aspirational blocks and 112 aspirational districts.
- ❖ This comprehensive three-month campaign is to be focused on themes including health, nutrition, agriculture, social development and education.

National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024



- ❖ The Union govt launched the two-month long National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024.
- ❖ The campaign aims at reducing the under 5 child deaths due to diarrhoea.
- ❖ The campaign's 2024 slogan is "Diarrhea ki Roktham, Safai aur ORS se rakhen apna dhyaan,"
- ❖ ORS (Oral Rehydration Salt) sachets and zinc tablets will be provided to children.

Renegotiation of Ganga Waters Treaty



- ❖ India and Bangladesh signed the Ganga Waters Treaty in 1996.

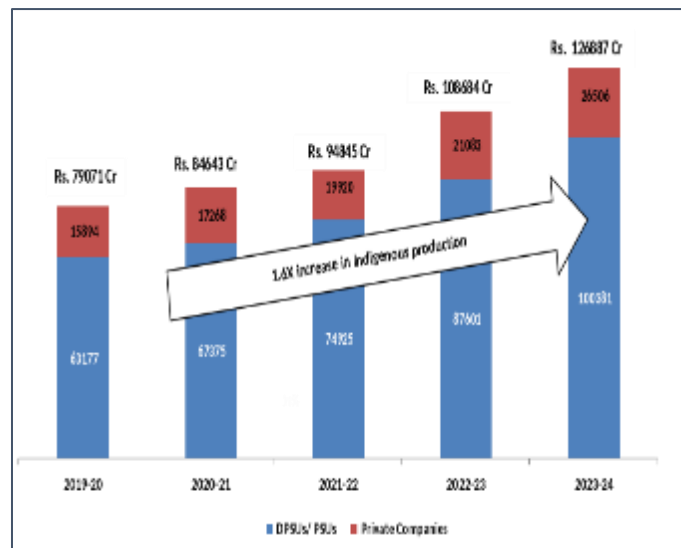
- ❖ This pact is mostly focused about the fair sharing of water from the Ganga River, needs to be renewed in 2026.
- ❖ Water availability changes because of extreme weather, changing rainfall trends, and melting glaciers.
- ❖ This is a key issue in the renegotiation of the treaty.

Reconstitution of Cabinet panels

- ❖ The Union government reconstituted eight Cabinet committees.
- ❖ It was making room for the members from allies in the all-important Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA).
- ❖ The Cabinet panels are reconstituted from time to time to include changes in portfolios or exclusion or inclusion of new ministers.
- ❖ The previous reconstitution was done on December 8, 2023.

India's Defense Production 2023-24

- ❖ India recorded the highest ever growth in the value of local defence production in the financial year 2023-24 with the figure reaching almost ₹1.27 lakh crore.
- ❖ Of the total value of production in 2023-24, 79.2% was contributed by defence public sector undertakings and other PSUs.
- ❖ The remaining 20.8% is by the private sector.
- ❖ The value of defence production is around 17% higher than in the previous financial year.



Central Railway's Floating Solar Plant

- ❖ The Central Railway (CR) is set to install floating solar panels on Igatpuri Lake in Maharashtra, a first for Indian Railways.
- ❖ This initiative will not only generate power but also conserve water.
- ❖ The railway reservoir at Igatpuri has a capacity to store 1,206 million litres of water over a surface area of 2.8 lakh square meters.
- ❖ The floating solar plant will boast a capacity of 10 MWp.



Fauna of India Checklist Portal

- ❖ India has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna, covering 104,561 species.
- ❖ It hosts 121 checklists of all known taxa across 36 phyla, including endemic, threatened, and scheduled species.
- ❖ It is a compilation of all animal species recorded in India since the 1750s, including endemic, threatened, and scheduled species.
- ❖ As per the ZSI report 2023, India is one of the world's 17 megadiverse nations, hosting around 7-8% of the world's documented species.

New Weapon systems school

- ❖ Indian Air Force inaugurated the newly established Weapon Systems School (WSS) at Air Force Station Begumpet, Hyderabad.
- ❖ The new branch will have four streams:
 - Flying stream to operate the weapons and systems in airborne platforms like the Sukhoi-30 MKI and C-130J,
 - Remote stream to operate remotely piloted aircraft,
 - Mission commanders and operators for Surface to Air and Surface-to-Surface weapon systems, and
 - Intelligence stream for handling space-based intelligence and imagery.

Most powerful non-nuclear bomb - SEBEX 2



- ❖ The Indian Navy successfully developed a new explosive which is two times more lethal than standard TNT (Trinitrotoluene).
- ❖ The new explosive named SEBEX 2 was developed by the Nagpur-based Solar Industries.
- ❖ It is now among the most powerful weapon non-nuclear explosives.
- ❖ SEBEX 2 is a new explosive formulation that provides a much more powerful blast effect than any currently available solid explosive.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has also certified SITBEX 1 – the EEL’s first thermobaric explosive.
- ❖ SITBEX 1, which generates extended blast duration with intense heat, is suited to target enemy bunkers, tunnels, and other fortified positions.

SBI - MSME Sahaj

MSME-Sahaj by SBI

SBI has launched “MSME-Sahaj”, a solution enabling customers to avail loan against their GST-registered sales invoices of up to ₹1 lakh. The app runs based on a Machine Learning (ML) model to validate the authenticity of the loan application.

- ❖ SBI announced MSME Sahaj, an online business loan solution for MSMEs.
- ❖ It provides credit against their Goods and Services Tax (GST) registered sales invoices of up to Rs 1 lakh.
- ❖ The new solution will have an entire turnaround time of less than 15 minutes without any manual intervention.



Gallantry Awards 2024

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred 36 Gallantry Awards to the personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State and Union Territory Police.
- ❖ The awards were conferred during the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Gallantry Awards include ten Kirti Chakras and 26 Shaurya Chakras.
- ❖ Seven personnel were awarded Kirti Chakras posthumously and seven Shaurya Chakras posthumously.
- ❖ The awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage, and extreme devotion to duty.

Indo-French Liver and Metabolic Disease Network

- ❖ India launched the Indo-French Liver and Metabolic Disease Network (InFLiMeN) in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is a virtual node, aimed at preventing and curing metabolic liver diseases.
- ❖ Every third Indian has fatty liver, which predates Type 2 Diabetes and other metabolic disorders.
- ❖ The non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) can progress to cirrhosis and primary liver cancer.

Safai Apnao Bimaari Bhagao initiative

- ❖ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry is rolling out Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 from 1st July to 31st August.
- ❖ It aims to enhance the preparedness of Urban Local Bodies to handle the challenges posed by heavy rainfall and heightened health risks.
- ❖ It calls for comprehensive interventions focusing on cleanliness, advocacy and inter-departmental convergence to be implemented by all Urban Local Bodies.
- ❖ It aligns with the Health Ministry's 'STOP Diarrhoea Campaign'.

eSankhyiki Portal

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has developed an eSankhyiki portal (<https://esankhyiki.mospi.gov.in>).
- ❖ It aims to provide real-time inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and the public at large.

- ❖ The objective of this portal is to establish a comprehensive data management and sharing system for ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country.



NQAS Assessment

- ❖ The Union government has launched a virtual NQAS assessment for Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) Sub-centres.
- ❖ This will represent a significant innovation in the quality assurance framework for public health facilities as a time and cost-saving measure.
- ❖ Through this system, the virtually assessed health AAM-SC will be conferred with the NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards) certificate.
- ❖ The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) guidelines, introduced in 2007 and updated periodically with the latest update in 2022.
- ❖ It set quality benchmarks for public health facilities from primary to secondary level health care facilities.



Historic Chadwick House



- ❖ After 164 years of its existence, the Comptroller and Auditor General has got its first museum in Chadwick House at Shimla.
- ❖ MK Gandhi stayed in Chadwick House during the 1946 Cabinet Mission.
- ❖ Post-independence, in 1950, the first training school for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service probationers was started here.

22nd yearly summit of India and Russia

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister and Russian President attended the 22nd Annual Summit of India and Russia at Russia.
- ❖ India and Russia agreed to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion dollars by 2030.
- ❖ India and Russia signed a number of MoUs between institutions on climate change, polar research, legal arbitration and pharmaceutical certification and other issues.

the Russia Federation Visit

- Participate in the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit
- Continuing a time tested relation of nearly 8 decades
- 17th meeting of PM Modi and President Putin in the last 10 years



Indigenous Light Tank 'Zorawar'

- ❖ The prototype of the country's indigenous light tank Zorawar was unveiled recently.
- ❖ It was jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- ❖ It is capable of operation in extreme weather and extreme height with minimal logistic support in high altitude area along the northern border of India.

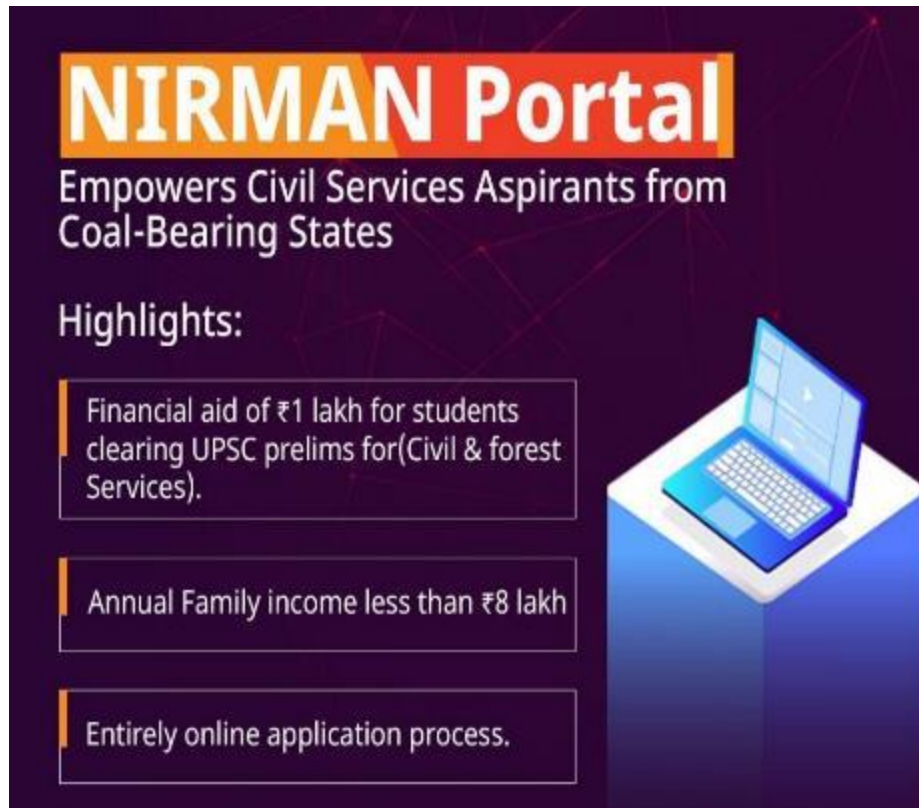


Haj Committee



- ❖ The Ministry of Minority Affairs chosen as a nodal ministry instead of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), for the Haj Committee.
- ❖ Earlier, the work related to the management of Haj pilgrimage, including the administration of the Haj Committee Act, 2002, and rules made thereunder was handled by the MEA.
- ❖ These rules may be called the Haj Committee (Amendment) Rules, 2024.
- ❖ In the Haj Committee Rules, 2002, for the words 'Ministry of External Affairs', the words 'Ministry of Minority Affairs' shall be substituted.

NIRMAN Portal



NIRMAN Portal
Empowers Civil Services Aspirants from Coal-Bearing States

Highlights:

- Financial aid of ₹1 lakh for students clearing UPSC prelims for (Civil & forest Services).
- Annual Family income less than ₹8 lakh
- Entirely online application process.

The infographic features a dark purple background with a glowing blue laptop on a pedestal to the right. The text is presented in white and yellow boxes.

- ❖ The Union Minister for Coal and Mines has launched the NIRMAN Portal, part of Mission Karma yogi.
- ❖ NIRMAN stands for “Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination.”
- ❖ The portal aims to support UPSC Preliminary exam qualifiers from SC, ST, female, or third gender candidates with an annual family income under Rs 8 lakh.
- ❖ Eligible candidates, permanent residents of Coal India Limited's 39 operational districts, will receive Rs 1 lakh.

CAMCOPTER S-100

- ❖ India is set to enhance its naval capabilities through a deal with Austrian company Schiebel for their Camcopter S-100 unmanned aerial system (UAS).
- ❖ The system can operate in various extreme climates and has a high endurance, making it ideal for the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ It requires the minimal space for launch and recovery, making it suitable for deployment from various naval vessels.



Classical Language criteria 2024

- ❖ The Central government has decided to change the criteria for giving this special tag.
- ❖ India has six classical languages as of now – Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia.
- ❖ It was in 2014 that the government last granted the special tag (Odia).
- ❖ There have been demands from some States and literary circles for classical status to languages such as Marathi, Bengali, Assamese and Maithili.
- ❖ Of these, the case of Marathi has been pending for more than a decade.

Criteria for conferring the status of Classical Languages

Government guidelines for classical languages include:

-  **Early texts/recorded language history must be > 1500-2000 years**
-  **A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers**
-  **The literary tradition to be original and not borrowed from another speech community**

New Food Packaging Rules 2024

- ❖ The FSSAI approved an amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Labeling and Display) Regulations, 2020.
- ❖ As per the amendment, nutrition profiles must be in bold letters and a relatively increased font size.

- ❖ This can help people make informed decisions while buying food products.
- ❖ Details like total sugar, salt and saturated fat on labels of packaged food items have been asked to look more prominent on packets.



Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
Serving size	2/3 cup (55g)
Amount per serving	
Calories	230
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 1g	10%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 150mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	12%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20%
Protein 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 235mg	5%

*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

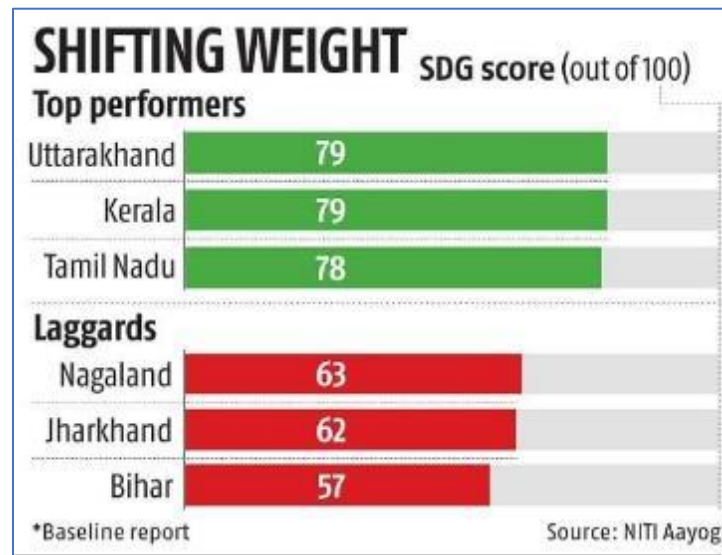
Agri SURE fund

- ❖ NABARD has announced an Agri fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (Agri-SURE), with initial corpus of ₹750 crore.
- ❖ NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture are contributing ₹250 crore each, the rest ₹250 crore is from other institutions.
- ❖ The fund is structured to support about 85 agri start-ups with investment sizes of up to ₹25 crore each by the end of its term.
- ❖ The fund will provide support through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt alternative investment funds (AIFs), as well as direct equity support to start-ups.
- ❖ NABARD has also launched the AgriSURE Greenathon 2024.
- ❖ This hackathon will address the issues like the high cost of advanced agriculture technologies, transforming agricultural waste into profitable ventures, and making regenerative agriculture economically viable.

SDG Index 2024 – India

- ❖ Uttarakhand and Kerala have taken the top spot among states in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24.

- ❖ Overall, India’s SDG score improved to 71 points in 2023-24 from 66 points in 2020-21.
- ❖ Bihar emerged as a laggard with 57 points, followed by Jharkhand at 62 points.
- ❖ Compared to 2020-21 scores Punjab, Manipur, West Bengal, and Assam recorded the highest increase of 8 points to 76, 72, 70, and 65 points respectively.
- ❖ Among goals, “No Poverty”, “Decent Work and Economic Growth”, and “Life on Land” recorded the highest increase in points across states from 2020-21 scores.
- ❖ Goals like “Gender Equality” and “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution” saw the smallest increase in points.
- ❖ Notably, “Reduced Inequalities” was the only goal to record a reduction in points to 65 in 2022-23 from 67 in 2020-21.



Five-Member Advisory Council of 16th FC

<h2>Finance Commission</h2>		
<p>Article 280 (Indian Constitution Part XII)</p> <p>Constitution of FC as a Quasi Judicial Body</p>	<p>Constituted by</p> <p>President of India quinquennially (or earlier)</p>	<p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman + 4 members (including an HC Judge) – appointed by President • Authority to decide qualifications – Parliament • Tenure – as specified by the President • Reappointment – Eligible
<p>Makes Recommendations to President about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of net tax proceeds between Centre and States • Principles for grants-in-aid to the states by the Centre • Evaluates the rise in the Consolidated Fund of a state to affix the resources of Panchayats/Municipalities • Other financial matters referred to it by President 		<p>Powers of a Civil Court</p> <p>As per Code of Civil Procedure 1908</p>
<p><i>*Recommendations of the FC are only advisory and not binding on the Government</i></p>		

- ❖ The Sixteenth Finance Commission, led by Arvind Panagariya, set up a five-member Advisory Council.
- ❖ It is aimed at expanding the scope of the Commission's work.
- ❖ This panel will be chaired by Poonam Gupta, who currently serves as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- ❖ The other members are:
 - D.K. Srivastava
 - Neelkanth Mishra
 - Pranjul Bhandari
 - Rahul Bajoria.

‘One Scientist, One Product’ Scheme



- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched its ‘One Scientist-One Product’ programme.
- ❖ It aims to improve research in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- ❖ ICAR had given a target to all 5,521 scientists under the institution to come up with a product, a technology, a model, a concept or a good publication.
- ❖ At the beginning of every year, the scientist or a group of scientists will have to identify the product, and the ICAR will map the scientist's or the group's work.

Toll free helpline for Narcotics Crimes - 1933

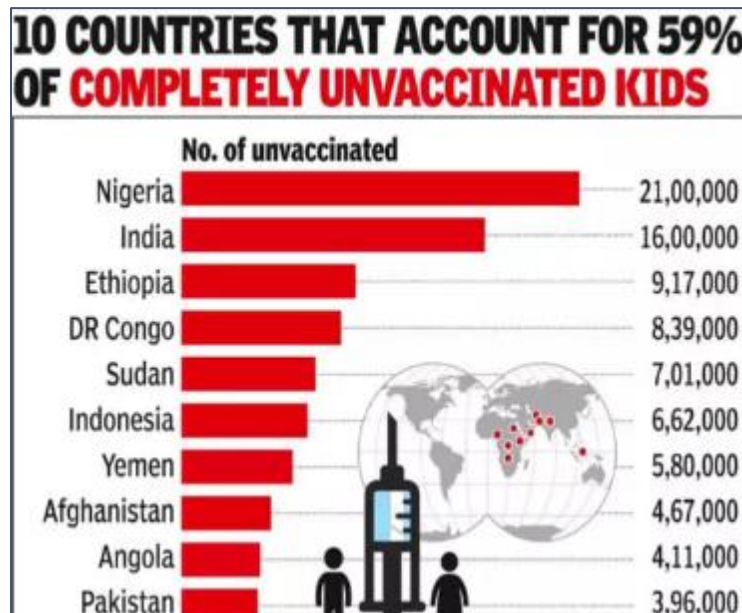
- ❖ The first-ever national toll-free telephonic helpline along with an email was launched.

- ❖ The toll-free number for MANAS (National Narcotics helpline) is 1933 and the Email is info.ncbmanas@gov.in.
- ❖ It will allow any person to tip off the NCB about narcotics crimes and related issues.
- ❖ MANAS stands for 'Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra' or narcotics prohibition intelligence centre.



WHO-UNICEF report 2024

- ❖ India has the second highest number of kids who did not receive any vaccine at all in 2023.
- ❖ India has 1.6 million, just after Nigeria with 2.1 million "zero dose children".
- ❖ The number of completely unvaccinated children ("zero-dose") is slightly up from last year (by 600,000 from 13.9 million to 14.5 million).
- ❖ This number is still 1.7 million higher than in 2019.
- ❖ The total number of un- and under-immunised children stands at 21 million in 2023, 2.7 million above the baseline value.
- ❖ India also had the third highest number of "measles zero dose children", 1.6 million.
- ❖ Nigeria with 2.8 million and Democratic Republic of Congo with 2 million children took the top spots.
- ❖ India was among ten countries accounting for 55% of children without measles vaccines globally.



All India Services (conduct) Rules, 1968

“All India Service Conduct Rules (1968)”

5. Duty towards the Service:

A member --- shall do nothing -- **unbecoming of an officer belonging to the Service.**

Explanation: **Acts unbecoming** shall include

(b) Adoption of dilatory tactics in dealing with public matters

- ❖ The Centre had constituted a single-member committee under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to examine all the documents submitted by the probationary IAS officer (Puja Khedkar).
- ❖ Recently Questions have been raised about her appointment under these categories.
- ❖ Civil servants are governed primarily by two rules:
 - The All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, and
 - The Indian Administrative Service (Probation) Rules, 1954.
- ❖ There is an additional set of rules that govern the conduct of officers during their probation period, which lasts for at least two years after selection to the services.

- ❖ Rule 12 gives the circumstances in which probationers can be discharged.
- ❖ The Physically Handicapped (PH) reservation was introduced with the batch of 2006 — 3% seats in every category (General, OBC, SC, and ST) are reserved for the differently abled.

Muslim women's right to maintenance 2024

- ❖ The recent Supreme Court judgment has upheld the divorced Muslim woman's rights to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.
- ❖ This case is known as Mohd Abdul Samad vs The State of Telangana,
- ❖ The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act was enacted in 1986 (MWA).
- ❖ This Act had created a new right for the divorced Muslim woman to claim maintenance during the iddat period as well as a fair and reasonable provision for the future.
- ❖ But this provision has contradistinction with Section 125 of the CrPC 1973.



What the top court said

GENDER EQUALITY
Discrimination against Muslim women in matters of alimony under secular laws will be regressive, it said

PERSONAL LAW DOESN'T SUPERSEDE
Rejects argument that CrPc Section 125 provisions don't apply due to there being a personal law for Muslims and that the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, will prevail over the country's secular law

FORTIFYING WOMEN'S RIGHTS
The 1986 Act does not bar Muslim women from seeking maintenance under the CrPc

SHAH BANO ALLUSION
Philosophy laid down in Shah Bano verdict lives through. In that case, the apex court ruled that Muslim women were entitled to maintenance under CrPc Section 125, which was later countered by the Rajiv Gandhi govt through the 1986 Act

"There cannot be disparity in receiving maintenance on the basis of the law under which a woman is married or divorced. The same cannot be a basis for discriminating a divorced woman entitled to maintenance..."
— JUSTICE BY NAGARATHNA, SC JUDGE, IN HER ORDER

NITI Aayog reconstitution 2024

- ❖ Union government reconstituted the NITI Aayog, with four full-time members and 15 Union Ministers, as either ex-officio members or special invitees.
- ❖ Prime Minister remains the chairperson and economist Suman K. Bery will continue to be the vice-chairperson of NITI Aayog.

- ❖ Scientist V.K. Saraswat, agricultural economist Ramesh Chand, paediatrician V.K. Paul and macro-economist Arvind Virmani will also continue to be full-time members.
- ❖ The four ex-officio members will be the Union Ministers of Defence, Home, Agriculture and Finance.
- ❖ The National Institution for Transforming India, known as 'NITI Aayog', was constituted in 2015 by scraping the 65-year-old Planning Commission.



UGC's ASMITA Project



3 NEW INITIATIVES LAUNCHED
TO PROMOTE
MULTILINGUALISM IN EDUCATION

ASMITA
PRODUCING 22,000 BOOKS IN 22 INDIAN LANGUAGES OVER 5 YEARS.

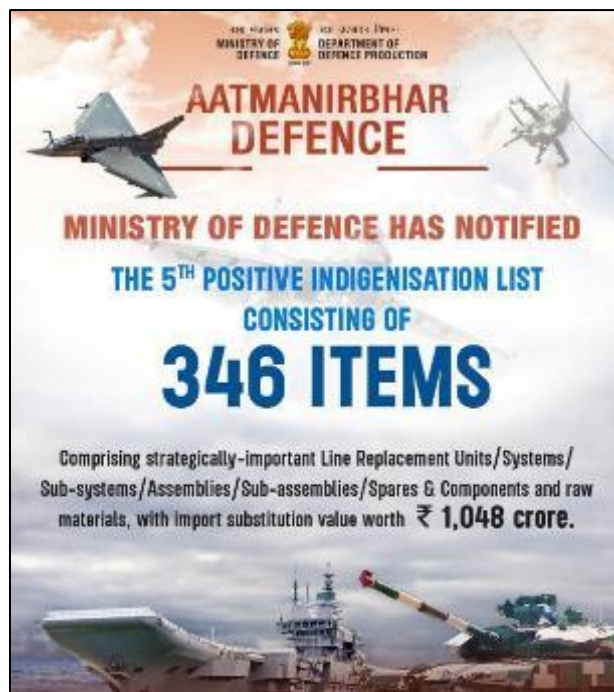
BAHUBHASHA SHABDKOSH
A COMPREHENSIVE MULTILINGUAL DICTIONARY REPOSITORY.

REAL-TIME TRANSLATION ARCHITECTURE
ENHANCING REAL-TIME TRANSLATION WITH CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY.

- ❖ The Ministry of Education and the UGC launched a project 16 to develop 22,000 books in Indian languages in the next five years.
- ❖ The project is titled ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing).
- ❖ The UGC has also created a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the book-writing process in each assigned language.

India's 5th Indigenization List

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has notified a fifth positive indigenisation list (PIL) comprising 346 defence items.
- ❖ It aims to boosting Aatma nirbharta (self-reliance) in defence production and minimising imports by defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs).
- ❖ The MoD had launched the Srijan portal in 2020.
- ❖ It provides a forum for DPSUs and service headquarters (SHQs) to offer defence items for indigenisation to private industries.
- ❖ They include micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups.
- ❖ Till June 2024, over 36,000 defence items were offered to the industry for indigenisation by the DPSUs and SHQs.
- ❖ Of them, more than 12,300 items have been indigenised in the last three years.



Digital Bharat Nidhi

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has released the draft rules to operationalise the Digital Bharat Nidhi, to increasing the telecom connectivity in rural areas.
- ❖ It would replace the erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- ❖ USOF is a pool of funds generated by a 5 per cent Universal Service Levy charged upon all the telecom fund operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
- ❖ Contributions made by telecom companies towards the Digital Bharat Nidhi will first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).
- ❖ Between 2017 and 2022, the government had collected Rs 41,740 crore towards the USOF, of which it had utilised Rs 30,213 crore – about 72 per cent.
- ❖ Most notably, in 2019-20, the collection was Rs 7,962 crore, of which the utilised amount was just Rs 2,926 crore.



Project PARI



- ❖ On the occasion of 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting, the Ministry of Culture has initiated Project PARI (Public Art of India).



- ❖ The aim of this project is to stimulate a dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation.
- ❖ The 46th session of the World Heritage Committee is scheduled in New Delhi, India from 21st - 31st July 2024.
- ❖ More than 150 visual artists from all over the country have come together to create the various traditional artforms, wall paintings, murals, sculptures and installations under this project.

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises 2022-23

- ❖ The total number of establishments in the sector increased from 5.97 crore in 2021-22 to 6.50 crore in 2022-23, representing a 5.88% annual growth.
- ❖ The Gross Value Added (GVA), which is a key indicator of economic performance of the sector, witnessed an annual growth of 9.83%.
- ❖ The unincorporated non-agricultural sector employed about 11 crore workers from October 2022 to September 2023, up from 9.8 crore in ASUSE 2021-22.
- ❖ The Fixed assets owned by an unincorporated non-agricultural establishment on average, has risen from Rs. 2,81,013 in ASUSE 2021-22 to Rs. 3,18,144 in ASUSE 2022-23.
- ❖ The use of internet for entrepreneurial purpose has increased by 7.2% indicating a rapid rate of digitization taking place in the sector.
- ❖ About 54% of the proprietary establishments in the manufacturing sector were run by women entrepreneur.

Activity Category	Number of Establishments		Number of Workers	
	ASUSE 21-22	ASUSE 22-23	ASUSE 21-22	ASUSE 22-23
Other Retail Trade	33.40	30.38	31.54	29.80
Manufacture of Wearing Apparel	10.74	11.27	8.26	8.39
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	8.48	9.47	7.26	8.19



Operation Nanhe Farishtey

- ❖ A total of 84,119 children were rescued by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under "Operation Nanhe Farishtey" in the last seven years.
- ❖ This Operation dedicated to rescuing children in need of care and protection across various Indian Railway Zones.
- ❖ In the first five months of 2024 alone, the RPF has already rescued 4,607 children.

The children rescued
under 'Operation
Nanhe Farishtey'

84,119 children.
Operation
Nanhe
Farishtey is a mission dedicated to rescuing
children in need of care and protection
across various Indian Railway zones.

Business Advisory Committee 2024

Members of the Business Advisory Committee

The Speaker has nominated following members to the Business Advisory Committee w.e.f. 18 July, 2024:-

1. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
2. Shri P.P. Chaudhary
3. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
4. Dr. Nishikant Dubey
5. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
6. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
7. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
8. Shri Bhartruhari Mahatah
9. Thiru Dayanidhi Maran
10. Shri Baijyant Panda
11. Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant
12. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh
13. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur
14. Shri Lalji Verma

- ❖ Six new bills, including the one to amend the disaster management law, will be presented during the Monsoon Session of Parliament.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also constituted the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), which decides the parliamentary agenda.
- ❖ This committee fixes up and controls the time and handles the routine of discussion in both houses of the parliament.

- ❖ It has been composed of a total number of 26 members, of which 15 members are participants of the “Lok Sabha” and the rest 11 members belong from the “Rajya Sabha”.

India-Taiwan MRA for Organic Products

- ❖ An agreement between India and Taiwan to facilitate trade in organically-produced goods, including tea and medicinal plants, has come into force.
- ❖ The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) will ease the export of organic products by avoiding dual certifications.
- ❖ The implementing agencies for the MRA are India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency.



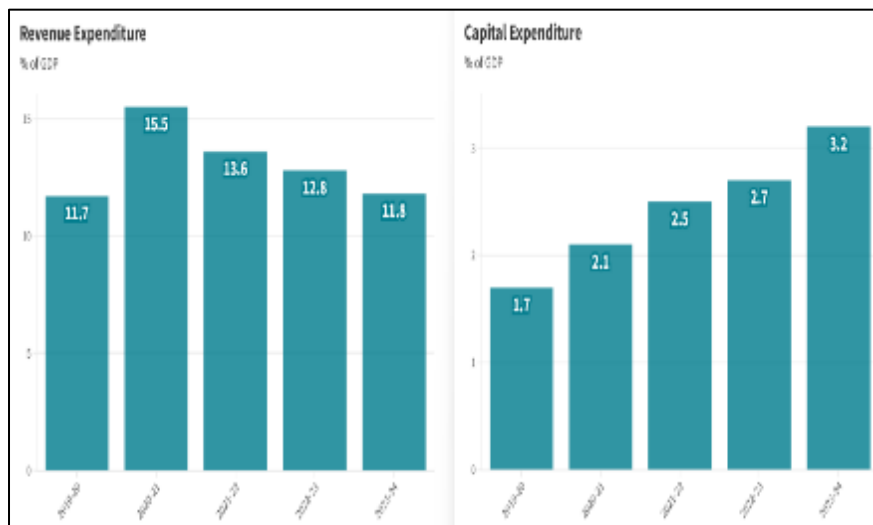
4th ICCPR Human Rights Review

- ❖ India successfully concluded its fourth periodic review by the UN Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- ❖ The Committee reviews report of all countries by conducting periodic reviews and make observations and recommendations.
- ❖ India became a party to the ICCPR in 1979 and has undergone three such reviews so far, the last being in 1997.

Economic Survey 2023-24

- ❖ The Economic Survey is a comprehensive review or annual report of Indian economy during the closed financial year.

- ❖ India's GDP is likely to grow at 6.5 to 7 per cent in the current fiscal year amid global challenges which may impact exports.
- ❖ The growth projected for 2024-25 is lower than the economic growth rate of 8.2 per cent estimated for the previous financial year.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit has been brought down from 6.4 per cent of GDP in FY23 to 5.6 per cent of GDP in FY24.
- ❖ The capital expenditure for FY24 stood at ₹9.5 lakh crore, an increase of 28.2 per cent on a YoY basis, and was 2.8 times the level of FY20.
- ❖ Effective capital expenditure grew to 4.2% of the GDP at ₹12.5 lakh crores in FY '24, from 3.9% of the GDP (or ₹10.5 lakh crores) in FY '23.
- ❖ External debt as a ratio to GDP stood at 18.7 per cent as of end-March 2024.
- ❖ The ratio of foreign exchange reserves to total debt stood at 97.4 per cent as of March 2024 as per the Economic Survey 2023- 24.
- ❖ Remittances to India are projected to grow at 3.7% to \$124 billion in 2024 and at 4% to reach \$129 billion in 2025.
- ❖ Food inflation based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) increased from 3.8% in FY22 to 6.6% in FY23 and further to 7.5% in FY24.
- ❖ In 2022-23, foodgrain production hit an all-time high of 329.7 million tonnes.
- ❖ In 2023-24, food grain production is slightly lower at 328.8 million tonnes.
- ❖ The inflation rate was less than 6 per cent in 29 out of the 36 States and Union Territories.



National Landslide Forecasting Centre

- ❖ Centre inaugurated National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC) in Kolkata.
- ❖ It will issue early warning bulletins for all landslide-prone states.

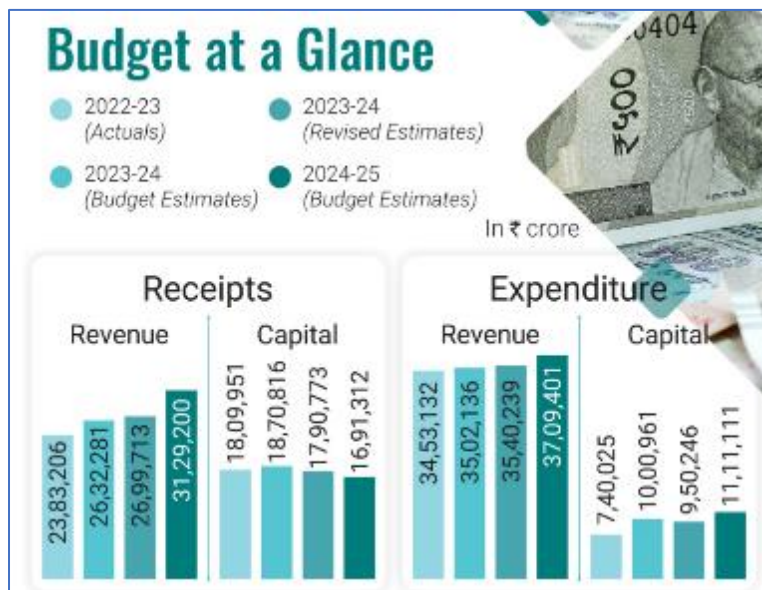
- ❖ It is also, operationalizing the regional Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) nationwide by 2030.
- ❖ Approximately 0.42 million sq. km (12.6% of land area), excluding snow covered area, is prone to landslide hazard.
- ❖ Himalayas and Western Ghats are particularly susceptible to landslides due to hilly topography and heavy rainfall.



Budget 2024 Highlights

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her seventh straight Budget on July 23 for the fiscal 2024-25.
- ❖ She surpassed the record of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai.
- ❖ The total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at Rs 32.07 lakh crore and Rs 48.21 lakh crore respectively.
- ❖ The net tax receipts are estimated at Rs 25.83 lakh crore and the fiscal deficit is estimated at 4.9% of GDP.
- ❖ Also, the government will aim to reach a deficit below 4.5% next year.
- ❖ The gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 14.01 lakh crore and Rs 11.63 lakh crore respectively.
- ❖ She announced three new employee-linked incentive schemes in the Union Budget.

- ❖ Students who have not yet benefited from any government schemes will get support loans of up to ₹10 lakh for education in domestic institutions.
- ❖ The standard deduction for salaried employees will be hiked to ₹75,000, from ₹50,000 under the new income tax regime in FY25.
- ❖ This Budget proposed a reduction in the basic customs duty on gold and silver to 6 per cent and platinum to 6.4 per cent.
- ❖ The finance minister announced several schemes for Bihar in her speech. The schemes are a part of a larger plan titled “Purvodaya”.
- ❖ It covers the all-round development of eastern States including Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The government will support building of expressways in Bihar at a total cost of ₹26,000 crore.
- ❖ For promoting women-led development, the budget carries an allocation of over ₹3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.
- ❖ The rate of taxation remains unchanged, the size of each of the slabs, excluding the initial zero to ₹3 lakh, remains unchanged.
- ❖ The erstwhile slab of ₹3 lakh to ₹6 lakh would now be expanded to ₹3 lakh to ₹7 lakh.
- ❖ However, the rate of taxation, that is 5%, remains unchanged.
- ❖ Similarly, the other slabs, that is, ₹6 to 9 lakhs, ₹9 to 12 lakhs, ₹12-15 lakhs and thereby beyond, would be revised to ₹7-10 lakhs, ₹10-12 lakhs, ₹12-15 lakhs and thereby beyond.



Nine priorities of Budget 2024

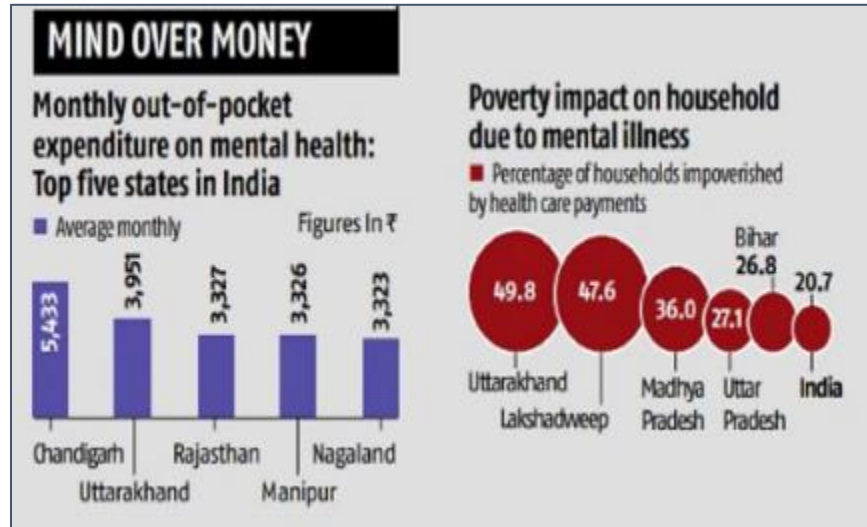


- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her seventh straight Budget on July 23 for the fiscal 2024-25.
- ❖ The finance minister laid down nine priorities of the Budget:
 - Productivity and resilience in agriculture
 - Employment and skilling
 - Inclusive Human resource development and social justice
 - Manufacturing and services
 - Support for promotion of MSMEs
 - Urban development
 - Energy security
 - Infrastructure
 - Innovation, research and development.

Mental health coverage in Economic survey

- ❖ The National Mental Health Survey 2015-16 found 10.6% adults in India suffered mental health issues.
- ❖ The Treatment gap was ranged between 70% and 92% for different disorders.
- ❖ The Economic Survey 2023-24 extensively highlights this health issue, and its significance and implications on policy recommendations for the first time.

- ❖ Further, the prevalence of mental morbidity was higher in the urban metropolitan regions (13.5%) compared with the rural areas (6.9%) and urban non-metro areas (4.3%).
- ❖ After the COVID-19 pandemic, with 11% of students reported as feeling anxious, 14% as feeling extreme emotion and 43% experiencing mood swings.



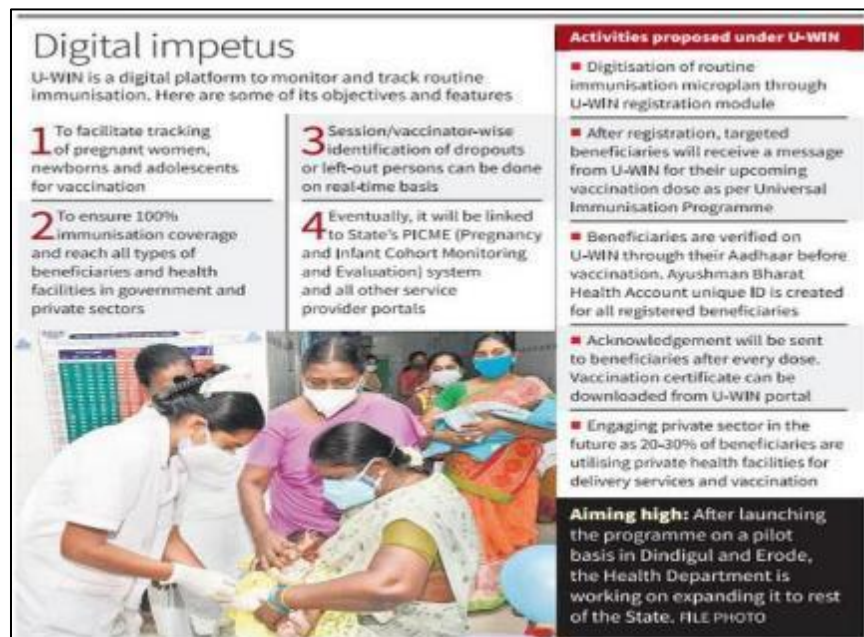
New Pension Scheme 'VATSALYA'

- ❖ The finance minister introduced a new type of pension scheme for minors where parents can contribute to their children's future retirement.
- ❖ The new pension scheme for minors is called the NPS Vatsalya.
- ❖ This regular contribution can be made by parents or guardians.
- ❖ The scheme will get converted to regular NPS once the child attains the age of 18.
- ❖ The National Pension Scheme (NPS) is a voluntary pension system for all citizens, including both residents and NRIs between the ages of 18 and 70 years.



U-WIN portal

- ❖ The U-Win portal is one of the important steps towards halving the number of zero-dose children by 2030.
- ❖ U-WIN is an online vaccine management portal for childhood vaccination, similar to CoWIN used during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Children, up to the age of six years, and pregnant mothers are registered on U-WIN using government ID like Aadhaar, and their mobile phone numbers.
- ❖ Upon registration, records of all 25 shots given to a child — and the two given to pregnant mothers — can be added.
- ❖ The digital vaccine certificate can be downloaded by parents using their registered mobile numbers.
- ❖ It also registers all births, the three vaccines against polio, hepatitis B, and tuberculosis administered at birth, a child's birth weight, and any physical deformities observed at birth.



Digital impetus
U-WIN is a digital platform to monitor and track routine immunisation. Here are some of its objectives and features

- 1** To facilitate tracking of pregnant women, newborns and adolescents for vaccination
- 2** To ensure 100% immunisation coverage and reach all types of beneficiaries and health facilities in government and private sectors
- 3** Session/vaccinator-wise identification of dropouts or left-out persons can be done on real-time basis
- 4** Eventually, it will be linked to State's PICME (Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation) system and all other service provider portals

Activities proposed under U-WIN

- Digitisation of routine immunisation microplan through U-WIN registration module
- After registration, targeted beneficiaries will receive a message from U-WIN for their upcoming vaccination dose as per Universal Immunisation Programme
- Beneficiaries are verified on U-WIN through their Aadhaar before vaccination. Ayushman Bharat Health Account unique ID is created for all registered beneficiaries
- Acknowledgement will be sent to beneficiaries after every dose. Vaccination certificate can be downloaded from U-WIN portal
- Engaging private sector in the future as 20-30% of beneficiaries are utilising private health facilities for delivery services and vaccination

Aiming high: After launching the programme on a pilot basis in Dindigul and Erode, the Health Department is working on expanding it to rest of the State. FILE PHOTO

KIRTI Program

- ❖ The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme was launched in Chandigarh this year.
- ❖ It aims to develop an integrated talent identification architecture based on the modern ICT tools and global best practices.
- ❖ KIRTI aims to reach every block in the country, connecting with children who aspire to play sports but lack guidance.

- ❖ It seeks to streamline the process of grassroots talent identification on a single platform.
- ❖ In the first phase, out of 3,62,683 registrations across 70 centres, close to 51,000 assessments were conducted in 28 states and Union Territories.
- ❖ The programme aligns with the nation's aspiration to become a top 10 sports nation by 2036 and among the top five by 2047.



Data of Poshan Tracker June 2024



- ❖ About 17% of children in the age group of 0-5 years are underweight, while 36% are stunted and 6% are wasted.
- ❖ Around 8.57 crore children under 6 years were measured.
- ❖ Out of whom 35% were found to be stunted, only 17% were found to be underweight and only 6% children under 5 years were found to be wasted.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh exhibits the highest stunting rate at 46.36%, closely followed by Lakshadweep at 46.31%.

- ❖ Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh also report alarming stunting rates at 44.59% and 41.61%, respectively.
- ❖ Wasting is most severe in Lakshadweep, with 13.22% of children affected.
- ❖ Bihar and Gujarat also show the high wasting rates at 9.81% and 9.16%, respectively.
- ❖ In terms of underweight children, Madhya Pradesh leads with 26.21%, followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu at 26.41%.
- ❖ Lakshadweep again shows a rate of 23.25%.
- ❖ Goa reports the lowest stunting rate at 5.84%, wasting at 0.85%, and underweight children at 2.18%.

PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyaan

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Jatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities.
- ❖ The initiative aims to provide full coverage for tribal households in tribal majority villages and aspirational districts.
- ❖ It will be covering 63,000 villages and benefitting 5 crore tribal people.



Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme - 2024

- ❖ The heavy industries ministry announced a two-month extension of the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024).
- ❖ It also announced an additional outlay of Rs 278 crore.
- ❖ EMPS was launched on 1 April 2024 with an outlay of ₹500 crores.

- ❖ The EMPS was initially planned for only four months, following the expiry of the FAME II scheme in March.
- ❖ The scheme now targets to support over 5 lakh electric two-wheelers and around 61,000 e-three wheelers.

GOVT EXTENDED ELECTRIC TWO-WHEELER SUBSIDY EMPS 2024 TILL SEPTEMBER 30!

- Scheme increased from Rs 500 crore to Rs 778 crore.
- Benefit to 5,60,789 electric vehicles (5,00,080 electric two-wheelers and 60,709 electric three-wheelers)
- Both private or corporate-owned registered electric two-wheelers are also eligible.



New Employment-linked incentives

Employment & Skilling

Prime Minister's Package: 3 schemes announced under 'Employment Linked Incentive'

Scheme A: First Timers

- Direct benefit transfer of 1-month salary in 3 installments up to ₹ 15,000 to first-time employees registered in EPFO

Scheme B: Job Creation in Manufacturing

- Incentive to be provided directly to both employee and employer as per their EPFO contribution, in the first 4 years of employment

Scheme C: Support to Employers

- Reimbursement to employers up to ₹ 3,000 per month for 2 years towards their EPFO contribution for each additional employee



- ❖ The Union Budget has unveiled three significant schemes under Employment-linked incentives.
- ❖ It also announced a substantial allocation of Rs 2 lakh crore aimed at job creation over the next five years.
- ❖ Scheme A will provide a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of one month's salary in three instalments, up to Rs 15,000, to first-time employees registered in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- ❖ Scheme B focuses on job creation in the manufacturing sector.
- ❖ Incentives will be directly provided to both employees and employers based on their EPFO contributions during the first four years of employment.
- ❖ Scheme C includes support to employers, with a reimbursement of up to Rs 3,000 per month for two years.
- ❖ It provides towards their EPFO contributions for each additional employee hired.

NCB Annual report 2023

Major Narcotics Drugs & Controlled Substances Seized During 2018-2023						
YEAR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Heroin	1,258	3,231	3,838	7,197	5,410	2,986
Opium	4,307	4,488	5,212	5,161	3,805	8,533
Morphine	20	125	11	131	129	210
Cannabis	3,91,275	3,42,045	5,81,644	8,12,545	7,18,376	6,28,612
Hashish	3,911	3,572	6,643	4,197	3,495	3,320
Cocaine	35	66	19	364	218	292
Ephedrine/ Pseudo ephedrine	337	686	841	325	1,001	969
Acetic Anhydride	9,717	214	121	24,265	335	40
ATS	431	1774	1,357	387	1,224	3,406

- ❖ The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Annual Report 2023 was released recently.
- ❖ The consumption of drugs among the youth is increasing and there are roughly around 10 crore Indians who consume drugs.
- ❖ It is used to be around 2 crores, 15 years ago.
- ❖ Huge quantity of drugs had been seized from 2014 to 2024, three times more than from 2003 to 2013.

Shiksha Saptah 2024

- ❖ Shiksha Saptah (Education Week) is an annual initiative aimed at promoting awareness and celebrating the importance of education in India.
- ❖ It is directed by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).
- ❖ This week-long event focuses on promoting collaboration and highlighting the educational reforms introduced by NEP 2020.



9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

- ❖ Prime Minister chaired the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog.
- ❖ 26 States and UTs participated in the meeting while 10 states and UTs were absent.
- ❖ During the conference, recommendations were made on five key themes —
 - **Drinking** water: access, quantity, and quality;
 - **Electricity**: quality, efficiency, and reliability;
 - **Health**: accessibility, affordability, and quality of care;
 - **Schooling**: access and quality and land and
 - **Property**: accessibility, digitization, registration, and mutation.



Right to tax mineral-rich lands

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that, the power of State Legislatures to tax mining lands and quarries is not limited by the Parliament's Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957.
- ❖ It frees states from the restrictions of the Centre and is in tune with the federalist principles of governance.
- ❖ State Legislatures derive their power to tax mines and quarries under Article 246 read with Entry 49 (tax on lands and buildings) in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- ❖ Mineral bearing lands fall within the description of 'lands' in Entry 49.
- ❖ But centre had argued that Entry 50 in the State List had allowed the Parliament to impose "any limitations" on taxes on mineral rights through laws relating to mineral development.
- ❖ The verdict further clarified that royalty paid by those who lease mines to the government is not tax.
- ❖ The case has its genesis in a dispute between India Cement Ltd and the Tamil Nadu government of 1989.

“ Royalty is not a tax. Royalty is a contractual consideration paid by the mining lessee to lessor for enjoyment of mineral rights. The liability to pay royalty arises out of the contractual conditions of the mining lease. Payments made to the govt cannot be deemed to be a tax merely because the statute provides for their recovery as arrears –SC's majority order


The state legislatures have legislative competence under Article 246 read with Entry 49-List II to tax lands and buildings but not lands which comprise of mines and quarries or have mineral deposits as mineral bearing lands do not fall within the description of lands (under Entry 49-List II)

–Justice B V Nagarathna's dissenting order in 8:1 verdict

India's Nuclear Power Capacity 2031-32

- ❖ The present installed nuclear power capacity is set to increase from 8180 MW to 22480 MW by 2031-32.
- ❖ Atomic Energy has been more than a 70 percent surge in India's nuclear power capacity in the last 10 years.
- ❖ It was increasing from 4,780 MW in 2013-14 to 8,180 MW at present.

- ❖ The annual electricity generation from nuclear power plants has also increased from 34,228 million units in 2013-14 to 47,971 million units in 2023-24.



India's installed nuclear power capacity set to triple by 2031-32

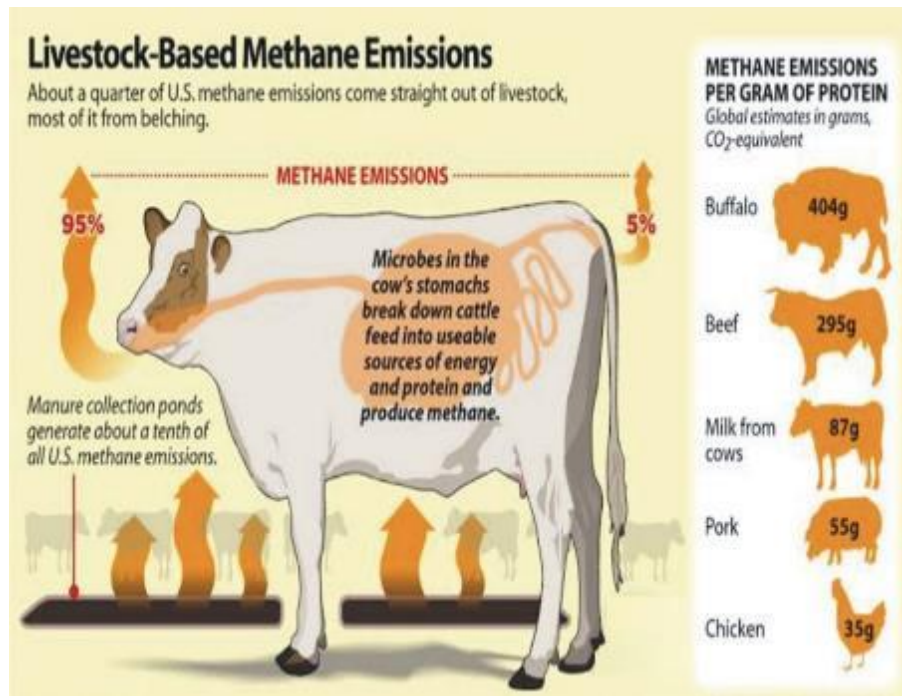
India's installed Nuclear Power Capacity is set to triple by 2031-32. The present installed nuclear power capacity is set to increase from 8180 MW to 22480 MW by 2031-32, stated Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh in a written reply to an unstarred question in Rajya Sabha.

INTERNATIONAL

World's First Carbon Tax on Gassy Cattle

- ❖ Denmark will tax livestock farmers for the greenhouse gases emitted by their cows, sheep, and pigs starting in 2030, becoming the first country to do so.
- ❖ The tax targets a major source of methane emissions, one of the most potent gases contributing to global warming.
- ❖ The Danish government aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% from 1990 levels by 2030.
- ❖ Methane, though less discussed than carbon dioxide, traps about 87 times more heat over a 20-year period.
- ❖ A single cow can generate up to 200kg of methane annually, primarily through burping.
- ❖ A typical Danish cow produces 6 metric tons (6.6 tons) of CO₂ equivalent per year.

- ❖ New Zealand had passed a similar law set to take effect in 2025, but it was repealed after heavy criticism and a change in government.



Space MAITRI Mission – Australia

- ❖ The Indian Space Agency would be launching a satellite built by an Australian firm.
- ❖ This mission named as 'Space MAITRI' (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation).
- ❖ It would be performed by India's smallest and newest rocket SSLV, and the passenger would be Australia's biggest satellite the 450kg 'Optimus'.
- ❖ The commercial pact for this launch, scheduled to take place in 2026.
- ❖ It has been made between ISRO's commercial arm - NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and the Australian firm Space Machines Company.
- ❖ The Optimus satellite is a unique piece of hardware, which is meant to perform in-orbit inspection of other satellites and even perform certain kinds of repair work.

Contract to Destroy the ISS

- ❖ NASA has announced to give SpaceX a \$843 million contract to destroy the International Space Station (ISS) and land it safely back on Earth.

- ❖ The deorbit vehicle designed by SpaceX will be used to push ISS out of its orbit after 2030 when its operational life ends.
- ❖ The football field-sized space station will crash into the ocean after travelling at a speed of over 17,000 mph (27,500 km/h) in Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ ISS was first launched in 1998 and has been operated by space agencies in the US, Canada, Europe, Japan, and Russia.

China's 'Five Principles' of Foreign Policy - 70 years

- ❖ China holds commemorative events to mark the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence- a foreign policy concept.
- ❖ It was first articulated in an agreement with India in 1954.
- ❖ China calls the Five Principles is known in India as Panchsheel.
- ❖ In 1954, while inaugurating bilateral talks between India and China over Tibet, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai proposed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.
- ❖ The Panchsheel Agreement, formally known as The Agreement on Trade and Intercourse with Tibet Region, was signed on April 29, 1954.
- ❖ A year after the Sino-Indian Agreement, the Five Principles would feature prominently at the first African-Asian Conference in Bandung, Indonesia.

INSTC - First shipment



- ❖ Russia's national railway company announced that the country has shipped two coal-laden trains to India via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- ❖ For the first time, two trains with Kuzbass coal headed to India along the International North-South Transport Corridor.
- ❖ The trains set off from the Kemerovo region.
- ❖ They followed along the eastern branch of the INSTC through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.
- ❖ The INSTC is a multimodal route that connects St. Petersburg to the port of Mumbai in India across 7,200 kilometers (4,500 miles).
- ❖ It comprises a railway, road network, and seaports.
- ❖ INSTC, initially known as the NSTC project, the agreement was signed by Russia, Iran, and India in 2002, making them the founding members.

Banknotes with hologram



- ❖ Japan introduced its first new banknotes featuring three-dimensional portraits of pioneers in finance, women's education, and medical science.
- ❖ They employed a unique technology to create holograms of the portraits that face different directions depending on the viewing angle.
- ❖ The 10,000-yen note features Eiichi Shibusawa (1840-1931), who is known as "the father of Japanese capitalism."
- ❖ The 5,000-yen bill portrays Umeko Tsuda (1864-1929), a pioneer in women's education.
- ❖ The 1,000-yen bill showcases Shibusaburo Kitasato (1853-1931).

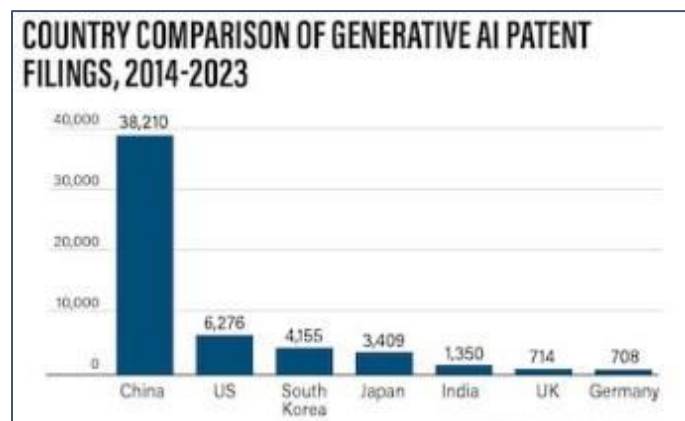
Spain's Renewable Energy generation

	Country / dependency	% ren.	Ren. gen. (GWh)	% hydro	% wind	% solar	% bio.	% geo.
1	Ethiopia	100%	15,817	94.5%	5.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0%
2	Bhutan	100%	10,823	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	Albania	100%	8,963	99.5%	0%	0.5%	0%	0%
4	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	100%	0.8	98.7%	1.3%	0%	0%	0%
5	Nepal	100%	8,107	98.7%	0%	1.2%	0.1%	0%
6	Paraguay	100%	40,848	99.3%	0%	0%	0.7%	0%
7	Iceland	100%	19,617	70.4%	0.03%	0.03%	0%	29.6%
8	Costa Rica	100%	12,656	73.4%	12.4%	0.8%	0.7%	12.7%

- ❖ Spain has generated almost 60 per cent of its electricity from renewable energy sources in the first half of 2024.
- ❖ Renewables accounted for 51 per cent of the total a year earlier.
- ❖ Spain aims to generate four-fifths of its electricity from renewables by 2030 under a government plan.

GenAI patents

- ❖ China dominates the global race in generative artificial intelligence patents, filing more than 38,000 patents from 2014 to 2023.
- ❖ It is six times more than those filed by U.S.-based inventors.
- ❖ The Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence that allows users to generate content such as text, images, music, audio, and videos.
- ❖ Geographically, China leads with 38,210 inventions, far surpassing the U.S. (6,276), Republic of Korea (4,155), Japan (3,409) and India (1,350).



New British PM Keir Starmer

- ❖ Labour Party chief Keir Starmer has replaced Rishi Sunak as the Britain Prime Minister.
- ❖ The Party was securing 412 (+211) seats with the outgoing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party down to 121 (-250) seats in the 650-seat House of Commons.
- ❖ The result ends the 14 years of Conservative-led government.
- ❖ British Tamil Uma Kumaran, of the Labour Party, has been elected the Member of Parliament.

24th SCO Summit

- ❖ The 2024 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ It has adopted the Astana Declaration and approved 25 strategic agreements on energy, security, trade, finance, and information security.
- ❖ Belarus has become the 10th member state of the SCO.
- ❖ The Shanghai Five originated in 1996 with 5 members.
- ❖ SCO was established on 15th June 2001, in Shanghai, adding Uzbekistan as a sixth member.
- ❖ Afghanistan and Mongolia hold Observer Status.

RIMPAC naval exercise



- ❖ The Indian Navy has joined the world's largest naval military wargame Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) in Hawaii.
- ❖ Twenty-nine nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, over 150 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel are participating the exercise.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has deployed frontline warship INS Shivalik for the RIMPAC.
- ❖ The theme of RIMPAC 2024 is "Partners: Integrated and Prepared".

Framework to fight online misinformation



- ❖ The United Nations unveiled the Global Principles for Information Integrity.
- ❖ This comprehensive framework is aimed at addressing the escalating threats posed by misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech in the digital realm.
- ❖ The principles aim to create healthier and safer information environments that uphold human rights and promote peaceful societies and a sustainable future.

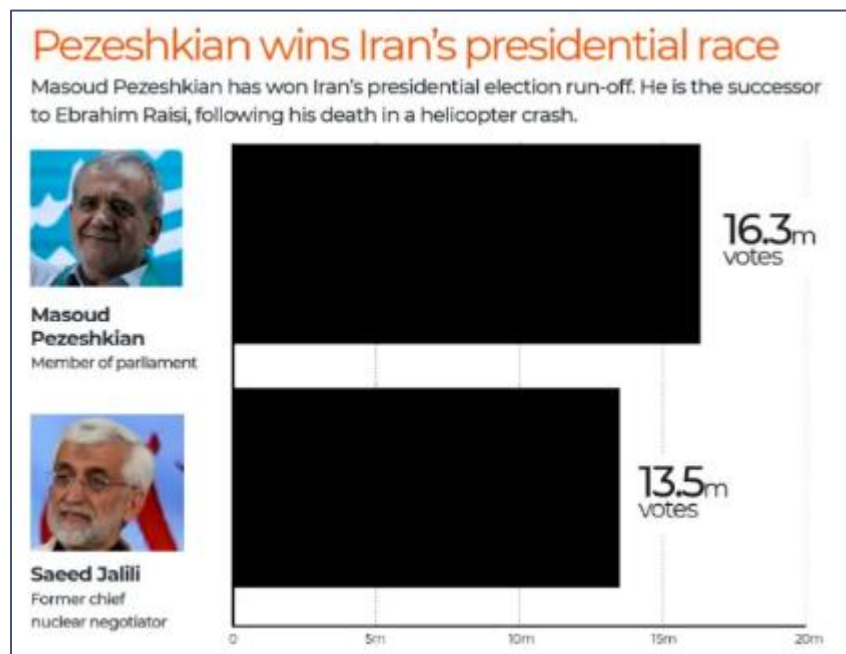
NATO Summit 2024

- ❖ Washington of USA hosts the NATO Summit 2024.
- ❖ This is first for new members Sweden and Finland and a last for outgoing Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.
- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a political and military alliance of 32 mostly European nations, along with the United States and Canada.
- ❖ 2024 is marking the 75th Anniversary of this Alliance.

Rhisotope Project

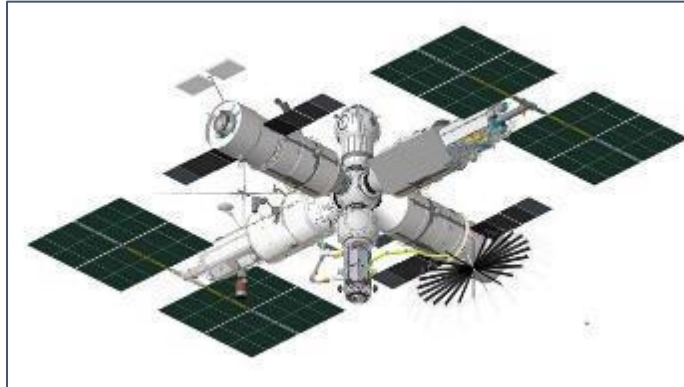
- ❖ South African scientists injected radioactive material into live rhinoceros' horns to make them easier to detect at border posts.
- ❖ They have drilled a small hole into the horn, hammered in the radioisotope, and finished off by spraying 11,000 microdots over the horn.
- ❖ This pioneering project is aimed at curbing poaching.
- ❖ This country is home to a large majority of the world's rhinoceroses.
- ❖ The radioactive material would “render the horn useless... essentially poisonous” for human consumption.

Iran's next president



- ❖ Masoud Pezeshkian, a 69-year-old former heart surgeon, won Iran's presidential election.
- ❖ He will emphasise on civil liberties, greater gender equality, and socio-economic development, as well as increased engagement with the international community.
- ❖ Iran has been seeing high rates of inflation and unemployment, due to sanctions and worsened by years of mismanagement.
- ❖ Iran has been under US economic and military sanctions since 1979.
- ❖ In 2015, Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), popularly known as the “Iran nuclear deal”, with the P5+1 (the US, the UK, Russia, France, China and Germany) and the European Union.

Russian orbital station



- ❖ Russia has approved the schedule for the creation of a Russian orbital station by 2033.
- ❖ The scientific and energy modules will be launched first in 2027.
- ❖ Three other core modules, namely the universal nodal, gateway, and base modules, will be launched by 2030.
- ❖ Two other target modules are scheduled to be launched by 2033.
- ❖ Currently there are two fully operational space stations – the International Space Station (ISS) and China's Tiangong Space Station (TSS).

Exercise Pitch Black



- ❖ India Air Force's Su-30 MKI fighter jets are set to take part in a biennial multinational aerial warfare exercise in Australia.
- ❖ Exercise Pitch Black 24 will be the largest in the exercise's 43-year history.
- ❖ It will bring together 20 participating nations and over 140 aircraft from around the world.
- ❖ On return, IAF will also participate in Ex Udara Shakti 24 with Royal Malaysian Air Force at Kuantan, Malaysia.

Colombo Security Conclave 2024

Colombo Security Conclave

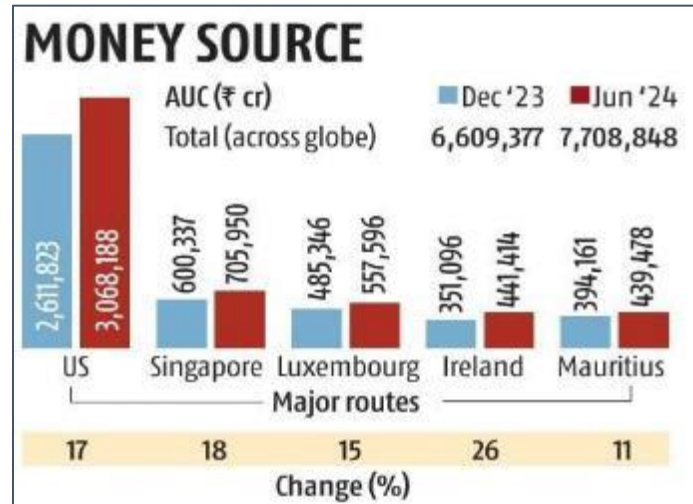
- ▲ The 8th Deputy National Security Advisor level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave was hosted virtually by Mauritius.
 - Bangladesh became the 5th full member country.
 - Seychelles participated as an observer country.
- ▲ The Colombo Security Conference is a regional security grouping.
 - It was formed in the year 2011.
 - Its founding members were India, Sri Lanka and Maldives.
 - Mauritius joined as the fourth member in the year 2022.

- ❖ Bangladesh has officially joined as the fifth member State of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC).
- ❖ CSC is a grouping that includes India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and the Maldives.
- ❖ The Colombo Security Conclave was established in 2020.
- ❖ India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of their trilateral meeting on maritime cooperation.
- ❖ Mauritius joined the conclave at the fifth meeting of the grouping in Male in March 2022.

MeDevIS Database

- ❖ WHO launched MeDevIS, an open-access hub providing information on 2301 types of medical devices.
- ❖ It aims to aid governments, regulators, and users in making informed decisions by offering a unified platform that simplifies the device naming and replaces traditional paper-based searches.
- ❖ Additionally, it covers 2301 types of medical devices used for various health issues.
- ❖ These include reproductive health, maternal and child health, diseases like cancer, heart problems, diabetes, and infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

Preferred FPI Destinations for India



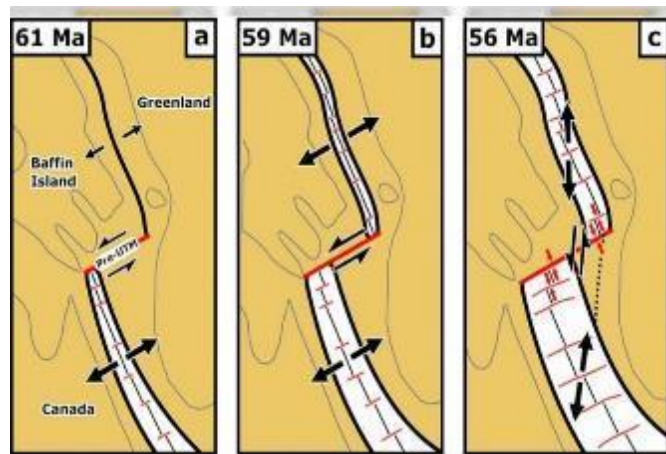
- ❖ Mauritius has now slipped to the fifth position, behind Ireland, in terms of assets under custody.
- ❖ Mauritius is one among the leading destinations for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) routing funds into India.
- ❖ Ireland has registered a 26 per cent surge in AUC for FPIs in the first half of the calendar year.
- ❖ Overall, more than 780 FPIs are registered in Ireland compared to 595 in Mauritius.
- ❖ In March, the governments of Mauritius and India signed a deal to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

High efficacy malaria vaccine - Africa



- ❖ The R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, co-developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and the University of Oxford, has been launched in Côte d'Ivoire.
- ❖ Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa became the first country to begin administering this vaccine.
- ❖ The number of malaria-related deaths has fallen from 3,222 in 2017 to 1,316 in 2020 in Cote d'Ivoire.

New Microcontinent Discovery



- ❖ Scientists discovered a New Microcontinent Between Greenland and Canada.
- ❖ The team believes this continent was formed about 58 million years ago.
- ❖ It is named as Davis Strait proto-microcontinent
- ❖ The formation of this microcontinent is attributed to the rifting and seafloor spreading that occurred between Greenland and North America.
- ❖ Davis Strait connects two water bodies - the Labrador Sea and Baffin Bay.

MV Sea Change

- ❖ The world's first commercial passenger ferry powered by 100% hydrogen fuel, the MV Sea Change, was launched in San Francisco, USA.
- ❖ Hydrogen-powered Sea Change produces only heat and water vapor as the byproducts.
- ❖ The Sea Change can travel about 300 nautical miles and operate for 16 hours before needing to refuel.
- ❖ The hydrogen fuel cells produce electricity by combining oxygen and hydrogen in an electrochemical reaction.



NATO's Eastern Flank Mobility

- ❖ Romania, Bulgaria and Greece have signed a deal to enable swift cross-border movement of troops and weapons to NATO's eastern flank.
- ❖ The three states could also connect their ports in the Aegean and Black seas.
- ❖ Romania and Bulgaria are already a part of a joint effort with Turkey to defuse stray mines in the Black Sea.

UN Water Convention 2024



- ❖ Ivory Coast has joined the United Nations Water Convention, becoming the 10th African nation to do so.
- ❖ It is now the 53rd Party (country) to the 1992 UN Water Convention.
- ❖ This convention is also known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

- ❖ The Convention was initially established as a regional framework for the pan-European region.
- ❖ In 2016, it is opened to all UN Member States but India is not a Party to Convention.
- ❖ This Convention is a unique legally binding instrument promoting sustainable management of shared water resources, the implementation of the SDG, the prevention of conflicts, and the promotion of peace and regional integration.

Project 2025

- ❖ Project 2025 is termed as a 'Presidential Transition project' which talks of how to reshape USA.
- ❖ This is the governing policy with a conservative agenda, personnel, training and a roadmap for the first 180 days of the presidency.
- ❖ It has the detailed plans for various government departments like Defence, Education, Commerce, Trade, Justice, Homeland Security, Health, Energy, Environment and the bureaucracy.

World's First Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train

- ❖ China has unveiled the first carbon fiber-only passenger train in history.
- ❖ This is the first passenger train in history to be constructed completely of carbon fiber, greatly decreasing weight and pollution.
- ❖ The carbon fiber train will reach speeds of up to 87 mph and use 7% less energy than regular steel trains.
- ❖ It produces less air pollution per passenger than vehicles or airplanes.



China Unveils World's First Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train

Apollo 11 Anniversary 2024



- ❖ USA celebrated 55th anniversary of Apollo 11 moon landing at Space Center at Houston.
- ❖ Humanity had reached the Moon on July 20, 1969.
- ❖ Astronaut Neil Armstrong made history as he stepped down the ladder and onto the lunar surface, followed by astronaut Buzz Aldrin.
- ❖ The two spent the next few hours collecting samples and planted an American flag on the Moon's surface.

UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2024

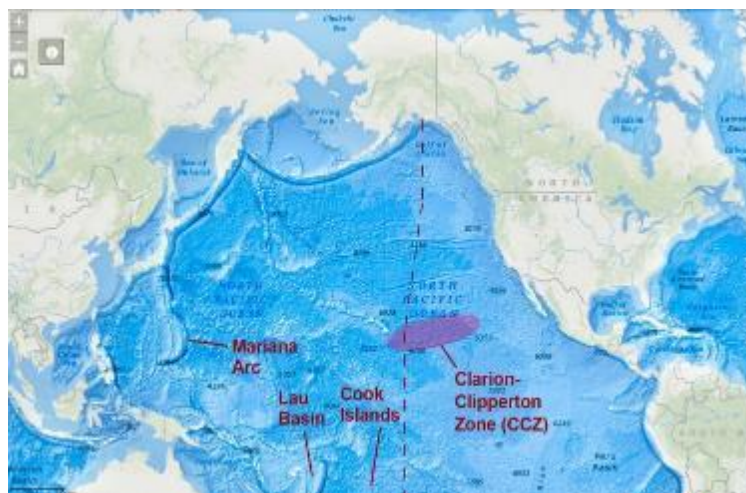
- ❖ HIV remains a major global public health issue, having claimed an estimated 42.3 million lives to date.
- ❖ There were an estimated 39.9 million people living with HIV at the end of 2023, 65% of whom are in the WHO African Region.
- ❖ In 2023, an estimated 630 000 people died from HIV-related causes and an estimated 1.3 million people acquired HIV.
- ❖ By 2025, 95% of all people living with HIV should have a diagnosis, 95% of whom should be taking lifesaving antiretroviral treatment, and 95% of people living with HIV on treatment should achieve a suppressed viral load.
- ❖ In 2023, these percentages were 86%, 89%, and 93% respectively.
- ❖ In 2023, of all people living with HIV, 86% knew their status, 77% were receiving antiretroviral therapy and 72% had suppressed viral loads.
- ❖ The 1.3 million people who acquired HIV in 2023 was 39% lower than in 2010.
- ❖ However, 1.3 million new cases of HIV are three times higher than the 2025 target of 370,000 or fewer new infections.

- ❖ The HIV response globally is short of \$9.5 billion, and this gap keeps increasing.



Clarion-Clipperton Zone

- ❖ India will apply for licences to explore for deep-sea minerals in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ India plans to focus on the Clarion-Clipperton Zone.
- ❖ It is a vast plain between Hawaii and Mexico.
- ❖ It is known to hold large volumes of polymetallic nodules containing minerals like manganese, nickel, copper, and cobalt.
- ❖ International Seabed Authority (ISA) has issued 31 deep-sea exploration licences, including two for India in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ But, it is yet to allow mining because the 36-member body is still working on the regulations.
- ❖ China, Russia, and some Pacific Island nations have already secured exploration licences for the Pacific Ocean.



Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024



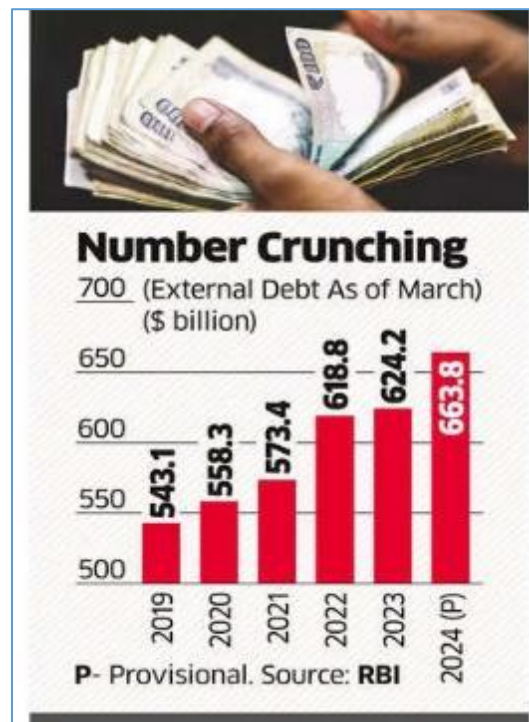
- ❖ The Indian Army contingent participated in the Multinational Military Exercise 'Khaan Quest' 2024 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ The exercise first started as a bilateral event between the USA and the Mongolian Armed Forces in 2003.
- ❖ From 2006 onwards, it evolved into a multinational peacekeeping exercise, with this year marking the 21st iteration.

ECONOMY

Short-Term Debt's Share of India

- ❖ The share of short-term debt with an original maturity of up to one year in total external debt declined to 18.5 per cent at end-March 2024 from 20.6 per cent at end-March 2023.
- ❖ The ratio of short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves declined to 19.0 per cent at end-March 2024 from 22.2 per cent at end-March 2023.
- ❖ India's external debt stood at \$663.8 billion at the end of March 2024.
- ❖ This is an increase of \$39.7 billion over its level at end-March 2023.
- ❖ Excluding the valuation effect, the external debt would have increased by \$48.4 billion instead of \$39.7 billion at end-March 2024 over end-March 2023.
- ❖ The external debt to gross domestic product ratio declined to 18.7 per cent at end-March 2024 from 19.0 per cent at end-March 2023.

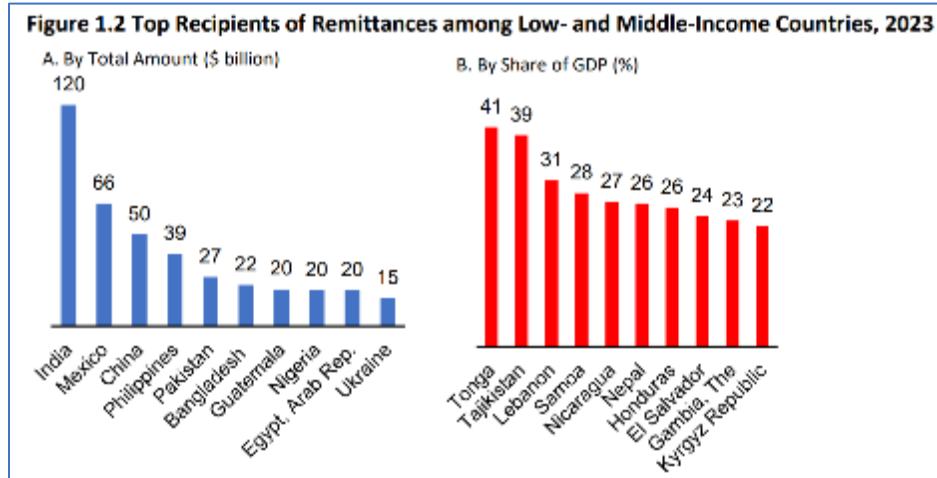
- ❖ The long-term debt (with an original maturity of above one year) was \$541.2 billion at the end of March 2024.
- ❖ This is an increase of \$45.6 billion over its level at end-March 2023.
- ❖ Components of the largest component of external debt:
 - Share of Loans 33.4 per cent
 - Currency and deposits (23.3 per cent)
 - Trade credit and advances (17.9 per cent), and
 - Debt securities (17.3 per cent).



India's remittance in 2023

- ❖ India sent out 18.7 million emigrants in 2023.
- ❖ India's inflow of remittances is forecasted to grow at 3.7% in 2024, while it grew at 7.5% in 2023.
- ❖ The growth estimate for 2025 is 4%.
- ❖ India received \$120 billion in remittances in 2023.
- ❖ The expectation for 2024 is \$124 billion, and it is \$129 billion in 2025.
- ❖ India was the country which received the highest amount in remittances in 2023.
- ❖ It is followed by Mexico at \$66 billion, China at \$50 billion, the Philippines at \$39 billion, and Pakistan at \$27 billion.

- ❖ The UAE is accounted for 18% of India’s remittance flows.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar are collectively accounted for 11% of India’s total remittances.



SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024-2027

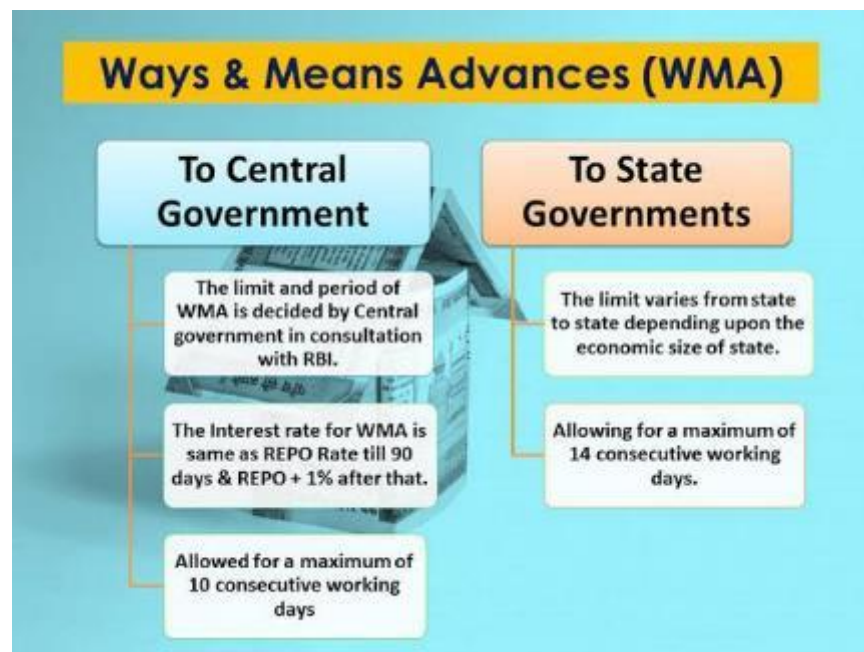


- ❖ The RBI and Indian Government has decided to put in place a revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries for the period 2024 to 2027.
- ❖ Under this Framework, the RBI would enter into bilateral swap agreements with SAARC central banks, who want to avail of the swap facility.
- ❖ It may be recalled the SAARC Currency Swap Facility came into operation on November 15, 2012.
- ❖ Under the Framework for 2024-27, a separate INR Swap Window has been introduced with various concessions for swap support in Indian Rupee.

- ❖ The total corpus of the Rupee support is Rs 250 billion.
- ❖ The RBI will continue to offer swap arrangement in US\$ and Euro under a separate US Dollar/ Euro Swap Window with an overall corpus of US\$ 2 billion.
- ❖ The Currency Swap Facility will be available to all SAARC member countries, subject to their signing the bilateral swap agreements.

Financial accommodation for States/UTs

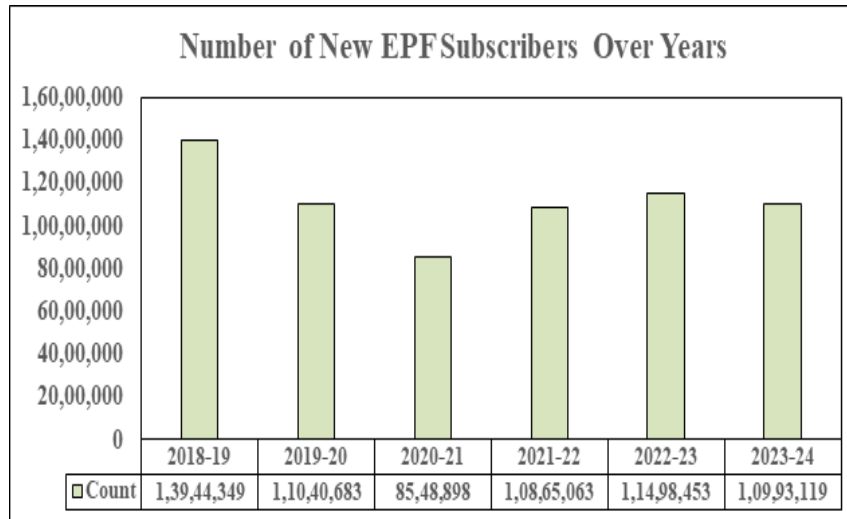
- ❖ The aggregate ways and means advances (WMA) limit for State governments/ Union Territories (UTs) has been upped to ₹60,118 crore.
- ❖ The existing limit was ₹47,010 crore.
- ❖ The revised WMA limit is effective from July 1.
- ❖ The WMA aims to help states to tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.



Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective

- ❖ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) saw a decline of over 4 percent in gross new subscriber additions.
- ❖ It saws the total falling to 1.09 crore in 2023-24 compared to the previous year.
- ❖ EPFO recorded a gross addition of 1,09,93,119 new members in 2023-24, down from 1,14,98,453 in 2022-23.

- ❖ Over the past five fiscal years up to 2023-24, the gross addition of new EPFO members has not returned to pre-pandemic levels seen in 2018-19.
- ❖ That year, the gross addition of new members was 1,39,44,349.
- ❖ But, the National Pension Scheme (NPS) saw an increase in new subscriber additions, rising to 9,37,020 in 2023-24 from 8,24,735 in the previous fiscal year.



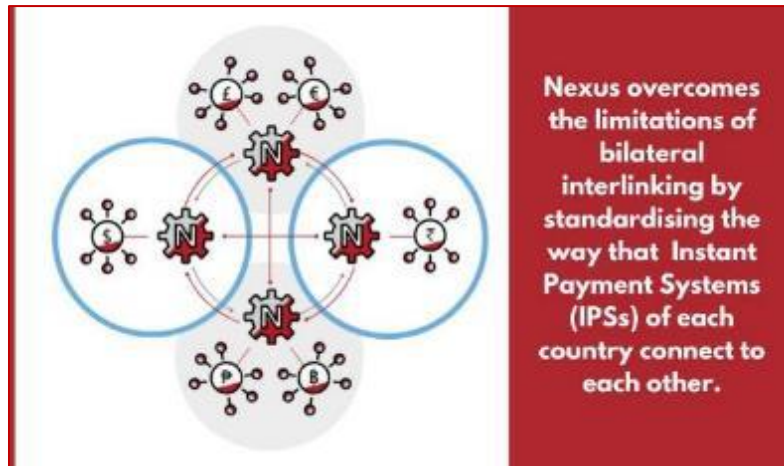
RBI's 29th Financial Stability Report

- ❖ Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) had stood at 16.8% and 13.9%, respectively, at end-March 2024.
- ❖ SCBs' gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio fell to a multi-year low of 2.8 per cent.
- ❖ Their net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio fell to 0.6 per cent at end-March 2024.
- ❖ Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) remain healthy, with CRAR at 26.6 per cent, GNPA ratio at 4.0% and return on assets (RoA) at 3.3%, respectively.
- ❖ CRAR is a measure of a bank's financial strength.
- ❖ A CRAR of 16.8% means that for every 100 units of risk, the bank has 16.8 units of capital to cover potential losses.
- ❖ GNPA Ratio measures the percentage of a bank's loans that are not being repaid.



Project Nexus by RBI

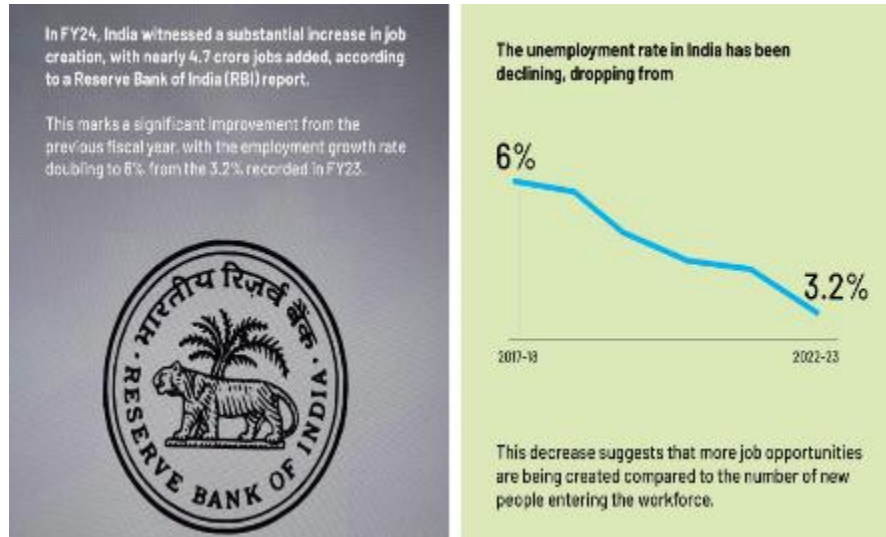
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined Project Nexus.
- ❖ It is a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).
- ❖ India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and FPSs of Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand will be interlinked through Nexus.



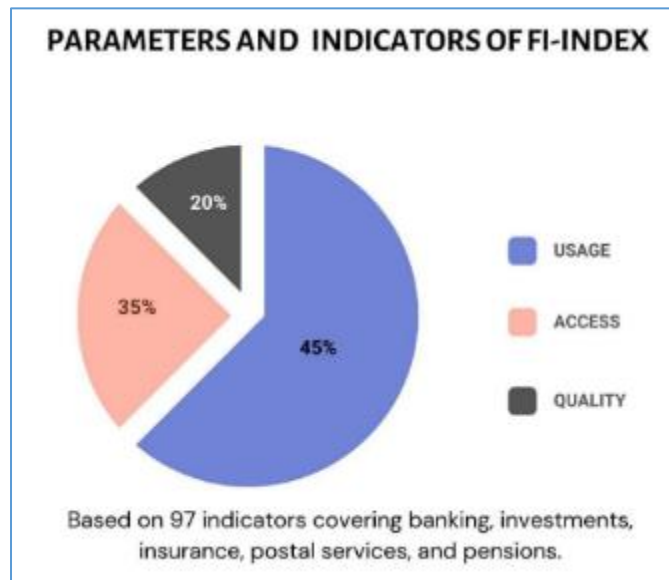
Job Creation in Fiscal 2023-24

- ❖ India provisionally created 46.7 million jobs in the financial year ended March 2024, taking the country's total employment to 643.3 million.
- ❖ The country's employment growth rate stood at 6 per cent in that fiscal year.
- ❖ This was 3.2 per cent in the previous fiscal year.
- ❖ But, just 20.9 per cent of India's overall workforce earned regular wages in the form of salary, as of 2022-23.

- ❖ 7 per cent GDP growth will only create 8 million to 9 million jobs in India, short of the 11 million to 12 million needed.
- ❖ An average of over 20 million employment opportunities per year were created between 2017-18 to 2021-22.



Financial inclusion Index 2024



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India's this report captures the extent of financial inclusion across the country.
- ❖ The inclusion stood at 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023.
- ❖ The FI-Index has been constructed without any 'base year' and as such it reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.



- ❖ The annual FI-Index for the period ending March 2021 was 53.9 as against 43.4 for the period ending March 2017.
- ❖ The FI-Index is published annually in July every year.

Liberalized Remittance Scheme - RBI

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ('RBI') WIDENS SCOPE OF REMITTANCES TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES (IFSCs) UNDER THE LIBERALISED REMITTANCE SCHEME (LRS)

RBI vide. a circular dated July 10, 2024 has allowed remittances to IFSCs under the LRS for all permissible transactions including:

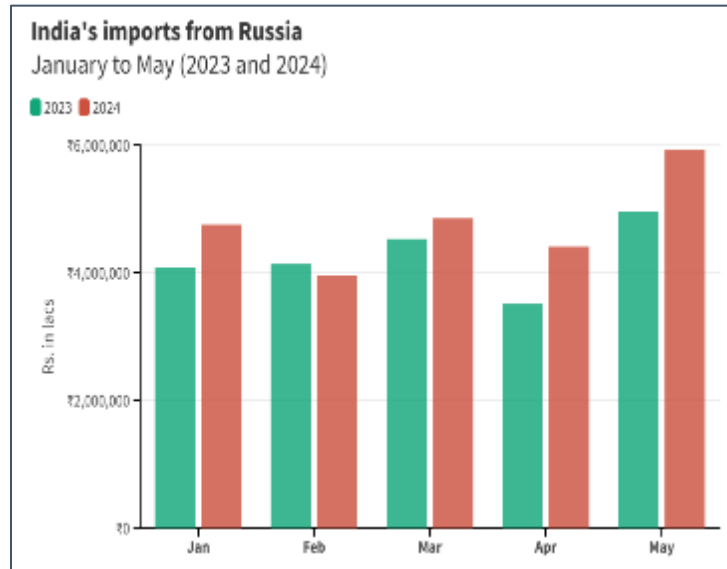
- Financial services or financial products as per the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 within IFSCs; and
- All current or capital account transactions, in any other foreign jurisdiction (other than IFSCs) through an FCA held in IFSCs

Earlier, the remittance under LRS to IFSC was allowed for limited transactions such as investments in IFSCs in securities and Payment of fees for education to foreign universities or foreign institutions in IFSCs.

Accordingly, the resident individuals can now open a Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in IFSCs for all permissible transactions.

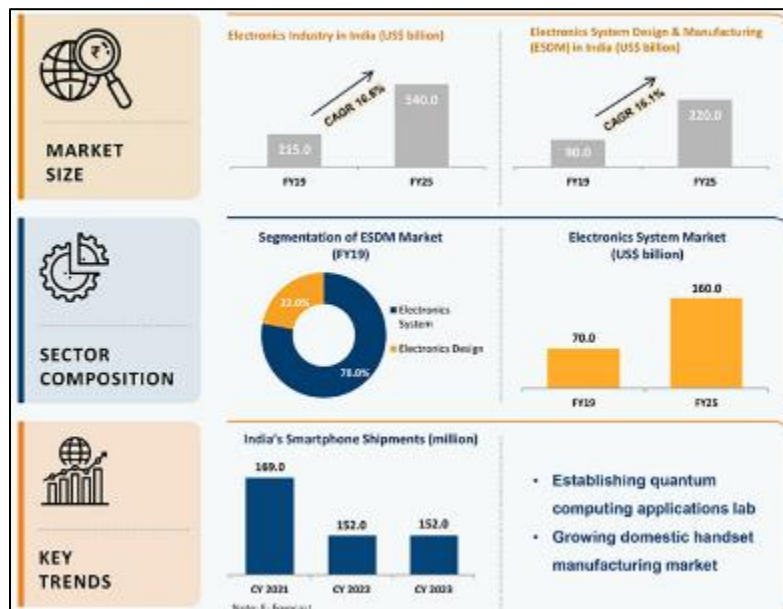
- ❖ To curb large foreign exchange outflows, the Union Budget may bring overseas credit card spending above Rs 7 lakh under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- ❖ The credit card spend thus is likely to be brought under 20 percent tax collected at source (TCS).
- ❖ Under the RBI's LRS scheme, an Indian resident can transfer funds of up to USD 250,000 in a financial year outside India.
- ❖ The objective is to discourage excessive remittances under the LRS.
- ❖ Currently, the expenditures using debit cards, forex cards, or other payment methods incur a 20 percent TCS once they surpass the Rs 7 lakh per person per financial year threshold.
- ❖ In contrast the credit card transactions have been exempted from TCS under LRS rules.
- ❖ Outward remittances under LRS reached \$31.73 billion in 2023-24.
- ❖ It is a 16.91 percent rise from \$27.14 billion in the previous year.

Trade in Indian Rupee with Russia



- ❖ India and Russia have doubled their payments in national currencies (rupee-rouble) since last year.
- ❖ Since the beginning of the year, the volume of corporate deposits in rupees has increased sixfold.
- ❖ The bilateral trade in 2023-24 was already around \$65 billion, with \$60 billion just Russian exports to India, mainly in energy.

India's Electronic Manufacturing target 2030



- ❖ The government has set a target of reaching \$500 billion worth of electronics production in the country by 2030.
- ❖ 500 billion electronics manufacturing sectors would create 5-6 million jobs.
- ❖ It leads to electronics exports totalling \$240 billion.
- ❖ The current value of India's electronics production stands at an impressive \$101 billion as of FY23.
- ❖ This comprises \$86 billion in finished goods production and \$15 billion in components manufacturing.
- ❖ During the same period, exports totalled \$25 billion.
- ❖ The sector currently generates 1.3 million jobs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

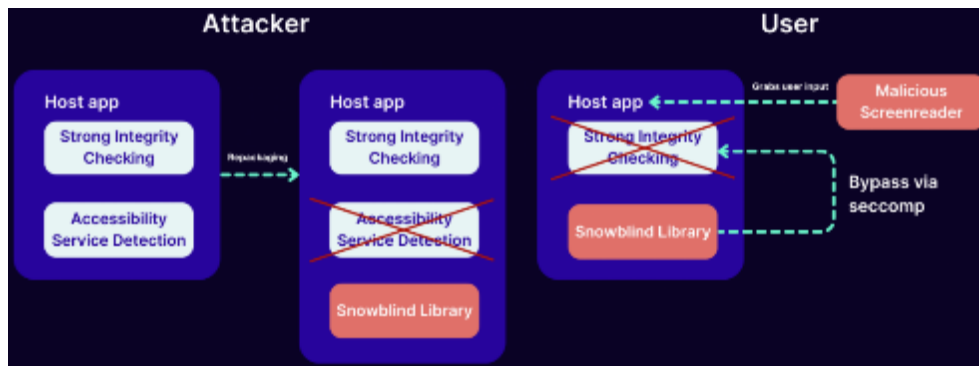
NOAA Weather Satellite

- ❖ SpaceX successfully launched the fourth and final satellite for NASA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) program.
- ❖ The series of advanced satellites called GOES-R (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite).
- ❖ They are expected to aid with "continuous coverage of weather and hazardous environmental conditions across much of the Western Hemisphere".

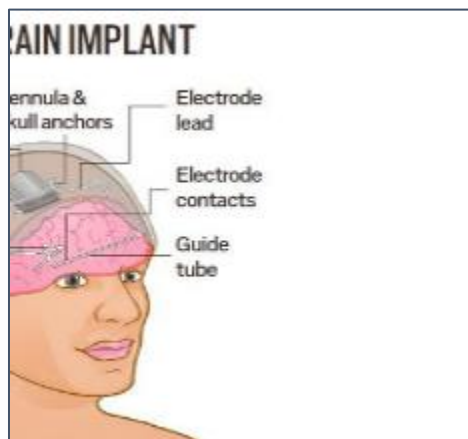


Snowblind Malware

- ❖ A new malware called 'Snowblind' is targeting Android users and stealing banking credentials.
- ❖ This malware can take banking login details and perform unauthorised transactions.
- ❖ This Snowblind is mostly active in Southeast Asia.

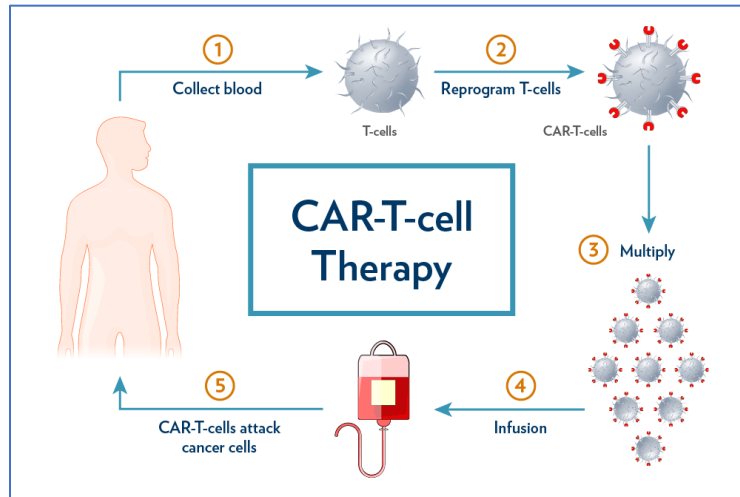


World's First Brain Implant for Epilepsy Control



- ❖ A UK-based teenager has become the first person in the world to be fitted with a brain implant to help bring his epileptic seizures under control.
- ❖ The deep brain stimulation (DBS) device sends electrical signals deep into the brain and has reduced her daytime seizures by 80%.
- ❖ The neurostimulator delivers constant electrical impulses to the brain to disrupt or block abnormal seizure-causing signals.
- ❖ Epilepsy is a condition that leads to recurring seizures.
- ❖ In India, between 3 and 11.9 per 1,000 people suffer from epilepsy.

CAR-T cancer therapy



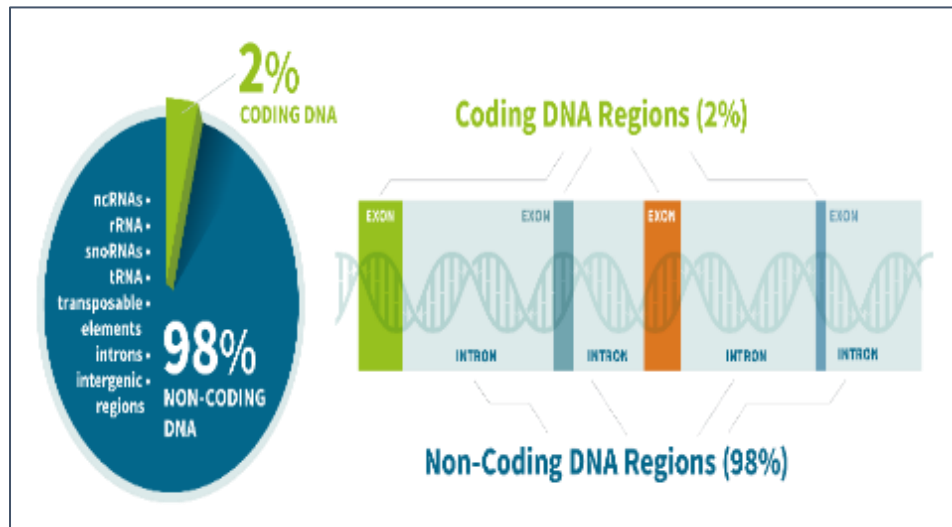
- ❖ Car-T therapy is a short for “chimeric antigen receptor T-cell”.
- ❖ It is a cutting-edge treatment that reprogrammes a patient’s immune cells to fight their cancer.
- ❖ This innovative approach involves taking T-cells, a type of white blood cell that plays a crucial role in the immune system.
- ❖ T-cells taken from a patient and modifying them in a laboratory to better recognise and attack cancer cells.
- ❖ These enhanced T-cells are then multiplied and infused back into the patient, where they seek out and destroy cancer cells.
- ❖ Lots of data shows that in difficult-to-treat lymphomas, a type of cancer, patients can do so well.
- ❖ Now, it is found that this will be causing new cancers in some patients who had undergone the treatment.
- ❖ Rarely, patients developed new immune-cell cancers, such as lymphomas or leukaemias, which are types of blood cell cancer

Olympus Mons

- ❖ NASA's Odyssey spacecraft, the longest-running mission at Mars, circled the Red Planet for the 100,000th time.
- ❖ The space agency released an intricate panorama of Olympus Mons, the tallest volcano in the solar system.
- ❖ The volcano's base sprawls 373 miles (600 kilometers) near the Martian equator.
- ❖ It soars 17 miles (27 kilometers) into the planet's thin air.



Junk DNA



- ❖ Using artificial intelligence, the researchers have found potential cancer drivers hidden in so-called 'junk' regions of DNA.
- ❖ The discovery could lead to early diagnosis and new treatments effective for many cancer types.
- ❖ Non-coding DNA, also called “junk DNA” is the 98% of our genome that doesn't contain instructions for making proteins.

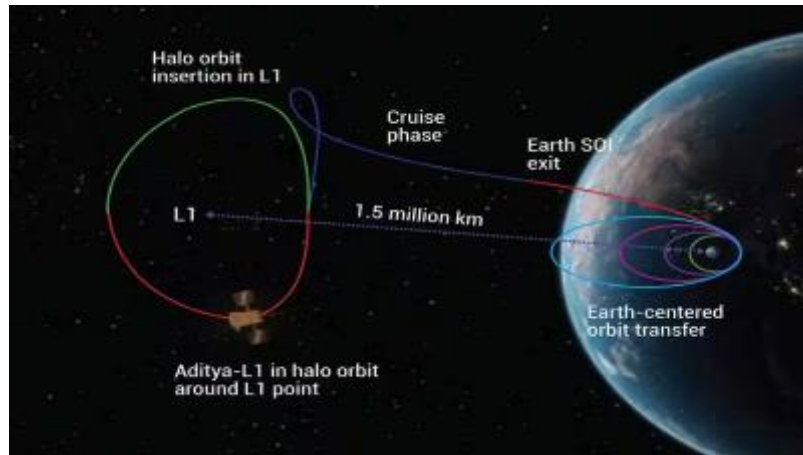
First commercial spacewalk



- ❖ Elon Musk's SpaceX will launch the "Polaris Dawn" mission.
- ❖ It will take four persons 870 miles from Earth.
- ❖ In addition to testing in-orbit communications, the crew will carry out high-altitude exercises, the first-ever commercial spacewalk, and health-related research.
- ❖ This distance is greater than any crewed space trip since the 1966 Gemini 11 mission and the 1972 Apollo 17 mission.

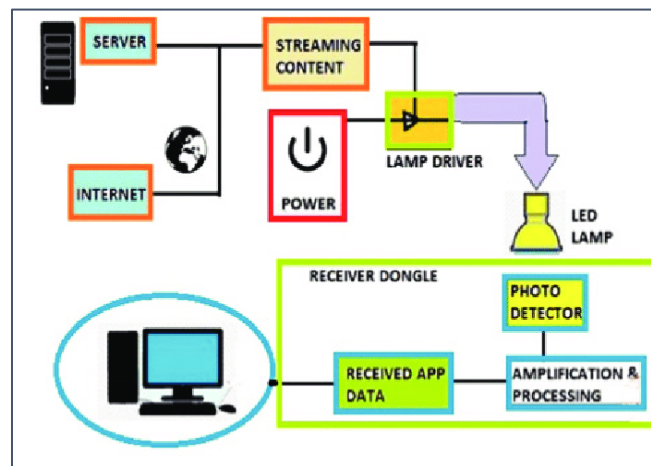
ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission 2024

- ❖ Aditya-L1 mission has completed its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point on July 2.
- ❖ The Aditya-L1 spacecraft completed circling the L1 point in the halo orbit in 178 days.
- ❖ The Aditya-L1 mission, which is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point L1, was launched on September 2, 2023.
- ❖ It was inserted in its targeted halo orbit on January 6, 2024.



Velmenni's Li-Fi technology

- ❖ Telecom startup Velmenni has received a grant from the ministry of defence (MoD) for its innovative Li-Fi (Light Fidelity) technology.
- ❖ According to Velmenni, its Li-Fi can enhance data transmission for the Indian Navy and other defence applications.
- ❖ It offers enhanced security and performance, making it ideally suited for the Indian Navy's real-time communication needs.
- ❖ Li-Fi uses special LED (light-emitting diodes) bulbs as routers and works on optical wireless communications (OWC) technology.
- ❖ Li-Fi devices deliver data through visible, infra-red, or ultraviolet light.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Wi-Fi routers use radio frequencies to transmit data.
- ❖ Li-Fi also boasts of delivering speeds of up to 224GB per second.



Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket

- ❖ DRDO handed over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It obscures radar signals and creates a microwave shield around platforms and assets, thus reducing radar detection.
- ❖ The rocket, when fired, forms a microwave obscurant cloud in space spreading over a sufficient area, with adequate persistence time.
- ❖ It was creating an effective shield against hostile threats having radio frequency seekers.

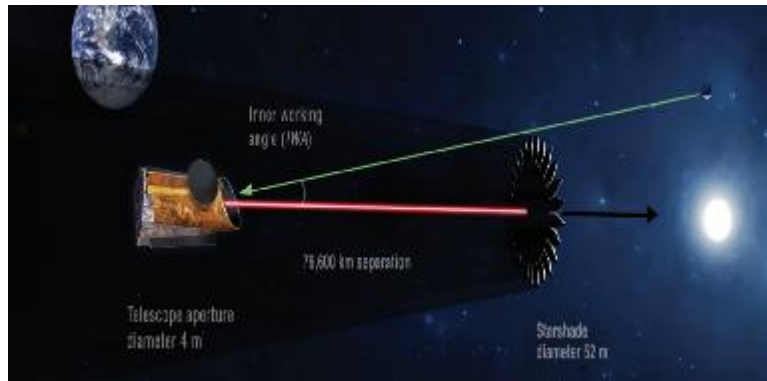
Syntrichia caninervis

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a plant that could possibly be able to survive and grow in the harsh climate of Mars.
- ❖ The desert moss, which is found in Antarctica and the Mojave Desert, might become pivotal to establishing life on the red planet.
- ❖ Scientifically named *Syntrichia caninervis*, the plant can handle extreme cold, extreme radiation levels and drought.



Habitable Worlds Observatory

- ❖ NASA is getting ready to launch the cutting-edge Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO).
- ❖ It aims to detect signs of extraterrestrial life on Earth-like planets by 2050, with a focus on identifying various biosignatures.
- ❖ HWO will detect signals from planets in the habitable zones of sun-like stars within our lifetime.



Anti-Insecticide Fabric

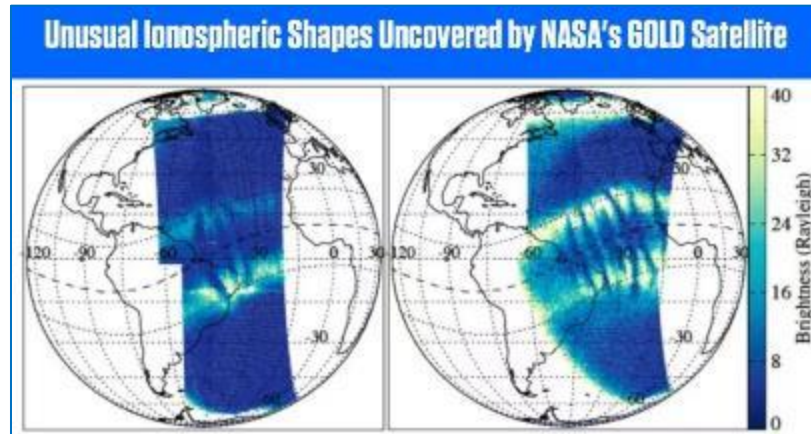
- ❖ Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), in Bengaluru have developed an anti-insecticide fabric.
- ❖ It effectively neutralises organophosphate-based pesticides.
- ❖ The fabric retains the anti-insecticide property even after washing 150 times.
- ❖ Farmers get repeatedly exposed to the insecticide due to frequent usage, and this can cause chronic toxicity and severe adverse health effects.
- ❖ The fabric containing the small molecules can prevent chronic toxicity in farmers.



Unusual Ionospheric Shapes

- ❖ NASA's GOLD mission discovered surprising X- and C-shaped formations.
- ❖ These shapes are usually observed during geomagnetic disturbances, appeared even in the absence of such events, confounding experts.
- ❖ The ionosphere of Earth is a layer of electrically charged gas that is essential for long-distance radio transmission.

- ❖ GOLD is a satellite that was launched in October 2018 and is orbiting over the Western Hemisphere to measure temperatures and ionospheric densities.



IISc - 3D Hydrogel

- ❖ The Scientists at Indian Institute of Science created a novel 3D hydrogel culture system that closely mimics the human lung.
- ❖ This provides a platform to track and study how tuberculosis bacteria infect lung cells and test the efficacy of therapeutics used to treat the infection.
- ❖ The new hydrogel culture is composed of collagen, a key component of lung tissue.
- ❖ This 3D environment allows researchers to observe how TB bacteria interact with human immune cells over extended periods – up to three weeks.
- ❖ Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) is a dangerous pathogen.
- ❖ In 2022, it affected 10.6 million people and caused 1.3 million deaths.



Europe's Ariane 6 Rocket

- ❖ Europe's big new rocket, Ariane-6, has been launched on its maiden mission from Kourou, French Guyana.
- ❖ The Ariane 6 was designed to replace its predecessor Ariane 5.
- ❖ It is capable to launching missions to low-Earth orbit and deep space.

NASA's CHAPEA project

- ❖ NASA's Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog (CHAPEA) project is the first of three planned simulations to understand the challenges Mars poses for space explorers.
- ❖ A 3D printed airlocked Mars simulation habitat is dubbed as "Mars Dune Alpha".
- ❖ The first CHAPEA mission focused on nutrition, and the next two are planned for 2025 and 2026.
- ❖ NASA hopes to send astronauts to Mars by the 2030s.



Massive Black Hole in Omega Centauri

- ❖ Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered the presence of an intermediate-mass black hole at the heart of the Omega Centauri.
- ❖ Omega Centauri, the largest globular cluster in the Milky Way, is known for its dense collection of stars.
- ❖ Intermediate-mass black holes (IMBHs) are black holes whose masses range between that of stellar-mass black holes (a few to tens of solar masses) and supermassive black holes (millions to billions of solar masses).

- ❖ Specifically, IMBHs are thought to have masses between 100 and 100,000 times that of our Sun.



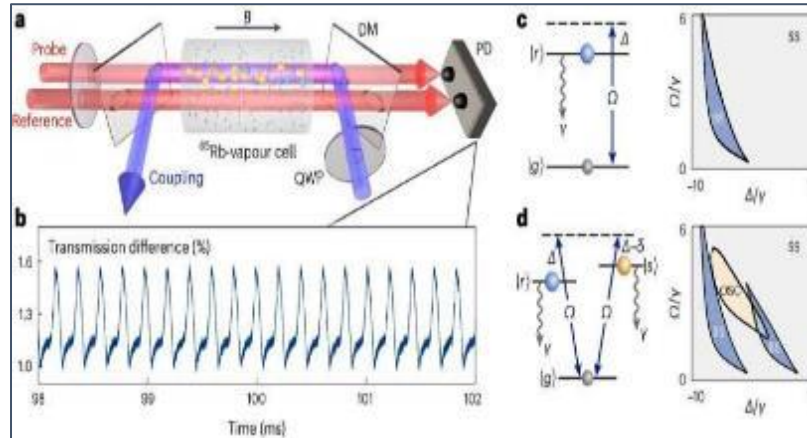
Extreme Solar Particle Event

- ❖ Recently, Mars was hit by a strong solar particle event.
- ❖ The radiation emitted by the solar particles hitting the Mars surface was 30 times higher than a chest X-ray would produce.
- ❖ A strong solar particle is when the sun blasts protons directly from its surface.
- ❖ Earth's magnetic field acts as a protective shield for the planet, deflecting radiations emitted by the sun.
- ❖ The researchers discovered that an extreme solar particle event can continue to deplete the ozone levels for over a year.
- ❖ An extreme solar particle event normally occurs every 1,00 years.
- ❖ As per records, the most recent extreme solar particle event was recorded around 993 AD.



New type of “Time Crystal”

- ❖ Physicists have blown up atoms to hundreds of times their usual size to create a spectacular version of exotic matter.
- ❖ The strange matter phase, known as a time crystal, was created by firing lasers at rubidium atoms until they ballooned into an excited form.
- ❖ Now, researchers created a mysterious crystal, which cycle periodically between two states seemingly without end, moving forever and never losing any energy.



Earth Revolution around the Sun



- ❖ The movement of Earth currently in the Solar System is not currently orbiting the Sun.
- ❖ In the Solar System, the Sun is the largest object and has 1,048 times the mass of Jupiter.
- ❖ However, the gravitational pull which Earth exerts on the celestial body is exerted in the same or smaller amount on the planet.

- ❖ Kepler's third law describes the relationship between the masses of two objects mutually revolving around each other and the determination of orbital parameters.
- ❖ Earth orbits a barycentre and not exactly the Sun.
- ❖ Generally, the barycentre of the bodies in the Solar System is near the Sun.
- ❖ However, because of the mass, and influence of gas giants Jupiter and Saturn and orbits, it is rarely inside the Sun.
- ❖ Currently, the barycentre is outside the Sun and not inside it and hence, Earth is not currently orbiting it.
- ❖ So, the planet is revolving around a point in space and not the Sun.
- ❖ The Earth and Moon orbit a point which is 5,000 kilometres (3,100 miles) from the Earth's centre.
- ❖ However, this keeps changing as the Moon slowly moves away from the Earth.

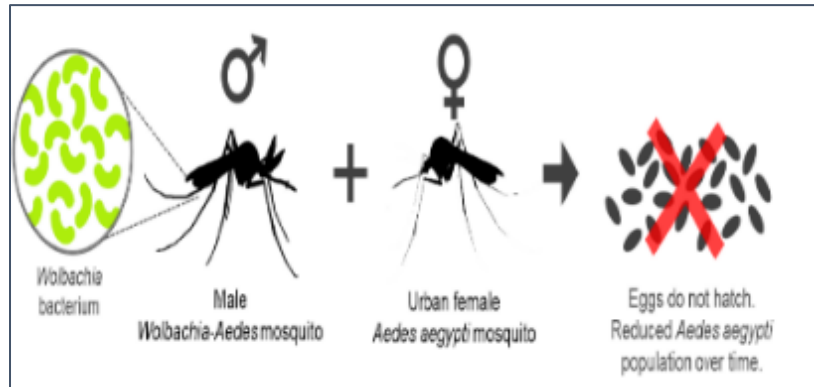
Quasar's 'Einstein Ring'



- ❖ Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has captured image of "bejewelled" halo of light, known as an Einstein ring, generated by a quasar.
- ❖ This quasar, RX J1131-1231, is located approximately 6 billion light-years from Earth in the constellation Crater.
- ❖ The Einstein ring, characterized by its luminous loop adorned with four bright spots, results from a phenomenon called gravitational lensing.
- ❖ Gravitational lensing occurs when the light from a distant object, travels through space-time that has been curved by the gravity of another massive object situated between the distant object and the observer.

- ❖ The concept of gravitational lensing was first predicted by Albert Einstein in his theory of general relativity in 1915.

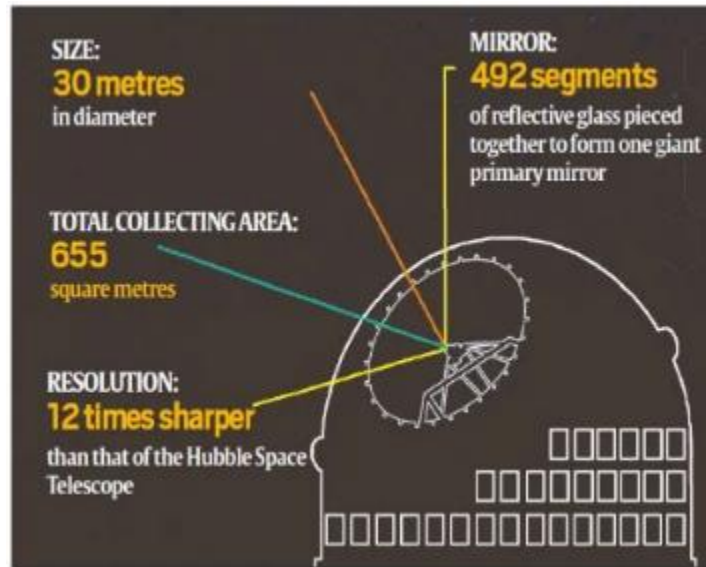
Wolbachia Bacteria



- ❖ A hundred years ago, two American researchers named Marshall Hertig and Simeon Burt Wolbach had discovered that mosquitoes harboured bacteria within their cells.
- ❖ Other researchers later found similar bacteria in the cells of most insects and many other arthropods.
- ❖ The genus to which the bacteria belonged was named Wolbachia.
- ❖ Wolbachia bacteria are also present in insect eggs but they are absent in the sperm.
- ❖ This means females can transmit Wolbachia to their offspring whereas males can't.
- ❖ *Encarsia formosa* wasps are of interest to agricultural scientists because they provide an efficient way to control whiteflies.


Open-source tool for Thirty Meter Telescope

- ❖ A team of Indian scientists developed an open-source tool designed to generate an infrared star catalogue.
- ❖ This tool is specifically created for the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), a highly anticipated telescope.
- ❖ TMT is a planned telescope proposed to be built on Mauna Kea, on the island of Hawaii.



Hydrogen peroxide Nebulization

Important Statement From AAFA

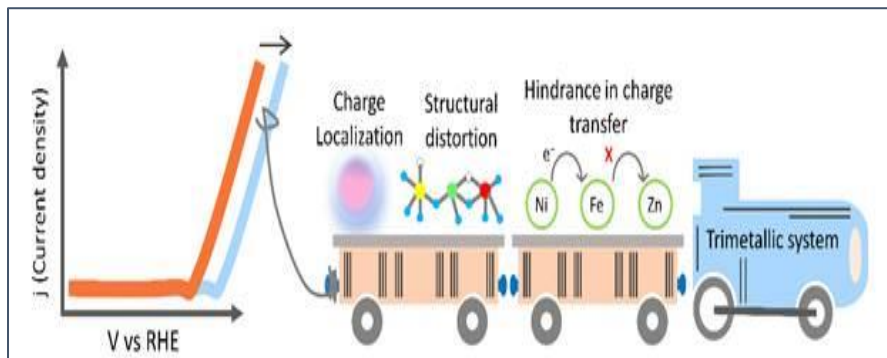


IT IS DANGEROUS
to put hydrogen peroxide into
your nebulizer and breathe it in.

- ❖ Hydrogen peroxide, especially in concentrations higher than those typically found in household solutions (which are typically 3%), can be highly irritating to the respiratory tract.
- ❖ Nebulizing hydrogen peroxide can lead to inflammation of the airways, causing coughing, throat irritation, and potentially more severe respiratory distress.
- ❖ Inhalation of vapors, mists, or aerosols from concentrated solutions of hydrogen peroxide can cause significant morbidity.
- ❖ No odor threshold was located for hydrogen peroxide (the OSHA PEL is 1 ppm).

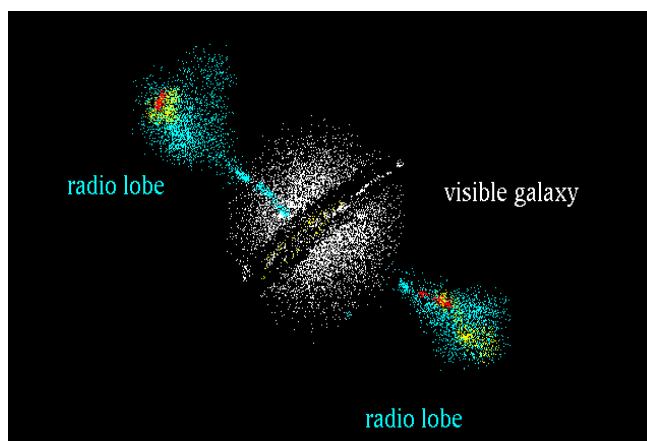
Bimetallic NiFe systems

- ❖ Bimetallic Nickel Iron layered double hydroxide system is sufficient for efficient O₂ production through water splitting.
- ❖ In an era of renewable energy, water splitting emerges as a beacon of hope in the quest for sustainable energy solutions.
- ❖ Water splitting can be reckoned as a sustainable and eco-friendly way to generate green and pure H₂ and O₂ on a larger scale without harming the flora and fauna.

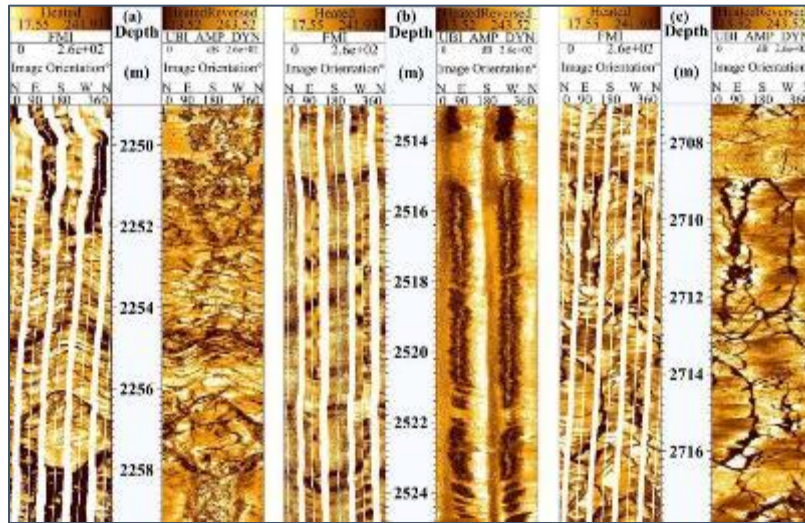


Low-Frequency Array

- ❖ Astronomers have discovered a new radio galaxy using the LOw-Frequency ARray (LOFAR).
- ❖ It has been designated J0011+3217.
- ❖ The huge amount of radio waves is emitted from the centre cores of radio galaxies.
- ❖ In the core of these galaxies, black holes accrete gas and dust, producing radio-visible high-energy jets that propel electrically charged particles to very high velocities.



Scientific deep-drilling program



- ❖ The Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) in Karad, Maharashtra, has mandated to execute India's sole scientific deep-drilling programme.
- ❖ The aim is to drill the earth's crust to a depth of 6 km and conduct scientific observations and analysis.
- ❖ This will help to expand the understanding of reservoir-triggered earthquakes in the active fault zone in the Koyna-Warna region of Maharashtra.
- ❖ This region has been experiencing frequent and recurrent earthquakes since the Shivaji Sagar Lake, or the Koyna Dam, was impounded in 1962.

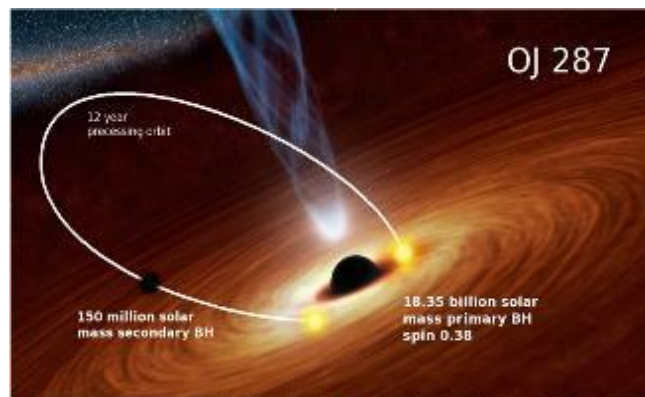
Weight Loss Drug – Tirzepatide

- ❖ An expert committee of India's drug regulator (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation - CDSCO) gave the green light to the drug tirzepatide.
- ❖ Tirzepatide is a medication developed by Eli Lilly and Company, primarily used to treat type 2 diabetes.
- ❖ This compound is sold under the brand names Mounjaro for diabetes and Zepbound for weight loss.
- ❖ However, in India, tirzepatide will be imported and marketed for diabetes and not weight loss.
- ❖ Tirzepatide stimulates the release of insulin from the pancreas in response to meals.
- ❖ This helps lower blood sugar levels after eating.
- ❖ It reduces the release of glucagon, a hormone that increases blood sugar levels.

- ❖ Last year, Zepbound, an injectable prescription medicine that fights obesity in adults, was approved by the US Food and Drugs Administration.



OJ 287 and Black Hole Pairs

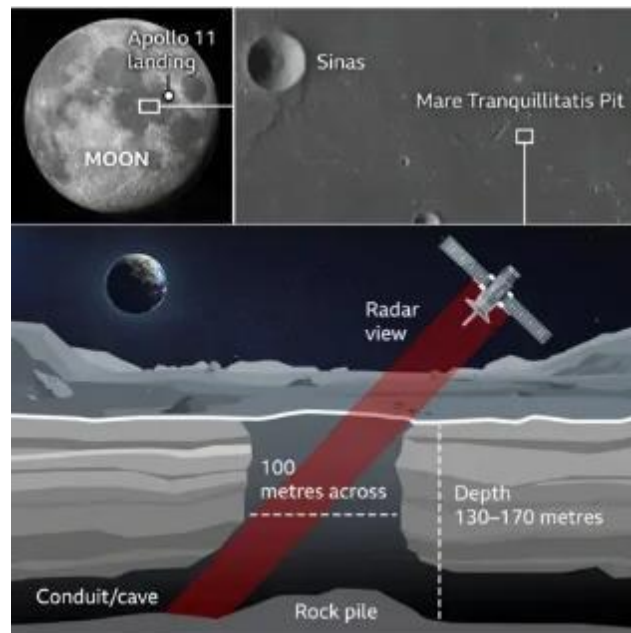


- ❖ A new study carried out by a group of 32 scientists from 10 countries spotted the smaller black hole of a pair establishing the 'sight' of an orbiting blackhole for the first time.
- ❖ Researchers have already confirmed the theory that there are two black holes at the centre of the four billion light years distant galaxy OJ 287.
- ❖ The galaxy called OJ 287 is located billion light years away.
- ❖ In 2021, Researchers also have found indirect evidence that a very massive black hole in OJ 287 is orbiting a giant black hole 100 times its size.

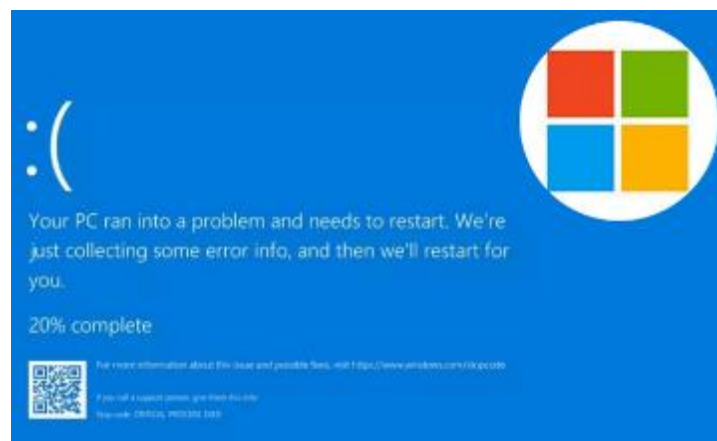
Cave on the Moon

- ❖ Scientists have recently confirmed the discovery of a significant cave on the Moon.
- ❖ This cave, located in the Sea of Tranquility, is approximately 250 miles (400 kilometres) from the historic Apollo 11 landing site in 1969.

- ❖ The cave, estimated to be around 100 metres long, features a skylight opening towards the moon's surface, suggesting possible further underground extensions.
- ❖ Despite its depth, the cave's scale makes it visible from Earth without specialised equipment.
- ❖ The Moon is exposed to solar radiation 150 times stronger than Earth.
- ❖ NASA stating that the lunar surface heats to about 127 degrees Celsius during the day, and cools to around -173 degrees Celsius at night.
- ❖ But the cave harbour stable average temperatures of around 17 degrees Celsius.



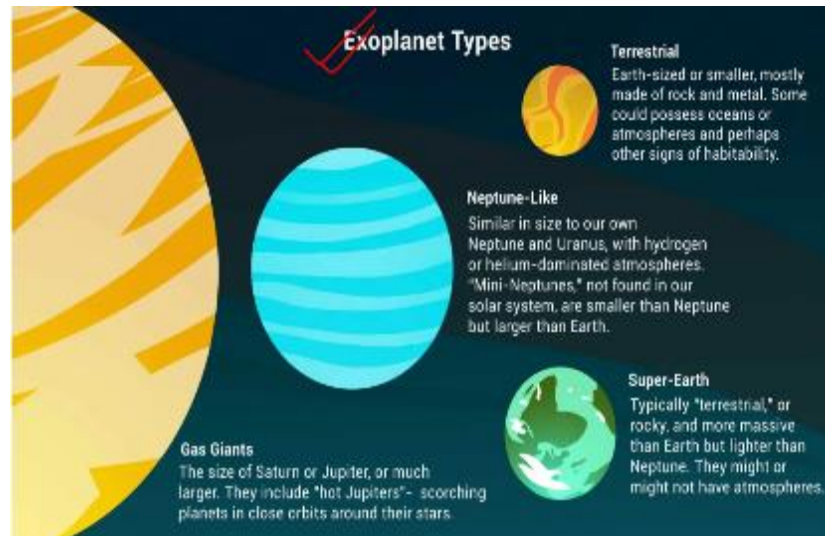
Blue Screen of Death



- ❖ A major tech issue has affected millions of Windows computer systems world-wide, causing a sudden shutdown or restart.

- ❖ It was a software error from a company called CrowdStrike.
- ❖ Services, including critical providers like police, airlines and government, across the world have been affected.
- ❖ Blue Screen errors, also known as black screen errors or STOP code errors, can occur when a critical issue forces Windows to unexpectedly shut down or restart.

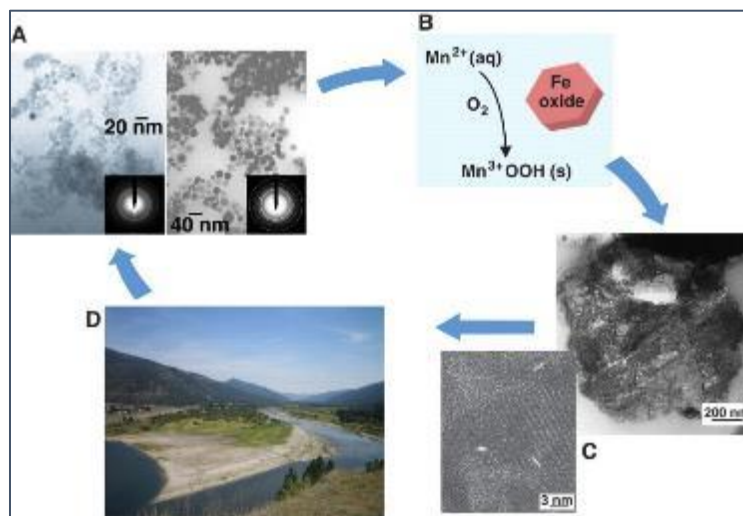
Six New Exoplanets - 2024



- ❖ Nasa has announced the discovery of six new worlds.
- ❖ HD 36384 b, a super-Jupiter, orbits an enormous M giant star nearly 40 times the size of our Sun.
- ❖ TOI-198 b, a potentially rocky planet, resides on the inner edge of its star's habitable zone.
- ❖ TOI-2095 b and TOI-2095 c are hot super-Earths orbiting the same M dwarf star.
- ❖ TOI-4860 b is a rare "hot Jupiter" completing an orbit every 1.52 days around an M dwarf star.
- ❖ Now, the total number of confirmed planets beyond our solar system increased to 5,502.
- ❖ Approximately 31 years ago, in 1992, scientists confirmed the first exoplanets when they detected twin planets, Poltergeist and Phobeter.
- ❖ They orbiting the pulsar PSR B1257+12.
- ❖ By March 2022, the number of discovered exoplanets surpassed the 5,000 marks.

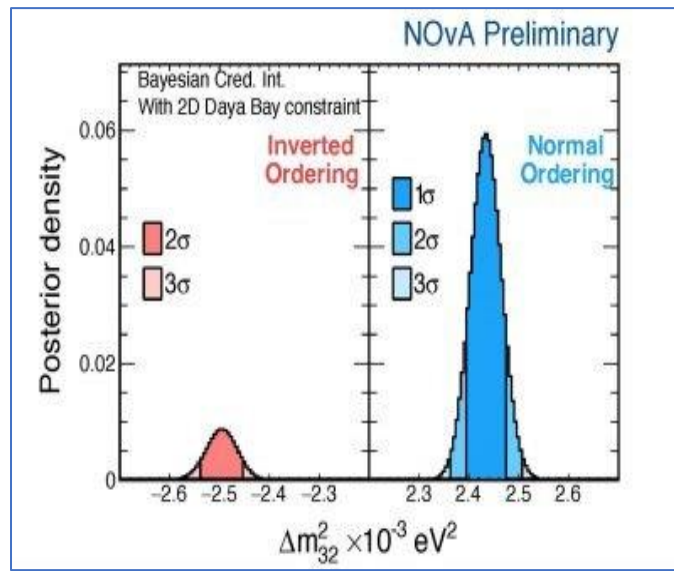
Mineral nanoparticles

- ❖ IIT Madras research have shown that the common minerals be broken into nano-sized particles in milliseconds by charged tiny water droplets or microdroplets.
- ❖ These minerals are including river sand, ruby and alumina, which are very hard.
- ❖ Microdroplets are known to enhance the chemical reactions, and as a result new chemical bonds form.
- ❖ Soil forms through gradual weathering of rocks, a process that takes 200-400 years to produce one centimetre of soil comprising different sized particles.
- ❖ With the new innovation, in just 10 ms, the mineral microparticles broke up into nanoparticles.



New NOvA data

- ❖ NovA is an acronym for 'NuMI Off-axis ve Appearance'.
- ❖ It creates a beam of neutrinos that fly towards a 14,000-tonne detector located 800 km away.
- ❖ NOvA was designed to determine the role of neutrinos in the evolution of the cosmos.
- ❖ Neutrinos are a type of subatomic particle.
- ❖ They don't have an electric charge, have a small mass, and are left-handed.
- ❖ They are the second-most abundant particles after photons.
- ❖ Physicists first detected extraterrestrial neutrinos coming from a supernova in 1987, when a star exploded around 150,000 light years away.



Talwar Class frigate

- ❖ The first indigenously built Talwar Class frigate, 'INS Tripud', was launched by the Goa Shipyard Limited.
- ❖ The ship has been named Tripud, after the mighty arrow.
- ❖ The frigate is equipped with Brahmos missiles and the Shtil-1 air defense system.
- ❖ The second ship - Tamal will be delivered by February 2025.
- ❖ India had contracted four frigates from Russia in October 2016, two of them to be built in Russia and two at the Goa Shipyard.



Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defense System 2024

- ❖ The DRDO successfully flight-tested the Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system.

- ❖ It demonstrates the indigenous capability to defend against ballistic missiles of 5,000 km class.
- ❖ The Phase-II AD endo-atmospheric missile is an indigenously developed two stage solid propelled ground launched missile.
- ❖ Phase 1 of the BMD, which can intercept ballistic missiles with a range of 2,000 km, has already been deployed.



ENVIRONMENT

Painted lady Butterfly

- ❖ For the first time, scientists have documented a group of butterflies flying across the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ The transatlantic migration spanned over 2,600 miles from West Africa to French Guiana in South America.
- ❖ The butterfly reached there by completing one of the longest insect migrations ever recorded by crossing the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ The painted lady's migration is not only long-distance but also highly responsive to environmental conditions.



Lone mainland serow



Lone ranger: A mainland serow at the Raimona National Park in western Assam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

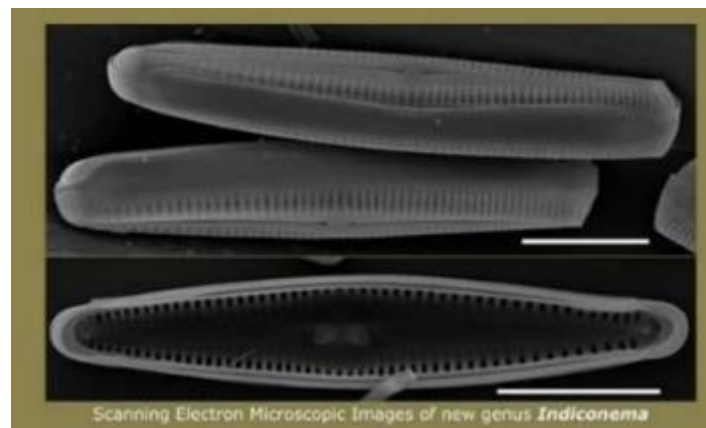
- ❖ A lone mainland serow has been recorded at the lowest elevation beyond Bhutan, its natural home.
- ❖ It is a mammal that appears somewhere between a goat and an antelope.
- ❖ The mainland serow inhabits areas at altitudes of 200-3,000 metres.
- ❖ The animal habitat is across the India-Bhutan border in the Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and the Royal Manas National Park in the Himalayan country.
- ❖ There are three other species of the animal:
 - Japanese serow,
 - Red serow (found in eastern India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar), and
 - Taiwan or Formosan serow.

Didymocarpus janakiae



- ❖ A new plant species was found in Arunachal Pradesh named as *Didymocarpus janakiae*.
- ❖ It belongs to the plant genus *Didymocarpus* commonly known as stone flower which is part of the African Violet family (*Gesneriaceae*).
- ❖ The genus consists of 111 species out of which 27 species are present in India, including now the newly described species.
- ❖ This is named in honour of Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal, who is a pioneering Indian botanist.
- ❖ In 1931, she became the first Indian woman to be awarded a doctorate in botany in the US (University of Michigan).

Gomphonemoid diatom



- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new genus of the Gomphonemoid diatom found in the clean water river of the Eastern Ghats.

- ❖ The genus distinguishes it from the other members in the group Gomphonemoid in terms of valve symmetry and other certain valve features.
- ❖ It has been named Indiconema to value its restricted distribution in the country.
- ❖ Diatoms are microscopic algae that play a crucial role in our everyday lives by producing 25 per cent of global oxygen.
- ❖ Diatoms are First recorded in India by Ehrenberg in 1845.

New Species of Horned Frog

- ❖ The Researchers have identified a new species of horned frog, named *Xenophrys apatani*, in the Tale Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is named *Xenophrys apatani*, in honour of the Apatani tribe, known for their conservation efforts of wild flora and fauna.
- ❖ The frog was previously thought to be *Xenophrys maasonensis* from.



Senna spectabilis



- ❖ *Senna spectabilis*, is an invasive plant, poses a major threat to the wildlife habitat in the Nilgiri biosphere, from the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.

- ❖ It grows quickly and has allelopathic qualities that stop native plants from growing.
- ❖ This lowers the diversity of life in the area.
- ❖ It is a deciduous tree from tropical South America.
- ❖ The tree's bright yellow flowers provide nectar for bees, and it is used in reforestation projects on degraded lands.

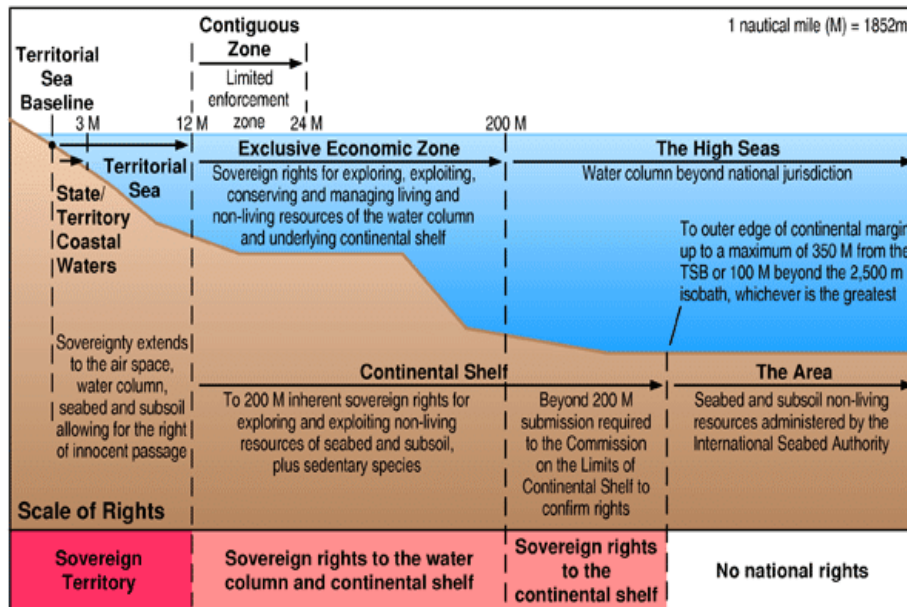
Vaquita - Marine Mammal

- ❖ The world's most endangered marine mammal, the vaquita, is teetering on the edge of extinction.
- ❖ Only 6-8 individuals spotted compared to 8-13 just a year ago.
- ❖ These shy porpoises are found exclusively in Mexico's upper Gulf of California.
- ❖ Their preferred habitat lies in the Gulf's shallow near-shore waters.



Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement - India

- ❖ The Indian government would soon sign and ratify the High Seas Treaty.
- ❖ It is a new international legal architecture for maintaining the ecological health of the oceans.
- ❖ It is meant for reducing pollution, and for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and other marine resources in ocean waters.
- ❖ This treaty is also known as the agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ).
- ❖ It is formally called the Agreement on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
- ❖ Ninety-one countries have already signed the treaty, while eight of them have also ratified it.



11 New Biosphere Reserves - 2024

- ❖ The UNESCO has approved the designation of 11 new biosphere reserves in 11 countries.
- ❖ Belgium and Gambia got listed for the first time.
- ❖ Two transboundary biosphere reserves also announced.
 - Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands)
 - Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Italy, Slovenia)
- ❖ With these new biosphere reserves covering a total area of 37 400 km², equivalent to the size of the Netherlands.
- ❖ There are a total 12 Biosphere Reserves of India recognized internationally.

IUCN Red List Update 2024

- ❖ The IUCN recently updated the Red List to protect a number of lizard and cactus species.
- ❖ The Gran Canaria giant lizard (*Gallotia stehlini*) has moved from Least Concern to Critically Endangered.
- ❖ The Gran Canaria skink (*Chalcides sexlineatus*) has moved from Least Concern to Endangered.
- ❖ The Bornean elephant has been assessed as Endangered.

- ❖ The conservation status of the Iberian lynx has improved from Endangered to Vulnerable.
- ❖ Big leaf mahogany has moved from Vulnerable to Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The IUCN Red List now includes 163,040 species, of which 45,321 are threatened with extinction, surpassing the Barometer of Life goal to assess 160,000 species.



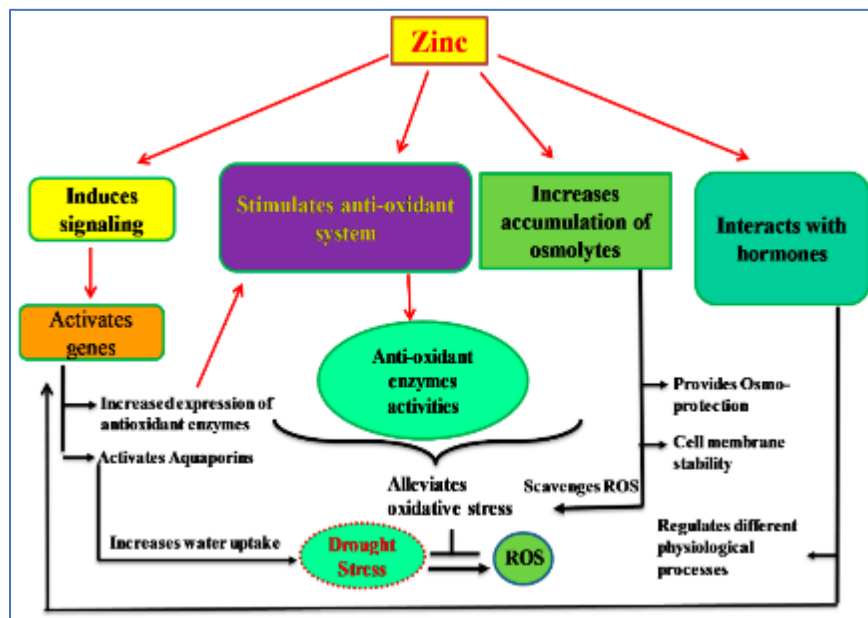
Uropeltis caudomaculata

- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new species of a shield-tail snake in the Meghamalai-Munnar landscape of the Western Ghats.
- ❖ They live in forests and near tea plantations between elevations of about 3,000 to 6,400 feet
- ❖ *Uropeltis caudomaculata* is known to be found in only three localities: Meghamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu, Periyar Tiger Reserve and Yellapetty, Munnar in Kerala.



Zinc's role in climate change resilient

- ❖ Researchers in France have discovered that zinc plays a crucial role in the health of legume crops.
- ❖ zinc aids in plant's nitrogen fixation, a process where atmospheric nitrogen is converted into ammonia, an essential nutrient for plants.
- ❖ Legume crops form a symbiotic relationship with rhizobia, a bacterium that fixes atmospheric nitrogen in root nodules.
- ❖ These nodules are sensitive to environmental factors such as temperature, drought, flooding, soil salinity, and high soil nitrogen levels.
- ❖ The researchers discovered that legumes also use zinc as a secondary signal to integrate environmental factors and regulate nitrogen fixation efficiency.
- ❖ The mechanism works due to a transcriptional regulator called Fixation Under Nitrate (FUN).



Salvinia molesta

- ❖ An exotic beetle, *Cyrtobagus salvinia*, helps completely eliminate the 'Chinese Jhalaar' in 18 months from Satpura dam in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ *Salvinia molesta* is a highly detrimental aquatic fern.
- ❖ *Cyrtobagus salvinia*, a Brazilian bioagent specifically targeting *Salvinia molesta*, was imported to India.
- ❖ The insect solely feeds on *Salvinia molesta* and dies naturally once the food source is exhausted, posing no threat to the environment.

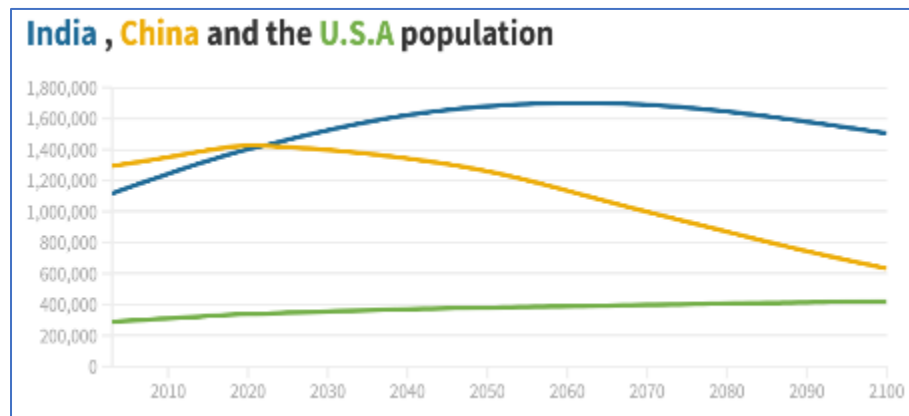


Squalus Hima

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark *Squalus Hima* from Sakthikulangara fishing harbour in Kerala.
- ❖ *Squalus* is a genus of dogfish sharks in the family Squalidae. commonly known as spur dogs.
- ❖ In the Indian coast, two species of *Squalus* are found from the southwest coast of India and the new species, *Squalus hima* n.sp. is very similar to *Squalus lalannei*, but differs in many characteristics.



World Population Prospects 2024



- ❖ World Population Prospects 2024 is the twenty-eighth edition of the official United Nations population estimates and projections.
- ❖ The world's population is expected to continue growing over the coming 50-60 years, reaching a peak of around 10.3 billion people in the mid-2080s, up from 8.2 billion in 2024.
- ❖ After peaking, the global population is projected to start declining gradually, falling to 10.2 billion people by the end of the century.
- ❖ India's population in 2024 is projected at 1.45 billion and this will peak to 1.69 billion in 2054.
- ❖ India's population is projected to peak in the early 2060s at about 1.7 billion and then decline by 12%.
- ❖ But India will remain the world's most populous country throughout the century.
- ❖ India, which surpassed China as the world's most populous nation last year, will continue to hold that position through 2100.
- ❖ The report said that China's population, currently 1.41 billion in 2024, will fall to 1.21 billion in 2054 and further decline to 633 million by 2100.
- ❖ It will likely experience the largest absolute population loss between 2024 and 2054 (204 million), followed by Japan (21 million) and Russia (10 million).

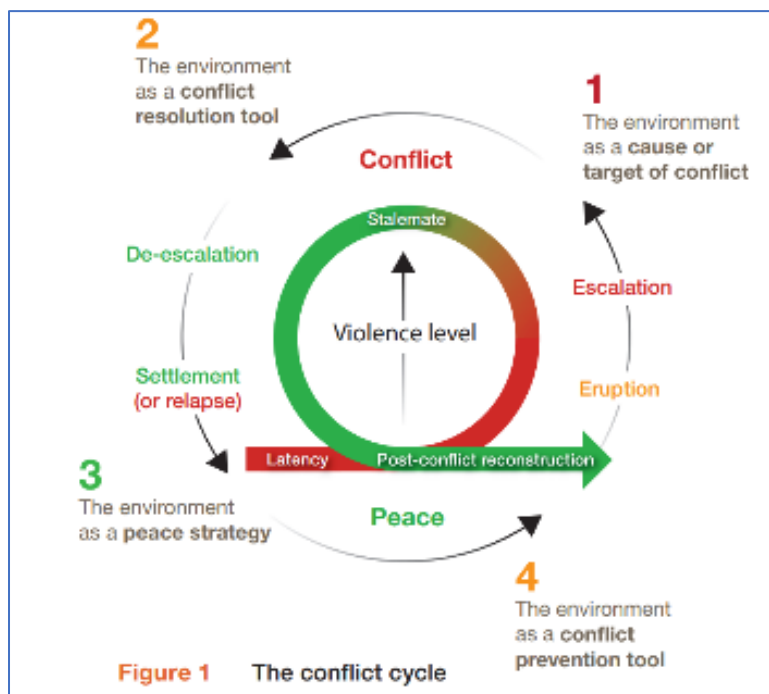
Mackenzie River - Historic low water



- ❖ Canada's longest river, the Mackenzie River, is experiencing historically low water levels.

- ❖ From the Great Slave Lake to the Beaufort Sea, the Mackenzie River is 1,738 kilometres long.
- ❖ Its watershed covers parts of five provinces and territories.
- ❖ The Mackenzie and its tributaries together drain an area of about 1.8 million sq.km, which represents about 20% of Canada’s total land area.
- ❖ The Lake Athabasca, Great Slave Lake, and Great Bear Lake, forms notable parts of the Mackenzie River system.

Planet on the Move: Reimagining Conservation report



- ❖ The IUCN’s analysis has recently released a report titled ‘Planet on the move: Reimagining conservation’ at the intersection of migration, environmental change, and conflict.
- ❖ The reports estimate 50-700 million people will be displaced by land degradation, including climate change by 2050.
- ❖ Environmental changes force humans and other species to migrate which may result in conflict.
- ❖ Migration policies often treat human and wildlife migration separately, despite the planet being a shared space.

CITES's Report on Rosewoods

13 'high priority' species

Species (Appendix)	Region
<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> (II)	Asia
<i>Dalbergia oliveri</i> (II)	Asia
<i>Dalbergia granatillo</i> (II)	North America and Central and South America and the Caribbean
<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> (II)	Asia
<i>Dalbergia melanocylon</i> (II)	Africa
<i>Dalbergia retusa</i> (III)	Central and South America and the Caribbean
<i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i> (II)	North America and Central and South America and the Caribbean
<i>Dalbergia lucyrensis</i> (II)	North America and Central and South America and the Caribbean
<i>Guibourtia palmeriana</i> (II)	Africa
<i>Guibourtia lessmannii</i> (III)	Africa
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> (II)	Africa
<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> (II)	Asia
<i>Pterocarpus tinctorius</i> (II)	Africa

- Five species are native to Africa
- Four to Central and South America and the Caribbean
- Three to North America
- Four to Asia

- ❖ The report provides CITES-listed rosewood species' characteristics, ecosystem roles, regeneration rates, and threats.
- ❖ This information will help CITES parties make informed Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs).
- ❖ 'Rosewood' also called as "palisander" encompasses a wide range of tropical hardwoods in the Fabaceae (Leguminosae) family.
- ❖ CITES also issued guidelines for the sustainable harvest and trade of rosewood specimens.
- ❖ Appendix II of CITES include:
 - *Dalbergia latifolia* (Malabar rosewood) and *Dalbergia Sissoo* (Shisham) are found in India and are listed as Vulnerable and Least Concern on IUCN red list.
 - African rosewood is listed as endangered on IUCN red list.

Global Forest Area Gain

- ❖ It was titled as the "State of world forest report 2024" by the FAO.
- ❖ China led the world with the maximum forest area gain of 19,37,000 hectares.
- ❖ It is followed by Australia with 4,46,000 hectares, and India.
- ❖ India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest area annually from 2010 to 2020.
- ❖ India securing the third spot among the top 10 countries with the most significant forest area gains during this period.

- ❖ Other countries in the top 10 include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.
- ❖ It also said the rate of gross global mangrove loss decreased by 23% during the periods — 2000 to 2010 and 2010 to 2020.

TABLE 8. Top ten countries for average annual net gain in forest area, 2010–2020

Ranking	Country	Annual net change	
		1 000 ha/yr	%
1	China	1 937	0.93
2	Australia	446	0.34
3	India	266	0.38
4	Chile	149	0.85
5	Viet Nam	126	0.90
6	Turkey	114	0.53
7	United States of America	108	0.03
8	France	83	0.50
9	Italy	54	0.58
10	Romania	41	0.62

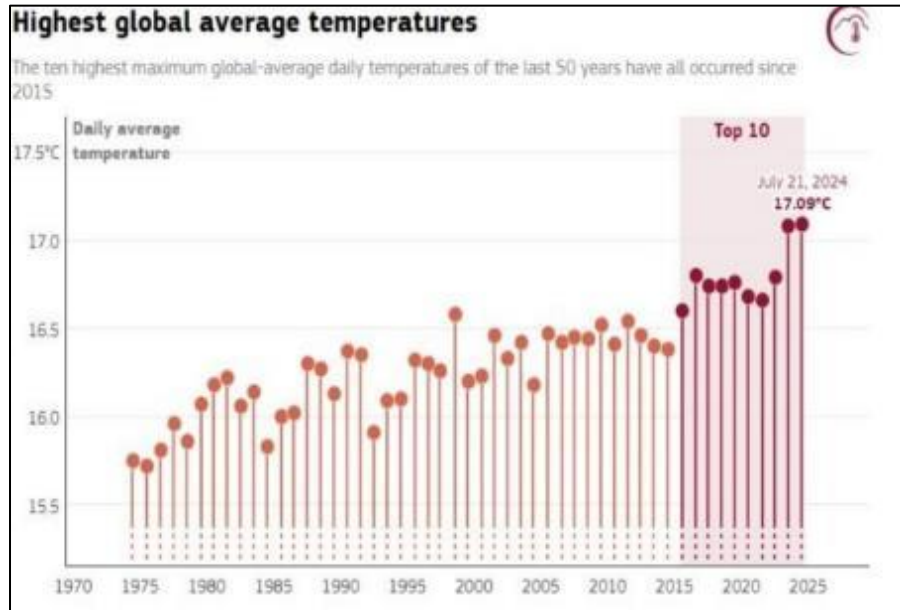
Note: The rate of change (%) is calculated as the compound annual change rate.

New flower flies in India



- ❖ Researchers have reported two species of flower flies for the first time from Kerala.
- ❖ *Mesembrius bengalensis* and *M. quadrivittatus* have been discovered from the Kole wetlands and Vilagan Kunnu hillocks of Thrissur district.
- ❖ Flower flies belong to the family Syrphidae of order Diptera and are commonly called flower files.
- ❖ These new records add two more species to the existing list.

Hottest Day - Globally Ever



- ❖ July 21 was the warmest day on record for the Earth, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- ❖ On that day, the daily global average temperature touched 17.09 degree Celsius.
- ❖ It was breaking the previous record of 17.08-degree Celsius set on July 6, 2023.
- ❖ Last year was the first time ever that the daily global average temperature crossed the 17-degree Celsius mark.

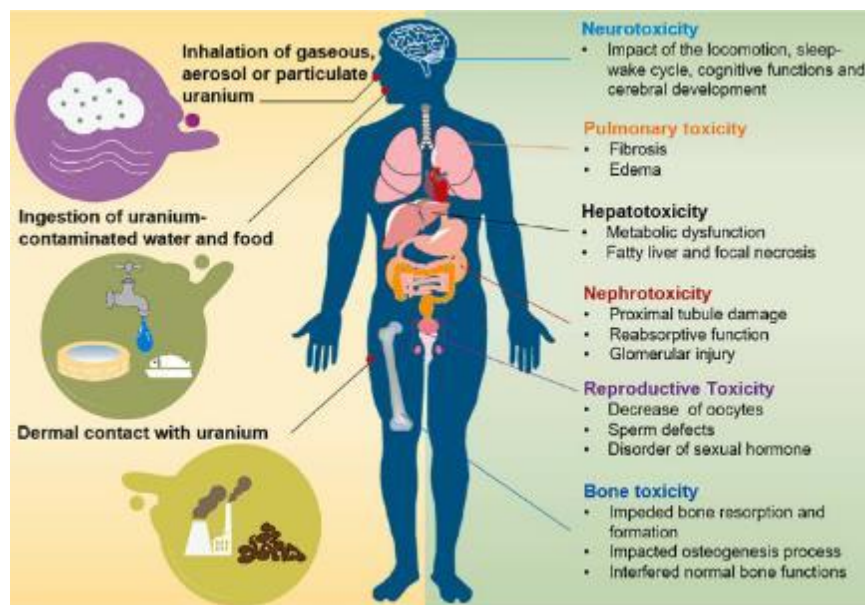
Ecozen - Asia 1st low carbon green zinc

- ❖ Hindustan Zinc has launched EcoZen, Asia's first low-carbon green zinc brand.
- ❖ Hindustan Zinc is the world's second-largest integrated zinc producer.
- ❖ They manufactured using renewable energy.
- ❖ The carbon footprint of EcoZen is about 75 per cent lower than the global average.
- ❖ EcoZen claims to have less than one tonne of carbon emission produced for every tonne of zinc made.
- ❖ The use of EcoZen in galvanising one tonne of steel is expected to avoid around 400 kilograms of carbon emissions.

Uranium in drinking water

- ❖ Concentration of uranium, a radioactive substance, up to 60 micrograms per litre (millionth of a gram per litre or µg/l) in drinking water was entirely safe.

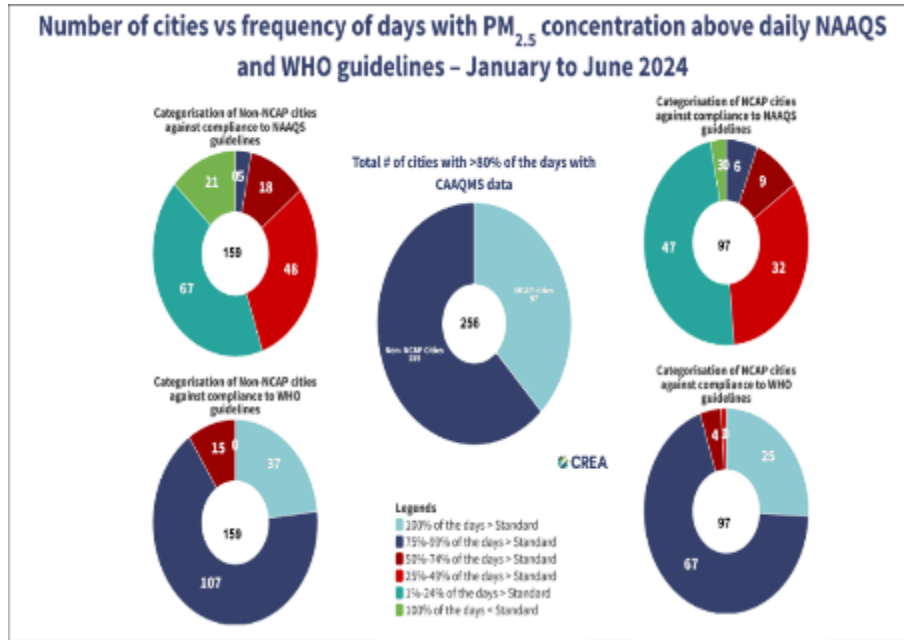
- ❖ In 2021, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced a new limit of 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$, in line with recommendations of the WHO.
- ❖ Finland and Slovakia — two nations with considerable amounts of uranium consumption — have prescribed safety limits of 100 and 350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ respectively.
- ❖ Another uranium-rich country, South Africa, has a limit of 70 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$.
- ❖ The limits in countries like Canada and Australia that have the largest deposits of uranium among others are 20 and 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$, respectively.
- ❖ Germany, which does not have uranium, has even lower limits.



Mid-Year Air Quality Assessment for India 2024

- ❖ Recently, the mid-year air quality assessment for India was released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
- ❖ Byrnihat of Meghalaya, located on the Assam-Meghalaya border, ranked as the most polluted city in India.
- ❖ Among India's top 10 polluted cities, three were located in Haryana, two each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, while Delhi, Assam, and Bihar each had one.
- ❖ 163 cities exceeded the annual National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of India ($40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
- ❖ All 256 cities exceeded the annual World Health Organization (WHO) standard ($5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
- ❖ Karnataka and Maharashtra had the highest number of cities under the 'Good' and 'Satisfactory' categories, with 16 and 30 cities, respectively.

- ❖ Bihar had the most cities (10) under the ‘Moderate’ category, while Haryana and Rajasthan each had three cities in the ‘Poor’ category.
- ❖ Only one city, located in Assam, fell under the ‘Severe’ category.



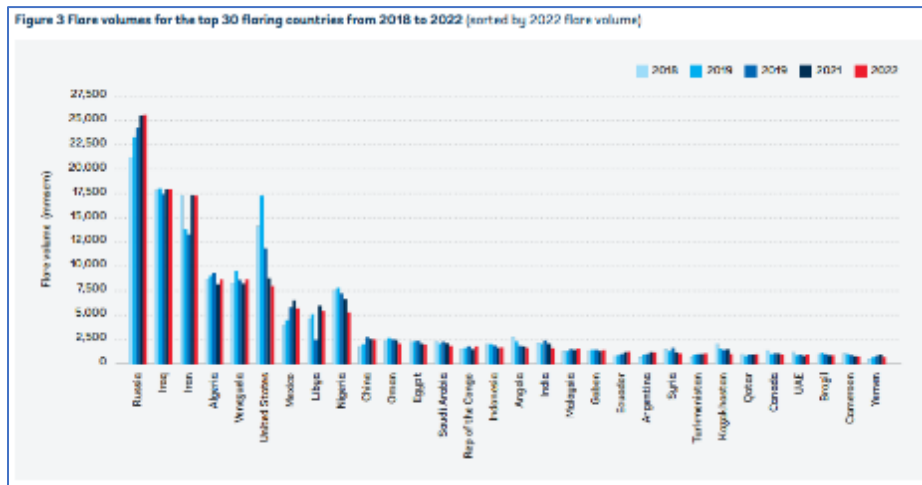
REPORTS AND INDICES

Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index 2024

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released an Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) 2024.
- ❖ It is tracking 174 economies globally for AI readiness.
- ❖ Singapore (0.80), Denmark (0.78), and the United States (0.77) are among the highest-rated in the list.
- ❖ India ranks 72 in a total of 174 countries, with Bangladesh (0.38) on 113, Sri Lanka (0.43) on 92, and China (0.63) on 31.

Countries Most Prepared for AI			Countries Least Prepared for AI		
Rank	Top Countries	Index	Rank	Bottom Countries	Index
1	Singapore	0.883	204	Vietnam	0.253
2	Denmark	0.778	205	Sao Tome	0.253
3	United States	0.773	195	Congo	0.247
4	Netherlands	0.746	187	Egypt	0.244
5	Finland	0.734	200	Chad	0.223
6	Malta	0.730	199	Sudan	0.222
7	Iceland	0.693	170	Madagascar	0.221
8	New Zealand	0.685	171	Somalia	0.221
9	Switzerland	0.684	172	CAR	0.218
12	Sweden	0.651	173	Afghanistan	0.133
79	India	0.482	174	South Sudan	0.209











Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report 2023



- ❖ Nigeria is one of the top nine gas-flaring countries in 2023, as per the latest Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report by the World Bank.
- ❖ The global gas flaring volumes rose by about 7% to 148 bcm in 2023 from 139 bcm in 2022.
- ❖ Oil production remained relatively stable, resulting in an increase in the global average flaring intensity.
- ❖ The total increase of 9 bcm in gas flaring resulted in an additional 23 million tonnes of CO₂e emissions.
- ❖ The top nine flaring countries continue to account for 75% of all flaring but only 46% of global oil production.
- ❖ Over 60 countries comprise the remaining 25 per cent of global gas flare volumes.
- ❖ 75% of the world's flared gas comes from Nigeria, Russia, Iran, Iraq, the US, Venezuela, Algeria, and Libya.

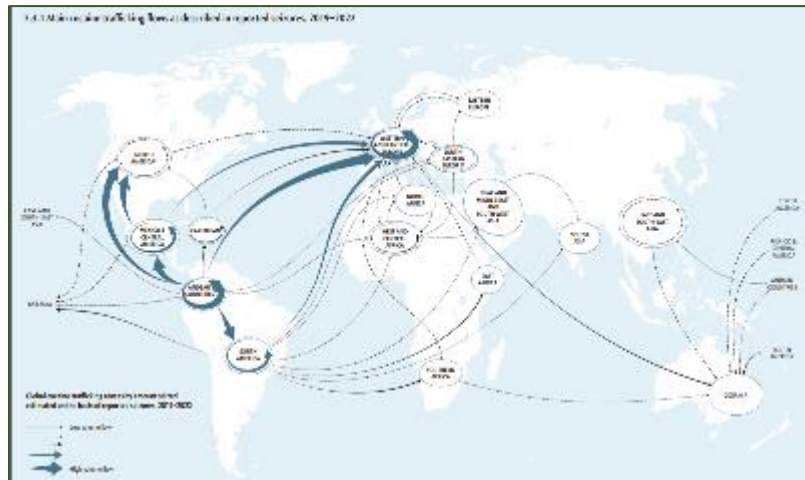
Global livability index 2024

- ❖ For the third year in a row, Vienna, the capital of Austria, is the world’s most livable city, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- ❖ Copenhagen, Denmark got second place and Zurich, Switzerland, in third place.
- ❖ Melbourne, Australia (4th globally) is the top Asia’s liveable city.
- ❖ The bottom 10 are dominated by cities in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa regions.
- ❖ Damascus, Syria and Tripoli, Libya rank as the two lowest cities for livability.

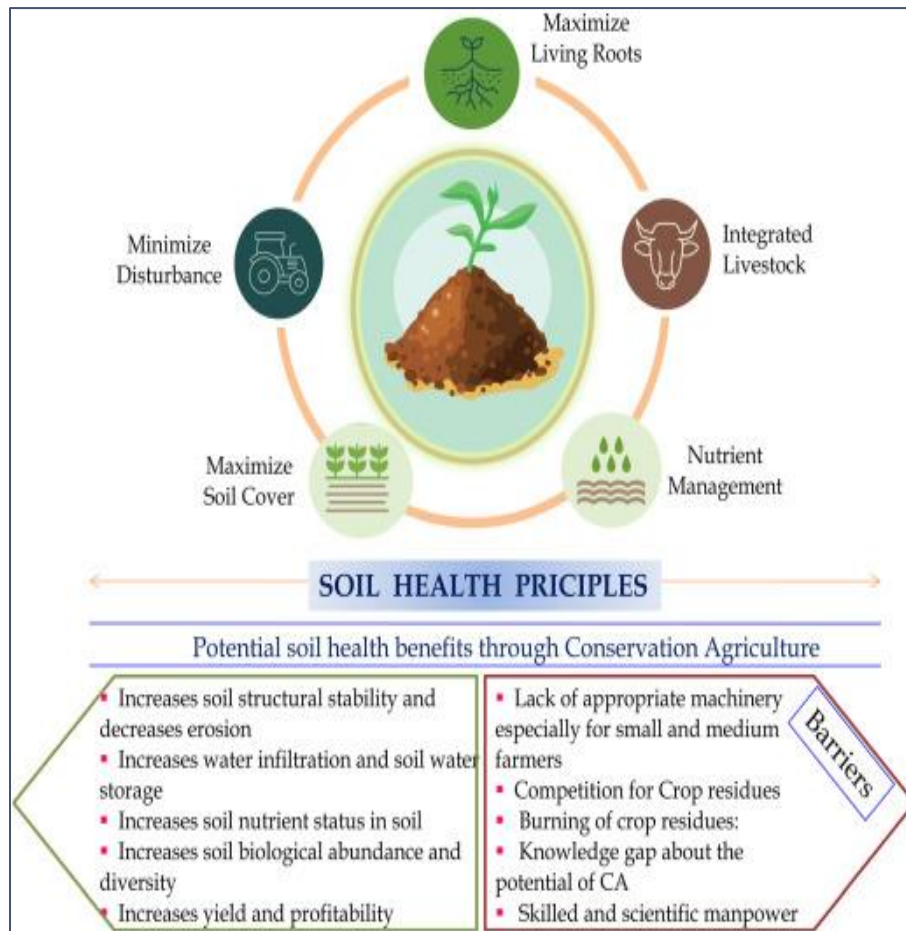
City	Location	Rank	Index	Stability	Healthcare	Culture & Environment	Education	Infrastructure
Vienna	 Austria	1	98.4	100.0	100.0	93.5	100.0	100.0
Copenhagen	 Denmark	2	98.0	100.0	95.8	95.4	100.0	100.0
Zurich	 Switzerland	3	97.1	95.0	100.0	96.3	100.0	96.4
Melbourne	 Australia	4	97.0	95.0	100.0	95.8	100.0	96.4
Calgary	 Canada	5	96.8	100.0	100.0	90.0	100.0	96.4
Geneva	 Switzerland	6	96.8	95.0	100.0	94.9	100.0	96.4
Sydney	 Australia	7	95.6	95.0	100.0	94.4	100.0	96.4
Vancouver	 Canada	7	95.6	95.0	100.0	87.2	100.0	82.9
Osaka	 Japan	9	86.0	100.0	100.0	86.8	100.0	86.4
Auckland	 New Zealand	9	86.0	95.0	95.8	97.9	100.0	82.9

Annual World Drug Report 2024

- ❖ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released this report on World Drug Day.
- ❖ In the decade to 2022, the number of people using illicit drugs increased to 292 million.
- ❖ Most users worldwide consume cannabis – 228 million people, followed by opioids, amphetamines, cocaine and ecstasy.
- ❖ There was an increase in overdose deaths following the emergence of nitazenes.
- ❖ In 2022, cocaine production hit a record high with 2,757 tons produced – a 20 per cent increase from 2021.
- ❖ Cannabis was legalised across Canada, Uruguay, and 27 jurisdictions in the US.



New World Soil Health Index



- ❖ The UNESCO International Conference on Soils held in Morocco.
- ❖ UNESCO warned that a staggering 90 per cent of the planet’s land surface could be degraded by 2050.



- ❖ According to the World Atlas of Desertification, 75 per cent of soils are already degraded, directly affecting 3.2 billion people.
- ❖ If business as usual continues, the current trend may increase the impact to 90 per cent by 2050.
- ❖ In India, about 32% of land is under degradation and 25% is undergoing desertification.

Top Expensive Cities 2024

- ❖ Mercer recently released report ‘Cost of Living City Ranking 2024’.
- ❖ Hong Kong is the most expensive city in the world for the fifth time.
- ❖ Singapore, another Asian economic hub, follows closely in second place.
- ❖ In Europe, London and cities in Switzerland, along with American cities like New York City and Los Angeles, make up the top ten spots.
- ❖ Mumbai has climbed to 136th place in the global ranking.
- ❖ New Delhi ranked 165th and Bengaluru’s ranking is 195th.
- ❖ The least expensive cities are Abuja, Nigeria (226), Lagos, Nigeria (225) and Islamabad, Pakistan (224).

2024 Cost of Living City Ranking		
Ranking	City	Location
1	Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR
2	Singapore	Singapore
3	Zurich	Switzerland
4	Geneva	Switzerland
5	Basel	Switzerland
6	Bern	Switzerland
7	New York	United States
8	London	United Kingdom
9	Nassau	Bahamas
10	Los Angeles	United States

World's Most Affordable Countries for Immigrants 2024

- ❖ For the fourth year in a row, Vietnam topped the survey’s Personal Finance Index in 2024 among 53 destinations.

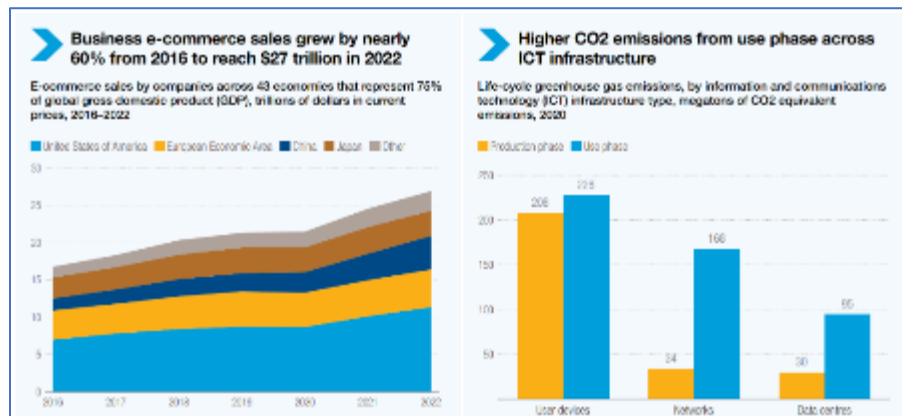
- ❖ India is among the top 10 most affordable countries for immigrants in 2024 in the Personal Finance Index category.
- ❖ Five other Asian countries are in top 10 include Indonesia (3rd), the Philippines (5th), India (6th), Thailand (8th), and China (10th).
- ❖ The other four countries are situated in Latin America: Colombia (2nd), Panama (4th), Mexico (7th), and Brazil in ninth place.



Digital Economy Report 2024 - UNCTAD

- ❖ The Digital Economy Report 2024 underscores the urgent need for environmentally sustainable and inclusive digitalization strategies.
- ❖ Information and communications technology (ICT) networks account for an estimated 6% to 12% of global electricity use.
- ❖ Annual smartphone shipments have more than doubled since 2010, hitting 1.2 billion in 2023.
- ❖ Internet of things (IoT) devices are projected to surge 2.5 times from 2023 to 39 billion by 2029.
- ❖ New data from 43 countries, shows e-commerce sales grew nearly 60% from 2016 to 2022, to reach \$27 trillion.
- ❖ Waste from screens and small IT equipment rose 30% between 2010 and 2022, reaching 10.5 million tons.
- ❖ The ICT sector emitted an estimated 0.69 to 1.6 gigatons of CO₂ equivalents in 2020, corresponding to 1.5% to 3.2% of global GHG emissions.
- ❖ Phones used 10 elements from the periodic table in 1960, 27 in 1990 and 63 in 2021.
- ❖ Demand for cobalt, graphite and lithium is expected to increase by 500% by 2050

- ❖ Worldwide, data centres are estimated to have consumed as much energy as France in 2022 – 460 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity.
- ❖ Bitcoin mining's global energy consumption rose 34 times between 2015 and 2023.
- ❖ Developing countries generate less than 1 kilogram of digitalization-related waste per person compared to 3.25 kilograms for developed countries.
- ❖ The global market for electronics recycling is expected to grow from \$37 billion in 2022 to an estimated \$108 billion by 2030.



Kantar's Brand Inclusion Index 2024



- ❖ Google was recognised as most inclusive brand in India as well as globally.
- ❖ Alongside Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio and Apple emerged in the top five winners in India.
- ❖ Category wise, the India top Brand Inclusion Index scorers are - Google (Technology), Tata Motors (Automotive), SBI (Banking), Dove (Skincare).

UNEP Foresight Report 2024

- ❖ Recently, the UNEP released a report titled "Navigating New Horizons: A Global Foresight Report on Planetary Health and Human Wellbeing, 2024".
- ❖ 85% of the 169 SDG targets are off track and 37% of the targets have shown no progress.
- ❖ Human activities are predicted to affect over 90% of land by 2050.
- ❖ Up to 46% of species may face extinction.
- ❖ Global temperatures are projected to rise 2.1-3.9°C by 2100.
- ❖ There are over 8.89 billion mobile subscriptions, with around 5.6 billion users owning a device.
- ❖ 1.5% of the global population is forcibly displaced, nearly double the number from a decade ago.
- ❖ Environmental migrants could be 25 million-1 billion by 2050.
- ❖ The global inequality is worsening, with the top 10% holding over 75% of wealth, while the bottom 50% own just 2%.



World's Most Powerful Passports 2024

- ❖ The latest ranking released by the Henley Passport Index puts India's passport at the 82nd spot.
- ❖ It will be allowing Indians visa-free entry to 58 countries.
- ❖ Singapore passport has been named the world's most powerful passport, offering visa-free access to 195 countries.

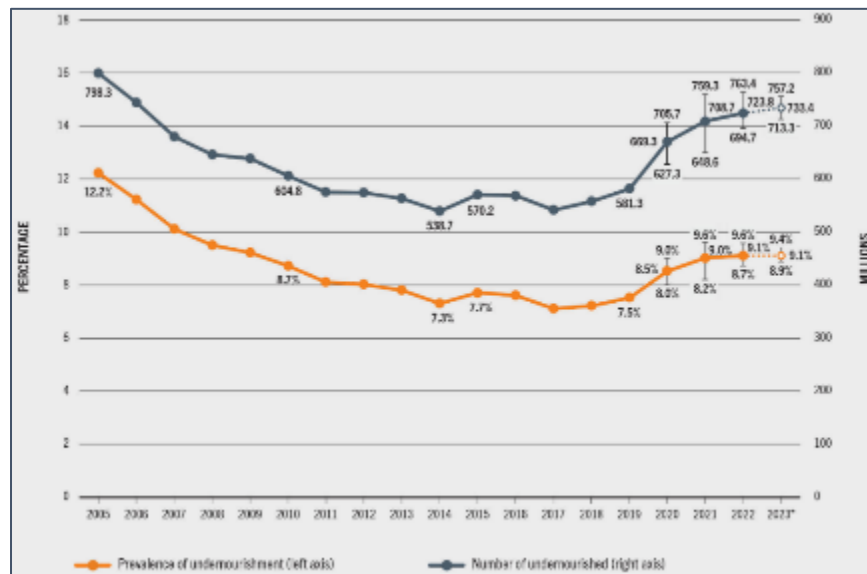
- ❖ France, Italy, Germany and Spain are tied with Japan in second place, providing passport holders access to 192 countries.
- ❖ Then, in third place in the ranking are Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, and Sweden which all have visa-free access to 191 destinations.
- ❖ The United Kingdom is in the fourth place, alongside New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland.
- ❖ Australia and Portugal shared the No. 5 spot, while the United States dropped down to eighth place, with visa-free access to 186 countries.
- ❖ Pakistan is positioned at 100th, providing passport holders access to 33 countries.
- ❖ At the bottom of the list is Afghanistan with easy access to 26 destinations.

MOST POWERFUL PASSPORTS IN 2024		
Rank	Country	Destinations
1	Singapore	195
2	France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain	192
3	Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden	191
4	Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom	190
5	Australia, Portugal	189
6	Greece, Poland	188
7	Canada, Czechia, Hungary, Malta	187
8	United States	186
9	Estonia, Lithuania, United Arab Emirates	185
10	Iceland, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia	184
82	India	58

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024

- ❖ Around 733 million people or 1 in 11 people faced hunger globally in 2023.
- ❖ The world is far off track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger.
- ❖ Between 713 and 757 million people were estimated to be undernourished in 2023.
- ❖ This is approximately 152 million more than in 2019 when considering the mid-range (733 million).

- ❖ An estimated 28.9 percent of the global population were moderately or severely food insecure in 2023.
- ❖ The percentage of the population facing hunger continues to rise in Africa (20.4 percent), remains stable in Asia (8.1 percent) and shows progress in Latin America (6.2 percent).
- ❖ In 2023, around 2.33 billion people globally faced moderate or severe food insecurity.
- ❖ The estimates of adult obesity show a steady increase over the last decade, from 12.1 percent (2012) to 15.8 percent (2022).



STATES

Full Functional Literacy Under ULLAS

- ❖ Ladakh has become the first administrative unit to achieve full functional literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Program).
- ❖ The Union Territory has surpassed 97% literacy, marking a major success for the centrally sponsored scheme.
- ❖ This scheme is aimed at empowering adults aged 15 and above with foundational literacy, numeracy, and critical life skills.
- ❖ NILP is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented from 2022-2027.

Shyok river

- ❖ Five soldiers died after a tank was swept away by strong water currents in the Shyok river during a military training in Ladakh.
- ❖ A 550 km long Shyok originates from the Rimo Glacier, part of the Siachen Glacier.
- ❖ It is a tributary of the Indus River.
- ❖ It flows through northern Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir and enters the Pakistan-administered region of Gilgit-Baltistan, where it joins the Indus River.



Indian Gaur in Srisailam Tiger Reserve

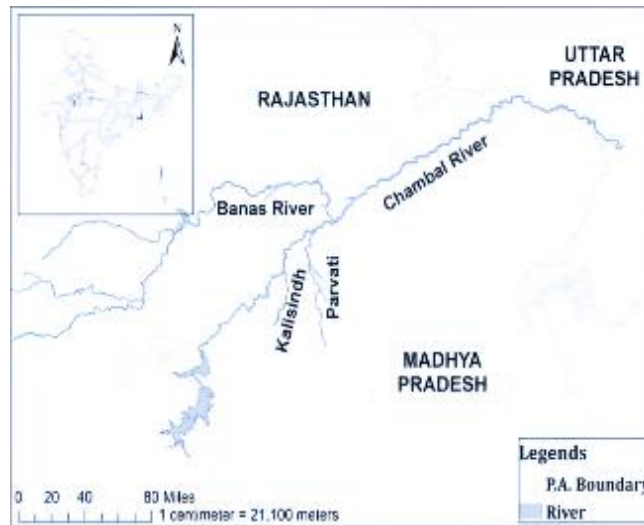


- ❖ An Indian gaur (*Bos gaurus*) has been spotted in the Atmakur stretch of Nallamala forest in Andhra Pradesh's Nandyal district.
- ❖ The forest was once home to the Indian gaur (Adavi Dunna in Telugu), which strangely disappeared from the landscape for a long time.
- ❖ The Indian gaur was last found here in the 1870s, and hence it has made a reappearance after 150 years.

- ❖ The Gaur also called Indian Bison, is the largest extant bovine, native to South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve is the largest tiger reserve in India.

Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal River linking project

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan governments have signed an agreement for the implementation of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal River (PKC) linking project in Bhopal.
- ❖ The project would provide water to 13 districts in Rajasthan, and Malwa and Chambal regions in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ PKC link project is one of the 30 links included in the National Perspectives Plan formulated by the erstwhile Union Ministry of Irrigation and the Central Water Commission in the year 1980.



Gujarat FDI in 2023-24



- ❖ Gujarat has attracted a Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of USD 7.3 billion in the financial year 2023-24, with a jump of 55 per cent.
- ❖ Gujarat occupied the second spot in the country after Maharashtra in terms of the FDI inflow.
- ❖ Karnataka came in third, Delhi fourth and Telangana fifth with FDI inflows of \$6.6 billion, \$6.5 billion and \$3 billion, respectively.

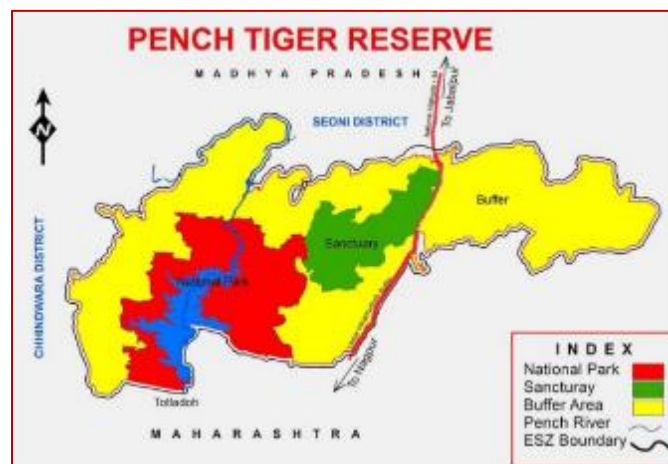
Bioplastic Park by Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath announced to Establish Rs 2000 Crore Bioplastic Park.

- This bioplastic park will be built in the Lakhimpur Kheri area.
- The bioplastic park is strategically located to leverage the area's agricultural strengths.
- Balrampur Chini Mill will oversee the project, highlighting a strong public-private partnership.

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has sanctioned setting up a bioplastic park.
- ❖ The park will be developed over an area of 1,000 hectares in Kumbhi village, Gola Gokarannath tehsil, Lakhimpur Kheri district.
- ❖ Bioplastic, also known as natural plastic, is a type of plastic made from natural materials such as corn, sunflower, or sugar beet.

AI System for forest fire detection



- ❖ The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has launched an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for early detection of forest fires.
- ❖ This state-of-the-art system features a high-resolution camera, with a visual range of 15 kilometres.
- ❖ This means it can effectively cover more than 350 sq. km of the tiger reserve.

People's Biodiversity Register – Thazhakara

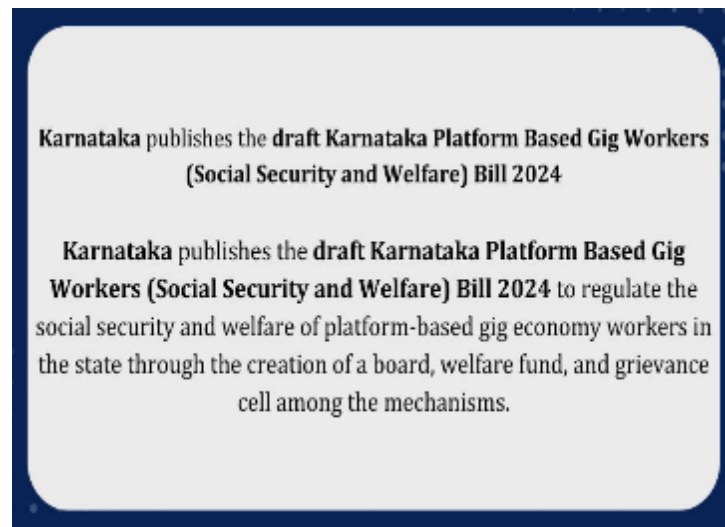


- ❖ Thazhakara has become the first grama panchayat in Alappuzha and one of the first in Kerala to update and publish a comprehensive People's Biodiversity Register.
- ❖ The local body boasts 38 sacred groves, 10 paddy polders, and 35 ponds.
- ❖ The first volume of the PBR was published 10 years ago and lacked vital information.
- ❖ The recent second volume serves as a comprehensive report on the biodiversity across all 21 wards.
- ❖ Kerala was the first State in the country to publish the first volume of the PBR across all local bodies.

Karnataka Social Security and Welfare Bill

- ❖ The Karnataka government published the draft of the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill.
- ❖ This was making it the second Indian State to initiate such a move, the first being Rajasthan.

- ❖ The Bill seeks to regulate the social security and welfare of platform-based gig workers in the State.
- ❖ The new draft also seeks to establish a welfare board and a social security and welfare fund for gig workers.
- ❖ 2022 NITI Aayog report estimates that India will have 23.5 million gig workers by 2029-30.
- ❖ Around 2 lakh gig workers work with platforms such as Swiggy, Zomato, Uber, Ola, and so on in Bengaluru alone.



Vizhinjam Port 2024



- ❖ The first phase of the country's first exclusive trans-shipment port, Kerala is all set to receive its first mothership on July 12.
- ❖ It is also making history as the first semi-automated container terminal in the country.
- ❖ Vizhinjam will soon see the docking of some of the largest container ships in the world.
- ❖ The port is also strategically located as it is just 10 nautical miles from the International Shipping Route connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East.

Upper Siang hydropower project



- ❖ The Upper Siang project is a proposed 11,000-megawatt hydropower project on the Siang River in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Siang originates near Mount Kailash in Tibet, where it goes by the name of Tsangpo.
- ❖ There are 29 hydroelectric projects (installed capacity of over 25 MW) in the Siang River basin, with a combined installed capacity of 18,326 MW.
- ❖ The proposed Upper Siang project's installed capacity is roughly 60% of this figure.
- ❖ Activists say it will cause to submerge more than 300 villages belonging to the Adi tribe.

Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary - Telangana

- ❖ The 5,000-acre Manjeera wildlife sanctuary in Sanga Reddy could soon become Telangana's first Ramsar site.

- ❖ The sanctuary is home to over one lakh birds and more than 500 crocodiles.
- ❖ This recognition will help the wetland gain attraction as well as national and international cooperation for its conservation.

WEALTH OF WILDLIFE IN WETLAND



The Manjeera wildlife sanctuary is home to over one lakh birds

➤ Extent of Manjeera wildlife sanctuary 20 sqkm	➤ No. of crocodiles 550
➤ No. of islands along the sanctuary Nine	➤ No. of bird species Over 200
	➤ No. of migratory species 110
	➤ Overall bird count 1 lakh
	➤ No. of reptiles 57, including snakes

Ratna Bhandar - Odisha

- ❖ The inner treasury of 12th century of Odisha's Puri Jagannath temple's 'Ratna Bhandar' was opened recently.
- ❖ The gates were opened after 46 years.
- ❖ The 'Ratna Bhandar' was first opened in 1905 by the British administration for inspection.
- ❖ Later they made a record of the items/jewels in 1926.
- ❖ After which it was opened in 1978 by the then Odisha Governor Bhagabat Dayal Sharma.

Child Labour Free Mica mine

- ❖ The Apex child rights body NCPDR had declared mica mines in Jharkhand 'child labour-free'.
- ❖ More than 20,000 kids were previously engaged as child labour in these mines.
- ❖ Kailash Satyarthi's non-profit organisation Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), has spearheaded the 'Child Labour-Free Mica' campaign.


Chandipura virus

UNDERSTANDING CHANDIPURA VIRUS

HISTORY: In 1966, two doctors at Pune's Virus Research Centre (VRC) isolated a virus of the vesiculovirus family that is also behind diseases like stomatitis and causes fever, chills and muscular pain. As the patient was from Chandipura near Nagpur, it got the name Chandipura virus (CPHV). This virus has so far only been reported in India.

WHAT CAUSES IT: While mosquitoes have also been identified as possible vectors, its transmission is mainly caused by sandflies. When a female sandfly bites humans, the virus enters the patient's bloodstream. Sandflies are found in many parts of Asia, Africa, central and South America apart from India.

Illustration: Ashok Adepal



SYMPTOMS: Experts in the city say that unlike in other viral infections, in CPHV, health deteriorates rapidly, in 24-48 hours

- Very high-grade fever above 102 degrees fahrenheit in the first 24 hours
- Vomiting/diarrhoea ● Severe headache ● Delirium in 24 to 48 hours ● Convulsions and fits
- Malfunction of internal organs such as liver

Doctors say that any fever that lasts over 24 hours should be taken seriously and medical help should be sought. Full-sleeved clothes should be worn to reduce the risk of insect bites

OUTBREAKS IN INDIA: The year 2003 saw a major outbreak in parts of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Gujarat saw spikes in cases in 2014, 2016 and 2019. Other states that have reported significant numbers of cases are Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ Six children in Gujarat's Aravalli district are suspected to have died from the Chandipura virus.
- ❖ Chandipura virus, aka Chandipura vesiculovirus (CHPV), is an RNA virus belonging to the Rhabdoviridae family.
- ❖ It was first identified in 1965 in Chandipura, a village in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The virus primarily affects children and has been associated with outbreaks of acute encephalitis in India.
- ❖ The virus is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected sandflies (genus Phlebotomus).
- ❖ There is no specific antiviral treatment or vaccine for Chandipura virus infection.

Tizu and Zungki River - Nagaland

- ❖ The Union shipping ministry has decided to carry out feasibility studies to use the National Waterways-101 on the Tizu Zunki River for the transportation of cargo and passengers.
- ❖ Tizu-Zungki is an important waterway starting from Kiphire district of Nagaland and ending in Chindwin.
- ❖ In Nagaland, the NW 101 flows from Longmatra (Nagaland) towards Avangkhu.

- ❖ Nagaland has four main rivers, namely, Doyang, Dhansiri, Dhiku and Tizu.
- ❖ The main tributaries of the River Tizu are river Zungki, Lanye, and Likimro.



Harela festival – Uttarakhand

- ❖ Sawan event begins, marked by the Harela festival in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This traditional Hindu festival, also celebrated in parts of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Harela symbolizes peace, prosperity, and the celebration of nature.
- ❖ Harela, translates to "day of greenery," in the fifth month of the lunar calendar.

Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Act, 2024

- ❖ This act aims to curbing the 'menace of Naxalism' in urban areas.
- ❖ The provisions allow the State to declare any organisation as 'unlawful' with offences categorised as cognisable and non-bailable.
- ❖ If the proposed legislation is passed, it would allow the State police and security agencies to arrest individuals without a warrant and often without informing them of the charges.
- ❖ The Maoist-hit States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha have already implemented Public Security Acts to prevent unlawful activities.
- ❖ The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) is invoked in cases related to Naxalism and terrorism.


- ❖ This law empowers the state to classify organisations as ‘unlawful associations.’
- ❖ Both the laws are almost the same.
- ❖ However, in the MSPS Act, an advisory board of three persons who are or have been qualified to be appointed as judges of the High Court shall oversee the confirmation process.
- ❖ But under UAPA, a tribunal led by a High Court judge verifies the State’s declaration.

‘Draconian law’
Activists claim the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill loosely defines ‘unlawful activity’, and will be prone to ‘malicious misuse’ by the police

Section	Offence
Section 8 (1)	Up to three-year jail term, ₹3 lakh fine for members of ‘unlawful organisations’
Section 8 (2)	Up to two-year jail term, ₹2 lakh fine for contributing to or harbouring any member of ‘unlawful organisations’
Section 8 (3)	Up to three-year jail term, ₹3 lakh fine for managing or assisting the management of ‘unlawful organisations’
Section 8 (4)	Up to seven-year jail term, ₹5 lakh fine for committing or attempting to commit unlawful activity of ‘unlawful organisations’
Section 9 (2)	If declared unlawful, officials may take possession of the notified place and evict any person found within
Section 10 (1)	If declared unlawful, officials may take possession of all money, securities or assets found in the notified place
Section 16 (1)	All offences are cognisable and non-bailable

Geological Links with Gondwana Supercontinent

- ❖ Scientists unearthed new findings shedding light on an ancient link between the Indian subcontinent and Antarctica.
- ❖ Their research provides strong evidence of a collision between India and East Antarctica over a billion years ago.
- ❖ They uncovered a hidden ridge beneath the Darsi and Addanki regions of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ This ridge is attributed to the historic collision, suggesting a tilting of the Cuddapah basin towards the south.

AP RIDGE ATTRIBUTED TO CONTINENTAL COLLISION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supercontinent Gondwana includes present-day South America, Africa, Arabia, Madagascar, India, Australia & Antarctica. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antarctica & India were once single large landmass that broke apart 1.5 billion years ago, say geologists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proterozoic Cuddapah Basin played key role in geodynamic evolution of India-East Antarctica terrain • This period extended from 2.5 billion years ago to 542 million years ago

Shadow Cabinet in Odisha

- ❖ Naveen Patnaik has drawn up a 50-member shadow cabinet to scrutinise and take on the ruling BJP and its Chief Minister Mohan Majhi.
- ❖ The members of the shadow cabinet are mostly the former ministers of his government.
- ❖ They are expected to keep tabs on each minister and his department and prepare alternative plans and policies in areas the government could slip up.
- ❖ The Opposition party is the custodian of people's interests.
- ❖ The Opposition party has a significant role to play in the state Assembly.
- ❖ The MLAs will keep close watch on the activities of departments assigned to them and actively take part during discussion of those departments in the state Assembly.

Telangana Crop Loan Waiver Scheme 2024

- ❖ The Telangana government has launched the first phase of the farm loan waiver scheme.
- ❖ Rs 6,098 crore being credited into the accounts of over 11 lakh farmers, whose loans up to Rs 1 lakh would be waived off.
- ❖ This marks the largest loan recovery in the country.
- ❖ The rollout of the loan waiver scheme would be completed in two other phases.
- ❖ A total of Rs 31,000 crore worth of farm loan waiver will benefit close to 50 lakh farmers in Telangana.
- ❖ In August, the state government will release funds into the accounts of farmers who have loans up to Rs 2 lakh.

RELIEF FOR TELANGANA RYOTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In first phase, state govt to waive crop loans of up to ₹ one lakh from Thursday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The scheme needs would need ₹31k cr and would be completed by the end of August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On Thursday, ₹7,000 cr in total would be credited to the accounts of farmers and crop loans of up to ₹1.5 lakh would be waived by the end of July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CM Revanth says Telangana should be an example for the country in regard to farmers' welfare ➤ Cong govt's aim is to make every farmer debt-free in the state, says CM 

Ladkha Bahu Yojana – Maharashtra

**महाराष्ट्र में युवाओं के लिए
'मुख्यमंत्री लाडला भाई' योजना**

12वीं पास	आईटीआई/डिप्लोमा	डिग्री/स्नातकोत्तर
6,000	8,000	10,000
(मासिक वजीफा रुपये में)		



- ❖ Maharashtra launched the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' for women.
- ❖ Chief Minister also introduced a new scheme aimed at providing job training and stipends for young men.
- ❖ The initiative, tentatively named the 'Ladka Bhau' Yojana, is part of the 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Karya-Prashikshan Yojana.'
- ❖ This scheme seeks to address unemployment by offering on-the-job training with a monthly stipend to eligible candidates.
- ❖ The initiative targets those who have completed their class 12 education, with a monthly stipend structure based on educational qualifications:
 - Rs 6,000 for class 12 graduates,
 - Rs 8,000 for diploma holders, and
 - Rs 10,000 for bachelor's degree holders.

Panchamasali Lingayats

- ❖ The Panchamasali Lingayats, a dominant agrarian caste in Karnataka, are demanding 2A category reservation under the OBC list.
- ❖ They have been demanding special reservation for nearly a decade, citing social backwardness of the community.
- ❖ They are forming about 80% of the politically powerful Lingayat caste group.

Table 1: Karnataka's current quota matrix

CATEGORY		QUOTA
Other Backward Classes (OBC)		32
Category 1	Backward Castes	4
Category 2A	Other Backward Classes	15
Category 2B	Muslims	4
Category 3A	Vokkaliga, etc.	4
Category 3B	Lingayat, etc.	5
Scheduled Castes (SC)		15
Scheduled Tribes (ST)		3
Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)		10
TOTAL RESERVATIONS		60

Bhil Pradesh



- ❖ The demand of the Bhil tribal community for a separate state is gaining momentum in Rajasthan.

- ❖ They are demanding for a separate state of “Bhil Pradesh” by carving out 49 districts from four states.
- ❖ As per Census 2011, there are 1.7 crore Bhils across the country.
- ❖ Their largest concentration is in Madhya Pradesh at about 60 lakhs.
- ❖ It is followed by 42 lakhs in Gujarat, 41 lakhs in Rajasthan and 26 lakhs in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The demand for Bhil Pradesh dates back to 1913.

Kharchi Puja – Tripura

- ❖ Kharchi Puja is observed annually on the Shukla Ashtami day, which falls on the eighth day of the lunar month of Ashadha.
- ❖ It is also known as the festival of 14 Gods.
- ❖ During the week-long festival, people worship Chaturdasa Devata, the ancestral deity of the Tripuri people.

GEP index for environment – Uttarakhand

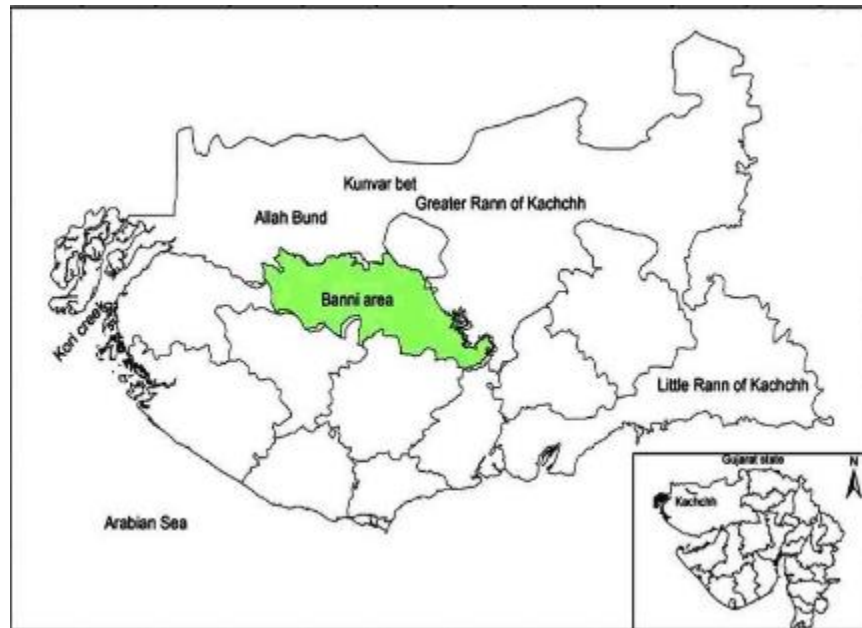
Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index

- ▲ Uttarakhand government released the GEP index.
 - It became the first state in the country to launch it.
- ▲ This index is based on parameters like water, forest, land and air quality.
- ▲ It takes into account the economic value of the ecosystem in GDP.
- ▲ It aims to establish harmony between ecology and economy.

- ❖ Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to assign monetary value to four of its natural resources termed as gross environment product (GEP).
- ❖ The GEP Index assesses the environmental quality based on the four main components:
 - **Water:** Evaluates the quality and availability of water resources in the state.
 - **Air:** Measures air quality and the impact of pollution on the environment and public health.

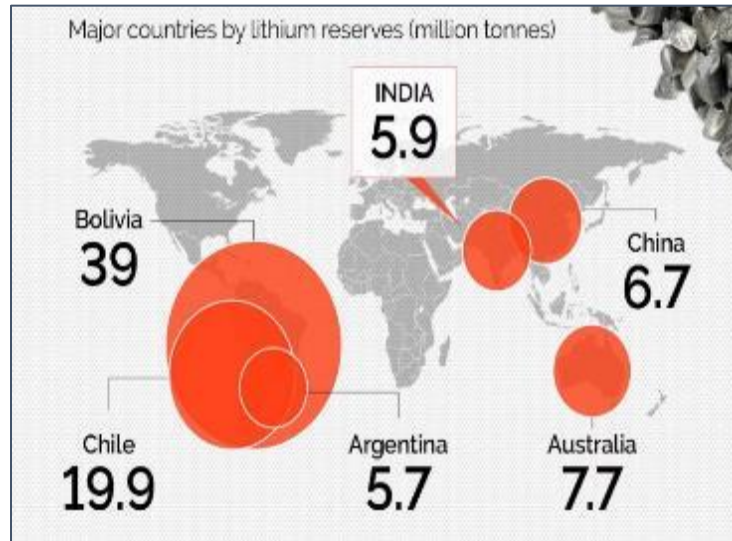
- **Forest:** Assesses forest cover, biodiversity, and the health of forest ecosystems.
- **Soil:** Examines soil health, including fertility and the impact of erosion and degradation.
- ❖ The GEP index reflects comparative data from 2020 to 2022 and shows a 0.9% increase.

Project Cheetah - Banni grasslands



- ❖ Some of the next batch of cheetahs being brought in from Africa, as part of the next phase of Project Cheetah, be sent to a cheetah-breeding and conservation centre in grasslands of Banni in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
- ❖ The Gandhi Sagar sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is the preferred location for the next lot of wild cats, and Banni has been considered as a potential habitat for over a decade.
- ❖ Banni is a vast grassland in the northern part of Kutch and extends to nearly 3,500 square kilometres.
- ❖ Of the 20 adult cheetahs brought to Kuno since September 2022, 13 are surviving in Indian conditions.
- ❖ Additionally, there are 13 cubs making it 26 animals overall.
- ❖ However, the maximum capacity (in terms of available prey) of the Kuno reserve is for 21 adult animals.

Discovery of Lithium Resources – Karnataka



- ❖ 1,600 tonnes of lithium resources have been found in Karnataka's Mandya and Yadgiri districts.
- ❖ This discovery was made through the initial surveys and some subsurface exploration.
- ❖ Lithium, an element on the periodic table, is highly valuable worldwide.
- ❖ It was discovered in 1817 by Johan August Arfvedson, its name comes from the Greek word lithos, meaning stone.
- ❖ Lithium is the lightest metal, reacts strongly with water, and can be toxic.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Books on Life Journey of Venkaiah Naidu

- ❖ Prime Minister released the following three books on the life and journey of former Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu.
- ❖ Biography of the former Vice President is titled “Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service” authored by S Nagesh Kumar.
- ❖ “Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice–President of India” is a Photo chronicle compiled by Dr I.V. Subba Rao.
- ❖ Pictorial biography in Telugu is titled as “Mahaneta: Life and Journey of M. Venkaiah Naidu” authored by Sanjay Kishore.

Blue Planet Prize 2024



- ❖ Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is one of the two recipients of the 2024 Blue Planet Prize.
- ❖ The other awardee is Robert Costanza from the Institute for Global Prosperity, University College London.
- ❖ IPBES is the intergovernmental organisation established in Panama City in 2012.
- ❖ It is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- ❖ The Blue Planet Prize is awarded annually by Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation.
- ❖ It is awarded to individuals and organisations to recognise outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application, which have helped provide solutions to global environmental problems.

International Toy Fair 2024





- ❖ More than 300 domestic companies and over 100 foreign buyers from the US, Germany and other countries participating in the four-day international toy fair in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 15th Toy Biz International B2B Expo 2024 is the largest fair in South Asia.
- ❖ The country's toy exports declined marginally to \$ 152.34 million in 2023-24 from \$ 153.89 million in the previous financial year.
- ❖ In 2022, the global market imported toys valued at about USD 60.3 billion.
- ❖ Dominating this market, China exported toys worth USD 48.3 billion, securing an 80 per cent share of the global exports.
- ❖ India's share in the global toy export market is only 0.3 per cent of the global exports, ranking it 27th.
- ❖ On the import side, India ranks even lower, at 61st, with toy imports amounting to USD 60 million.

National Literary Award 2024

- ❖ Tamil writer Sivashankari has been selected for Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award.
- ❖ The Chennai-based writer has penned 36 novels, 48 mini-novels (navalikas), 150 stories, 15 travelogues, seven volumes of essays, four research papers and two biographies in Tamil.
- ❖ She won the 'Saraswati Samman' 2022 for her book of memoirs Surya Vamsam.

Frank Duckworth

- ❖ English statistician and one of the inventors of the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, Frank Duckworth passed away recently.
- ❖ The Duckworth-Lewis method was devised by Duckworth and fellow statistician Tony Lewis.
- ❖ It was introduced to determine results in rain-affected cricket matches.
- ❖ The method was first used in international cricket in 1997.
- ❖ It was formally adopted by the ICC as the standard method for setting revised targets in truncated games in 2001.
- ❖ Later, some modifications made by Australian statistician Steven Stern.

Principal Advisor for National TB Program

- ❖ Former WHO's Chief Scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan has been appointed as the Principal Advisor for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
- ❖ India accounts for 25% of world's TB burden and over 25 lakh new cases of TB were notified in 2024 in India.
- ❖ In 1929, India joined the International Union Against Tuberculosis.
- ❖ In 1959, the government, with the help of the WHO, established the National TB Institute in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) was formulated in 1962.
- ❖ The National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination (2017-2025) was developed to eliminating TB by 2025.
- ❖ Later, A new National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination (2020-2025) to end TB was launched.
- ❖ India reduced TB incidence by 16% from 2015 to 2022 and reduced TB mortality by 18% during the same period.



9th IASRM Annual World Congress

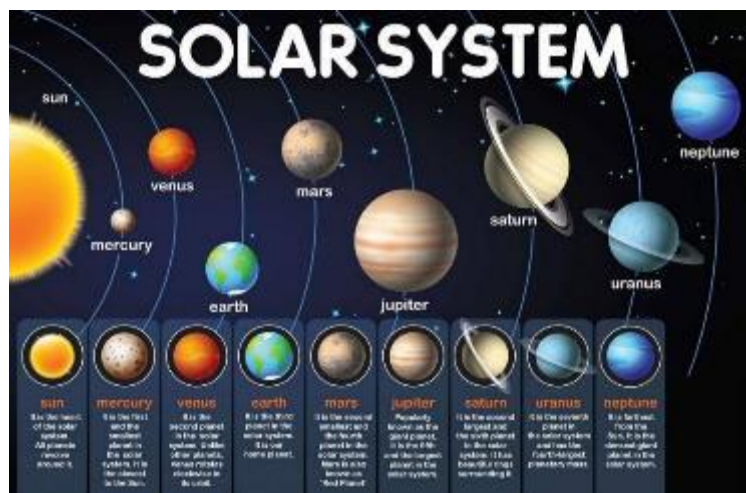
- ❖ IASRM and the Anti-Ageing Foundation (India) have hosted the 9th Annual World Congress–Longevity Revolution 2024-11 Years Regenerative Medicine Redefined.
- ❖ The International Association of Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine (IASRM) celebrated its 9th year of conducting stem cell and regenerative medicine conferences and workshops.
- ❖ Longevity Revolution 2024 is a premier platform for impactful discussions, interactions, and education in the field of regenerative medicine.



1st International Conference on Steel Slag Road

- ❖ The First International Conference on Steel Slag Road was jointly organized by CSIR-CRRI and PHDCCI at New Delhi.
- ❖ During the event, NITI Aayog released the guidelines for using steel slag in road construction.
- ❖ This technology repurposes steel production waste, creating strong, durable, and eco-friendly roads.
- ❖ Processed steel slag offers high strength, hardness, abrasion resistance, and drainage capacity.
- ❖ It can partially meet India's annual demand for 1.8 billion tonnes of natural aggregates.
- ❖ India's first steel slag road was built in Surat.

Missy Elliott's "The Rain" song





- ❖ NASA has sent Missy Elliott's 1997 hit song "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" on an interplanetary journey to Venus, marking a historic first for hip hop.
- ❖ Travelling a staggering 158 million miles at the speed of light, the song reached Venus in just 14 minutes.
- ❖ NASA had previously sent the Beatles' song "Across the Universe" into deep space in 2008 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of its recording.

SVANidhi Scheme awards 2024

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has secured the first place under the 'Best Performing State' category in the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- ❖ This micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors provides collateral-free loans up to Rs 50,000.
- ❖ Assam has been ranked second in the 'Best Performing States- Innovation and Best Practices Award' category.
- ❖ In the 'Best Performing ULBs - Loan Performance with mega and million plus cities' category, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has received the first place.
- ❖ It is followed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.
- ❖ The awards in the National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) were also announced.
- ❖ Kerala tops the chart in the category of 'Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time Ranking (SPARK)', followed by Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

UPSC chairman resignation – Manoj Soni

PROVISION	
Article 315	PSCs for the Union and for the States.
Article 316	Appointment and term of office of members.
Article 317	Removal/Suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission.
Article 318	Powers to make regulations regarding conditions of service of members and staff of Commissions.
Article 319	Prohibition on holding of offices by members on end of tenure.
Article 320	Functions of PSCs.
Article 321	Power to extend functions of PSCs.
Article 322	Expenses of PSCs.
Article 323	Reports of PSCs.



- ❖ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairperson Dr Manoj Soni has resigned from the top post.
- ❖ His term was to end on May 15, 2029.
- ❖ He took over as a member of the Commission on June 28, 2017 and took oath as chairperson on May 16, 2023.
- ❖ In 2005, Soni was the youngest ever Vice-Chancellor in India.
- ❖ UPSC is an independent constitutional body.
- ❖ The powers and functions of UPSC are provided in Part XIV of the Indian Constitution under Article 315 to Article 323.
- ❖ Any member of the UPSC shall hold office for a term of six years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ Members of a Commission is ineligible for reappointment to that office except as its chairperson.
- ❖ A member of the UPSC may resign from his/her office by submitting the written resignation to the President of India.

International Mathematics Olympiad 2024

- ❖ A six-member team of Indian students has represented India at the International Mathematics Olympiad 2024.
- ❖ The team clocked four gold and one silver medal at the event which was held in Bath, United Kingdom.
- ❖ The team rank is 4 out of 108 participating countries.

Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman 2023-24 Award

- ❖ The Town Official Language Implementation Committee - TOLIC (PSU), Visakhapatnam meeting was hosted by NTPC.
- ❖ TOLIC awarded prizes across three categories based on performance in the implementation of Hindi:
 - HPCL-Visakha Refinery won First Prize in Category I.
 - HPCL's various team won 2nd prize in Category II and III.
 - GAIL won First Prize in Category II.

10th National Community Radio Awards

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), has announced the winners of the 10th National Community Radio Awards.
- ❖ India's 500th Community Radio Station, 'Apna Radio 90.0 FM,' operated by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in Aizawl of Mizoram also inaugurated.
- ❖ The awards were distributed in various categories:

Category	Radio	Program
Thematic Award	Radio Mayur, Bihar	Tech Sakhi
	Radio Kochi, Kerala	Nirangal
	Hello Doon, Uttarakhand	Meri Baat
Most Innovative Community Engagement Award	Yerlawani Sangli, Maharashtra	Kahani Sunandachi
	Vaylaga Vanoli, Tamil Nadu	Let's Build a New Norm
	Salaam Namaste, Uttar Pradesh	Maid Didi
Promoting Local Culture Award	Radio BrahmaputraRadio Brahmaputra, Assam	Igarekun
	Radio Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu	En Makkaludan Oru Payanam
	Radio Active, Bihar	Ang Pradesh ki Adbut Dharohar'
Sustainability Model Award	Radio Benziger, Kerala	
	Radio Namaskar, Odisha	
	Radio Antarwani, Karnataka	

SPORTS

Archery World Cup 2024

- ❖ The Archery World Cup 2024 consists of four stages, with events held in different locations worldwide.
 - Stage 1 held at Shanghai, China
 - Stage 2 held at Yecheon, South Korea
 - Stage 3 held at Antalya, Turkey
 - Final will be at Tlaxcala, Mexico
- ❖ The trio of Aditi Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, and Parneet Kaur clinched their third consecutive gold medal of the season.
- ❖ India's team finish with an impressive tally of four medals – one gold, one silver, and two bronze in Stage 2.



Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli Retirement

- ❖ Indian captain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli has announced that the T20 World Cup final triumph against South Africa was his last in the format.
- ❖ Rohit becomes only the third Indian captain to have won a World Cup – across formats – after Kapil Dev (1983) and MS Dhoni (2007 and 2011).
- ❖ He has now become the first-ever captain to lead a team to 50 T20I games.
- ❖ The 50th triumph is being the World Cup final against South Africa.
- ❖ He has also scored five T20I hundreds, the most in the format alongside Australia’s Glenn Maxwell.
- ❖ Kohli played 125 T20I matches in his career, scoring 4188 runs at an average of 48.69 and a strike rate of 137.04.
- ❖ He is the second-highest scorer in the format.
- ❖ He also finishes his career at the top of the run scorers’ charts in T20 World Cups.
- ❖ He remains the only player to have been the highest run scorer in two different T20 World Cups.
- ❖ He was also named in the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Decade from 2011 to 2020.

HITMAN T20I		KOHLI T20I	
151	159	117	125
Matches	100% year	Matches	100% year
19	121*	31	122*
100% year	100% year	100% year	100% year
4,231	5/32	4188	1/38
runs	wickets	runs	wickets
65	383/205	54	369/124
100% year	100% year	100% year	100% year
140.89	32.05	137.04	48.69
100% year	100% year	100% year	100% year

Asian Billiards Championship 2024



- ❖ Dhruv Sitwala defeated Pankaj Advani to win the 2024 Asian Billiards Championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Dhruv had earlier won the Asian billiards title in 2015 and 2016.
- ❖ The Bronze medal was won by another Indian cueist, Dhvaj Haria.
- ❖ Pankaj Advani has been inducted into the Hall of Fame at the World Billiards Museum in Shangrao City in China.
- ❖ Another Indian, Anupama Ramachandran, won her first international title by defeating Panchaya Channoi of Thailand.

Wimbledon Tennis 2024



- ❖ The Wimbledon 2024 final match was held in London, England.
- ❖ Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) defended his Wimbledon men's singles title by beating Novak Djokovic (Serbia).
- ❖ In women's category, Barbora Krejčíková of Czech Republic won the title by defeating Jasmine Paolini (Italy).
- ❖ Other winners:

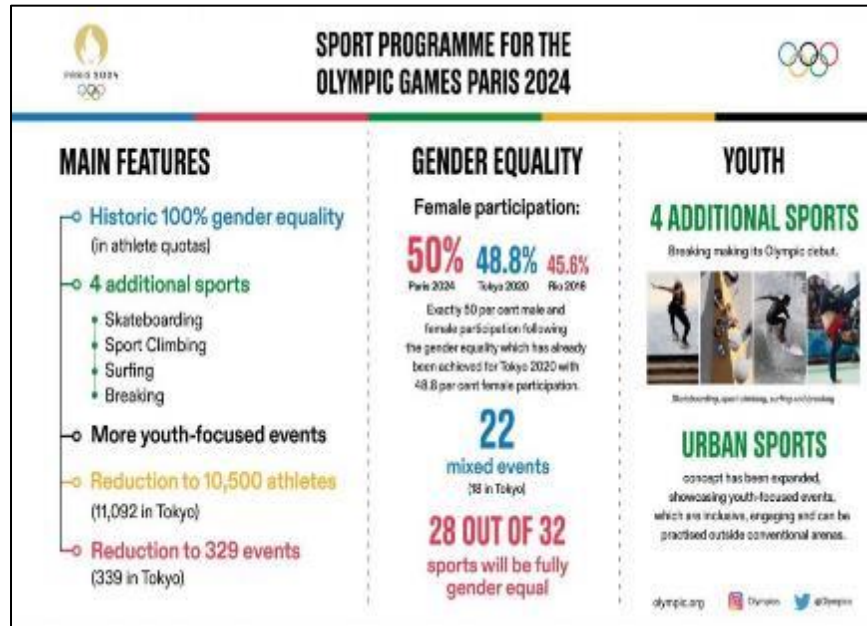
- Women's Doubles - Taylor Townsend & Katerina Siniakova.
- Men's Doubles - Patten & Heliovaara.
- Mixed Doubles - Hsieh Su-Wei & Jan Zielinski.

Olympics 2024



- ❖ The 2024 Summer Olympics is held from July 26 to August 11 this year at Paris, France.
- ❖ This is the third time Paris is hosting the Summer Olympics, almost a century after it last hosted in 1924.
- ❖ About 5804 medals will be distributed during the Games.
- ❖ London is the only other city to have hosted the Games three times (in 1908, 1948, and 2012).
- ❖ The Games will feature 329 events in 32 sports.
- ❖ It is including the 28 "core" Olympic sports contested in 2016 and 2020, and four optional sports that were proposed by the Paris Organising Committee.
- ❖ For the first time that the opening ceremony for an edition of the Summer Olympics is held out of the traditional setting of an Olympic Stadium.
- ❖ Both Olympic and Paralympic medals carry a piece of iron from the Eiffel Tower, which was recovered during a recent renovation.
- ❖ Russia and Belarus are banned from the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris due to their involvement in the ongoing Ukraine war.
- ❖ But 15 athletes from Russia and 18 from Belarus are set to compete as "Individual Neutral Athletes" or AINs.
- ❖ Competing under the AIN means that Russian and Belarusian flags, national anthems and uniforms will not be allowed at the Paris Games.

Gender Equality in Paris Olympics 2024



- ❖ Exactly 50 per cent male and female participation, following on from the gender equality already achieved for Tokyo 2020.
- ❖ 2020 Olympic Games held with an overall 48.8 per cent female participation.
- ❖ Now, Mixed gender events increased from 18 to 22, compared to Tokyo 2020.
- ❖ Athletics, boxing and cycling reaches full gender equality for the first time ever at Paris 2024.
- ❖ 28 out of 32 sports on the Paris 2024 programs are fully gender balanced.

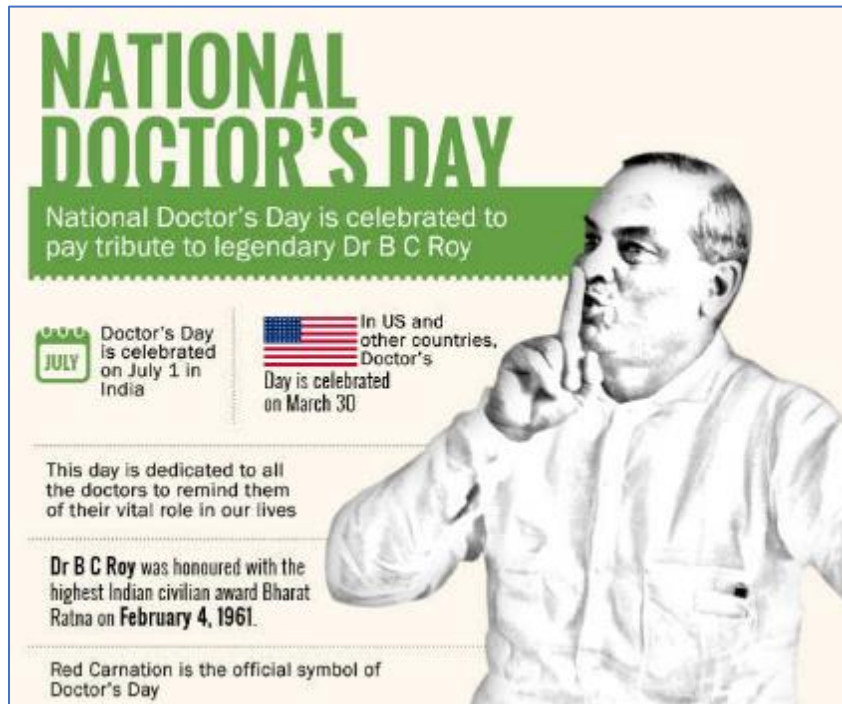
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Allergy Week 2024 - June 23 to 29

- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness of allergic diseases and other related medical conditions.
- ❖ In 2005, the first World Allergy Day was celebrated.
- ❖ In 2011, World Allergy Awareness Week was established.
- ❖ This year's theme topic is childhood food allergy.

National Doctor's Day 2024 - July 01

- ❖ This day is dedicated to recognising the invaluable contributions of doctors to the society.
- ❖ It aims to honour the birth and death anniversary of the renowned physician Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- ❖ Dr. Roy was also the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Healing Hands, Caring Hearts.”



National Chartered Accountant Day 2024 - July 01

- ❖ This day honours the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1949.
- ❖ It recognises the crucial role that chartered accountants play in shaping the economic and financial ecosystem.
- ❖ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was established in 1949 through a parliamentary act.
- ❖ The ICAI holds the honour of being the world's second-largest professional organisation for chartered accountants.

GST Day 2024 - July 01



- ❖ The day was first observed on July 1, 2018, marking the first anniversary of the tax system's adoption.
- ❖ In August 2016, the Parliament enacted the Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, authorising the central government to charge and collect GST.
- ❖ GST is a comprehensive indirect tax, transformed India's tax system by eliminating multiple complex taxes levied by the central and state governments.
- ❖ Goods and Services Tax (GST) has simplified the tax structure by focusing on the destinations, improving transparency and efficiency.

World UFO Day 2024 - July 02



- ❖ This day aims to bring people together who love UFOs and to raise awareness about these unidentified flying objects.
- ❖ This date marks the anniversary of the Rosswell incident in 1947.
- ❖ Initially it was proposed to coincide with the reported sighting of a UFO by pilot Kenneth Arnold in 1947, the date eventually changed to July 2nd.

World Sports Journalists Day 2024 - July 02

- ❖ The International Sports Press Association (AIPS) established this day.
- ❖ It is commemorating the formation day of AIPS as an organisation in 1994 during the Summer Olympics in Paris.
- ❖ Sports journalism is a form of reporting that focuses on matters pertaining to any subject or topic related to sports.
- ❖ They work on various media platforms including print, broadcast, and the internet.

Hul Divas 2024 - June 30

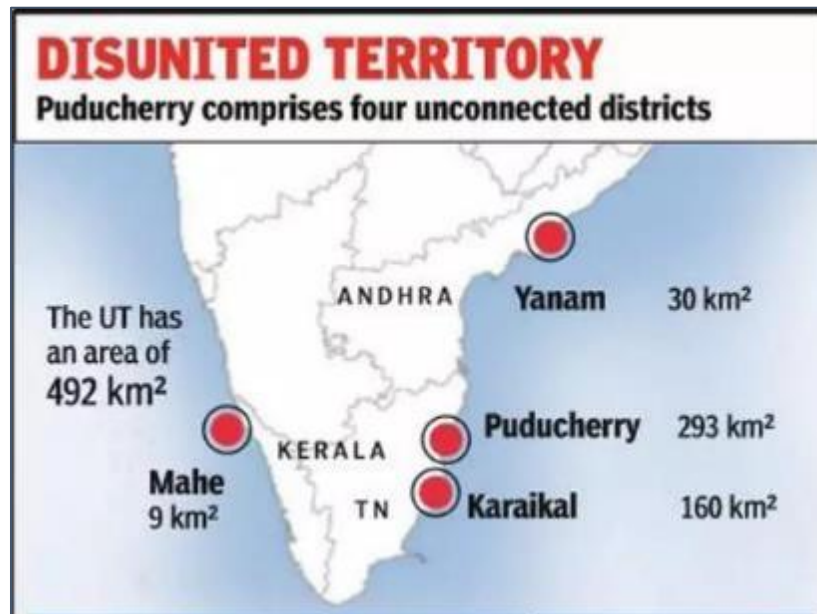
- ❖ Hul Divas is observed annually in memory of tribal leaders Sidho and Kanhu Murmu.
- ❖ They led the Santhal hul (rebellion) on June 30, 1855, at Bhognadih in Sahebganj district (now Jharkhand).
- ❖ This is often referred to as “the first war for Indian independence”.
- ❖ The rebellion took place in the lush Damin-i-Koh region – ‘Damin-i-Koh’.
- ❖ The Santal people or Santalis – were not the original inhabitants of modern day Santhal Pargana.
- ❖ They had migrated from the Birbhum and Manbhum regions (present-day Bengal), starting around the late 18th century.



Foundation Day of Puducherry 2024 - July 01

- ❖ On this day, the Government of Union Territories Act 1963 was came into force.
- ❖ It provides Puducherry with Legislative Assemblies and Council of Ministers.

- ❖ Puducherry was captured by the Dutch in 1693 but was returned to the French company by the Treaty of Ryswick in 1699.
- ❖ In 1674, Francois Martin was appointed as the first Governor by the French East India Company.
- ❖ Puducherry is officially transferred from French India to the Republic of India and became a Union Territory in 1954.



International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024 - July 03



- ❖ It was dedicated to eliminating single-use plastic bags and promoting sustainable alternatives.

- ❖ Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE), initiated this day in 2008.
- ❖ Plastic bags are made from non-renewable fossil fuels, contributing to resource depletion and greenhouse gas emissions during production and disposal.
- ❖ The goal is to urge individuals and governments to recognise this concern and take action to reduce plastic use and pollution.

International Day of Cooperatives 2024 - July 6

- ❖ This day is celebrated on the first Saturday of July.
- ❖ The International Cooperative Alliance had established the first International Cooperative Day in 1923 to honour the ideals and principles of cooperation.
- ❖ This year marks the 102nd International Cooperative Day and the 30th International Day of Cooperatives recognised by the United Nations.
- ❖ This year's theme will be "Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All."

World Zoonoses Day 2024 - July 06

- ❖ On July 6, 1885, French Biologist Louis Pasteur administered a rabies vaccine to a young boy who was bitten by a rabid dog.
- ❖ Zoonosis or Zoonotic diseases refer to the infections or infectious diseases that originate from animals.
- ❖ All the diseases that exist to date, about 60 percent of them are zoonotic in nature.
- ❖ About 70 percent of the emerging infections have their origin in animals.



World Kiswahili Language Day 2024 - July 07

- ❖ The third edition of World Kiswahili Language Day was celebrated this year.

- ❖ The theme of this year is "Kiswahili: Education and Culture of Peace."
- ❖ It is among the world's ten most widely spoken languages in the world, with over 230 million speakers.
- ❖ Kiswahili is one of the most widely used languages of the African family and is the most widely spoken in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ Kiswahili is the first language of Tanzanians.



National Fish Farmer's Day 2024 - July 10

- ❖ This day honours and commemorates the contribution of Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. K. H. Alikunhi.
- ❖ It aims to recognize and appreciate the invaluable contributions of fish farmers, aquaculture industry professionals, and other stakeholders toward ensuring a sustainable and thriving fisheries sector.
- ❖ To mark the day this year, the Department of Fisheries is organizing 'Fisheries Summer Meet 2024' in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

First International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica 2024 - July 11

- ❖ On May 23, 2024, the UN General Assembly designated this day.
- ❖ The incident was the largest massacre in Europe since the Holocaust during World War Two.
- ❖ In July 1995, the Bosnian Serb army overran Srebrenica and brutally murdered thousands of men and teenagers there, expelling 20,000 people from the town.



World Population Day 2024 - July 11

- ❖ It has been celebrated every year to create the awareness about the growing population of the world.
- ❖ On July 11, 1987, the population of the world reached five billion.
- ❖ The day came to be established by the United Nations and was first observed in the year 1989.
- ❖ This year's theme is "investing in data collection is important to understanding problems, tailoring solutions, and driving progress."



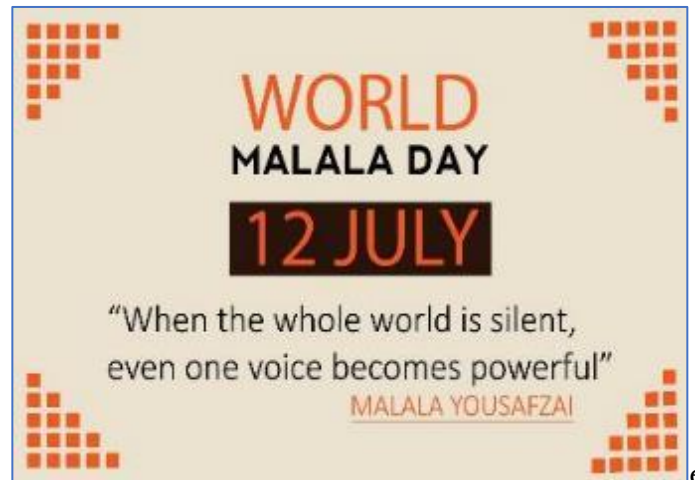
Global Energy Independence Day 2024 - July 10

- ❖ It highlights the critical importance of energy independence and underscores the need for diversified and sustainable energy sources.
- ❖ This day serves as a reminder of the urgency to transition away from fossil fuels and embrace cleaner alternatives.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Energy Transition Now: Embrace the Future".

International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms 2024 - July 12

- ❖ It aims to raise global awareness of the growing health and environmental challenges posed by Sand and dust storms (SDS).
- ❖ SDS have historically played a critical role in Earth's biogeochemical cycles.
- ❖ But human activities now contribute significantly to their increase.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly also proclaimed 2025-2034 as the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms.
- ❖ Every year, an estimated 2 billion tonnes of sand and dusts enter the atmosphere.

Malala Day 2024 - July 12



- ❖ It honours the Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai for her tireless advocacy of girls' education.
- ❖ The United Nations declared this day as Malala Day in 2013.
- ❖ Taliban attacked her on October 9 2012 for opposing their restrictions on female education in Pakistan.

Bastille Day 2024 - July 14

- ❖ It is the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille prison in Paris in 1789.
- ❖ To introduce new taxes, Louis XVI, in 1788, summoned the Estates-General, a nominally representative body that had last met in 1614.
- ❖ The Third Estate - commoners effectively broke away to establish the National Assembly on June 17, 1789.
- ❖ On June 20, this body took oath at the royal tennis court in Versailles.
- ❖ Louis XVI started moving more troops into Paris to crush this movement.

- ❖ On July 14, a huge, armed mob began marching towards the Bastille, a 14th century fortress-prison in Paris.

World Youth Skill Day 2024 - July 15

- ❖ The first observance was on July 15, 2015.
- ❖ It aims to promote awareness and understanding of the importance of youth skills development.
- ❖ This year's event theme is "Youth Skills for Peace and Development."

ICAR Foundation and Technology Day 2024 - July 16



- ❖ This year marks the 96th foundation day of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- ❖ ICAR was originally established as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in July 16, 1929 at Delhi.
- ❖ During 2023-24, total of 323 varieties across 56 crops were released by ICAR, including cereals, oilseeds, forage crops, and sugarcane.

World Day for International Justice 2024 - July 17

- ❖ This day is dedicated to promoting international criminal justice and honouring the fight against impunity for criminals for serious crimes affecting the international community.
- ❖ On this day in 1998, the Statue of Rome was adopted and the International Criminal Court (ICC) was established.
- ❖ The ICC is the first permanent international court that prosecutes individuals involved in genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression.

- ❖ The legal foundation for the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) came into force on July 1, 2002.
- ❖ The headquarters of ICC is located in The Hague, Netherlands.
- ❖ It operates independently from the United Nations.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2024 – July 18

- ❖ On his birthday anniversary, this day celebrates the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela.
- ❖ Mandela became the first democratically elected president of the country on May 10, 1994
- ❖ He is referred to as the 'Father of the Nation' in South Africa.
- ❖ Throughout his life, Mandela fought for freedom and justice leading him to his imprisonment for 27 years.
- ❖ He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for his contributions.
- ❖ In 1990, Indian government awarded Bharat Ratna to him.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Combating poverty and inequality is in our hands.'



CSIR - CRRI foundation Day 2024 - July 16

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) celebrated its 73rd Foundation Day.
- ❖ The idea for CRRI was first discussed at the 1943 conference of Chief Engineers in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It was later approved by the CSIR General Body in March 1950, under the guidance of Sir Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar, on 16 July 1952.

International Moon Day 2024 - July 20

- ❖ This day marks the anniversary of the first human landing on the lunar surface in 1969.
- ❖ This was accomplished by the Apollo 11 mission, during which Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin set foot on the Moon's surface.
- ❖ This day was declared on 9 December 2021 by the United Nations General Assembly.



International Chess Day 2024 - July 20

- ❖ This day is serving as a tribute to the game's long and fascinating history and its lasting impact on cultures worldwide.
- ❖ This date coincides with the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1924.
- ❖ FIDE's establishment marked a turning point in competitive chess.
- ❖ It standardized rules, organized international tournaments, and fostered the game's growth.

National Flag Day 2024 - July 22

- ❖ It commemorates the adoption of the Indian national flag on July 22, 1947, by the Constituent Assembly.
- ❖ It celebrates historical achievement and stands for the ambition, diversity, and togetherness of the Indian populace.
- ❖ The Ashoka Chakra, which replaced the spinning wheel or 'Charkha' on the flag, symbolised self-reliance and resistance during India's struggle for freedom.

- ❖ This modification was proposed by Badr-ud-Din Tyabji and supported by Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ In 2002, amendments to the Flag Code of India expanded citizens' rights regarding the national flag.



National Mango Day 2024 - July 22

- ❖ In 1987, the National Horticulture Board of India introduced the concept of the International Mango Festival to pay tribute to mangoes.
- ❖ Mangoes and its connection to Indian culture dates back 5000 years when it was used as a reference in Indian folklore.
- ❖ The fruit got its name, most likely, from the Malayam manna, which the Portuguese adopted as manga when they arrived in Kerala back in the 15th century.

Pi Approximation Day 2024 - July 22

Pi gets celebrated twice a year!

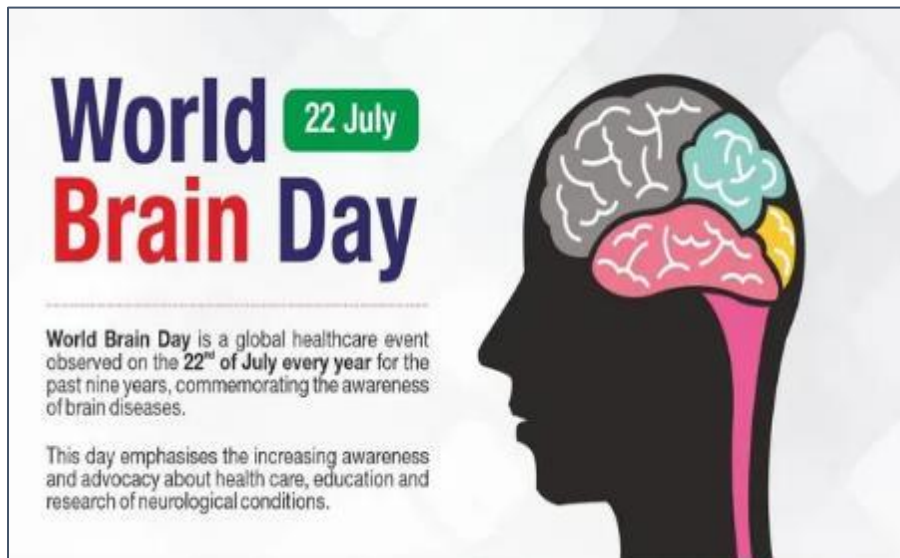
March 14 (3/14): This is International Pi Day, a play on the first digits of pi (3.14). People celebrate with pie (baked goods) or explore the mathematical side of pi.

July 22 (22/7): This is Pi Approximation Day. The date (22/7) is a common approximation of pi. It's a lesser-known celebration but honors pi in a different way.

- ❖ The date (22/7) is commonly used as an approximation for the mathematical constant π (pi).
- ❖ This fundamental constant represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.
- ❖ Also, Pi Day is celebrated on March 14, as the date marks the actual value of Pi - 3.14 (22/7).
- ❖ Greek letter π was first used by William Jones in 1706 but it was later popularised by Leonhard Euler in 1737.

World Brain Day 2024 - July 22

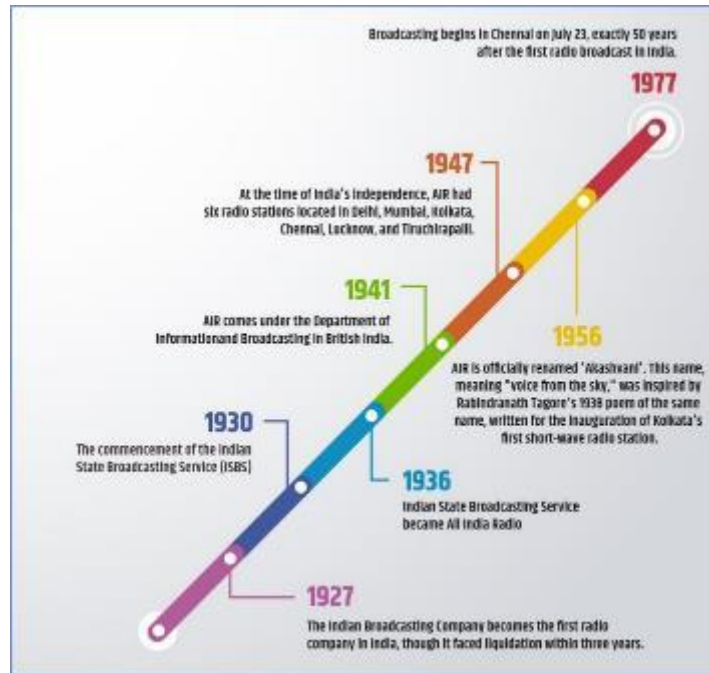
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a healthy brain.
- ❖ The World Federation of Neurology was established on July 22, 1957.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Brain Health and Prevention".
- ❖ Since the last three decades (1990-2019), the percentage of non-communicable and injury-related neurological diseases in India's overall disease burden has more than doubled.



National Broadcasting Day 2024 - July 23

- ❖ In June 1923, the Radio Club of Bombay initiated India's first radio broadcast.
- ❖ The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was established as the nation's first radio company on July 23, 1927.
- ❖ The IBC was later taken over by the government and renamed All India Radio (AIR) in 1936.

- ❖ By the time of India's independence in 1947, the nation had six AIR radio broadcasts in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Lucknow and Tiruchirappalli.
- ❖ The name of AIR was later changed to Akashvani in 1956.
- ❖ Nearly 650 news bulletins in 90 languages are broadcast by the 262 radio stations that make up AIR today.



National Income Tax Day 2024 - July 24



- ❖ This day honours the establishment of income tax by Sir James Wilson in 1860.
- ❖ This first tax was intended to tax income from different sources, as stated in the Income Tax Act's Section 2(24).

- ❖ But the nation's tax system was genuinely revolutionised by the Comprehensive Income-tax Act of 1922.
- ❖ In 1924, the Central Board of Revenue Act further strengthened this structure by constituting the Board as a statutory body.
- ❖ Group A officers were recruited in 1946 and had their initial training in Bombay and Calcutta.

World Drowning Prevention Day 2024 - July 25

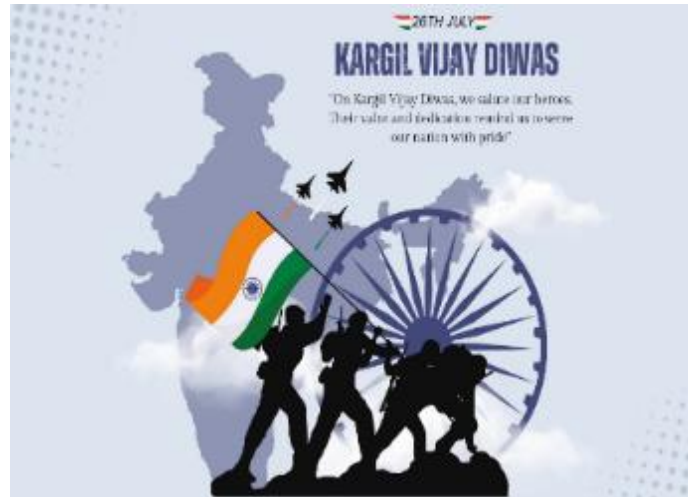
- ❖ It aims for raising the awareness and accelerating action on the global drowning prevention.
- ❖ This year, the overarching theme is "Anyone can drown, no one should."
- ❖ The World Health Organization has chosen the slogan "Seconds can save a life."
- ❖ Globally, an estimated 236,000 lives are lost to drowning every year—an average of 650 every day, or 26 every hour.

World Embryologist Day 2024 - July 25



- ❖ It recognises the amazing work that embryologists from the past and present have accomplished.
- ❖ It honours their contributions to the field of reproductive medicine, particularly in vitro fertilisation (IVF).
- ❖ July 25 was chosen as World IVF Day because it is the birthday of Louise Brown, the first baby ever born through in vitro fertilisation (IVF).
- ❖ Louise was born in Oldham, United Kingdom, on this day in 1978.
- ❖ Since then, over 8 million babies have been born through IVF.

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024 - July 26



- ❖ It is observed to pay tribute to the bravery of Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country during the Kargil War of 1999.
- ❖ This year is marking the 25th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War.
- ❖ The infiltration was discovered in May 1999, prompting the Indian Army to launch Operation Vijay.
- ❖ The Indian soldiers secured this victory after a three-month conflict on July 26, 1999.

World Hepatitis Day 2024 - July 28

- ❖ This day is observed to raising awareness about hepatitis, promoting prevention, testing, and treatment, and advocating for better public health policies to combat the disease.



- ❖ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, often caused by viral infections.

- ❖ It is also due to other factors such as alcohol consumption, certain medications, and autoimmune diseases.
- ❖ The main types of viral hepatitis are hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E which each with different modes of transmission and potential health impacts.
- ❖ An estimated 304 million people worldwide live with hepatitis B or C.
- ❖ This year's theme is "It's time for action".

International Day for Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems 2024 - July 26

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as a unique, special, and vulnerable ecosystem.
- ❖ It also promotes solutions for mangrove's sustainable management, conservation and uses.
- ❖ It was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2015.
- ❖ The extent of mangroves in India has increased from 4,046 square kilometre (sq km) in 1987 to 4,992 sq. km in 2019.
- ❖ Between 2006 and 2018, the natural coastal wetlands declined from 3.69 million ha to 3.62 million ha.
- ❖ The intertidal mudflats have decreased by a whopping 116,897 ha, and salt marshes by 5,647 ha.

CRPF Foundation Day 2024 - July 27

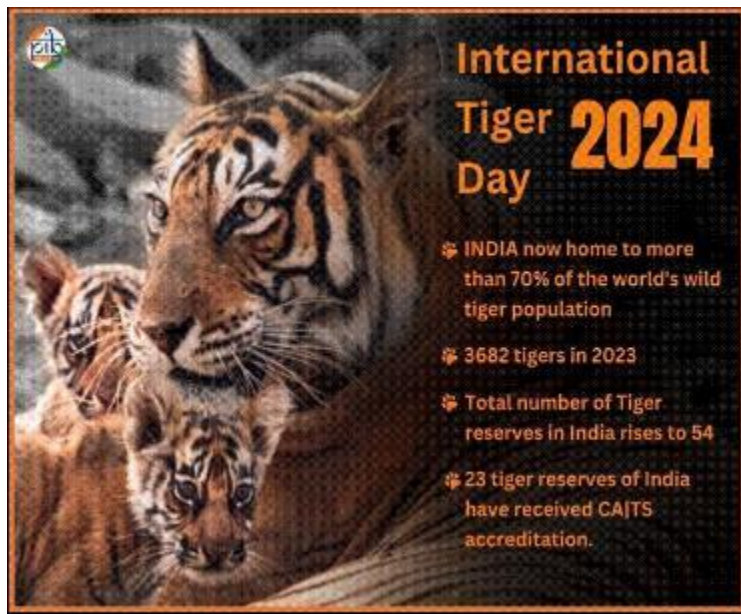


- ❖ It was originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939.
- ❖ CRPF was the internal combat force in India.

- ❖ The force was renamed as CRPF by an Act of Parliament passed on December 28, 1949.
- ❖ The force is headed by a Director General and is further divided into four zones located in Jammu, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Guwahati.

International Tiger Day 2024 - July 29

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about tiger conservation and promote protection of tiger habitats.
- ❖ This was first announced in 2010 at the Tiger Summit in St Petersburg, Russia.
- ❖ On this occasion, the 13 tiger range countries came together to create Tx2, the global goal to double the number of wild tigers by the year 2022.
- ❖ India is home to over 70 % of the global tiger population.
- ❖ Project Tiger, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, was launched in 1973 (April 1).



World Nature Conservation Day 2024 - July 28

- ❖ It aims to protect the biodiversity and natural resources for present and future generations.
- ❖ It promotes teamwork to defend ecosystems against hazards like pollution and climate change, guaranteeing a safe environment for coming generations.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Connecting People and Plants, Exploring the Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.”



World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2024 - July 30



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about human trafficking trends as identified by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- ❖ Women and girls make up the majority of victims, accounting for 42 and 18 per cent, respectively.
- ❖ 1 in 3 victims of human trafficking globally is a child.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against the Human Trafficking".

World Ranger Day 2024 - July 31

- ❖ This day commemorates the Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.
- ❖ The 2024 World Ranger Day theme is '30 by 30'.
- ❖ It means at least 30 per cent of the planet is effectively conserved and managed by 2030.



MISCELLANEOUS

41,000-Year-Old Ostrich Nest



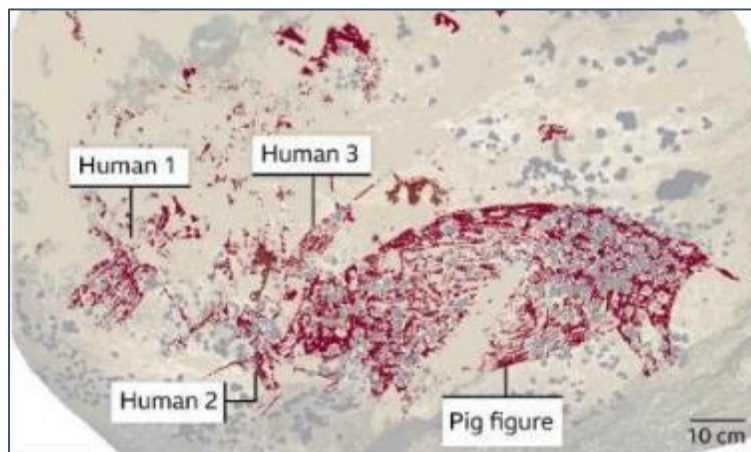
- ❖ Archaeologists in Andhra Pradesh have found a 41,000-year-old ostrich nest, which is the oldest in the world.
- ❖ It is one of the megafaunas went extinct around 40,000 years ago from all over the world.
- ❖ The animals weighing more than 40kg are called megafauna, which literally means large animals — such as horses, elephants, cattle, and hippopotamuses.
- ❖ The oldest ostrich eggshell was discovered from the Siwalik Hills on the Indian side of the Himalayas.
- ❖ They date back more than 20 lakh years.

350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji

- ❖ This year marks the 350th year since the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- ❖ The coronation of Shivaji as the king of the Marathas was conducted on June 6, 1674 at Raigad fort.
- ❖ The exhibition depicting 115 oil paintings of Shivaji Maharaj was organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) recently.

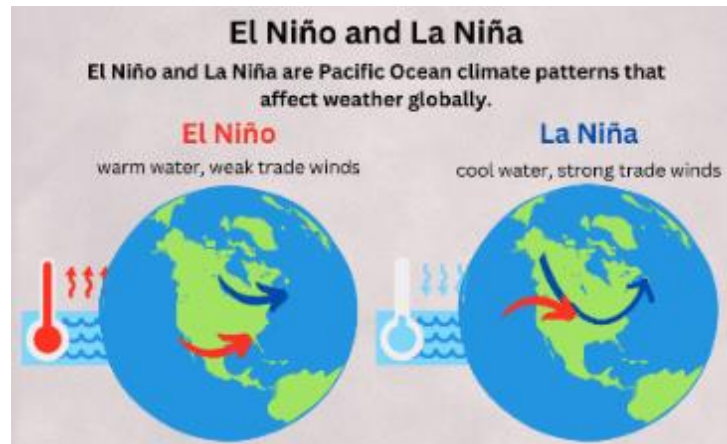


World's Oldest Cave Painting



- ❖ The oldest example of figurative cave art has been discovered in the Indonesian Island of Sulawesi.
- ❖ The painting of a wild pig and three human-like figures is at least 51,200 years old.
- ❖ Also, it is more than 5,000 years older than the previous oldest cave art.

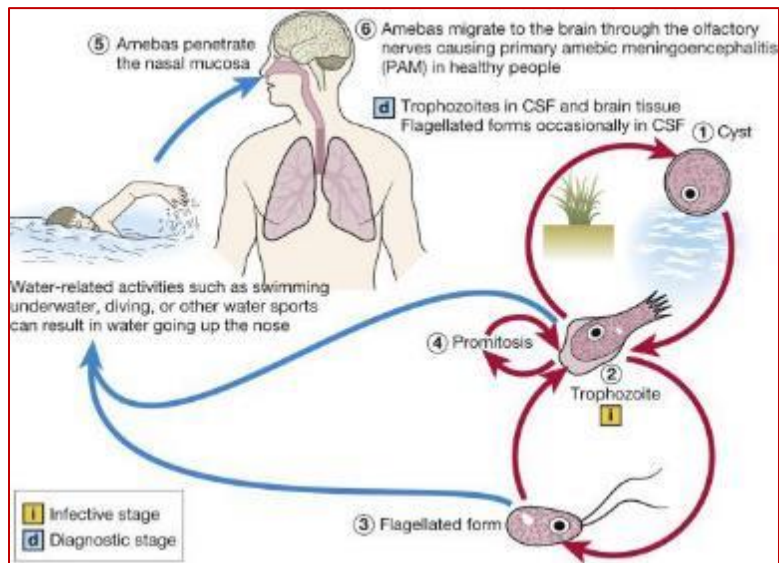
Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network



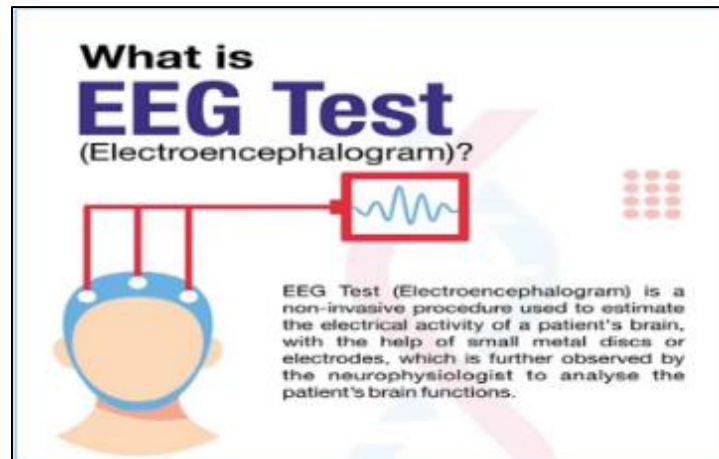
- ❖ Bayesian Convolutional Neural Network (BCNN) is the new product uses the latest technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), deep learning, and machine learning (ML) to improve forecasts related to the ENSO phases.
- ❖ BCNN is a combination of the dynamic model with AI.
- ❖ This helps it forecast the emergence of El Niño and La Niña conditions with a 15-month lead time.
- ❖ Other models which can give a prediction up to six to nine months in advance.

Brain-Eating Amoeba Infection

- ❖ Four cases of the rare but fatal primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) reported in Kerala.
- ❖ Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis or PAM is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*.
- ❖ This amoeba thrives in warm freshwater lakes, ponds and rivers.
- ❖ It can also survive in poorly maintained swimming pools in rare cases.
- ❖ The amoeba enters the body through the nose and reaches the brain.
- ❖ As it can infect the brain and destroy the tissues there, this one-celled organism is also called 'brain-eating amoeba'.
- ❖ These infections, though rare, are fatal and 97% of the patients don't survive.



100 years of electroencephalography (EEG)



- ❖ The EEG is a marvel of physics and neurobiology that opens a simple window into the human brain.
- ❖ In 1875, British physician Richard Caton reported evidence of electrical activity in the brains of monkeys and rabbits.
- ❖ In 1912, Vladimir Pravdich-Neminsky produced the first mammalian EEG, of a dog's brain.
- ❖ Hans Berger succeeded him in 1924 with the human counterpart.
- ❖ EEG stands for electroencephalography. 'Electro-' pertains to electricity.
- ❖ EEG measures electrical activity in the brain generated by neurons.
- ❖ It is better than other diagnostic devices at tracking relatively rapid electrical activity in the brain, in the order of milliseconds.

Largest coal mines in India



- ❖ The Chhattisgarh-based South Eastern Coalfields Limited's (SECL) Gevra and Kusunda coal mines have secured the 2nd and 4th spots in the list of the world 10 largest coal mines.
- ❖ These two mines produce more 100 million tons of coal annually accounting for about 10 per cent of India's total coal production.
- ❖ Black Thunder Mine of USA topped in the list.

Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex – Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India submitted its scientific survey report on the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex.
- ❖ The ASI report suggests that Bhojshala was once a significant educational center, established by King Bhoj.
- ❖ The Hindu community considers Bhojshala, a 11th-century monument, as a temple of Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati).
- ❖ The Muslim side calls it Kamal Maula Mosque.
- ❖ For the last 21 years, the Hindus are allowed to worship in the Bhojshala while Muslims are allowed to offer namaz at the place.
- ❖ Sufi saint Maula Kamaluddin Chishti was a disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya.
- ❖ He preached here for around 40 years around 1291.

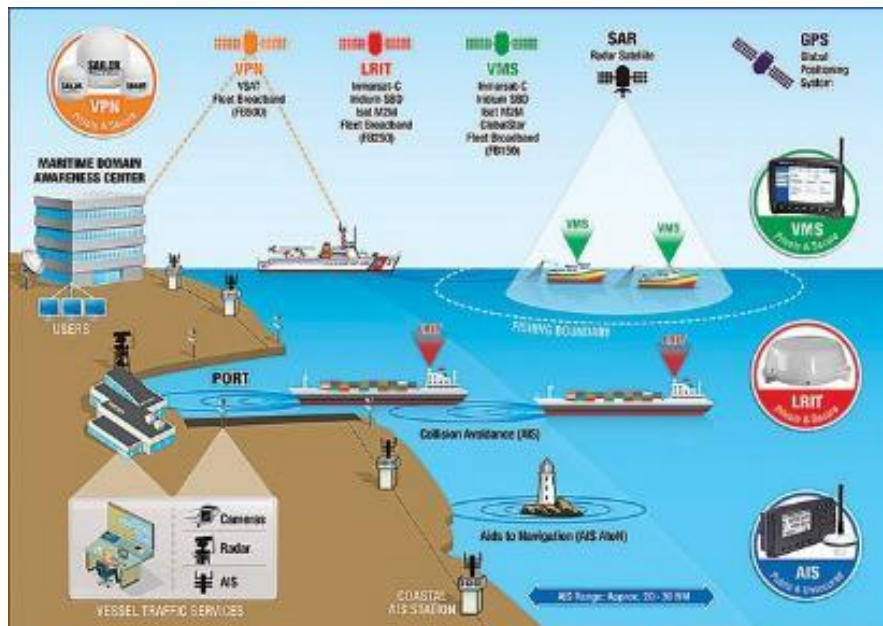
Peru – Mashco Piro tribes

- ❖ Indigenous rights NGO Survival International has released rare pictures of the Mashco Piro tribes' people, one of the world's 100-odd uncontacted tribes.

- ❖ The Mashco Piro, possibly numbering more than 750, are believed to be the largest of such tribes.
- ❖ These nomadic hunter-gatherers live in the Amazon jungles of the Madre de Dios Region, close to Peru's border with Brazil and Bolivia.
- ❖ The tribe is very reclusive, only occasionally contacting the native but contacted Yine people.
- ❖ Much of what is known about the Mashco Piro comes from Yine accounts.



National Maritime Domain Awareness Centre



- ❖ India is going to open a National Maritime Domain Awareness Center (NMDAC).
- ❖ It aims to fight new dangers in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



- ❖ The NMDAC will focus on terrorism, piracy, trafficking, and illegal fishing.
- ❖ The 2008 terrorist strikes in Mumbai led to the creation of the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in 2014.
- ❖ The Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) opened in 2018.

Kalaripayattu Federation



- ❖ The Indian Kalaripayattu Federation has been recognized as the Regional Sports Federation to promote Kalaripayattu in India.
- ❖ This traditional martial art, originating in Kerala, is believed to have been established by the warrior sage Parasurama.
- ❖ The term "Kalaripayattu" combines "kalari" (place of combat) and "payattu" (fighting) in Malayalam.

Digital Postal Index Number





- ❖ The Department of post had collaborated with IIT Hyderabad for developing a National Addressing Grid, named as Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN).
- ❖ This system will act as a strong and robust pillar of Geospatial Governance.
- ❖ It will be leading to enhancements in public service delivery, faster emergency response and a significant boost to logistics efficiency.
- ❖ It will be fully available in public domain and can be easily accessed by everyone.

RTI for Cheetah Management

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh forest department has denied a request for information on the management of cheetahs brought from Africa and their cubs born in India.
- ❖ Wildlife activist Ajay Dubey had filed a Right to Information (RTI) request seeking correspondence records on Project Cheetah in Kuno and Mandsaur.
- ❖ However, the department refused to disclose the information, invoking Section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act.
- ❖ This is the first-time information on Project Cheetah has been denied under the RTI Act since its launch in 2022.
- ❖ At present, Kuno is home to 26 cheetahs and cubs, as part of Project Cheetah.

EXEMPTIONS FROM DISCLOSURE

SECTION (8) :

8(1)

- (a) Which affect the sovereignty and integrity of India. Security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the state, relation with foreign state, lead to incitement of offence.
- (b) expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law/ disclosure of which may constitute contempt of court.
- (c) cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or state legislative.

