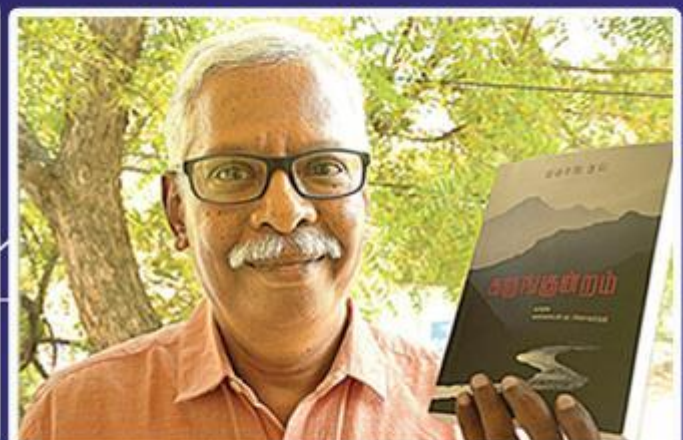


TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 'Made of Chennai', a brand campaign by The Hindu has won in the 'Best in Audience Engagement' category at the WAN-IFRA 2024 Digital Media Awards Worldwide in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- ❖ The preliminary works towards setting up the Global Sports City in Chennai has commenced.
- ❖ Reliance Industries will start construction of India's first multimodal logistics park at Mappedu near Chennai.
- ❖ The Department of Telecommunication (DoT), with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, is cracking down on fraudulent SMS under the Sanchar Saathi Initiative.
- ❖ Major Radhika Sen, an Indian woman peacekeeper, received a prestigious military gender advocate award 2023 from the United Nations.
- ❖ IIT-Bombay has entered a strategic partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to develop India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager.
- ❖ Indian mountaineer Satya deep Gupta has scripted history by becoming the first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season.
 - He also set another record by being the first Indian to traverse from Mt. Everest to Mt. Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes.
- ❖ The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) was in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda.
 - Theme of the event: "Charting the course toward resilient prosperity."
- ❖ The Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils and the School Education Department jointly have launched 'Kalangarai' – a career guidance programme for Sri Lankan Tamil students.
- ❖ Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran assumed Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) for the 2024-2029 term.
- ❖ For the sixth consecutive year, London-based Indian origin artist Anish Kapoor has topped the Hurun India Art List of the most successful Indian artists alive.
- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed pleas challenging the GO issued by the Human Resource Management Department mandating the candidates to secure a minimum qualifying mark of 40% in Tamil Paper in the examination conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.
- ❖ IAS officer Rakesh Ranjan has been appointed as the Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC).
- ❖ The Indian Air Force joined a 16-day multi-nation mega military exercise - Red Flag in Alaska, USA.



- ❖ The Tata Group, Serum Institute of India (SII), and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) were named by TIME magazine as some of the most important companies in the world in 2024.
- ❖ Indian space startup Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched its first sub-orbital test vehicle, powered by a revolutionary world's first single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine.
 - The launch vehicle has been designed to launch from its mobile launchpad, called Dhanush, from any location.
- ❖ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences has launched a groundbreaking initiative called "PRAGATI-2024" (Pharma Research in Ayur Gyan And Techno Innovation).
 - It aims to foster collaborative research and innovation in the field of Ayurveda.
- ❖ NSE Indices Limited has introduced India's first electric vehicle (EV) Index.
- ❖ National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru has been awarded with the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) are collaborating to develop a standardized time system for the moon as part of the Artemis program,
- ❖ The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has agreed to join the World Boxing, the newly-formed governing body.
 - It was formed after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) refused to recognize the International Boxing Association (IBA).
- ❖ India batter Virat Kohli received his ICC ODI Player of the Year award 2023.
- ❖ Kerala includes AI learning in the Information & Communication Technology textbook of Class 7 textbooks.
- ❖ Moody's Ratings projected India's growth at 6.8 percent for the current year, followed by 6.5 percent in 2025.
- ❖ The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) has recently released titled From Resistance to Resilience: Reinforcing the Response to Antimicrobial Resistance.
- ❖ A 71-year-old man in China has become the first living person to receive a liver transplant from a genetically modified pig and the fifth person reported to have received a pig organ.
- ❖ OpenAI launched ChatGPT Edu, a new version of its AI chatbot, powered by GPT-4o.
 - It is built for universities to deploy AI to students, faculty, researchers, and campus operations.



- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have jointly developed a “Unified India Organic” logo.
 - It will replace the India Organic and Jaivik Bharat logos.
- ❖ Sensex zoomed to a record high of 76,738 in the early deals in the equity market sparked by exit polls results (June 3rd).
 - Nifty too hit an all-time high of 23,338.
- ❖ Each year on May 30, Hindi Journalism Day is observed to commemorate the publish of Udant Martand, India’s first Hindi newspaper by Pt. Jugal Kishor Shukla in 1986.
- ❖ The World Vape Day is to be observed on May 30 all over the world.
 - It aims to increase awareness on e-cigarettes and help smokers that are unable to quit smoking.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu school education department has instructed all government, aided and private schools to open bank accounts for all its students.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the auction of 10 years green bonds for the first time.
- ❖ Pakistan launched a multi-mission communication satellite PAKSAT MM1 for faster internet connectivity with the help of its ally China.
- ❖ Mexico’s presidential winner Claudia Sheinbaum elected as the first woman President in the country’s 200-year history.
- ❖ Real Madrid seals their record-extending 15th UEFA Football Champions League title.
- ❖ Gautam Adani has reclaimed the title of Asia's richest person, surpassing the Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ❖ Justice M S Sonak, who serves on the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court became the first person in Goa to register a “living will”.
 - It is an advance medical directive for his family for when he cannot make his own decisions.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has re-constituted the gender sensitisation and internal complaints committee under Justice Hima Kohli.
 - The committee comprises of a total of 12 members from various fields: including that of legal, Professors of Law Universities and others.
- ❖ International Day of Innocent and Children Victims of Aggression is observed on June 04 to raise awareness about the innocent children who went through terrorising experiences in their lives.



- ❖ The All-India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has launched the "Bank Clinic" initiative to assist bank customers with grievance redressal.
- ❖ The ruling BJP and the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) recorded landslide victories to retain power for their third and second successive terms, in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim respectively.
- ❖ The RBI released the final framework for recognising self-regulatory organisations in the financial technology sector (SRO-FT), encouraging entities to have a representative membership from the fintech sector.
- ❖ The IISS Shangri-La Dialogue 2024, Asia's premier defence summit, was held in Singapore.
- ❖ Nvidia next-generation artificial intelligence (AI) chip platform was called Rubin and would be rolled out in 2026.
- ❖ The UN Security Council unanimously decided that the United Nations political mission in Iraq (UNAMI) would leave the country at the end of 2025 after more than 20 years.
- ❖ Dr Helen Mary Roberts in the Pakistan Army Medical Corps, has made history by becoming the first woman from Christian and minority community to achieve the rank of brigadier.
- ❖ The veteran writer Siddalinga Pattanashetti has been selected for the prestigious Gudleppa Hallikeri Award for 2024.
- ❖ The Centre introduced a new numbering series, 160xxxxxxx, for making service or transactional calls, to help citizens easily identify legitimate calls and curb unsolicited voice calls from telemarketers.
 - Currently, 140xxxxxxx series has been allocated to telemarketers for making promotional/service/transactional voice calls.
- ❖ The weather station in Delhi which recorded 52.9 degrees Celsius on May 29 was not functioning correctly due to a sensor error.
 - It was termed as all-time highest maximum temperature of 48.4 degrees Celsius at Palam on May 26, 1998.
- ❖ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and the Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCRP) collaboration makes Peru as the first country in South America to adopt the globally UPI technology.
- ❖ WHO has confirmed that a 59-year-old Mexican man with no known exposure to infected animals has died from the H5N2 subtype of avian flu.
- ❖ Oleg Kononenko, a Russian cosmonaut, became the first person to spend a cumulative 1,000 days in space.
- ❖ The Bank of England released a banknote that featured the portrait of the King Charles III in UK.



- ❖ 12 nations have signed the Zero Debris Charter at the European Space Agency (ESA) to the long-term sustainability of human activities in Earth orbit.
- ❖ The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum 2024, a High-Level Event, was conducted by International Telecom Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) was awarded UN's WSIS 2024 "Champion" Award for the project "Mobile-Enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast emergency Alerting" on WSIS+ 20 Forum.
- ❖ IIT Dharwad has developed the first of its kind fire rescue assistant drone.
 - The drone is designed to be able to fly through small rooms and high temperatures, which is important for fighting fires in complicated places.
- ❖ For the first time in South India, the State-of-the-art In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) facility was inaugurated at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (IOG), a government hospital in Egmore, Chennai.
- ❖ Asir Jawahar Thomas John Singh, a distinguished Indian wildlife biologist and dedicated conservation activist passed away recently at Bengaluru.
- ❖ Sofia Firdous, the Congress MLA from the Barabati-Cuttack seat in Odisha became the first-ever Muslim woman legislator to have been elected to the Odisha Assembly.
- ❖ SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) made history by becoming the first fund house in the country to achieve the Rs 10 trillion milestone in assets under management (AUM).
- ❖ Nvidia has overtaken Apple to become the world's second-most valuable company, after its shares taking valuation to over \$3 trillion.
- ❖ The UNESCO South Asia in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) organized the National Stakeholder Workshop on Safe, Trusted, and Ethical AI in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's Rohit Sharma became the first cricketer to hit 600 (427 matches) sixes in the international cricket.
 - He is followed by Chris Gayle (553 sixes in 483 matches) and Shahid Afridi (476 sixes in 524 matches).
- ❖ Priyanka Jarkiholi from Chikkodi became the youngest tribal woman to enter Parliament from an unreserved seat in Karnataka since Independence.
- ❖ India will host next year's annual gathering of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents over 330 airlines worldwide.
- ❖ The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the U.S. and UAE during 2023-24.



- ❖ The Indian government has sanctioned the establishment of a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Assam, to be located near Guwahati.
- ❖ Krishna Prakash, the head of Mumbai Police's counter-terrorism unit, Force One, has been honoured with the prestigious Annual Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award.
- ❖ Slovenia became the 9th European Union country to recognise an independent Palestinian state after its parliament approved the move.
- ❖ South Korea has officially launched its space agency, the Korea Aero Space Administration (KASA), to lead policy and industrial development in its aerospace sector.
- ❖ The inaugural United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum, organized by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Government of Barbados, concluded recently.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is becoming the first presiding officer in 20 years to be re-elected to the Lower House.
 - The last Lok Sabha speaker to get re-elected to the Lower House was P.A. Sangma, who was the presiding officer of the 11th Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1998.
- ❖ The Russian Language Day is celebrated on the birthday of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin which is 6 June.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly (UNGA) elected former Cameroonian Prime Minister Philemon Yang as president of the 79th UNGA session.
- ❖ Hungary recently unveiled a monumental 700-metre pedestrian bridge named the 'Bridge of National Unity', spanning the Danube River in Budapest.
- ❖ South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and the European Union (EU) have come together to launch an alliance to put joint efforts into building a resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector.
- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was recently given the "Best Conduct of Business Regulator" award for the Asia-Pacific area.
- ❖ Ramoji Rao, the head of the ETV Network and Ramoji Film City, passed away recently.
 - He won the National Award and two Filmfare awards.
- ❖ By winning from the Sriperumbudur constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, DMK treasurer T.R. Baalu (82) has become the second MP to enter the Lower House of Parliament for the seventh time from Tamil Nadu after Congress veteran P. Chidambaram.
 - He also became the oldest candidate to register victory in this election.



- ❖ In a bid to cater to industries setting up their base in Thoothukudi, the Tamil Nadu government will soon float tenders to set up a 60 MLD desalination plant in Thoothukudi.
- ❖ The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has come into force with immediate effect in Villupuram district following the announcement of the byelections to be held for the Vikravandi Assembly constituency.
- ❖ The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the merger of Air India and Vistara, forming one of the largest airline conglomerates globally.
- ❖ Bill Gates announces new book, 'Source Code,' a memoir about his early years, coming in 2025.
- ❖ The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board has joined hands with Starscapes, to introduce Nakshatra Sabha, a new initiative to provide a comprehensive Astro Tourism experience to people.
- ❖ The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day on 5th June 2024.
- ❖ The International Archives Day is being observed on June 09th to raise awareness among public about the importance of records and archives.
- ❖ DMK MP Kanimozhi, elected from the Thoothukudi Lok Sabha constituency, has been appointed as the party's parliamentary party leader replacing TR Baalu.
- ❖ Mohan Majhi, the four-time MLA from Odisha's Keonjhar, has been appointed as the Chief Minister of Odisha.
 - He is the first BJP CM to this state and 3rd tribal CM as well as 15th CM.
- ❖ Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) leader Prem Singh Tamang took oath as the Chief Minister for the second consecutive term.
- ❖ Vellayan Subbiah, Executive Vice-Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII), was named the EY World Entrepreneur of The Year 2024.
- ❖ Indian Army launched Vidyut Rakshak, a new Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled integrated generator tracking, protection, and control system.
- ❖ A new tiger reserve will soon be established in Uttar Pradesh, following evidence of tiger population in the Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS).
 - It is 5th Tiger reserve of the UP and 56th tiger reserve of India.
- ❖ William Anders, Apollo 8 astronaut who took 'Earthrise' photo from space, died in plane crash.
- ❖ State-owned Visakhapatnam Port has broken into the top 20 rankings in the Container Port Performance Index 2023 (CPPI 2023).
 - It was developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.



- ❖ The All-India Tennis Association (AITA) has announced the Dilip Bose award for lifetime achievement to coach Nar Singh.
 - AITA's new lifetime achievement award for women coaches would be presented to the 69-year-old Rohini Lokhande.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government proposed to construct a Vallalar International Centre on 3.18 acres of land at Sathya Gnana Sabha in Vadalur in Cuddalore district at a cost of ₹99.99 crore.
- ❖ The Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev has become the Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot.
- ❖ Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) has recently inaugurated the East Africa Representative Office in Nairobi.
- ❖ The Indian tripartite delegation led by Ms. Sumita Dawra, has participated in the 112th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) being held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ The 3rd Indian Analytical Congress (IAC) was held at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The 16th meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) took place in Paris, France.
- ❖ The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum was held in Singapore.
- ❖ World Eye Donation Day is observed on June 10 to educate the public about the transformative power of eye donation.
- ❖ The first-ever International Day of Play is to be observed on 11 June 2024, to preserve, promote, and prioritize playing so that all people, especially children, can reap the rewards and thrive to their full potential.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has launched chief minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme to preserve soil fertility by distributing green manure seeds to farmers.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank has constituted a committee under A.P. Hota to examine the various aspects of setting up a digital public infrastructure for Digital Payments Intelligence Platform.
- ❖ The centre sanctioned release of the 17th instalment amount of the PM Kisan Nidhi program.
- ❖ Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N Chandrababu Naidu took oath as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh for a fourth term.
- ❖ Indian tennis player Sumit Nagpal won the men's singles title at the Heilbronn Neckar cup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament in Germany.



- ❖ The Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has designated India as the host country for the inaugural FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025.
- ❖ Under the proposal of China, the U.N. has designated June 10 as the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations.
 - 10 June 2024 marks the first International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations.
- ❖ India's Puja Tomar became the first mixed martial arts fighter from the country to win a bout at the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), held at USA.
- ❖ The Centre appointed Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi as the next Army Chief.
- ❖ The United Nations has designated 2025 as the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'.
- ❖ The 8th edition of Japan India Maritime Exercise – 24 (JIMEX – 24) commenced at Yokosuka Japan.
- ❖ Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, has become the acting chairperson of the central body with effect from June 2.
- ❖ According to the Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands Report 2024, Infosys (74th) has been ranked among the 100 most valuable brands in the world, for the third consecutive year.
 - TCS, Infosys, and Airtel from India are among the Top 100 list which is topped by Apple, Google, Microsoft and Amazon.
- ❖ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) has appointed Jyoti Vij as its director general.
- ❖ GAIL has announced that it intends to set up 1500 KTA ethane cracker project at Ashta, district Sehore in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Ariarne Titmus of Australia set a world record in the women's 200-meter freestyle by finishing in 1 minute, 52.23 seconds in the final, held at Australia.
- ❖ Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima's plane had crashed in the Chikangawa mountain range of Malawi, killing ten people including him.
- ❖ Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund launched the first passive fund in the defence theme in India named Nifty India Defence Index Fund.
- ❖ The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved Ajit Doval's Reappointment as National Security Advisor.
 - The Centre also reappointed P.K. Mishra as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.



- ❖ Indian bowler Ravichandran Ashwin revealed his autobiography titled "I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story".
- ❖ The 92-year-old veteran Indian classical musician, Sarod maestro Pandit Rajeev Taranath passed away.
- ❖ The NCRB has launched the “NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws” mobile app to provide comprehensive information on new criminal laws, effective from July 1.
- ❖ Apple introduced an AI platform, called Apple Intelligence in its annual Worldwide Developers Conference.
- ❖ Apple firm has surpassed Microsoft to become the world’s most valuable company again with \$3.3 trillion.
- ❖ Wuhan city in China has started the world's biggest test of self-driving cars with 500 driverless cars.
- ❖ India has regained its position as the fourth-largest global equity market, by surpassing Hong Kong with \$5.2 trillion.
- ❖ India-IORA Cruise Tourism Conference held in New Delhi with participants from the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Member States.
- ❖ 18-year-old Divya Deshmukh from Nagpur, clinched the FIDE Under-20 Girl’s World Chess Championship title held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
 - She is the 4th Indian to win the FIDE U20 Girl’s World Chess Championship after Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli and Soumya Swaminathan.
- ❖ For the first in India, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) disbursed ₹1 crore each as Accident Insurance Relief Compensation to the dependents of four employees who lost their lives in the line of duty.
- ❖ An international conference on Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) will be held in Kochi.
- ❖ Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Sansad TV signed an agreement to make Indian art and culture more accessible.
- ❖ The Assam government started the Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) scheme to help girls go to school and stop them from getting married young.
- ❖ DRDO has successfully developed an AI tool “Divya Drishti” that integrates face recognition with immutable physiological parameters such as gait and skeleton.
- ❖ Shruti Vora has created history by becoming the first Indian to win a three-star Grand Prix equestrian event, by won at the FEI Dressage World Cup held in Lipica, Slovenia.
- ❖ The South African parliament has re-elected Cyril Ramaphosa, as the President of South Africa.



- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad, as a 3rd Indian WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for traditional medicine research.
 - Earlier it had designated the Institute for Teaching & Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi.
- ❖ Oracle has partnered with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation to equip the state's youth with IT skills and capabilities to enhance employment opportunities.
- ❖ Indian Railways has entered its name into Limca Book of Records for most people at a public service event at multiple venues.
- ❖ India is set to become the sixth country to have its own deep-sea mission.
- ❖ Siddhesh Sakore, a farmer and the founder of AGRO RANGERS, from Maharashtra, has been named Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- ❖ RBI was awarded 'Risk Manager of the Year 2024' by Central Banking, UK.
- ❖ Former RBI Spokesperson Alpna Killawala wrote a book named "A Fly on the RBI Wall: An Insider's View of the Central Bank".
- ❖ The Father's Day is celebrated annually on the third Sunday of June
 - This year, it falls on June 16.
- ❖ Actress Alia Bhatt unveiled the first look of her debut children's book, "Ed Finds a Home."
- ❖ The renowned wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu has been conferred with the prestigious 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ India will host its first multinational air exercise called Tarang Shakti-2024 in August 2024, with the participation of 10 countries and some others as observers.
- ❖ International Picnic Day worldwide was celebrated on June 18.
- ❖ World Sauntering Day is observed on June 19 to encourage people to slow down and appreciate the world around them as well as to connect with nature.
- ❖ Aravindan Selvaraj has been appointed as Chairman of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Tamil Nadu State Development Council for 2024-25.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Bhartruhari Mahtab, seven-term MP from Cuttack of Odisha, as the pro tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the new campus of the Nalanda University near Rajgir, Bihar.



- ❖ The Delhi International Airport has launched the self-service mechanism which enables passengers to drop their luggage, collect tags, and complete the check-in process more efficiently and swiftly.
- ❖ The Indian Army has launched a first-of-its-kind skin bank facility to aid treatment of severe burn injuries and other skin-related conditions for service personnel and their families.
- ❖ Film-maker Vinod Ganatra has become the first Indian to be conferred the prestigious 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award' of South Africa for his contribution to films.
- ❖ Ukraine become the first country to create a new stand-alone branch of the military dedicated to drone systems, known as the Unmanned Systems Forces.
- ❖ Chip-maker Nvidia became the world's most valuable company after its share price climbed to an all-time high (\$3.34tn).
- ❖ Cricketer Virat Kohli reclaimed his position as India's most valued celebrity, boasting a brand value of USD 227.9 million.
- ❖ Thailand's Senate has passed the marriage equality bill to recognise same-sex marriage and becoming the first country in Southeast Asia to legalize allow same-sex marriage.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu constituted a one-man commission headed by Justice B. Gokuldas, former High Court judge, to conduct a thorough inquiry into the hooch incident in Kallakurichi.
- ❖ Former Chief Justice of Kerala high court justice S Manikumar, has been appointed chairperson of State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently issued a critical advice circular to improve gender equality in Indian civil aviation
 - It aims to make sure that by 2023, at least 25% of women are working in different aviation jobs.
- ❖ Every year, World Music Day is observed on June 21.
- ❖ Every year on June 21, World Humanist Day is celebrated to spread awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life stance and means to effect change in the world.
- ❖ Sankara Eye Foundation has launched the country's first-of-its-kind innovation lab focused on advancing eye care through cutting-edge research, development, and training at Coimbatore.
- ❖ Academician, dancer, musician, choreographer and mentor — C.V. Chandra Sekhar (fondly referred to as CVC or Chandru anna) passed away recently.
- ❖ The National Yoga Olympiad 2024 was inaugurated in Mysuru, Karnataka.



- ❖ The United Kingdom (UK) has overtaken China to become India's fourth-largest export market.
- ❖ Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam has clinched the Democratic primary for a Congressional seat in Virginia.
 - He became the first Indian-American, South Asian, and Hindu elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019.
- ❖ TN government introduced 'pink autos' in the city to ensure the safety of women and encourage them to become entrepreneurs.
 - Subsidy of ₹1 lakh each would be provided to 200 women auto drivers.
- ❖ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) recommended scrapping Section 56(2) (viib) of the Income-tax Act, known as the 'Angel Tax,' in its Union Budget suggestions.
- ❖ The 112th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) was held at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Headquarters in Geneva.
- ❖ Anthropic, OpenAI's biggest rival, has launched its latest AI model called Claude 3.5 Sonnet.
- ❖ Chennai has been allocated about 10 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) under the proposed Godavari–Cauvery link project for drinking water and industrial requirements.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has announced the ₹1 lakh in subsidy for buying new autorickshaws to 1,000 women and transgender auto drivers.
 - For this, they must had registered themselves with the Tamil Nadu Drivers and Automobile Workshop Workers Welfare Board.
- ❖ Somalia's only all-women news team, Bilan, has won the 2024 One World Media Press Freedom Award and becoming the first Somali media team to receive this honour.
- ❖ The International Widows' Day 2024 is observed on June 23 to recognize the rights of widows around the world and to create awareness in this regard for the welfare of this section of the society.
- ❖ International Day of Women in Diplomacy is celebrated on June 24 every year to highlight the contribution of women to diplomacy.
- ❖ Kariapatti, Mallankinaru police stations in Virudhunagar get ISO certifications (ISO 9001: 2015) recently.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will introduce artificial intelligence (AI) and basic computer science from Class VI onwards.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is going to launch Agal Vilakku scheme under which committees comprising female teachers, will be formed to assist girls from classes 9 to 12 in tackling mental, physical and societal problems.



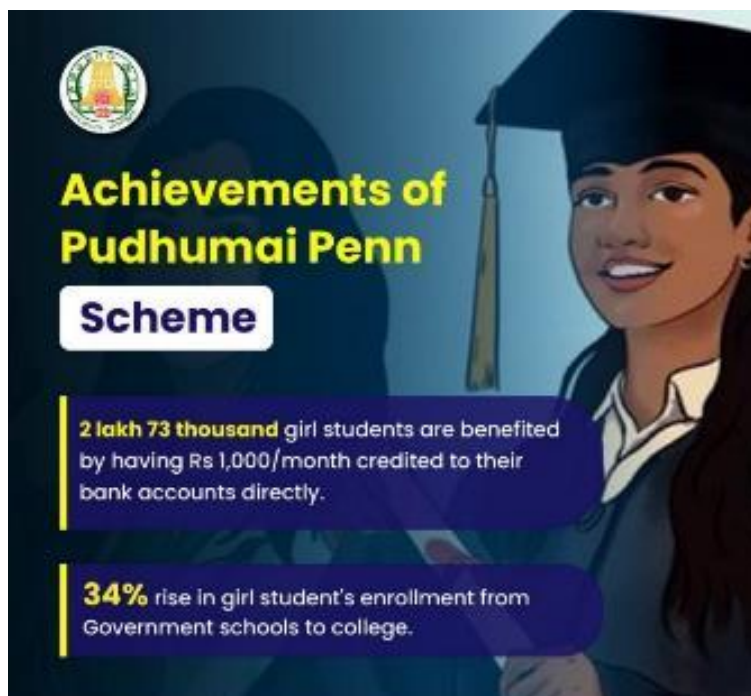
- ❖ A total of 10,000 km of roads in rural areas would be improved under the second phase of the Chief Minister's Rural Road Development Programmes.
 - The first phase of the scheme was introduced in January 2023, have completed 8,120 km of roads
- ❖ ISRO has completed the third Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) – Pushpak, Landing Experiment (LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- ❖ The National Commission for Women has constituted a three-member inquiry committee, led by NCW member Khusbhu Sundar to inquiry into Kallakurichi hooch tragedy.
- ❖ TN Forest Department has identified 40 existing trek routes in Tamil Nadu, and will soon launch a website to book treks.
- ❖ South India's only high-altitude sports training centre was inaugurated at a height of 2,240 metres above the mean sea level in Udhagamandalam.
- ❖ January 25 would be observed as 'Tamil Mozhi Thiyagigal Naal' (Tamil language martyrs' day) from 2025.
- ❖ June 3, the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, would be celebrated as 'Semmozhi Naal Vizha'.
- ❖ The Kerala Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to officially change the state's name to 'Keralam'.
- ❖ Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani is set to be the next Vice Chief of Army.
- ❖ The World Refrigeration Day is celebrated every year on June 26 to increase public awareness of the refrigeration, air conditioning, and heat pump industries.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to conduct a caste-based census, along with the pending population census since 2021.
- ❖ The BJP's national president and Union Minister, JP Nadda, was appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The Universal AI University (UAIU), India's pioneering institution dedicated to Artificial Intelligence, has named Simon Mak, an international strategist and award-winning professor, as its vice chancellor.
 - He is the first non-Indian to hold the position of founding vice chancellor of an Indian institution.
- ❖ Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana becomes first Indian woman to hit consecutive ODI centuries.
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs commemorated the 12th Passport Seva Divas on 24 June 2024 to mark the enactment of the Passports Act on 24 June 1967.

- ❖ The industrial town of Hosur in Tamil Nadu is set to get an international airport.
- ❖ The TN Chief Minister announced that the government's decision to establish the Kalaignar Centenary library in Tiruchi in the State Assembly.
- ❖ ICICI Bank Ltd became only the sixth Indian firm to hit a market capitalisation of \$100 billion (~Rs 8.4 lakh crore).
- ❖ Paraguay officially became the 100th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

TAMIL NADU

Impact of Pudhumai pen schemes

- ❖ The enrolment percentage of girl students in higher education has increased by 34% due to the Pudhumani Penn scheme.
- ❖ It aims to provide a monthly aid of ₹1,000 to girl students, who had studied from Class VI to XII in State government-run schools and are pursuing higher education.
- ❖ About 2.73 lakh girl students are benefitting from the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme



Internet connection for State-run schools

INTERNET FOR ALL

Priority to be given to schools situated in rural areas



■ Authorities will also ensure to replace old computers with new ones

■ From middle level onwards, schools will get internet facilities

■ Optical fibre cables will be installed in all government higher secondary schools and a multinational company would be entrusted with the job

■ Experts will monitor the schools to ensure uninterrupted internet connection

■ More than

40,000

teachers will be provided training to handle internet utilities

- ❖ Internet connections have been provided to 20,332 out of a total of 37,553 State-run schools, and the remaining 17,221 schools would be covered by the second week of June.
- ❖ Of the 6,223 government higher secondary and high schools across the State, 5,913 had got internet connections.
- ❖ Of the 6,992 middle schools, 3,799 had been provided the facility.
- ❖ As for the primary schools, 10,620 out of a total of 24,338 schools had been given internet connections.

Revenue from commercial taxes 2023-24

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government's revenue from Commercial Taxes grew 47.19% to ₹1,26,005.92 crore in 2023-24 from ₹85,606.41 crore in 2020-21.
- ❖ An additional revenue of ₹40,399.51 crore has been generated in the three years.
- ❖ The Samadhan Scheme was launched in 2023 for the settlement of arrears of tax, penalty or interest pertaining to various taxes administered under Commercial Taxes.
- ❖ Under the scheme, tax dues up to ₹50,000 were waived off.

- ❖ A sum of ₹247.89 crore has been collected on tax dues of over ₹50,000 which is the highest when compared to previous schemes.
- ❖ The Commercial Taxes department also tied up with IIT-Hyderabad for Big data analytics to study the aspects of revenue losses and through this initiative.
- ❖ An additional revenue of ₹129.77 crore has been generated in the last four months.

A substantial rise
The tax collection in Tamil Nadu has increased by over 50% in the first quarter of fiscal 2023

	Q1 2023	Q1 2022	% change
State Goods and Services Tax	13692.84	9224.11	48.4
Stamps and Registration Fees	4457.95	2314.46	92.6
Land Revenue	58.46	38.07	53.5
Taxes on Sales, Trade etc	13119.24	9484.81	38.3
State Excise Duties	2594.55	1199.23	116.3
Total	33923.04	22260.68	52.3

(IN ₹ CRORE) SOURCE: COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

Tamil Nadu power capacity 2024

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu's power generation capacity had increased to 36,671 MW from 32,595 MW.
- ❖ 17,785 km of new high-tension lines and 31,705 km of low-tension lines had been laid.
- ❖ 54 new substations with a total capacity of 2,739 MVA and 46 new 33/11 KV substations had been established.
- ❖ The record-high peak power demand of 20,830 MW on May 2 was met without any hassle.
- ❖ The solar capacity has increased to 8,496 MW.

💡 2021 முதல் மூன்று ஆண்டுகளில் விவசாயிகளுக்கு 2 இலட்சம் மின் இணைப்புகள்

💡 மின் நுகர்வோர் சிக்கல்களை தீர்க்க 'மின்னகம்'

💡 2021ல் 32,595 மெகாவாட் ஆக இருந்த மின்நிறுவு திறன், தற்போது 36,671 மெகாவாட் ஆக அதிகரிப்பு

💡 3,984 மெகாவாட் சூரிய மின் ஒளி உற்பத்தி நிலையங்கள், சூரிய மின் ஒளி உற்பத்தி கட்டமைப்பு 8,496 மெகாவாட் ஆக உயர்ந்துள்ளது

💡 தனியாருக்குச் சொந்தமான பழைய திறனற்ற 16.8 மெகாவாட் காற்றாலைகளை மீண்டும் வலுப்படுத்த உடக்கம்

Transgender candidates' reservation

- ❖ The Madras High Court has struck down a Government Order (GO) issued on April 6, 2015 regarding transgender reservation.
- ❖ It was providing vertical reservation to transgender persons in education and public employment by considering them under the Most Backward Classes (MBC) category.
- ❖ The government came up with another GO on December 22, 2017, clarifying that those who possessed SC/ST certificates would be considered under the respective caste categories.
- ❖ The 2017 GO said that only those transgender persons who did not possess SC/ST certificates would be considered under the MBC category.
- ❖ The court held that the order was manifestly arbitrary and violative of Articles 14,15,16,19 and 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ It has directed the State government to provide horizontal reservation to the transgender community, across all caste groups.
- ❖ Karnataka had implemented the apex court's verdict by providing 1% horizontal reservation to transgender persons across all caste groups.



Lok Sabha election 2024 – Tamilnadu

- ❖ The total voter turnout from the total 6,18,90,348 electors in the State was 69.72%.
- ❖ Across all 39 constituencies, Dharmapuri registered the highest turnout of 81.48 per cent turnout.
- ❖ Chennai Central registered the lowest voter turnout of 53.91 per cent.
- ❖ While women voters’ turnout stood at 69.85%, the men voter turnout was recorded at 69.58%.
- ❖ DMK and its allies won a spectacular victory in all of Tamil Nadu’s 39 segments and in the lone Puducherry seat.
- ❖ Congress candidate and former IAS officer Sasikanth Senthil won with a highest margin of 5,72,155 votes in Tiruvallur.
- ❖ Virudhunagar Lok Sabha constituency’s Manickam Tagore of the Congress won with lowest margin of 4379.

The vote share garnered by various players in Tamil Nadu in the last three elections held in the State

Coalition	2019 Lok Sabha	2021 Assembly	2024 Lok Sabha
DMK+	53.20%	45.40%	47%
AIADMK+	31.06%	39.70%	23%
BJP+	Not applicable	Not applicable	18.24%
NTK	3.90%	6.60%	8.22%

Note: In all the 3 elections, the DMK-led front comprised Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK, MDMK and IUML. In 2019, the AIADMK-led front comprised



Cooperative societies and RTI

- ❖ The Madras High Court said that cooperative societies registered under the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies Act of 1983 in the State would not fall under the definition of the term 'public authority' as it had been defined under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act of 2005.
- ❖ Earlier the Tamil Nadu Information Commission (TNIC) passed an order on May 4, 2022 for disclosure of crop and jewel loan details.
- ❖ In the year 2021-22 alone, a whopping amount of ₹10,292 crore had been disbursed towards crop loans to 14.84 lakh farmers through the cooperative societies.

Public Authorities Section 2h

"public authority" means any authority or body or institution of self government established or constituted--

- (a) by or under the Constitution;
- (b) by any other law made by Parliament;
- (c) by any other law made by State Legislature;
- (d) by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government,

and includes any--


- (i) body owned, controlled or substantially financed;
- (ii) non-Government organisation substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government;

NOTA in Lok Sabha election 2024

- ❖ Nearly 4.67 lakh voters opted for None of the Above (NOTA) while exercising their franchise in the 2024 Lok Sabha election in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In Sriperumbudur, a total of 26,450 voters chose NOTA, the highest in the State, followed by Dindigul (22,120) and Thiruvallur (SC) (18,978).
- ❖ The number of votes polled by NOTA was lowest in Kanniyakumari (3,756), Ramanathapuram (6,295) and Cuddalore (7,292).
- ❖ NOTA received more than 1% of the votes in 19 seats.
- ❖ In the 2014 election, when NOTA was introduced, nearly 5.7 lakh voters chose the option in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Only 3.45 lakh voters chose the option in the 2021 Assembly election.
- ❖ The 2024 election saw a reversal of the declining trend, as NOTA polled 1.07% as against 0.75% in 2021.

Last resort
The performance of NOTA in elections over the years



Election	Votes in numbers	Vote share %
2014 Lok Sabha	5,68,809	1.4
2016 Assembly	5,61,174	1.3
2019 Lok Sabha	5,50,577	1.29
2021 Assembly	3,45,591	0.75
2024 Lok Sabha	4,67,068	1.07



New Start-ups since 2021

- ❖ A total of 6,384 start-ups have come up since the new government assumed office in 2021.
- ❖ Until 2021, the total number of start-ups across the State was 2,032.
- ❖ The new government released the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy in September 2023.
- ❖ As of today, the total number of start-ups in the State stands at 8,416.
- ❖ As for women-led start-ups, the number rose from 966 in 2021 to 3,163 start-ups now.
- ❖ The State government has announced that a Global Startup Summit would be held in Chennai in January 2025.

FACT FILE	
> Total startups	8,416
> Startups till 2021	2,032
> Startups in the last 3 years	6,384
> Startups headed by women until 2021	966
> Startups headed by women in 2024	3,163
> Total funds given to startups under TANSEED	₹13.95cr



Rent for houses of Ministers

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has recently increased the rent paid to Ministers if they occupied private houses that are either owned by them or taken on a lease.
- ❖ The rent paid to them, under both these categories, has been increased from ₹70,000 a month to ₹1.5 lakh a month.
- ❖ This would apply for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Government Whip too.
- ❖ The revision in rent has been made after a gap of eight years.
- ❖ The previous revision was in March 2016, when the then State government increased the rent payable to the Ministers from ₹20,000 a month to ₹70,000 a month.
- ❖ The house rent allowance would not be paid to them if they occupied a house provided by the State government.

3. Charge for accommodation.-(1) Every Member along with his family shall be entitled to allotment of an apartment on payment of monthly rent as specified in sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Act.

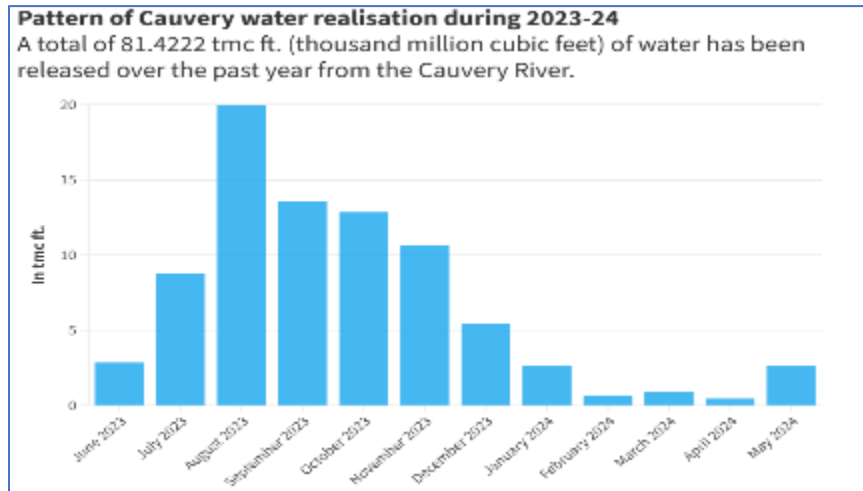
(2) Rental charges for accommodation in Hostel for Former Members shall be Rs.300/- (Rupees three hundred only) per day:

Provided that the Former Members shall be entitled to accommodation in Hostel only upto five days in a calendar month either continuously or in spells and they shall be permitted to stay in the Hostel either with his or her spouse or with an attendant:

Provided further that the Former Members who attend the celebrations shall be provided free accommodation in the Hostel on the day of the celebrations and one day before and one day after the celebrations on first come and first served basis and in case of non-availability of accommodation in the Hostel, they shall be paid at the rate prescribed above or the actual rent paid by them for private accommodation, whichever is less.

Mettur dam water release 2024

- ❖ The opening of the Mettur dam in Salem, for irrigation in the Cauvery delta, missed its customary date of June 12 this year.
- ❖ This is the first time in five years the date has been missed.
- ❖ 13.97 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) only available against its full capacity of 93.47 tmc ft, as the reason the dam was not opened this year.
- ❖ The water level stands at 43.52 feet against its full capacity of 120 feet.
- ❖ Inflow to the dam was 404 cubic feet per second (cusecs) while the discharge was kept at 1,500 cusecs.
- ❖ Normally, the release from Mettur for irrigation takes care of 3.24 lakh acres during the short-term cultivation season kuruvai.
- ❖ But, in the past five years, the coverage has hovered between 2.9 lakh acres during 2019-20 to 5.6 lakh acres.



Sustainable waste management in Chennai



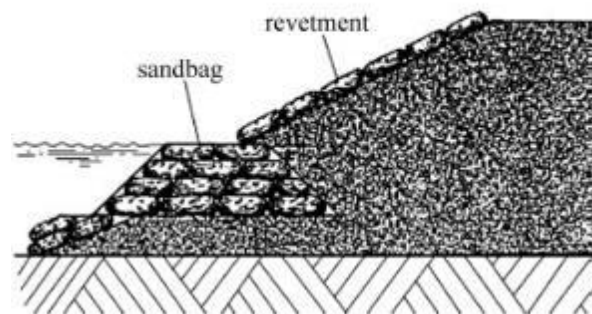
- ❖ The World Bank will lend support to the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) to achieve sustainable waste management in the city.
- ❖ The World Bank intends to improve solid waste management in the city and various parts of the State over a period of 20 years.
- ❖ It will also conduct a study of the status of solid waste management in the city.
- ❖ The GCC hoping to stop dumping of waste in Kodungaiyur in 2026-2027

Maragatha Pooncholai

- ❖ In an effort to improve green cover, the Forest Department has planned to set up 'Maragatha Pooncholai', an initiative to revive vacant lands in the Perambalur district.
- ❖ Around one hectare of land will be rehabilitated and used for raising tree saplings.
- ❖ In the first phase, a vacant land near Arulmigu Valeeswarar Temple in Valikandapuram has been selected.
- ❖ There is consideration for two more sites at Thuraimangalam and Samiyappa Nagar for the project and are awaiting approval.



Artificial islands - Tamilnadu



- ❖ The Work of forming artificial islands at Kavinadu Kanmoi, one of the biggest irrigation tanks in Pudukkottai district, has been started.
- ❖ The silt would be removed before the formation of 10 artificial islands in the irrigation tank.
- ❖ The plan was to plant seedlings of various fruit-bearing trees and local species atop the artificial mounds which would be created on man-made islands to attract birds.
- ❖ The project was being implemented with technical guidance from the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company.

Method of doping potassium

- ❖ The Madras High Court has held that, IIT Madras method of doping potassium into ammonium perchlorate lacks an inventive step and therefore not eligible for patent.
- ❖ This method is used for increasing the burn rates in solid propellants that are used in space and defence applications.
- ❖ The claimed invention employs the dissolution, filtration, heating, drying and reheating.
- ❖ So, it was not patentable since the processes were well known and they do not result in a new product.



New Comprehensive Mini Bus Scheme, 2024



- ❖ The draft New Comprehensive Mini Bus Scheme, 2024 was notified by the Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ It proposes to allow operators to ply for a maximum permitted route length of 25 km.
- ❖ At present, minibuses are allowed to ply for a maximum of 20 km, of which 16 km should be in remote areas.

- ❖ The State government introduced the minibus scheme in 1997 through which operators were permitted to ply for a distance of 16 km.
- ❖ Two years later, the scheme was expanded to permit operators to ply for 20 km.

New Archaeological excavations 2024



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu state archaeology department inaugurated archaeological excavations in eight places across Tamil Nadu, including the tenth phase at Keeladi.
- ❖ Excavation work has begun in four new sites this year.
- ❖ They started the tenth phase in Keeladi and fifth phase in Konthagai, both in Sivagangai district.
- ❖ The other sites are, the 3rd phase in Vembakottai in Virudhunagar district, 2nd phase in Kilnamandi in Tiruvannamalai district, second phase in Porpanai Kottai in Pudukkottai district, and first phase of excavation in Thirumalpuram in Tenkasi district, Chennur in Krishnagiri district, Kongalnagaram in Tirupur district and Marungur in Cuddalore district.



Justice Chandru Committee guidelines

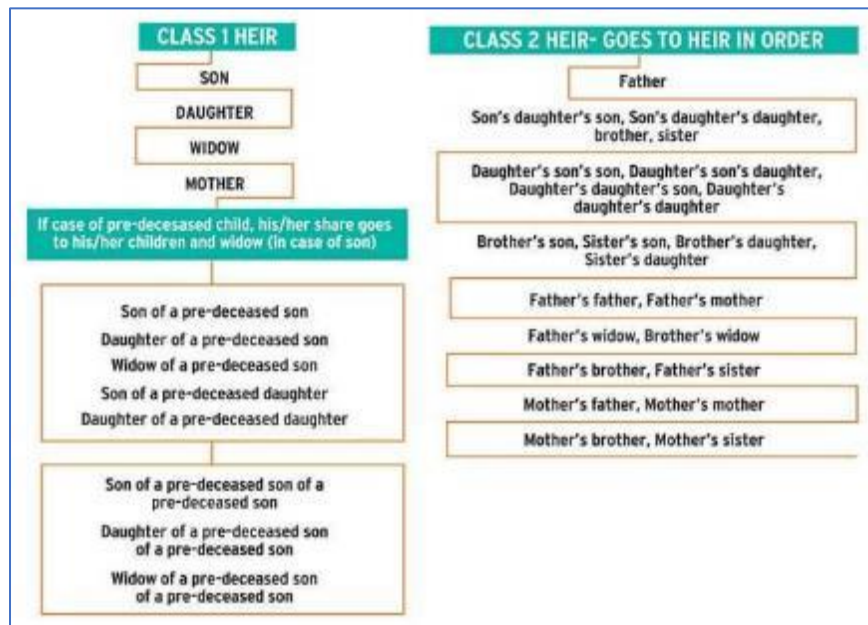
- ❖ The one-man committee headed by retired High Court judge K Chandru, to frame guidelines to avoid violence based on caste and community among college and school students, submitted its report.
- ❖ It recommended to prohibiting forehead markings, coloured wristbands and other caste markers used by the students, and forming the Social Justice Students Force (SJSF).
- ❖ The Caste prefixes should be removed from the names of schools, and the schools must be called 'government schools' along with their location.
- ❖ Further, any caste prefix or suffix associated with the government schools that indicate either the donor or their family should also be removed.
- ❖ The students' attendance register should not contain any column or details relating to their caste.
- ❖ The State government must also take steps to amend the existing Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.
- ❖ The panel has also recommended enhancing local bodies' control over primary education.
- ❖ The attitude towards social justice issues must be ascertained and taken into account before the recruitment of teachers by the Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB).
- ❖ Guidelines must be issued concerning the non-posting of persons belonging to the dominant caste of that area in the head of institution post.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Removal of caste prefixes from school names and must refer to them solely as government schools, followed by their place of location**
- **Periodic transfer of high school and higher secondary school teachers**
- **Seating arrangements of students in every classroom should be strictly based on alphabetical order**
- **Committee to monitor the curriculum relating to social issues and suggest appropriate modifications in a time-bound manner.**
- **Students should be prohibited from wearing any coloured wristbands, rings, or forehead marks**

Adopted person's legal heirship

- ❖ The Madras High Court has ruled that, the biological relatives of a person who had got adopted, cannot be considered as his legal heirs in order to stake a claim over the properties that he had inherited from the adoptive family.
- ❖ Adoptions has been managed as per the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act of 1956.
- ❖ All ties with the biological family would get severed on the day when a person gets adopted by another family.
- ❖ Therefore, his/her biological relatives could not seek legal heirship certificate after his/her death.



Eight endangered floras in TN



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government's mission to conserve endangered and rare flora having shortlisted the eight species of rare plants, which fall under the vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered category.
- ❖ These eight plants have been shortlisted from a list of 25 rare plants.
- ❖ The eight species have been categorised as 'prioritised species'.
- ❖ *Vernonia shevaroyensis* that occurs in Shevaroy hills in Salem is a critically endangered tree.
- ❖ There was one tree of *Vernonia shevaroyensis* at the Botanical Survey of India's botanical garden at Yercaud.
- ❖ *Phyllanthus anamalayanus* found in Anamalai hills and some locations of the Valparai plateau in Coimbatore district is a critically endangered species.
- ❖ *Dipterocarpus bourdillonii* found in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, and *Elaeocarpus blascoi* found in Vattakanal shola forests of Palani hills in Kodaikanal are the other plants fall under the critically endangered category.

New mangrove forest

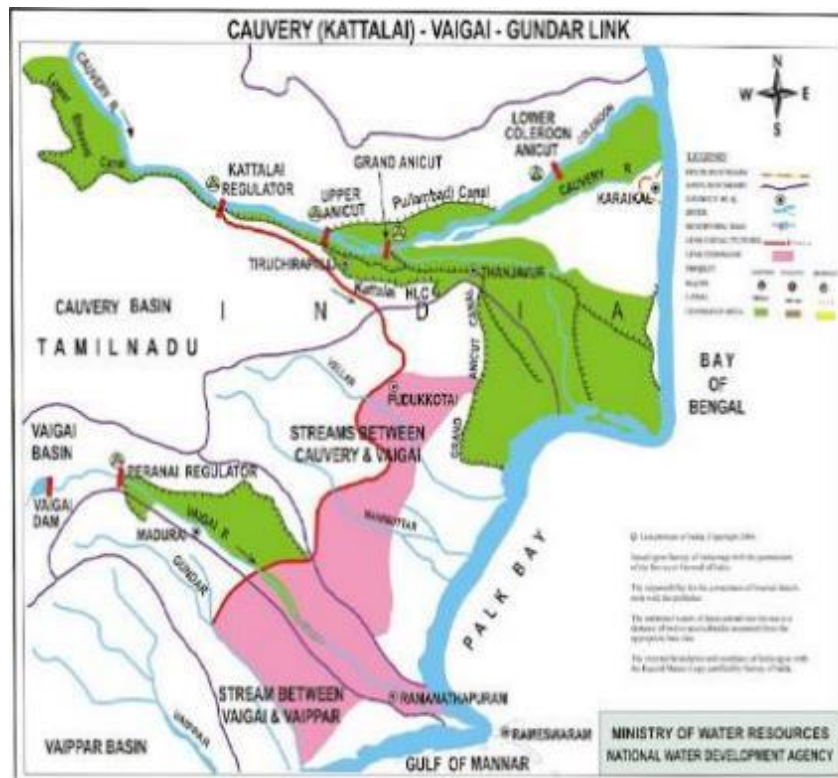


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has planted around 37,500 mangrove propagules over an extent of 25 hectares at Kudikadu village in Cuddalore district.
- ❖ This will be carried out under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission.
- ❖ For the first time, away from the existing mangrove area was identified as the favourable for mangrove plantation.
- ❖ The Rehabilitation of Coastal Habitats scheme is being implemented for another three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26 covering ten districts.

CM's research fellowship for differently-abled students

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government would offer the Chief Minister's Research Fellowship to benefit differently-abled students take up research.
- ❖ This fellowship would be offered to a total of 50 research scholars who are differently-abled and pursuing Ph.D.
- ❖ Each of these 50 students would be provided a fellowship of Rs. 1 lakh.
- ❖ The government would also offer coaching classes for differently-abled candidates for them to succeed in various competitive exams conducted by TNPSC and other recruiting agencies.
- ❖ A total of 200 beneficiaries would be offered special classes along with accommodation in Chennai.
- ❖ The State-level award hitherto awarded to young achievers would henceforth be named after late Helen Keller.

First phase of 'Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery' project



- ❖ The National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD), Ministry of Jal Shakti, has approved ₹934.3 crore for the first phase of the 'Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery'.
- ❖ This project proposed by the Tamil Nadu government for the conservation and rejuvenation of Cauvery River.

- ❖ The Union and State governments would share the project cost as ₹560.58 crore and ₹373.72 crore respectively on a 60:40 basis.
- ❖ In the first phase, the project would cover the river from downstream of the Mettur dam up to Tiruchi.
- ❖ In the second, the remaining part of the river from Tiruchi to Poompohar, the river's confluence points with the sea.

Land pooling development scheme



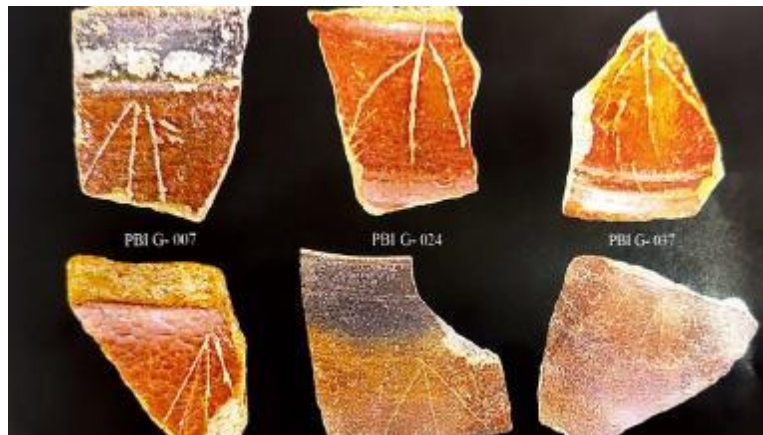
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced that it would implement the Land Pooling Area Development Scheme.
- ❖ The government was going ahead with the plan and had framed the Land Pooling Area Development Scheme Rules, 2024.
- ❖ The scheme will facilitate planned development of new areas, provide basic amenities and mobilises land for trunk infrastructure.
- ❖ The scheme provides for pooling of land owned by individual/individuals and developing it with the help of the appropriate planning authority.

Revenue Income of Tamilnadu 2023-2024

- ❖ Liquor sales during 2023-24 generated a revenue of ₹45,855.67 crore, including ₹35,081.39 crore in VAT and ₹10,774.28 crore in excise revenue.
- ❖ The total revenue generated during 2023-24 is ₹1,734.54 crore more than the revenue of ₹44,121.13 crore during 2022-23.
- ❖ During 2023-24, the government earned a revenue of ₹53.93 crore through the special fee on imported foreign liquor.

Revenue to govt from Tasmac in crores	
2023-24	₹45,855.67
2022-23	₹44,121.13
2021-22	₹36,050.65
2020-21	₹33,811.15
2019-20	₹33,133.24

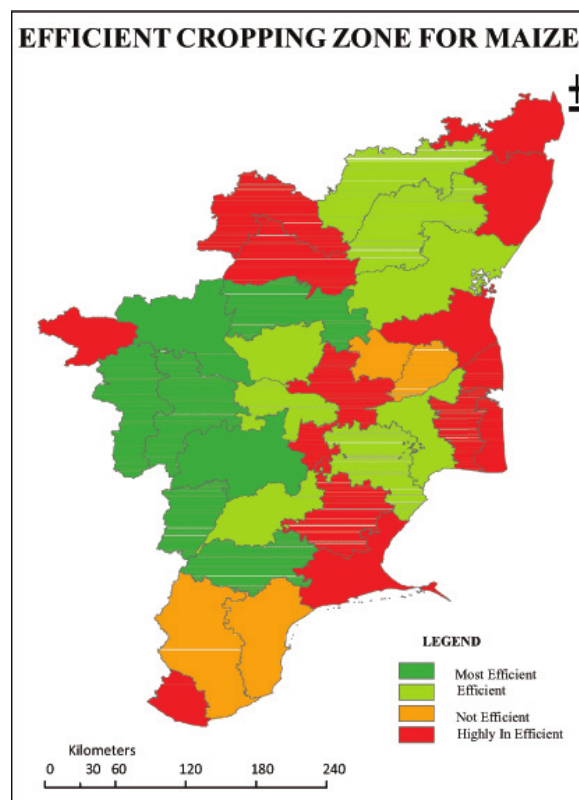
Perumbalai excavation - Tamilnadu



- ❖ The Graffiti marks “resembling geometric symbols” were among the potsherds discovered during the archaeological excavations at Perumbalai in Dharmapuri district.
- ❖ The lower-most level as site is dated back to the 6th Century BCE.
- ❖ By the shapes and size of the pottery, it belongs to the Iron Age.
- ❖ Perumbalai is located on the bank of the Nagavathi (ancient Palar), one of the tributaries of Cauvery River.
- ❖ Kongumandala Satakam, a 13th Century literary work by Karmegakavirayar of Vijayamangalam, is referred to Perumbalai as the northern boundary of the Kongu region.

Special scheme for maize cultivation - Tamilnadu

- ❖ The State government of Tamilnadu will implement a special scheme to increase the area of maize cultivation in 18 districts at a cost of ₹30 crore.
- ❖ A kit with high-quality maize seeds, natural and liquid fertilisers, and urea would be distributed to 50,000 farmers.
- ❖ It aims to increase the area under maize cultivation by 50,000 hectares.
- ❖ For 2024-25, the State government has set a target to increase the area under millets cultivation to 9.95 lakh hectares with a production of 39.09 lakh metric tonnes.
- ❖ It was 31.31 lakh metric tonnes two years ago.
- ❖ The total food grain production target was 129.63 lakh metric tonnes for 2024-25.
- ❖ The food grain production was 118.02 lakh metric tonnes last year.



Tamil Nadu's FDI inflows 2023-24

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows increased to about \$2.44 billion in the 2023-24 financial year from \$2.17 billion in 2022-23, logging a 12.44% jump.



- ❖ Overall inflows to India have declined marginally to \$44.42 billion in 2023-24 from \$46.03 billion in 2022-23.
- ❖ Electronics exports from the State had grown to \$9.56 billion in 2023-24 from \$1.66 billion in 2020-21.
- ❖ Gujarat saw its FDI inflows grow 54.9% to \$7.3 billion in 2023-24 from \$4.71 billion in 2022-23.
- ❖ Telangana saw the inflows jump 133% to \$3.03 billion from \$1.30 billion.
- ❖ Karnataka's FDI inflows declined 37% to about \$6.57 billion in 2023-24 from \$10.43 billion in 2022-23.
- ❖ Delhi's was dipped by 13.41% in 2023-24 to \$6.52 billion, as against \$7.53 billion the previous year.



125th year anniversary - Ooty hill train

- ❖ The line from Mettupalayam to Coonoor was opened for traffic on 15 June 1899 during British colonial rule and was later extended to Udgai Hill Station.
- ❖ The 'Railway Committee' was formed with Sir Robert Stanes as the Chairman and Limited Joint Stock Company called the Coonoor Railway Company (Limited) was proposed in 1880.
- ❖ Later new Nilgiri Railway Company was formed in 1896 to purchase and finish the line.
- ❖ This line was finally declared open in June 1899, and operated by the Madras Railway under an agreement.
- ❖ UNESCO designated the Nilgiri Mountain Railway as a World Heritage Site on July 15, 2005.



Statues of various leaders



- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt announced that statues of various leaders and personalities across the state.
- ❖ Rani Velu Nachiyar statue will set up inside the Gandhi Mandapam campus in Chennai.
- ❖ Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, archaeologist instrumental in excavations of Harappa and Mohanjodaro sites of Indus Valley Civilisation, Sir. John Hubert Marshall, will be erected in Chennai at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs.
- ❖ Besides statues will be erected for Marudhu Brothers in Sivaganga district.

- ❖ Bartholomew Siegen baulk has brought the printing press to Tamil Nadu (Tranquebar or Tarangambadi) in 1713 and printed the Tamil translation of the 'Holy Bible' (New Testament).
- ❖ An auditorium will be built bearing his name in Tamil Nadu and a statue will be built for G.D. Naidu in Coimbatore at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs.
- ❖ Former President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan will have his statue erected in Tiruttani in Tiruvallur district.
- ❖ Freedom Fighter Vai. Nadimuthupillai statue will be erected in Pattukottai in Thanjavur district.
- ❖ A statue of C. Muthusami, who was a part of Cauvery Meetpu Kuzhu, fought for farmers' rights and was Karur MLA in Karur.

Air transport certification training program



TAHDCO
Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing & Development Corporation Ltd.

TAHDCO PROVIDE FREE TRAINING

TRAINING FOR IATA - CANADA CERTIFICATE AND BEST PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY IN INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC AIRLINES ACROSS THE WORLD.

COURSE NAME

1. Air Cargo Introductory + DGRI(Dangars Good Regulation Cat 2)
2. Passenger Ground Services + Reservation & Ticketing
3. Foundation in Travel and Tourism

MODE OF SELECTION
Online can apply in TAHDCO Website (www.tahdco.com)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Community - SC/ST Candidates.
- Educational Qualification: Graduation (any degree) with good English Reading and Understanding capacity.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) has relaunched the International Air Transport Association (IATA) certification training programme.
- ❖ It is provided to graduates from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities to get job opportunities in domestic and international airlines.
- ❖ The entire training programme including registration fee ₹1.25 lakh for the IATA test, book fee, food and accommodation charges would be funded by TAHDCO.
- ❖ After completing the training programme, the candidates must clear the IATA certification test.

New schemes for SC/ST women in Tamilnadu

- ❖ TN Govt announced in the Assembly that ₹20 crore would be set aside to enable landless SC/ST women who work as agricultural labourers to buy land.
- ❖ Each eligible candidate can obtain a maximum subsidy of ₹5 lakh or 50% of the land value.
- ❖ ₹70 crore will be used to build 4,500 housing units for tribal communities who currently do not own housing.
- ❖ Approach roads for tribal neighbourhoods will be built at a cost of ₹50 crore.
- ❖ Hostels with modern facilities would be built in Sivaganga, Erode, Virudhunagar and Cuddalore districts for students from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities at a cost of ₹15 crore.
- ❖ A centralised kitchen would be set up at a cost of ₹9 crore under 'Amudha Surabi' scheme in Tiruchi, Madurai and Coimbatore.
- ❖ The Government would organise a 'Lifestyle Festival' to celebrate the culture, traditions, literary works, linguistic-based patriotism of the SC/ST communities.
- ❖ 'Skill vouchers' would be given to SC/ST students who performed well in higher education.



Permanent disaster rescue and relief centers

- ❖ The State government of Tamilnadu would set up three permanent disaster rescue and relief centres at a cost of ₹36 crore in Chennai and its suburban areas.
- ❖ Two multi-purpose relief centres will be constructed in Thoothukudi district at a cost of ₹17.50 crore.

- ❖ Govt would also establish 1,000 centres that would warn people about natural disasters such as flash floods and landslides, rough sea conditions, and water release from dams.

பேரிடர் மேலாண்மைத்துறை
மாவியக் கோரிக்கை புதிய அறிவிப்புகள்!

- ரூ.36 கோடி மதிப்பில் சென்னை (ம) புறநகர் பகுதிகளில் மூன்று நிரந்தர பேரிடர் மீட்பு நிவாரண மையங்கள் அமைக்கப்படும்.
- ரூ.17.50 கோடி மதிப்பில் தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்டத்தில் கீரண்டு பல்நோக்கு நிவாரண மையங்கள் கட்டப்படும்.
- பேரிடர் கால மீட்பு நடவடிக்கைகளுக்காக ரூ.105.36 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் நவீன உபகரணங்கள் வாங்கப்படும்.
- காட்டுத்தீ தடுப்பு நடவடிக்கைகளுக்காக வனத்துறை அலுவலகங்களுக்கு ரூ.15 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் பயிற்சி.
- தமிழ்நாடு பேரிடர் மீட்புப் படை வீரர்களுக்கு ரூ.2.10 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் திறன் மேம்பாட்டுப் பயிற்சி.
- வெப்ப அலை தாக்கம் மாநில பேரிடராக அறிவிக்கப்படும்.

Culling of wild boars

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to allow culling of wild boars that cause distress to farmers in farmland close to forest areas.
- ❖ The areas adjacent to reserve forests would be divided into three zones
 - Zone A (within one kilometre from forest limits);
 - Zone B (one to five kilometres); and
 - Zone C (beyond five kilometres).
- ❖ Shooting of wild pigs will not be allowed within five kilometres from the reserve forest.

Leader's birthday anniversary as State functions

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to celebrate every year the birth anniversary of following leaders/personalities as State functions.
- ❖ Diwan Bahadur Dravidamani Rettaimalai Srinivasan's birthday on July 7.
- ❖ Freedom fighter Anjalai Ammal's birth anniversary on June 1
- ❖ Freedom fighter Immanuel Sekaran's birth anniversary on October 9.
- ❖ Allala Ilaya Nayakkar's birth anniversary on Thai 1.

- ❖ Freedom fighter K.M. Annal Thango's birth anniversary on April 13.
- ❖ Former Madras Presidency's Chief Minister Pa. Subbarayan's birth anniversary on September 11
- ❖ Former President of India A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary on October 15.
- ❖ Dr. Muthu Lakshmi Reddy's birth anniversary on July 7.
- ❖ M. K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar's birth anniversary on March 1.
- ❖ Sir A.T. Pannerselvam, known as 'Justice Party's Diamond Pillar', whose birth anniversary falls on June 1.
- ❖ Tamil scholar Dr. Mu. Varadarasanar's birth anniversary on April 25.
- ❖ Writer Ki. Rajanarayanan's birth anniversary on September 19.
- ❖ These will be celebrated as the State functions in Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Ramanathapuram, Namakkal, Vellore, Chennai, Chennai, Pudukkottai, Tiruchi, Tiruchi, Ranipettai, Thoothukudi districts where were they from.

தமிழ் வளர்ச்சி (ம) செய்தித் தொடர்பு துறை
மானியக் கோரிக்கை அறிவிப்புகள்!

- சுதந்திரப் போராட்ட வீரர் இமானுவேல் சேகரனார் பிறந்த தினமான அக்டோபர் 9, இராமநாதபுரத்தில் அரசு விழாவாக கொண்டாடப்படும்
- தீவாண்பகதூர் திராவிடமணி இரட்டைமலை சீனிவாசனார் பிறந்த நாளான ஜூலை 7, செங்கல்பட்டு மாவட்டத்தில் அரசு விழாவாக கொண்டாடப்படும்
- **ரூ.50 லட்சம் மதிப்பீட்டில் வீரமங்கை கிராணி வேலுநாச்சியருக்கு சென்னை, காந்தி மண்டப வளாகத்தில் திருவுருவச்சிலை அமைக்கப்படும்**
- முன்னாள் குடியரசுத் தலைவர் டாக்டர் ஏ.பி.ஜெ. அப்துல் கலாம் அவர்களின் பிறந்த நாளான அக்டோபர் 15, சென்னையில் அரசு விழாவாக கொண்டாடப்படும்
- சர் ஏ.டி. பன்னீசெல்வம் அவர்களின் பிறந்த நாளான ஜூன் 1, திருச்சி மாவட்டத்தில் அரசு விழாவாக கொண்டாடப்படும்

சட்டப்பேரவையில் மாண்புமிகு தமிழ் வளர்ச்சி (ம) செய்தித்துறை அமைச்சர்,
திரு. **மு.வெ.சாயிநாதன்** அவர்கள்

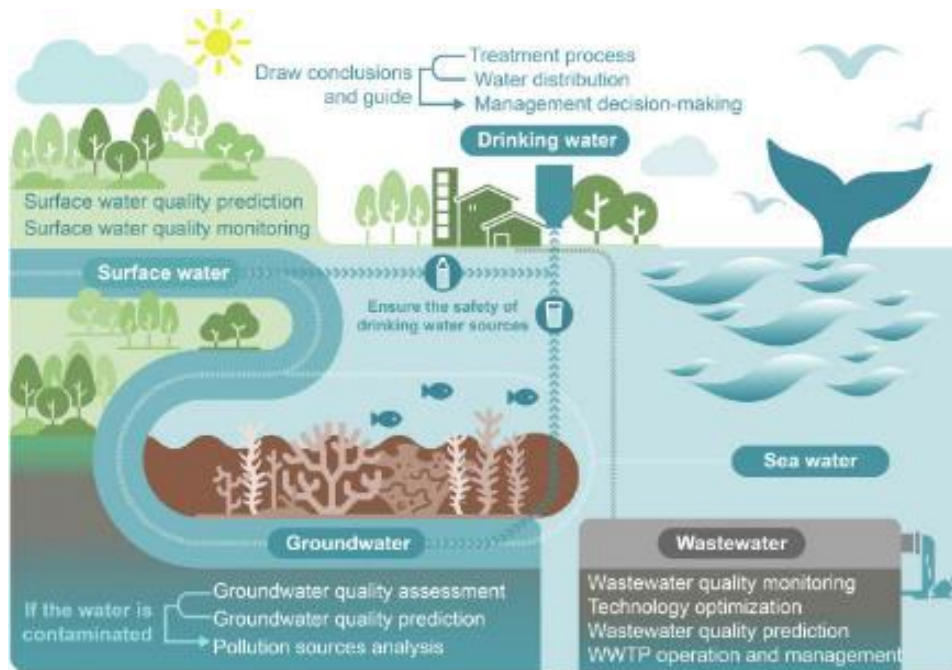
Female terracotta in Vembakottai

- ❖ A woman's head made of flint was found at Vembakottai-Vijayakariskulam in Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ The Vembakottai archaeological excavation has revealed that a rich civilisation had existed on the banks of the Vaippar near Sattur.

- ❖ It is on a par with the ancient civilisation found in Keeladi and Porunai civilisation.
- ❖ A broken Neolithic hand axe has been found in the ongoing excavations at Chennanur in Krishnagiri district.
- ❖ It reflects the evidence of Neolithic culture in this region.



TN Lake Quality Monitoring Project



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Lake Quality Monitoring Project is to be implemented in water bodies through real-time monitoring and artificial intelligence-based data analysis.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented in the first phase in Poondi, Chembarambakkam, Udhagamandalam, and Kodaikanal lakes at a cost of ₹5 crore.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) continuing to implement pollution abatement measures worth ₹100 crore through the TN Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy project.

World Bank-assisted project for women

- ❖ World Bank-assist to Tamil Nadu Women Employment and Safety Programme (WE-SAFE).
- ❖ It would be implemented in the next five years (2024-29) at a cost of ₹1,185 crore.
- ❖ The aim is to increase the participation of the women labour force in non-farm and emerging sectors.
- ❖ The allocation for the programme for the current year is ₹168 crore, and it will be implemented in eight districts.



சிறப்புத் திட்டச் செயலாக்கத் துறை
மானியக் கோரிக்கை

ரூ.1185 கோடி
மதிப்பீட்டில்

தமிழ்நாடு மகளிர் வேலைவாய்ப்பு
மற்றும் பாதுகாப்புத் திட்டம்

- ▶ முதற் கட்டமாக 8 மாவட்டங்களில் செயல்படுத்தப்படும்.
- ▶ மகளிருக்குப் பயனளிக்கும் அனைத்து தகவல்களைத் தரும் **மகளிர் தகவல் வங்கி** உருவாக்கப்படும்.
- ▶ அரசு பள்ளிகளில் 8 முதல் 12 வகுப்பு வரை படிக்கும் மாணவிகளுக்கு உளவியல் பரிசோதனை மூலம் திறமைகளை கண்டறிய **திறமை மதிப்பீட்டு தளம்** உருவாக்கப்படும்.
- ▶ பள்ளிகளில் தொழில் முனைவு குறித்த பாடத் திட்டம் (**Earlypreneurship Programme**)
- ▶ அரசு கல்லூரிகளில் திறுதி ஆண்டு படித்து வரும் மாணவிகளுக்கு தொழில் துறை சார்ந்த பணியிட பயிற்சி (**Internship Training**) அளிக்கப்படும்.

New GI tag for 5 traditional varieties

- ❖ The handlooms department of Tamilnadu has also proposed to get geographical indication tag for five traditional varieties of handloom products.
- ❖ They are, the silk saris from Chinnalapatti; Koorainadu saris; Nagarcoil vaeti; Uuraiyur saris; and Gudiyatham lungis.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu currently hosts 58 GI products.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh topped with the most GI-tagged products (75) in India.

New Environmental Initiatives in Tamilnadu

- ❖ TN govt has decided to set up a native seed species vault at Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore, at a cost of ₹10 crore.
- ❖ The Community-based eco-tourism will be developed at Rameswaram & Gulf of Mannar at Rs 15 cr.
- ❖ Dark sky park will be set-up at Kolli Hills, Namakkal.
- ❖ Crocodile conservation will be set up at Anakkarai Kumbakonam range at Rs 2.50 crore.
- ❖ In order to commemorate the legacy of renowned wildlife biologist AJT Johnsingh, the government has proposed to create an annual 'Dr AJT Johnsingh Wildlife Conservation Award'.
 - It will be awarded to a wildlife enthusiast who has immensely contributed towards excellence in wildlife conservation.





NATIONAL

Article 329(b) of the Indian Constitution

- ❖ A candidate from Tamil Nadu has filed a petition against the rejection of his nomination on the ground that a government employee could contest in elections only after resignation.
- ❖ The High Court refrained from deciding the case on merits.
- ❖ Article 329(b) of the Constitution prohibits judicial intervention in the working of the commission in the middle of the election process.
- ❖ On January 21, 1952, the Supreme Court had analysed Article 329 threadbare to conclude that neither the High Courts nor the Supreme Court could invoke their writ jurisdiction to interfere with a nomination rejection order.
- ❖ Section 100 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 lists out improper rejection of a nomination as one of the grounds for declaring an election to be void.
- ❖ The right to contest elections was not a civil right but only a creature of a statute or a special law.
- ❖ Such a right must be subject to the limitations imposed under the law.

329. Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.—Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution—

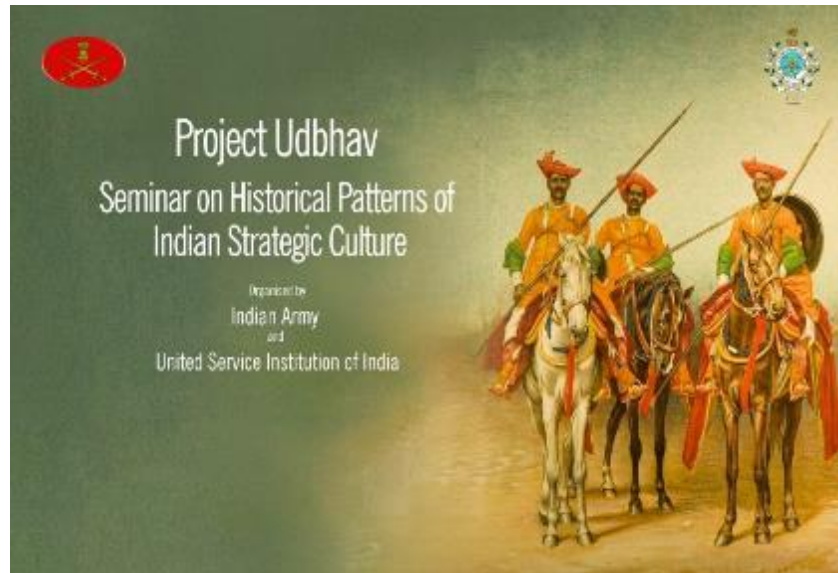
(a) the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies, made or purporting to be made under article 327 or article 328, shall not be called in question in any court;

(b) no election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to such authority and in such manner as may be provided for by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature.

329A. [Special provision as to elections to Parliament in the case of Prime Minister and Speaker.]
Rep. by the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978, s. 36 (w.e.f. 20-6-1979).

Project Udbhav

- ❖ Indian army is reconnecting with its rich heritage through Project Udbhav.
- ❖ It aims to enhance the country's defence outlook with ancient strategic insights.
- ❖ It was launched last year in collaboration with the United Service Institution of India.
- ❖ Project Udbhav integrates India's ancient strategic wisdom into modern military practices.



Gratuity limit hike

- ❖ The Central government increased the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) by 4% in March 2024.
- ❖ It has resulted in a substantial revision in other allowances, including retirement gratuity.
- ❖ The maximum limit for Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity is increased by 25%, from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, effective January 1, 2024.
- ❖ Gratuity is a defined benefit plan given by the employer to the employee for rendering services continuously for five years or more.

GRATUITY CALCULATION FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES	
<p>For employees covered under the Gratuity Act:</p> <p>■ Formula for calculation: $Gratuity = (n \times b \times 15) / 26$</p> <p>n = Tenure of service completed in the company</p> <p>b = Last drawn basic salary + dearness allowance</p> <p>■ Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you have worked for XYZ company for 15 years ● Last drawn basic salary with dearness allowance: ₹30,000 ● Gratuity amount $= (15 \times 30,000 \times 15) / 26$ $= ₹259,615$ 	<p>For employees not covered under the Gratuity Act</p> <p>■ Formula for calculation: $Gratuity = (15 \times \text{your last drawn salary} \times \text{the working tenure}) / 30$</p> <p>■ Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basic salary: ₹30,000 ● Continuous service: 7 years ● Gratuity amount $= (15 \times 30,000 \times 7) / 30$ $= ₹105,000$

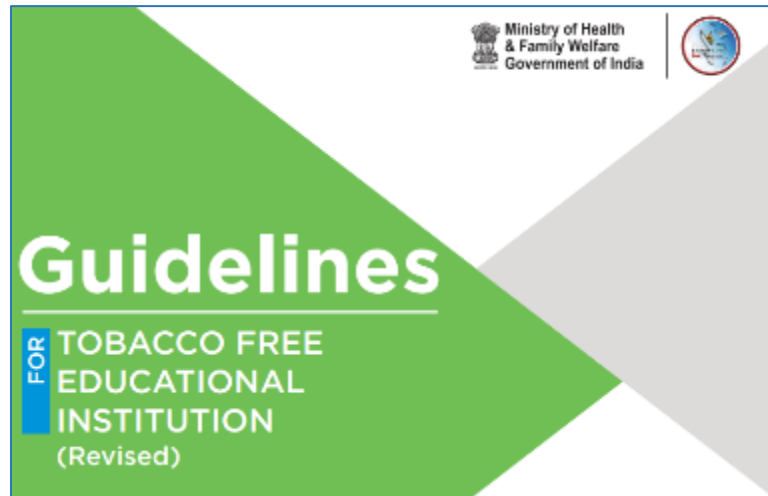
New Guidelines for Faster Health Insurance Claims

	Nitty-gritties	Until March 31, 2024	April 1, 2024 onwards*	Impact for policyholders
Pre-existing disease waiting period	Period when health insurers will not pay claims related to pre-existing diseases	Maximum four years	Maximum three years	Positive
Moratorium period	Period after which policies/claims become incontestable on the grounds of non-disclosure or misrepresentation, except frauds.	Eight years	Five years	Positive
Entry age	Maximum age at the time of buying a policy	Insurers had to provide for an entry age of at least 65 years	No mention of 65 years; insurers could specify maximum age at entry as per their discretion	Unclear [^]

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) released a new master circular on health insurance.
- ❖ Insurers must decide on cashless authorisation within one hour of receiving a request.
- ❖ The insurer shall grant final authorisation within three hours of receiving the discharge authorization request from the hospital.
- ❖ In no case shall the policyholder be made to wait to be discharged from the Hospital.
- ❖ If there is any delay beyond three hours, the additional amount, if any, charged by the hospital shall be borne by the insurer from the shareholder's fund.

Tobacco Free Educational Institutions

- ❖ The Ministry of Education launched an Implementation Manual of Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) at New Delhi.
- ❖ The manual aims to assist schools in adhering to ToFEI guidelines, creating a healthier environment, and empowering stakeholders to protect students from tobacco dangers.
- ❖ All educational institutions should take steps to discourage the use of tobacco and safeguard children from being addicted to the use of tobacco by making the educational institutions a tobacco-free zone.



World Record in Lok Sabha Poll

- ❖ India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha elections this year.
- ❖ This is 1.5 times of the voters of all G7 countries - US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada... all put together.
- ❖ It is 2.5 times of the voters of 27 countries in the EU.
- ❖ Over 68,000 monitoring teams and 1.5 crore polling and security personnel were involved in the world's largest electoral exercise.
- ❖ Seizures of Rs 10,000 crore, including cash, freebies, drugs and liquor were made during the 2024 polls compared to Rs 3,500 crore in 2019.



2024 Lok Sabha polls turnout

- ❖ The 2024 Lok Sabha election saw a total voter turnout of 65.79%.
- ❖ The voter turnout for the seventh phase was 63.88%.
- ❖ Lakshadweep recorded the highest voter turnout at 84% followed by Assam at 81%.
- ❖ The lowest turnout was recorded in Bihar at 56.19%.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh (56.92%) and Mizoram (56.87%) were the other low turnout states.
- ❖ The NDA has won 293 seats, while the Opposition INDIA bloc has got 234 seats.
- ❖ The final voter turnout in the 2019 election was 67.40 %.
- ❖ As many as 63,47,509 voters pressed the NOTA button, choosing 'None of The Above' in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- ❖ The NOTA was the third choice of voters in 24 of the 25 constituencies in Gujarat.
- ❖ NOTA created a record with 2.18 lakh voters in Madhya Pradesh's Indore opting for the 'none of the above' option (14.01%).
- ❖ While 1.06 per cent voters pressed the NOTA option in 2019, as many as 1.08 per cent voters pressed the NOTA option in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.



Indigenous air quality monitoring system

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has inaugurated indigenous air quality monitoring system AQ-AIMS and launched Air-Pravah app in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 'Air-Pravah' mobile application provides real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring.
- ❖ The cost-effective solution was developed under the 'Make in India' initiative.

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

- ❖ On World Environment Day, Prime Minister launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.
- ❖ It appealed to people to plant a tree as a tribute to their mothers.
- ❖ World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5.



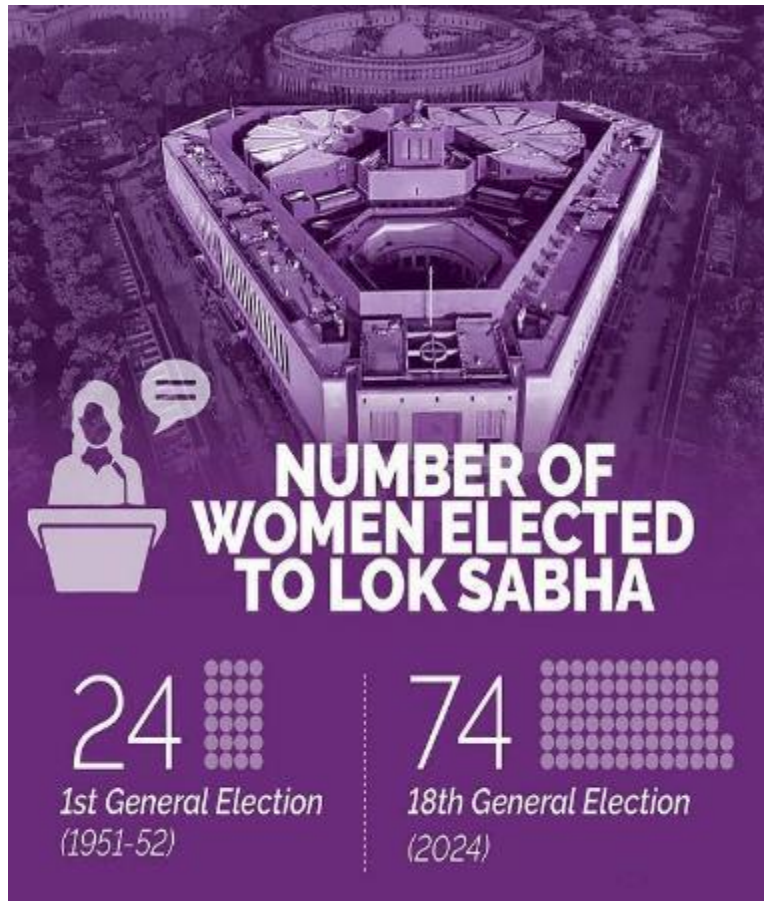
Claims of 100 percent fruit juice

- ❖ The food safety regulatory body Food Safety and Standards Association of India (FSSAI) have directed the companies not to claim 100 per cent Fruit Juice on canned products.
- ❖ All these juices contain the highest amount of water.
- ❖ Adding a small amount of fruit juice or pulp does not make it 100 per cent juice.
- ❖ If these fruit juices contain more than 15 grams of sugar per kg, then they will have to label their product as sweet juice.

Women MPs in 18th Lok Sabha

- ❖ Trinamool Congress boasts of the highest percentage of female MPs among its winning candidates.
- ❖ A total of 38% of Trinamool MPs this year are women, the highest among any political outfit in the country.
- ❖ The 18th Lok Sabha is set to witness a total of 74 female members, a dip from the 77 MPs elected in the last term.
- ❖ The 18th Lok Sabha will have over 13.44% women MPs, one of the highest proportions since 1952.

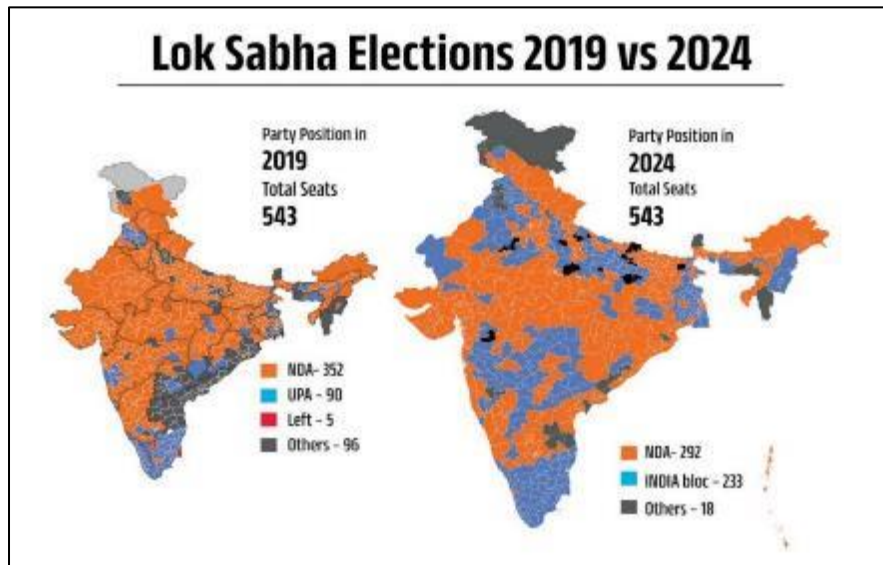
- ❖ The 17th Lok Sabha had the most women MPs at 78, which was over 14% of the total.
- ❖ The 16th Lok Sabha had 64 women members, while the 15th one had 52.
- ❖ According to reports, women constituted 48.41 % of India's population in 2022.



Lok Sabha Election results 2024

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has declared the results for 542 of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies.
- ❖ BJP has been reduced to 240 seats this time, compared to 303 it won in the 2019 polls.
- ❖ The BJP is falling short of the 272-majority mark and got the support of allies in the party-led NDA for government formation.
- ❖ BJP fails to win a single seat in Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- ❖ It opened account in Kerala in Lok Sabha elections (Suresh Gopi) for the first time by winning the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat.

- ❖ The INDIA bloc has mounted surprisingly massive gains (235), with Congress recording its highest tally since 2014.
- ❖ Overall, BJP saw a 21% fall in its seat share while Congress registered an impressive 90% jump.
- ❖ Shankar Lalwani of the BJP scripted history as he won the Indore Lok Sabha seat by a huge margin of over 100877 votes.
- ❖ The 'None of the Above' option has got more than 2.18 lakh votes in the same constituency, breaking the previous NOTA record of Gopalganj in Bihar.
- ❖ In Maharashtra's Mumbai North West constituency, the Shiv Sena (SS) candidate Ravindra Dattaram Waikar narrowly edged out the SS(UBT) candidate Amol Gajanan Kirtikar by 48 votes.



Cabinet swearing in ceremony 2024

- ❖ The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) together won 293 seats, which is a comfortable majority.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in for a third consecutive term at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ Top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region – Maldives President, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lankan President, Mauritius PM, Bhutanese PM and Vice-President of Seychelles were special guests at the function.
- ❖ The Cabinet increased to 71 members – PM, 30 Cabinet Ministers, 5 Ministers of State (Independent Charge), and 36 Ministers of State.
- ❖ 13 Ministers from South India in the new Cabinet, 5 from Karnataka Alone.



- ❖ Two Union Ministers from the northeast were retained in the cabinet.
- ❖ Seven women inducted into new 18th Lok Sabha cabinet.
- ❖ Previous council that was dissolved on June 5 had ten women ministers.
- ❖ TDP MP Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani with an asset of ₹5700 crore has become the richest minister to join the council of ministers.
- ❖ Of the 543 members of the 18th Lok Sabha, 262 have previously served as MPs, including 216 who were re-elected from last time.
- ❖ The average age of MPs in the new Lok Sabha is 56 years, down from 59 years in the 17th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Down from 78 women MPs in the previous Lok Sabha, there are now 74 women accounting for 14% of the total members.
- ❖ In terms of profession, 48% of the new MPs declared their occupation in their affidavits as social work, followed by 37% in agriculture.

CSIR's 'Phenome India' project

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) launched this project on 7th December 2023.
- ❖ The PI-CHeCK project aims to assess risk factors in non-communicable (cardio-metabolic) diseases within the Indian populace.
- ❖ This unique initiative has already enrolled nearly 10,000 participants, who have volunteered to provide comprehensive health data.
- ❖ Now they have successfully concluded the first phase of its longitudinal health monitoring project, the 'Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase' (PI-CheCK).
- ❖ To mark this significant milestone, CSIR organized an event, 'Phenome India Unboxing 1.0', at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa.

PraVaHa software

- ❖ ISRO has developed the Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa).
- ❖ It can simulate external and internal flows on launch vehicles, winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles.
- ❖ PraVaHa has been used extensively in the Gaganyaan program for aerodynamic analysis of human-rated launch vehicles, viz, HLVM3, Crew Escape System (CES), and Crew Module.

Elimination of TB by 2025

Estimated	Global	India
Incidence	99,00,000 (127/ lakh)	25,90,000 (188/ lakh)
Deaths (excluding HIV)	12,80,000 (17/ lakh)	4,93,000 (36/ lakh)
HIV TB cases	7,87,000 (10/ lakh)	53,000 (3.8/ lakh)
HIV TB deaths	2,14,000 (2.7/ lakh)	11,000 (0.78/ lakh)

- ❖ India's goal to achieve rapid decline in the burden of tuberculosis (TB) morbidity and mortality, while working towards the elimination of TB in the country by 2025.
- ❖ TB kills an estimated 480,000 Indians every year or over 1,400 patients every day.
- ❖ With an estimated 2.64 million cases in 2021, India accounts for about 25% of the world's TB burden.
- ❖ The mortality rate, excluding HIV co-infected individuals, was approximately 450,000 in the same year
- ❖ It is highlighting the severe impact of TB on the country's public health landscape.

New Cabinet Ministers 2024

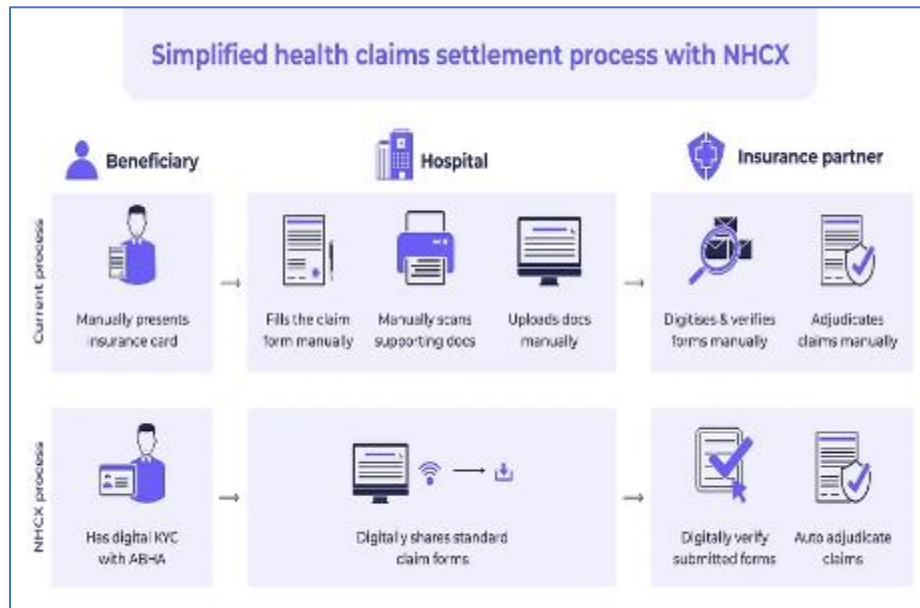
- ❖ The first meeting of the new government was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister and the division of portfolios was announced.
- ❖ Seven women leaders were inducted into the Council of Ministers, with only two were given cabinet berths.
- ❖ Leaders of NDA allies were assigned 11 berths in the Cabinet.
- ❖ No changes have been made in the top four ministries – Home, Defence, Finance and External Affairs.
- ❖ For the third time in a row, Nitin Gadkari has become the Minister of Road Transport and Highways.

- ❖ Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been made the Minister of Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Rural Development.
- ❖ At the same time, BJP President JP Nadda, who became a cabinet minister, will have the responsibility of the Ministry of Health.
- ❖ Former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will hold the important portfolios like Power and Housing.
- ❖ Among the top 10 ministers, HD Kumaraswamy is the only non-BJP leader.
- ❖ He has been given the charge of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Steel.
- ❖ Ashwini Vaishnaw has been retained as the railway minister.
- ❖ V Somanna and Ravneet Singh Bittu have been made Ministers of State for Railways.
- ❖ Annapurna Devi has got the charge of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ K Rammohan Naidu, from TDP and the youngest minister in the government, will be the Civil Aviation Minister.
- ❖ Mansukh Mandaviya has been made the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs.
- ❖ Raksha Khadse is the youngest woman minister of state for sports.
- ❖ L. Murugan got the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- ❖ Kerala's Suresh Gopi has been made Ministers of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ No Muslim MP was sworn in as a minister for the first time.
- ❖ In fact, No Muslim candidate from NDA allies got elected to the 18th Lok Sabha this time.



National Health Claim Exchange

- ❖ The Ministry and IRDAI are launching the National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX).
- ❖ It is a digital platform which will bring together insurance companies, healthcare sector service providers and government insurance scheme administrators.
- ❖ At present, the health insurance claims settlement process in the country is mostly manual and time-consuming.
- ❖ The NHCX will serve as a gateway for exchanging claims-related information among various stakeholders in the healthcare and health insurance ecosystem.
- ❖ Acting as a centralised hub for all health claims, the NHCX will significantly alleviate the administrative burden on hospitals.



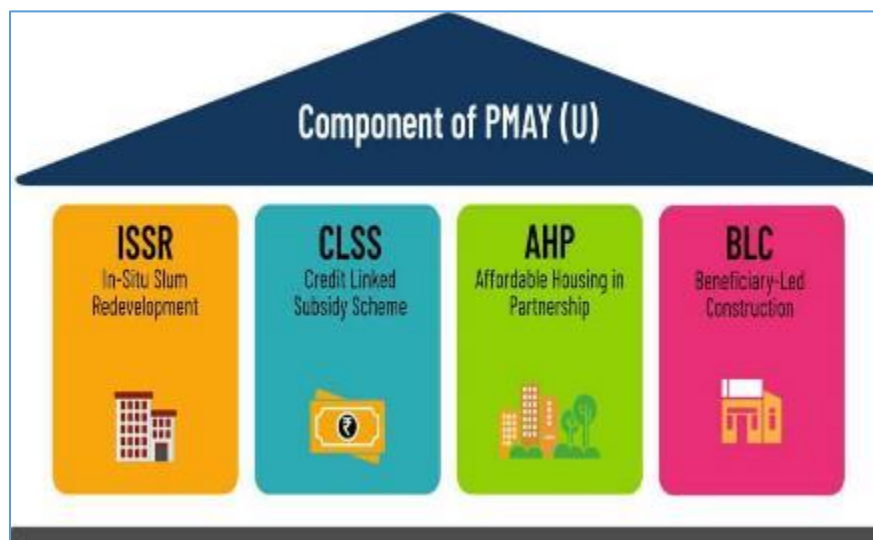
Building Better: India's Path to Superior Quality Infrastructure Report

- ❖ It is released by Global Trade Research Initiative.
- ❖ India's quality infrastructure includes Standardization, Quality Control Orders (QCOs) and Compulsory Registration Orders (CROs) led by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ❖ India has fast tracked issuance of QCOs and CROs but it needs to augment each leg of quality infrastructure.
- ❖ Since implementation of BIS Act 2016 over 140 QCOs have been issued for more than 550 products.

Product Category	Order	Ministry
Toys	Toys (Quality Control) Order (QCO) of 2020	DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Shoes	Footwear made from Leather and other materials (Quality Control) Order, 2024	
Automotive tyres	Pneumatic Tyres and Tubes for Automotive Vehicles (Quality Control) Order, 2009	
Steel and Steel Products	Steel and Steel Products Quality Control Order, 2018	Ministry of Steel
Electronic & IT Products	Compulsory Registration Order, 2012 (Mobiles, Mobile batteries, laptops etc.)	Ministry of Electronics & IT

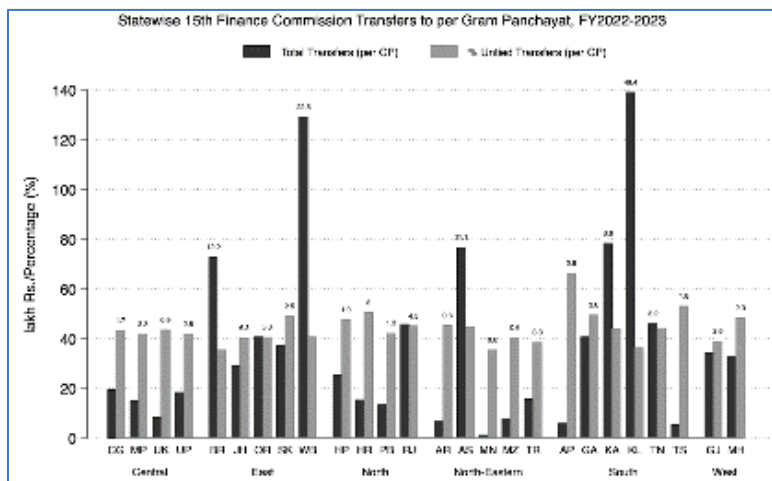
PM Awas Yojana extension

- ❖ Union Cabinet gave nod to 3 crore houses under PMAY to ensuring continuity to the Housing for All scheme.
- ❖ From 2015-16, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or PMAY has been providing assistance to eligible rural and urban households for construction of houses with basic amenities.
- ❖ Under PMAY, a total of 4.21 crore houses have been completed for the eligible poor families under the housing schemes in the last 10 years.



A Review of Village Government in India

- ❖ The Policy Research Working Paper titled ‘Two Hundred and Fifty-Thousand Democracies: A Review of Village Government in India’ was released by the World Bank Group.
- ❖ In 1992, the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution created 250,000 village democracies (called Gram Panchayats) covering 800 million citizens.
- ❖ Panchayati Raj Institutions rely almost entirely on grants made by state and national authorities.
- ❖ On average, 0.67 Panchayat Secretaries per Gram Panchayat only available, with the number falling to 0.33 in states like Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 gave constitutional status to the PRIs and established a system of uniform structure, elections, reservations.


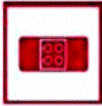












Biannual University Admissions



- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has allowed higher education institutions to admit students twice a year from 2024-25 academic session.
- ❖ Earlier regulations allowed students to be admitted only during July-August only.
- ❖ In 2023 the Commission has permitted biannual admissions under open and distance learning (ODL) and online modes in January and July during an academic year.

GREAT Scheme

	Agrotech Horticulture + landscape gardening, agriculture + forestry, animal keeping		Meditech Hygiene, medicine
	Buildtech Membrane, lightweight + massive construction, engineering + industrial building.		Mobiltech Cars, ships, aircraft, trains, space travel
	Clothtech Garments, shoes		Oekotech Environmental protection, recycling, waste disposal
	Geotech Road infrastructure, Railways, Irrigation and Hydraulic structures, Waste Landfills, Dams etc.		Packtech Packaging, protective-cover systems, sacks, big bags, container systems
	Hometech Furniture, upholstery + interior furnishing, rugs, floor coverings		Protech Person and property protection
	Indutech Filtration, cleaning, mechanical engineering, chemical industry		Sporttech Sport and leisure, active wear, outdoor, sport articles.

- ❖ The Empowered Programme Committee of Ministry of Textiles has approved 7 startup proposals under the GREAT scheme.
- ❖ The Government is providing a maximum fund support of Rs 50 lakhs per startup, over 18 months.
- ❖ GREAT stands for Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT).
- ❖ It is part of the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).
- ❖ The scheme aims to harness India's talent and expertise in the technical textiles sector to introduce innovative products and technologies to the market.

Prerna Sthal in Parliament

- ❖ Vice President inaugurated the 'Prerna Sthal' on the Parliament House premises, where 15 statues of freedom fighters and icons of Indian history.
- ❖ It includes statues of MK Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar, previously established in different parts of the Parliament campus, have been relocated to a single location.
- ❖ The main objective of Prerna Sthal is that these statues within the Parliament complex should be installed at one place.
- ❖ But there is a dedicated committee for installing portraits and statues of national leaders and MPs in the Parliament House Complex.
- ❖ It is called the Committee on the Installation of Portraits and Statues of National Leaders and Parliamentarians in the Parliament House Complex.
- ❖ It includes MPs from both Houses.
- ❖ However, the committee has not been reconstituted since 2019.

Lithium assets in Argentina



- ❖ Coal India Ltd is exploring lithium blocks in Argentina along with a U.S. company to secure supplies of the battery material.
- ❖ India has been exploring ways to secure supplies of lithium, a critical raw material used to make electric vehicle batteries.
- ❖ India had also proposed a critical minerals trade deal with U.S., which would prohibit the imposition of tariffs on both countries by each other.

Increase in MSP of 14 kharif crops

HARVEST REWARDS		
Crop	New MSP*	% (Absolute*) hike over 2023-24
Niger seed	8,717	12.7% (983)
Ragi	4,290	11.5% (444)
Tur/Arhar	7,550	7.8% (550)
Sunflower seed	7,280	7.7% (520)
Cotton	7,121	7.5% (501)
Sesamum	9,267	7.3% (632)
Urad	7,400	6.5% (450)
Groundnut	6,783	6.4% (406)
Maize	2,225	6.4% (135)
Soybean	4,892	6.3% (292)
Jowar	3,371	6% (191)
Paddy	2,300	5.3% (117)
Bajra	2,625	5% (125)

*₹per quintal **Paddy** (Common); **Jowar** (Hybrid); **Cotton** (Medium Staple)

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved an increase in the minimum support prices (MSP) for all 14 kharif crops for the 2024-25 crop season that runs from July to June.
- ❖ The highest increase came for oilseeds Niger seed and sesamum.
- ❖ The hike was by ₹983 and ₹632 and was fixed at ₹8,717 and at ₹9,267 per quintal, respectively.
- ❖ Pulses like tur or arhar (pigeon pea) also benefited from a big MSP hike by about ₹550 from last year to stand at ₹7,550 per quintal.
- ❖ In the case of oilseeds, groundnut, sunflower seed and yellow soy bean attracted a hike of ₹406, ₹520 and ₹292.
- ❖ The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be the highest for bajra (77%) followed by tur (59%), maize (54%) and urad (52%).

2023 India Ageing Report

- ❖ The report titled 'Ageing in India - Exploring Preparedness & Response to Care Challenges - A Help Age India Report' was released recently.
- ❖ Around 29% of senior citizens receive financial support from family members, with older women slightly more likely to receive aid than men.
- ❖ The projected magnitude of the elderly population is estimated at 319 million by mid-century, growing by around 3% a year.

- ❖ This group will be feminine with a sex ratio of 1,065 females per thousand males; further, 54% of elderly women will be widows.
- ❖ While 6% of the elderly men live alone against 9% of their female counterparts, 70% of them are to be found in rural areas.
- ❖ Food insecurity among India's elderly where 6% of those above 45 years of age ate smaller portions or skipped meals.
- ❖ 5.3% of them did not eat despite being hungry.
- ❖ 75% of the elderly population are victims of one or more chronic diseases and 40% of those aged 45 and above have one or the other disability.



National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme



"National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme"

Cabinet Decision: 17 June 2024

- Establishment of Campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and Central Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL)
- Enhancement of existing infrastructure of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU
- Financial outlay of ₹2254.43 crores for campuses, labs and enhancement of infrastructure during the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29
- Will lead to an efficient criminal justice system, based on scientific and timely forensic examination of evidence

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Home Affairs for Central Sector Scheme “National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES).
- ❖ The Cabinet has approved the following components under this Scheme:
 - Establishment of Campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in the country.
 - Establishment of Central Forensic Science Laboratories in the country.
 - Enhancement of existing infrastructure of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU.

Unified Cyberspace Doctrine

- ❖ The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan released the ‘Joint Doctrine’ for cyberspace operations.
- ❖ This doctrine provides a cohesive framework for executing and understanding cyberspace operations across the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- ❖ It aims to equip military commanders with the necessary guidance to navigate the complexities of modern cyber warfare, ensuring well-coordinated and effective operations.

Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program



What is the Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP)?

- ❖ KSCP aims to transform rural India by empowering women as Krishi Sakhis under the '**Lakshpati Didi Yojana**'
- ❖ This Program imparts training and certification of Krishi Sakhis as Para-extension Workers, aligning with the goal of creating **3 crore Lakshpati Didis**

- ❖ The centre has granted certificates to over 30,000 women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) as 'Krishi Sakhis' under the Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme (KSCP).
- ❖ KSCP aims to transform rural India through the empowerment of rural women as Krishi Sakhi.
- ❖ This certification course also aligns with the objectives of the "Lakhpati Didi" Program.

Post Office Act 2023



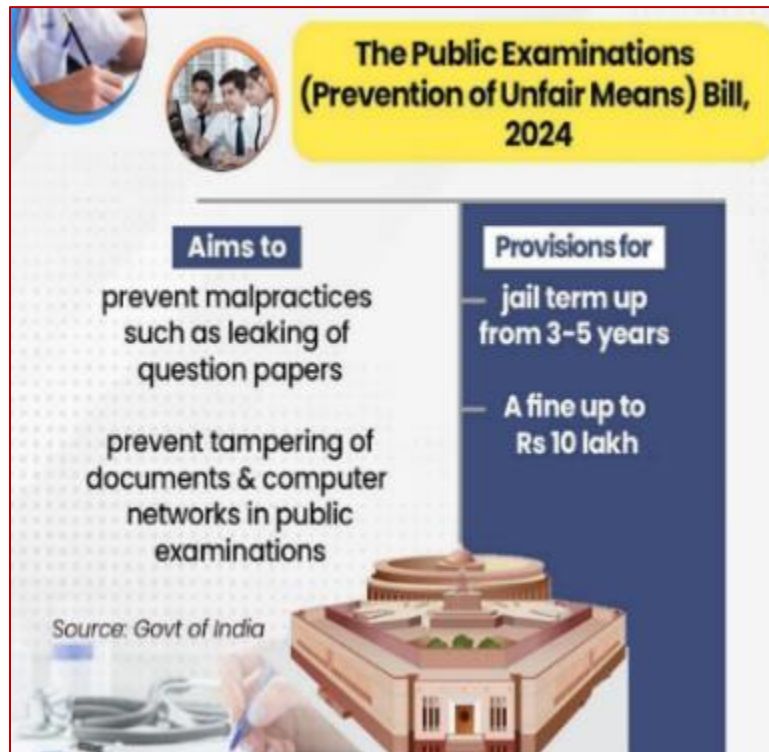
- ❖ The Post Office Bill, 2023 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 10, 2023 and was passed in Rajya Sabha on December 4, 2023.
- ❖ The Act aims to create a simple legislative framework for delivery of citizen centric services, banking services and benefits of Government schemes at the last mile.
- ❖ The Act, for the first time, regulates private courier services by bringing it under its ambit.
- ❖ The Indian Post Office Act, 1898, was superseded by the Act.
- ❖ Section 9 of the Act allows the Centre to, by notification, empower any officer to "intercept, open or detain any item" in the interest of state security.

Container Port Performance Index 2023

- ❖ The Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) is developed by World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- ❖ As many as nine ports of India have made it to the global top 100 rankings in the latest edition.
- ❖ Visakhapatnam Port made it to the top 20 ports of the World at 19 in 2023.
- ❖ Mundra Port climbed up the index at 27 in the current ranking.
- ❖ The other 7 are Pipavav (ranked 41 in the list), Kamarajar (47), Cochin (63), Hazira (68), Krishnapatnam (71), Chennai (80) and Jawaharlal Nehru (96).



Anti-Paper Leak Law



- ❖ The Centre made public the rules under the recently notified anti-paper leak law.
- ❖ It will be mandating the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to prepare norms, standards and guidelines for the computer-based tests among others.



- ❖ The rules were notified within days of operationalising The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.
- ❖ This is the first-ever national law against the use of unfair means to rig recruitment exams conducted by various public bodies.
- ❖ The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on February 9 and Lok Sabha passed it on February 6 and approved on February 12.
- ❖ The Act aims to prevent unfair means in the public examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the railways, banking recruitment examinations and the NTA among others.
- ❖ Under the Act, any person or persons found guilty of leaking a paper or tampering with answer sheets will receive a minimum jail term of three years.
- ❖ This can be extended to five years with a fine of up to ₹ 10 lakh. All offences under the Act will be cognisable and non-bailable.
- ❖ Examination service providers who have knowledge about a possible offence but do not report it can be fined up to ₹ 1 crore.

“One Week One Theme” (OWOT) Campaign

- ❖ The Union government has inaugurated the “One Week One Theme” (OWOT) campaign.
- ❖ It will be highlighting India’s recent achievements in various fields of science and technology.

S.No.	Thematic Areas	Organizing Week
1	Energy and Energy Devices	24 – 28 June 2024
2	Chemicals (including Leather) and Petrochemicals	15 - 20 July 2024
3	Aerospace, Electronics, and Instrumentation & Strategic Sectors	2 - 30 August 2024
4	Civil Infrastructure and Engineering	2 - 6 September 2024
5	Agri, Nutrition & Biotech	21 - 26 October 2024
6	Healthcare	11 - 15 Nov 2024
7	Mining, Minerals, Metals and Materials	25 - 30 November 2024
8	Ecology, Environment, Earth & Ocean Sciences and Water	10- 17 December 2024

BIS Standards for EV

- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has introduced two new standards: IS 18590: 2024 and IS 18606: 2024.

- ❖ These standards aim to address the safety concerns associated with the powertrains and batteries of electric vehicles across various categories.
- ❖ The newly introduced standards are tailored to ensure that the critical components of EVs, particularly the powertrain, adhere to stringent safety requirements.



Lok Sabha Speaker 2024

- ❖ The ruling NDA nominee, Om Birla, was elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha for a second consecutive term by a voice vote.
- ❖ This year, the Lok Sabha witnessed contested election for Lok Sabha Speaker post between Om Birla and the INDIA bloc's nominee, Kodikunnil Suresh, the eight-time Congress MP from Kerala's Mavelikara.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha Speaker is the constitutional and ceremonial head of the House.
- ❖ He/she deals with the actual necessities and concerns of Parliament in the performance of its functions.
- ❖ According to the Indian Constitution, Article 93 provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.
- ❖ It is the members of the Lok Sabha who elect its presiding officer by a simple majority.
- ❖ The election of the Speaker is usually the first item of business in the newly constituted Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The process is overseen by the Pro-tem Speaker, who is appointed by the President of India.
- ❖ Notably, in the 72 years of the Lok Sabha Assembly, the election for the Speaker post has taken place only thrice, i.e., in 1952, 1967 and 1976.

- ❖ Notably, this is the sixth time that a Lok Sabha Speaker has been re-elected to the position and the fifth time for a consecutive second time.

HOW IS LOK SABHA SPEAKER APPOINTED

Once the date for the election of the Speaker is approved by the President and notified by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, any member may give notice in writing, of a motion that another Member be chosen as the Speaker of the House. The notice is addressed to the Secretary-General and has to be seconded by a third Member.

The notice must be submitted before noon on the day preceding the date of election.

The name is normally proposed by the Prime Minister or the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

The Speaker is elected by a simple majority of members present and voting in the House.

Sumitra Mahajan
B.J.P.
Speaker, 16th Lok Sabha
(2014-2019)

Om Birla
B.J.P.
Speaker, 17th Lok Sabha
(2019-2024)

WHY IS THE SPEAKER'S POST CRUCIAL

The speaker of the Lok Sabha is the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha. A look at some of the powers bestowed on him

The Speaker...

- Regulates debates and proceedings in the House. He has the power to decide which member can address Parliament or raise questions.
- Presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament. The joint sitting of the Parliament is called by the President of India.
- Can adjourn the House or suspend the meeting in absence of one-tenth of the total strength of the House.
- Decides whether a bill is a money bill or not.
- Decides the questions of disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha.
- Constitutes the Committees of the House.

Does the Speaker vote?
Normally the Speaker does not participate in voting. However, if there is a tie - when the House is evenly split on any issue - the Speaker is entitled to cast a vote. This is known as a Casting Vote, which is used to break the deadlock.

Lok Sabha's Leader of Opposition

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has recognised Rahul Gandhi as the leader of opposition.
- ❖ He has been recognised as the leader of opposition under Section 2 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
- ❖ To get the post of Leader of Opposition, a party must have at least 10% of MPs in the House.

IN THE POST IN THE PAST

SUSHMA SWARAJ
(DEC 2019 TO MAY 2014)

L K ADVANI
(MAY 2009 TO DEC 2009;
MAY 2004 TO MAY 2009)

SONIA GANDHI
(OCT 1999 TO FEB 2004)

SHARAD PAWAR
(MAR 1998 TO APR 1999)

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
(JUN 1997 TO DEC 1997)

RAJIV GANDHI
(DEC 1989 TO DEC 1990)

FIRST LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Communist leader **AK Gopalan** was born on Oct 1, 1904

A member of Lok Sabha for 5 consecutive terms till his death, became the first leader of opposition in Parliament

Played an active role in the Khilafat & khadi movements, & in the upliftment of Harijans

Played an important role in the formation of Indian Coffee House, a worker cooperative initiative in late 1950s

He was one of the founding members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist)

Arrested for participating in the salt satyagraha in 1930

AKG Bhawan, CPI (M)'s national headquarters at Delhi, is named after him

- ❖ The main duty of the Leader of Opposition is to serve as the voice of the opposition in the House.

- ❖ Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha is considered as a shadow Prime Minister with a shadow Cabinet.
- ❖ They are ready to take over the administration if the Government resigns or is defeated on the floor of the House.

Child Care Leave for Surrogacy

SURROGACY

- Having another woman bear a child for a couple (or single women or men) to raise.
- The surrogate offers to carry a baby through pregnancy and then return the baby to the intended parent(s) once it is born.
- Surrogacy is an option to fulfill the desire to have a child of a couple for whom it is physically or medically impossible or undesirable to carry a baby to term on their own.
- There are two types of surrogacy – traditional surrogacy and gestational surrogacy.
- In Traditional Surrogacy, a surrogate mother is artificially inseminated, either by the intended father or an anonymous donor. The surrogate mother provides the egg and is thus genetically related to the child.
- In Gestational Surrogacy, an embryo is created using an egg and sperm produced by the intended couple and is transferred into the surrogate's uterus. The surrogate has no genetic link to the child. Her eggs cannot be used to conceive the child.
- The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill seeks to allow and regulate Gestational Surrogacy.
- Surrogacy can be altruistic or commercial. In altruistic surrogacy, the surrogate is not paid for her services, except for medical expenses and insurance. In commercial surrogacy, the surrogate is paid over and above these expenses.
- The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill seeks to ban commercial surrogacy but protect the altruistic surrogate through enhanced, prescribed payments (for medical expenses, food and care, longer-duration insurance).

- ❖ The Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972, have been updated to allow 'commissioning mothers' who opt for surrogacy 180 days of maternity leave.
- ❖ According to the amendment of Rules, the "commissioning mother" (the intending mother of the child born through surrogacy) with child care leave is eligible for these leaves.
- ❖ The government also grants the paternity leave of 15 days to the "commissioning father".
- ❖ The current regulations permit "a female government servant and single male government servant" to take childcare leave for up to 730 days throughout their service to care for their two oldest surviving children.

INTERNATIONAL

Landslide - Papua New Guinea

- ❖ A massive landslide struck Papua New Guinea's highlands recently.
- ❖ The disaster hit an isolated part of Enga province.
- ❖ At least six villages have been affected due to the disaster.
- ❖ Landslides happen when the pull from gravity exceeds the strength of the geomaterial forming the slope of a hill or mountain.
- ❖ Geomaterials can be as varied as rocks, sand, silt and clays.
- ❖ Most natural landslides are triggered by earthquakes or rainfall, or a combination of both.
- ❖ Papua and New Guinea is one of the wettest places on the earth.

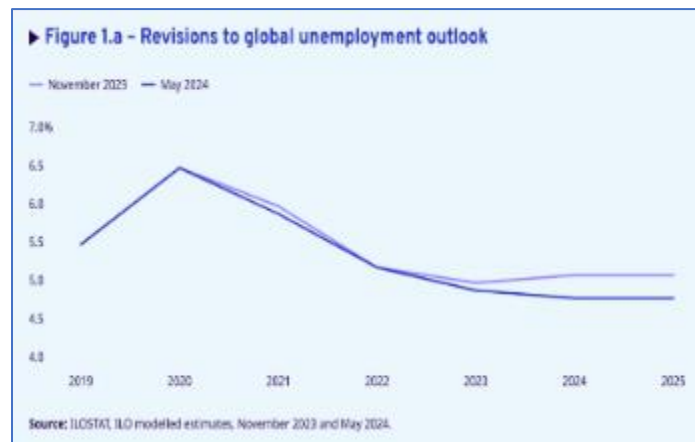


WIPO's new treaty

- ❖ The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has approved the Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge (Treaty).
- ❖ The Treaty is primarily concerned with the inclusion of genetic material in patent applications that derive from the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.
- ❖ The Treaty defines 'genetic material' as any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity.



World Unemployment in 2024



- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) expects a global unemployment rate of 4.9% in 2024.
- ❖ It is originally forecasting unemployment would rise to 5.2% this year from five percent in 2023.
- ❖ The Geneva-based UN agency forecasts that the rate will stay at 4.9% in 2025.
- ❖ 183 million people meet the definition of unemployed but the number of people without a job who wanted to work stood at 402 million.
- ❖ Women in low-income countries were especially hard-hit, with 22.8% who wanted a job not in work, compared with 15.3 percent for men.
- ❖ For high-income countries, the rate stood at 9.7% for women and 7.3% for men.
- ❖ 45.6% of women of working age were employed in 2024.
- ❖ For men, the figure was 69.2%.

Chair of Colombo Process

- ❖ India has become chair of regional grouping Colombo Process for the first time since its inception in 2003.
- ❖ The Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum comprising 12 member states of Asia.
- ❖ Colombo Process is a Regional Consultative Process of migrant worker origin countries from South and SE Asia.
- ❖ It serves as a forum for exchange of best practices on overseas employment



Taliban - Terrorist Group List



- ❖ Russia will remove the Taliban from a list of banned terrorist organisations, three years after they returned to power in Afghanistan.
- ❖ The Taliban has been designated a terrorist organisation in Russia since 2003.
- ❖ Kazakhstan removed the Taliban from its list of banned organisations at the end of 2023.
- ❖ The Taliban seized power in 2021 from a US-backed government.

- ❖ They have enforced an extreme form of Islamic law that effectively bans women from public life.

77th World Health Assembly

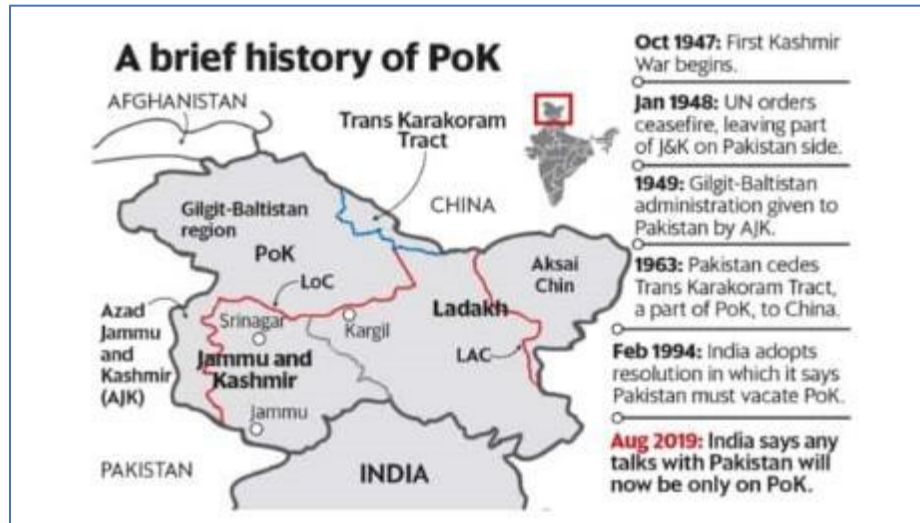
- ❖ The 77th World Health Assembly by World Health Organization (WHO) was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ It approved a draft resolution on improving organ transplantation availability, including human cells and tissues.
- ❖ The resolution tasked countries with developing a global strategy to be presented for adoption in 2026.
- ❖ It has also encouraged the establishment of a World Donor Day to raise public awareness and donations.
- ❖ Organ donation increased to 16,041 in 2022 from 4,990 in 2013.

Techo Funan Canal project



- ❖ Cambodia started an ambitious \$1.7 billion infrastructure project, known as the Funan Techo Canal.
- ❖ The China-funded 180-km canal aims to connect the Mekong River basin to the Cambodian coast.
- ❖ It is connecting Phnom Penh Autonomous Port in the country's capital to the coastal province of Kep.
- ❖ Vietnam expressed its concerns regarding the environmental impact of the project.
- ❖ This expansion could also facilitate China's military presence in the country.

Pakistan Occupied Kashmir



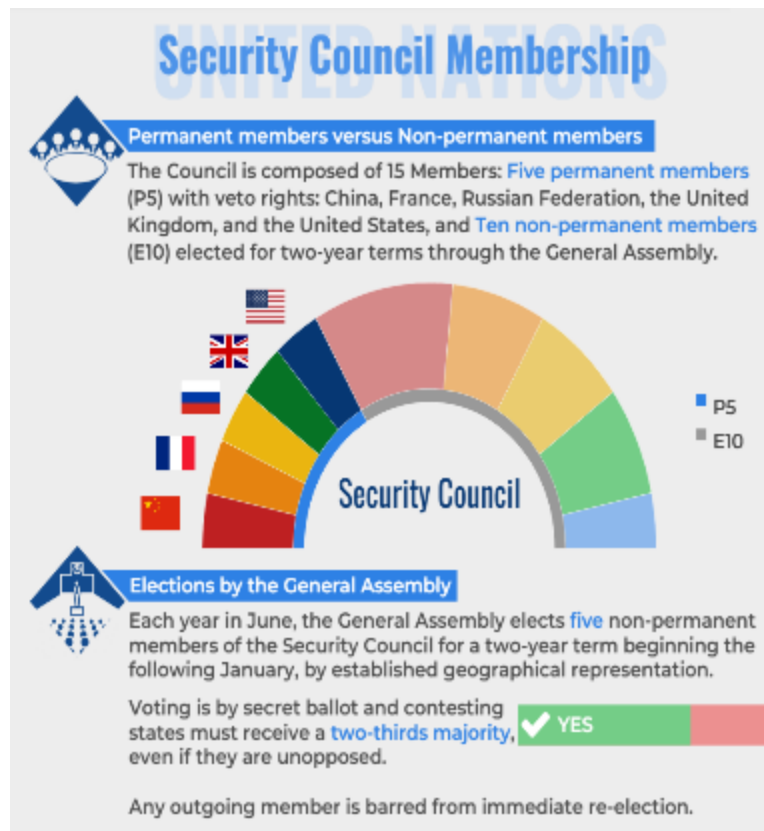
- ❖ Pakistan's government has acknowledged before the Islamabad High Court that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) is a foreign territory.
- ❖ The rare admission was made during the hearing of the abduction case of local Kashmiri poet and journalist Ahmed Farhad Shah.
- ❖ The Additional Attorney General said Kashmir is a foreign territory with its own constitution and its own courts.
- ❖ He further added that the judgements of Pakistani courts in PoK are considered judgements of foreign courts.

Greedflation theory



- ❖ New research from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco raised a new view on the greedflation theory.
- ❖ Some inequality is actually beneficial, since it acts as an incentive to entrepreneurs to start businesses.
- ❖ Greedflation is a scenario where inflation in an economy is driven by corporate greed to make a profit rather than an increase in the cost of production, demand, or wages.
- ❖ Inflation is the rate at which the general price level of goods and services rises in an economy.
- ❖ Greedflation occurs when corporations exploit existing inflation by raising prices far beyond their actual input cost increases.

UNSC Election 2024



- ❖ The UN General Assembly elected Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia to serve as non-permanent members on the Security Council.
- ❖ They serve for two-year terms beginning on 1 January next year.
- ❖ They will replace Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland, whose terms end on 31 December.

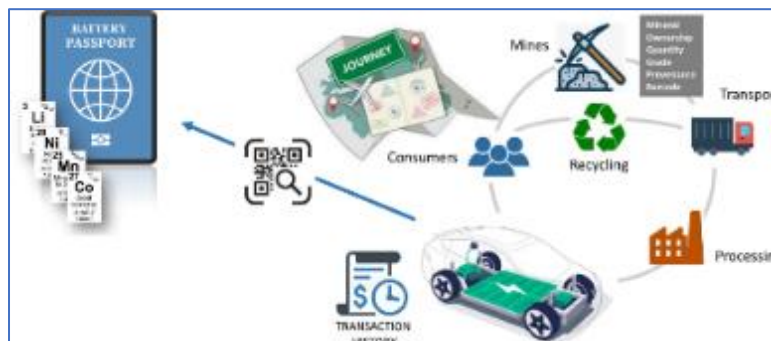
- ❖ The 10 non-permanent seats on the Security Council are distributed according to four regional groupings.
- ❖ They are: Africa and Asia; Eastern Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Western European and other States group.

Panama evacuates Island

- ❖ About 300 families have successfully relocated off the island of Gardi Sugdub, Panama due to concerns over rising sea levels.
- ❖ This marks the Latin American nation is set to become the first to evacuate an entire island community due to climate change.
- ❖ Gardi Sugdub is one of approximately 50 inhabited islands in the Guna Yala territory's archipelago.



World's First EV Battery Passport



- ❖ Volvo Cars is launching the world's first EV battery passport for its flagship EX90 SUV.
- ❖ Battery passports will be mandatory for electric vehicles (EVs) sold in the European Union from February 2027.

- ❖ It will be showing the composition of batteries, including the origin of key materials, their carbon footprint and recycled content.

International Health Regulations

- ❖ The 77th World Health Assembly, the annual meeting of 194 member countries, has agreed a package of critical amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR).
- ❖ It aims to ensure comprehensive, robust systems are in place in all countries to protect the health and safety of all people from the risk of future outbreaks and pandemics.
- ❖ The new amendments to the IHR include:
 - Introducing a definition of a pandemic emergency,
 - A commitment to solidarity and equity on strengthening access to medical products and financing,
 - Establishment of the States Parties Committee to facilitate the effective implementation of the amended Regulations,
 - Creation of National IHR Authorities.



NaturAfrica program

- ❖ The NaturAfrica program is funded by the European Commission.
- ❖ It aims to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable development in key African landscapes.
- ❖ Recently, European Commission exclude Tanzania from this program because of human rights violation concern.

- ❖ There is a human rights abuses associated with the forced eviction of Maasai communities from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo in Tanzania.
- ❖ Recently, others like the World Bank and the German Development Cooperation, have also stopped funding projects in the region out of similar concerns.



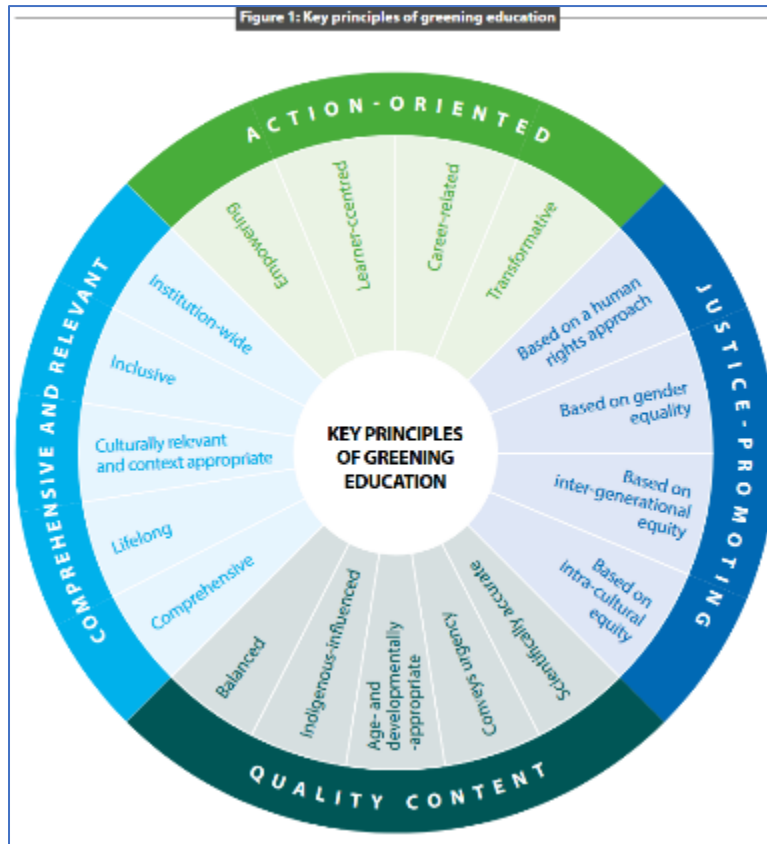
New parties to Artemis Accords 2024

- ❖ Slovakia and Peru signed NASA's Artemis Accords, the U.S.-led agreement on the safe exploration of space.
- ❖ The addition of these two nations brings the total of signing countries to 42.
- ❖ The Artemis Accords were first launched and signed in October 2020 by eight nations, including the United States.
- ❖ It aims to setting common principles to govern civil exploration and use of outer space, the moon, Mars, comets, and asteroids, for peaceful purposes.

UNESCO's New Tools for Greening Education

- ❖ The UNESCO has launched the Greening Curriculum Guidance (GCG) and Green School Quality Standards (GSQS) under the Greening Education Partnership.
- ❖ It is a practical manual providing, a common understanding of what climate education should consist of and how countries can mainstream environmental topics across curricula.
- ❖ Policy-makers, education ministries, educators, learners, and communities are the Target Audience.
- ❖ 50% of 100 countries in recent UNESCO survey have no mention of climate change in their curriculum.

- ❖ Around 70% of young people could not explain climate disruption.



Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) framework

Annex. Reported incidence of visceral leishmaniasis, 2010–2022

Country	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	Total	Average of 13 years (2010–2022)
Chad	96	59	74	0	2	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	231	18
Djibouti	16	35	9	1	12	34	9	10	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	126	10
Eritrea	283	268	1034	514	502	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	2601	200
Ethiopia	881	794	1077	1360	1828	1400	1593	1900	2705	1732	2381	2032	1936	21 799	1677
Kenya	1573	1746	1178	1621	590	950	692	894	880	181	457	406	ND	11 168	859
Somalia	793	831	471	294	411	857	780	1165	1045	936	394	290	ND	8257	636
South Sudan	1058	792	827	1013	1867	3567	4285	2840	7472	2364	4353	10 468	9166	50 072	3852
Sudan	4347	3323	2563	2851	2711	3894	3810	2829	3415	2389	5153	7418	6957	51 660	3974
Uganda	202	129	55	101	29	31	35	34	32	141	86	77	78	1090	84
Total	9309	7977	7288	7755	7952	10 823	11 204	9762	15 548	7743	12 824	20 681	18 137	147 014	11 309

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a new visceral leishmaniasis framework to guide to eradicate the disease in eastern Africa.
- ❖ Its targets include a 90 per cent reduction in VL incidence in the eastern Africa sub-region to fewer than 1,500 cases per year by 2030.

- ❖ It is called as kala-azar in Hindi, spreads through the bite of infected female sandflies and is endemic in 80 countries.
- ❖ In 2022, eastern Africa accounted for 73 per cent of global VL caseload, 50 per cent of which occurred in children aged under 15 years.
- ❖ Earlier, between 2004 and 2008, Bangladesh, India and Nepal collectively accounted for 70 per cent of the global caseload.
- ❖ In October 2023, WHO announced that Bangladesh had successfully eradicated VL – making it the first country in the world to achieve the landmark.

Collective Security Treaty Organization - Armenia

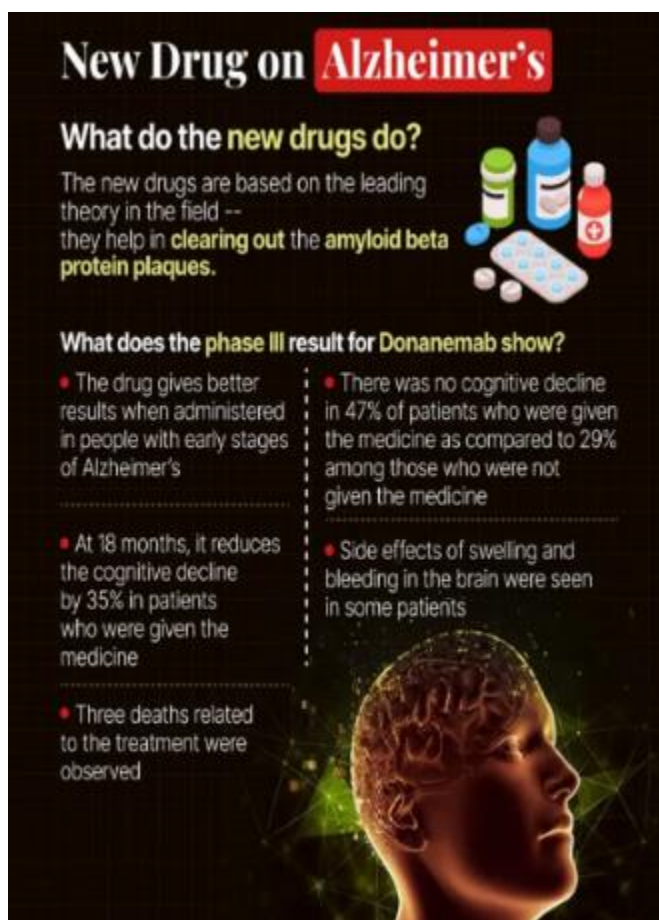


- ❖ Armenia's Prime Minister has confirmed that his country would pull out of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).
- ❖ The CSTO is a Russia-dominated alliance of former Soviet states that have pledged to protect one another in the event of an attack.
- ❖ Armenia's ties with Russia have become strained since Moscow refused to intervene in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- ❖ In February, Armenia joined the International Criminal Court (ICC) which has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President.
- ❖ CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance (six countries) that came into effect in 2002.

Ukraine meet statement

- ❖ India refuses to endorse final document issued at the conclusion of a Peace Summit in Switzerland.
- ❖ India was among at least seven countries that refused to endorse the “Joint Communique on a Peace Framework” released in Burgenstock, Switzerland.
- ❖ The communique, called for the protection of Ukraine’s “territorial integrity”, was built on Ukraine’s peace formula, and the UN charter and resolutions thus far was signed by more than 80 countries.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates were among other countries that refused to sign the communique.
- ❖ Brazil has maintained an observer status, and China declined the invitation to participate altogether.

New Alzheimer’s drug



New Drug on Alzheimer's

What do the new drugs do?
The new drugs are based on the leading theory in the field -- they help in **clearing out** the **amyloid beta protein plaques**.

What does the phase III result for Donanemab show?

- The drug gives better results when administered in people with early stages of Alzheimer's
- At 18 months, it reduces the cognitive decline by 35% in patients who were given the medicine
- Three deaths related to the treatment were observed
- There was no cognitive decline in 47% of patients who were given the medicine as compared to 29% among those who were not given the medicine
- Side effects of swelling and bleeding in the brain were seen in some patients

- ❖ Independent advisers committee to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave nod to the new Alzheimer’s drug - Donanemab.

- ❖ Donanemab is a monoclonal antibody that targets amyloid beta protein plaques in the brain.
- ❖ Though the therapy slows down the progression of the disease, it does not ultimately treat the disease.
- ❖ Alzheimer's disease has multiple modalities and we would need various therapies.

STSS Infections Surge - Japan

- ❖ Japan is on the high alert after close to 1,000 cases of a deadly infection were reported across the country.
- ❖ The disease is known as Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS), or 'flesh-eating bacteria'.
- ❖ It is spreading rapidly, resulting in deaths within a short period.
- ❖ STSS is a rare but severe bacterial infection caused by group A Streptococcus Bacteria.
- ❖ It occurs when these bacteria enter deep tissues and the bloodstream, releasing toxins that cause a rapid and dangerous response in the body.

Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS)

- Complication of invasive GAS disease characterized by shock & MOF → occurs as a result of capillary leak & tissue damage due to release of inflammatory cytokines induced by streptococcal toxins
- Complicates invasive GAS in 30% of cases; 50% in nec fasc
- **Diagnostic criteria:**
 - Isolation of GAS from sterile body site (i.e., blood)
 - Early onset hypotension
 - Multi-organ involvement (2+): kidneys, liver, lung/ARDS, coagulopathy, erythematous macular rash, soft tissue necrosis

G7 2024 Summit

- ❖ G7 leaders participated at the G7 Summit in Apulia, Italy.
- ❖ Apart from G7, India, Pope Francis and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy were also invited to the 2024 summit.



- ❖ The King of Jordan, leaders of Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania were also present at the event in Borgo Egnazia in the southern region of Puglia.
- ❖ USA and Ukraine have signed a 10-year security agreement as a milestone in relations between their countries.
- ❖ The Vatican chief Pope Francis became the first pontiff to attend a G7 summit.
- ❖ G7 nations have agreed upon a \$50bn deal to fund Ukraine through profits on frozen Russian assets.

NATO funds to AI

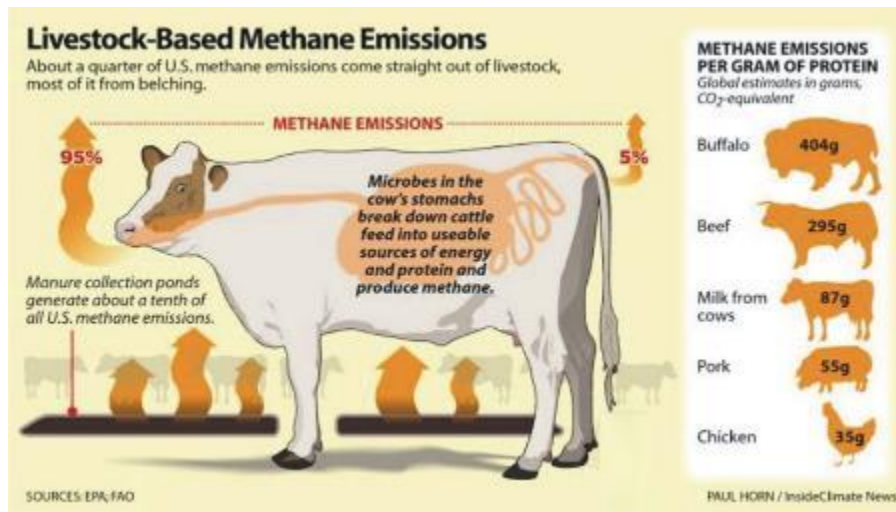
- ❖ A consortium of NATO allies confirmed the first set of companies that will receive funding from the group's one-billion-euro innovation fund.
- ❖ The fund is backed by 24 of NATO's 32 member states, including Finland and Sweden, which joined the alliance earlier this year.
- ❖ It would help to address challenges in defence, security, and resilience by developing AI, robots and space technologies.

Wartsila engine power plant

- ❖ Wartsila has launched the world's first large-scale 100% hydrogen-ready engine power plant in Australia.
- ❖ The new engine power plant can run on natural gas and 25 vol% hydrogen blends.
- ❖ The Wartsila 31 engine platform, which the hydrogen-ready power plant is based on, is the most efficient in the world.
- ❖ The 100% hydrogen-ready engine is expected to be available for orders in 2025, and available for delivery from 2026.

Burp Tax - New Zealand

- ❖ New Zealand government announced scrapping the 'burp tax' — a scheme to tax greenhouse gas emissions from livestock.
- ❖ The burp tax was introduced in October 2022 under the leadership of then Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.
- ❖ In New Zealand, there are around 10 million cattle and 25 million sheep, which are the source of nearly half of the country's greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ The primary aim of the scheme was to curtail methane emissions from ruminant species.



Ban on hijab – Tajikistan

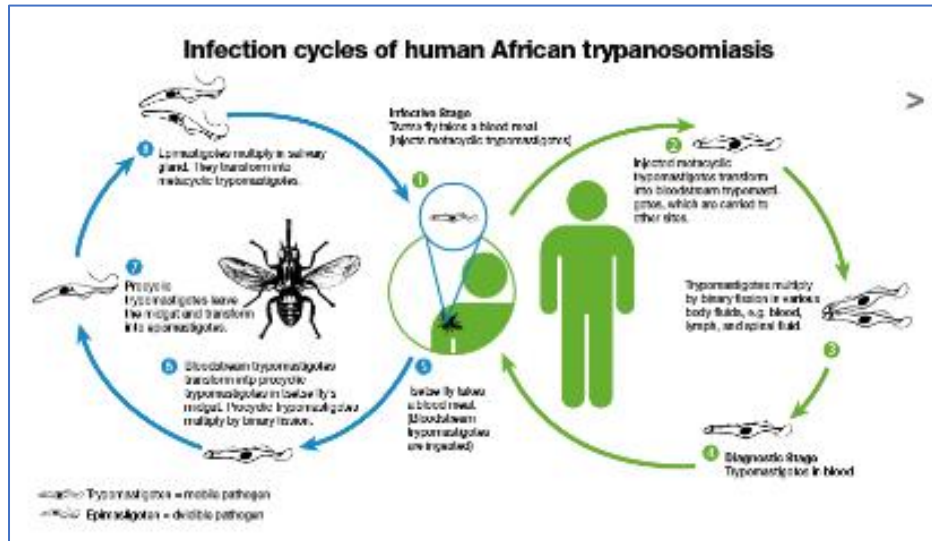


- ❖ Tajikistan's parliament approved a bill to ban the hijab.
- ❖ The house banned "alien garments" and children's celebrations for the two most important Islamic holidays—Eid al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha.
- ❖ This ban comes as part of his agenda to promote 'Tajiki' culture, aimed at reducing visible public religiosity.

Human African Trypanosomiasis – Chad

- ❖ Chad has become the first country in 2024 and the 51st globally to eliminate a neglected tropical disease- human African trypanosomiasis (HAT).
- ❖ HAT is caused by protozoan parasites that spread via infected tsetse flies.
- ❖ The illness is typically fatal if left untreated.

- ❖ There are two forms of HAT, determined by the subspecies of the parasite involved:
 - *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense* - accounts for 92 % of reported cases and
 - *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*, responsible for the remaining 8 per cent.



America - 'microschools' boom

- ❖ America is witnessing a 'microschools' boom even with 7 students.
- ❖ Microschools are small private institutions that serve a median of 16 children and offer full-time, part-time or hybrid instruction.
- ❖ These schools are often open four or five days per week, with full-time teachers, set curricula and sometimes even standardised tests.
- ❖ The National Micro schooling Centre estimates there are 95,000 microschools and home-schooling pods nationwide, serving more than 1 million students.

Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

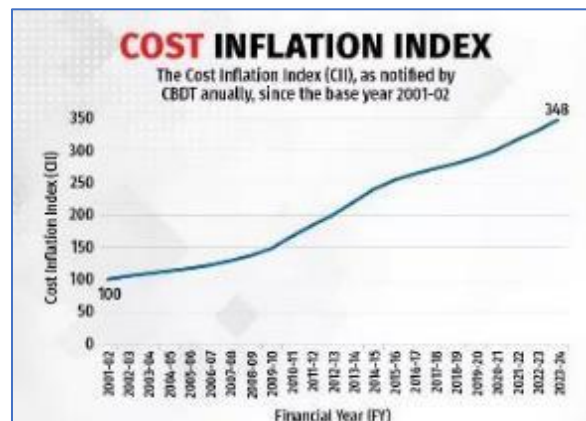
- ❖ Pakistan's top leadership has approved the launch of a new military operation aimed at quelling a surge in violence.
- ❖ It is called Azm-e-Istehkam, meaning Resolve for Stability in Urdu.
- ❖ It aims to address domestic security threats and the activities of armed fighters crossing over from Afghanistan.
- ❖ Since 2001, Pakistan's military has conducted many operations like "Zarb-e-Azb", "Rah-e-Nijat", "Rah-e-Rast" against homegrown militants in border areas.

- PRIME MINISTER LED CRUCIAL **APEX COMMITTEE** MEETING ON **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**.
- TOP FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEADERS STRATEGIZED ON **COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS**.
- APPROVED OPERATION **AZM-E-ISTEHKAM** FOR ROBUST ANTI-TERRORISM DRIVE.
- UNITED EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD **PAKISTAN'S FUTURE**.
- NEW MEASURES TO ENSURE SECURITY FOR **CHINESE NATIONALS IN PAKISTAN**.

ECONOMY

Cost Inflation Index 2023/24

- ❖ Cost Inflation Index (CII) for Financial Year 2024-25 has been fixed at 363.
- ❖ The CII number for last fiscal was 348 and for 2022-23 financial year it was 331.
- ❖ It shows a rise of 4.3 per cent.
- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the index.
- ❖ CII is a way to calculate inflation, that is, an estimated increase in the price of a good or service over the years.
- ❖ Indexation is used to adjust the purchase price of an investment to reflect the effect of inflation on it.
- ❖ A higher purchase price means lesser profits, which effectively means a lower tax.



RBI's new initiatives

RBI GOVERNOR SHAKTIKANTA DAS LAUNCHES 3 MAJOR INITIATIVES OF THE RBI TODAY

- RBI Launches PRAVAAH, RBI Retail Direct Mobile Application & FinTech Repository
- PRAVAAH Portal To Make It Convenient For Any Individual/Entity To Apply Online For Various Regulatory Approvals In A Seamless Manner
- PRAVAAH Portal Will Also Enhance Efficiency Of Processes Related To Granting Of Regulatory Approvals/Clearances By RBI
- Retail Direct Mobile App To Provide Retail Investors Easy Access To Retail Direct Platform, Provide Ease Of Transacting In GSecs
- Fintech Repository Will Contain Information On Rich Repository Of Data On Indian FinTech Firms For A Better Understanding Of The Sector From A Regulatory Perspective

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has launched three major initiatives: the PRAVAAH portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App, and a FinTech Repository.
- ❖ These three initiatives were announced in April 2023, April 2024, and December 2023.
- ❖ Pravaah is a secure and centralised web-based portal for any individual or entity to seek authorisation.
- ❖ The retail direct site was introduced in November 2021 to let retail investors create Retail Direct Gilt accounts with the RBI via the Retail Direct Scheme.
- ❖ With the retail direct mobile app, retail investors may now deal in G-Secs using their cell phones.

Third-party transaction model

 Heads of **Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas, Credit Agricole, Société Générale** have met top RBI officials

Seek RBI nod for third-party clearing model

ICICI Bank, SBI may act as local clearing agents

New system a must to carry on derivatives, G-secs trades

Oct '24 ESMA's deadline to stop trades with CCIL



- ❖ As many as four European banks have asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to approve a third-party transaction model.
- ❖ Credit Agricole, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank, and BNP Paribas seek to resolve a deadlock between their home authorities and Indian policymakers regarding audit oversight rights.
- ❖ The European banks face many hurdles in trading Indian government bonds and derivatives since the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) de-recognised the Clearing Corp of India (CCIL) in October 2022.
- ❖ ESMA's decision resulted from the RBI's refusal to grant audit and inspection rights over CCIL.
- ❖ These rights oversee local government bond trading and ensures settlement.

Transfer of gold reserves

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has moved approximately 100 tonnes (1 lakh kilograms) of gold from the United Kingdom to its vaults in India.
- ❖ This is the first time since 1991 that India has undertaken such a large-scale transfer of gold reserves.
- ❖ More than half of the RBI's gold reserves are held overseas in secure custody with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements.
- ❖ Approximately one third is stored domestically.
- ❖ The central bank held 822.10 tonnes of gold as part of its foreign exchange reserves as of March 31, 2024.
- ❖ India will now hold most of its gold in its own vaults.

	As on March 31, 2023	As on March 31, 2024
	Volume in metric tonnes	Volume in metric tonnes
1	2	3
Gold held as backing for Notes Issued (held in India)	301.09	308.03
Gold (including Gold Deposit) held as asset of Banking Department (including gold held abroad)	493.54	514.07*
Total	794.63	822.10
#: 100.28 metric tonnes held in India and 413.79 metric tonnes held abroad.		

RBI Annual Report 2023-24

- ❖ Indian economy is likely to grow at 7% in the current fiscal year starting April.
- ❖ The Indian economy with real GDP growth accelerating to 7.6% from 7.0% in the previous year – the third successive year of 7% or above growth.
- ❖ The real GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7.0% with risks evenly balanced.
- ❖ RBI had a net income of Rs 2.11 lakh crore in the financial year 2024, up from Rs 87,420 crore in the previous year.
- ❖ The RBI's balance sheet size increased by 11.08% during the financial year to Rs 70.48 lakh crore.

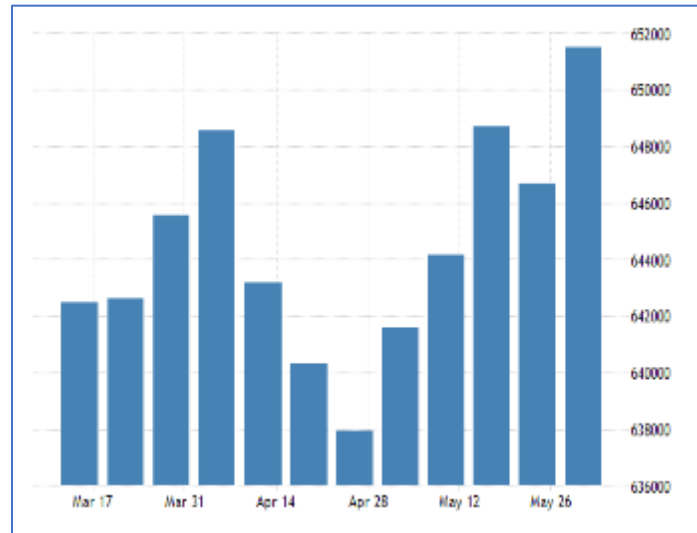
Sector	Growth Rate			Share			
	Average 2016-17 to 2023-24	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24*	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GDP at Market Prices (Expenditure Side)							
1. Private Final Consumption Expenditure	5.4	11.7	6.8	3.0	58.1	58.0	55.6
2. Government Final Consumption Expenditure	5.0	0.0	9.0	3.0	9.9	10.0	9.6
3. Gross Fixed Capital Formation	7.0	17.5	6.6	10.2	33.4	33.3	34.1
4. Change in Stocks	57.1	525.4	14.5	5.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
5. Valuables	6.9	39.5	-19.1	13.8	1.9	1.4	1.5
6. Net Exports	-79.2	47.0	52.7	-517.8	-1.0	-0.4	-2.5
a) Exports	7.0	29.6	13.4	1.5	22.6	23.9	22.6
b) Less Imports	7.6	22.1	10.6	10.9	23.6	24.4	25.1
7. Discrepancies	-15.5	-386.9	11.2	-121.0	-3.3	-3.4	0.7
8. GDP	5.5	9.7	7.0	7.6	100.0	100.0	100.0

RBI Monetary Policy update

- ❖ The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the eight consecutive time.
- ❖ It also decided to continue with its stance of 'withdrawal of accommodation'.
- ❖ RBI raised its GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 7.2% from 7% earlier.
- ❖ The central bank retained FY25 inflation forecast at 4.5%.



Foreign Exchange Reserves – June 2024



- ❖ India's foreign exchange reserves hit a record high of \$651.5 billion as of May 31.
- ❖ Reserves rose by \$4.8 billion in the reporting week, the biggest rise in over two months.
- ❖ They had fallen by \$2 billion in the prior week.

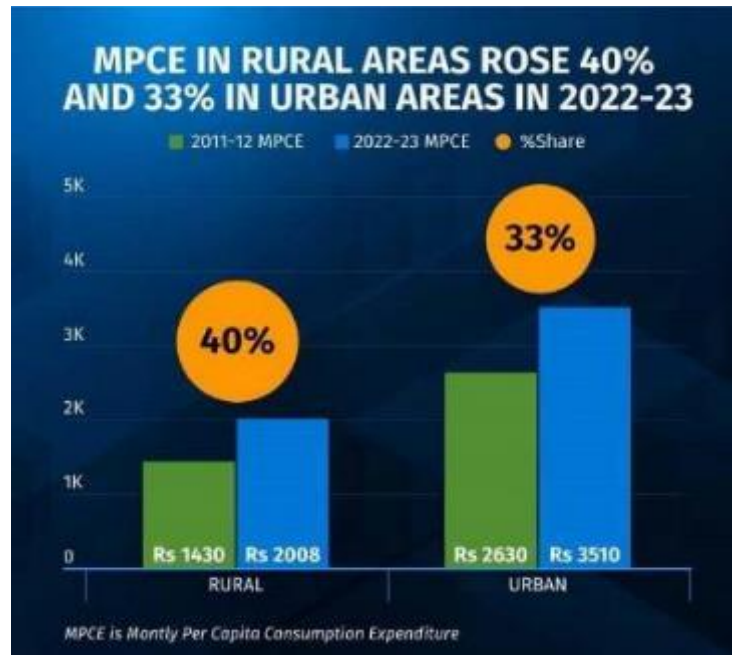
Global Destinations for Real Estate Investment



- ❖ India is ranked among the top five cross-border capital destinations globally for land and development site investments in the March quarter.

- ❖ Foreign investors backing about 55% of the inflows.
- ❖ Notably, 73% of the fresh foreign investments were aimed at ready assets.
- ❖ Foreign investments in Indian real estate reached \$3.6 billion in 2023, making up 67% of all the money that came in.

Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23



- ❖ The monthly per capita household consumption in rural India jumped by over 40 per cent in 2022-23, after adjusting for inflation.
- ❖ In absolute terms, the monthly per capita consumption expenditure in the country's rural areas shot up to Rs 2,008 in 2022-23 from Rs 1,430 in 2011-12.
- ❖ Urban India also recorded a robust gain of 33 per cent with per capita household consumption expenditure rising to Rs 3,510 in 2022-23 from Rs 2,360 in 2011-12, after adjusting for inflation.
- ❖ Without adjusting for inflation, the figures stood at Rs 6,459 for urban households and Rs 3,773 for rural households in 2022-23.
- ❖ It was Rs 2,630 and Rs 1,430 respectively in 2011-12.
- ❖ In 2022-23, food accounted for about 46 per cent of the average rural household's consumption.
- ❖ The Urban households allocated about 39 per cent of their monthly per capita consumption to food.

Indian wealth in Swiss banks

- ❖ The Indian individuals and firms saw a significant drop in the money they kept in Swiss banks last year.
- ❖ According to Switzerland's central bank, these funds fell by 70% in 2023 to 1.04 billion Swiss Francs (around ₹9,771 crore), the lowest in four years.
- ❖ At the close of 2023, the total liabilities of Swiss banks towards their Indian clients amounted to 1,039.8 million francs.
- ❖ The aggregate funds held by Indian clients with Swiss banks saw a peak of 3.83 billion francs in 2021, which was the highest in 14 years.
- ❖ In terms of global rankings for funds held by foreign clients in Swiss banks, India stood at 67th place at the end of 2023, down from 46th place a year earlier.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the UK, the US, and France topped the list.



53rd GST Council meeting

- ❖ The 53rd meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was held on June 22 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Services provided by Indian Railways to the common person, including sale of platform tickets, retiring rooms are now exempted from GST.
- ❖ Hostels for students located outside educational institutions are also exempted from GST.
- ❖ Changes in GST rates of Goods:
 - Milk Cans: 12% GST on all steel, iron, and aluminium milk cans.
 - Carton Boxes: GST on cartons, boxes, and cases of paper reduced from 18% to 12%.



- Solar Cookers: 12% GST on all solar cookers whether single or dual energy source
- Poultry Machinery Parts: 12% GST on parts of poultry keeping machinery.
- ❖ The council has recommended a monetary limit of Rs 20 lakh for GST appellate tribunal, Rs 1 crore for High Court and Rs 2 crore for Supreme Court for filing of appeals by the department.

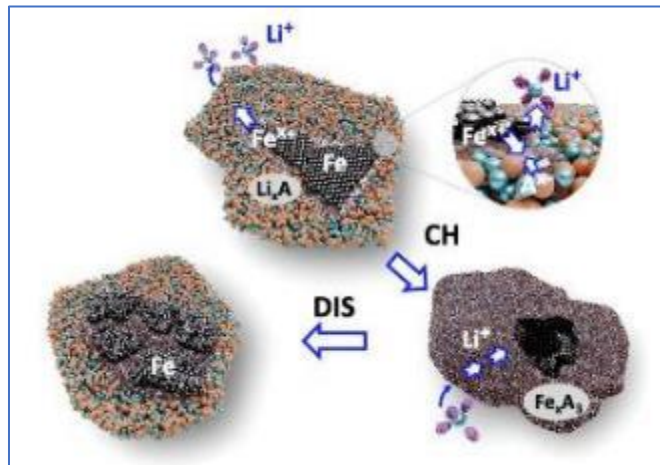
53rd GST Council Meet: Key Updates

- **Interest & Penalty Waived:** No interest or penalties for demand notices under Section 73 for FY 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 if tax paid by 31.03.2025.
- **ITC Time Limit Extended:** Deadline to avail ITC for FY 2017-18 to 2020-21 extended to 30.11.2021.
- **Appeal Limits Set:** Monetary limits for appeals set at Rs. 20 lakh (GST Appellate Tribunal), Rs. 1 crore (High Court), and Rs. 2 crore (Supreme Court).
- **Pre-Deposit Reduction:** Reduced pre-deposit requirements for GST appeals.
- **Appeal Filing Period:** 3-month period for filing GST Appellate Tribunal appeals to start from a date notified by the Government.
- **No Interest on ECL Balance:** No interest on delayed returns if balance in Electronic Cash Ledger on due date.
- **Anti-Profitteering Sunset Clause:** New applications for Anti-profitteering not accepted from April 1, 2025.
- **Compensation Cess Exemption:** SEZ imports exempt from Compensation Cess from 1st July, 2017.
- **Railway Service Exemptions:** Certain services by Indian Railways to common man and intra-railway supplies exempted.
- **Accommodation Service Relief:** Exemptions for accommodation services benefiting students and professionals.
- **Aadhaar Authentication:** Biometric-based Aadhaar authentication for registration applicants to be rolled out nationwide in phases.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sustainable lithium-ion batteries

- ❖ Researchers have reportedly developed an iron-based cathode material which can pave the way for making cheaper, safer, and more sustainable batteries.
- ❖ They have made a cathode material out of iron, which is easy to find and cheap.
- ❖ Traditional lithium-ion batteries depend a lot on cobalt and nickel, which are both expensive and hard to find.
- ❖ The new material will end the need to use expensive and scarce metals such as cobalt and nickel.
- ❖ It will be leading to the manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs) at cheaper rates.



Caterpillar's Electroreception

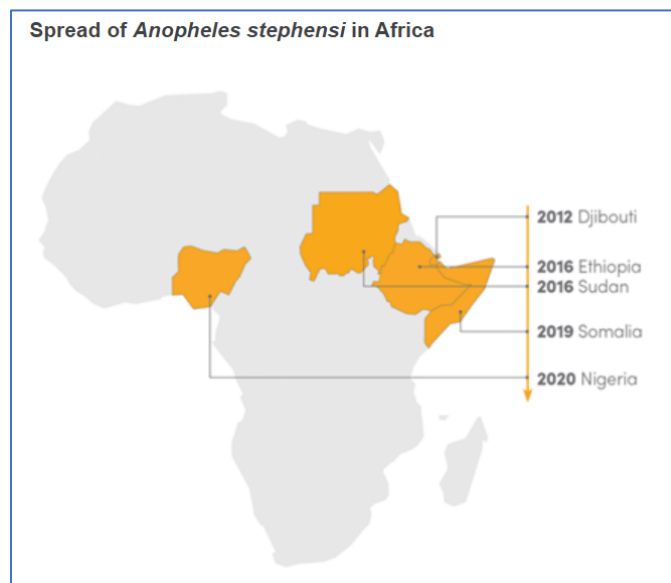
- ❖ Caterpillars have a sixth sense that most land-based animals do not.
- ❖ They can sense electric fields around them with small bristles called setae on its body — a feat called electroreception.
- ❖ Caterpillars, which are also arthropods, may break this mould, by using the electroreception to sense predatory insects nearby.
- ❖ The caterpillars' setae responded to frequencies of 50-350 Hz, possibly to help distinguish between threats and non-threats.

Magellan Mission – NASA

- ❖ NASA's Magellan mission reached Venus in 1990 and was the first spacecraft that mapped the entire surface of the planet.
- ❖ It was vanished into Venus' atmosphere on October 12, 1994.

- ❖ Since then, no other spacecraft has been sent to explore Venus.
- ❖ As per the study of its data, Venus, the closest Earth-like planet in our solar system with thousands of volcanoes may still be active.
- ❖ The planet was volcanically active between 1990 and 1992.
- ❖ In March last year, scientists observed that a volcanic vent on the planet had changed its shape and significantly increased in size in just one year.
- ❖ In 2031, NASA is planning to send a new mission to Venus Named VERITAS.

GM Mosquitoes – Djibouti



- ❖ Genetically modified (GMO) mosquitoes were released in Djibouti, East Africa to fight malaria.
- ❖ They have released genetically altered male mosquitoes carrying a special gene that prevents their female offspring from reaching adulthood.
- ❖ The method targets female mosquitoes, which are predominantly responsible for malaria transmission.
- ❖ By reducing the female mosquito population, the scientists hope to significantly decrease the spread of the disease.
- ❖ Male mosquitoes do not bite and therefore cannot transmit malaria.
- ❖ The 'Djibouti Friendly Mosquito Programme' started two years ago to stop the spread of *Anopheles stephensi*, an invasive species of mosquito.
- ❖ In 2012, when *Anopheles stephensi* was first detected in Africa, Djibouti reported 27 cases of malaria.

- ❖ By 2020, the country's malaria caseload had crossed 73,000.
- ❖ This is the first time a genetically engineered mosquito has been released in East Africa and the second time on the African continent after Burkina Faso.

OSIRIS-APEX 2024

- ❖ Nasa's asteroid-exploring spacecraft OSIRIS-APEX has passed its first major test on the journey to asteroid Apophis.
- ❖ The probe, originally known as OSIRIS-REx, successfully navigated its closest approach to the Sun.
- ❖ The spacecraft is now operating normally on an elliptical solar orbit that will bring it even closer to the Sun five more times before reaching Apophis in 2029.
- ❖ Its next perihelion, or closest solar approach, is scheduled for September 1, 2024 at just 46.5 million miles from the Sun.
- ❖ It is roughly half the Earth-Sun distance.



World's First Wooden Satellite 2024



- ❖ In a world-first, Japanese researchers have built a tiny wooden satellite named LignoSat that will be launched into space on a SpaceX rocket.

- ❖ This innovative project aims to reduce space debris by burning up completely upon re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ It will be delivered to the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ Then it will be deployed for a series of tests to assess its strength and ability to withstand extreme temperature fluctuations.

Anti-Radiation Missile 'RudraM-II' 2024

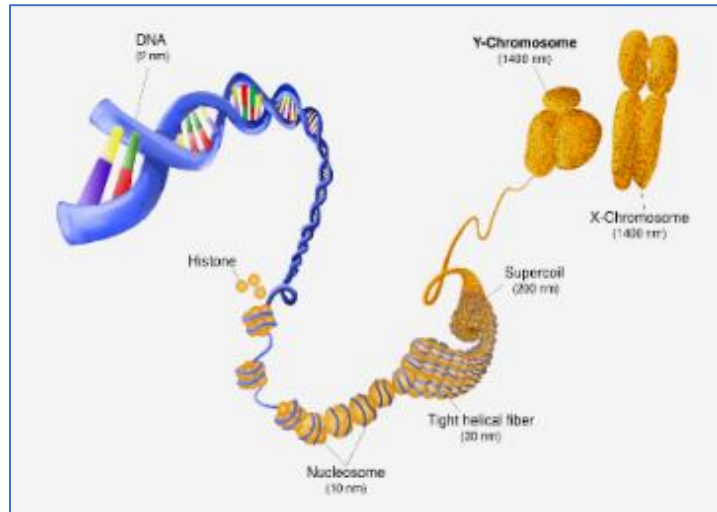
- ❖ India successfully test-fired an air-surface anti-radiation missile from a Su-30MKI fighter jet.
- ❖ The Rudram-II anti-radiation supersonic missile is developed by DRDO.
- ❖ Rudram-II is one of the finest and meant to neutralise many types of enemy assets.
- ❖ The missile has a range of 300 km and powered by a solid-propellant rocket motor.
- ❖ India currently operates the Russian Kh-31, an anti-radiation missile.
- ❖ The Rudram missiles will replace the Kh-31s.



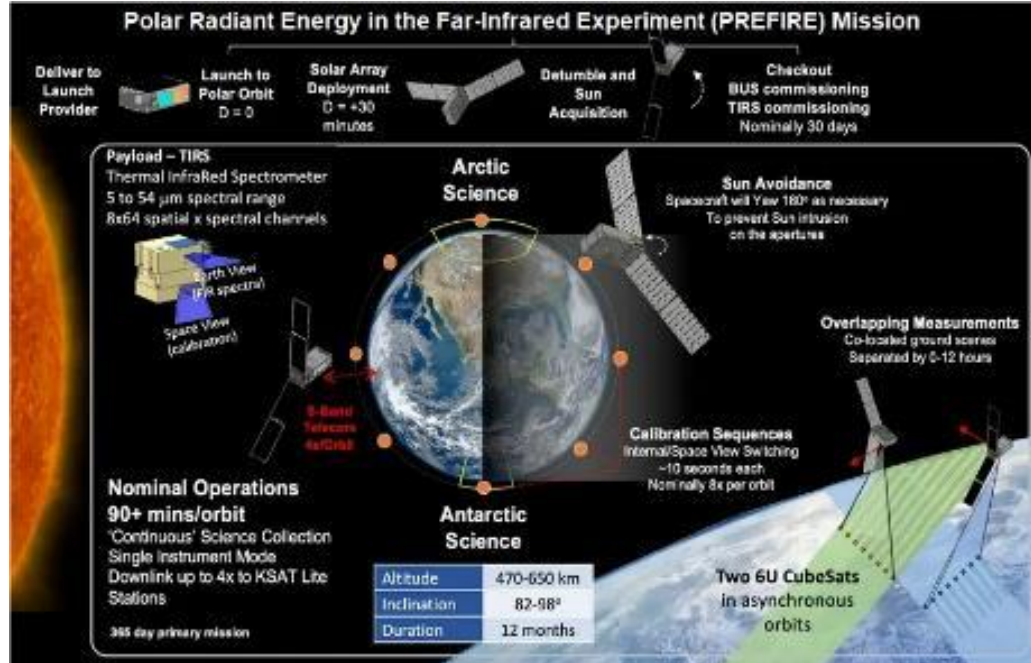
Rapid changes in Y chromosomes

- ❖ Recent study has shed light on the dramatic evolution of the Y chromosome, also known as the male sex chromosome.
- ❖ Scientists discovered that only 14–27% of Y chromosome regions in different ape species are similar to those in humans.
- ❖ This shows that humans and other ape species have evolved very differently.
- ❖ X chromosomes, on the other hand, are very different.

- ❖ Remarkably, the X chromosome, which is present in both males and females, has remained more stable.
- ❖ X and Y chromosomes play roles in sexual development and fertility, along with many other biological functions.



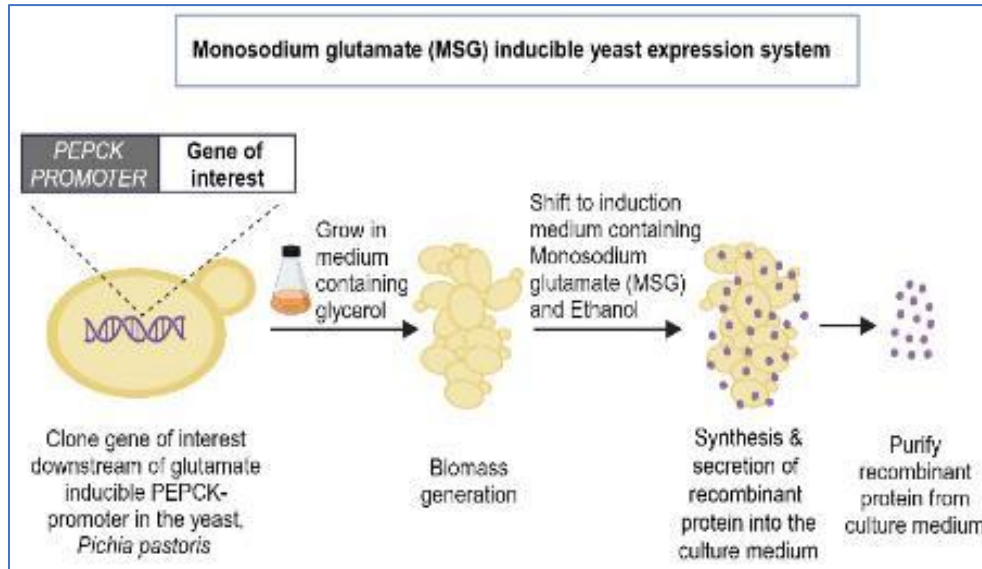
PREFIRE Mission



- ❖ NASA has recently launched a pair of miniature satellites, called CubeSats (6U) to measure the heat lost from the Earth's poles.
- ❖ The mission has named as PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment).

- ❖ It aims to fill a critical gap in understanding the planet's energy budget by studying the heat emissions from the Earth's poles.

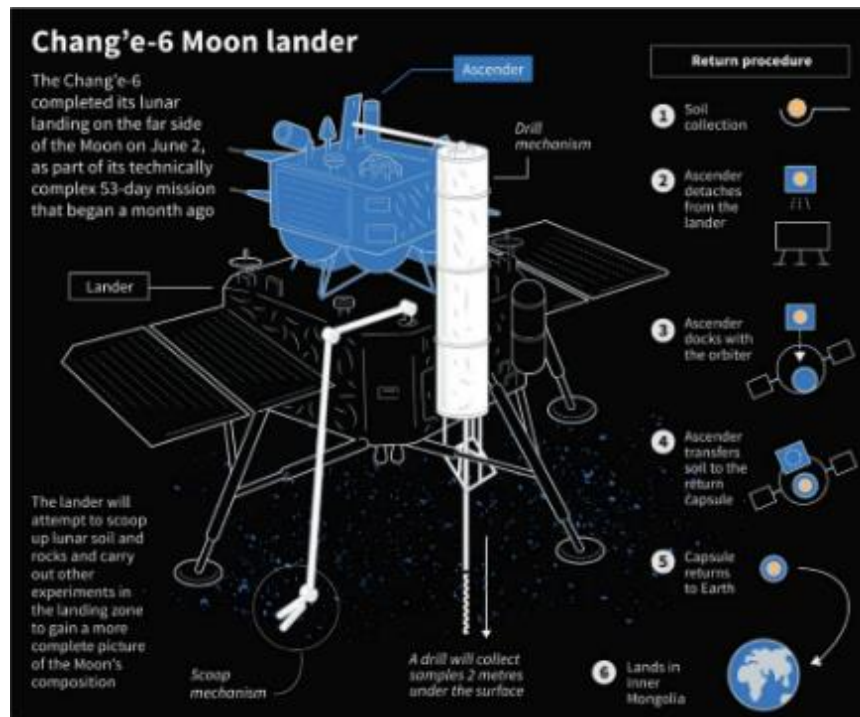
Mass production of recombinant proteins



- ❖ Indian Institute of Science have developed a novel method for the production of recombinant proteins.
- ❖ This new alternative is a safer process on a common food additive called monosodium glutamate (MSG).
- ❖ Recombinant proteins, such as vaccine antigens, insulin and monoclonal antibodies, are mass-produced by growing modified bacterial, viral or mammalian cells in large bioreactors.
- ❖ The most widely used organism is the yeast *Pichia pastoris* (now called *Komagataella phaffii*).

Chang'e-6 lander 2024

- ❖ China has landed an uncrewed spacecraft on the far side of the moon.
- ❖ The Chang'e-6 craft landed in a huge crater known as the South Pole-Aitken Basin.
- ❖ The lander will aim to collect 2 kg (4.4 pounds) of lunar material and bring it back to Earth.
- ❖ In 2020 China conducted its first lunar sample return mission with Chang'e-5, retrieving samples from the moon's near-facing side.

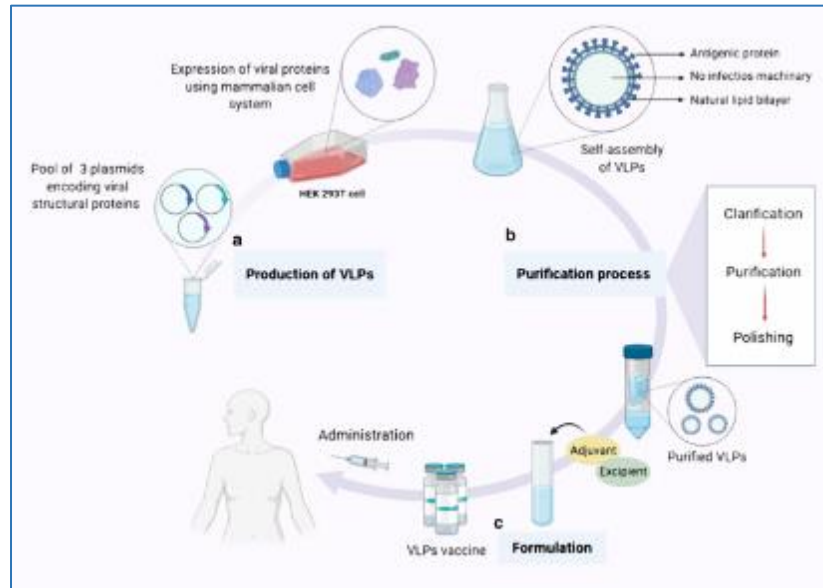


Earliest Giant Galaxy

- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope have discovered the two earliest and most distant galaxies ever observed.
- ❖ They are dating back to just 300 million years after the Big Bang.
- ❖ The two newly discovered galaxies, named JADES-GS-z14-0 and JADES-GS-z14-1.
- ❖ JADES-GS-z14-0, the larger of the two, spans an estimated 1,600 light-years across.
- ❖ They are surpassing the previous record holders which dated to approximately 330 million years after the Big Bang.



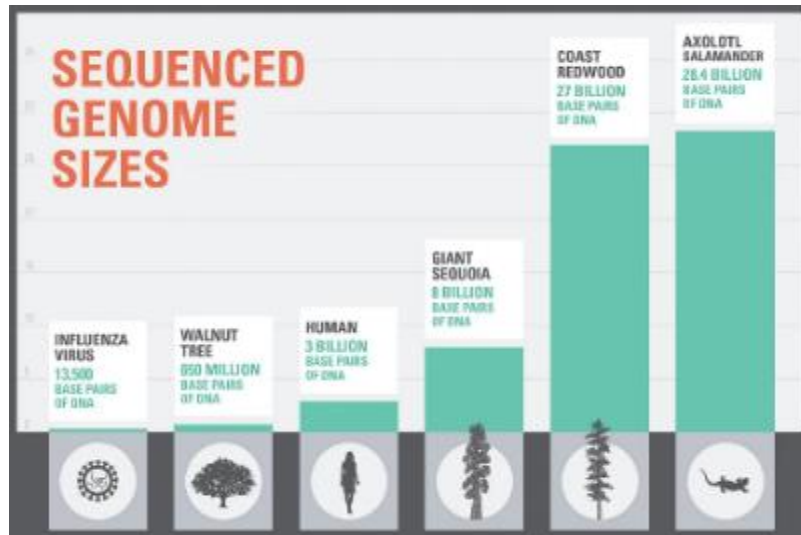
Non-infectious Nipah virus-like particles



- ❖ The Scientists at the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV), Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram, have developed a novel way of generating non-infectious Nipah virus-like particles (VLPs) in the laboratory.
- ❖ They mimic the wild type Nipah virus (NiV).
- ❖ This new method offers an alternate, safe and effective platform for developing neutralising antibodies against NiV in a bio safety level-2 (BSL) laboratory.
- ❖ The zoonotic virus Nipah is a highly pathogenic paramyxovirus, with a fatality rate of up to 80% in affected humans.

World's largest genome

- ❖ The fork fern species, called *Tmesipteris oblancoolata*, has a genome that is 7% larger than that of the previous record-holder and more than 50 times the size of the human genome.
- ❖ The previous record-holder is Japanese flowering plant *Paris japonica*.
- ❖ The Larger genomes require more resources for DNA replication, repair and transcription.
- ❖ The genome has all the genetic information of an organism
- ❖ There also is no relationship between an organism's physical size and its genome size.
- ❖ The little fern's genome is about 6,000% bigger than that of a blue whale and about 4,650% bigger than that of an African elephant.



Robotic 'third thumb'

- ❖ Scientists at Cambridge University conducted a study and found that it can really help expand our efficiency.
- ❖ They have also developed a controllable prosthetic extra thumb, which is easy to use and very controllable.
- ❖ The device is referred as the third thumb.
- ❖ This allows the user to perform tasks that might be otherwise challenging or impossible to complete with one hand or to perform complex multi-handed tasks without having to coordinate with other people.



Blaze Star

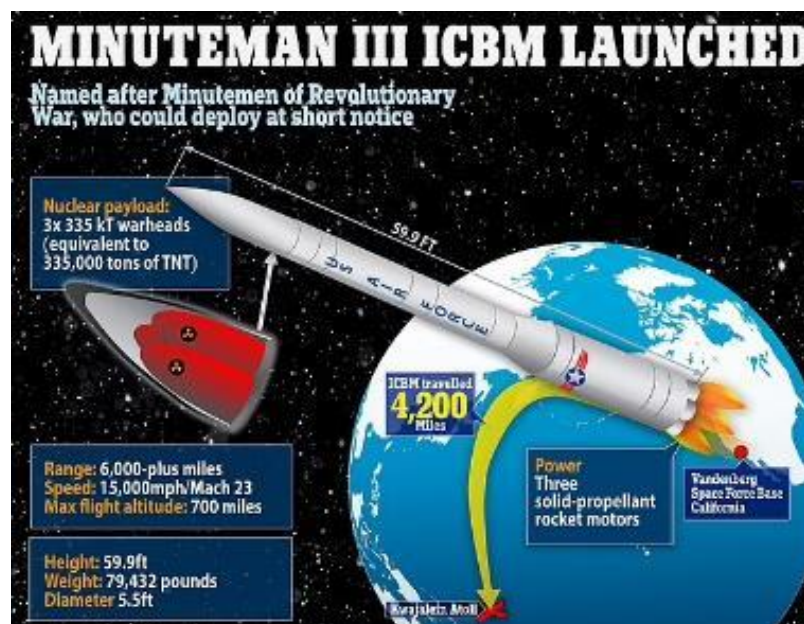
- ❖ A dim star in the night sky 3,000 light-years from our solar system could soon become visible to the naked eye for the first time since 1946.
- ❖ The "Blaze Star" — officially called T Coronae Borealis (T CrB), is expected to brighten significantly between now and September 2024.

- ❖ The Blaze Star can be found in the constellation Corona Borealis, the "Northern Crown," between the constellations of Boötes and Hercules.
- ❖ On February 10, 1946, the Blaze Star was 600 times brighter than it was just one week before.

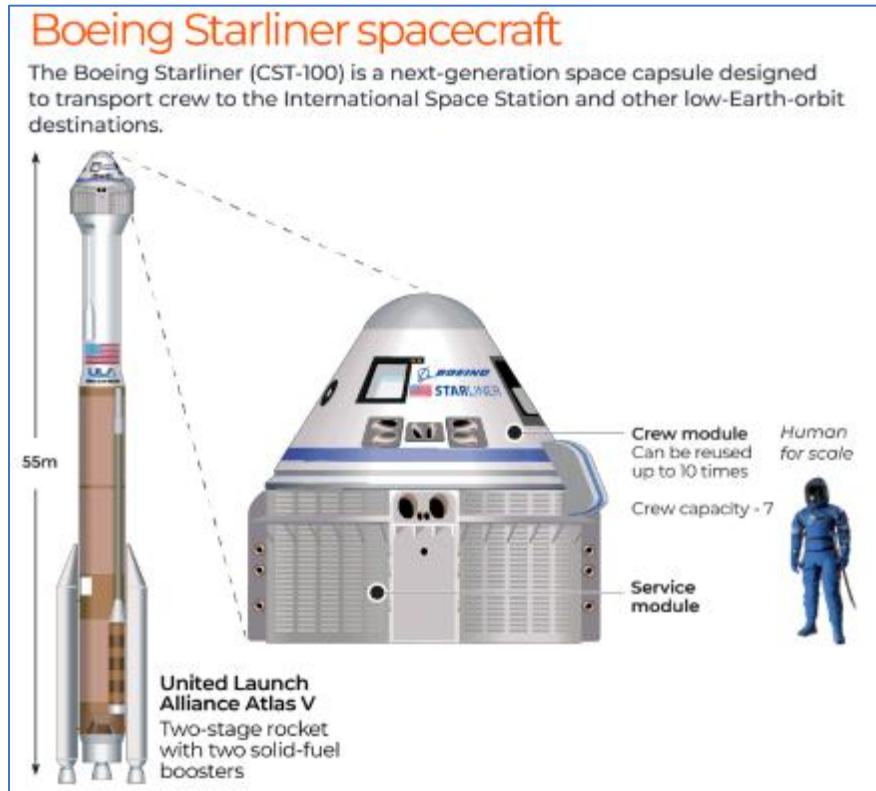


ICBM Minuteman III

- ❖ The United States Air Force and U.S. Space Force conducted two routine test launches of unarmed intercontinental ballistic missile Minuteman III.
- ❖ The Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) flew some 4,200 miles (6,760 kilometers).
- ❖ It was the first U.S. missile fitted with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs).



Boeing Starliner



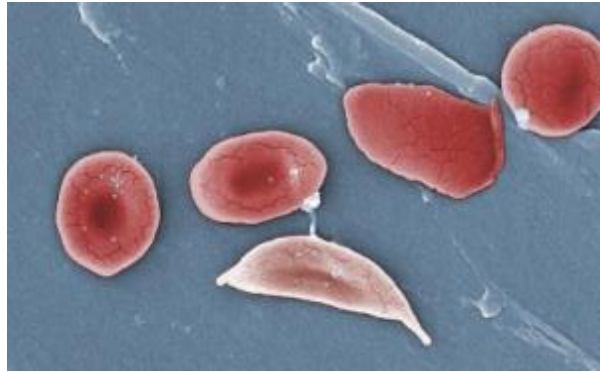
- ❖ Boeing has launched its very first astronauts bound for the International Space Station aboard a Starliner capsule with two Nasa astronauts aboard.
- ❖ It's the first time the vehicle has been entrusted to carry people after coming through a long and tortuous development programme.
- ❖ Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams will be testing the capsule on a mission.
- ❖ Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams has become the first woman to fly a spacecraft on a test mission to space.

Indo-French TRISHNA mission

- ❖ The Indian and French space agencies are working on a unique satellite to study the effects of human-induced climate change, water use, snow melting etc.
- ❖ It is abbreviated as 'TRISHNA' (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment).
- ❖ It would be placed in a sun-synchronous orbit that's 761kms above the earth.
- ❖ The satellite would enable the high-resolution monitoring of earth's surface and various environmental parameters and anomalies.



Hydroxyurea Formulation

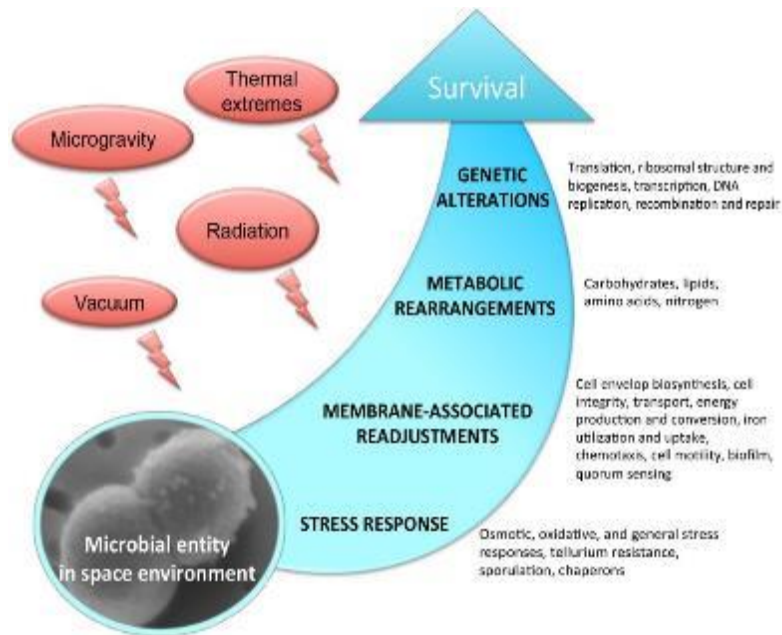


- ❖ ICMR has invited Expressions of Interest (EoI) from eligible organisations for the “joint development and commercialisation” of low dose or the paediatric oral formulation of hydroxyurea to treat sickle cell disease in India.
- ❖ India has the highest prevalence of sickle cell disease in South Asia, and over 20 million sickle cell affected individuals reside in the country.
- ❖ Most pharmaceutical companies in India market 500 mg capsules or 200 mg tablets of hydroxyurea.
- ❖ This is the biggest challenge in treatment for effective use in the case of paediatric patients.

Pathogens in Space

- ❖ Researchers of the IIT Madras and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory are studying multi-drug resistant pathogens on the international space station (ISS).
- ❖ The researchers studied the *Enterobacter bugandensis*, a nosocomial pathogen found on the surfaces within the ISS.

- ❖ The study would help to develop strategies to manage microbial contamination in closed environments like spacecraft and hospitals.



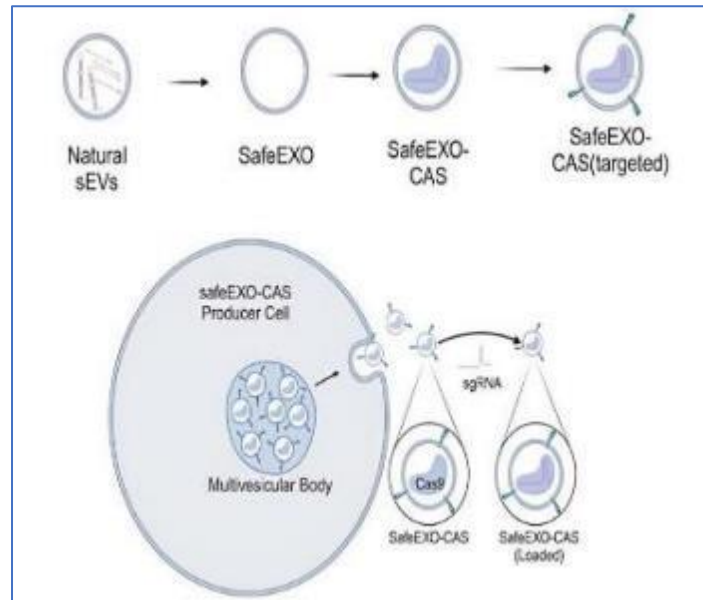
Aditya-L1 Capture Solar Fury

- ❖ ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft's two onboard remote sensing instruments have captured the recent solar fury.
- ❖ The Active region AR13664 on the Sun erupted several X-class and M-class flares.
- ❖ India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1 reached the Lagrangian point (L1) on January six this year.
- ❖ L1 is located roughly 1.5 million km from Earth and enables the spacecraft to view the Sun continuously.



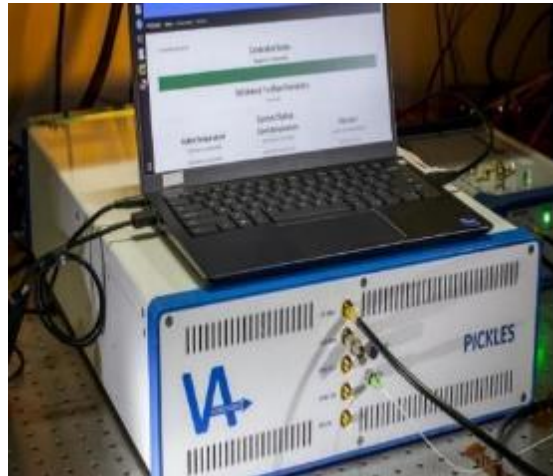
safeEXO-Cas

- ❖ The Researchers have developed an exosome-based platform, "safeEXO-Cas."
- ❖ It significantly enhances the delivery of CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing components to specific cells and tissues.
- ❖ CRISPR/Cas9 is a unique technology that enables geneticists and medical researchers to edit parts of the genome by removing, adding or altering sections of the DNA sequence.



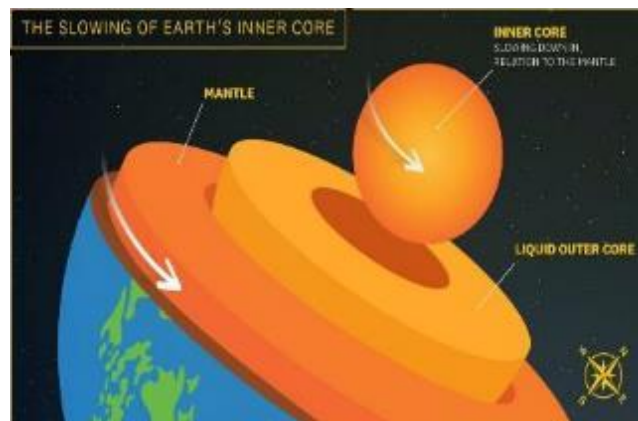
New Portable Atomic Clock

- ❖ Researchers introduced a kind of portable optical atomic clock that can be used onboard ships.
- ❖ These devices traded some accuracy for size and robustness.
- ❖ They were still more accurate than other vessel-borne timekeeping options.
- ❖ Atomic clocks work by keeping time using atoms.
- ❖ Cs-133 is a highly stable atom and is found naturally, which is why it is so commonly used in atomic clocks.
- ❖ India also uses a Cs-133 atomic clock to define the second for timekeeping within its borders.
- ❖ A caesium atomic clock loses or gains a second every 1.4 million years.
- ❖ Atomic clocks are prized for their accuracy, losing or gaining just one second over 300 million years.
- ❖ Optical atomic clocks only loss or gain a second over 300 billion years.



Earth's Inner Core – Slow Down

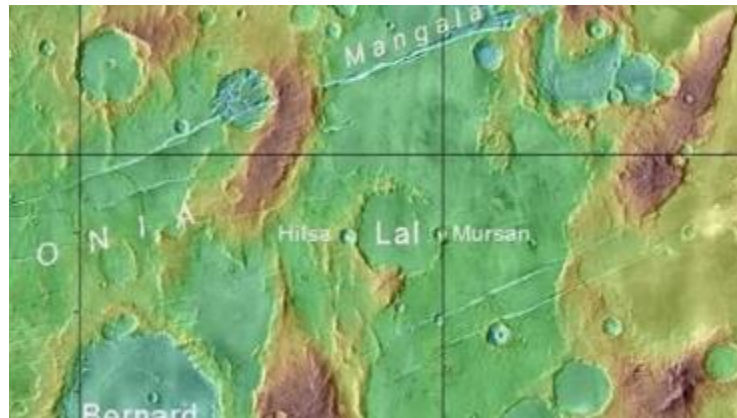
- ❖ The recent studies revealed that, the Earth's inner core began to slow down its rotation since 2010, compared to the planet's surface.
- ❖ The slowing down could change the length of one day on the Earth by fractions of a second.
- ❖ The Earth's inner core, a solid sphere made of iron and nickel, is suspended within the liquid outer core (made of molten metals) and anchored in its place by gravity.



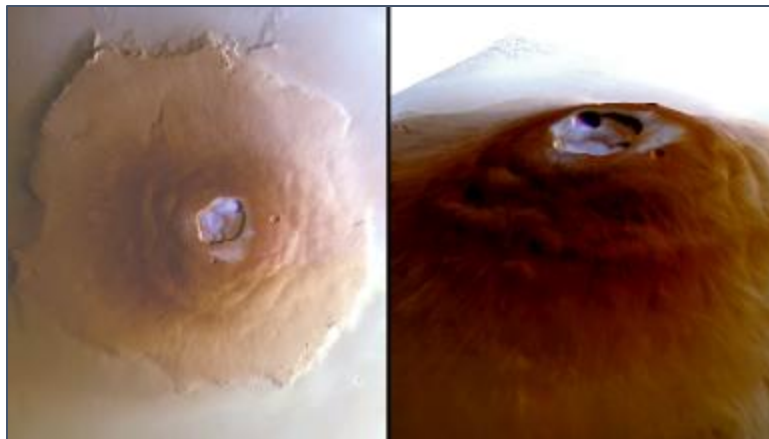
Naming of Craters on Mars

- ❖ The scientists of Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered three new craters on Mars.
- ❖ These Three craters have been named for renowned cosmic ray physicist late Devendra Lal and the towns of Mursan and Hilsa in northern India.

- ❖ Mursan and Hilsa are the names of towns located in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, respectively.
- ❖ The three craters are situated in the Tharsis volcanic region of the Red Planet.
- ❖ Tharsis is a vast volcanic plateau centered near the equator in the western hemisphere of Mars.
- ❖ The region is home to the largest volcanoes in the Solar System.



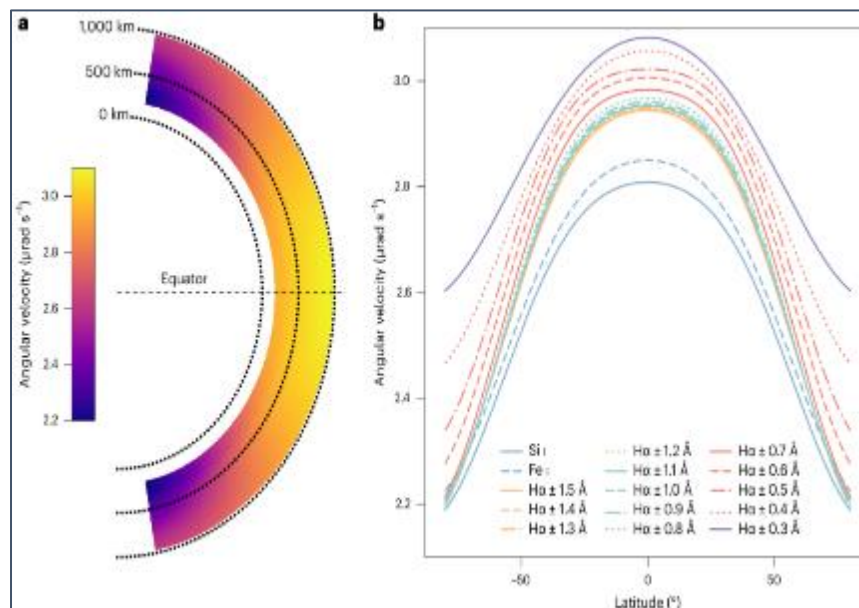
Frosty peaks at Olympus Mons



- ❖ Two spacecraft orbiting Mars have discovered water frost atop towering volcanoes near the Red Planet's equator.
- ❖ They found the frost on the Tharsis volcanoes, the tallest volcanoes in the Solar System.
- ❖ The frost is only as thick as a human hair - about one-hundredth of a millimetre thick - but covers a vast area.
- ❖ This amounts to about 150,000 tonnes of water freezing and evaporating during the cold seasons on Mars.

- ❖ It is equivalent to roughly 60 Olympic swimming pools.
- ❖ The Tharsis region of Mars is home to numerous volcanoes.
- ❖ It is including the Olympus Mons, and the Tharsis Montes: Ascraeus, Pavonis and Arsia Mons.
- ❖ Many of the volcanoes in this region are as big as or much bigger than Mount Everest on Earth.
- ❖ Olympus Mons is three times as tall as Everest.

New pattern of solar rotation



- ❖ The Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE) discovered a new pattern of solar atmospheric rotation.
- ❖ The Researchers have obtained the world's first three-dimensional image of solar atmospheric rotation, unlocking more secrets about our sun.
- ❖ This could have big effects on how we understand solar physics and how we predict space weather.

Nagastra-1 Drones

- ❖ Indian Army has inducted indigenous Loiter Munition, Nagastra-1, developed by Nagpur-baser Solar Industries.
- ❖ Nagastra-1, operating in a "kamikaze mode," boasts the capability to neutralize hostile threats with GPS-enabled precision strikes with accuracy of 2 meters.

- ❖ This man-portable fixed-wing electric UAV offers an endurance of 30 minutes, a man-in-loop range of 15 kilometres.
- ❖ It has an autonomous mode range of 30 kilometres.



Chang'e-7 mission 2024

- ❖ Egypt and Bahrain have joined China as international partners to develop and deliver scientific instruments for the Chang'e-7 mission.
- ❖ This Chinese lunar mission aimed at searching for water ice at the moon's South Pole in 2026.
- ❖ The hyperspectral camera, developed collaboratively by Egypt and Bahrain with assistance from Chinese engineers, is one of six international payloads chosen by the CNSA for the Chang'e-7 lunar mission.
- ❖ This camera will image and analyse lunar surface materials from orbit, including the Moon's polar regions.

Asteroid 2024 LZ4

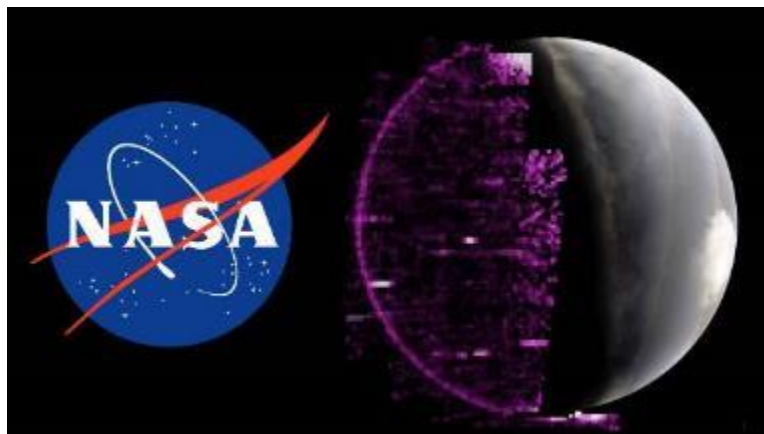
- ❖ NASA has found an asteroid identified as 2024 LB4 approaching the Earth.
- ❖ About 98 feet in diametric measurements, the asteroid size is approximately of a commercial airliner.
- ❖ This Asteroid passed closer to Earth than the Moon, by 173,000 miles.

- ❖ An asteroid is considered possibly dangerous if it is within 4.6 million miles of Earth and is more than 150 meters across.
- ❖ Even though it is close, asteroid 2024 LZ4 doesn't meet these requirements because it is too small.



Purple Rain on Mars

- ❖ NASA recently shared video capturing aurora lights across Mars planet at night.
- ❖ The images showed how magical aurora lights covered the red planet with purple hue.
- ❖ These images were captured by NASA's MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) orbiter.
- ❖ Auroras are colourful lights which are visible when energy particles emanating from solar storms travel down the magnetic field lines of a planet.
- ❖ Mars lost its internally generated magnetic field in the ancient past, so there's no protection from the barrage of energetic particles.
- ❖ When charged particles hit the Martian atmosphere, it results in auroras that engulf the entire planet.



Meaty Rice for Sustainable Protein

- ❖ The South Korean scientists are developing a novel rice variety infused with protein cells.
- ❖ It is aiming to provide a more ethical source of protein.
- ❖ Named "meaty rice," this innovative type of rice has a slight buttery aroma, resembles regular rice but with a pink hue.
- ❖ The rice is embedded with beef muscle and fat cell culture.
- ❖ This "meaty" rice contains eight percent more protein and seven percent more fat than typical rice.
- ❖ Cultivated meat is available in markets like Singapore and the United States.
- ❖ However, Italy banned it in the previous year to safeguard its livestock sector.



SN 2023adsy Supernova



- ❖ Using the James Webb Space Telescope, astronomers discovered SN 2023adsy, the most distant Type Ia supernova detected.
- ❖ Supernovae (SNe) are powerful and luminous stellar explosions.
- ❖ Supernovae are generally classified into two groups depending on their atomic spectra.
- ❖ Type I lack hydrogen in their spectra, and Type II displays hydrogen spectral lines.
- ❖ Type Ia supernovae (SN Ia) are found in binary systems in which one of the stars is a white dwarf.

Dhruva Space's Thybolt satellites

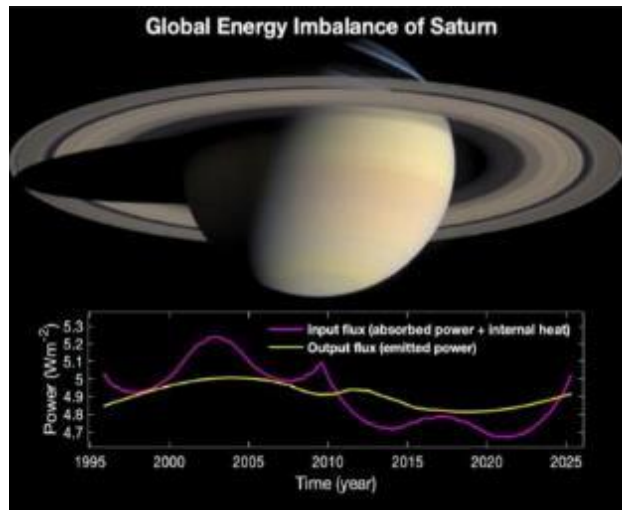
- ❖ Dhruva Space's maiden satellite mission comprising Thybolt-1 and Thybolt-2 satellites have deorbited after a combined 15,000 orbits.
- ❖ The mission was launched on November 26, 2022 on the Hyderabad-based space start up's 10th anniversary.
- ❖ The mission engaged many ham radio operators across India as well.



Saturn's Energy Imbalance

- ❖ The Researchers discovered Saturn's energy dynamics by revealing a seasonal imbalance that could reshape our understanding of planetary climates.
- ❖ This is the first time that a global energy imbalance on a seasonal scale has been observed on a gas giant.
- ❖ Saturn, like other gas giants, receives the energy from both solar radiation and internal heat.

- ❖ However, its large orbital eccentricity causes dramatic shifts in absorbed solar energy throughout its orbit.
- ❖ This imbalance differs greatly from Earth, which experiences minimal seasonal energy variations due to its nearly circular orbit.
- ❖ The findings suggested that Saturn's irregular energy budget plays a crucial role in the formation of its intense storms.



Double Sun halo



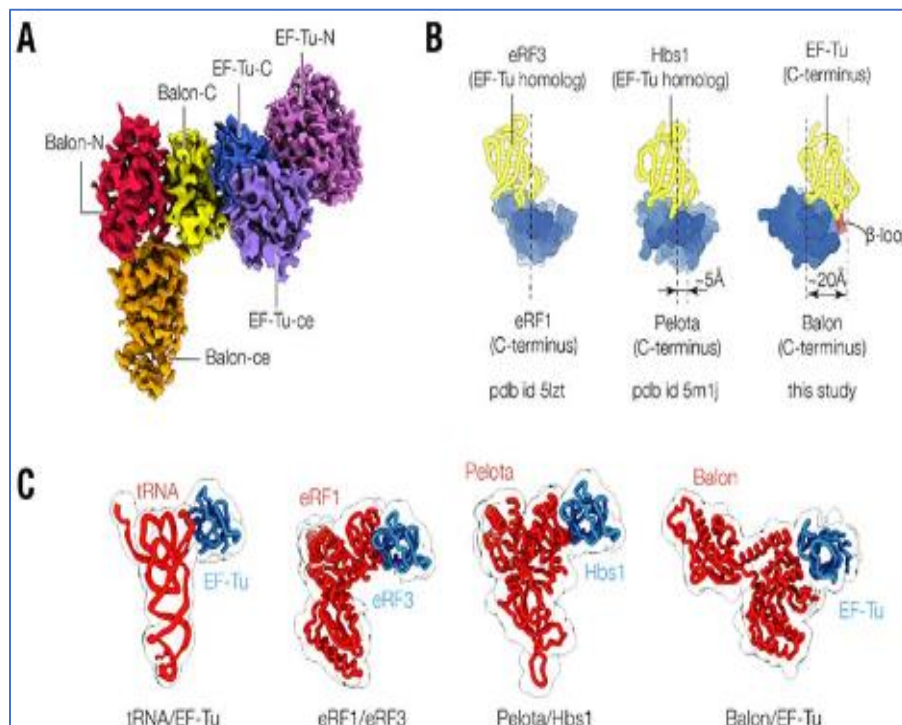
- ❖ A rare celestial phenomenon known as a "double sun halo" was witnessed in the skies over Ladakh recently.
- ❖ This optical illusion occurs when light from the sun refracts through ice crystals suspended in cirrus clouds.
- ❖ This is creating a stunning display of concentric rings around the sun.
- ❖ Sun halos have been a common occurrence in several parts of India; however, a double halo has been a rare phenomenon.

ASMI Submachine Gun

- ❖ Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machines Ltd introduces the ASMI submachine gun, developed in collaboration with ARDE and the Army.
- ❖ The ASMI weighs under 2.4 kg, making it 10-15% lighter than international competitors.
- ❖ It's also lighter on the pocket as it is nearly 30% cheaper at under Rs 1 lakh when compared to imported ones costing over Rs 1 lakh.
- ❖ It fires at the rate of 800 rounds per minute and has a magazine capacity of 32 rounds.



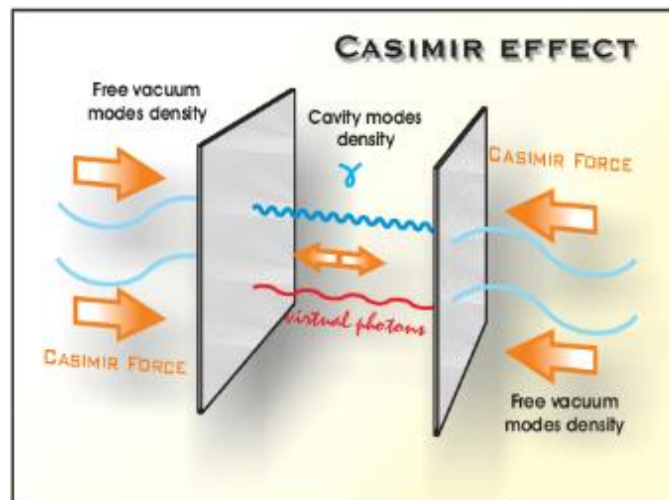
Balon Protein



- ❖ Scientists discovered a special protein called Balon.
- ❖ This protein helps the bacterium *Psychrobacter urativorans* go into and come out of a dormant state when its environment changes.
- ❖ Balon is different from the other proteins that play a role in ribosome silencing because it can be turned off and on again.

Casimir Effect

- ❖ The Casimir effect is a quantum phenomenon in which two materials, when placed close together, can be attracted or repelled by quantum fluctuations.
- ❖ Researchers successfully manipulated this effect by reversing the transition of attractive to repulsive using a ferrofluid as intermediate medium.
- ❖ In 1948, Dutch physicist Hendrik Casimir developed an ingenious experiment to witness the invisible wonders of quantum mechanics.



China's Chang'e-6 mission 2024

- ❖ China's Chang'e-6 mission's capsule returned by carrying the first soil samples collected from the far side of the Moon.
- ❖ Thus, China became the first country to successfully bring rock and soil samples from the far side of the moon.
- ❖ The probe landed in northern China in the Inner Mongolian region.
- ❖ Earlier, countries like US and Russia (Soviet Union) collected samples from the moon's near side.



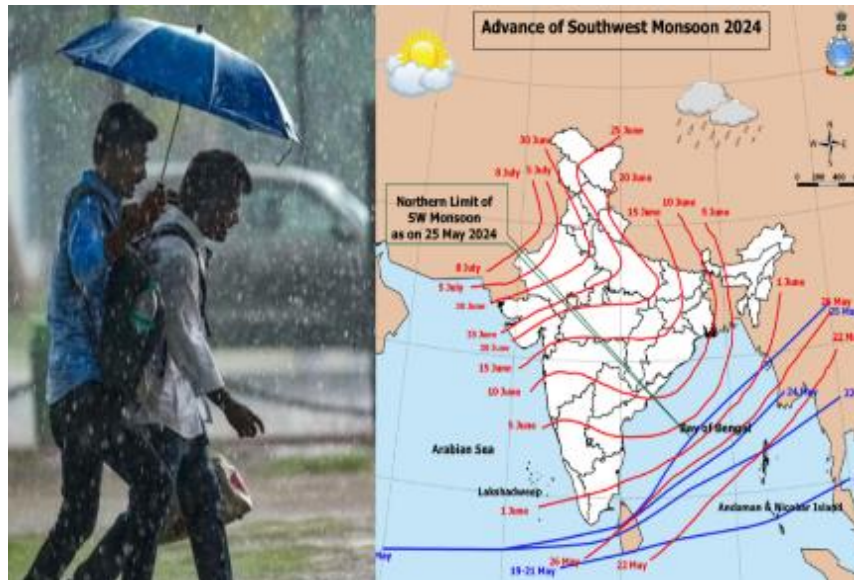
ENVIRONMENT

Urbanization and Night Time Warming

- ❖ Urbanization has led to nearly 60 per cent more night-time warming in over 140 prominent Indian cities compared to non-urban areas surrounding them.
- ❖ Urbanisation is known to be responsible for the urban heat island (UHI) effect.
- ❖ The concrete and asphalt (used in constructing roads and pavements) surfaces store heat during the day and release it in the evening, thereby raising night-time temperatures.
- ❖ The mean urban effect for all these cities across India was found to be 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade.
- ❖ This leads to an estimate of 37.73 per cent of the total urban warming being linked to urbanisation.
- ❖ Currently, 36 per cent of India's population, or about 40 crores, is urban and will double to 80 crores by 2050.

What can be done	THE FINDINGS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Urban planning strategies should include energy-efficient structures, promotion of green spaces and use of reflective surfaces ● Build climate resilience into the future development plans of cities ● Established cities with limited room for infrastructure changes will need innovative solutions and adaptation strategies 	<p>OVERALL WARMING: On average, cities experienced a temperature increase of 0.53 degrees per decade compared to 0.26 degrees in rural areas</p> <hr/> <p>URBAN HEAT TRAP: Faster warming is linked to the "urban heat island effect." With their abundance of concrete and asphalt, cities absorb and retain heat more efficiently than natural landscapes</p>	<p>URBANIZATION'S IMPACT: The study reveals that on average, 37.73% of extra warming in cities is due to urbanization. This translates to cities being roughly 60% warmer than surrounding rural areas</p>

Onset of South west monsoon 2024



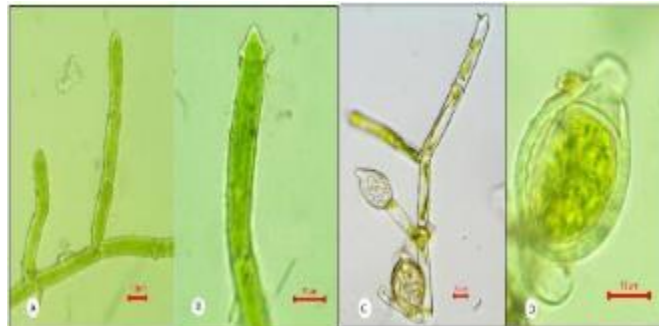
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department has announced the onset of Southwest monsoon over Kerala and northeast India.
- ❖ The monsoon hit the country's mainland two days in advance against its normal date of onset on June 1.
- ❖ Southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala and advanced into most parts of Northeast India on May 30, 2024.
- ❖ In 2023, the southwest monsoon had set in on June 8.
- ❖ But it arrived in the Bay of Bengal on May 19th 2024 at Andaman Islands.

Halloween Crack

- ❖ A large iceberg, measuring 375 square kilometres, broke off from Antarctica's Brunt Ice Shelf recently.
- ❖ The iceberg that broke off was named A-83.
- ❖ Iceberg A-83 was first spotted off the Brunt Ice Shelf in the eastern Weddell Sea.
- ❖ It broke from a rift known as the "Halloween Crack".
- ❖ Although iceberg calving is normal, the Brunt Ice Shelf is feeling the same pressures as elsewhere around Antarctica, including low sea ice conditions.
- ❖ First spotted on 31 October 2016, the Halloween Crack runs from an area known as McDonald Ice Rumples.

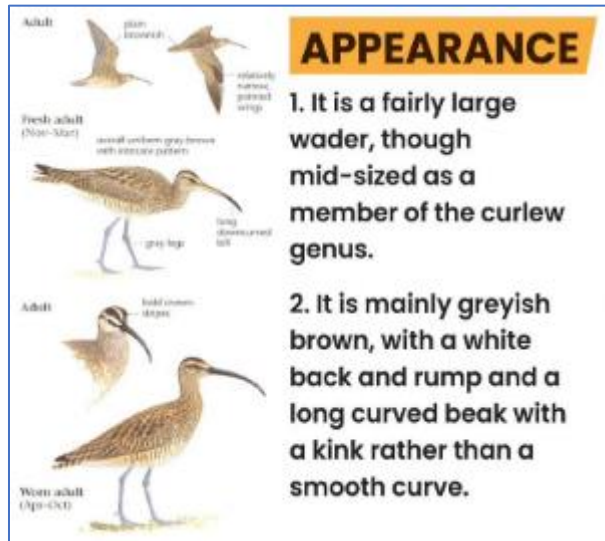


New algal species



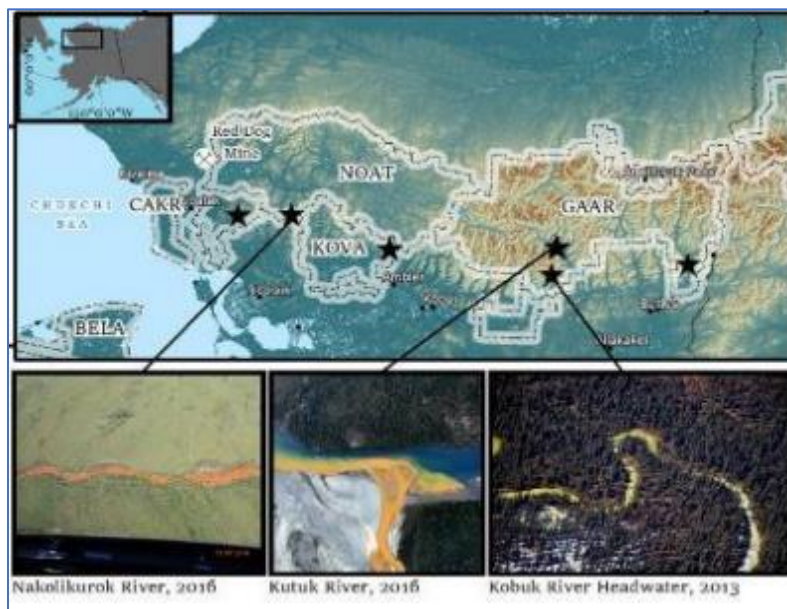
- ❖ *Oedocladium sahyadricum* has been discovered in the natural forests of the Kumbhavurutty region in Kollam, Kerala.
- ❖ This is the first time a species in the Oedocladium category has been recorded in Kerala.
- ❖ The name 'sahyadricum' refers to the Western Ghats, also known as Sahyadri.
- ❖ Species of Oedocladium have more potential practical applications in medicine, agriculture, and in the production of a natural pigment, astaxanthin.

Eurasian Whimbrel



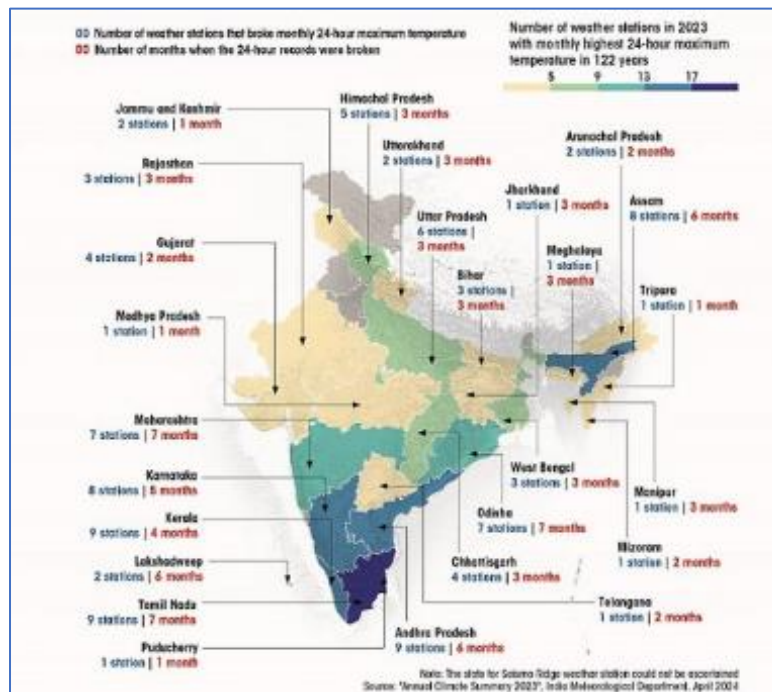
- ❖ First the time, a long-distance migratory bird, the Eurasian or common whimbrel, was captured on camera in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Eurasian Whimbrel is a wading bird in the large family Scolopacidae.
- ❖ They have an extensive range that spans across five continents: North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- ❖ They are migrating from south to wintering grounds in southern USA, Central America, South America, Africa, and South Asia, including Nepal.

Alaska Rivers turning orange



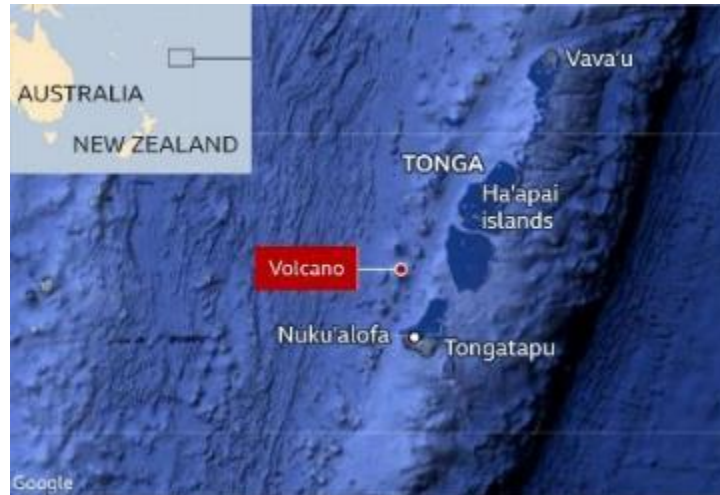
- ❖ Rivers and streams in Alaska are changing color – from a clean, clear blue to a rusty orange – because of the toxic metals released by thawing permafrost.
- ❖ The discoloration and cloudiness are being caused by metals such as iron, zinc, copper, nickel and lead.
- ❖ In some cases, the pH levels dropped to 2.3, similar to the acidity of vinegar.
- ❖ Arctic environments are warming up to four times faster than the globe as a whole.
- ❖ This is resulting in deterioration of water quality in the most pristine rivers in North America.

India's Second-Hottest Year on Record



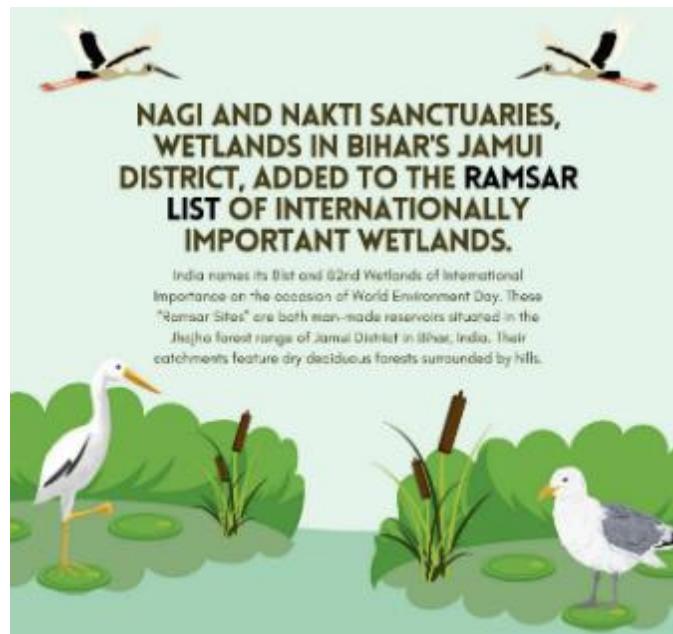
- ❖ In 2023, India endured its second-hottest year on record.
- ❖ At least 102 weather stations across 26 states and Union Territories shattered their monthly highest 24-hour maximum temperature in 122 years.
- ❖ Twenty-seven of the weather stations with record-breaking temperatures were in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu (9 each).
- ❖ Thirty-four of the weather stations with record-breaking 24-hour maximum temperatures were reported in September.
- ❖ Except for October, minimum temperatures remained above normal in the other five months, with anomalies increasing from 0.57°C in July to 1.71°C in December.

Tonga volcanic eruption



- ❖ Scientists have proposed an alternative explanation for why the record-shattering Tonga volcanic eruption of 2022 was so violent.
- ❖ The explosion may have been triggered by gas, rather than by a reaction between magma and water as previously suggested.
- ❖ Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai, an underwater volcano in the South Pacific Ocean, erupted on Jan. 15, 2022.
- ❖ It unleashed the most intense lightning storm ever recorded and the first known mega-tsunami since antiquity.

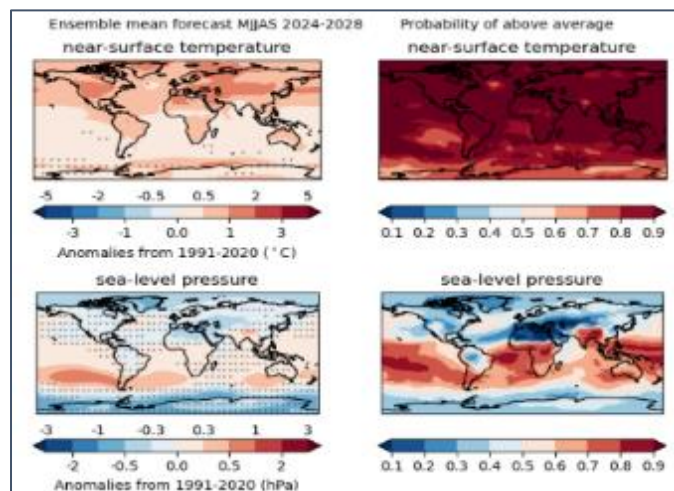
2 new Ramsar Sites – Bihar



- ❖ Two of Bihar’s wetlands have been added to the global list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ The Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries, both located in Bihar’s Jamui district, are now recognised under the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ This taking the total number of highly recognised waterlogged ecosystems in the country to 82.
- ❖ The United Kingdom has the world's largest number (175) of Ramsar Sites.

Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update (2024-2028)

- ❖ The world likely to witness record-high temperatures that will be above the 1991-2020 reference period until 2028, according to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- ❖ “The global mean near-surface temperature for each year between 2024 and 2028 is predicted to be between 1.1°C and 1.9°C higher than the average over the years 1850-1900.”
- ❖ There is an 80 per cent chance that global mean near-surface temperature will exceed 1.5°C above the 1850-1900 average levels for at least one year between 2024 and 2028.
- ❖ There is a 47 per cent chance that the five-year mean will exceed this threshold.



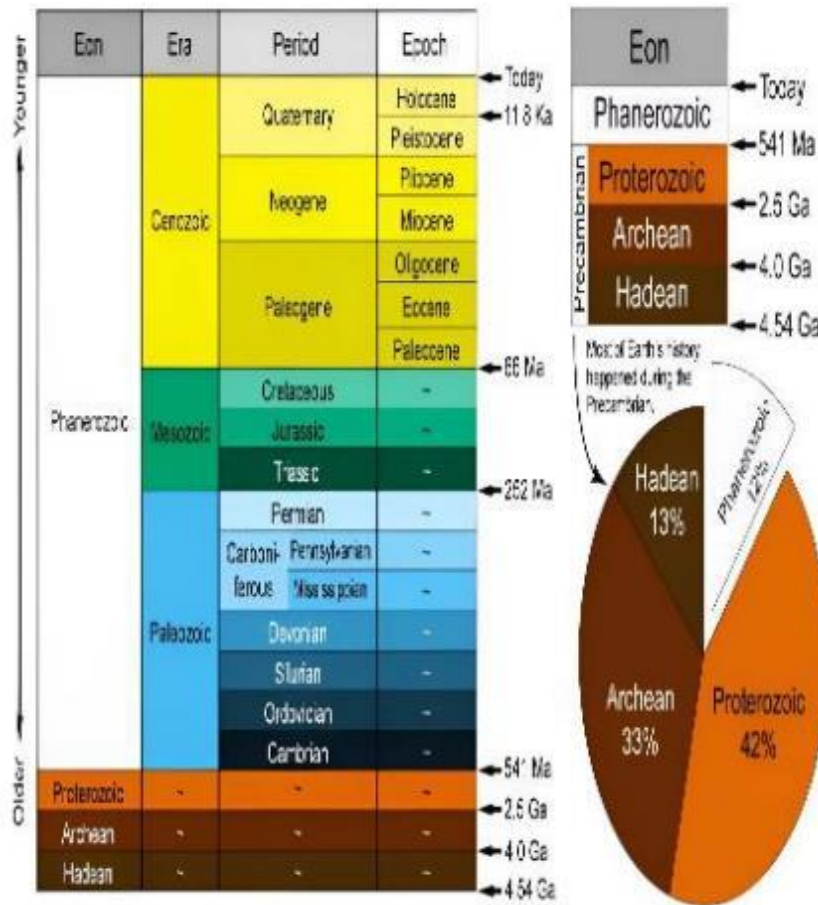
India’s First private Biosphere

- ❖ India’s first private biosphere, called the Rajaji Raghati Biosphere (RRB) Situated adjoining the Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand was created by two individuals.
- ❖ In 1983, Rajaji National Park was created after merging the three wildlife sanctuaries of Uttarakhand – Rajaji, Motichur and Chilla.

- ❖ They are also working on a second biosphere atop the Western Ghats: above the Koyna River in the buffer zone of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve near Pune, Maharashtra.



Air of the Anthropocene project



- ❖ The Air of the Anthropocene project has been exhibited at gallery shows in Los Angeles, Belfast, and Birmingham.
- ❖ The Researchers and artists joined forces for a so-called “painting with light” international project to make invisible air pollution in India.
- ❖ With this, we can visualise the amount of hazardous fine particulate matter (PM2.5) present in the air.
- ❖ Combining digital light painting and low-cost air pollution sensors, the scientific team produced photographic evidence of pollution levels in cities across three countries – India, Ethiopia and the U.K.

Record Olive Ridley hatchlings 2024

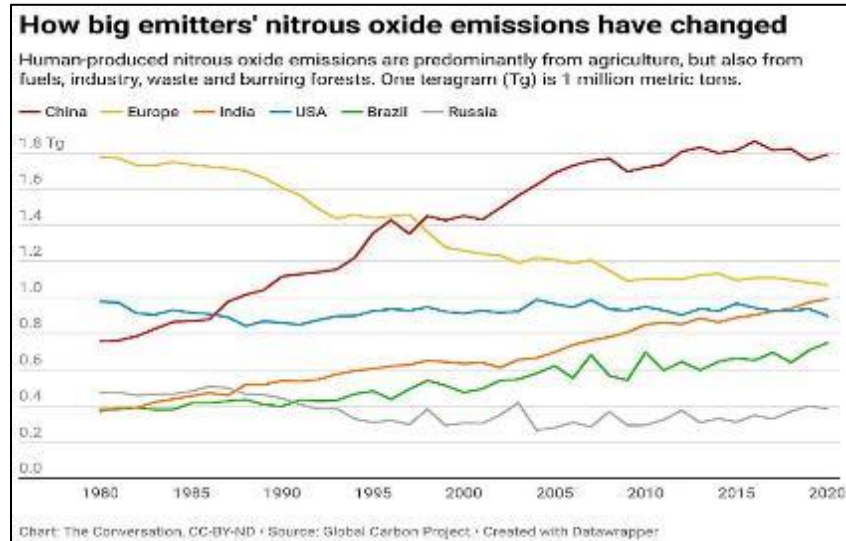
- ❖ Over 2 lakh Olive Ridley Sea turtle hatchlings were released into the sea during the nesting season from January to May in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This marks the highest number of hatchlings released from Tamil Nadu so far.
- ❖ The highest number of Olive Ridley hatchlings were released from Cuddalore (89,648), Nagapattinam (60,438), and Chennai (38,230) coasts.
- ❖ Across the State, as many as 28,971 turtles were found dead this season.



Nitrous Oxide Emitters 2024

- ❖ India is the world’s second largest source of nitrous oxide (N₂O).
- ❖ N₂O is a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide.
- ❖ Nearly 11% of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by China at 16%.
- ❖ The major source of these emissions comes from fertiliser usage.

- ❖ N₂O emissions from human activities have increased by 40% (three million metric tons of N₂O per year) in the past four decades.
- ❖ The top five country emitters by volume of anthropogenic N₂O emissions in 2020 were China (16.7%), India (10.9%), the United States (5.7%), Brazil (5.3%), and Russia (4.6%).

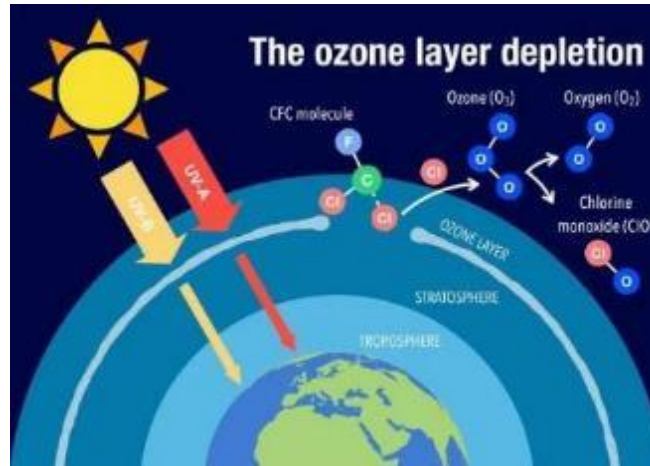


Plant eating Snow leopards



- ❖ Japanese scientists have found that, the snow leopard, the iconic predator of the snows of High Mountain Asia does eat plants.
- ❖ The furry felid particularly eats plants of the Myricaria genus.
- ❖ These plants are mostly shrubs and are found across the temperate parts of Europe and Asia.
- ❖ The snow leopard is not the first cat to be found consuming plants.
- ❖ There are 41 species of living felids or cats in the world.
- ❖ Researchers have previously found plants in the faeces of 24 species.

Ozone-Depleting Substance 2024



- ❖ For the first time a notable decline in the atmospheric levels of potent ozone-depleting substances (ODS), called hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).
- ❖ These HCFCs are also potent greenhouse gases, so a reduction should also lessen global warming.
- ❖ The Montreal Protocol was agreed to internationally in 1987 to introduce controls on the production and usage of ODS.
- ❖ The global phase out of the production of CFCs was completed in 2010.

Cheetahs in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary – Madhya Pradesh



- ❖ The Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary will be the second home for cheetahs in India, after the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Chambal River cutting the sanctuary into two almost equal halves.

- ❖ Gandhi Sagar's savanna ecosystem comprising open grasslands interspersed with dry deciduous trees and shrubs.
- ❖ It looks like Maasai Mara, a national reserve in Kenya known for its savanna wilderness and wildlife.

New species of snake eel



- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new species of snake eel from different estuarine ecosystems of Odisha.
- ❖ The new species is named 'Ophichthus Suryai' to honour Surya Kumar Mohanty, former joint director of state fishery department.
- ❖ The new species has also distinction from its closely allied congeners Ophichthus alleni, Ophichthus zophistius, and Ophichthus altipennis.
- ❖ The species was found in the Chilika lagoon, Asia's biggest brackish water lagoon.

Fires in Pantanal Wetland



- ❖ Brazil's Pantanal, the largest tropical wetland on earth, is ablaze, with fires.
- ❖ This year is threatening to overtake 2020 as the Pantanal's worst year for wildfires on record.

- ❖ It is located in the upper Paraguay River basin.
- ❖ The Pantanal straddles Brazil's border with Bolivia and Paraguay.
- ❖ The UNESCO World Heritage Site, which covers an area more than twice the size of Portugal, is home to the world's largest jaguar species.
- ❖ Around 95% of the Pantanal is under private ownership.

Pigment purpurogallin

- ❖ Scientists have traced the evolution of purple algae back hundreds of millions of years.
- ❖ And the findings challenge a key idea about how evolution works.
- ❖ Though small, these algae are having a dramatic effect on the glaciers they live on.
- ❖ During the summer melt season as liquid water forms on glaciers, blooms of purple algae darken the surface of the ice, accelerating the rate of melt.
- ❖ The purple colour of glacier algae, which acts like a sunscreen, was generated by new genes involved in pigment production.
- ❖ This pigment, purpurogallin, protects algal cells from damage of ultraviolet (UV) and visible light.



New plant species in Andaman and Arunachal

- ❖ The Indian botanists have discovered two new species of plants from two biogeographic hotspots of the country the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The aerial stem-parasitic flowering plant species *Dendrophthoe longensis* are discovered from the Long Islands of middle Andamans.

- ❖ The other discovery is a new herbaceous plant species - *Petrocosmea arunachalense* from Arunachal Pradesh.



World's 1st Asian King vultures' conservation Centre

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh will soon have the world's first conservation and breeding centre for Asian king vulture in Maharajganj.
- ❖ This is the world's first centre for breeding and conservation of Asian king vulture, also called red-headed vulture.
- ❖ It has been listed as critically endangered in the IUCN of Nature's red list since 2007.
- ❖ The facility aims to improve the population of the species.





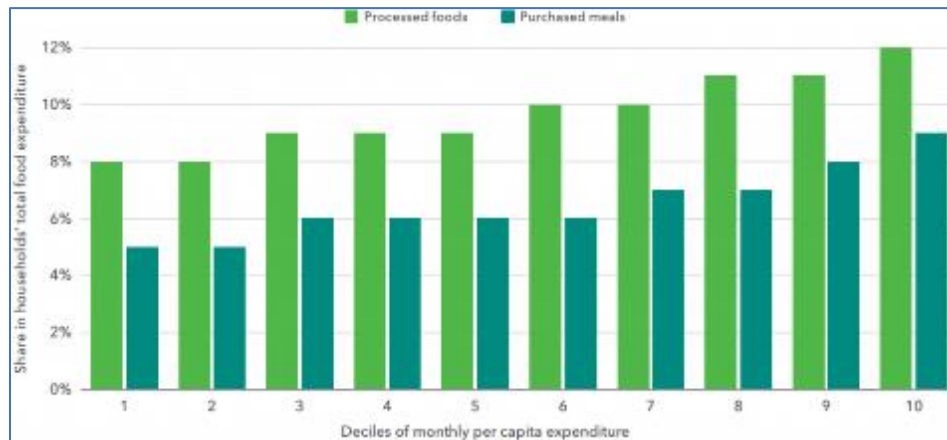
Ichthyophis spp

- ❖ A limbless amphibian has been added to the fauna in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam.
- ❖ Assam's wildlife officials recorded the striped caecilian (*Ichthyophis* spp) in the tiger reserve for the first time.
- ❖ Caecilians are limbless amphibians that spend most of their lives burrowed under soil.
- ❖ The tiger reserve houses 24 species of amphibians and 74 species of reptiles.
- ❖ It is also home to 21 of the 29 species of tortoises and freshwater turtles found in India.

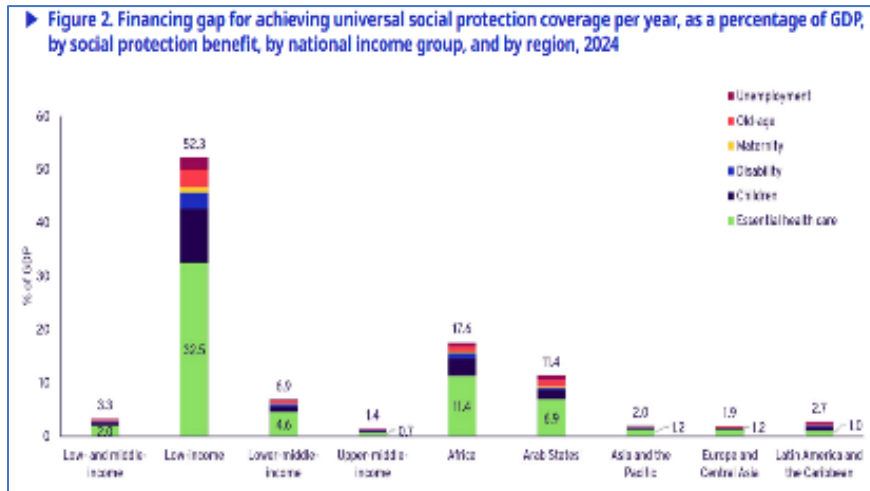
REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Food Policy Report 2024

- ❖ Global food policy report 2024: Food systems for healthy diets and nutrition was released by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- ❖ As a result of poor diet, 16.6 per cent of the India's population suffers from malnutrition.
- ❖ In India, the proportion of the population suffering from malnutrition increased from 15.4% in 2011 to 16.6% by 2021.
- ❖ At least 38 per cent of the Indian population ate unhealthy foods, while only 28 per cent ate all five recommended food groups.
- ❖ The prevalence of overweight in adults increased from 12.9% in 2006 to 16.4% in 2016.
- ❖ The prevalence of overweight, obesity, and related NCDs has risen in South Asian countries such as India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- ❖ More than two billion people, many of them in Africa and South Asia, cannot afford a healthy diet.

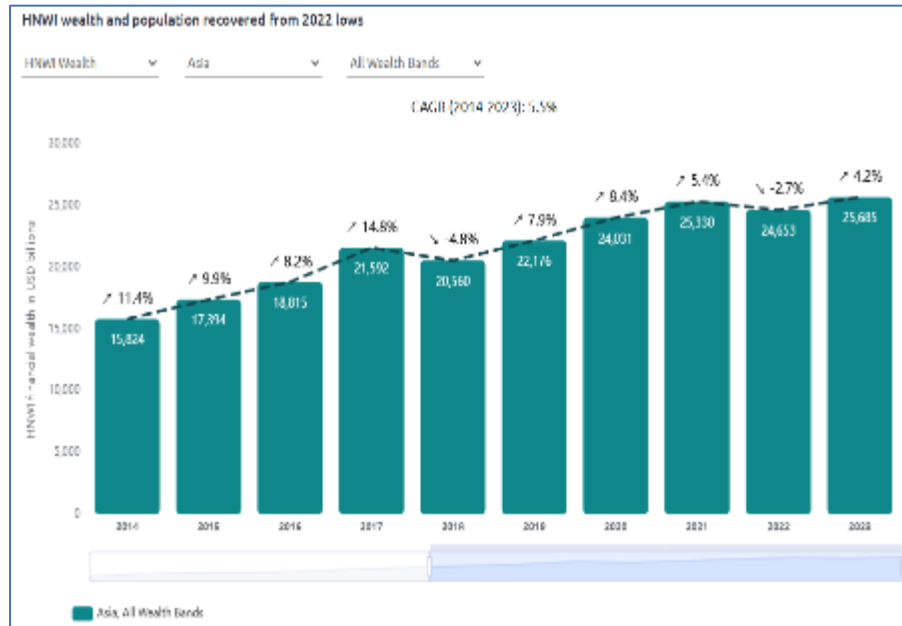


ILO's Financing gap for universal social protection



- ❖ An additional 1.4 trillion USD is needed to achieve universal social protection across low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ All low- and middle-income countries have a financing gap of 3.3 percent of GDP.
- ❖ But to low-income countries, this goes up to 52.3 percent of their GDP.
- ❖ Regionally, Africa is facing the biggest challenge in achieving universal coverage, with a financing gap of 17.6 percent of regional GDP per year.
- ❖ This is followed by low- and middle-income countries in the Arab states with a financing gap of 11.4 percent of regional GDP and Latin American and the Caribbean with a gap of 2.7 percent.
- ❖ According to ILO statistics, today, 4.1 billion people worldwide still lack social protection.
- ❖ Only 29% of the world's population has adequate social security coverage and 55% lacks any coverage at all.

World Wealth Report 2024



- ❖ The Capgemini Research Institute released the World Wealth Report 2024.
- ❖ The number of high net-worth individuals (HNWI) in India increased by 12.2% in 2023 vs 2022.
- ❖ This is bringing the total number of HNWI population to 3.589 million.
- ❖ The financial wealth of India's HNWIs increased by 12.4% in 2023 to \$1,445.7 billion while it was \$ 1,286.7 billion in 2022.
- ❖ Market buoyancy in 2023 sparked a \$3.8 trillion increase in HNWI's wealth.
- ❖ In the APAC region, India and Australia recorded HNWI wealth growth of 12.4% and 7.9%, and HNWI population growth of 12.2% and 7.8%, respectively.
- ❖ Asia-Pacific experienced 4.2% HNWI wealth growth and a 4.8% rise in the HNWI population.
- ❖ India's country's market capitalisation increased by 29.0% in 2023, after an increase of 6% in 2022.
- ❖ The country's national savings as a percentage of GDP too increased to 33.4% in 2023 compared to 29.9% in 2022.

QS World University Rankings 2025

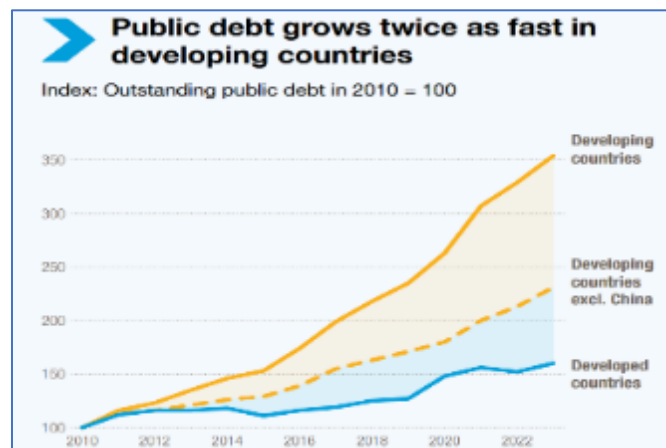
- ❖ Globally, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has retained the 'best institute in the world' position for the 13th time this year.
- ❖ IIT Bombay is gaining the top spot in India.

- ❖ It is followed by IIT Delhi and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- ❖ IIT Kharagpur and IIT Madras has achieved the fourth and 5th spot respectively.

Rank	University	Overall Score
119	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) Mumbai, India	56.3
150	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) New Delhi, India	52.1
211	Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, India	45
222	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP) Kharagpur, India	43.7
227	Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) Chennai, India	43.5

World of Debt Report 2024

- ❖ Global debt (including borrowings of households, businesses and governments) has reached \$315 trillion in 2024.
- ❖ This is three times the global gross domestic product (GDP).
- ❖ There are about 8.1 billion of us living in the world today.
- ❖ If we were to divide that debt up by person, each of us would owe about \$39,000.”
- ❖ Of the total global debt, household debt stands at US\$59.1 trillion; business debt at US\$164.5 trillion; and public debt (governments’ borrowing) at US\$91.4 trillion.
- ❖ India’s public debt reached \$2.9 trillion in 2023, amounting to 82.7% of its GDP.



Environmental Performance Index 2024

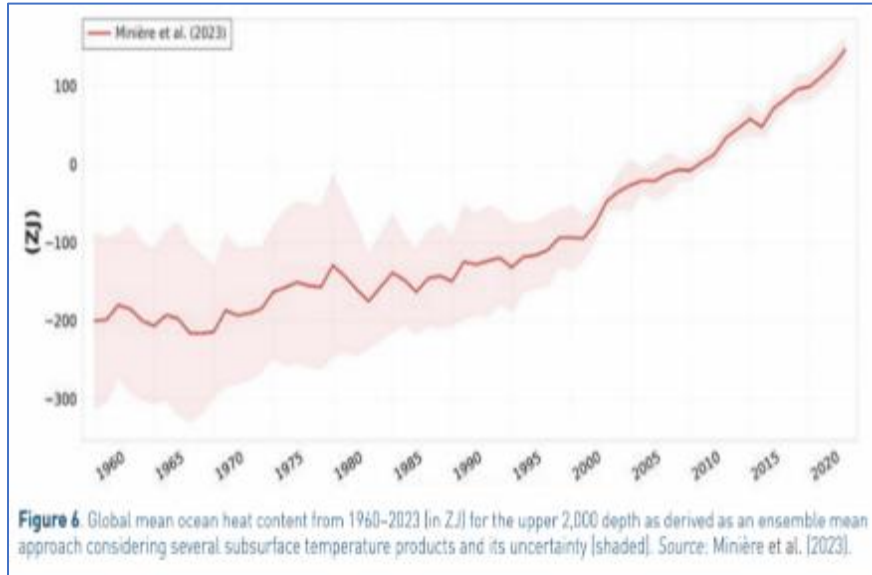
- ❖ The Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy recently published the Environmental Performance Index 2024.
- ❖ Estonia leads the rankings, largely due to its significant reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- ❖ Only five countries—Estonia, Finland, Greece, Timor-Leste, and the United Kingdom—have cut their GHG emissions at the rate needed to reach net zero by 2050.
- ❖ In the U.S., which is ranked number 34 on the list, emissions are falling but slowly.
- ❖ China, Russia and India continue to produce greater rates of GHG emissions compared with previous years.
- ❖ India is ranked 176th, being the world’s third-largest greenhouse gas emitter with a 32% increase in emissions over the past decade.
- ❖ Only Myanmar, Laos, Pakistan and Viet Nam ranked below India.
- ❖ In 2022, India surpassed China as the largest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide.

COUNTRY	RANK	SCORE	10y Δ				
				Bangladesh	175	27.8	2.4
Estonia	1	75.3	17.3	India	176	27.6	4.6
Luxembourg	2	75.0	4.1	Myanmar	177	26.9	-2.7
Germany	3	74.6	4.4	Laos	178	26.1	1.0
Finland	4	73.7	8.3	Pakistan	179	25.5	-3.9
United Kingdom	5	72.7	2.1	Viet Nam	180	24.5	-4.6

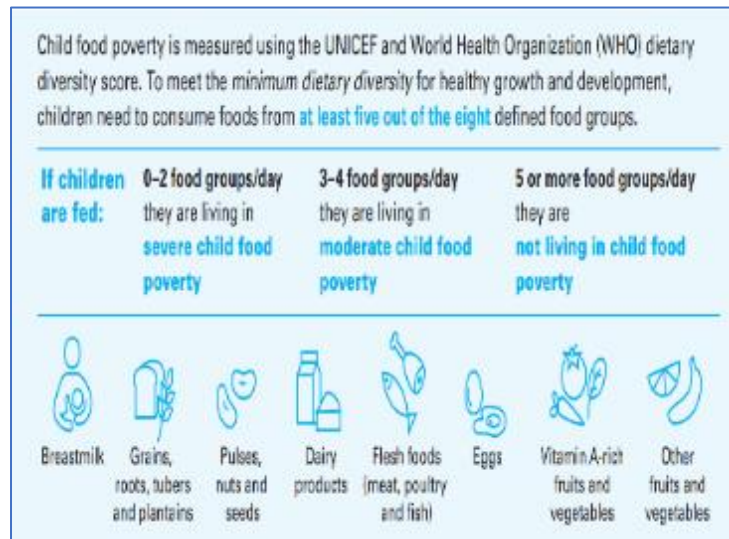
State of Ocean Report 2024

- ❖ The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO launched the State of the Ocean Report 2024 publication (StOR) in Iceland.
- ❖ The upper 2,000 metres (m) of oceans warmed at a rate of 0.32 ± 0.03 watt per square metre (W/m²) from 1960 through 2023.
- ❖ The accelerated ocean warming in the past two decades, where the rate has doubled to 0.66 ± 0.10 W/m².

- ❖ In 2024, 638 stations that record ocean pH levels exist.
- ❖ The global mean sea level from 1993 to 2023 increased at a rate of 3.4 +/-0.3 mm/yr.



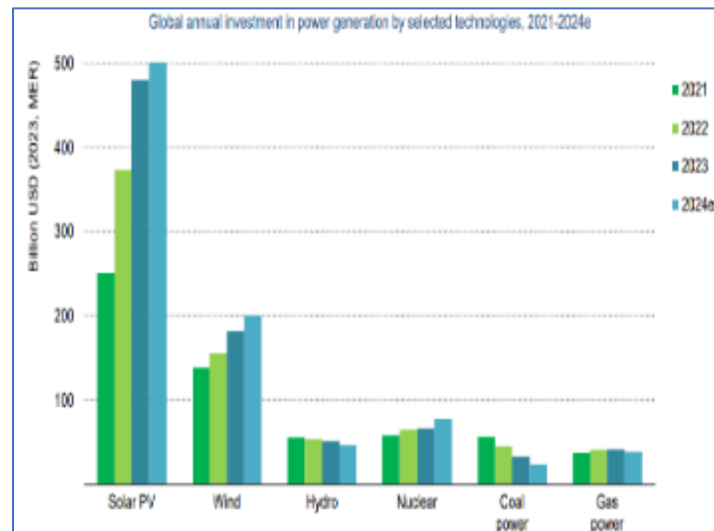
Child Nutrition Report 2024



- ❖ UNICEF released the "Child Nutrition Report, 2024".
- ❖ Globally, one in four children (27 per cent) are living in severe child food poverty (CFP) in early childhood
- ❖ It is amounting to 181 million children under 5 years of age.
- ❖ Twenty countries account for almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of the total number of children living in severe child food poverty.

- ❖ In India, 40% suffer from severe CFP, the second highest in South Asia.
- ❖ Economic Inequality led to 74% can't afford a healthy diet.
- ❖ Only 69% of Indians are using improved sanitation facilities.

World energy Investment Report 2024



- ❖ Investment in clean energy technologies and infrastructure is set to touch a new global high of \$3 trillion in 2024.
- ❖ China will account for the largest share of clean energy investment, with around \$675 billion this year.
- ❖ Investment in new oil and gas supplies will increase by 7% this year to \$570 billion.
- ❖ Still, clean energy investment in other emerging and developing economies remains low at about \$320 billion.
- ❖ India's Spending reached \$68 billion in 2023, up by nearly 40 per cent from the 2016-2020 average.
- ❖ Fossil fuel investment grew by 6 per cent over the same period to reach \$33 billion in 2023.
- ❖ India's target of 500 gigawatt (Gw) of renewable energy capacity by 2030 requires \$190 billion to \$215 billion of investment over the next seven years.

Global Gender Gap Index 2024

- ❖ The World Economic Forum's released the Global Gender Gap Index 2024.
- ❖ India saw a drop of two positions, now ranking 129th out of 146 countries in the Index.

- ❖ The index ranked India's neighbours Bangladesh at 99, China at 106, Nepal at 117, Sri Lanka at 122, Bhutan at 124 and Pakistan at 145.
- ❖ Iceland (93.5%) is again ranked first and has been leading the index for a decade and a half.
- ❖ It is followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden.

Southern Asia			
Economy	Rank		Score
	Regional	Global	
Bangladesh	1	99	0.689
Nepal	2	117	0.664
Sri Lanka	3	122	0.653
Bhutan	4	124	0.651
India	5	129	0.641
Maldives	6	132	0.633
Pakistan	7	145	0.570

UNEP report on NDCs 2024

- ❖ The UNEP has released a report named "Raising Ambition, Accelerating Action: Towards Enhanced NDCs for Forests".
- ❖ This report highlights significant gaps in forest protection in current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- ❖ From 2019-2023, the tropical deforestation emitted 5.6 billion tonnes of CO2 annually in the top 20 countries.
- ❖ Only 8 countries have quantified deforestation targets, and just 38% of UNFCCC Parties include forest conversion reduction measures.
- ❖ Agriculture and weak land-use policies are major deforestation drivers.

Global Peace Index 2024

- ❖ The Institute for Economics and Peace released its annual Global Peace Index.
- ❖ It assesses the level of peacefulness in 163 countries and territories around the world.
- ❖ In total, the level of global peacefulness decreased this year by 0.56%.
- ❖ On the whole, last year saw 162,000 deaths due to conflict, marking the second-highest toll in three decades.

- ❖ The global economic impact of violence increased to \$19.1 trillion last year, representing 13.5 per cent of worldwide GDP.
- ❖ Iceland remains the most peaceful country, a position it has held since 2008.
- ❖ It is followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Singapore.
- ❖ Yemen has replaced Afghanistan as the world's least peaceful country.
- ❖ It is followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- ❖ India was ranked at 116th by improving by 5 places.

Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Score Change	Overall Rank
1	Bhutan	1.564	-0.042	21
2	Nepal	2.069	0.051	81
3	Bangladesh	2.126	0.033	93
4	Sri Lanka	2.195	0.029	100
5	India	2.319	-0.039	116
6	Pakistan	2.783	-0.025	140
7	Afghanistan	3.294	0.007	160

Global Economic Prospects Report 2024

TABLE 2.5.2 South Asia country forecasts
(Real GDP growth at market prices in percent, unless indicated otherwise)

Percentage point differences from January 2024 projections

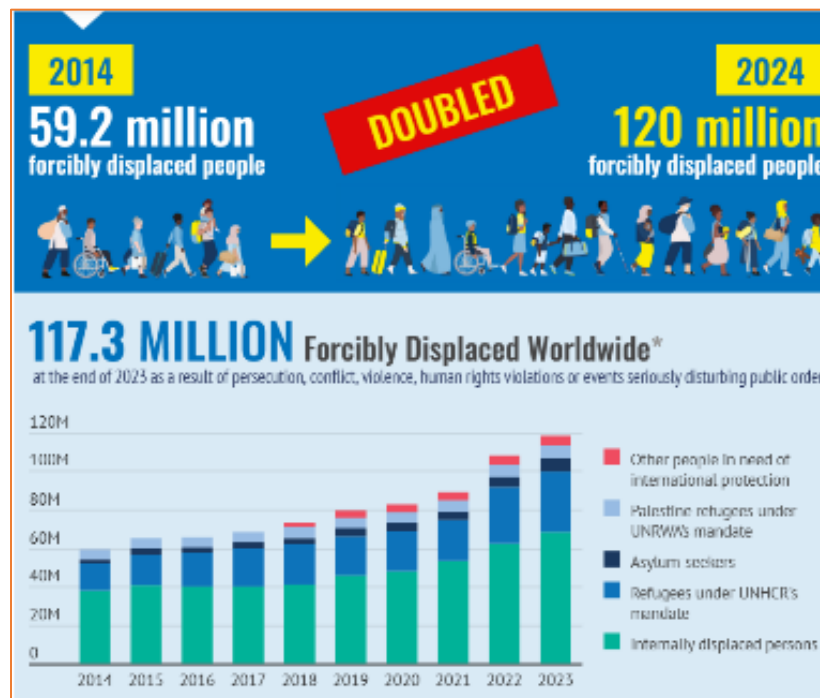
	2021	2022	2023e	2024f	2025f	2026f	2024f	2025f
Calendar year basis								
Afghanistan ¹	-20.7	-8.2
Maldives	37.7	13.9	4.0	4.7	5.2	4.1	-0.5	-0.3
Sri Lanka	4.2	-7.3	-2.3	2.2	2.5	3.0	0.5	0.1
Fiscal year basis²								
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24e	2024/25f	2025/26f	2026/27f	2024/25f	2025/26f
India	9.7	7.0	8.2	6.6	6.7	6.8	0.2	0.2
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24e	2024/25f	2025/26f	2023/24e	2024/25f
Bangladesh	8.9	7.1	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.9	0.0	-0.1
Bhutan	-3.3	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.7	6.0	0.9	1.1
Nepal	4.8	5.6	1.9	3.3	4.6	5.3	-0.6	-0.4
Pakistan ³	5.8	6.2	-0.2	1.8	2.3	2.7	0.1	-0.1

- ❖ The Global Economic Prospects Report was recently released by World Bank.
- ❖ India is predicted to remain the fastest-growing major economy globally, with a projected GDP growth rate of 6.6% for FY25.
- ❖ In the South Asia region, GDP growth is projected to decrease from 6.6 % in 2023 to 6.2 % in 2024.

- ❖ For the first time in three years, the global economy is showing the signs of stabilisation in 2024.
- ❖ The report noted that the per capita income growth in the South Asian region is expected to decrease from 5.6% in 2023 to 5.1% in 2024-25.

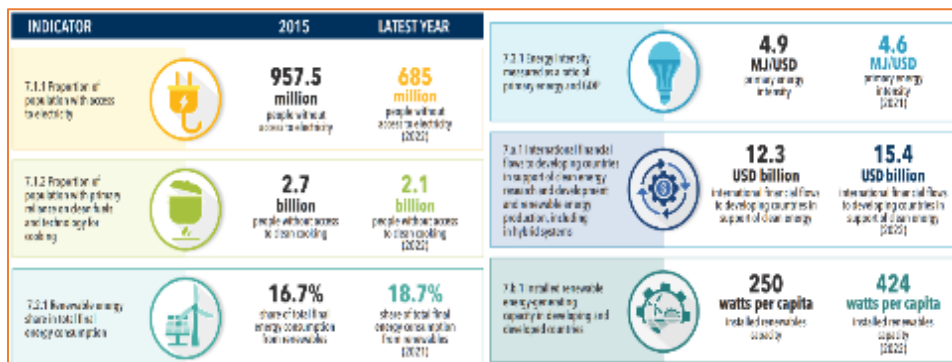
Global Trends Report: Forced Displacement in 2023

- ❖ A record-breaking 120 million people were living in a forcibly displaced status globally between the beginning of 2023 through to May 2024.
- ❖ The new data was revealed in the Global Trends report by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).
- ❖ An estimated 117.3 million people remained forcibly displaced at the end of 2023.
- ❖ In May, 120 million people were displaced globally, nearly 10% more than the figures from 2022.
- ❖ This is representing around 1.5% of the world's population.
- ❖ This year, for the 12th consecutive year, the number of refugees and displaced people has grown: from 114 to 120 million.
- ❖ New asylum applications were received in just five countries with the vast majority being made in the US with 1.2 million.
- ❖ This was followed by Germany with 329,100 followed by Egypt, Spain and Canada.



Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2024

- ❖ It was jointly produced by IRENA in collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The report finds that 91 percent of the global population had access to electricity in 2022.
- ❖ Still, leaving 685 million people still without access – 10 million people more than in 2021.
- ❖ Similarly, while 74 percent of the world’s population had access to clean cooking technologies in 2022.
- ❖ 2.1 billion people still relied on polluting fuels, with only modest progress expected by 2030.
- ❖ Renewables accounted for 18.7% of total final energy consumption worldwide in 2021.
- ❖ It is barely higher than the 16.7 percent in 2015; and the world is not on course to double energy efficiency by 2030.
- ❖ This is having improved by only 0.8 percent in 2021.
- ❖ International public financial flows in support of clean energy in developing countries rebounded in 2022 to USD 15.4 billion.
- ❖ It is an increase of 25% compared to 2021.
- ❖ 80% of flows directed to just 25 countries.



THE University impact rankings 2024

- ❖ THE evaluated 2,152 universities from 125 countries/regions for the overall Impact Ranking for 2024.
- ❖ With 96 institutions, India is the most-represented nation, followed closely by Turkey (91) and Pakistan (89).

- ❖ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is placed at the 81st position tops from India.
- ❖ Chennai's Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences placed in 201-300 band.
- ❖ Australia's Western Sydney University tops the list for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ The UK's University of Manchester and Australia's University of Tasmania follow joint second.
- ❖ The UK, for example, is home to several top performers for responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).
- ❖ South Korea is particularly active when it comes to decent work and economic growth (SDG 8).



Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024

Top 10 Overall
Partnerships for the goals
+ top 3 SDGs

2024 rank	Institution	Country/region	Score
1	Western Sydney University	Australia	99.7
=2	University of Manchester	United Kingdom	98.5
=2	University of Tasmania	Australia	98.5
4	Aalborg University	Denmark	98.0
5	RMIT University	Australia	97.7
6	University of Alberta	Canada	97.4
7	UNSW Sydney	Australia	97.2
8	Queen's University	Canada	97.1
9	Arizona State University (Tempe)	United States	96.4
10	University of Exeter	United Kingdom	96.1

www.thewur.com #THEUniRankings #THEGlobalImpact

Prime global cities index

- ❖ In the last 12 months, Mumbai witnessed a 11.5% rise in luxury real estate prices, reaching the third spot globally, after Manila and Tokyo.
- ❖ Delhi's prime residential prices soared by 10.5% in the last year.
- ❖ It is finding fifth spot on property consultant Knight Frank's prime global cities index.
- ❖ At the top of the table is Manila with 26.2% annual growth, followed by Tokyo at 12.5%.
- ❖ In fourth place is Perth, at 11.1%.

The Knight Frank Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2024
Ranked by annual % change

Rank/City	12-month % change	6-month % change	3-month % change
1 PH Manila	26.2	6.0	4.6
2 JP Tokyo	12.5	8.3	-2.1
3 IN Mumbai	11.5	6.7	1.5
4 AU Perth	11.1	7.9	5.6
5 IN Delhi	10.5	6.4	6.3
6 KR Seoul	9.6	-5.1	0.1
7 NZ Christchurch	9.1	2.6	1.2
8 AE Dubai	8.6	-2.7	4.2
9 US Los Angeles	8.3	1.5	0.4
10 ES Madrid	7.6	3.0	1.3

WHO report on antibacterial research

- ❖ WHO released its annual report titled “2023 Antibacterial agents in clinical and preclinical development: an overview and analysis”.
- ❖ India contributes only 1% to the global antibacterial research and development (R&D) pipeline.
- ❖ 84% of antibacterial R&D is concentrated in high-income countries, with another 12% in upper-middle-income economies.
- ❖ But the lower-middle-income countries including India, are contributing only 4%.
- ❖ The new antibacterial agents being developed in China and the Russian Federation are 3% and 2%, respectively.
- ❖ India and South Africa are each contributing 1%.



Mercer's most expensive city 2024

- ❖ Mumbai is now ranked as the 21st most expensive for expats in Asia while Delhi is at the 30th position.
- ❖ Globally, Mumbai climbed 11 places since last year to rank 136th.
- ❖ The top 5 most expensive cities in the world are Hong Kong, Singapore, Zurich, Geneva, Bern.
- ❖ In the top 20 list, other Indian cities are New Delhi (ranked 164), Chennai (189) and Bengaluru (195).
- ❖ Hyderabad is at (202), Pune is at 205 and Kolkata is at 207.

MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES IN INDIA		
Cities	2024 Ranking	2023 Ranking
Mumbai	136	147
New Delhi	165	169
Chennai	189	184
Bengaluru	195	189
Hyderabad	202	202
Pune	205	213
Kolkata	207	211

Sustainable Development Report 2024

104	 Cambodia	64.90	
107	 Bangladesh	64.36	
109	 India	63.99	
119	 Lao PDR	62.96	
120	 Myanmar	62.62	
137	 Pakistan	57.02	

- ❖ Recently, the 9th edition of the Sustainable Development Report was released by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- ❖ Only 16% of SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030, with 84% showing limited or reversed progress.

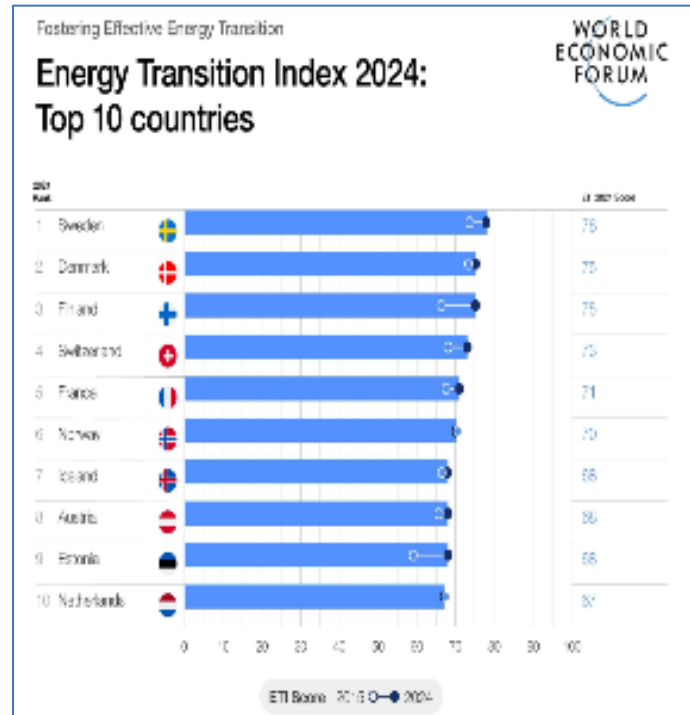
- ❖ Nordic countries lead in SDG achievement, with Finland (score 86.4) ranked first, followed by Sweden (85.7), Denmark (85.0), Germany (83.4), and France.
- ❖ BRICS and BRICS+ countries have shown faster-than-average SDG progress since 2015.
- ❖ East and South Asia are the regions with the most SDG progress since 2015.
- ❖ Bottom 3 Countries are South Sudan, Central African Republic and Chad.
- ❖ India secured 109th rank with the overall score of 64.0.
- ❖ Only around 30% of SDG targets are on track or have been achieved by India.

SIPRI Yearbook 2024

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has launched its annual assessment of the state of armaments, disarmament and international security.
- ❖ The nine nuclear-armed states continued to modernize their nuclear arsenals and several deployed new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023.
- ❖ They are the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Israel.
- ❖ There was a total global inventory of an estimated 12,121 warheads in January 2024, about 9585 of which were in military stockpiles for potential use.
- ❖ Russia and the USA together possess almost 90 per cent of all nuclear weapons.
- ❖ China’s nuclear arsenal increased from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 500 in January 2024.

Country	Deployed warheads ^a	Stored warheads ^b	Military stockpile		Retired ^d warheads		- Total inventory ^e -	
	2024	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
United States	1 770	1 938	3 708	3 708	1 536	1 336	5 244	5 044
Russia	1 710	2 670	4 489 ^f	4 380	1 400	1 200	5 889 ^f	5 580
United Kingdom	120	105	225	225 ^g	-	-	225	225 ^g
France	280	10	290	290	-	-	290	290
China	24 ^h	476	410	500	-	-	410	500
India	-	172	164	172	-	-	164	172
Pakistan	-	170	170	170	-	-	170	170
North Korea	-	50	30	50 ⁱ	-	-	30	50 ⁱ
Israel	-	90	90	90	-	-	90	90
Total	3 904	5 681	9 576^f	9 585	2 936	2 538	12 512^f	12 121

Global Energy Transition Index 2024

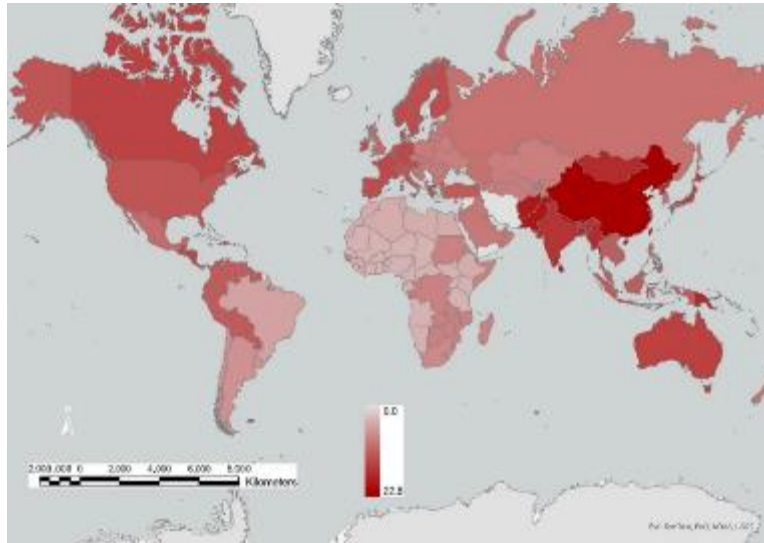


- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the Global Energy Transition Index.
- ❖ From 67th place, India moved up to 63rd place out of 120 countries.
- ❖ European nations dominated the top ranks with Sweden topping the index.
- ❖ It is followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland and France in the top five.
- ❖ China was ranked 20th.
- ❖ India's clean energy infrastructure, with renewable energy and biomass comprising 42% of its power generation capacity, is making it the fourth-largest renewables market globally.
- ❖ India's per capita emissions, at 1.7 tonnes of CO₂, are already 60% lower than the global average of 4.4 tonnes of CO₂ per capita.

Global impacts of heat and water stress – report

- ❖ Heat and water stress can lead to 6-14 per cent global food production decline by 2050.
- ❖ It correspondingly increases the number of people with severe food insecurity by up to 1.36 billion compared to 2020.
- ❖ Due to this, regions like China and ASEAN countries can become food importers from being net food exporters by 2050.

- ❖ In India, in the worst-case scenario of climate change, food production was projected to fall by 16.1 per cent in 2050 as a result of both water and heat stress.
- ❖ In China, it would fall by 22.4 per cent and in the United States by 12.6 per cent.
- ❖ In Africa, food production was projected to decline by 8.2-11.8 per cent, 14.7 per cent for Australia and 19.4 per cent for some parts of Central America.
- ❖ Globally, the number of additional people with severe food insecurity by 2050, relative to 2020, can increase between 556 million and 1.36 billion.



STATES

Prehistoric artefacts on fossil wood

- ❖ Archaeologists from Ashoka University in Sonipat found prehistoric artefacts made from fossil wood from Bandhavgarh National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ This discovery suggests that ancient hunter-gatherers used the fossilised tree trunks as raw materials to create their tools and artefacts.
- ❖ The researchers estimate them to be at least 10,000 years old.
- ❖ This discovery is one of the first of its kind in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Ghughwa National Fossil Park Located in the Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh, was established as a National Park in 1983.
- ❖ Tools made from fossil wood are rare in India, with only a few examples found in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Tripura.



Highest number of political rallies

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has granted permission to about 94,975 applications for holding rallies and meetings for the election campaign in West Bengal.
- ❖ About 1,19,276 applications were made to the ECI during the seven-phase campaign and the Commission granted permission to 94,975 rallies, public meetings and other forms of campaign.
- ❖ The number of applications and permission granted is highest in the country.
- ❖ Of the 890 applications the ECI had allowed use of helicopters in 669 cases.

Leveraging Technology- 27 IT Apps/Systems

 VHA Apply Forms online. मतदाता सूची में अपना नाम जोड़ें View polling booth details Connect with your BLO/ERO Download e-EPIC	 cVigil Single App for recording, reporting, and resolving violation. Response in 100-minute timeline Complaints can be made anonymously	 KYC Candidate Affidavit available on affidavit portal & KYC App Candidates with Criminal Antecedents must publish information publicly. Mandatory for Political parties to publish information publicly across designated channels	 Suvidha Portal Online portal for filing nomination & Affidavit Candidates can use the portal for seeking permissions for meetings, rallies etc. Ensures Level Playing Field – First in First Out
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Joint capital - Hyderabad

- ❖ Hyderabad ceased to be the common capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- ❖ Beginning June 2, Hyderabad will be the capital city of Telangana only.

- ❖ Hyderabad was made the capital city of the two states for 10 years when the bifurcation of undivided Andhra Pradesh was carried out in 2014.



Renaming of sites in Uttarakhand



- ❖ The Centre has approved the Uttarakhand government's proposal to rename of some sites.
- ❖ They are: Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district as Jyotirmath, and Kosiyakutoli tehsil in Nainital district as Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham.
- ❖ It is believed that the area was originally called Jyotirmath after Adi Guru Shankaracharya visited it in the 8th century.
- ❖ Kainchi Dham was renamed after Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj's ashram.

First green state headquarters

- ❖ The Assam state Secretariat became the country's first green state government headquarters.
- ❖ It was inaugurated a 2.5 MW solar power project on its campus.
- ❖ The CM also, announced that Ministers and government officials will have to pay for their electricity consumption.

- ❖ This initiative aims to reduce electricity consumption.
- ❖ And it has already been implemented in 8,000 government offices, schools, and other institutions throughout the State.



Vadhavan Port project



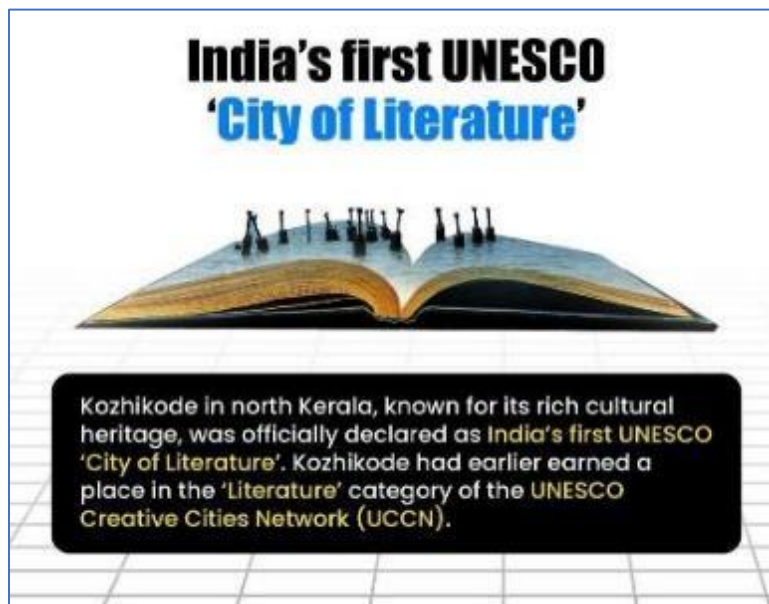
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the development of an all-weather deep-water port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra.
- ❖ This port is designed to accommodate large container vessels.
- ❖ It will be jointly constructed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and the Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB).

- ❖ The total project cost is approximately ₹76,220 crore.
- ❖ It will be developed in two phases, with the first phase expected to be operational by 2029 and the second by 2037.
- ❖ The port will have the capacity to handle 23 million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units).
- ❖ This is a capability unmatched by any other port in India due to the natural limitations.
- ❖ It will feature nine container terminals, each about 1000 meters long, enabling it to harbour the world's largest vessels, which carry about 24,000 TEUs.

Hemis Festival 2024

- ❖ The Hemis Festival, known as Hemis Tsechu, celebrates the birth of Guru Padmasambhava in Ladakh.
- ❖ The Hemis Festival celebrates the birth of Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tibetan Buddhism.
- ❖ Another rare event during the festival is the unveiling of a giant thangka, a religious painting on cloth, which happens once every 12 years.
- ❖ The next unfurling will take place in 2025.

India's first UNESCO City of Literature



- ❖ Kozhikode city of Kerala has created history by becoming India's first city to be designated as a UNESCO City of Literature.

- ❖ Over the next four years, Kozhikode will host a series of literary and cultural activities to celebrate and promote its newfound status.
- ❖ Other Iconic locations of Kerala such as Mananchira, Tali, and Kuttichira will be transformed into vibrant centres for literary events.

65 percent quota of Bihar

- ❖ The Patna High Court set aside the amendments passed by the Bihar legislature in 2023 to increase the reservation from 50% to 65% in educational institutions and government jobs.
- ❖ The Bihar Government has increased the reservation of Backward Classes (BC), Extremely Backward Classes (EBC), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST).
- ❖ Together with the 10% of EWS quota, the Bill had pushed reservation in Bihar to 75%, well past the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court.



RESERVATION: A VEXED ISSUE

PATNA HIGH COURT + पटना उच्च न्यायालय

OPTIONS BEFORE GOVT

- » Filing a review petition
- » Challenging the Patna HC verdict in Supreme Court
- » Accepting the verdict

OF CASTE SURVEY & QUOTA POLITICS

- Following the survey, the then Nitish Kumar-led Grand Alliance govt issued gazette notifications on November 21 last year, raising the quota for deprived castes from 50% to 65% in state govt jobs and educational institutions
- The quota hike was based on the comprehensive survey of castes, which provided a fresh estimate of the population of SCs, STs, OBCs, and EBCs in Bihar
- The court held the quota hike as "ultra vires" and violative of the Supreme Court's verdicts. "These two amended laws violate the equality clause envisaged under Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Constitution of India," the court said
- The 50% ceiling on reservations was introduced by the Supreme Court in its landmark 1992 decision in Indra Sawhney v Union of India to ensure "efficiency" in administration. The only exception was the 10% quota for the EWS introduced in 2019
- The high court's verdict as sparked political debate over the non-inclusion of the two recently enacted laws aimed at increasing quotas in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to protect them from judicial scrutiny
- As the Bihar govt weighs its options and the political debate continues, it is crucial to ensure that any decision taken upholds the principles of social justice, equality, and inclusive development

Reviving KGF Gold Mining

- ❖ The Karnataka government has cleared a proposal of the Centre for reviving gold mining and auctioning of 13 tailing dumps spread over 1,003.4 acres at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF).
- ❖ As much as 33 million tonnes of tailing dumps (extraction waste) is estimated to be lying at the 13 tailing dumps at KGF.

- ❖ It is estimated that one tonne of dump yields one gram of gold on processing.
- ❖ Bharat Gold Mines Limited, a PSU established in 1972 under the Department of Mines with its office at KGF, was closed due to economical unviability in 2001.



Ambubachi mela 2024

- ❖ The Ambubachi Mela is a prominent annual festival held at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ This special event celebrates the annual menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya, symbolising fertility and womanhood.
- ❖ This year saw a large gathering of sadhus, including Naga sadhus and holy men from around the world, including Nepal and Canada.

India's largest leopard safari

- ❖ South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari was inaugurated by at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP).
- ❖ Currently eight leopards have been released for the safari in the open forest area.
- ❖ BBP was carved out of Bannerghatta National Park in 2004 and brought under the administration of the Zoo Authority of Karnataka.
- ❖ It comprises several units including the zoo, safari, butterfly park, and rescue center.

Income Tax for Ministers

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh cabinet has decided that state ministers will have to pay their Income Tax, instead of the state government bearing such burden.
- ❖ They strike off the 1972 rule, under which the state government was paying the Income Tax on the salaries and perks of ministers.

- ❖ There are other states that have in the past amended provisions exempting ministers from paying tax.
- ❖ In 2019, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet decided to amend the law that exempted the Chief Minister and other ministers from paying their own income tax.
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet had in 2022 also said that all ministers and MLAs would pay their own income tax.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

- ❖ Indian peace keeper Naik Dhananjay Kumar Singh honoured posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjöld medal.
- ❖ He served with the UN Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).
- ❖ Naik Singh was part of the Army Medical Corps, which deals with providing medical services to military personnel.
- ❖ India is the second largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping.
- ❖ It currently deploys more than 6,000 military and police personnel to the UN operations.



Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit

- ❖ Goa has recently hosted the first-ever Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024 for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- ❖ The awards spanned four major categories:
 - Sustainable Governance Champion,
 - Corporate Responsibility Champion,
 - Circularity Champion, and
 - Climate Action Champion.
- ❖ The Sustainability Champions in the Editor's Choice Category had honored exceptional performers across institutional and individual categories.
- ❖ In the individual category, Dr. PS Gahlaut of Indian Potash and Prof. Rintu Banerjee, Dean of R&D at IIT-Kharagpur, were recognized for their contributions.

KAZA Summit

- ❖ The Kavango Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) Heads of State Summit was held in Livingstone, Zambia.
- ❖ It was launched a new destination brand, "Rivers of Life," during the event.
- ❖ TFCA components across five partner countries — Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- ❖ Spanning an area of approximately 200,773 square miles, the KAZA TFCA is the world's largest terrestrial trans frontier conservation area.

Ruchira Kamboj


- ❖ India's first woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj retired after 35 years of service.
- ❖ She became Permanent Representative/Ambassador of India to New York, on August 2, 2022.
- ❖ She was Counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York from 2002-05.
- ❖ She also had a stint as the Deputy Head of the Office of the Secretary-General at the Commonwealth Secretariat London.



Maratha queen Ahilya Bai Holkar

THE PHILOSOPHER QUEEN


AHILYABAI HOLKAR, ONE OF THE FINEST FEMALE RULERS IN INDIAN HISTORY, WAS BORN ON THIS DAY, IN 1725

 Ascended the throne and became ruler of Indore in 1767; reign lasted for 30 years

As a prominent ruler of the Malwa kingdom, spread the message of dharma and promoted industrialisation in the 18th century

Built hundreds of temples and Dharmashalas throughout India; rebuilt the demolished Kashi Vishwanath Temple

Was also a learned politician — her observation of the British and their agenda was something even the Maratha Peshwa had missed noticing



- ❖ May 31st marked the 300th birth anniversary of the Maratha queen Ahilya Bai Holkar.
- ❖ After the demise of her husband Khande Rao, she was trained in military affairs by Malhar Rao Holkar.
- ❖ She came to power after the passing of her father-in-law Malhar Rao Holkar.
- ❖ She established Maheshwar (in Madhya Pradesh) as the seat of the Holkar Dynasty.
- ❖ The current structure of Vishnupad Temple, Gaya, Bihar was built by Maharani Ahilya Bai Holkar in 1787.

Global Farewell for Sunil Chhetri

- ❖ Indian football player, Sunil Chhetri has officially retired from the international football.
- ❖ Chhetri got 94 goals in 151 international games.
- ❖ It ranks him fourth all-time in terms of goals scored by an international player.
- ❖ His retirement was celebrated all over the world, with tributes coming from FIFA.



Sunita Williams 3rd space journey

- ❖ Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams entered into the International Space Station.
- ❖ She made a 24-hour journey in the Starliner spacecraft she piloted to space.
- ❖ In 2012, during a prior trip to the International Space Station, Williams became the first person to finish a triathlon in space.
- ❖ Ms Williams went on her first space voyage on December 9, 2006, which lasted until June 22, 2007.

Bonn Climate Conference 2024

- ❖ The 60th Session of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies, also called the Bonn Climate Change Conference was held recently.
- ❖ This event has stressed to set a New Collective Quantified Goal on climate funding (NCQG) as soon as possible.
- ❖ The 29th Conference of Parties (COP 29) to the UNFCCC is going to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan later this year.



WEF Technology Pioneer list 2024



- ❖ Every year, the World Economic Forum (WEF) selects 100 companies to work with influential political, business, and cultural leaders to tackle issues affecting people and the planet.
- ❖ WEF has selected 10 Indian technology startups for its 2024 Technology Pioneers program.
- ❖ These startups are recognised for their innovative work in artificial intelligence, clean energy, healthcare, biotech, space, and neurotechnology.
- ❖ The Indian companies chosen are Amperehour Solar, Cropin, Entri, HealthPlix, International Battery Company, Niramai, NxtWave, Pixxel, Sarvam AI, and String Bio.
- ❖ They were selected from startups in 23 countries.

Sahitya Academy awards 2024

- ❖ The Sahitya Akademi has announced the names of 23 writers, including English writer K. Vaishali and Hindi author Gaurav Pandey.
- ❖ The National Academy of Letters also announced the names of 24 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2024.
- ❖ The Yuva Puraskar has been awarded for 10 poetry books, seven collections of short stories, two collections of articles and one of essays, one novel, one book of ghazals and one memoir.
- ❖ From Tamil Nadu, Yuma Vasuki got Bala Sahitya award for his work "Tanvi's birthday" and Lokesh Raguraman got Yuva Puraskar award for his Vishnu Vandhaar.

Kavli Prize 2024

- ❖ The eight winners of the 2024 Kavli Prize were awarded for their contributions to astrophysics, neuroscience, and nanoscience.
- ❖ The Kavli Prize is awarded in honour of Norwegian-American businessman and philanthropist Fred Kavli (1927-2013).
- ❖ David Charbonneau and Sara Seager were given awards in astrophysics category.
- ❖ Robert Langer, Armand Paul Alivisatos, and Chad Mirkin were honored for making important contributions to nanotechnology.
- ❖ Nancy Kanwisher, Winrich Freiwald, and Doris Tsao are honored in neuroscience area.



SPORTS

Asian Arm-wrestling Championship 2024

- ❖ The Asian Arm-wrestling Championship was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Shrimat Jha secured India's only gold in the left-hand para category and a bronze in the right-hand para category.
- ❖ Laxman Singh Bhandari and Sachin Goyal won two and one bronze medals, respectively.
- ❖ Ibi Lollen won two bronze medals in women's categories.
- ❖ India finished with one gold and six bronze.

Taiwan Athletics Open 2024



- ❖ Indian athlete Nayana James clinched the gold medal in the women's long jump event.
- ❖ Ankesh Chaudhary of India won the gold medal in men's 800m.
- ❖ In Men's pole vault, Dev Meena won the silver medal.
- ❖ DP Manu in men's Javelin throw clinched the gold medal with the best effort of 81.58 metres.
- ❖ In women's 100 metre hurdles, Nithya Ramraj bagged the silver medal.
- ❖ While, Vismaya V K won the bronze in the women's 400m race.
- ❖ The Indian contingent concluded with seven medals including three golds, three silvers and one bronze medal.

Norway Chess tournament 2024

- ❖ Magnus Carlsen and Ju Wenjun emerged as the champions at the Norway Chess tournament.
- ❖ His closest rival, the World No 2 Hikaru Nakamura (USA) was beaten by R. Praggnanandhaa.
- ❖ Praggnanandhaa finished 3rd in the event.
- ❖ During the initial round Praggnanandhaa achieved a remarkable victory over world number one Magnus Carlsen in the Norway Chess tournament
- ❖ Meanwhile, in the women's section of Norway Chess, Ju Wenjun claimed the title.
- ❖ Vaishali Rameshbabu finished 4th in the event.

Norway Chess 2024 final standings:			Norway Chess Women 2024 final standings:		
1	Magnus Carlsen	NOR 17½	1	Ju Wenjun	CHN 19
2	Hikaru Nakamura	USA 14½	2	Anna Muzychuk	UKR 16
3	Alireza Firouzja	FRA 13½	3	Lei Tingjie	CHN 14½
4	Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu	IND 13	4	Vaishali Rameshbabu	IND 12½
5	Fabiano Caruana	USA 11½	5	Humpy Koneru	IND 10
6	Ding Liren	CHN 7	6	Pia Cramling	SWE 8

French Open 2024

Title	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Alexander Zverev
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek	Jasmine Paolini
Men's doubles	Marcelo Arevalo & Mate Pavic	Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori
Women's doubles	Coco Gauff & Katerina Siniakova	Sara Errani & Jasmine Paolini

- ❖ Spanish player Carlos Alcaraz lifted his maiden French Open title after defeating Alexander Zverev (Germany).
- ❖ He is becoming the youngest man in the Open era to achieve the remarkable feat of winning Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces – hard court, clay, and grass.
- ❖ In the women's singles final, Iga Swiatek (Poland) once again topped against Jasmine Paolini (Italy).

U-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024

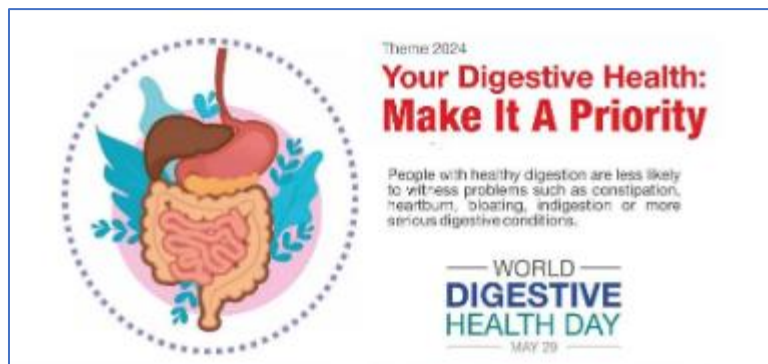
- ❖ India concluded their campaign at the Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championships in Amman, Jordan.
- ❖ The young Indian contingent clinched a total of 11 medals, including four gold, two silver, and five bronze medals.
- ❖ Women wrestlers grabbed all four gold medals - Dipanshi in 46 kg, Muskan in 53 kg, Rajnita in 61 kg, and Mansi Lather in 69 kg.
- ❖ On the men's front, Samarth Gajanan Mhakave bagged a silver medal in the fiercely contested 55 kg category.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Digestive health day 2024 - May 29

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness and promote prevention of digestive issues.
- ❖ It was first launched by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) in 2005.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Your Digestive Health: Make It a Priority".



Global Parents Day 2024 - June 01

- ❖ It is observed to commemorate the vital role that parents play in their children's lives.
- ❖ It also promotes the overall well-being of society.
- ❖ In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared this day.
- ❖ This year's theme is "The Promise of Playful Parenting".

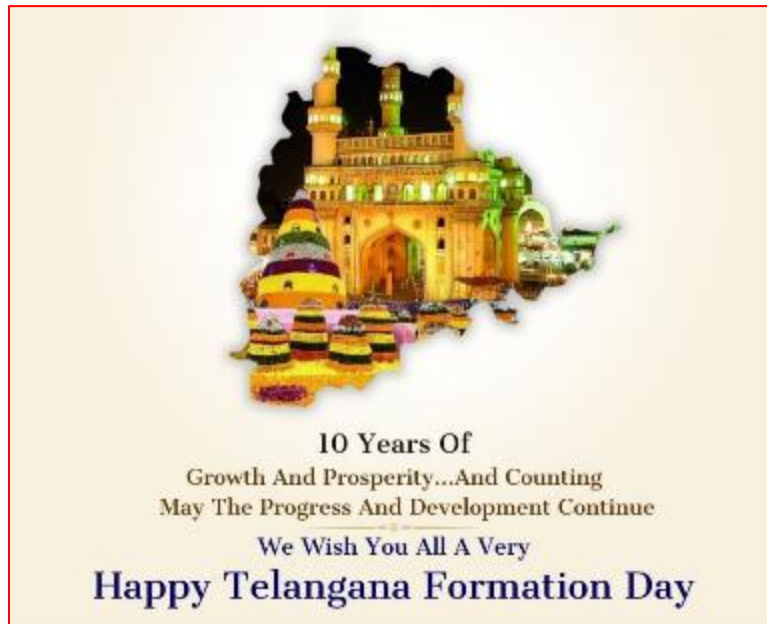


International Sex Workers Day 2024 - June 02

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the health and working conditions faced by the sex workers of the world.
- ❖ In 1975, on June 2, around 100 sex workers gathered at Saint-Nizier Church in Lyon, France to protest against their exploiting working and living conditions.
- ❖ They are among the most vulnerable social groups in the world, and they often find themselves subjected to exploitation, physical and emotional exploitation, human rights violations, and social stigma from society.

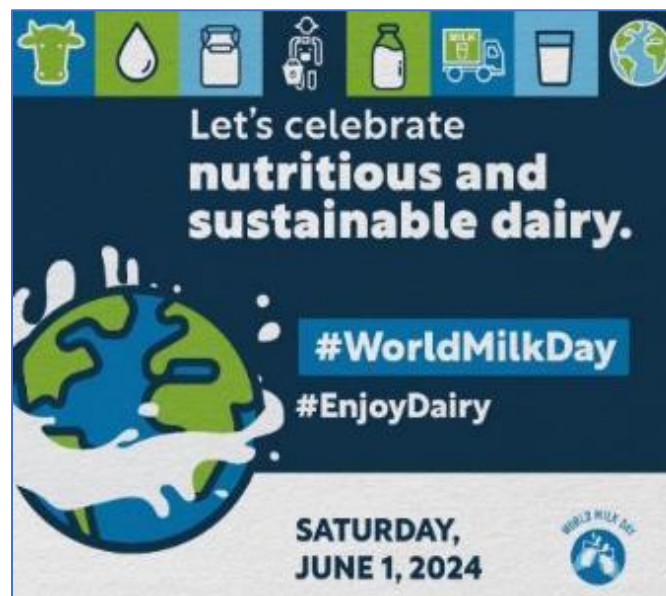
Telangana Formation Day 2024 - June 02

- ❖ This India's youngest state was carved out of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ On January 26, 1951, when India became a republic, Hyderabad was accorded the status of a Part-B state.
- ❖ The States Reorganisation Act was passed in 1956, merging Andhra State and Telangana into a single state called Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Under the UPA government, the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014 was passed for a separate Telangana state.
- ❖ Telangana officially became the 28 state of India on June 2, 2014.



World Milk Day 2024 - June 01

- ❖ The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) started this day in 2001.
- ❖ It aims to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.
- ❖ It also focusses on encouraging manufacturing methods that reduce water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as promoting animal welfare and safe working conditions.



World Bicycle Day 2024 - June 03

- ❖ Professor Leszek Sibilski, a Polish-American social scientist and cycling advocate came up with this idea of Bicycle Day celebration.
- ❖ The United National General Assembly declared this day in April 2018.
- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the benefits of cycling and people are urged to use the cycle as a mode of transportation enabling a sustainable way of living.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Promoting Health, Equity, and Sustainability through Cycling."



World Environment Day 2024 - June 05

- ❖ It aims to promote more sustainable practices while advocating the protection of our planet.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly established this day to commemorate the start of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972.
- ❖ The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host the 2024 global celebrations.
- ❖ The Theme of 2024 - "Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience".

World pest day 2024 - June 07

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness of important role of pest management organisations play in safeguarding public health and food safety.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in Beijing on 6 June 2017.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Global Solutions, Local Impact: Mapping Success in Pest Management."



World Food Safety Day 2024 - June 07

- ❖ This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018.
- ❖ It was first celebrated on June 7, 2019.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of food safety and to encourage actions that help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected."

International Level Cross Awareness Day 2024 - June 07

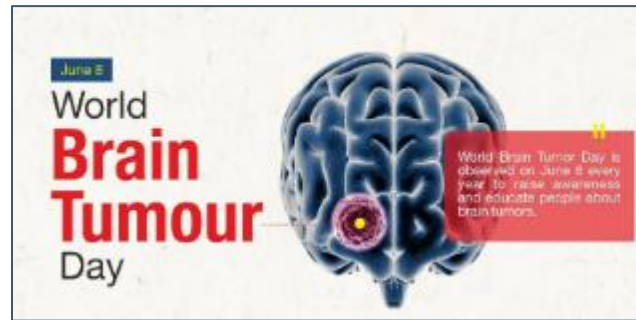
- ❖ It is organised by the International Union of Railways (UIC).
- ❖ Level crossing accidents account for only 1% of road deaths but 28% of all rail fatalities.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is "vulnerable road users".

World Oceans Day 2024 – June 08

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of the ocean and its preservation.
- ❖ The day was first proposed by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Earth Summit in 1992 Rio de Janeiro.
- ❖ The day was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2008.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Awaken New Depth".

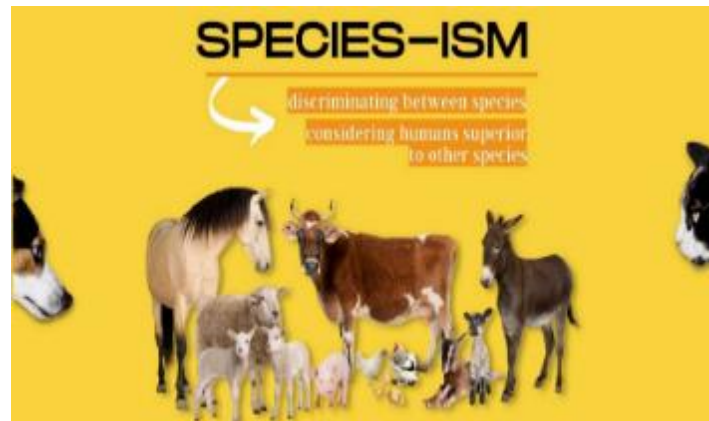
World Brain Tumor Day 2024 - June 08

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about brain tumour and the importance of early detection and timely treatment.
- ❖ Brain tumours are abnormal growths of cells within the brain.
- ❖ These growths can be cancerous (malignant) or non-cancerous (benign).
- ❖ As per WHO, brain tumors account for around 2% of all adult cancers and 1.9% of all childhood cancers.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Brain Health and Prevention".



World Day Against Speciesism 2024 - June 05

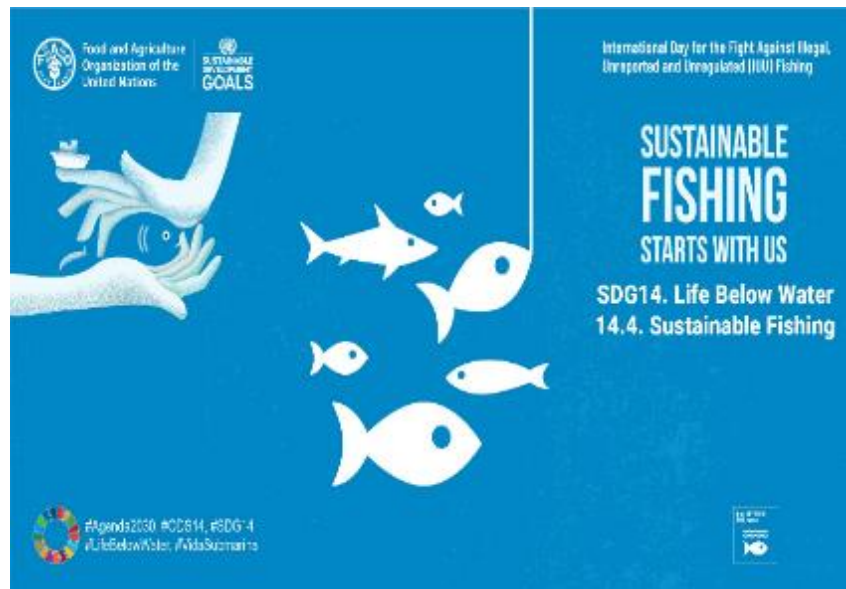
- ❖ It aims to make people aware that prejudice towards animals should not be acceptable anymore, just like humans.
- ❖ Speciesism is the irrational prejudice that, assumes humans are superior to all other species and have the right to exploit them and make them suffer for our needs and wants.
- ❖ The term was coined by the psychologist, ethicist, writer and political animal lobbyist, Dr Richard D. Ryder in 1970.



International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 2024 - June 05

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal fishing to marine ecosystems.
- ❖ In 2015, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO proposed that an initiative be launched to declare this day.
- ❖ In December 2017, the UN General Assembly passed resolution for this day.
- ❖ UN has also declared 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

- ❖ Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems.



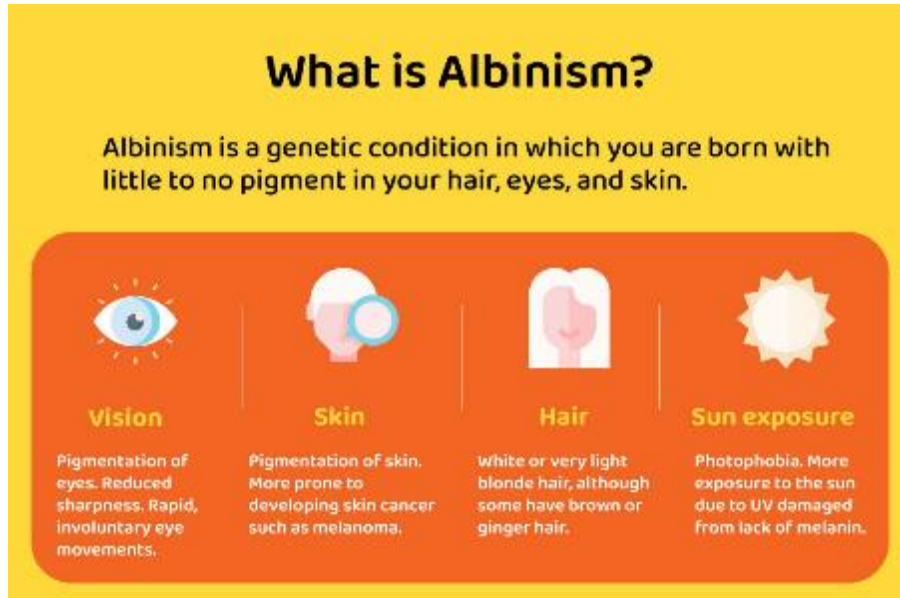
World Accreditation Day 2024 - June 09

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about that, how the accreditation does to improve so many aspects of life, whether for consumers, society as a whole, business or government.
- ❖ This global initiative is established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future”.

World Day Against Child Labour 2024 - June 12

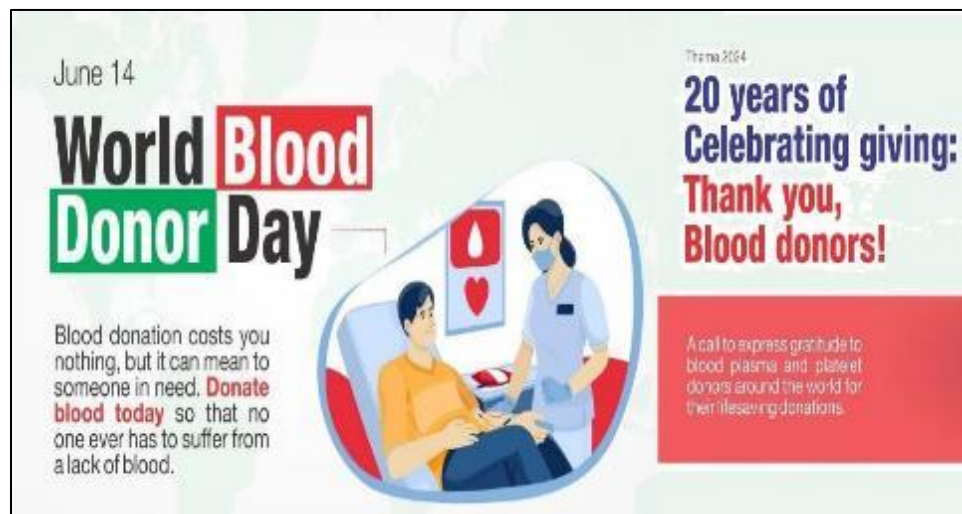
- ❖ It aims to promote and broaden the global call to end child labour.
- ❖ The International Labor Organization (ILO) celebrated the first World Day Against Child Labor on June 12, 2002.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is “Let’s Act on Our Commitments: End Child Labour.”
- ❖ The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 who should not be involved in hazardous work.
- ❖ In India, the Constitution explicitly prohibits children under the age of 14 from working in mines, factories, or hazardous occupations.

International Albinism Awareness Day 2024 - June 13



- ❖ It aims at advancing the rights of persons with albinism while calling to action for the voices of persons with albinism to be heard.
- ❖ Albinism is a rare, genetically inherited condition that causes a lack of pigmentation in the skin, resulting in uncharacteristically light hair, skin, and eyes.
- ❖ It is causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light and make prone to developing skin cancer.
- ❖ This year's theme is "10 years of IAAD: A decade of collective progress."

World Blood Donor Day 2024 - June 14



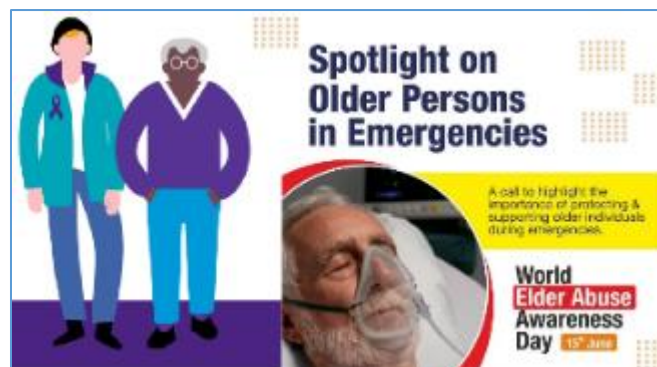
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of donating blood and supporting communities.
- ❖ It is celebrated on the birthday anniversary of Karl Landsteiner (June 14, 1868).
- ❖ Landsteiner was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the ABO blood group system.
- ❖ The theme of this year's is - 20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors.

Global Wind Day 2024 - June 15

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of wind energy and its power to alter the globe.
- ❖ It is an effort to promote the use of wind energy as a sustainable and renewable source of energy.
- ❖ The first Wind Day was celebrated in 2007 by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA).



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2024 - June 15



- ❖ It aims to encourage world to pay greater attention to the well-being and adequate health care of older people.
- ❖ Between 2019 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 38%, from 1 billion to 1.4 billion.
- ❖ Theme for 2024 is: Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies.

International Fatty Liver Day 2024 – June 13

- ❖ It is observed annually on the second Thursday of June.
- ❖ The fatty liver is closely linked to metabolic health, cardiac health, and a risk for developing cancers.
- ❖ This disorder has now been appropriately reclassified and is known as ‘Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease’ (MASLD).
- ❖ The global prevalence of MASLD is estimated at 25-30%.
- ❖ In 2022, among Indian adults, the pooled prevalence of fatty liver was 38.6%, while among obese children, it was around 36%.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is ‘Act Now, Screen Today’.



ASEAN Dengue Day 2024 - June 15

- ❖ This day is observed to create awareness on dengue prevention and control at the regional and National level.
- ❖ The 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting 2010 was declared this day.
- ❖ This year’s theme is “Together Against Dengue: Building a Resilient ASEAN Community.”
- ❖ Recently the 7th Asia Dengue Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur.



International Day of the African Child 2024 - June 16

- ❖ The day was set aside to raise awareness of the importance of education for children in Africa.
- ❖ It conveys the imperative need for improvement of the education of African children.
- ❖ The day honours the participants of the Soweto Uprising in 1976.
- ❖ They protest for the prevailing disparity in the education system that preferred quality education for the whites over the black population in Africa.
- ❖ Theme of 2024 is: “Education for All Children in Africa: The Time is Now”.

International Day of Family Remittances 2024 - June 16

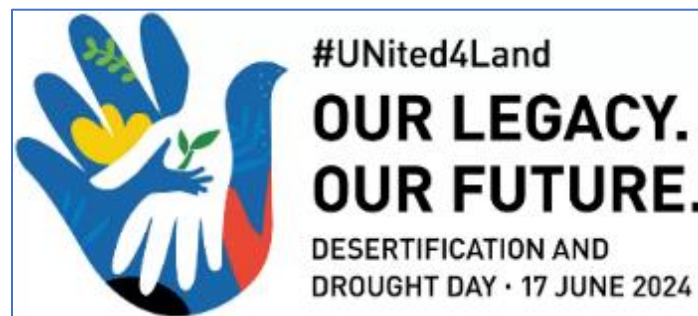


- ❖ In 2008, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank jointly observed this day.

- ❖ In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly officially established this day.
- ❖ This special day honours the contributions of over 200 million migrants who support their 800 million family members back home.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is “Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction”.

World Day to Combat and Desertification and Drought 2024 - June 17

- ❖ During the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, desertification, loss of biodiversity and climate change were recognised as the greatest challenges to sustainable development.
- ❖ In 1994, the UN General Assembly established the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) - the legally binding international agreement
- ❖ In 2007, the UN General Assembly declared 2010-2020 the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the fight against Desertification
- ❖ This year's theme is “United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future”.

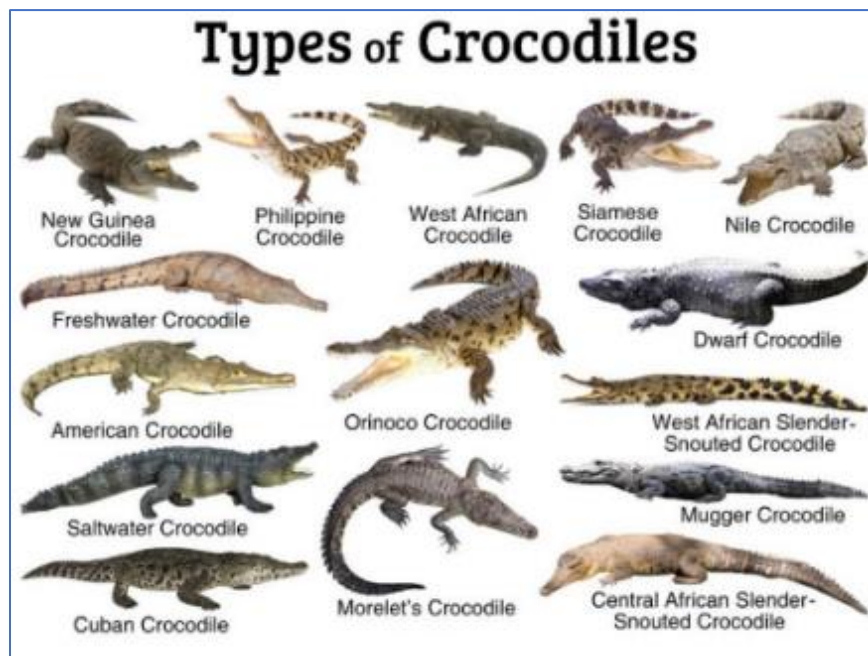


Autistic Pride Day 2024 – June 16

- ❖ This day acknowledges the significance of pride for autistic people and its impact on fostering positive societal changes.
- ❖ The first Autistic Pride Day was celebrated in Brazil in 2005.
- ❖ Autism spectrum sickness (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder
- ❖ It is impacting how humans interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave.
- ❖ Autism is usually first diagnosed in childhood.
- ❖ About one in 110 children is diagnosed with autism.
- ❖ The prevalence of autism spectrum disorders in boys is three-four times greater than in girls.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Taking the Mask Off".



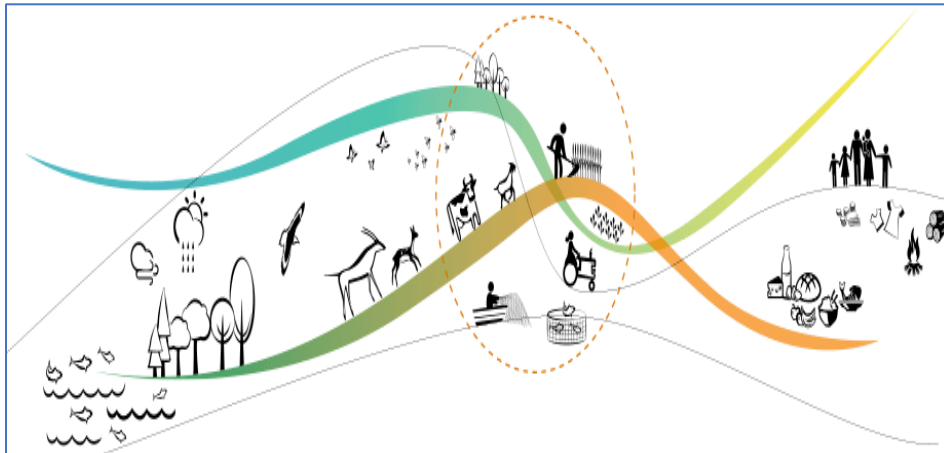
World Crocodile Day 2024 – June 17



- ❖ This day is for a global awareness campaign to highlight the plight of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.
- ❖ This family consists of 24 species and includes 'true crocodiles', alligators, caiman and the gharial.
- ❖ Three crocodylian species are found in India viz.
 - Muger or marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*);
 - Estuarine or saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and
 - Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*).
- ❖ In 1975, India launched its Crocodile Conservation Project in the state of Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park.

Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2024 – June 18

- ❖ The UN General Assembly has adopted on 21 December 2016 its resolution to designate this day.
- ❖ Sustainable gastronomy means cuisine that takes into account where the ingredients are from, how the food is grown and how it gets to our markets and eventually to our plates.

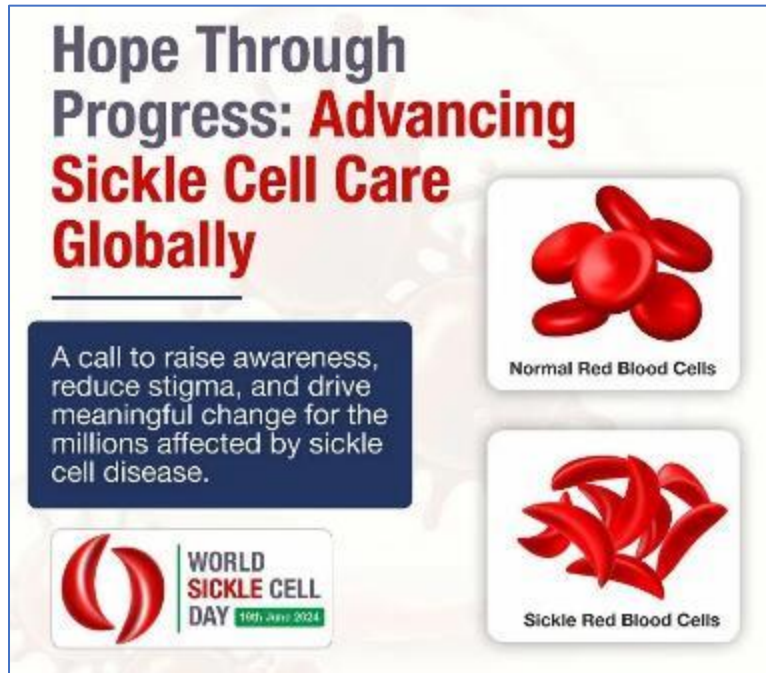


International Day for Countering Hate Speech 2024 - June 18

- ❖ It aims to address Hate Speech which has become a matter of utmost concern for the welfare of the society and especially for the minority communities.
- ❖ The UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech launched on 18 June 2019.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'The Power of Youth for Countering and Addressing Hate Speech'.



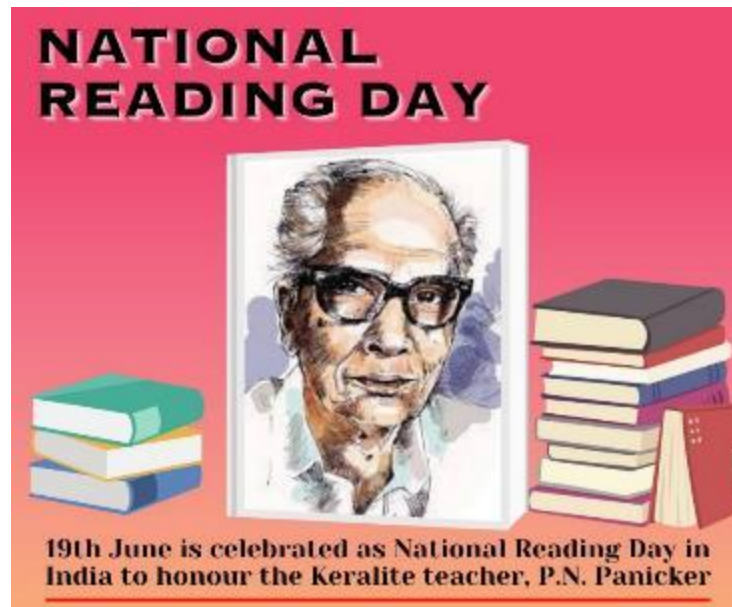
World Sickle Cell Awareness Day - June 19



- ❖ It aims to enhance public knowledge and understanding of sickle cell disease, as well as the challenges faced by patients, their families.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly on December 22, 2008, recognised sickle cell disease as a public health problem.
- ❖ Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder caused by a mutation in the hemoglobin gene, leading to the production of abnormal hemoglobin S.
- ❖ This results in rigid, crescent-shaped red blood cells that can obstruct blood flow.
- ❖ Theme for this year's is "Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally."

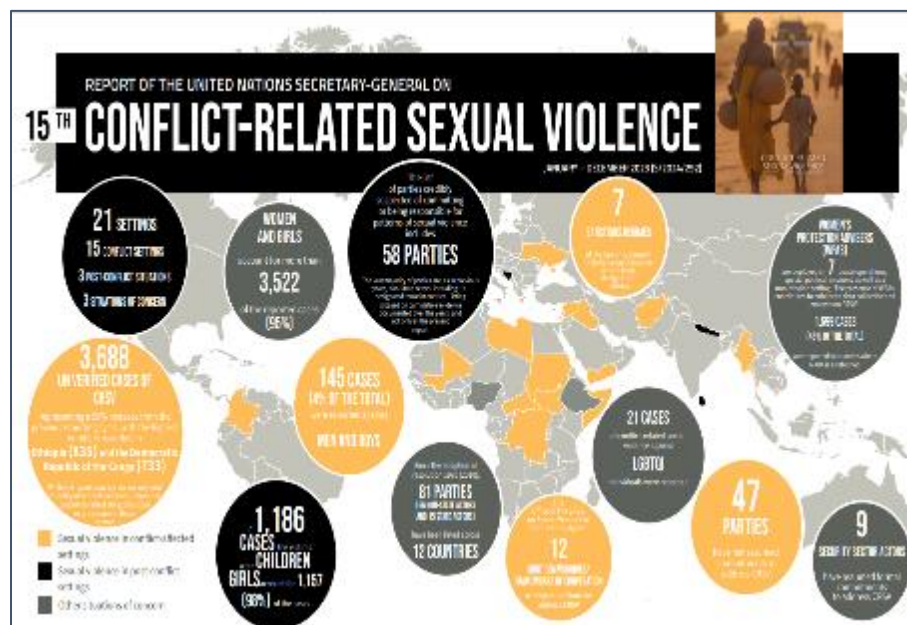
National Reading Day 2024 - June 19

- ❖ Every year the nation observes the day to mark the death anniversary of PN Panicker.
- ❖ He is famously known as the 'Father of the Library Movement' in Kerala.
- ❖ Panicker was also the founding figure of the Kerala Association for Non-Formal Education and Development (KANFED).
- ❖ KANFED was involved in enhancing literacy rates and education awareness in rural areas.



International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2024 - June 19

- ❖ On 19 June 2015, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence.
- ❖ The term “conflict-related sexual violence” refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict.





World Refugee Day 2024 - June 20

- ❖ This day is dedicated to the millions of people who have been forced to escape their homes due to war, persecution, or natural catastrophes.
- ❖ After the UN (United Nations) defined refugee rights in 1951, Africa established a day to honour them in 1970.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is For a World Where Refugees Are Welcomed.

World Hydrography Day 2024 - June 21

- ❖ Hydrography is the science of describing the physical features of Earth's water bodies.
- ❖ It aims to generate awareness of the importance of hydrography as well as the work of hydrographers.
- ❖ It was launched by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and was first celebrated in 2006.
- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the founding of the IHO in 1921.
- ❖ The theme this year is “Hydrographic Information – Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities”.

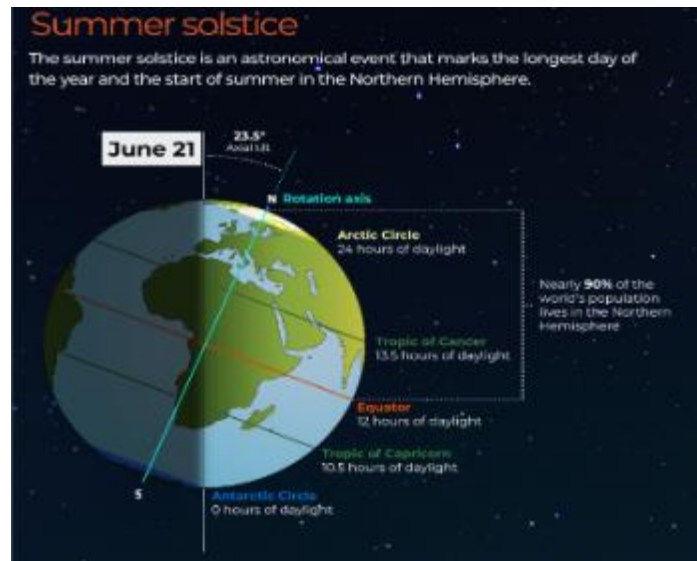
International Yoga Day 2024 - June 21

- ❖ This date June 21 is coincidence with the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the numerous benefits of yoga, right from physical, mental, and spiritual.
- ❖ The UNGA on 11 December 2014, proclaimed this day.
- ❖ The theme for this year's is 'Yoga for Self and Society'.

The Summer Solstice 2024 - June 21

- ❖ The summer solstice is occurring between June 20 and June 22 in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ On the solstice, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the maximum duration of daylight.
- ❖ It is the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere because of the Earth's tilt.
- ❖ The June solstice is famous because it marks the astronomical first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

- ❖ On the day of the June solstice, the Northern Hemisphere receives sunlight at the most direct angle of the year.



International Olympic Day 2024 - June 23

- ❖ On 23 June 1894, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was founded at the Sorbonne in Paris.
- ❖ The day was established by IOC in 1948 to encourage individuals from all walks of life to embrace the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Let's Move and Celebrate'.

UN Public Service Day 2024 - June 23



- ❖ It highlights the contribution and role of public service in the development of all sectors around the world.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly proclaimed this day in 2002.
- ❖ The UN established the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) programme in 2003.
- ❖ The 2024 UN Public Service Forum and Awards Ceremony is taking place in Incheon, Republic of Korea under the theme 'Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective'.

Day of the Seafarer 2024 - June 25

- ❖ In 2010, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) designated this day.
- ❖ It aims to give thanks to seafarers for their contribution to the world economy and the civil society, and for the risks and personal costs they bear while on their jobs.
- ❖ #SafetyTipsAtSea is the new hashtag for the 2024 campaign.

World Rainforest Day 2024 - June 22



- ❖ It was initiated by the Rainforest Partnership in 2017.
- ❖ It celebrates the importance of maintaining healthy, intact rainforests for climate stability, biodiversity preservation, cultural heritage, and sustainable livelihoods.
- ❖ It serves as a global platform to promote efforts in safeguarding and restoring these vital environments.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is 'Empowering the World in Défense of Our Rainforests.'

World Vitiligo Day 2024 - June 25

- ❖ It aims to increasing the effort for vitiligo healthcare and education and raising awareness of the social stigma and mental challenges faced by those affected by vitiligo.
- ❖ Vitiligo is a skin disorder in which the skin cell melanocytes that produce melanin are destroyed by the body's immune system.
- ❖ This is causing the skin to lose its colour and resulting in whitish, smooth patches on the skin.
- ❖ Vitiligo is a rare disease which can occur in about 1% or a little more of the population throughout the world.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "United by the Skin" or "Unidos Por La Piel".



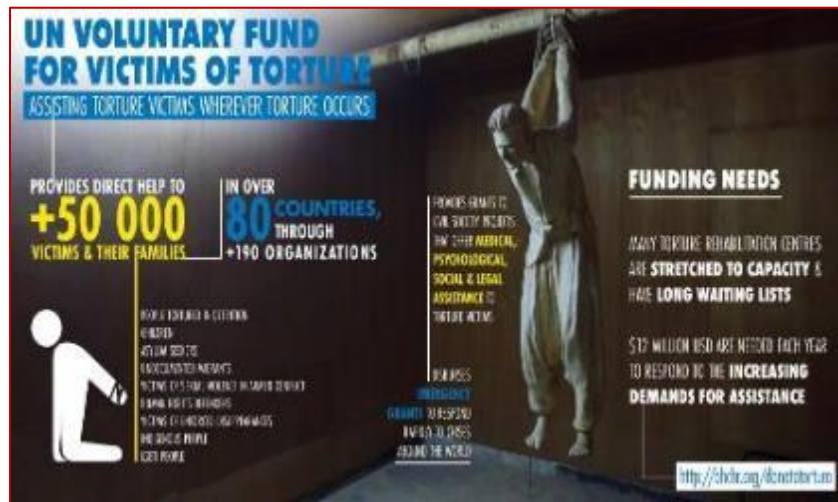
World Drug Day 2024 - June 26

- ❖ This day is also known as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- ❖ This day focuses on raising awareness about the detrimental effects of drug abuse and promoting global efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking.
- ❖ This year's theme is "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention".

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2024 - June 26

- ❖ The UN General Assembly proclaimed this day on 12 December 1997.
- ❖ This day marks the moment in 1987 when the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into effect.

- ❖ In 1975, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- ❖ The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established by the General Assembly in 1981.
- ❖ The first Special Rapporteur on torture was appointed by the Commission on Human Rights in 1985.
- ❖ In 2002, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture was adopted.



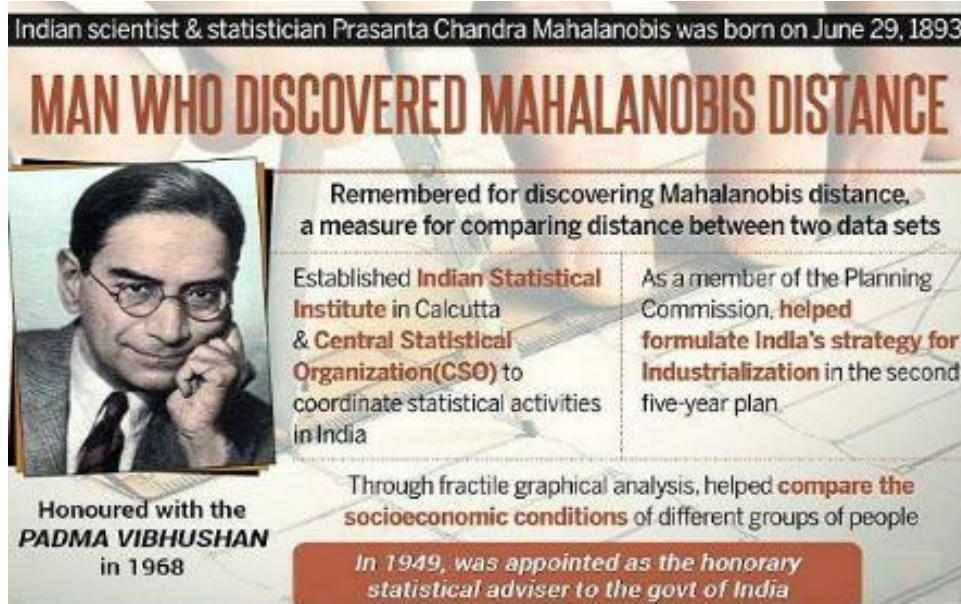
International MSME Day 2024 – June 27

- ❖ This day celebrates these enterprises and recognize their importance, shed light on their contributions, and promote their growth and sustainability.
- ❖ The first MSME Day was celebrated on June 27th, 2017.
- ❖ MSMEs account for 90% of businesses, 60 to 70% of employment and 50% of GDP worldwide.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is ‘MSMEs and the SDGs’.



National Statistics Day 2024 - June 29

- ❖ June 29 is the birth anniversary of Professor Mahalanobis.
- ❖ He invented a formula called 'Mahalanobis Distance,' which is used in the field of classification and cluster analysis.
- ❖ This day recognises the contributions made by Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics and economic planning.
- ❖ He was part of the first planning commission of India and was instrumental in establishing the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931.



Indian scientist & statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was born on June 29, 1893

MAN WHO DISCOVERED MAHALANOBIS DISTANCE

Remembered for discovering Mahalanobis distance, a measure for comparing distance between two data sets

Established Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta & Central Statistical Organization (CSO) to coordinate statistical activities in India	As a member of the Planning Commission, helped formulate India's strategy for industrialization in the second five-year plan.
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Honoured with the **PADMA VIBHUSHAN** in 1968

Through fractile graphical analysis, helped **compare the socioeconomic conditions** of different groups of people

In 1949, was appointed as the honorary statistical adviser to the govt of India

International Day of the Tropics 2024 - June 29

- ❖ It celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face.
- ❖ This date is to remember the first 'State of the Tropics Report,' started by Myanmar's Nobel Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, in 2014.
- ❖ The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
- ❖ The Tropics host nearly 95% of the world's mangrove forests by area and 99% of mangrove species.
- ❖ The Tropics have just over half of the world's renewable water resources (54%).

World Refrigeration Day 2024 - June 26

- ❖ The day was chosen to celebrate the birth date of Lord Kelvin on 26 June 1824.
- ❖ It was established by the World Refrigeration Day Secretariat in Derbyshire, England.
- ❖ It aims to raise the profile of the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat-pump sector and focuses attention on the significant role that the industry and its technology play in modern life and society.



World Asteroid Day 2024 - June 30

- ❖ This day is aimed at raising awareness about asteroids and the potential hazards they pose to our planet.
- ❖ It commemorates the anniversary of the Tunguska event in 1908.
- ❖ This event was caused by an asteroid or comet fragment exploding over Siberia, Russia, flattening around 2,000 square kilometres of forest.
- ❖ The United Nations officially declared this in 2016 to raise awareness about the potential hazards of asteroid impacts.

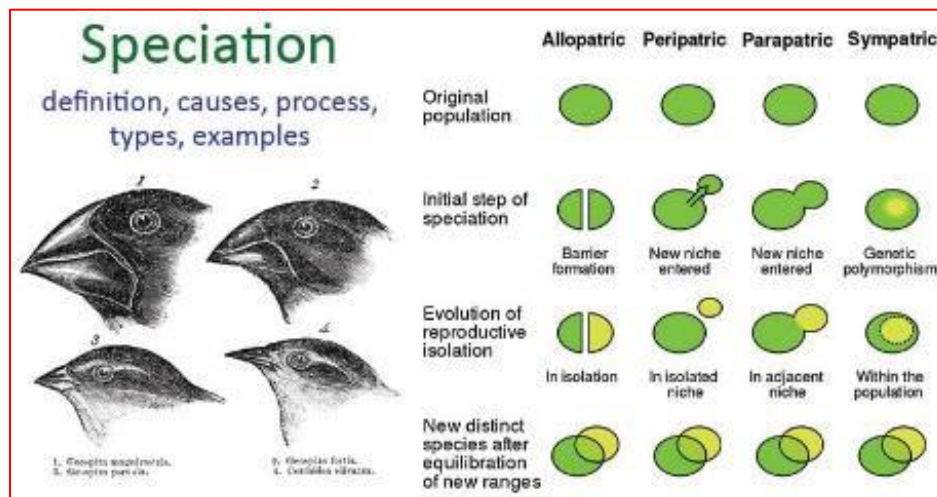
International Day of Parliamentarism 2024 - June 30

- ❖ The International Day of Parliamentarism is also known as the World Parliament Day.
- ❖ It was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution and is led by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- ❖ On this day in 1889 Inter-Parliamentary Union was founded in Paris.
- ❖ 179 countries including India are members of IPU.

MISCELLANEOUS

Non-Geographic Speciation Mechanisms

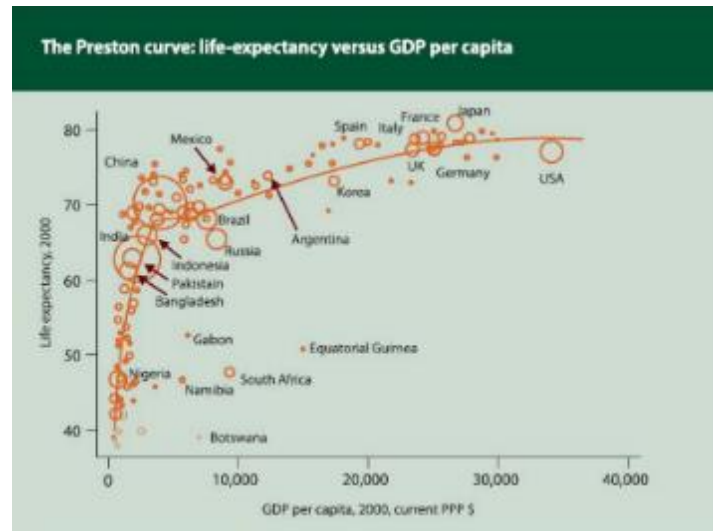
- ❖ Researchers at IIT Bombay discover the role of environmental resources, genes and mating in species in the development of new species in the same area.
- ❖ It was challenging the traditional view that new species can develop only in distinct geographies.
- ❖ They found that the speciation, or the creation of new species, happen even when there are no physical obstacles.
- ❖ Allopatric speciation is when physical barriers, like mountains or bodies of water, split populations, which leads to the creation of new species.
- ❖ In contrast, sympatric speciation happens in the same area of land, where there are no such hurdles.



Preston curve

- ❖ The Preston curve refers to a certain empirical relationship that is witnessed between life expectancy and per capita income in a country.
- ❖ It was first proposed by American sociologist Samuel H. Preston in 1975.
- ❖ He authored a paper titled “The changing relation between mortality and level of economic development”.
- ❖ He found that people living in richer countries generally had longer life spans when compared with people living in poorer countries.
- ❖ This is likely because people in wealthier countries have better access to healthcare, are better educated, live in cleaner surroundings, enjoy better nutrition etc.

- ❖ The average per capita income of Indians rose from around ₹9,000 per year in 1947 to around ₹55,000 per year in 2011.
- ❖ During the same period, the average life expectancy of Indians rose from a mere 32 years to over 66 years.
- ❖ However, the positive relationship between per capita income and life expectancy begins to flatten out after a certain point.



Virus to Slow Down Melting



- ❖ Scientists have discovered mysterious giant viruses on Greenland's ice sheet.
- ❖ These viruses were discovered for the first time in 1981 in the ocean.
- ❖ They usually infect the algae in the sea.
- ❖ But this is the first time that giant viruses have been found in such a habitat.
- ❖ They say the giant viruses may act as some sort of secret weapon and help in minimising the ice from melting.

- ❖ Regular viruses measure 20-200 nanometres in size, whereas a typical Bacteria is 2-3 micrometres.
- ❖ In other words, a normal virus is around 1,000 times smaller than a Bacteria.
- ❖ But giant viruses grow to the size of 2.5 micrometres, that is bigger than most bacteria.

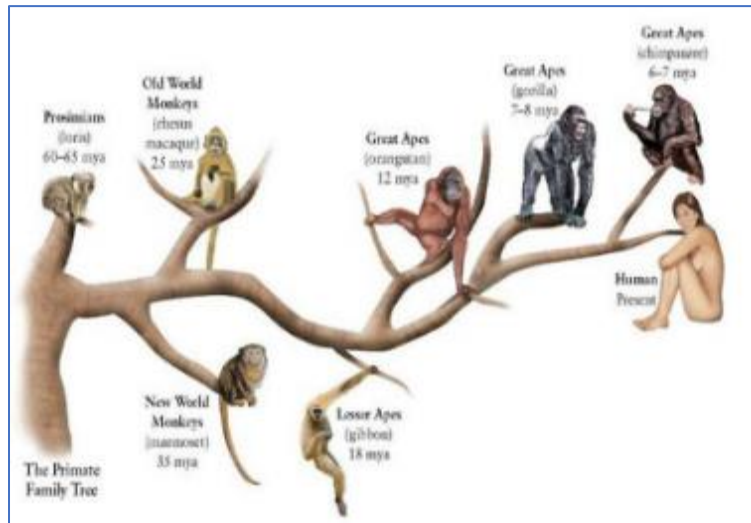
Top Harvested Aquatic Species in 2022

Name	Scientific name	Harvest in Mt
Whiteleg shrimp	<i>Penaeus vannamei</i>	6.8
Cupped oysters nei	<i>Crassostrea spp</i>	6.2
Grass carp	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idellus</i>	6.2
Nile tilapia	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>	5.3
Silver carp	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	5.1
Anchoveta	<i>Engraulis ringens</i>	4.9

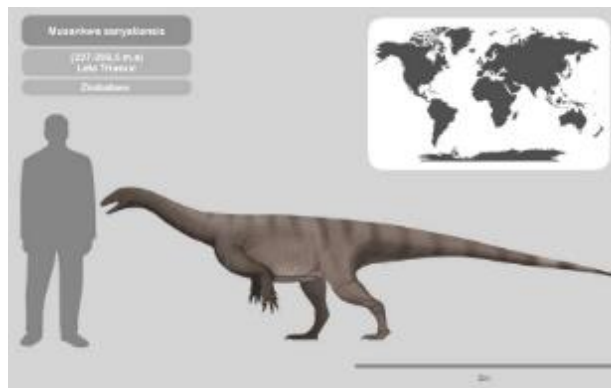
- ❖ Catla (*Labeo catla*) was one of the top 10 species of aquatic animals harvested by humans in 2022.
- ❖ With over 4 million tonnes harvested in 2022, catla is eighth on the list of ‘Top ten species items’.
- ❖ The species is “endemic to the riverine system in northern India, Indus plain and adjoining hills of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar.
- ❖ Catla as well as two other important Indian carps – Rohu (*Labeo rohita*), and Mrigal (*Cirrhinus mrigala*) – are the three of the most farmed fish in India’s inland fisheries.
- ❖ Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*), with 6.8 million tonnes, was the top aquatic animal species produced in 2022.

Tiny Great Ape Species

- ❖ The smallest known great ape species, dating back 11 million years, has been unearthed in Germany.
- ❖ This newly identified species is named as *Buronijs manfredschmidi*.
- ❖ It is far smaller than any previously known great ape with an estimated weight of just 10 kg.



Musankwa Sanyatiensis



- ❖ Researchers have discovered the fossils of a completely new dinosaur species on the shoreline of Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe.
- ❖ This rare find has been named Musankwa Sanyatiensis.
- ❖ It is the fourth dinosaur species found in Zimbabwe.
- ❖ The rocks which yielded this new specimen of dinosaur go back to the Late Triassic period, which was nearly 210 million years ago.
- ❖ Musankwa Sanyatiensis was one of the largest dinosaurs of its era.
- ❖ It is weighed around 390 kg and ate plants.

Global seafood production 2024

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024.

- ❖ It shows, for the first time in 2022, that aquaculture production exceeded fisheries.
- ❖ Global production reached a record 223.2 million metric tons in 2022, 4.4 percent more than in 2020.
- ❖ Asian countries produced 70 percent of all aquatic animals.
- ❖ Wild-capture fisheries produced 92.3 MT in 2022, 91.0 MT of aquatic animals and 1.3 MT of algae.
- ❖ China remained the top capture fisheries producer (14.3 percent), followed by Indonesia (8.0 percent) and India (6.0 percent).
- ❖ Aquatic animal production is expected to increase by 10 percent by 2032.

Aquatic animals			
In million tonnes (live weight)			
	1950		2022
France	0.1	China	52.9
China	0.1	India	10.2
United States of America	0.1	Indonesia	5.4
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	0.1	Viet Nam	5.2
Indonesia	< 0.1	Bangladesh	2.7
Others	0.3	Others	18
Total	0.6	Total	94.4

New Dinosaur Species in Patagonia

- ❖ The researchers discovered a new species of a 6-foot-tall titanosaur in Patagonia, Argentina.
- ❖ The new species is an abelisaurid called Koleken inakayali.
- ❖ It's only the second known abelisaurid to have lived in the area during the Late Cretaceous Epoch, around 70 million years ago.

500-year-old bronze idol of India

- ❖ Oxford University has agreed to return a 500-year-old bronze idol of a saint believed to be stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu to India.
- ❖ This 16th century bronze sculpture of Saint Tirumankai Alvar is in the Ashmolean Museum.

- ❖ The bronze idol believed to be stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu



Minoan civilization – Greece

- ❖ Archaeologists in Crete Island have discovered a 4,000-year-old structure that the Minoans may have used for rituals.
- ❖ The circular monument structure dates back to the Bronze Age Minoan Civilization.
- ❖ It was a civilization that developed on the island of Crete during the Bronze Age and lasted from 3000 BC to 1450 BC.
- ❖ The Minoans were a highly advanced society in seafaring, trade, and the arts.
- ❖ The civilization was named after the mythological king Minos.

Trial run on Chenab Bridge

- ❖ Indian Railways conducts trial run on world's highest steel arch rail bridge- Chenab Bridge.
- ❖ This world's highest railway bridge spans the Chenab River at a height of 359 m (1,178 ft) above the river.
- ❖ It is 35 meters taller than Paris' Eiffel Tower.
- ❖ It is a part of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line project.
- ❖ This line is expected to connect Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Badgam, Srinagar and Baramulla districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Hidden Chamber in Ghodbunder Fort

- ❖ A hidden chamber was recently discovered beneath the inner layers of Ghodbunder Fort during restoration work.
- ❖ Ghodbunder Fort, located in Thane, Maharashtra, on the Ulhas River, was built by the Portuguese and completed in 1730.

- ❖ Initially used for horse trading, it was later occupied by the Marathas and the British.
- ❖ The fort features a Portuguese church from the early 16th century and various historical structures.

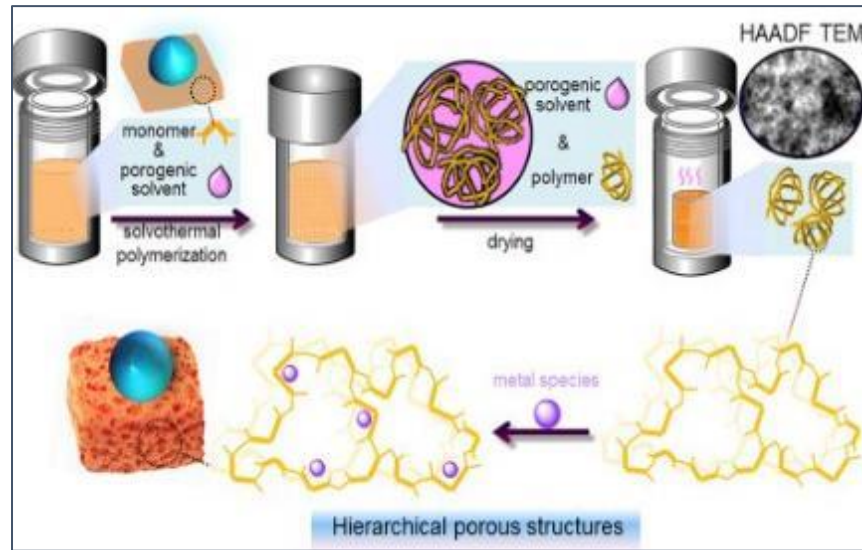
Ancient Pearl City Tuam

- ❖ Excavations in the Umm Al Quwain area of the UAE have revealed 6th century ruins.
- ❖ That could be the lost city of Tu'am.
- ❖ The ruins are situated on Al Sinniyah Island, part of a collection.
- ❖ The earliest signs of occupation dating back to the 4th century AD and peaking in the 5th or 6th century.
- ❖ The site is the biggest town of that time ever found on the Gulf coast of the Emirates.



Superhydrophobic catalyst

- ❖ A team of scientists from Assam, Odisha, China, and the United Kingdom have developed a water-repellent catalyst.
- ❖ It can cut the cost of producing “environmentally benign” biodiesel substantially from the current levels.
- ❖ The process of arriving at the “spherical superhydrophobic activated carbon catalyst” to withstand water by-product during the production of biodiesel.
- ❖ Superhydrophobic catalysts are imitating the anti-wetting or water-repulsing properties of natural surfaces such as lotus leaves.
- ❖ The catalyst remains highly effective and can be reused multiple times, making the catalytic process more efficient and cost-effective



World's oldest termite mounds



- ❖ The world's oldest and active termite mounds have been discovered in Namaqualand of Namibia, dating back 34 000 years.
- ❖ They are existing since before the last Ice Age when woolly mammoths.
- ❖ The mounds are inhabited by the southern harvester termite.
- ❖ The previous oldest inhabited mounds - by a different termite species - were discovered in Brazil.
- ❖ And they are 4000 years old.

