

February - 24

TNPSC BITS

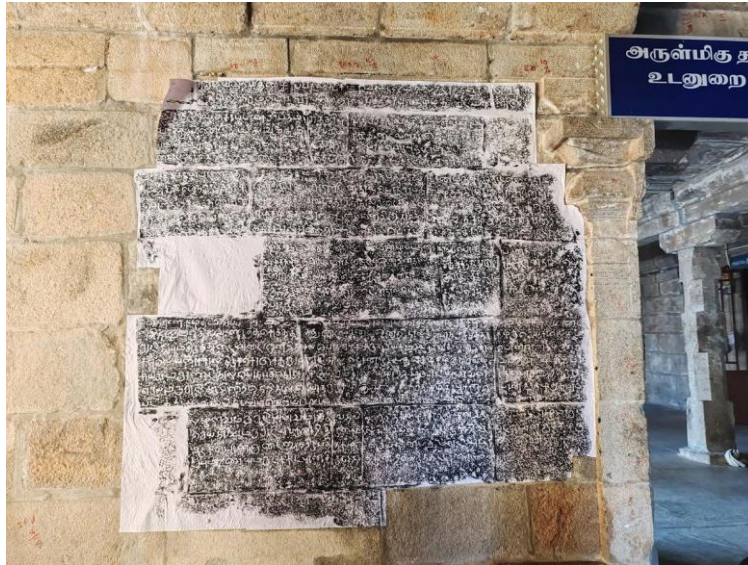
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM introduced app for parents and teacher association called APPA (Anaithu Palli Parent Teachers Association) to help the teachers and the parents to know information about education.
- ❖ The 'Amudha Karangal' scheme was launched in Kolathur, Chennai to provide food to 1,000 people at various places every day till February 19 next year.
- ❖ To support India's gaming industry growth, the Bharat Tech Triumph Program (TTP) has been launched as part of the Create in India Challenge Season 1.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan (All India Marathi Literature Convention) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Indian-American Kash Patel was formally sworn in as new USA Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director.
- ❖ India has assumed the chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation at the 13th Governing Council Meeting in Male, Maldives.
- ❖ The Finance Minister of Gujarat has presented the Budget 2025-26 digitally via National eVidhan Application (NeVA) for the First time at the Assembly.
- ❖ Microsoft has presented Magma, a foundational model that can understand both pictures and language in the digital world and physical world, to complete tasks like using an app or moving a robot, respectively.
- ❖ Mount Dukono, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, erupted recently.
- ❖ Rajasthan has presented the state's first "Green Budget" with a special focus on climate change adaptation, forests, environment, and biodiversity.
- ❖ Assam's conservationist Purnima Devi Barman has made it to Time magazine's Women of the Year 2025 list for her exceptional contributions to the wildlife conservation.

TAMIL NADU

Inscriptions of Pandya period

- ❖ Epigraphists from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has recently copied a set of three inscriptions found on the slopes of a hillock near Kambur in Melur taluk in Madurai district.
- ❖ These inscriptions date back to the period of Pandya King Maravarman Sundara Pandyan I, who ruled during the 13th century.

- ❖ The first inscription mentions the donation of a parcel of land by a local chieftain named Baskaran to a Shiva temple.
- ❖ The other two inscriptions have information about people of Kambur and another local chieftain named Thenna Gangadevan's land donation for special pujas.
- ❖ These inscriptions also reveal that Kambur was once referred to as Kambavur and areas around Natham were called Dvarapathi Nadu.



NATIONAL

Intensified Special NCD Screening Drive

Symptoms of Diabetes you shouldn't ignore

- Blurred vision
- Increased appetite
- Delayed healing of wounds
- Fatigue
- Constant thirst
- Sudden weight loss
- Frequent urination

SCREENING DRIVE ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs)
20th February - 31st March, 2025

Are you 30 years and above?
Get screened for free at your nearest Government Healthcare Facility.
#NCDScreeningDrive

Screening Drive on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)
from 20th Feb to 31st March, 2025

All government health facilities will conduct a nationwide special screening drive for:

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Oral, Breast, & Cervical Cancer

SCREENING DRIVE ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs)
20th February - 31st March, 2025

Are you 30 years and above?
Get screened for free at your nearest Government Healthcare Facility.
#NCDScreeningDrive

- ❖ Centre has launched an intensified special NCD screening campaign.

- ❖ The campaign will also be executed across Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) and various healthcare facilities nationwide.
- ❖ This ambitious initiative aims to achieve 100% screening of all individuals aged 30 years and above for prevalent NCDs.
- ❖ It includes diabetes, hypertension, and three common cancers - oral, breast, and cervical.

Reclassification of Minerals

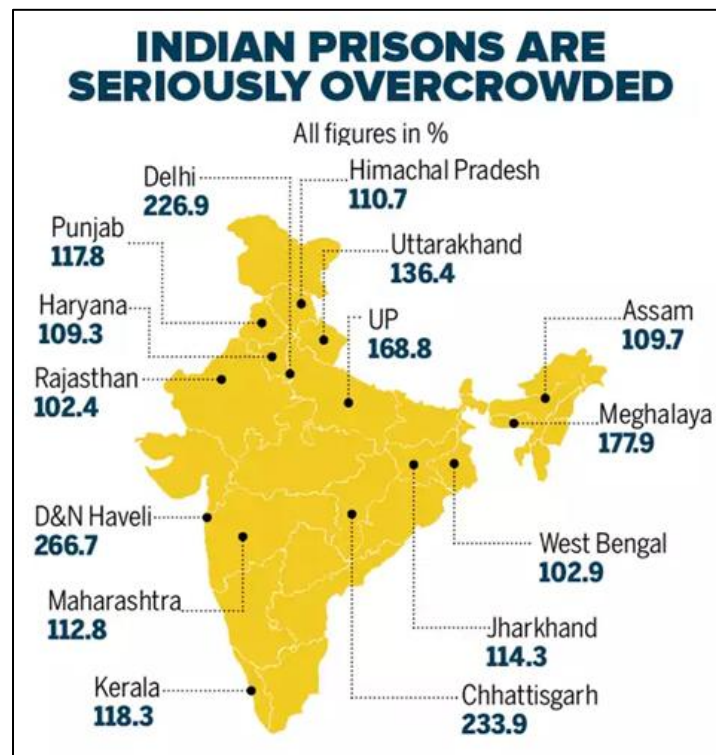


- ❖ The Ministry of Mines has classified barytes, felspar, mica and quartz as "major minerals".
- ❖ This move will extend the existing extraction contracts by 50 years and now allows them to be mined for crucial science and technology applications.
- ❖ These mines will gradually need to register with the Indian Bureau of Mines and be regulated as major minerals.
- ❖ Quartz, felspar, and mica are found in pegmatite rocks.
- ❖ They are an important source of many critical minerals like beryl, lithium, niobium, tantalum, molybdenum, tin, titanium, and tungsten.
- ❖ Critical minerals play a vital role in technologies related to electric vehicles (EVs), energy transition, spacecraft industries, and healthcare.
- ❖ Until now, when the leases for quartz, felspar, and mica were granted as minor mineral leases.

Supreme Court's on Prisoner Remission

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed states with remission policies to consider the premature release of prisoners even if they don't apply for remission beforehand.

- ❖ With the exceptions for certain kinds of convicts, states are empowered to release prisoners before the completion of their sentence under the BNSS and the CrPC - 1973.
- ❖ The power of remission refers to the power to reduce the period of a sentence for a person who has been found guilty of a crime.
- ❖ Section 473 of the BNSS (and Section 432 of the CrPC) grants state governments the power to remit sentences “at any time”.
- ❖ The states also may cancel the remission granted and arrest the convict again without a warrant.
- ❖ This is separate from the power of the President and the Governor to remit the sentences under Articles 72 and 161 of the Constitution respectively.



SC stay on Lokpal order

- ❖ The Supreme Court has stayed the Lokpal’s order which held it had the power to look into complaints against sitting judges of High Courts.
- ❖ The Lokpal is headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice A M Khanwilkar.
- ❖ The Lokpal concluded that High Court judges were ‘public servants’ and came within the ambit of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013.
- ❖ The Lokpal had declared that it had no power over the Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice of India.


- ❖ The Supreme Court was not a “body” established by an Act of the Parliament or financed or controlled by the Central government.
- ❖ So, the Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice of India, even though ‘public servants’ in terms of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988, were not amenable to the jurisdiction of the Lokpal.
- ❖ The 2013 Act does not provide for an explicit exception for the judges of the court established by an Act of the Parliament.

Redefining jurisdiction

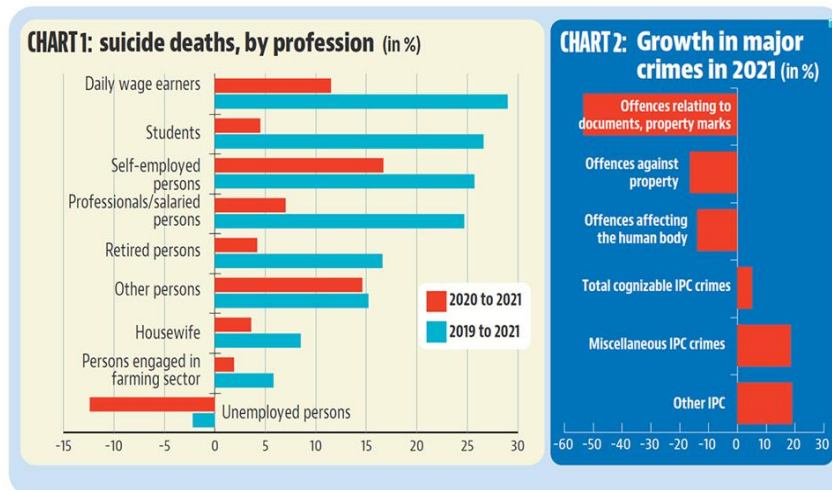
Lokpal’s January 27 order defines the rules and conditions under which it will inquire into complaints against High Court judges

- SC judges are public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act but are not public servants under the Lokpal Act
- The SC was ‘established’ by the Constitution. The HCs pre-existed the Constitution and are only ‘recognised’ by it

- A judge of an HC established by an Act of Parliament will come within the ambit of expression ‘any person’ in Section 14(1)(f) of the Lokpal Act
- There is a precondition to consult the Chief Justice of India before initiating, under Section 20 of the Lokpal Act, a preliminary inquiry into a complaint lodged against an HC judge



Decline of Suicide in India 2021



- ❖ India has seen a more than 30 per cent reduction in the suicide death rate in India from 1990 to 2021.

- ❖ The suicide death rate in India was 18.9 per lakh population in 1990.
- ❖ In 2019 it stood at 13.1 lakh per lakh population and 13 per lakh population in 2021.
- ❖ From 1990 to 2021, the suicide death rate in India declined to 31.5 per cent.
- ❖ The reduction in death rates by suicide was seen more in females than males.
- ❖ In 1990, the suicide death rate among females stood at 16.8 per lakh population, which reduced to 10.3 per lakh population in 2021.
- ❖ Globally, the study showed about 740,000 suicides are reported annually.
- ❖ In other words, one person dies on average every 43 seconds by suicide.
- ❖ In the last three decades, the global age-standardised mortality rate for suicide has declined by nearly 40 per cent.

Electronic personnel license



ELECTRONIC PERSONNEL LICENSE (EPL)

A Digital version of a flight crew licence stored securely on mobile device

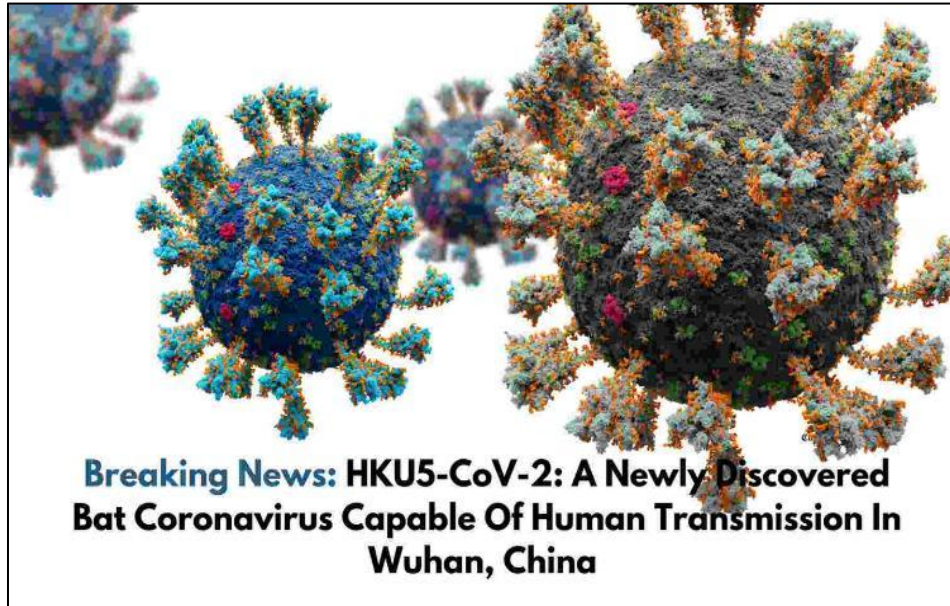
- **ACCESSIBLE via eGCA MOBILE APPLICATION**
- **SEAMLESS, EFFICIENT & GLOBALLY ACCEPTED FLIGHT CREW LICENSING FRAMEWORK**
- **REALTIME UPDATES**
- **EMPOWERING INDIAN PILOTS GLOBALLY WITH STREAMLINED VERIFICATION**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL & COST BENEFITS**
- **TRANSPARENT**

- ❖ The Union Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu has launched Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) "electronic personnel license (EPL) for pilots.
- ❖ It will be making India the second country in the world after China to implement EPL for flight crew.

- ❖ Every time a pilot license is endorsed, or the same is renewed, will reflect in real time on the eGCA platform (e platform of DGCA).

INTERNATIONAL

HKU5-CoV-2 in China



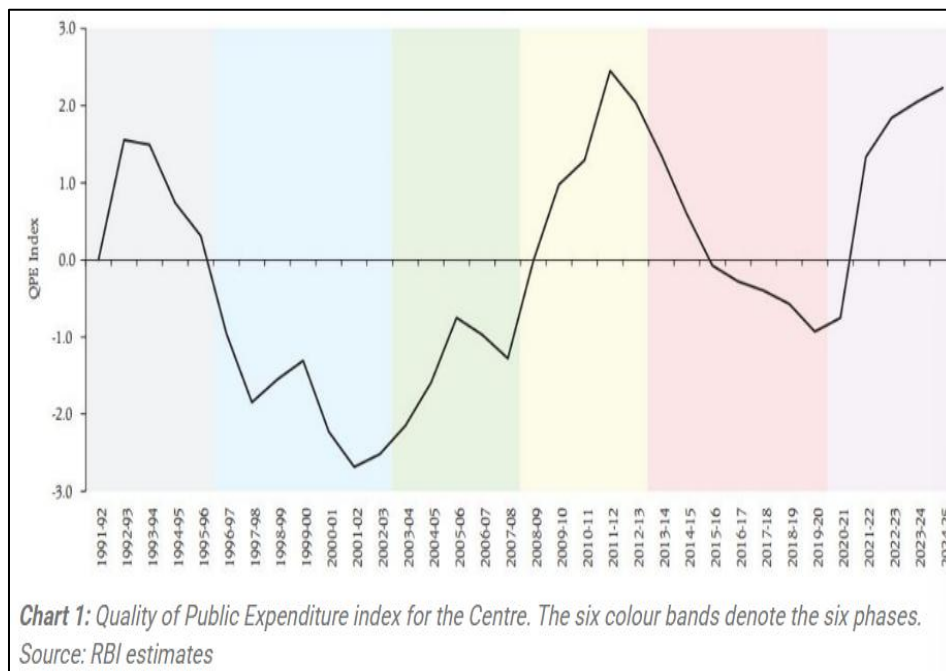
- ❖ A newly discovered bat coronavirus, known as HKU5-CoV-2, similar to the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic, has been identified in China.
- ❖ It is often referred as "Batwoman" for her extensive research on coronaviruses at the Wuhan Institute.
- ❖ HKU5-CoV-2 is a newly discovered bat coronavirus that belongs to the merbeco virus subgenus.
- ❖ It also includes the virus responsible for the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).
- ❖ The Researchers are still unsure about the potential risk of animal-to-human transmission of the virus.

ECONOMY

Quality of Public Expenditure (QPE) Index

- ❖ The RBI has used data since 1991 to create the 'Quality of Public Expenditure' index to assess how well the government is spending its money.

- ❖ The index evaluates the following by the composition of spending and its impact on long-term economic growth.
- ❖ Capital Outlay to GDP Ratio measures the proportion of government spending on infrastructure and development projects relative to GDP.
- ❖ Revenue Expenditure to Capital Outlay Ratio Assesses the balance between day-to-day operational expenses and long-term investment.
- ❖ The Development Expenditure to GDP Ratio tracks public spending in healthcare, education, research, infrastructure, and social welfare.
- ❖ The Development Expenditure as a Percentage of Total Expenditure evaluates the share of productive investments in overall government spending.
- ❖ Interest Payments to Total Government Expenditure Ratio reflects the burden of government debt.

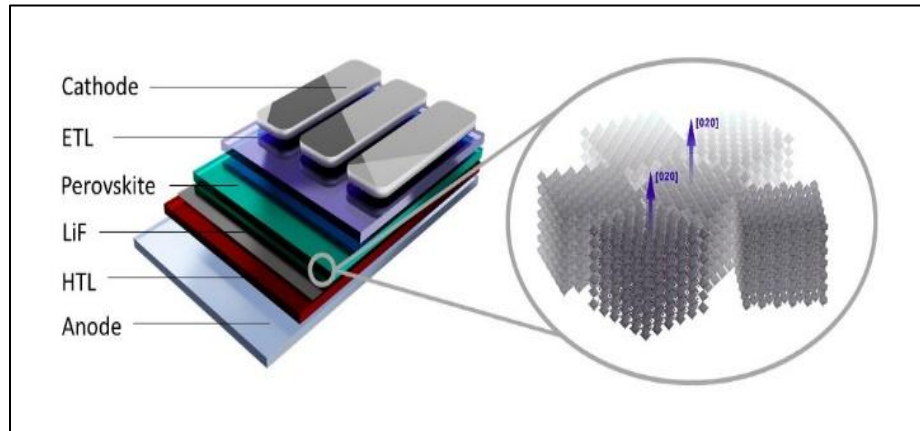


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Perovskite LEDs

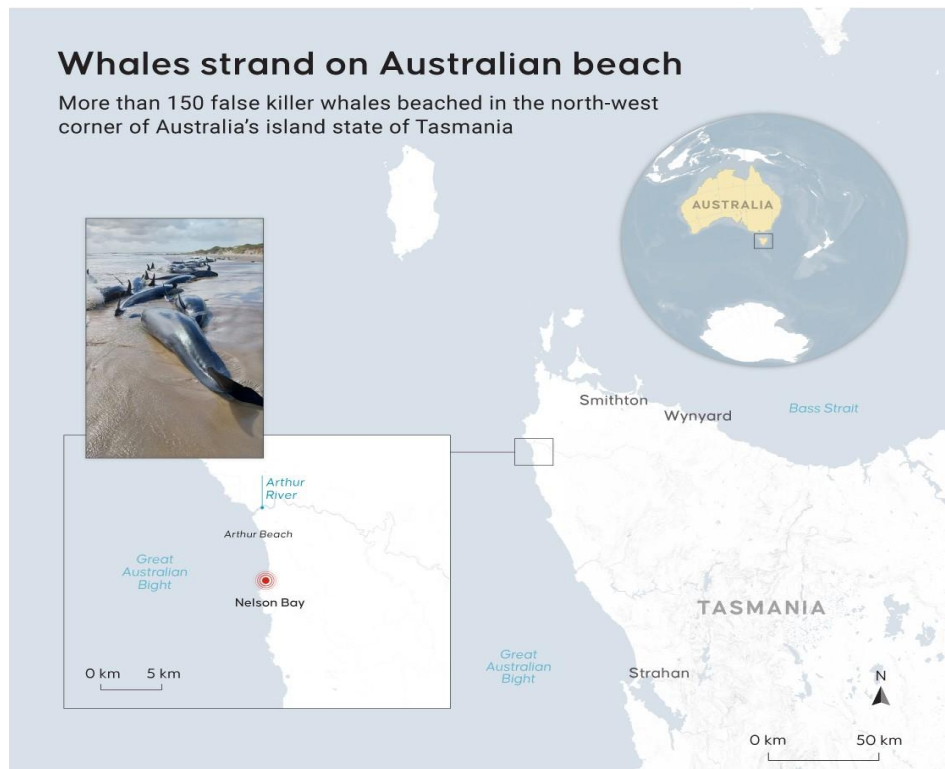
- ❖ The Indian scientists have developed an innovative method to minimise anion migration in perovskite nanocrystals.
- ❖ It will address key challenges such as sensitivity to heat and moisture, as well as colour instability.
- ❖ Perovskite is a class of compounds which have the same type of crystal structure as CaTiO_3 – Calcium Titanate.

- ❖ Perovskite LEDs, which combine the advantages of OLEDs and QLEDs.



ENVIRONMENT

150 false killer whales in Australia



- ❖ More than 150 false killer whales that stranded on a remote beach on Australia's island state of Tasmania.
- ❖ The Unfavourable ocean and weather conditions prevented the whales from being rescued.

- ❖ The Reasons could include disorientation caused by loud noises, illness, old age, injury, fleeing predators and severe weather.
- ❖ In early 2024, 29 long-finned pilot whales died and about 100 more were rescued after they were beached along the lower tip of Western Australia.
- ❖ In 2023, nearly 100 pilot whales were stranded on a beach in Western Australia.
- ❖ In 2022, 230 pilot whales stranded further south on the west coast at Macquarie Harbor.
- ❖ The largest mass stranding in Australian history occurred in the same harbor in 2020 when 470 long-finned pilot whales became stuck on sandbars.

South American Tapir



Lowland Tapir

Tapirus terrestris



Baird's Tapir

Tapirus bairdii



Mountain Tapir

Tapirus pinchaque



Malayan Tapir

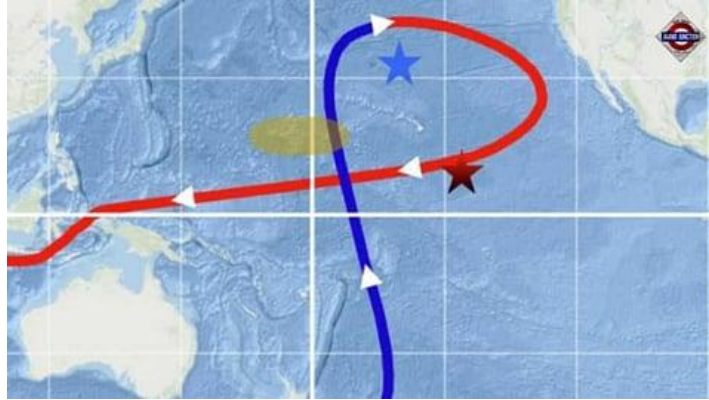
Tapirus indicus

- ❖ After over a century of being considered regionally extinct, the South American tapir was spotted alive and well in Brazil.
- ❖ These are the largest terrestrial animal in South America.
- ❖ It had last been spotted in Rio de Janeiro was in 1914.
- ❖ They also look like a cross between a pig and a miniature elephant, but they are actually closely related to rhinos and horses.

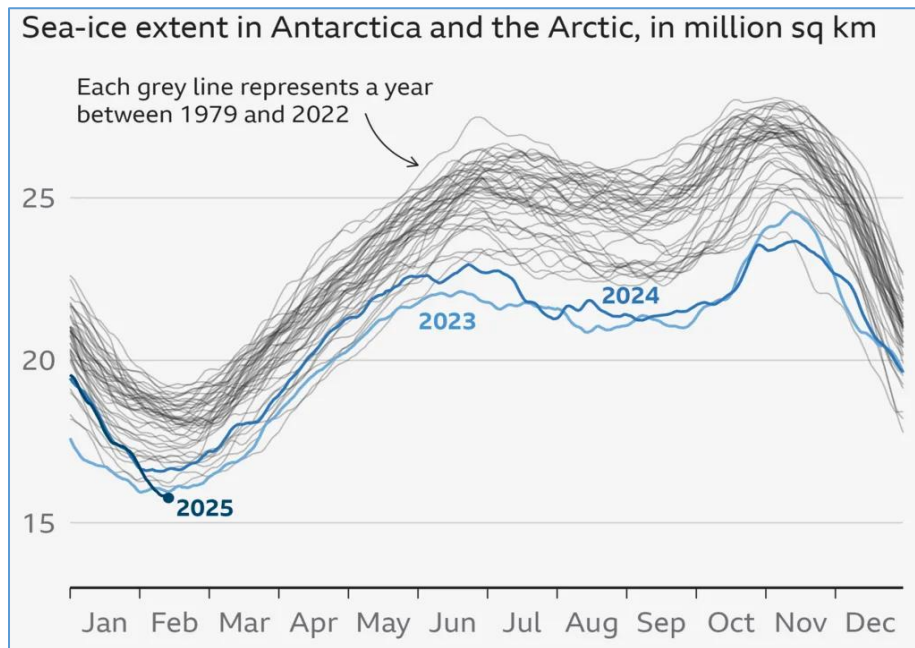
Beryllium-10 in Pacific Ocean

- ❖ The scientists have detected the unexpected accumulation of Beryllium-10 in the samples collected from the Pacific seabed.
- ❖ Beryllium-10 is a rare radioactive isotope produced by the cosmic rays in the atmosphere that can provide valuable insights into the Earth's geological history.
- ❖ The radiocarbon is dating which is limited to samples younger than 50,000 years.
- ❖ Beryllium-10 has a half-life of 1.4 million years.

- ❖ So, it is allowing it to be used for dating geological events over millions of years.



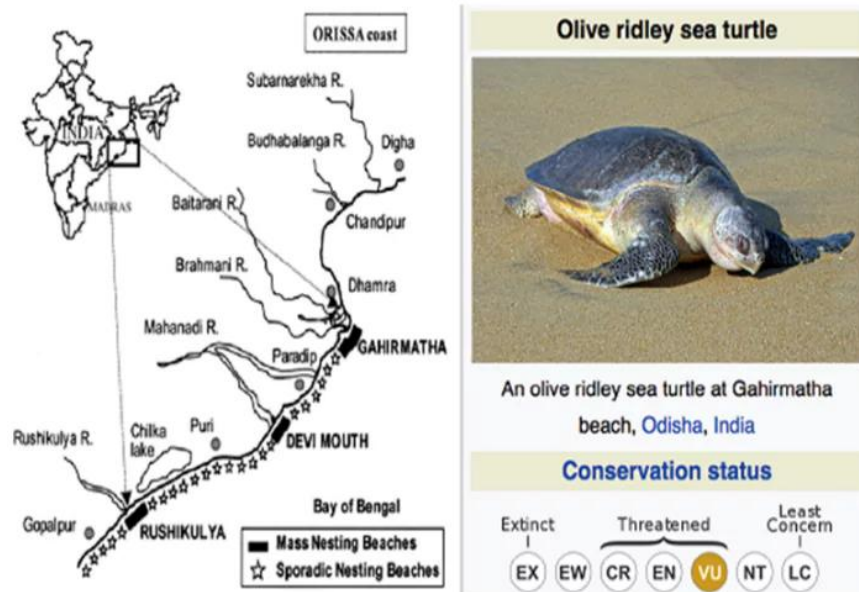
World's sea-ice falls



- ❖ The world's frozen oceans, which help to keep the planet cool, currently have less ice than ever previously recorded.
- ❖ This latest sea-ice low appears to have been driven by a combination of warm air, warm seas and winds breaking apart the ice.
- ❖ The combined extent of the Arctic and Antarctic sea-ice was 15.76 million sq km (6.08 million sq miles).
- ❖ This breaks the previous 5-day record low of 15.93 million sq km (6.15 million sq miles) from January-February 2023.
- ❖ Arctic sea-ice is currently at its smallest recorded extent for the time of year.

- ❖ Antarctic sea-ice is close to a new low in satellite records going back to the late 1970s.

Mass Nesting 2025



- ❖ A record 6.5 lakh of the endangered Olive Ridley Sea turtles have arrived at the Rushikulya beach in Odisha's Ganjam district for mass nesting after a gap of two years.
- ❖ This has so far been a highest number of turtles arriving along Rushikulya beach.
- ❖ During 2023-24 and 2024-24, only sporadic nestings were noticed along Rushikulya.
- ❖ The last major congregation was recorded in 2022-23.
- ❖ Since 1991, the Indian Coast Guard has been providing a continuous assistance to the Central and State authorities in protecting endangered species under the Wildlife Act, 1972.

STATES

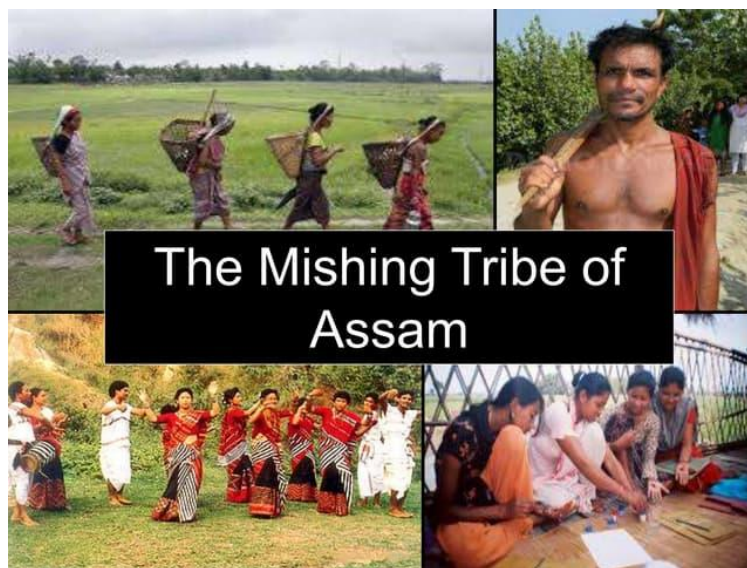
Uttarakhand Land law amendment bill

- ❖ The Uttarakhand Cabinet approved the Bhoo Kanoon (land law amendment bill).
- ❖ It will contain some stringent provisions pertaining to the purchase and sale of agricultural /horticulture and the residential land by non-residents in 11 hill districts.

- ❖ The blanket ban on purchase of agricultural land will be applicable in the state capital, Dehradun and some other districts.
- ❖ The purchase of agricultural/horticulture land will be allowed in Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts.
- ❖ It is claimed that, this step will protect the resources, cultural heritage, and rights of the citizens of the State.



Mising Tribe - Ali Ai Ligang festival



- ❖ Assam's Mising tribe have celebrated the Ali Ai Ligang festival recently.
- ❖ They are the largest tribal community in Assam.



- ❖ This festival, deeply rooted in agricultural traditions, marks the beginning of the sowing season.
- ❖ It has been observed by the Mising community since ancient times.
- ❖ The festival includes the traditional Gumrag dance, performed by the men and women in rhythmic harmony.
- ❖ They are part of the Tani people, who speak Tibeto-Burmese languages.

