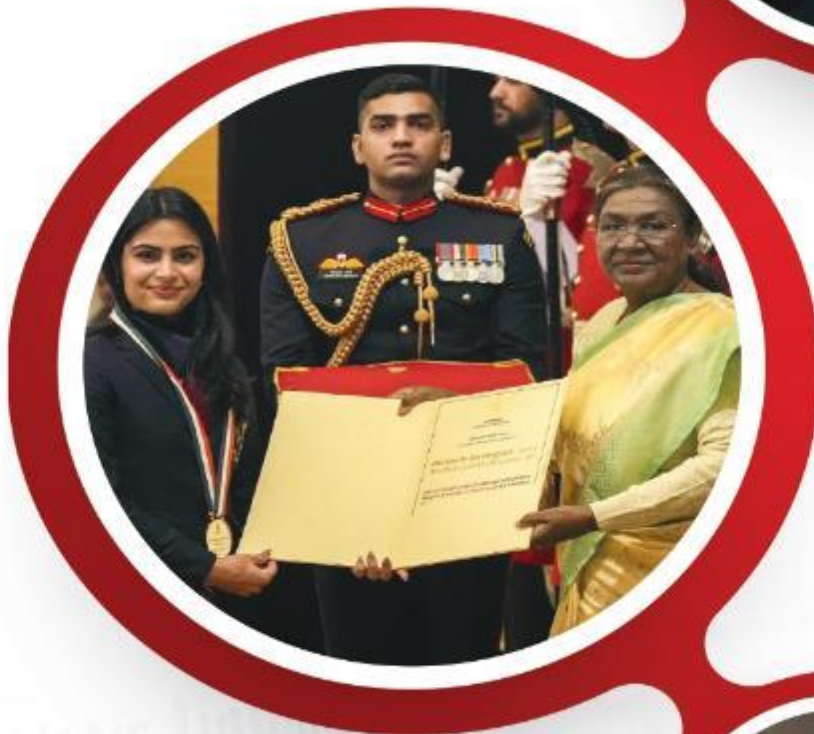




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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The BEML Ltd has recently revealed the BD475-2 Dozer, the largest and most advanced in the country.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister launched a Tamil Teaching Programme in Fiji, supported by the Indian government.
- ❖ A Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was inaugurated by the Indian Army on the banks of Pangong Tso Lake of Ladakh at an altitude of 14,300 feet.
- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan (17) from Mumbai has achieved a milestone by becoming the youngest female to scale the highest peaks on all seven continents.
- ❖ Sikkim's Kagyed Dance Festival, which Celebrates peace and prosperity for the new year through masked dances was held at Tsuklakhang Palace, Gangtok.
- ❖ Jeju Air flight has crashed on the runway at South Korea's Muan International Airport killed 179 out of 181 people onboard.
- ❖ The Indian Army established an AI Incubation Centre (IAAIIC) at Bengaluru in collaborates with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to accelerate the development and adoption of AI technologies.
- ❖ IIT Bombay has developed a shockwave-based needle-free syringe that ensures painless and safe drug delivery with lesser damage to skin and lower risk of infection.
- ❖ The 18th Elephant and Tourism Festivals was held in Sauraha, Nepal.
- ❖ The US Mission in India has issued more than one million non-immigrant visas in 2024, marking the second consecutive year this milestone has been achieved.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced that the last week of December will be celebrated as 'Kural Week' (Kural Vaaram) every year.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced the institution of an award in the name of late AJT Johnsingh, a renowned wildlife biologist to an individual or institution for exemplary contribution to wildlife conservation.
- ❖ ISRO is going to make a remarkable achievement with its 100th rocket launch scheduled for January 2025.
- ❖ Maharashtra has received its first made-in-India surgical robot-SSI Mantra surgical robot in Pune's Noble Hospitals and Research Centre.
- ❖ India's badminton player Lakshya Sen, secured a third-place at the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Defence declares 2025 as 'Year of Reforms'.



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has extended the one-time special subsidy on fertilizer Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) at a rate of ₹3,500 per metric tonne till from January 1, 2025 till further orders.
- ❖ The Steel Authority of India Limited has been recognized as 'Great Place to Work' by the Great Place to Work Institute, India, for the second consecutive period.
- ❖ Ministry of Textiles organised the 3rd edition of the Mega event “Viraasat Sari Festival 2024” to celebrate Handloom Saris of various parts of India in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's R Vaishali has created a history by securing the bronze medal in the women's section of the World Blitz Chess Championship, held at Newyork, USA.
- ❖ The fourth annual Chennai Flower Show was inaugurated at Semmozhi Poonga.
- ❖ Bhuvnesh Kumar, an Additional Secretary of MeitY, has assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- ❖ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has achieved a perfect 100% conviction rate with 68 accused convicted across 25 cases in 2024.
- ❖ Kerala team won their first-ever Senior National Men's Handball Championship title by defeating Chandigarh, held at Kerala.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu's first jallikattu for 2025 was held at Thatchankurichi village in Gandarvakottai taluk of the Pudukkottai district.
- ❖ The Centre has set up an 18-member panel, chaired by Dr. Ramesh Chand of NITI Aayog, to revise the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) base year to 2022-23.
- ❖ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has completed full-scale implementation of the new Centralised Pension Payments System (CPPS) to provide PF pensions under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).
- ❖ Zomato-owned quick commerce platform Blinkit has announced a 10-minute ambulance delivery service in flat rate of Rs 2000 in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ Air India has become the first airline to offer in-flight Wi-Fi on both domestic and international routes.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has laid the foundation stone for Sir John Marshall statue and inaugurated Indus Valley Civilization conference.
- ❖ Salman Rushdie's controversial book "The Satanic Verses", which was banned by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1988, is now available at a Delhi bookstore.
- ❖ Honda Motor and Nissan Motor have agreed to commence full-scale talks for a potential merger in Japan.
- ❖ The Veteran director-writer Sai Paranjpye will receive the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AIFF) 2025.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has officially declared the Cyclone Fengal a severe natural disaster.



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is working in the key landscapes of Coimbatore, Sathyamangalam in Erode and the Nilgiris to raise awareness about the impacts of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) on the native vulture populations.
- ❖ Odisha government declared the unseasonal rains in December as a natural calamity to facilitate payment of compensation to the affected farmers from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- ❖ The Strategically located four-lane stretch of 2.35-km in Ramban–Banihal section of NH-44 in Jammu and Kashmir was successfully completed.
- ❖ Australia won the Border Gavaskar Trophy back after 10 years clinching India vs Australia five-match cricket Test series.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated a 13-km section of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) connecting Sahibabad in Uttar Pradesh to New Ashok Nagar in Delhi (Delhi Metro rail).
- ❖ Vietnam's capital Hanoi has been covered in thick smog over recent weeks, putting it at the top of a list of the world's most polluted cities.
- ❖ West Bengal claim a record 33rd title of the Santosh Trophy, India's top state-level football competition.
- ❖ Prime Minister virtually inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division (69th of India), as development of Jammu and Kashmir's connectivity and infrastructure.
- ❖ The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has designated 2025 as the "Year of Artificial Intelligence" to position India as a global leader in AI.
- ❖ Uttarakhand is going to host the 38th National Games for the first time.
- ❖ Union Home Minister chaired the 7th meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has inaugurated Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ❖ The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha under the theme of "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat".
- ❖ The 82nd Annual Golden Globe Awards was held at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, USA.
- ❖ The model code of conduct is coming into immediate effect in the Erode (East) Assembly constituency, for which polling will be held on February 5.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has named Congress leader K.V. Thangkabalur for receiving the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award for 2024.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first floating restaurant was opened on the backwaters of Muttukadu near Chennai.



- ❖ The Centre appointed V Narayanan as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space.
- ❖ The Pune-based startup Atreya Innovations has developed an AI-based pulse diagnostic tool - Nadi Tarangini for Ayurveda practitioners that can monitor patients' health on 22 parameters and generate report in 10 Indian languages.
- ❖ India's first organic fisheries cluster in Soreng District, Sikkim, under the PMMSY initiative was opened recently.
- ❖ Brazil, the current presiding nation of the BRICS, has officially announced the Indonesia's membership as a full member in the Bloc.
- ❖ India has launched two special category visas for the international students intending to study in India – the 'e-student visa' and the 'e-student-x visa'.
 - The e-student visa is for those who want to pursue education in India, while the e-student-x visa is for the dependents of the e-student visa holders.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has begun installing the steel railings at 13 identified black spots on Chennai - Bengaluru Highway (NH 44), covering Ranipet, Vellore and Tirupattur districts to prevent accidents.
- ❖ Titagarh Rail Systems handed over its first driverless, Made-in-India train set to Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation's (BMRCL) yellow line.
- ❖ Two indigenously designed and constructed fast patrol vessels (FPVs) for the Coast Guard, 'Amulya' and 'Akshay' were launched recently.
- ❖ The Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest for the 2025 Republic Day of India.
- ❖ The Central Government has approved the establishment of a memorial dedicated to former President Pranab Mukherjee in the Rashtriya Smriti complex of New Delhi.
- ❖ Indian Railways has successfully conducted a trial run of a tower wagon on the Anji Khad Bridge, the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge, located in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.
- ❖ India and Malaysia held their first Security Dialogue in New Delhi, co-chaired by NSA Ajit Doval and Malaysia's Raja Nushirwan.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly "unanimously" adopted a public resolution moved for urging the Union government to immediately withdraw the Draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of the Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government would set up a 2 million-sq.ft facility for artificial intelligence (AI) in Coimbatore under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode.



- ❖ The Karnataka Forest Department has launched the 'Garudakshi' online FIR system to curb the forest encroachments, illegal tree-felling, poaching, and unauthorised entry into forest areas.
- ❖ Prime Minister laid the foundation for India's first green hydrogen hub of NTPC Green Energy Limited Project near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ In the first high-level bilateral engagement with the Taliban regime, the Indian Foreign Secretary met the Afghanistan acting Foreign Minister in Dubai, UAE.
- ❖ "Tamilnilam Geo-Info App" application was launched by Tamil Nadu Govt for public to know the details of their land related documents through mobile phone.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt launched MinMathi 2.0 app to easy reach of the SHG women & opens up newer opportunities for the aspiring women by connecting them to mentors, fellow SHGs across the Country, as well as potential buyers of their products!
- ❖ H Lakshmanan (92), the former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton and a towering figure in the TVS family for nearly seven decades, passed away.
- ❖ Prime Minister will inaugurate the key infrastructure - 13.14 km long Z Morh Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Labour & Employment launched the multilingual functionality on e-Shram portal, with all 22 Scheduled Languages support.
- ❖ The Gaddi dog becomes the fourth indigenous breed registered in India and the first from the Himalayan region.
- ❖ Prime Minister has inaugurated the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a state-of-the-art tourist train, designed exclusively for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- ❖ Retired Supreme Court justice B. N. Srikrishna will chair the ID verification and data sharing platform Equal's newly formed Advisory Board.
- ❖ India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in 2026.
- ❖ Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) has been chosen for establishing the South India's first Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (IRDL).
- ❖ The Department of Youth Affairs of the Union successfully kicked off Day 2 of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) of Mumbai has become the first airport in India to have received the prestigious Level 5 accreditation from the globally acclaimed Airports Council International (ACI).
- ❖ Malaysia has officially extended its visa exemption for Indian nationals until December 31, 2026, allowing them to visit the country without a visa for up to 30 days.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has government announced a 10 crores scheme to teach Tamil and folk arts to children of the Tamil diaspora.
 - Under this programme, 100 Tamil teachers and artists will be sent to various countries to work with Tamil Sangams (associations).
- ❖ The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved oil and gas exploratory drilling in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
- ❖ The CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) has successfully conducted the first trial blast for the Dozer Push Mining Method, integrating advanced digital technologies, at Chhattisgarh, for the first time in India.
- ❖ India has achieved a milestone in genomics with the launch of its own genomic data set and the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) portals, making 10,000 whole genome samples accessible globally.
- ❖ SS Innovations has launched SSI Mantra 3, the next generation, most advanced version of the Mantra surgical robot system.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has launched a special FM channel of All India Radio Kumbhvani (103.5 MHz), dedicated to Maha Kumbh 2025.
- ❖ Kerala's Kappad Beach in Kozhikode and Chal Beach in Kannur have received the prestigious Blue Flag certification from the Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government's fresh guidelines have asked to monitor all the visitors to the educational institution campuses and further seek to employ real-time tracking and management of visitors.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister inaugurated the Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences at Thalaivasal in Salem district.
- ❖ A total of 3,000 police personnel, in the rank of the grade-II constables, grade-I constables, head constables, and the special sub-inspectors of police are set to receive the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Constabulary Medals this year.
- ❖ Devajit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia have been elected as the Secretary and Treasurer of BCCI respectively.
- ❖ 'Chennai Sangamam - Namma Oor Thiruvizha', the annual cultural extravaganza was organised in Chennai during the Pongal season.
- ❖ The Madras High Court held that, the right to participate in the funeral ceremony of the spouse/parent/children of prisoner will fall within the ambit of Article 25 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The 25th National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions was held at Bengaluru.



- ❖ The Srinagar Meteorology Centre was acknowledged as a Centennial Centre by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ Nvidia released its Jetson Orin Nano Super, a new compact artificial intelligence (AI) supercomputer recently.
- ❖ INS Utkarsh, the second multi-purpose vessel for the Indian Navy was launched at Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh govt signed an MoU with Indichip Semiconductors Limited and its joint venture of Japan for setting up an India's first private semiconductor manufacturing facility.
- ❖ India has successfully tested its first domestically developed micro-missile system - Bhargavastra, at Gopalpur of Odisha engineered to counter the swarm drone threats with 6Km range.
- ❖ Congress party inaugurated the new Congress headquarters, Indira Bhavan, in New Delhi, named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Third Launch Pad (TLP) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India skipper Smriti Mandhana scored a record-breaking century in 70 balls the third Women's ODI cricket against Ireland.
- ❖ Indian Army and the Indian Air Force conducted a joint Exercise 'Devil Strike'.
- ❖ The Indian Railways has developed a hydrogen-powered train engine with the highest horsepower (1200HP) in the world.
- ❖ India and Spain have announced 2026 as a 'dual year' to celebrate their cultural, tourism, and AI collaborations.
- ❖ Indian grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has won the early Titled Tuesday weekly blitz competition conducted by Chess.com by beating the World No 1 Magnus Carlsen and World No 2 Fabiano Caruana.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved a major expansion of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which will create two new battalions each comprising 1,025 personnel of various ranks.
- ❖ The Indian Army has celebrated its 77th Army Day with at the Bombay Engineers Group and Centre Parade Ground in Pune, Maharashtra.
 - This marks the third occasion that the Army Day Parade was held outside Delhi.
- ❖ The US-based Hindenburg Research, famously known for its controversial short-selling practices reveal, has decided to cease operations.
- ❖ A delegation from Tamil Nadu, led by Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, is set to attend the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025 held in Davos, Switzerland.



- ❖ The Twipra Student Federation (TSF) of Tripura is demanding the adoption the Roman script for the Kokborok language.
- ❖ Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, India's leading mobility show, has been held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Centre has recently established eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) around the Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ RBI deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the Department of Monetary Policy, which Dr Patra earlier headed.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA) has approved the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance for Kalaigarnar Convention Centre in Muttukadu.
- ❖ The Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the toolkit for 9th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS), the world's largest urban cleanliness survey, in its new avatar—simpler, sharper, systematic and all-inclusive.
- ❖ Novak Djokovic has etched another remarkable milestone in tennis history by surpassing Roger Federer's record (429) for the most Tennis Grand Slam matches played.
- ❖ The Former Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Mishra has been appointed as Ombudsman and Ethics Officer of BCCI.
- ❖ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has signed a joint venture agreement with Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to develop the 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project in Nepal.
- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics has signed an agreement with IIT Mandi in collaboration with the IIT Jammu, for the development of "Wideband Spectrum-Sensor ASIC-Chip for Enhancing the Spectrum Utilization".
- ❖ The India Pavilion inaugurated at Heimtextil 2025 in Frankfurt, Germany.
- ❖ The world's first 52x52x52 'Mahamrityunjaya Yantra' has been installed at Tapovan Ashram in Jhunsi Havelis in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The "One Plate, One Bag" campaign was launched for plastic-free Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh to replace plastic bags and disposable items.
- ❖ Maharashtra has announced the formation of a 16-member committee tasked with submitting recommendations for the Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025.
- ❖ Assam police chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh has been appointed Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ❖ Assam has ranked 4th rank on New York Times' list of 52 destinations to visit in 2025.



- ❖ IIT-M's Centre of Biodegradable Packaging establishes centre to develop zero-waste bioplastics.
- ❖ The Professor Urbasi Sinha, faculty at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), was honored with the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ❖ The United Nations will observe year 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, and March 21 marked annually as the World Day for Glaciers from 2025.
- ❖ The nomination of a woman candidate from Bengaluru for the Erode (East) Assembly byelection was rejected by election officials as she was not an ordinarily a resident of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ G. Vibusha from Tamil Nadu, has bagged Bronze Medal in the Cadet National Fencing Championship at Rudrapur, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Karnataka cricket team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024-25 by defeating the Vidarbha team at Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara, Gujarat.
- ❖ Senior IFS officer Sanjiv Ranjan, was appointed as the next Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed the local bodies in Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts to come up with an action plan with a timeline for the rejuvenation of the Vaigai river.
- ❖ The hills Trails in Yelagiri-Swamimalai, Gudiyam caves near Chennai, Baraliyar, Coutrallam - Shenbagadevi falls and Nagalur-Sanniyasimalai peak have emerged as top destinations among trekkers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying organized a conclave, themed "Dialogue for Holistic Development of Livestock Sector in North East India" in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) had organised the National Tribal Health Conclave in New Delhi to addressing the critical health and well-being challenges faced by tribal communities.
- ❖ The three-day Flamingo Festival was held in Andhra Pradesh including Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.
- ❖ The Uttarakhand government has approved the rules for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the government would issue a gazette notification for the legislation by the end of January.
- ❖ The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), situated at Raja mahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh, was officially renamed as the National Institute for Research on Commercial Agriculture (NIRCA).



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid foundation stone for a new open-air museum in Keezhadi and museum in Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- ❖ The union government announced the annulment of the auction of Tamil Nadu's Nayakkarpatti tungsten mineral block, which is near the Arittappatti biodiversity site.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister will inaugurate the Thamirabarani – Karumeniyar – Nambiyar River linking scheme, which benefiting over 15,000 acres of lands in rain-shadow regions in Nanguneri, Thisaiyanvilai and Sattankulam areas.
- ❖ The theme of Republic Day 2025 is Swarnim Bharat – Virasat aur Vikas' (Golden India – Heritage and Development).
- ❖ Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto is the chief guest for Republic Day 2025, marking a significant milestone in the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Indonesia.
- ❖ Indian High Commission announced the renaming of the Jaffna Cultural Centre (Srilanka) as 'Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre', in honour of the great Tamil poet-philosopher Thiruvalluvar.
- ❖ The first astronomical observatory in Eastern India has been inaugurated in Garpanchkot Hills in West Bengal's Purulia district.
- ❖ Usha Vance became the first Indian-American and Hindu Second Lady after her husband J.D. Vance was sworn in as the 50th Vice President of the US.
- ❖ Kerala launched Kerala Warnings, a Crisis and Hazard Management System or 'KaWaCHaM', India's first fully integrated disaster warning system, under the National Cyclone Preparedness Project.
- ❖ The Union govt has set a target of reaching 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by 2030 from current 605 tags.
- ❖ Janet Petro has been appointed as the acting administrator and the first female to lead NASA.
- ❖ The Puducherry-born Thavil exponent P. Datchana Moorthy is among the recipients of the Padma Shri awards 2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has unveiled the renovated memorial of Tamil martyrs Natarajan and Thalamuthu at Moolakothalam in Chennai, who sacrificed their lives to protect the Tamil language in the struggle against Hindi imposition in 1939.
- ❖ The Reliance Industries is planning to build the world's largest data center in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The US President has signed an executive order banning the creation and issuance of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in the US.



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh cabinet has decided to impose a liquor ban in 17 religious cities in the state.
- ❖ A federal judge blocked Donald Trump's administration from implementing the executive order curtailing the right to automatic birthright citizenship in the United States, calling it "unconstitutional."
- ❖ The Punjab cricketer Arshdeep Singh was named the International Cricket Council (ICC) men's Cricketer of the year 2024.
- ❖ Madison Keys of USA has won her first-ever Grand Slam title by beating two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the Australian Open Tennis final in Melbourne.
- ❖ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will now have its sixth regional office in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
 - Presently it has five regional offices in Guwahati (Assam), Patna (Bihar), Kochi (Kerala), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Kolkata (West Bengal).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu labour department has registered the Samsung India Workers Union (SIWU), followed by a Madras High Court's directives.
- ❖ The Meteorological Department said that the northeast monsoon has ceased over south peninsular India, including Andhra Pradesh on January 27, 2025.
- ❖ The State Fisheries Department has planned to install artificial coral reefs in 39 locations across two fishing villages in Nagapattinam district to boost the fish production.
- ❖ India's first-of-its-kind, the CSIR Mega "Innovation Complex", was inaugurated at Mumbai.
- ❖ The Indian Army has inaugurated two newly built bailey bridges across the Shyok River, improving connectivity between the Shyok and Nubra valleys in Ladakh.
- ❖ The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf Amendment Bill approved the draft with incorporating 14 amendments proposed by its members.
- ❖ Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Udaipur (Rajasthan) became the first two cities from India to join the global list of accredited Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- ❖ The Indian Grandmaster Iniyan Panneerselvam (from Erode in Tamilnadu) has showcased an exceptional performance to win the 9th Johor International Open Chess Tournament in Malaysia.
- ❖ Jannik Sinner of Italy has won his second consecutive Australian Open Tennis championship by beating Germany's Alexander Zverev, and third Grand Slam title overall.



- ❖ The International Day of Clean Energy was observed on January 26th to raise the awareness and mobilize action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy.
- ❖ Jnanpith award-winning author Amitav Ghosh launched his latest book, Wild Fictions.
- ❖ India will host the prestigious FIDE World Cup 2025 chess tournament this year.
- ❖ The New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 is going to be organised by the National Book Trust of India under the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ Gujarat organises the 1st International Olympic Research Conference to discuss financing and innovative economic models for hosting the Olympics in India.
- ❖ To combat financial fraud, the RBI has mandated that banks use the '1600xx' number series for all transactional calls and '140xx' for promotional calls.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated a mani mandapam (memorial), in honour of 21 “social justice activists”, who lost their lives in the police firing during the ‘Vanniyar’ reservation protest in September 1987, constructed in Villupuram.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM inaugurated a memorial in honour of Govindasamy, who served in the Cabinets headed by former Chief Ministers C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi at Vazhudhareddi, Villupuram District.
- ❖ The ePlane Company, has become the first private Indian company to receive the formal acceptance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the Type Certification of its eVTOL aircraft, the e200X.
- ❖ Assam govt announced that Dibrugarh will be developed as the second capital of Assam.
- ❖ The RBI has set up a new 5 members standing external advisory committee to evaluate applications for universal banks and small finance banks (SFBs) Under by former RBI deputy governor M K Jain.
- ❖ Georgia became the 45th country to be certified malaria free on January 23, 2025 by WHO.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled the foundation stone for the construction of a new mall, to be named 'Unity', in Egmore, Chennai.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26 with a total budget of ₹69,515.71 crore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu players won 14 medals at the 10th Asia Pacific Deaf Games-2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

TAMIL NADU

Kamarajar Port performance

- ❖ The Chennai Port Trust and its subsidiary Kamarajar Port Ltd have set a target of crossing 100 million metric tonne of cargo in the current financial year.
- ❖ The Kamarajar Port handled 43.51 million metric tonne of cargo in 2022-23.
- ❖ This is a growth by 12.31 per cent from 38.74 million metric tonne recorded the previous year.
- ❖ Kamarajar Port exported 1,48,307 units in 2022-23 as compared to 1,35,702 in 2021-22.
- ❖ The financial performance of this port surpassed Rs 1,000 crore mark as income to reach Rs 1,002.45 crore.
- ❖ This is an increase of 17.82 per cent from Rs 850.84 crore registered in 2021-22.

Berth	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (upto Aug 24)
CB1	8.10	9.76	11.03	11.66	10.06	10.16	9.97	8.31	6.20	7.46	7.88	9.36	4.01
CB2	1.78	4.31	4.1	5.34	6.30	6.55	7.40	5.80	3.49	6.06	7.65	5.53	2.34
ECT	5.05	8.42	9.22	8.61	6.74	6.46	7.67	6.15	5.55	7.96	8.71	9.30	4.17
MLT1	1.22	2.43	3.32	3.99	4.17	4.44	4.83	4.72	4.12	4.36	4.20	4.16	1.72
GCB	1.74	2.42	2.58	2.61	2.75	2.63	2.18	2.45	1.17	1.77	1.93	1.51	0.79
AECT	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	1.10	2.52	3.87	9.27	10.62	12.96	5.68
EBT	-	-	-	-	-	0.16	1.32	1.29	0.85	1.16	1.89	1.47	0.50
LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.51	0.64	0.70	0.63	0.99	0.51
Total	17.89	27.34	30.25	32.21	30.02	30.45	34.50	31.75	25.89	38.74	43.51	45.28	19.72

Tamil Nadu tops gold ownership

- ❖ A recent report by the World Gold Council has revealed a data about Tamil Nadu's gold ownership
- ❖ The state owns the largest amount of gold in the world, with a staggering 6,720 tons.
- ❖ This impressive figure accounts for 28% of India's total gold reserves.
- ❖ Also, it surpasses the gold reserves of women of top countries like the United States of America, Germany, Italy, France, and Russia.

- ❖ Indian women own a total of 24,000 tons of gold, with 40% of it held by women in South India.
- ❖ According to Indian income tax laws, married women are allowed to hold up to 500 grams of gold, while unmarried women can hold up to 250 grams, and men up to 100 grams.
- ❖ The United States holds 8,000 tons of gold, Germany 3,300 tons, Italy 2,450 tons, France 2,400 tons, and Russia 1,900 tons.

இந்தியாவில் தங்கம்!



இந்திய பெண்கள் சுமார் 24,000 டன் தங்கம் வைத்துள்ளனர். மற்ற நாடுகள் வைத்திருக்கும் தங்கத்தை விட இது அதிகம்

உலகின் தங்கத்தில் 11% இந்தியப் பெண்களிடம் உள்ளது. உலகின் முதல் 5 நாடுகளின் தங்கத்தை விட இது அதிகம்

அமெரிக்கா 8,000 டன், ஜெர்மனி 3,300 டன், இத்தாலி 2,450 டன், பிரான்ஸ் 2,400 டன், ரஷ்யா 1,900 டன் தங்கம் வைத்துள்ளன

இந்தியாவில் இருக்கும் தங்கத்தில் 40% தென்னிந்தியப் பெண்களிடம் உள்ளது

தமிழ்நாட்டு பெண்களிடம் மட்டும் 6,720 டன் தங்கம் உள்ளது

இந்தியாவில் மணமான பெண்கள் 500 கிராம், மணமாகாத பெண்கள் 250 கிராம், ஆண்கள் 100 கிராம் வரையிலும் தங்கம் வைத்திருக்கலாம்

- உலக கோல்டு கவுன்சில் தகவல்

Draft employment policy on young adults

- ❖ The draft Tamil Nadu Employment Policy was formulated by the Tamilnadu State Planning Commission (SPC).
- ❖ It has highlighted several critical issues in the current labour market- from high unemployment rates among the educated youth to mismatches between skills and aspirations, and job opportunities.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total labour requirement in 2031-32 would be around 36.5 million as against 34.11 million in 2021-22 — a net increase of 2.3 million.
- ❖ In the previous ten years (from 2011-12 to 2021-22), the net increase in employment was 2.12 million.
- ❖ The report highlighted that the proportion of employed young adults (aged 20–29) had fallen below 50% in 2021-22 — a dip of over 15% since 2004-05.
- ❖ The decline is fully attributed to a drastic reduction in the proportion of young adults working in the agriculture sector, which now stands at a mere 5.9%.

- ❖ The unemployment rate increased to 7.4% for young women (aged 20-29) in 2021-22.

The Tamil Nadu Employment Policy has flagged several pressing problems in the current labour market in the State. A look at some of the challenges in securing quality jobs for the State's labour force

- A mismatch between the proliferation of low-end jobs and the demand for quality jobs from those with higher educational attainment
- Despite a high gross enrolment in tertiary education, almost 50% of the youth do not pursue it. This figure touches 60% in the case of youth from the Scheduled Caste. Employment opportunities need to be generated for this segment as well
- There are barriers for first generation students in securing quality employment, particularly in high-end services
- Despite the rise

half of the women in the prime age group and three out of four women in the age group of 20-29 are not a part of the paid workforce

- Most non-farm jobs are being created in low-end services, given the declining employment elasticity in manufacturing and lower employment intensity in high-end services
- The exit of young workforce from agriculture, citing poor returns, and a decline in employment elasticity in agriculture
- Inter-district disparities in economic



What are the State's advantages

- Tamil Nadu has the best trained workforce. The average years of formal training of its workforce are higher than that of States such as Gujarat and Maharashtra
- The State has a strong manufacturing base, besides IT and healthcare services. Given the technological shifts

it is arguably best-positioned to diversify into more value-adding segments in the manufacturing and services sectors

- The large number of higher educational institutions, including technical educational institutions, and a relatively higher representation in the National Institutional Ranking Framework allow T.N. to generate skills that are in

Creation of 13 municipalities

மறு சீரமைப்பு
செய்யப்படும் இடங்கள்

- பெருநகர சென்னை மாநகராட்சி, மதுரை, திருச்சி உள்ளிட்ட 16 மாநகராட்சிகள் 4 நகராட்சிகள், 5 பேரூராட்சிகள் மற்றும் 149 ஊராட்சிகள் இணைப்பு
- திருவாரூர், திருவள்ளூர், சிதம்பரம் உள்ளிட்ட 41 நகராட்சிகளுடன் 147 ஊராட்சிகள் மற்றும் 1 பேரூராட்சி இணைத்தல்
- கன்னியாகுமரி, அகுடி, பெருத்துறை உள்ளிட்ட 13 புதிய நகராட்சிகள் அமைத்துருவாக்கம்
- ஏற்காடு, காளையார்கோவில், திருவாய் உள்ளிட்ட 25 பேரூராட்சிகள் அமைத்துருவாக்கம்
- 29 திராவிட ஊராட்சிகளை 29 பேரூராட்சிகளுடன் இணைத்தல் என மறுசீரமைப்பு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.

- நகராட்சி நிர்வாகம்(ம்) குடிநீர் வழங்கல் துறை.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced the contours of the now proposed reorganisation of numerous local bodies.
- ❖ It will be including the merger of a large number of village panchayats with urban local bodies.

- ❖ The proposal also covers the creation of 13 municipalities and of 25 town panchayats.
- ❖ Among the proposed new municipalities are Kanniyakumari, Harur, and Perundurai.
- ❖ The government has also proposed establishing 25 town panchayats, including Yercaud, Kalayarkoil and Thirumayam.
- ❖ Besides, 29 village panchayats are likely to be merged with 25 town panchayats.


Tamil Nadu borrowings in Q4 2024-25

Month	Proposed Date	Expected quantum of borrowing (in ₹ Cr)	States/UTs who have confirmed participation and the tentative amount of borrowing (in ₹ Cr)	
January, 2025	January 07, 2025	37000	Andhra Pradesh	3000
			Karnataka	4000
			Kerala	2000
			Maharashtra	4000
			Punjab	2000
			Rajasthan	1000
			Tamil Nadu	2000
			Telangana	3000
			Uttar Pradesh	3000
			West Bengal	4500
	January 14, 2025	24719	Jharkhand	1000
			Karnataka	4000
			Maharashtra	5000
			Mizoram	119
			Punjab	500
			Tamil Nadu	1000

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹45,000 crore in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2024-2025.
- ❖ Till the first half in 2024-2025, Tamil Nadu has raised ₹50,000 crore through issue of SDLs (State Development Loans).
- ❖ The borrowing ceiling is 3% of the projected Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) from 2023-24 onwards.
- ❖ An additional borrowing of 0.5 per cent of GSDP for a period of four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25 on fulfilment of Power Sector Reforms.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had an outstanding liability of ₹5,96,619.2 crore from issue of SDLs as at the end of March 31, 2024.
- ❖ This is estimated to increase to ₹6,87,034.3 crore as at the end of March 31, 2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total outstanding liabilities stood at ₹8,47,022.7 crore at the end of March 31, 2024.
- ❖ It is estimated to be ₹9,55,690.5 crore at the end of March 31, 2025.

Guidelines for prevention of scrub typhus

- ❖ The Directorate of Public Health of Tamilnadu has released guidelines for the control and prevention of the disease.
- ❖ The mite-borne zoonotic disease, where humans are accidental hosts, has been reported various places.
- ❖ The incubation period for this disease is one to two weeks.
- ❖ Agricultural workers, outdoor enthusiasts, and those living near shrubs or bushy areas with potential exposure to mice and mites.
- ❖ Cold fogging, cleaning the ground of bushes in and around villages, reducing the rodent population are the control and prevention methods.

DANGER OF BEING UNDETECTED		
CAUSED BY Bacteria called <i>orientia tsutsugamushi</i>		WHERE DO CHIGGER MITES STAY? ➤ Moist, grassy areas like fields, forests, lawns, lakes and streams
CARRIED BY Mite called <i>Leptotrombidium</i> , also known as chigger		BABY BITES ➤ Adult chiggers do not bite. It's the babies, at the larval stage, that you have to watch out for ➤ They're red, orange, yellow, or straw-coloured, no more than 0.3mm in length
SYMPTOMS Fever, muscle pain, cough, gastrointestinal symptoms, liver and spleen enlargement, and meningitis in extreme cases TREATMENT Doxycycline, fluids, supportive measures		

100 percent transition rate





- ❖ Tamil Nadu school education has achieved a 100% transition rate from primary to upper primary.
- ❖ This means that all students who join Class I are completing up to Class VIII in the state.
- ❖ The transition rate increased from primary to upper primary from 99% in 2019 to 100% in 2024.
- ❖ Among girls, the transition rate increased from 97.5% in 2019 to 100% in 2024.

Fifth Police Commission report

- ❖ The Fifth Police Commission headed by former Judge of the Madras High Court C.T. Selvam submitted its final report to CM.
- ❖ It is covering various aspects of policing from the stage of recruitment into the force till retirement has recommended major reforms in the Tamil Nadu police.
- ❖ It contained recommendations to address mutual interests and expectations of the police and public to strengthen their relationship.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu police have a strength of about 1.3 lakh personnel.

Making G.Os public on govt website - Tamilnadu

- ❖ Many of government departments have not published a single government order (G.O.) issued by them in their section for years.
- ❖ The Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Home, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj are far ahead of many other departments with regard to the publication of G.O.s.
- ❖ The Tamil Development and Information department has not published any order in nearly the last 20 years.
- ❖ The Public (Elections) department is another that has not hosted a single order for years together.
- ❖ Its last G.O. published on the site was in May 2015.
- ❖ The Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi department, almost for the last six years, has not published any G.O. in its section.
- ❖ As for the top performers, the Environment, Climate Change and Forests department, in 2024, published around 110 orders in its section.
- ❖ The Home, Prohibition and Excise department had carried about 60 orders; the RD&PR department, 54 orders; and the Water Resources department, 30.

Excavation in Kodumbalur



- ❖ The Tiruchi Circle ASI has taken up an excavation at the habitation mounds at Kodumbalur in Viralimalai taluk of Pudukkottai district.
- ❖ Kodumbalur, about 40 km from Tiruchi, has several ASI-maintained monuments.
- ❖ It is including the Moovar temple, built by Bhuti Vikramakesari, the Irukkavel chieftain who was believed to have been a political ally of Parantaka II, also known as Sundara Chola (CE 956-973).
- ❖ Kodumbalur finds mention in the Sangam literature Silappadikaram.
- ❖ It is one of the 32 sites we had identified for taking up excavations in the Tiruchi Circle under the ASI's Looking Beyond - Vision Statement for Excavations by 2035.

Public EV charging stations in Tamilnadu 2024

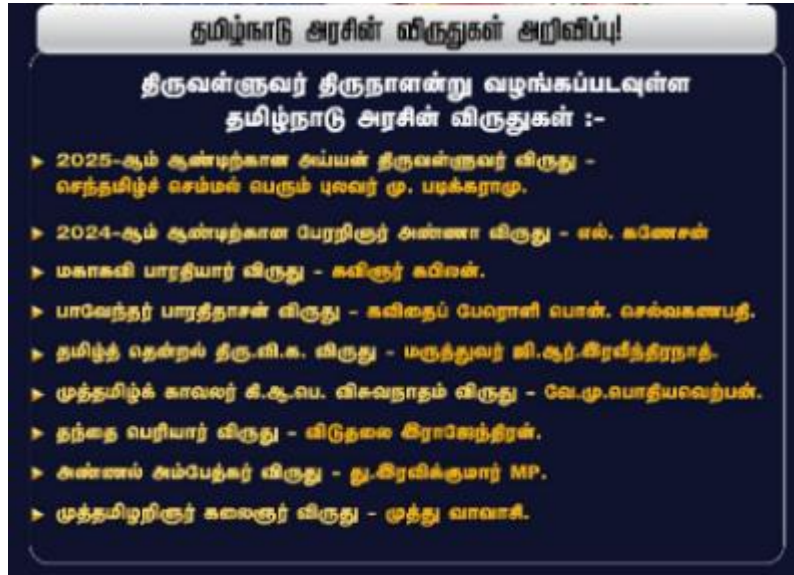
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's public electric vehicle charging stations used 8.77 million units of electricity from April to October 2024.
- ❖ But this consumption is relatively low compared to other States.
- ❖ Delhi had the maximum electricity consumption by the vehicle charging stations at 206.23 MU, followed by Maharashtra (108.13 MU) and Gujarat (36.34 MU).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is an electric vehicle hub, with around 40% of the EV four-wheelers and close to 70% of the EV two-wheelers sold in the country are made in the State.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's EV sales stood at 92,978 units in the calendar year 2024, with penetration at 5.05%.
- ❖ In calendar year 2024, electric two-wheeler was the highest selling segment in Tamil Nadu with sales of 79,849 units accounting for 5.58% penetration rate.



Tamil Nadu government awards 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government announced the State Awards for 2025.
- ❖ M. Padikkaramu has been selected for Ayyan Thiruvalluvar award.
- ❖ DMK leader L. Ganesan, who was at the forefront of the anti-Hindi agitation, selected for Anna Award.
- ❖ Poet Kabilan selected for Mahakavi Bharathiyar award
- ❖ Pon. Selvaganapathy chosen for Bharathidasan award.
- ❖ A Medical professional G.R. Ravindranath will get Tamil Thendral Thiru. Vi. Ka. Award.
- ❖ Ve. Mu. Pothiyaverpan has been chosen for KAP Viswanatham award.
- ❖ Journalist Viduthalai Rajendran, who propagates the ideas of Periyar, will receive the Thanthai Periyar award.
- ❖ MP Ravikumar will receive the Annal Ambedkar award.
- ❖ Muthu Vavasi will receive the Kalaignar Award that carries ₹10 lakh, a gold medal and a citation.



Deciphering Indus Valley script

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has announced a \$1 million prize for experts or organisations that succeed in deciphering the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- ❖ He also announced a ₹2-crore grant for setting up a chair in the name of noted archaeologist and epigraphist Iravatham Mahadevan to continue the research on the IVC.
- ❖ The government would institute two awards to honour and encourage the numismatists and epigraphists who had been working to highlight the ancientness of Tamil culture.
- ❖ 60% of the graffiti marks found in Tamil Nadu had their parallels to the scripts found the Indus seals.
- ❖ More than 90% of the graffiti marks of south India and the graffiti marks of the Indus Valley Civilisation had parallels.

TN Governor speech 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor has left the Legislative Assembly without reading out the customary address for the first session of the New Year.
- ❖ Since July 1991, as per the convention in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, the State song has been played at the beginning and the national anthem at the conclusion of the Governor's address.
- ❖ Speaker M. Appavu read out the Tamil version of the Governor's speech prepared by the State government.

- ❖ The House adopted a resolution to take on record, only the address approved by the Governor and distributed to the members.

Special Officers for village panchayats 2025

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has appointed special officers (SO) for 9,624 village panchayats, 314 panchayat unions, and 28 district panchayats in the State.
- ❖ The decision followed the expiry of the term of office of elected representatives of the rural local bodies (RLBs) on January 5.
- ❖ The Block Development Officers (BDO - village panchayats) of the respective Panchayat Unions had been made SOs for all the village panchayats.
- ❖ Likewise, Assistant Directors (Panchayats) and (Audit) in the RD&PR department in the respective districts would be SOs for the panchayat unions.
- ❖ The Additional Collectors or Additional Directors or Joint Directors or Project Directors of District Rural Development Agencies will be for district panchayats.

Office/seat	Number of vacancies
Village Panchayat president	9,624
Village Panchayat ward member	76,746
Panchayat Union Chairperson	314
Panchayat Union ward member	5,090
District Panchayat chairperson	28
District Panchayat ward member	515
TOTAL	92,317

Sangam period habitation near Villupuram

- ❖ Researchers has uncovered archaeological evidence of habitation sites dating to the Sangam period near Villupuram.
- ❖ These evidences found on the bank of the Pambai river at Ayyankoyilpattu and Thennamadevi-Anaimedu.
- ❖ The cultural mound at Thennamadevi-Anaimedu stretches to a length of 500 to 600 metres covering an expanse of 10 acres.
- ❖ The mound at Ayyankoyilpattu covers a land mass of more than 15 acres.



Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2025 - Tamilnadu

- ❖ The integrated final version of the Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls, 2025 was released.
- ❖ It was published recently by the Tamilnadu Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik.
- ❖ Nine lakh additional voters have been listed in the electoral rolls of Tamil Nadu since October last year.
- ❖ As on Jan 5th, the Tamil Nadu electorate stood at around 6.36 crore.
- ❖ Of the 6.36 crore voters, 3.24 crore are women, 3.11 crore are men and 9,120 are of the third gender.

■ இந்திய தேர்தல் ஆணையத்தின் உத்திரவின்டி, சென்னை மாவட்டத்திலுள்ள 16 சட்டமன்ற தொகுதிகளுக்கான வரைவு வாக்காளர் பட்டியல், கடந்த 28.10.2024 அன்று வெளியிடப்பட்டன.

■ இன்று (06.01.2025) வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ள இறுதி வாக்காளர் பட்டியலில் சென்னை மாவட்டத்தில்

■ 19,70,279 ஆண் வாக்காளர்களும்,

■ 20,44,323 பெண் வாக்காளர்களும்

■ மற்றும் 1,276 மூன்றாம் பாலினத்தவர் என மொத்தம் 40,15,878 நபர்கள் வாக்காளர் பட்டியலில் உள்ளனர்.

■ மேலும் பொதுமக்கள் இணையதளம் மூலமாக <http://voters.eci.gov.in/> மூலமாகவும் பார்த்துக் கொள்ளலாம்.

- ❖ Sholinganallur continued to be the Assembly constituency with the highest number of electors at 6.90 lakh.
- ❖ Kavundampalayam (Coimbatore) stood second with 4.91 lakh electors.

- ❖ Kilvelur in Nagapattinam district has the lowest number of voters with 1.76 lakh voters and followed by Harbour in Chennai.
- ❖ There are 3,740 overseas electors in the rolls and 4,78,007, who are persons with disabilities (PwD), figure in the rolls.
- ❖ Out of the total applications received for inclusion during the revision period, 4,10,069 electors in the age group of 18-19 were enrolled.

Highest numbers of Man-days – Tamilnadu

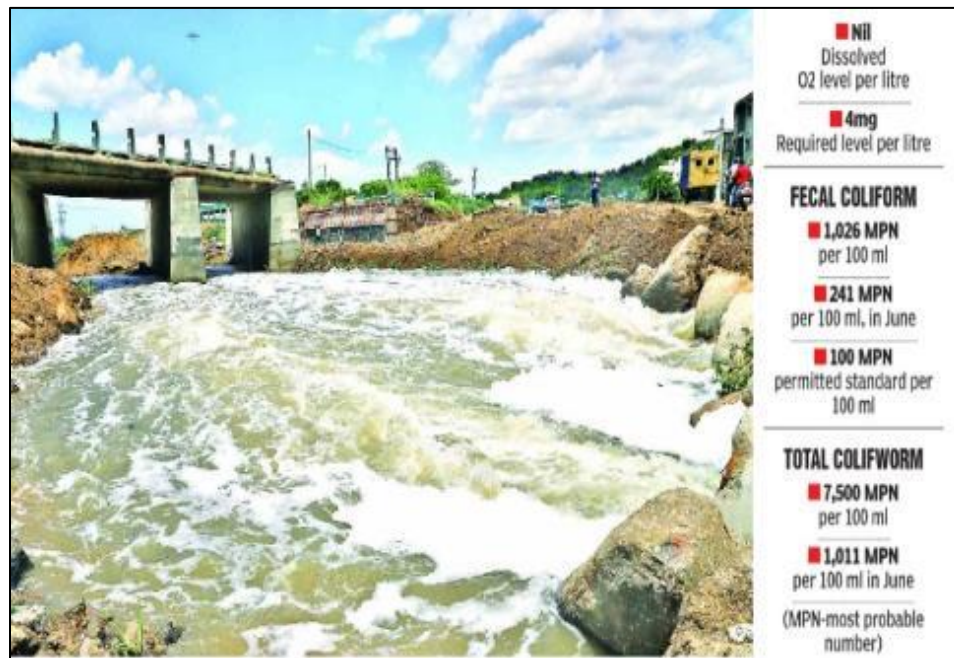


- ❖ With a total of 8.42 lakh mandays, the state has firmly established itself as a hub of vibrant industries, particularly in the manufacturing and service sectors
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has outperformed states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat to clock the highest number of mandays in the country.
- ❖ It also leaves Gujarat and Maharashtra behind in average mandays per employee.
- ❖ Maharashtra, with 6.45 lakh employees, and Gujarat, with 5.28 lakh employees, have greater capital investment than TN, which has 4.81 lakh employees.
- ❖ TN's average man days per employee is 1.75, compared to 1.13 in Maharashtra and 1.37 in Gujarat.

Faecal coliform in Adyar river

- ❖ Levels of faecal coliform in the Adyar River have been found to be more than 10 times the prescribed safe limit.
- ❖ The tests showed high levels of faecal coliform - 1026 MPN/100 ml, far exceeding the permissible limit of 100 MPN/100 ml.

- ❖ MPN is Most Probable Number, an estimation used to measure microorganisms in water.
- ❖ The significant contamination is believed to be the reason behind the fish kills observed in the Adyar eco-park in June 2024.
- ❖ Further, other indicators of water quality were also alarming, with the Biological Oxygen Demand at 133 mg/l (standard: 3 mg/l), Chemical Oxygen Demand at 136 mg/l (standard: 280 mg/l), and Total Nitrogen at 57.74 mg/l (standard: 23.697 mg/l).



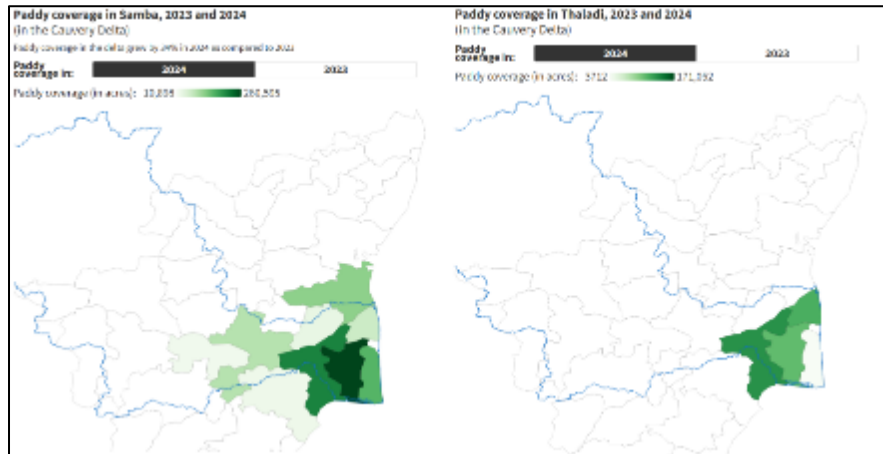
UmagineTN2025 - 3rd Edition



- ❖ Tamil Nadu's flagship IT conference was held on the theme 'Driving Equitable Growth through AI and Transformative Technology.'

- ❖ This two-day conference brought the leading global thinkers to reflect and explore how technology and innovation can shape a brighter, more equitable future.
- ❖ UmagineTN stands as an evolving platform propelling Tamil Nadu towards its trillion-dollar dream.

Samba coverage in Cauvery delta 2025



- ❖ The delta in Tamil Nadu has improved its previous year's coverage during the Samba cultivation season by about 2.5 lakh acres.
- ❖ Compared to around 7.27 lakh acres last year, the coverage during the cultivation season is 9.78 lakh acres this time.
- ❖ With respect to the parallel Thaladi season, the current year's showing has fallen short of that of 2022-23 by about 1.4 lakh acres.
- ❖ As a result, the net increase of the combined coverage during the Samba-Thaladi season this year was cut down to 1.15 lakh acres.

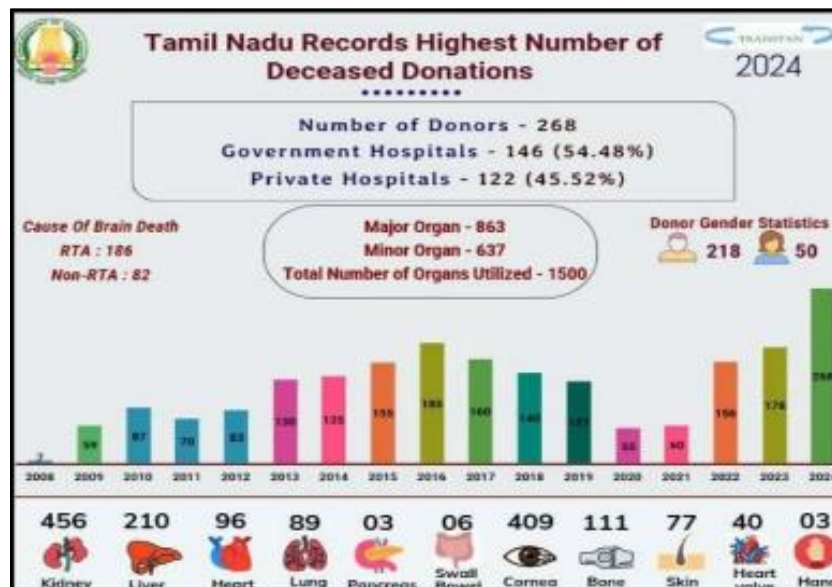
Toda Tribe - Modhweth Festival



- ❖ The Toda tribe celebrated their traditional 'Modhweth' festival to mark the New Year.
- ❖ They are one of the oldest Dravidian ethnic groups residing in the Nilgiris Hills of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The celebration commenced with prayers at the Moonpo temple, dedicated to the deity Thenkish Amman.
- ❖ The Toda people are strictly vegetarian and abstain from consuming meat, fish, and eggs that can hatch.
- ❖ The Todas are divided into five clans, namely: Paiki, Pekkan, Kuttan, Kenna and Todi.
- ❖ They have their own language, which does not have a script.

Deceased donations 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recording the highest number of deceased donations, over 50% of the donors came from government hospitals.
- ❖ Out of the total 268 donors, 146 donors (54.48%) were from the government hospitals.
- ❖ The year 2024 ended on an all-time high for the State's deceased donor organ transplantation programme — 268 donors (218 men and 50 women) and 1,500 organs/tissues utilised.
- ❖ Private hospitals accounted for 122 donors (45.52%), according to data from the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN).
- ❖ The number of deceased donors rose to 156 in 2022 followed by 178 in 2023.



Culling of wild boars in farmland



- ❖ The Tamilnadu Forest Department has issued a government order permitting a regulated culling of wild boars that cause distress to farmers in farmland close to forest areas.
- ❖ According to the order, the areas adjacent to reserve forests would be classified into three zones.
- ❖ Culling of wild boars is prohibited in Zone A (within one kilometre of the forest limits).
- ❖ In Zone B (one-three kilometres), the wild boars should be captured and released in the forest areas.
- ❖ In Zone C (beyond three kilometres), shooting of wild boars would be allowed only by the specially trained Forest Department staff.

Bills to prevent sexual crimes

Section	Offence	Punishment at present	Punishment proposed through legislation
74	Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 1 year, but which may extend to 5 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment of either description for not less than 3 years, but which may extend to 5 years with a fine
75 (2)	Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment specified in clause (I) or clause (ii) or clause (iii) of sub-section (1)	Rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend up to 3 years, or with a fine, or both	Rigorous imprisonment for 5 years, and a fine
76	Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 3 years, but which may extend to 7 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment for not less than 5 years, but which may extend to 10 years, and a fine
77	Voyeurism	"Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 1 year, but which may extend to 3 years, and shall also be liable to a fine"	Imprisonment of either description for not less than 2 years, but which may extend to 5 years, and a fine
77	Voyeurism - Second or subsequent conviction	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 3 years, but which may extend to 7 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment of either description for not less than five years, but which may extend to 10 years, and a fine
78 (2)	Stalking	Imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 3 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment for up to 5 years, and a fine
78 (2)	Stalking - Second or subsequent conviction	Imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 5 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment for up to 7 years, and a fine
124 (1)	Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid, etc.	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 10 years, but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and with a fine	Rigorous imprisonment for life, which shall mean rigorous imprisonment for the remainder of the person's natural life and a fine, or death
124 (2)	Voluntarily throwing or attempting to throw acid	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 5 years, but which may extend to 7 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment of either description for not less than 10 years, but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and a fine

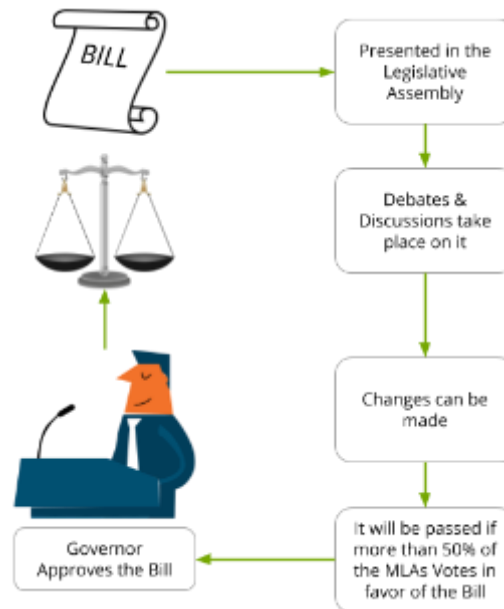
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed the Criminal Laws (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- ❖ The objective of the Bills was to enhance punishment for sexual crimes against women and children and prosecute those harassing them on digital and electronic platforms.
- ❖ The Criminal Laws Bill proposes a minimum 14 years of rigorous imprisonment for a rape convict, up from the present 10 years.
- ❖ If the rapist is a member of the police force, it seeks to double the minimum rigorous imprisonment to 20 years.
- ❖ If the rape victim is a girl aged below 12, it calls for life term as the minimum punishment and death penalty as the maximum.

Surplus funds of temples

- ❖ Madras High Court held that the surplus funds of revenue-rich temples could be used only for purposes listed out under the Sections 36A, 36B and 66(1)(a) to (l) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Act of 1959.
- ❖ Surplus funds of high-income temples can be used for providing aid to temples with low income, propagating religious tenets, establishing vedic schools, promoting fine arts, administering orphanages for Hindu children and so on.
- ❖ But the surplus should not be used for construction of shopping complexes.
- ❖ Since the shopping complex does not fall within the category of items (a) to (l) of sub section (1) of Section 66 or Sections 36A and 36B, the decision to construct a shopping complex has to be quashed and set aside.

Amendment of Tamil Nadu Forest Act -1882

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a Bill to further amend the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.
- ❖ It aims to expedite the process of allotting compensatory afforestation lands as reserved forests.
- ❖ Whenever any forest land was used for the non-forest purposes, the user agency should provide the specific extent of land for the purpose of the compensatory afforestation.
- ❖ The Bill also seeks to delegate powers of the government to issue notification under Section 16 of the said Act to an officer of the Revenue department not below the rank of District Collector by amending Section 65 of the Act.



Kalaigarnar Porkizhi Award 2025

- ❖ The Tamil scholars and artistes who won M Karunanidhi Golden Award winners received a purse of Rs 1 lakh each
- ❖ Arunan bagged the award for prose/research, Nellai Jayantha for poetry, Suresh Kumar Indrajith for novel, N Sriram for short stories, Kalai Rani for drama, and Nirmalya for translation.
- ❖ Semmal K Kanathi's Karpagam bookstore bagged the BAPASI award for the best publisher.
- ❖ The best librarian award went to R Kothandaraman and publisher Semmal S Meiyappan won the award for best book seller.

New Tamil Nadu Sexual Harassment Bill 2025

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly tabled a Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women (Amendment) Act, 1998.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to incorporate the Section 7C, enabling the issuance of "protection orders" to restrain the accused individuals from contacting the women they have allegedly harassed.
- ❖ The bill also aims to increase the penalties ensuring stricter actions against those committing crimes punishable under the Section 74-79 or the Section 296 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

தண்டனை அதிகரிப்பு		
கற்றார்கள்	முன்ய	தற்போது
யாழ்ப்பன் வர்ப்புரைச்சி	10 ஆண்டுகள் கடுக்காவம் (தொறுத்துப்ப)	14 ஆண்டுகள் கடுக்காவம் (தொறுத்துப்ப)
பெருங்குடி உறவினர் (அ) காவத்துறை இரட்டிப் பாரியல் வர்ப்புரைச்சிவின் ஈடுபட்டல்	10 ஆண்டுகள் கடுக்காவம் (தொறுத்துப்ப)	20 ஆண்டுகள் கடுக்காவம் (தொறுத்துப்ப)
2 வயதுக்குட்பட்ட சிறுமி மீது யாழ்ப்பன் வர்ப்புரைச்சி	வயதுக்குக் கடுக்காவம் (தொறுத்துப்ப) (அ) ஆல் தண்டனை (அ) தண்டனை	ஆய் (அ) தண்டனை தண்டனை
யாழ்ப்பன் வர்ப்புரைச்சி மற்றும் பறாணத்துவ விவையிக்கும் இறும்	20 ஆண்டுகள் கடுக்காவம் (தொறுத்துப்ப)	ஆய் தண்டனை
கூட்டுப் பாரியல் வர்ப்புரைச்சி	ஆய் சிறை	பறாண தண்டனை
மீண்டும் மீண்டும் கற்றும் கடுக்காவத்துவர்கள்	ஆய் சிறை	பறாண தண்டனை
பாரியல் தொல்லை	3 ஆண்டுகள்	5 ஆண்டுகள்
பெண்ணை சின் தொடுத்துல்	NL	தண்டனை 5 ஆண்டுகள் சிறை, 2 வரு தண்டனை 7 ஆண்டுகள்
ஆசிரி வீசு	11 ஆண்டுகள் சிறை - ஆய் தண்டனை (தொறுத்துப்ப)	ஆய் (அ) தண்டனை தண்டனை
ஆசிரி வீசு முயற்சி	11 குழல் 7 ஆண்டுகள் கடுக்காவம்	11 ஆண்டுகள் சிறை - ஆய் தண்டனை (தொறுத்துப்ப)

World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025

- ❖ January 12 is celebrated as World Tamil diaspora Day every year.
- ❖ TN government has inaugurated the World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025 exhibition, celebrating Tamil heritage and culture.
- ❖ The event was themed 'Ethisaiyum Tamizhanangey'.
- ❖ The last year's exhibition was held under the theme 'Tamizh Vellum'.

Tamil Diaspora Day awards 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has handed over 'Tamil Mamani' award to Dr. Vijay Janakiraman who was instrumental in setting up the Tamil Chair in Harvard University.
- ❖ The Best Cultural Ambassador Award was given to Krishnakanthan Sandeep from Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Kaniyan Poongundran awards were bestowed to six individuals.
- ❖ National University of Singapore (NUS) Registrar Rajaram Ramasubban received the award under education category.

- ❖ S. Kamalakannan, who published the history of late social reformer ‘Periyar’ E.V. Ramasamy in Japanese, was awarded under social development category.
- ❖ Pudhumai Thamizhachi Trust’s Sridevi Sivanandam, received under women’s category.
- ❖ The Tecton Engineering and Construction L.L.C’s Lakshmanan Somasundaram, under business category, received this awards.
- ❖ While Associate Professor S. Arokiyaraj, Sejong University, Korea received it under S&T category.
- ❖ The ophthalmologist Gangadhara Sundar in the NUS (the National University of Singapore) obtained it under medicine category.

Governor’s Awards 2024

Categories	Institution	Individual
Social Service	Idhayangal (Coimbatore District)	Thiru. S.Ramalingam (Chennai District)
	Hope Public Charitable Trust (Chennai District)	Tmt. Swarnalatha J (Coimbatore District)
		Thiru. A.Rajkumar (Madurai District)
Environmental Protection	Chitlapakkam Rising Charitable Trust (Chennai District)	---

- ❖ The Raj Bhavan announced the winners of the Tamilnadu Governor’s Awards 2024 under the ‘Social Service’ and ‘Environmental Protection’ categories.
- ❖ Idhayangal (Coimbatore district) and the Hope Public Charitable Trust (Chennai district) were named for the award in the ‘Social Service’ category for institutions.
- ❖ S. Ramalingam (Chennai district), Swarnalatha J. (Coimbatore district), and A. Rajkumar (Madurai district) would receive the award in the same category for the individuals.
- ❖ Chitlapakkam Rising Charitable Trust (Chennai district) would receive the award under the ‘Environmental Protection’ category for institutions.

Cyber fraud in 2024

<p>127,065 தேசிய சைபர்கிரைம் அறிக்கையிடல் போர்டல் புகார்கள், 4,326 வழக்குகள் பதிவு</p>	<p>இழந்த தொகை ரூ. 1,673.85 கோடி முடக்கப்பட்ட தொகை - ரூ.771.98 கோடி திருப்பி அனுப்பப்பட்ட தொகை ரூ.83.34 கோடி</p>	<p>மொத்தம் 838 சைபர் குற்றவாளிகள் கைது 34 பேர் மீது குண்டர் சட்டத்தின் கீழ் நடவடிக்கை</p>
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- ❖ The Cyber Crime Wing of the Tamil Nadu police has frozen a total amount of ₹771.98 crore lost to cyber fraud.
- ❖ They also returned ₹83.34 crore to cybercrime victims in 2024.
- ❖ They have also filed 4,326 First Information Reports (FIRS) by generating 79,449 Community Service Registers (CSRs) amounting to a total of ₹1,673.85 crore that was reported lost.

Made in India laptops



- ❖ Syрма SGS Technology's state-of-the-art laptop assembly line was inaugurated in Chennai.
- ❖ The initiative is the part of PLI 2.0 scheme for IT Hardware.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has over 47 manufacturing units supported under various schemes of the MeitY.
- ❖ Seven out of the 27 approved units under PLI 2.0 located in the state.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has achieved a total production exceeding ₹1.3 lakh crore to date and 30% of India's exports.

Madras HC on St. Thomas Mount

- ❖ The Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu government to take the possession of 25.6 grounds of prime land at St. Thomas Mount in Chennai.
- ❖ It also imposed a penalty on three individuals who attempted to claim ownership over the public property that had been in private occupation since 1902.
- ❖ The court has ordered to invoke even the Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act of 1905, if necessary.

International Balloon Festival 2025



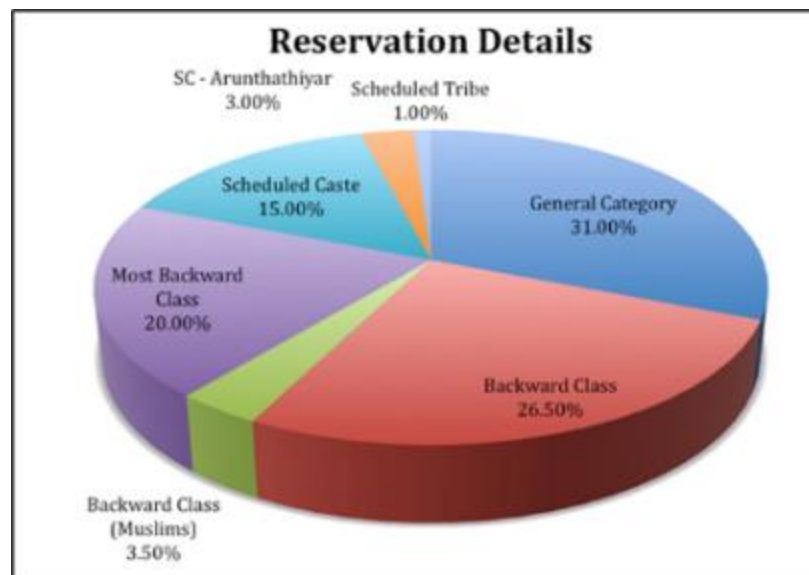
- ❖ The 10th edition of the Tamil Nadu International Balloon Festival (TNIBF) was held in Pollachi.
- ❖ The TNIBF is conducted by the State Tourism department in collaboration with Global Media Box.
- ❖ It is recognised as the only annual hot air balloon festival in the country.
- ❖ The festival features 10+ hot air balloons from 8+ countries: United Kingdom, France, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0

- ❖ The third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangaman (KTS) celebrates the timeless bonds between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- ❖ The programme much aims to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- ❖ 3.0 will be a celebration of one of India's most revered sages Agasthyar's legacy.

Arunthathiyars' special quota benefits

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars Reservation Act, 2009 provides the preferential treatment to Arunthathiyars among the Scheduled Castes (SCs).
- ❖ For the purpose of the law, seven castes - Arunthathiyar, Chakkiliyan, Madari, Madiga, Pagadi, Thoti, and Adi Andhra in the list of 76 SCs notified by the Indian President under Article 341 of the Constitution have been generically called the Arunthathiyars.
- ❖ It envisaging the provision of 3% reservation for Arunthathiyars within the 18% quota of Scheduled Caste.
- ❖ In MBBS, the total number of seats went up by about 82% between 2018-19 and 2023-24.
- ❖ In Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) course, from 2018-19 their figure rose to 3% five years later.
- ❖ Admission to engineering courses, the strength of SC(A) students increased from 1,193 in 2009-10 to 3,944 in 2023-24.



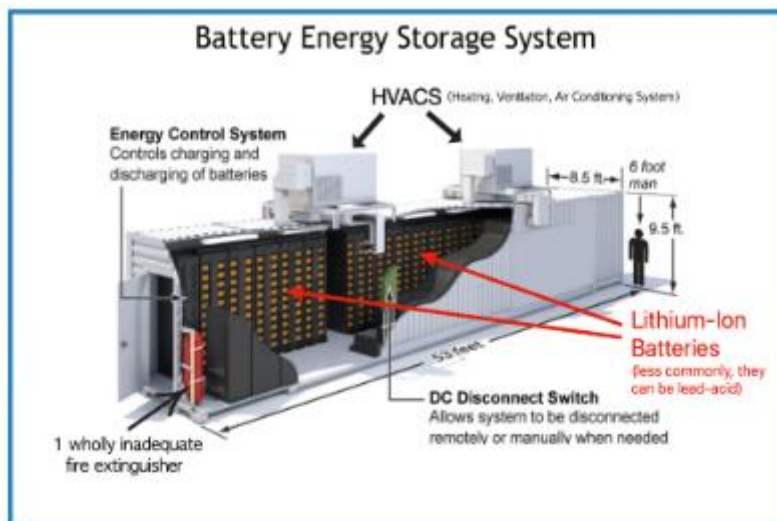
Planting Conocarpus trees

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has issued a new advisory to restrict the planting and sale of the exotic tree species Conocarpus.
- ❖ Known for its fast growth and evergreen foliage, Conocarpus has been a popular choice in the greening initiatives along roadsides, in road medians, and public gardens.
- ❖ The tree's ability to thrive in a variety of soil and climatic conditions makes it an ideal ornamental species for urban development.

- ❖ Numerous cases of pollen-related illnesses have been reported frequently.
- ❖ Now, the concerns about its impact on public health and the environment have led the government to reconsider its use.

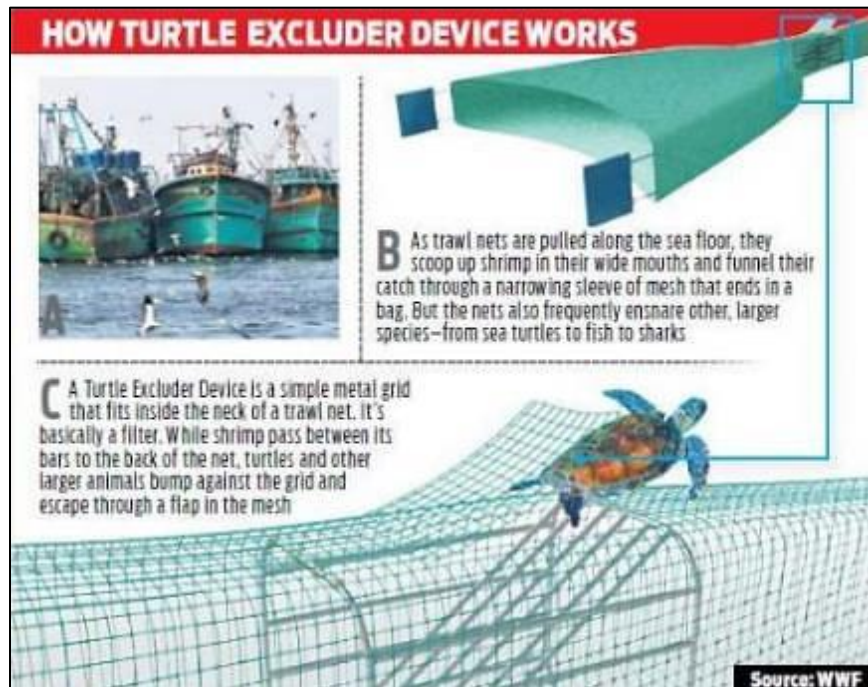


Battery energy storage system in Tamilnadu



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) will soon float a tender for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for solar energy.
- ❖ The Energy Storage Systems (ESS) can be used for storing available energy from renewable energy and further can be used during peak hours of the day.
- ❖ BESS is one of the storage options available.
- ❖ The Central government provides Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of up to 30% of capital cost or ₹27 lakh per Megawatt (MW) whichever is lower for BESS.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's installed renewable energy capacity was 24,274 MW as on December 31, 2024.
- ❖ Out of which the wind energy accounted for 11,409.04 MW and solar energy accounted for 9,518.37 MW.

Olive Ridley Turtles death



- ❖ Numerous dead olive ridley turtles have been washed ashore in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Chennai.
- ❖ Olive ridley turtles arrive near the Tamil Nadu coast around September-October to breed.
- ❖ Their nesting season begins in late November and ends in March.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1983, prohibits the fishing by mechanised vessels within five nautical miles of identified nesting and breeding sites during the nesting season.
- ❖ Olive ridley turtles lay eggs across several coastal states on India's east coast and west coast.
- ❖ However, mass nesting takes place in Odisha, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Odisha's Gahirmatha and Rushikulya beaches witness the arrival of lakhs of female olive ridley turtles every year.

TN Commission for the Protection of Child Rights'

- ❖ The Madras High Court has finally cleared the decks for the constitution of the Tamil Nadu Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (TNCPCR).
- ❖ The State government in February 2022 prematurely dissolved the commission constituted in January 2021 for a period of three years.

- ❖ The panel has a term of three years, as per the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

Namma School Namma Ooru Palli (NSNOP) initiative

- ❖ The district-level conference of Namma School Namma Ooru Palli was held in Tiruchi.
- ❖ During the event, School Education Department launched Palli Chaalaram.
- ❖ This web page was designed to connect government school alumni and encourage their contributions to school development.
- ❖ The NSNOP initiative has received the pledges amounting to ₹141 crore from 31 companies for the Tiruchi region.
- ❖ The Tiruchi region encompasses districts such as Tiruchi, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, and Karur.
- ❖ The conference has marked the fourth regional gathering after similar events in Chennai, Madurai, and Coimbatore.

Year-long plastic waste collection drive



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) is launching a year-long plastic waste collection drive.
- ❖ The initiative, which is likely to begin on January 26, is set to cover all districts and the Greater Chennai Corporation every month.
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at reducing the use of plastic and raising environmental awareness, will be carried out by the TNPCB on a budget of ₹10 crore.

Bullish on Tamil Nadu' campaign

- ❖ The industrial delegation to Davos in Switzerland from Tamil Nadu has created special pins to promote the State as a strong and resilient investment destination.
- ❖ The concept of pins as a symbol of pride and identity was first introduced during the Global Investors Meet.
- ❖ The Tamil letter “tha” was crafted into a pin to represent Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The new design will be featuring the iconic bull, a powerful symbol of strength, resilience, and progress.

Growing Revenue Deficit - Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's revenue deficit has mostly been on the rise since 2013-14.
- ❖ It was in 2012-13 that the State had last posted a revenue surplus, which was around ₹1,760 crore.
- ❖ If the revenue expenditure exceeds the revenue receipts, the shortfall is called revenue deficit.
- ❖ The revenue deficit reached a peak in 2020-21 — the COVID-19 pandemic year — when the receipts went down substantially and the expenditure rose.
- ❖ The revenue deficit was estimated at ₹49,279 crore in the Budget Estimates of the current year.
- ❖ The debt outstanding was around ₹4.86 lakh crore at the beginning of 2021-22.
- ❖ It is expected to touch ₹8.33 lakh crore by March 2025.
- ❖ The total borrowings ceiling for 2024-25 has been fixed at 3.44% of GSDP.

Year	Revenue Surplus or Deficit	
	(₹ in crore)	Over TRR (%)
2010-11	-2,728.69	-3.89
2011-12	1,364.10	1.6
2012-13	1,760.27	1.78
2013-14	-1,788.24	-1.66
2014-15	-6,407.56	-5.23
2015-16	-11,985.35	-9.29
2016-17	-12,964.13	-9.24
2017-18	-21,593.88	-14.76
2018-19	-23,459.45	-13.5
2019-20	-35,908.82	-20.57
2020-21	-62,325.88	-35.8
2021-22	-46,538.03	-22.43
2022-23	-36,215.15	-14.86
2023-24	-45,121.12	-17.05
2024-25*	-49,278.73	-16.48



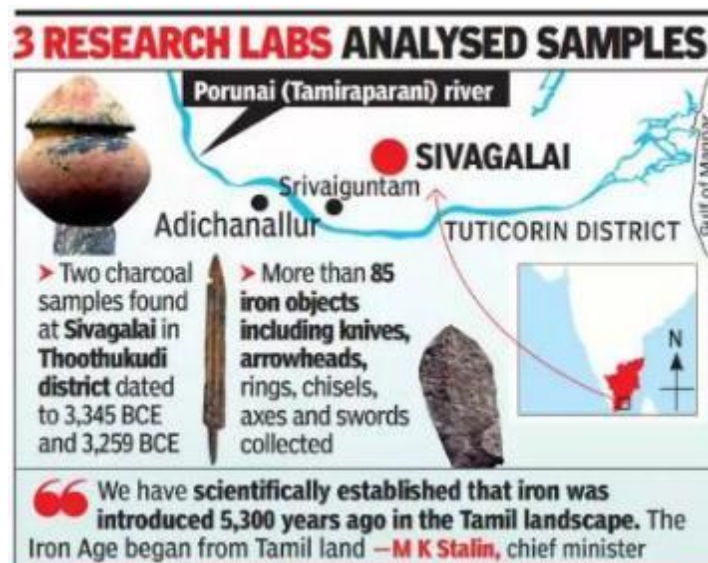
TRR - Total revenue receipts
*Budget Estimates

Source: Mid-term review of trends in revenue and expenditure for 2024-25, Finance Department, Government of Tamil Nadu

iTNT - Foundation Fund

- ❖ iTNT Hub has launched its Foundation Fund (Financing Opportunities for the Unleashing Deeptech Advancements & Transformative Innovations).
- ❖ With the support from MeitY of GoI, the first tranche of Rs 2 crore will be invested in TN-based deep and emerging tech startups.
- ❖ Such startups would be supported by iTNT, up to Rs 40 lakh per venture.

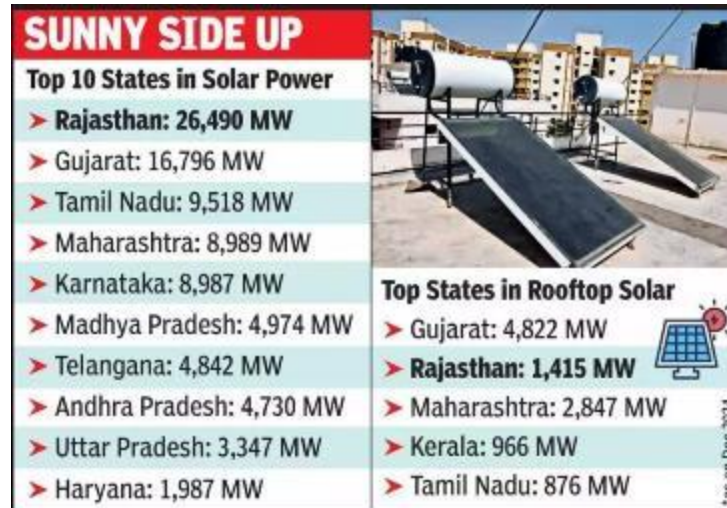
Iron Age in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ TN Government has released a report titled, ‘Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu’.
- ❖ The discovery was made through the radiometric dating of burial urn samples from Sivagalai in Thoothukudi district.
- ❖ The study has revealed that the Iron Age may have begun in present-day Tamil Nadu as early as 3,345 BCE.
- ❖ The new findings push the introduction of iron in the Tamil landscape back 5,300 years.
- ❖ The discovery suggests that a contemporary Iron Age civilization existed in the southern India at the same time as the Indus Valley Civilization in northern and northwestern India.
- ❖ Before these discoveries, the earliest iron objects in Tamil Nadu were dated to around 2172 BCE from Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district.
- ❖ Additionally, another site, Adichanallur in Thoothukudi district, had produced a charcoal sample associated with iron objects that was dated to 2517 BCE.

- ❖ In comparison, the iron objects from other regions of India, such as Brahmagiri in Karnataka and Gachibowli near Hyderabad, were dated to around 2140 BCE and 2200 BCE, respectively.
- ❖ Earlier, the Hittite Empire (in modern-day Turkey) was believed to be the first civilization to use iron, with evidence dating back to around 1,380 BCE.

Share of rooftop solar systems - Tamilnadu



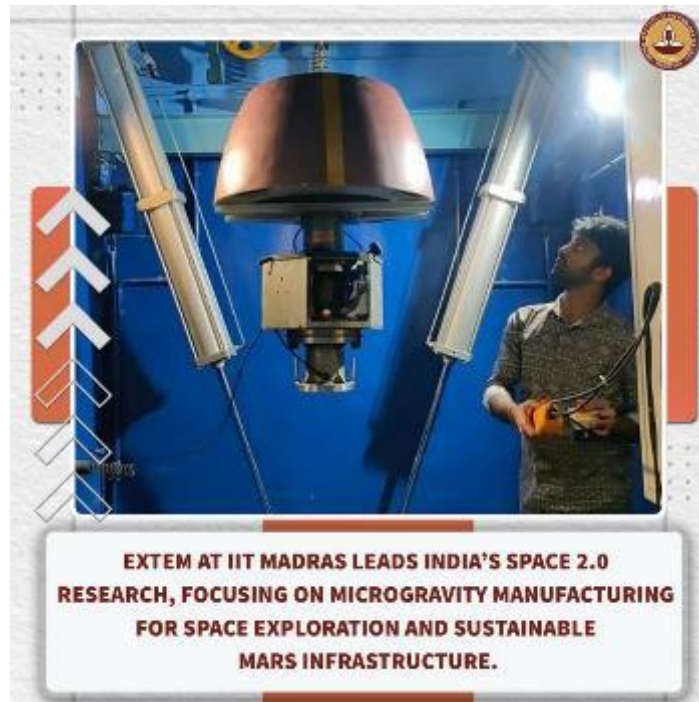
- ❖ The share of electricity generated from rooftop solar accounted for just 1% of Tamil Nadu's total energy mix.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total installed power capacity has stood at 41, 741.45 MW as on December 31, 2024.
- ❖ Out of this, the renewable energy capacity was 24, 323.42 MW.
- ❖ Roof top solar energy generation accounted for 5% of total energy mix for Gujarat, 2% in Maharashtra, 1% in Karnataka and 5% in Kerala.

Padma awardees from Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Thirteen persons from Tamil Nadu and one from Puducherry have been recognised with the Padma awards this year.
- ❖ Kuppasami Chetti, already a Padma Shri, owns the renowned brand of silk sarees - Nalli Silk.
- ❖ Recently-retired Ashwin received the Padma Shri for his contributions to sports with 537 Test wickets.

Name	Field	Aaward
Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti	Trade and Industry	Padma Bhushan
S Ajith Kumar	Art	Padma Bhushan
Shobana Chandrakumar	Art	Padma Bhushan
Guruvayur Dorai	Art	Padma Shri
K. Damodaran	Others-Culinary	Padma Shri
Lakshmiopathy Ramasubbaiyer	Literature and Education-Journalism	Padma Shri
M D Srinivas	Science and Engineering	Padma Shri
Purisai Kannappa Sambandan	Art	Padma Shri
R Ashwin	Sports	Padma Shri
R G Chandramogan	Trade and Industry	Padma Shri
Radhakrishnan Devasenapathy	Art	Padma Shri
Seeni Viswanathan	Literature and Education	Padma Shri
Velu Aasaan	Art	Padma Shri

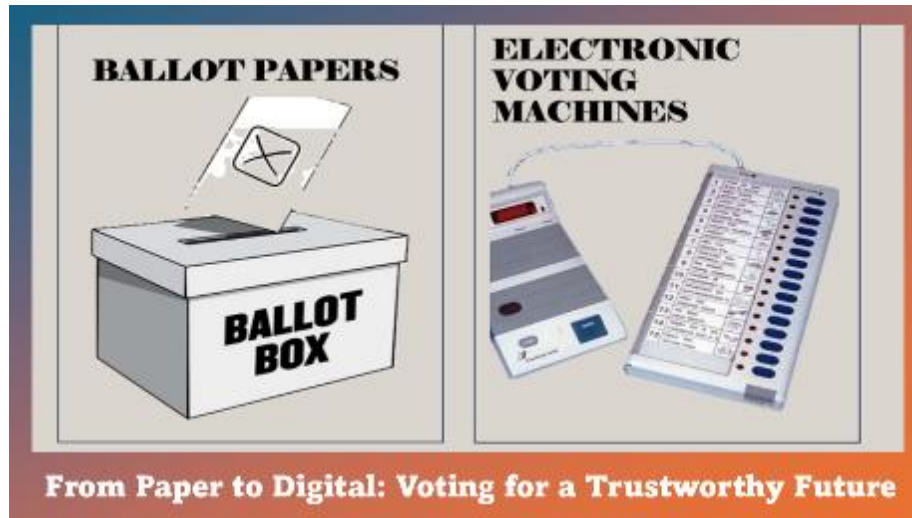
ExTeM Centre of IIT-Madras



- ❖ IIT Madras's ExTeM Centre is working on new technologies for manufacturing in space.
- ❖ The centre is conducting the research on technologies like 3D-printed buildings, metal foams and optical fibres in space.

- ❖ This Centre is also developing revolutionary methods like concrete construction without water.
- ❖ This research of ExTeM (Extra Terrestrial Manufacturing) will strengthen India's Gaganyaan mission and future space station.
- ❖ Its microgravity drop tower is the fourth largest operational tower in the world.

EVMs for local body elections



- ❖ Voters in 28 districts in Tamil Nadu will be able to elect their ward members at the district, union and village levels, and their panchayat presidents, using the electronic voting machines (EVM) this time.
- ❖ The term of elected representatives in the other nine districts, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi will end in October 2026.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu State Election Commission (TNSEC) planned to introduce EVMs for electing RLBs in a phased manner in these districts.
- ❖ The pilot for use of EVMs in RLBs was conducted in 2019 at Melpuram Panchayat Union.

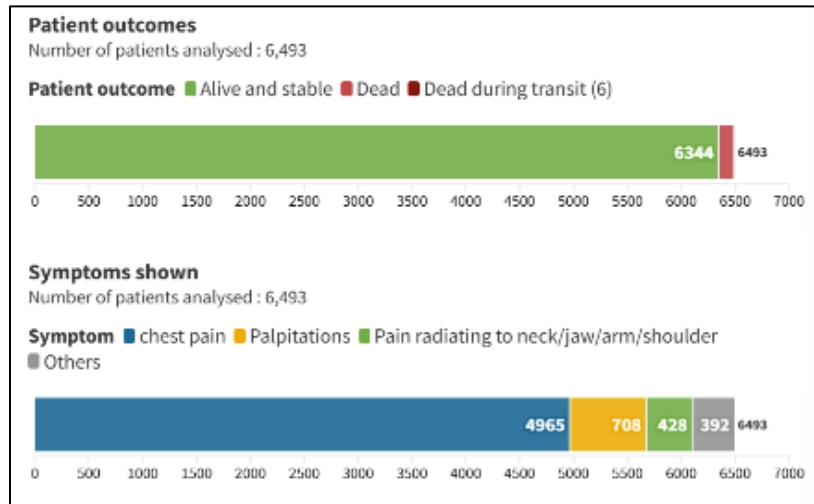
Road accidents in Tamil Nadu 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has reported a significant reduction in fatal road accidents with the number of deaths coming down by 273 in 2024 compared to the previous year.
- ❖ While 18,347 people died in 17,526 fatal road accidents in 2023, the number came down to 18,074 and 17,282 respectively last year.
- ❖ 80,558 driving licences were suspended for violating the motor vehicle rules.

- ❖ Highway patrol vehicles shifted 12,629 people critically injured in road accidents to hospitals within the Golden Hour.

சாலை விபத்துகளில் தமிழகம் 2ஆவது இடம்
இந்தியாவில் அதிக சாலை விபத்து நேரிடும் மாநிலமாக உத்தர பிரதேசம் (23,000 பேர்) முதலிடத்தில் உள்ளது ஆண்டுக்கு 10.6% (18,000 பேர்) சாலை விபத்துகளுடன் நாட்டில் 2ஆவது இடத்தில் தமிழ்நாடு உள்ளது சாலை விபத்துகளில் 3ஆவது இடத்தில் மகாராஷ்டிரா, 4ஆவது இடத்தில் மத்திய பிரதேசம் உள்ளது

Idhayam Kappom - First assessment



- ❖ The State government launched 'Idhayam Kappom Thittam' on June 27, 2023.
- ❖ It aims to provide cardiac loading doses (aspirin, clopidogrel and atorvastatin) at PHCs/HSCs to prevent deaths due to cardiac illness.
- ❖ Demographics data of the study population showed that most of the patients were men (4,248 persons).
- ❖ Almost half of the study population were aged 45 to 60 years (2,137 men and 1,148 women).
- ❖ Symptoms-wise, 76.5% (4,964) of the persons have reported to the primary care facilities with chest pain.
- ❖ This was followed by the palpitations in 10.9% and the pain was radiating to the neck/jaw/arm/shoulder in 6.6% of the patients.
- ❖ 97.7% of the patients (6,346) were alive and stable, while 2.2% (143) died and 0.1% (4) died during transit.

Tamilnadu Republic day awards 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM handed over various awards to recipients.
- ❖ Leading Fireman K. Vetrivel, who rescued three people from drowning in Adyar in Chennai, received the Anna Medal for Gallantry, 2025.
- ❖ S.A. Ameer Amsa from Ramanathapuram district, who has assisted in the burial of bodies of over 1,000 bodies so far, received the Kottai Ameer Award, 2025.
- ❖ R. Murugavel of Theni district has received the Narayanasamy Naidu Paddy Productivity Award.
- ❖ Inspector P. Chinnakamanan, head constables K. Mahamarx and K. Karthick, Grade II police constables K. Siva and P. Poomalai received the Gandhi Adigal police medals.
- ❖ CM's Trophies for best police stations: Madurai City (1st), Tiruppur City (2nd) and Tiruvallur district (3rd).

Enforcement of fisheries regulations in Tamilnadu 2025



- ❖ The task force in Tamilnadu constituted to review the Olive Ridley Sea turtle deaths has called for stricter enforcement of fisheries regulations to address the high mortality rate of the species.
- ❖ The task force was created to take a collective approach and bring together the expertise of different departments to address this issue.
- ❖ Three key measures need to be enforced
 - A ban on trawl fishing,
 - The use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), and
 - Restrictions on prohibitory horsepower of boat engines.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1983, bans mechanised fishing vessels within five nautical miles of certain nesting and breeding areas during the nesting season.
- ❖ Authorities were also asked to strictly enforce the use of TEDs in fishing nets.

Recovery in reading and arithmetic ability – Tamilnadu

A look at the key findings pertaining to Tamil Nadu in the ASER report 2025

Enrolment in Classes I to V in govt. schools*			Children who can read in Class V		
Year	Boys	Girls	Year	Govt.	Pvt.
2018	59.11	65.7	2018	46.3	28.8
2022	71.1	75.4	2022	26	22.4
2024	62.2	67	2024	37	32.3

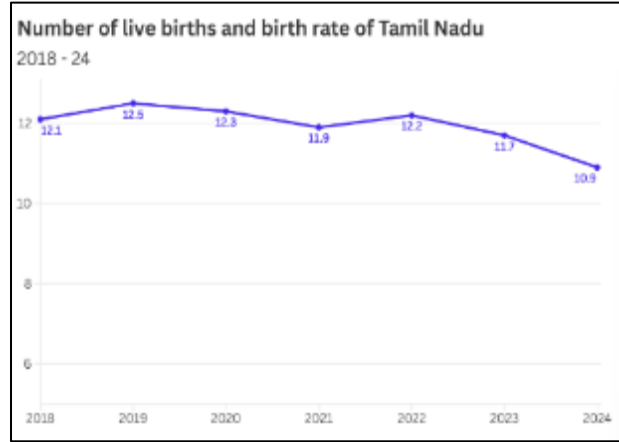
Enrolment in Classes VI to VIII in govt. schools			Children who can do division in Class V		
Year	Boys	Girls	Year	Govt.	Pvt.
2018	70	75.4	2018	27.1	22.2
2022	76.2	80.8	2022	14.7	15.5
2024	71.3	75.3	2024	20.2	22.1

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has made a significant recovery in the reading and arithmetic when compared to where it was in 2022, according to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024.
- ❖ While 4.8% of Class III children from government and private schools could read a Class II-level text in 2022, the figure had increased to 12% in 2024.
- ❖ The reading and arithmetic levels had improved with a 10.4% increase in reading and a 5.8% increase in arithmetic levels of Class V students when compared to the 2022 levels.
- ❖ 27.7% of the children surveyed in Class III were able to do subtraction, and 20.7% from Class V were able to do division.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has seen a drop in admission in government schools.
- ❖ While enrolment had increased in 2014 and 2022 from 67.2% to 75.7%, it has decreased to 68.7% in 2024.
- ❖ Private school enrolment has increased and reached the pre-COVID-19 level, at 31%.
- ❖ Enrolment in anganwadis has decreased marginally when compared to 2022.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has consistently exceeded the national average of 83.2% in training in foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN).
- ❖ Around 90.4% of the schools receiving a directive to focus on FLN.

Tamil Nadu's birth rate in 2024

- ❖ In 2024, the number of live births fell sharply to 8,42,412.
- ❖ In at least five years leading up to 2024, the number of live births stayed above the nine-lakh mark.

- ❖ The number of live births fell by 6.6% last year as the preceding year (2023) recorded 9,02,306 births.
- ❖ The State's birth rate stood at 10.9 in 2024 as against 11.7 the previous year.
- ❖ TN's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stands at 1.4, which is lower than the replacement level of 2.1.
- ❖ The decline in birth rates will lead to a decrease in the productive workforce and increasing the dependent populations.



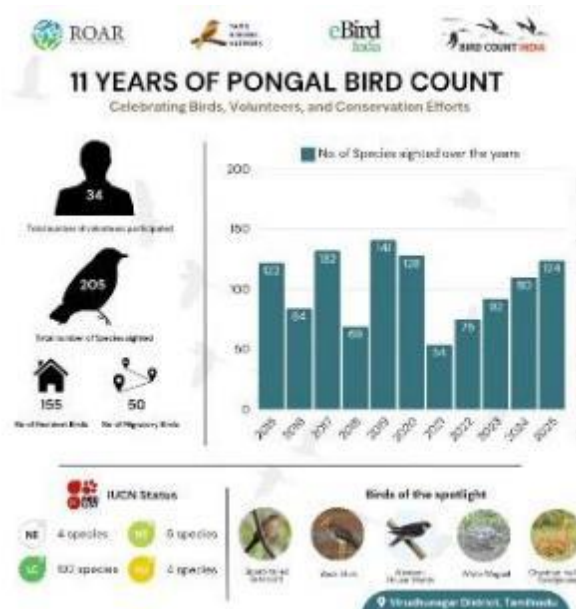
Kalaigharin Kanavu Illam 2025



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned a sum of ₹500 crore more towards constructing new houses under the 'Kalaigharin Kanavu Illam' programme for 2024-25.
- ❖ Under the programme, 1 lakh houses are to be constructed at a cost of ₹3,100 crore with the unit cost of each house being ₹3.10 lakh.
- ❖ Besides the grant of funds from the State government to the tune of ₹2,369 crore, devolution grants of about ₹714 crore and ₹15 crore from the mines fund are to be utilised for the State-level housing programme.

- ❖ Funds from these three sources to the tune of ₹1,549 crore have already been received.
- ❖ Total Sum of ₹108.71 crore is sanctioned for the Union government's national programme, which aims to enhance the socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- ❖ Under the programme, houses are to be sanctioned to the six PVTG communities living in Tamil Nadu -- Irulas, Kattunayakans, Kotas, Kurumbas, Paniyans and Todas.
- ❖ Houses for them are to be constructed in 21 districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The unit cost 2 lakh is being shared in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the State.
- ❖ The Government of India has also fixed 4,811 as target for 2023-24 under the programme and the target for 2024-25 was 6,885.

Pongal Bird Count (PBC) 2025

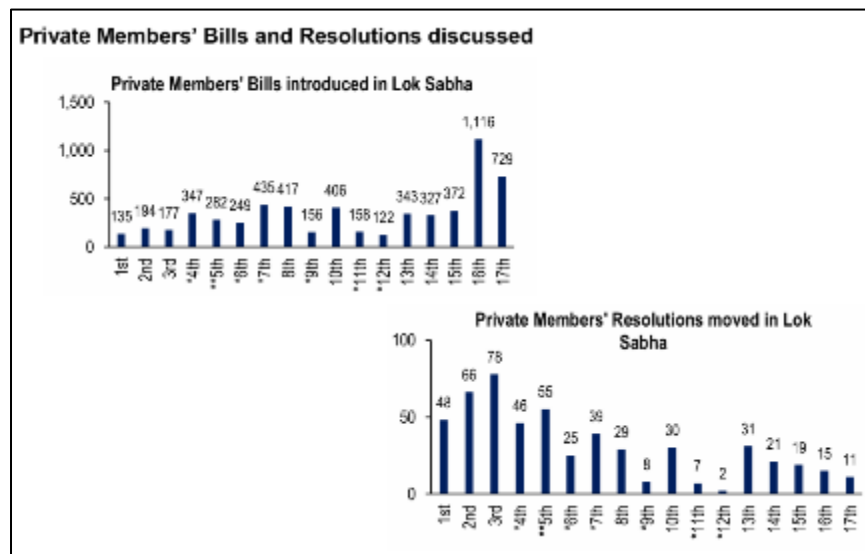


- ❖ The Pongal Bird Count was coordinated by the Tamil Birders Network and Bird Count India.
- ❖ It is an annual bird monitoring programme for the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It was first conducted in 2015 and this year marks the 10th Bird Count.
- ❖ It aims to know the snapshot of distribution and abundance of the birds of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The number of birds is lower (332) during this year, where last year a total of 345 bird species spotted.

NATIONAL

Private Members' Bills in 17th Lok Sabha

- ❖ During the five-year term of the 17th Lok Sabha that ended in 2024, only 9.08 hours were spent on Private Members' Bills.
- ❖ The Rajya Sabha spent 27.01 hours on them during the period.
- ❖ The Lower House spent 16.43 hours and the Upper House 20.78 hours on Private Members' Resolution.
- ❖ In the two sessions of the 18th Lok Sabha, 0.15 hours was spent on such Bills, while the Rajya Sabha spent 0.62 hours.
- ❖ The Lower House has spent 1.98 hours on resolutions and the Upper House 2.09 hours.
- ❖ Till date, only 14 Private Members' Bills have been passed in both houses and received the assent.
- ❖ None have been passed in both Houses since 1970.



Overseas Indian voters in Lok Sabha polls, 2024

- ❖ As many as 1,19,374 registered as the overseas electors in 2024, with Kerala witnessing the highest registrations at 89,839.
- ❖ In 2019, as many as 99,844 had registered as overseas electors.
- ❖ Only 2,958 overseas electors flew down to India to participate in the largest democratic exercise in the world.
- ❖ Of these, an overwhelming 2,670 were from Kerala alone.

- ❖ Several large States such as Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu saw zero turnout of overseas electors.
- ❖ Gujarat saw only two out of 885 overseas electors casting their votes.
- ❖ In Maharashtra, only 17 of the 5,097 NRI electors voted.
- ❖ There were 7,927 registered NRI electors in Andhra Pradesh, only voted.
- ❖ In August 2018, the 16th Lok Sabha passed a bill to allow proxy voting rights to eligible overseas Indians.
- ❖ The bill, however, could not be brought to the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ In 2020, the EC proposed to the Union Law Ministry to extend the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) facility, so far available only to service voters, to eligible overseas Indian voters as well.



PM CARES Fund 2022-2023

- ❖ The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund's voluntary contribution peaked at ₹7,184 crore in 2020-21 and then fell to ₹1,938 crore in 2021-22.
- ❖ These voluntary contributions dropped to Rs 912 crore in 2022-23.
- ❖ It is the lowest since its establishment in March 2020.
- ❖ Foreign contribution has registered a high of ₹495 crore in 2020-21, and falling to ₹40 crore and ₹2.57 crore in the next two years.
- ❖ The total expenditure in 2022-23 was around ₹439 crore, with ₹346 crore of it used by the "PM Cares for Children".

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND

(In Rs crore)

Year	Voluntary	Foreign
2019-20	3,076.85	0.39
2020-21	7,183.77	494.93
2021-22	1,896.76	40.12
2022-23	909.64	2.57
Total	13,067.02	538.01

Supreme Court on coconut oil

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that small bottles of coconut oil should be classified as edible oil for taxation purposes.
- ❖ Also, the court had clarified that if coconut oil is packaged in small bottles and labelled for use on hair, it should be classified as hair oil under the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.
- ❖ Currently, under the GST regime, edible oil is taxed at 5%, while hair oil attracts 18%.
- ❖ Coconut oil marketed as edible oil must comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and use edible-grade plastic containers.



Is coconut oil an edible oil or a haircare product?

The SC ends a 15-year debate: Coconut oil is classified as an edible oil (5% GST), not hair oil (18%). Rejecting packaging size and market perception, the court relied on HSN norms and edible oil standards. Justice for coconut oil!

Most deported foreigners in 2023-24

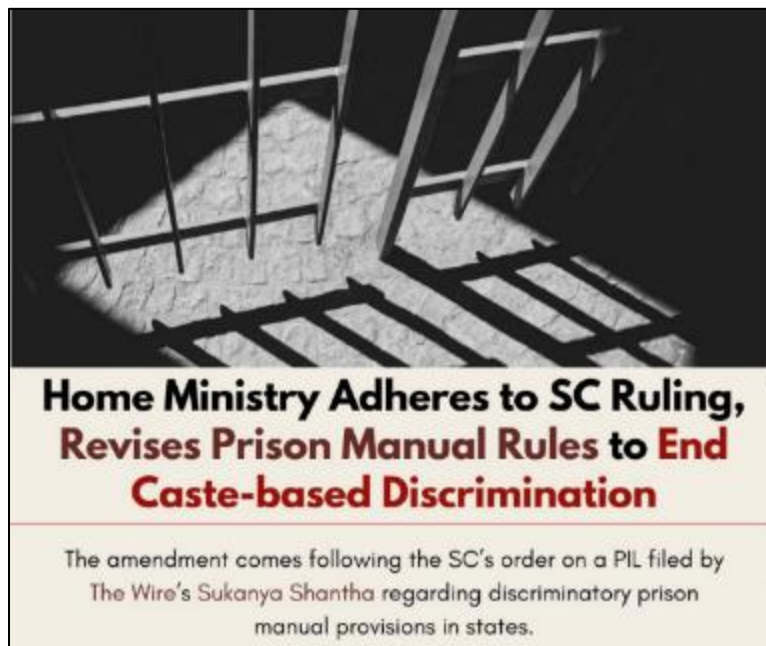


- ❖ A total of 2,331 foreigners were deported by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.
- ❖ Of these, 1,470 people belonged to Nigeria, 411 people were from Bangladesh and 78 belonged to Uganda.
- ❖ During the same period, 1,112 Long-Term Visas (LTV) were granted by the Home Ministry for minority communities from Pakistan.
- ❖ LTVs, ranging from a year to five years, are precursors to citizenship.
- ❖ A total of 1,699 citizenship certificates have been granted by both the Union and State governments.
- ❖ Around 98 lakh foreigners visited India during the period and the highest number of visitors were from Bangladesh (21,08,734).
- ❖ It is followed by United States of America (17,37,549), United Kingdom (9,86,954), Australia (4,72,913), Canada (4,00,417), Sri Lanka (2,85,664), Malaysia (2,80,578), Germany (2,39,271), Nepal (2,02,197) and Singapore (2,00,708).
- ❖ The 10 countries accounted for 70.27% of the total arrival of foreigners.

Amendments to Prison Manual rules 2025

- ❖ It aims to check discrimination and classification of inmates in jails on the basis of their caste.
- ❖ To address the issue of any caste-based discrimination of prisoners, the 'Model Prison Manual, 2016' and the 'Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023' have been amended.

- ❖ According to the new addition in the manual, the prison authorities will have to strictly ensure that there is no discrimination, classification, segregation of the prisoners on the basis of their caste.
- ❖ The Changes have also been made in the 'Miscellaneous' of the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023.
- ❖ A new heading titled 'Prohibition of caste-based discrimination in Prisons and Correctional Institutions' was added as Section 55(A).
- ❖ The Manual scavenging or hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank inside a prison shall not be permitted.



Extension of Agri schemes

- ❖ The Centre on January 1 extended two crop insurance schemes for one more year till 2025-26.
- ❖ They are Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).
- ❖ It has also created a separate ₹824.77 crore fund for technology infusion in the implementation of flagship schemes.
- ❖ The Cabinet has also approved the creation of a separate Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT) with a corpus of ₹824.77 crore.
- ❖ The fund will be utilised towards the funding technological initiatives under the scheme namely, YES-TECH, WINDS.

- ❖ The Yield Estimation System using Technology (YES-TECH) uses remote sensing technology for yield estimation with a minimum 30% weightage to technology - based yield estimates.
- ❖ The Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS) envisages setting up Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at the block level and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) at the panchayat level.

Continuation of

PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme

Cabinet approves continuation of the two schemes till 2025-26



01-01-2025
CABINET DECISION

- Overall outlay of **₹69,515.71 Crore** from 2021-22 to 2025-26
- Cabinet has also approves creation of Fund for Innovation and Technology with Corpus of **₹824.77 Crore**
- Fund to be utilised towards funding technological initiatives under the scheme namely, **YES-TECH, WINDS, etc as well as R&D**
- Fund to cause
 - Large scale technology infusion in implementation of the scheme
 - Increasing transparency and claim calculation and settlement

Good Governance Index 2023

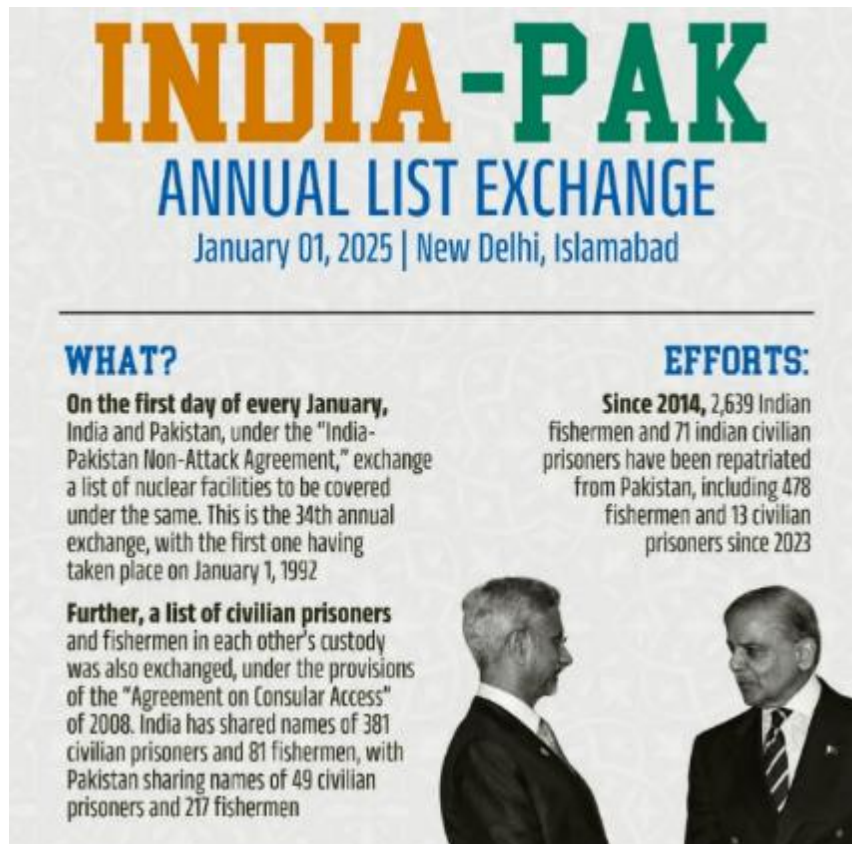
Other States – Group A		Other States – Group B	
Rank	States	Rank	States
1	Gujarat	1	Madhya Pradesh
2	Maharashtra	2	Rajasthan
3	Goa	3	Chhattisgarh
4	Haryana	4	Jharkhand
5	Kerala	5	Uttar Pradesh
6	Karnataka	6	Bihar
7	Tamil Nadu	7	Odisha
8	Punjab	8	West Bengal
9	Telangana		
10	Andhra Pradesh		

- ❖ The Centre has decided not to release the Good Governance Index 2023.
- ❖ It is the biennial ranking of states and Union Territories (UTs) scheduled to be released during Good Governance Week (December 19 to December 25).
- ❖ It is now planning to publish the next edition in 2025.

- ❖ The index covers over 50 indicators across the sectors, including agriculture, economic governance, public health, and citizen-centric governance.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Gujarat got first place among big states in the 2019 and 2021 rankings, respectively.

Exchange list of nuclear installations 2025

- ❖ India and Pakistan on January 1 exchanged a list of their nuclear installations in continuation of an over-three-decade practice.
- ❖ Under a bilateral pact that prohibits the two sides from attacking each other's atomic facilities.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ The pact mandates the two countries to inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on January 1 of every calendar year.
- ❖ This is the 34th consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries.




INDIA-PAK
ANNUAL LIST EXCHANGE
January 01, 2025 | New Delhi, Islamabad

WHAT?
On the first day of every January, India and Pakistan, under the "India-Pakistan Non-Attack Agreement," exchange a list of nuclear facilities to be covered under the same. This is the 34th annual exchange, with the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.

Further, a list of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody was also exchanged, under the provisions of the "Agreement on Consular Access" of 2008. India has shared names of 381 civilian prisoners and 81 fishermen, with Pakistan sharing names of 49 civilian prisoners and 217 fishermen

EFFORTS:
Since 2014, 2,639 Indian fishermen and 71 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan, including 478 fishermen and 13 civilian prisoners since 2023.



Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2024

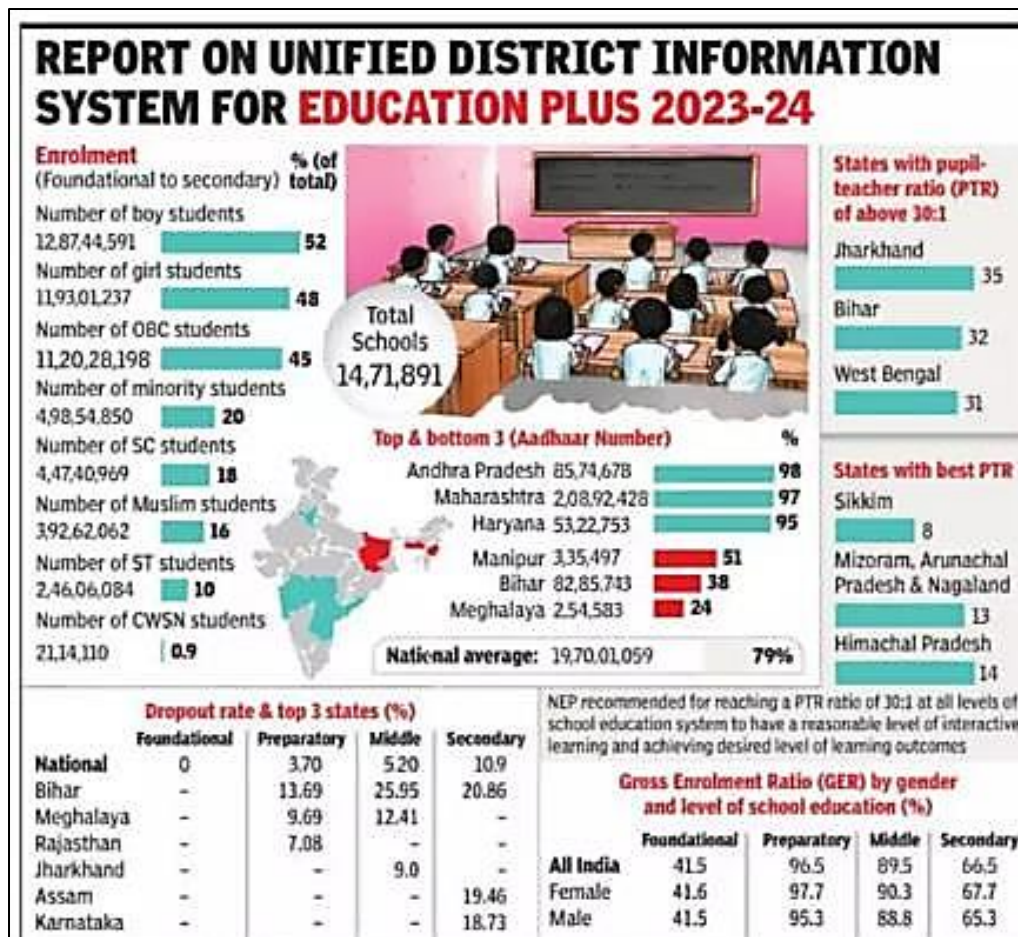
- ❖ The total annual groundwater recharge in the country has been assessed as 446.90 billion Cubic Meter (BCM).
- ❖ Keeping an allocation for natural discharge, the annual extractable ground water resource has been assessed as 406.19 BCM.
- ❖ The annual groundwater extraction for all uses is 245.64 BCM.
- ❖ The average stage of groundwater extraction for the country stands at 60.47 %.
- ❖ Total Annual GW Recharge has increased (15 BCM) substantially and Extraction has declined (3 BCM) in 2024 from 2017 assessment.

CATEGORIZATION OF ASSESSMENT UNITS (Blocks/ Mandais/ Taluks etc.)							
Sl.No	Category	Number of Assessment Units		Recharge worthy Area		Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource	
		Number	%	in lakh sq. km	%	(in bcm)	%
1	Safe	4951	73.39	16.51	66.57	301.17	74.14
2	Semi Critical	711	10.54	2.82	11.40	45.76	11.27
3	Critical	206	3.05	0.88	3.55	13.23	3.26
4	Over-Exploited	751	11.13	4.20	16.93	46.02	11.33
5	Saline	127	1.88	0.38	1.55	NA	NA
	TOTAL	6746		24.80		406.19	

UDISE+ 2023-24 Report

- ❖ Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report was released by the Union Ministry of Education.
- ❖ A total of 24.8 crore students enrolled in the academic year 2023-24.
- ❖ The total enrolment of students has been dropped by over a crore in 2023-24 as compared to the previous years
- ❖ In 2018-19, the total enrolment of students in school was 26.02 crore, which increased in 2019-20 by 1.6% and crossed 26.45 crore.
- ❖ This was an increase of more than 42 lakh students.
- ❖ The enrolments slightly fell in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20.
- ❖ In 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21, total enrolment increased by 0.76%.
- ❖ Even according to data from back in 2012-13, the total enrolment was 26.3 crore.
- ❖ In 2022-23, there was a drop in enrolment with 25.18 crore students being registered and there was a further fall in 2023-24 to 24.8 crore in the total enrolment.
- ❖ This was a drop of 6% (nearly 1.22 crore students) as compared to 2018-19.

- ❖ In 2018-19, 13.53 crore boys were enrolled, this saw a drop to 12.87 crore enrolments in 2023-24 a decrease of 4.87%.
- ❖ While enrolment of girls decreased from 12.49 crore in 2018-19 to 11.93 crore in 2023-24, a decrease of 4.48%.
- ❖ Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra saw among the highest drop in the enrolments.
- ❖ In Telangana, Punjab, West Bengal, Haryana, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Bihar, the percentage of available schools is significantly less as compared to enrolled students, indicating better utilisation of infrastructure
- ❖ The representation of minorities in total enrolment stood at around 20 per cent.
- ❖ Among the minorities, 79.6 per cent were Muslims, 10 per cent Christians, 6.9 per cent Sikhs, 2.2 per cent Buddhists, 1.3 per cent Jains, and 0.1 per cent Parsis.
- ❖ At the national level, 26.9 per cent students registered in UDISE+ were from the general category, 18 per cent from Scheduled Caste, 9.9 per cent from Scheduled Tribe, and 45.2 per cent from the Other Backward Class category.

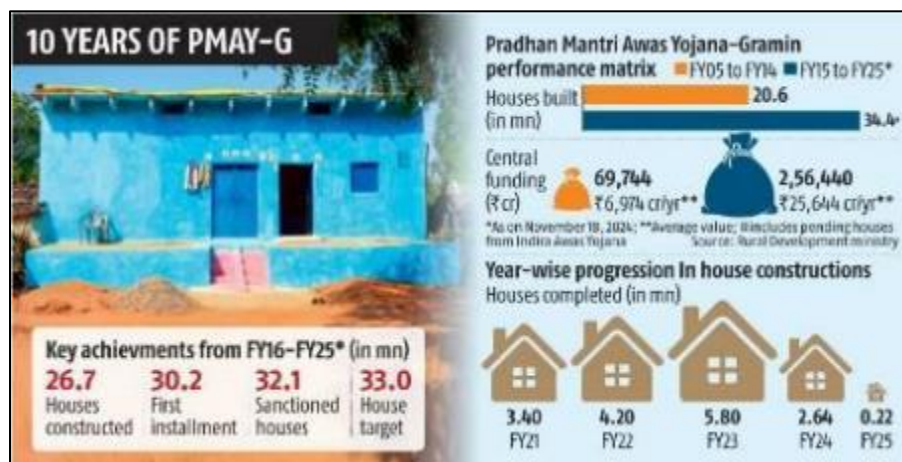


Case Disposals of Courts of India in 2024



- ❖ The district courts resolved over 13.4 million cases, leaving approximately 10.5 million pending.
- ❖ Only 3.14 million cases were disposed in 2023.
- ❖ The High courts cleared more than 1.2 million cases in 2024, while the Supreme Court addressed 36,969 cases.
- ❖ The ratio of disposed cases to pending matters dropped from 2.38 in 2023 to 0.79 in 2024.

PMAY-G program extension

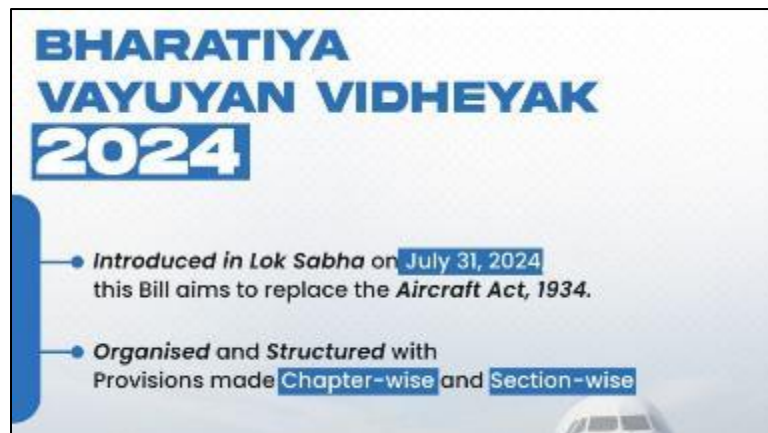


- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development has set an ambitious target of sanctioning 10 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in January 2025.
- ❖ The PMAY-G programme, extended for five years in August 2024, aims to build two crore additional houses by 2029.

- ❖ The scheme's eligibility rules have been revised to include more families and advance the goal of housing for all.
- ❖ The financial year 2024-25 has seen the highest budget allocation for the housing scheme, amounting to Rs 54,500 crore.

Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024

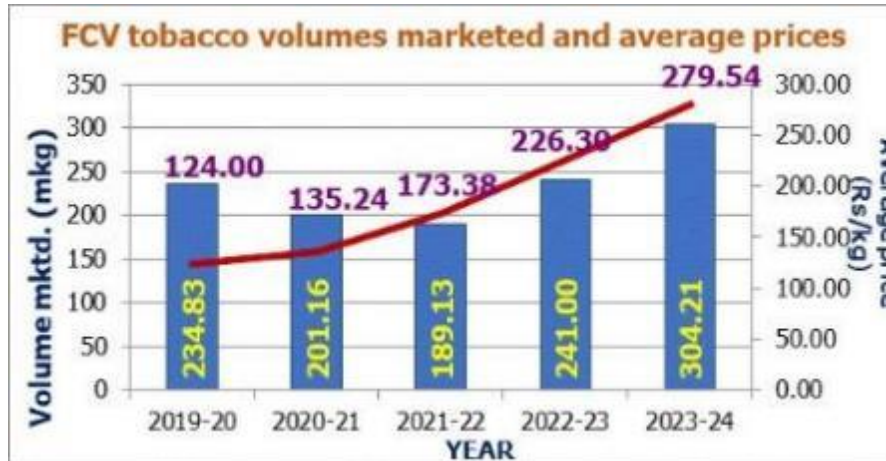
- ❖ The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 09.08.2024 and by Rajya Sabha on 05.12.2024.
- ❖ As per the Central Government, the 1st day of January, 2025 the provisions of the said Act, shall come into force.
- ❖ This legislative reform aimed at modernizing India's aviation sector by re-enacting the Aircraft Act, 1934, in alignment with the contemporary needs and the global standards.
- ❖ The Act provides for the regulation and control of the design, manufacture, maintenance, possession, use, operation, sale, export and import of aircraft and connected matters.
- ❖ The legislation also removed redundancies and replace the Aircraft Act, 1934, which has been amended 21 times.



Tobacco farmers income 2024

- ❖ The country's tobacco exports are likely to register an over 8 per cent growth and cross Rs 13,000 crore this year.
- ❖ India is the second largest producer of tobacco in the world after China.
- ❖ It is also the fourth largest producer of Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in the world after China, Brazil and Zimbabwe.

- ❖ India is the second largest exporter of unmanufactured tobacco (quantity terms) after Brazil.
- ❖ During 2023-24, the outbound shipments were Rs 12,005.89 crore (\$ 1.5 billion).
- ❖ Tobacco farmers income has also doubled over the last 5 years.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh tobacco contains higher levels of nicotine than Karnataka's.
- ❖ The Tobacco Board was established on January 1, 1976, by an Act of Parliament for the overall development of the tobacco industry.



LEADS 2024

- ❖ The sixth LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) report of 2024 was unveiled by the Union Commerce and Industry Ministry.
- ❖ The index is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical the services necessary for promoting exports and economic growth.
- ❖ Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are among the 13 states and Union Territories that have been categorised as “achievers” in the logistics index chart 2024.
- ❖ 16 states and UTs including Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, have been categorised as "fast movers" in the report.
- ❖ The other states and UTs in the “achievers” category are Chandigarh, Haryana, Telangana, UP, Uttarakhand, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Those in the “aspirers” category include Kerala, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Ladakh.
- ❖ LEADS was conceived on the lines of the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) of the World Bank in 2018.

Performance Rankings

- **Coastal States:**
 - Achievers: Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu
 - Fast Movers: Andhra Pradesh, Goa
 - Aspirers: Kerala, West Bengal
- **Landlocked States:**
 - Achievers: Haryana, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand
 - Fast Movers: Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan
 - Aspirers: Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
- **North-Eastern States:**
 - Achievers: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
 - Fast Movers: Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura
 - Aspirers: Manipur
- **Union Territories:**
 - Achievers: Chandigarh, Delhi
 - Fast Movers: Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Puducherry
 - Aspirers: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh

Unlawful content on Internet

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs and various State governments have roped in around 54,800 persons as cybercrime volunteers to flag unlawful content on the Internet.
- ❖ The Cyber Volunteer Framework enables citizens to enrol as cyber volunteers for reporting unlawful content, dissemination of cyber hygiene, and as cyber expert to aid law enforcement.
- ❖ The report had stated that 54,833 cyber volunteers have been enrolled, including 22,942 for reporting unlawful content, 22,071 awareness promoters and 9,819 experts.



- ❖ On an average, the cybercrime portal linked with the nodal police stations in the States and banks, receives 67,000 calls every day and security agencies identify around 1,500-2,000 mule accounts that are used to defraud people daily.
- ❖ From January to March, 2024, there were at least 1,10,925 cybercrime complaints involving platforms such as WhatsApp (43,797 complaints), Telegram (22,680), Instagram (19,800), Facebook (20,766) and YouTube (3,882).

SC on State consent for CBI



- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that CBI does not require the sanction of a state government to register a case under a Central legislation against a Central government employee working within the territory of the state concerned.
- ❖ It includes the Prevention of Corruption Act and others.
- ❖ There are two types of consent for a probe by the CBI - General and Specific.
- ❖ When a state gives a general consent (Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946) to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.
- ❖ If not, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state government.
- ❖ If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.

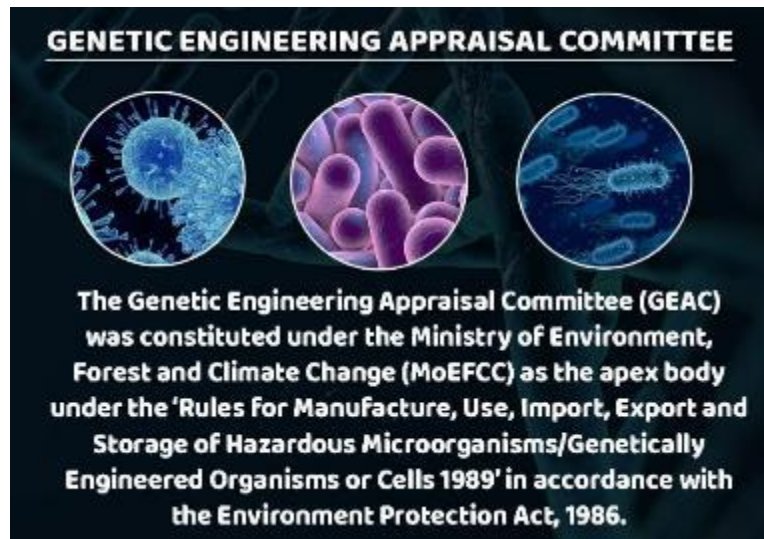
Project VISTAAR

- ❖ IIT Madras collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources).
- ❖ VISTAAR is an open, interoperable, and federated network of dedicated to agricultural information and advisory services.
- ❖ It aims to empower the farmers and enhance their farming practices for better, sustainable livelihood.
- ❖ It provides farmers access to start-up-driven innovations and technologies in agriculture and allied sectors.

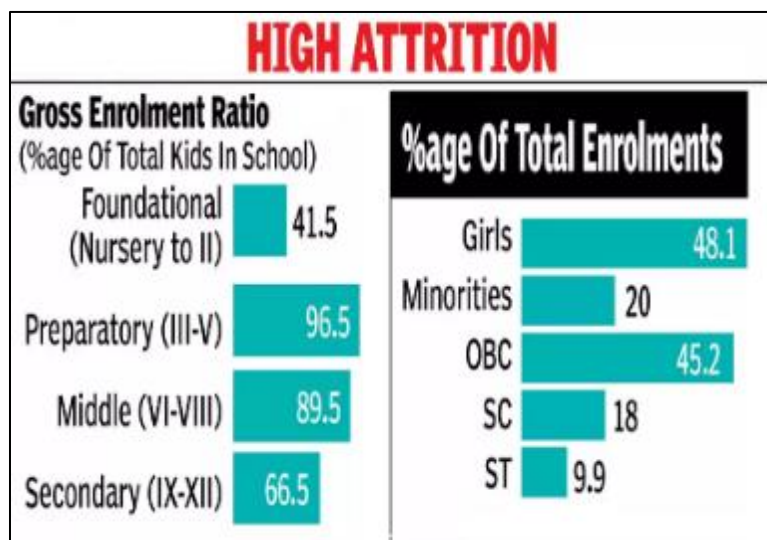


New Rules for GEAC members

- ❖ The Centre has amended the rules governing the selection of experts to the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).
- ❖ It is the apex technical body regulating genetically modified (GM) seeds in India under the Environment Protection Act of 1986.
- ❖ Under the new rules, an “expert member” ought to be disclosing their “interest” that could conflict with their duties.
- ❖ The expert is also need to take all steps necessary to ensure that any conflict of interest not affect any decision of the GEAC.
- ❖ An expert member with any direct or indirect association with a matter being discussed in a meeting of the committee is obliged to disclose this prior to the meeting.



India's digital infrastructure in schools

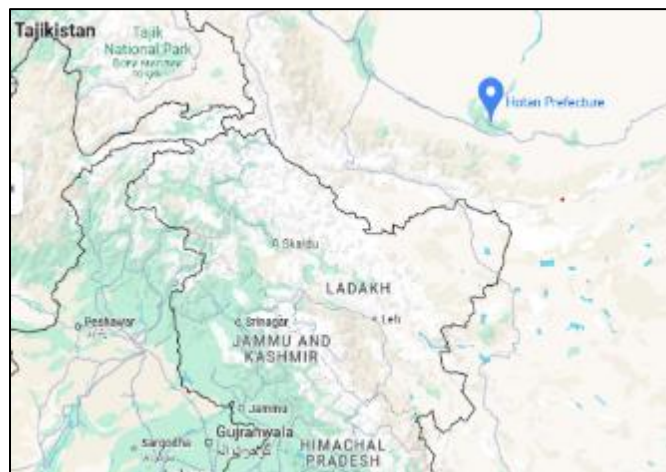


- ❖ As per the latest UDISE Plus data, only 57.2% of schools in India have functional computers, and just 53.9% are equipped with Internet access.
- ❖ Over 90% of schools have the basic facilities like electricity and gender-specific toilets.
- ❖ However, more advanced amenities such as ramps with handrails (available in only 52.3% of schools), computers, and Internet access remain sparse.
- ❖ The enrolment landscape has seen changes, with total number of students down by 37 lakhs to 24.8 crore in 2023-24.
- ❖ Boys account for 51.9% of enrolments and girls 48.1%.
- ❖ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) reveals disparities across educational levels.

- ❖ While the preparatory level boasts a GER of 96.5%, the foundational level is at a mere 41.5%.
- ❖ Middle and secondary levels are at 89.5% and 66.5%, respectively.
- ❖ Dropout rates also rise sharply at higher education levels, from 5.2% in middle school to 10.9% at the secondary stage.
- ❖ Retention rates reflect a similar trend, plummeting from 85.4% at the preparatory level to just 45.6% at the secondary stage.

Hotan Prefecture

- ❖ India condemned the China over the announcement of two new counties - He'an and Hekang in China's Hotan Prefecture.
- ❖ Parts of jurisdiction of these so-called counties fall in India's Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ Hotan Prefecture is an administrative division in southwestern Xinjiang, China.
- ❖ Earlier in 2017, China had released the initial list of 'standardised' names for six locations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ In 2021, it released a second list comprising 15 places, with another list featuring the names of 11 additional places released in 2023.



Phase III of e-Courts Mission mode project

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved e-Courts Phase III (2023-2027) in September 2023, with an allocated outlay of Rs. 7,210 crores.
- ❖ It is a flagship initiative aimed at leveraging the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the modernization and development of the Indian Judiciary.

- ❖ Some of its digital measures are
 - Establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts to digitize court proceedings.
 - Comprehensive digitization of court records, including legacy records and pending cases.
 - Expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails, and hospitals.
 - Broadening the scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations.



UGC guidelines for VC appointments

- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued new rules effectively give Governors in states broader powers in appointing Vice-Chancellors and opened the position to industry experts and public sector veterans.
- ❖ This was breaking from the tradition of selecting only academicians.
- ❖ The new regulations will give the Chancellors greater control over Vice-Chancellor selection.
- ❖ The Chancellor shall constitute the Search-cum-Selection Committee comprising three experts
- ❖ It also removed the cap on contract teacher appointments.
- ❖ The 2018 regulations had also limited such appointments to 10 per cent of an institution's total faculty positions.

- ❖ The new draft regulations also say that if the candidate's subject at the undergraduate or postgraduate level is different from the PhD subject, the candidate will be considered eligible for appointment as a teacher in the subject in which they obtained the PhD.
- ❖ Also, if the candidate's subject at the undergraduate or postgraduate level is different from their subject in qualifying exams like the NET or SET, the candidate will be eligible for appointment as a teacher in the subject in which they qualified in these exams.

Highlights of the latest draft UGC regulations	
Subject Flexibility: Candidates can teach based on their highest academic specialization, regardless of prior degree subjects or NET focus	Recognising Innovation: Criteria now include teaching innovations, digital content, and community engagement
Expanded Vice-Chancellor Eligibility: Professionals from fields like industry and policymaking with academic contributions are now eligible	Revised Librarian and Sports Roles: Emphasis on digitization, indigenous sports, and public health contributions
Inclusivity Focus: Relaxations for EWS and PwD categories alongside SC/ST/OBC, with emphasis on Indian languages in academia	Professor of Practice: Industry experts can join HEIs for teaching and research outside sanctioned posts
Transparent Recruitment: Teaching candidates will be assessed on practical teaching and research aptitude	Improved Leadership Selection: Vice-Chancellor appointments ensure transparency through expert-led committees
Fair Career Advancement: Promotions consider leave for maternity, childcare, or study.	Strict Compliance Measures: HEIs violating regulations risk penalties like exclusion from UGC schemes and degree programmes

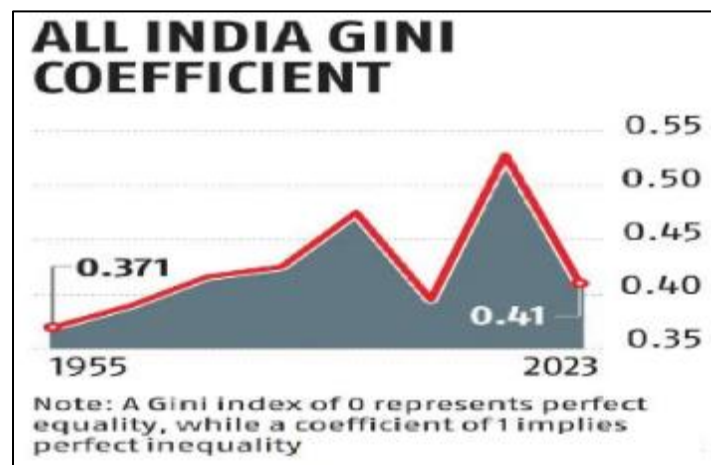
SC Ruling on Non-Cognizable Offences

- ❖ The Supreme Court clarified the parameters for police investigations into serious and non-serious crimes.
- ❖ The Court has distinguished between cognizable and non-cognizable offences, emphasising the importance of safeguards in place for non-cognizable offences.
- ❖ The Section 167 of CrPC empowers a Magistrate to remand an accused person to different forms of custody during the investigation process.
- ❖ The Sub-section (2) of Section 167 is particularly significant as it lays down the procedure for remand and sets a maximum limit of 15 days for police custody.
- ❖ Cognizable offences allow police to initiate investigations without prior approval.
- ❖ Non-cognizable offences require a magistrate's order before police can act.

- ❖ This distinction is crucial for maintaining the balance between individual rights and state authority.

Cognizable Offenses VERSUS Non-Cognizable Offenses	
Cognizable offenses are those under which a police officer can arrest without an arrest warrant.	Non-Cognizable offenses are those under which a police officer cannot arrest without a warrant.
those offenses which are serious in nature. Example- Murder, Rape, Dowry Death,	which are not much serious in nature. Example- Cheating, Forgery, Defamation.
a Police Officer can investigate without the Magistrate's permission.	in order to start the investigation, it is important for the police officer to obtain the permission from the Magistrate.

Income Inequality Trends in India 2023



- ❖ India's income inequality in 2023 remained higher than it was in the 1950s.
- ❖ The Gini coefficient for the country stood at 0.410 in 2023, up from 0.371 in 1955.
- ❖ Earlier, in 2021, due to the adverse impact of the pandemic, the Gini coefficient had risen to 0.528.
- ❖ The share of 'bottom 10 per cent' households income decline to 2.38 per cent in 2023 from 3 per cent in 1955.

- ❖ Meanwhile, the share of 'bottom 50 per cent' households rose slightly to 22.82 per cent from 22 per cent during the corresponding time period.
- ❖ The Gini coefficient measures the extent to which the distribution of income among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution.
- ❖ A Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while a coefficient of 1 implies perfect inequality.
- ❖ The higher the value will be the greater the income inequality.
- ❖ As per the World Inequality Database, the 'top 1 per cent' controlled 22.6 per cent of the national income in 2023.

CBI's BHARATPOL Portal

New platform for police assistance

Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched the Bharatpol portal to facilitate faster international assistance for agencies and speed up investigations

BHARATPOL
Broadcast Hub for Assistance and Real-Time Action against Transnational Crimes via International Police Cooperation

WHAT IS IT?
A platform which integrates CBI (which is the National Central Bureau or nodal agency of Interpol in India) with state law enforcement agencies and the Centre, for sharing information on fugitives, criminal matters and processing requests for Interpol notices

WHAT CHANGES?
Earlier, states/UTs' police used to write to CBI and any queries were replied to through letters. The portal, available on CBI website, will allow frontline police officers to easily and promptly request international assistance from 195 Interpol member countries using standardised templates.

THINGS OF NOTE

1 The entire process will become paperless and faster now

2 It will enable easy drafting of Red Notice requests and other notices of Interpol

3 It will provide access to documents, templates, and training resources, enhancing the capability of frontline officers to conduct probes

FIVE MODULES

Connect: Links CBI with all law enforcement authorities in India by including Interpol Liaison Officers and Unit officers

Interpol notices: Rapid, secure and structured transmission of requests for Interpol notices

Interpol references: Facilitates assistance to Indian agencies in criminal matters and investigation abroad through Interpol channels

Broadcast: Requests from 195 countries for assistance in criminal intelligence shared by them can be transmitted for action to Indian law enforcement agencies

Resources: Provides access to relevant documents and capacity building resources

- ❖ Centre inaugurated the 'Bharatpol' portal to streamline international cooperation for law investigating agencies.
- ❖ Bharatpol stands for broadcast hub for assistance and real-time action against transnational crimes via international police cooperation.
- ❖ It was developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ❖ It will allow central and state agencies to easily connect with the Interpol and speed up their investigations.

- ❖ This portal integrates the CBI as the Interpol (NCB-New Delhi) with all law enforcement authorities in India, down to Superintendents of Police (SPs) and Commissioners of Police (CPs).
- ❖ Bharatpol has five key modules — Connect, INTERPOL Notices, References, Broadcast, and Resources.

Section 479 of BNSS 2023

SECTION 479 BNSS TO UNDERTRIALS CASES REGISTERED BEFORE JULY 1, 2024 ALLOWED BY SC	
HEADLINE	SC ORDERS RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION OF SECTION 479 BNSS, GRANTS BAIL TO UNDERTRIALS BEFORE JULY 1.
SUMMARY	SC Applies Section 479 BNSS Retrospectively, Allows Bail for Undertrials Serving Considerable Sentence Time.
KEY FACTS	Re-Inhuman Conditions In 1382 Prisons: SC Bench Consists of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta.
LEGAL INSIGHTS	SC: Section 479 BNSS Applies Retrospectively, Eases Bail Conditions for First-Time Offenders and Undertrials.
IMPACT	SC Ruling to Release Undertrials, Addresses Prison Overcrowding, Upholds Personal Liberty and Fair Treatment.
WHY IT MATTERS	Judiciary Commits to Personal Liberty, Fair Treatment, and Legal Reforms for Undertrials and Prisoners.

- ❖ The Central government has written to all the states and Union Territories (UTs) to implement provisions of Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.
- ❖ The Section 479 (1) of the BNSS provides that if a person, during investigation, enquiry or trial under an offence, has undergone detention for a period of one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for that offence, he shall be released by the court on bail.
- ❖ But that should not be an offence for which the punishment of death or life imprisonment has been specified as one of the punishments under that law.
- ❖ Further, the Section 479 (3) of the BNSS casts a specific responsibility on the superintendent of the prison to make an application to the concerned court for release of aforementioned undertrial prisoners on bail or bond.

Central Information Commission order 2025

- ❖ The Central Information Commission has ruled that all the High Courts, as public authorities under the Right to Information Act, 2005, will fall within the jurisdiction of the Central Information Commission and not the State Information Commission.
- ❖ Since the Central and State Information Commissions were constituted by the respective governments, their jurisdiction would be separate and distinct.
- ❖ The constitution and organisation of the High Courts were within the legislative sphere of the Parliament under Union List- Entry 78 to the Schedule VII of the Constitution of India.

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION : CONSTITUTION AND POWERS		
01	02	03
10 MAXIMUM MEMBERS INCLUDING Chief Information Commissioner [CIC] other Central Information Commissioners	APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDED BY 01 PRIME MINISTER 02 LEADER OF OPPOSITION 03 A UNION CABINET MINISTER NOMINATED BY PM	REMOVED BY THE PRESIDENT GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL PROVED MISBEHAVIOUR INCAPACITY PROCEDURE SAME MANNER AS UPSC CHAIRMAN OR MEMBERS ARE REMOVED.

Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker inaugurated the “Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0” initiative.
- ❖ It provides an insight into the Constitution and parliamentary procedures to over 500 women representatives from Panchayati Raj institutions from across the country.
- ❖ The programme has brought together 502 elected women representatives from Scheduled Tribes of 22 States and Union Territories.
- ❖ It empowers the elected women representatives of the Scheduled Tribes from the Panchayati Raj institutions and enhance their knowledge of the constitutional provisions, parliamentary procedures, and governance to foster the effective leadership.

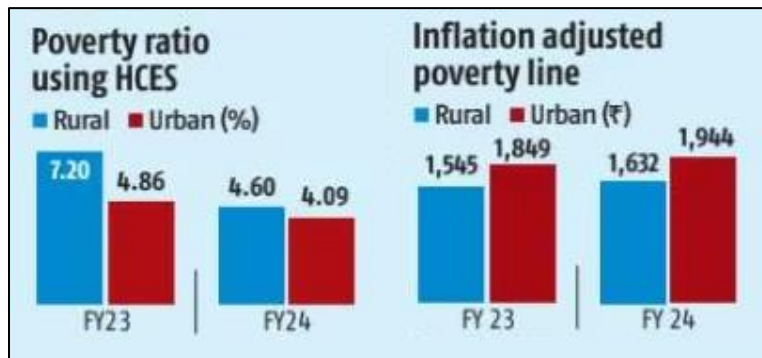


Environmental Relief Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2024

- ❖ The Government has made amendments to the Environment Relief Fund Scheme, 2008, through the Environment Relief Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2024.
- ❖ It aims to improve the fund management, ensure the efficient disbursement, and enhance environmental restoration efforts.
- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has appointed as Fund Manager for five years.
- ❖ It will get funds from the Compensation under Section 24 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 and Penalties under Sections 14, 15, or 17 of the Public Liability Insurance Act.

SBI report on Poverty of India

- ❖ The monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) for 2023-24 stands at Rs 4,122 for rural areas and Rs 6,996 for urban areas.
- ❖ This translates to daily expenditures of Rs 137 and Rs 233, respectively.
- ❖ The SBI Research updated the 2011-12 poverty line for 2023-24, setting it at 1,632 per month for rural areas and Rs 1,944 for urban areas.
- ❖ Individuals with income levels below these thresholds are classified as poor.
- ❖ By in large comparison, the 2011-12 poverty lines were Rs 816 and Rs 1,000, respectively.
- ❖ Based on this new line, 27.4 per cent of the rural and 23.7 per cent of the urban populations are poor.
- ❖ Overall, in the country, 26.4 per cent of the population is poor.



New PLI Scheme for the Steel Sector

- ❖ The union government launched a new round of steel production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, with a total outlay of Rs 4,400 crore.
- ❖ This initiative aims to attract more steel companies and investments, particularly in the specialised steel production.
- ❖ The first PLI scheme for the steel industry is with a larger outlay of ₹6,322 crore.
- ❖ It attracted investments worth ₹18,300 crore against a committed investment of ₹27,106 crore.

Sonobuoys - India and USA



- ❖ India and the U.S. announced cooperation on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys for Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It is a high-end technology that allows tracking submarines in the deep seas and oceans.
- ❖ A sonobuoy is a sophisticated device used primarily in maritime operations for underwater detection and monitoring.
- ❖ It is a key tool in anti-submarine warfare and oceanographic research.

Recalculation of India's coastline

NEW PARAMETERS	> While earlier method relied on straight-line distance, new one factors in complex coastal formations such as bays, estuaries and inlets
	> Tamil Nadu's coast, with a revised length of 1,068km, has overtaken Andhra (1,053km)
	> Puducherry's coastline shrinks 4.9km , a departure from general upward revision

- ❖ India's coastline expanded by almost half in just over five decades - from 7,516 km in 1970 to 11,098 km in 2023-24.
- ❖ States like Bengal, Gujarat and Goa adding significantly to their shoreline while Puducherry's shrunk by 10.4%.
- ❖ Gujarat's recalculated coastline has contributed the most to this growth, almost doubling from 1,214km in 1970 to 2,340km in the past 53 years.
- ❖ West Bengal has the highest increase in percentage terms during this period - up 357% from 157km to 721km.
- ❖ Nationally, the coastline increase compared to 1970 data stands at 47.6%.
- ❖ Gujarat retains its position as the state with the longest coastline.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, with a revised length of 1,068km (previously 906km), has overtaken Andhra Pradesh (1,053km), based on the new survey.
- ❖ Kerala reported the smallest increase, adding 30km (5%) to its coastline.

Urea production 2023-24

- ❖ India's various measures facilitated an increase of Urea production from a level of 225 LMT per annum during 2014-15 to a record Urea Production at 314.07 LMT during 2023-24.
- ❖ The import of Urea has been reduced from 75.80 LMT in 2022- 23 to 70.42 LMT in 2023-24.
- ❖ Still, India imported 12.80 lakh MT Urea and 12.17 lakh MT DAP from China in 2022-23.
- ❖ The figure marked an increase in 2023-24 with 18.65 lakh MT Urea and 22.28 lakh MT DAP from China.

TABLE 1

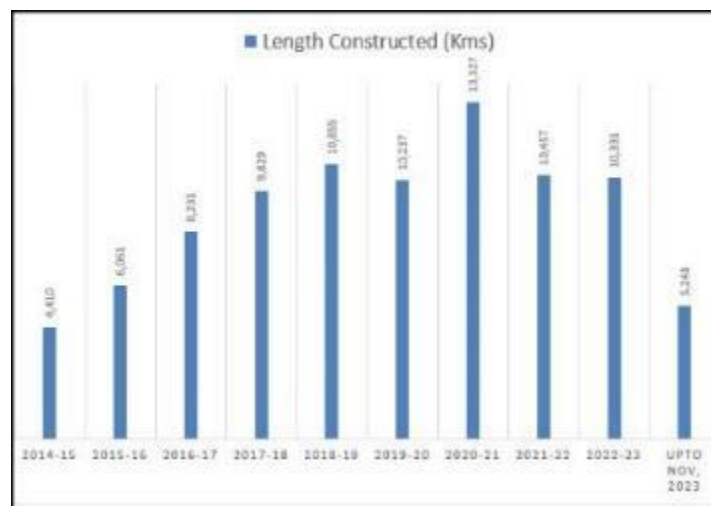
UREA: PRODUCTION VS IMPORTS (in lakh tonnes)

	Production	Imports		Production	Imports
2011-12	219.92	78.34	2019-20	244.55	91.21
2012-13	225.87	80.44	2020-21	246.03	98.26
2013-14	227.19	70.88	2021-22	250.76	91.36
2014-15	225.93	87.49	2022-23	284.95	75.80
2015-16	244.61	84.74	2023-24	314.09	70.42
2016-17	242.01	54.81	Apr-Nov 23	208.84	47.65
2017-18	240.26	59.75	Apr-Nov 24	205.07	32.55
2018-19	238.99	74.81			

Source: The Fertiliser Association of India

India Road Infrastructure Growth

- ❖ India's National Highway network has grown by 60% over the past decade.
- ❖ It was expanding from 91,287 km in 2014 to 146,195 km by 2024.
- ❖ This was making it the second-largest road network globally.
- ❖ In addition, high-speed corridors have surged from 93 km to 2,474 km.
- ❖ The Externally Aided Projects have made remarkable progress, with 2,540 km completed out of the planned 3,105 km as of November 30, 2024.



Modified cashless treatment scheme

- ❖ Centre unveiled an updated version of the 'Cashless Treatment' scheme.
- ❖ It is aimed at extending financial assistance to victims of road accidents.

- ❖ Under this initiative, the government will cover medical expenses up to Rs 1.5 lakh for seven days of treatment.
- ❖ It is required that the accident is reported to the police within 24 hours.
- ❖ For victims of hit-and-run accidents, families will receive an ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh.



8th Edition NPOP



- ❖ The 8th edition of National Programme for Organic Production was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Centre announced that the organic farming exports could reach Rs 20,000 crore in next three years.
- ❖ Following new portals unveiled during the event to aid Organic Production:

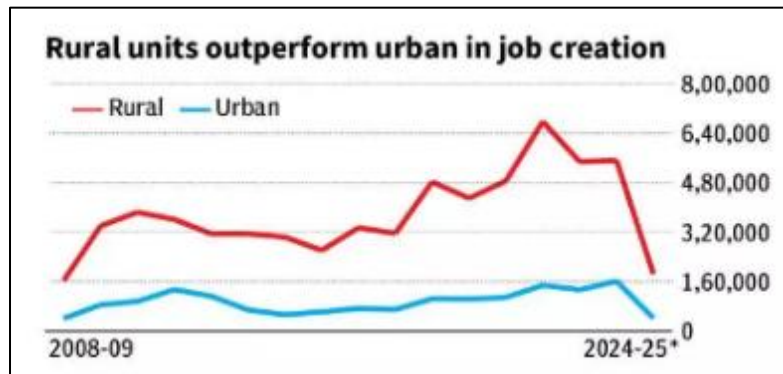
- ❖ NPOP portal: It will provide more visibility and ease of operations for the Organic stakeholders.
- ❖ Organic Promotion Portal: the Farmers, FPOs and exporters can showcase their certified organic products, generate Trade Leads and connect with global buyers.
- ❖ The TraceNet 2.0: The upgraded online Organic traceability system for seamless operations and enhanced tools for regulatory oversight.
- ❖ APEDA portal: The Redesigned and revamped APEDA portal with enhanced user experience and information for the benefit of Agri and Processed food products' stakeholders.
- ❖ AgriXchange portal: Redesigned and revamped AgriXchange portal enables more user-friendly data analysis and generation of reports & data of Agricultural exports making it accessible for the general public.

Tax devolution to states 2025

- ❖ The Centre released tax devolution of ₹1.73 lakh crore to the state governments to accelerate capital expenditure and finance welfare activities.
- ❖ It was ₹89,086 crore in December 2024.
- ❖ Currently, 41% of taxes collected by the Centre is devolved in instalments among states during a fiscal year.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation of ₹31,039.84 crore, followed by Bihar with ₹17,403.36 crore and West Bengal with ₹13,017.06 crore.

RAJASTHAN	10426.78
SIKKIM	671.35
TAMIL NADU	7057.89
TELANGANA	3637.09
TRIPURA	1225.04
UTTAR PRADESH	31039.84
UTTARAKHAND	1934.47
WEST BENGAL	13017.06

PMEGP - Rural Job Creation



- ❖ The rural enterprises supported under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) have outperformed their urban counterparts in generating employment.
- ❖ The Micro enterprises established in rural areas across India have created an estimated 8.19 jobs per unit.
- ❖ It was surpassing the 8.07 jobs per unit generated by urban enterprises.
- ❖ Of the total 80.52 lakh estimated jobs created under PMEGP during this period, a substantial 64.55 lakh jobs were generated in rural areas.
- ❖ Out of the total 9.86 lakh units assisted, 79.89 per cent were in rural areas, while only 20.11 per cent were in urban areas.

Open Data Kit Platform



- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is using a new digital tool to improve transparency and accountability in public spending.
- ❖ It allows the CAG to collect and manage data securely.
- ❖ Beneficiary survey is one of the sources of information for audit planning as well as for collection of audit evidence.
- ❖ The toolkit also enables surveys in multiple languages simultaneously.

INS Vagsheer 2025

- ❖ INS Vagsheer has joined the Indian navy.
- ❖ The INS Vagsheer, named after the deep-sea predator Sand Fish, represents India's resolve to counter growing threats in its backyard.
- ❖ It is designed as a hunter-killer submarine under Project 75.
- ❖ It is the sixth and final submarine of the Scorpene-class under this Project.
- ❖ The first submarine, INS Kalvari, was commissioned in December 2017, followed by Khanderi, Karanj, Vela, and Vagir.

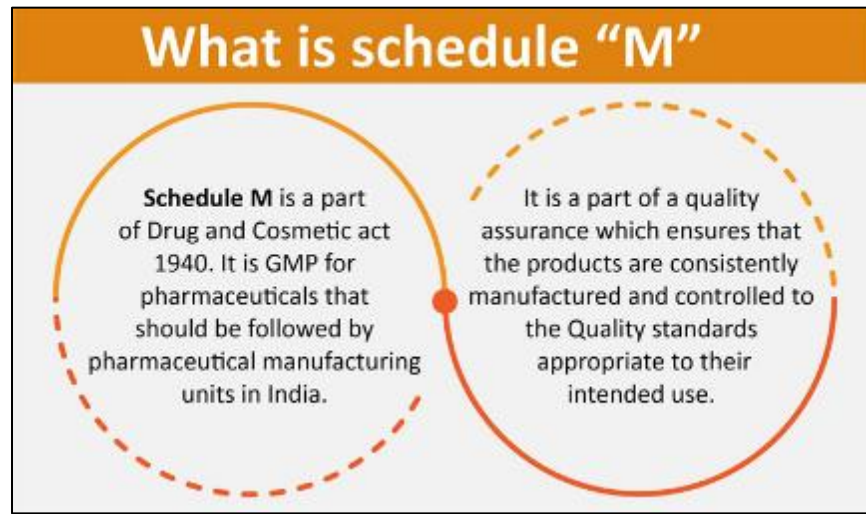


SC on Right to Access to Justice

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that the right to access courts is not absolute and must be exercised responsibly.
- ❖ The Court observed that the Petitioner had repeatedly misused judicial remedies to challenge his dismissal from service over 11 years.
- ❖ In 2016, the Constitution Bench of the SC held that the access to Justice is a Fundamental Right guaranteed to citizens by Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India.



Drugs and Cosmetics Rules revision – 2025



- ❖ The Union Health Ministry revised the date of implementation of the revised standards of Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act-1945.
- ❖ It aims to give the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry 12 more months to comply.
- ❖ Schedule M is a part of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1945 that outlines Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for pharmaceutical products in India.
- ❖ It also covers the requirements for premises, plants, and equipment used in the manufacturing process.
- ❖ There are around 10,500 manufacturing units in the country, of which around 8,500 falls under the MSME category.

Mission Mausam 2025

- ❖ The 'Mission Mausam' was inaugurated to transforming India into a weather-ready and climate-smart nation.
- ❖ The launch coincides with the 150th Foundation Day celebrations of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ It aims to tackle the growing impact of climate change on weather patterns.
- ❖ The mission focuses on improving short and medium-range forecasts and boosting preparedness for extreme weather events.
- ❖ It enhances the forecast accuracy by 5-10 per cent and extend predictions to panchayat levels with a 10–15-day lead time.



MISSION MAUSAM

'Mission Mausam' to create a more weather-ready and climate-smart Bharat with an outlay of **Rs.2,000 crore** over 2 years

BENEFITS

- A multi-faceted and transformative initiative to tremendously boost India's weather and climate-related science, research and services
- Will help better equip stakeholders, including citizens and last-mile users, in tackling extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change
- Mission focus to include improving observations and understanding for providing highly accurate and timely weather and climate information across temporal and spatial scales
- Mission to be implemented by 3 institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences:
 - India Meteorological Department
 - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
 - National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting

Nag Mk-2 test

- ❖ DRDO has successfully conducted field evaluation trials of India's indigenous Anti-Tank Missile - Nag Mark 2.
- ❖ Nag Mark-2 is the third-generation Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile.
- ❖ Its fire-and-forget technology enables the operators to lock onto targets before launch, ensuring precision strikes even in complex battlefield scenarios.



TANK KILLERS

- Anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) are meant to **destroy advancing enemy armoured units**
- **Range** from shoulder-launched to larger tripod-mounted systems for infantry soldiers
- Army has a shocking **60% shortage** in its 'authorised holding' of ATGMs
- **Big operational gap**, especially on the western front with Pakistan
- Army demanding 3rd-generation ATGMs with

night-fighting capabilities & higher range for a decade

- Defence Acquisitions Council in June 2009 gave nod for 8,356 ATGMs, 321 launchers & 15 simulators for ₹3,200 crore
- This included transfer of

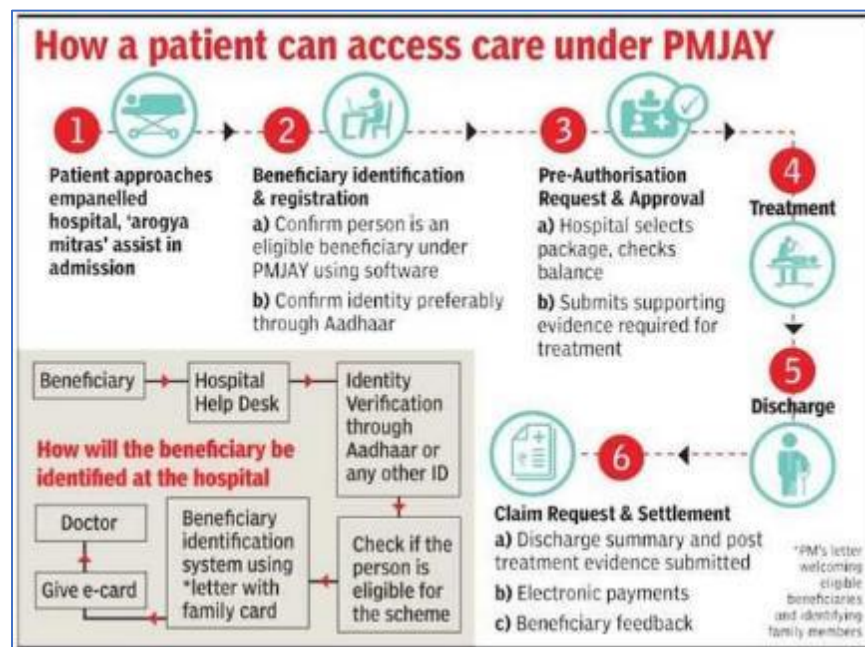
technology to Bharat Dynamics for mass production

- Israeli company Rafael's Spike ATGM underwent trials in a single-vendor situation. Tender scrapped in late-2017
- Separate process to acquire Javelin ATGMs from US also didn't materialise

Infantry battalions making do with 2nd-Generation Milan (2 km) & Konkurs (4 km) ATGMs

Ayushman Bharat - Odisha

- ❖ Odisha has become the 34th state to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- ❖ Till date, Odisha, along with two other states, had not implemented this scheme.
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat comprises two inter-related schemes.
- ❖ The first is the Health and Wellness Center, and the second is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ❖ The scheme covers pre-hospitalisation diagnostic costs three days before admission and post-hospitalisation medication costs for up to 15 days.
- ❖ Under this scheme, approximately 2,000 treatment procedures are included in 27 types of speciality medical departments, including major surgeries.

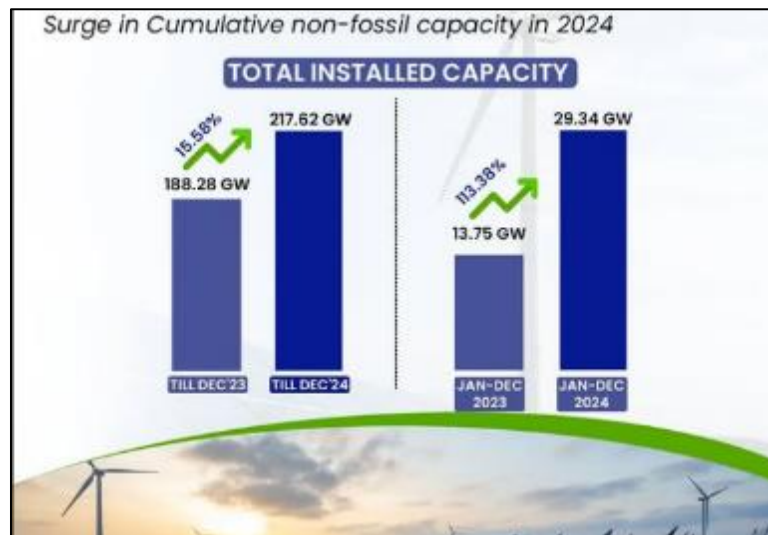


Atomic Energy Commission 2025

- ❖ The government has re-constituted the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to include T V Somanathan and Manoj Govil.
- ❖ The reconstituted AEC has Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, as its chairman.
- ❖ The commission has National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Principal Secretary to the PM Pramod Kumar Mishra, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Somanathan and Govil as ex-officio members.
- ❖ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Director Vivek Bhasin is also an ex-officio member of the commission.



30 GW Green Energy in 2024



- ❖ India added about 30 GW (Gigawatt) of new renewable energy capacity last year.
- ❖ It is 113 percent higher compared to 13.75 GW added in 2023.
- ❖ With the expansion, India's total renewable energy capacity has reached 218 GW.
- ❖ India has set a target of developing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- ❖ To achieve this target, the country will have to install at least 50 GW of new renewable energy capacity every year in the next six years.

National River Traffic and Navigation System

- ❖ The second meeting of Inland Waterways Development Council was organised by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- ❖ During the event, the National River Traffic and Navigation System (NRT&NS) was launched.

- ❖ It aims to modernize and enhance the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of the inland water transport.
- ❖ It leverages the real-time data and technology to optimize navigation on India's National Waterways.
- ❖ India has a vast network of 14,500 km of navigable waterways, including the 111 declared National Waterways (NWs).



Regional Conference on “Drug Trafficking and National Security”

Record Drug Seizures (2024)

- Drugs worth ₹16,914 crore seized, highest since Independence.
- Seven-fold increase in seizures over the past decade due to decisive measures.

Emerging Challenges

- Dark web, cryptocurrency, online marketplaces, and drones complicate anti-drug efforts.
- Collaboration between states, the Centre, and technocrats emphasized for technical solutions.

Success Against Narco-Terrorism

- Narco-terrorism networks dismantled in states like J&K, Punjab, Gujarat, and UP.
- Reduced links between drug trafficking and terrorism.

- ❖ This event was organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau in New Delhi.
- ❖ It focused on tackling the growing concern of drug trafficking and its impact on national security, with a special focus on eight states and union territories of northern India.

- ❖ In 2024, the NCB and police forces across India seized drugs valued at Rs 16,914 crore, highest figure since independence.
- ❖ 3.63 lakh kilograms of drugs were seized Between 2004 and 2014.
- ❖ The seized drugs increased sevenfold to 24 lakh kilograms in 10 years from 2014 to 2024.

Amrit Bharat Trains 2.0

- ❖ Indian Railways will soon roll out an upgraded version of the Amrit Bharat.
- ❖ It is termed as the Amrit Bharat 2.0 is an LHB push-pull train with non-air-conditioned coaches.
- ❖ At present, the two Amrit Bharat trains are operated by the Indian Railways - one between Anand Vihar of Delhi and Darbhanga of Bihar and another between Malda of West Bengal and Bengaluru.

IMD Vision-2047

KEY GOALS UNDER IMD VISION 2047	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Global leadership Attain recognition as a leading meteorological agency at the global level ➤ Exporting instruments to meet the global demand ➤ Substantial improvement in quality, accuracy & efficiency in service delivery and forecast accuracy ➤ Use of UAVs for surface and boundary layer meteorological observations ➤ Setting up one million observations at voluntary homes (neighbourhood meteorological network) ➤ Involvement of all stakeholders in weather reporting (aviation, railways, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> power, wind and solar farms) ➤ Setting up 300 electronic sensors-based observatory ➤ Using mobile weather station; application of AI/ML; application of robotics ➤ Utilisation of energy from waste to power all surface observatories and automated stations ➤ Implementation of advanced algorithms and data analytics for real-time lightning detection and prediction systems ➤ Precise observations and continuous monitoring to map sea-level rise ➤ Constant observations of glacier monitoring and hydrological data

- ❖ India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Vision-2047 document was released by Prime Minister.
- ❖ India aims to achieve 100-per cent detection of all types of severe weather at the village and household levels by 2047 and reduce the loss of life from such events to zero.

- ❖ The weather department targets 100-per cent forecast accuracy for up to three days, 90 per cent for up to five days, 80 per cent for up to seven days and 70 per cent for up to 10 days.
- ❖ It will be covering all severe weather events at the block and panchayat levels.
- ❖ It also outlines targets for the next two years, the next 10 years (by 2035) and the next 22 years (by 2047), considering advancements in science and technology.
- ❖ The prime minister also released a special ₹150 commemorative coin and a postal stamp of IMD.
- ❖ For the first time, the IMD will showcase its own tableau in the Republic Day parade 2025.

National Turmeric Board 2025



- ❖ The National Turmeric Board (NTB) was inaugurated recently in Nizamabad of Telangana as headquarters and Ganga Reddy was its first chairperson
- ❖ Turmeric, known as 'Golden Spice', are spread across Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and others.
- ❖ NTB will help boost their incomes and also give impetus to increase production especially in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana where there is a lot of potential.
- ❖ Last year, an area of 3.05 lakh hectare was under turmeric cultivation in the country.
- ❖ The production of Turmeric is 10.74 lakh tonnes or over 70% of global turmeric production.
- ❖ There are 30 varieties of turmeric produced in India.
- ❖ India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world with more than 62% share of world trade.
- ❖ During 2023-24, 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products valued at \$226.5 million was exported.

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce will be the nodal department providing funds and infrastructure for the NTB.

India-Saudi Arabia Hajj Agreement 2025

- ❖ India signed a Haj agreement with Saudi Arabia, securing a quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for the year 2025.
- ❖ As per the Haj Policy 2025 30% of India's total Haj quota, or 52,507 slots, will be allocated to private Haj Group Organizers (HGOs).
- ❖ Other 70% will be handled by the Haj Committee of India (HCoI).

Review Petition on Same-Sex Marriage



- ❖ Supreme Court rejected a petition seeking a review of an October 2023 judgment (Supriyo v. Union of India) which refused to legalise same-sex marriage.
- ❖ Earlier the Supreme Court in a majority view held that homosexual couples cannot claim an unqualified right to marry.
- ❖ The court leaving it to Parliament to legislate on the subject.
- ❖ It also ruled that the Constitution does not recognise marriage as a fundamental right.
- ❖ But all the five judges on the Bench agreed that the Special Marriage Act of 1954 was not unconstitutional for excluding same-sex marriages.

- ❖ The Special Marriage Act of 1954 only provides a civil form of marriage for couples who cannot marry under their personal law.

EmpowHER Biz Initiative

- ❖ Recently, the EmpowHER Biz – Sapno Ki Udaan was launched to boost women entrepreneurship in retail.
- ❖ Under the initiative, fifty participants aged 18–35, will be selected through an online application process based on specific criteria.
- ❖ Top twenty of these participants will receive a 100% waiver on New Shop franchise fees.
- ❖ The program is being launched for women from Delhi NCR, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- ❖ New Shop operates a network of over 200 round-the-clock convenience retail stores located in high-density neighbourhoods, highways, and gas stations.



Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform

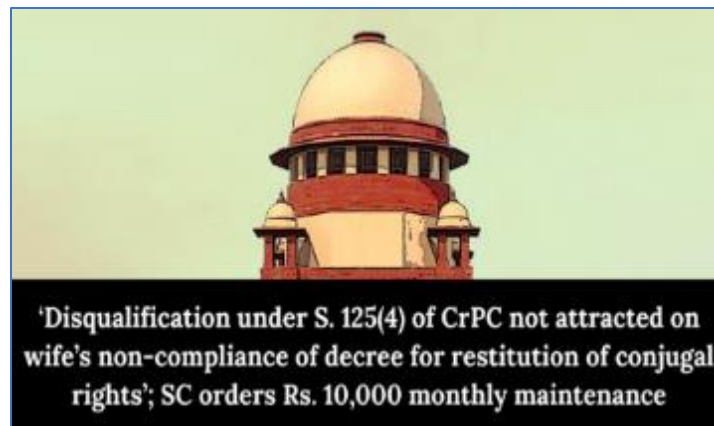
- ❖ The Centre unveiled the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi.
- ❖ This is an initiative designed to enhance India's cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors.
- ❖ The platform aims to strengthen India's position in the global cleantech market.
- ❖ It encourages the collaboration among businesses to secure financing and share resources.

National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) 2025



- ❖ The ICMR has proposed a revised version of the National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL).
- ❖ It will enumerate the minimum number of tests that should be available at various levels of healthcare facilities in the country.
- ❖ According to the revised draft, nine types of diagnostic tests, including those for diabetes, Malaria, TB, HIV and syphilis should be made available at the health centres in village-level health facilities.
- ❖ The ICMR has released the first NEDL in 2019 to make diagnostics an essential component of the health care system.

SC on Conjugal Rights




- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that the proceedings on the restitution of conjugal rights and those on maintenance are “altogether independent” and “not directly or even indirectly connected”.
- ❖ Also, Husband must continue to pay maintenance to his wife even if she refuses to comply with a decree for the restitution of conjugal rights.

- ❖ Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (HMA) talks about the restitution of conjugal rights.

8th Pay Commission

- ❖ The Union Cabinet decided to set up the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries of central government employees and allowances of pensioners.
- ❖ The 7th Pay Commission was set up in 2016, and its term will end in 2026.
- ❖ Since 1947, there have been seven Central Pay Commissions.
- ❖ A new pay commission is set up every 10 years to introduce revisions in the salaries of Central employees and pensioners.

LIKELY RISE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The 8th Pay Commission will recommend fitment factor, which serves as basis for revising salaries and pensions of central govt employees 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fitment factor is a key multiplier used to calculate salaries and pensions for govt employees 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If one goes by recent reports, the pay matrix is most likely to be prepared taking a fitment factor of 1.92 under 8th Pay Commission 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Current minimum salary is ₹18,000, which will possibly be revised to ₹34,560 with a fitment factor of 1.92 ■ Minimum pension may be fixed at ₹17,280

Watershed Development Component 2.0 of PMKSY

- ❖ Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is implementing the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) Scheme.
- ❖ IT aims to develop the degraded and rainfed areas of the country, by undertaking watershed development projects in an integrated approach.
- ❖ 56 new Watershed Development Projects are announced at a cost of ₹700 Crores under the ongoing Scheme of PMKSY-WDC 2.0, in 10 best performing States.
- ❖ They are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.



Easy access to clean toilets

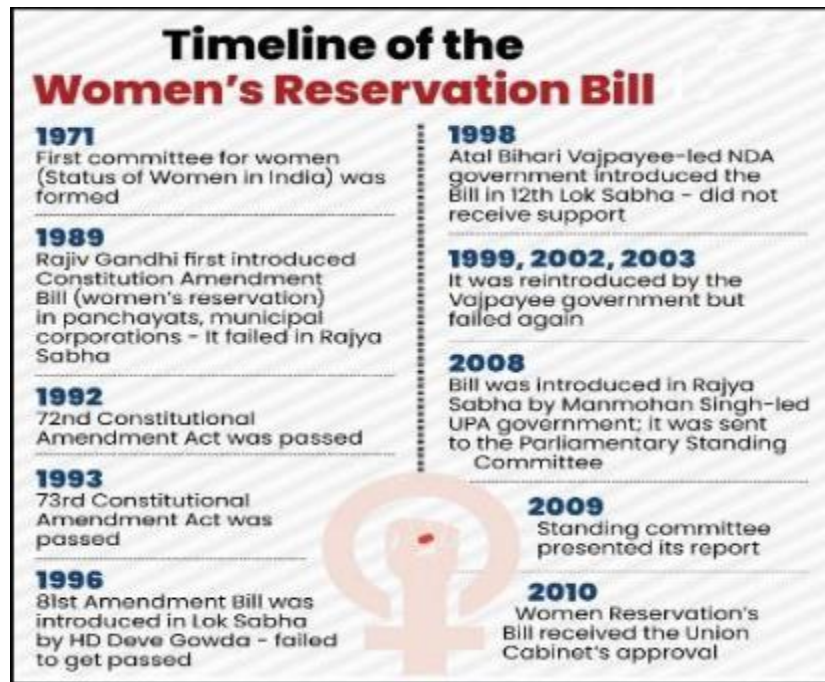
- ❖ The Supreme Court declared that easy access to clean public toilets for all is not just a matter of convenience but a basic right and an essential part of human dignity.
- ❖ It is applicable to all men, women, persons with the disabilities, and transgender persons.
- ❖ Access to proper sanitation is recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.



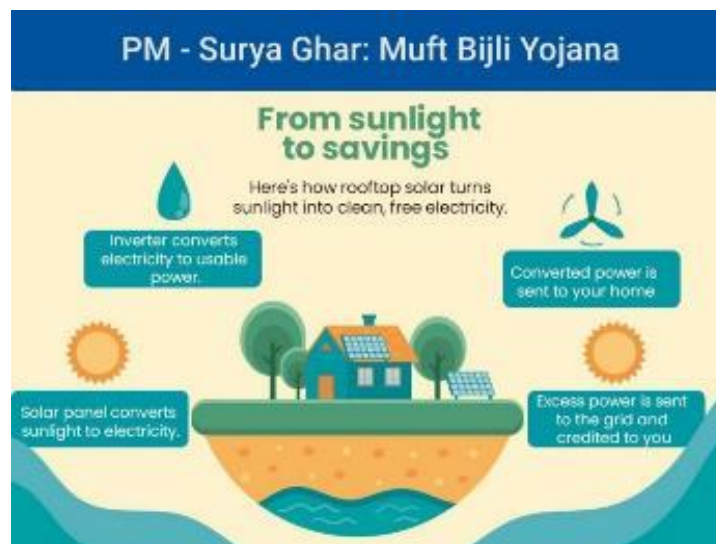
SC on 106th amendment

- ❖ The Supreme Court dismissed petitions filed in 2023 which challenged provisions of the 106th amendment act.
- ❖ This law provides 33% reservation for the women in the Lok Sabha, the State legislative assemblies, and the Delhi legislative assembly.

- ❖ The Court remarked that there is no question of violation of fundamental rights least Article 14 and therefore, Article 32 jurisdiction will not be applicable for this.



New Guidelines for PM-Surya Ghar – Muft Bijli Yojana



- ❖ New Guidelines for the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has been issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ❖ It is allowing two additional payment models for installing rooftop solar systems.
- ❖ This move is designed to make the process more flexible, secure, and accessible for households across India.

- ❖ With these new options, more people can take the advantage of the scheme and switch to solar power with ease.
- ❖ Under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) Model, the third-party companies install and maintain solar panels.
- ❖ Consumers only pay for the electricity they use, without any upfront costs.
- ❖ Under the Utility-Led Aggregation Model, State agencies or DISCOMs manage the installation process and provide support for households.

Open Market sale scheme policy 2025



- ❖ The Centre announced a revision in the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)] policy for the year 2024-25.
- ❖ This policy aims to enhance food security and ensure efficient distribution of rice to various stakeholders.
- ❖ The reserve price of rice has been fixed at Rs.2,250 per quintal (Pan-India) for the sale to the State governments, State government corporations, and community kitchens, without the requirement of participating in e-auctions.

iSNR and INR Konnect

- ❖ The Rubber Board has announced two new projects - iSNR and INR Konnect.
- ❖ They were unveiled during the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Rubber Act, 1947.



- ❖ The iSNR (Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber) aims at aligning Indian rubber production with the stringent European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) standards.
- ❖ A key feature of iSNR is its traceability certification.
- ❖ INR Konnect, a web-based platform, is designed to connect growers of untapped rubber holdings with interested adopters to maximise plantation productivity.
- ❖ India is the third-largest producer of natural rubber globally, following Thailand (1st) and Indonesia (2nd).
- ❖ India is the fourth-largest consumer of natural rubber.
- ❖ Kerala accounts for over 90% of India's natural rubber production.
- ❖ Other states include Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura, Assam, and Meghalaya.

60 years of India Singapore relations

- ❖ India and Singapore unveiled a special joint logo to mark 60 years of diplomatic ties.
- ❖ Bilateral trade expanded from USD 6.7 billion in FY 2004-05 to USD 35.6 billion in 2023-24, making Singapore India's 6th largest trade partner.
- ❖ India imported goods worth USD 21.2 billion from Singapore and exported USD 14.4 billion to Singapore.
- ❖ Singapore was the largest source of FDI into India, with inflows of USD 11.774 billion.
- ❖ The Cumulative FDI from Singapore (April 2000–Sept 2024) reached USD 167.47 billion, 24% of India's total FDI.
- ❖ Ethnic Indians make up around 9% of Singapore's resident population (about 3.8 lakh), with an additional 3.8 lakh Indian expatriates residing in the country.

PRABHAAV Factbook and Bharat Startup Challenge

- ❖ PRABHAAV Factbook (Powering a Resilient and Agile Bharat for the Advancement of Visionary Startups) was launched recently.
- ❖ It is the ultimate guide to India's thriving startup ecosystem and its growth story from 2016-2024.
- ❖ PRABHAAV captures the achievements of every region.
- ❖ Bharat Startup Challenge aims to unleash 75 challenges across various sectors.
- ❖ The challenge will see 20 industry leaders and innovators invite thinkers to solve business challenges.

NBM 2.0 & Sanchar Saathi App



- ❖ The Centre has launched the Sanchar Saathi Mobile App, National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0.
- ❖ It also inaugurated the Intra Circle Roaming facility at DBN Funded 4G Mobile Sites.
- ❖ The Sanchar Saathi Mobile App is a user-friendly platform designed to fortify telecom security and empower citizens.
- ❖ The NBM 2.0 aims to connect 1.7 lakh villages with broadband.
- ❖ DBN earlier known as USOF, has undertaken an important role in bridging the telecom gap across rural and remote areas through its extensive mobile tower projects.
- ❖ DBN 4G Sites Allows users to access 4G services from multiple telecom providers (BSNL, Airtel, Reliance).

Trusted Traveler Program

- ❖ The Centre inaugurates Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad airports.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate international mobility with faster, smoother and more secure immigration clearance for Indian Nationals and OCI passengers.
- ❖ After necessary verification, a white list of 'Trusted Travellers' will be generated and fed for implementation through e-gates.
- ❖ The registered passenger has to scan their boarding pass issued by the airlines at the e-gates and then scan their passport.
- ❖ The biometrics of the passenger will be authenticated at the e-gates.
- ❖ On such authentication, the e-gate will open automatically and the immigration clearance will be deemed to have been granted.

PM' Museum and Library Society

- ❖ The Centre has reconstituted the society and Executive Council of the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML).
- ❖ The executive council, previously had 29 members, has now been expanded to 34 members.
- ❖ Nripendra Mishra, has been reappointed for a five-year term as the chairperson of the organization.
- ❖ The former Union Minister Smriti Irani, the ex-NITI Aayog Vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar, retired Army General Syed Ata Hasnain, renowned filmmaker Shekhar Kapur were added as new members.
- ❖ The Prime Minister is the President of the NMML Society and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is the Vice President.

6.5 million 'SVAMITVA Property' cards

- ❖ The Prime Minister distributed over 65 lakh property cards under the 'SVAMITVA Scheme' to property owners in over 50000 villages.
- ❖ The SVAMITVA scheme was launched to ensure that the people residing in the rural areas receive their property cards.
- ❖ Over 1.5 crore people have been issued SVAMITVA cards in the past 5 years.



AnSI and TRIs' findings

- ❖ The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) have, for the first time, comprehensively categorised 268 Denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes that previous commissions believed had never been classified.

- ❖ The three-year-long study was commissioned by a NITI Aayog panel.
- ❖ It has recommended the inclusion of 179 of these communities in SC, ST, and OBCs (Central) lists of 26 States and union territories.
- ❖ At least 85 of these are being recommended as fresh additions to these lists.
- ❖ Among the fresh additions, 46 communities have been recommended for OBC status, 29 for SC status, and 10 for Scheduled Tribe status.
- ❖ The greatest number of fresh additions were recommended for Uttar Pradesh (19), followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan at eight each.
- ❖ The study had also concluded that 63 communities (over 20%) studied were “not traceable” anymore.



Mission SCOT

- ❖ Indian space startup Digantara launched the Space Camera for Object Tracking (SCOT) mission.
- ❖ Digantara launched its SCOT satellite aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission recently.
- ❖ Mission SCOT is the world's first commercial Space Situational Awareness (SSA) satellite.
- ❖ It will monitor Low Earth Orbit (LEO) with improved efficiency.
- ❖ It will ensure surveillance of objects as small as 5 cm orbiting the Earth to ensure safer space operations.
- ❖ On the same day, Bengaluru-based Pixxel also launched its first three satellites of its Firefly constellation -- India's 1st private satellite constellation.

HAL's Combat Air Teaming System

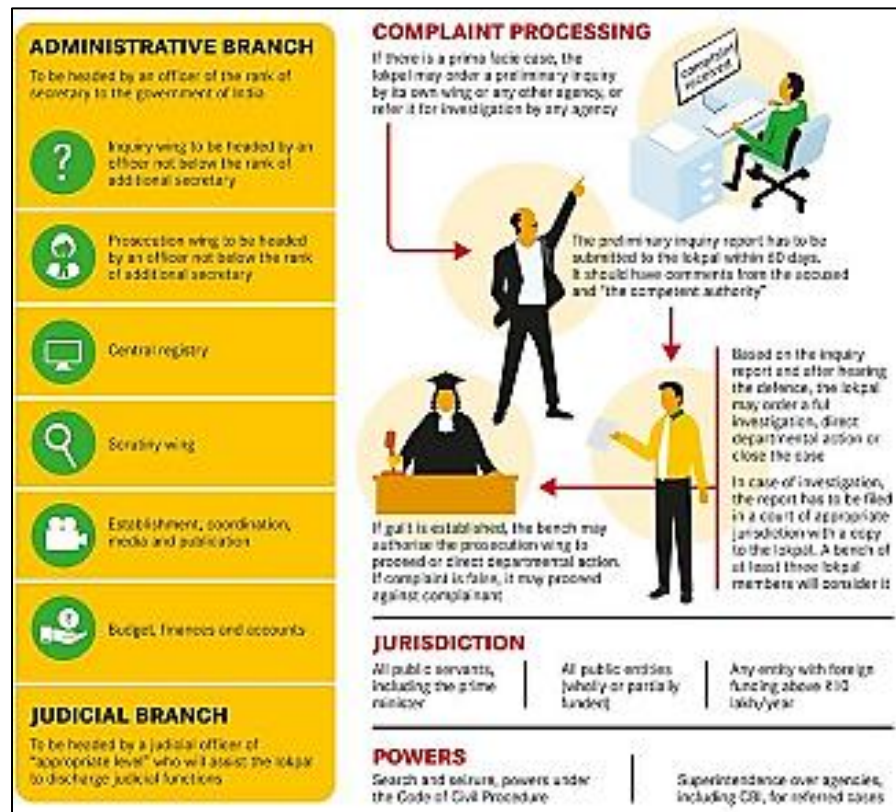
- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully conducted the engine ground run of a full-scale demonstrator, Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) – Warrior.
- ❖ CATS-Warrior is a stealth UCAV designed to accompany manned fighter jets on missions as a loyal wingman platform.
- ❖ It can carry the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAAWs) and Next-Generation Close Combat Missiles (NG CCMs).
- ❖ CATS-Hunter is an air-launched low-observable cruise missile capable of the precision strikes deep inside enemy territory.
- ❖ CATS-Infinity Pseudo Satellite is an ultra-high-altitude, solar-powered pseudo satellite designed to operate at an altitude of approximately 70,000 feet.
- ❖ With an endurance of 90 days, it bridges the surveillance gap between satellites and UAVs.



Lokpal status 2025

- ❖ Twelve years since the Lokpal Act was passed and five years after Lokpal started to function, it has ordered investigation in just 24 cases and granted prosecution sanction in six cases.
- ❖ The Lokpal has rejected a large number of complaints, nearly 90%, over the last five years as they were not in the correct format.
- ❖ At least 2,320 “defect-free” complaints were registered with the Lokpal in the past five years, with 226 complaints lodged from April 1 to December 2024.
- ❖ Of the total complaints, 3% were against Prime Minister/Member of Parliament/ Union Minister and 21% complaints were against Group A, B, C or D officials of the Central government.
- ❖ 35% complaints against chairperson or members in Central government bodies, and 41% were against those in the “Others” category, which includes the State government officials.

- ❖ As per Section 53 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, a complaint can be entertained only if it filed within a period of seven years from the date of the alleged offence.
- ❖ Though the Lokpal Act was passed in 2013, the country's first Lokpal, Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh, was appointed on March 19, 2019, along with eight other members.



6-point plan to boost economic ties



- ❖ India outlined six broad principles for building a mutually beneficial partnership between India and the European Union.
- ❖ The talks were aimed at setting up a new framework for an India-European Union strategic agenda in the area of trade and investment.
- ❖ This economic relationship will integrate the combined market currently estimated at over \$24 trillion, bringing unprecedented opportunities for the 2 billion people of India and the European Union.

Assessment of National Health Mission (NHM)



- ❖ In FY 2021-22, the NHM has facilitated the engagement of 2.69 lakh additional healthcare workers.
- ❖ Additionally, 90,740 community health officers (CHOs) were engaged.
- ❖ Under NHM, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by 83% since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45%.
- ❖ Similarly, the Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) has decreased from 45 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 32 in 2020.
- ❖ It demonstrates a higher decline of 75% in the reduction of the mortality when compared with the global reduction of 60% since 1990.
- ❖ Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has fallen from 39 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 28 in 2020.
- ❖ Moreover, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) decreased from 2.3 in 2015 to 2.0 in 2020.
- ❖ The incidence of TB has reduced from 237 per 1,00,000 population in 2015 to 195 in 2023, and the mortality rate has decreased from 28 to 22 in the same period.
- ❖ In 2021, malaria cases and deaths declined by 13.28% and 3.22%, respectively, when compared with 2020.

MSP for Jute 2025-26



MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES (MSP) OF Raw Jute for Marketing season 2025-26

- **Cabinet approves**
MSP of Raw Jute for Marketing season 2025-26 at **Rs.5,650/- per quintal**
- This ensures return of **66.8%** over all India weighted average cost of production
- This price is an increase of **₹ 315/- per quintal** over previous Marketing season 2024-25
- Government has increased MSP of Raw jute from ₹ 2400 per quintal in 2014-15 to **₹ 5,650 per quintal** in 2025-26, registering a **2.35 times increase**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of Raw Jute for Marketing season 2025-26.
- ❖ The MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 grade) has been fixed at Rs.5,650/- per quintal for 2025-26 season.
- ❖ This would ensure a return of 66.8 percent over the all India weighted average cost of production.
- ❖ The MSP of Raw Jute for Marketing season 2025-26 is an increase of Rs.315/- per quintal over the previous Marketing season 2024-25.

PLI Scheme for White Goods



- ❖ 24 Companies selected under PLI Scheme for White Goods (ACs and LED Lights) with committed investment of Rs. 3,516 crores in Third Round.
- ❖ 18 new companies committed investments of Rs. 2,299 crore and 6 existing PLI beneficiary committed additional investment of Rs. 1,217 crores.
- ❖ Total of 84 companies under the PLI Scheme for White goods are set to bring the investments of Rs 10,478 crore.
- ❖ The PLI Scheme on White Goods is designed to create a robust component eco system for Air Conditioners and LED Lights Industry in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains.
- ❖ The Scheme extends an incentive of 6% to 4% on reducing basis on incremental sales for a period of five (5) years subsequent to the base year and one year of gestation period.
- ❖ The White goods are traditionally referred to the large home appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers and washing machines.

NITI Aayog Fiscal health Index 2025

States	FHI Score	Rank 2022-23	Quality of Expenditure	Revenue Mobilization	Fiscal Prudence	Debt Index	Debt Sustainability
Odisha	67.8	1	52.0	69.9	54.0	99.0	64.0
Chhattisgarh	55.2	2	55.1	56.5	56.0	79.6	29.0
Goa	53.6	3	45.5	87.1	59.4	51.0	25.2
Jharkhand	51.6	4	47.3	45.7	62.4	66.9	35.7
Gujarat	50.5	5	40.0	48.7	52.7	69.0	42.0
Maharashtra	50.3	6	37.1	59.1	41.8	76.4	36.8
Uttar Pradesh	45.9	7	45.8	34.6	44.7	59.9	44.5
Telangana	43.6	8	36.9	75.2	40.8	53.3	11.7
Madhya Pradesh	42.2	9	59.7	27.6	35.6	61.0	27.2
Karnataka	40.8	10	47.4	43.9	43.9	62.2	6.7
Tamil Nadu	29.2	11	32.0	41.2	25.8	36.0	11.1
Rajasthan	28.6	12	38.3	35.4	19.9	32.3	16.8
Bihar	27.8	13	56.1	5.3	11.5	47.2	18.8
Haryana	27.4	14	24.8	47.8	26.1	24.1	14.3
Kerala	25.4	15	4.2	54.2	34.0	23.1	11.3
West Bengal	21.8	16	32.3	12.4	25.4	18.3	20.6
Andhra Pradesh	20.9	17	31.4	22.1	13.3	37.8	0.0
Punjab	10.7	18	4.7	28.1	5.6	0.0	15.2

- ❖ Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Jharkhand have emerged as the top-performing 'achievers' among the States listed in NITI Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index (FHI) report.

- ❖ The report is titled 'Fiscal Health Index 2025' ranked States for 2022-23, covering 18 major States.
- ❖ Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala were the worst-performing States in the Index.
- ❖ Each one is focusing significant fiscal challenges, and listed under 'aspirational' category.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka are listed under 'front-runners' category.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan and Haryana were classified as performers.

India Renewable Energy Achievement 2024

- ❖ India achieved a record-breaking milestone in 2024 with the addition of 24.5 GW of solar capacity and 3.4 GW of wind capacity.
- ❖ India's total non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity to 217.62 GW as of January 2025.
- ❖ India is on track to meet its goal of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030.
- ❖ In 2024, India saw a more than twofold increase in solar installations and a 21% rise in wind installations compared to 2023.
- ❖ Solar energy now accounts for 47% of India's total installed renewable energy capacity.
- ❖ The rooftop solar sector grew by 53%, adding 4.59 GW of new capacity.
- ❖ Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are accounting for 98% of the new 3.4 GW capacity of Wind energy.



National Health Mission Extension

- ❖ Centre approved the extension of the National Health Mission (NHM) for another five years after reviewing its progress over the past three years.
- ❖ First was launched in 2005 as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
- ❖ The scheme has been extended the multiple times, with the most recent extension granted in 2021 to run until 2026.

India in Eurodrone

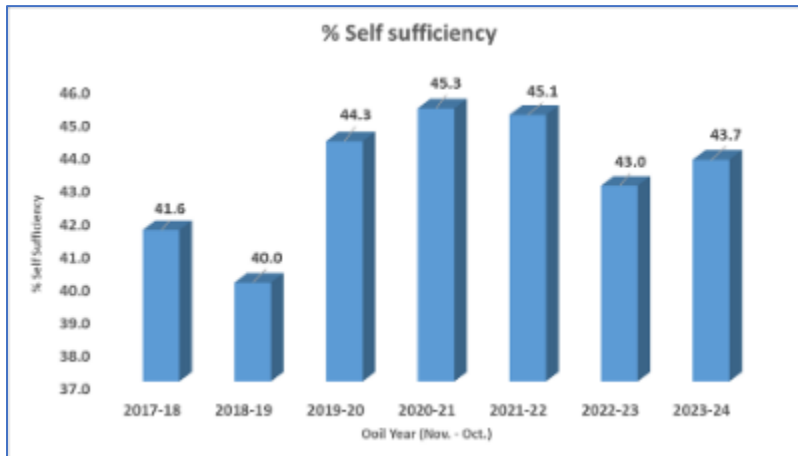
- ❖ India has, as an observer state, officially joined the Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (MALE RPAS) or the Eurodrone programme.
- ❖ Eurodrone is a four-nation initiative involving Germany, France, Italy, and Spain.
- ❖ Japan became the first official OCCAR observer state in November 2023.
- ❖ The Eurodrone is a remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS).
- ❖ It is designed for the long-endurance missions such as intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance (ISTAR), maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and airborne early warning.
- ❖ With a maximum mission payload of 2.3 tonnes and an endurance period of up to 40 hours.
- ❖ Previously, India joined Russia's Su-57 fighter programme but withdrew in 2018.



First edible oil consumption survey

- ❖ The Union agriculture ministry has launched its first-ever survey to assess edible oil consumption patterns in India.
- ❖ It aims to effectively implement the new Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds).

- ❖ India is the world's largest consumer and importer of edible oils but lacks recent data on consumption patterns.
- ❖ Per capita annual consumption of edible oil has risen to over 20 kg in India.
- ❖ It is exceeding the recommended limits of 12 kg by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and 13 kg by the World Health Organisation (WHO).



Indian Deportations 2025

- ❖ The Indian government has identified 18,000 emigrants living in the US illegally that it intends to repatriate.
- ❖ There are an estimated 725,000 undocumented Indian immigrants in the US, making them the third largest group after those from Mexico and El Salvador.
- ❖ Indians accounted for almost 75% of all H-1B visas given out in 2023.
- ❖ Deportation is the process of removing a non-citizen from the US for violating the immigration law.
- ❖ The US may detain and deport non-citizens who participate in criminal acts, are a threat to public safety; or violate their visa.
- ❖ The foreign national may be held in a detention centre before trial or deportation.
- ❖ In 2019, around 1,616 Indians were deported, which increased to 2,312 in 2020.



Unified Pension Scheme implementation

UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME (UPS)

EXPLAINED IN 10 POINTS

- 1 Assured Pension: 50% of last 12 months' average basic pay for retirees with 25 years of service; proportionate for less
- 2 Government Contribution: Increased from 14% to 18.5%; no change in employee contribution
- 3 Family Pension: 60% of the pension for the family if a pensioner passes away.
- 4 Minimum Pension: Rs 10,000 per month as pension, on superannuation after minimum 10 years of service
- 5 Inflation Protection: Pensions linked to inflation via AICPI-IW.
- 6 Lump-Sum Payment: Additional lump-sum at retirement, not affecting the assured pension
- 7 UPS Provisions: Applies to past NPS retirees with arrears paid with PPF interest
- 8 UPS available as an Option: Existing NPS / VRS with NPS as well as future employees will have an option of joining UPS. Choice, once exercised, will be final
- 9 UPS is being implemented by Central Government benefitting 23 lakh Central Government employees
- 10 State Adoption: Can potentially benefit over 90 lakh employees if adopted by State Governments

- ❖ The central government officially issued a gazette notification for the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).
- ❖ The scheme will come into effect on April 1, 2025.
- ❖ It aims to strike a balance between the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and the National Pension Scheme (NPS).
- ❖ It will provide guaranteed pensions to government employees after retirement to ensure their financial security.
- ❖ The UPS will apply only to the central government employees who are under the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and choose the UPS option.
- ❖ Under UPS, Employees with 25 or more years of service will receive a guaranteed pension of 50% of their average basic salary in the last 12 months.
- ❖ Employees with less than 25 years of service will receive a proportional pension.
- ❖ Employees with at least 10 years of qualifying service will receive a guaranteed pension of Rs 10,000 per month.

SANJAY Battlefield Surveillance System

- ❖ The Centre flagged off 'Sanjay', a battlefield surveillance system (BSS), which will be inducted into the Indian Army.
- ❖ SANJAY is an automated system which integrates the inputs from all ground and aerial battlefield sensors.

- ❖ It is processing them to confirm their veracity, preventing duplication and fusing them to produce a common surveillance picture of the battlefield over a secured army data network and satellite communication network.
- ❖ It will enhance the battlefield transparency and transform the future battlefield through a centralised web application.



India's first Mini Budget

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1, marking her eighth consecutive budget.
- ❖ A 'Mini Budget' is a special-occasion budgetary proposal.
- ❖ It is presented when an interim budget has already been presented in an election year by the outgoing government and the new government presents another in the same year.
- ❖ The first Mini Budget in the India's history was presented on November 30, 1956 by T.T. Krishnamachari, India's fourth Finance Minister.
- ❖ A decade later and the second Mini Budget was also presented by him in August 1965.

Unused Cess Funds for Construction Workers in India

- ❖ The welfare boards for building and other construction workers of various States have not yet used the cess worth ₹70,744.16 crore.
- ❖ The cess is collected from the employers for the welfare of the workers.
- ❖ Since the implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act in 2005, the boards have collected ₹1,17,507.22 crore.

- ❖ The Act, passed in 1996, empowers the Construction Workers' Welfare Board constituted by State governments to levy cess from employers "at such rate not exceeding 2%, but not less than 1%" of the cost of construction incurred by an employer.
- ❖ As many as 5,73,48,723 workers have registered with 36 State Welfare Boards till September 30, 2024.
- ❖ Maharashtra spent ₹13,683.18 from the cess it collected in the last 19 years.
- ❖ It is followed by both Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh that provided ₹7,921.42 and ₹7,826.66 crore to the workers.
- ❖ Maharashtra has ₹9,731.83 crore as balance available in their accounts.
- ❖ Both Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have balance of ₹7,547.23 and ₹6,506.04 respectively with them.

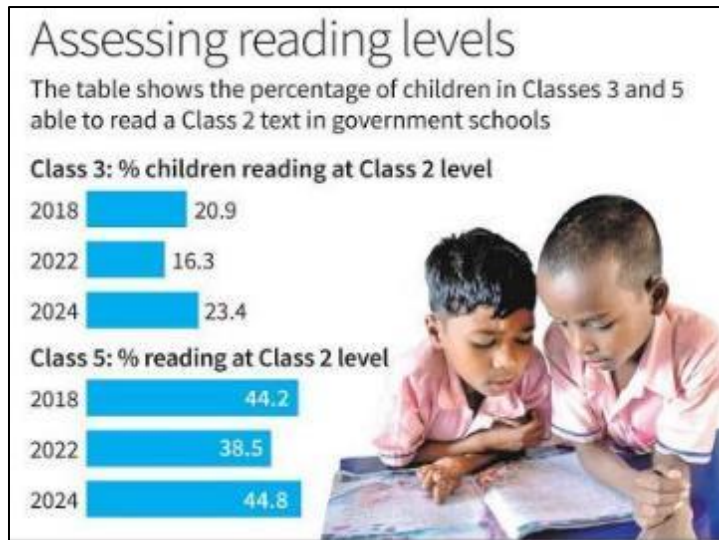
Top 3 states

(₹ crore)	Cess Collected	Used	Share utilised (%)
Kerala	3,457	3,457	100.00
Odisha	4,302	3,636	84.52
Madhya Pradesh	5,302	4,468	84.27

Bottom 3 states

Andhra Pradesh	3,778	582	15.4
Gujarat	5,549	1,012	18.2
Assam	2,548	609	23.9

ASER 2024





- ❖ The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 was released by the NGO Pratham Foundation.
- ❖ The percentage of Class 3 children who can perform at least subtraction at the basic arithmetic level was 33.7% in 2024, up from 25.9% in 2022.
- ❖ The percentage of Class 5 children who can now read a text at the Class 2 level was 44.8% in 2024, up from 38.5% in 2022.
- ❖ From 72.4% in 2018 to 73% in 2022 to 75.9% in 2024, the average student attendance rose.
- ❖ Meanwhile, from 85.1% in 2018, the average teacher attendance rose to 86.8% in 2022 and 87.5% in 2024.
- ❖ From 44% in 2022 to 52.1% in 2024, the percentage of government primary schools with less than 60 enrolled kids increased significantly.
- ❖ Among the older teenagers aged 14 years to 16 years, 89% have access to the smartphones at home.
- ❖ Among 3-year-olds, enrollment in pre-primary institutions increased from 68.1% in 2018 to 75.8% in 2022 to 77.4% in 2024.
- ❖ Among 4-year-olds, the All-India figure for enrollment in pre-primary institutions increased from 76% in 2018 to 82% in 2022 to 83.3% in 2024.
- ❖ Among 5-year-olds, this figure also showed big increases, rising from 58.5% in 2018 to 62.2% in 2022 to 71.4% in 2024.
- ❖ Across all states, enrolment of 6-14 age group is above 95% in 2024.
- ❖ By 2024, the all-India level Government school enrolment declined to 66.8%.
- ❖ The proportion of 15-16-year-old children who are not enrolled in school 7.9% in 2024 at all-India level.
- ❖ The fraction of schools with useable girls' toilets increased from 66.4% in 2018 to 68.4% in 2022 to 72% in 2024.
- ❖ In 2024, 66.2% schools have a playground, similar to 68.9% in 2022 and 66.5% in 2018.

2025 Republic Day Tableaux

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh's state tableau, showcasing the ongoing Mahakumbh at the 76th Republic Day celebrations, was adjudged the best tableau of 2025.
- ❖ Tripura's tableau on the "Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura - Kharchi Puja" was second best.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh's display on "Etikoppaka Bommalu - Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys" was ranked third.

- ❖ The Jammu & Kashmir Rifles were adjudged the best marching contingent among the services.
- ❖ The Delhi Police Marching Contingent won in the CAPF/auxiliary forces category.
- ❖ Among the central ministries/departments, the ministry of tribal affairs was awarded for its tableau “Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh.”
- ❖ The Ministry of Women & Child Development has won for its depiction of “The Multifaceted Journey of Women and Children Nurtured Under the Ministry’s Comprehensive Schemes.”
- ❖ Additionally, two special prizes were awarded
 - One to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for its tableau themed “75 Years of the Constitution of India” and
 - Another to ‘Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam’ Dance Group for its performance.
- ❖ For the first time, a Tri-services tableau was displayed with the theme 'Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat' (strong and secure India).



75th year of ECI

- ❖ The Election Commission celebrates 75 years of its dedicated service to the nation on 25th January.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India, established on January 25, 1950, a day before India became a Republic.
- ❖ Election Commission of India is a permanent Constitutional Body.
- ❖ Originally the commission had only a Chief Election Commissioner.
- ❖ Now, it currently consists of the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.

- ❖ For the first time two additional Commissioners were appointed on 16th October 1989 but they had a very short tenure till 1st January 1990.
- ❖ Later, on 1st October 1993, two additional Election Commissioners were also appointed.



75 years of supreme court

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India, established on January 28, 1950, has completed 75 years of service.
- ❖ India had the Federal Court created under the Government of India Act of 1935.
- ❖ The Federal Court functioned from 1937 to 1950, handling disputes between provinces and hearing appeals from lower courts.
- ❖ The current form of the Supreme Court was established two days after the Constitution of India came into effect.
- ❖ It replaced the Federal Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.
- ❖ Its inaugural session was held in the Chamber of Princes in the Parliament building, before moving to its current premises.
- ❖ Six judges were served in the Court's inaugural session on 28 January 1950.
- ❖ Parliament increased the number of Judges from 8 in 1950 to 34 in 2019.

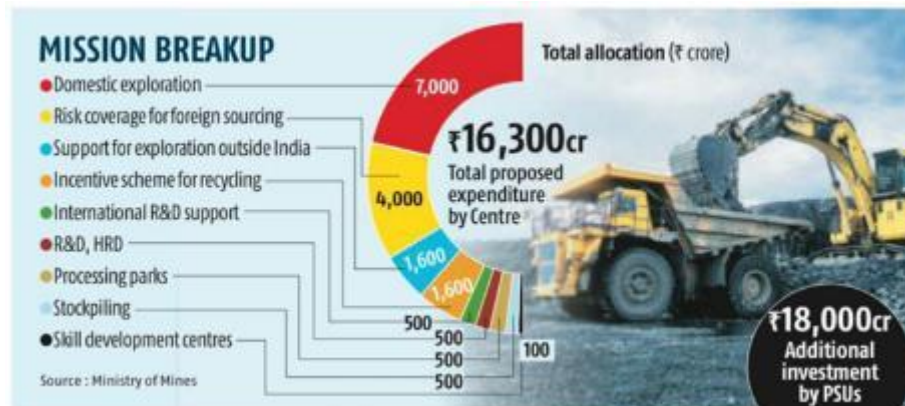
India and Cape Town Convention

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the "Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2024 (Cape Town Convention Bill)".

- ❖ The Cape Town Convention (CTC) Bill 2018 aims to implement the treaty India had signed in 2008.
- ❖ It basically assures lessors that their expensive assets like aircraft and engines will not get stuck here when Indian carriers default on paying rentals or go belly up.



National Critical Mineral Mission 2025

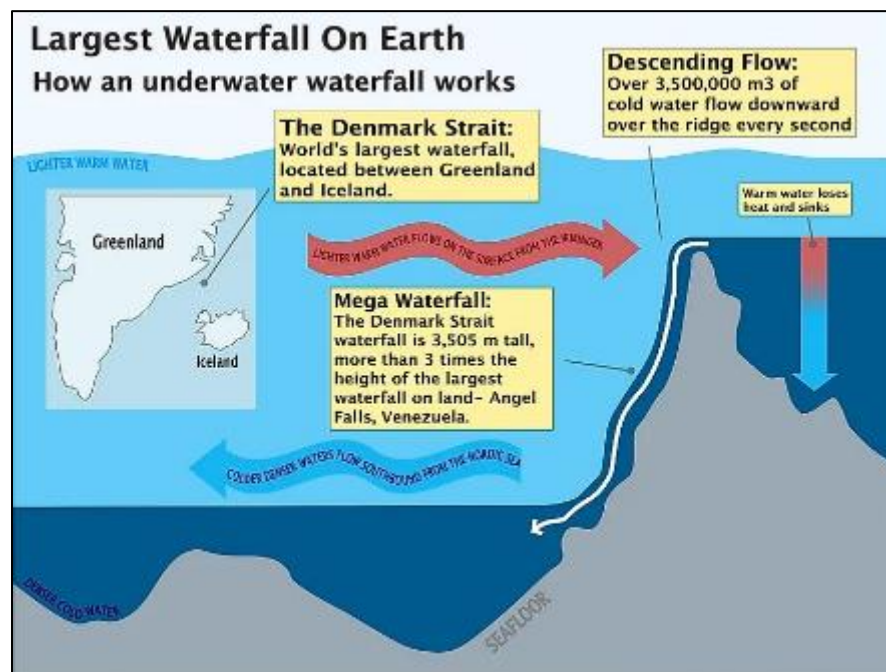


- ❖ The government approved a ₹16,300-crore National Critical Mineral Mission.
- ❖ It is envisaging a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore spread over seven years.
- ❖ It aims to achieve the self-reliance and accelerate India's journey towards green energy transition.
- ❖ Public sector enterprises are expected to contribute ₹18,000 crore to the mission.
- ❖ The Critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth are essential raw materials required to fuel the growth of rapidly growing clean energy technologies.
- ❖ 24 critical minerals have been identified.

- ❖ The NCMM will encompass all stages of the value chain, including the mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from the end-of-life products.
- ❖ The mission will intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.
- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken 368 exploration projects for critical minerals over the past three years.
- ❖ 195 projects are currently underway in 2024-25.
- ❖ In 2025-26, GSI will take up 227 projects for various critical minerals.

INTERNATIONAL

Denmark Strait Cataract



- ❖ The Denmark Strait cataract holds the title of the largest waterfall on Earth, with a vertical drop of 11,500 feet.
- ❖ This is about three times the height of Angel Falls, the tallest land-based waterfall.

- ❖ This immense phenomenon spans 300 miles (480 kilometers) in width and operates underwater.
- ❖ It is hidden beneath the Arctic waters between Greenland and Iceland.
- ❖ The cataract's formation dates back to the last ice age, between 17,500 and 11,500 years ago.

Trial run of new Suez Canal channel extension



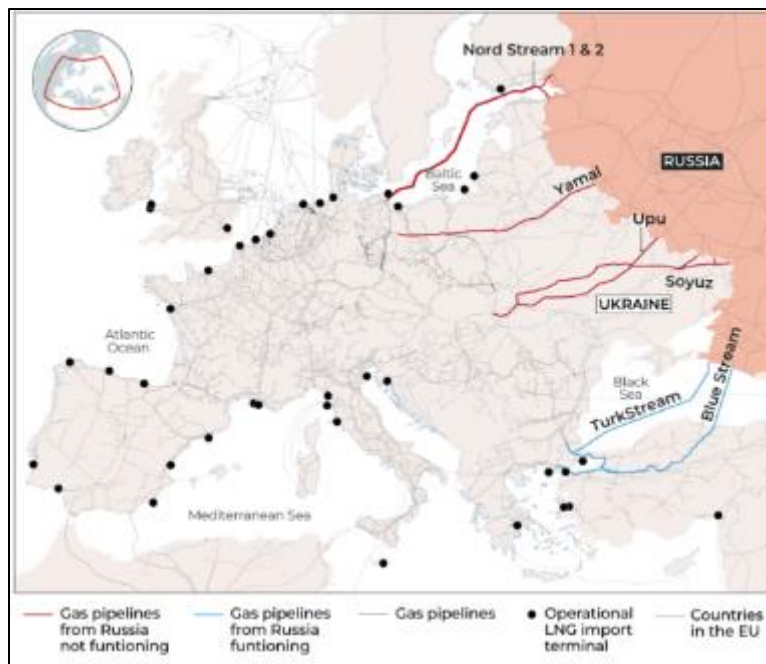
- ❖ Egypt had successfully tested a new 10 km channel near the southern end of the Suez Canal.
- ❖ The latest expansion extends the total length of the canal's two-way section to 82 km from 72 km, making the canal 193 km long.
- ❖ During the trial run two ships passed through a new stretch of the canal's two-way section without incident.
- ❖ This expansion will boost the canal's capacity by an additional 6 to 8 ships daily and enhance its ability to handle potential emergencies.
- ❖ Due to “regional challenges,” Egypt lost approximately \$7 billion in Suez Canal revenue in 2024, more than a 60% drop from 2023.

China's CR450 Bullet Train

- ❖ China has revealed a prototype of its next generation high-speed train- CR450.
- ❖ It had reached test speeds as high as 450 Km (281 miles) per hour and an operational speed of 400 Km (248.5 miles) per hour.
- ❖ Once in commercial service, it could be the fastest high-speed train in the world, surpassing China's current CR400 model, which debuted in 2017.



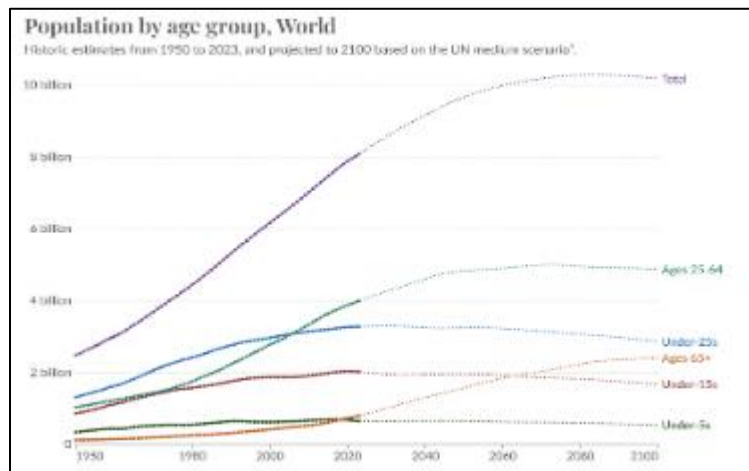
End of Russian Gas via Ukraine



- ❖ Russian gas has stopped flowing to EU states via Ukraine after a five-year deal expired

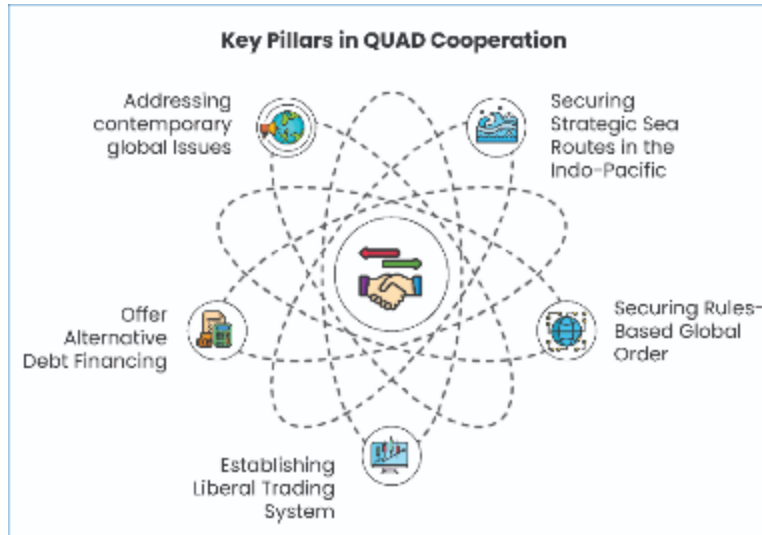
- ❖ The Russian gas was less than 10% of the EU's gas imports in 2023, its figure was 40% in 2021.
- ❖ Austria, Slovakia and Moldova were relying on the transit route for their power supply.
- ❖ Europe has bought liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar and the US, alongside piped gas supply from Norway.

Aging Society 2024



- ❖ According to a 143-nation survey, India appears far from the prepared, ranking 123rd in its readiness to tackle the challenges of an aging population.
- ❖ Switzerland emerged as the readiest country, followed by Norway and Denmark.
- ❖ Singapore ranked 10th—first among Asian countries—while the UK was ranked 14, followed by Japan (15), the US (24), and China (46).
- ❖ India is at present the youngest nation in the world, with over 50% of its population below the age of 25 and over 65% below the age of 35.
- ❖ At present, as per the 'Nature Aging', India's neighbours fared relatively better—Bangladesh (86), Sri Lanka (94), Nepal (102), and Pakistan (118).
- ❖ India ranked 106 on the universal healthcare access.
- ❖ Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were the best.
- ❖ On food security, India was at the 97th place, while Denmark emerged as the best.
- ❖ On pension, Argentina and Armenia were among the best, while India was ranked 102.
- ❖ On mental health: Kuwait was ranked the best, while India was at the 93rd place.

20 years of QUAD



- ❖ The foreign ministers of India, Australia, Japan and the United States issued a joint statement on December 31 to mark the “20th anniversary of the Quad Cooperation”.
- ❖ The four had come together “in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami” and its object was “service to the people of this region.”
- ❖ The Quad formally emerged in 2007, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposing the idea.
- ❖ The first official Quad talks were held in the Philippines in 2017.
- ❖ Australia withdrew in 2008 due to Chinese pressure and regional tensions and returned in 2018.

Swiss Burqa Ban

- ❖ A Swiss prohibition on facial coverings in public spaces widely known as the “burqa ban” took effect January 1.
- ❖ Anyone who unlawfully flouts the prohibition faces a fine of up to 1,000 Swiss francs (\$1,144).
- ❖ The measure involves a prohibition on covering the nose, mouth, and eyes in both public spaces and private buildings accessible to the public.
- ❖ The ban does not apply to planes or in diplomatic and consular premises, and the faces may also be covered in places of worship and other sacred sites.
- ❖ In 2021, Swiss people voted in favour of banning face coverings in public, including the burka and niqab worn by Muslim women.

- ❖ People in Switzerland are given a direct say in their own affairs under the country's system of democracy.
- ❖ About 5% of Switzerland's population of 8.6 million people are Muslim, most originating from Turkey, Bosnia and Kosovo.

The ban was proposed by the right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP), with slogans like "Stop extremism." While it did not explicitly mention Islam, it was widely seen as a "burqa ban." The government had opposed the measure, stating it should not dictate what women wear.

The ban applies to public spaces and private buildings open to the public, with exceptions:

- Planes and diplomatic premises
- Health, safety, customs, weather, art, or advertising purposes
- Places of worship and sacred sites
- Coverings for expression or assembly require prior approval if public order is upheld.

HMPV Outbreak in China

WHAT DO WE KNOW

What is human metapneumovirus?
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) is a viral infection that typically leads to symptoms resembling those of the common cold

Symptoms: Cough, fever, runny or blocked nose, sore throat, wheezing, shortness of breath, and rashes

How is hMPV contracted?
It is caused by a virus which belongs to same viral family as those responsible for RSV, measles, and mumps

Transmission mode:

- Coughing and sneezing
- Physical contact such as shaking hands, or hugging
- Touching contaminated objects or surfaces, such as phones, doorknobs, etc

- ❖ China is witnessing a concerning rise in the respiratory illnesses, with Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV).
- ❖ The respiratory infections caused by influenza A, Mycoplasma pneumoniae.
- ❖ It affects particularly among children under the age of 14.
- ❖ First identified in 2001, HMPV belongs to the Pneumoviridae family, closely related to the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

UN environmental summits 2024



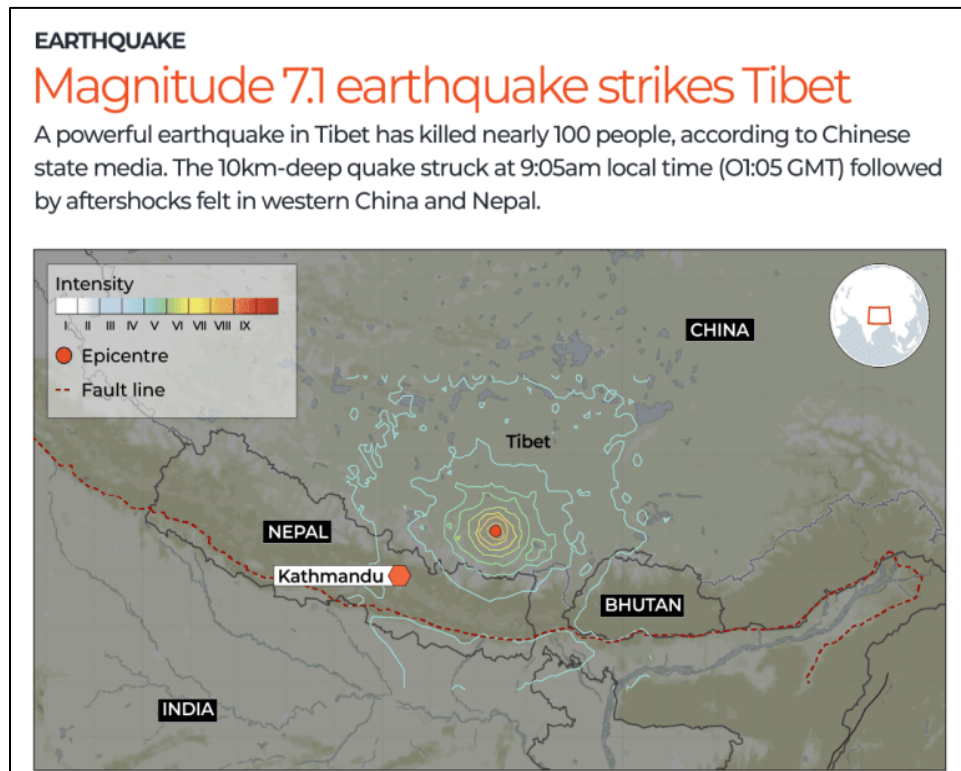
- ❖ The United Nations' efforts to address critical environmental challenges have hit multiple roadblocks last year, with four key summits failing to deliver meaningful outcomes.
- ❖ They are - in Colombia on biodiversity, Azerbaijan on climate, Saudi Arabia on land degradation, and South Korea on plastics.
- ❖ The Colombia talks on biodiversity conservation faltered as countries failed to agree on financing mechanisms to support sustainable land-use practices.
- ❖ In Azerbaijan, countries were divided over the pledge to transition away from fossil fuels, a decision made during the last UN climate summit.
- ❖ In Saudi Arabia, the industrialised nations clashed with African countries over the establishment of a legally binding drought protocol.
- ❖ The plastic pollution talks in South Korea also brought to the fore a significant divide among participating nations.

Justin Trudeau resignation

- ❖ Justin Trudeau resigned as the leader of his Liberal Party of Canada effectively ending his nine-year tenure as Canada's Prime Minister too.
- ❖ He took office on November 4, 2015, after leading the Liberal Party to victory in that year's federal elections.
- ❖ He became the second-youngest prime minister in Canada's history.
- ❖ He is the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada and the son of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.



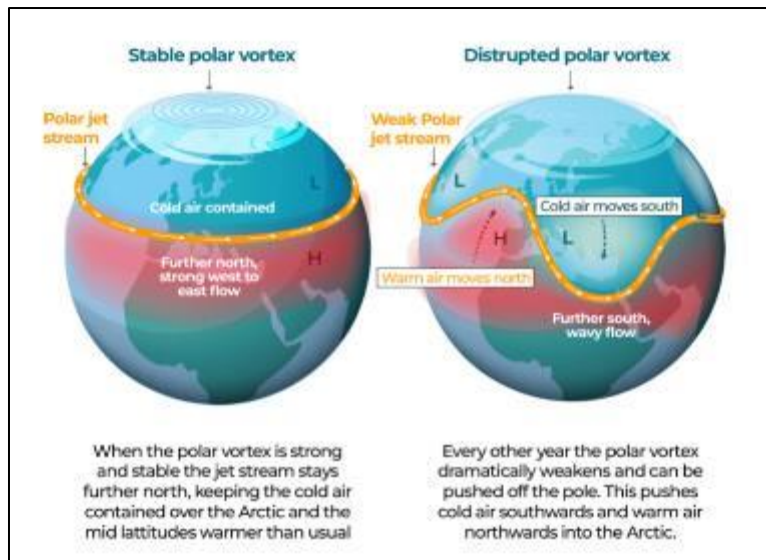
2025 Tibet-Nepal Earthquake



- ❖ An earthquake of 7.1 magnitude hit Tibet near the Nepalese border.
- ❖ The earthquake was triggered by a rupture in the Lhasa block - an area under significant tectonic stress.
- ❖ This area is a hotspot for seismic activity due to the ongoing collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.
- ❖ It is a process that's been shaping the Himalayas for the past 60 million years.

Polar Vortex and Winter Storms in US 2025

- ❖ The United States has been experiencing severe winter storms is caused by the expansion of the polar vortex.
- ❖ The polar vortex primarily affects the countries situated in the Northern Hemisphere's mid to high latitudes.
- ❖ The polar vortex spins anticlockwise around the North Pole with wind speeds of about 155mph (250km/h).
- ❖ There are two types of polar vortices – tropospheric and stratospheric.
- ❖ The tropospheric polar vortex occurs at the lowest layer of the atmosphere where most weather phenomena take place.
- ❖ It extends from the surface up to about 10 km to 15 km
- ❖ The vortex creates milder weather across northern latitudes.
- ❖ The stratospheric polar vortex occurs at around 15 km to 50 km high.
- ❖ Unlike the tropospheric polar vortex, the stratospheric polar vortex disappears during the summer and is the strongest during the autumn.



NYC Congestion Pricing Initiative

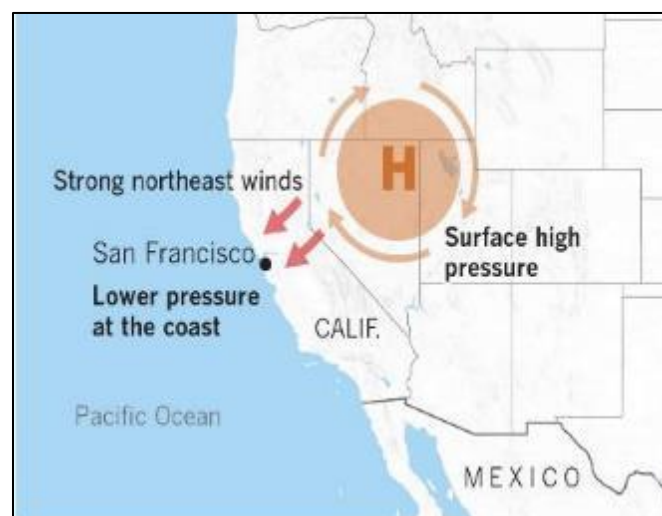
- ❖ New York City officially implemented a congestion pricing system and becoming the pioneer among US metropolitan areas.
- ❖ It is requiring most drivers entering Manhattan's designated zone to pay a \$9 toll.
- ❖ It is following similar initiatives in London, Stockholm and Singapore that aims to reduce the worst traffic in the world.



US-China Science Agreement

- ❖ China and the U.S. agreed to extend the Agreement between China and USA on Co-operation in Science and Technology for an additional five years.
- ❖ The Agreement was first signed on January 31, 1979, by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and U.S. president Jimmy Carter.
- ❖ At a time both the countries had established diplomatic relations and agreed to cooperate on agricultural research and technology.
- ❖ This agreement facilitates the joint research, mobility between the countries for students and scientists, and encourage institutional cooperation, and set up bilateral research centers.
- ❖ India has such bilateral agreements with 83 countries.

Southern California wildfires 2025



- ❖ Los Angeles has been devastated by the deadly wildfires in California that started recently in USA.



- ❖ The fire has so far killed at least 11 people and burned more than 10,000 homes and other structures.
- ❖ The last two winters, in 2022 and 2023, were unusually wet for the Los Angeles region.
- ❖ Santa Ana-driven wildfires are a natural part of California's landscape.
- ❖ Santa Ana winds blow when high pressure builds over the Great Basin and the pressure is low over California's coast.
- ❖ The difference in pressure triggers the movement of powerful winds from the Basin's inland deserts, east and north of Southern California, over the mountains toward the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The extremely low moisture turns vegetation dry, making it ready to burn.

First ever silver notice by Interpol

- ❖ The Interpol has issued its first Silver Notice to locate assets laundered across borders as part of a pilot project.
- ❖ The first Silver Notice on the request of Italy which has sought information about the assets of a senior mafia member.
- ❖ The pilot project has participation from 52 members including India.
- ❖ At present, the Interpol has eight types of colour-coded notices which allows a member country to seek specific kind of information worldwide.
- ❖ The Red Notice allows a country to request the detention of fugitive living in another country.
- ❖ The Yellow Notice helps locate missing persons, often minors, or identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- ❖ The Blue Notice collects additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
- ❖ The Black Notice is issued to seek information on unidentified bodies.
- ❖ The Green Notice is for providing warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- ❖ The Orange Notice warns of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- ❖ The Purple Notice seeks or provides information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.



Mount Ibu – Indonesia

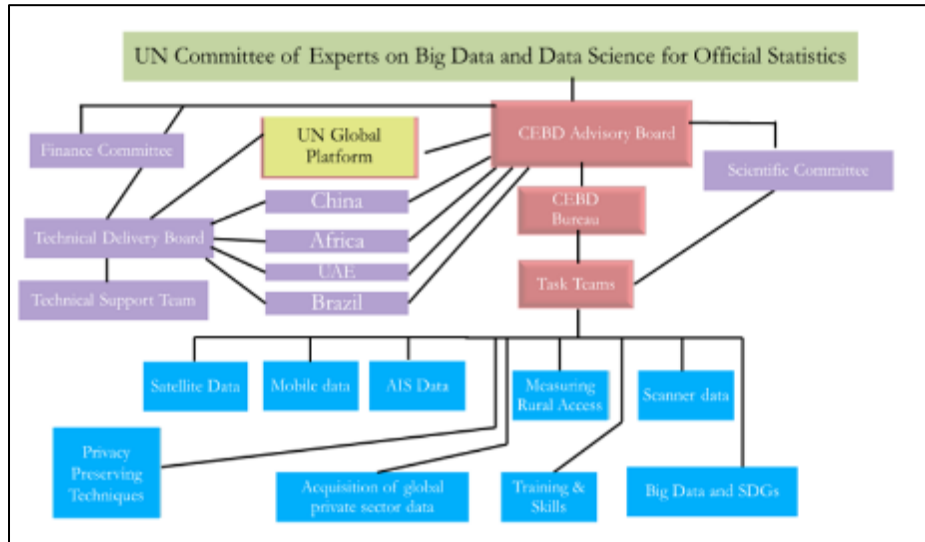


- ❖ Mount Ibu, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, erupted recently.
- ❖ Mount Ibu has a history of intense activity, recording over 2,000 eruptions in 2023 alone.
- ❖ The country boasts 127 active volcanoes, which pose risks and attract tourists.

UN-CEBD member

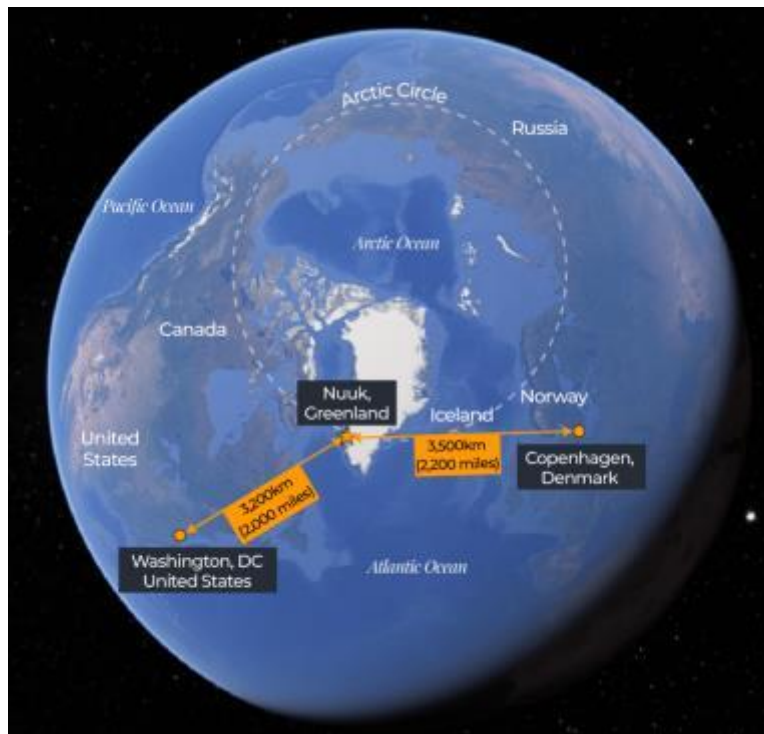
- ❖ India has joined the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD).
- ❖ The UN-CEBD was created in 2014 to further investigate the benefits and the challenges of Big Data.

- ❖ India will contribute to shaping global standards and practices in harnessing Big Data and data science for official statistical purposes.
- ❖ UN-CEBD consists of 31 member states and 16 international organizations (Including India).



Global Importance of Greenland

- ❖ Greenland is the world's largest island and geographically part of North America.
- ❖ This Arctic Island is one of Denmark's two autonomous territories, the other one being the Faroe Islands.
- ❖ Since 2009, Greenland has the right to declare independence through a referendum.
- ❖ It is 80 percent covered in snow and is around 3,000km (1,864 miles) from the US capital.
- ❖ Greenland is home to some 56,000 residents, mostly Indigenous Inuit people.
- ❖ 25 of 34 minerals deemed "critical raw materials" by the European Commission were found in Greenland.
- ❖ Greenland is not a member state of the European Union but part of NATO.
- ❖ US has expressed the interest in expanding its military presence in Greenland by placing radars in the waters connecting Greenland, Iceland and the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Greenland offers the shortest route from North America to Europe.
- ❖ This may give the US a strategic upper hand for its military and its ballistic missile early-warning system.



World's First CAES system

- ❖ World's first 300-megawatt compressed air energy storage (CAES) demonstration project, "Nengchu-1," has achieved full capacity grid connection in China.
- ❖ The project has set three world records in terms of the single-unit power, energy storage scale and energy conversion efficiency.
- ❖ CAES is an emerging technology has advantages, like short construction periods, high power output, long duration, safety and longevity.



Thailand's ban Plastic Waste Imports

- ❖ Thailand has become the latest country to take on the global plastic waste crisis by banning imports of plastic waste.
- ❖ Since 2018, Thailand has been a leading importer of plastic waste from developed nations such as the US, United Kingdom and Japan.
- ❖ Between 2018 and 2021, the country imported more than 1.1 million tonnes of plastic scraps.
- ❖ In 2023, Japan alone exported about 50 million kilogrammes (50,000 tonnes) of plastic waste to Thailand.



Donald Trump's conviction

- ❖ Donald Trump became the first felon in the White House after a US court upheld his conviction in a hush money case.
- ❖ He has been sentenced to an 'unconditional discharge'.
- ❖ This means that the President-elect has been found guilty of his charges, but will not face any jail time or penalty because he has been elected President of USA.



US Entity List update 2025

USA PAVES WAY FOR 3 INDIAN NUCLEAR ENTITIES TO AVAIL EASIER LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

- USA Removes Indian Rare Earths, Bhabha Atomic Research Center From Restricted List
- USA Removes Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center From Restricted List

USA SAYS

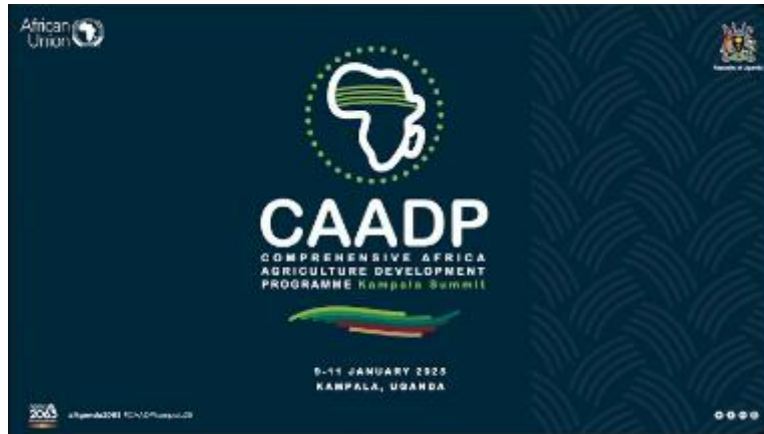
- Removal Of 3 Indian Entities From Restricted List To Support US Foreign Policy Objectives
- Removal Of 3 Indian Entities From Restricted List To Reduce Barriers To Advanced Energy Cooperation
- USA & India Share A Commitment To Advancing Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation & Associated R&D

- ❖ The US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) added 11 entities to its restrictive Entity List related to national security.
- ❖ Additionally, the BIS removed three Indian entities - Indian Rare Earths, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center (IGCAR), and Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC)-from the Entity List.
- ❖ The Entity List is a powerful tool that can be used to shape behavior that advances U.S. national security and global cooperation.

Kampala Declaration 2025

- ❖ The African Union Summit on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) concluded in Kampala, Uganda.
- ❖ The event adopted the transformative Kampala Declaration for Africa's agri-food systems from 2026 to 2035.
- ❖ The new declaration is the successor to the Malabo Declaration, whose implementation period concludes this year.
- ❖ During the summit, African leaders also endorsed the groundbreaking ten-year CAADP action plan (2026–2035)
- ❖ The CAADP was officially launched in July 2003 during the Second Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique.
- ❖ At this session, the Maputo Declaration on the Agriculture and Food Security was adopted.

- ❖ It is urging the AU Member States to allocate at least 10 per cent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development and to achieve annual agricultural productivity growth of at least 6 per cent.



La Perouse' 25 Multinational Naval exercise

- ❖ The Indian Navy is participating in a mega wargame along with naval forces from eight nations including the US and France.
- ❖ The naval exercise is underway in the straits between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as well as Malacca, Sunda and Lombok.
- ❖ Besides, India, the US and France, the naval forces from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada and the UK are participating in the exercise.

Partner country of BRICS



- ❖ Nigeria has been admitted as a "partner country" of the BRICS bloc of developing economies.



- ❖ Nigeria becomes the ninth BRICS partner country, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ BRICS was formed by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009, with South Africa added in 2010.
- ❖ In 2023, the bloc added Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the UAE, while Saudi Arabia has been invited to join.
- ❖ Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia have formally applied to become the BRICS members.

47th US President

- ❖ Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States.
- ❖ The ceremony, held at U.S. Capitol (Washington), moved indoors for the first time in 40 years due to very low temperatures.
- ❖ Trump has become the first US President since the 19th century to win a second term after losing re-election.
- ❖ Grover Cleveland was the 22nd (1885-89) and 24th (1893-97) president of the United States.
- ❖ Donald Trump's net worth was \$5.6 billion.

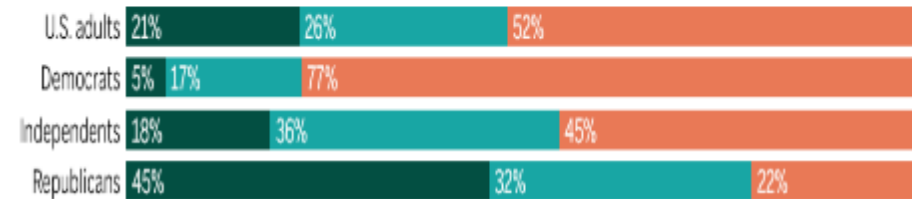
US withdrawal from Paris climate agreement

- ❖ President Donald Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement.
- ❖ The first Trump administration made a similar move in 2017, but that step was promptly reversed by the ex-President Joe Biden.
- ❖ The US will now have to wait a year before it will be officially out of the pact.
- ❖ The 196 parties Paris agreement is not a legally binding treaty.
- ❖ The US will now join Iran, Yemen and Libya as the only countries to currently stand outside the agreement.
- ❖ Since 2016, the production of American oil has gone up by 70%.
- ❖ US is now the world's dominant producer and exporter.
- ❖ US last month offered a plan to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by more than 60% by 2035.

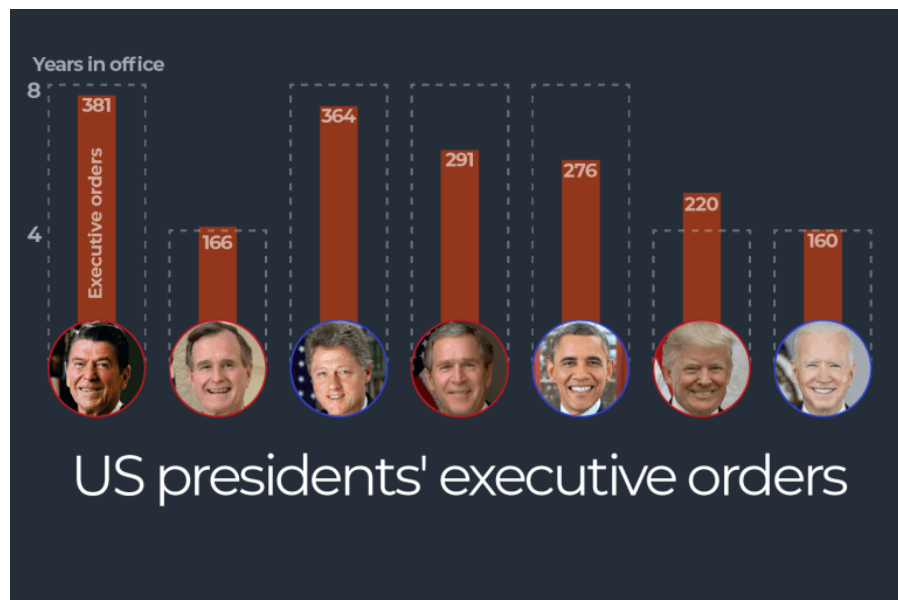
About half oppose leaving Paris climate treaty

Percent who would ___ withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

■ Somewhat or strongly favor ■ Neither favor nor oppose ■ Somewhat or strongly oppose



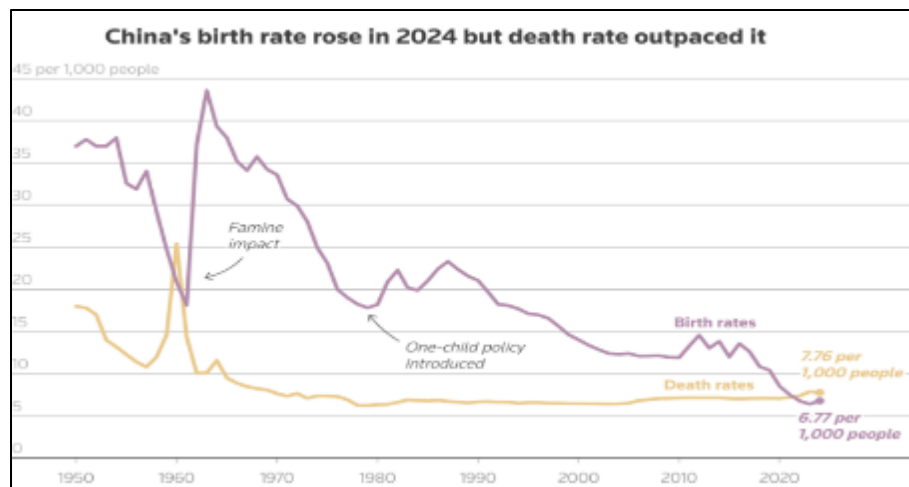
Trump's first executive orders



- ❖ US President Donald Trump issued a flurry of executive orders and directives as soon after taking oath of office.
- ❖ He has pardoned about 1,500 people who stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.
- ❖ He signed orders declaring illegal immigration at the US-Mexico border a national emergency, designating criminal cartels as terrorist organisations.
- ❖ On his first day in office, the President Trump revoked as many as 78 executive actions of the previous Biden administration.

- ❖ He has also fulfilled his campaign promise to pull the US out of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The US is the WHO's top donor, contributing about \$130 million per year to help cover its global health preparedness and response.
- ❖ He also signed a withdrawal from the Paris climate treaty.
- ❖ He signed orders freezing government hiring and new federal regulations.
- ❖ He has declared a national energy emergency, promising to fill up strategic oil reserves and export US energy all over the world.
- ❖ He imposed 25 per cent tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting February 1.
- ❖ He signed an order to Renaming the 'Gulf of Mexico' as the 'Gulf of America.'
- ❖ He also ordered reverting Mount Denali's name back to 'Mount McKinley.'
- ❖ He terminated the CBP One app, which had facilitated legal entry for nearly 1 million migrants under Biden's administration.
- ❖ He has reversed the transgender protections by declaring the federal government will recognize only two biological sexes (male and female).
- ❖ His first term as 45th President of United States, Trump had signed 220 executive orders.

China Population Crisis 2024



- ❖ China's population fell for the third consecutive year in 2024.
- ❖ The Chinese population has fallen by 1.39 million over the past 12 months to 1.408 billion as deaths continue to outpace births.
- ❖ China's population has been steadily declining since the 1980s, but the year 2022 marked the first time deaths outpaced births since 1961.

World's Longest Tunnel – China

- ❖ China has completed the construction of the world's very longest express tunnel through the Tianshan Mountains.
- ❖ The Tianshan Shengli Tunnel is just over 22 kilometers (14 miles) and will reduce the travel time through the mountain range in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, from three hours to only 20 minutes.
- ❖ It is one of the longest stretches of mountains in the world.



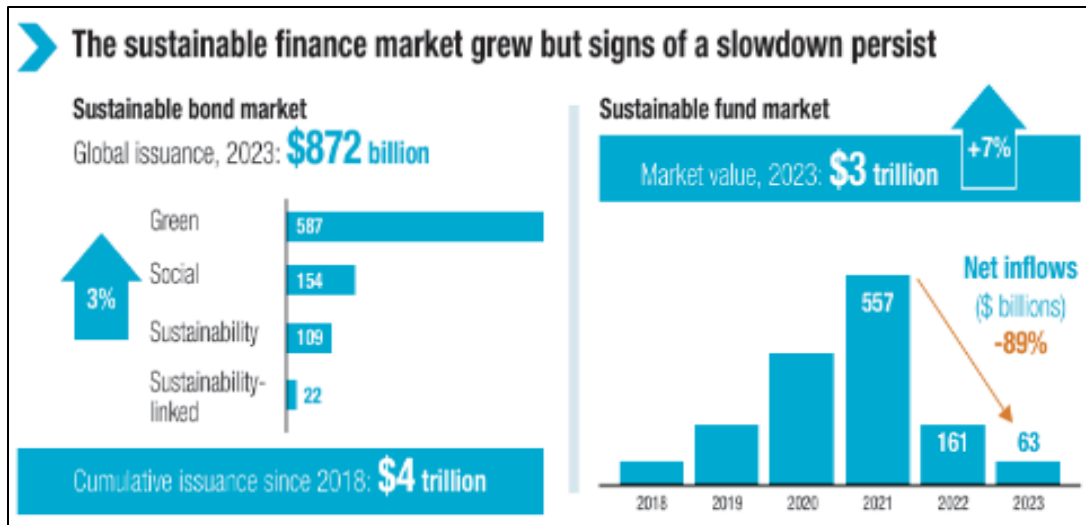
Project Stargate

- ❖ OpenAI, Oracle, SoftBank and MGX have united for setting up the world's largest AI project - 'Stargate'.
- ❖ Stargate is a \$500 billion initiative aimed at creating an AI infrastructure in the US over the next four years.
- ❖ It aims to propel the US into global leadership in AI advancements.

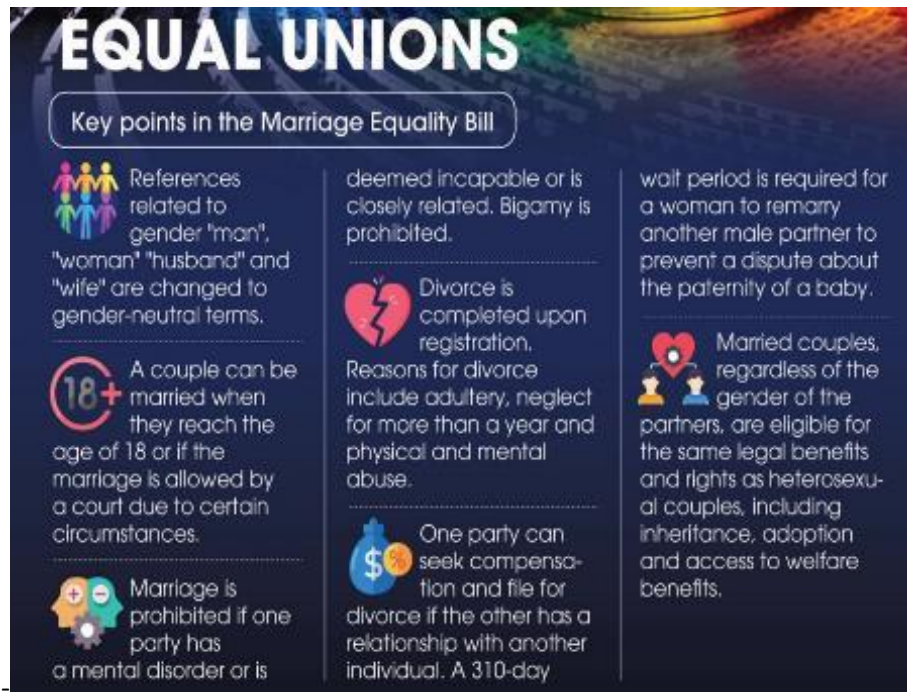
Global FDI Decline in 2024

- ❖ Global foreign direct investments (FDI) dipped by eight per cent in 2024.
- ❖ This assessment was released by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ In developing economies, FDI was decreased by 2%.
- ❖ FDI related to the SDGs fell by 11% in 2024.
- ❖ FDI into China decreased by 29%, following its 2023 downward trend.

- ❖ But India saw a rise of 13% in FDI, increasing in both numbers and overall value.
- ❖ For ASEAN group FDI grew by just 2%.



Thailand - Marriage Equality law



- ❖ Thailand's legal landscape officially legalized same-sex marriage.
- ❖ The Marriage Equality Legislation is replacing gender-specific terminology such as "man," "woman," "husband," and "wife" with the inclusive terms such as "individual" and "spouse."

- ❖ It is ensuring the equitable division and ownership of assets acquired during marriage between same-sex couples.
- ❖ It is granting the same-sex spouses the right to claim financial support in cases of separation or divorce.
- ❖ The first Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage was Taiwan (2017).

7 new members into WEF's GPAP

- ❖ The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) is an initiative launched by the World Economic Forum.
- ❖ It has recently reached a significant milestone by expanding its network to include 25 countries.
- ❖ Seven new countries — Angola, Bangladesh, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Senegal, and Tanzania — have joined this collaborative effort.
- ❖ The plastics sector is responsible for an estimated 1.8 billion tonnes of the greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- ❖ Every year, six million tonnes of plastic waste enter the oceans, with much more polluting land.

US and OECD Global Tax Deal



Five Things to Know About Trump's Global Minimum Tax Order

The incoming Trump administration issued a day-one executive order on the global minimum tax agreement known as Pillar Two, which seeks to ensure multinational corporations pay at least 15 percent in income tax.

Five Things to Know

Since the relationship between the US and the OECD minimum tax deal is complex, here are the five elements most key to understanding the situation at hand:

1. The US tax code is not aligned with the tax base promoted by the OECD, and only Congress can change that.
2. The US tax code is, overall, significantly tougher than the Pillar Two agreement requires.
3. Congress has never enacted major legislation to support the agreement.
4. The agreement contains some significant downsides for the US.
5. The US could retaliate against the agreement's main enforcement mechanism if it is applied to US income—and the US may also retaliate against other discriminatory taxes by OECD members.

- ❖ Donald Trump issued an executive order which effectively pulled the US out of the OECD Global Tax Deal

- ❖ The Global Tax Deal was designed to ensure that multinational corporations paid a fair share of taxes in the countries where they operate.
- ❖ The European Union, Britain and other countries have adopted the 15% global corporate minimum tax
- ❖ The U.S. has a roughly 10% global minimum tax, part of Trump's landmark 2017 tax cut package.

75 years of diplomatic ties between India and China

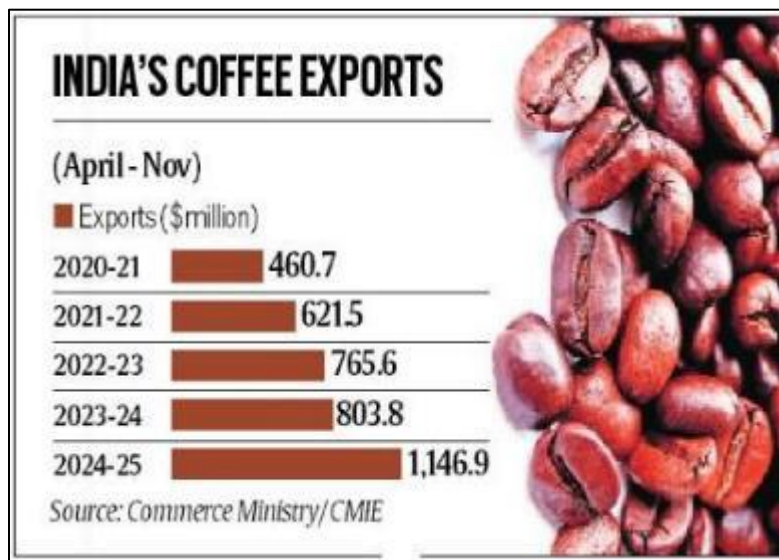


- ❖ India and China agreed to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and direct flights between the two nations in 2025.
- ❖ It marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between New Delhi and Beijing.
- ❖ The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra as well as direct flights between the two countries were suspended in 2020.
- ❖ Earlier in December 2024, India and China agreed on six points to resolve the border issue.
- ❖ The trade volume between India and China reached 126.6 billion USD in the first 11 months of 2024, showing a 1.9 percent year-on-year growth.
- ❖ The Chinese Embassy was issuing 280,000 visas to Indians last year.

ECONOMY

India's Coffee Exports in FY24

- ❖ India's coffee exports rose to a record high of \$1,146.9 million between April and November in FY24.
- ❖ It was \$803.8 million during the same period last year, registering a 29 per cent rise.
- ❖ This figure is nearly double the exports during the same period in FY21, which stood at \$460 million.
- ❖ Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu and Hassan in Karnataka with 2,48,020 MTs during 2022-23 is the largest producer of Arabica and Robusta coffee.
- ❖ Kerala comes a distinct second at 72,425 MTs followed by Tamil Nadu at 18,700 MTs.



India's bananas export 2023-24

- ❖ India has set a target of \$1 billion banana exports in the coming years.
- ❖ At present, the exports of most of the fruits, including banana, from India are happening by air route.
- ❖ India exported bananas worth \$ 300 million in 2023-24.
- ❖ It was \$ 176 million in 2022-23.
- ❖ The country's share in global banana exports has expanded from a mere 0.21 per cent in 2013 to 1.74 per cent in 2023.

India targets \$1 billion banana exports as sea route trial proves successful

- India's Banana Exports (FY 2023-24): **\$300 million**
- Increase from Previous Year (FY 2022-23): **\$176 million**
- Global Market Share Growth (2013-2023): **From 0.21% to 1.74%**
- **Significant Rise in International Presence:** Reflects growing export footprint.



Government Debt Relief Scheme

- ❖ RBI has laid down some certain broad principles for lenders relating to their participation in Government Debt Relief Scheme (DRS).
- ❖ It is including sacrifice of interest and/or principal and loan account status.
- ❖ This comes in the backdrop of States announcing the DRS to provide relief to borrowers.
- ❖ This includes farmers during natural calamities or political parties promising the same for a targeted segment of borrowers in the run up to elections.
- ❖ Any waiver of accrued but unrealised interest and/ or sacrifice of principal will be treated as a compromise settlement.
- ❖ It would be attracting usual provisioning and asset classification norms.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced guidelines for lenders regarding their involvement in the **Government Debt Relief Scheme (DRS)**. This initiative aims to assist borrowers, particularly farmers, during crises such as natural disasters. State governments have announced various DRS to provide relief, especially in the lead-up to elections. The RBI's guidelines include a model operating procedure (MOP) to ensure effective implementation and adherence to financial discipline.



Amendment to the Foreign Trade Policy 2023

- ❖ The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified amendment in the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023.
- ❖ The changes also provide the mechanism to inform the reasons for not accepting views, suggestions, comments or feedback concerning the formulation or amendment of the Foreign Trade Policy
- ❖ The government is committed to ensure that the due consideration is being given to every valuable opinion/feedback received from stakeholders.
- ❖ It encourages the participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process before introducing or changing policy and procedures.

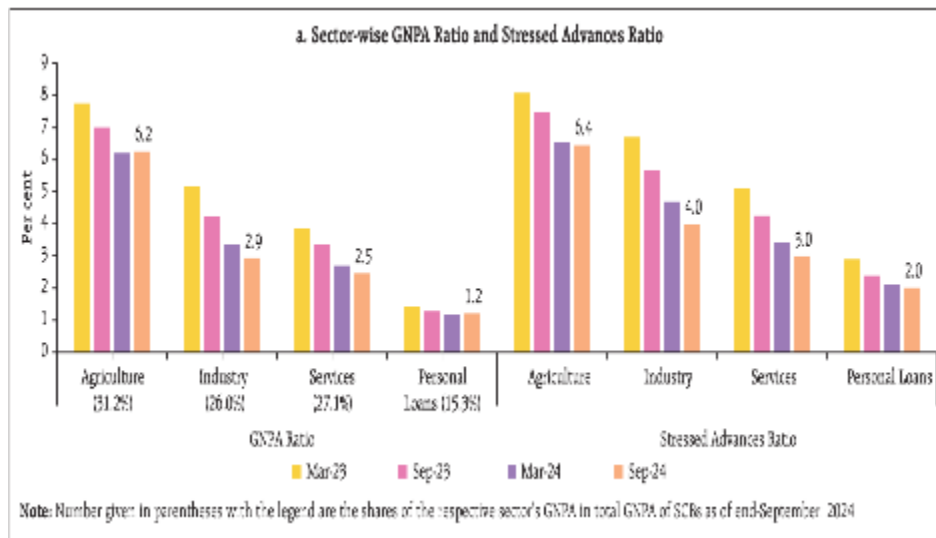


BAANKNET Portal

- ❖ The government launched a revamped e-auction portal 'Baanknet'.
- ❖ It will consolidate information on all properties that put up for e-auction by public sector banks (PSBs).
- ❖ The portal is a one-stop destination for buyers and investor offering a wide range of properties.
- ❖ The portal simplifies the process of finding and participating in property e-auctions, making it easier for buyers and investors to identify valuable opportunities.

RBI Financial Stability Report - December 2024

- ❖ Indian bank's gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio dropped to 2.6% of total advances in September 2024.
- ❖ This marks the lowest level in the past 12 years.
- ❖ The net NPA ratio stood at approximately 0.6%.
- ❖ The profitability of scheduled commercial banks improved during H1 2024-25, with profit after tax (PAT) rising by 22.2% year-on-year.
- ❖ Public sector banks (PSBs) and private sector banks (PVBs) recorded PAT growth of 30.2% and 20.2%, respectively.
- ❖ The foreign banks (FBs) experienced a modest growth of 8.9%.



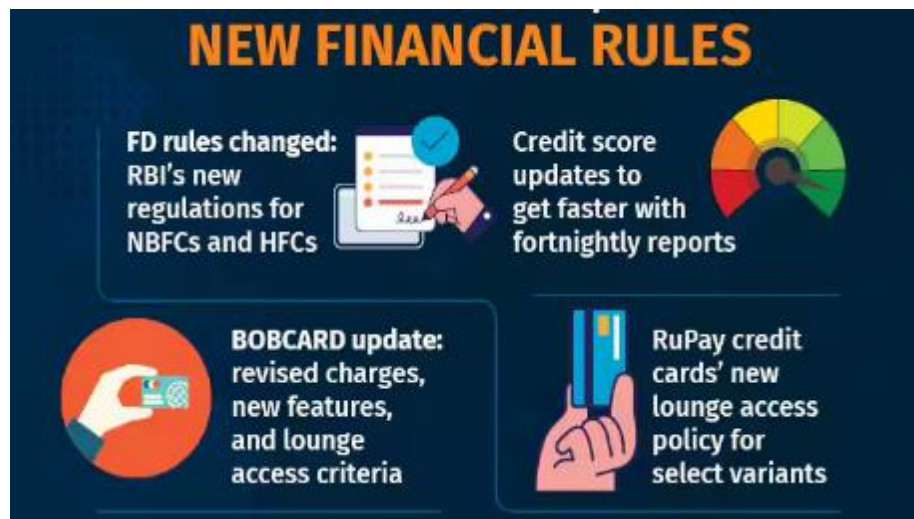
RBI's Gold Accumulation



- ❖ The Central banks around the world collectively, in November 2024, added 53 tonnes of gold to their reserves.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India's addition was 8 tonnes.
- ❖ This lifted the year-to-date buying to 73 tonnes and total gold holdings to 876 tonnes.
- ❖ RBI is maintaining its position as the second largest buyer in 2024, after Poland.

15-Day Credit Score Updates

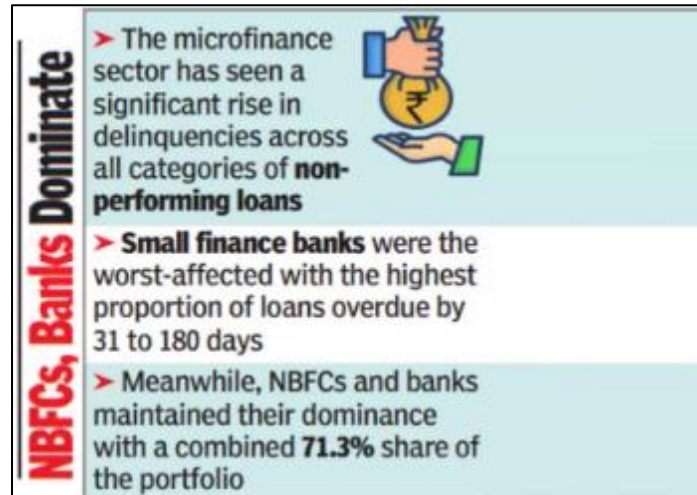
- ❖ RBI has mandated that all lenders must update credit bureau records every 15 days, effective January 1, 2025.
- ❖ This regulation aims to provide a more accurate and timely representation of borrowers' financial activities.
- ❖ It is ultimately transforming how credit scores are calculated and published.
- ❖ Historically, credit bureaus received updates from lenders only once a month.
- ❖ The rule aims to halt 'evergreening,' where borrowers take new loans to repay old ones, creating unsustainable debt cycles.



Indian Microfinance Sector in 2024

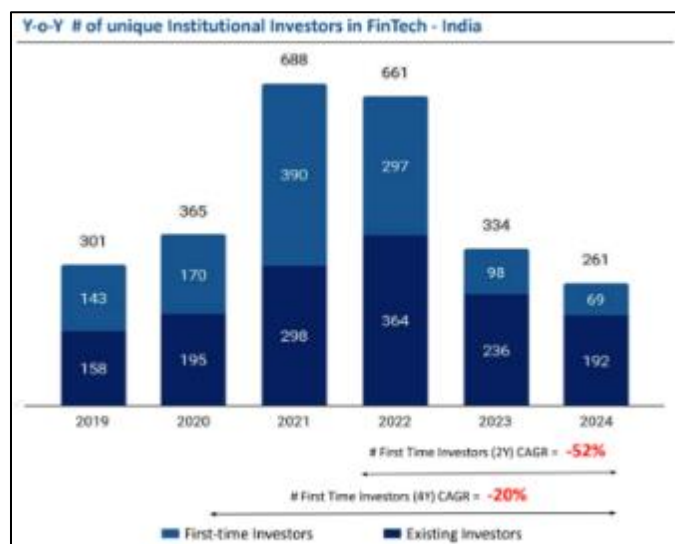
- ❖ The micro finance institutions (MFIs) industry in India has witnessed a high growth of more than 2,176 per cent in the past 12 years.
- ❖ Its business was climbing from Rs 17,264 crore in March 2012 to Rs 3.93 lakh crore as of November 2024.
- ❖ MFIs operate across 723 districts, including 111 aspirational districts, covering 28 states and 8 Union Territories.

- ❖ They cater to the financial needs of nearly 8 crore borrowers, contributing 2.03 per cent to the gross value added (GVA) to India's GDP and supporting 1.3 crore jobs.



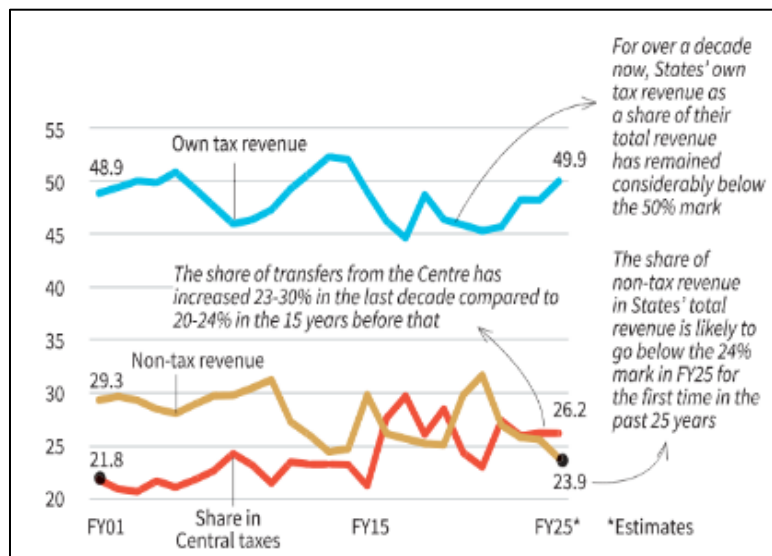
Annual India fintech report 2024

- ❖ India ranked third globally in terms of funding received in the fintech segment only after the US and the UK.
- ❖ The fintech sector experienced a notable decline in funding in 2024, with a total of USD 1.9 billion raised.
- ❖ This represents a 33 per cent decrease from the USD 2.8 billion secured in 2023.
- ❖ The sector had raised USD 5.6 billion in 2022.
- ❖ The year 2024 witnessed the emergence of two unicorns, Money View and Perfios.



State Revenue Dependency Trends

- ❖ Over the last decade, States have been relying more and more on transfers and grants from the Centre.
- ❖ In the last decade (FY16 to FY25), 23-30% of the total revenue of States was collected from the Centre as transfers.
- ❖ However, in the 2000s and the first half of 2010, the share was 20-24%.
- ❖ Also, close to 65-70% of the non-tax revenue of States was collected from the Centre as grants in the last decade compared to the 2000s.
- ❖ Many States are not efficiently collecting taxes using avenues at their disposal.
- ❖ For Tamil Nadu, the own tax revenue to GSDP ratio has gradually declined from 7.72% in FY13-15 to 6.17% in FY 22-24.
- ❖ This has also been the case in Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh, too.
- ❖ While the ratio has risen in Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, and Uttarakhand, it has remained stagnant in other States.



FEMA Regulations Update 2025

- ❖ The RBI in collaboration with the central government, has reviewed the current regulations under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
- ❖ It aims to promote cross-border transactions in rupees and other local or national currencies.
- ❖ The Authorised dealer banks' overseas branches can now open INR accounts for residents outside India.

- ❖ It is facilitating the settlement of all permissible current and capital account transactions with residents in India.
- ❖ Residents outside India can use the balances in their repatriable INR accounts, to settle legitimate transactions with other non-resident individuals.
- ❖ Residents outside India can use their repatriable INR account balances for foreign investments, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in non-debt instruments.
- ❖ Indian exporters are now allowed to open foreign currency accounts abroad to settle trade transactions, receive export proceeds, and use those funds to pay for imports.

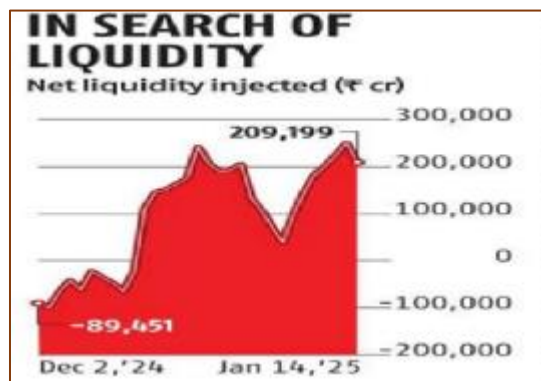
TIMES ITS MOVE TO PERFECTION

- Exporters will now be able to open accounts in any foreign currency overseas to settle trade transactions
- RBI to permit overseas branches of authorised banks to open rupee-accounts for anyone residing outside the country
- Decision comes at a time when the rupee is sliding and touched an all-time low of 86.70 per dollar on Monday



- In July 2022, an additional arrangement in the form of Special Rupee Vostro Account was introduced
- RBI has already signed MoUs with central banks of the UAE, Indonesia and the Maldives
- RBI has also allowed NRIs to use such balances in rupee a/cs for foreign investments

RBI - Daily VRR Auctions

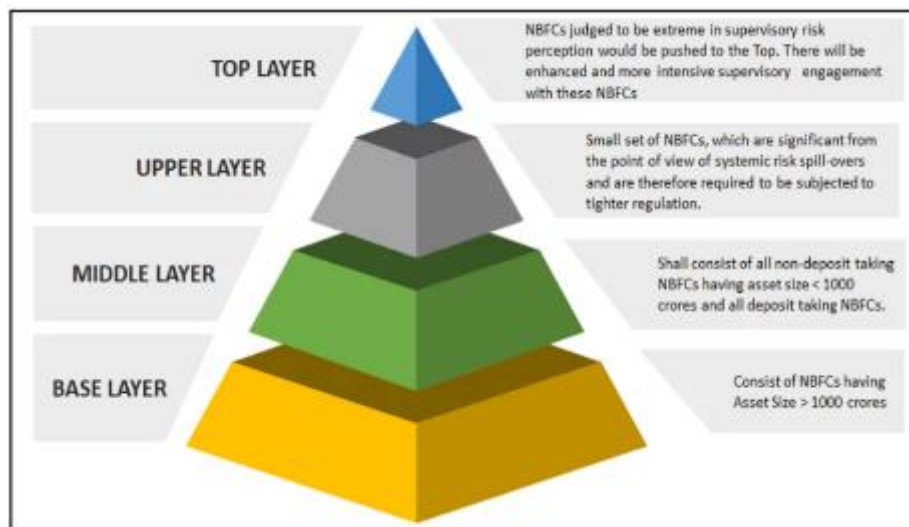


- ❖ RBI decided to conduct variable-rate repo auctions on a daily basis in order to boost banking system liquidity.
- ❖ The VRR auctions will be conducted between 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. every day and will be reversed the following day.

- ❖ RBI usually conducts VRR auctions to inject liquidity into the banking system when it turns into deficit mode.

NBFC upper layer list for year 2024-25

- ❖ The RBI released the list of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) in the upper layer segment for the year 2024-25.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank had also issued the Scale Based Regulation (SBR), A Revised Regulatory Framework for NBFCs (the framework) on 22 October 2021.
- ❖ The framework categorises NBFCs in Base Layer (NBFC-BL), Middle Layer (NBFC-ML), Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) and Top Layer (NBFC-TL).
- ❖ It also gives the methodology to identify the NBFCs in the Upper Layer as per their asset size and scoring methodology.



India's French Fries Exports 2025

- ❖ India exported 135,877 tonnes of FF valued at Rs 1,478.73 crore.
- ❖ During April-October 2024, exports were 106,506 tonnes and worth Rs 1,056.92 crore.
- ❖ Indian FF exports are mostly to Southeast Asia (Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam), Middle East (Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman) and even Japan and Taiwan.
- ❖ India's export of FF exceeds its estimated domestic consumption of 100,000 tonnes.
- ❖ Varieties of potato for FF are Santana, Innovator, Kennebec, Kufri Frysona and Kufri FryoM.

- ❖ India's potato production, at 60-odd million tonnes (mt), is next only to China's 95 mt.
- ❖ In 1992, the American processed food company, Lamb Weston, began importing frozen French Fries (FF) for supplying to star hotels in India.



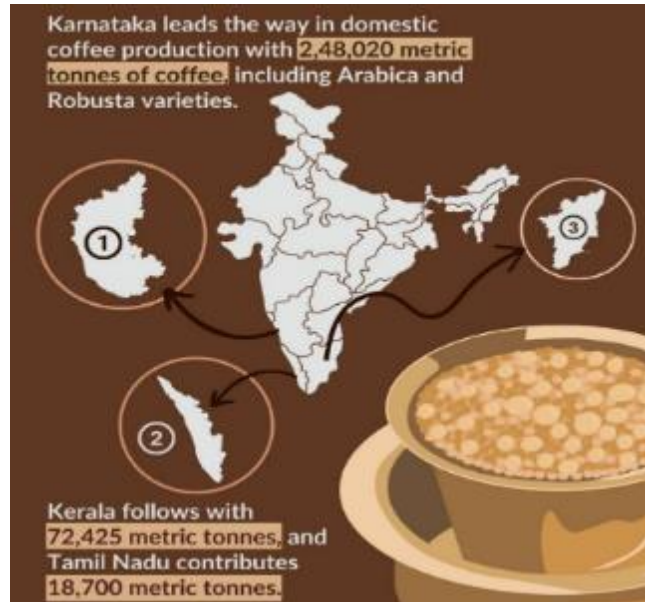
India's digital economy 2024-25



- ❖ India's digital economy will grow twice as fast as the rest of the economy.
- ❖ It constitutes 13.42% of the national income by the end of 2024–25, as against 11.74% in 2022–23.
- ❖ The report was prepared by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

- ❖ By 2030, India's digital economy will account for nearly a fifth of overall GDP.
- ❖ The digital economy in 2022-23 was equivalent to ₹28.94 lakh crore (~\$368 billion) in (GVA) and ₹31.64 lakh crore (~\$402 billion) in GDP.

Coffee production in India 2023-24

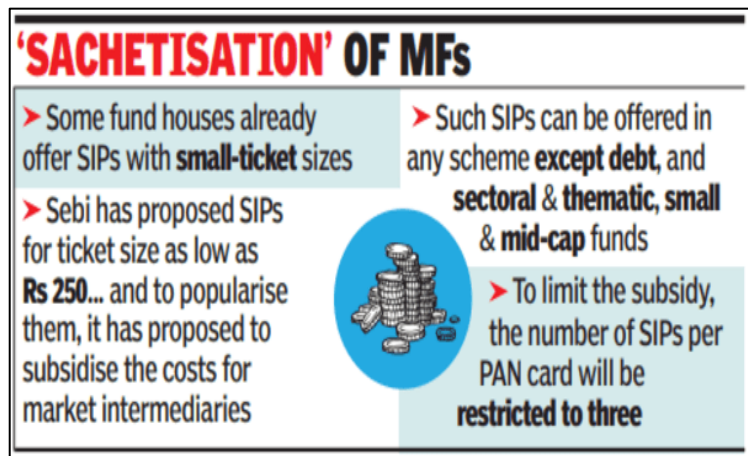


- ❖ India has emerged as the world's seventh-largest coffee producer, with exports reaching \$1.29 billion in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ This is almost double the \$719.42 million recorded in 2020-21.
- ❖ Domestic consumption has increased to 91,000 tonnes in 2023 from 84,000 tonnes in 2012.
- ❖ Karnataka leads in production, contributing 248,020 million tonnes in 2022-23, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Sachetisation Plan

- ❖ SEBI floated a consultation paper on 'sachetisation' of mutual funds.
- ❖ It aims to increase the reach and facilitate participation from low-income groups in mutual funds.
- ❖ SEBI has proposed a sachetised mutual fund product – small ticket systematic investment plan (SIP) of ₹250.
- ❖ Further, small ticket SIPs can be offered in any scheme except for debt schemes, sectoral and thematic schemes, small-cap and mid-cap schemes under equity schemes category.

- ❖ Sachetisation of mutual funds will enable small ticket investment in mutual funds gradually on a periodic basis.



Payment system report 2024



- ❖ The UPI in India's digital payments has surged from 34 per cent in 2019 to an impressive 83 per cent in 2024.
- ❖ It witnessed a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 74 per cent over the last five years.
- ❖ The other payment systems like RTGS, NEFT, IMPS, credit cards, debit cards, etc., in digital payments volume declined from 66 per cent to 17 per cent during the same period.
- ❖ The total value of transactions surged from ₹5.86 lakh crore in 2018 to ₹246.83 lakh crore in 2024.
- ❖ In 2024 alone, India recorded 208.5 billion digital payment transactions.
- ❖ The UPI Lite, recorded 2.04 million transactions daily, valued at ₹20.02 crore in December 2024.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

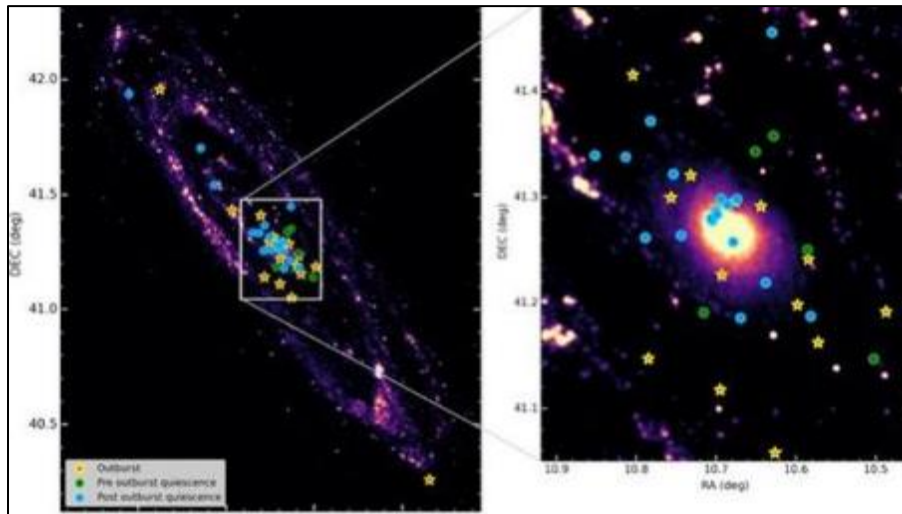
ISRO - SpaDeX mission 2024

- ❖ ISRO has achieved another milestone with the successful launch of the PSLV-C60 rocket.
- ❖ It was carrying the pioneering Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX).
- ❖ The mission deployed two spacecraft—SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target).
- ❖ It aims to develop and demonstrate India's capabilities in the space docking using two small spacecrafts.
- ❖ After the successful docking and rigidization, electrical power transfer between the two satellites will be demonstrated.
- ❖ After undocking and separation of the two satellites, they will start the operation of their respective payloads for the expected mission life of up to two years.
- ❖ This launch of PSLV-C60 is crucial to ISRO's aim for building India's own space station 'Bharatiya Antariksh Station' (BAS).



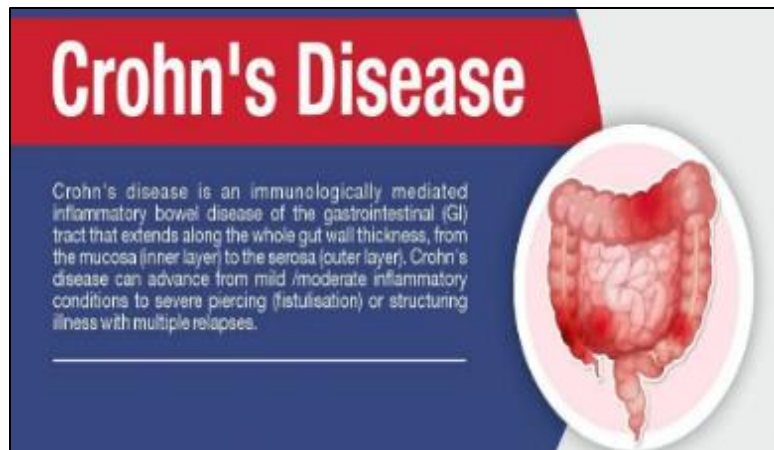
FUV Emissions from Novae

- ❖ Astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have recently spotted Far Ultraviolet (FUV) emissions from novae for the first time in the neighbouring Andromeda galaxy.
- ❖ Novae is a transient astronomical event that causes the sudden appearance of a bright, apparently new star that slowly fades over weeks or months.
- ❖ FUV is a radiation that refers to the wave band of ultraviolet radiation with the wavelengths ranging from around 200 to 280 Nano-meters.



New Treatment for Crohn's Disease

- ❖ About 10 million people globally live with the inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.
- ❖ Mirikizumab is a drug currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of ulcerative colitis.
- ❖ Researchers revealed that, the long-term efficacy and safety of Mirikizumab for not only ulcerative colitis, but also Crohn's disease.
- ❖ Inflammation from ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease can lead to disruptive symptoms.



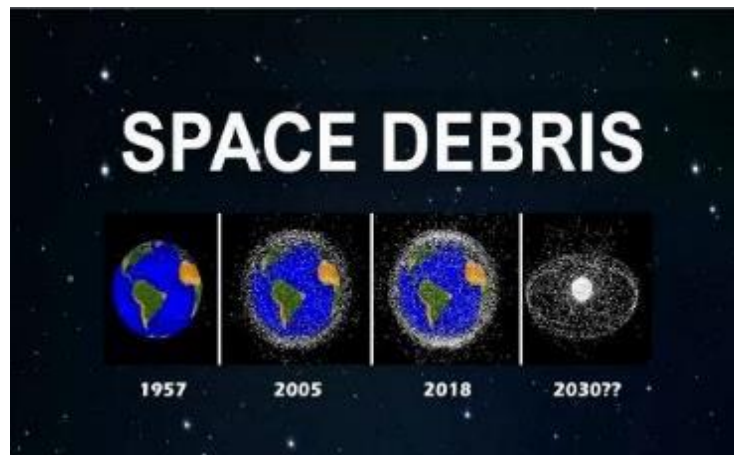
PSLV-C60 Mission

- ❖ This mission enables the ten Indian space start-up companies to fly their instruments into space.

- ❖ It facilitated the successful establishment and the operationalisation of 10 hosted payloads from Non-Government Entities (NGEs) on board the POEM-4 module of the PSLV-C60/SPADEX mission.
- ❖ The last stage of the PSLV has been re-purposed to last a few months in space and named PS4-Orbital Experiment Module (POEM).
- ❖ The PSLV POEM is a practical solution deployed by ISRO.
- ❖ It allows Indian start-ups, academic institutions, and research organizations to test their space technologies without the need to launch entire satellites.



India – Japan collaboration for space debris

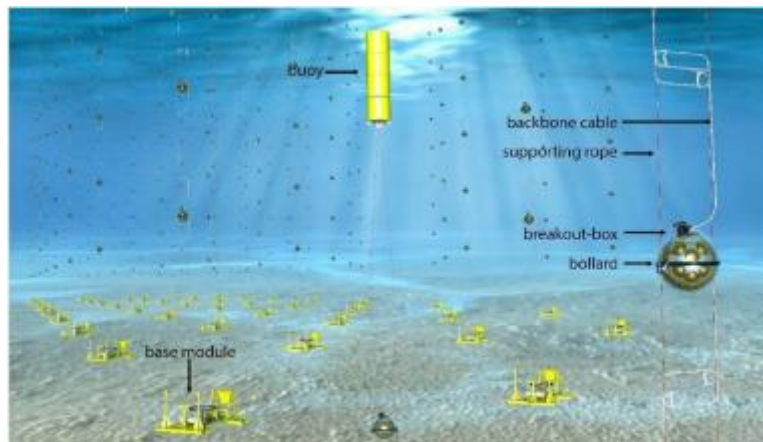


- ❖ The Space startups in Japan and India had agreed to jointly study using laser-equipped satellites to remove debris from orbit.
- ❖ This is an experimental approach to the increasingly imminent problem of orbital congestion.

- ❖ Tokyo-based Orbital Lasers and Indian robotics company InspeCity would study business opportunities for in-space services.
- ❖ It includes de-orbiting a defunct satellite and extending a spacecraft's life.
- ❖ The Orbital Lasers plans to demonstrate the system in space and supply it to operators after 2027.
- ❖ Orbital Lasers is building a system that will use laser energy to stop the rotation of space junk by vaporising small parts of its surface.

Cubic Kilometre Neutrino Telescope (KM3NeT)

- ❖ Recently, the scientists have deployed 2 telescopes under the Mediterranean Sea to detect high-energy neutrinos.
- ❖ It aims study high-energy neutrinos also known as ghost particles that could reveal secrets of the cosmos.
- ❖ These underwater neutrino telescopes could be more efficient than IceCube.
- ❖ Neutrinos are weakly interacting subatomic particles that can travel astronomical distances undisturbed.



CROPS experiment of ISRO

- ❖ ISRO has achieved a remarkable milestone with its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS) aboard the PSLV-C60 mission.
- ❖ The cowpea seeds sent into space have successfully sprouted their first leaves.
- ❖ It was marking a significant advancement in understanding plant growth in micro gravity conditions.
- ❖ The CROPS experiment is designed to study how the plants adapt and grow in the unique environment of space.



India's first space robotic arm demo

- ❖ ISRO has successfully operated its first space robotic arm aboard the POEM4 platform in space.
- ❖ The robotic arm is known as the Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD).
- ❖ The RRM-TD is India's first space robotic manipulator with walking capability.



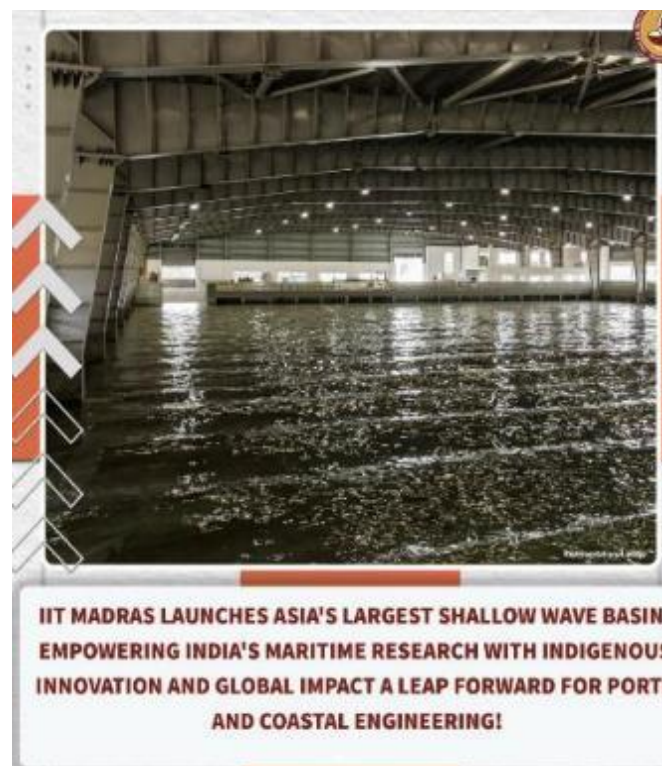
First meteor shower 2025

- ❖ The Quadrantid meteor shower occurs every year in early January.
- ❖ It is among one of the most intense annual meteor displays, and has a brief peak lasting only a few hours.
- ❖ It branches from the northeast corner of the Boötes constellation.
- ❖ The name Quadrantids comes from the now obsolete constellation Quadrans Muralis.
- ❖ The meteor shower was observed for the first time in the 1830s by Belgian astronomer Adolphe Quetelet.



Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility

- ❖ IIT Madras has launched the Asia's largest Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility that can cater to Indian research and industry requirements.
- ❖ This can address challenging problems in Indian ports, waterways and coastal Engineering.
- ❖ It is a multi-directional shallow wave basin that can handle complex wave and current interactions.
- ❖ The basin can be used for harbour, coastal, offshore, inland waterways and the shallow water manoeuvring-related projects.

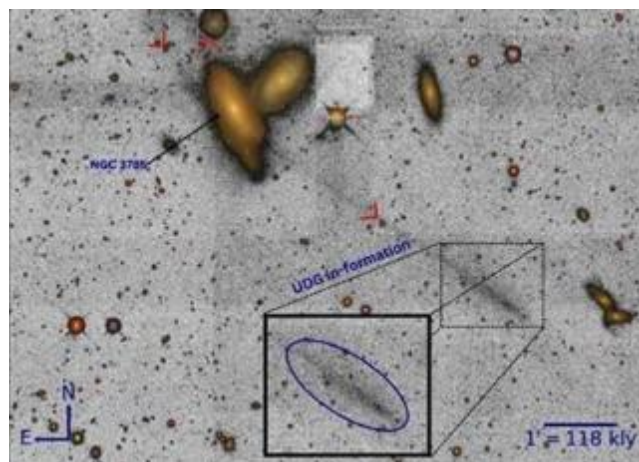


IIT Ropar's new Bluetooth system

- ❖ IIT Ropar launched its state-of-the-art AWaDH's Bluetooth Low Energy Gateway and Node System.
- ❖ This first-of-its-kind cost-effective system connects Bluetooth-enabled sensors to cloud platforms.
- ❖ It provides seamless data transmission, real-time environmental monitoring, and advanced analytics across diverse sectors such as agriculture, logistics, and environmental resilience.
- ❖ It supports data transmission up to 1 km in line-of-sight (LOS) scenarios.



Longest tidal tail



- ❖ Astronomers discovered a nascent ultra-diffuse galaxy forming at the end of the longest tidal tail ever observed, associated with the galaxy NGC 3785.
- ❖ This is located approximately 430 million light-years from the Earth in the Leo constellation.
- ❖ The tidal tail was extends an impressive 1.27 million light-years long from NGC 3785.
- ❖ It is a result of gravitational interactions between this galaxy and a neighbouring one.

Thorium-based nuclear energy solutions

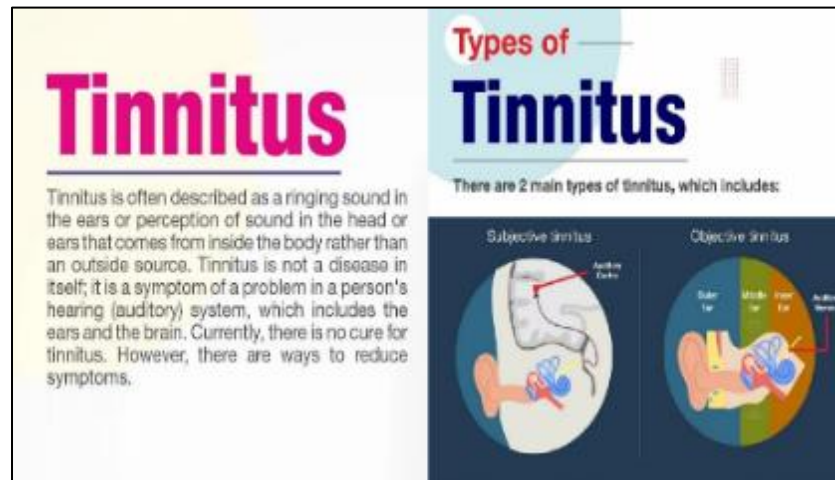
- ❖ The NTPC Limited has signed a strategic pact with US-based Clean Core Thorium Energy (CCTE) to explore development and deployment of advanced nuclear energy for enriched life (ANEEL).
- ❖ Aneel is a thorium-based fuel for pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs).
- ❖ Aneel fuel include the utilisation of thorium as a fuel in existing PHWR reactors, significant reduction in nuclear waste.
- ❖ It is also, enhancing India's energy security using domestically-available thorium, and improved safety and proliferation resistance.



Tinnitus matching device

- ❖ IIT Bombay have developed a precise tinnitus matching device and customisable solution (mobile based software) at an affordable cost.
- ❖ Tinnitus is the perception of sound in the absence of any external stimulus.
- ❖ It results in severe sleep disturbance, depression, anxiety, negative impact on mental health, irritability, impacting social life.

- ❖ Overall tinnitus has a demoralising impact on the quality of life.
- ❖ Tinnitus affects more than 740 million adults globally and is considered to be a major problem faced by more than 120 million people.



New Search and Rescue Aid Tool



- ❖ The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has developed a newer version of its own Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT).
- ❖ It will provide 'better accuracy and utility' and aid the Indian Search and Rescue (SAR) agencies such as the Indian Coast Guard in their operations at sea.
- ❖ SARAT application can simulate the probable search area of a range of objects lost at sea, including humans.
- ❖ SARAT was launched in 2016 and has been used extensively by the Coast Guard in its marine search operations.

Space Docking Exercise

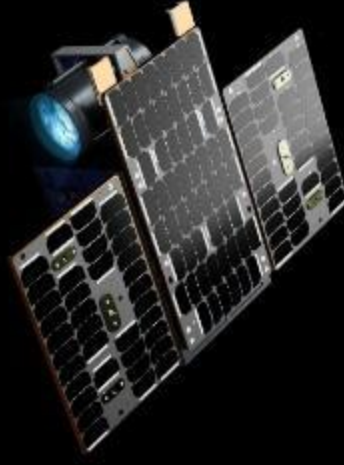
- ❖ ISRO successfully docks two satellites in space and India became fourth country to achieve feat after US, Russia, China.
- ❖ The SpaDex (Space Docking Exercise) mission is intended to be a technology demonstrator for the docking of two small satellites launched by the PSLV.
- ❖ ISRO has launched two small spacecraft — SDX01, the Chaser, and SDX02 on December 30.
- ❖ In the mission, after the initial 20 km inter-satellite separation, the Chaser satellite approaches the Target satellite by reducing the distance to 5 km, 1.5 km, 500 m, 225 m, 15 m, and 3 m, before the final docking of the two spacecraft.



First Private Satellite Constellation

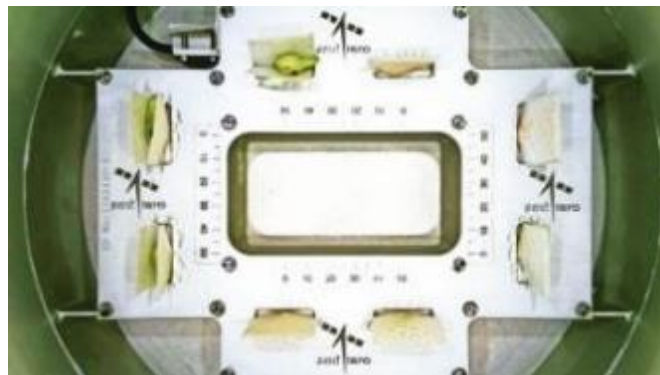
- ❖ A Bengaluru-based space startup has made history by giving India the first private earth imaging satellite constellation.
- ❖ The constellation - 'Firefly' - has been developed by Pixxel.
- ❖ In April 2022, they launched 'Shakuntala', India's first private Earth-imaging hyperspectral satellite.
- ❖ Three 'Firefly' satellites were launched into 550-kilometre low Earth orbit, using a SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket.
- ❖ The 'Fireflies', is the world's highest-resolution commercial-grade hyperspectral satellites currently.
- ❖ ISRO has about 52 different satellites in space.

FIREFLY OVERVIEW	
Total satellites in Phase 1(2025)	6
Satellite Mass	80 kg
Spatial resolution (GSD)	5 m
Revisit frequency	24 hours
Bands	150 +
Swath	40 km
Wavelength	450-900 nm



Black-eyed Pea Seeds in Space

- ❖ ISRO has successfully germinated black-eyed pea (lobia) seeds in space using its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies.
- ❖ As the humans venture out on lengthy space missions to colonise celestial bodies like Mars and the Moon, the space-grown plants can provide a sustainable food source.
- ❖ Since plants release oxygen during photosynthesis, growing them in space can help keep the air aboard spacecraft breathable.
- ❖ But, the lack of gravity precludes plants' roots from the growing downwards, in addition to making nutrient delivery a difficult task.
- ❖ Since water tends to cling to any surface it touches in microgravity, when sprayed onto the base of a plant, it does not trickle down to the roots.
- ❖ The space garden aboard the International Space Station, known as 'Veggie' or the Vegetable Production System, is the size of the average carry-on bag.



Planet Parade 2025



- ❖ The Four planets in our solar system - Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars have been visible in the night sky to the naked eye.
- ❖ Uranus and Neptune can also be seen alongside these planets, but with the help of a telescope.
- ❖ A 'planet parade' refers to a situation when several planets in our solar system are visible in the night sky, at the same time.

Waste Heat Energy Conversion

WASTE HEAT TO ELECTRICITY CONVERSION

New material developed by JNCASR to convert waste heat into electricity!


Highly Efficient:
Makes better use of waste heat, turning it into usable energy

BENEFITS

- Industries can use heat from machinery to generate electricity, reducing energy bills
- SAVES ENERGY**
No more wasting heat, as it is turned into power
- REDUCES POLLUTION**
Less need to burn fuel for extra electricity
- CUTS COSTS**
Saves money on energy for industries and individuals
- ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY**
Supports cleaner and greener energy use

Can be harnessed by
Factories, Power Plants, Vehicles etc.

Powering a Greener Tomorrow!



- ❖ The JNCASR – Bengaluru (the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research), have developed a cutting-edge material capable of converting waste heat into energy with unprecedented efficiency.
- ❖ The team has synthesised a novel thermoelectric material by introducing twisted layers in ferecrystals, a unique class of misfit layered compounds.

- ❖ The material, based on tin selenide (SnSe), exhibits a thermoelectric figure of the merit of 2.3, the highest reported for n-type materials.
- ❖ With about 65 per cent of all the utilised energy being lost as heat in nature, thermoelectric materials offer a sustainable solution by converting waste heat into electricity without emitting harmful gases like CO₂.
- ❖ Ferrecrystals are a subclass of misfit layered compounds (MLCs), which are 2D superlattices made of alternating layers of different structures.

Restart capability of Vikas engine

- ❖ ISRO has achieved a significant milestone with the successful demonstration of restarting its Vikas liquid engine.
- ❖ The Vikas engine, a very reliable workhorse for powering the liquid stages of Isro's launch vehicles, is being refined to enable stage recovery and reusability.
- ❖ In the very latest test, the engine was fired for 60 seconds before being shut off for 120 seconds.
- ❖ It was then successfully restarted and fired again for seven seconds.

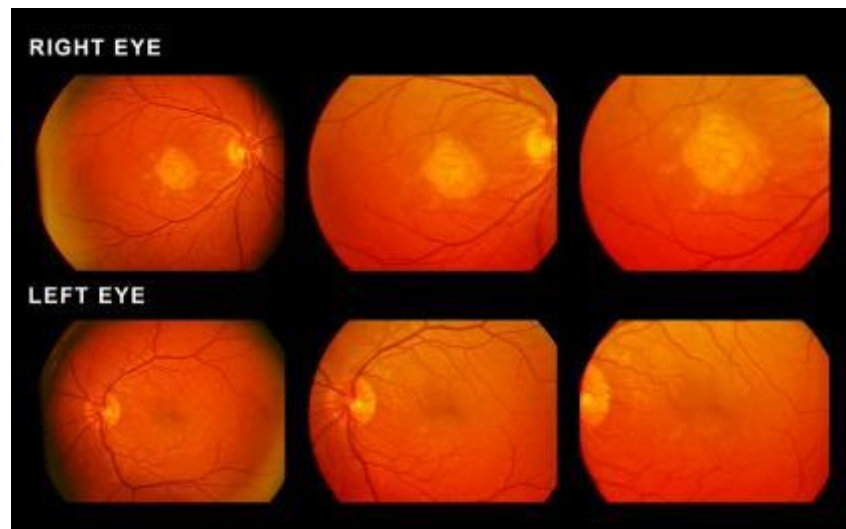


Crew Module's Liquid Propulsion System – Gaganyaan

- ❖ ISRO has received the Crew Module for the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan (G1) after successfully completing the integration of the liquid propulsion system.
- ❖ Before sending the crew, the ISRO is planning to send uncrewed mission to the space under its Gaganyaan project.
- ❖ Gaganyaan-G1 is expected to be launched in early part of this year.
- ❖ The subsequent two uncrewed missions Gaganyaan-G2 and G3 will lead to India's maiden human spaceflight.



Stargardt Disease



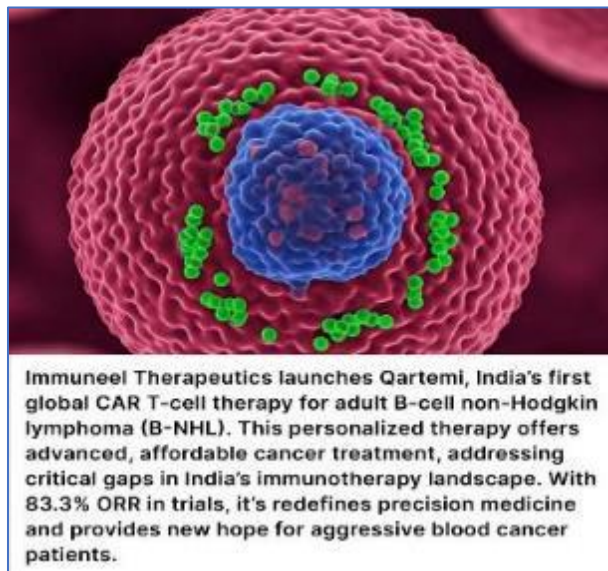
- ❖ Researchers has developed a technique to edit genes, to demonstrate how it could be used to perhaps cure Stargardt disease.
- ❖ Stargardt disease is an inherited disease that leads to progressive vision loss in children and young adults.
- ❖ It is usually bilateral, involving both eyes.
- ❖ Stargardt disease also known as Stargardt macular degeneration, is commonly caused by changes in a gene, ABCA4.
- ❖ This gene influences how your body uses Vitamin A.
- ❖ In India, the disease prevalence was estimated at 1 in 8000 to 10000 populations.

Active Cooled Scramjet Engine Test



- ❖ The DRDO recently demonstrated the scramjet combustor ground test for 120 seconds for the first time in India.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has called it a crucial milestone in developing next-generation hypersonic missiles.
- ❖ Hypersonic missiles are a class of advanced weaponry that travel at speeds greater than 'Mach 5' – five times the speed of sound.
- ❖ In December 2020, the DRDO has inaugurated the advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility in Hyderabad.

CDSCO – Qartemi



- ❖ Bengaluru-based biotech startup, has launched Qartemi, a CAR-T cell therapy for patients with B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (B-NHL).
- ❖ This "living drug" has been approved for blood cancer patients in India who suffer from an advanced or relapsed stage of the disease.

- ❖ This is different from a traditional chemical drug, made from cells to have a long-lasting immune response.
- ❖ India faces around 1,20,000 new cases and over 70,000 deaths annually from leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

Magnetic north pole at Russia

- ❖ The pole was first discovered about 400 kilometers from Canada in the year 1831.
- ❖ However, they have drifted continuously towards Russia from then and up to date have travelled over 400 km in a hundred years.
- ❖ The speed at which the magnetic North Pole moves has been changing.
- ❖ From 1990 to 2000, the pole drifted at a rate of 55 kilometers per year.
- ❖ The speed had decreased to about 35 kilometers per year by 2015.



Dark Oxygen

- ❖ The Scientists have discovered Dark Oxygen in the depths of the Pacific Ocean, challenging long-held beliefs about how oxygen is produced on Earth.
- ❖ Until now, it was thought that oxygen was created only through photosynthesis, a process that requires sunlight.
- ❖ The phenomenon was discovered in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, a vast flat area of the ocean floor between Hawaii and Mexico.
- ❖ Oxygen production at these depths also occurs through the naturally occurring polymetallic nodules that act like natural batteries.
- ❖ They are splitting seawater (H_2O) into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis.



ENVIRONMENT

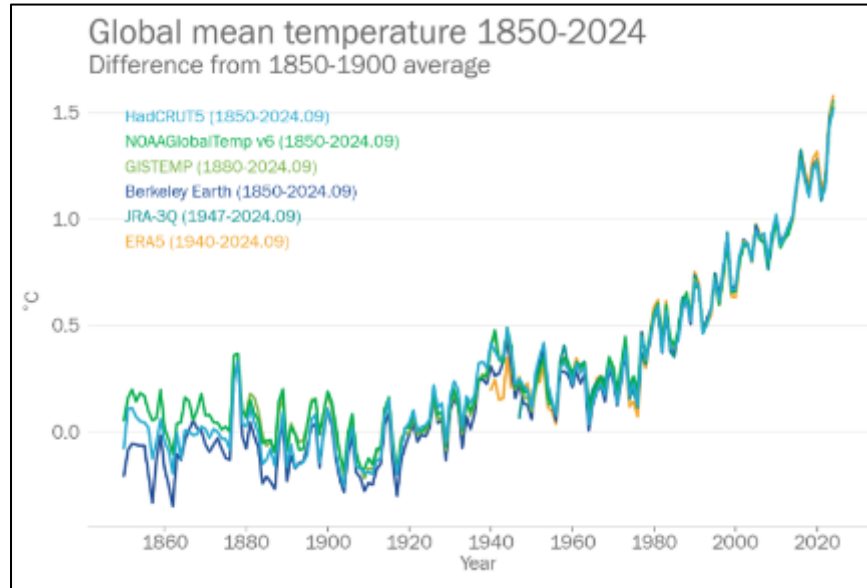
2nd fishing cat census

 <p>Meet the Fishing Cat (<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>)</p>	Region  <p>South and Southeast Asia</p>	IUCN Listing  <p>Vulnerable</p>
	Aquatic Adaptations  Partially-webbed feet  Long, protruding claws  Can fully submerge underwater	Threats  Human encroachment into habitat  Human-conflict due to food competition  Overfishing and pollution to aquatic habitats

- ❖ The Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) of Andhra Pradesh, India's second-largest mangroves, is home to the endangered fishing cat, *Prionailurus viverrinus*.
- ❖ By 2018, the population of fishing cats was 115, as per the first survey of fishing cats.

- ❖ The second census of the fishing cat is expected to be completed within a few weeks.
- ❖ The ongoing fishing cat census is part of India's first Fishing Cat Collaring Project.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India-Dehradun is executing the Collaring Project.

2024 – A Year of Climate Crisis - UN Report

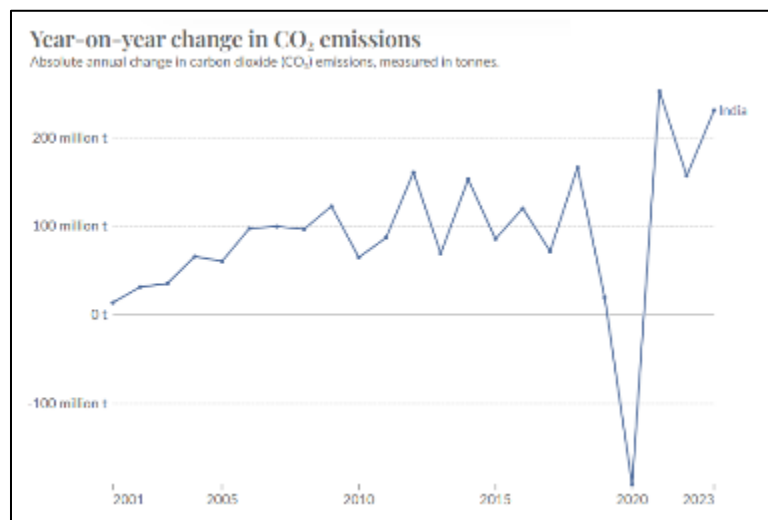


- ❖ The year 2024 is set to be the warmest on record, capping a decade of the unprecedented heat fuelled by human activities.
- ❖ Greenhouse gas levels continue to grow to record observed highs.
- ❖ The climate change added 41 days of dangerous heat in 2024.
- ❖ Climate change intensified 26 of the 29 weather events that killed at least 3700 people and displaced millions.
- ❖ 2025 is designated as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, facilitated by UNESCO and WMO.

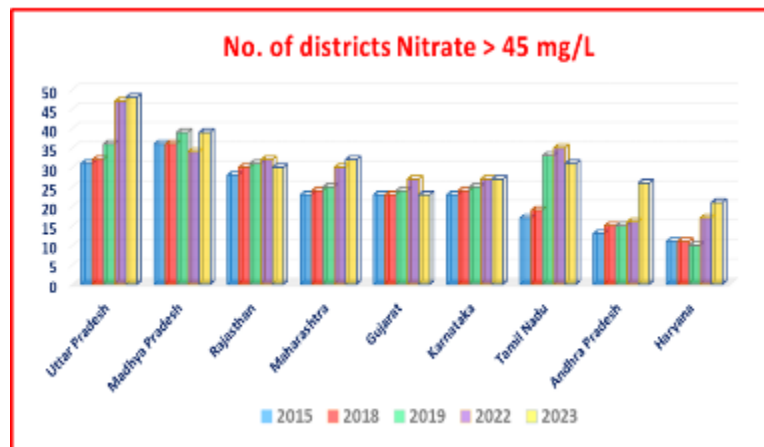
India's emission reduction since 2005

- ❖ Between 2005 and 2020, carbon emission was down by 7.93% compared to 2019, while emissions intensity reduced by 36%.
- ❖ The share of non-fossil sources in the installed electricity generation capacity was 46.52% by October 2024.
- ❖ Total installed capacity of renewable power is 156.25 GW.

- ❖ Renewable energy sources have grown by over 10.94 % in generation and over 14.7 % in installed capacity in the year 2023-24.
- ❖ The industrial sector was the largest energy consumer in the country, accounting for 48.95% of the total final energy consumption in FY 2022-23.
- ❖ The most energy-intensive subsector of the industrial sector was the iron and steel sector, accounting for 15.15% of energy use.
- ❖ Chemicals and petrochemicals accounted for 4.56% of energy use, followed by construction sector which was 1.80%.
- ❖ Top five emission intensive sectors were energy (75.66%), agriculture (13.72%), industrial process and product use (8.06%); and waste (2.56%).



Excessive Nitrates in India – CGWB (Central Ground Water Board)

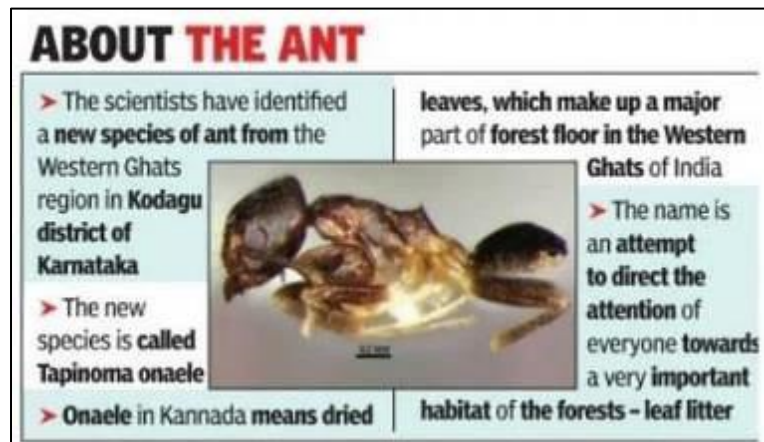


- ❖ High nitrate levels have been found in groundwater of 440 districts across India.
- ❖ This is an increase from 359 such districts in 2017

- ❖ 20 per cent of the samples collected are exceeding the permissible nitrate concentration of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- ❖ 9.04 per cent of samples had fluoride levels above the safe limit.
- ❖ 3.55 per cent showed arsenic contamination.
- ❖ Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had over 40 per cent of samples above the limit.
- ❖ There was high contamination in samples from -- Maharashtra at 35.74 per cent, Telangana at 27.48 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at 23.5 per cent and Madhya Pradesh at 22.58 per cent.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Jharkhand and Bihar reported lower percentages.
- ❖ In Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, all samples were within safe limits.

New Ant Species in Western Ghats

- ❖ Scientists have identified a new species of ant from the Western Ghats region in Kodagu district of Karnataka called *Tapinoma onaele*.
- ❖ The word Onaele in Kannada means dried leaves, which are a very important part of the forest floor in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ Recently *Probolomyrmex procne* was rediscovered after three decades in this region.
- ❖ This species has only been documented in two other locations in India.



India's emissions inventory

- ❖ India recently submitted its latest report detailing its greenhouse gas emission (GHG) inventory and the efforts it has taken to curb emissions.

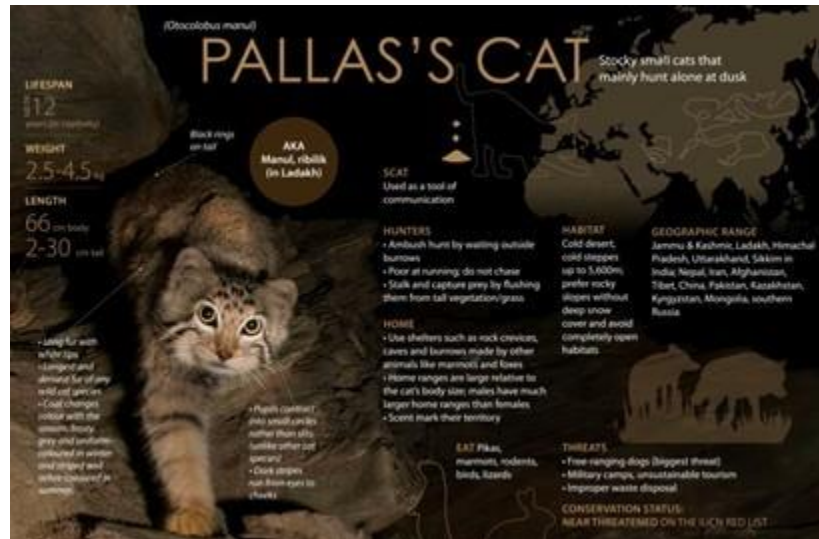
- ❖ Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), developing countries are obliged to submit a detailed report on their efforts towards climate action.
- ❖ Between 2005 and 2020, India's emissions intensity of GDP reduced by 36%.
- ❖ India's total GHG emissions were 2,959 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent.
- ❖ After counting the absorption by forestry sector and land resources, the country's net emissions were 2,437 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- ❖ The total national emissions (including land use, land-use change, and forestry) fell 7.93% compared to 2019.
- ❖ On the other hand, it has increased by 98.34% since 1994.
- ❖ CO₂ accounted for 80.53% of emissions, followed by methane (13.32%), nitrous oxide (5.13%) and others 1.02%.
- ❖ The emissions were highest from the energy sector at 75.66%.
- ❖ Agriculture contributed 13.72% emissions while Industrial Process and Product Use and Waste sector contributed 8.06% and 2.56%, respectively.
- ❖ In the energy sector, electricity production alone accounted for 39% of emissions.



Pallas's cat in Himachal Pradesh

- ❖ The first photographic evidence of the elusive Pallas's cat has been found in Himachal Pradesh, India.
- ❖ Pallas's cats are small wild felids that are the main inhabitants of the steppes of the Central Asia.
- ❖ It is named after a German naturalist named Peter Simon Pallas, who first described it in 1776.
- ❖ It lives mainly as a solitary cat and nocturnal one.

- ❖ It is listed as “Near Threatened” by IUCN.



Banded Royal Butterfly – Tripura



- ❖ The rare Banded Royal butterfly, scientifically known as *Rachana Jalindra Indra*, has been spotted at the Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura.
- ❖ There are three sub-species of *Rachana Jalindra* found in India.
- ❖ It is including
 - *Macantia* from south-west India to Goa,
 - *Rachana Jalindra Tarpina* in the Andamans and
 - *Rachana Jalindra Indra* from Orissa to lower West Bengal and Bangladesh.
- ❖ This species is legally protected under the Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Golden Jackals in Urban Mumbai

- ❖ The golden jackal spotted in Mumbai's urban sprawl recently.
- ❖ Golden jackals (*Canis aureus*) are with an estimated population of 80,000 across India.
- ❖ They are commonly found in the mangroves lining the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's coastline.
- ❖ It is listed under Least Concern status in the IUCN Red list.



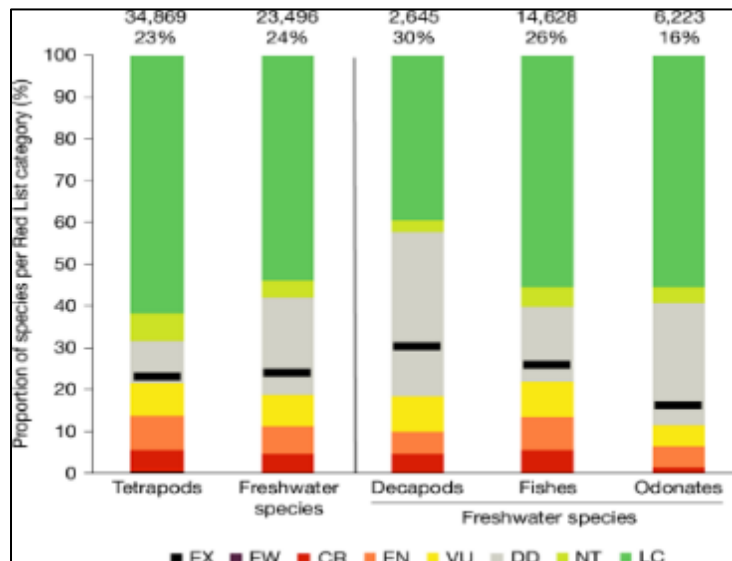
World's 1st Lab-Grown Coral Babies



- ❖ The world's first cryo-born baby corals have been successfully settled into their new and natural homes on the Great Barrier Reef.
- ❖ They are created using cryopreservation techniques, which involve freezing coral cells and tissues at very low temperatures.
- ❖ Cryopreservation uses cryoprotectants to remove water from cells during freezing & Support cell structures when thawed.
- ❖ The project aims to deploy millions of heat-tolerant corals onto the reef annually to combat the effects of climate change.

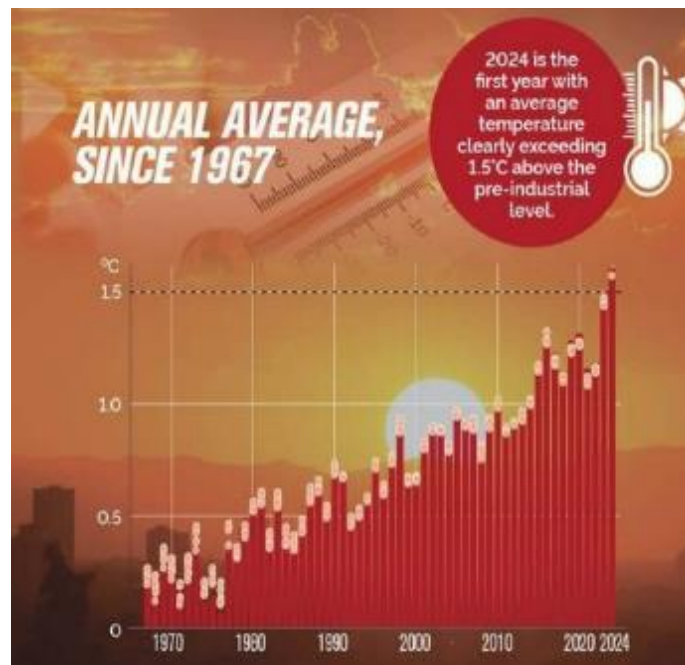
Multi-taxon global freshwater fauna assessment

- ❖ The first-ever multi-taxon global freshwater fauna assessment for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species conducted recently.
- ❖ It has identified the Western Ghats as a key location with greatest abundance of threatened freshwater species.
- ❖ This comprehensive global assessment has covered 23,496 decapod crustaceans, fishes and odonates.
- ❖ With approximately one-quarter of freshwater species facing a high extinction risk, and a record of 89 confirmed and 187 suspected extinctions since 1500 AD.
- ❖ Among freshwater decapods, fishes, and odonates, 54% of threatened species are impacted by pollution, while 39% are affected by dams and water extraction.
- ❖ The Land-use change associated with agriculture poses a threat to 37% of these species, and invasive species and disease impact 28%.



1st year to breach global warming limit

- ❖ The average global temperature for the year exceeded 1.5°C above the pre-industrial baseline for the first time in 2024.
- ❖ The WMO's assessment is calculated using the average global temperature across six datasets, with the period of 1850 to 1900 used to provide a pre-industrial baseline.
- ❖ Every month from January to June 2024 was the warmest ever recorded for those months.
- ❖ From July to December, except for August, each month was the second warmest on record, behind 2023.
- ❖ The average global temperature was 15.1 degrees Celsius - 0.72 degrees above the 1991-2020 average and 0.12 degrees higher than that in 2023, the previous record-holder.



New species of Indo-Burmese pangolin

- ❖ The Scientists have identified a new species of Indo-Burmese pangolin (*Manis indoburmanica*) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is diverged from the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) approximately 3.4 million years ago.
- ❖ They spread across Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.



Indian Cities' Air Quality Progress Report 2025

- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has released the latest Air Quality Index (AQI) data for cities across India.
- ❖ Delhi topped in the list of worst and most polluted air quality index.
- ❖ It is followed by Ghaziabad, Byrnihat and Chandigarh.
- ❖ Tirunelveli from Tamil Nadu experiencing the best and cleanest air quality.
- ❖ Thanjavur ranked 5th in the cleanest air quality table.

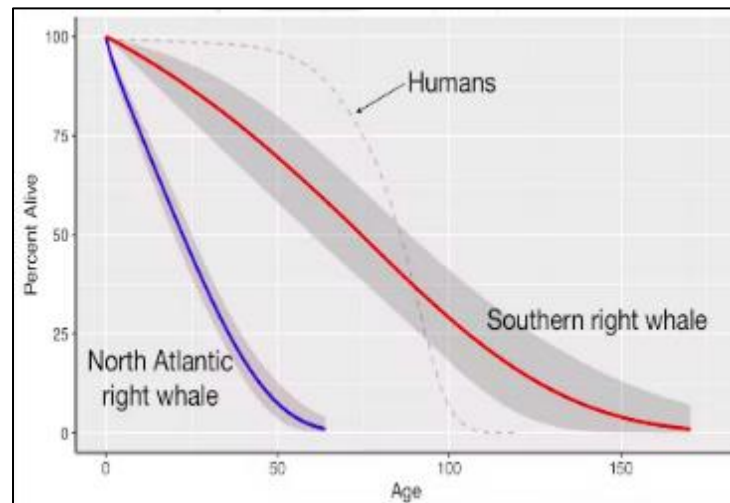
Rank	City	State	AQI	Prominent Pollutant	Rank	City	State	AQI	Prominent Pollutant
1	Delhi	Delhi	357	PM2.5	1	Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	33	PM10
2	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	332	PM2.5	2	Naharlagun	Arunachal Pradesh	43	PM10
3	Byrnihat	Meghalaya	303	PM2.5	3	Madikeri	Karnataka	44	PM2.5
4	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	302	PM2.5	4	Vijayapura	Karnataka	47	PM10
5	Hapur	Uttar Pradesh	287	PM2.5	5	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu	47	PM10
6	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	277	PM10	6	Koppal	Karnataka	55	PM2.5
7	Baddi	Himachal Pradesh	276	PM2.5	7	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	55	PM2.5, PM10
8	Greater Noida	Uttar Pradesh	270	PM2.5	8	Hubballi	Karnataka	56	PM2.5, CO
9	Kunjimana	Maharashtra	269	PM10	9	Kannur	Kerala	56	PM10
10	Noida	Uttar Pradesh	259	PM2.5	10	Chitral	Chhattisgarh	56	PM10

Population of wading birds



- ❖ The researchers in Kerala have found that the population of wading birds, key indicators of wetland health, have declined in the decade from 2010-2019.
- ❖ The researchers monitored six of the most commonly available wader species.
- ❖ All six species showed highest densities during post-monsoon seasons and lowest densities during the monsoon seasons.

Whale Longevity in 2025

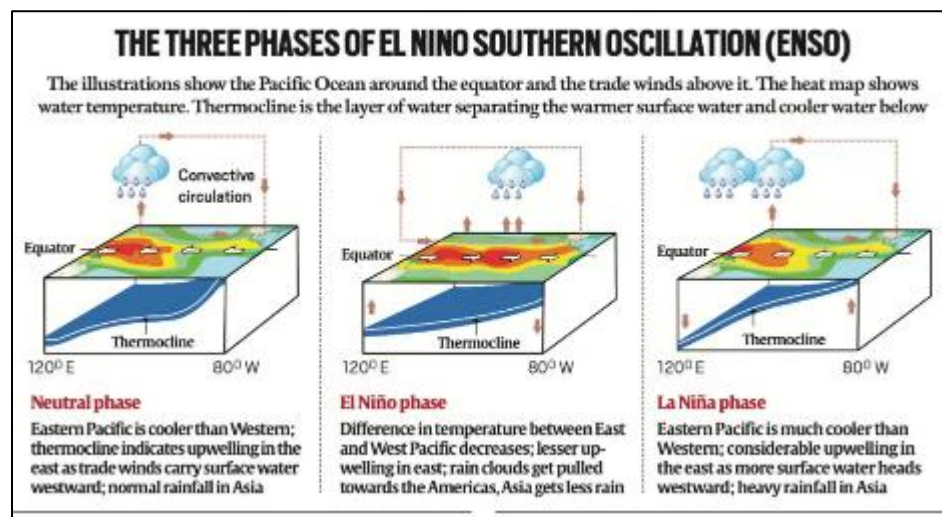


- ❖ The Southern right whales have lifespans that reach well past 100 years, and 10% may live past 130 years.
- ❖ Some of these whales may live to 150.
- ❖ This lifespan is almost double the 70-80 years they are conventionally believed to live.

- ❖ The North Atlantic right whales were also thought to have a maximum lifespan of about 70 years.
- ❖ This critically endangered species' current average lifespan is only 22 years, and they rarely live past 50.
- ❖ Twenty-five years ago, scientists working with Indigenous whale hunters in the Arctic showed that bowhead whales could live up to and even over 200 years.

La Niña Conditions in 2025

- ❖ La Niña conditions have finally surfaced in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ Below average sea surface temperatures reflected along the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ La Niña is a phase and known as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
- ❖ This climate phenomenon is characterised by changes in sea temperatures along the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, accompanied with fluctuations in the atmosphere overhead.
- ❖ ENSO influences, alters, and interferes with the global atmospheric circulation, which, in turn, influences the weather worldwide.
- ❖ ENSO has three phases – warm (El Niño), cool (La Niña), and neutral — which occur in irregular cycles of two to seven years.
- ❖ La Niña last occurred in 2020-2023, and El Niño in 2023-24.



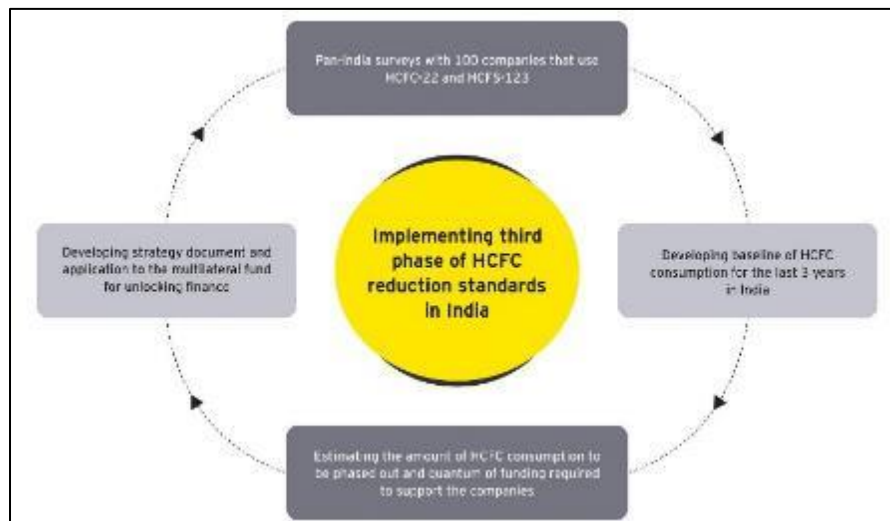
DDT-Contaminated Soils

- ❖ DDT or di-chloro-di-phenyl-tri-chloro-ethane was introduced as an insecticide in 1939.

- ❖ It is effective against a wide range of pests; it also degraded the soil and rendered it infertile after prolonged usage.
- ❖ In order to recover those infertile tracts, Swedish researchers have found that DDT-contaminated soils, when mixed with biochar, tend to regain fertility.
- ❖ Biochar, which is similar to charcoal in properties, is an environmentally friendly product that is economic to produce.



India on HCFCs



- ❖ India phased out hydrochlorofluorocarbons in manufacturing by the end of 2024.
- ❖ This phase out is part of the goals under the Montreal Protocol-1987.
- ❖ This international treaty that aims to eliminate the production and use of ozone-depleting substances.
- ❖ HCFCs are chemical compounds composed of carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and fluorine.

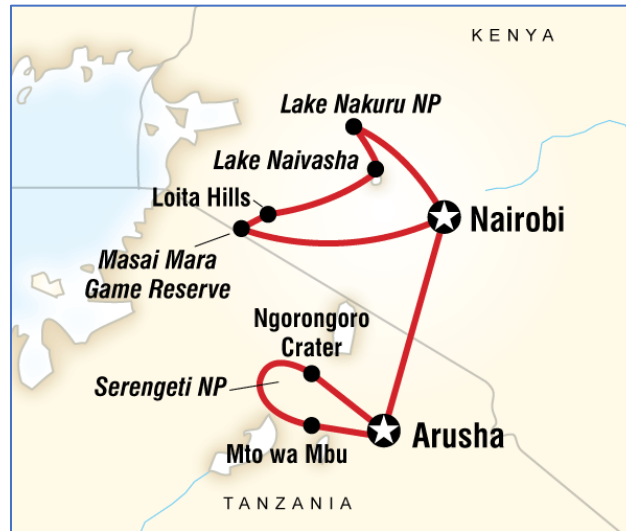
- ❖ They have widely been used in the foam, refrigeration, and air conditioning industries.
- ❖ Another element used as an alternative to CFCs and HCFCs is hydrofluorocarbon (HFC).
- ❖ They commonly used in refrigeration, air-conditioning (AC), building insulation, fire extinguishing systems and aerosols.
- ❖ In 2016, Montreal Protocol adopted the Kigali agreement where parties agreed to control the use of HFCs as well.
- ❖ The Kigali Agreement set a goal to phase down HFCs by 85% by 2036 for developed countries and by 2047 for developing countries.
- ❖ India became a party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1991 and signed the Montreal Protocol in 1992.

New Tarantula Species in Western Ghats

- ❖ A researcher described four new species of tarantulas, including one new genus, from India's Western Ghats.
- ❖ An entirely new genus of tarantulas called Cilantica is named after the Tamil word for spider.
- ❖ The 2nd new species named Haploclostus bratocolonus (meaning “tree dweller”), makes its home in hollow trees along rivers.
- ❖ Another species, Haploclostus montanus, was found living at elevations higher than 2,000 metres (6,600 feet) in mountain forests.
- ❖ This was making it one of the highest-living tarantulas known from the region.
- ❖ Around 1,264 arachnid species are currently illegally traded worldwide.



Water Hyacinth issue - Kenya



- ❖ Water hyacinth, the world's most widespread invasive species, is blanketing the Lake Naivasha of Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ The water hyacinth is native to South America and was reportedly introduced to Kenya in the 1980s.
- ❖ Water Hyacinth is scientifically known as *Eichhornia crassipes*.
- ❖ It is an aquatic weed common in water bodies across South Asia, including India.
- ❖ It was introduced to India during the British colonial rule as an ornamental aquatic plant from South America.

Gangetic Dolphin status 2025



- ❖ The Ganga River basin has an estimated population of 3,936 Gangetic dolphins (with a standard error of 763).

- ❖ There were 2,510 dolphin sightings during the survey, with 1,303 in Ganga across Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- ❖ It was listed as endangered on the 1996 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ The National Ganga River Basin Authority, declared the Gangetic River dolphin as the national aquatic animal and in 2010.

Karnataka's first Wolf Sanctuary



- ❖ The endangered Indian wolves are thriving very freely at the Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary of Karnataka.
- ❖ The sanctuary hosts the Indian grey wolf species, and one of the wolves recently gave birth to eight pups.
- ❖ The sanctuary is home to many wildlife species, including the wolves, leopards, peacocks, blackbucks, foxes, hares, and porcupines.

Blood-Sucking Flies in Andaman

- ❖ Researchers have identified 23 species of blood-sucking flies in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including 13 species previously unreported in India.

- ❖ Locally called 'Bhusi flies,' these insects belong to the Culicoides genus and are similar to mosquitoes in their feeding habits.
- ❖ They primarily feed on the blood of livestock like sheep, goats, and cattle, as well as wild animals such as deer.
- ❖ Five species of that can transmit the Blue Tongue Disease virus, a condition that can be fatal to livestock.
- ❖ 17 out of the 23 species identified also bite humans, though no human disease transmission has been reported so far.



Brazil Wildfires in 2024

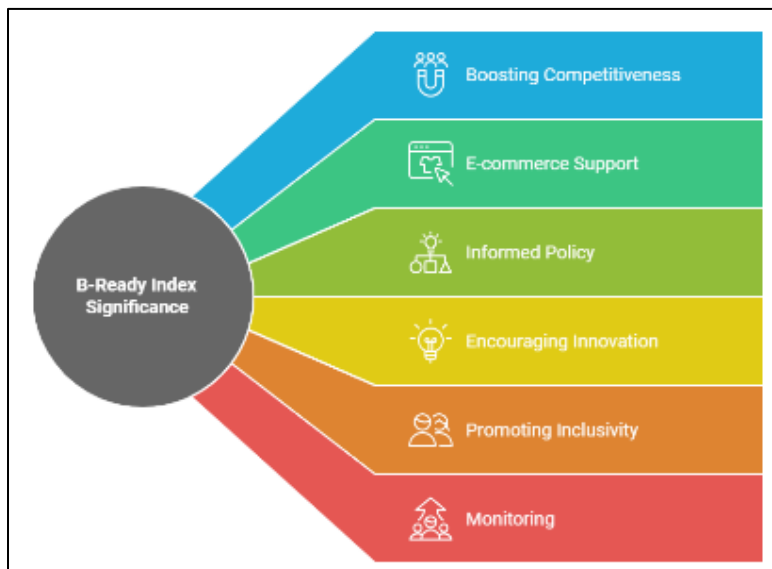


- ❖ Over 30.87 million hectares of wilderness were consumed by fire, an area roughly the size of state Maharashtra in India or Italy.
- ❖ There was a 79 percent increase in burned area from 2023, when 17.24 million hectares were destroyed — an increase of 13.63 million hectares.
- ❖ This figure is the very highest one since 2019, when 18.08 million hectares were incinerated.
- ❖ 10.63 million hectares were lost in a single month -September 2024.
- ❖ Amazônia was the worst-hit region, losing 17.9 million hectares, followed by the Cerrado with 9.7 million hectares, Pantanal with 1.9 million hectares and Mata Atlântica with 1 million hectares.

REPORTS AND INDICES

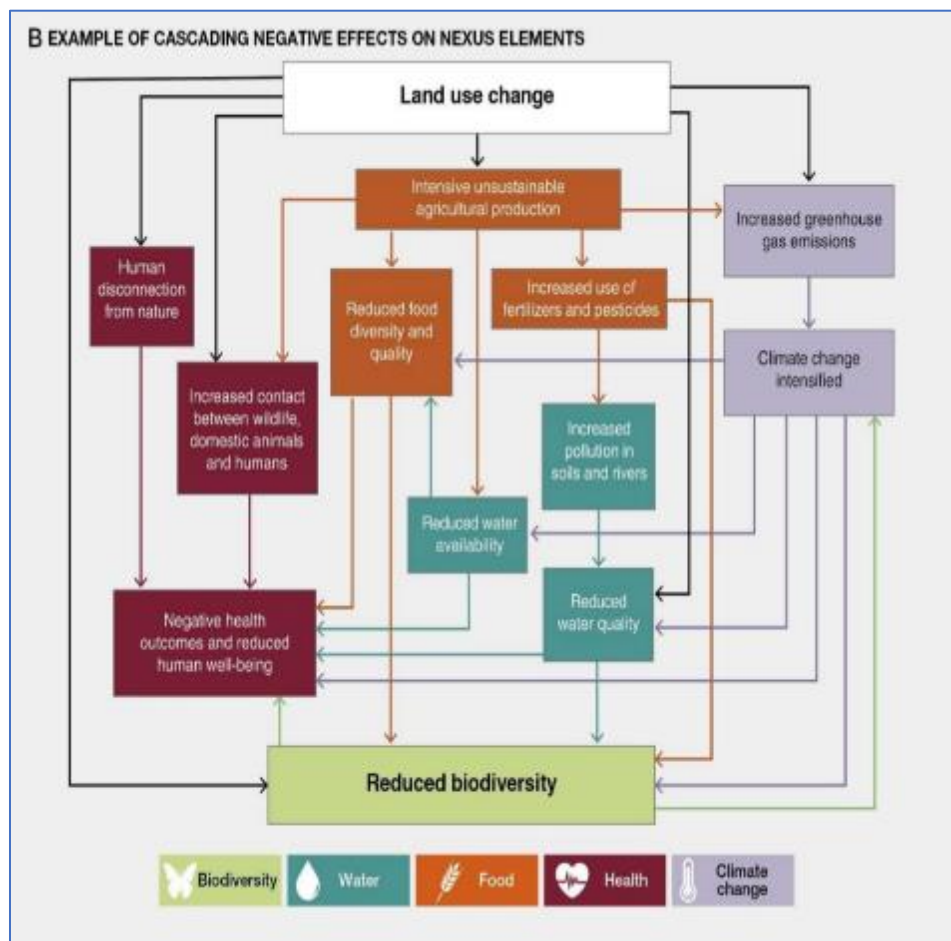
Business Ready (B-READY) Report 2024

- ❖ The World Bank launched the Business Ready (B-READY) report 2024 to replace the Ease of Doing Business report.
- ❖ In Business Entry, countries like Singapore offer online business registration within a day at minimal cost.
- ❖ In India, businesses still face multiple steps and incomplete digital integration.
- ❖ This report generates two sets of scores for each economy viz Topic Scores and Pillar Scores.
- ❖ Anyway, India did not participate in the 2024 B-READY Report.



IPBES Nexus Report

- ❖ This report was released by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- ❖ The Assessment Report on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health also known as the Nexus Report.
- ❖ Biodiversity decline per decade for last 30-50 years is 2-6%.
- ❖ Around 50% of the emerging infectious diseases are driven by interconnections between ecosystem, animal and human health.
- ❖ Unaccounted-for costs of current economic activity are at least \$10-25 trillion per year.



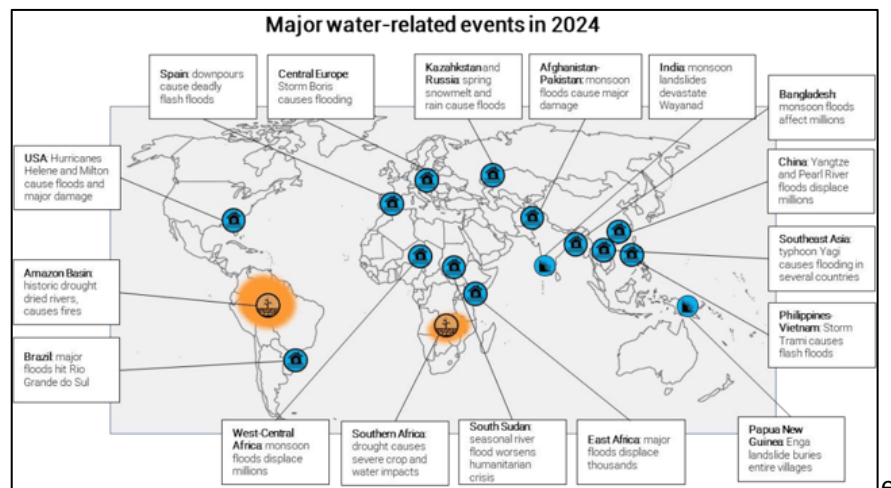
Threat Landscape Report 2024

- ❖ India has emerged as the second most targeted nation for cyber-attacks globally, with 95 entities falling victim to data theft in 2024.
- ❖ The United States in the top spot with 140 attacks.

- ❖ Israel ranks third, with 57 attacks attributed to ongoing geopolitical tensions.
- ❖ Major breaches included the leak of 850 million records of Indian citizen data from Hi-Tek Group, customer data from Star Health and Allied Insurance, and 2TB of sensitive information from Telecommunications Consultants India.



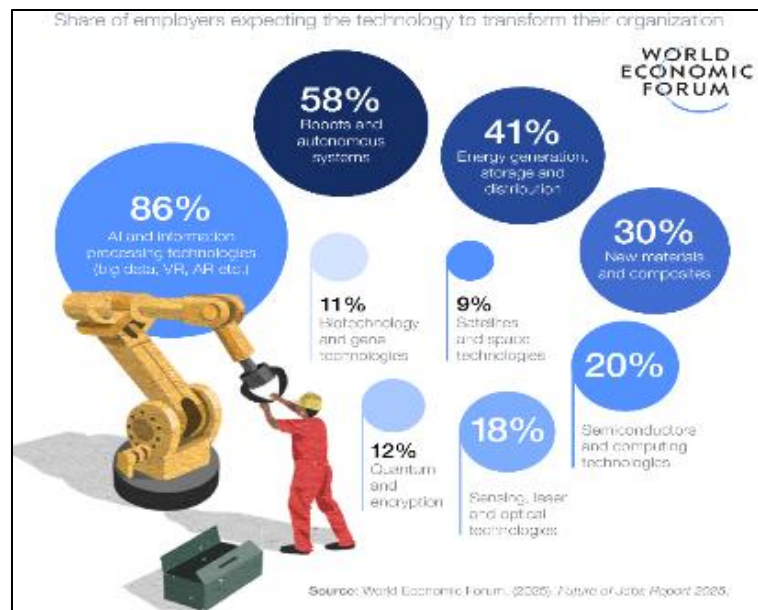
2024 Global Water Monitor Report



- ❖ The 2024 Global Water Monitor Report was released by the Australian National University (ANU).
- ❖ In 2024 alone, the water-related disasters claimed over 8,700 lives, displaced approximately 40 million people.
- ❖ It inflicted economic losses exceeding \$550 billion.
- ❖ The Significant events included catastrophic flooding in Brazil, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

- ❖ Record-high monthly rainfall totals were achieved 27% more frequently in 2024 compared to the early 2000s.
- ❖ Daily rainfall records increased by 52%.
- ❖ Conversely, record-low precipitation events were also seen more frequently.

Future of Jobs report 2025

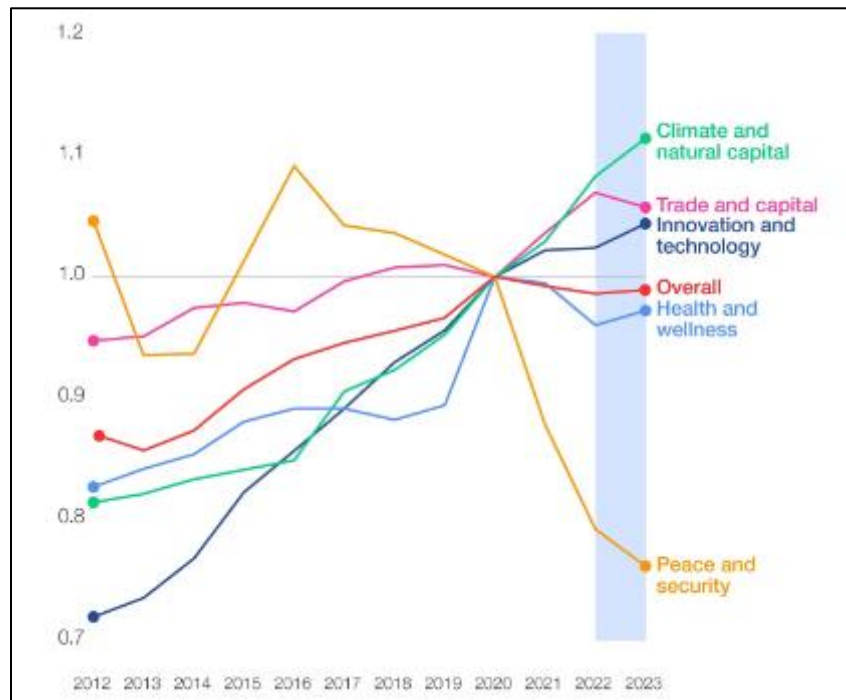


- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) released a report titled 'Future of Jobs Report 2025'.
- ❖ 170 million new jobs will be created and 92 million jobs will be displaced resulting in a net increase of 78 million jobs by 2030.
- ❖ The Big data specialists, FinTech engineers, AI & machine learning specialists, software & applications developers and security management specialists are among the top 5 fastest growing jobs.
- ❖ 59% of the global workforce will need reskilling or upskilling by 2030 to remain competitive.
- ❖ Farmworkers top the list of the largest growing job roles in the next five years and are expected to see 35 million more jobs by 2030.

WEF Global Cooperation Barometer 2025

- ❖ The World Economic Forum's Global Cooperation Barometer 2025 was launched in Geneva.
- ❖ It reveals that the international cooperation has stagnated due to increased geopolitical tensions and instability.

- ❖ The barometer uses 41 indicators to measure the current state of the global cooperation along five pillars –
 - Trade and capital flows,
 - Innovation and technology,
 - Climate and natural capital,
 - Health and wellness, and
 - Peace and security.

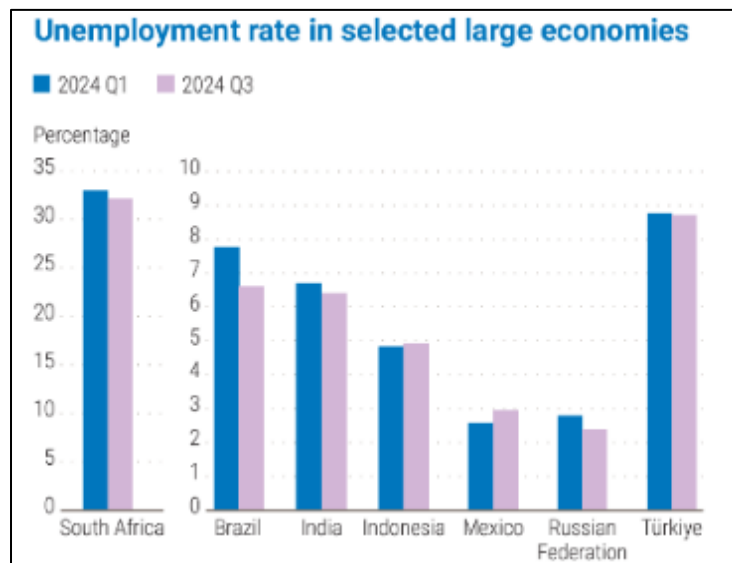


Henley Passport Index 2025

- ❖ India's ranking has dropped by five points to 85 this year in a global passport index.
- ❖ An Indian passport holder can travel visa-free to 57 destinations.
- ❖ Singapore topped in the index for second consecutive year.
- ❖ The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations
- ❖ As per the index for 2025, the ranking of Pakistan and Bangladesh stood at 103rd (101st in 2024) and 100th (97th in 2024), respectively.
- ❖ India's ranking in the Henley Passport Index for 2024 was 80th globally.
- ❖ Japan's ranking stood at 2nd this year, while it had the top slot from 2018-2023.
- ❖ In 2024, both Japan and Singapore shared the top rank.



UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025



- ❖ The Global economic growth is forecast at 2.8% in 2025 and 2.9 per cent in 2026.
- ❖ It is largely unchanged from the rate of 2.8% recorded in 2023 and estimated for 2024.
- ❖ China is facing the prospect of the gradual economic moderation, with growth estimated at 4.9% in 2024 and projected at 4.8% in 2025.
- ❖ The Indian economy grew by 6.8% in 2024 and is forecast to expand by 6.6% in 2025, primarily supported by robust private consumption and investment.
- ❖ The Indian economy is projected to return to the 6.8% growth in 2026.
- ❖ Consumer price inflation in India is forecast to decelerate from an estimated 4.8% in 2024 to 4.3% in 2025.

World Employment and Social Outlook Report 2025

► Figure 1.2. Change in labour force participation rates between 2014 and 2019 and between 2019 and 2024, by sex and age group, high-income countries (percentage points)

	Both sexes		Women		Men	
	2014-19	2019-24	2014-19	2019-24	2014-19	2019-24
Total (15+ years)	0.8	0.1	1.3	0.6	0.3	-0.6
Youth (15-24 years)	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.9
Prime age (25-54 years)	1.1	1.1	2.0	2.1	0.4	0.1
Older (55-64 years)	4.4	2.8	5.1	3.6	3.6	1.9
65 years and older	1.9	0.4	1.7	0.5	2.1	0.2
Demographic shift	-1.0	-1.6	-1.6	-2.4	-0.7	-1.1

- ❖ The International Labour Organization's (ILO) has released a report - World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025 - in Geneva.
- ❖ In 2024, the report said, global employment grew in line with the labour force, keeping the unemployment rate steady at 5%.
- ❖ However, the youth unemployment showed little improvement, remaining high at 12.6%.
- ❖ Economic growth stood at 3.2% in 2024, down from 3.3 and 3.6% in 2023 and 2022, respectively.
- ❖ The estimated number of people who want to work but do not have a job – reached 402 million in 2024.
- ❖ This includes 186 million unemployed people, 137 million who are temporarily unavailable to work, and 79 million discouraged workers who have stopped looking for jobs.
- ❖ The rates of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) have risen.
- ❖ In low-income countries, the young men's NEET rates increased by 4 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels.
- ❖ It is affecting 15.8 million young men and 28.2 million young women in 2024.

QS World Future Skills Index 2025

- ❖ India was ranked second in terms of preparedness for jobs of the future including artificial intelligence (AI) and green skills, only behind the United States.
- ❖ India was ranked 25th across all indicators, which includes the alignment between the skills and employer needs, academic readiness, and the economic transformation.

- ❖ India's overall ranking puts it as a "future skills contender," as per the report.
- ❖ Countries like the USA, UK, Germany, Australia, and Canada, among others in the top ten have been categorised as "future skills pioneers".
- ❖ India has been ranked second in the 'future of work' indicator.

Skills Fit		Academic Readiness		Future of Work		Economic Transformation	
Country	Score	Country	Score	Country	Score	Country	Score
UK	100.00	UK	100.0	United States	100.0	South Korea	100.0
US	94.4	Germany	99.6	India	99.1	Israel	98.9
Canada	90.9	Netherlands	99.3	Mexico	98.2	United States	97.9
Germany	89.2	Australia	98.9	Canada	97.4	Switzerland	96.8
Netherlands	88.6	United States	98.6	Australia	96.5	Japan	95.8

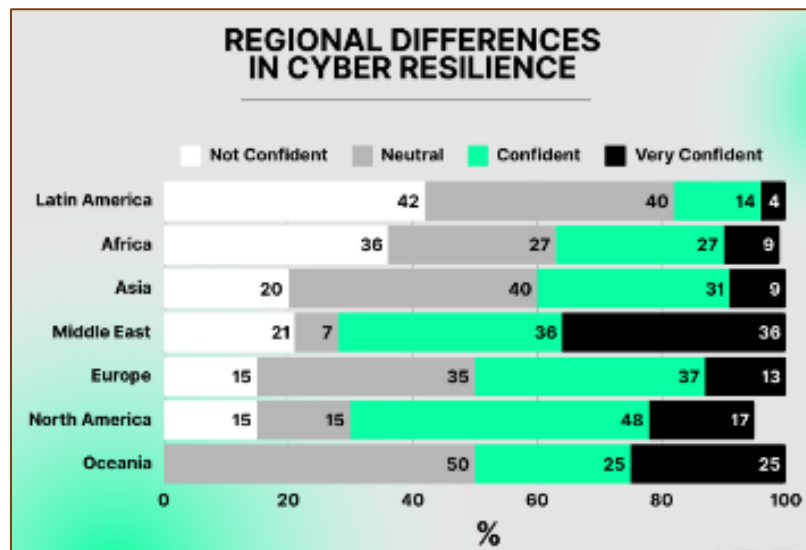
INDIA					
Indicator	Skills Fit	Academic Readiness	Future of Work	Economic Transformation	Overall
Score	59.1	89.9	99.1	58.3	76.6
Global position	37th	26th	2nd	40th	25th

Global risk report 2025

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) released its latest Global Risks Report 2025.
- ❖ Misinformation and disinformation are viewed as the most severe global risk over the coming two years.
- ❖ Extreme weather events ranked second and state-based armed conflict is viewed as the third biggest threat.
- ❖ Over the next decade, extreme weather events remain the biggest concern.
- ❖ It is followed by biodiversity loss, critical change to the Earth's systems and a shortage of natural resources.
- ❖ Since the report's first edition in 2006, extreme weather events have been categorised under "environmental risks."
- ❖ These events have climbed into the top six risks annually since 2014.
- ❖ It is ranking as the foremost global risk from 2017 to 2020 and regaining that position in 2024.
- ❖ In the short term (2025-2027), extreme weather events rank as the second most severe global risk.
- ❖ These events are now listed among the top five short-term risks in 28 countries, up from 24 countries last year.

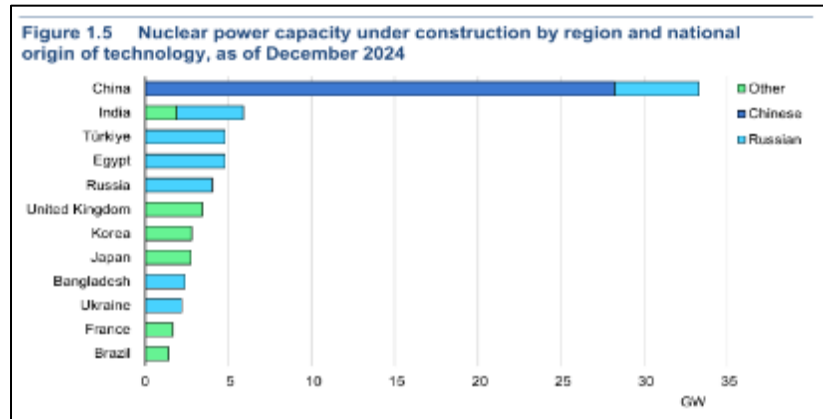


Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025



- ❖ It was released by World Economic Forum in collaboration with Accenture.
- ❖ A growing 8% skills gap leaves two-thirds of organizations unable to address security needs effectively.
- ❖ There is a shortfall which is ranging from 2.8 million to 4.8 million cybersecurity professionals.
- ❖ Nearly 49% of public-sector organizations lack sufficient cybersecurity talent.
- ❖ Around 42% in Latin America and 36% in Africa lack confidence in cybersecurity preparedness, compared to 15% in Europe and North America.

New era of nuclear energy – IEA

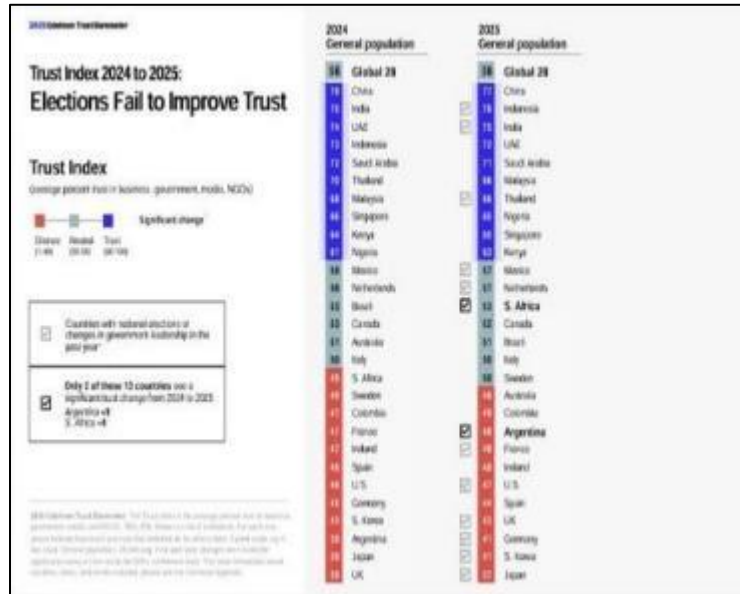


- ❖ International Energy Agency (IEA) released a report titled ‘A new era of nuclear energy’.
- ❖ Currently nuclear provides just under 10% of global electricity supply.
- ❖ As of the end of 2024, there were 63 nuclear reactors (71 GW) under construction.
- ❖ More than 40 countries around the world have plans to expand Nuclear’s role in their energy systems.
- ❖ Since 2017, China has started construction on 25 reactors, and Russia on 23 reactor more than 99% of the enrichment capacity takes place in four supplier countries, with Russia accounting for 40% of global capacity.
- ❖ The annual investment in nuclear energy needs to double to USD 120 billion by 2030 to meet projected demand.

Global Trust Index 2025

- ❖ India has slipped one place to third slot when it comes to people's trust in the government, businesses, media and NGOs.
- ❖ Within the high-income group, India was ranked fourth after Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and China.
- ❖ While the low-income population made India the third most trusted nation after China and Indonesia.
- ❖ India ranks low at 13th place when it comes to trust of people in other countries, in companies with Indian headquarters.
- ❖ Canada topped this list of foreign-headquartered companies, followed by Japan, Germany, the UK, France and the US.
- ❖ Mexico, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, China and Brazil also ranked higher than India.

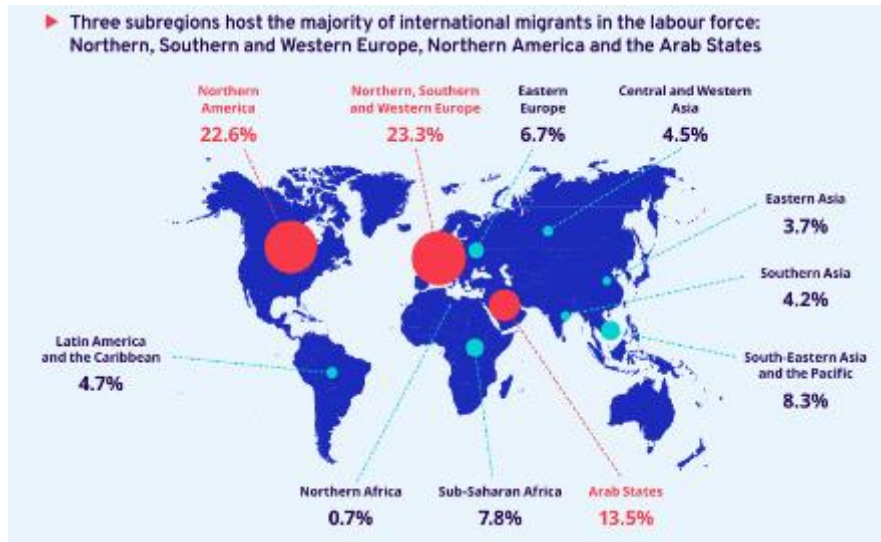
- ❖ Five of the largest 10 global economies were among the least trusting nations on the Trust Index: Japan (the least trusting at 37%), Germany (41%), the UK (43%), the US (47%) and France (48%).
- ❖ Developing nations turned out to be more trusting -- China (77%), Indonesia (76%), India (75%) and the UAE (72) %.



ILO report on Global Migrant Workers 2022

- ❖ The fourth edition of 'Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers' was released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❖ In 2022, International Migrants (IM) made up 4.7% (167.7 million) of the global labour force, defined as both employed and unemployed (but available for work); over 30 million more than in 2013.
- ❖ An estimated 155.6 million were employed and 12.1 million unemployed.
- ❖ The share of IM men in the total employment for males globally was estimated at 4.7% and that of IM women at 4.4%.
- ❖ However, between 2019-2022, the rate of growth dipped annually to less than 1%, influenced among other factors by the pandemic.
- ❖ A higher proportion of IM males were employed — 61.3% out of a total of 102.7 million.
- ❖ Conversely, only 38.7% female IMs were employed out of a total of 64.9 million in 2022.
- ❖ At 74.9% (125.6 million), prime-age adult IM workers — those aged between 25 and 54 years, both men and women — constituted the largest majority of IM workers in the labour force in 2022.

- ❖ Less than one out of 10 IMs were below 25.
- ❖ Only 9.3% were young IM workers, aged between 15-24 years, numbering 15.5 million, in the global labour force.
- ❖ IMs aged between 55-64 years were 12.5% and those above 65 at 3.4%.



Forbes Billionaires List 2025

Rank	Name	Net Worth (USD)	Source of Wealth	Country
1	Elon Musk	\$433.9 B	Tesla, SpaceX	United States
2	Jeff Bezos	\$239.4 B	Amazon	United States
3	Mark Zuckerberg	\$211.8 B	Facebook	United States
4	Larry Ellison	\$204.6 B	Oracle	United States
5	Bernard Arnault & Family	\$181.3 B	LVMH	France
6	Larry Page	\$161.4 B	Google	United States
7	Sergey Brin	\$154.0 B	Google	United States
8	Warren Buffett	\$146.2 B	Berkshire Hathaway	United States
9	Steve Ballmer	\$126.0 B	Microsoft	United States
10	Jensen Huang	\$120.2 B	NVIDIA	United States

- ❖ The United States leads with a record 813 billionaires, followed by China with 473 and India claiming the third spot with 200 billionaires.
- ❖ Elon Musk is ranking as the world's richest person, with a net worth of \$433.9 billion.
- ❖ Jeff Bezos of amazon has been ranked 2nd with \$239.4 B.

- ❖ Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg has surpassed Oracle founder Larry Ellison to secure the position of the third-wealthiest individual globally.
- ❖ Jensen Huang, the CEO and co-founder of Nvidia, has entered the ranks of the top 10 richest people for the first time.

Global Firepower Index 2025

- ❖ The United States of America has reaffirmed its top position in military strength.
- ❖ It is following by, Russia and China in the second position and third respectively.
- ❖ India has emerged as a significant military power in the 4th rank.
- ❖ South Korea is ranking 5th followed by Japan at 7th, Türkiye at 8th, and Iran at 14th in the index.
- ❖ Pakistan's ranking stood at 12th place dropped from 9th position.

Rank 2025	Country	Power Index 2025	Total Military Personnel 2025 (est)
1	USA	0.0744	21,27,500
2	Russia	0.0788	35,70,000
3	China	0.0788	31,70,000
4	India	0.1184	51,37,550
5	South Korea	0.1656	38,20,000
6	UK	0.1785	11,08,860
7	France	0.1878	3,76,000
8	Japan	0.1839	3,28,150
9	Türkiye	0.1902	8,83,900
10	Italy	0.2164	2,89,000

THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025

- ❖ The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), long a powerhouse in STEM fields, has ascended to the top of the rankings in Arts and Humanities.
- ❖ Stanford University maintained its position at the forefront of Education Studies, Law, and Psychology.
- ❖ Harvard University solidified its dominance in Engineering and Life Sciences, and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) retained its top spot in Physical Sciences.
- ❖ The University of Oxford has emerged as a leader in both Computer Science and Medical and Health.
- ❖ No Asian university has topped an individual subject ranking.

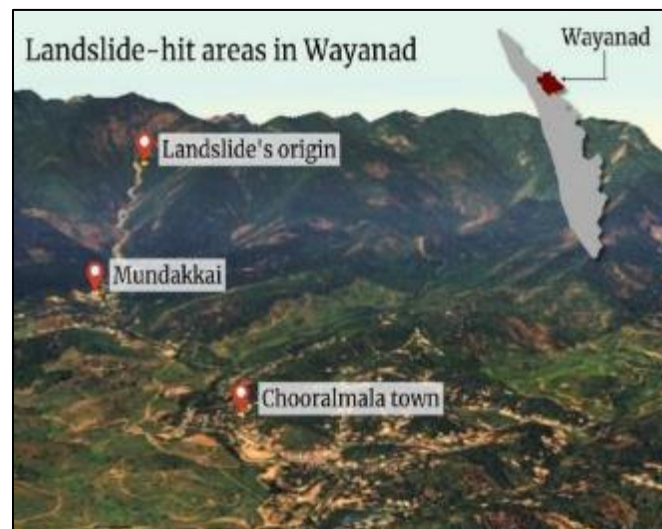
- ❖ But China, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan demonstrated strong performances across multiple disciplines.

Ranking	Top Institution	Country
Arts and Humanities	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
Business and Economics	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
Computer Science	University of Oxford	UK
Education Studies	Stanford University	USA
Engineering	Harvard University	USA
Law	Stanford University	USA
Life Sciences	Harvard University	USA
Medical and Health	University of Oxford	UK
Physical Sciences	California Institute of Technology	USA
Psychology	Stanford University	USA
Social Sciences	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA

STATES

Wayanad landslide 2024

- ❖ The Union government has declared the Wayanad landslide a disaster of 'severe nature' for all practical purposes.
- ❖ However, there is no mention of any special fund for the state.
- ❖ The classification would help the state to source funds, including the local area development funds of MPs, for the rehabilitation efforts.

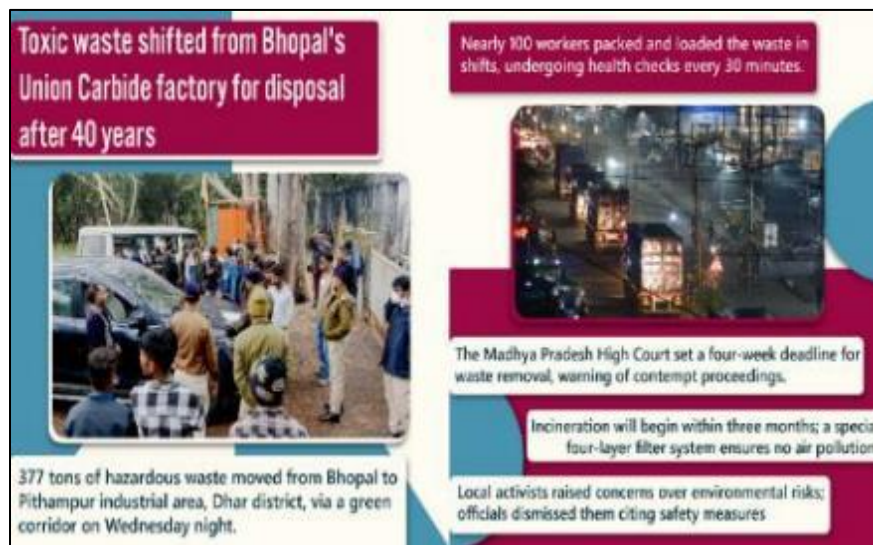


Violent incidents in the northeast in 2023

Manipur accounted for 77% violent incidents in Northeast in 2024, says MHA in annual report

- ❖ Manipur accounted for 77% of violent incidents that took place in northeastern India in 2023.
- ❖ There were 243 violent incidents reported in the northeast in 2023, of which 187 were in Manipur.
- ❖ 187 incidents reported in 2023, which resulted in the deaths of 35 civilians and seven security personnel.
- ❖ There were 137 insurgency-related incidents registered in the State in 2022.

Bhopal Toxic Waste Disposal



- ❖ Forty years after the Bhopal gas tragedy, the shifting of about 337 metric tonnes of chemical waste stored at the Union Carbide factory site commenced for its disposal.
- ❖ The disposal will take place at a facility in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The toxic waste includes 162 metric tonnes of soil, 92 metric tonnes of Sevin and naphthol residues, 54 metric tonnes of semi-processed pesticides, and 29 metric tonnes of reactor waste.

- ❖ On the night of December 2, 1984, a massive release of methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas from the Union Carbide plant.
- ❖ In 2015, a trial was conducted to incinerate 10 tonnes of the chemical waste.

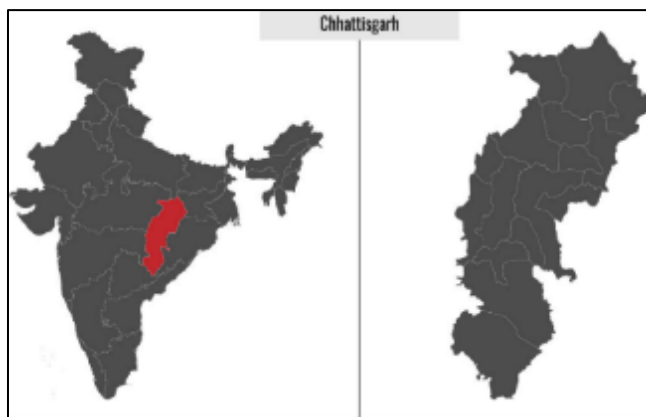
2024 Elephant Population – Assam

- ❖ Assam has recorded an elephant population of 5,828 during the Elephant Population Estimation 2024.
- ❖ This is an increase from the last such survey in 2017 with 5,719 elephants.
- ❖ 82% of the total population/4,777 elephants are within the five elephant reserves in the state.
- ❖ The highest density was prevailed in Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve.
- ❖ The population stood at 5,620 in 2011, 5,281 in 2008 and 5,246 in 2002.



Chhattisgarh's Green GDP Initiative

- ❖ In a first in India, the Chhattisgarh has introduced a plan that connects the eco system services of its forests with the Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP).
- ❖ The move is aimed to highlight the direct link between significant environmental contributions of biodiversity and the state's economic progress.
- ❖ The action plan is designed to ensure that economic development is achieved while preserving the pristine environment for future generations.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh with 44 per cent of its land covered by forests.



Gujarat - Atlas to Protect Indian Wolf Habitats

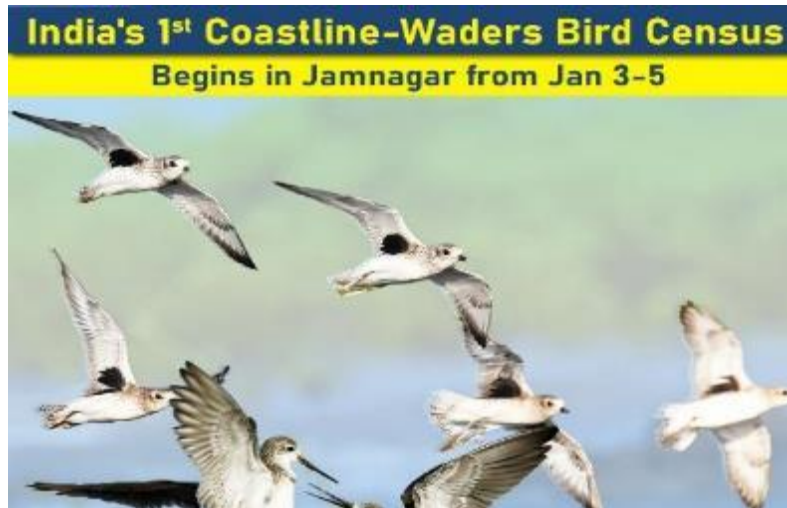
- ❖ Gujarat Forest and Environment Department has estimated the population of the Indian wolves to be 222 in the state.
- ❖ At 80, Bhavnagar district has recorded the highest number of wolves in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is followed by 39 in Narmada district, 36 in Banaskantha, 18 in Surendranagar, 12 each in Jamnagar and Morbi, and 9 in Kutch district.
- ❖ Their natural habitats also include the Bhal area in Bhavnagar, which includes the Blackbuck National Park in Velavadar and surrounding Dholera.
- ❖ This atlas will help to identify the important 'corridors' connecting their main habitats.



Gujarat's First Coastal Bird Census

- ❖ The Gujarat government has conducted the country's first-ever census of coastal and wader birds at the Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar.

- ❖ The Marine National Park and Marine Sanctuary in Gujarat is India's first designated marine national park.
- ❖ It is spanning the districts of Devbhoomi Dwarka, Jamnagar, and Morbi, it covers approximately 170 km of coastline and 42 islands between Okha and Navlakhi.
- ❖ This protected area in the Gulf of Kutch was established to conserve the marine biodiversity and mangrove ecosystems.
- ❖ Jamnagar district hosts over 300 species of local and migratory birds, including more than 50 species of wader birds.

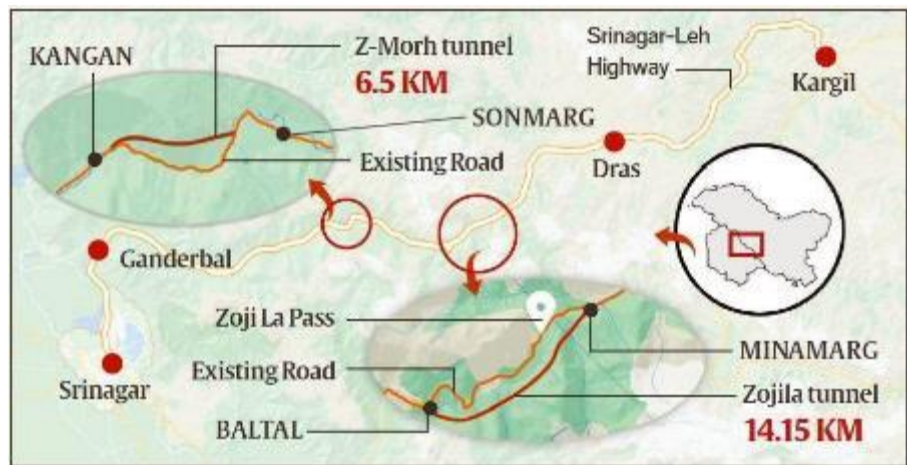


Top Cities for Women in India 2024

- ❖ Bengaluru surpassed Chennai as India's top city for women in the third edition of 'Top Cities for Women in India 2024' (TCWI) report.
- ❖ Bengaluru was followed by Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Pune.
- ❖ Cities in Tamil Nadu dominate the Top 25 list in the Index, with 8 cities – Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Madurai, Salem Erode and Tirupur are featuring in the Index.
- ❖ The South emerged as the most inclusive region, scoring comparatively higher in both social and industrial inclusion.
- ❖ The average city inclusion score of the South is 18.56.
- ❖ The South is closely followed by the West (16.92).
- ❖ The Central and the Eastern regions lag, with averages of 11.79 and 10.55, respectively.
- ❖ The average city inclusion score for North is at 14.



Z-Morh Tunnel



- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the 6.5 km long Z-Morh tunnel, also known as the Sonamarg tunnel, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ This tunnel will enhance connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg, providing an all-weather route.
- ❖ It eliminates the avalanche-prone, section of the route that was often blocked for months due to heavy rainfall.
- ❖ The tunnel is constructed at an altitude of over 8,500 ft.

Utricularia - Rajasthan

- ❖ A rare and unique carnivorous plant 'Utricularia' has been found in Rajasthan's Keoladeo National Park.
- ❖ It was last discovered in India in 2021 in the Mandal Valley of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, after a 36-year gap.
- ❖ This plant is typically found in regions like Meghalaya and Darjeeling.

- ❖ These plants entrap creatures such as protozoa, insects, larvae, mosquitoes, and even tadpoles.



Boda Tyohar Festival

- ❖ The Boda Tyohar festival celebration of the Hatti tribes of the Trans-Giri region is being held in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The month-long festival is known locally as Magho ko Tyohar.
- ❖ It is distinguished by its division into three distinct mini-festivals, each marked by its unique customs and rituals.

Maha Kumbha mela 2025



- ❖ One of the world's largest spiritual events began in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Kumbh Mela occurs every three years in four different locations.
- ❖ However, Mahakumbh is organised only in Prayagraj after every twelve years.
- ❖ Additionally, Mahakumbh 2025 is also because of the rare celestial alignment that occurs only once every 144 years.
- ❖ In 2017, the Kumbh Mela was declared India's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' by UNESCO.

Terrace Tourism

- ❖ The concept of terrace rentals has existed in Old Ahmedabad for a few years.
- ❖ During the Uttarayan (Makar Sankranti) festival this region has become a hub of terrace tourism.
- ❖ It refers the renting of residential terraces to tourists, which offering exclusive vantage points for kite flying and other activities.



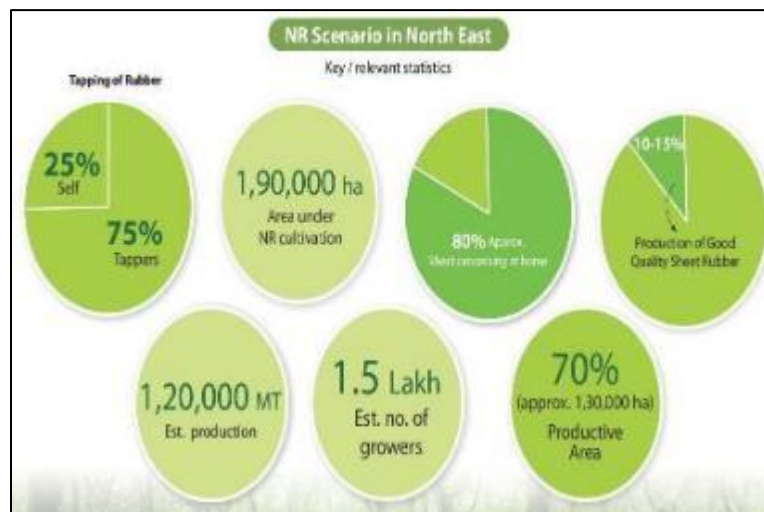
Great Indian Bustard Conservation – Rajasthan

- ❖ At least 12 Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) were spotted in a group in the wild in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The birds, locally known in the northern and western India as "Godawan" and "Maldhok", were spotted at Desert National Park (DNP).
- ❖ The GIB is a highly endangered bird species found in the Thar area of Rajasthan.
- ❖ Today, only 173 birds are left, of which, 128 are found in the wild and the remaining are bred in captivity.
- ❖ Besides Rajasthan, the bird is found in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- ❖ In 2011, the birds were listed as "critically endangered" by IUCN Red List.

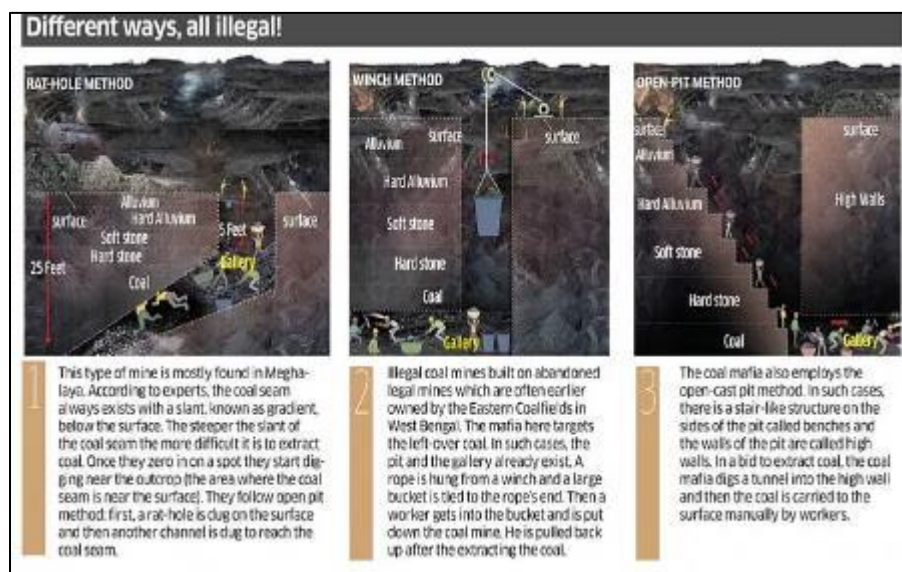


INROAD Project 2025

- ❖ The INROAD project in the North East has received the financial support of ₹100 crore for improving the quality of natural rubber.
- ❖ INROAD stands for Indian Natural Rubber Operations for Assisted Development.
- ❖ INROAD is a first-of-its-kind project in the world in which the tyre industry is contributing directly to the development of rubber plantations.
- ❖ It is financially supported by four members of ATMA, including Apollo, CEAT, JK, and MRF, and implemented by the Rubber Board of India.



Rat-hole coal mine – Assam



- ❖ Recently some workers trapped and died in a flooded rat-hole coal mine at Dima Hasao district in Assam.
- ❖ It is an unscientific and illegal form of mining prevalent in some parts of the North-East.
- ❖ It is called the rat-hole mining because the tunnels are narrow and allow the movement of only one person.
- ❖ The underground passages are interconnected but they become veritable traps for workers when the mines collapse or flood.
- ❖ In 2014, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining.

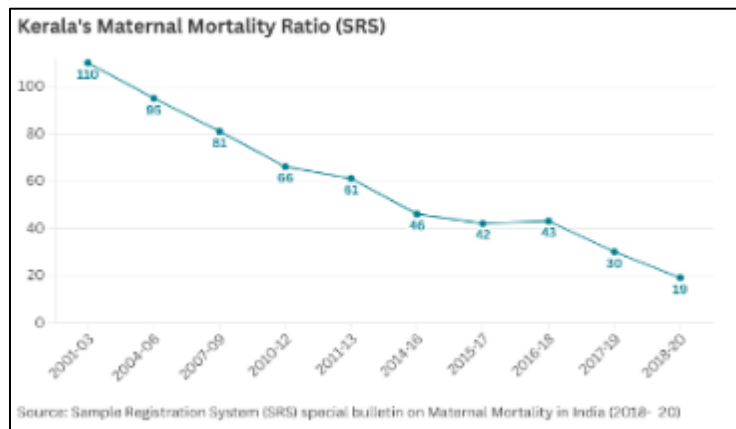
Purulia Observatory

- ❖ This observatory was established by the S N Bose Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBCBS) atop the Panchet Hill in West Bengal.
- ❖ The observatory at a height of 600 meters above ground level and at longitude of approximately 86° E.
- ❖ It will be a major observatory not only in eastern India, but also in the world.

Gaan-Ngai 2025

- ❖ The Rongmei Women Cultural Dance Troupe (RWCDT) of Delhi NCR celebrated Gaan-Ngai 2025.
- ❖ This festival showcasing the cultural heritage and identity of the Rongmei Naga community.
- ❖ The event was held under the theme "Our Festival, Our Identity".

Kerala's MMR Status 2024



- ❖ Kerala's maternal mortality ratio, currently the lowest in the country at 19 per one lakh live births is now climbing steadily.
- ❖ The State, which used to have an average of 5-5.5 lakh live births annually, has now hit an all-time low of 3,93,231 births.
- ❖ Except during 2020-21, the State has consistently maintained a firm grip over maternal mortality.
- ❖ From an average of 5.5 lakh annual births since the 1980s, the graph went below the five-lakh mark for the first time in 2016, when 4,96,262 live births were recorded.
- ❖ Since 2018, the figure has been plummeting steadily, never going above the five-lakh mark again.

- ❖ The last published VSR (2021) recorded the total number of live births in Kerala as 4,19,767.

Tripura - Official State Emblem

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the Tripura's state emblem.
- ❖ The proposal of the state Emblem of the government of Tripura has been made under Rule 4(2) of the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007.
- ❖ In S. R. Bommai v. Union of India Case 1994, SC ruled that states can have their own flags, as long as they do not dishonour the national flag.
- ❖ Also, the Constitution of India does not prohibit the states from having their own flags.

Archaeological Experiential Museum in Vadnagar

- ❖ The museum designed to offer a comprehensive look at the city's 2,500-year-old history through an immersive and interactive experience.
- ❖ It showcases more than 5,000 artifacts, offering an in-depth look into the city's cultural narrative.
- ❖ Vadnagar is located in Gujarat's Mehsana district.
- ❖ It is renowned for its unique blend of Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and Islamic cultural influences.

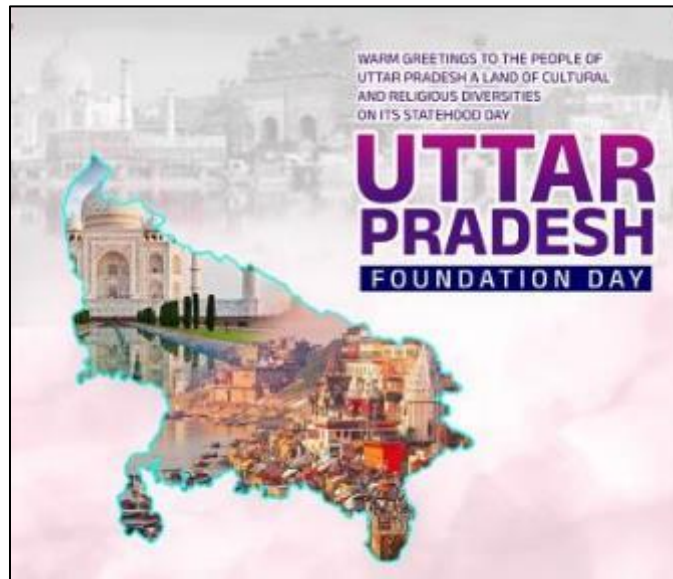
Geo-Tagging of Chinar Tree



- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir's government began the process of geo-tagging in its bid to preserve heritage Chinar trees in Kashmir.
- ❖ Chinars are oxygen producers.
- ❖ They provided 'Digital Aadhaar' to these trees and installed scannable QR codes.

- ❖ Now, every Chinar has its own 'Aadhar' number and have linked to Digital India.
- ❖ Every district has its own district code with the number of Chinars.
- ❖ So far, they have identified and geo-tagged 28,560 Chinar.

Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day 2025



- ❖ In 1902, it was established as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during the British rule.
- ❖ Post-independence, the United Provinces became an administrative unit in 1947 and the princely states of Tehri Garhwal and Rampur were merged into it by 1949.
- ❖ Finally, on January 24, 1950, the state was renamed Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ But the Uttar Pradesh Day was first celebrated in 1989.
- ❖ In 2000, the hilly areas were carved out to create a new state, originally named Uttaranchal, later renamed Uttarakhand.

Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day 2025

- ❖ The Chief Commissioner's province of Himachal Pradesh came into being on 15th April, 1948.
- ❖ It became a part C state on 26th January, 1950 with the implementation of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh became Union Territory on 1st November, 1956.

- ❖ On 18th December, 1970 the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by the Parliament.
- ❖ On 25 January 1971, Indira Gandhi government gave full statehood to Himachal Pradesh.

Bison Population in Jharkhand



- ❖ The Jharkhand Forest department has initiated a study to revive the dwindling population of Bison, popularly known as Gaur, at Palamu Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ Bison has already gone extinct from across Jharkhand, excluding the PTR where merely 50-70 bison are surviving
- ❖ Domestic cattle, numbering over 1.5 lakh, occupy the bison's habitat.
- ❖ Bison is the tallest species of wild cattle found in India and largest extant bovine.
- ❖ Approximately 85% of the global population is present in India.
- ❖ They are Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.

Samman Sanjeevani' App



- ❖ Haryana launched the 'Samman Sanjeevani' app.
- ❖ The app tracks benefits under the 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana'.
- ❖ The Sanitary napkins are distributed to BPL women and girls aged 10-45 years via Anganwadi centers and schools.
- ❖ The app ensures timely delivery, collects beneficiary data, and updates monthly benefits.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

39th U.S. President - Jimmy Carter

- ❖ Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, from a democratic party, passed away.
- ❖ He served as president from 1977 to 1981.
- ❖ He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his human rights work around the world.
- ❖ Carter was the first U.S. president to reach his 100th birthday.

New year honors' list 2025

- ❖ The Former England football manager Gareth Southgate has been knighted in this year's New Year Honours list.
- ❖ 800 m Olympic Champion Keely Hodgkinson and heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson, who won silver in Paris, both receive an MBE.
- ❖ Cyclist Tom Pidcock, swimmer Duncan Scott, and rower Helen Glover received OBEs for their contributions.
- ❖ Children's author Jacqueline Wilson becomes a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.



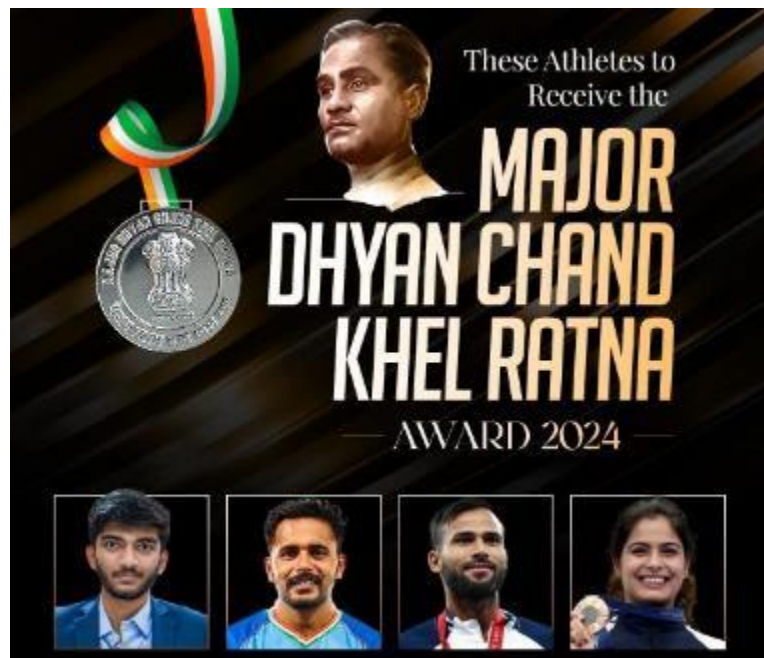
The Music Academy - Chennai awards

- ❖ The Carnatic musician T.M. Krishna was conferred the title of Sangita Kalanidhi 2024.
- ❖ Parassala Ravi and Geetha Raja were conferred the title of Sangita Kalaacharya and Dr. Margaret Bastin was the recipient of Musicologist Award 2024.

- ❖ Thiruvaiyyaru Brothers S. Narasimhan and S. Venkatesan, and violinist H.K. Narasimhamurthy received the TTK Award.

National Sports Awards 2024

- ❖ Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2024.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh and Praveen Kumar have been honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- ❖ The Sports ministry names 32 athletes, including 17 para-athletes, for Arjuna awards.
- ❖ Former cyclist Sucha Singh and former para-swimmer Murlikant Rajaram Petkar were awarded Arjuna Awards (Lifetime) for outstanding performance in Sports and Games.
- ❖ Thulasimathi, Nithya Sree and Manisha, badminton Paralympians from Tamil Nadu has been chosen for the Arjuna Awards.
- ❖ Asian Games gold and bronze medallist squash player Abhay Singh from Tamil Nadu was also chosen for Arjuna Award.
- ❖ Subhash Rana (para-shooter), Deepali Deshpande (shooting) and Sandeep Sangwan (hockey) were named Dronacharya Award 2024 recipients.
- ❖ S Muralidharan (badminton) and Armando Agnelo Colaco (football) were awarded the Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category.





Botanist K.S. Manilal

- ❖ Dr. K.S. Manilal, the esteemed botanist, passed away recently at Thrissur, Kerala.
- ❖ He has translated, and annotated Hortus Malabaricus, a 17th-century Latin manuscript compiled by Dutch Governor Hendrik Adrian van Rheede.
- ❖ His studies led to the discovery of 19 new plant species, with four species being named in his honour.
- ❖ He was the founding president of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) in 1989.
- ❖ He also served as president of the Botanical Society of India in 1999 and treasurer from 1984 to 1986.
- ❖ He won the Vishwambhar Puri Medal (1990), the Y.D. Tyagi Gold Medal (1998), and the E.K. Janaki Ammal Taxonomy Award (2003).
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2020 for his exceptional contributions to botany.
- ❖ He was honoured with the Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau award from the Netherlands, presented by Queen Beatrix in 2012.
- ❖ This was making him the first Asian to receive this honour.

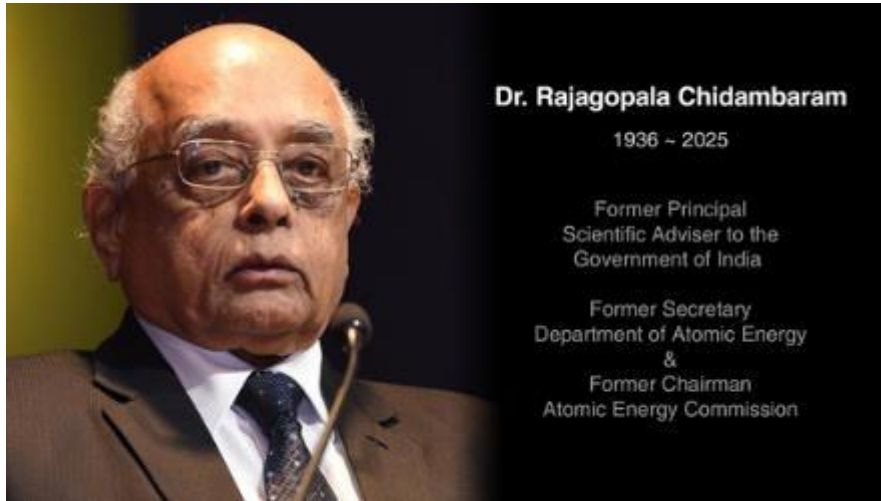
Agnes Keleti

- ❖ The Five-time Olympic champion Hungarian gymnast Agnes Keleti (103) had died recently.
- ❖ She was the world's oldest living Olympic gold medallist and a survivor of the persecution of Jews in World War II.
- ❖ In 1956, she won four gold medals in Melbourne Olympic and became the oldest female gymnast to win gold.
- ❖ She won 10 Olympic medals, including five golds, ranks Keleti as the second most successful Hungarian athlete of all time.

Nuclear scientist Chidambaram

- ❖ The veteran nuclear scientist Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram from Tamilnadu passed away.
- ❖ He played a pivotal role in India's nuclear weapons programme.
- ❖ He was instrumental in India's first nuclear test in 1974 and the Pokhran-II tests in 1998.
- ❖ He was also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

- ❖ He got Padma Shri in 1975 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1999.



Biden Awards Presidential Medal of Freedom 2025



- ❖ The US President Joe Biden recognised the contributions of 19 public figures in politics, entertainment, sports and more.
- ❖ The honourees were included “best-known leaders and boosters: Hillary Clinton, philanthropist and major Democratic donor George Soros, and Robert F. Kennedy, who was given the recognition posthumously.
- ❖ Argentinian footballer Lionel Messi, anthropologist Jane Goodall and actor Denzel Washington also in the list.
- ❖ The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the United States’ highest civilian honour, often given in recognition of a body of work over a person’s lifetime.
- ❖ It was created by President Harry S. Truman (1945 to 1953) in 1945.



2025 Nuclear-Free Future Awards

- ❖ P Udayakumar, has been selected for the 2025 Nuclear-Free Future Award in the Resistance category for his efforts toward a nuclear-free world.
- ❖ He was the convenor of the People's Movement Against Kudankulam Nuclear Plant.
- ❖ The other winners are
 - Márcia Gomes de Oliveira and Norbert Suchanek from Brazil.
 - The Solution Award will go to Edwick Madzimore of Zimbabwe.
 - Honorary Lifetime Achievement Awards given to anti-nuclear activist Joanna Macy and the late Klee Benally
- ❖ The awards are founded in 1998 by Claus Biegert of Germany.
- ❖ This Awards celebrate those working to rid the world of nuclear weapons, power, and uranium mining.

Yoon Suk-Yeol Arrest

- ❖ South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol was arrested recently.
- ❖ This was marking the first time in the country's history that a sitting president has been detained.
- ❖ He faced charges of insurrection over his imposition of a brief period of martial law December 03rd.

National Sports Awards Winners 2025

- ❖ Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh and Praveen Kumar received their Khel Ratna awards.
- ❖ 32 athletes were honoured with the Arjuna Award on Friday at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ Olympic medallists Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale were also amongst the athletes who received the Arjuna Award.
- ❖ Murlikant Rajaram Petkar, India's first Paralympic gold-medallist in swimming, received a Lifetime Achievement award.
- ❖ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy was given to Chandigarh University, Lovely Professional University, and Guru Nanak Dev University.
- ❖ Murlikant Petkar, the 80-year-old war hero and Paralympic gold medallist, has received a lifetime Arjuna Award.

- ❖ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar was awarded to the Physical Education Foundation of India for promoting sports.
- ❖ Deepali Deshpande (Shooting coach) and Armando Agnelo Colaco (Football) have won the Dronacharya Award.



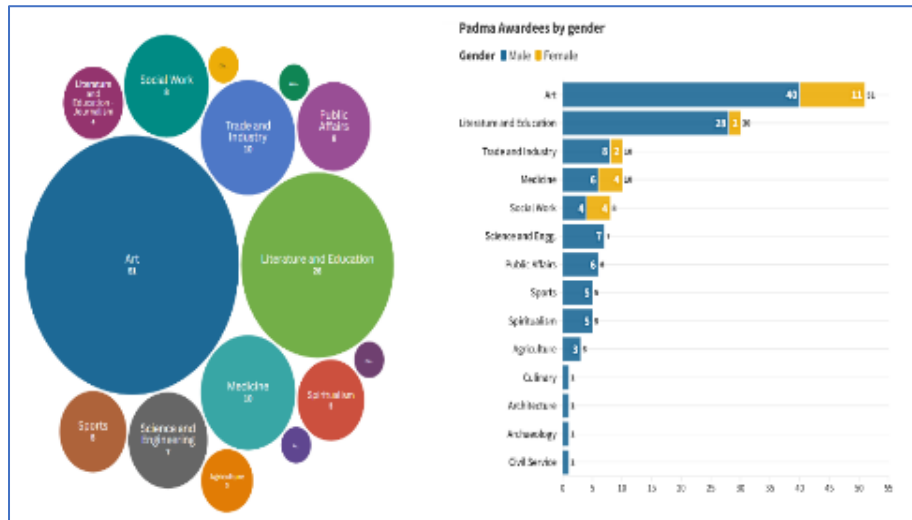
All India Presiding Officers conference 2025

- ❖ Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Patna, Bihar.
- ❖ The last time Bihar hosted the conference was in 1982 when Radhanandan Jha was the Speaker.
- ❖ Prior to this, the state hosted the conference on 6th and 7th January 1964 when Lakshmi Narayan Sudhanshu was the Assembly Speaker.
- ❖ The first session of the AIPOC was held in 1921 in Shimla.
- ❖ The 84th AIPOC was held at the Maharashtra Legislature premises in Mumbai last year.
- ❖ The 82nd AIPOC, which marked the completion of 100 years of the first AIPOC session, was once again held in Shimla in November 2021.

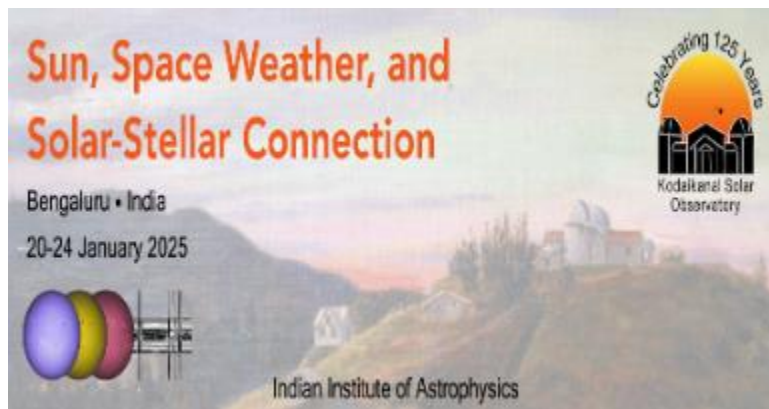
Padma Awards 2025

- ❖ Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- ❖ The Awards are given in various disciplines / fields of activities, viz. - art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- ❖ Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service.
- ❖ Padma Bhushan' is for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' is for distinguished service in any field.
- ❖ The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

- ❖ For the year 2025, the President has approved conferment of 139 Padma Awards including 1 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).
- ❖ The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.
- ❖ 23 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.
- ❖ In 2025, Thirteen persons from Tamil Nadu and one from Puducherry have been recognised with the Padma awards this year.



International solar conference 2025



- ❖ The conference on 'Sun, Space Weather, and Solar-Stellar Connections' has been organised by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Bengaluru.
- ❖ It aims to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory.
- ❖ The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, a cornerstone of Indian astronomy, was established in 1899.

Gallantry Awards 2025

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 93 Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous.
- ❖ These include two Kirti Chakras, including one posthumous; 14 Shaurya Chakras, including three posthumous; one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry); 66 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous; two Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and eight Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), including one posthumous.
- ❖ The President also approved 305 defence decorations to Armed Forces and other personnel.
- ❖ These include 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals; five Uttam Yudh Seva Medals; 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals; 10 Yudh Seva Medals; one Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 43 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 15 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); four Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 132 Vishisht Seva Medals.
- ❖ In addition, the President has also approved the President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal to eight Coast Guard personnel.
- ❖ 21 police officers of the Tamil Nadu police are on list of President's Medal.
- ❖ Under the Home Guard and Civil Defence category, Manjit Singh Nayar, Assistant Commandant General of Home Guards, Tamil Nadu, received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service.



Dr. K.M. Cherian

- ❖ A pioneer of cardiac surgery Dr KM Cherian died recently.
- ❖ He performed the country's first heart bypass surgery in 1975.
- ❖ He was the finder and curer of heart diseases, especially in children born with various defects.

- ❖ He was the honorary surgeon to the President of India between 1990 and 1993.
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shree in 1991.
- ❖ He was born at Kayamkulam of Kerala and passed away at Bengaluru.



55th World Economic Forum



- ❖ The 55th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting was held with the theme “Collaboration for the Intelligent Age”, at Davos, Switzerland.
- ❖ Football legend David Beckham, fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg, and architect Riken Yamamoto was awarded the prestigious Crystal Awards.
- ❖ It recognised their contributions to social, environmental, and creative progress.
- ❖ High-level representatives from six Indian states—Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala participated in the event.
- ❖ WEF is a Swiss nonprofit foundation, established in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva.

SPORTS

Kho Kho World Cup 2025 Trophies and Mascots

- ❖ India is to host the historic first edition in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) unveiled the trophies for the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup.
- ❖ The tournament will showcase 21 men's and 20 women's teams from 24 countries across six continents.
- ❖ The World Cup will feature two trophies – a blue trophy for the men's championship and a green trophy for the women's event.
- ❖ The KKFI also introduced 'Tejas' and 'Tara,' a duo of gazelles serving as the official mascots for the tournament.
- ❖ These mascots embody the sport's core attributes of speed, agility, and teamwork.
- ❖ Tejas, symbolising brilliance and energy, and Tara, representing guidance and aspiration.

First ever Kho-Kho World Cup 2025



- ❖ The 1st edition of Kho-Kho World Cup 2025 game was hosted by India.
- ❖ The tournament featured 20 men's and 19 women's teams.
- ❖ The Indian men and women's team claimed victory in the inaugural edition against Nepal team.

ICC Cricketers of the Year 2024



- ❖ Smriti Mandhana was crowned ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2024.
- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah was named ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year for 2024.
- ❖ Rohit Sharma was named the captain of the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024.
- ❖ Arshdeep Singh won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024 award.
- ❖ ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year was Amelia Kerr (New Zealand).
- ❖ Arshdeep Singh, along with Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Rohit Sharma, was also named in the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year.
- ❖ While the ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year 2024 included Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma.
- ❖ Azmatullah Omarzai of Afghanistan, first person from that country, was named ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024.

Khelo India Winter Games 2025

- ❖ The fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 concluded in Leh, Ladakh.
- ❖ The first phase was held in Ladakh from January 23 to 27 while the second will be held in Jammu and Kashmir from February 21 to 25.
- ❖ Currently, Ladakh lead the medal tally with four golds, two silvers and a bronze.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranked second with three gold and two silvers.

KIWG medal winners					
Rank	State/UT/Team	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total medals
1	Ladakh	4	2	1	7
2	Tamil Nadu	3	2	0	5
3	Maharashtra	2	4	4	10
4	Telangana	2	1	2	5
5	Karnataka	1	2	1	4

IMPORTANT DAYS

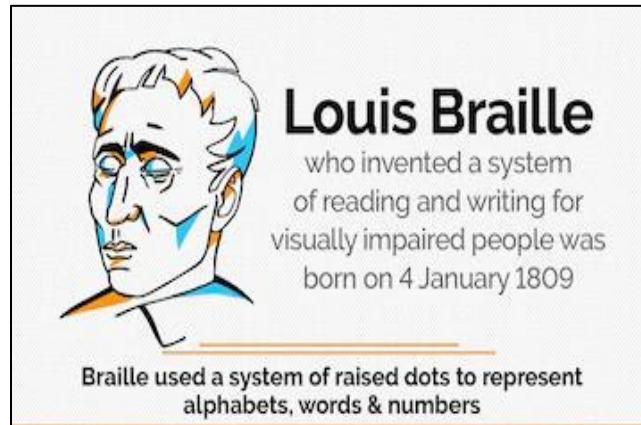
DRDO's 67th Foundation Day - January 01



- ❖ DRDO is a network of around 41 laboratories and 05 DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories.

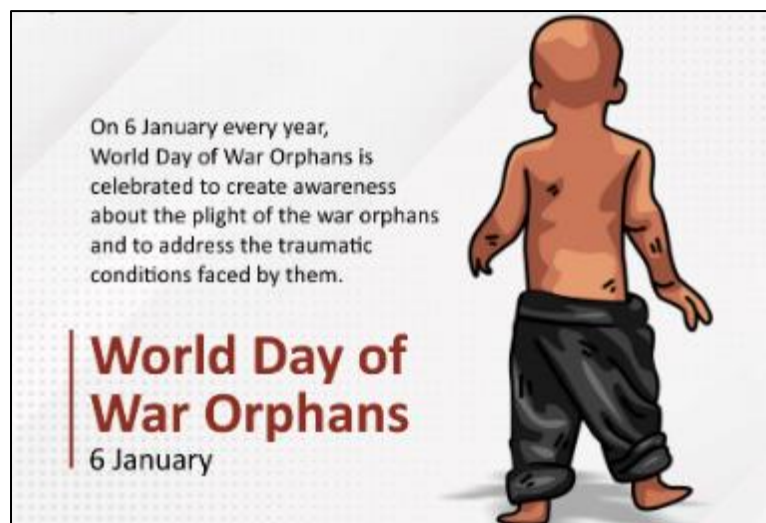
- ❖ It was formed in 1958 by merging Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
- ❖ DRDO aims to complete 100 critical projects and the execute over 6,000 tests in 2025.

World Braille Day 2025 - January 04



- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness about the importance of Braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people.
- ❖ This day is a tribute to Louis Braille, the visionary behind the braille system.
- ❖ In 1829, he published his maiden book which was written in Braille.
- ❖ The Braille system was finally accepted by the Institute in Paris in 1854.

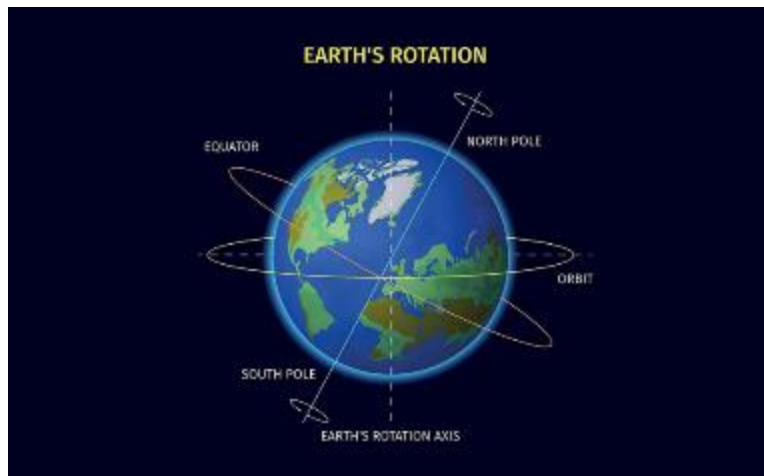
World War Orphans Day 2025 - January 06



- ❖ It acknowledges the hardships faced by children who lose their parents to war.
- ❖ Millions of children worldwide endure the devastating impacts of conflict, climate change, displacement, and poverty, stripping them of the basic rights and the opportunities for a brighter future.
- ❖ This day serves as a global call to action, urging collective efforts to provide these vulnerable children with care, education, and protection.
- ❖ By the end of 2023, approximately 47.2 million children had been displaced due to conflict and violence.

Earth rotation day 2025 - January 08

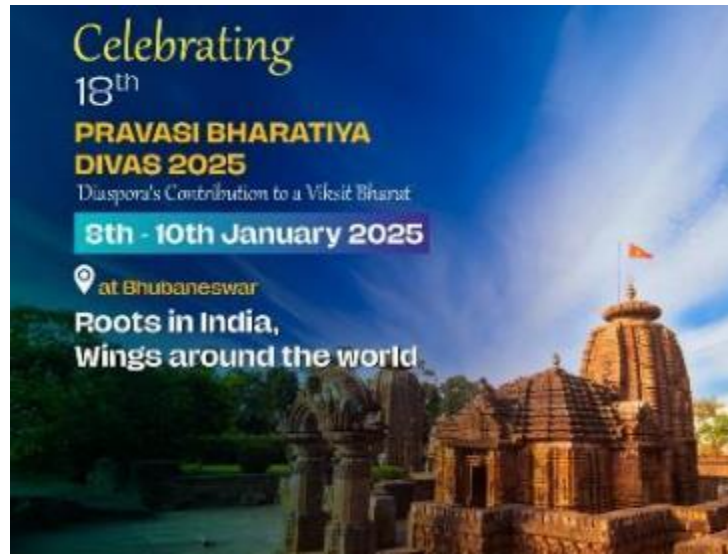
- ❖ This day celebrates the anniversary of French physicist Leon Foucault's 1851 proof that the Earth rotates on its axis.
- ❖ The day also honours Foucault's first public demonstration in Paris.
- ❖ It was 470 BC, the Greeks claimed that the earth moved on itself.
- ❖ But Foucault demonstrated the world's rotation with the help of a pendulum.



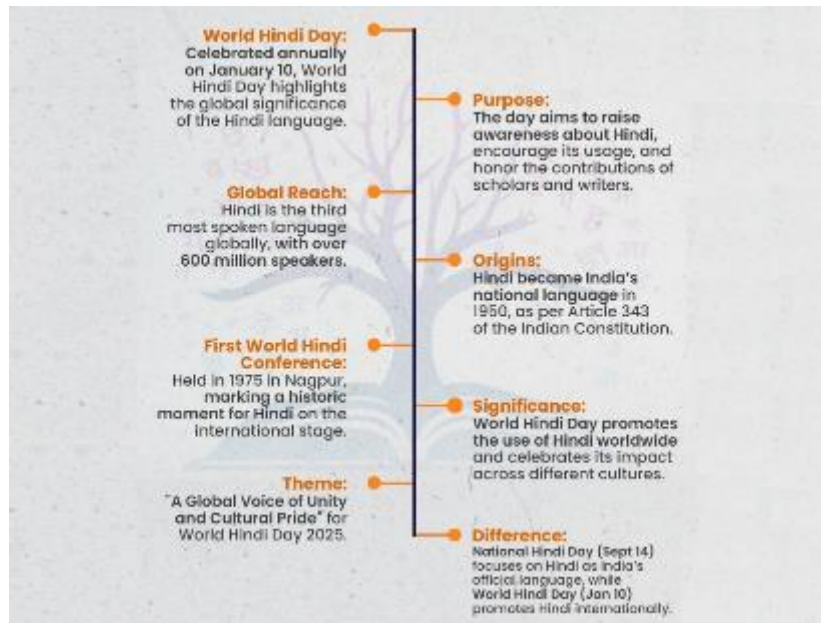
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025 - January 09

- ❖ The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The theme of this convention is "The Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat".
- ❖ This day celebrates the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- ❖ Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas once every two years.

- ❖ On this day in 1915 that MK Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.



World Hindi Day 2025 - January 10



- ❖ On this day in 1949, Hindi was spoken for the first time at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ It aims to spread the awareness about the Hindi language, promote its use on international platforms, and strengthen ties among Hindi-speaking communities worldwide.
- ❖ In 1950, Hindi was declared the official language of the Union of India and was designated as Hindi in Devanagari script in Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.

- ❖ In 1975, the maiden World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in Maharashtra's Nagpur.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Hindi: A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride."
- ❖ The 12th World Hindi Conference-2023 was organised in Fiji.

National Youth Day 2025 - January 12

- ❖ In 1984, the Government of India has declared that Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary as National Youth Day to honour his contributions to Indian society.
- ❖ It aims to spread Swami Vivekananda's idealistic philosophies and teachings, inspiring young minds to follow his principles.
- ❖ The youth, defined as those within the age group of 15-29 years, make up nearly 40% of India's total population.
- ❖ This year Prime Minister engaged with 3,000 dynamic young leaders from across India, selected through a merit-based and multi-level process from over 30 lakh participants.



World Logic Day 2025 - January 14

- ❖ It aims to bring the intellectual history, conceptual significance and the practical implications of logic to the attention of interdisciplinary science communities and the broader public.
- ❖ On 26 November 2019, the 40th General Conference of UNESCO proclaimed this day.



- ❖ This date coincides with death anniversary of Kurt Gödel and the date of birth anniversary of Alfred Tarski.
- ❖ They two are the most prominent logicians of the twentieth century.

National Road Safety Week 2025

- ❖ The National Road Safety Week was organised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- ❖ The National Road Safety Week was first organised in 1989.
- ❖ It is hosted annually from January 11 to January 17 to promote the road safety measures.
- ❖ This dedicated week provides an opportunity to educate people about the joint responsibility of maintaining road safety throughout their journey.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Be a Road Safety Hero'.

Armed Forces Veterans' Day 2025 - January 14

- ❖ It aims to pay the respects to the armed forces veterans for their selfless duty and sacrifices and to reinforce solidarity towards the next of kin of the Bravehearts.
- ❖ The first Armed Forces Veterans Day was organised in 2017.
- ❖ On this day in 1953, Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army post independence, retired after glorious service.

77th Indian Army Day - January 15

- ❖ On this day in 1949, Field Marshal Cariappa took over the command of the Indian Army from General Sir FRR Bucher.
- ❖ This day commemorates the courage, valour, and sacrifice of the soldiers of the Indian Army who have continuously served in challenging conditions.
- ❖ The 77th Army Day Parade was marked by the presentation of 52 prestigious awards.
- ❖ It was including 15 Sena Medals (Gallantry)- with 8 posthumous awards, and 37 Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Unit Appreciations.

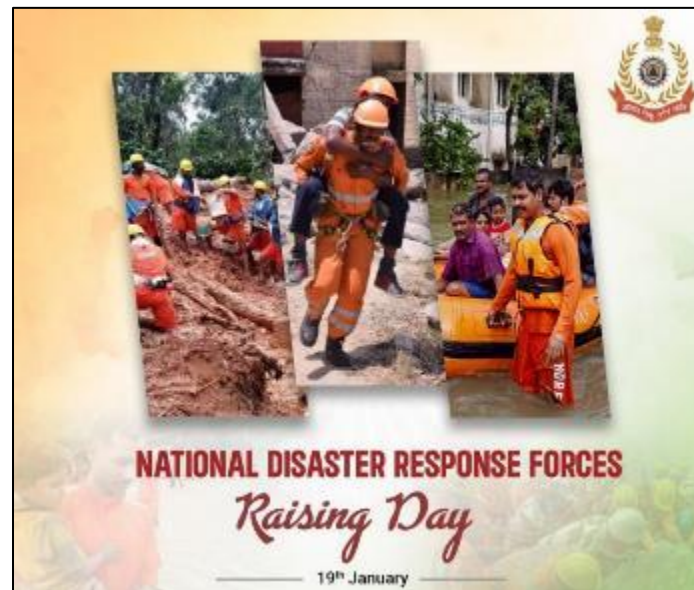
National Startup Day 2025 - January 16

- ❖ It is an annual observance in India dedicated to recognising and promoting the vibrant startup ecosystem.

- ❖ This day aims to mark the spirit of entrepreneurship to boost economic growth, innovation, and job creation.
- ❖ More than 1.59 lakh startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as of January 15, 2025.
- ❖ India has the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.



NDRF raising day 2025 - January 19



- ❖ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was raised on January 19, 2006.
- ❖ The disaster response and preparedness plan were intensified, spurred by the Yokohama Strategy Plan (1994) and the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005).

- ❖ This period coincided with a string of severe natural calamities in India including the Orissa Super Cyclone (1999), the Gujarat Earthquake (2001), and the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004).
- ❖ The Disaster Management Act was enacted on December 26, 2005.
- ❖ It was leading to the establishment of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- ❖ It is tasked with the formulating of policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management.

Statehood Day 2025 - January 21

- ❖ The northeastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate their Statehood Day on January 21.
- ❖ They attained full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.
- ❖ Manipur known as the "Jewel of India", merged with India in September 1949.
- ❖ Meghalaya, which is called as the "Abode of Clouds," came into existence as an autonomous state within the state of Assam on April 2, 1970.
- ❖ Tripura was a princely state till the merger with India on November 15, 1949.



Parakram Diwas 2025 - January 23

- ❖ Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti is known as Parakram Diwas or the Day of Valour.
- ❖ Subhas Chandra Bose, born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Orissa.

- ❖ To honour Bose for his efforts in restoring the Indian freedom, in 2021, the government announced this day.
- ❖ He had cleared the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination in 1920, securing the fourth rank.
- ❖ Bose became the youngest-ever President of the Indian National Congress in 1938.
- ❖ Netaji established the Indian National Army (INA) in 1943 to fight British colonial rule.
- ❖ The phrase “Jai Hind,” was popularized by Bose as a rallying cry for national unity and freedom.
- ❖ On October 21, 1943, Bose declared the establishment of the Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind Government) in Singapore
- ❖ Bose was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1937 for his efforts to end the colonial rule through nonviolent means.



National Girl Child Day 2025 - January 24

- ❖ The day was first introduced in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to promote gender equality and address the issues surrounding the welfare of girls in India.

- ❖ The theme for National Girl Child Day 2025 is “Empowering Girls for a Bright Future.”
- ❖ The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) scheme was launched on January 22, 2015.

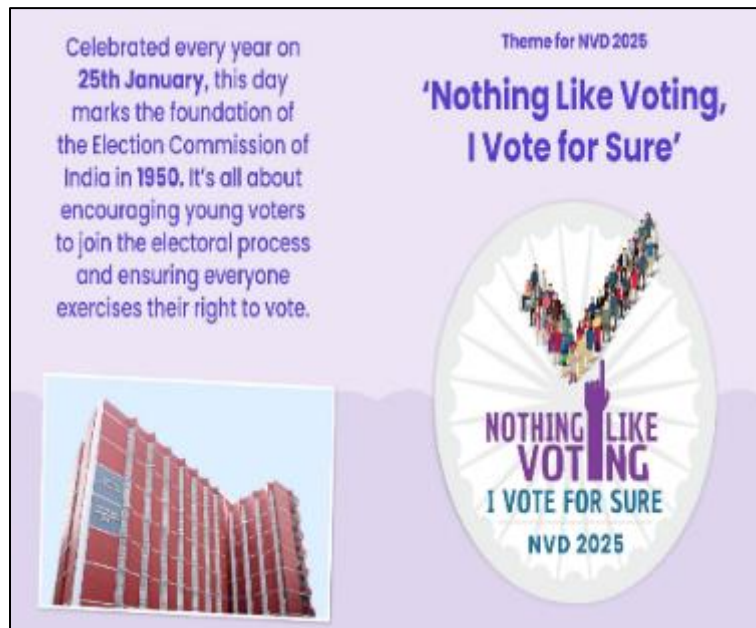


International Day of Education 2025 - January 24

- ❖ This day marks the importance of education in ensuring peace and development.
- ❖ The first International Day of Education was observed on January 24, 2019.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is ‘AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation.’
- ❖ India celebrates its National Education Day celebrated on November 11 to mark the birth anniversary of India’s first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

National Voters Day 2025 - January 25

- ❖ This day commemorate the foundation day of the Election Commission of India in 1950.
- ❖ It aims to underline the centrality of the voter and raise the electoral awareness among citizens and inspire their active participation in the democratic process.
- ❖ Theme for 2025: “Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure”.



National Tourism Day 2025 - January 25

- ❖ It aims to recognize India's natural beauty and raise the awareness about the importance of tourism for the Indian economy.
- ❖ The Government of India created a separate department of tourism in 1948 with the aim of preserving the national heritage.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Tourism for Inclusive Growth".
- ❖ The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) celebrates the World Tourism Day on September 27.

Tamil language martyrs' day 2025 - January 25

- ❖ Tamil Nadu observed this day 'Tamil Mozhi Thiyagigal Naal' (Tamil language martyrs' day) from 2025.
- ❖ It commemorates who sacrificed their lives to protect the Tamil language in the struggle against Hindi imposition in 1939.
- ❖ In 1938, the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject in schools for classes 6, 7, and 8 in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It ignited a language movement that began on June 3, 1938.
- ❖ During the movement Thalamuthu from Thanjavur and Natarasan from Perambur were arrested and eventually passed away.

International Customs Day 2025 - January 26



- ❖ It aims to celebrate the role of the customs officials in security, trade compliance, and major anti-smuggling achievements.
- ❖ The Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), currently known as the World Customs Organisation (WCO), was established in 1952.
- ❖ Its inaugural session took place on January 26, 1953, in Brussels, Belgium, with 17 participating member nations.
- ❖ Currently, the WCO features 183 member states from all parts of the world overseeing nearly 98 per cent of world trade.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security and Prosperity”.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2025 - January 27

- ❖ It is also known as International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.
- ❖ This Day was chosen by the UNGA to mark the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp in 1945.
- ❖ 2025 marks 80 years since the end of the Second World War and the Holocaust.
- ❖ The theme of this year is “Holocaust Remembrance for Dignity and Human Rights”.

Indian Newspaper Day 2025 - January 29

- ❖ The date commemorates the publication of the first Indian newspaper, Hickey's Bengal Gazette, in 1780.
- ❖ James Augustus Hickey is considered the "Father of Indian press".
- ❖ Theme of 2025 is "Role of Print Media in the Digital Age".
- ❖ The oldest existing newspaper in India is Mumbai Samachar (formerly Bombay Samachar) published for the first time in 1822 in Gujarati.
- ❖ The first Tamil newspaper in India was the Swadesa Mitran, which was started as a weekly in 1882 by G. Subramanya Aiyer.

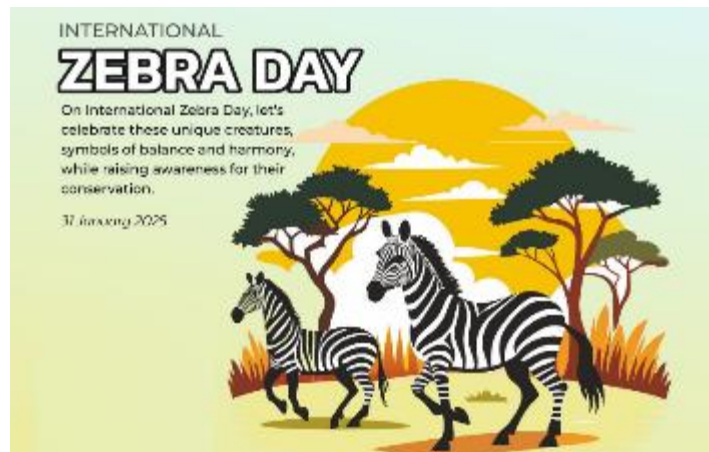


World Leprosy Day 2025 - January 26

- ❖ The World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January.
- ❖ In India, it is observed on January 30 every year.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of leprosy and demonstrate support for those who are afflicted.
- ❖ Leprosy is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) that still occurs in more than 120 countries, with over 2,00,000 new cases reported every year.
- ❖ India accounts for 53 per cent of the global leprosy cases.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Unite. Act. Eliminate."
- ❖ Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- ❖ It primarily affects the skin, nerves, and mucous membranes.

International Zebra Day 2025 - January 31

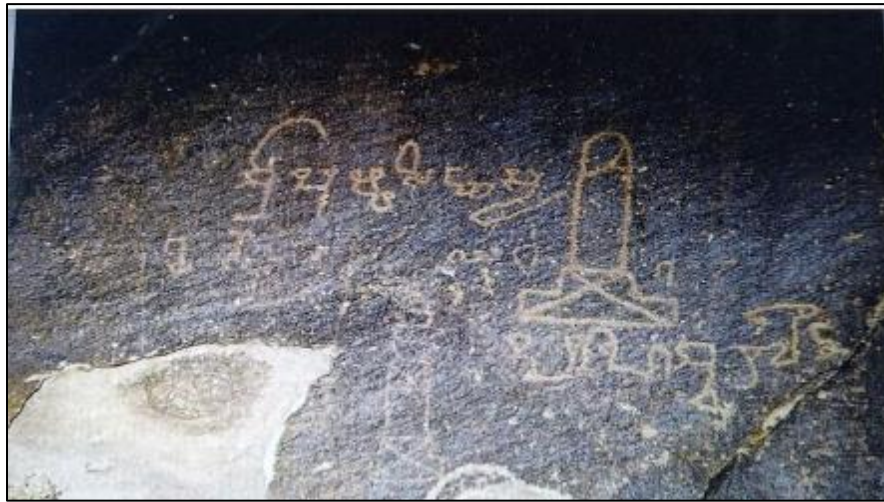
- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about conservation efforts to protect their future.
- ❖ They are native to Africa, they roam across countries like Kenya, Namibia, and South Africa.
- ❖ The plains zebra is found across much of eastern and southern Africa.
- ❖ The mountain zebra, however, is restricted to the dry upland plains of Namibia and South Africa.
- ❖ The rarest, the Grévy's zebra, is found only in the sparsely wooded areas of Kenya and Ethiopia.
- ❖ One of its six subspecies, the quagga, has already become extinct.
- ❖ The Grévy's zebra has officially been declared extinct in Somalia and Sudan.



MISCELLANEOUS

Sanskrit inscription in PoK's Gilgit

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India has unearthed a Sanskrit inscription discovered on a rock outside Gilgit in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.
- ❖ It is written in Brahmi script; it reportedly belongs to approximately 4th-century CE.
- ❖ There were earlier instances wherein Sanskrit inscriptions were found in Pakistan.



International year 2025

- ❖ The United Nations has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ).
- ❖ The UNGA declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) to be celebrated under the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World."
- ❖ The United Nations declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation.
- ❖ It also accompanied by the proclamation of the 21st March of each year as the World Day for Glaciers starting in 2025.
- ❖ 2025 marks the 80th anniversary since the end of World War II and the approval of the UN Charter.
- ❖ So, the UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust (IYPT).

Sevdalinka of Bosnia

- ❖ Sevdalinka is a form of traditional urban singing that is practised in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- ❖ The main function of sevdalinka is to tell a story.
- ❖ It is practised by the professional and amateur performers of all genders and backgrounds and is a key part of stage folklore.
- ❖ It is often transmitted within families, with younger members learning through imitation, then adding individual variations over time.
- ❖ Now, it is added to UNESCO's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Richest Chief Minister in 2024

FACES ON THE LIST		
Chief ministers	State	Assets (₹cr)
WITH HIGHEST ASSETS		
N Chandrababu Naidu	Andhra Pradesh	931.83
Pema Khandu	Arunachal Pradesh	332.56
Siddaramaiah	Karnataka	51.93
Neiphiu Rio	Nagaland	46.95
Mohan Yadav	Madhya Pradesh	42.04
WITH LOWEST ASSETS		
Mamata Banerjee	West Bengal	0.15
Omar Abdullah	Jammu and Kashmir	0.55
Pinarayi Vijayan	Kerala	1.18
Atishi Marlena	Delhi	1.41
Bhajan Lal Sharma	Rajasthan	1.46
TOTAL ASSETS OF 31 CMs		₹1,630 CR

Source: ADP's analysis of current CMs of 28 states and three UTs

- ❖ The total assets of 31 Chief Ministers are worth ₹1,630 crores.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is the richest Chief Minister in India with assets worth over ₹931 crore.
- ❖ India's per capita net national income or NNI was approximately ₹1,85,854 for 2023-2024.
- ❖ The average self-income of a Chief Minister is ₹13,64,310, around 7.3 times the average per capita income of India.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu is the second richest Chief Minister with total assets worth over ₹332 crores.
- ❖ Karnataka's Siddaramaiah is the third on the list with assets worth more than ₹51 crore.

- ❖ West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee is the poorest with just ₹15 lakh.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, with assets worth ₹55 lakh, is the second poorest in the list and Pinarayi Vijayan is third with ₹1.18 crore.
- ❖ 13 (42%) Chief Ministers have declared criminal cases against themselves, while 10 (32%) have declared serious criminal cases.
- ❖ Out of the 31 Chief Ministers, only two are women — West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee and Delhi's Atishi.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin ranked in 14th with ₹8.8 crores.
- ❖ He has the second highest number of cases, 47 in number, against him with a maximum of 11 cases under provisions of the IPC.

10th Century Chola-period merchant guild inscription



- ❖ ASI deciphered a Chola-period merchant guild inscription found at Pilippatti village in Illuppur taluk in Pudukkottai district.
- ❖ It mentions trade groups of various territorial divisions, including Ainurruvars of Mangala Nadu, Puramalai Nadu, Poongundra Nadu, Manalur Nadu and Virapattinam of Kodumbalur.
- ❖ The inscription dates back to the 10th century and was probably installed during the reign of either Parantaka Chola or Uttama Chola.
- ❖ The inscription has various symbols including Ankush (sharp pointed hook then used to control elephants), Trishul and lamps.

Nimesulide drug ban

- ❖ The Centre has banned the manufacture, sale, and distribution of the all formulations of Nimesulide — widely used as a painkiller for animals.

- ❖ The department of health and family welfare's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) enforced the ban under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ It aims to safeguard vultures and other scavenger species vital to maintaining the ecosystem's balance.
- ❖ Nimesulide has been widely used as a painkiller for animals, including cattle, pigs, and horses.
- ❖ While formulations differ for human and animal use.
- ❖ Nimesulide has already been banned for children in many countries due to safety concerns.

Toxic Painkiller Pulled Off Shelves	
<p>2 vultures died in 2 days: Rapid kidney failure, elevated uric acid levels indicate drug's toxicity</p>  <p>➤ Veterinary researchers confirm toxicity – lethal doses found in treated livestock carcasses</p>	<p>➤ Drug still available in rural areas though it has been banned for kids globally</p> <p>➤ Safer alternatives recommended – Meloxicam and Tolfenamic acid</p> <p>➤ Research spanned 2023-24. Next phase to focus on paracetamol toxicity</p>

India Meteorological Department's 150th year

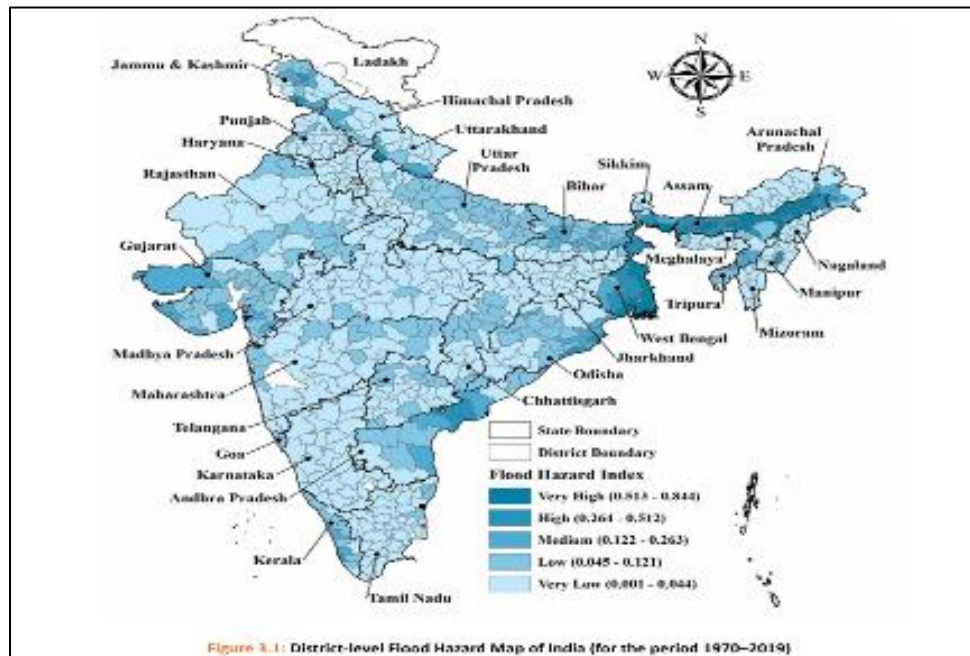
- ❖ The IMD was established in January 15, 1875 and will be completing 150 years of service.
- ❖ IMD is one of the earliest government departments created for the systematic observation, regular reporting, and scientific forecasting of weather in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ It was the establishment of the first Meteorological and Astronomical Observatory in (then) Madras in 1793.
- ❖ Later the India Meteorological Department was established in 1875 with H.F. Blanford as the Meteorological Reporter.

Removing upper garment in temple

- ❖ The head of the Kerala's Sivagiri Mutt was calling the practice of men having to remove their shirts while entering many temples as an "evil practice".

- ❖ The Sivagiri Mutt is a major pilgrimage centre of the Kerala's Ezhava Hindu community.
- ❖ The Mutt was founded in 1904 by revered social reformer Sree Narayana Guru.
- ❖ He fought against the superstitions and championed the right of those from lower castes to enter temples.
- ❖ In Kerala, many prominent temples still have a dress code for the faithful.

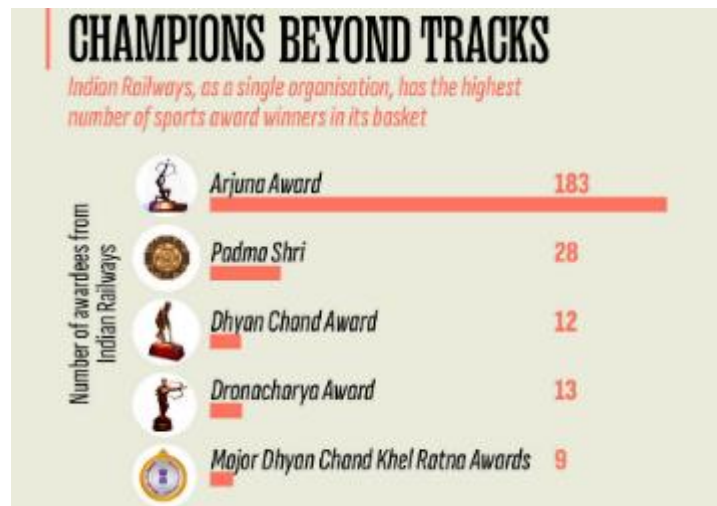
District-Level Climate Risk Assessment



- ❖ IIT Guwahati, IIT Mandi and the Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP) has released the report “District-Level Climate Risk Assessment for India: Mapping Flood and Drought Risks Using IPCC Framework”.
- ❖ 51 districts fall into the ‘Very High’ flood risk category, and another 118 districts fall into the ‘High’ flood risk category.
- ❖ These are primarily in Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Odisha, and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ 91 districts fall in the ‘Very High’ drought risk category and another 188 districts in the ‘High’ drought risk category.
- ❖ These are primarily in Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ 11 districts are at ‘Very High’ risk of both flood and drought.

Indian Railways - highest sports award winners

- ❖ In 2024, out of 32 players shortlisted for Arjuna Awards, five came from Indian Railways.
- ❖ With these 5 Arjuna Awards, it has total 183 Arjuna, 28 Padma Shri, 12 Dhyan Chand, 13 Dronacharya and 9 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardees.
- ❖ This is the largest number of such awardees for any single organization in India.



FSSAI on Methylcobalamin



- ❖ FSSAI has provided clarity on use of Methylcobalamin, a form of Vitamin B12, in health supplements, medical purposes and nutraceutical products.
- ❖ FSSAI Regulations, 2022's permitted forms of Vitamin B12 currently include cyanocobalamin and hydroxocobalamin.
- ❖ Vitamin B12, a crucial water-soluble vitamin, is integral to DNA synthesis, red blood cell production, and neurological function.

- ❖ Deficiency in this vitamin can lead to the serious health consequences, often requiring supplementation.

First Generation Beta Baby of India

- ❖ The birth of the first recorded Generation Beta baby, Frankie Remruatdika Zadeng, born in Aizawl, Mizoram, at 12:03 am on January 1.
- ❖ The term was coined by Australian futurist Mark McCrindle.
- ❖ This Generation Beta includes children born between 2025 and 2039.
- ❖ These individuals will be the offspring of Millennials (Generation Y) and older Gen Z parents.
- ❖ By 2035, Gen Beta is expected to constitute 16% of the global population, reflecting their significant role in the future social and economic landscape.



13th Century Saint Narahari Tirtha's Idol

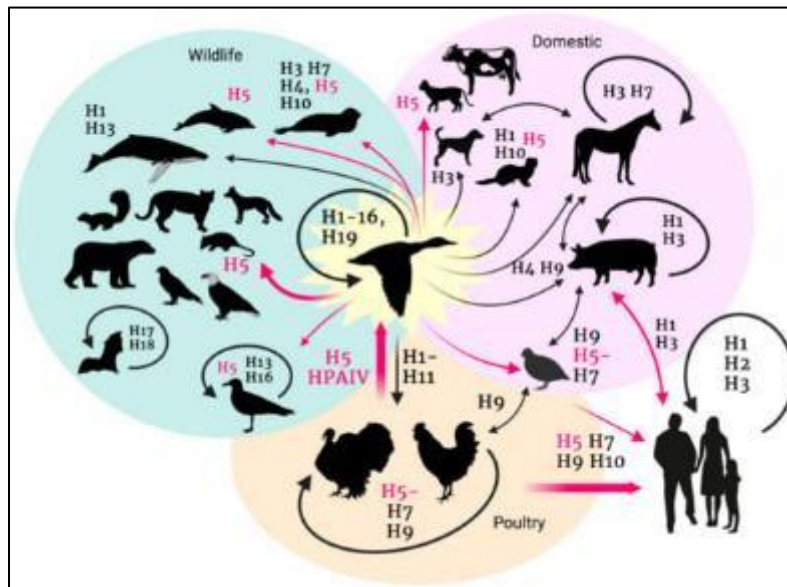
- ❖ A researcher has found a three-foot idol of the 13th Century saint, Narahari Tirtha recently.
- ❖ He may have hailed from the Chikakolu town (the present Srikakulam).
- ❖ Tirtha's ancestors were aristocrats in the Gajapati empire in what is now the Odisha state.
- ❖ Available epigraphical evidence suggests that the kings of Eastern Ganga dynasty were assisted by the saint for three decades.
- ❖ This was indicating he was already ordained into the fourth order by Acharya Madhva then.
- ❖ His contributions on this front are well documented in inscriptions available in the Simhachalam and Srikurmam (Srikakulam) temples.

- ❖ Some honorific prefixes were being used along with the name of this saint are: 'Loka Surakṣaṇa Ati Nipuṇaḥ', 'Yo Avati Kalinga Bhu Sambhavān'.



HPAI H5N1 Outbreak on Indian Wildlife

- ❖ Three tigers and a leopard have died after getting infected from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 virus, commonly known as 'bird flu', at the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park in Nagpur.
- ❖ The (HPAI) H5N1 virus is commonly known as 'bird flu'.
- ❖ This is the first instance of the disease having caused mortality among captive wildlife in India.
- ❖ The virus has established its presence in 108 countries, across five continents.



India's Metro Rail Network status 2025



- ❖ Indian Metro systems is covering over 1,000 km across 11 states and 23 cities.
- ❖ India has surpassed Japan in Metro Rail Projects in 2022.
- ❖ Currently, India ranks third globally in operational Metro network length and is on track to become the 2nd largest Metro network in the world.
- ❖ In 1984, the first metro line in India, covering 3.4 km between Esplanade and Bhowanipur, was opened in Kolkata.
- ❖ The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was established in 1995.
- ❖ Chennai's metro expanded in 2017 with the inauguration of its first underground section on the Green Line.
- ❖ In 2020, India launched its first-ever driverless metro service on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line.
- ❖ Kochi, Kerala, became the first city in India to launch a Water Metro Project in 2021.
- ❖ In 2024, India's first under-water metro tunnel inaugurated in Kolkata.

78th Foundation Day of BIS

- ❖ It was set up as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) on 6th January 1947.
- ❖ Later it was restructured under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.
- ❖ BIS works to strengthen quality standards and enhance competitiveness.
- ❖ It functions under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.
- ❖ The ISI Mark given to producers by the BIS for diverse items since 1955.

DSIR's 40th foundation day



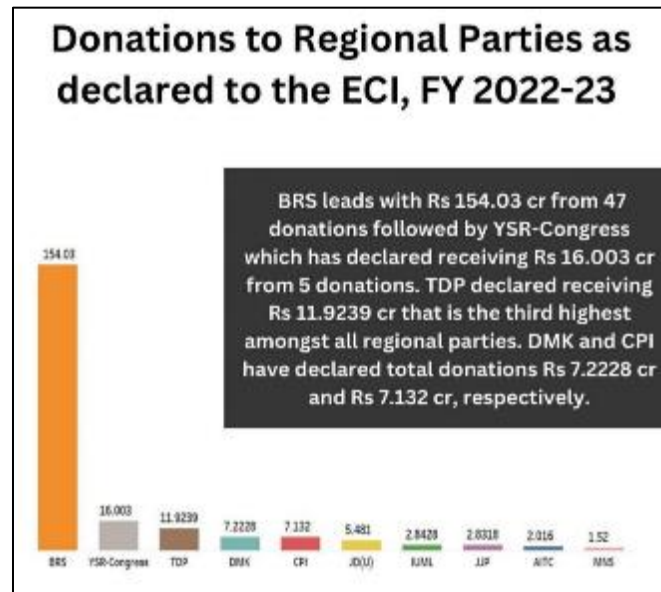
- ❖ The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) was Established on January 4, 1985.
- ❖ DSIR's primary mandate is to promote indigenous industrial research by focusing on technology development, transfer, and utilization.
- ❖ The department aims to encourage the industries to engage in research and development (R&D) to create the commercially viable and globally competitive technologies.

Worst cities in Asia for traffic congestion

- ❖ Bengaluru ranks among the worst in Asia for congestion, with drivers spending an average of 132 hours annually stuck in traffic.
- ❖ According to the TomTom Traffic Index 2023, drivers in the city spend an average of 28 minutes and 10 seconds to travel just 10 kilometers.
- ❖ Pune in western India followed in second place for its lengthy travel times at 27 minutes and 50 seconds per 10 km.
- ❖ It is followed by Manila in the Philippines (27 minutes and 20 seconds) and Taichung in Taiwan (26 minutes and 50 seconds).



Donations to Political parties 2022-23



- ❖ Regional political parties declared the receipt of almost ₹217 crore through 2,119 donations in the financial year 2022-23.
- ❖ The Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS), which got ₹154 crore, almost 71% of the total donated amount.
- ❖ About 90% of the donations — more than ₹196 crore — went to five major regional parties: the BRS, YSR-Congress, Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and the Communist Party of India (CPI).
- ❖ Of these, the BRS, TDP, DMK, and CPI have declared a rise in their donations while the YSR-Congress declared a decrease, in comparison with 2021-22.
- ❖ The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha recorded a whopping 3685% growth in donations between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the highest percentage increase among regional parties.
- ❖ It is followed by the Jannayak Janta Party (1997%), the TDP (1795%).
- ❖ Among the States, donors from Kerala made the highest cash donations of ₹9.09 lakh, followed by donors from West Bengal who gave ₹5.91 lakh in cash.

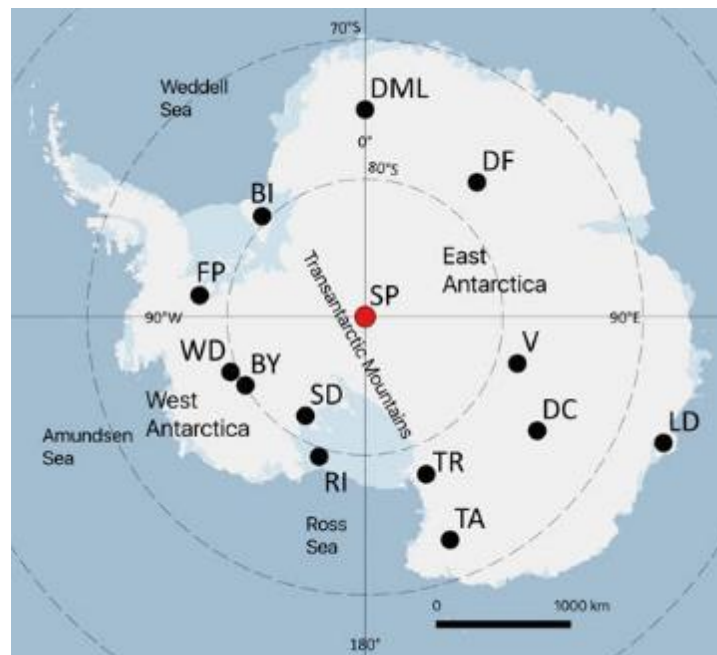
Most congested city in Asia 2024

- ❖ Kolkata was the second most congested city in the world in 2024 and the most congested in Asia.
- ❖ The Drivers in the city spent an average of 34 minutes and 33 seconds to travel a distance of 10 km.

- ❖ Kolkata was followed closely by Bengaluru, where drivers spent 34 minutes and 10 seconds to cover 10 km.
- ❖ While 110 hours were lost per year due to traffic conditions in Kolkata, it was 117 hours in Bengaluru, 108 hours in Pune and 85 hours in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Pune finished third with a travel time of 33 minutes and 22 seconds for the same distance, leaving India with three cities in the global top five.
- ❖ Barranquilla City (36 minutes, six seconds) in Colombia took the top spot and London (33 minutes, 17 seconds) rounded up the top five of the rankings.



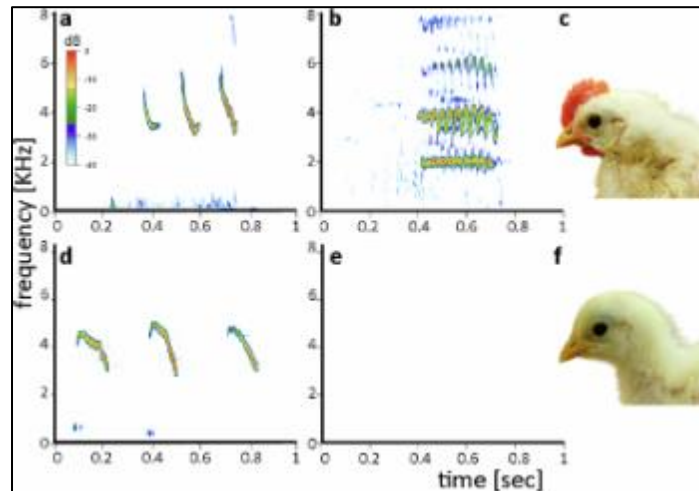
Ancient Ice Core in Antarctica



- ❖ Scientists have successfully extracted what is likely the world's oldest ice.
- ❖ It was dating backed 1.2 million years, from deep within Antarctica.
- ❖ The air bubbles trapped within the ice core provide a direct snapshot of the past atmospheric composition, including greenhouse gas concentrations.

Role of Androgen Receptors in birds

- ❖ The androgen sex hormones are responsible for male sexual development while oestrogen and progesterone essay the same roles in females.
- ❖ New studies have reported that the androgen receptors are as important for sexual development and fertility in females as in males.
- ❖ Both male and female chickens devoid of the androgen receptors turned out to be infertile.
- ❖ The bodies of roosters and male chickens have a circadian rhythm, or internal body clock, that sends strong signals for them to crow at dawn.
- ❖ The neural circuit associated with this crowing behaviour is sensitive to the presence of androgen hormones, especially testosterone.



Reactor vessels to Kudankulam

- ❖ The VVER-1000 reactor vessel for the sixth power unit of the Kudankulam NPP, is being transported to the site.
- ❖ Currently, four new power units are being built at the Kudankulam NPP, according to a Russian design.
- ❖ Presently, two units with similar capacity are generating power since 2013 and 2016 respectively.

- ❖ Russia's Rosatom State Corporation provides fuel to the power units of the KKNPP throughout their entire life cycle.



India's battlefield tourism

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence opened its historical as well as active battlefields and geopolitical zones for visitors as part of its new endeavour 'Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan'.
- ❖ The initiative will see some of its iconic and inaccessible war zones transform into tourist destinations.
- ❖ The newly inaugurated 'Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan' includes Galwan, and Doklam along with 75 other forward sites that have witnessed some military action in the past.
- ❖ These battle sites have been shortlisted by the Indian Army for "the battlefield tourism" in association with the Ministry of Tourism.

India's obesity guidelines 2025


- ❖ India has finally introduced updated guidelines to address the country's unique health challenges, after 15 years.
- ❖ Till now, it relying on the body mass index (BMI) as a primary measure of obesity.
- ❖ The revised framework offers a more comprehensive approach to the obesity diagnosis and treatment.
- ❖ It emphasises the need for a tailored strategy for tackling obesity and related health risks among Indians.
- ❖ A two-stage classification system for obesity; Stage 1 and Stage 2 obesity.
 - Stage 1 Obesity is referred to as increased body fat without significant impact on organ function or daily activities ($BMI > 23 \text{ kg/m}^2$).
 - Stage 2 Obesity is referred to as advanced obesity characterised by abdominal adiposity, high waist circumference, and organ impairment.

KEY COMPONENTS OF NEW GUIDELINES


Abdominal Obesity | Recognised as key diagnostic factor due to its link to insulin resistance, especially among Indians

Comorbid Diseases | Includes conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular disease in the diagnosis to address obesity-related health risks

Mechanical Issues | Addresses issues such as knee and hip osteoarthritis, or shortness of breath, affecting quality of life




BMI Grades
Normal | 18.5–22.99 kg/m²
Grade I | 23–24.9 kg/m²
Grade II | 25–27.5 kg/m²
Grade III | 27.6–32.4 kg/m²
Grade IV | ≥32.5 kg/m²



Abdominal Obesity Best Measure | Waist circumference and waist-to-height ratio (W-HtR) preferred over waist-to-hip ratio

Cutoffs
Waist Circumference (WC) | >90 cm (men), >80 cm (women)
W-HtR | >0.5



Lokpal's First Foundation Day 2025 – January 16

- ❖ The Foundation Day of the Lokpal of India was held for the first time on 16th January at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Lokpal of India was established by virtue of coming into force of Section 3 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, on 16.01.2014.
- ❖ It is the statutory body without any constitutional status.
- ❖ Lokpal consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members.
- ❖ The members of this are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- ❖ The Jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, members of Parliament, Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of Central Government.

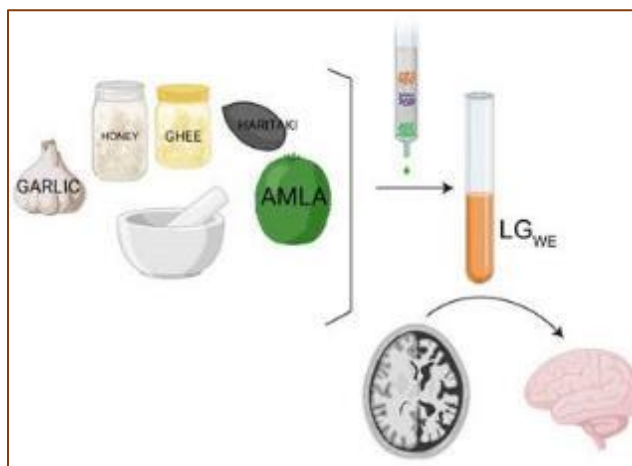
2025 World Monuments Watch

- ❖ The list includes a pick of 25 sites from 29 countries that it feels need to help advocacy and protection.
- ❖ The 'Musli River Historic Buildings' in Hyderabad have been put on the 2025 World Monuments Watch.
- ❖ Gujarat's 'Bhuj Historic Water Systems' is the other site in India named by the WMF on its list of sites facing risk due to the water crisis and climate change.

Global Lighthouse network 2025

- ❖ CEAT factory in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur and Hindustan Unilever Limited in Assam's Tinsukia have joined the cohort of WEF's (the World Economic Forum) Global Lighthouse Network.
- ❖ It is a community of industry leaders pioneering the use of cutting-edge Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies in manufacturing.
- ❖ WEF added 18 new members to the network, out of which two are from India.

Ayurvedic Treatment for Alzheimer's Disease



- ❖ The Researchers are demonstrating the potential of Ayurvedic medicine alongside chemically synthesized solutions to combat the damaging effects of amyloid beta aggregation.
- ❖ It is a critical factor in Alzheimer's progression.
- ❖ Alzheimer's disease is often associated with the buildup of amyloid proteins in the brain, which form toxic clumps that disrupt normal function.

New GI tags from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- ❖ For the first time, seven products of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags simultaneously.
- ❖ The products are Nicobar Coconut, Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich (Virgin Coconut Oil), Andaman Karen Musley Rice, Hodi (an outrigger canoe), Nicobari Mat (Chatrai-hileuoi), Nicobari Hut (Chanvi Pati – Nyi hupul), Padauk Wood Craft.
- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) facilitated the process.



Kalaripayattu and 38th National Games

- ❖ In the 37th edition of the National Games, held in Goa in 2023, Kalaripayattu was included in the competition section.
- ❖ However, this year, the art form has been listed as a demonstration event.
- ❖ Kalaripayattu is one of the oldest and most scientific martial art forms in the world.
- ❖ It originated and is widely practiced in Kerala.
- ❖ There are two types of Kalaripayattu — northern and southern, which slightly differ from each other.
- ❖ In north, more weapons are used as compared to south, and all movements in northern Kalari are in a straight line — forward and backward.
- ❖ However, down south, people can move in any direction while practicing it.
- ❖ It is believed that Kalaripayattu was introduced to China at the Shaolin Temple in the 5th century AD by Bodhidharma.

India's First eVTOL Air Taxi 'Shunya'

- ❖ The Bengaluru-based Sarla Aviation, introduced its innovative electric flying taxi, Shunya.
- ❖ The Shunya prototype is designed for the short-distance commutes, capable of covering 20-30 km trips at speeds up to 250 km/h.
- ❖ With a capacity to carry six passengers and a maximum payload of 680 kg.

Kerala tribal king

- ❖ Raman Rajamannan, the tribal king from Kerala's Idukki and his wife, Binumol, are attending the Republic Day 2025 ceremony in New Delhi.
- ❖ There are more than 300 Mannan community families in 48 Scheduled Tribe villages in Idukki.

- ❖ The king has a special place in their rituals.
- ❖ He is selected from the royal families according to the traditional matrilineal inheritance system.
- ❖ The king has no rights or duties in civil society, but oversees community matters with the help of four upa rajas (deputies), one ilayaraja (prince), and a 50-member council of ministers, known as kaanis.

Operation Sard Hawa 2025



- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) has heightened the vigil along the border with Pakistan at Jaisalmer to foil infiltration attempts.
- ❖ The special exercise is aimed at thwarting attempts of infiltration due to reduced visibility caused by fog during winter.
- ❖ Usually, the BSF conducts 'Operation Garam Hawa' in the summer and the operation 'Sard Hawa' in the winter.
- ❖ On the other side, the BSF unearthed the three underground iron bunkers with banned cough syrup worth crore of rupees at the India-Bangladesh border.
- ❖ 62,200 bottles of Phensedyl syrup worth Rs 1.41 crore was found inside the bunker.
- ❖ Phensedyl, a codeine-based cough syrup, is banned in Bangladesh but often smuggled from India due to high demand in the neighbouring country.

Umamaheshwara metal sculpture

- ❖ A Umamaheshwara metal sculpture has been found at Taggunje in Ajri village of Kundapura taluk in Udupi district of Karnataka.
- ❖ It was probably made in the 17th century in the 12th century style.

- ❖ It has writing in Kannada with script of the 17th century.
- ❖ The Umamaheshwara cult was founded by Soma Sharma of Gujarat in the 10th-11th century.
- ❖ Within no time, it became popular in the Indian sub-continent.
- ❖ It was influenced by Vajrayana Buddhism, and love is its central theme.



Wealth of billionaires Annual - Oxfam report



- ❖ The Oxfam International report, titled Takers, Not Makers, highlights the wealth extracted from India during British colonial rule
- ❖ Between 1765 and 1900, the UK drained \$64.82 trillion from India, with \$33.8 trillion going to the top 10%.
- ❖ In 1750, India contributed 25% to global industrial output, but by 1900, this fell to 2%.
- ❖ In 2024, billionaires' wealth increased by a rate three times faster than 2023.
- ❖ Over 3.5 billion people continue to live on less than \$6.85 per day.
- ❖ The richest 1% now possesses more wealth than 95% of the global population.

Forbes 50 over 50 global list 2025



- ❖ Three Indian women have been honoured on the Forbes 50 Over 50 Global list.
- ❖ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, a Bengaluru-based billionaire, is an entrepreneur in the biopharmaceutical industry and one of India's most successful self-made women.
- ❖ Urmila Asher has launched Gujju Ben Na Nasta, a food business rooted in her Gujarati culinary expertise.
- ❖ Sheela Patel, born in 1952, is a renowned activist and academic dedicated to advocating for the rights of slum dwellers and creating equitable urban spaces.
- ❖ In 1984, she co-founded the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) in Mumbai.

SSI Mantra

- ❖ In a first doctors in India use the tele-robotic system to do two heart surgeries in Jaipur.
- ❖ It is India's indigenous surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra.
- ❖ It has successfully conducted two robotic cardiac surgeries via telesurgery over a distance of 286 km (SSI's robotics control in Gurugram and another at the Manipal Hospital in Jaipur).
- ❖ Both were cardiac surgeries - Internal Mammary Artery Harvesting procedure and Robotic Beating Heart Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB).
- ❖ It is a first in the world.
- ❖ The SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic System is the only robotic system in the world to have received regulatory approval for telesurgery and tele-proctoring.
- ❖ It was approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ❖ The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India.

Genome India Data Conclave



- ❖ Since, the Indian Genomic Data Set was unveiled by Prime Minister, India is no longer dependent on foreign genomic data.
- ❖ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the 'Framework for Exchange of Data Protocols (FeED)' and the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) Portals.
- ❖ It makes 10,000 whole genome samples accessible to researchers across India and the globe.
- ❖ It was done under the 'Genome India' project, spearheaded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- ❖ It aims to create a robust and comprehensive database of India's genetic diversity.
- ❖ So, in India there is diversity not only in food, culture and geography but also in Genome.
- ❖ India's bioeconomy has surged from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with projections to hit \$300 billion by 2030.
- ❖ India now ranks 12th globally in biotech and 3rd in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ India is the largest vaccine producer in the world and the third-largest startup ecosystem.

Northeast monsoon 2024

- ❖ The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai has announced that NE monsoon ceased over the south peninsular region.
- ❖ Though the season was interspersed with gaps in rainfall, the movement of weather systems kept the monsoon active.
- ❖ This is one of the rare years when the monsoon prolonged till January end.

- ❖ Normally, the monsoon withdrawal would occur in between December 26 and December 30 every year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu received nearly 58.9 cm of rainfall against its average share of 44.3 cm of rainfall during the core October and December monsoon months.
- ❖ The State experienced the most delayed monsoon of 1933-34 on January 28.
- ❖ The previous year's season spilled over to the next calendar year during one-third of the years since 1901.
- ❖ Monsoon had retreated from the State during the first 10 days of January during 28 years since 1901.
- ❖ This weather phenomenon of extended monsoon has become more frequent since 2011.
- ❖ Unlike Southwest monsoon, NE monsoon also called retreating monsoon, did not have a dramatic change in weather parameters like reversal in wind flow pattern during withdrawal.
- ❖ The Dip in rainfall was one of the major criteria taken into account for monsoon retreat.

