

April - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union cabinet has approved ₹22,919 crores of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme for a period of six years.
- ❖ The Union education ministry has launched the “Baalpan ki Kavita” initiative for preparing a compendium of nursery rhymes and poems in all “Bharatiya Bhasha” as well as English.
- ❖ The second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, hosted by WHO and the Government of Colombia, was held in Cartagena, Spain.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025 for the creation of India’s first-ever national cooperative university at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) in Gujarat.
- ❖ India’s doubles badminton specialist player B Sumeeth Reddy from Telangana has announced his retirement from professional badminton.
- ❖ The 14th edition of the Indian - Russia bilateral naval exercise INDRA is being held in Chennai.
- ❖ India has launched ‘Operation Brahma’, an emergency relief mission aimed at providing the disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the Earth quake hit Myanmar.

NATIONAL NEWS

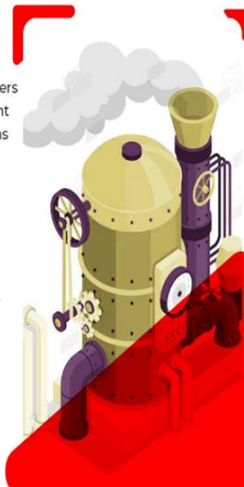
Boilers Bill, 2024

Boilers Bill 2024, replaces century-old act.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Boilers Bill 2024, aiming to replace the archaic Boilers Act of 1923. The new legislation is designed to enhance safety standards for workers and streamline regulatory processes for boiler users, particularly MSMEs.

Key Provisions & Benefits:

- Safety First**
The Bill prioritizes the safety of workers by requiring qualified and competent personnel to handle boiler operations and repairs.
- Ease of Doing Business**
Decriminalization provisions have been incorporated to reduce the bureaucratic burden on boiler users, especially MSMEs.
- Modernized Regulations**
The new law aims to modernize regulations and align them with contemporary safety standards.



- ❖ The Parliament has passed the Boilers Bill, 2024, with the Lok Sabha approval.



- ❖ The Bill repeals the Boilers Act, 1923.
- ❖ It seeks to provide for the regulation of boilers and the safety of life and property of persons from the danger of explosions of steam boilers.
- ❖ The legislation also provides for uniformity in registration and inspection during the manufacture and use of boilers in the country.
- ❖ The Four major offences which may result in loss of life and property, the criminal penalties are retained in the bill.
- ❖ For other offences, provision has been made for a fiscal penalty.
- ❖ In the Boilers Act of 1923, there was no definition of state government, and now in the new bill, the definition of the state government was incorporated.

Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024



- ❖ The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024, was passed by a voice vote.
- ❖ The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 9, 2024.
- ❖ It seeks to replace the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925.
- ❖ It establishes the responsibilities, liabilities, rights, and immunities in case of goods carried from a port in India to other or to any other port in the world.
- ❖ The Act is in conformance with the International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules of Law relating to Bills of Lading of August 1924 (Hague Rules) and subsequent amendments to it.

- ❖ The new Bill retains all provisions of the Act.

Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar.
- ❖ This will be included under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana - Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).
- ❖ This Project envisages the diversion of part of surplus water of Kosi River for extending irrigation to Mahananda basin lying in Bihar.
- ❖ The PMKSY was launched during the year of 2015-16 to enhance the physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation and improved on-farm water use efficiency.



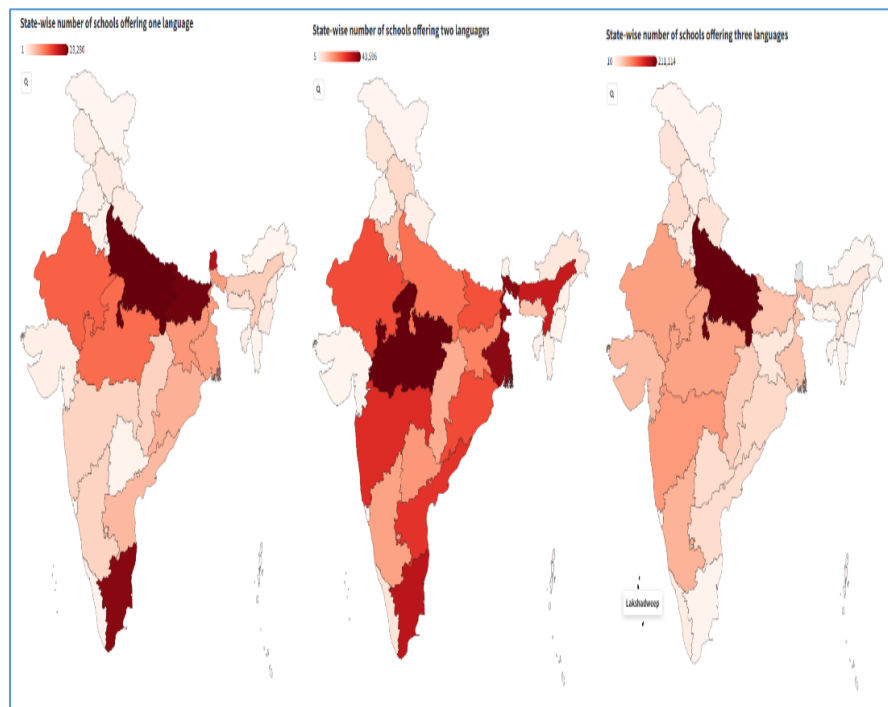
Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project included in PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana

- ▶ To cost about **₹6,282.32 crore**
- ▶ Remodelling & Extension of **Eastern Kosi Main Canal**
- ▶ Additional annual irrigation facilities in **Kharif season to 2.1 lakh hectares**

Three languages schools in India

- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks the lowest among India's large States in implementing Three languages in schools.
- ❖ Only 1905 (3.2%) schools in Tamil Nadu offered three languages.
- ❖ 35,092 (59.8%) schools offered two languages and 21,725 (37%) schools offered a single language.
- ❖ Overall, 9,06,225 (61.6%) schools in India offer three languages, 4,16,601 (28.3%) schools offer two and 1,49,065 (10.1%) schools offer only one language.

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of schools offering three languages - 82.8% (2,11,114).
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra 68.7% (74,342), Rajasthan 65.1% (70,148), Madhya Pradesh 55.4% (68,388), Karnataka 76.4% (57,950) and Gujarat 97.6% (52,357).
- ❖ In the southern States, Kerala has only 11,367 (71.7%) schools offering three languages, Andhra Pradesh has 26,696 (43.5%) schools while Telangana has only 26,828 (62.5%) schools.
- ❖ Overall, three-language schools have a 74.7% enrollment across India.
- ❖ The Large States having highest enrolment in these schools are Gujarat (97.6%), Karnataka (89.5%), Telangana (89.3%), Maharashtra (87%) and Uttar Pradesh (81%).
- ❖ The lowest among the large States is Tamil Nadu (10.8%), and followed by Bihar (58%), Assam (58.6%), Jharkhand (59%).



ECONOMY NEWS

8 trillion Borrowing Plan for FY26

- ❖ The union government announced plans to borrow ₹8 trillion from the market in the first half (H1) of 2025-26 (FY26).
- ❖ It will be accounting for around 54 per cent of the total gross market borrowing target of ₹14.82 trillion.

- ❖ This includes the issuance of ₹10,000 crore in sovereign green bonds (SGBs).



Money Matters

H1 borrowing **54%** of FY26 target

Borrowing slightly higher than **53.1%** planned for H1FY25

₹10,000 cr to be raised via sovereign green bonds

Borrowing to be in 26 weekly tranches of **₹25,000-36,000 cr**

Green-shoe option to retain up to **₹2,000 cr**

Weekly borrowing via T Bills at **₹19,000 cr** for 13 weeks

World's Second-Largest Tea Exporter in 2024



INDIA BREWS
Its Way to the 2nd Spot

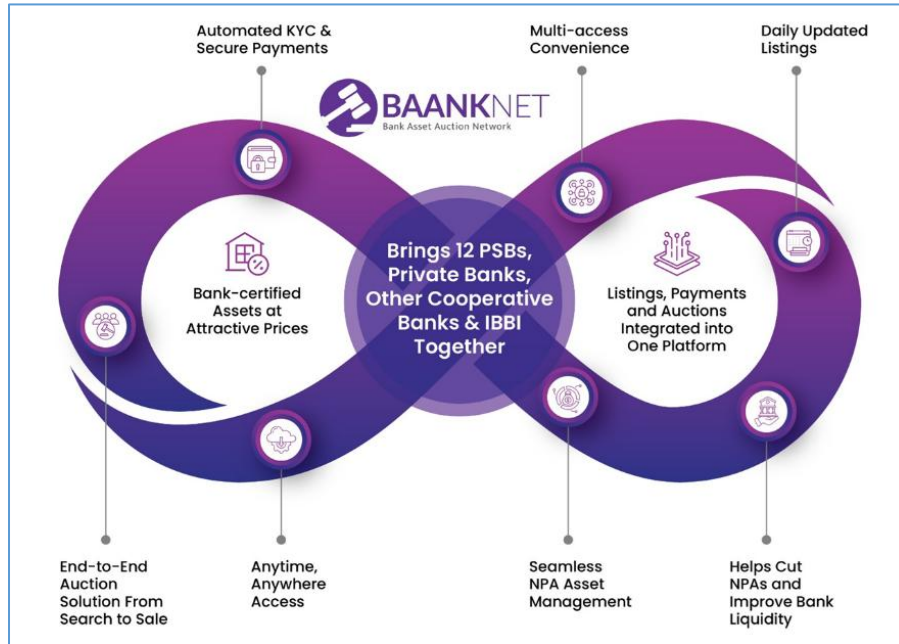
Tea Exports Reached **254 Million Kg** in 2024

Touching the **\$900 Million** Mark in value

- ❖ India has exported 254 million kg of tea in 2024, thus becoming the second-highest exporter in the world.
- ❖ Kenya retained the first spot in global tea exports.

- ❖ India surpassed Sri Lanka to take the second spot.
- ❖ Kenya exported over 500 M kg of tea in 2024.
- ❖ India's 2024 tea exports amounted to Rs 7,112 crore.

BAANKNET portal and e-BKray platform



- ❖ The Finance Ministry launched a revamped e-auction portal named 'BAANKNET' to further streamline the listing and auctioning of banks' assets.
- ❖ The platform 'e-BKray' was launched in February 2019.
- ❖ The BAANKNET portal is specifically designed to enhance the transparency and speed up the process of disposing of non-performing asset (NPA) cases.
- ❖ 'e-BKray' is the digital auction platform for disposing of assets under recovery proceedings by PSU banks.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Indigenously Developed MRI Scanner

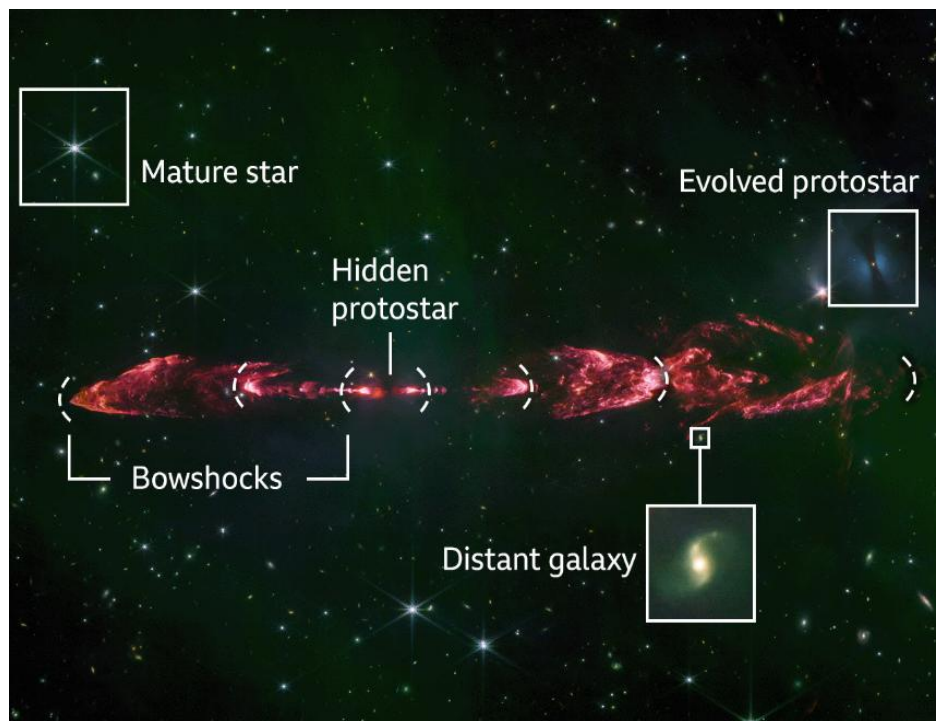
- ❖ India has developed its first home-grown Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine to reduce the cost of scans by more than 30 per cent.
- ❖ This Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine aims to reduce the cost of scans by more than 30 per cent.

- ❖ This machine is a result of a collaboration between AIIMS, New Delhi, and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER).

**In A Groundbreaking 1st, India
Develops An Indigenous MRI Machine
To Reduce Treatment Costs**



Star in making - James Webb Space Telescope



- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope has unveiled a stunning image HH 30.

- ❖ It is a young star energising the surrounding space and illuminating a proto planetary disk.
- ❖ The vortex of gas and dust has the potential to give birth to a new solar system.
- ❖ The possibly new formation star is located 450 light-years away in the Taurus Molecular Cloud.
- ❖ HH 30 is a Herbig-Haro object, a small, radiant nebula nestled in a star-forming region.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Channa nachi



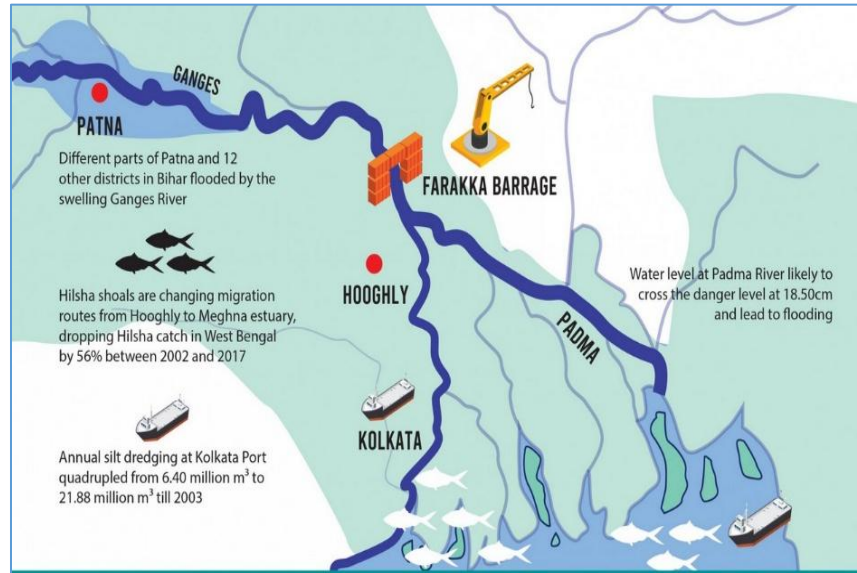
- ❖ A new species of snakehead fish found from a remote stream in South Garo Hills.
- ❖ The fish has been officially recognized as Channa nachi.
- ❖ The name “nachi” comes from the Garo language, where it is used as a vernacular term for the fish.

STATES' NEWS

Farakka Barrage - 50 years

- ❖ Farakka Barrage is a barrage across the Ganga River located in Murshidabad district, in the Indian state of West Bengal.
- ❖ Construction of the barrage started in 1962 and became operational on 21 April 1975.

- ❖ The purpose of the barrage is to divert water from the Ganges to the Hooghly River for flushing out sediment deposition from Kolkata harbour.
- ❖ India and Bangladesh have had agreements over Ganga water sharing, like 1977 Farakka Agreement and 1996 Ganga Water Treaty.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Zero Waste 2025 - March 30

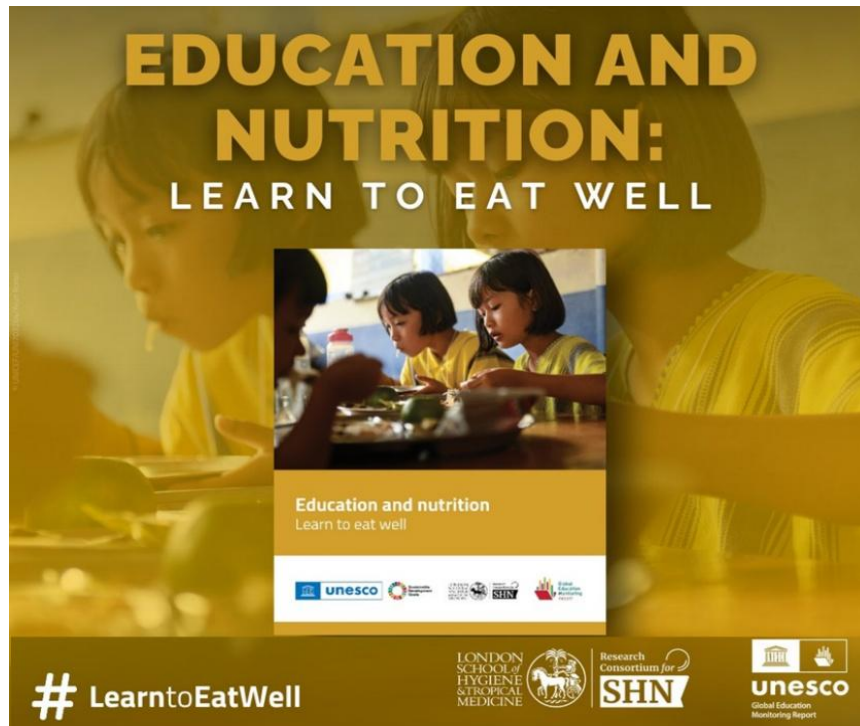


- ❖ This day highlights the importance of boosting waste management globally and the need to promote the sustainable consumption and production patterns to address the waste pollution crisis.

- ❖ Every year, humanity generates between 2.1 billion and 2.3 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Towards Zero Waste in Fashion and Textiles.”

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Education and Nutrition: Learn to Eat Well



- ❖ UNESCO released a report 'Titled Education and Nutrition: Learn to Eat Well'.
- ❖ The paper has highlighted that 27 per cent of school meals worldwide were not developed with input from nutritionists.
- ❖ Of the 187 countries evaluated, only 93 had any kind of legislation or guidance on food served in schools.
- ❖ Studies showed school meals increased enrolment rates by 9 per cent, attendance by 8 per cent, and also enhanced learning.

Banyan's mental health housing model

- ❖ The Works done by a Chennai based NGO working in the field of mental health, Banyan, has been mentioned in a recent publication of WHO.



- ❖ The Guidance on 'Mental Health Policy and Strategic Action Plans' speaks of how persons with mental health needs could be integrated into the community and benefit from it.
- ❖ This is the second time Banyan's work mentioned in a WHO document.
- ❖ Nine years ago, Banyan evolved on trial basis a housing option under its project 'Home Again' for persons who have recovered from mental ailment.

