

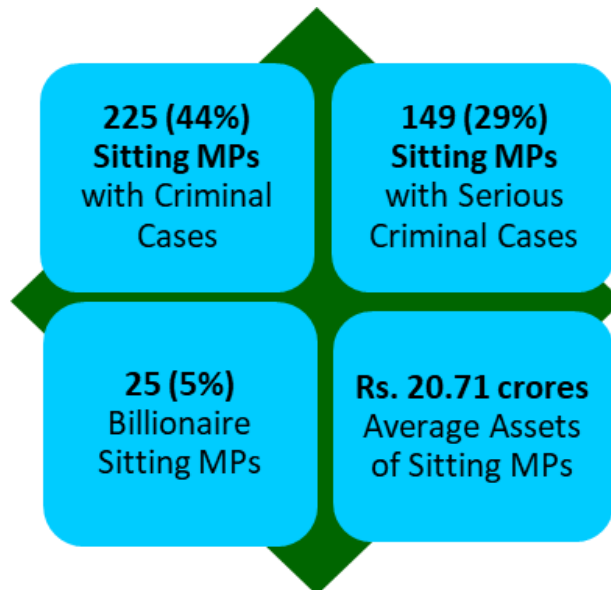
April - 02

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India and New India Assurance Co. Ltd continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for FY2023-24.
- ❖ The world's first temple designed in shaped like the sacred symbol 'Om' is currently under construction in the town of Pali, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Indian-British journalist and commentator Madhumita Murgia's book "Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI" has been shortlisted for the 2024 inaugural Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.
  - This book explores the impact of AI on human society.
- ❖ Kamal Kishore has been appointed as assistant secretary-general and special representative of the secretary-general for disaster risk reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
  - He is a top official at India's National Disaster Management Authority.

## NATIONAL

### Criminal charges on MPs



- ❖ Out of the 514 sitting Lok Sabha MPs analysed, 225 (44%) have declared criminal cases against themselves.



- ❖ The self-sworn affidavits analysed by poll rights body Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) released this data.
- ❖ Out of those analysed, 5% are billionaires, with assets exceeding ₹100 crore.
- ❖ Out of the sitting MPs with serious criminal cases against them, nine face murder cases.
- ❖ The analysis revealed that five of these MPs belong to the BJP.
- ❖ Furthermore, 28 sitting MPs have declared cases related to attempt to murder, with a majority— 21 MPs— belonging to the BJP.
- ❖ Similarly, 16 sitting MPs face charges related to crimes against women, including three allegations of rape.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh stand out with more than 50% of their MPs facing criminal charges.
- ❖ 73% of the MPs have graduate or higher educational qualifications, while only 15% of the sitting MPs are women.

### **MGNREGA Wage rate hikes 2024-25**

State	2023-24 (MGNREGA wages per day in ₹)	2024-25 (MGNREGA wages per day in ₹)	State	2023-24 (MGNREGA wages per day in ₹)	2024-25 (MGNREGA wages per day in ₹)
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	311-328	329-347	Madhya Pradesh	221	243
Andhra Pradesh	272	300	Maharashtra	273	297
Arunachal Pradesh	224	234	Manipur	260	272
Assam	238	249	Meghalaya	238	259
Bihar	228	245	Mizoram	249	266
Chhattisgarh	221	243	Nagaland	224	234
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	297	324	Odisha	237	254
Daman and Diu	297	324	Puducherry	294	319
Goa	322	356	Punjab	303	322
Gujarat	256	280	Rajasthan	255	266
Haryana	357	374	Sikkim	236	249
HP	224-280	236-295	Tamil Nadu	294	319
Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	244	259	Telangana	272	300
Jharkhand	228	245	Tripura	226	242
Karnataka	316	349	Uttar Pradesh	230	237
Kerala	333	346	Uttarakhand	230	237
Lakshadweep	304	315			

- ❖ The Centre notified the latest revision in the new wage rates for unskilled manual workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 for the financial year 2024-2025.

- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development notified the new wage rates, under sub-section (1) of section 6 of MGNREGA 2005.
- ❖ These new wage rates will become effective from the upcoming financial year that begins from April 1, 2024.
- ❖ Goa witnessed the maximum hike of 10.56 percent over the current wage rate taking the wage to ₹356 per day for 2024-2025 against ₹322 per day in the current fiscal year.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand registered the lowest raise of 3.04 percent each from existing ₹230 to ₹237 per day.
- ❖ The highest rate of NREGS wage that is ₹374 per day has been allotted for Haryana.
- ❖ The lowest NREGS wage that is ₹234 per day has been fixed for Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

## ECONOMY

### Foreign funds flow (March 2024)

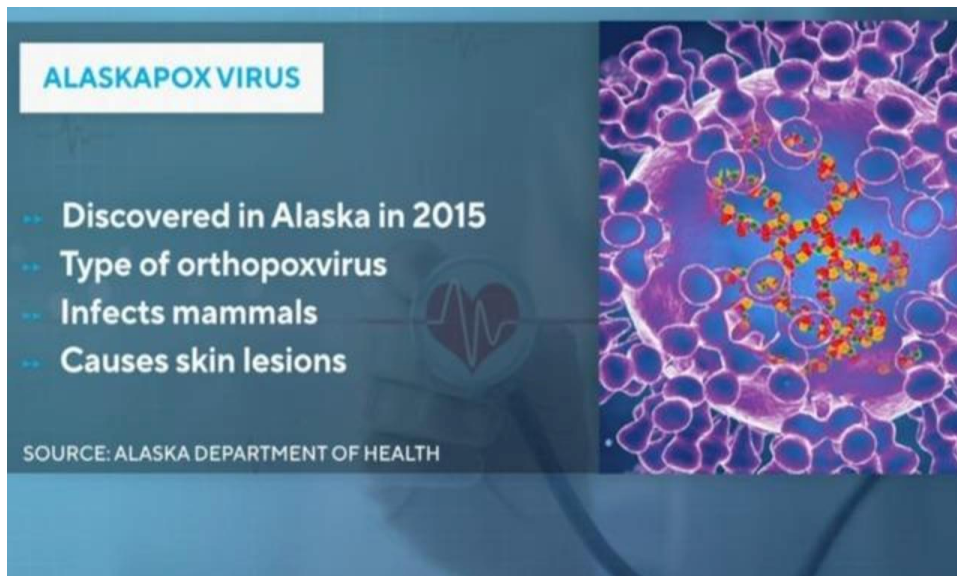


- ❖ India has beaten rest of the Asian markets by attracting the highest foreign funds flow in March.

- ❖ Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) pumped \$3.63 billion into Indian equities in their biggest buying binge since December 2023.
- ❖ The Domestic institutions continues to be net buyers, investing around Rs 52,467 crore in the market to hit a four-year high.
- ❖ Outside India, South Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia were the investment destinations for FIIs
- ❖ While they chose to pull out money from markets in Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ South Korea received inflows of \$2.91 billion, Taiwan \$1.14 billion and Indonesia \$585 million.
- ❖ The Japanese market recorded the biggest FII outflow of \$5.35 billion.
- ❖ It is followed by Thailand and Malaysia at \$1.13 billion and \$514 million.
- ❖ In Vietnam, the outflow reached \$197 million, and \$40 million in the Philippines.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Alaska Pox: Orthopox Virus

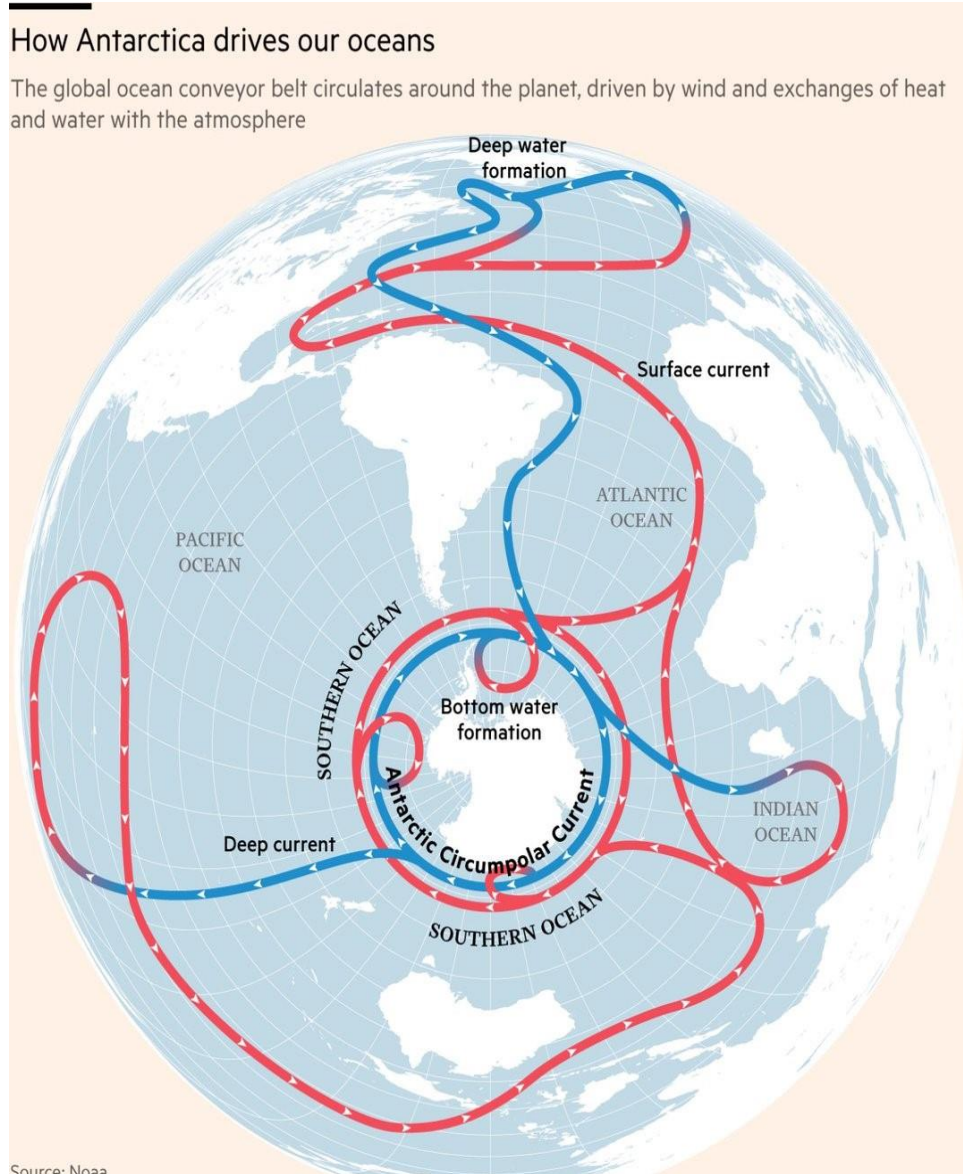


- ❖ Alaska pox, a virus in the same family as smallpox, cowpox and mpox, claimed its first fatality in January 2024.
- ❖ The virus, which was discovered in 2015, had previously resulted in only relatively mild illnesses in the six other people infected by it.
- ❖ Alaskapox is an Orthopox virus discovered in 2015 in the Fairbanks area of Alaska.

- ❖ Currently, more than 10,000 species of viruses have been recognized by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.
- ❖ We know that about 270 of them can infect people.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Antarctic Circumpolar Current



- ❖ An ocean current that connects the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific oceans has been speeding up in recent decades with a warming climate.



- ❖ A new study that looked at its speed over the last 5.3 million years has found that it responds to the global climate by picking up pace or slowing down, with far-reaching consequences.
- ❖ The current speeding of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) does not bode well for the stability of Antarctica's ice sheets.
- ❖ They are already losing mass at an average rate of about 150 billion tonnes per year, contributing to sea-level rise.
- ❖ The ocean current circles Antarctica clockwise at about 4 kilometres per hour, carrying 165 million to 182 million cubic metres of water each second.

### **Global Summit on Extreme Heat**



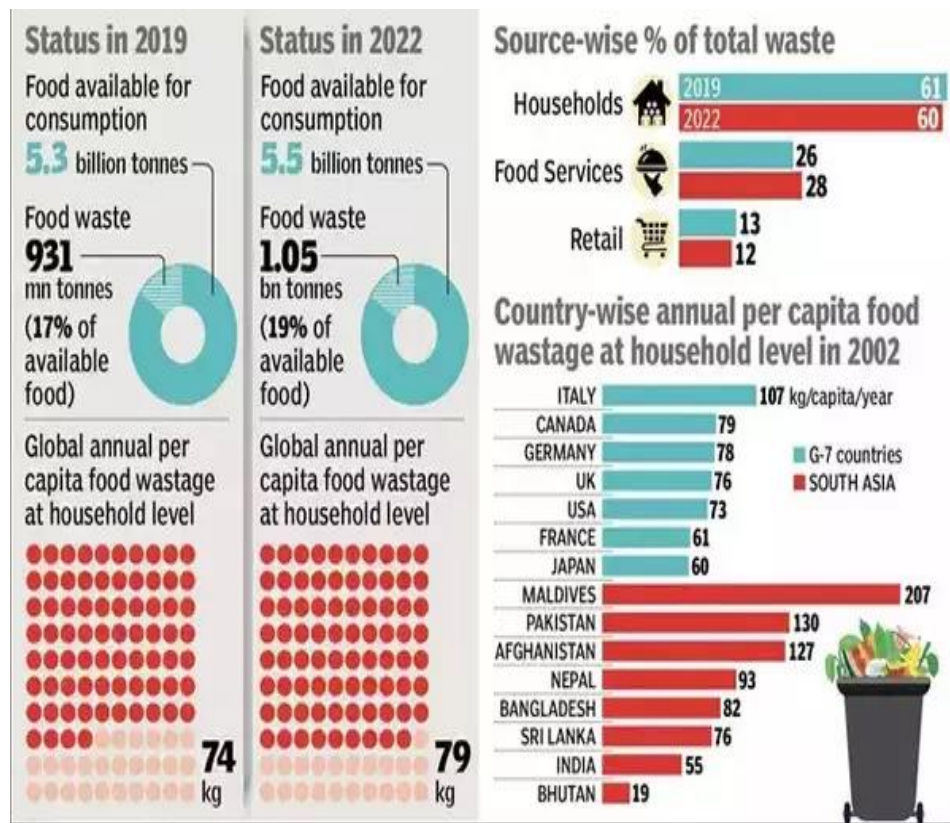
- ❖ USAID, an independent agency of the United States government was organised a virtual 'Global Summit on Extreme Heat'.
- ❖ United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.
- ❖ The year 2023 was the hottest on record.
- ❖ It is coincided with deadly heat waves on nearly every continent, from Pakistan to Tunisia to Texas.

## **REPORTS AND INDICES**

### **Food Waste Index Report 2024**

- ❖ Households across the globe wasted over one billion meals a day in 2022.

- ❖ 783 million people are struggled with hunger and a third of humanity faced food insecurity.
- ❖ In 2022, there were 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste generated (including inedible parts).
- ❖ It is amounting to 132 kilograms per capita and almost one-fifth of all food available to consumers.
- ❖ Out of the total food wasted in 2022, 60% happened at the household level, with food services responsible for 28%, and retail 12%.
- ❖ Food loss and waste generated 8-10% of annual global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – almost 5 times that of the aviation sector.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### 900-Year-Old Chalukyan Inscription

- ❖ A 900-year-old Kannada inscription from the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty has been found in Jadcherla mandal, Mahbubnagar district, Telangana.
- ❖ It was issued on June 8, 1134 CE (Friday) by the Customs Officers of Tailapa-III, son of the Kalyana Chalukya Emperor 'Bhulokamalla' Someswara-III.

- ❖ It records the remission of income accrued through toll taxes called Vaddaravula and Hejjunka towards a perpetual lamp and incense of God Somanatha.

