

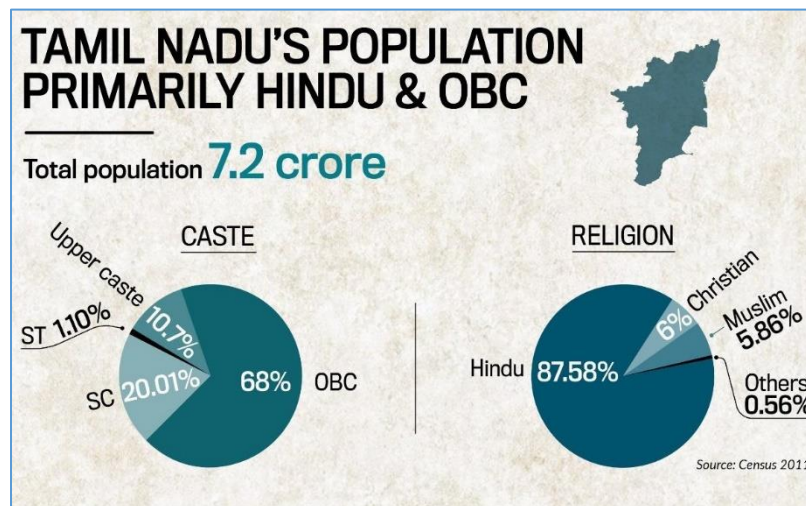
April - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India abstained on a resolution at the Human Rights Council that called on Israel for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and called on states to implement an arms embargo.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu reservation in 2024



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has told the Madras High Court that 89% of the State's population is already eligible for the 69% reservation provided in the education and public employment.
- ❖ Therefore, the State cannot be compelled to implement the additional 10% reservation for others under the category of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- ❖ The litigant had sought a direction to the State government to implement the 10% EWS quota for admission to all higher educational institutions in the State.
- ❖ 100% door-to-door enumeration of castes and communities in the State was carried out in 1983, following the directions issued by the Supreme Court on October 14, 1982.
- ❖ Ambasankar Commission (1983) had revealed that the proportion of socially and educationally backward classes in the State, including the most backward classes and de-notified communities, was 68% of the total populace.
- ❖ The 2011 decennial census also found the population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu to be 20% and 1.1%, respectively.

- ❖ The first Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission, also known as Sattanathan Commission, had submitted its report in 1970.

Rock paintings at Kumittipathi

- ❖ Believed to be around 3,000 years old, these cave paintings are among the important rock arts in the Kongu region.
- ❖ Drawn with white pigments, the paintings depict an elephant, ther (chariot, some say it is a peacock), and the lives of early dwellers of the region.
- ❖ Images that look like a chariot, human figures, and animals decorate the cave, the testimonies of the lives of prehistoric people of the region, their routines, and culture.
- ❖ There are small pits and holes in the cave, which are believed to have been used to store water and other belongings.
- ❖ Similar rock paintings can also be found at Vellarukkam Palayam near Thondamuthur, Viraliyur, and Kovanur in the Coimbatore district, all on hill tops.



NATIONAL

State of solar PV manufacturing 2024

- ❖ India installed 20.8 GW of solar module manufacturing capacity and 3.2 GW of new PV cell production lines in 2023.
- ❖ The nation's cumulative solar module manufacturing capacity stood at 64.5 GW on Dec. 31, 2023, while its solar cell capacity reached 5.8 GW.
- ❖ The state of Gujarat accounted for 46.1% of the country's cumulative PV module manufacturing capacity.

- ❖ Telangana accounted for 39% of all solar cell production capacity.
- ❖ India imported 16.2 GW of modules in 2023, 158% up from 10.3 GW in 2022.
- ❖ The Domestic manufacturers exported 4.8 GW of solar modules in 2023, up 204% from 1.6 GW in 2022.
- ❖ India's solar cell imports stood at 15.6 GW in 2023, up 169% year on year.
- ❖ Solar cell exports reached 286.3 MW in 2023, up 2,765% from 10 MW in 2022.



INDRA App



- ❖ On part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations, an indigenous mobile application INDRA (Indian Naval Dynamic Resource for Weather Analysis) was launched.
- ❖ It helps to disseminate weather related information and forecasts empowering optimal and quick decision making was also launched.

- ❖ The application has been developed by BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics) in coordination with Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology, Indian Navy.

INTERNATIONAL

Massive Earthquake in Taiwan

- ❖ Taiwan witnessed a massive earthquake (7.2) in at least 25 years.
- ❖ Notably, Taiwan is prone to earthquakes as it lies along the Pacific “Ring of Fire” — where 90% of the world’s earthquakes take place.
- ❖ The island and its surrounding waters have registered about 2,000 earthquakes with a magnitude of 4.0 or greater since 1980, and more than 100 earthquakes with a magnitude above 5.5.
- ❖ The Ring of Fire is essentially a string of hundreds of volcanoes and earthquake-sites which runs along the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It is a semicircle or horse shoe in shape and stretches nearly 40,250 kilometres.
- ❖ The Ring of Fire traces the meeting points of numerous tectonic plates.

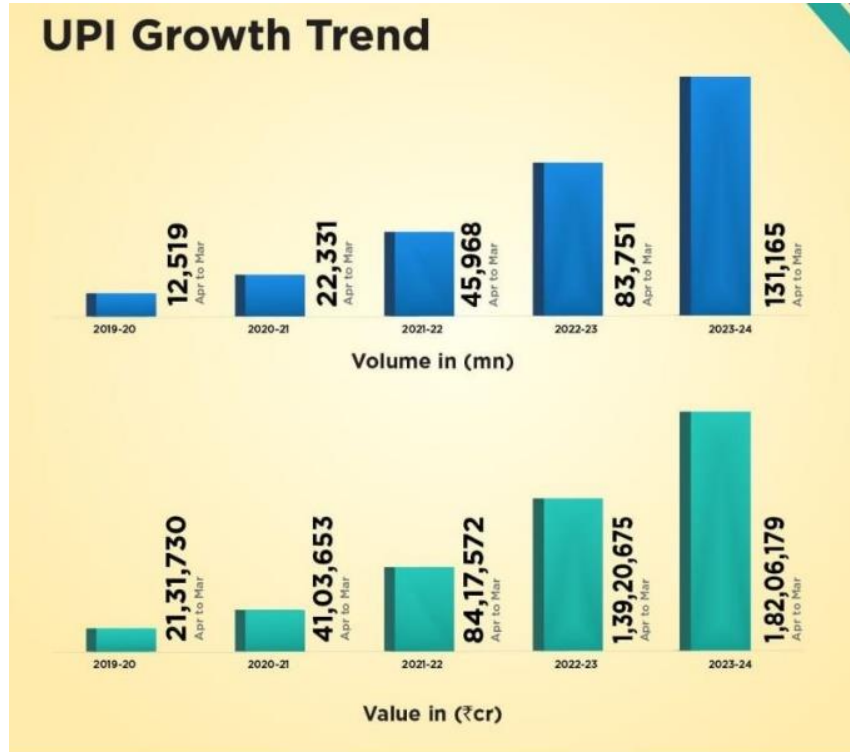


ECONOMY

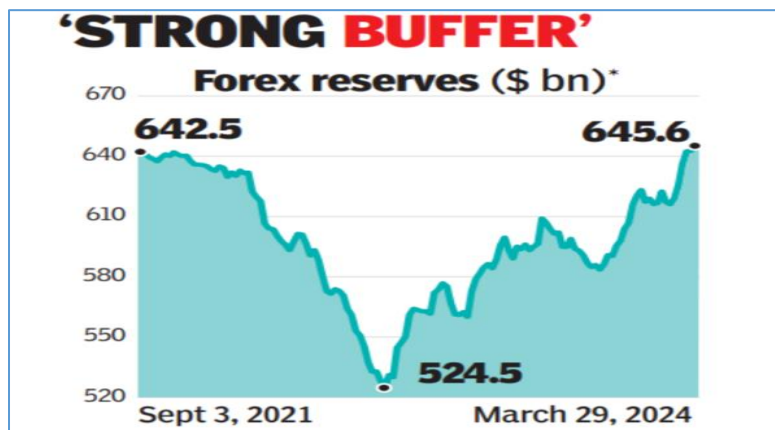
UPI Transactions Surge

- ❖ UPI transactions have surged by 56 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in H2 2023, card transactions saw a modest growth of 6 per cent.

- ❖ The volume of UPI transactions surged to 65.77 billion from 42.09 billion in H2 2022.
- ❖ Transaction value saw a phenomenal 44 per cent increase, from RS 69.36 trillion to RS 99.68 trillion during the same period.



India's Foreign Exchange Reserves in 2024



- ❖ India's foreign exchange reserves reached an all-time high of US\$ 645.6 billion as of March 29, 2024.
- ❖ The reserves increased by \$2.95 billion.

- ❖ RBI's Foreign currency assets (FCAs) surged by \$2.35 billion to \$570.62 billion.
- ❖ Gold reserves rose by \$673 million to \$52.16 billion, whereas SDRs were down by \$73 million to \$18.15 billion.
- ❖ Reserve position in the IMF decreased by \$2 million to \$4.66 billion.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Kalam - 250

- ❖ Skyroot Aerospace, the leading space-tech company, has successfully test-fired the Stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle, called Kalam-250.
- ❖ Stage-2 is a critical stage in the ascent of the launch vehicle, as it propels it from atmospheric phase to the deep vacuum of outer-space.
- ❖ The Kalam-250 is a high-strength carbon composite rocket motor.
- ❖ It uses solid fuel and a high-performance Ethylene-Propylene-Diene terpolymers (EPDM) Thermal Protection System (TPS).



PRATUSH Telescope

- ❖ Astronomers are looking forward to opening a new window on the universe by posting high-resolution telescopes on the moon, and in orbit around it.
- ❖ There are numerous proposals to do this from astronomers around the world — including one from India called PRATUSH.
- ❖ PRATUSH (Probing ReionizATIOn of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen) is to be sited on the moon's far side.

- ❖ PRATUSH is being built by the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru with active collaboration from ISRO.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024



- ❖ For the second year running, Bernard Arnault is the richest person in the world.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani is the richest Indian with a wealth of \$116 billion, according to the latest 'Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024'.
- ❖ Ambani is also the 9th richest person in the world.
- ❖ He is becoming the first Indian to be part of the exclusive \$100 billion club.
- ❖ In the second spot came Gautam Adani, the chairman of Adani Group, with a net worth of \$84 billion.
- ❖ Savitri Jindal continues to be India's richest woman and she further cemented her position as the 4th richest person of the country.



- ❖ Overall, the list featured 200 individuals from the country, up from 169 in the previous year.
- ❖ This is taking it to the third spot in the number of billionaires globally.
- ❖ Out of the 200 Indians on the list, 25 featured on it for the first time.

