

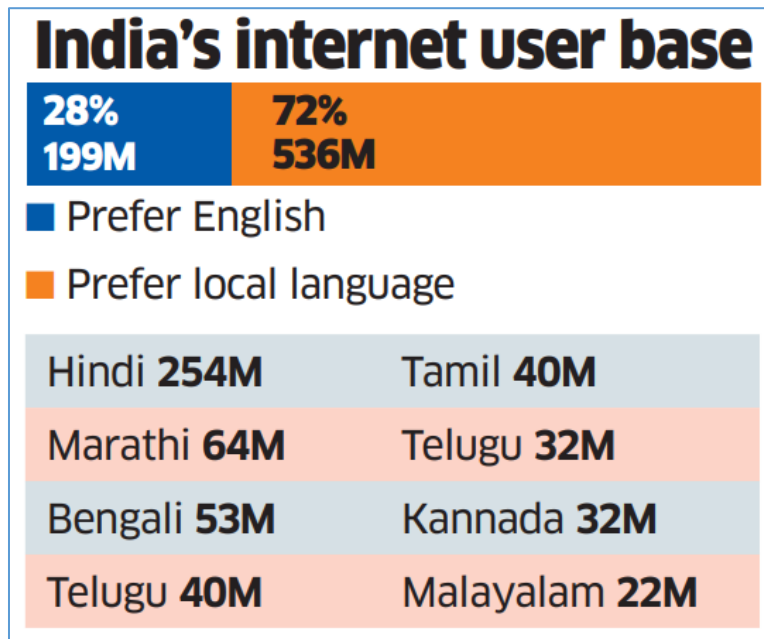
April - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ State-owned Paradip Port in Odisha has emerged as India's largest major port in terms of cargo volumes by clocking 145.38 million tonne cargo throughput in FY24 by surpassing Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat.
- ❖ Venezuelan Juan Vicente Perez Mora (114), named by Guinness World Records as the oldest man in the world, has passed away recently.
- ❖ The Maharashtra team emerged as the champion at the 56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24.
- ❖ The UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has unanimously appointed Saudi Arabia to chair its 69th session in 2025.

NATIONAL

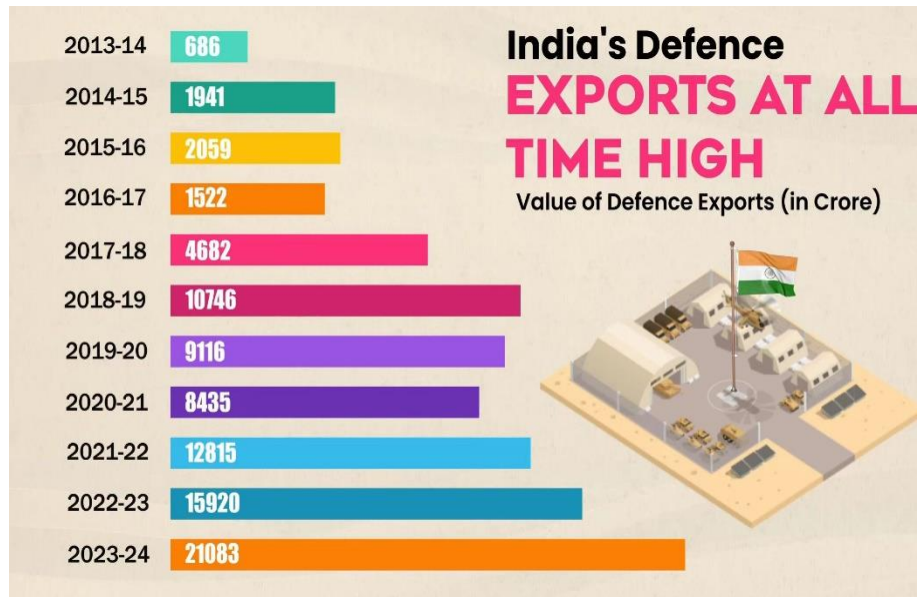
India Gaming Report 2024



- ❖ India is the largest gaming market in the world, boasting a user base of 568 million gamers and over 9.5 billion gaming app downloads in 2023.
- ❖ India contributes approximately 20% of the world's total mobile game downloads.
- ❖ It surpassed the combined download totals of the next two: The US and Brazil.
- ❖ The sector is growing rapidly at a 14 per cent CAGR.

- ❖ Mobile contributes to 90 per cent of the gaming market in India as compared to about 37 and 62% in the US and China, respectively.
- ❖ Indian gaming industry is expected to almost double to USD 6 billion by 2028 from USD 3.1 billion in 2023.

India's Defense Exports 2024



- ❖ India's defence exports crossed ₹21,000 crore, approximately \$2.63 billion, for the first time.
- ❖ Exports have reached to the level of ₹21,083 Crore in the financial year 2023-24 which is a spectacular growth of 32.5% over the previous fiscal.
- ❖ The defence exports have grown by 31 times in the past 10 years as compared to FY 2013-14.
- ❖ However, India continued to be the world's largest arms importer for the period 2019-23 with imports going up by 4.7% compared to the 2014-18 period.

India's coal and lignite production 2023-24

- ❖ India's cumulative coal and lignite production rose to 1,039 million tonnes (mt) in the last financial year
- ❖ The world's second largest consumer, after China, had produced 937.22 mt of coal and lignite in FY23.
- ❖ India's total coal and lignite output was at 937 million tonnes (MT) in the preceding 2022-23 fiscal.

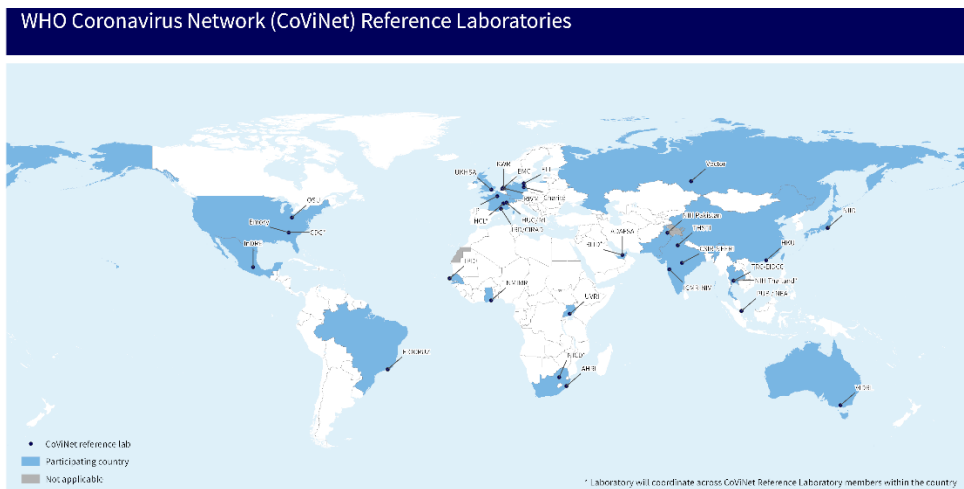
- ❖ The country's monthly coal production exceeded 100 mt for the first time in March 2023.

Year	No. of operational Coal blocks	Coal Production (MT)
2015-16	11	29.50
2016-17	12	32.53
2017-18	19	36.88
2018-19	27	49.91
2019-20	32	58.88
2020-21	39	63.14
2021-22	46	85.32
2022-23	51	116.08
2023-24(Till 17.03.2024)	57	135.70MT

INTERNATIONAL

CoViNet - WHO

- ❖ WHO has launched a global network of laboratories called CoViNet to identify and monitor potentially novel coronaviruses that could emerge shortly.
- ❖ It will support the building of more laboratories to monitor MERS-CoV and novel coronaviruses of public health importance.
- ❖ CoViNet comprises 36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions, including three Indian laboratories.



White Rabbit Collaboration

- ❖ CERN, launches the White Rabbit Collaboration (WRC) to promote White Rabbit technology adoption in Industry.
- ❖ WRC provides specialized support, training, and facilitates R&D projects.

- ❖ White Rabbit (WR) technology offers sub-nanosecond accuracy and picosecond precision synchronization for the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) accelerator chain.



Germany Legalizes Recreational Cannabis



Cannabis legalisation
in Germany - planned for 2024

Under the draft law, adults would be able to grow 3 plants and possess 25g of cannabis

Why is Germany legalising cannabis?

To curb the black market and help protect health with controlled access for adults, with quantity limits & quality assurances.

Children and young people would be better protected through education and prevention. No-one under 18 would be allowed access to cannabis products.

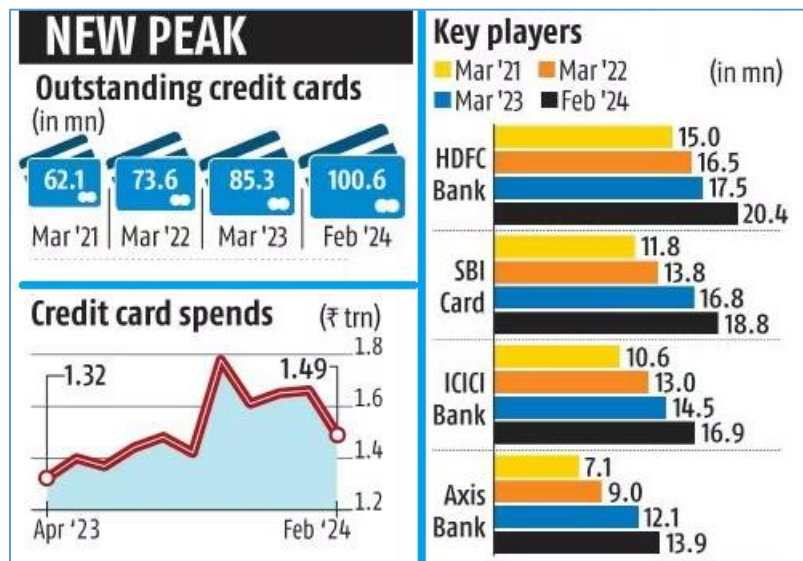
- ❖ The doubling of cannabis consumption among 12 to 17-year-olds and 18 to 25-year-olds happened in the last ten years.
- ❖ So, the German lawmakers approved the partial legalisation of cannabis with many restrictions.

- ❖ Adults can possess up to 25 gm of them when outside, 50 gm at home.
- ❖ Three marijuana plants per person can be grown at home.
- ❖ The cannabis grown at home cannot be sold to someone else either.

ECONOMY

Credit Cards in India

- ❖ The total number of credit cards issued by banks in India surpassed the 100 million marks in February 2024.
- ❖ 1.1 million cards are increased from the previous month.
- ❖ As of February, the outstanding number of credit cards in the system was 100.6 million.
- ❖ In February 2023, the total cards in circulation stood at 99.5 million.
- ❖ HDFC Bank is the leader in credit card issuances, with 20.40 million cards.

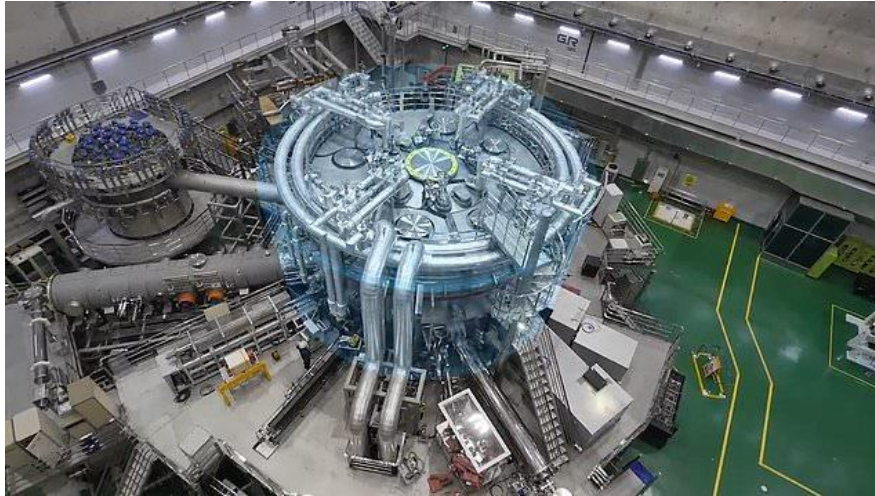


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

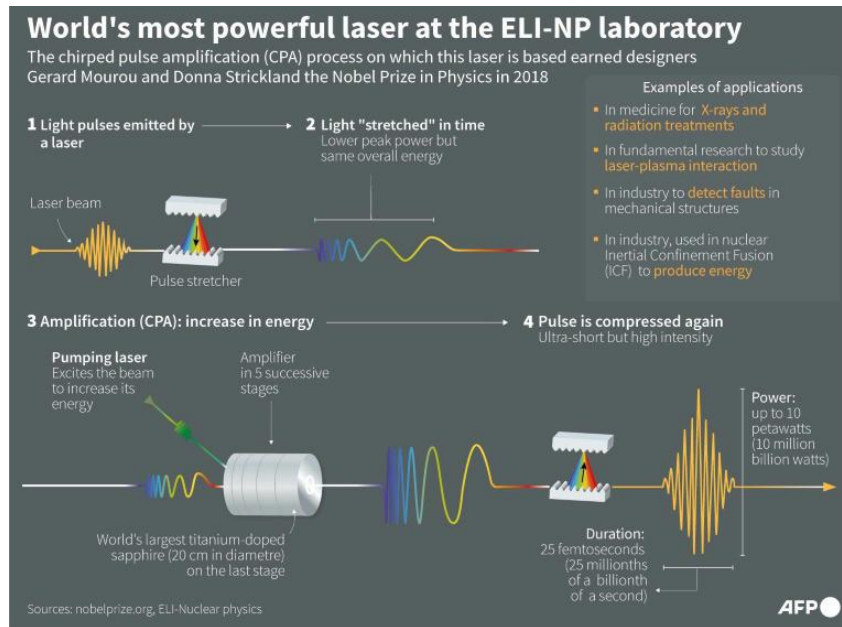
Korean Fusion Reactor

- ❖ The Scientists have set a new world record using the Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR) device nuclear fusion reactor.
- ❖ They have generated plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius for 48 seconds during tests.

- ❖ This temperature is seven times that of the Sun's core, which is 15 million degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The facility's previous record, set in 2021, was just 30 seconds.



World's Most Powerful Laser



- ❖ World's Most Powerful Laser Developed in Romania engineer Antonia Toma activates the world's most powerful laser.
- ❖ It promises revolutionary advances in everything from the health sector to space.
- ❖ The sharp beams of laser light have given us new opportunities for deepening our knowledge about the world and shaping it.

- ❖ The system is capable of reaching a peak of 10 petawatts (10 to the power of 15 watts) for an ultra-short time, in the order of a femtosecond (one millionth of a billionth of a second).

Agni-Prime Missile 2024

- ❖ India successfully carried out the launch of the new-generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni Prime'.
- ❖ The 'Agni Prime' or 'Agni-P' is a nuclear-capable new-generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles.
- ❖ It is a two-stage canisterised missile with a maximum range of 1,000 to 2,000 km.
- ❖ The 'Agni Prime' missile is lighter than all the earlier Agni series of missiles.
- ❖ It weighs at least 50 per cent less than the Agni 3 missile and has new guidance and propulsion systems.



ENVIRONMENT

Butterfly Cicada

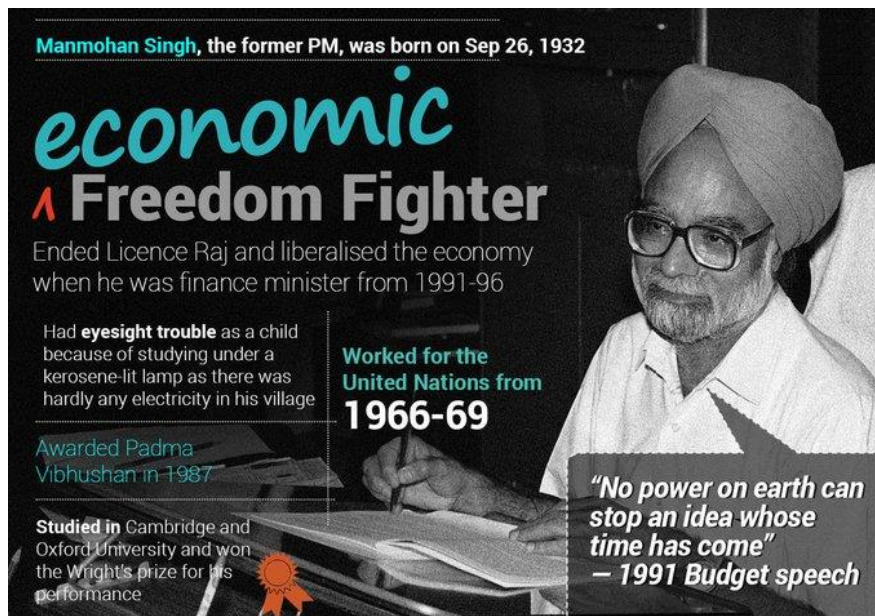
- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new species of cicadas in Meghalaya, India, referred to as "Butterfly Cicadas."

- ❖ The new species, *Becquartina bicolor*, represents the first record of the genus *Becquartina* in India.
- ❖ This discovery highlights the biodiversity potential of Meghalaya's ecosystems.
- ❖ The species is named "bicolor" due to the presence of two distinct color forms.
- ❖ It appears to be endemic to Garo Hills and Ri Bhoi district.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Manmohan Singh Retirement



Manmohan Singh, the former PM, was born on Sep 26, 1932

economic Freedom Fighter

Ended Licence Raj and liberalised the economy when he was finance minister from 1991-96

Had **eyesight trouble** as a child because of studying under a kerosene-lit lamp as there was hardly any electricity in his village

Worked for the **United Nations** from **1966-69**

Awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1987

Studied in Cambridge and Oxford University and won the Wright's prize for his performance

"No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come"
— 1991 Budget speech

- ❖ Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ends his 33-year-long parliamentary innings in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ He served as a governor of Reserve Bank of India during 1982-1985.
- ❖ He became a member of the House for the first time in October 1991.

- ❖ He was the finance minister in the Narasimha Rao government from 1991 to 1996 and the Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014.
- ❖ He played vital role in introducing significant 1991 economic reforms in India.
- ❖ He also served as deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) among others.
- ❖ He is credited with the launch of social welfare initiatives such as guaranteed job schemes -MNREGA - and right to education for every child.

MISCELLANEOUS

‘Gravity hole’ in the Indian Ocean

- ❖ The phenomenon referred to as the ‘gravity hole’ in the Indian Ocean, Covering roughly 1.2 million square miles.
- ❖ This circular depression originates from the southern tip of India.
- ❖ It is officially called the Indian Ocean geoid low and is the world’s largest gravity anomaly.
- ❖ Scientists from the IISc Bengaluru have proposed a reliable explanation for the “gravity hole” in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ Plumes of magma originating from deep within the Earth, akin to those responsible for the creation of volcanoes.
- ❖ ‘Gravity hole’ is occurred where the Earth's gravitational pull is weaker, resulting in a depression in the sea level by over 328 ft.

