

April - 10

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The IIT- Madras have created a wireless real-time indoor mapping technology to assist first responders in public safety and rescue operations.
- ❖ India has been appointed to United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) for the period 2025–2027.
- ❖ Bangladesh assumed the chairmanship of the regional grouping – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) – for the next two years.
- ❖ The Indian Navy launched the Offshore Patrol Vessel INS Sunayna as part of the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR initiative.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Schemes for fishermen 2025



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced special livelihood schemes worth ₹216.73 crore for the benefit of fishermen in the districts surrounding Gulf of Mannar.
- ❖ He announced the developing deep-sea fishing harbours in Thangachimadam, Pamban, and Kundukal at a cost of ₹360 crore.

- ❖ Equipment and support services will be provided to enable members of the fishing community to engage in cage culture of fish and mud crab, including processing and sales.

### **New Projects in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation for 8300 crore rupees worth of rail and road projects in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He has also launched a new train service between Rameswaram and Tambaram (Chennai).
- ❖ He also laid foundation/dedicated the following National Highway (NH) projects - NH-40, NH-332, NH-32 and NH-36.

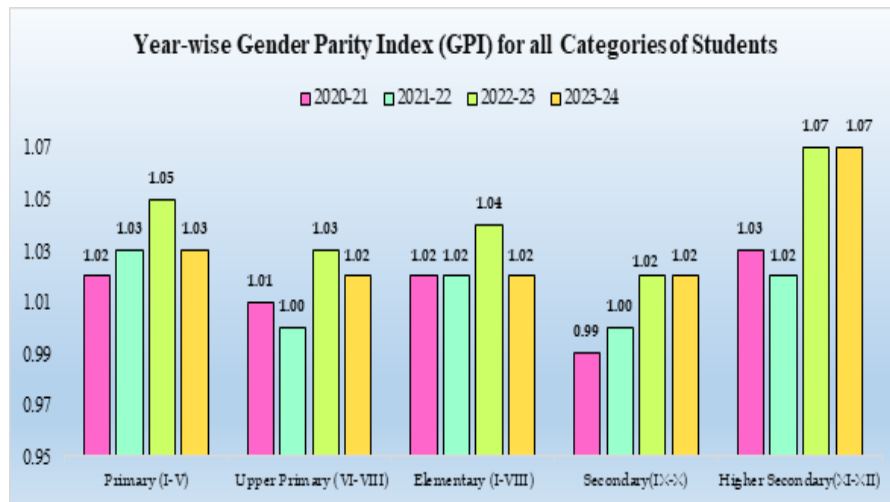


## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Women and Men in India 2024**

- ❖ The 26th edition of 'Women and Men in India 2024: Selected Indicators and Data' was released recently.
- ❖ It provides extensive overview of gender-related indicators across various sectors in India.
- ❖ The LPFR in usual status for ages 15 years and above has improved from 49.8% (2017-18) to 60.1% (2023-24).
- ❖ Women own 39.2% of all bank accounts and contribute to 39.7% of total deposits.
- ❖ Their participation is the highest in rural areas, where they make up 42.2% of account holders.

- ❖ The number of male DEMAT accounts rose from 26.59 million in 2021 to 115.31 million in 2024.
- ❖ Female accounts increased from 6.67 million to 27.71 million during the same period.
- ❖ The total number of electors increased from 173.2 million in 1952 to 978 million in 2024.
- ❖ Female voter turnout varied over the years, reaching 67.2% in 2019 but slightly declining to 65.8% in 2024.



## Project Varsha

**INDIA'S STRATEGIC NAVAL EXPANSION**

India is significantly enhancing its naval capabilities through Project Varsha, a strategic initiative aimed at bolstering its maritime strength in the Bay of Bengal.

This expansion is pivotal for regional security and deterrence against Pakistan and China.



**Project Varsha, a sprawling 1,680-acre naval base, is rapidly taking shape on the Eastern Coast at Rambilli.**

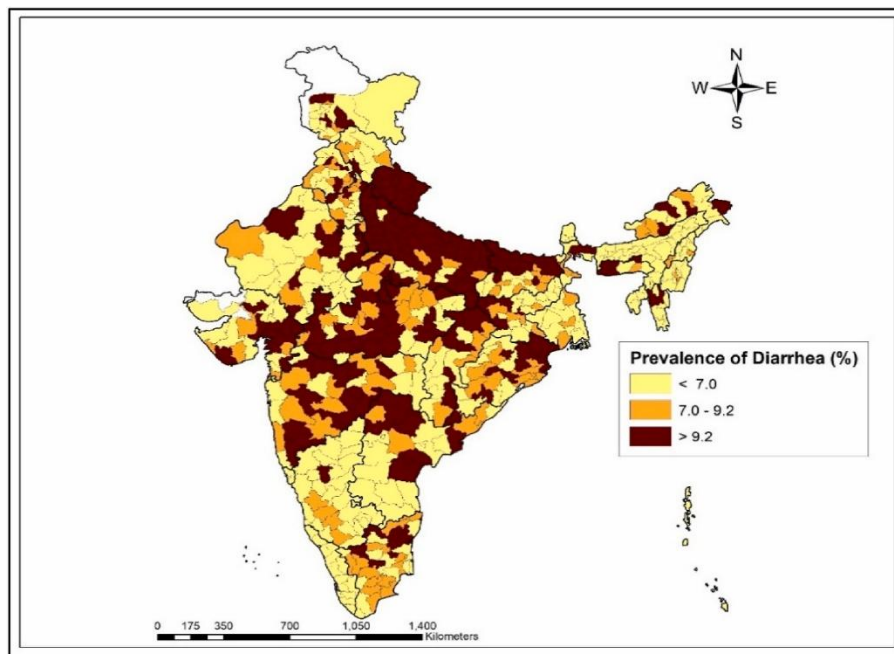
This base is designed to house over 12 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), providing a sanctuary for India's sea-based nuclear deterrent.

- ❖ India is set to establish a new naval base for nuclear submarines and warships in coastal Andhra Pradesh by 2026.
- ❖ The naval base is a part of Project Varsha.

- ❖ The new base will be located near the coastal village of Rambilli.
- ❖ Similar to China's extensive nuclear submarine base at Hainan Island, the water depth at Rambilli will enable submarines to enter and exit the base without being spotted by satellites.
- ❖ Similar to Project Varsha from the east, Karwar base in Karnataka under Project Seabird safeguards the west coast.

### **Diarrhoeal Disease in India**

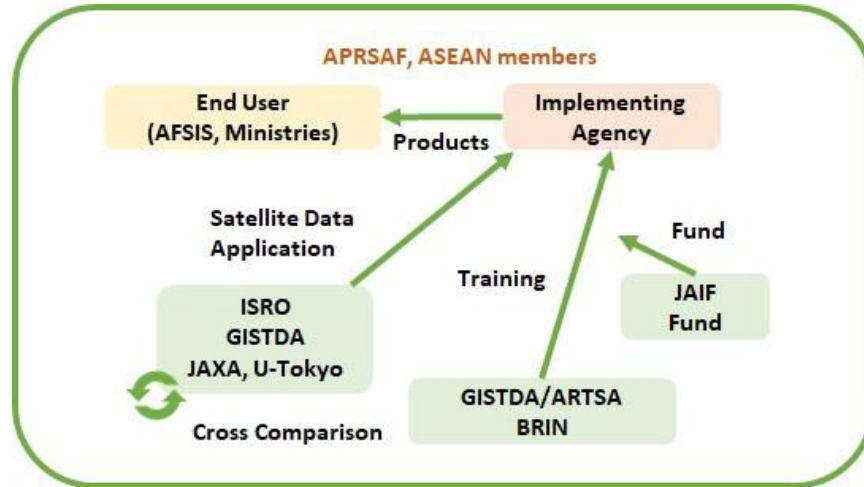
- ❖ According to the WHO diarrhoeal disease is the third-leading cause of death among children aged 1–59 months.
- ❖ It led to 4,43,832 global deaths under five and an additional 50,851 deaths in children aged 5–9 years annually.
- ❖ India bears a significant share of this burden, with 1.7 billion childhood cases each year.
- ❖ The Poor sanitation Issues are affecting 780 million people without safe drinking water and 2.5 billion lacking improved sanitation.



### **SAFE Agromet project**

- ❖ The SAFE Agromet project, led by the ISRO, aims to provide space-based Agro meteorological information to support the monthly Rice Growing Outlook activity.

- ❖ Along with JAXA and GISTDA provided validated space-based agrometeorological (Agromet) information.
- ❖ The activity is carried out under the Space Applications for Environment (SAFE) initiative and conducted during 2020 to 2024.
- ❖ ISRO got appreciation for this project from the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS).



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Baku to Belem Roadmap

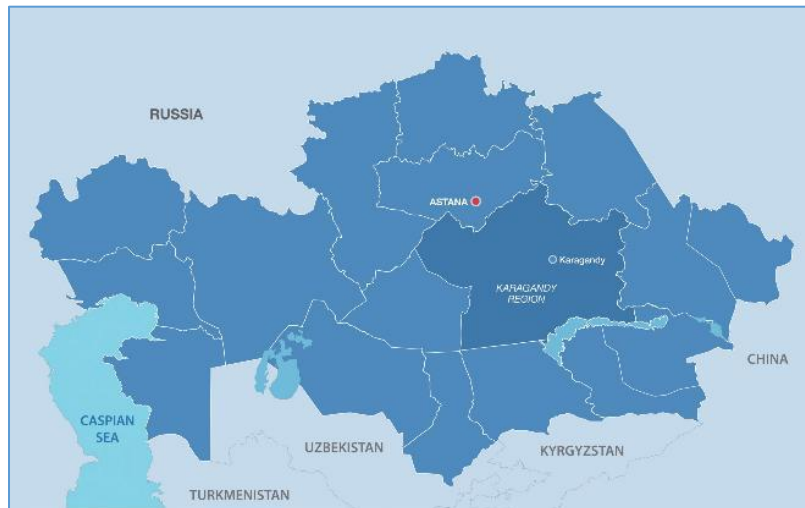
- ❖ The 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held in Brasilia, Brazil.
- ❖ India urged BRICS nations to unite on the 'Baku to Belem Roadmap'.
- ❖ BRICS accounts for 47% of the world's population and 36% of global GDP (PPP).
- ❖ A key focus was the Baku to Belem Roadmap, aimed at securing \$1.3 trillion in climate finance to support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



- ❖ The proposed \$300 billion per year by 2035 under the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance falls significantly short of the \$1.3 trillion target.

### **Karaganda Region - Rare Earth Mineral**

- ❖ Kazakhstan has uncovered its largest rare earth deposit to date, in the Karaganda region.
- ❖ The Preliminary assessments suggest the Irgiz area alone contains approximately 800,000 tons of rare earth metals.
- ❖ The larger Zhana Kazakhstan strata-bound area is projected to hold over 20 million tons of rare earth metals at depths of up to 300 meters.
- ❖ This deposit includes the valuable elements like cerium, lanthanum, neodymium, and yttrium.



### **US Tariff on small islands**

- ❖ US President Donald Trump imposed a highest 50% tariff on goods from Lesotho, a tiny African kingdom.
- ❖ Like the rest of Australia, the Heard and McDonald Islands, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island are now subject to a tariff of 10%.
- ❖ A tariff of 29% was imposed on the Norfolk Island, which is also an Australian territory and has a population of about 2,200 people.
- ❖ The Heard Island, though, is a barren, icy and completely uninhabited - home to Australia's largest and the only active volcano, Big Ben, and mostly covered by glaciers.

- ❖ The islands are listed by the UNESCO World Heritage as a rare example of an ecosystem untouched by external plants, animals or human impact.




## ECONOMY NEWS

### One State, One RRB

### STATUS CHECK

Currently, there are 43 RRBs across India. A look at states where the number of RRBs is more than 1



<p><b>Andhra Pradesh (3)</b> Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Indian Bank</p> <p><b>Uttar Pradesh (3)</b> Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank</p> <p><b>West Bengal (3)</b> Punjab National Bank, UCO Bank, Central Bank of India</p>	<p><b>Bihar (2)</b> Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India</p> <p><b>Gujarat (2)</b> Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India</p> <p><b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir (2)</b> State Bank of India, J&amp;K Bank</p> <p><b>Karnataka (2)</b> Canara Bank</p> <p><b>Madhya Pradesh (2)</b> Bank of India, State Bank of India</p> <p><b>Maharashtra (2)</b> Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India</p> <p><b>Odisha (2)</b> Indian Overseas Bank, State Bank of India</p> <p><b>Rajasthan (2)</b> Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India</p> <p><b>Telangana (2)</b> State Bank of India</p>
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- ❖ The Union government announced the amalgamation of several Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), effective from May 1, 2025.

- ❖ These RRBs will merge into a single entity, inheriting their respective properties, powers, rights, obligations, and duties.
- ❖ The largest public sector lender, the State Bank of India (SBI), sponsors the most number of RRBs (14), followed by Punjab National Bank (nine) and Canara Bank (four).
- ❖ Among the states, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have three RRBs each.
- ❖ The RRBs reported their highest-ever consolidated net profit of Rs 7,571 crore for FY24.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Long-Snouted Vine Snake in India

- ❖ A rare long-snouted vine snake (*Ahaetulla longirostris*) has been rediscovered in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This is the first documented sighting in the state and only the second recorded instance in India.
- ❖ Previously, the *Ahaetulla longirostris* had only been recorded once in Bihar and Odisha last year.
- ❖ The species is commonly found in Southeast Asia.



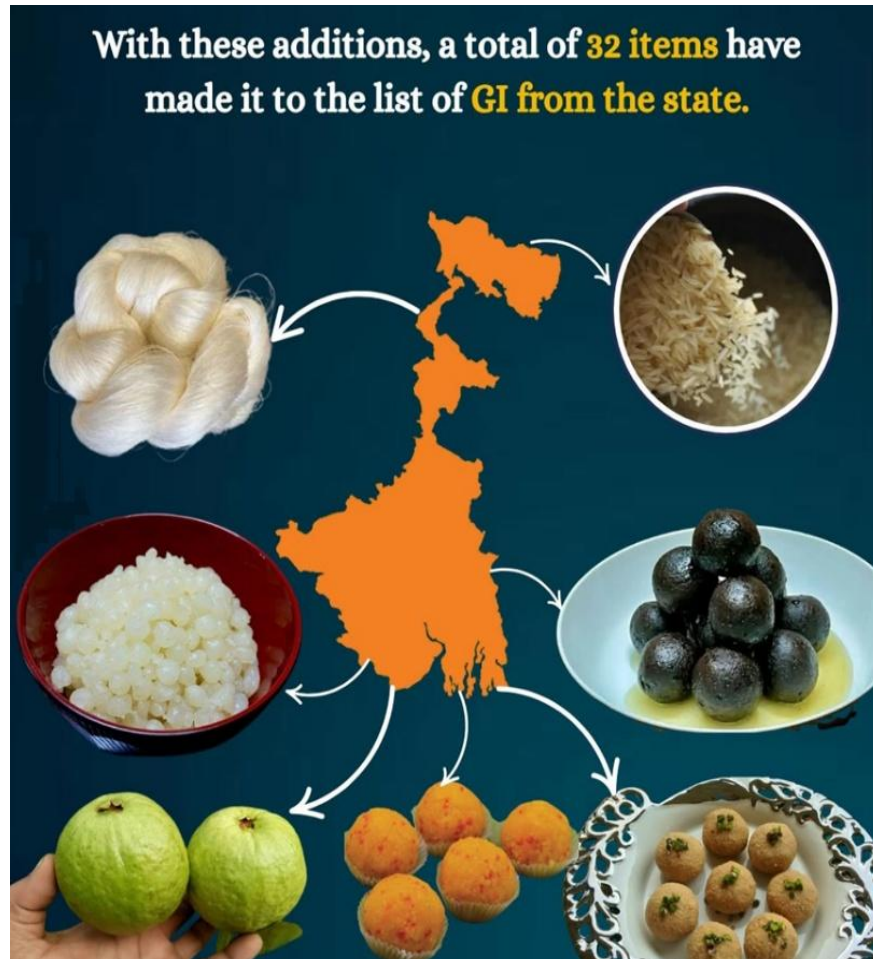
## STATES' NEWS

### 7 GI tags to West Bengal

- ❖ The West Bengal has earned GI tags for seven state products, including the iconic 'Nolen Gurer Sandesh' and Baruipur guavas.



- ❖ The remaining other five items are Kamarpukur's white 'bonde', Murshidabad's 'Chhanabora', Bishnupur's 'motichur laddoo', Radhunipagal rice, and Malda's Nistari silk yarn.
- ❖ The state has so far secured GI tags for 26 other products, spanning from the handicrafts, textiles, tea, food items and art forms.



### **AFSPA Extension in 2025**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in the States of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland for another six months.
- ❖ In Manipur, affected by ethnic violence, the AFSPA has been extended in the whole State, except for the jurisdiction of 13 police stations in five of the State's valley districts.
- ❖ AFSPA was passed by Parliament in September, 1958
- ❖ The AFSPA has been applicable in Manipur since 1981.

- ❖ Both the state and Union governments can issue notifications declaring certain areas as “disturbed”, granting the armed forces the authority under AFSPA.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

**International Mine Awareness Day 2025 - April 04**



- ❖ Mines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices continue to cause death and injury, especially in situations of armed conflict.
- ❖ On average, one person is killed or injured by an explosive device every hour.

- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Safe Futures Start Here”.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### First-ever ancient Greek theater

- ❖ The very first ever ancient Greek theatre has discovered across the entire Ionian Islands in Lefkada, Greece.
- ❖ The theatre was likely built in the 4th century BC, at a time when ancient Lefkada was thriving.
- ❖ It had room for around 3,500 spectators.

