

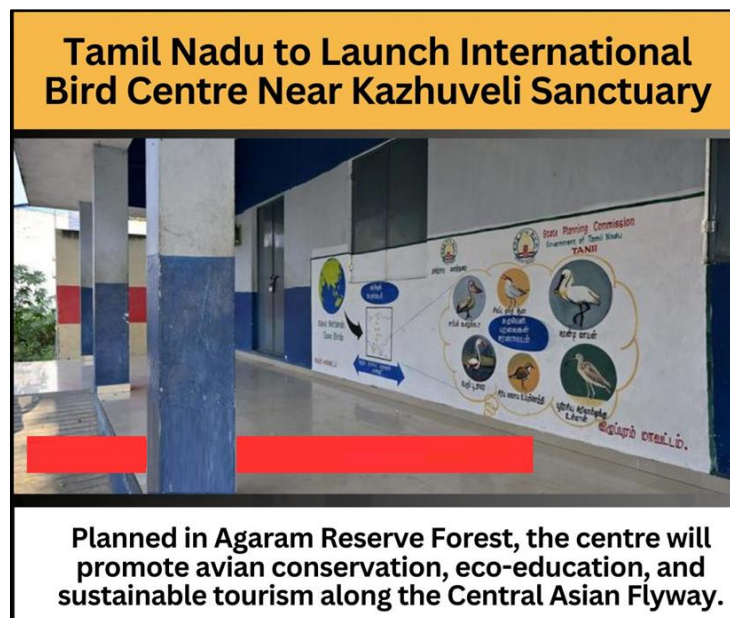
April - 14

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ IIT- Madras's start-up, Plugzmart, has developed a fast EV charger for the heavy vehicles and is the first start-up in India to receive the certification from the Automotive Research Association of India.
- ❖ The Inland Waterways Authority of India has launched a digital portal to facilitate private investment in the development of jetties and terminals on the National Waterways.
- ❖ Bengaluru-based payments infrastructure provider Juspay has become India's first unicorn of 2025 after securing \$60 million funds.
- ❖ Donald Trump had announced a 90-day pause period on the tariff impositions including 26% on India, except China.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### International bird Centre



- ❖ The Villupuram Forest Division is working on a proposal for the establishment of a state-of-the-art international bird centre in Agaram Reserve Forest near Kazhuvveli bird sanctuary.
- ❖ The proposed international bird centre will also include an awareness and interpretation centre, and research-cum-educational facilities with amenities for tourists.

- ❖ The Kazhuveli lake is connected to the Bay of Bengal by the Uppukalli Creek and the Yedayanthittu estuary.
- ❖ It is visited for nesting by migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway.
- ❖ This Ramsar site is the second largest brackish water wetland in Tamil Nadu.

### **ID cards of Sri Lankan refugees**



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to accept the identity cards possessed by Sri Lankan Tamil refugees residing in the State as a valid document for registration of motor vehicles.
- ❖ About 57,300 Sri Lankan refugees from over 19,600 families are living in 103 rehabilitation camps and a special camp located across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ According to a study, 45% of them were born in India.
- ❖ While 41% of them arrived in India between 1988 and 1991, 79% of them have stayed in the country for over 30 years.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **National Waterways Regulations, 2025**

- ❖ Centre introduced of the National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025.
- ❖ It lays out a framework for the private players to invest in the construction and operation of jetties and terminals across India's national waterways network.

- ❖ It has also launched a dedicated digital portal developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to invite the higher private investment in infrastructure development on National Waterways.



**IWAI's**  
**DIGITAL PORTAL**  
**LAUNCHED**

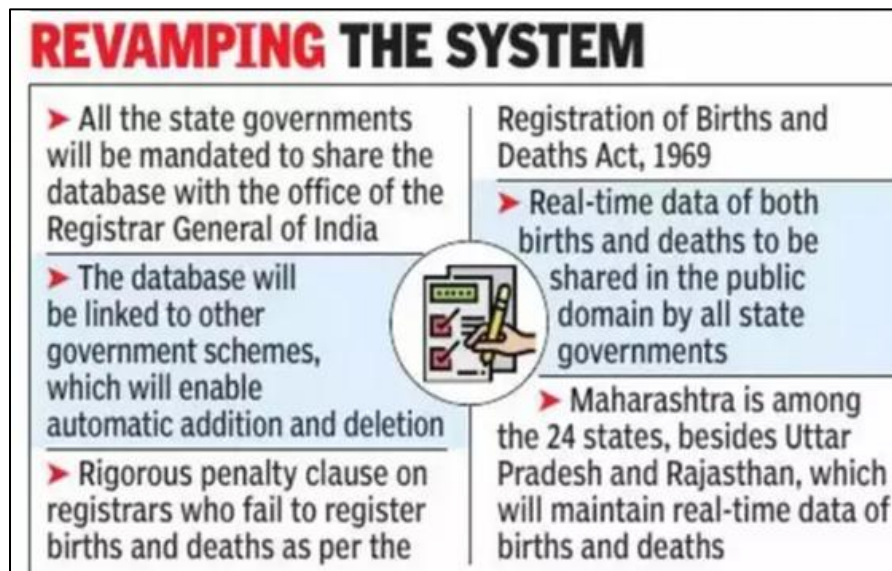
**National Waterways**  
**(Construction of**  
**Jetties/Terminals)**  
**Regulations, 2025**

[www.iwai.nic.in](http://www.iwai.nic.in)

Hon'ble Minister, MoPSW, handed over the first NoC issued through the digital portal to a Mumbai-based private company

This is the first-of-its-kind NoC issued digitally to any private entity for construction of a terminal on a national waterway in the country

## Birth and Death registration



**REVAMPING THE SYSTEM**

- All the state governments will be mandated to share the database with the office of the Registrar General of India
- The database will be linked to other government schemes, which will enable automatic addition and deletion
- Rigorous penalty clause on registrars who fail to register births and deaths as per the

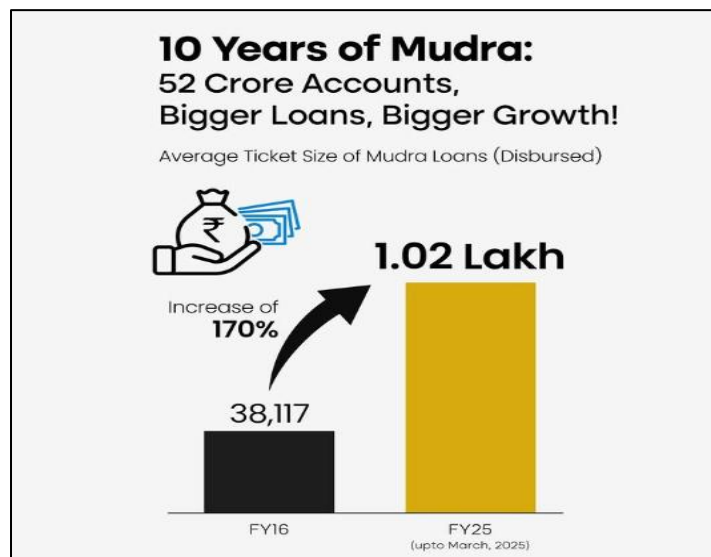
Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969

- Real-time data of both births and deaths to be shared in the public domain by all state governments
- Maharashtra is among the 24 states, besides Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, which will maintain real-time data of births and deaths

- ❖ The Registrar General of India's (RGI) office has mandated the private and the government hospitals that they must report incidents of birth and death within 21 days.
- ❖ 90% of birth or death events are getting registered in India.

- ❖ However, the target of 100% registration of births and deaths is yet to be achieved.
- ❖ As per Section 23(2) of the Registration of Birth and Death (RBD) Act, “negligence by the registrar in registering any birth or death” is punishable with a fine.
- ❖ The RBD Act, 1969, which was amended in 2023, mandates the registration of all births and deaths on the Centre’s portal from October 1, 2023.
- ❖ From October 1, 2023, the digital birth certificate is the single document to prove the date of birth for various services.

### **SBI report on PMMY**



- ❖ Bihar has the largest number of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) women entrepreneurs (4.2 crore), followed by Tamil Nadu (4.0 crore) and West Bengal (3.7 crore).
- ❖ Maharashtra has the largest share of women account holders (79 per cent) in total followed by Jharkhand (75 per cent) and West Bengal (73 per cent)".
- ❖ In the last nine fiscals (FY25 over FY16), while per woman PMMY disbursement amount increased by a CAGR of 13 per cent to Rs 62,679.
- ❖ Nearly half of the 52 crore PMMY accounts belongs to SC/ST and OBC social classes.
- ❖ 68 per cent of total account holders are women entrepreneurs while 11 per cent belongs to minority groups.
- ❖ PMMY, under the Micro Units Development and Refinancing Agency (MUDRA), was set up for development and refinancing activities relating to micro units.



- ❖ PMMY ensures collateral-free institutional credit up to Rs 20 lakh is provided by member lending institutions.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### India-Bangladesh Transshipment Facility

- ❖ India has terminated the trans-shipment facility that allowed export cargo from Bangladesh to third countries using Indian land customs stations enroute to ports and airports.
- ❖ The facility enabled smooth trade flows for Bangladesh's exports to countries like Bhutan, Nepal, and Myanmar.
- ❖ It was provided by India to Bangladesh in June 2020.
- ❖ According to WTO rules, particularly Article V of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, all WTO members are required to allow freedom of transit for goods moving to and from landlocked countries.



## ECONOMY NEWS

### India's Loco manufacturing 2024/25

- ❖ India has produced a record 1,681 locomotives across various categories in the financial year 2024-25.
- ❖ This is also an increase of 209 locomotives, or 19%, compared to the 1,472 loco motives produced in 2023-24.
- ❖ This record-breaking production is the highest ever for locomotive manufacturing in the country.

- ❖ This surpasses the total locomotive production of the regions such as the United States, Europe, South America, Africa, and Australia.
- ❖ Between 2004 and 2014, India produced a total of 4,695 locomotives, with a national annual average of 470.
- ❖ For 2014 to 2024, it surged to 917.

## **India Leads Global Locomotive Production with 1,681 Units**



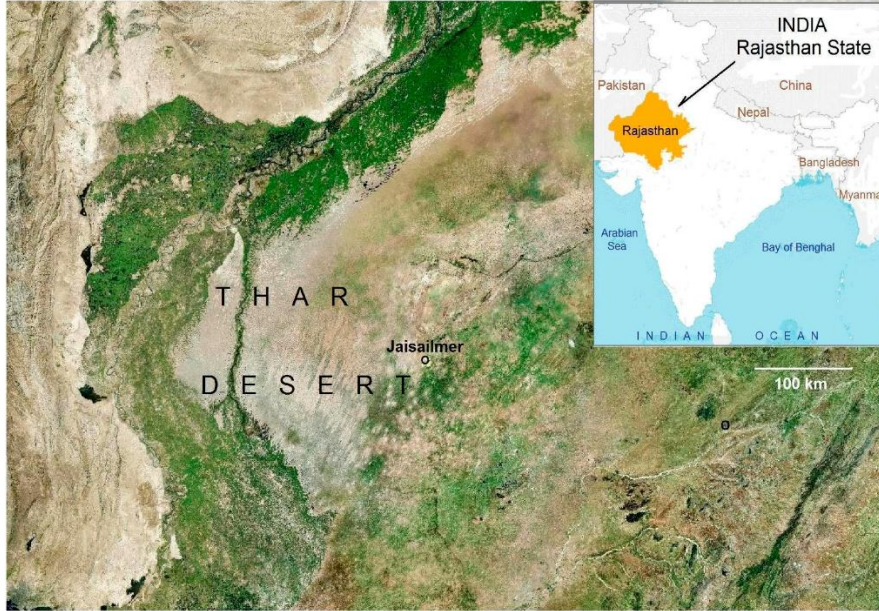
**India achieves a remarkable milestone by producing 1,681 locomotives in FY 2024-25, surpassing the US & Europe in locomotive manufacturing. This achievement marks a significant boost in India's railway infrastructure and manufacturing capabilities.**

## **ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

### **Thar desert greening**

- ❖ The Thar Desert in India saw a striking 38 per cent rise in greening annually over the last two decades.
- ❖ It is driven by a significant increase in the monsoon rainfall and agricultural expansion.
- ❖ Groundwater resources have also contributed significantly to vegetation growth.
- ❖ Thar was the only desert in the world with the highest concurrent increase in population, precipitation and vegetation during the last few decades.
- ❖ Thar region hosts the world's highest population density for a desert.
- ❖ It spans 200,000 square kilometres across the northwestern India (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana) and southeastern Pakistan.

- ❖ The desert experienced a 64 per cent rise in precipitation between 2001 and 2023.
- ❖ Thar showed a 50 per cent to even 800 per cent rise in urban areas during 1985–2020.



## STATES' NEWS

### Rongali Bihu 2025



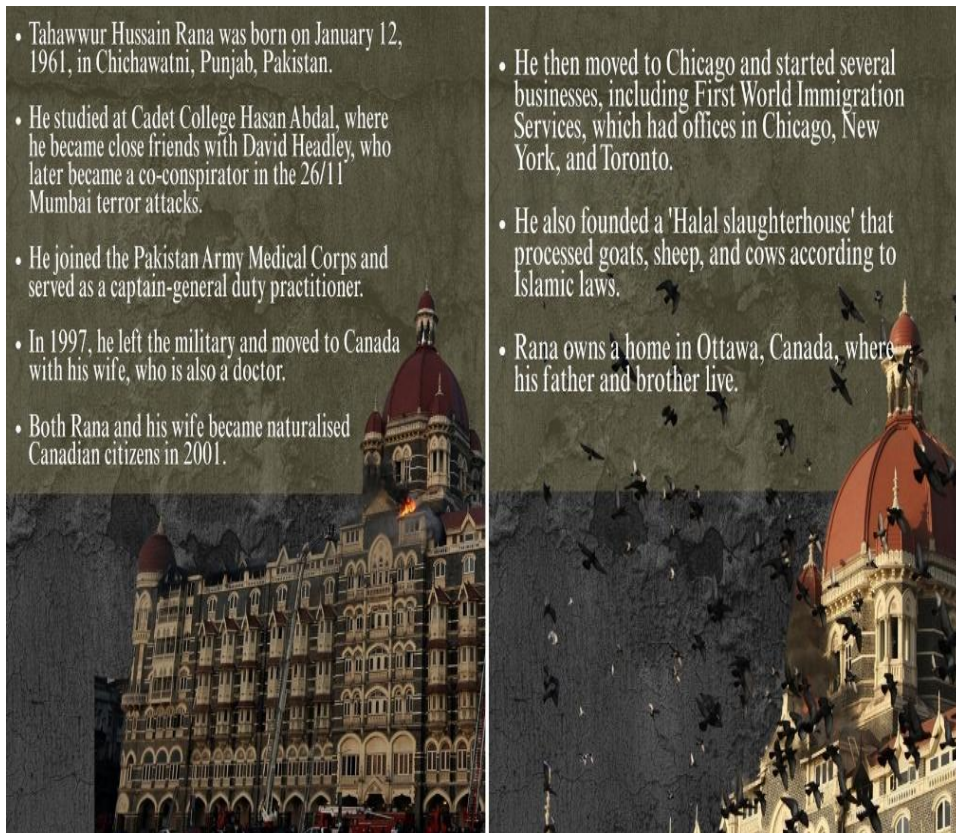
- ❖ The Bohag Bihu, also called the Rongali Bihu or Xaat Bihu, is a traditional Indian celebration primarily observed in Assam and other Northeastern states.



- ❖ The celebration commemorates the Assamese New Year, the arrival of spring, and the beginning of the harvest season.
- ❖ It is celebrated over seven days in Assam.
- ❖ Kati Bihu and Magh Bihu, the other two Bihu festivals, are observed in October and January, respectively.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Tahawwur Hussain Rana



- Tahawwur Hussain Rana was born on January 12, 1961, in Chichawatni, Punjab, Pakistan.
- He studied at Cadet College Hasan Abdal, where he became close friends with David Headley, who later became a co-conspirator in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- He joined the Pakistan Army Medical Corps and served as a captain-general duty practitioner.
- In 1997, he left the military and moved to Canada with his wife, who is also a doctor.
- Both Rana and his wife became naturalised Canadian citizens in 2001.
- He then moved to Chicago and started several businesses, including First World Immigration Services, which had offices in Chicago, New York, and Toronto.
- He also founded a 'Halal slaughterhouse' that processed goats, sheep, and cows according to Islamic laws.
- Rana owns a home in Ottawa, Canada, where his father and brother live.

- ❖ India is preparing for the trial of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who was extradited by the United States this week.
- ❖ Rana, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, had earlier worked as a doctor for the Pakistan Army.
- ❖ He is facing charges for his role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks in which over 160 people died.
- ❖ While Rana was not convicted for the Mumbai attacks in the U.S. trial, he was convicted for his LeT terror links and involvement in the Copenhagen conspiracy.



- ❖ In 2013, Rana was also sentenced to 14 years in jail but was released in 2020 on health grounds.
- ❖ He was re-arrested later that year after India's extradition request.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### **Airtel's 2Africa Pearls subsea cable**



- ❖ Bharti Airtel has brought the submarine cable system 2Africa Pearls to the Indian shores.
- ❖ It will be connecting the country's communication network with Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.
- ❖ 2Africa Pearls cable system will bring over 100 tbps (terabits per second) of the international capacity to India.
- ❖ The submarine cables are a key infrastructure that connect countries with each other for broadband services.
- ❖ There are around 650 submarine cable systems across the world, of which 570 are estimated to be operational.
- ❖ Airtel is the landing partner for the 2Africa Pearls cable in India.
- ❖ 2Africa Pearls is a part of the 2Africa cable system will be the world's longest subsea cable system when completed.



- ❖ It will be spanning over 45,000 kilometres connecting Asia to Africa and Europe through the Middle East.

