

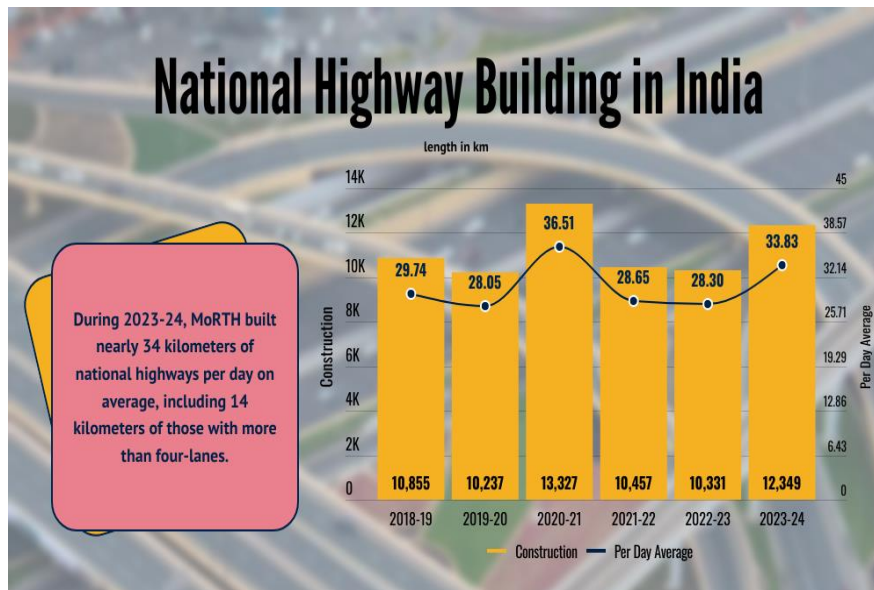
April - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Supreme Court has appointed Justice Aniruddha Bose as the Director of The National Judicial Academy (NJAC), Bhopal.
- ❖ The Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Hari Kumar has awarded 'On the Spot Unit Citation' to INS Sharda, for the successful conduct of anti-piracy operations.
  - The ship was involved in the safe release of all 19 crew members (11 Iranian and 8 Pakistani) of Iranian fishing vessel named Omari.
- ❖ Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital has got prestigious recognition by winning the Best Scientific Poster Award for the year 2024.
- ❖ HDFC Bank becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep
- ❖ The International Day for Street Children is observed on April 12 every year to raising awareness about the plight of street children and to promoting their inclusion and well-being.

## NATIONAL

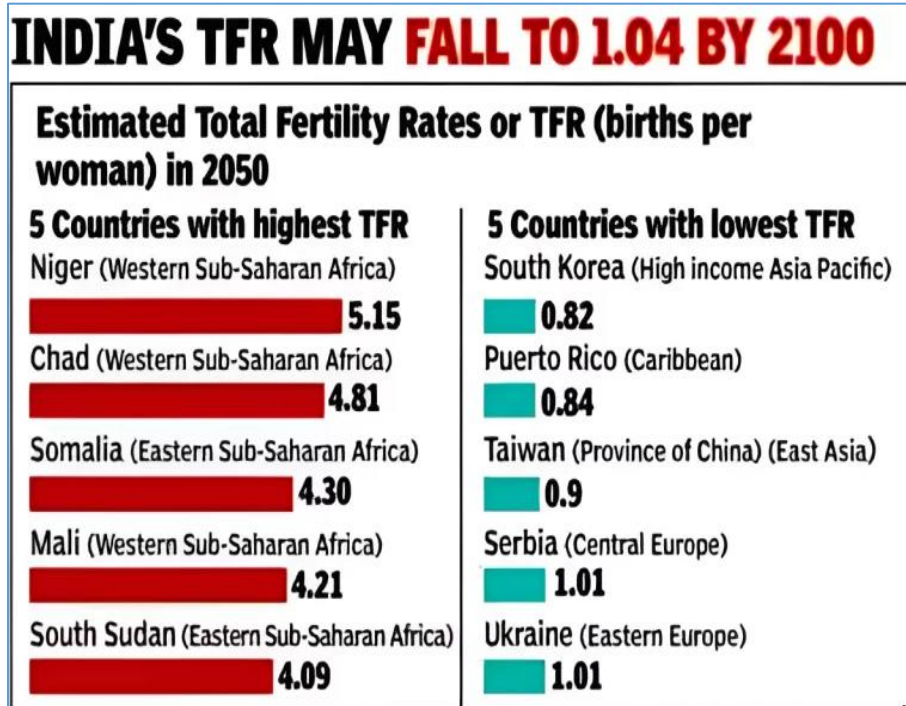
### Highways in FY 2024



- ❖ Highway construction in the concluded financial year (FY24) touched 12349 km.
- ❖ This is the second-best performance ever, but fell short of the 'aspirational target' of 13814 km.

- ❖ The highway building in 2023-24 was up 20% as compared to 2022-23.
- ❖ The ministry was able to spend 99.98% of its revised capital expenditure allocation of Rs 2,64,525 crore last year.
- ❖ It is again the best ever performance in terms of utilisation of allocated budget. In 2022-23 this figure was 99.18%.
- ❖ The government's plan is to have 50,000 km of expressways in the country functional.
- ❖ At present 4,000 km of expressways are already functional and construction work of 6.000 km more is in progress.

### Status on total fertility rate - Lancet report



- ❖ By 2050, one in five Indians will be a senior citizen while there will be fewer younger people to take care of them.
- ❖ By 2050 the share of senior citizens in India will be more than 20 per cent, that is one five people
- ❖ India's total fertility rate (TFR) — the average number of children born per woman — is dipping irreversibly to 1.29, far lower than the replacement rate of 2.1.
- ❖ The TFR has more than halved in the last 70 years – from around five children for each woman in 1950 to 2.2 children in 2021.

- ❖ In India, the TFR was 6.18 in 1950 which reduced to 4.60 in 1980 and further declined to 1.91 in 2021.
- ❖ By 2050, 155 of 204 countries (76 per cent of the world) will be below the replacement level of fertility.

## INTERNATIONAL

### International Narcotics Control Board



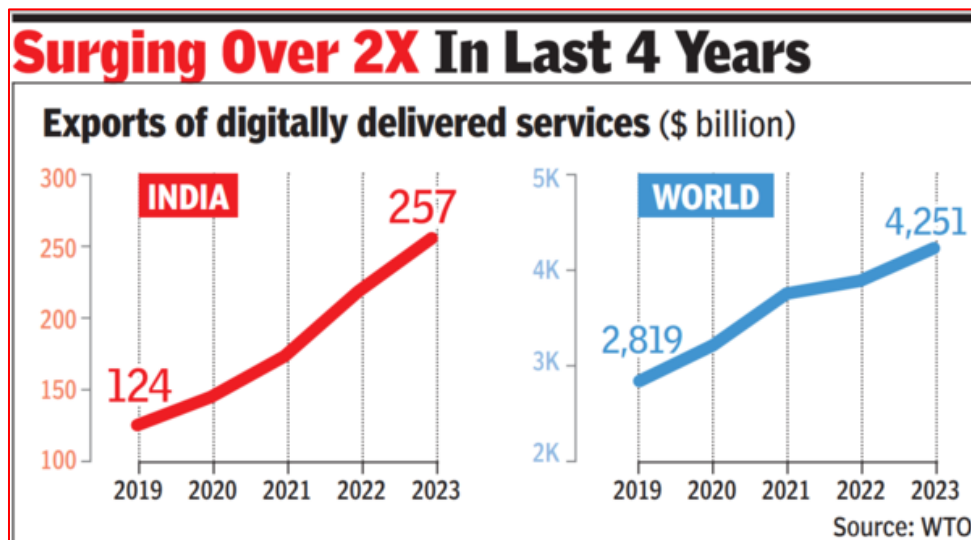
- ❖ India's Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected for a third term to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) after garnering the highest number of votes.
- ❖ She was re-elected to the INCB for the third term for five years from March 2025-2030.
- ❖ India was also elected to the
  - Commission on the Status of Women for the term 2025-2029;
  - Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for the term 2025-2027;
  - Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund
  - The United Nations Office for Project Services for 2025-2027
  - Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the 2025-2027 term and

- The Executive Board of the World Food Programme for the 2025-2027 term.

## ECONOMY

### 4<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of digital services

- ❖ According to WTO estimates, global exports of digitally delivered services rose to \$4.25 trillion in 2023, up 9 per cent year-on-year.
- ❖ It is accounting for 13.8 per cent of world exports of goods and services.
- ❖ India registered a 17 per cent jump in the export of digitally delivered services to a staggering \$257 billion.
- ❖ With this, the country become the world's fourth-largest exporter in the segment.
- ❖ India's growth rate was much higher than the 4 per cent increase posted by China and Germany.



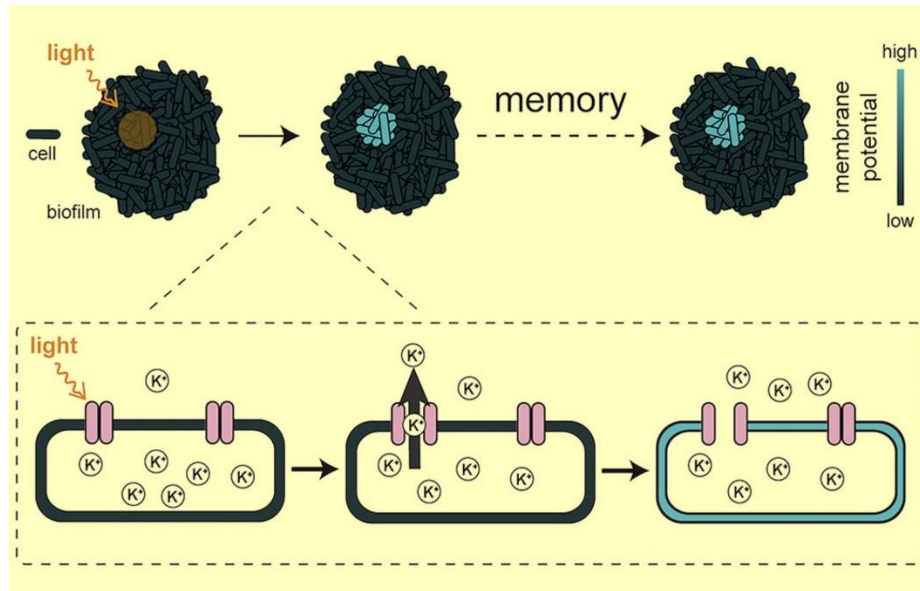
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Bacterial Memory and recalling

- ❖ The Researchers have uncovered a potential memory system in the well-studied bacterium *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*).
- ❖ Despite lacking a brain or nervous system, it seems capable of forming memories of past experiences and passing them down to subsequent generations.
- ❖ They can gather and store information from their environment, later accessing it for their advantage.



- ❖ Contrary to conscious human memory, this bacterial memory system impacts decision-making based on prior encounters.



## Coordinated Lunar Time



- ❖ US Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has asked the international agencies to establish a moon-centric time reference system.
- ❖ Nasa has until the end of 2026 to set up what is being called Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC).
- ❖ It's not quite a time zone like those on Earth, but an entire frame of time reference for the moon.

- ❖ Because there's less gravity on the moon, time there moves a tad more quickly – 58.7 microseconds every day – compared with on Earth.
- ❖ LTC would provide a time-keeping benchmark for lunar spacecraft and satellites that require extreme precision for their missions.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Sagar samman awards 2024



- ❖ During the 61st National Maritime Day, Sagar Samman Awards were awarded to acknowledge exemplary contributions within the maritime sector.
- ❖ The winners are
  - Sagar Samman Varuna Award: Shri. Dhirendra Kumar Sanyal
  - Sagar Samman Award for Excellence: Capt. Kamal Kant Choudhury
  - Sagar Samman Award for Gallantry: Capt. Subir Saha, Capt. OM Dutta.
- ❖ For post-sea training institutes conducting Competency Courses,
  - The Hindustan Institute of Maritime Training, Tidal Park, Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai clinched the 1<sup>st</sup> Rank,
  - Hindustan Institute of Maritime Training, Kilpauk, Chennai secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rank, and
  - FOSMA Maritime Institute and Research Organisations, Kolkata attained the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank.



- ❖ Over the last 9 years, the number of seafarers has increased by 140%.
- ❖ In 2014, the total count of active Indian Seafarers was 117,090 which are 280,000 in 2023.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of Human Space Flight 2024 - April 12

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to establish this day.
- ❖ This day is commemorated every year to mark the beginning of the space era for mankind.
- ❖ On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin from the Soviet Union became the first human to travel around the earth in space.
- ❖ Later, on June 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person on Earth to set foot on the moon.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Encourage Scientific Curiosity'.



### Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 2024 - April 13

- ❖ The Jallianwala Bagh massacre happened in Amritsar, Punjab on April 13, 1919.
- ❖ Thousands of peaceful Indian protestors had gathered to celebrate the spring festival of Baisakhi.
- ❖ The area was surrounded by walls on all sides and had only one narrow entrance.



- ❖ Without warning, Brigadier General Reginald Dyer, marched into Jallianwala Bagh with fifty armed soldiers and ordered them to open fire on the crowd.
- ❖ The firing continued for approximately 10 minutes, killing an estimated 379 people and injuring over a thousand more.

The **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** took place on Apr 13 in 1919

## THE MASSACRE THAT STUNNED INDIA

Non-violent protesters, including women & children, had gathered to protest against the arrest of two leaders — Dr Satyapal & Dr Saifuddin

On the orders of Brigadier-General Dyer, 1,650 rounds were fired on the crowd for **10 minutes**

**About 1,000 died** & many thousands were injured

**120 bodies** were removed from a well that people had jumped in to escape

**A curfew was declared** after the shooting because of which many wounded couldn't get medical attention & died

