

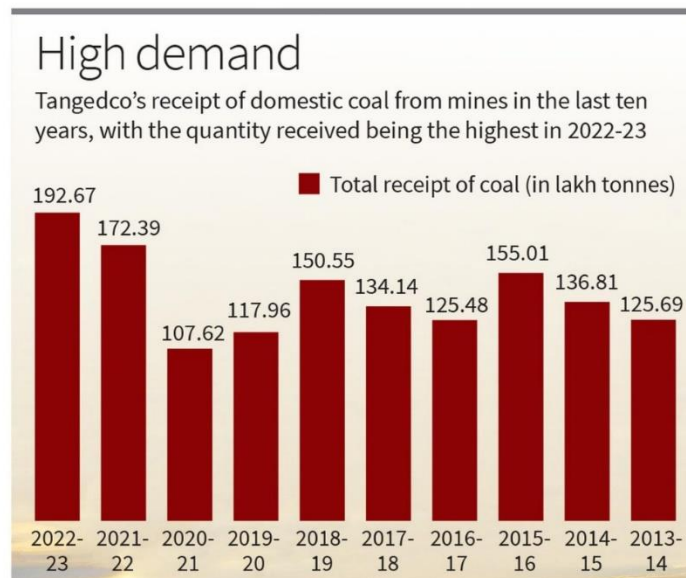
April - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Supreme Court has initiated steps towards inclusive infrastructure and sexuality sensitisation for LGBTQIA+ community within the premises to ensure a dignified work environment at the apex court.
 - Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy had been inducted as a member of Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC).
- ❖ The Union Home ministry announced the examinations to recruit constables in Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) will be conducted in 13 regional languages.
 - The question paper will be set in Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani languages.
- ❖ The G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) is being organized at Varanasi by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.
- ❖ The World Voice Day is an annual event celebrated on April 16th to raise awareness about the importance of voice in our daily lives.

TAMIL NADU

TANGEDCO Domestic coal receipt



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd. (TANGEDCO) received 192.67 lakh tonnes of domestic coal during 2022-23.



- ❖ This is the highest quantum in the last 10 years.
- ❖ During 2022-23, the receipt of coal from Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd mines is 178.64 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ The receipt from Singareni Collieries Company Limited is about 14.03 lakh tonnes.

Justice K. Chandru committee



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a single member committee headed by retired Madras High Court judge K. Chandru.
- ❖ It is tasked to recommend the measures for effective administration of the homes functioning as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015.
- ❖ He will study and make recommendations regarding infrastructure, health, nutrition, staff requirement, after care issues and stakeholder participation.

Tamilnadu Backward Classes Commission extension

- ❖ The state's backward classes commission headed by Justice Thiru V. Bharathidasan has sought six months to submit a report regarding the contentious 10.5% reservation for the Vanniyar community within the quota for most backward classes.

- ❖ Now, based on the commission's request, the time to submit a report has been extended.
- ❖ This 10.5% internal reservation in Tamil Nadu was introduced by the AIADMK on 26 February 2021.
- ❖ The 10.5% internal quota was applicable in public education and employment.
- ❖ In November 2021, the Madras HC held the quota for Vanniyars as unconstitutional and later, Supreme Court also upheld the same.

HOW THINGS UNFOLDED

June 13, 2012 | M S Janarthanam, the chairman of backward classes commission, **recommends to government that separate quota may be provided to the extent of 10.5% for Vanniakula Kshatriyas**


Dec 21, 2020 | The state government constitutes a commission **to collect quantifiable data on castes, communities and tribes of Tamil Nadu and submit a report in six months**

Feb 22, 2021 | M Thanikachalam, the present chairman of the backward classes commission **refers to the recommendation of his predecessor to provide 10.5% within the 20% MBC quota**

Feb 26, 2021 | The AIADMK regime passes a bill to provide 10.5% quota for MBC (vanniyars), MBC having similarity with denotified communities, 7%, and MBC not included in the above categories, 2.5%. **The state gets**

the governor's approval the same day

July 26, 2021 | The DMK government issues an order **to implement the special quota for vanniyars in education and employment with retrospective effect from February 26**



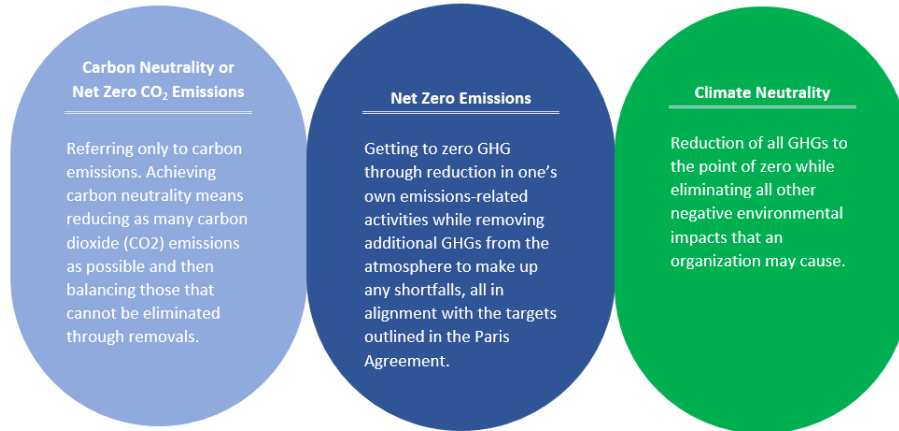
Ancient rock art site Nilgiris



- ❖ An ancient rock art site near Jackanarai village in Kotagiri Block, was discovered recently.
- ❖ This has depiction around 40 abstract rock paintings.
- ❖ The red-ochre art, comprise abstract geometrical images, mostly lines, anthropomorphic figures and what could be depictions of weaponry.

- ❖ This could be the 16th such site recorded in the district.
- ❖ It may have cultural link with local Kurumba tribe.

New 'carbon-neutral' hubs



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has selected Rajapalayam and Rameswaram to be made 'carbon-neutral hubs'.
- ❖ Rajapalayam is strategically situated at the foothills of the pristine Western Ghats, with reserved forests.
- ❖ It is also part of an important catchment for the upper Vaippar river basin.
- ❖ Rameswaram, a spiritual destination, attracts thousands of tourists every day.
- ❖ To achieve carbon-neutrality, the government has planned to take following steps:
 - Establishing bio-CNG plants for wet waste processing,
 - Promoting a low-emission lifestyle through land use planning,
 - Removal of accumulated waste through biomining, and
 - Increasing low-emission transport systems.
- ❖ It will also work for increasing the carbon sink through afforestation.
- ❖ It establishing material recovery facilities to reduce ocean-bound plastic.

NATIONAL

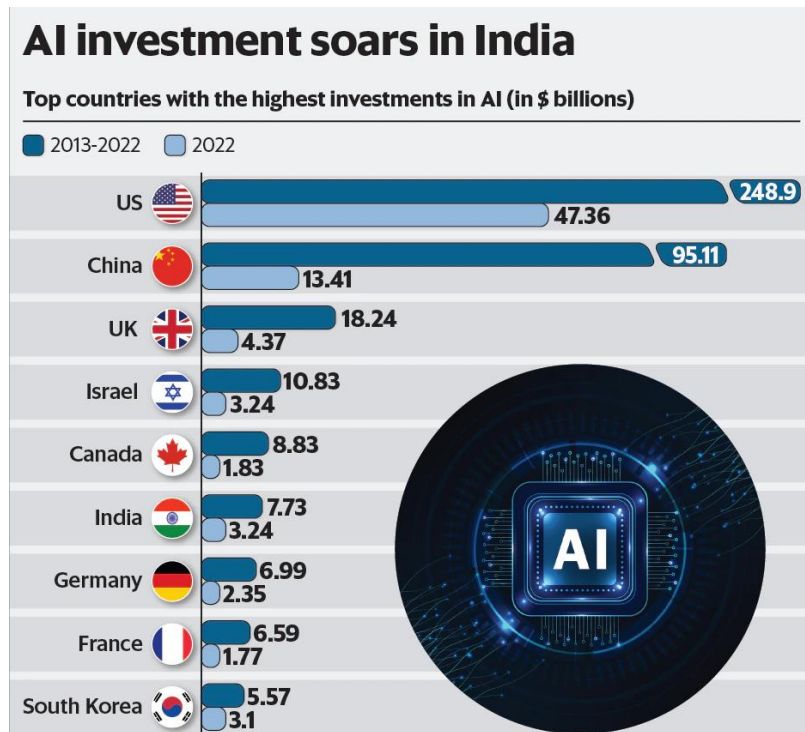
Constitution Bench for same-sex marriage case

- ❖ The Supreme Court formed a new Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud to hear a series of petitions seeking legal recognition of same sex marriages.

- ❖ The other four Associate Judges on the Bench are Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S. Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P.S. Narasimha.
- ❖ Article 145(3) mandates that cases involving substantial questions and interpretation of the Constitution should be heard by a Bench of at least five judges.



5th investor in AI



- ❖ India ranked fifth in terms of investments received by startups offering artificial intelligence (AI)-based products and services last year.

- ❖ Total investments in AI startups in India stood at \$3.24 billion in 2022.
- ❖ Thus, India is ahead of South Korea, Germany, Canada and Australia, among others.
- ❖ Those ahead of India in the list are the US, China, the UK and Israel.

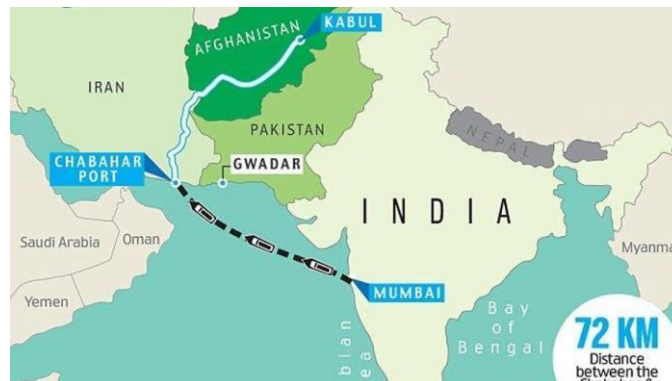
RAPIDX Rail Service



- ❖ India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services have been named as 'RAPIDX' by the NCRTC.
- ❖ The trains will run on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors.
- ❖ It will be implemented to connect key urban nodes across the National Capital Region.
- ❖ The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is a joint venture company of the Union government and states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

INTERNATIONAL

Joint working group meet on Chabahar port



- ❖ The first meeting of the India-Central Asia Joint Working Group on Chabahar Port held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The two-day meeting was attended by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ The special invitees were the country representative of the UNWFP, the deputy foreign minister of Iran and the consul general of Afghanistan.

ECONOMY

India's biggest trading partner



US emerges as India's biggest trading partner in FY23 at USD 128.55 bn.

- ❖ US emerges as India's biggest trading partner in FY23 at USD 128.55 bn.
- ❖ The bilateral trade between India and the US has increased by 7.65% in 2022-23.
- ❖ It was USD 80.51 billion in 2020-21.

Miniratna Category-I for SECI

- ❖ State-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) has got the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise.
- ❖ It was Incorporated in 2011.
- ❖ SECI is the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes/projects of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- ❖ Criteria for Miniratna- I status
 - The CPSEs have made a profit in the last three years continuously,
 - With a pre-tax profit is 30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and
 - Need to have a positive net worth.



New Logo of SEBI



- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) unveiled its new logo.
- ❖ This is released during its 35th Foundation Day.

- ❖ The new logo represents SEBI's commitment to facilitating economic growth through capital formation.
- ❖ It is also incorporating the power of technology and data into policy-making.
- ❖ SEBI was granted statutory powers in 1992.

STATES

India's 1st 3D printed post office



- ❖ Bengaluru will soon have India's first post office built out of 3D printing technology.
- ❖ The 1,000-square-foot building will cost 25 lakh rupees to set up, reducing the final cost by 25%.
- ❖ This will function the same as normal post offices.

New GI tag of Madhya Pradesh Products

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's Products such as Gond Painting, Sharbati Wheat get GI Tag.
- ❖ Gond painting is traditional art of Madhya Pradesh and belong to the Gond tribe.
- ❖ Patangarh village of Dindori district is famous for gond paintings.
- ❖ Shabarti wheat is a regional variety of wheat grown in Sehore and vidisha districts.

- ❖ It helps in excess of 300 proteins in the body to utilize insulin and glucose emission.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Femina Miss India 2023



- ❖ The 59th edition of the Femina Miss India was Organised for the first time in Manipur.
- ❖ Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta was crowned Femina Miss India World 2023.
- ❖ Now, she will represent India at the Miss World contest.

- ❖ Delhi's Shreya Poonja became the first runner-up.
- ❖ Manipur's Thounaojam Strela Luwang was crowned as the 2nd runner-up.
- ❖ The 71st edition of the Miss World pageant will be held in the United Arab Emirates this year.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Thirunangaiyar Day - April 15



- ❖ Tamilnadu government observes thirunangaiyar day on April 15.
- ❖ On this day, Tamil Nadu established the country's first welfare Board in 2008.
- ❖ In 2006, the Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi replaced the former title of 'aravani' and replaced it with the more dignified 'Thirunangai'
- ❖ A welfare Board set up with this name under the Social Welfare department.
- ❖ During this year observation, Chief Minister handed over the State-level award for 'Thirunangaiyar' to transperson P. Aishwarya from Vellore district.
- ❖ She has served the transperson community for the past 22 years and has been creating awareness about them through folklore and drama.
- ❖ Grace Banu and Marlina Muralitharan received this award in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

75th foundation of Himachal Pradesh - April 15

- ❖ The province of Himachal Pradesh was organised on 15 April 1948 as a Chief Commissioner's State.

- ❖ This time the State level function was held at Kaza in the tribal Lahul-Spiti district.
- ❖ Later on, the 25th of January 1950, Himachal was made a 'C' category State.
- ❖ On 1st of November, 1956, Himachal Pradesh was declared a Union Territory.
- ❖ In 1966, the hilly areas of Punjab were included in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ On the 18th of December 1970, Parliament passed the Himachal Pradesh Act.
- ❖ On the 25th of January 1971, Himachal Pradesh came into existence as a full-fledged State and became the 18th State of the country.



World Art Day - April 15

- ❖ It aims to honour the contributions of artists and promote the importance of art in our lives.
- ❖ The International Association of Art, a partner of UNESCO, created this day to promote creative activity around the world.

- ❖ This day marks the birthday of the famous artist, Leonardo da Vinci, who is regarded as one of the greatest artists of all time.
- ❖ The first World Art Day was celebrated on April 15, 2012.



Save the Elephant Day - April 16



- ❖ It aims to promote awareness of the issues faced by elephants and inspire efforts to protect these majestic animals.



- ❖ The African bush elephants and Asian elephants are both listed as endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ African forest elephants are classed as critically endangered.

