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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The high energy physics group from the department of physics, the University of Jammu, was recognised as part of the international team awarded the Break through Prize 2025 in Fundamental Physics — referred to as the “Oscars of the Science”.
- ❖ The sixth edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise Dustlik has been commenced in Pune.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

PwD reservations in Local Bodies

- 1 கிராம ஊராட்சி, ஊராட்சி ஒன்றியக் குழு மற்றும் மாவட்ட ஊராட்சி ஆகிய ஊரக உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளில் தலா ஒரு மாற்றுத்திறனாளி நியமன கவுன்சிலராக முடியும்
- 2 மாநகராட்சி, நகராட்சி, பேரூராட்சி ஆகிய நகரப்புற உள்ளாட்சிகளிலும் தலா ஒருவருக்கு நியமனப் பதவி. 100க்கும் அதிகமான உறுப்பினர்கள் கொண்ட மாநகராட்சியில் 2 மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகள் நியமனம்
- 3 நியமன உறுப்பினர்களான மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளின் பதவிக் காலம், மற்ற உறுப்பினர்களின் பதவிக் காலத்திற்கு இணையானது
- 4 தேர்தல் மூலம் தேர்வான உறுப்பினர்களுக்கு உண்டான உரிமைகள், கடமைகள் ஆகியவை, நியமன மாற்றுத் திறன் உறுப்பினர்களுக்கும் உண்டு. எனினும், அவையில் வாக்களிக்கும் உரிமை இருக்காது
- 5 தற்போது நகரப்புற உள்ளாட்சிகளில் 35 பேர் மட்டுமே மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகள். புதிய சட்டம் மூலம் இது 650 ஆக உயரும். மேலும், ஊரக உள்ளாட்சி அமைப்புகளில் 13,268 மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளுக்கு பதவி கிடைக்கும்.

- ❖ The CM Stalin introduced two Bills on nomination of persons with disabilities to all local bodies in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ One Bill was introduced on behalf of the Municipal Administration Department.



- ❖ It sought to give effect to the State government's decision to nominate the persons with disabilities to all the town panchayats, municipal councils, and municipal corporations by amending the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.
- ❖ Another Bill was introduced on behalf of Rural Development Department.
- ❖ It sought to give effect to the government's decision to nominate one person with disabilities to all the village panchayats, panchayat union councils, and district panchayats by amending the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.
- ❖ At present, out of the elected representatives, there were only 35 PwDs in urban local bodies.
- ❖ Once the Bills are enacted, about 650 differently abled persons in urban local bodies, 12,913 differently abled persons in village panchayats, 388 differently abled persons in panchayat unions, 37 differently abled persons in district panchayats will be appointed.
- ❖ One person with disability will be nominated as a member by the government in the municipal corporation.
- ❖ In the municipal council councils with more than 100 members, two persons with disabilities (PwDs) will be nominated by the director.
- ❖ The tenure of the nominees will align with the term of the respective council.
- ❖ They will be entitled to receive honoraria, fees, or the allowances similar to those granted to elected councillors.
- ❖ However, their representation will end if the elected council is dissolved.
- ❖ Notably, the nominees will not have voting rights in any council proceedings.
- ❖ The bills align with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities, 2006.

NATIONAL NEWS

India Justice Report 2025

- ❖ Southern states of India are performing the best when it comes to policing, justice delivery and prison management, according to the fourth India Justice Report.
- ❖ All the top spots in the large and mid-sized category were taken by the southern states - Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The West Bengal came at the bottom of the table, followed by the Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.
- ❖ Among the seven small states, Sikkim was the best-performer, while Goa was the laggard.

- ❖ The performance of states on the four pillars of justice -- police, prisons, judiciary and legal aid -- was considered for the ranking.
- ❖ The report highlights areas where states are making headway or falling behind in the process of fighting crime and in justice delivery.
- ❖ Nationally, the police-population ratio remained stagnant at 155 police personnel per 100,000 population, significantly below the sanctioned strength of 197.5.
- ❖ Bihar had the worst police-to-population ratio, at just 81 police per lakh people.
- ❖ In terms of providing a legal aid, Haryana has made the most improvement since the last edition of the report published in 2022.
- ❖ Over the last decade, the prison populations have surged by nearly 50%.
- ❖ The India Justice Report, started under the aegis of the Tata Trusts, brought out its first report in 2019.



Next CJI of India - BR Gavai

- ❖ The Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna recommended Justice B.R. Gavai to the government for appointment as the 52nd Chief Justice of India.
- ❖ Chief Justice Khanna is scheduled to retire on May 13.

- ❖ He was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019 and is due to retire on November 23, 2025.
- ❖ Gavai's father, Ramakrishna Suryabhan Gavai, also known as 'Dadasaheb', was a former Governor of Bihar.
- ❖ Justice B R Gavai is set to become India's second Chief Justice from the Dalit community, following CJI K G Balakrishnan (2007-2010).



Operation Chakra V



- ❖ The CBI has arrested four people, two each from Mumbai and Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh), for their alleged involvement in 'Digital Arrests' fraud.

- ❖ The arrests were made as part of the ‘Operation Chakra V’ followed searches at 12 locations.
- ❖ In this scam, the fraudsters make phone/video calls to the prospective targets, posing as officials from various law enforcement and regulating agencies such as RBI.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China’s Exports Rare Earth Elements

Rare Elements China Restricted for Exports	Samarium Headphones, Optical laser, Nuclear reactors	Gadolinium Making magnets, diagnosing cancerous tumors, data storage	Terbium Low-energy lightbulbs, mercury lamps, medical X-rays
	Dysprosium Wind turbines, electrical vehicles, nuclear reactor control rods	Lutetium Cancer therapies, electronics, cracking hydrocarbons	Scandium Russian MIG fighter planes, high-end bicycle frames and baseball bats

- ❖ China announced restrictions on the export of the seven “rare earths” on April 4, soon after US President Donald Trump decided to impose tariffs.
- ❖ These elements are crucial for manufacturing high-value goods, including in the fields of defence and clean energy.
- ❖ Since the 1990s, China has held an unrivalled dominance over the rare earths, supplying 85 to 95 per cent of the world’s demand.
- ❖ Rare Earth Elements or Rare Earth Metals are a set of 17 chemical elements in the periodic table.
- ❖ Ores of rare earth oxide are found in China, Russia, the United States, India, and Australia (in descending order).

- ❖ But China dwarfs' others in production and refining.
- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that China accounts for about 61% of rare earth production and 92% of their processing.

Draft pandemic treaty 2025

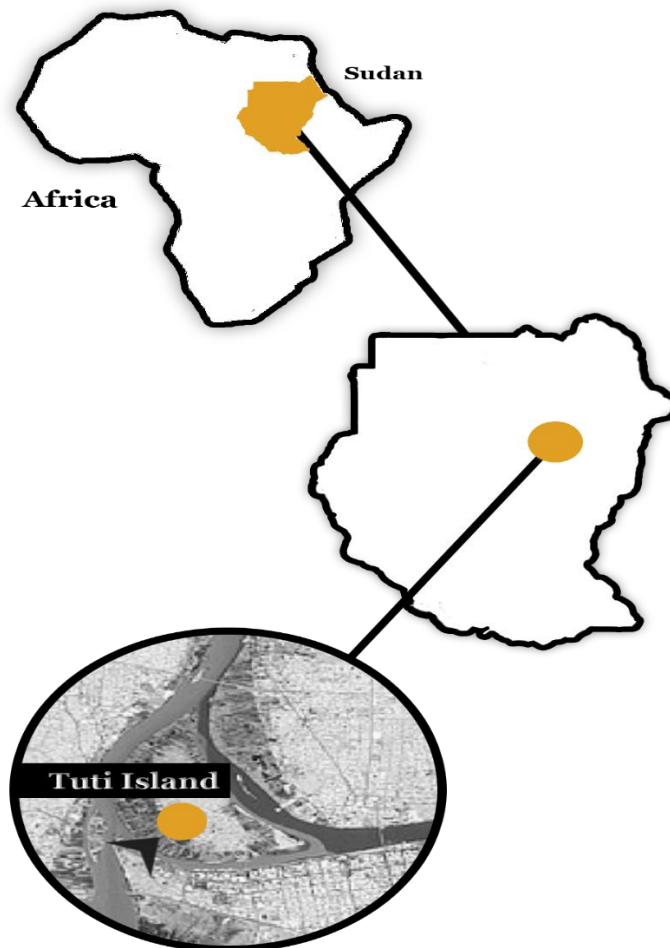
- ❖ After three years of contentious negotiations, the member nations of WHO have agreed on a draft of a “pandemic treaty”.
- ❖ It is designed to help the global community better prevent and respond to health crises.
- ❖ It would oblige the wealthy nations to share key information on pathogens, and technology for interventions such as vaccines, with the rest of the world.
- ❖ The member states are expected to adopt the treaty, which will be legally binding, next month.



Tuti Island of Sudan

- ❖ Sudan's military, headed by career army officer Abdel Fattah al-Burhan claimed control of Khartoum, including Tuti island.
- ❖ It is an island in the middle of Sudan's capital that used to draw crowds to its Nile River farms.
- ❖ It is situated at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile rivers.

- ❖ Tuti Island has been devastated by two years of war between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

'Venom Maps' for Russell's Viper

- ❖ IISc Bengaluru Researchers have developed "venom maps" using the local climate conditions that could help predict the venom characteristics of Russell's viper.
- ❖ Russell's viper (*Daboia russelii*) is found across the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ It is responsible for over 40% of snake bite-related deaths in India each year.
- ❖ Its venom is extremely variable, and these snake bites cause different symptoms in different regions of India.

- ❖ The toxic effects of the snake venom are caused by the concentrations of different enzymes, which can be influenced by many factors, including prey availability and climate.
- ❖ However, the factors driving variation in Russell's viper venom are unknown.



STATES' NEWS

Gig Worker Welfare Fund Levy – Karnataka

- ❖ The Karnataka Cabinet cleared the much-awaited Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2024.
- ❖ It is now expected to be introduced as an Ordinance.
- ❖ If passed, this would make Karnataka the second State in the country to introduce the legislation for the welfare of platform-based gig workers after the state of Rajasthan.
- ❖ Although the Central government, in 2020, passed the Code on Social Security (CoSS) which defined the gig workers for the first time in India, it is yet to be implemented.

- ❖ In 2023, Rajasthan state has enacted the Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023.
- ❖ Telangana also in the process to enact gig workers Act.



Banaras Shehnai - GI Tag



- ❖ Banarasi Shehnai, Banarasi Tabla and the 'Banarasi Bharwan Mirch' and 20 other traditional products from Uttar Pradesh has received GI Tag.

- ❖ The Banaras Shehnai is a traditional wind instrument deeply rooted in the Banaras Gharana of Indian classical music.
- ❖ The Banaras Tabla Gharana, also known as the Purab Gharana, represents a very unique and influential school of tabla playing that originated in Varanasi (Banaras).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh topped in the list followed by Tamil Nadu.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Archaeological Excavation in Dwarka

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has undertaken a project to ascertain the antiquity of the recovered objects there through the scientific analysis of the sediments, archaeological and marine deposits.
- ❖ Earlier, a Five-member team of the ASI in the south of Gomati Creek, located on the eastern side of Dwarka, carried out an investigation.
- ❖ Beyt Dwarka, believed to be the ancient home of Lord Krishna, is an island off the coast of Gujarat, where the Dwarkadhish Temple is located.
- ❖ The ASI's Underwater Archaeology Wing carried out systematic archaeological investigations from 2005 to 2007 at Dwarka.

