



April - 28

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Air Force has conducted a large-scale wargame - "Exercise Aakraman" which focusing on enhancing offensive capabilities across both mountainous and ground-based terrains.
- ❖ Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group, received the prestigious Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2024.
- ❖ India has achieved a record of over 145 million tonnes of cargo movement on inland waterways in 2024-25 from 18 million metric tonnes in 2014-15.
- ❖ The Government has approved the procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur under Price Support Scheme (PSS) equivalent to 100% of the production of the state for the procurement year 2024-25.
- ❖ The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune, and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata have been notified as the Institutions Deemed to be the Universities under the distinct category by the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ Don Pettit (70), the oldest serving astronaut at NASA, back to Earth after spending over 220 days on board the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ Founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta was conferred the Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Project 'Malarum Punnaigai'

**மலரும் புன்னகை திட்டம் !**

- விருதுநகர்: 'மலரும் புன்னகை' திட்டத்தின் கீழ் அரசு மற்றும் அரசு உதவிபெறும் பள்ளிகளில் எத்துப்பல் உள்ள மாணவ, மாணவிகளுக்கு சீரான பல் வரிசைக்கான மறு சீரமைப்பு சிகிச்சை அளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
- இச்சிகிச்சை மாவட்ட நிர்வாகத்தின் முயற்சியில் முற்றிலும் இலவசமாக 300 மாணவ மாணவிகளுக்கு வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது; மேலும் வரும் நாட்களில் பலரும் இதில் பயன்பெற உள்ளனர்.

- ❖ Thee Virudhunagar district administration have taken many innovative efforts to set right the protruding teeth or malocclusion among school children.

- ❖ The district administration identified 568 students with protruding teeth through health camps conducted by Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram.
- ❖ Treatment for this is being classified as cosmetic, no health scheme or insurance scheme covered the expenditure for this treatment.
- ❖ Thus, the district Collector introduced the new project Malarum Punnagai.
- ❖ The children were taken in batches to the private dental hospital since early 2024 for putting the braces.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### The Bharat Project 2025



- ❖ The Centre launched The Bharat Project, a national initiative by Your Story.
- ❖ It aims to empower 1 million entrepreneurs from Tier 2, Tier 3, and rural India.
- ❖ The initiative combines the government, ecosystem enablers, creators, and the communities.
- ❖ It will aid to unlock the grassroots potential and make access to entrepreneurial tools, education, and funding easier for everyone.

### AI Kiran

- ❖ It is a pioneering initiative co-led by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Verix, and INK Women.
- ❖ This mission-driven platform celebrates, elevates, and empowers the country's leading women in AI and Machine Learning.
- ❖ Women account for only 33 per cent of GenAI roles at the junior level, and the number falls sharply to 19 percent at the senior level.
- ❖ India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) market is expected to touch \$17 billion by 2027.

- ❖ It may contribute up to \$1 trillion to the national economy by 2035.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### World 1<sup>st</sup> 10G Broadband network



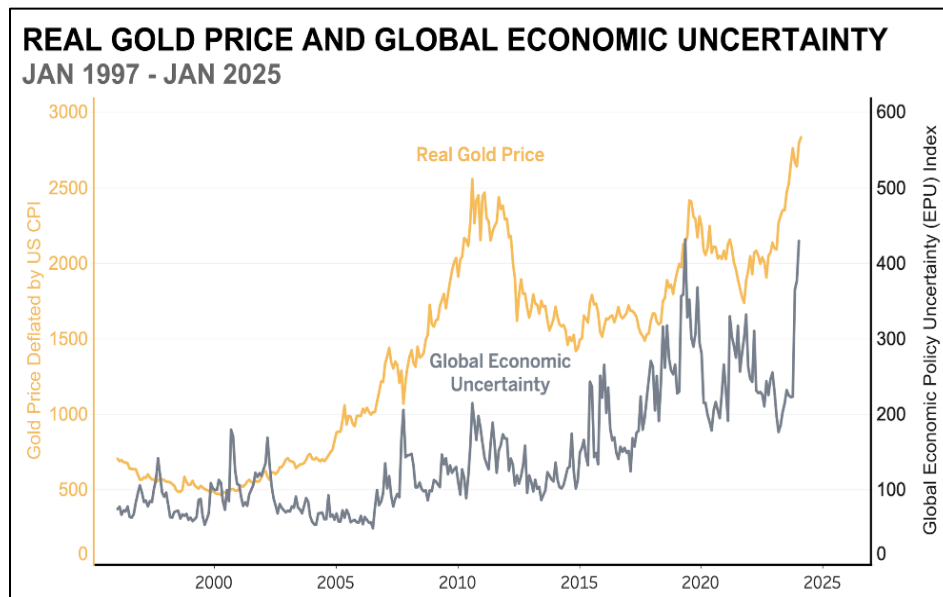
- ❖ China has launched the world's first commercial 10-Gigabit (10G) broadband network.



- ❖ Real-world tests recorded download speeds of up to 9,834 Megabits per second (Mbps), upload speeds are reaching 1,008 Mbps, and the latency as low as 3 milliseconds.
- ❖ Countries like South Korea, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar have deployed advanced broadband systems.
- ❖ But none of the above have yet announced live 10G services for public use.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### Gold Prices Rise 2025



- ❖ Gold prices are glittering above the Rs 1 lakh-level per 10 gm for the first time.
- ❖ The international prices surged after US President unveiled plans to overhaul the Federal Reserve.
- ❖ Gold prices in India generally follow international prices.
- ❖ Global gold prices continued to surge with rates crossing \$3,400 an ounce even as the US dollar tumbled.
- ❖ Gold has gained nearly 59 per cent since March 2024.
- ❖ A weaker dollar boosts demand for gold, since it makes the metal more affordable to investors holding foreign currencies.
- ❖ India is the second largest gold market in the world after China.
- ❖ Gold demand in the country in 2024 stood at 802.8 tonnes, as against 761 tonnes in 2023.



- ❖ Hundred years ago, in 1925, the exchange rate of one U.S. dollar was ₹3.31 and Ten grams of 24-carat gold was sold at ₹18.75.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **Water bears to Space Station**

- ❖ ISRO is all set to be part of experiments aboard the International Space Station as Shubhanshu Shukla preps to fly aboard the Axiom-4 mission.
- ❖ Shukla will pilot the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft to the ISS to become the first Indian ever live and work at the Space Station.
- ❖ He will be conducting several experiments during his stay and one of the most important among them is the Voyager Tardigrades experiment.
- ❖ The experiments will investigate the revival, survival, and the reproduction of the tardigrades in ISS.
- ❖ Tardigrades, also known as water bears or moss piglets, are tiny, water-dwelling micro-animals famous for their incredible survival abilities.
- ❖ These creatures are usually between 0.3 mm to 0.5 mm long, so a microscope is needed to see them.
- ❖ Tardigrades can be found almost everywhere on Earth, including mosses, lichens, soil, leaf litter, freshwater, marine environments, high mountains, deep seas, hot springs, and even polar ice.

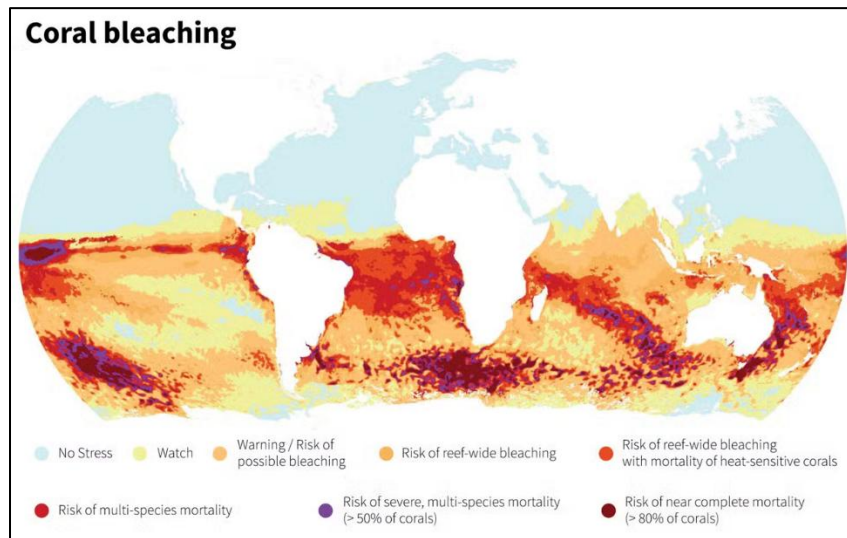


## **ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

### **Global coral bleaching crisis 2025**

- ❖ The world's worst ongoing global coral bleaching event has now affected nearly 84 per cent of the world's coral reefs.

- ❖ The mass coral bleaching has also been recorded in at least 83 countries and territories.
- ❖ The ongoing global coral bleaching event is the biggest to date.
- ❖ The previous record was during the 3rd global coral bleaching event, which occurred from 2014-2017.
- ❖ During this event, 68.2 per cent of the world's reef area experienced bleaching-level heat stress.
- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> global coral bleaching events had occurred in 1998 and 2010, respectively.
- ❖ Australia's coral reefs suffered mass coral bleaching in 1998, 2002, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022 and 2024.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025

- ❖ China has maintained a strong presence at the top, with Tsinghua University and Peking University claiming the first and second places, respectively.
- ❖ Out of the top 10, five institutions are from China.
- ❖ The National University of Singapore secured third place.
- ❖ This year, as many as 853 universities from 35 countries and territories are ranked.
- ❖ Four countries rank for the first time – Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Mongolia and Syria.
- ❖ Among Indian entries, IISc has emerged at the top with a rank of 38 and remains the highest-placed Indian institution on the list.

- ❖ Anna University follows as the second-best from India, holding the 111th rank.
- ❖ Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences is close behind at 149.



**World University  
Rankings 2025  
Asia**

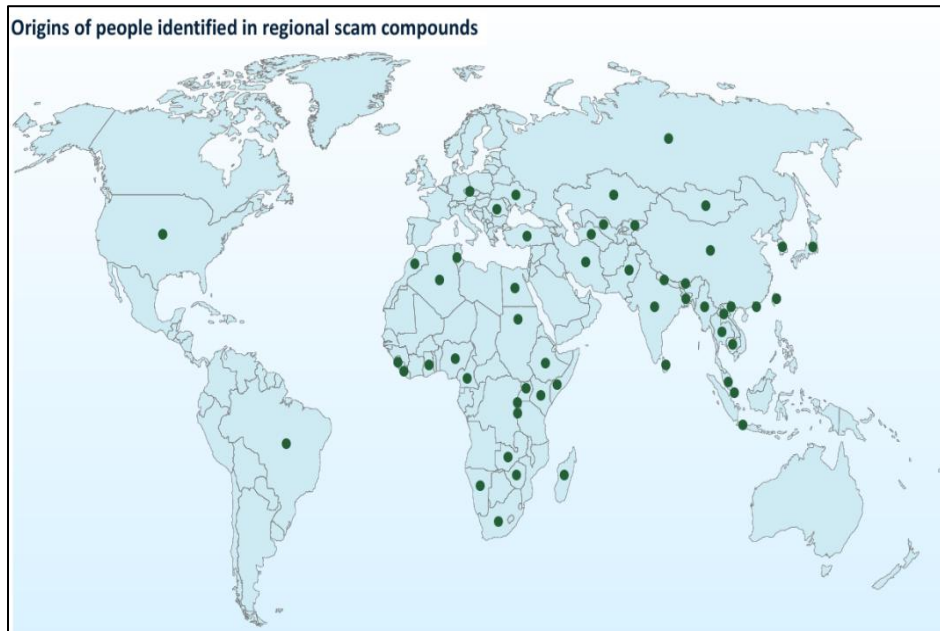
**Top 10  
overall**



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Rank 2025	Rank 2024	Institution	Country/region
1	1	Tsinghua University	China
2	2	Peking University	China
3	3	National University of Singapore	Singapore
4	4	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Singapore
5	5	The University of Tokyo	Japan
6	6	University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
7	8	Fudan University	China
8	9	Zhejiang University	China
9	10	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
10	7	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China

### UNODC report on cybercrime 2025




- ❖ Transnational organized crime groups in East and Southeast Asia are spreading their lucrative scam operations across the globe.
- ❖ For several years, scam compounds have proliferated in Southeast Asia, especially in border areas of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, as well as in the Philippines.



- ❖ UNODC estimates that hundreds of industrial-scale scam centres generate just under \$40 billion in annual profits.

### Special Category National Panchayat Awards-2025

- ❖ The Special Category National Panchayat Awards–2025 are bestowed during the National Panchayati Raj Day celebration in Bihar.
- ❖ The following Special Category National Panchayat Awards have been introduced
  - Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA)
  - Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA)
  - Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP)
- ❖ Notably, 3 of the 6 awardee Gram Panchayats – from Bihar (the Motipur Gram Panchayat), Maharashtra (Dawwa S Gram Panchayat), and Odisha (Hatbadra Gram Panchayat) – are headed by women Sarpanches.

(National Panchayat Awards 2025)					
Sl.No.	Special Category Award	Rank	Gram Panchayat / Institution	State	LGD Code of Gram Panchayat
1	 Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA)	1	Dawwa S Gram Panchayat (Block Sadak Arjuni, District Gondia)	Maharashtra	175545
		2	Biradahalli Gram Panchayat (Block Sakaleshpur, District Hassan)	Karnataka	218437
		3	Mothipur Gram Panchayat (Block Rosera, District Samastipur)	Bihar	100332
2	 Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA)	1	Mall Gram Panchayat (Block Yacharam, District Rangareddi)	Telangana	210571
		2	Hatbadra Gram Panchayat (Block Kusumi, District Mayurbhanj)	Odisha	120264
		3	Gollapudi Gram Panchayat (Block Vijayawada Rural, District Krishna)	Andhra Pradesh	203825
3	 Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP)	1	Kerala Institute of Local Administration	Kerala	NA
		2	State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj	Odisha	NA
		3	State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development	Assam	NA

## STATES' NEWS

### Similipal - National Park's Status

- ❖ An area of 845.70 sq km spread across 11 ranges of Similipal south and Similipal north divisions was declared as national park.
- ❖ This is making Similipal the second protected area to be declared a national park after Bhitarkanika in the state.



- ❖ It's also the 107th national park of India.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### **XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition**



- ❖ Mati Carbon, an Indian-led climate initiative has secured the \$50 million grand prize in the XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition.
- ❖ They are outshining over 1,300 teams from 112 countries.
- ❖ Mati Carbon uses an Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW) model, which captures the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) while boosting crop yields for smallholder farmers.
- ❖ This offers a rare synergy of environmental and social impact.



- ❖ Mati operates in India, Tanzania, and Zambia, and has partnered with over 16,000 farmers since 2022.

