



August - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A severe stampede occurred at Haridwar's Mansa Devi temple, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Remona Evette Pereira, a student from Mangaluru, has etched her name into the Golden Book of World Records with 170-hour Bharatanatyam performance.
- ❖ India's Divyanshi Bhowmick made history at the 29th Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, by winning the U-15 Girls' Singles title.
- ❖ Three terrorists involved in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack were gunned down by security forces in Operation Mahadev in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ In a first of its kind initiative, a medical college teaching in the Hindi medium is to be established at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ A coalition of 12 Latin American countries is set to launch Latam-GPT, the region's first large artificial intelligence language model, in September 2025.
- ❖ The Indian Army has recently conducted Exercise Drone Prahar in Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang district.
- ❖ Yantai Penglai International Airport (Terminal 2) In Yantai, China was chosen as 1st among World's 6 Most Beautiful Airports For 2025.
- ❖ The Army Hospital Research & Referral (AHRR), has hosted the first-ever Armed Forces National Conference – SHAPE 2025 (Sustainable Hospital Architecture, Planning, Infrastructure, and Equipment) in New Delhi.

NATIONAL NEWS

Maritime Financing summit 2025

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) hosted the Maritime Financing Summit 2025 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The summit introduced the Financial Digital Maturity Matrix (FDMM)—a tool to assess and enhance digital financial infrastructure at ports, making them investor-ready.
- ❖ The Ministry proposed Maritime Development Fund (MDF) to lower capital costs and attract long-term investment into shipyards, coastal facilities and inland waterways.



Mutual Legal Assistance - India and Nepal



- ❖ India and Nepal are working on a revised extradition treaty and have finalised the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- ❖ The validity of the old extradition treaty expired long ago.
- ❖ With China, Nepal has signed the Mutual Legal Assistance deal during Chinese President Xi Jinping's Nepal visit in October, 2019.

Appointment of State DGPs

- ❖ The Union Government has notified a Single Window System for appointing State Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force.
- ❖ The Single Window System comprises a detailed check-list and standard easy-to-use formats for the States to send proposals enabling a smooth and expeditious process of empanelment by UPSC.
- ❖ The Supreme Court issued orders in the Prakash Singh case 2006 and the Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines as regards appointment of DGP/HoPF.

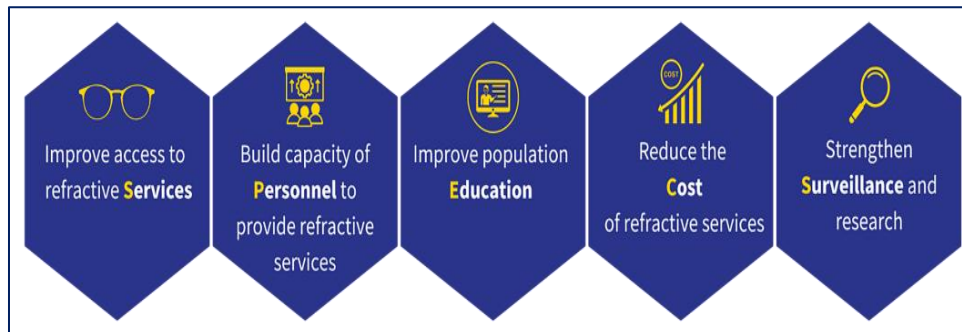
- ❖ Officers were not eligible for the top post as per the Supreme Court and MHA guidelines if they would not have a minimum of six months service.

<p>How to select DGP</p> <p>The Supreme Court has issued seven directives to be followed by the States when appointing the Director General of Police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals should be sent to the UPSC, three months before incumbent's retirement UPSC to prepare a panel of names as per Prakash Singh judgment. It should try and choose within the zone of consideration who have got two years of service States shall appoint 	<p>one of the panel's choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> States shall not appoint DGP on an 'acting basis' The selected person can continue despite his date of superannuation, but the extension should 	<p>be reasonable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointing persons on their retirement day is not in conformity with the Prakash Singh verdict State's and Centre's rules running counter to the SC directions will remain in abeyance
<p>OLD RULE (AS PER PRAKASH SINGH JUDGMENT OF 2006)</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DGP shall be selected by the State government from among three senior-most officers of the department empanelled for promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The promotion should be based on their length of service, very good record and range of experience for heading the police force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the officer is selected for the job, he or she should have a minimum tenure of at least two years irrespective of their date of superannuation 	

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global Specs 2030 Initiative

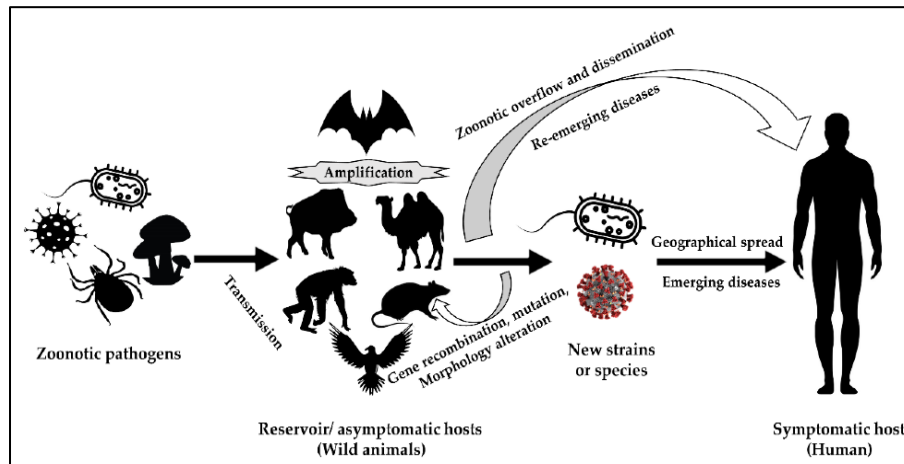
- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched a global initiative named 'Global Specs 2030'.
- ❖ It aims to ensure that everyone has access to affordable eyecare services by 2030.
- ❖ Over 800 million people across the world have vision problems and do not have access to eye care.



Global assessment of zoonotic diseases

- ❖ The first comprehensive global assessment of zoonotic diseases listed as priorities by the WHO (excluding COVID-19).
- ❖ The Zoonotic diseases (also known as zoonoses) are caused by germs that spread between animals and people.

- ❖ Globally, 9.3% of the land surface is at high (6.3%) or very high (3%) risk of disease outbreaks.
- ❖ Latin America and Oceania (18.6%) are the most at-risk regions, followed by Asia (6.9%) and Africa (5.2%).
- ❖ About 3% of the world's population resides in high or very high-risk zones; 20% lives in medium-risk areas.



ECONOMY NEWS

Job creation since 2017-18



- ❖ The number of employed people rising from 47.5 crore in 2017-18 to 64.33 crore in 2023-24.

- ❖ The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for women aged 15 and above increased from 28.7% in 2019-20 to 40.3% in 2023-24.
- ❖ Labour force participation rate rose from 49.8% (2017-18) to 60.1% (2023-24).
- ❖ Worker population ratio increased from 46.8% to 58.2%
- ❖ Unemployment rate dropped from 6% to 3.2%
- ❖ Youth unemployment rate fell from 17.8% to 10.2% - below the global average of 13.3%.

Unclaimed Bank Deposits – 2025



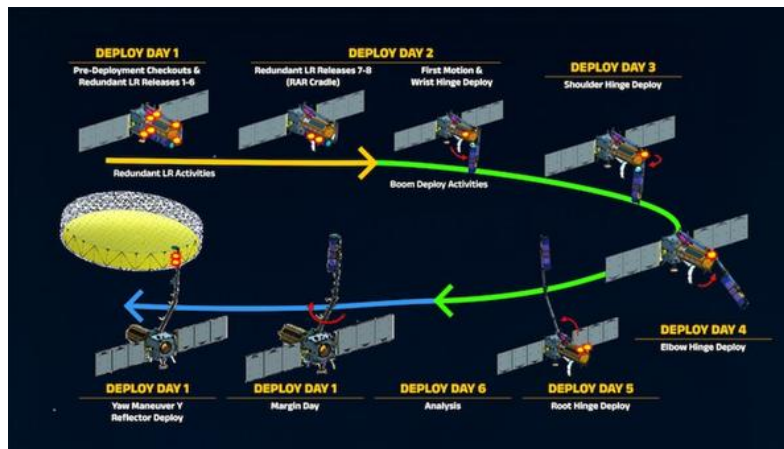
- ❖ The quantum of unclaimed deposits with Indian banks stood at Rs 67,003 crore as at the end of the June quarter.
- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) is accounting for 29 per cent of all such deposits.
- ❖ 87 per cent of all unclaimed deposits were with public sector banks.
- ❖ Private banks, on the other hand, held unclaimed deposits of Rs 8,673.72 crore.
- ❖ ICICI Bank has the most, at Rs 2,063.45 crore.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

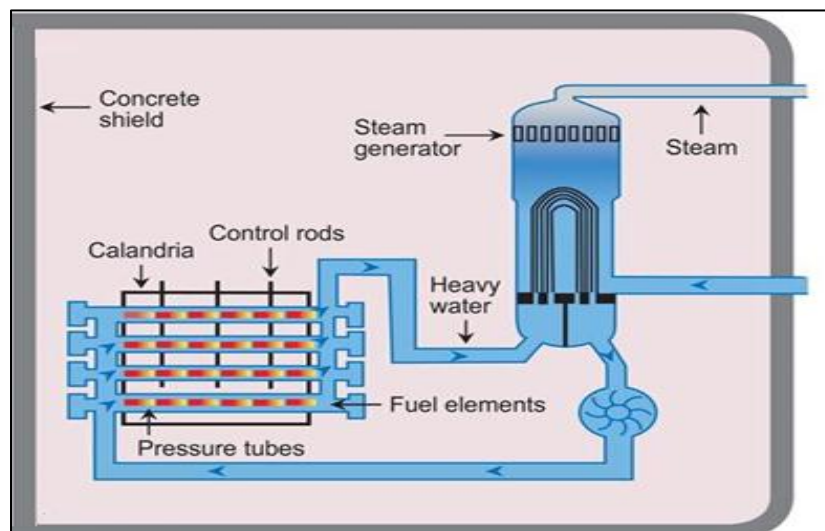
NISAR satellite Launch

- ❖ ISRO has launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Satellite (NISAR)- the most expensive civilian Earth observation satellite ever built.

- ❖ NISAR is a technological marvel designed to monitor the earthquakes, glacial movements, carbon sequestration, and climate change-induced disasters such as glacial lake outbursts.
- ❖ GSLV-F16 is the 18th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and the 12th flight with the Indigenous Cryogenic stage.
- ❖ This is the first mission with GSLV being used to place a satellite in the sun-synchronous polar orbit.
- ❖ The mission is expected to serve not only India and the US, but also aid global decision-making and emergency response efforts.



Test Facility for Depleted Heavy Water Upgradation



- ❖ India has inaugurated its first private test facility for the upgradation of depleted heavy water.

- ❖ Mumbai-based TEMA India has been entrusted with testing the equipment highly required for upgrading of depleted heavy water.
- ❖ Heavy water (D₂O) is a form of water (H₂O) with deuterium, a heavier isotope of hydrogen, instead of regular hydrogen.
- ❖ It is used as a coolant as well as moderator for slowing down the fast-moving neutrons during a chain reaction.
- ❖ D₂O needs to be 99.9% pure for working efficiently.
- ❖ But with time, it gets contaminated with light or regular water.
- ❖ So, it was requiring the depleted D₂O to be upgraded back to 99.9% using a distillation process.
- ❖ India has set its eyes at achieving 100 GW of installed nuclear energy capacity by 2047.
- ❖ There are 24 nuclear reactors operational in India, with an installed capacity of 8,780 MW.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Chamaegastrodia reiekensis – Mizoram



- **Discovery Site:** Found at **1,500m elevation near Reiek Peak**, thriving in moist, humus-rich soil near bamboo clumps.
- **Unique Features:** Camouflaged, leafless, and holomycotrophic (fully dependent on fungi for nutrients).
- **Rarity:** Only eight species exist in this genus worldwide; this is the first record in Mizoram.
- **Ecological Importance:** Part of a biodiverse hotspot, alongside another newly discovered plant, *Aeschynanthus reiekensis*.

- ❖ A new orchid species, '*Chamaegastrodia reiekensis*', discovered in the forests of Mizoram.
- ❖ This rare orchid belongs to the elusive genus '*Chamaegastrodia*'.
- ❖ It is notable for its complete lack of chlorophyll.
- ❖ It depends entirely on symbiotic fungi for nutrients, making it holomycotrophic and unable to perform photosynthesis.

- ❖ It is listed as Critically Endangered under IUCN criteria.

New Bush Frog Species – Meghalaya



- ❖ Two new species of bush frogs have been discovered in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya.
- ❖ The discovered species were named '*Raorchestes jakoid*' and '*Raorchestes jadoh*' as a tribute to the Khasi way of life.
- ❖ The term 'jakoid' means 'frog' in the Khasi language, while 'jadoh' is a traditional rice and meat dish widely loved in Khasi households.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025



- ❖ 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh has won the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025 in Batumi, Georgia.
- ❖ She became the first Indian woman to win the chess World Cup.
- ❖ She also became the India's 88th and India's fourth woman to become a grand master.

- ❖ It was after Humpy, R. Vaishali, and Harika Dronavalli.
- ❖ The final match was held between compatriots K. Humpy (Andhra Pradesh) and Divya (Maharashtra).

Sansad Ratna Awards 2025



- ❖ Seventeen parliamentarians have been awarded Sansad Ratna Awards 2025 in New Delhi today for their exemplary performances.
- ❖ The honours also include four Special Jury Awards, recognising their consistent contributions to parliamentary democracy across three successive terms.
- ❖ C.N. Annadurai (DMK) from Tamil Nadu also one among the awardee in 2025.
- ❖ The awards have been given by a non-government organisation.
- ❖ These Awards were instituted in 2010 by Prime Point Foundation and the eMagazine PreSense, following the suggestion of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ Also, Dr Kalam inaugurated the first award ceremony in Chennai in May 2010.
- ❖ Notably, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir was the first recipient of the award.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

100 Years of Indian Hockey 2025

- ❖ Indian hockey's legacy began in 1925 with the formation of its first-ever national governing body.
- ❖ To commemorate this historic milestone, Hockey India will organise an unprecedented, nationwide celebration on November 7.

- ❖ The event will feature 1,000 simultaneous matches - one men's and one women's match in every district of the country.



Android Earthquake Alert System

- ❖ Google has developed the Android Earthquake Alerts System for Android smart phones.
- ❖ It is designed to detect earthquakes using the accelerometers built into Android smartphones.
- ❖ But it was failed to deliver timely and effective warnings during the catastrophic Turkey earthquakes on 6 February 2023.
- ❖ Google sends two types of alerts to Android phones
 - Be Aware Alerts: For lighter shaking (magnitude 4.5+).
 - Take Action Alerts: For stronger shaking.



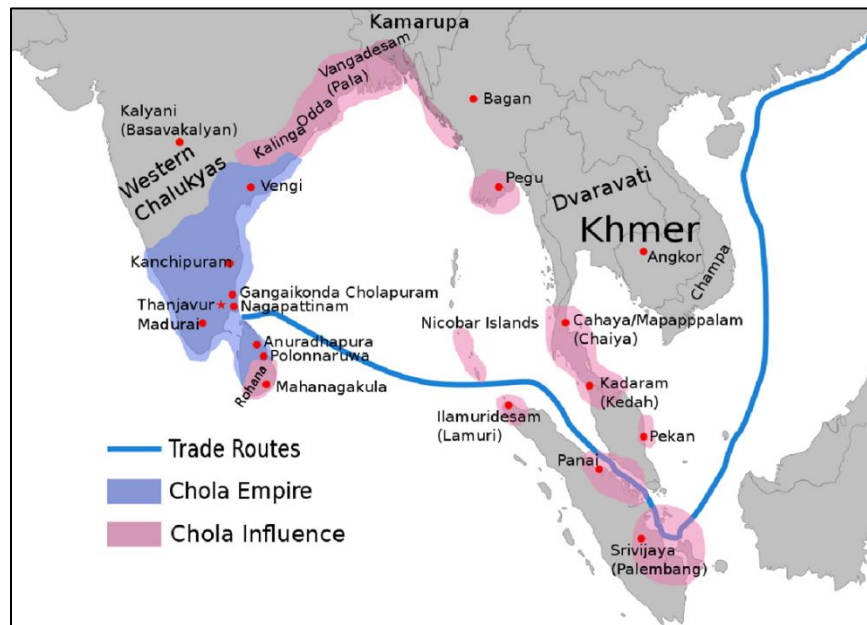
Panel For COP-33 in 2028

- ❖ India has initiated preparations to host the 33rd United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP33) in 2028.

- ❖ The COP33 Cell, formed under the Climate Change Division of the MoEFCC, will oversee the event.
- ❖ The cell comprises 11 members, including a Joint Secretary (Climate Change), directors, and consultants.
- ❖ During COP 28 in Dubai, Prime Minister had proposed India as the host country for COP 33.
- ❖ If accepted by the UNFCCC, COP 33 would be the second UN climate conference to be hosted by India after COP 8 in New Delhi in 2002.



Rajendra Chola's Gangetic expedition



- ❖ Rajendra Chola - I's mighty army traversed vast swathes of eastern and northern India in the 11th century CE.



- ❖ It was the popular belief that Rajendra Chola personally marched towards the Gangetic plains.
- ❖ But inscriptions on the Tiruvalangadu copper plates reveal that one of the ablest generals of the king had commanded the military expedition towards the Ganges.
- ❖ The Chola monarch had stayed back on the banks of the Godavari.
- ❖ The historical works such as The Cholas by K.A. Nilakanta Sastri, Pirkaala Sozhar Sarithiram (History of Later Cholas) by T.V. Sadasiva Pandarathar, and The Palas of Bengal by R.D. Banerji reveals that.
- ❖ These accounts reveal the Chola forces defeated kingdoms in the eastern Deccan, coastal Odisha, and eventually clashed with the Pala dynasty in Bengal.
- ❖ The actual campaign began not from the Chola's capital in the South, but from the northeast of Venginadu that spread across the Godavari and Krishna rivers.
- ❖ Venginadu, at that time, was ruled by kings (Eastern Chalukyas or Chalukyas of Vengi) loyal to the Cholas.
- ❖ Due to Vengi's close ties with the Cholas, and since all the regions to its south were already under Rajendra Chola's empire, the expedition began north of Vengi, with the first conquest in that campaign being Chakrakottam.
- ❖ Chakrakottam is situated eight miles from Rajapura, on the southern bank of the Indravati River.
- ❖ In modern times, the place is known as Chitrakootam (Bastar region in present-day Chhattisgarh).
- ❖ After the fall of Chakrakottam, the Chola army marched towards the green fields of 'Masuna Desam' or 'Masuni Desam' under the control of brave rulers of the Chindaka family.
- ❖ The Chindaka family identified themselves as belonging to the Naga lineage.
- ❖ Nilakanta Sastri, while citing a Tamil Prasasti, says the region of Maduramandalam, Namanaikkonam and Panchappalli, all fell under the 'Masuni Desam'.
- ❖ Maduramandalam was destroyed in a trice by the Chola army.
- ❖ Namanaikkonam and Panchappalli were also conquered by Rajendra's commander.
- ❖ Following that, the Chola commander marched further northeast, defeated Indraratha at Adinagara, and captured the regions of Odda (Odisha).
- ❖ His campaign took a westward turn with the capture of the Kosala kingdom.
- ❖ The region of Kosala referred to here is Dakshina (southern) Kosala, also known as Mahakosala.



- ❖ Having consolidated control over central-eastern India, the next target was Dandabhukti to the east, ruled by Dharmapala.
- ❖ Dandabhukti comprised the southern and southwestern parts of the Midnapore district in Bengal.
- ❖ Therefore, it likely stretched along both banks of the Subarnarekha River.
- ❖ From there, the Chola forces advanced towards Bengal.
- ❖ After defeating Dharmapala, Rajendra's army marched towards Dakshinaradha (Takkana Ladam in Tamil), ruled by Ranasura.
- ❖ 'Radha' (also spelt as Ratta or Lada) was the ancient name of a part of Bengal, which was bounded on the north by the Ganges.
- ❖ Dakshinaradha refers to the area comprising today's Hooghly and Howrah districts in Bengal, while Uttararadha (Uttara Ladam in Tamil) refers to the regions comprising Murshidabad and Birbhum districts.
- ❖ With southern Bengal subdued, the commander passed eastwards, crossed the Ganges, and reached Vangala Desam (Eastern Bengal), which was then ruled by Govindachandra.
- ❖ Following the conquest of Eastern Bengal, Rajendra Chola's army turned westward and defeated Mahipala.
- ❖ The commander reached the Ganges, fetched water from the river, and brought it to his sovereign lord, Rajendra.
- ❖ The commander the King met on the banks of the Godavari during the army's retreat.
- ❖ Though the fetching of the Ganges water was perhaps part of the original objective.
- ❖ But the true motive was undoubtedly an exhibition of the Chola empire's power and a demonstration of its strength to the rulers of northern India.
- ❖ Rajendra then returned to his kingdom with his victorious general.
- ❖ During his return journey, he visited various temples and made offerings, as mentioned in several inscriptions.
- ❖ One such inscription was found in Thriloki (modern-day Thirulogi near Thiruppanandal in the Thanjavur district), located about ten miles southeast of Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- ❖ A fragmentary record engraved in Tiruloki makes an interesting reference to the incident of the king worshipping the sacred feet of the Lord at this village.
- ❖ That is only about 10 miles from Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- ❖ The ancient name of this place was given as Trailokyamahadevi-chaturvedimangalam.



- ❖ The aim of the expedition was not merely to bring down the water of the Ganges to the Chola capital.
- ❖ But to do so after establishing a right of way across territories outside the empire by a strong show of force.
- ❖ This becomes clear from the statement that at the end of the expedition, Rajendra erected a 'liquid pillar of victory' (jalamayam jayastambham) in his capital with the waters of the Ganges, in the form of the tank Cholagangam.
- ❖ The invasion of the Chola king did not change the political divisions of the country, but it left one permanent mark in the shape of a body of settlers.

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