

August - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil govt has handed over orders for financial assistance to 100 senior Tamil scholars for 2022-23.
 - The Tamil scholars are getting Rs 3,500 per month and another Rs 500 as medical allowance.
- ❖ India has hosted for the first time the UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage Committee meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Union government has proposed that indexation benefit will be restored for immovable property bought before July 23, 2024.
- ❖ Union External Affairs Minister hosted his counterparts for the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat in New Delhi.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat announced her retirement from wrestling a day after she was disqualified from the 50kg category Paris Olympics finals.
- ❖ Japanese scientists have devised a way to attach living skin tissue to robotic faces and make them "smile".
- ❖ Azerbaijan announces a climate finance action fund at COP29 to support green projects and help member nations reach the 1.5C target.
- ❖ Bangladesh is set to get an interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist Muhammad Yunus after Sheikh Hasina's resign.

TAMIL NADU

Centre for Innovation in Governance



- ❖ A Centre for Innovation in Governance has been set up at the Tamilnadu State Planning Commission.

- ❖ A first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the centre, is established by the Tamil Nadu government under State Planning Commission.
- ❖ It aims at fostering an innovative ecosystem in governance in the State.
- ❖ The Centre will provide support to government departments and district administrations in piloting innovative projects and building capacity in various technologies that would augment effective governance in the State.

NATIONAL

Sankhyiki Portal

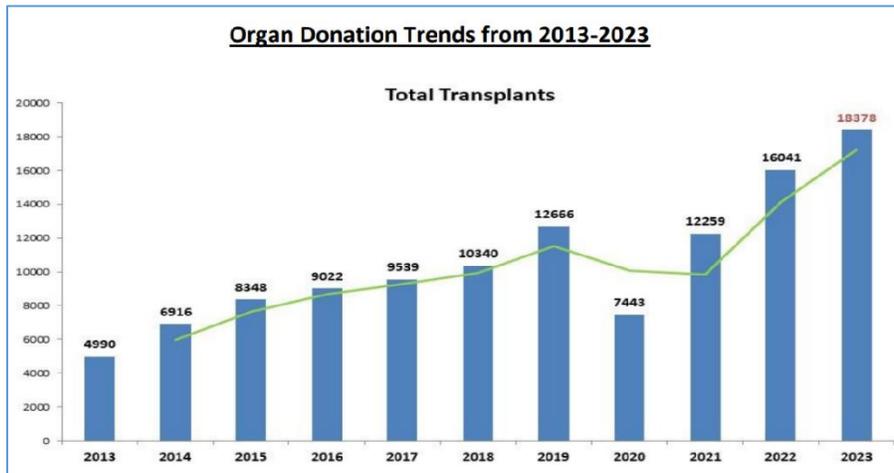
- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the e-Sankhyiki portal.
- ❖ It aims to streamline the sharing of official statistics through a comprehensive system designed to enhance ease of access and analysis.
- ❖ It provides real-time access to data, helping with better planning and decision-making.



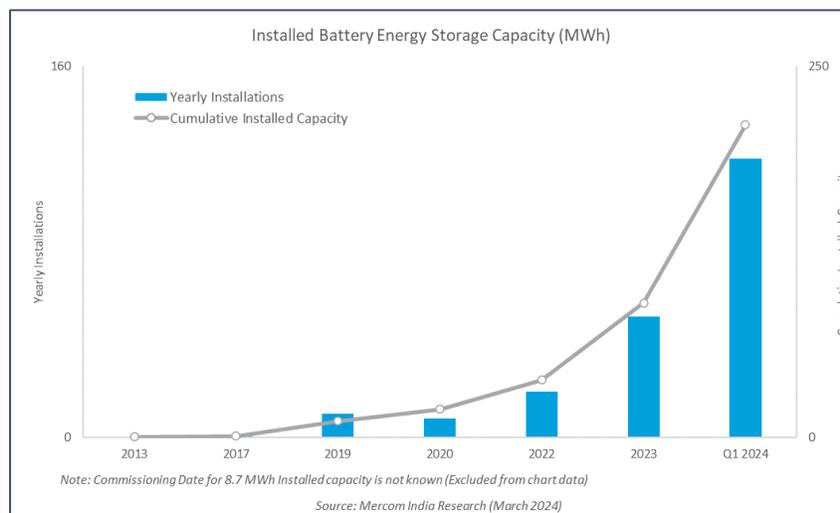
Organ donation in India - 2023

- ❖ The number of women living donors was 9,784 last year compared to 5,651 men.
- ❖ A lone transgender contributed an organ to save the life of another human being.
- ❖ The total number of living donors in the country in 2023 rose to 15,436.
- ❖ The total number of organ transplants, taking into account both living and deceased donors, was 18,378, the highest ever.
- ❖ The Number of deceased donors was much higher among men, with 844 persons donating their organs, while women accounted for 255 such donations.

- ❖ The total (living and deceased) number of kidney transplants from January to December was 13,426.
- ❖ It was followed by liver and heart transplants at 4,491 and 221, respectively.
- ❖ Telangana topped the country in organ donation with 252 cadaver donors, followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with 178 cases each.
- ❖ In the number of kidney transplants, Delhi stood ahead of others with 2,576 cases while Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra reported 1,633 and 1,305 cases.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of heart transplants, with 70 cases last year.



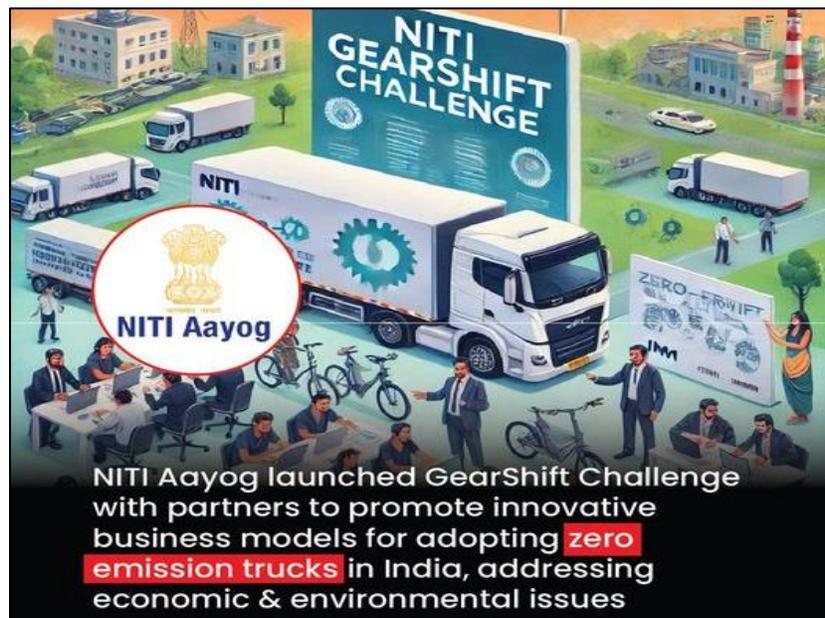
‘India’s Energy Storage Landscape’ Report



- ❖ India had a cumulative installed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity totaling 219.1 MWh as of March 2024.
- ❖ Capacity installations in Q1 2024 is totalled at 120 MWh (40 MW).

- ❖ Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems combined with battery energy storage systems (PV + BESS) was accounted for 90.6% of the total installed capacity.
- ❖ The highest BESS capacity was installed in Chhattisgarh, accounting for 54.8% of cumulative installed capacity.
- ❖ The country's operational pumped hydro storage capacity is totalled at 3.3 GW as of March 2024.
- ❖ Nearly 76% of the country's operating capacity is in Telangana and West Bengal.

NITI Gearshift Challenge

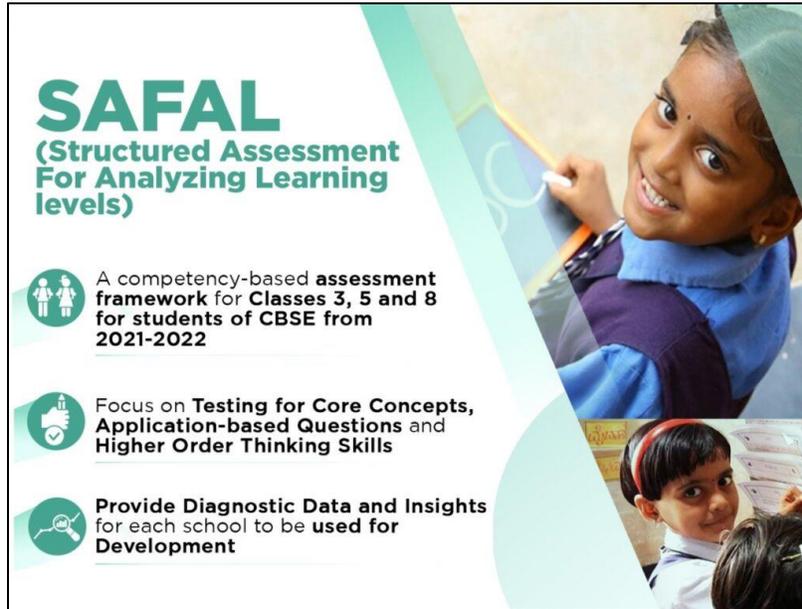


- ❖ NITI Aayog has announced the launch of the NITI Gear Shift Challenge as part of the e-FAST India initiative.
- ❖ This hackathon aims to foster innovative business models for the adoption of zero-emission trucks (ZETs) in India.
- ❖ It was addressing the nation's pressing economic and environmental challenges.
- ❖ The Road freight was accounting for a staggering 55% of India's annual diesel consumption and nearly 40% of CO₂ emissions from road transport.

SAFAL Test Cycle 2024

- ❖ The CBSE has started a new test cycle that promises to take the exam pressure off.
- ❖ It will assess students of Classes 5 and 8 on "core concepts" rather than rote learning.

- ❖ It is also through a "no-preparation required" exam.
- ❖ It is named as SAFAL - Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning.
- ❖ After a pilot run, this year, it extended with 11,000 plus schools and over 10 lakh students joining the July-August cycle.
- ❖ 2025 is likely to see the SAFAL test go to all 29,000 odd CBSE schools.



SAFAL
(Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning levels)

-  A competency-based **assessment framework** for **Classes 3, 5 and 8** for students of CBSE from **2021-2022**
-  Focus on **Testing for Core Concepts, Application-based Questions and Higher Order Thinking Skills**
-  Provide **Diagnostic Data and Insights** for each school to be used for **Development**

INTERNATIONAL

WBG guarantee platform



Impacts of streamlined guarantee system for private sector financing:

- Improving access**

- Faster execution**

- Delivering simplicity**

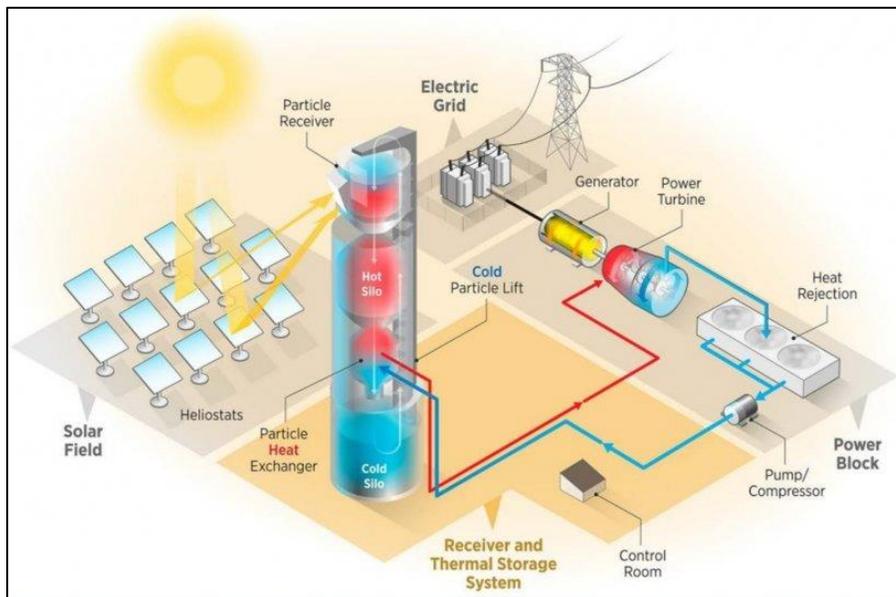

 WORLD BANK GROUP

- ❖ The World Bank Group Guarantees consolidates all guarantee products and experts from across the World Bank Group institutions at Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

- ❖ It provides a simplified and comprehensive menu of guarantee solutions, enabling clients to select the instrument that best suits their needs.
- ❖ The platform streamlines processes, removes redundancies, and provides greater accessibility by de-risking investments in developing countries.
- ❖ Its goal is to boost the WBG's annual guarantee issuance to \$20 billion by 2030.

Dual-tower solar thermal plant – China

- ❖ China has unveiled the world's first dual-tower solar thermal power plant.
- ❖ It utilises an innovative design to significantly improve energy efficiency.
- ❖ The plant features two 200-meter-tall towers, each surrounded by nearly 30,000 mirrors that form overlapping circles to focus sunlight onto the towers.
- ❖ The mirrors in the overlapping area can be utilized by either tower.
- ❖ The concentrated sunlight heats water inside the towers, generating steam that drives turbines to produce electricity.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

AIFF awards 2024

- ❖ All India Football Federation (AIFF) held its annual awards after a gap of seven years.
- ❖ Lallianzuala Chhangte from Mumbai City FC has secured the AIFF Men's Player of the Year award for the second consecutive time.

- ❖ Indumathi Kathiresan became the first player from Tamil Nadu to win the AIFF Women's Player of the Year award.
- ❖ Other winners:

Category	Winner
Promising Men's Player of the Year	David Lalhlansanga
Promising Women's Player of the Year	Neha
Men's Coach of the Year	Khalid Jamil
Women's Coach of the Year	Sukla Dutta
Referee of the Year	Ramachandran Venkatesh
Assistant Referee of the Year	Ujjal Halder

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Javelin Day 2024 - August 07

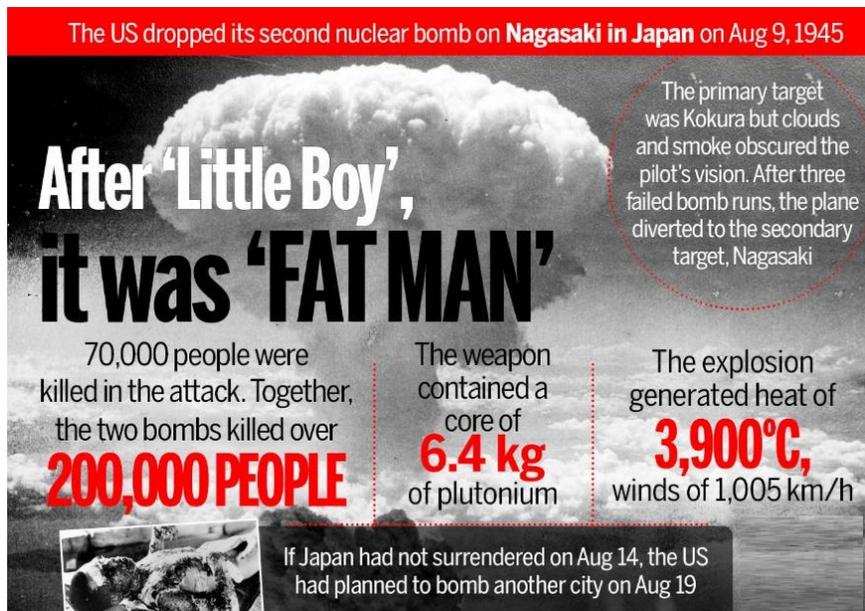


- ❖ The Athletics Federation of India designated this date to honour Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal win in the javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ This celebration recognises his achievement and promotes the sport of javelin throwing across the nation.

- ❖ On August 7, 2021, Neeraj Chopra made history by throwing the javelin 87.58 meters in the men's Javelin Throw final at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ This victory marked India's first-ever gold medal in track and field events at the Olympics.

Nagasaki Day 2024 - August 09

- ❖ On August 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb, "Fat Man," on Nagasaki.
- ❖ This event led to Japan's surrender on August 15, 1945, effectively ending the World War II.
- ❖ This day aims to remember the victims and promote the peace and nuclear disarmament.
- ❖ It was serving as a crucial educational opportunity to raise awareness about the devastating consequences of nuclear warfare.



The US dropped its second nuclear bomb on **Nagasaki in Japan** on Aug 9, 1945

**After 'Little Boy',
it was 'FAT MAN'**

The primary target was Kokura but clouds and smoke obscured the pilot's vision. After three failed bomb runs, the plane diverted to the secondary target, Nagasaki

70,000 people were killed in the attack. Together, the two bombs killed over **200,000 PEOPLE**

The weapon contained a core of **6.4 kg** of plutonium

The explosion generated heat of **3,900°C**, winds of 1,005 km/h

If Japan had not surrendered on Aug 14, the US had planned to bomb another city on Aug 19

