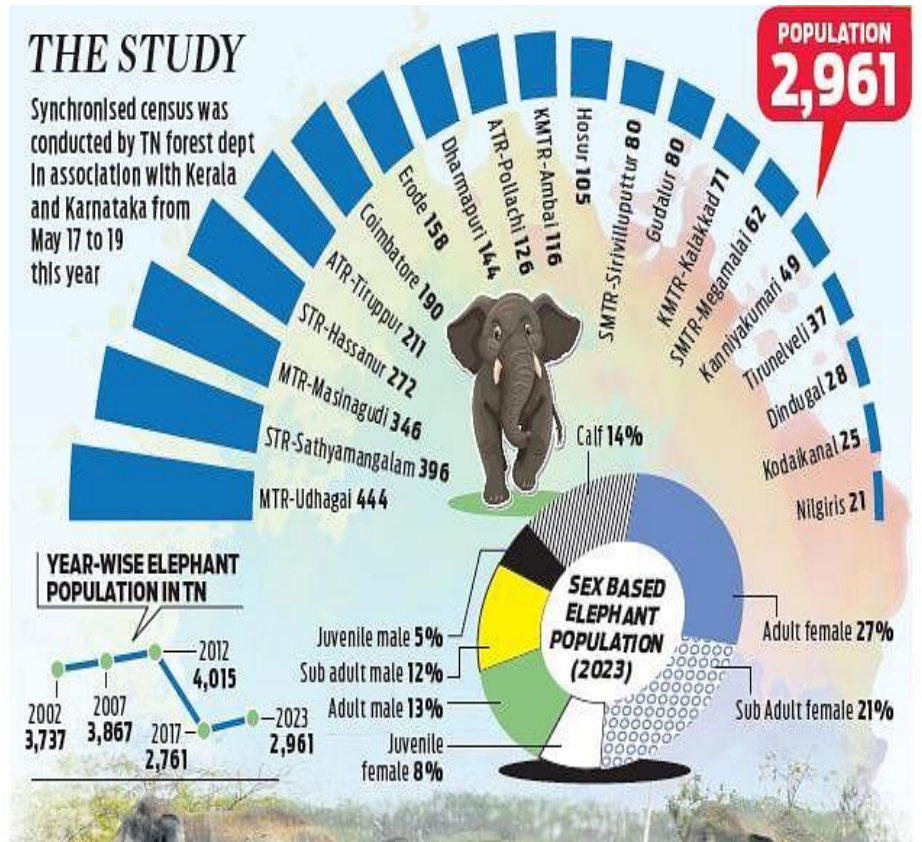


August - 12

TAMIL NADU

Synchronized Elephant Population Estimation 2023 Report



- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded an increase in the number of elephants in the wild as per the latest synchronised elephant population estimation report.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu state accounts for 2,961 elephants.
- ❖ It is up by 200 over the 2017 estimates of 2,761 elephants.
- ❖ Among the 26 forest divisions, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve had the highest estimated density of elephants.
- ❖ It is followed by Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) Masinagudi division and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) Hasanur division.
- ❖ Among the five elephant reserves, the Nilgiris Eastern Ghats Elephant Reserve had the highest estimated density.
- ❖ It is followed by Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve, Nilambur Silent Valley-Coimbatore Elephant Reserve and Periyar Elephant Reserve.

- ❖ According to Elephant Census-2023, Karnataka leads the country in the total number of elephants.
- ❖ Their population range is estimated to be between 5,914 and 6,877.
- ❖ The number of elephants in Karnataka has increased by 346, from an estimated 6,049 in 2017 to 6,395 now.
- ❖ It is the highest in the country.

Tamilnadu - outstanding farm loans



NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Tamil Nadu finishes on top in having the highest amount of outstanding farm loans.
- ❖ As on June 30 this year, the figure of outstanding farm loans was Rs. 3.47 lakh crore,
- ❖ It is accounting for about 16.5% of the total.
- ❖ There were 2.79 crore accounts in the state of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ It was again the highest in the country.
- ❖ The subject of agricultural loans is quoted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- ❖ It covers short term loans for agriculture (crop production up to 18 months), medium term loans (more than 18 months up to 5 years) such as dairy or tractor loans and long-term loans (beyond 5 years) such as horticulture.
- ❖ Of the total figure for the State, commercial banks constituted the dominant share with nearly ₹3.15 lakh crore; regional rural banks (RRBs) - ₹19,129 crore and cooperative institutions - ₹13,348 crore.



- ❖ Andhra Pradesh came next with about ₹2.43 lakh crore of the outstanding agricultural loans.
- ❖ Karnataka was in the third slot.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan were in the fourth, fifth and sixth slots respectively.

482 Medical Colleges in India



सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रीय आयुर्विज्ञान आयोग National Medical Commission

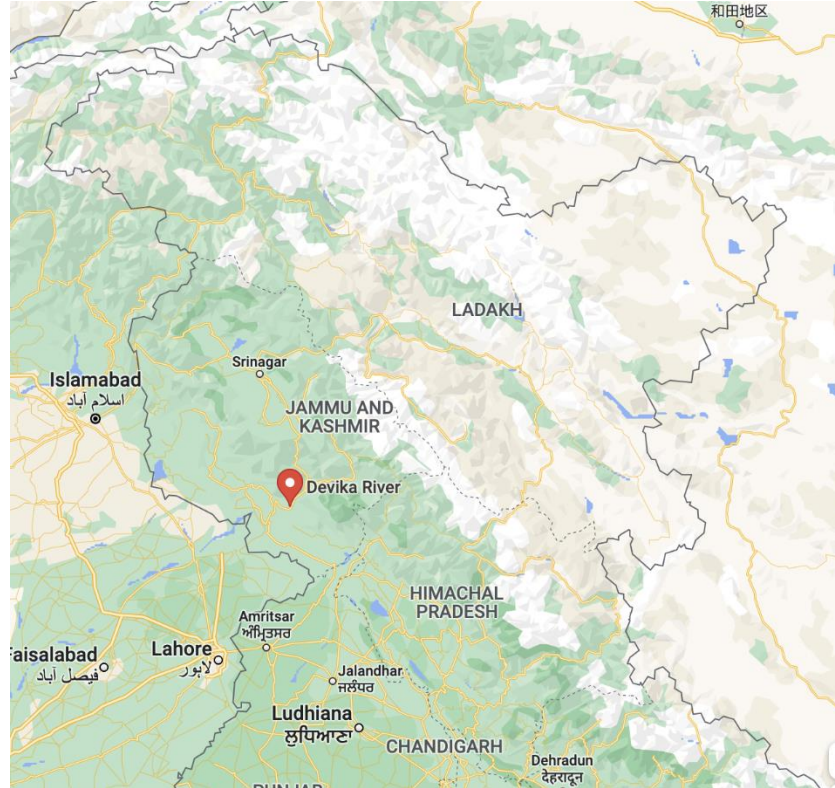
- ❖ There are a total of 482 recognised medical colleges in the country.
- ❖ It was according to the information released by the National Medical Commission (NMC) and the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ Karnataka (56), Maharashtra (49), Tamil Nadu (48), and Uttar Pradesh (46) are having the maximum number of medical colleges.

NATIONAL

Devika river

- ❖ It is North India's first river rejuvenation project.
- ❖ It is considered the sister of the sacred Ganga River.
- ❖ It originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in the Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ It flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it merges with the Ravi River.
- ❖ This project has been included in the Government of India's National River Conservation Project (NRCP).

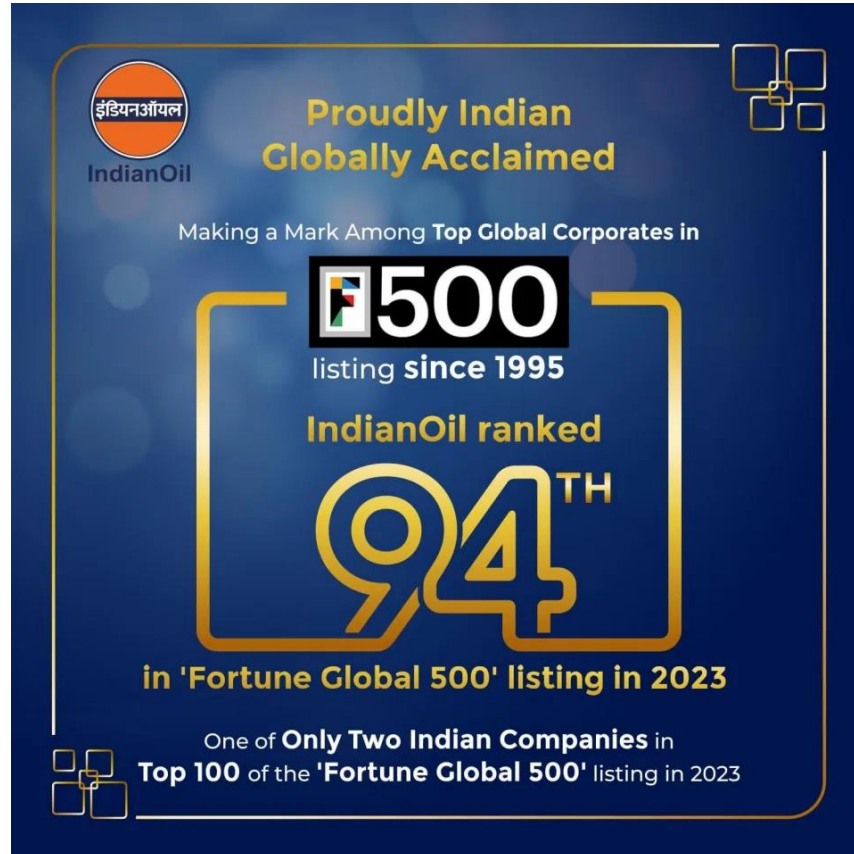


ECONOMY

Fortune global 500 lists of 2023

- ❖ Fortune Global 500 list has been released.
- ❖ It ranks companies by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ended on or before 31 March 2023.
- ❖ U.S. reaches its highest company total since 2010 and is highest as stand-alone country in 2023.
- ❖ Walmart was named the largest corporation by revenue for the 11th straight year.
- ❖ Saudi's Aramco is at No 2, while State Grid (China) is at 3rd slot.
- ❖ Eight Indian companies have been featured in the list.
- ❖ Reliance Industries had been ranked at number 104 in the 2022 ranking.
- ❖ And in the 2023 ranking it is placed at number 88.

- ❖ In that state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) jumped 48 places to rank at number 94.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LICI) slipped nine places to rank at 107.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Helina (Dhruvastra)

- ❖ Helina is an Air to Surface Missile system launched from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- ❖ ALH is fitted with two Twin launchers, each carrying eight missiles.
- ❖ It has the operational range up to 7 km and length of 1.946m, and a diameter of 0.150m.
- ❖ It has a High-Resolution Imaging Infrared Seeker (IIR) operating in the Lock on Before Launch (LOBL) mode.
- ❖ It is capable of automatic target detection and tracking in adverse weather conditions.

- ❖ In 2022, DRDO has successfully flight tested at high-altitude ranges as part of user validation trials.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Lion Day 2023 - August 10



- ❖ It was first established in 2013 by Big Cat Rescue organisation of the USA.
- ❖ It is the world's largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to lions.
- ❖ It was co-founded by team of Dereck and Beverly Joubert.

- ❖ Lions are scientifically known as Panthera Leo.
- ❖ According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, lions are classified as a "vulnerable" species.
- ❖ It ranks as the second-largest cat species globally.
- ❖ The Asian tiger is taking the lead and weigh between 300 and 550 pounds.
- ❖ African lions are the most social of all big cats and live together in groups or "pride."
- ❖ The Gir Forest serves as the second-largest habitat for the lions outside of Africa.

World Biofuel Day 2023 - August 10



- ❖ This day honours the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel of Germany.
- ❖ He was behind the development of the diesel engine in 1892.
- ❖ He ran an engine with peanut oil in the year 1893.
- ❖ His research experiment had predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines.
- ❖ The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.
- ❖ The National Policy of Biofuels in 2018 amendments additionally highlights a target of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by 2030.
- ❖ Biofuels are environment-friendly fuels that can be produced using biological materials like agricultural waste, trees, crops or even grass.
- ❖ Biofuels can be produced in a very short time and stored in either liquid or gaseous form.

- ❖ In contrast to fossil fuels, biofuels are renewable, sustainable and biodegradable in nature.
- ❖ The biofuels programme is also in synergy with the Government of India initiatives for Make in India, Swachh Bharat and enhancing farmers' income.
- ❖ Important Biofuel categories in India are such as Bioethanol, Biodiesel, Advanced biofuels, Second Generation (2G) Ethanol, Drop-in fuels, algae based 3G biofuels, Drop-in fuels and Bio-CNG.

