

December - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 13th National Seed Congress (NSC) 2024 was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The BCCI's secretary Jay Shah took charge as the chairman of the International Cricket Council, becoming youngest ever and the fifth Indian to head the global body.
- ❖ The first round of the India-Japan Dialogue on Economic Security, including Strategic Trade and Technology, was held recently in Tokyo.
- ❖ The Singapore Army and the Indian Army conducted the 13th edition of Exercise Agni Warrior (XAW) 2024, in Devlali, Maharashtra in India.
- ❖ Gujarat's handicraft, 'Gharchola,' has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ India has signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance to fund USD 2 million in solar projects across Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles.

TAMIL NADU

Government's gross market borrowings



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government's gross market borrowings stood at ₹50,000 crore in the first half of fiscal 2024-2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu borrows from the market through issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs) to meet their funding requirements.

- ❖ Maharashtra was the top borrowing State in the first half of fiscal 2024-2025, with gross borrowings of ₹64,000 crore.
- ❖ It was followed by Andhra Pradesh at ₹44,000 crore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts stood at ₹1,23,970.01 crore for the first half of 2024-25.
- ❖ This is about 41.46% of the State's budget estimates for 2024-25.
- ❖ The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) accounts for 75.6% of Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts.
- ❖ The balance 24.4% of the revenue receipts comes from the share in Central taxes and grants-in-aid from the Union government.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's revenue deficit, which indicates that expenditure exceeds receipts, came in at ₹28,717.51 crore in the first half of 2024-25.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit, the difference between total receipts and total expenditure, stood at ₹53,934.32 crore.

TN Endangered Species Conservation Fund



- ❖ The TN State government has issued an order to establish the Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund with an initial corpus of ₹50 crore.
- ❖ It is aiming to protect the endangered and critically endangered species.
- ❖ The fund will begin with a contribution of ₹5 crore by the government.

- ❖ Additional funds are to be raised through government entities, corporate social responsibility contributions, and national and international donations.
- ❖ Additionally, the fund will explore the cultural preservation through the State's Sacred Groves.
- ❖ It is leveraging the Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949, and the Tamil Nadu Hill Preservation Act, 1955, to strengthen conservation efforts.
- ❖ The fund will be initially overseen by the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Foundation.
- ❖ Later, the corpus will be held in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation or the Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation until any further arrangements are made.

NATIONAL

Indian Railways status in 2024

- ❖ Indian Railways has achieved approximately 97 per cent electrification of its total Broad-Gauge network.
- ❖ Around 45,200 route kilometres of the Broad-Gauge network have been electrified since 2014-15.
- ❖ The pace of electrification has been increased from approximately 1.42 km per day during 2004-14 to about 19.7 km per day in 2023-24.
- ❖ Recently it launched the country's first hydrogen-powered train and it will soon undergo a trial run between Haryana's Jind and Sonipat railway stations.



First auction in Offshore areas

- ❖ The Ministry of Mines launched the first-ever auction of mineral blocks in India's offshore areas.

- ❖ This initiative has opened up the nation’s territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and other maritime zones for the resource development.
- ❖ The first tranche of the auction will feature 13 mineral blocks strategically selected from the Arabian Sea and Andaman Sea.
- ❖ India’s EEZ, covering over 2 million square kilometres, is believed to hold vast untapped mineral reserves, including critical materials such as cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements (REE), and polymetallic nodules.

Mineral(s)	Number of Blocks	Location
Construction sand	3	Off the coast of Kerala, Arabian Sea
Lime-mud	3	Off the coast of Gujarat, Arabian Sea
Polymetallic nodules and crusts (containing Cobalt, Nickel, etc.)	7	Off Great Nicobar Islands, Andaman Sea

INTERNATIONAL

Cascais declaration

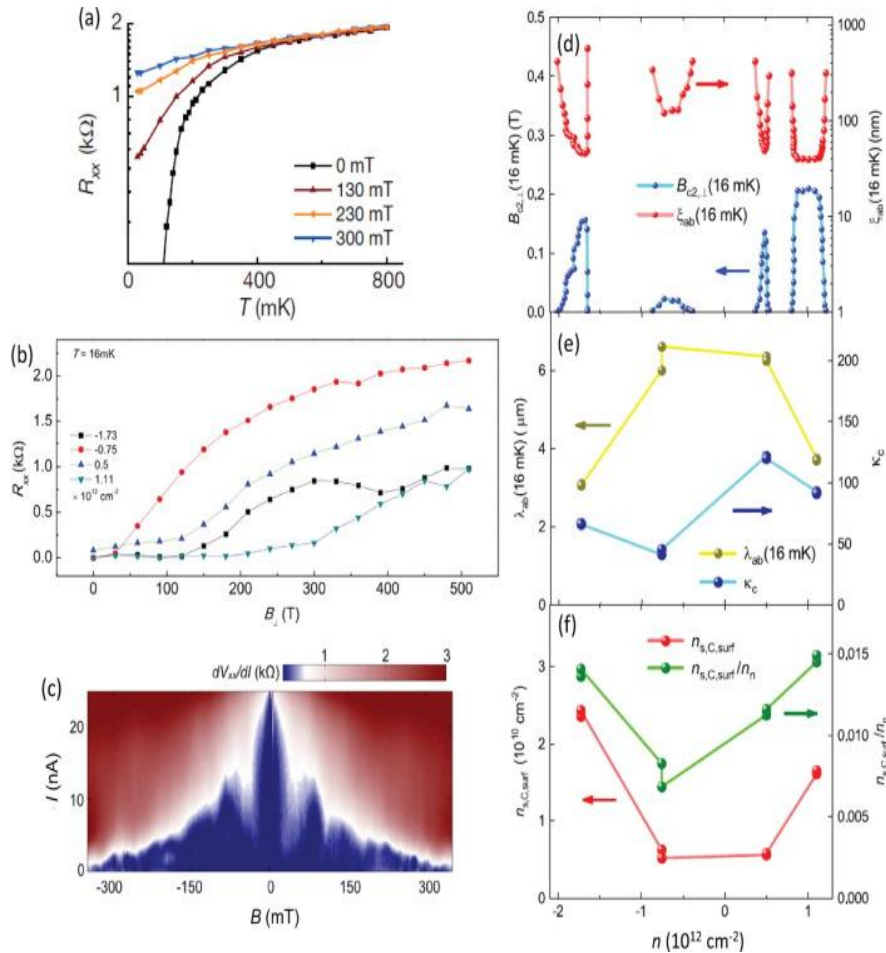


- ❖ Cascais declaration was adapted the UN Alliance for Civilizations 10th Global Forum held at Portugal.

- ❖ It outlines a range of actions and focuses on solutions to a current landscape of eroding trust and rising antisemitism, nationalism and online hate.
- ❖ It supported potential use of AI as a tool to advance intercultural and inter-religious dialogue.
- ❖ It noted the contribution of “sports diplomacy” as a tool for promoting dialogue.
- ❖ It has also emphasised the need to support and strengthen the role of women as negotiators, mediators and peacemakers.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New Moiré Superconductor



- ❖ Scientists reported that moiré materials made from semiconductor materials can also be superconducting.
- ❖ This property was once considered to be exclusive to the graphene system.

- ❖ Moiré materials are the two-dimensional systems created by stacking two layers of material and twisting one layer by a small angle.
- ❖ Moiré Pattern is a periodic structure resulting from atomic misalignment.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Network Readiness Index 2024

High Income Countries	Upper-Middle Income Countries	Lower-middle Income Countries	Low Income Countries
1. United States of America (1)	1. China (17)	1. Viet Nam (45)	1. Rwanda (91)
2. Singapore (2)	2. Malaysia (36)	2. India (49)	2. Uganda (118)
3. Finland (3)	3. Thailand (40)	3. Philippines (63)	3. Malawi (119)

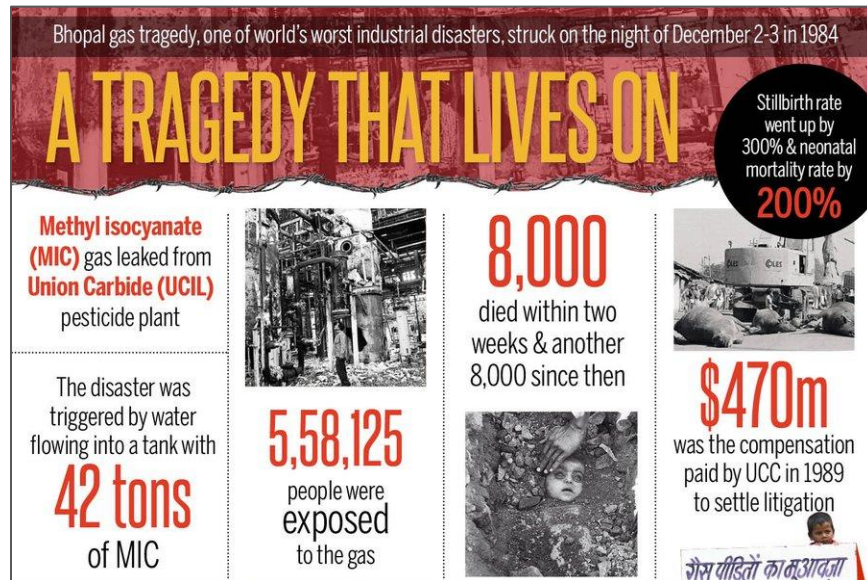
- ❖ India has risen 11 places in the latest Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024), securing the 49th rank globally.
- ❖ The index was published by the Portulans Institute, based in Washington DC of USA.
- ❖ Over the past decade, tele density has risen from 75.2% to 84.69%, while wireless connections have reached 119 crores.
- ❖ India is also ranked 2nd in the group of the lower-middle-income countries after Vietnam.
- ❖ India is ranked 1st at AI Scientific Publications, AI Talent Concentration and ICT Services Exports.
- ❖ It is ranked at 3rd in “Domestic market scale” and 4th in “Annual investment in telecommunication services.”
- ❖ United States, Singapore and Finland are topped in the index.
- ❖ China is ranked at 17th; Bangladesh is ranked at 89th and Pakistan is ranked at 97th rank.

IMPORTANT DAYS

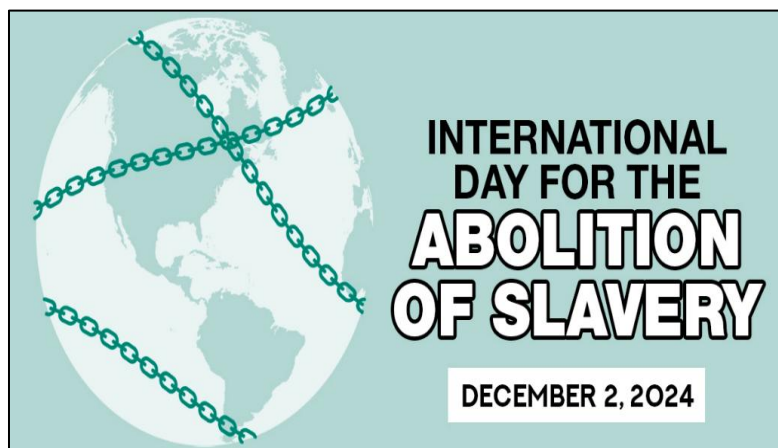
National Pollution Control Day 2024 - December 02

- ❖ This day remembers those who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

- ❖ This day is observed to make people aware of pollution-related issues and how it affects our daily lives.
- ❖ Pollution is a huge problem across the world and around 7 million people die every year worldwide due to air pollution
- ❖ The Bhopal Gas Tragedy occurred on December 2, 1984.
- ❖ It had killed around 15,00 to 20,000 people immediately after the toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked and spread in the atmosphere.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Clean Air, Green Earth: A Step Towards Sustainable Living."



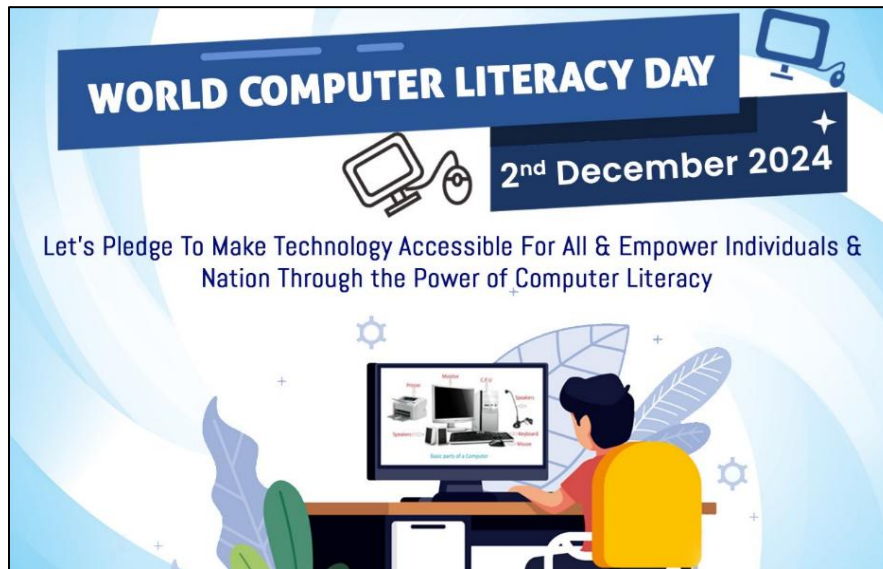
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2024 - December 02



- ❖ This day is focusing on eradicating modern forms of slavery, raising awareness about human trafficking, and promoting the rights and dignity of all individuals.

- ❖ On this day in 1949, UNGA adopted the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
- ❖ As per ILO, there were 27.6 million people in forced labour worldwide in 2021.
- ❖ From 2016 to 2021, the number increased by 2.7 million, mostly due to privately imposed forced labour.
- ❖ According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, India is home to over 11 million slaves, the highest number in any country.

World Computer Literacy Day 2024 - December 02



- ❖ This day promotes computer literacy and make computer use accessible to all.
- ❖ The day was initiated by the National Institute of Information Technology (N.I.I.T.).
- ❖ It aims to bridge the digital divide by focusing on educating women and children in computer literacy.
- ❖ The National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), an Indian multinational corporation, was founded in 1981.
- ❖ This day was first celebrated in 2001 to mark its 20th anniversary.

MISCELLANEOUS

Siberian Demoiselle crane - Longest Migration

- ❖ The Siberian Demoiselle crane made a long flight over 3,676 km to Rajasthan and setting a new distance record for migratory birds arriving in the state.

- ❖ The previous longest recorded flight for a Demoiselle crane was about 2,800km, for a bird tagged in Mongolia.
- ❖ Khichan in Phalodi district in Rajasthan is India's first reserve for the Demoiselle cranes.



WINGING IT: Sukpak, a juvenile crane, flew from Tyva in south-central Siberia to Khichan in Rajasthan, via Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Afg & Pakistan

