

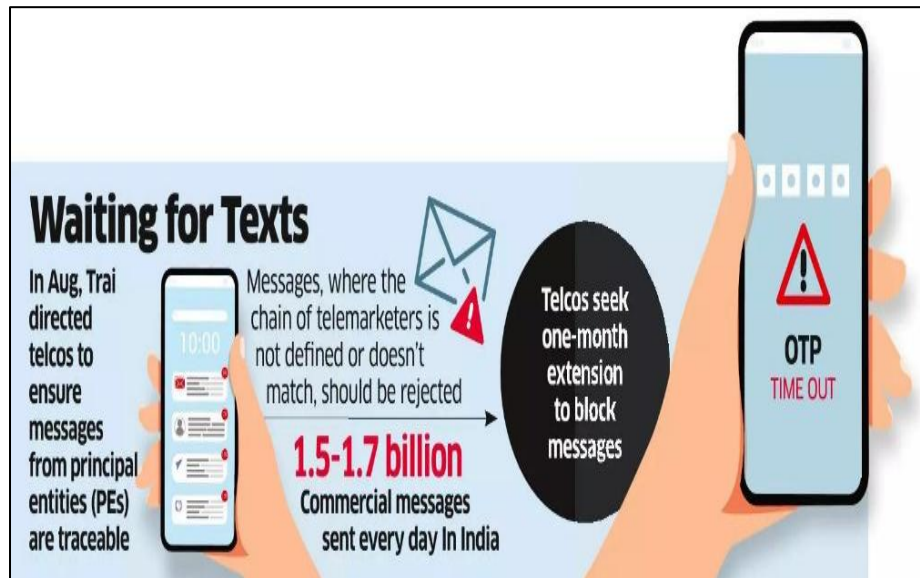
December - 06

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The fifth edition of Indo-Vietnam Joint Field Training Exercise, VINBAX-2024 was held in Chandigarh, Punjab.
- ❖ The 12th edition of International Tourism Mart (ITM) was held in Kaziranga, Assam.
- ❖ The 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police was held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The national postal exhibition BIPEX-2024 was held in Patna, Bihar.
- ❖ Maharashtra government received the prestigious SKOCH Award for its initiative 'Shaasan Aplya Daari' (Government at your doorstep).
- ❖ India has hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGIM) for the Asia-Pacific region at New Delhi.
- ❖ The President-elect Donald Trump has nominated the Indian-origin Kash Patel to serve as the next director of the FBI.

## NATIONAL

### TRAI's Guidelines on OTPs



- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) traceability guidelines came in to effect on December 1, 2024.

- ❖ The new traceability rules mandate to track the origin of commercial messages and OTPs in order to restrict fraud, spams and phishing.
- ❖ It aims to create a robust and safe ecosystem where online frauds can be reduced.

### **K-4 Missile**

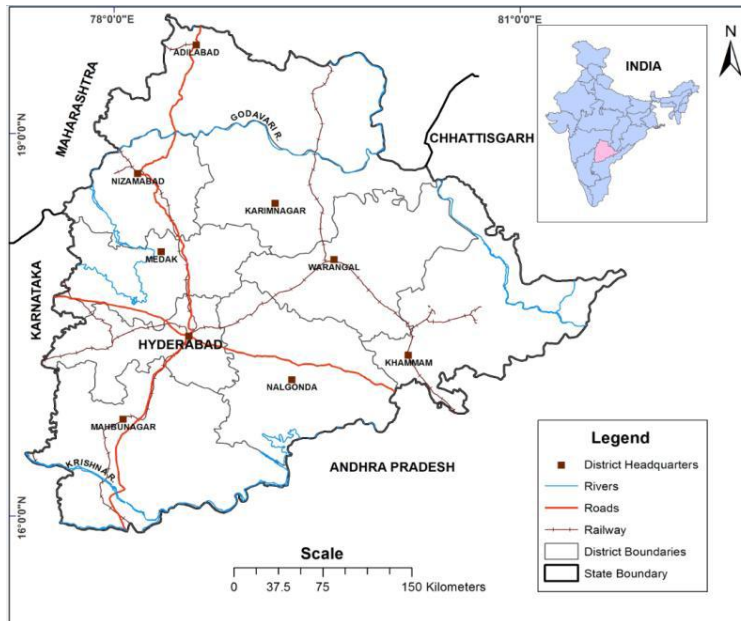
- ❖ The K-4 missile was tested from submarine INS Arighaat at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It was the first test of the submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a submarine.
- ❖ With the missile test, India also became part of a small group of countries that can fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea.



### **Telangana - Mineral Auction Regime**

- ❖ Telangana has become the 14<sup>th</sup> state to join the mineral auction regime by successfully bidding out two limestone blocks.
- ❖ These auctions come eight years after the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act, 2015 first defined this framework.
- ❖ The other additions to the mine auction regime are Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh where the centre has conducted bids for critical minerals.

- ❖ A total of 81 mineral blocks have been auctioned across 13 states, including the critical and major minerals.



## Yuva Sangam Phase 5



- ❖ Yuva Sangam Phase 5 commenced from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh embarked on journeys to Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.



- ❖ Yuva Sangam is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at strengthening people-to-people connections among youth across different States and Union Territories.
- ❖ The program promotes unity in diversity by facilitating meaningful interactions, cultural immersion, and knowledge sharing.
- ❖ During Yuva Sangam tours, multi-dimensional exposure under five broad areas- the 5 Ps are Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect), and Prodyogiki (Technology).

### Assessing Universal Basic Literacy in India

Statement 1: Percentage of persons able to read and write short simple statements in their everyday life with understanding			
all-India			
Age group (years)	Male	Female	Person
15 – 24	97.9	96.0	97.0
15 – 29	97.5	94.6	96.1
15 years and above	88.3	74.8	81.6

- ❖ The 79<sup>th</sup> round of the National Sample Survey (NSS) - “Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey, 2022–23” was conducted between July 2022 and June 2023.
- ❖ 95.9% of individuals in India possess basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- ❖ 95.3% of rural individuals have basic literacy and numeracy skills, and it is 97.4% in urban areas.
- ❖ 97.4% of rural males and 93.4% of rural females possess these skills.
- ❖ In urban areas, 98% of males and 96.7% of females meet this standard.
- ❖ Mizoram (100%), Goa (99.9%), and Sikkim (99.9%) lead in literacy rates.
- ❖ Bihar (91.9%) and Uttar Pradesh (92.3%) lag behind.





- ❖ The term “universal” generally implies full or near-complete coverage, typically close to 100%.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Italy's Surrogacy Law

- ❖ The Italian Senate recently passed a law-making surrogacy a “universal crime”.
- ❖ In Italy, surrogacy is already illegal, and has been since 2004.
- ❖ The new ban will make it a crime for Italians to access surrogacy abroad – even in countries where the practice is legal.
- ❖ It puts surrogacy on a par with genocide and crimes against humanity.
- ❖ In Greece, non-commercial surrogacy has been legal since 2002.
- ❖ Other countries, including France and Germany, prohibit surrogacy.

Understanding Surrogacy and its Regulation	
<p><b>SURROGACY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Having another woman bear a child for a couple (or single women or men) to raise.</li> <li>■ The surrogate offers to carry a baby through pregnancy and then return the baby to the intended parent(s) once it is born.</li> <li>■ Surrogacy is an option to fulfill the desire to have a child of a couple for whom it is physically or medically impossible or undesirable to carry a baby to term on their own.</li> <li>■ There are two types of surrogacy – traditional surrogacy and gestational surrogacy.</li> <li>■ In Traditional Surrogacy, a surrogate mother is artificially inseminated, either by the intended father or an anonymous donor. The surrogate mother provides the egg and is thus genetically related to the child.</li> <li>■ In Gestational Surrogacy, an embryo is created using an egg and sperm produced by the intended couple and is transferred into the surrogate's uterus. The surrogate has no genetic link to the child. Her eggs cannot be used to conceive the child.</li> <li>■ Surrogacy can be altruistic or commercial. In altruistic surrogacy, the surrogate is not paid for her services, except for medical expenses and insurance. In commercial surrogacy, the surrogate is paid over and above these expenses.</li> <li>■ The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill seeks to ban commercial surrogacy but protect the altruistic surrogate through enhanced, prescribed payments (for medical expenses, food and care, longer-duration insurance).</li> </ul>	<p><b>INDICATIONS FOR SURROGACY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Opting for surrogacy is often a choice made when women are unable to carry children on their own.</li> <li>■ This can be for a number of reasons, including an abnormal uterus or a complete absence of a uterus either congenitally or post-hysterectomy.</li> <li>■ Women may have a hysterectomy due to complications in childbirth, medical diseases such as cervical cancer or endometrial cancer, or heart and renal conditions, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHAT DO OTHER COUNTRIES DO?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Columbia, Iran, and some states of the US allow commercial surrogacy</li> <li>■ France, Finland, Italy, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Ireland, etc. have banned all forms of surrogacy.</li> <li>■ India seeks a middle path between these extremes, by banning commercial surrogacy (including for foreigners) while allowing and regulating altruistic surrogacy for all persons of Indian origin.</li> <li>■ Australia, Canada, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, UK, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, Mexico have similar surrogacy practices as India seeks to establish.</li> </ul>	

### UK Law On Assisted Dying

- ❖ The UK passed the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill recently.
- ❖ The Bill allows terminally ill patients (those with little to no hope of recovery from fatal illnesses) to request assistance to end their own life.
- ❖ Assisted dying is the process by which a patient can end their own life with the assistance of a doctor.
- ❖ Euthanasia involves the more active involvement of the doctor to end the life of a terminally ill patient.

- ❖ The Bill says that only a terminally ill person above the age of 18 and with the mental “capacity” to make such a decision can request assisted dying.



## RS-28 Sarmat – Russia

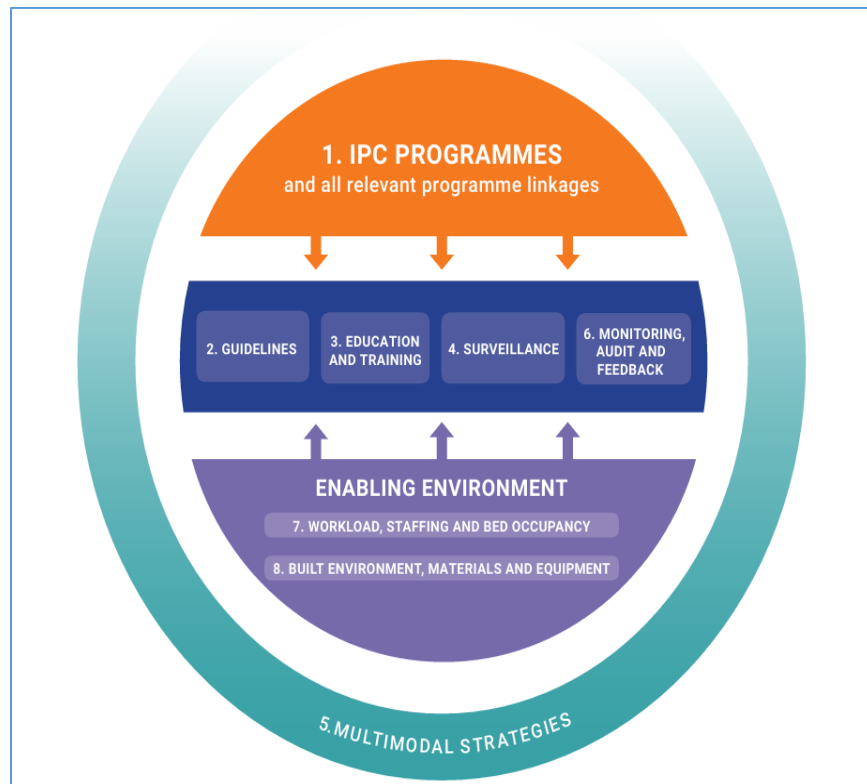


- ❖ Russia plans to deploy its RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, also known as "Satan 2".
- ❖ The RS-28 Sarmat is a next-generation intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

- ❖ It is designed to replace the Soviet-era R-36 ICBMs, also commonly referred to as "Satan" by NATO.
- ❖ The Sarmat missile can carry up to 15 nuclear warheads, arranged as Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicles (MIRVs).
- ❖ This can strike multiple targets simultaneously.
- ❖ The missile boasts a range of 6,200 to 11,180 miles, enabling it to target regions across the U.S. or Europe.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global report on IPC 2024



- ❖ Though 71% of countries now have an active infection prevention and control (IPC) program, just 6% met all of the WHO IPC minimum requirements in 2023-2024.
- ❖ This is far behind the target of more than 90% by 2030 set in the WHO Global action plan and monitoring framework on IPC.
- ❖ Approximately one in four (23.6%) of all hospital-treated sepsis cases are health care-associated.

- ❖ Almost one half (48.7%) of all cases of sepsis with organ dysfunction treated in adult intensive care units (ICU) are hospital-acquired.
- ❖ Each year, 7.7 million deaths are attributed to bacterial infections worldwide.
- ❖ The global number of hospital-associated infections resistant to antibiotics was estimated to be 136 million annually.
- ❖ 4.95 million deaths were associated with bacterial AMR annually.

### Global Outlook 2025 report

- ❖ Overall outlook for global GDP growth in 2025 is likely to be similar to 2024 at around 3%.
- ❖ Economic growth in the world's two largest countries, the U.S. and China, is expected to slow next year.
- ❖ Not one of the top 45 economies in the world are expected to be in recession next year.
- ❖ Most are expected to grow faster in 2025, including Europe, Japan, Canada, and the U.K.
- ❖ China is the world's second largest economy and accounts for about 18% of the global economy.

GDP % change (not annualized)								
G7 countries	4Q 2024*	3Q 2024*	2Q 2024	1Q 2024	4Q 2023	3Q 2023	2Q 2023	1Q 2023
Canada	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.9%
France	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.7%	0.0%
Germany	0.1%	0.1%	-0.3%	0.2%	-0.4%	0.2%	-0.2%	0.1%
Italy	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	-0.2%	0.4%
Japan	0.4%	0.2%	0.6%	-0.6%	0.1%	-1.1%	0.7%	1.3%
United Kingdom	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%	0.7%	-0.3%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
United States	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	1.1%	0.6%	0.7%

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 - December 03

- ❖ This global healthcare event observed for the past 23 years (since 1998).



- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness of the situations of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life.
- ❖ Theme for 2024 is “Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future”.
- ❖ Persons with disabilities make up 16% of the global population.



### **Indian Navy Day 2024 - December 04**



- ❖ This day acknowledges the role and achievements of the Indian Navy.

- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the Operation Trident, a critical naval offensive during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has presented a grand Operational Demonstration at Odisha's Puri's Blue Flag Beach during this year celebration.
- ❖ The Indian Navy was established in 1612 by the East India Company.
- ❖ The Indian Navy also acts as the prime enabler and guarantor of the country's maritime sovereignty and myriad use of sea activities.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Mineral Water - High-Risk Food



- ❖ The FSSAI has reclassified packaged drinking water and mineral water as a high-risk food category.
- ❖ It is mandating stricter regulatory controls and annual facility inspections.
- ❖ The reclassification by FSSAI follows recent amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

### Minke Whales' Hearing Range

- ❖ The Scientists have directly measured that the minke whales can detect high-frequency sounds as high as 48-90 kilohertz (kHz).
- ❖ It is demonstrating hearing sensitivity far greater than previously believed.

- ❖ Baleen whales - the planet's largest mammals - may be even more impacted by the anthropogenic ocean noise than currently recognised.

