

December - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Tourism has allocated ₹169.9 crore for developing Nandavanam Heritage Park in Mamallapuram and the Garden of Flowers in Devala in Ooty under its Scheme for Special Assistance to States for the Capital Expenditure.
- ❖ Devendra Fadnavis sworn in as Maharashtra Chief Minister for the third time.
- ❖ The United States has approved a possible \$1.17 billion deal to sell India support equipment for MH-60R multi-role helicopters under its Foreign Military Sales programme.
- ❖ The Indian men's junior hockey team defeated Pakistan secure their fifth Junior Asia Cup title 2024 (held at Oman) and their third consecutive championship.
- ❖ The fourth edition of the India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise, Harimau Shakti 2024 is being held in Malaysia.
- ❖ 9th International Conference on Waste to Worth was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at New Delhi.
- ❖ India's Pavan Kampelli has made history by securing a bronze medal in eFootball at the 2024 Asian Esports Games held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ Chandigarh becomes the first city in India to fully implement the country's 3 new criminal laws.
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), aimed at empowering rural India with digital literacy, trained 6.39 crore individuals, surpassing its target of 6 crore by March 31, 2024.

TAMIL NADU

Net zero emissions by 2070

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is actively working towards achieving net zero emissions by 2070 through targeted actions
- ❖ The State was ranked third rank in the country for the renewable energy generation.
- ❖ The wind energy alone is accounting for 11,900 million units a year.

- ❖ By 2030, Tamil Nadu plans to source 50% of its energy from the renewable sources.

Sector	2005	2019
Energy	82%	77%
Industrial processes and product use	6%	6%
Waste	8%	5%
Agriculture, forestry, and other land use	4%	12%

NATIONAL

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024



FM MOVES BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024 IN LOK SABHA

- I would like to highlight 7 of the 19 amendments to the banking bill
- The proposed bill aims to improve governance standards, provide consistency in reporting by banks to the RBI, ensure better protection for the depositors and also for investors, improve audit quality in PSBs, and also increase the tenure of directors in coop banks
- Proposed amendments will only strengthen governance in Indian banking sector besides enhancing consumer and customer protection w.r.t nominations and protection of investors

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- ❖ The Bill allows the bank account holders to have up to four nominees in their accounts.
- ❖ It also proposes some changes related to redefining “substantial interest” for directorships, which could increase to ₹2 crore instead of the current limit of ₹5 lakh.

- ❖ It proposes to increase the tenure of directors (excluding the chairman and whole-time director) in cooperative banks from eight years to 10 years.
- ❖ The Bill would allow a director of a Central Cooperative Bank to serve on the board of a State Cooperative Bank.
- ❖ The Bill also seeks to give greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors.
- ❖ It redefines the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays.
- ❖ The Bill proposed to amend five Acts –
 - The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934,
 - The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (or the BR Act),
 - The State Bank of India Act, 1955,
 - The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, and
 - The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

National Achievement Survey 2024



- ❖ The NAS 2024 is a large-scale assessment to obtain information about the learning achievements of schoolchildren.
- ❖ The survey conducts random sampling to select schools and students to prevent bias.

- ❖ Students of Class 3 are expected to answer 45 multiple choice questions (MCQs) designed until the Class 2 level, with weightage of 15 marks each for language, maths, and environmental science, in 90 minutes.
- ❖ The 2024 NAS survey will be conducted in 26 languages.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, 5,055 grades which are Classes 3, 6, and 9 will be writing the exam.

SheSTEM 2024



The banner features logos for NITI Aayog, AIM (Atal Innovation Mission), BUSINESS FINLAND, INVEST IN FINLAND, Norway, Embassy of Sweden New Delhi, and INNOVATION CENTRE DENMARK. The main title is 'SheSTEM 2024 Winners'. The winners are listed as follows:

Rank	Project Name	School Name	Location
1st	Prarambh	Darbari Lal DAV Model School	pitampura, Delhi
2nd	HydroGen Innovators	Aditya Vidyashram Residential School	Puducherry
3rd	MyCelitech	St. Xaviers High School	Bharni, Chhattisgarh

- ❖ This annual event was organized by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Office of Science and Innovation at the Embassy of Sweden.
- ❖ It aims to inspire the next generation and encourage the young minds to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- ❖ This year's challenge, focusing on energy storage and sustainability, directly addresses some of the most pressing global challenges

- ❖ It has invited students from grades 6-12 nationwide to submit innovative ideas focused on Battery Technology and Energy Storage (BEST) systems.

Boilers bill 2024

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Boilers Bill 2024, aiming to replace the archaic Boilers Act of 1923.
- ❖ It aims to decriminalise seven offences and promote ease of doing business.
- ❖ For Four major offences, which may result in loss of life and property, criminal penalties are retained.
- ❖ The bill also provisions to ensure the safety of persons working inside a boiler
- ❖ The new law aims to modernize regulations and align them with contemporary safety standards.

Key Provisions & Benefits:

Rajya Sabha passes Boilers Bill 2024, replaces century-old act.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Boilers Bill 2024, aiming to replace the archaic Boilers Act of 1923. The new legislation is designed to enhance safety standards for workers and streamline regulatory processes for boiler users, particularly MSMEs.

Safety First

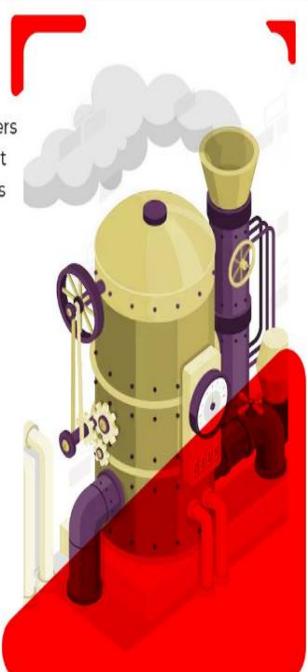
The Bill prioritizes the safety of workers by requiring qualified and competent personnel to handle boiler operations and repairs.

Ease of Doing Business

Decriminalization provisions have been incorporated to reduce the bureaucratic burden on boiler users, especially MSMEs.

Modernized Regulations

The new law aims to modernize regulations and align them with contemporary safety standards.

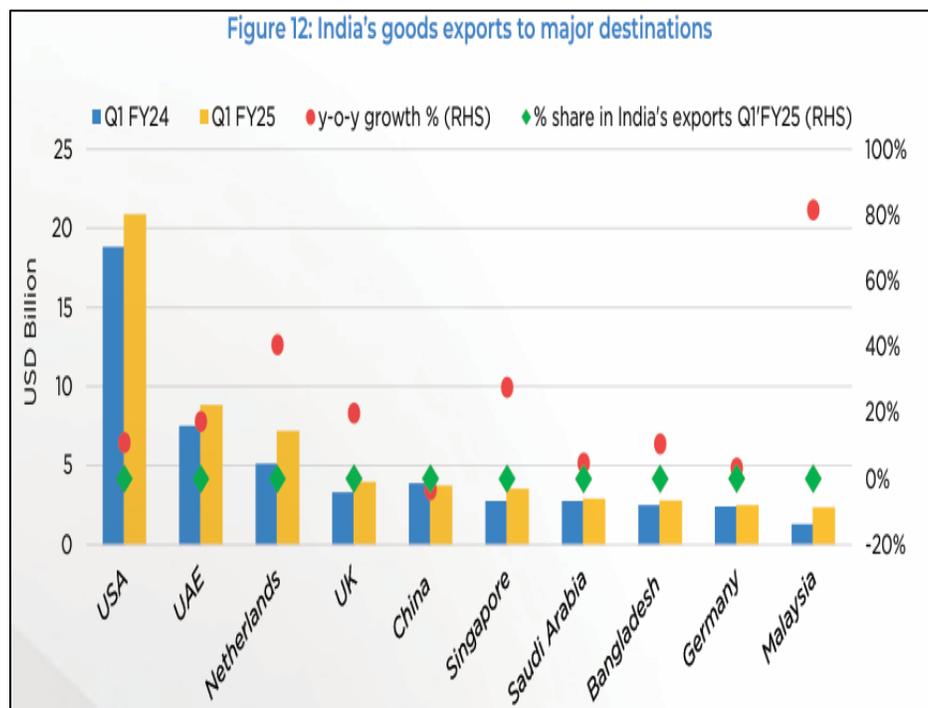


ECONOMY

First trade watch report

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the Trade Watch Quarterly report for Q1 FY25.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive overview of the country's trade dynamics during April–June 2024.

- ❖ India's total trade performance for the first half of 2024 reached \$576 billion with the year-on-year (YoY) growth of 5.45%.
- ❖ Exports stood at \$231 billion, reflecting a modest increase of 5.41%, imports surged to \$345 billion.
- ❖ It is resulting in a widened current account deficit of \$9.7 billion.
- ❖ Services exports rose by 10.09% YoY to reach \$89 billion.
- ❖ IT services and other business solutions has global market shares of 10.2% and 7.16%, respectively.
- ❖ North America and the European Union continue to be pivotal markets, accounting for 21% and 18.6% of India's exports, respectively.

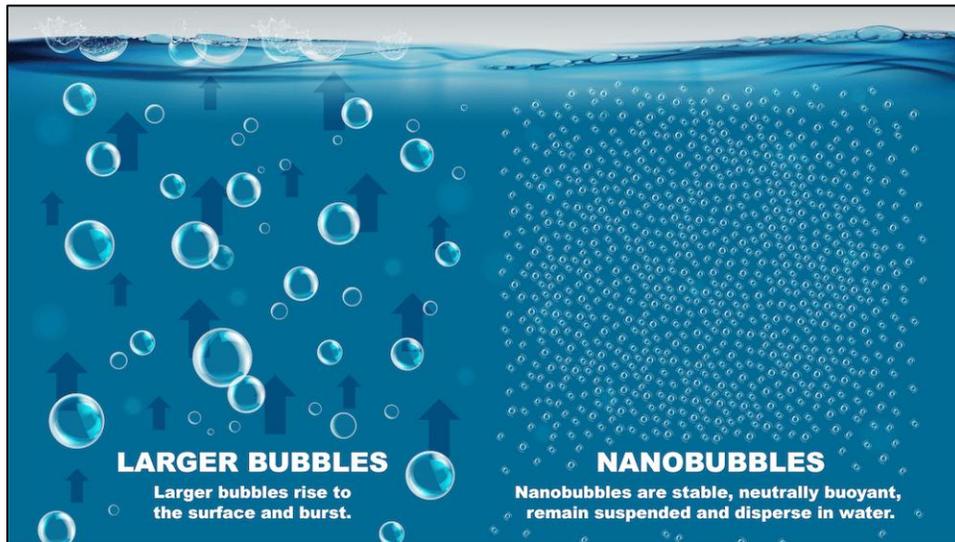


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Nano Bubble Technology - Delhi Zoo

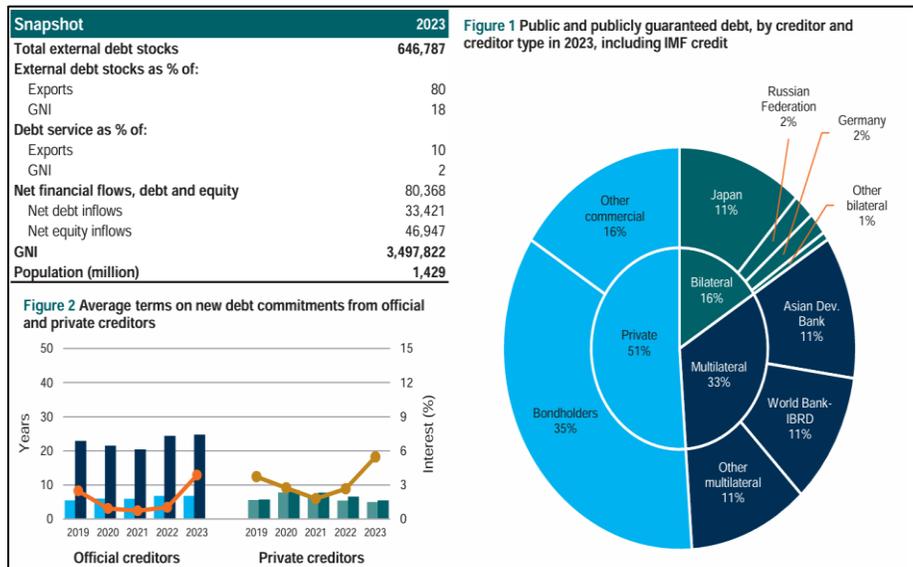
- ❖ The National Zoological Park in Delhi will soon implement 'nano bubble technology' for cleaning and purifying the water.
- ❖ It employs advanced filtration and recycling methods to remove impurities and prevent algae growth.
- ❖ The technology also minimises water wastage by enabling efficient recycling.
- ❖ Nanobubble technology generates tiny bubbles that dissolve in water.

- ❖ These bubbles enhance oxygen levels and purify the water.
- ❖ They can effectively reduce pollutants and improve water clarity.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Annual International Debt report 2024



- ❖ The World Bank recently released the "International Debt Report 2024.
- ❖ Tight monetary policies in high-income countries pushed interest rates to a 20-year high.
- ❖ The Developing nations collectively spent an unprecedented \$1.4 trillion servicing their foreign debt in 2023.

- ❖ Interest payments surged nearly 33 per cent to \$406 billion.
- ❖ The world's poorest and most vulnerable nations paid a record \$96.2 billion in debt service during the year.
- ❖ While repayments of principal fell by almost 8 per cent to \$61.6 billion, interest costs hit an all-time high of \$34.6 billion.
- ❖ It is a fourfold increase compared to a decade ago.
- ❖ The combined external debt of low- and middle-income countries have reached a record \$8.8 trillion at the end of 2023, an 8 per cent increase from 2020.
- ❖ Bangladesh and India have experienced over 90% increases in interest payments in 2023.

STATES

Ban on Beef Consumption - Assam



- ❖ Assam has announced a statewide ban on serving and consumption of beef in restaurants, hotels and public places.
- ❖ Consumption of beef is not illegal in Assam.
- ❖ But the Assam Cattle Preservation Act of 2021 regulates the transportation, and slaughter of all cattle, and sale of beef and beef products in the state.
- ❖ This act bans cattle slaughter and sale of beef in areas where Hindus, Jains and Sikhs are in majority and within a five-kilometre radius of a temple or satra (Vaishnavite monastery).

- ❖ Violations of the provisions of the bill could lead to imprisonment for three to eight years and a fine between ₹3 lakh and ₹5 lakh.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Armed Forces Flag Day 2024 – December 07

- ❖ It is dedicated to honour the soldiers and veterans of India's armed forces.
- ❖ The day aims to collect funds for the welfare of armed forces personnel, especially those injured or killed in action, as well as their families.
- ❖ It serves as an opportunity for citizens to express their solidarity and support for the armed forces.

