

December - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kamarajar port (Ennore), India's first corporatised major port celebrated its silver jubilee recently.
- ❖ The Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) Sangathan has announced the establishment of its First school in Theni.
- ❖ India's EPFO was honored with the prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024 for its continuous efforts to reform and enhance social security systems in the country.
- ❖ The 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was held in Republic of Paraguay.
- ❖ The 5th Edition of Vietnam Indian Bilateral Army Exercise "VINBAX 2024" was held at Ambala, Haryana.
- ❖ The General Council of the WTO agreed to reappoint Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General for a second four-year term.
 - She is the first woman and first African (Nigeria) to hold this position.
- ❖ Professor Thomas Eugene Kurtz, co-inventor of the BASIC programming language, has passed away recently.
- ❖ SBI Card announced that the number of its credit cards in circulation has surpassed 20 million.
 - Earlier in January 2024, HDFC Bank had achieved the milestone of 20 million cards in force.

TAMIL NADU

Cyclone Fengal relief

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the release of ₹944.80 crore to Tamil Nadu from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for providing relief to the people affected by Cyclone Fengal.
- ❖ The SDRF is the main fund available with the State governments for their response to notified disasters.
- ❖ The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for the general category States and Union Territories.

- ❖ But Centre's contributions are 90% for the special category States/Union Territories (Northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir).
- ❖ According to the Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the "NDRF supplements the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF".

CENTRE APPROVES ₹944 CR RELIEF FUND FOR CYCLONE FENGAL



SOP to conduct school functions



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu School Education Department has released Standard Operating Procedures to conduct tours, forum discussions, and functions at schools.

- ❖ It also specifies who can be invited to these events.
- ❖ The guidelines have mandated that schools must choose from a pre-approved master list maintained by the department.
- ❖ These guidelines are applicable to all categories of schools functioning in Tamil Nadu, including those under the CBSE and other departments.
- ❖ A State-level and district-level committee will be formed, with the School Education Secretary as chairman of the State-level committee and Collector as chairman of the district committee.
- ❖ The committees will also have SP, District Social Welfare Officer, Differently-abled Welfare Officer, Child Welfare Officer, and Education Officer as members.

‘TB-Free Tamil Nadu’ campaign



- ❖ The Lok Sabha member from Thoothukudi Kanimozhi launched the 100-day campaign “Tuberculosis-free Tamil Nadu”.
- ❖ The Chennai Mayor Priya has launched the ‘Tuberculosis-Free Tamil Nadu’ awareness campaign vehicle.
- ❖ The campaign aims to raise awareness on tuberculosis (TB) among the public.
- ❖ The State government aims to eradicate TB by 2025.
- ❖ By November 2024, 2,88,331 people had been tested for TB, with 7,968 receiving treatments at public health centres and 4,857 people at private facilities.
- ❖ Among the 8,735 household contacts of diagnosed TB patients, 5,767 were given preventive treatment.

Jumped Deposit scam

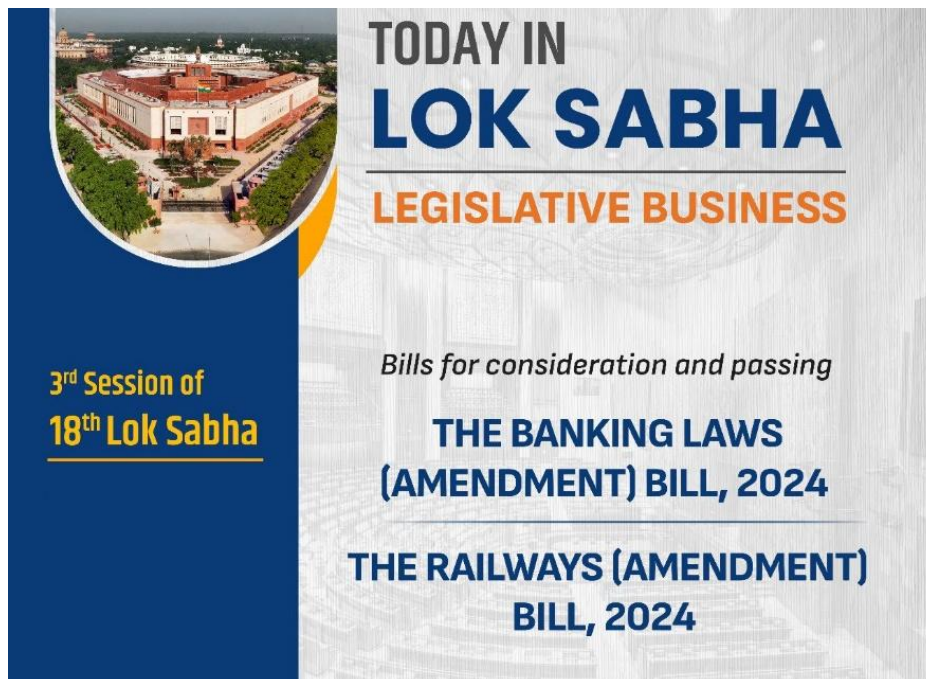
- ❖ The Cyber Crime Wing of the Tamil Nadu police has warned citizens of a new and sophisticated scam – the ‘jumped’ deposit scam.

- ❖ It is a tactic designed to trick users into unknowingly approving fraudulent withdrawals through Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ❖ The scam begins with the fraudster sending a small amount, typically around ₹5,000, to the victim's bank account through UPI.



NATIONAL

Railways Amendment Bill 2024



TODAY IN
LOK SABHA
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Bills for consideration and passing

**THE BANKING LAWS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

**THE RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024**

**3rd Session of
18th Lok Sabha**

- ❖ The current Bill proposes to simplify the legal framework by incorporating the proposals of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 in the Railways Act, 1989.

- ❖ It aims to provide statutory backing to the Railway Board, which has functioned without such sanction since its inception.
- ❖ The Bill proposes the decentralising financial and operational decision-making to zones, empowering them to manage the budgets, infrastructure works, and recruitment.
- ❖ It is supported by various committees, including the 2014 Sreedharan Committee.
- ❖ The Bill introduces Section 24A to allow the government to expedite superfast train operations and infrastructure upgrades.
- ❖ It will establish an independent regulator to oversee various aspects of Indian Railways, including tariffs, safety, and private sector participation.

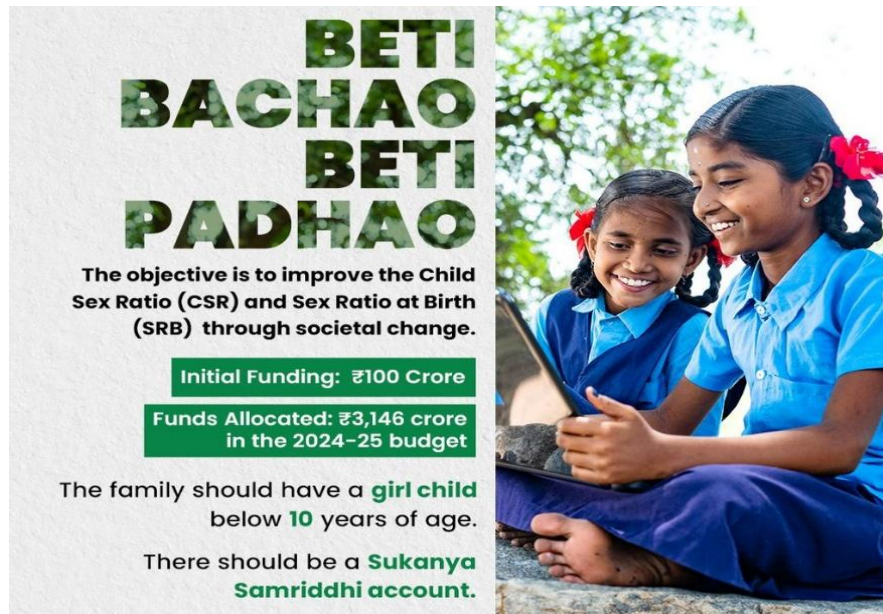
Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024



- ❖ Parliament passed a bill to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act to further improve the ease of doing business in aviation sector.
- ❖ The bill seeks to remove redundancies and replace the Aircraft Act, 1934, which has been amended 21 times.
- ❖ The bill focuses on enhancing the safety, regulatory oversight, and consumer protection while aligning with international standards.
- ❖ The bill also promotes the self-reliance in aircraft manufacturing, encourages investment, and establishes the robust governance structures for civil aviation authorities.

- ❖ The licensing process hitherto conducted by the Department of Telecom will now be managed Directorate General of Civil Aviation.
- ❖ This will ensure a single-window clearance process as aviation personnel can now secure all their certificates from one authority.

Positive Trends Under BBBP Scheme



**BETI
BACHAO
BETI
PADHAO**


The objective is to improve the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) through societal change.

Initial Funding: ₹100 Crore

Funds Allocated: ₹3,146 crore in the 2024-25 budget

The family should have a **girl child** below **10** years of age.

There should be a **Sukanya Samridhi account**.



- ❖ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme with 100% funding by the Central Government.
- ❖ It focuses on preventing gender-biased sex-selective practices, ensuring the survival and protection of the girl child, and promoting education of girl children.
- ❖ The Sex ratio at Birth (SRB) has been improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 (provisional data) at the national level.
- ❖ There is a slight decline in SRB in respect of the State of Odisha from 948 in 2014-15 to 926 in 2023-24.
- ❖ The Gross Enrolment ratio of girls in the schools at secondary level has increased in the state of Odisha from 75.03 percent in 2014-15 to 80.60 percent in 2021-22.

ECONOMY

New UPI Lite Limit 2024

- ❖ RBI has enhanced the transaction threshold for offline digital payments made via UPI Lite.


- ❖ The per-transaction UPI Lite ceiling has been increased from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000.
- ❖ The total wallet capacity for the UPI Lite has been expanded from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000.
- ❖ The per-transaction limit in UPI123Pay increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.
- ❖ The UPI Lite enables users to complete low-value purchases without requiring internet connectivity.

FRESH CAP

UPI123Pay limit (per transaction)
Earlier: ₹5,000
Now: ₹10,000

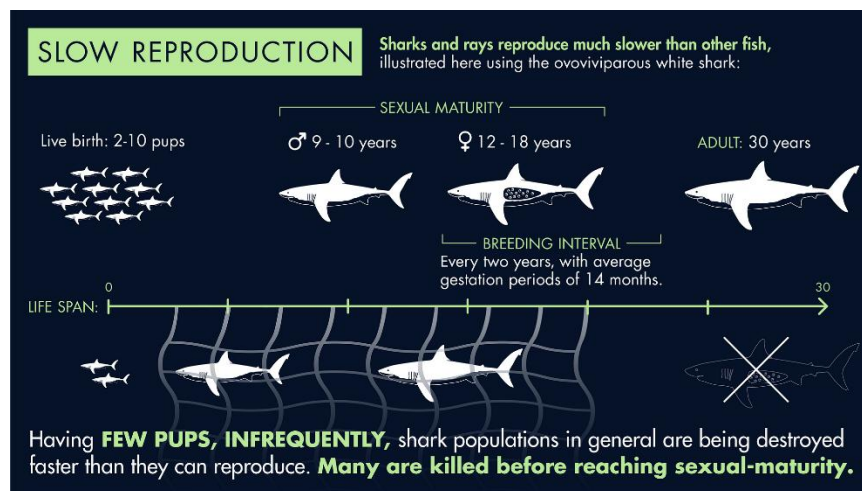
UPI Lite limit (per transaction)
Earlier: ₹500
Now: ₹1,000

UPI Lite (wallet limit)
Earlier: ₹2,000
Now: ₹5000



ENVIRONMENT

Decline in Shark and Rays



- ❖ The world's sharks and rays have declined by more than 50 per cent since 1970.

- ❖ Overfishing has decimated populations of chondrichthyan fishes – sharks, rays, and chimaeras (closely related to sharks) – by more than half in the past 50 years.
- ❖ Habitat degradation, climate change and pollution resulted over one-third of the chondrichthyans now face the threat of extinction.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2024

- ❖ Former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet will receive the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development.
- ❖ The prize honours Bachelet's contributions to human rights, peace, and equality.
- ❖ She served as Chile's president from 2006 to 2010 and again from 2014 to 2018.
- ❖ She led UN women from 2010 to 2013 and later served as UN high commissioner for human rights from 2018 to 2022.
- ❖ The award also recognized her "contributions to India's relations with Chile".
- ❖ This prize was established in 1986, the prize is awarded annually to individuals and organizations promoting international peace and development.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Cheetah Day 2024 - December 04

- ❖ It was established by the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), a leading organization dedicated to the preservation of cheetahs.
- ❖ The date, December 4, honours the memory of a cheetah cub named Khayam, raised by Dr. Laurie Marker, the founder of CCF.

- ❖ It aims to raise global awareness about the urgent need to save cheetahs from extinction.
- ❖ Cheetahs are primarily found in the open grasslands of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ By 2020, fewer than 8,000 remained in the wild-a staggering 50% decline over four decades.



International Civil Aviation Day 2024 - December 07



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the role of civil aviation in promoting economic growth and global connectivity.
- ❖ This day was established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ❖ It honours the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation promoting the economic growth and global connectivity.
- ❖ 2024 also marks the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation in Chicago, US.

- ❖ India is the third-largest domestic aviation market, trailing only the United States and China.

