



**December - 12**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Parveen Shaikh, a scientist from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), won the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award 2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's L. Keerthana won the gold medal in the women's singles event at the 7th Carrom World Cup held in the Maldives.
- ❖ Grand master R Praggnanandhaa has become the first Indian chess player to qualify for the Candidates 2026 after winning the FIDE Circuit 2025.
- ❖ The SEBI grants in-principal approval for the registration of Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT) as an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) under SEBI Regulations, 2014.
- ❖ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Lockheed Martin have commenced construction of a state-of-the-art Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the C-130J Super Hercules aircraft in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Chinese President Xi Jinping presides over a symposium on China's economic and social development in the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).
- ❖ The Sixth International Conference on Bacteriophage Research and Antimicrobial Resistance concluded at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi.
- ❖ Kondapalli village in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, got the mobile connectivity and electricity for the first time in 2025.
  - The first mobile tower (Jio) was installed in April 2025, and now 60% of homes have mobile phones.
- ❖ Genesys International has launched India's first 3D subsurface mapping platform, employing 3D Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to detect and map underground utilities.
  - It will be deployed at Adani Group airports in Mumbai, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Ahmedabad.
- ❖ Anant Ambani has received the Global Humanitarian Award from the Global Humane Society, becoming the youngest and first Asian honouree.
  - The award recognises his leadership in wildlife rescue and conservation through Vantara, a pioneering initiative.
- ❖ International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on 9 December to promote transparency, integrity, and accountability.

- The theme for 2025 is “Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow’s Integrity.”

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **New Rules for Women’s Hostels**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has amended the Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Rules, 2015.
- ❖ It was reducing the average space norm per woman from 120 sq. ft to 50 sq. ft.
- ❖ The rules operate under the Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014.
- ❖ In May 2025, the State has revised the licence procedure, requiring an online application to the District Collector with a ₹10,000 fee.
- ❖ Licences are auto-generated after verification of documents and remain valid for 10 years.
- ❖ The rules apply to hostels, homes, and lodging facilities run by the government, NGOs, private bodies, religious institutions, factories, and enterprises.



### **Elimination of Invasive Species - *Senna spectabilis***

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is carrying out one of the country’s largest eradication efforts to clear *Senna spectabilis* from every forest division by March 2026.
- ❖ *Senna spectabilis* is an invasive, fast-growing yellow-flowering tree from the Fabaceae family.

- ❖ It is native to South and Central America and has heavily invaded parts of the Western Ghats, including Nilgiris, Mudumalai, and Sathyamangalam.
- ❖ It thrives in dry to moist deciduous forests, spreads quickly through abundant seeds, and forms dense monocultures.
- ❖ It causes ecological harm by reducing biodiversity, slowing forest regeneration, increasing fire risk, and limiting fodder for wildlife.



## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Women's Quota in State Bar Councils**



- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed the Bar Council of India (BCI) to ensure 30% reservation for women in all State Bar Council elections.

- ❖ For this year, 20% seats will be filled by electing women and 10% seats will be filled through co-option (selecting members without an election).
- ❖ The order applies to State Bar Councils where elections have not yet been notified.
- ❖ The Bar Council of India must prepare and submit the proposal for co-option.
- ❖ The directive ensures a minimum mandatory representation of women in upcoming Bar Council bodies.

### **Flight Duty Time Limitation Norms**



**INDIGO'S FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS LEAVE PASSENGERS STRANDED ACROSS INDIA**

- **1,232 flights cancelled** during the review period, as per DGCA.
- Majority **linked to crew shortage and compliance** with new FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limit) norms.
- IndiGo also cites **airport, airspace, and ATC-related issues** beyond its direct control.
- Pilot Association (ALPA) **blames cancellations on pilot shortage** triggered by new FDTL rules.
- **New FDTL norms enforce stricter rest hours** and reduced night operations, hitting IndiGo harder.
- DGCA has **demanding mitigation plans** and is probing IndiGo's operational lapses.
- Experts warn **ongoing disruptions may compromise safety intent** behind the new regulations.



- ❖ IndiGo faced mass flight cancellations after the rollout of revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules, prompting temporary exemptions by the DGCA.
- ❖ FDTL norms are safety regulations by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to prevent pilot fatigue.





- ❖ Revised rules include 48 hours of weekly rest, maximum 2-night landings, and no more than 2 consecutive night duties.
- ❖ DGCA, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, regulates air safety, licenses pilots, and ensures compliance with international standards.
- ❖ India is the 3rd-largest domestic aviation market, supporting over 7.7 million jobs, with rapid growth in passenger traffic and airports.

### **Draft Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2025**

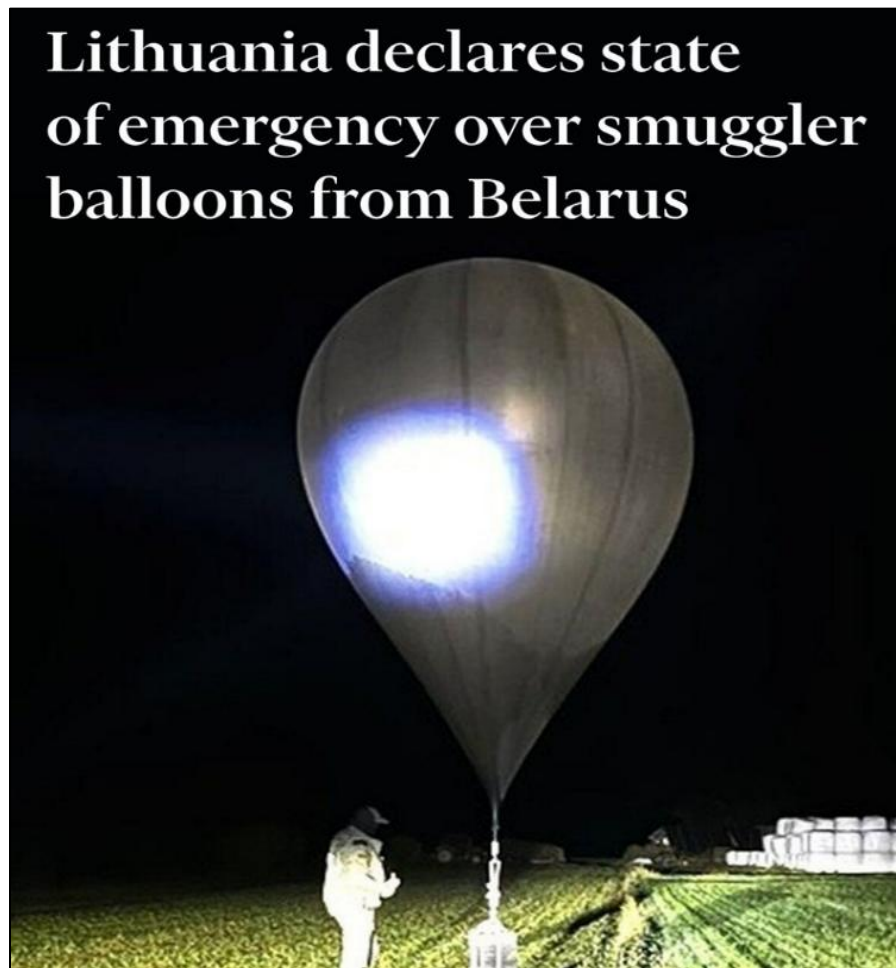


- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the draft Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Bill, 2025.
- ❖ It aims to convert ISI from a registered society to a statutory body corporate.
- ❖ ISI was founded in 1931 by P.C. Mahalanobis in Kolkata.
- ❖ It is an Institution of National Importance offering UG and PG programs in Statistics, Mathematics, Economics, Computer Science, and related fields.

- ❖ The Bill gives power to the Board of Governors, dominated by government nominees, reducing faculty and academic representation.
- ❖ Section 29 allows revenue generation through student fees, consultancy, and sponsored research, raising concerns over funding for basic research.
- ❖ All appointments at ISI will now be controlled by the Union Government, removing prior faculty and staff representation.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **National Emergency - Lithuania**

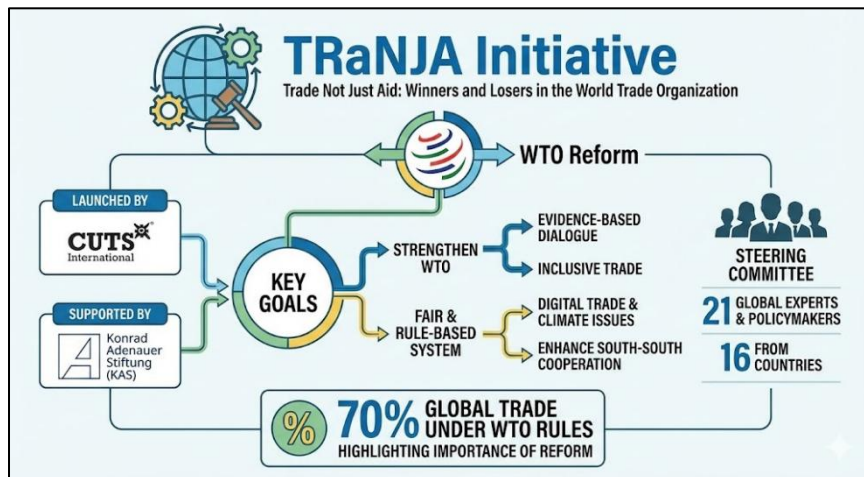


- ❖ Lithuania declared a national emergency after a series of balloon incursions from Belarus.
- ❖ The balloons disrupted air traffic and threatened public safety and cross-border security.
- ❖ Vilnius Airport was closed multiple times due to the balloon incidents.

- ❖ The government seeks parliamentary approval to allow the military, police, border forces, and intelligence units to operate with expanded powers.
- ❖ The European Union (EU) described the incursions as a hybrid attack against Lithuania.

### TRaNJA Initiative

- ❖ CUTS International launched the TRaNJA initiative to promote reform of the WTO.
- ❖ TRaNJA stands for Trade Not Just Aid: Winners and Losers in the World Trade Organization.
- ❖ The initiative aims to strengthen the WTO's role as a fair and rule-based global trading system.
- ❖ The project focuses on evidence-based dialogue, promoting inclusive trade, addressing digital trade and climate issues, and enhancing South-South cooperation.
- ❖ Around 70% of global trade still operates under WTO rules, highlighting the importance of reform.



### Saudi Cities in GNLC

- ❖ The UNESCO has added Riyadh, AlUla, and Riyadh Al-Khabra to the Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).
- ❖ The Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) is an international network that promotes lifelong learning for people of all ages.
- ❖ The network began in 2013 and now includes 425 cities from 91 countries.



- ❖ With these additions, Saudi Arabia now has a total of eight cities in the Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).

**NEW UNESCO RECOGNITION**

**RIYADH, ALULA & RIYADH AL-KHABRA ADDED TO  
UNESCO'S GLOBAL NETWORK OF LEARNING CITIES**

**MAJOR MILESTONE IN ADVANCING LIFELONG  
LEARNING IN SAUDI ARABIA**

**ALIGNS EDUCATION SYSTEM WITH GLOBAL  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)**

## **ECONOMY NEWS**

### **World's Largest Fast-Payment System - UPI**

**UPI Named  
World's Largest Real TIME  
PAYMENT  
System**



UPI is world's largest  
fast-payment system  
by volume: **IMF**

UPI accounts for  
**49% of all global  
real-time payments**

**56.8 crore QR codes  
enabling** UPI across  
6.5 crore merchants  
nationwide

- ❖ India's UPI is recognized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the world's largest retail fast-payment system by transaction volume.



- ❖ UPI accounts for 49% of global real-time payment transactions, according to ACI World wide's 2024 report.
- ❖ Government, RBI, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) promote digital payments through incentives for BHIM-UPI transactions and the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF).
- ❖ As of October 31, 2025, about 5.45 crore digital touch points were deployed in tier-3 to 6 centres, and 56.86 crore QR codes reached 6.5 crore merchants.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### **Lycodon irwini in Great Nicobar Island**

- ❖ New snake species has been discovered in India's Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The researchers have named it *Lycodon irwini*, honouring wildlife expert Steve Irwin.
- ❖ The species appears non-venomous, feeding primarily on smaller reptiles.
- ❖ Scientists found the snake exclusively on Great Nicobar Island in India.



### **Giant Stick Insect – Australia**

- ❖ A new species of giant stick insect *Acrophylla alta* has been discovered in tropical rainforest in Far North Queensland.
- ❖ Weighing at up to 44 grams, it is believed to be the heaviest insect in Australia.

- ❖ Phasmids (stick and leaf insects) are an incredible example of natural selection at work.

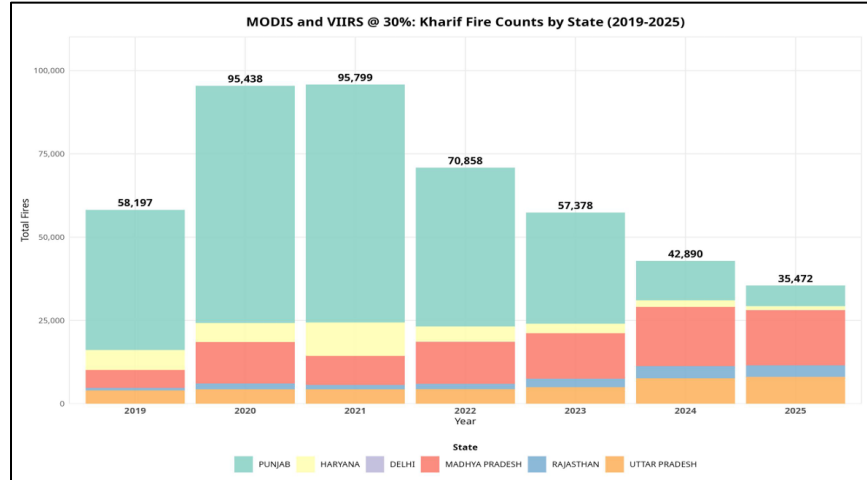


## **REPORTS AND INDICES**

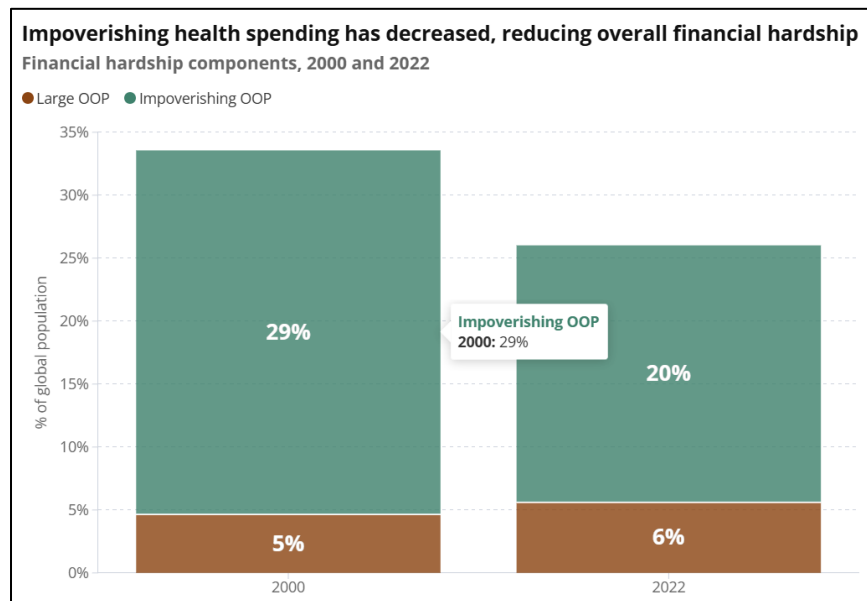
### **Stubble Burning Status Report 2025**

- ❖ The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) released the Stubble Burning Status Report 2025 for northwest India.
- ❖ India's monitoring system, run by CREAMS (Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space) at IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute), misses many farm fires.
- ❖ The system depends mainly on two polar-orbiting satellite sensors:
  - Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) and
  - Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS).
- ❖ MODIS and VIIRS capture fires only between 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM, which misses most late-afternoon burning.
- ❖ Spinning Enhanced Visible and Infrared Imager (SEVIRI) 15-minute data show that over 90% of large fires in Punjab in 2024–2025 occurred after 3:00 PM.
- ❖ In Haryana, most large fires have been happening after 3:00 PM since 2019, meaning an underestimation for several years.
- ❖ Sentinel-2 Multispectral Instrument (MSI) burnt-area mapping shows Punjab's burnt area fell from 31,447 km<sup>2</sup> (2022) to about 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> (2025).

- ❖ Haryana's burnt area fell from 11,633 km<sup>2</sup> (2019) to 8,812 km<sup>2</sup> (2025) but has fluctuated without a steady decline.
- ❖ Actual burnt-area reductions (25–35%) are much smaller than reductions suggested by active fire counts (>90%), proving major monitoring gaps.



## Global Universal Health Coverage Status 2025



- ❖ The report “Tracking Universal Health Coverage (UHC): 2025 Global Monitoring Report” was released by the World Bank Group.
- ❖ About 1 in 10 people globally live on less than \$3 per day, the extreme poverty line.
- ❖ Global UHC service coverage index (SCI) rose from 54 in 2000 to 71 in 2023.

- ❖ The share of the population facing financial hardship due to out-of-pocket (OOP) health payments fell from 34% in 2000 to 26% in 2022.
- ❖ Progress on UHC has slowed since 2015.
- ❖ The service coverage index (SCI) is projected to reach only 74 by 2030.
- ❖ This would leave 24% of the global population still facing health-related financial hardship.
- ❖ Service coverage improved mainly in infectious disease control.
- ❖ Reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) services saw minimal gains.
- ❖ Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) remain the least covered health domain.
- ❖ Poor populations are still disproportionately affected by OOP health spending.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of Genocide Victims 2025 - December 09**



- ❖ The day aims to honour and remember all victims of genocide and promote global prevention efforts.
- ❖ The day was first observed in 2015 by the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The day aligns with the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, which defines genocide and obligates states to prevent and punish it.





- ❖ Genocide involves acts committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, including killing, causing harm, and forcibly transferring children.

