

December - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's first Integrated Waste Management City cum Learning Centre will come up on 40 acres of land in Suthni village of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The first-ever Indigenous Peoples Forum at COP16, took place to spotlight the invaluable contributions of the Indigenous Peoples to land conservation and the sustainable resource management.
- ❖ The 4th edition of 'SAMPARK' was launched by Indian Navy to enhance healthcare access for Naval Veterans, Veer Naris, and their families in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh's CM unveiled the new logo of the Eagle nest Bird Festival which is going to be held in January 2025.
- ❖ The centre has enabled Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to operate Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJK) under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.
- ❖ Prime Minister chaired the fourth National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi.
- ❖ Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) achieved a milestone on Gita Jayanti as over 5,000 Acharyas collectively recited 'Shlokas' to creating a new Guinness World record.
- ❖ Dr. Dinesh Shahra, a renowned philanthropist and the author has launched his book named 'Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness'.
- ❖ An Indian film "The Kumbaya Story" has bagged a trophy at the 13th TVE Global Sustainability Film Awards (GSFA) held at the iconic BAFTA of UK.
- ❖ The Swiss government has suspended the most-favoured nation status (MFN) clause in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Switzerland.
- ❖ The second India-Iran-Armenia Trilateral Consultations were held in New Delhi.

TAMIL NADU

HC on Freedom of speech

- ❖ The Madras High Court observed that the right to freedom of speech cannot be taken advantage of by anyone to cross the limits of decency.
- ❖ Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023's Sections 296(b) (uttering obscene words), 352 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) and 353 (making statements with the intent to disturb public tranquillity) deals this issue.

- ❖ Earlier the Calcutta High Court added that freedom of expression not gave anyone a “licence to abuse”.

Restrictions on Article 19

- **8) Incitement to an offence:**
- Obviously, freedom of speech and expression cannot confer a right to incite people to commit offence.
- The word 'offence' is defined as any act or omission made punishable by law for the time being in force.



Thrust Sector scheme 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has extended benefits under the Thrust Scheme to manufacturers of sustainable products.
- ❖ The scheme has extended 25% or maximum ₹1.5 crore capital subsidy to eligible MSMEs.
- ❖ The units should have Udyan registration and should manufacture any of the 26 products identified for the thrust sector.


Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department
குறு, சிறு மற்றும் நடுத்தரத் தொழில் நிறுவனங்கள்
துறை

NATIONAL

Disaster Management Amendment Bill, 2024

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to amend the existing Disaster Management Act, 2005.

- ❖ Its main proposals are
 - Creation of disaster databases at national and state level
 - Constitution of Urban Disaster Management Authority for state capital and large cities having municipal corporation, and
 - Constitution of State Disaster Response Force by the state governments.
- ❖ The Bill provides a statutory status to existing bodies such as the National Crisis Management Committee (NCCM) and the High-Level Committee (HLC).

Disaster Management (Amendment Bill), 2024:

- ▶ The bill seeks to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005, which was enacted to provide for the effective management of disasters.
- ▶ The bill makes provision for the constitution of “Urban Disaster Management Authority” for State capitals and large cities having municipal corporations, except the union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.
- ▶ The bill empowers the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authorities to prepare the disaster plan at the national level and state level, respectively, instead of the plans made by the National Executive Committee and the State Executive Committees earlier.

National Mission on Cultural Mapping 2024



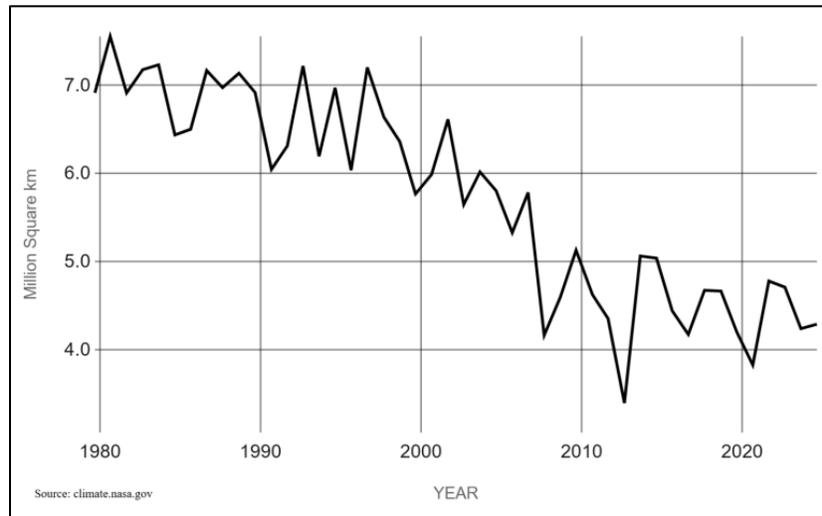
- ❖ National Mission on Cultural Mapping has been set up by Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ It aims to identify and well document India’s cultural heritage and its creative potential to regenerate and revitalize rural economies.

- ❖ It is mapping the cultural aspects of 6.5 lakh villages and creating a National Register of Artists and Art Practices.
- ❖ The district-wise details are available at Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD) Web Portal.
- ❖ Currently, the data of 4.5 lakh villages have been uploaded on the MGMD Web Portal.

INTERNATIONAL

Arctic's First Ice-Free Day by 2030

- ❖ Arctic's waters have less than one million square kilometres of sea ice by 2030.
- ❖ Thus, the first ice-free day in the Arctic Ocean could occur before 2030.
- ❖ In the last 40 years, the sea ice extent has been decreasing by 12.6% each decade.
- ❖ This pace of decline is unmatched by any point in at least the last 1,500 years.

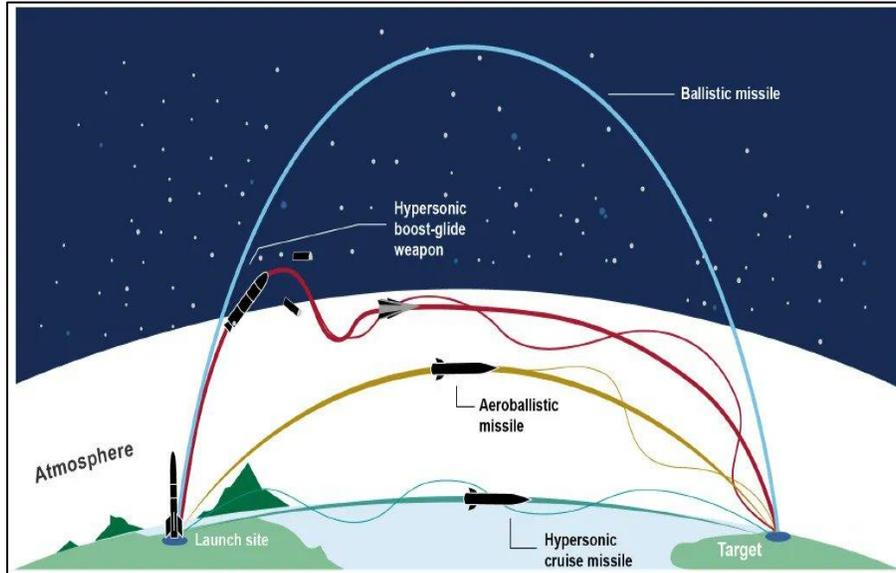


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Anti-missile system Dark Eagle

- ❖ The United States has developed a new anti-missile system called Dark Eagle.
- ❖ It is capable of intercepting enemy missiles in mid-air.
- ❖ It is equipped with the medium-range missiles and has a launch speed of 20,826 km/h.
- ❖ US claims that this system is several times more effective than Russia's S-300V4, S-400, and S-500 systems.

- ❖ It travels with a speed of 3000-3700 metre per second at the height of 50 kilo metres.
- ❖ Russia has the 53T6M anti-missile system, which could be comparable to the America's Dark Eagle.



ENVIRONMENT

Malayan Night Heron – Madurai



- ❖ The Malayan Night Heron, a migratory bird from the Southeast Asia, has been recorded in Madurai for the first time.
- ❖ The bird, native to Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia, migrates to India during winter.

- ❖ It primarily traverses the northern Tamil Nadu and is typically seen in Kerala and Karnataka.

IISR Surasa - New Ginger variety

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Spices Research has released its new ginger variety for commercial applications.
- ❖ Named as IISR Surasa, the variety has been developed through a farmers participatory breeding programme.
- ❖ It is the first ginger variety in India developed exclusively for use as a vegetable.



Definitions of International and Domestic SMS

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released the Recommendations on the Definition of International Traffic.
- ❖ The term 'International Traffic' denotes the traffic originating in one country and terminating in another country, where one of the countries is India.”
- ❖ The term 'International SMS Message' denotes the international traffic delivered using SMS.”
- ❖ Any incoming application to person (A2P) SMS message shall be treated as an international SMS message.

- ❖ But it cannot be generated, transmitted or received without the use or the intervention of any electronic device, computer system or computer application located outside India.
- ❖ 'Domestic Traffic' means the traffic originating and terminating within India.
- ❖ Domestic SMS means the domestic traffic delivered using SMS.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2024

Region	Current employment (thousands of persons)	Additional employment by 2030 (thousands of persons)
North America	233 – 706	190 – 318
EU27	274 – 398	190 – 318
Rest of Europe and Central Asia	204 – 337	1,166 – 1,426
Latin America and the Caribbean	571 – 612	1,375 – 5,799
Arab States	1	615 – 780
Asia and the Pacific	57,291 – 58,819	10,942 – 15,779

- ❖ This report was launched at COP 16 of UNCCD, Riyadh.
- ❖ The report is the second in a series, the first part of which was launched in 2022.
- ❖ As per the report, about 93-95 per cent of the world's Nature-based Solutions (NbS) employments are concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in India was a major contributor.



- ❖ More than half of the 59 million people employed globally through the employment opportunities created through NbS are women.
- ❖ 57 per cent of expenditure occurs in high income countries while Asia- Pacific contributes to 44 per cent of the global NbS expenditure.
- ❖ Globally, only 0.3 per cent of the world’s gross domestic product is contributed by NbS

Skills for Labour market 2024

- ❖ The report is titled ‘Navigating Tomorrow: Mastering Skills in a Dynamic Global Labor Market’.
- ❖ Over 70% of Indian professionals are actively seeking opportunities to upskill.
- ❖ The global trust in governments’ ability to support upskilling remains low at 20 per cent.
- ❖ Countries like the USA, at 15 per cent, and the UK, at 12 per cent, reported markedly lower trust levels.
- ❖ The Indian respondents also expressed a 49 per cent level of trust in businesses, emphasising the private sector’s role in workforce development.

	GDP per capita	Population	Working age population	Employed	Participation	Unemployed	NEET
	Current US\$	Million			%		
Australia	63,933	26	22	14	65.5	3.7	8.9
Brazil	18,583	216	172	99	62.8	7.9	20.6
China	23,588	1,426	1,141	747	70.9	5.1	12.7
India	9,609	1,429	883	472	55.8	4.2	23.5
Japan	52,594	123	110	67	62.9	2.6	3.1
Jordan	12,115	11	8	2	38.6	18.2	31.5
Nigeria	5,936	224	93	73	81.3	3.8	13.9
Norway	80,003	5	5	3	66.1	3.6	6.2
Saudi Arabia	69,396	32	23	14	61.1	5.6	18.4
South Africa	15,533	60	45	19	58.5	28	31.8
Spain	49,384	48	42	21	57.9	12.2	9.1
United Kingdom	57,448	68	54	33	63.2	3.8	11.2
United States	81,695	340	267	161	62.6	3.6	11.2
Vietnam	13,666	99	76	55	73.1	1.5	11.3

Taste Atlas - 2024-25 Top Food Cities

- ❖ India secured the 12th rank in the “100 Best Cuisines in the World” list.
- ❖ Additionally, four non-vegetarian Indian dishes made it to the “100 Best Dishes in the World”

- ❖ Six Indian cities were recognized for their culinary excellence in the “100 Best Food Regions in the World”.
- ❖ Mumbai ranked in 5th globally for its Vada Pav.
- ❖ New Delhi and Hyderabad also ranked at 45th and 50th positions, respectively.
- ❖ Kolkata and Chennai also made the list, securing the 71st and 75th spots.
- ❖ At the top of the list is Naples, Italy, renowned as the birthplace of pizza.



QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

- ❖ A total of 78 Indian universities feature in the 2025 QS Sustainability rankings.
- ❖ Total of 21 varsities are new to the ranking this time.
- ❖ The top place in India has been bagged by the IIT Delhi this year (globally 171st rank).
- ❖ IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras bagged the fourth and fifth ranks in India and global ranks of 245 and 277 respectively.
- ❖ Globally, the University of Toronto is the top ranked university this year.

- ❖ It is followed by the ETH Zurich of Swiss, and Lund University in Sweden and University of California, Berkeley (UCB) in joint third.
- ❖ In Asia, six universities from four countries rank in the top 100.

2025 Rank	2024 Rank	Institution	Country
1	1	University of Toronto	Canada
2	18	ETH Zurich	Switzerland
3	8	Lund University	Sweden
3	2	University of California, Berkeley (UCB)	United States
5	189	UCL	United Kingdom
5	4	University of British Columbia	Canada

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

E.V.K.S. Elangovan



- ❖ Former Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president and Erode (East) MLA E V K S Elangovan passed away.
- ❖ He was also elected as MLA from Sathyamangalam constituency in 1984 and the Erode East constituency in a by-election in 2023.



- ❖ He won his first Lok Sabha election, from Gobichettipalayam in 2004.
- ❖ He served as Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas, and Commerce.
- ❖ He was appointed President of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee 31 October 2014.

Ustad Zakir Hussain



- ❖ The greatest tabla player of his generation, Zakir Hussain (Maharashtra) passed away recently.
- ❖ Zakir Hussain received four Grammy Awards in his career.
- ❖ He also received the Padma Shri in 1988, Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023.

MISCELLANEOUS

Melye-amiley - Fermented Bamboo Shoot

- ❖ The anti-obesity properties of Melye-amiley, offers a natural dietary solution for managing weight and enhancing metabolic health.

- ❖ It is a traditional fermented bamboo shoot variety from Tripura.
- ❖ In the northeastern India, the communities have developed a unique methods for fermenting bamboo shoots, which enhances their nutritional value and flavour.

