

December - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's Department of Space now aims to build a Bharatiya Antariksha Station (Indian Space Station) by 2035.
- ❖ The largest reading event with 3,066 people organised at Pune by the National Book Trust made the Guinness Book of World Records.
 - The previous record, held by China, stood at 2,884 simultaneous readers.
- ❖ The young entrepreneurs Kaivalya Vohra (21) and Aadit Palicha (22), founders of Zepto app have claimed the top spots in the Hurun India Top 100 Under 30 List 2023.
- ❖ Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) is a joint initiative of the UNDP and OECD launched a programme in Saint Lucia.
 - India has been chosen as the Partner Administration and will provide Tax Experts for this programme.
- ❖ International Tea Day is celebrated every year on 15 December.
 - May 21 was also observed as International Tea Day to commemorate the signing of the First International Tea Agreement in 2005.

TAMIL NADU

FDI inflow in to Tamil Nadu

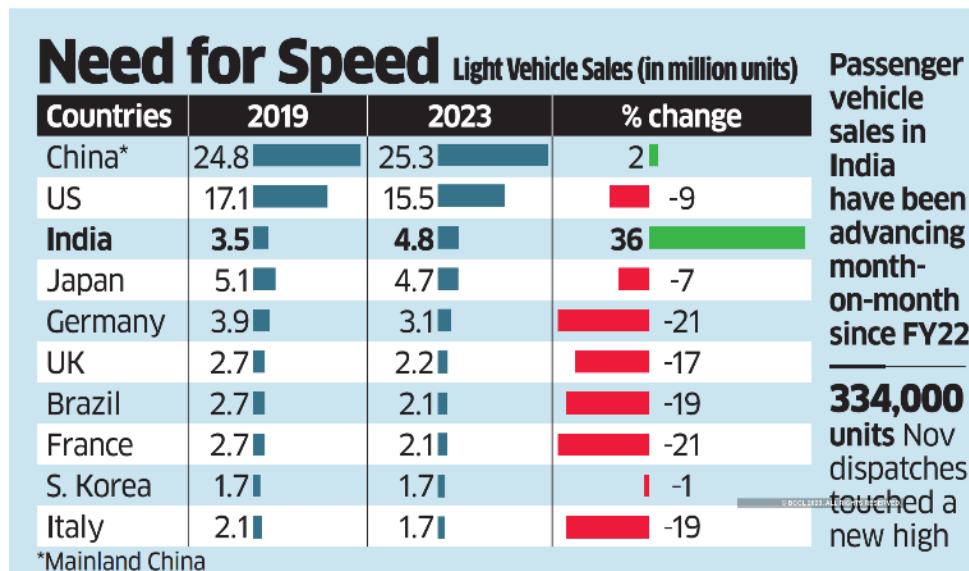
State	FDI inflow in \$ b (Oct 2019 to Sept 2023)
Maharashtra	61.92
Karnataka	47.30
Gujarat	34.16
Tamil Nadu	9.85
Haryana	8.79
Telangana	5.92

- ❖ Cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow in to Tamil Nadu has touched nearly \$10 billion in the last four years from the period between October 2019 and September 2023.
- ❖ Up to September of the current fiscal, the State attracted FDI worth \$1.3 billion.

- ❖ For the fiscal 2022-23, the State attracted FDI worth \$2.17 billion, which was lower than \$3 billion that came in the previous year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in attracting FDI in the period between Oct 2019 and September 2023, after Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat.
- ❖ The tiny states of Haryana and Telangana are close behind Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meeting scheduled to take place on January 7 and 8, 2024 in Chennai.

NATIONAL

India's Light Vehicle Market



- ❖ India has been the fastest growing among the world's 10 largest automobile markets this calendar year.
- ❖ India is the world's third largest light vehicle (less than 6 tonnes) market, behind China and the United States.
- ❖ Auto sales in India are estimated to advance 36 per cent from 2019 levels to 4.8 million units in 2023.
- ❖ Auto sales in India reached a record high of 3.8 million units in the Financial Year 2022-23.

Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill.

- ❖ The legislation will guide the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Election Commissioners (EC) in future.
- ❖ This legislation replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.
- ❖ The number of ECs will be determined periodically by the President.
- ❖ The appointment of the Commission will be made by the President based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee.
- ❖ The Committee consists of
 - Prime Minister
 - A cabinet minister, and
 - The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (or the leader of the single largest opposition party).
- ❖ Recently, SC (Anoop Baranwal case) ruled that the election commissioners shall be selected by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition, and the Chief Justice, until the parliament frames a law prescribing the selection process.

What the new bill proposes

WHAT THE LAW IS RIGHT NOW

CEC, ECs are appointed by the PM and council of ministers, under the seal of the President.

THE PLAN AHEAD

The government tabled the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 that says:

WHAT DID SC SAY ON MARCH 2?

A bench headed by justice KM Joseph said ECs and CECs will be chosen by a panel comprising PM, LoP and CJI, till Parliament passes a law.

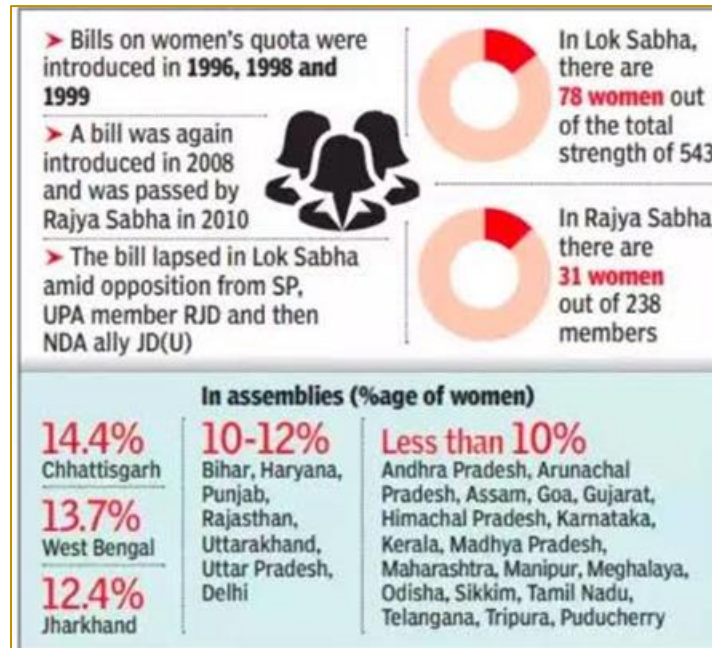


- Search panel, led by the law minister with 2 secy as members, to shortlist five names.
- Selection committee - comprising PM, LoP and a Union cabinet minister - to review names and recommend appointments; the panel can also consider other names.
- President to ratify appointments.

Bills For Women's Quota In J&K And Puducherry

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed two Bills to extend the provisions of the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act to the Union Territories of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ It aims to grant 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State legislatures.
- ❖ The provisions for providing reservations for women in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Puducherry are also required to be made by Parliament by amending the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir had no MLA for the last six years.
- ❖ The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

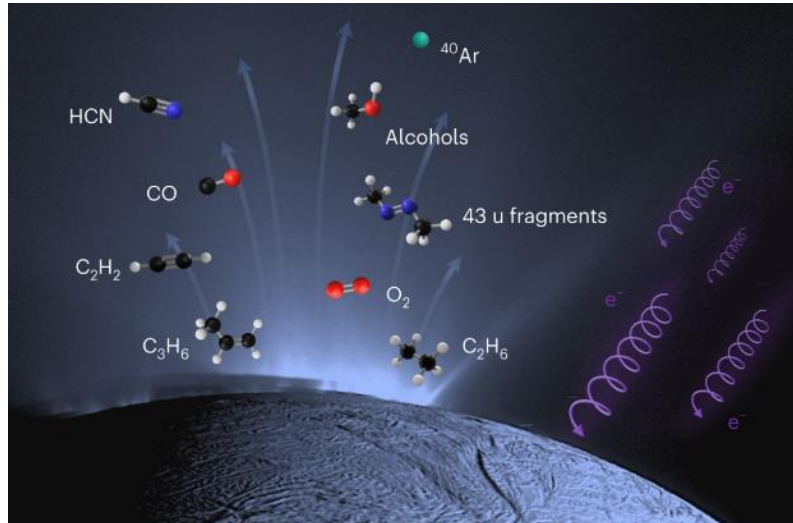


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Hydrogen cyanide in Enceladus

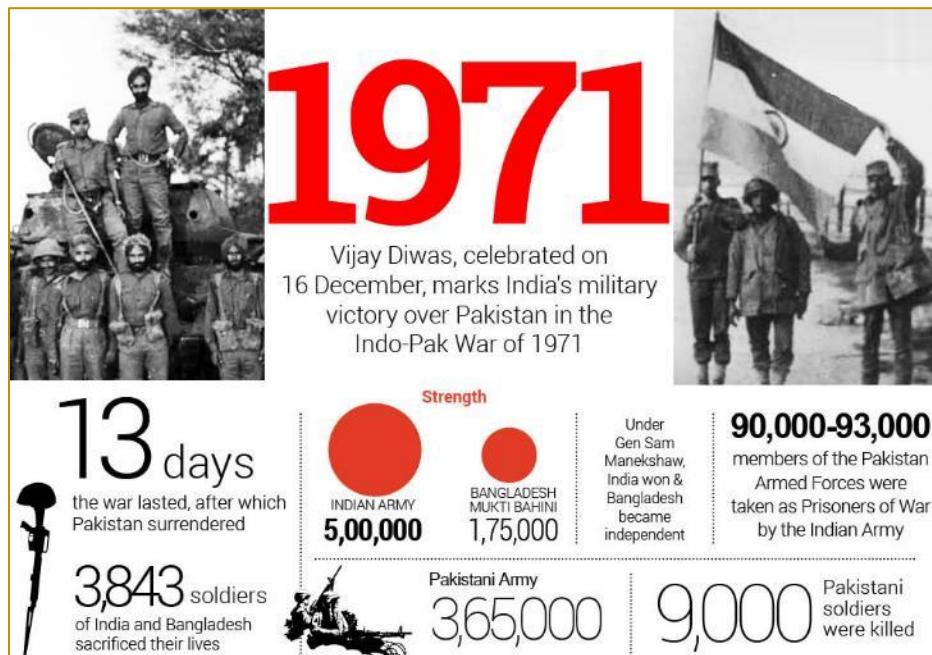
- ❖ Scientists have found hydrogen cyanide, a key molecule in the creation of life in the oceans of Saturn's icy moon Enceladus.
- ❖ The oceans beneath the frozen surface of Enceladus may have more chemical energy than previously believed.
- ❖ They detected hydrogen cyanide along with methanol, ethane, and oxygen in the plumes of water vapour erupting from the surface of Enceladus.
- ❖ Enceladus, one of Saturn's 146 moons, is an object of great interest to astronomers owing to its composition.
- ❖ It has a white, streaky surface made of water ice.
- ❖ Beneath this frozen crust lies a warmer, salty ocean that covers the whole moon.

- ❖ The circular moon is just about 500 km wide, with a surface temperature of -200°C.
- ❖ But its interiors host several sources of energy and heat.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Vijay Diwas 2023 - December 16



- ❖ This day honours the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- ❖ It also pays tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country.

- ❖ The India-Pakistan war over the then East Pakistan started on December 3, 1971.
- ❖ India secured a resounding triumph over Pakistan on December 16, 1971
- ❖ It leading to the creation of Bangladesh from the former East Pakistan.
- ❖ Bangladesh also celebrates December 16 as 'Bijoy Dibos' or Victory Day.

International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers 2023 - December 17

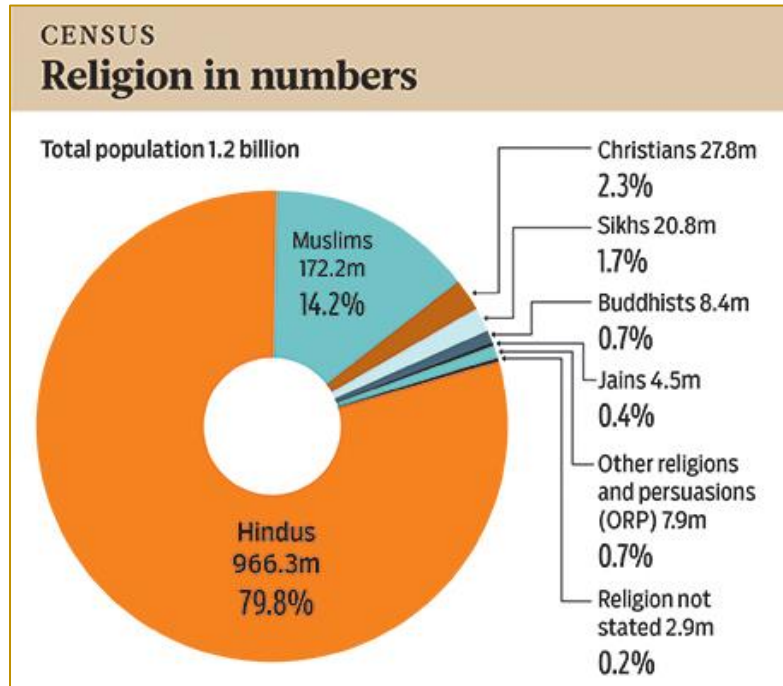
- ❖ It was conceived as a memorial and vigil for the victims of the Green River Killer in Seattle, Washington, US.
- ❖ The day calls attention to hate crimes committed against sex workers worldwide, as well as the need to remove the social stigma and discrimination.
- ❖ The red umbrella is an important symbol for sex worker rights and is used for the events.



Minorities Rights Day in India 2023 - December 18

- ❖ The day aims to promote awareness about the importance of helping various minorities overcome the challenges they face.
- ❖ Minorities Rights Day was established in 1992 on December 18.
- ❖ On this day, UN adopted the Declaration of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities to protect and promote minority rights.
- ❖ As part of the adoption of the UN Declaration, India established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

- ❖ The NCM was established by the Central government under the National Commission for Minorities Act (1992).
- ❖ The government notified Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains as minority communities.
- ❖ Theme of this year is 'Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion'.



MISCELLANEOUS

Oldest Evidence of Yak Domestication



- ❖ The oldest record ever of a yak being domesticated by humans has been found in Bangga, Tibetan Autonomous Region.



- ❖ The humans in Bangga located on the Yarlung-Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) also domesticated cows of the taurine variety, along with yaks some 2,500 years ago.
- ❖ Bangga is located at an elevation of approximately 3,750 metres (12,300 feet) above sea level.
- ❖ Wild yaks are now listed as “vulnerable” by the IUCN.
- ❖ They estimated as 7,500 to 10,000 mature individuals left in the wild.

