



**December - 21**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Google launched its first-ever credit card globally in India, which is linked with UPI and Google Pay for merchant payments.
- ❖ India's first dedicated Forest University will be established in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Tesla opened its first electric vehicle charging station in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of its first Gen Z Post Office at the AIIMS Vijaypur campus.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has commissioned INAS 335 'Ospreys' as its second operational squadron of MH-60R multi-role helicopters at INS Hansa in Goa.
- ❖ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) began the joint military exercise Desert Cyclone-II in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ Brazil has formally handed over the BRICS (18th) presidency to India for 2026.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India released the 10th edition of its statistical publication, "Handbook of Statistics on Indian States, 2024-25".
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir is hosting its first International Indian Style Wrestling (Dangal) event along with the Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025.
  - The championship aims to revive traditional Dangal wrestling, encourage fitness, promote sports tourism, and showcase local talent.
- ❖ Oman awarded its highest civilian honour, the First Class of the Order of Oman, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, making him the first Indian leader to receive it.
  - This marked the 29th international award he has received.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Orderly System Abolition**

- ❖ The DGP of Tamil Nadu ordered the complete removal of the orderly system.
- ❖ Police personnel must not be posted to the residences of serving or retired police officers.
- ❖ The Madras High Court ruled that using orderlies for non-official work is against the law.
- ❖ A Government Order issued in 1979 had already abolished the orderly system.
- ❖ All senior police officers were instructed to review and ensure full compliance.

- ❖ Any orderly found at an officer's residence must be withdrawn immediately.

## ORDERLY SYSTEM ABOLITION TAMIL NADU POLICE

<b>1</b> DGP Abhay Kumar Singh ordered complete removal.	<b>4</b> Govt Order (1979) already abolished system
<b>2</b> No police personnel at residences (serving or retired officers).	<b>5</b> Senior officers to review & ensure compliance
<b>3</b> Madras HC: Non-official work is against law	<b>6</b> Orderly found at residence must be withdrawn

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Private Bill on Marital Rape 2025



**Shashi Tharoor, Congress MP and former UN diplomat, proposes bill to criminalize marital rape in India.**

The bill targets Section 63 of India's Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, removing the exception for non-consensual acts within marriage when the wife is over 18.

- ❖ Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has recently introduced a private member's Bill in the Lok Sabha to remove the marital rape exception in criminal law.

- ❖ He has also introduced two other private member's bills in the Lower House of Parliament
  - To amend the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and
  - Establish a State and UT Reorganisation Commission to recommend the reorganisation of states and Union territories to the Centre.
- ❖ A Private Member's Bill is a legislative proposal introduced in Parliament by a member (MP) who is not a minister.
- ❖ Only 14 private members' bills have ever been passed into law, and none by both Houses since 1970.
- ❖ Section 63 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 (Section 375 of the IPC) – Marital rape is not a specific criminal offence under the penal code if the wife is over 18 years of age.
- ❖ Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) – Marital rape is treated as a form of domestic violence, and prescribes a lighter penalty compared to non-marital rape.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Foreign Terrorist Organization - Venezuelan Regime



- ❖ The US government designated the Venezuelan regime of President Nicolás Maduro as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).

- ❖ The designation cited terrorism, drug smuggling, human trafficking, and other illegal activities.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump announced the designation in mid-December 2025.
- ❖ The declaration was made public through official statements and social media posts.
- ❖ The US ordered a naval blockade of sanctioned Venezuelan oil tankers to pressure the regime.
- ❖ The designation increased existing US sanctions and diplomatic tensions with Venezuela.

### **Israel–Egypt Natural Gas Deal**

- ❖ Israel and Egypt signed a long-term natural gas export agreement valued at about 34.6 billion United States dollars (USD).
- ❖ Israeli company NewMed Energy will supply around 130 billion cubic metres of natural gas to Egypt.
- ❖ The gas will be sourced from offshore fields in the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❖ Egypt will act as a regional hub for the processing and distribution of the gas.



### **Agricultural Cooperation Plan 2025–27**

- ❖ India and Argentina signed the ICAR–INTA Work Plan for 2025–27.



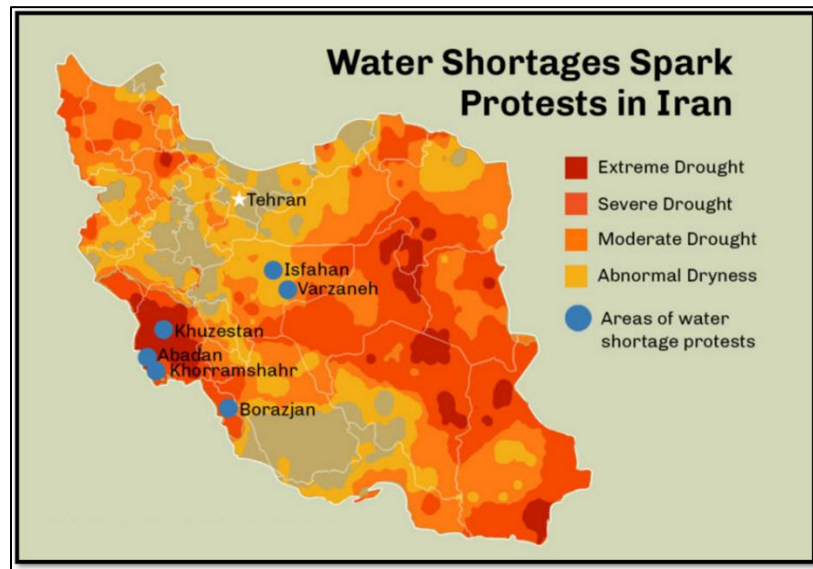
- ❖ ICAR stands for Indian Council of Agricultural Research and INTA stands for National Institute of Agricultural Technology, Argentina
- ❖ The plan focuses on sustainable farming, biotechnology, digital agriculture, and livestock improvement.
- ❖ Cooperation includes joint research projects, germplasm exchange, expert interactions, and training programmes.
- ❖ Key crops for exchange include soybean, sunflower, maize, blueberry, citrus, guava, and wild papaya species.
- ❖ Annual monitoring and review meetings will track progress and ensure effective implementation.



### **Water Crisis in Iran 2025**

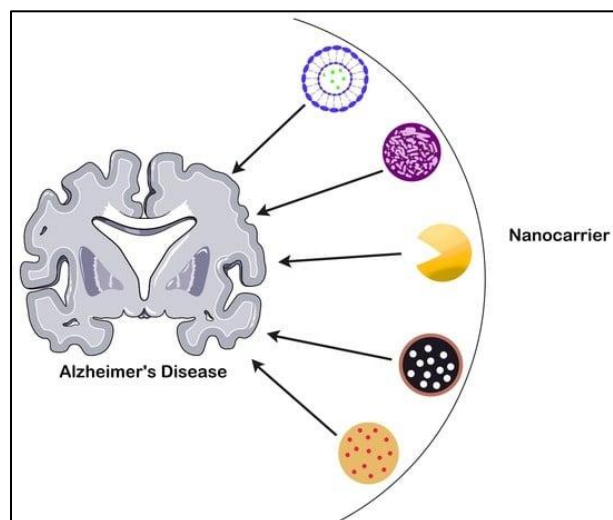
- ❖ Iran is facing a severe water crisis, with Tehran, the nation's capital, under extreme stress due to critically low water levels.
- ❖ Tehran's metropolitan area, home to around 15 million people, is at risk of running out of water completely.
- ❖ Major reservoirs supplying Tehran are nearly empty: Latyan Dam (9% full), Amir Kabir Dam (8% full), and overall reservoir levels are at about 11% capacity.
- ❖ Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city, has reservoirs at only 3% capacity, threatening the water supply for around 3 million people.
- ❖ Iran has endured six consecutive years of drought, the worst in 40 years, compounded by water-guzzling industries and swelling urban populations.

- ❖ Water scarcity is visible from space, highlighting the magnitude of the crisis across the country.
- ❖ Agriculture consumes around 90% of Iran's water, with rice, wheat, and other thirsty crops contributing to shortages.
- ❖ Iranian authorities now propose to move their capital to the city of Makran near Iran's southern Makran coast.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Nanoparticle Therapy for Alzheimer's Disease



- ❖ Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, developed a nanoparticle-based pathway for Alzheimer's therapy.

- ❖ The research was carried out under the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The therapy uses EGCG (Epigallocatechin-3-gallate), dopamine, and tryptophan combined in one nanoparticle.
- ❖ These nanoparticles target amyloid plaques, oxidative stress, inflammation, and nerve cell damage.
- ❖ Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) was added to support neuron growth and repair.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### New Snakehead Fish Species - Channa Bhoi



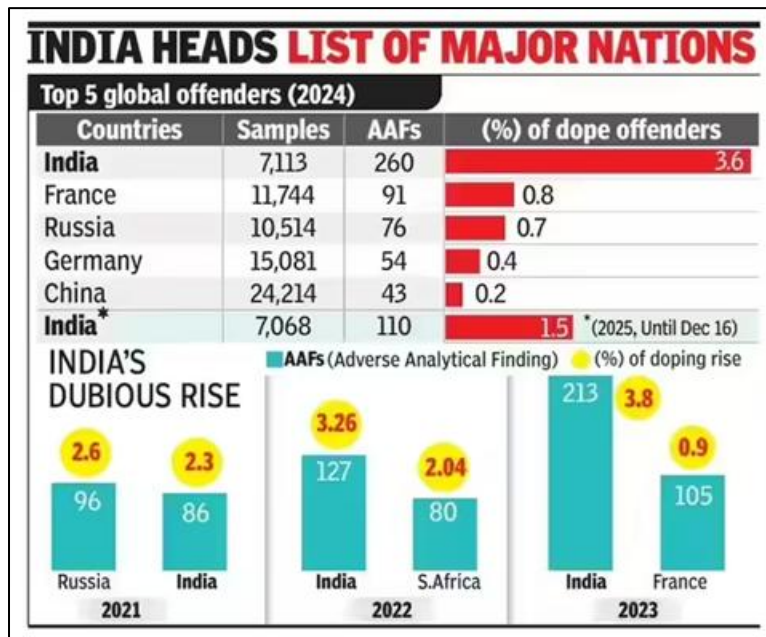
- ❖ Scientists discovered a new species of snakehead fish named Channa Bhoi in Meghalaya.
- ❖ It was found in a small mountain stream near Iewmawlong village, Ri-Bhoi district.
- ❖ The species is named after the Bhoi people, an indigenous group of the Khasi tribe in the region.
- ❖ Channa Bhoi belongs to the Gachua group of snakehead fishes, known for high diversity in the Eastern Himalayas.

- ❖ Phylogenetic analysis shows it is a sister species to *Channa bipuli*, raising India's total recorded *Channa* species to 26.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Doping Violations Report 2025

- ❖ The report was released by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- ❖ India recorded the highest number of doping violations in the world for the third year in a row.
- ❖ The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) reported 260 doping cases involving Indian athletes in 2024.
- ❖ India's positivity rate was 3.6 per cent, the highest among countries with large-scale testing.
- ❖ The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India conducted 7,113 doping tests during the year.
- ❖ Other countries like France, Russia, China, and the United States reported fewer violations.

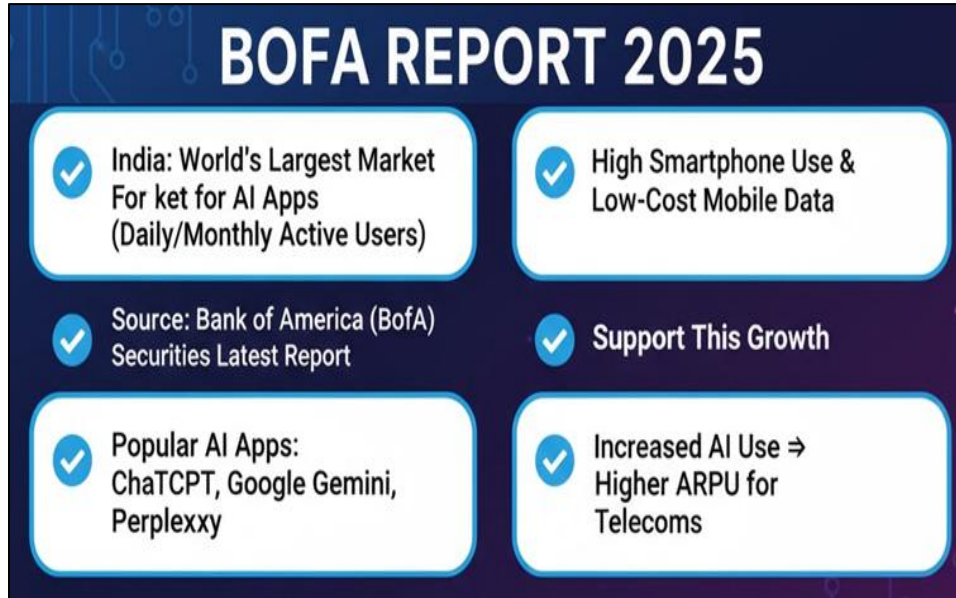


### BofA Report 2025

- ❖ India has become the world's largest market for AI apps by daily and monthly active users.



- ❖ The finding was released by Bank of America (BofA) Securities in its latest report.
- ❖ Popular AI apps used widely in India include ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and Perplexity.
- ❖ The report states that high smartphone use and low-cost mobile data support this growth.
- ❖ Increased AI app use may lead to higher average revenue per user (ARPU) for the telecom operators.



**BOFA REPORT 2025**

- ✓ India: World's Largest Market For ket for AI Apps (Daily/Monthly Active Users)
- ✓ High Smartphone Use & Low-Cost Mobile Data
- ✓ Source: Bank of America (BofA) Securities Latest Report
- ✓ Support This Growth
- ✓ Popular AI Apps: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Perplexity
- ✓ Increased AI Use ⇒ Higher ARPU for Telecoms

## STATES' NEWS

### MLAs Salary hike – Odisha

HIKE PLAN		
Members	Existing	Proposed
● CM	₹98,000	₹3.74 lakh
● Ministers	₹97,000	₹3.58 lakh
● MLAs	₹92,000	₹3.40 lakh



- ❖ The Odisha Assembly passed a Bill to triple the monthly salary of the Chief Minister, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

- ❖ Under the revised structure, an MLA will receive ₹3.45 lakh per month, up from ₹1.10 lakh in 2007.
- ❖ The Chief Minister's monthly pay is ₹3.74 lakh, including salary of ₹1 lakh, car allowance of ₹91,000, and sumptuary allowance of ₹1.83 lakh.
- ❖ The Deputy CM will get ₹3.68 lakh, Cabinet Ministers ₹3.62 lakh, and Ministers of State ₹3.56 lakh per month.
- ❖ The Speaker's salary is ₹3.68 lakh, the Deputy Speaker's ₹3.56 lakh, and the Leader of Opposition and Government Chief Whip's ₹3.62 lakh.
- ❖ Odisha's per capita income is ₹1,82,548 per year, below the national average of ₹2,05,324.

### **West Bengal University Bills**



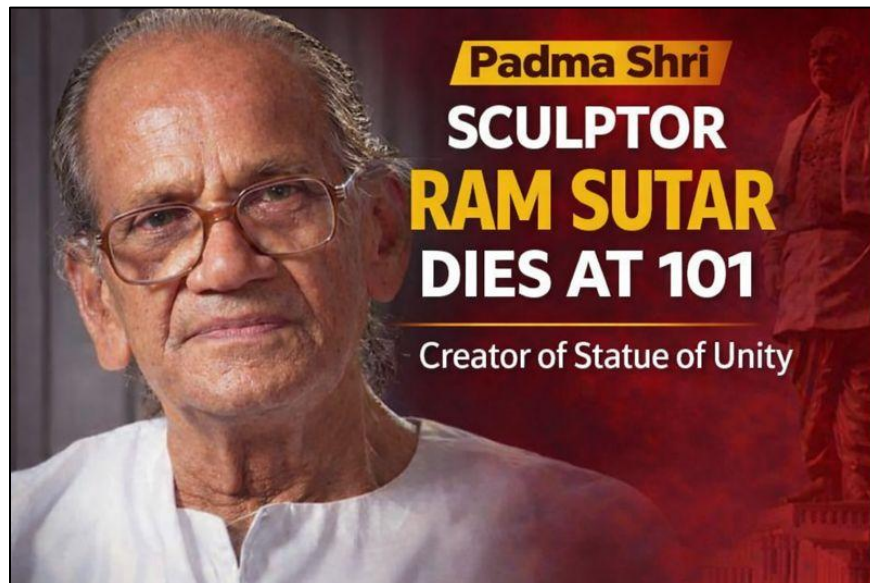
- ❖ The President of India rejected the West Bengal Assembly amendment bill proposing the CM as Chancellor of state universities.
- ❖ Governor Dr. C. V. Bose had reserved the bill for the President's consideration on 20 April 2024.
- ❖ Another amendment bill related to Aliah University, proposing the CM as Amir-e-Jamia or Chancellor, was also rejected.
- ❖ The existing arrangement remains unchanged, and the Governor continues as Chancellor under the current legal framework.

- ❖ The bills aimed to replace the Governor with the CM in the role of Chancellor, but the proposal was not approved.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Ram Sutar Demise**

- ❖ Renowned sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar passed away at the age of 100 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ He was the chief designer of the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, the world's tallest statue.
- ❖ His famous works include statues of Gandhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji at the Parliament complex.
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shri (1999) and Padma Bhushan (2016).
- ❖ He also received the Maharashtra Bhushan Puraskar, the highest civilian award of Maharashtra.



### **Prestigious Travel Awards**

- ❖ Air India won the Best Domestic Airline title at the Travel + Leisure India & South Asia Awards 2025 for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ The award is entirely based on the reader (passenger) votes and reflects service quality, comfort, reliability, and overall travel experience.
- ❖ Air India is undergoing a major transformation, including fleet modernization with 570 new aircraft orders and a USD 400 million retrofit programme.

- ❖ Singapore Changi Airport was named the World's Best International Airport 2025 at the same awards, based on global reader votes.
- ❖ Changi Airport is recognised for passenger comfort, innovative design, indoor gardens, the world's tallest indoor waterfall, and immersive leisure zones.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

**International Migrants Day 2025 - December 18**



- ❖ The day aims to protect the rights and dignity of migrants.
- ❖ It was officially proclaimed by the UN in the year 2000.



- ❖ It is celebrated to recognize the contributions of migrants and the challenges they face.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “My Great Story: Cultures and Development”.

### **Minorities Rights Day 2025 - December 18**

- ❖ The day aims to spread the awareness about protecting the rights of minority communities.
- ❖ The day was observed following the UN declaration adopted on 18 December 1992.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to promote equality, safety, and social inclusion of minorities.



### **World Arabic Language Day 2025 - December 18**

- ❖ The day aims to promote the importance and use of the Arabic language.
- ❖ The day marks the inclusion of Arabic as an official language of the UN in 1973.
- ❖ It is celebrated by the UNESCO.
- ❖ Arabic is an official language in more than 27 countries.
- ❖ Arabic is the mother tongue of over 550 million people worldwide.



- ❖ The theme for World Arabic Language Day 2025 is “Innovative Pathways for Arabic: Policies and Practices for a More Inclusive Linguistic Future.”

