

December - 22

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The second edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam was inaugurated at 'Namo Ghat' in Varanasi.
  - The event served as a platform to strengthen the emotional and creative ties between the ancient city of Kashi and the southern state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the world's largest meditation centre Swarved Maha mandir in Varanasi.
- ❖ Geologists have discovered 10 new species of trilobite in a relatively unstudied area of Thailand.
  - These extinct sea creatures were hidden for 490 million years and are helping scientists create a new map of the animal life during the late Cambrian period.
- ❖ Haryana created history by winning their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023 against Rajasthan.
  - It was originally known as the Ranji One-Day Cricket Trophy.

## TAMIL NADU

### Makkaludan Mudhalvar scheme



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched 'Makkaludan Mudhalvar', a scheme.
- ❖ It is aimed at disposing off grievances or petitions filed by people on merit within 30 days.

- ❖ The special camps will be conducted in phases in all 38 districts in the state to collect petitions from people concerning various departments and issues.
- ❖ The first phase will cover the rain-hit districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, and Chengalpattu.

### **Record rainfall in south Tamil Nadu in 2023**

- ❖ The southern districts of Tamil Nadu recorded with an unprecedented amount of rainfall on Sunday, December 17, 2023.
- ❖ As many as 39 regions witnessed extremely heavy rainfall.
- ❖ Kayalpattinam in Thoothukudi district received a whopping 95 cm of rainfall.
- ❖ Tiruchendur and Srivaikuntam in Thoothukudi district received 69 cm and 62 cm respectively.
- ❖ Manjolai in Tirunelveli district got 55 cm and Moolaikaraipatti recorded 61 cm.
- ❖ This is the second-highest rainfall of since Kakkachi (Manjolai) received 96.5 cm in 1992.
- ❖ Rainfall over and above 21 cm is graded as extremely heavy.
- ❖ Between 12 and 20 cm, it is very heavy and from 7 to 11 cm heavy.

South Tamil Nadu	Rainfall recorded (in cm)
Kayalpattinam (dist. Thoothukudi)	95
Tiruchendur (dist. Thoothukudi)	69
Srivaikuntam (dist. Thoothukudi)	62
Moolaikaraipatti (dist. Tirunelveli)	62
Manjolai (dist. Tirunelveli)	55

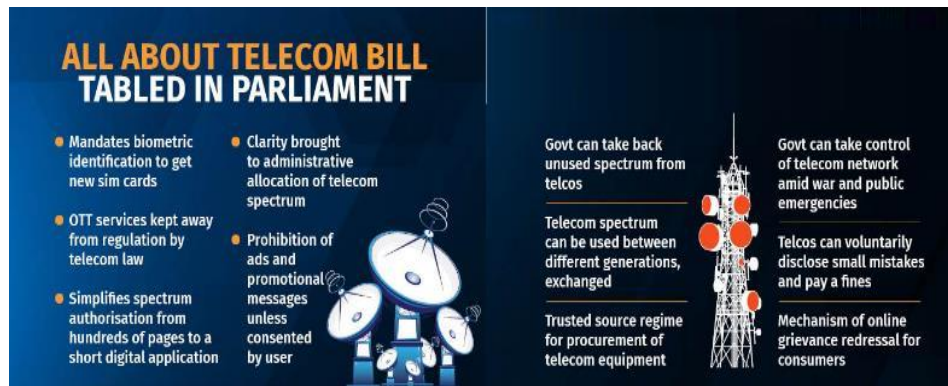
**We are there to Alert and Aware you.**

## **NATIONAL**

### **The Telecommunications Bill, 2023**

- ❖ The Telecommunications Bill, 2023 introduced in the Lok Sabha proposes the first comprehensive rewrite of telecommunications law in 138 years.
- ❖ It will replace the Telegraph Act of 1885.

- ❖ The Bill requires telecom customers to undergo “biometric authentication”, the form of which will be notified later.
- ❖ Provisions on lawful interception, or surveillance of telecom communications, have been retained as per the earlier Act.
- ❖ The Bill allows the Union government to take over the operations of a telecom network on the grounds of public emergency or safety issues.
- ❖ The Bill opens the door for spectrum allotments to satellite internet providers such as Bharti-backed OneWeb and US-based firms, including SpaceX’s Starlink.



**ALL ABOUT TELECOM BILL TABLED IN PARLIAMENT**

- Mandates biometric identification to get new sim cards
- OTT services kept away from regulation by telecom law
- Simplifies spectrum authorisation from hundreds of pages to a short digital application
- Clarity brought to administrative allocation of telecom spectrum
- Prohibition of ads and promotional messages unless consented by user

Govt can take back unused spectrum from telcos

Telecom spectrum can be used between different generations, exchanged

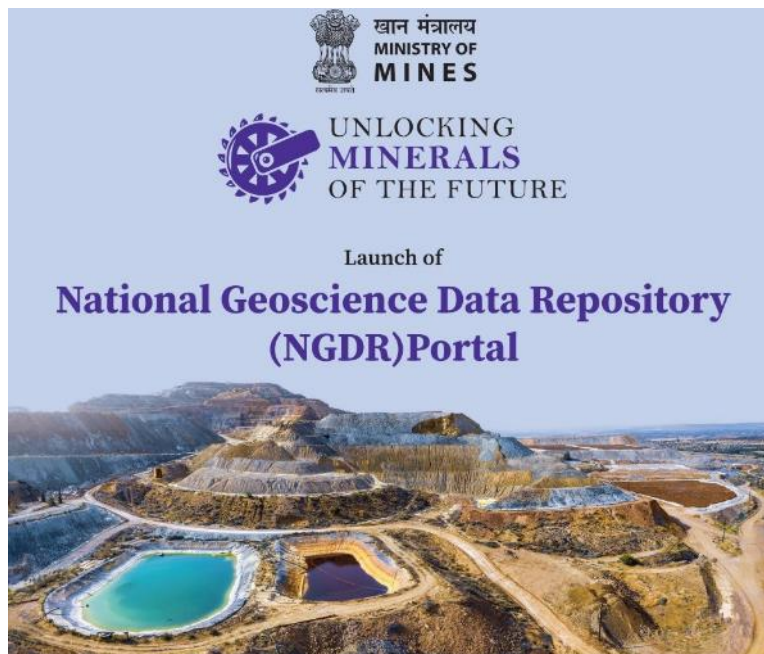
Trusted source regime for procurement of telecom equipment

Govt can take control of telecom network amid war and public emergencies

Telcos can voluntarily disclose small mistakes and pay a fines

Mechanism of online grievance redressal for consumers

## National Geoscience Data Repository Portal



खान मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
MINES

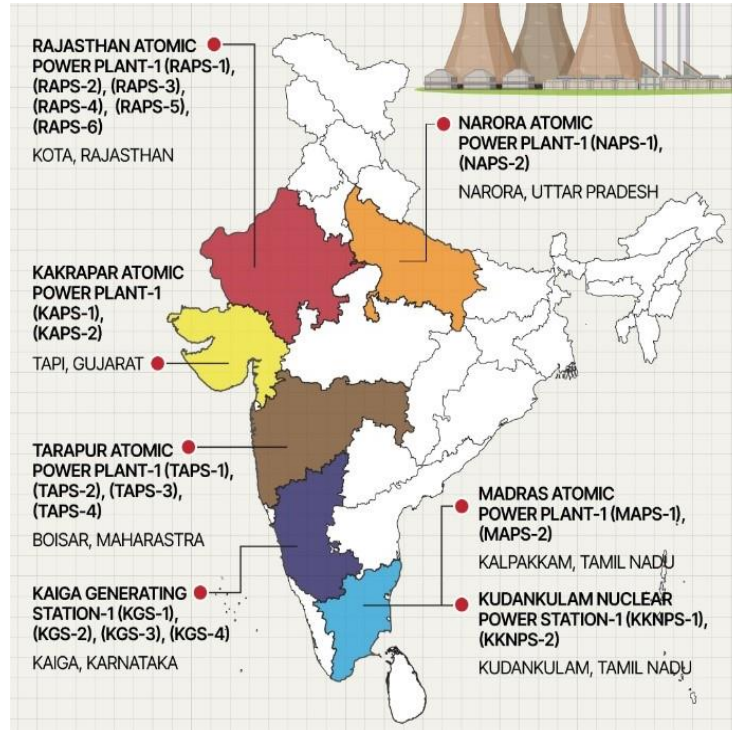
UNLOCKING  
MINERALS  
OF THE FUTURE

Launch of  
**National Geoscience Data Repository  
(NGDR) Portal**

- ❖ Ministry of Mines launched the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) Portal in New Delhi.

- ❖ NGDR is a comprehensive online platform for accessing, sharing, and analyzing geospatial information across the nation.
- ❖ This is a significant leap forward in democratizing critical geoscience data, empowering stakeholders across industries and academia with unprecedented access to invaluable resources.

### **Kakrapar Atomic Power Project Unit 4**



- ❖ The fourth unit of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-4) in Gujarat, became critical.
- ❖ The 700 MWe units are the largest indigenous nuclear power reactors to be built by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.
- ❖ The reactor's first criticality was ascertained after it met all the conditions set out by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.
- ❖ The NPCIL presently operates 23 nuclear electricity reactors with a total capacity of 7,480 MWe.

### **India's First Winter Expedition to Arctic**

- ❖ India begins its 1st winter expedition to the Ny-Alesund research base in Svalbard, Norway.



- ❖ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has a research station, Himadri.
- ❖ The expedition will collect data on atmospheric processes, aurora borealis, atmospheric electricity, and space physics studies.
- ❖ The Arctic Sea ice is declining at a rate of 13% per decade.
- ❖ The study of this region is important to understand its impact on Indian monsoons and the tropical climate.
- ❖ The NCPOR plans to expand its operations in the Arctic and conduct research activities in the Canadian High Arctic and Greenland.
- ❖ In 1990, the National Institute of Polar Research, Japan, was the first to establish a research station in Ny-Ålesund.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Menopause Drug Veoza – UK**

- ❖ The drug named Veoza or fezolinetant has been approved by UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency.
- ❖ A drug that can potentially offer relief to hundreds of thousands of women battling hot flashes during menopause.
- ❖ Currently, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is the most effective treatment available for hot flashes.

- ❖ Veoza, which is a non-hormonal menopause drug, directly targets the brain to prevent hot flushes by blocking a protein called neurokinin-3.



### **Lithium Reservoir in Salton Sea**



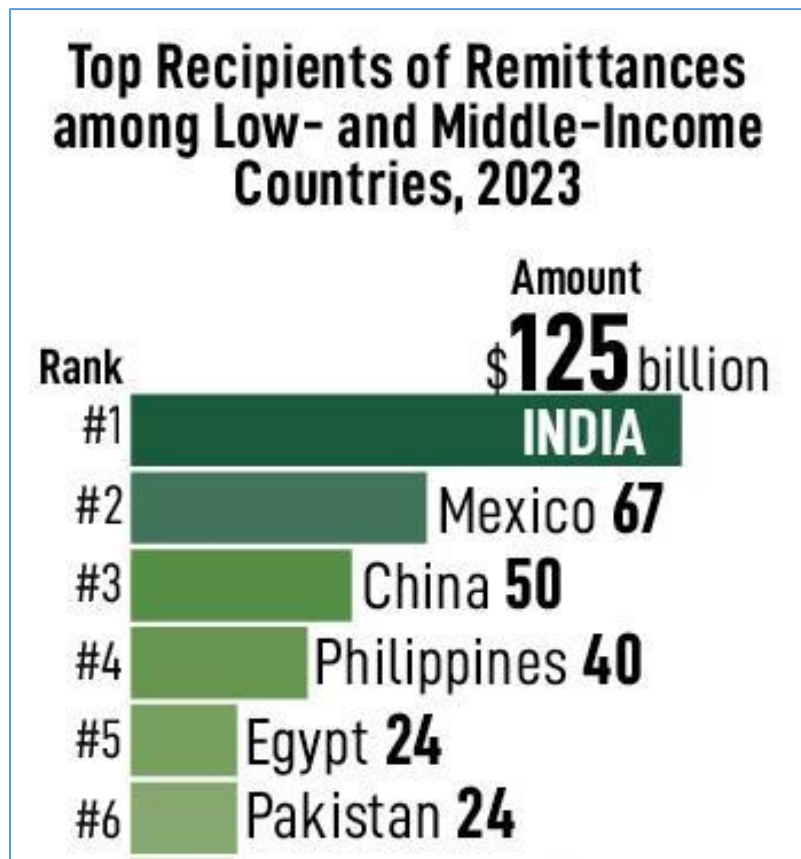
- ❖ United States Department of Energy, has found promising prospects for lithium extraction from California's Salton.
- ❖ The analysis found an estimated 18 million metric tonnes of lithium reserves in the depths of the Salton Sea.



- ❖ Lithium is an element that is essential for electric vehicle (EV) batteries and renewable energy storage systems.
- ❖ The substantial find could potentially yield an equivalent of 382 million EV batteries.

## ECONOMY

### Global Remittances 2023

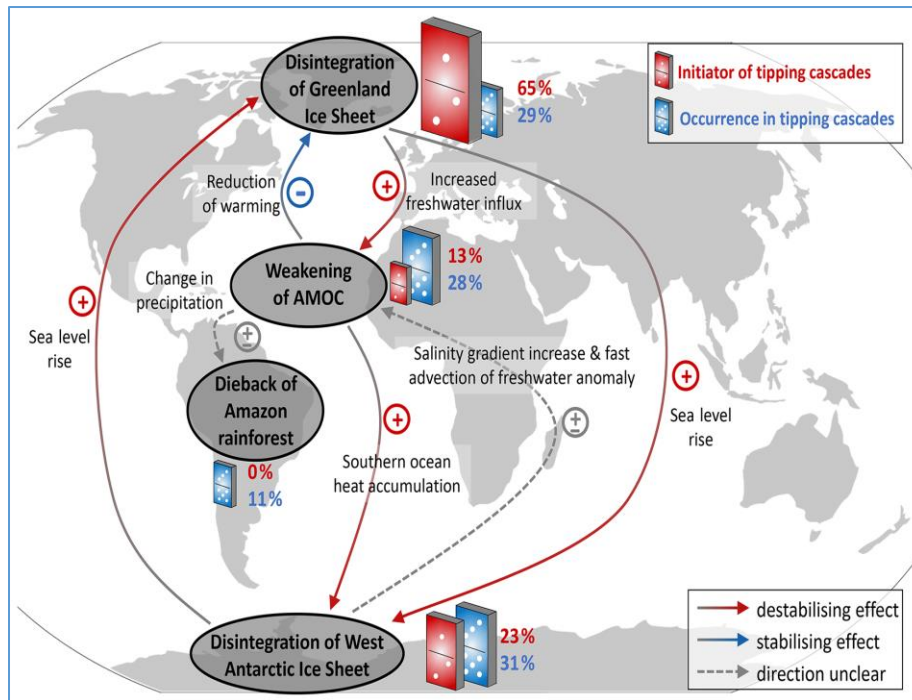


- ❖ The World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief reveals a continuing growth in remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in 2023.
- ❖ According to the World Bank, the report highlights India's significant position as the top remittance recipient.
- ❖ The Indian economy received USD 125 billion in remittances for the year.
- ❖ The top five remittance recipient countries include Mexico (USD 67 billion), China (USD 50 billion), the Philippines (USD 40 billion), and Egypt (USD 24 billion).
- ❖ Remittances to LMICs grew by an estimated 3.8 per cent in 2023, reaching a total of USD669 billion.

- ❖ South Asia witnessed a 7.2% increase in remittances in 2023.
- ❖ The remittance costs remain persistently high, averaging 6.2% to send USD 200 as of the second quarter of 2023.
- ❖ Banks continue to be the costliest channel for sending remittances, with an average cost of 12.1%.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Climate Domino Effect: Exploring Teleconnections



- ❖ The links between weather phenomena at widely separated locations on earth, also called climate teleconnections, are increasingly getting stronger globally.
- ❖ These teleconnections have affected the southern hemisphere more prominently over the last 37 years.
- ❖ Teleconnections describe how climate events such as wildfires and floods in one part of the world can affect weather thousands of kilometers away.
- ❖ The region's most vulnerable to teleconnections were in southeastern Australia and South Africa.
- ❖ The southern hemisphere is more vulnerable because it is largely covered by oceans.
- ❖ It contributes to more stable teleconnections and Rossby wave or planetary wave formation.





- ❖ Rossby waves occur in oceans and the atmosphere.
- ❖ They naturally occur due to the Earth's rotation and help transfer heat from the tropics towards the poles and cold air towards the tropics.

