

December - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Air Force is hosting Exercise AviaIndra-2025, a joint exercise with the Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFASF).

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Middle Palaeolithic Site at Mallankinaru

- ❖ A possible Middle Palaeolithic period site was identified after quartz stone tools were discovered at Mallankinaru in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The artefacts include multidirectional cores, radial cores, flakes, notches, and scrapers.
- ❖ The stone tools were found in a stratified quarry section near a waterbody at Mallankinaru.
- ❖ Preliminary analysis indicates that the tools may belong to the Middle Palaeolithic period.
- ❖ The site is part of the lower Gundar basin and was formed due to fluvial (river-related) activity.



Tamil Nadu Electoral Roll 2025

- ❖ Over 97 lakh voters were removed from Tamil Nadu's draft electoral roll after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

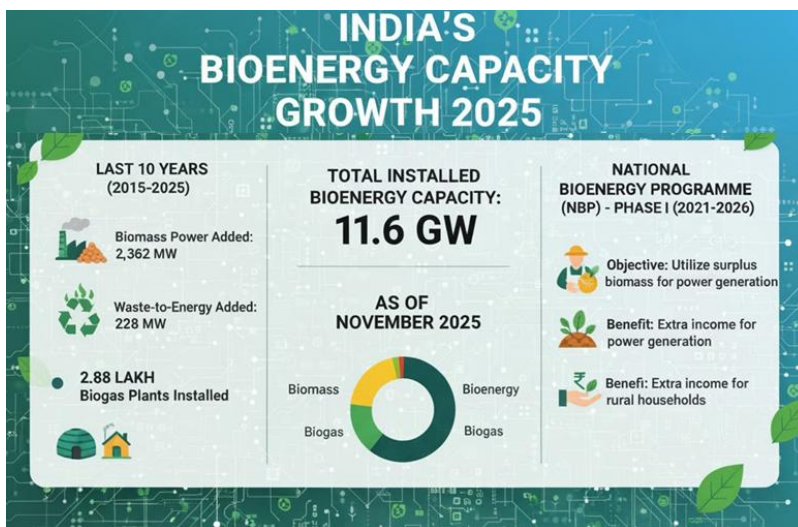
- ❖ The total number of voters in Tamil Nadu reduced from 6.41 crore to 5.43 crore after the revision.
- ❖ Of the deleted voters, 26.9 lakh were deceased, 66.4 lakh had shifted residence or were absent, and 3.98 lakh were duplicate entries.
- ❖ In Chennai district, 14.2 lakh voters were deleted, which is about 35.6% of the voters before SIR.

97.27 Lakh Names Deleted From TN Rolls

As many as 97.27 lakh names have been removed from Tamil Nadu's electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) by the Election Commission. The State's voter strength has declined from 6.41 crore to 5.43 crore, marking nearly a 15% reduction. In comparison, voter deletions in Bihar stood at about 7%.

NATIONAL NEWS

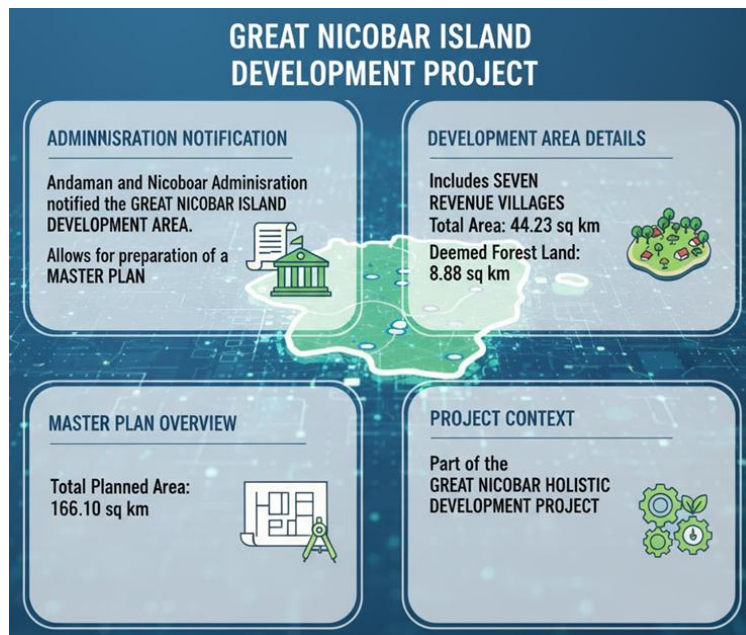
Bioenergy Capacity Growth 2025



- ❖ India added 2,362 megawatt (MW) of biomass power and 228 MW of waste-to-energy capacity in the last 10 years.
- ❖ About 2.88 lakh biogas plants were installed across the country during this period.
- ❖ India's total installed bioenergy capacity reached 11.6 gigawatt as of November 2025.
- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy supports bioenergy projects under the National Bioenergy Programme (NBP), Phase I (2021–22 to 2025–26).

- ❖ The programme aims to use surplus biomass from rural areas for power generation and provide extra income to rural households.
- ❖ Bioenergy is energy produced from organic matter like plants and waste, and it supports clean and renewable energy growth in India.

Great Nicobar Island Development Project



- ❖ The Andaman and Nicobar Administration notified the Great Nicobar Island Development Area.
- ❖ The notification allows the preparation of a master plan for the development of Great Nicobar Island.
- ❖ The development area includes seven revenue villages covering a total area of 44.23 square kilometres.
- ❖ Out of this area, 8.88 square kilometres are classified as deemed forest land.
- ❖ The total area planned under the Master Plan for Great Nicobar Island is 166.10 square kilometres.
- ❖ The development plan is part of the Great Nicobar Holistic Development Project.

1600-Series Adoption

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)-regulated entities to use 1600-series phone numbers for service and transactional calls.

- ❖ The deadline for adoption of 1600-series numbers is February 15, 2026.
- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has allocated the 1600-series for use by entities in the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector.
- ❖ The 1600-series helps consumers identify legitimate calls and reduces the risk of fraud and spam.
- ❖ The mandate follows similar rules issued earlier for entities regulated by RBI, SEBI, and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- ❖ The Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine is being held in New Delhi, India.
- ❖ It is co-hosted by WHO and the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.
- ❖ The Summit aims to advance a global movement to restore balance for people and the planet through Traditional Medicine.
- ❖ The event is conducted under the theme “Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being.”
- ❖ Guided by the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034, it focuses on the safe, evidence-based, and sustainable integration of Traditional Medicine into health systems.
- ❖ The Summit includes the launch of the WHO Traditional Medicine Global Library, a digital repository with 1.5 million scientific publications and resources.



**2ND WHO GLOBAL SUMMIT
ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE**
NEW DELHI | 17–19 DEC 2025

**RESTORING BALANCE FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET
THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF WELL-BEING**

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)



India and Oman have signed a CEPA in Muscat to strengthen trade, investment & services cooperation. Under the pact, **98%** of Omani tariff lines now offer **zero-duty access** for Indian exports. This marks India's **second Free Trade Agreement** in the last **6 months**, following the UK deal.

- ❖ India and Oman signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in Muscat.
- ❖ Oman will give duty-free access on 98.08% of tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports.

- ❖ India will reduce tariffs on 77.79% of its tariff lines, covering 94.81% of imports from Oman.
- ❖ The CEPA allows easier movement for skilled professionals (Mode-4) and extends stay for contractual service suppliers from 90 days to 2 years.
- ❖ Bilateral trade in 2024–25: India exported \$4.06 billion and imported \$6.5 billion, mostly energy and fertiliser products.

Adwa Victory Monument – Ethiopia



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute at the Adwa Victory Monument in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- ❖ The monument commemorates Ethiopia's victory over Italian forces in the Battle of Adwa in 1896.
- ❖ PM Modi also addressed a joint session of the Ethiopian Parliament during his visit.
- ❖ He was awarded Ethiopia's highest civilian honour, the Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia.

COP17 Logo

- ❖ Armenia has revealed the official logo for COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ❖ The logo features the Erivan Anomalous Blue (*Polyommatus eriwanensis*), a butterfly species endemic to Armenia.
- ❖ It is listed as Endangered in the Red Book of Animals of Armenia (2010) but is not included in the global or European IUCN Red Lists.

- ❖ COP17 will be hosted in Yerevan, Armenia, in October 2026, under the theme “Taking action for nature”.
- ❖ The logo uses 23 blended colours to represent the interdependence of the 23 biodiversity targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.



ECONOMY NEWS

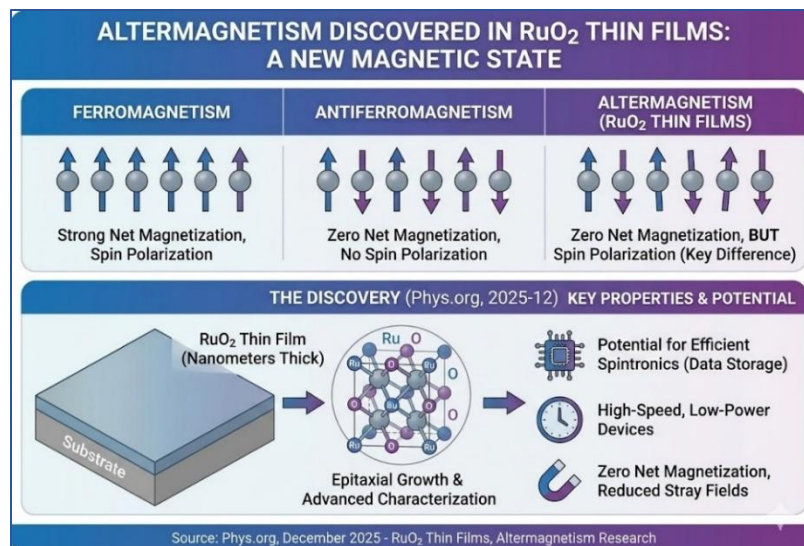
Common Logo for RRBs

- ❖ The Government of India and NABARD launched a single common logo for all 28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under the “One RRB, One Logo” initiative.
- ❖ The logo features an upward arrow for growth, hands for support, and a flame representing knowledge and empowerment.
- ❖ Colours used are dark blue (trust and stability) and green (agriculture, life, and growth).
- ❖ RRBs are specialised banks providing credit and banking services in rural and semi-urban areas.
- ❖ Established in 1975 under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, RRBs are owned by the Central Government (50%), State Government (15%), and Sponsor Bank (35%).
- ❖ RRBs support small farmers, artisans, self-help groups, MSMEs, and act as key instruments for financial inclusion and rural development.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Altermagnetism in RuO_2



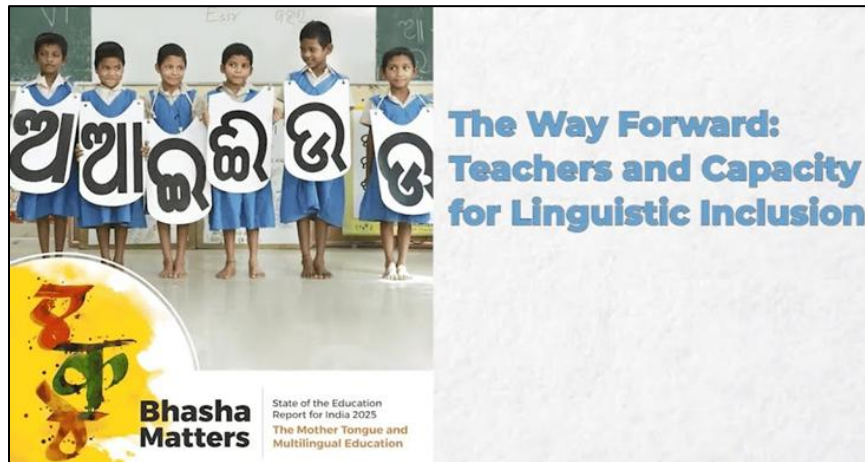
- ❖ The Japanese researchers have experimentally confirmed ruthenium dioxide as an altermagnet.
- ❖ Altermagnet is a third fundamental magnetic class distinct from ferromagnets and antiferromagnets.

- ❖ Ruthenium dioxide (RuO₂) thin films have been experimentally demonstrated to exhibit true altermagnetism.
- ❖ It will aid to develop next-generation high-speed, high-density magnetic memory devices utilizing RuO₂ thin films.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Annual India Education Report 2025

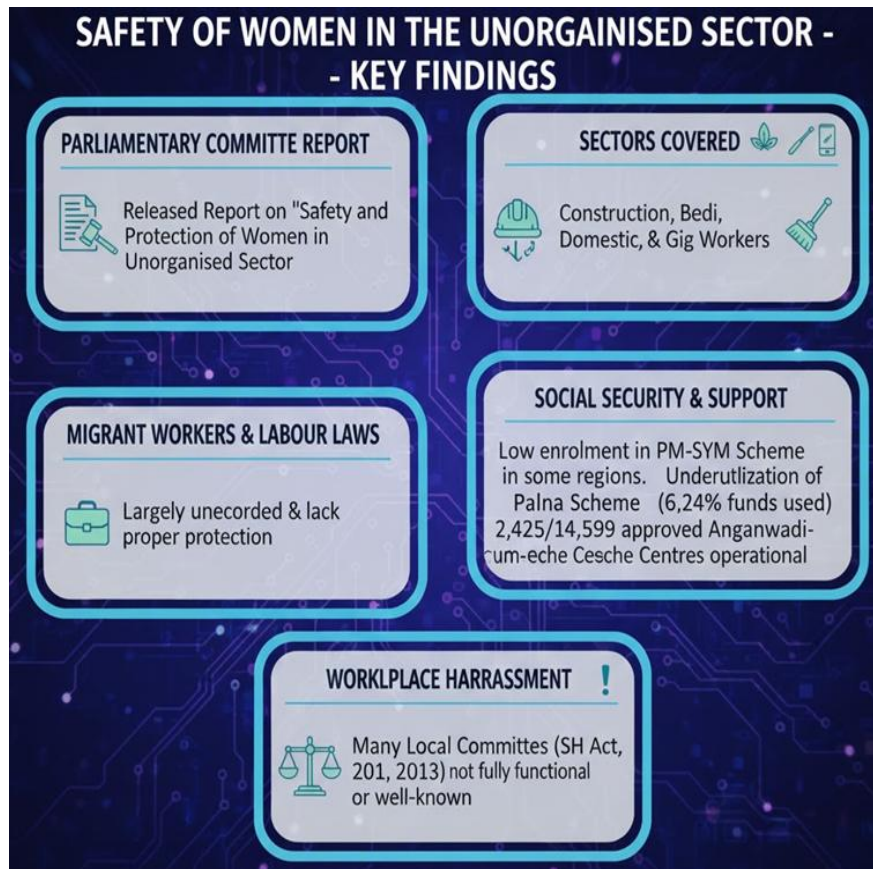
- ❖ UNESCO released the seventh edition of report titled “Bhasha Matters: State of the Education Report for India 2025”.
- ❖ It focuses on Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) in school education.
- ❖ The report gives ten key recommendations, including clear state-level language policies and better teacher training for multilingual teaching.
- ❖ It recommends the creation of a national mission to improve coordination and support for mother-tongue education.
- ❖ The report states that learning in the mother tongue improves inclusion, learning outcomes, and preservation of languages.



Report on Safety of Women in the Unorganised Sector

- ❖ The Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women released the report titled “Safety and Protection of Women in Unorganised Sector”.
- ❖ The report covers women working as construction workers, beedi workers, domestic workers, and gig workers.
- ❖ It states that women migrant workers remain largely unrecorded and lack proper protection under labour laws.

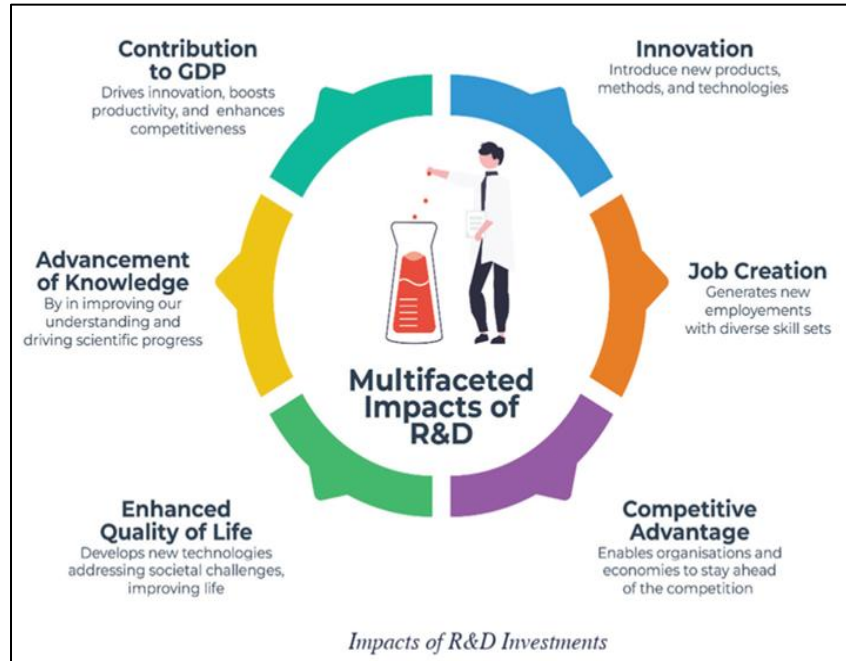
- ❖ The report finds low enrolment of women workers in the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme in some regions.
- ❖ It notes that many Local Committees under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 are not fully functional or not well known.
- ❖ Under the Palna Scheme of Mission Shakti, only 6.24% of funds were used and only 2,425 Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres are operational out of 14,599 approved.



NITI Aayog Report 2025

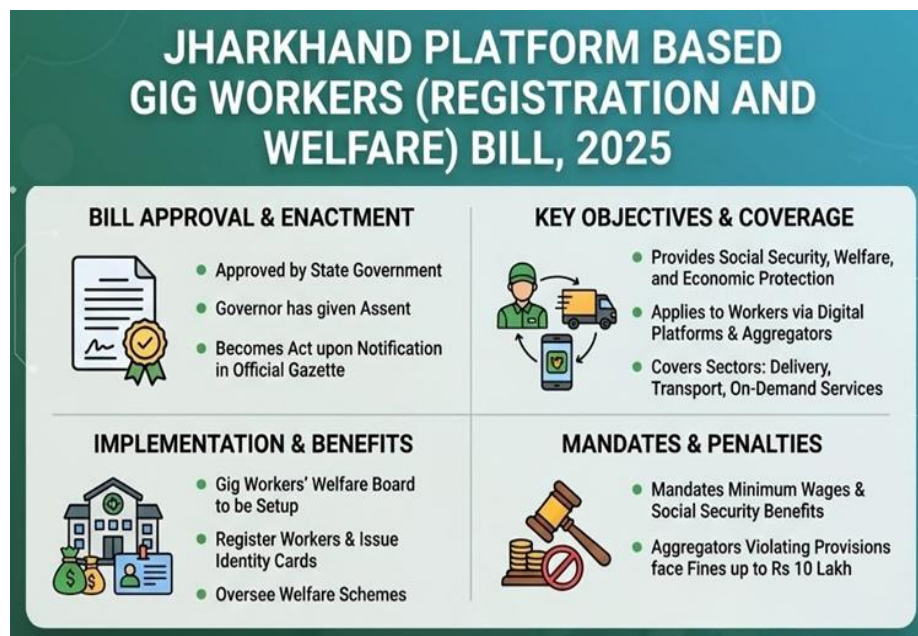
- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report on Public Research and Development (R&D) Institutes in India.
- ❖ India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) reached about ₹2 lakh crore in 2020-21, which is around 0.6% to 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ The government sector contributes 63.6% of total R&D spending in India.
- ❖ Agriculture and allied sectors account for 51% of public R&D, followed by health and information technology and telecommunication (IT and telecom).

- ❖ About 36% of public R&D institutes are located in southern India, while the North-Eastern region has only 1.8%.
- ❖ Nearly 48% of central R&D institutions are located in the ten most populous cities of the country.



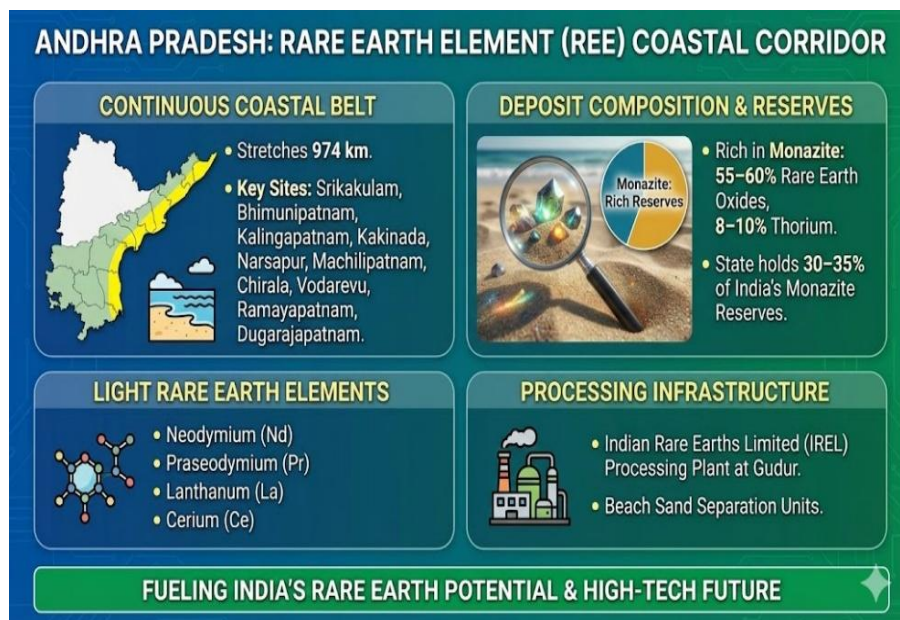
STATES' NEWS

Gig Workers Bill 2025 – Jharkhand



- ❖ The Jharkhand Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2025 has been approved by the state government.
- ❖ The Act provides the social security, welfare, and economic protection for gig and platform-based workers.
- ❖ It applies to workers engaged through digital platforms and aggregators in sectors such as delivery, transport, and on-demand services.
- ❖ A Gig Workers' Welfare Board will be set up to register workers, issue identity cards, and oversee welfare schemes.
- ❖ The law mandates minimum wages and social security benefits, and aggregators violating its provisions may be fined up to Rs 10 lakh.

Rare Earth Corridor



- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has a continuous belt of rare earth element (REE)–rich beach sand deposits along its coastline.
- ❖ The corridor stretches 974 km from Srikakulam to Nellore, with key sites including Bhimuniapatnam, Kalingapatnam, Kakinada, Narsapur, Machilipatnam, Chirala, Vodarevu, Ramayapatnam, and Dugarajapatnam.
- ❖ Deposits are rich in monazite, containing 55–60% rare earth oxides and 8–10% thorium.
- ❖ The state holds 30–35% of India's monazite reserves and contains light rare earth elements like neodymium, praseodymium, lanthanum, and cerium.
- ❖ Infrastructure includes Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) processing plant at Gudur and beach sand separation units.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Prehistoric Dinosaur Footprints



- ❖ Thousands of dinosaur footprints dating back around 210 million years have been discovered in northern Italy.
- ❖ Experts identified the tracks as belonging to prosauropods, early long-necked dinosaurs from the Late Triassic period.
- ❖ The footprint patterns indicate herd movement and possible defensive behaviour to protect younger dinosaurs.
- ❖ The site is considered scientifically important as trackways reveal dinosaur movement, interaction, and migration.

Kunar River Water Issue

- ❖ Afghanistan has approved a plan to divert water from the Kunar River to the Darunta Dam in Nangarhar province.
- ❖ The Kunar River originates in Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan, and flows into Afghanistan before re-entering Pakistan.
- ❖ The river finally joins the Indus River near Attock in Punjab, Pakistan.



- ❖ The diversion project may reduce downstream water flow into Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region.
- ❖ Reduced river flow can affect irrigation, drinking water supply, and hydroelectric power generation in Pakistan.
- ❖ There is no formal water-sharing treaty between Afghanistan and Pakistan for the Kunar River.

Dam on Kunar River, History of Pak-Afghan talks on Water issues

Pakistan and Afghanistan share nine rivers, yet there is no formal water-sharing treaty between them.

Repeated dialogues since the early 2000s have failed to finalize a Kabul River Treaty, leaving water management unregulated and tensions unresolved.

