

December - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu's first dedicated dog park was inaugurated at the Arboretum in Udhagamandalam.
- ❖ ICGS Amulya, the third vessel of the Adamyia class Fast Patrol Vessels, was commissioned by the Indian Coast Guard at Goa.
- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister has inaugurated India's first nature-themed airport terminal at Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport, Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ Sukhman Singh, a golfer from Noida, Uttar Pradesh, won the 124th Amateur Golf Championship of India, world's longest-running amateur matchplay tournament.
- ❖ The United States has launched Operation Hawkeye Strike, a coordinated series of airstrikes against Islamic State (ISIS) targets in Syria.
- ❖ The Quad partners, Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, conducted their first Field Training Exercise (FTX).
 - The exercise took place on the sidelines of Operation Christmas Drop at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.
- ❖ World Basketball Day 2025, observed on December 21, marks the first basketball game in 1891 to promote teamwork, inclusion, youth development, and healthy lifestyles.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

UEF Trade Summit 2025



- ❖ The United Economic Forum (UEF) Trade Summit 2025 was held at the Chennai Trade Centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ A total of 10 MoUs were signed during the summit to strengthen business growth, market access, and strategic partnerships.
- ❖ A key MoU was signed between the United Economic Forum (UEF) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Council (UNSDC) to support the implementation of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across 45 educational institutions associated with UEF.
- ❖ The summit theme is “Unnatha Tamizhagam – 4Tn for TN by 2047”.

NATIONAL NEWS

Swachh Survekshan 2025–26



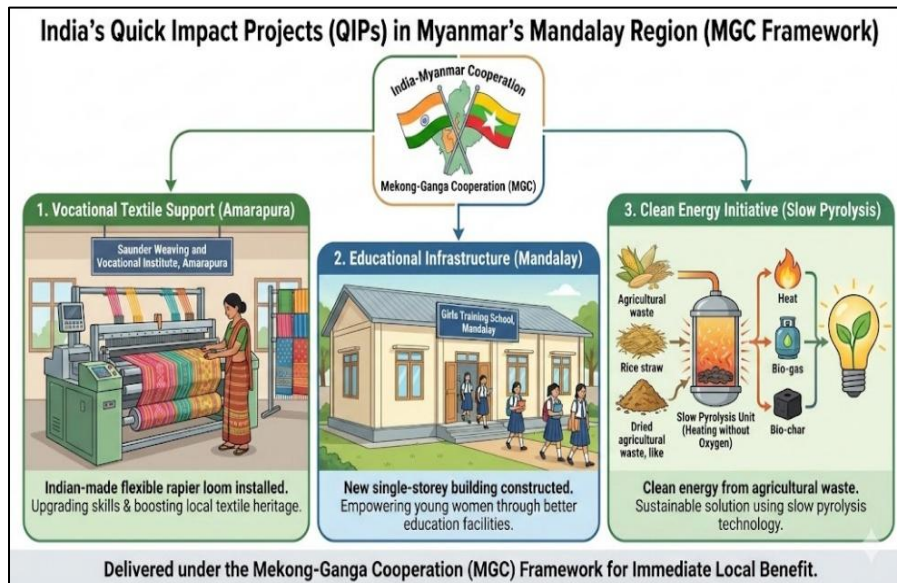
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Theme for 2025–26 is “Swacchata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath.”
- ❖ SS is the world’s largest urban cleanliness survey and a management tool for garbage-free cities.
- ❖ Swachh Survekshan now assesses river towns and coastal areas, expanding beyond Ganga towns.

- ❖ SS promotes citizen participation, accountability, and pride in urban cleanliness.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India's Quick Impact Projects in Myanmar

- ❖ India handed over three Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to Myanmar's Mandalay Region.
- ❖ One project installed an Indian-made flexible rapier loom at the Saunder Weaving and Vocational Institute in Amarapura.
- ❖ Another project constructed a single-storey building for a Girls Training School in Mandalay.
- ❖ The third project focuses on clean energy using agricultural waste through slow pyrolysis (heating biomass without oxygen).
- ❖ The projects are implemented under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework.



IMF Aid to Sri Lanka

- ❖ The IMF approved USD 206 million for Sri Lanka under the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI).
- ❖ The funding is in response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah.
- ❖ The RFI is an IMF emergency lending tool that provides quick, short-term financial assistance for countries facing urgent balance-of-payments (BoP) needs.

- ❖ It offers single, rapid disbursement of funds with minimal conditionality and no full-fledged programme requirement.
- ❖ There are two windows: a Regular window for domestic instability or external shocks, and a Large Natural Disaster window if disaster damage is $\geq 20\%$ of GDP.
- ❖ Repayment is usually $3\frac{1}{4}$ to 5 years at standard IMF interest rates, with monitoring focused on macroeconomic stability.

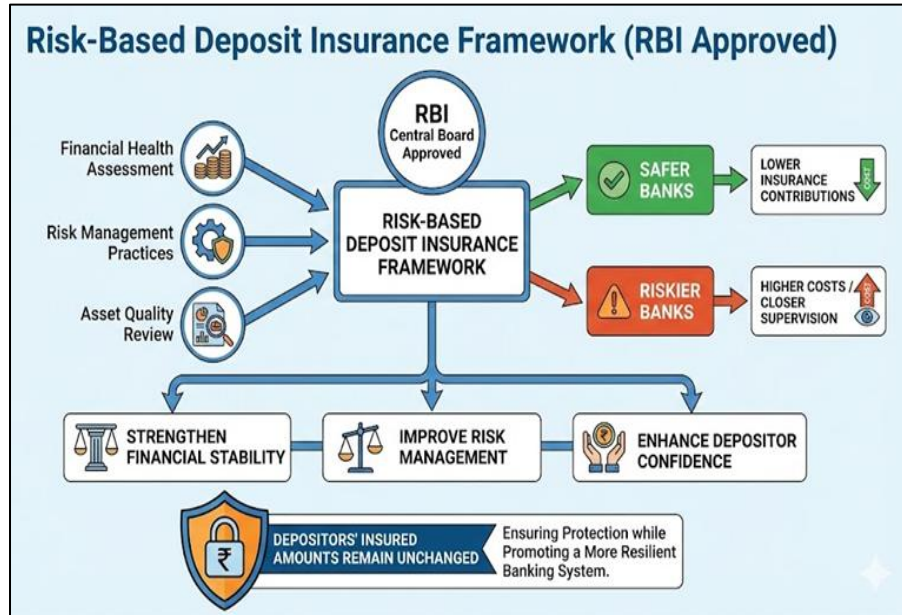


ECONOMY NEWS

Risk-Based Deposit Insurance Framework

- ❖ The RBI Central Board approved a risk-based deposit insurance framework for banks.
- ❖ Under this framework, the banks are assessed based on financial health, risk management, and asset quality.
- ❖ Safer banks may pay lower insurance contributions, while riskier banks may face higher costs or closer supervision.

- ❖ The reform aims to strengthen financial stability, improve risk management, and enhance depositor confidence.
- ❖ Depositors' insured amounts remain unchanged, ensuring protection while promoting a more resilient banking system.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Exoplanet PSR J2322-2650b



- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope discovered a lemon-shaped exoplanet named PSR J2322-2650b.

- ❖ The planet orbits a millisecond pulsar about 2,000 light-years from Earth.
- ❖ It completes one orbit in 7.8 hours at a distance of nearly one million miles from the pulsar (rapidly spinning neutron star).
- ❖ Its atmosphere contains mainly carbon compounds and helium, with very little oxygen and nitrogen.
- ❖ Strong tidal forces from the pulsar stretch the planet into its unusual lemon-like shape.

Drogue Parachute Tests for Gaganyaan



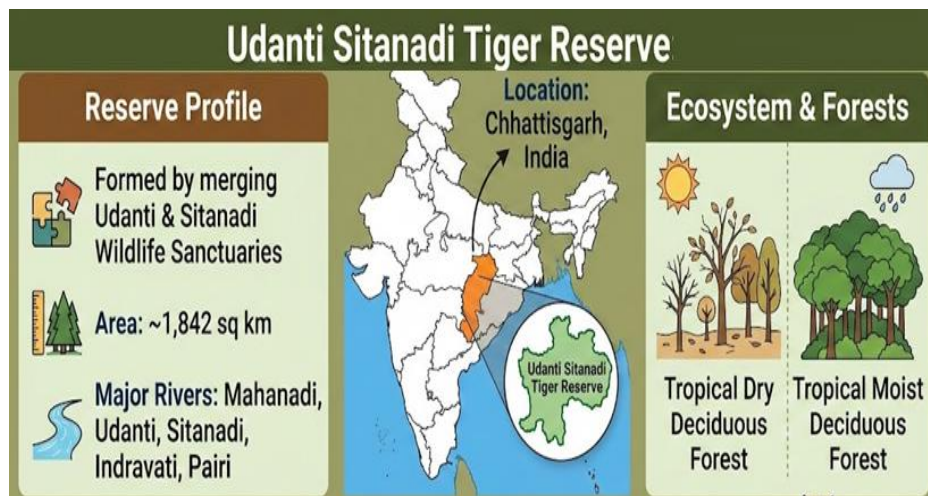
- ❖ ISRO completed drogue parachute qualification tests for the Gaganyaan Crew Module.
- ❖ The tests were conducted at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility, Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh, under the DRDO.
- ❖ Drogue parachutes stabilize and slow the Crew Module during re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ The Gaganyaan deceleration system has 10 parachutes of four different types, deployed in a fixed sequence.

- ❖ The mission aims to send three Indian astronauts to low Earth orbit at 400 km for three days and return them safely to Earth.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

- ❖ Forest authorities prevented illegal land encroachment in Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The reserve is located in Chhattisgarh, India.
- ❖ It was formed by merging Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary and Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ The reserve covers approximately 1,842 square kilometres.
- ❖ Major rivers in the reserve are the Mahanadi, Udanti, Sitanadi, Indravati, and Pairi.
- ❖ The forest types are Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest and Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest.



Otter Conservation Initiative

- ❖ Tamil Nadu launched a programme to protect the smooth-coated otter in the Cauvery Delta.
- ❖ Smooth-coated otters are Asia's largest otter species and are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The species is protected under Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ The initiative covers Thanjavur, Thiruvavur, and Cuddalore districts with ₹20 lakh funding for 2025–26.

- ❖ The project aims to study otter populations, restore habitats, and reduce human-otter conflicts.

Otter Conservation Initiative (Cauvery Delta, Tamil Nadu)

The Protected Species:
Smooth-coated Otter



 Asia's Largest Otter Species
 IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
 India WPA, 1972: Schedule I (Highest Protection)

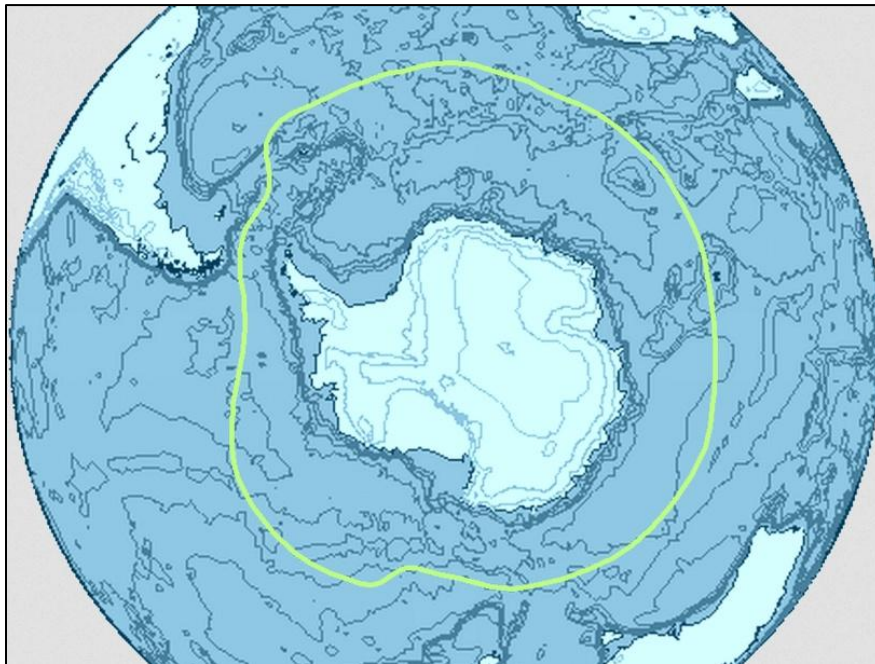
Conservation Project
(Launched by Tamil Nadu)



Location: Thanjavur, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore
Funding: ₹20 Lakh (2025–26)
Goals: Study Populations, Restore Habitats, Reduce Human-Otter Conflicts

Aiming to Restore Habitats & Reduce Conflicts for a Thriving Population.

Southern Ocean Carbon 'Anomaly' Study



- ❖ The Southern Ocean surrounds Antarctica and covers about 25–30% of the global oceans.
- ❖ It absorbs roughly 40% of human-emitted oceanic carbon dioxide.
- ❖ Climate models predicted that stronger westerly winds and more greenhouse gases would bring carbon-rich deep water to the surface, releasing CO₂.

- ❖ Observations since the 2000s show the ocean is absorbing more carbon, contrary to model predictions.
- ❖ Freshwater from rainfall, sea ice transport, and glacial melt has strengthened surface stratification, trapping carbon-rich water 100–200 m below the surface.
- ❖ Deep waters have risen about 40 metres since the 1990s, increasing subsurface CO₂ pressure by ~10 micro atmospheres.
- ❖ The carbon sink may weaken if surface stratification thins, exposing deep CO₂-rich water to the atmosphere.

New Definition of Aravalli Hills



- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has accepted the Centre's new definition of the Aravalli Hills.
- ❖ Under this definition, only landforms rising 100 metres or more above local relief are legally recognised as the Aravalli Hills.
- ❖ The ruling limits mining regulation and protection to these higher-elevation landforms.
- ❖ The Save Aravalli campaign is a citizen-led environmental movement opposing this narrow definition.

- ❖ Experts warn that low-lying ridges, forests, and catchments may become vulnerable to mining.
- ❖ The Aravalli's play a key role in groundwater recharge, climate moderation, and biodiversity conservation, especially in North India.

STATES' NEWS

350 Years of Guru Tegh Bahadur

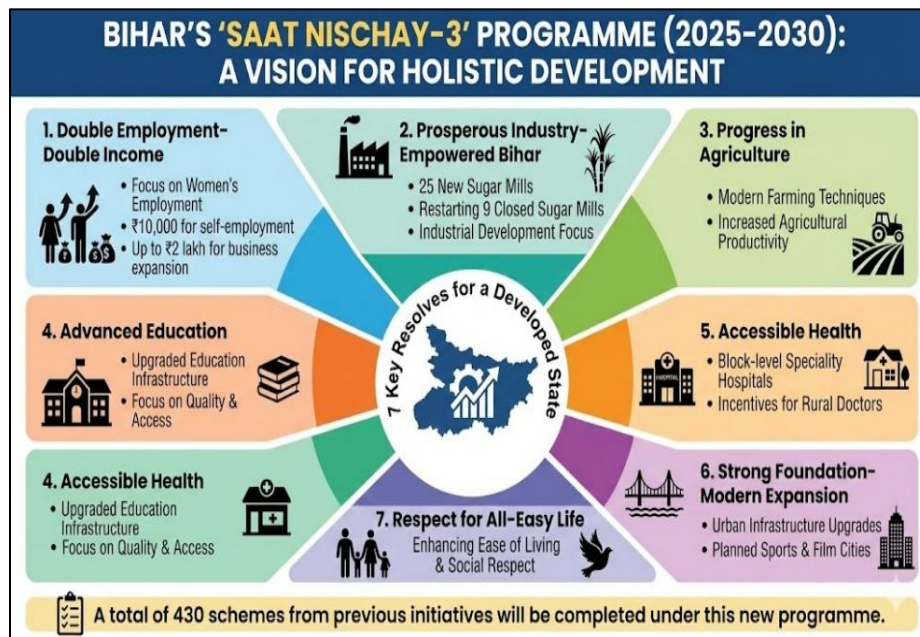


- ❖ The Haryana Assembly passed a resolution to mark the 350th martyrdom year of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur, the Ninth Sikh Guru.
- ❖ He founded the town of Chak-Nanki in Punjab, which later became part of Anandpur Sahib.
- ❖ His writings include 116 poetic hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib, the sacred scripture of Sikhism.
- ❖ Guru Tegh Bahadur is remembered for protecting India's honour, defending the religious freedom, and upholding truth and justice.
- ❖ The state announced the Guru Tegh Bahadur Agricultural College in Kishanpura.
- ❖ A commemorative coin, postage stamp, and a coffee table book were also released to honour his legacy.

Saat Nischay-3

- ❖ Bihar Cabinet approved the Saat Nischay-3 programme for 2025–2030 to develop the State.

- ❖ The program focuses on income, employment, industry, agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, and ease of living.
- ❖ Seven key resolves: Double Employment-Double Income, Prosperous Industry-Empowered Bihar, Progress in Agriculture, Advanced Education, Accessible Health, Strong Foundation-Modern Expansion, Respect for All-Easy Life.
- ❖ Under the women's employment scheme, the government provides ₹10,000 for self-employment and up to ₹2 lakh for business expansion.
- ❖ Industrial development includes 25 new sugar mills and restarting 9 closed sugar mills; urban and education infrastructure is being upgraded.
- ❖ Health facilities include block-level speciality hospitals and incentives for rural doctors; sports and film cities are planned for cultural and athletic promotion.
- ❖ A total of 430 schemes from previous initiatives will be completed under the new programme.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

IUCN SSC Chair - Vivek Menon

- ❖ Vivek Menon has been elected Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) for 2025–2029.
- ❖ He is the first Asian to lead the SSC in its 75-year history.
- ❖ The SSC is the largest scientific network of the IUCN.

- ❖ It works to prevent species extinction and support the recovery of threatened species.
- ❖ The SSC manages the IUCN Red List, develops conservation policies, and guides global biodiversity protection.



IMPORTANT DAYS

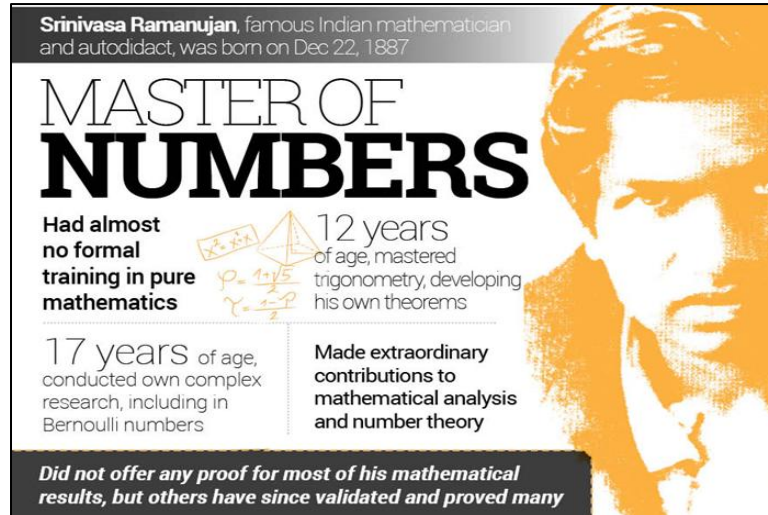
Raising Day of SSB 2025 – December 20

- ❖ Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) celebrated its 16th Raising Day this year.
- ❖ SSB is a Central Armed Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ It was established in 1963 as the Special Service Bureau after the 1962 Sino-Indian War.
- ❖ It was renamed Sashastra Seema Bal on 15 December 2003.

- ❖ SSB has guarded the Indo-Nepal border since 2001 and the Indo-Bhutan border since 2004.



National Mathematics Day 2025 - December 21



- ❖ The day marks the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887–1920), a legendary Indian mathematician.
- ❖ The Government of India declared the Day in 2011.
- ❖ The day aims to encourage students to take an interest in mathematics and promote scientific thinking and problem-solving skills.
- ❖ India has a rich mathematical tradition, including the invention of zero, the decimal system, and early ideas of negative numbers.



- ❖ Ramanujan has made some major contributions to number theory, infinite series, continued fractions, and mathematical analysis, influencing modern research in mathematics, physics, and computer science.

