

December - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ NASA has launched a campaign called “Message in a Bottle” and invited the public to send their names that will travel to Jupiter's moon along with a poem dedicated to Europa Clipper mission.
- ❖ Gujarat topped in the rooftop solar capacity with 10.4 GW as of November this year.
- ❖ PM Modi's personal YouTube Channel reaches two crore subscribers.
 - He became the first world leader whose personal YouTube Channel has reached two crore subscribers.

TAMIL NADU

Welfare board for Gig Workers



கிக் (GIG) தொழிலாளர்கள் நல வாரியம்!

தமிழ்நாடு முழுவதும் இணைய வழி உணவுப்பொருள் விநியோகம் மற்றும் சேவைப்பணியில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ள அமைப்புசாரா கிக் (gig) தொழிலாளர்களின் நலனை பாதுகாக்கும் வகையில்,

தமிழ்நாடு திணையம் சார்ந்த கிக் (gig) தொழிலாளர்கள் நல வாரியம் (Tamilnadu Platform based GIG Workers Welfare Board)

எனும் புதிய நல வாரியத்தை தோற்றுவித்து ஆணை பிறப்பித்துள்ளது தமிழ்நாடு அரசு. இதன் மூலம், தமிழ்நாடு முழுவதும் சுமார் ஒரு இலட்சத்திற்கும் மேற்பட்ட கிக் (gig) தொழிலாளர்கள் இவ்வாரியத்தில் உறுப்பினராகப் பதிவு பெற்று நலத்திட்ட உதவிகள் பெற்று பயன்பெறுவர்.

- ❖ The labour welfare and skill development department has constituted the Tamil Nadu Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board.
- ❖ It will cater to workers in e-commerce services including online food delivery and cab aggregators.

- ❖ The labour department expects more than one lakh workers to register in the welfare board.

NATIONAL

Extended Version of Mission Karmayogi

- ❖ On the occasion of Good Governance Day, the Extended Version of Mission Karmayogi has been launched.
- ❖ Three new features launched on the iGOT Karmayogi platform are My iGOT, Blended Programs and Curated Programs.
- ❖ A new blended learning programme named VIKAS (Variable & Immersive Karmayogi Advanced Support) also launched.



India Skills Report 2024

- ❖ The India Skills Report-2024 has put Andhra Pradesh in the third place in terms of having the highly employable resource pool.
- ❖ Haryana and Maharashtra took the first and second positions respectively.
- ❖ The overall young employability in India has shown improvement, reaching 51.25%.
- ❖ States like Haryana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and Telangana demonstrate a high concentration of highly employable youth.
- ❖ Haryana has the highest employable youth concentration.

- ❖ Pune came first with 80.82% of candidates found highly employable, followed by Bengaluru, and then Trivandrum.
- ❖ Telangana has the highest concentration of employable talent in the age group of 18-21 with 85.45% found employable.
- ❖ It followed by Kerala 74.93% employable resources in this age group.
- ❖ Gujarat has the highest availability of employable resources in the age group of 26-29 with 78.24% in this age group found employable.

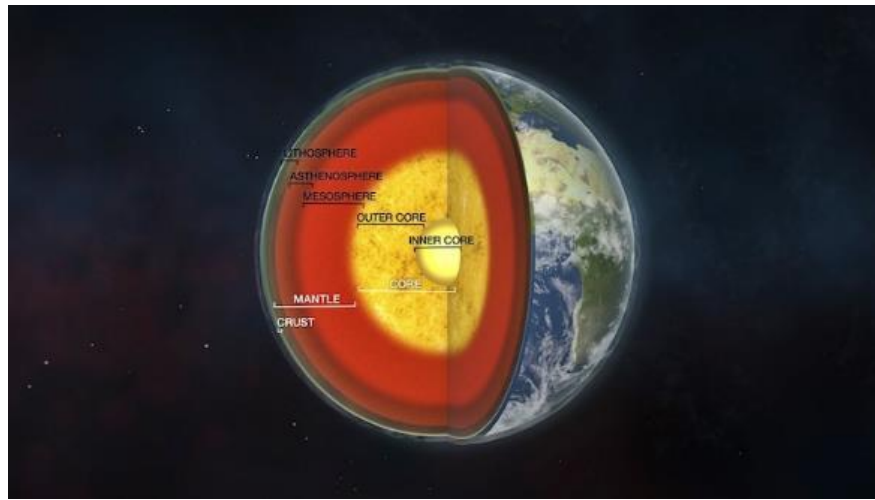


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

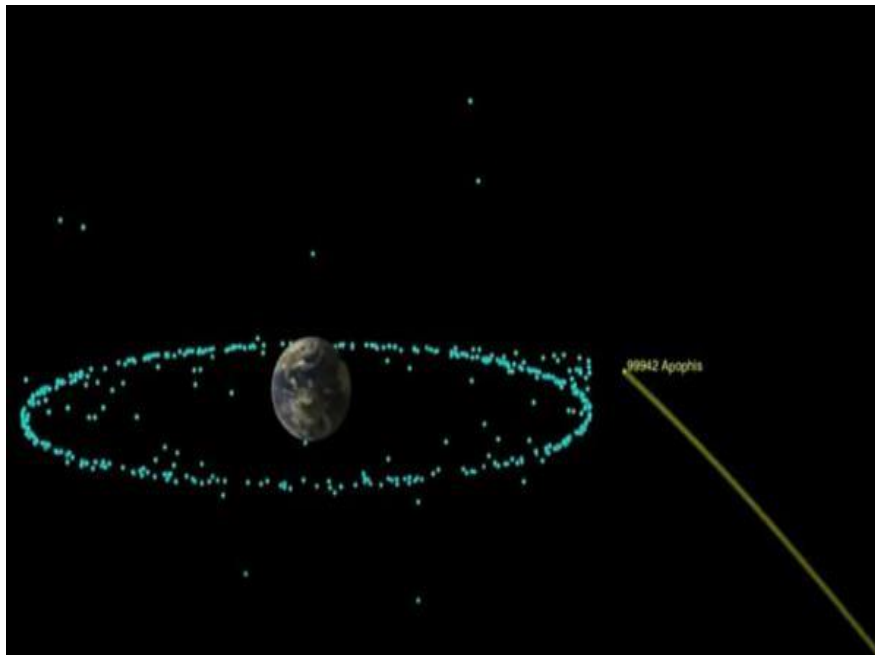
E prime layer of earth

- ❖ The formation of new enigmatic layer – E prime layer – at the outermost part of Earth's core is a result of "surface water penetrating deep into the planet.
- ❖ Tectonic plates carrying surface water have transported it deep into the Earth over billions of years.
- ❖ Subducted water reacts chemically with core materials under high pressure.
- ❖ This reaction leads to the formation of a hydrogen-rich, silicon-depleted layer at the outer core.
- ❖ Silica crystals generated by this process ascend and blend into the mantle, impacting the overall composition.

- ❖ These modifications in the liquid metallic layer could potentially result in reduced density and altered seismic characteristics.



Mission to Apophis



- ❖ NASA relaunched a mission to study the “God of Chaos” asteroid as it started coming closer to the orbit of Earth.
- ❖ Apophis, also called the “God of Chaos”, is likely to fly close to Earth on April 13, 2029, and will be only 20,000 miles away.
- ❖ The space rock, which measures nearly 370 yards across, approaches the Earth every 7,500 years.

- ❖ Benu is the most prominent asteroid among them which has a 1/2700 chance of hitting Earth between 2175 and 2195.
- ❖ Dust and rock samples collected from Benu were recently brought back to Earth by NASA.

ENVIRONMENT

Eurasian otter in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary

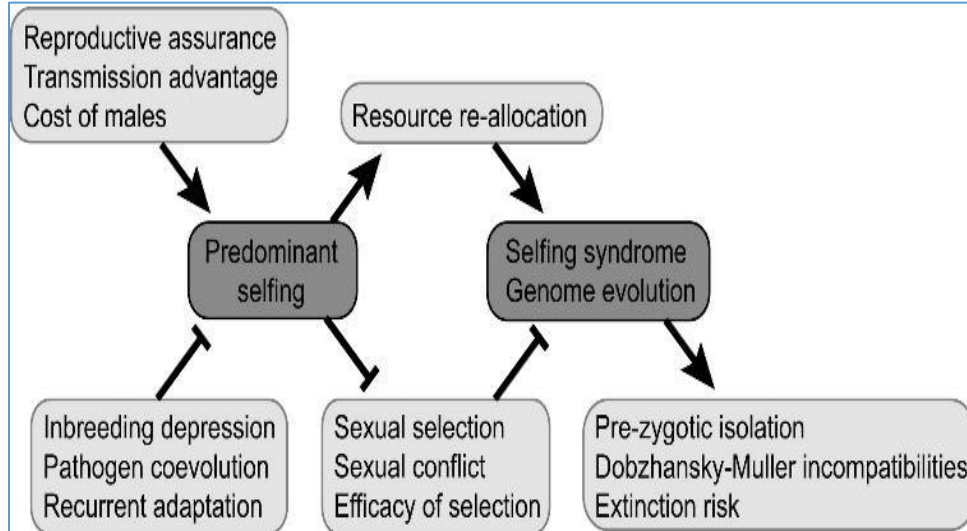


- ❖ Team of researchers have discovered Eurasian otter in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Idukki, a first in Kerala.
- ❖ The scientific name of the Eurasian otter is *Lutra lutra*.
- ❖ With this, there are three species of otters found in Kerala, including smooth-coated otter and small-clawed otter.

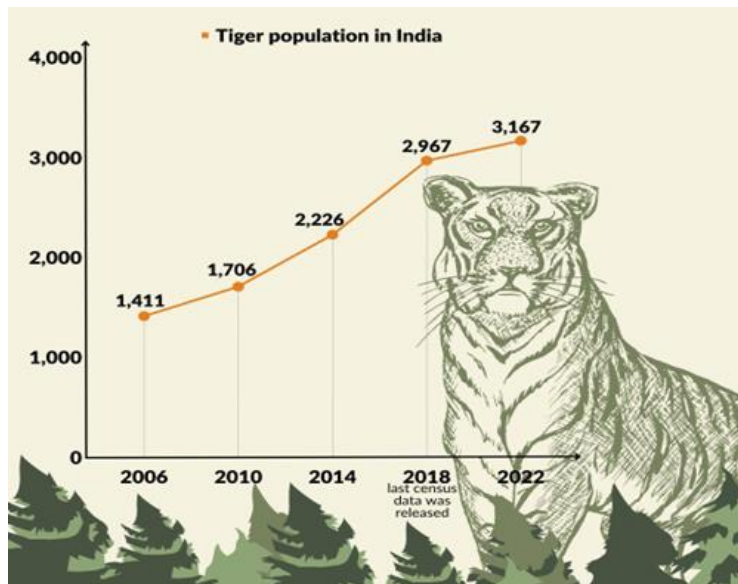
Selfing Syndrome

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a flower growing in Paris, France, which is producing less nectar and smaller flowers to attract fewer pollinators.
- ❖ The plant evolved to self-pollinate in order to attract fewer pollinators due to the decreasing availability of insects.
- ❖ This convergent evolution of a selfing syndrome threatens plant pollinator interactions.
- ❖ Self-pollination is the process by which plants reproduce themselves.
- ❖ The behaviour is contrary to the convention of angiosperms, which rely on insects to pollinate in order to reproduce — an interconnected relationship in nature.

- ❖ This disruption of 100 million years of evolution is likely to have serious consequences.
- ❖ It may cause insect declines to accelerate, as well as making plant populations less diverse and more vulnerable to environmental change.



204 tigers lost in 2023



- ❖ India lost a record 204 tigers this year from January 1-December 25.
- ❖ Maharashtra, with 52 deaths, topped the list of Indian states.
- ❖ It was followed by India's top tiger state, Madhya Pradesh with 45 deaths. Uttarakhand came next with 26 deaths.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Kerala recorded 15 deaths each.

- ❖ The deaths this year have been termed in some media reports to be the highest in a decade.
- ❖ India's tiger population was increased by 200 from 2018 to 2022.
- ❖ The number of tigers in India was 3,167 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

DMDK founder Vijayakanth



- ❖ Vijayakanth, actor and the founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) passed away recently.
- ❖ Vijayakanth made his debut through Inikkum Ilamai, and has since then gone on to do more than 150 movies in his career.
- ❖ In 2005, Vijayakanth formed his political party, Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) in Madurai.
- ❖ In the assembly election in 2006, a year after its launch, the DMDK got 8.4% votes.
- ❖ In the 2011 Assembly elections DMDK coming second, with 29 seats, leading party founder Vijayakanth to become the Leader of the Opposition.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Biodiversity Day 2023 - December 29

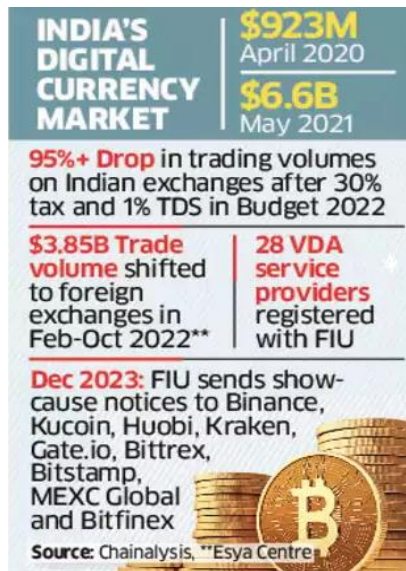
- ❖ This date commemorates the Convention on Biological Diversity came into force in 1993.
- ❖ From 1993 till 2000, World Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 29th December.

- ❖ It was on December 20 in 2000 that May 22 was designated as the new date for celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity.



MISCELLANEOUS

India's Crypto Portfolio 2023



- ❖ More than 20% of India's total crypto investments are concentrated in the three major metropolitan areas: Delhi (9%), Bangalore (8%) and Mumbai (5%).
- ❖ Ghaziabad claimed the 10th position in the list of the top invested cities, replacing Patna from the spot
- ❖ About 75% of the invested users are below the age of 35.
- ❖ Top invested cryptos were Dogecoin (DOGE), Bitcoin (BTC), and Ethereum (ETH) contributing to 26% of the total value.
- ❖ Solana (SOL) was the best-performing crypto in India's portfolio, with 633% growth year-to-date.



- ❖ Delhi and Hyderabad saw the highest participation of women investors; 9% of India's crypto investors are women.

