

February - 04

TNPSC BITS


- ❖ Air India launched its maiden scheduled commercial flight of the Airbus A350-900 from Bengaluru to Mumbai.
- ❖ The 5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference was held at the National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ Indian marathon runner Man Singh won the gold medal with his own top time of 2 hours, 14 minutes, and 19 seconds at the Asian Marathon Championships 2024, Hong Kong.
 - He is the second Indian man to clinch a gold medal at the event after Gopi Thonakal (2017).

NATIONAL

Members of 16th Finance Commission

Fresh formulation

The 16th Finance Commission will have time until Oct. 31 2025, to recommend the tax sharing math between Centre and States

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Panel will also prescribe measures to augment Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement resources of panchayats, local bodies		<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ An Advance Cell was set up in the Finance Ministry last November to oversee preliminary work
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- Panel may review existing arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives

- ❖ Recently, the union government appointed Arvind Panagariya as Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.
- ❖ Now it announced the appointment of three full-time members and one part-time member of the Commission.

- ❖ Former Finance and Expenditure Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha, who was also the member of 15th Finance Commission, has been appointed as full-time member.
- ❖ Along with Annie George Mathew and Niranjan Rajadhyaksha was also appointed as full-time member.
- ❖ Soumya Kanti Ghosh has been appointed as a part-time member in the Commission.
- ❖ Jha also served as Member Secretary of 14th Finance Commission.
- ❖ The 16th Finance Commission is expected to submit its recommendations by October 31, 2025.
- ❖ It is covering an award period of five years beginning April 1, 2026.

INTERNATIONAL

Coltan Deposits in Kenya



- ❖ Kenya has confirmed the discovery of its first coltan deposits.
- ❖ Coltan, short for columbite-tantalite, is a valuable mineral that is used in various industries.
- ❖ Tantalum, derived from coltan, is used in the production of capacitors.
- ❖ The global demand for coltan is rapidly increasing, and its price, averaging \$48 per kg, depends on the tantalum content.

- ❖ The Democratic Republic of Congo holds more than 70% of the world's coltan reserves.

Eliminating Industrially Produced Trans Fats

- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has awarded certificates for progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fatty acids (iTFA) to five countries.
- ❖ The recipients were Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.
- ❖ WHO's ambitious goal to entirely eliminate iTFA from the global food supply by the end of 2023 was not fully achieved.
- ❖ In 2023 alone, seven countries – Egypt, Mexico, Moldova, Nigeria, North Macedonia, the Philippines and Ukraine – implemented new best-practice policies to eliminate iTFA.
- ❖ As of now, 53 countries have effective best practice policies to address iTFA in food.
- ❖ These policies are estimated to save approximately 183,000 lives annually.

AN ACTION PACKAGE TO ELIMINATE INDUSTRIALLY-PRODUCED TRANS-FATTY ACIDS

REPLACE

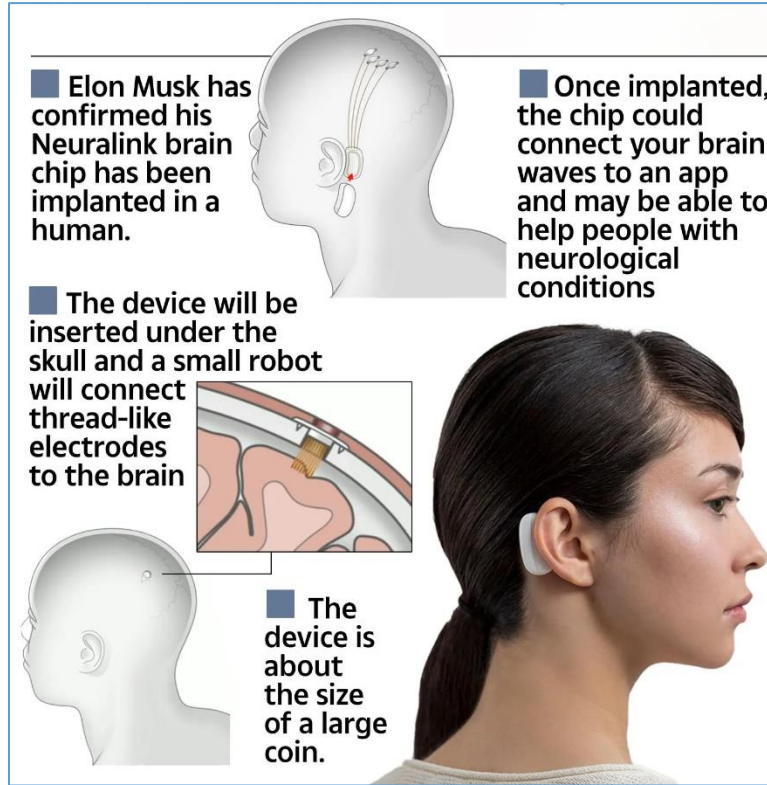
REVIEW	PROMOTE	LEGISLATE	ASSESS	CREATE	ENFORCE
dietary sources of industrially-produced trans fats and the landscape for required policy change	the replacement of industrially-produced trans fats with healthier fats and oils	or enact regulatory actions to eliminate industrially-produced trans fats	and monitor trans fat content in the food supply and changes in trans fat consumption in the population	awareness of the negative health impact of TFA among policy-makers, producers, suppliers, and the public	compliance with policies and regulations

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Neuralink trails First Human

- ❖ Neuralink startup had installed a brain implant in its first human patient with "promising" initial results.
- ❖ The neurotechnology company co-founded by Musk in 2016 aims to build direct communication channels between the brain and computers.

- ❖ An implant called the "Link" is a device about the size of five stacked coins that is to be placed inside the human brain through invasive surgery.



ENVIRONMENT

New kangaroo lizard



- ❖ The Researchers have found a new species of tiny lizards
- ❖ It was described as a "diminutive dragon in Western Ghats".



- ❖ Agasthyagama edge or the northern kangaroo lizard belongs to the Agamidae family.
- ❖ It has been named after the Evolutionary Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) programme of the Zoological Society of London.
- ❖ The species is the second one of the Agasthyagama genus after A. beddomii or Indian kangaroo lizard
- ❖ A. beddomii has been previously reported from Sivagiri hills in Tamil Nadu.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Corruption Perceptions Index 2023

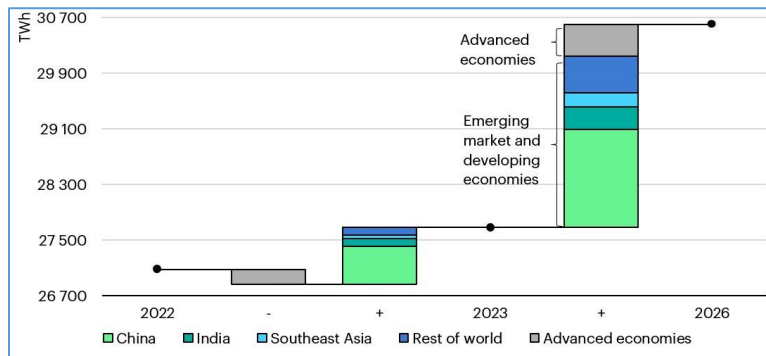


- ❖ India ranked 93 out of 180 countries on the corruption perceptions index for 2023.
- ❖ Its overall score remained largely unchanged, according to a Transparency International report.
- ❖ Denmark topped the index for the sixth consecutive year.
- ❖ Finland and New Zealand were ranked second and third, respectively.
- ❖ Somalia with a score of 11, Venezuela (13), Syria (13), South Sudan (13), and Yemen (16) took the bottom spots in the 2023.

- ❖ In South Asia, Myanmar (162), Bangladesh (149), Pakistan (133) and Sri Lanka (115) are ranked behind India.

Electricity 2024 Report

- ❖ The International Energy Agency's (IEA) released a report named "Electricity 2024".
- ❖ The report forecasts a robust global surge in electricity demand, growing at an average rate of 3.4% from 2024 through 2026.
- ❖ China, India, and Southeast Asian countries are set to be at the forefront of this demand surge.
- ❖ By 2026, nearly half of the world's electricity is expected to be generated by low-emission sources, including renewables and nuclear power.
- ❖ India's annual average electricity demand growth is pegged at 6.5% over 2024-2026.
- ❖ Electricity use per capita in India and Southeast Asia is rapidly rising.
- ❖ It has been effectively stagnant in Africa for more than three decades.
- ❖ Electricity demand in the European Union declined for the second consecutive year in 2023.
- ❖ Global CO2 emissions from electricity generation are expected to fall by more than 2% in 2024 after increasing by 1% in 2023.
- ❖ Extreme weather events triggered major power outages in 2023 in the United States and India.

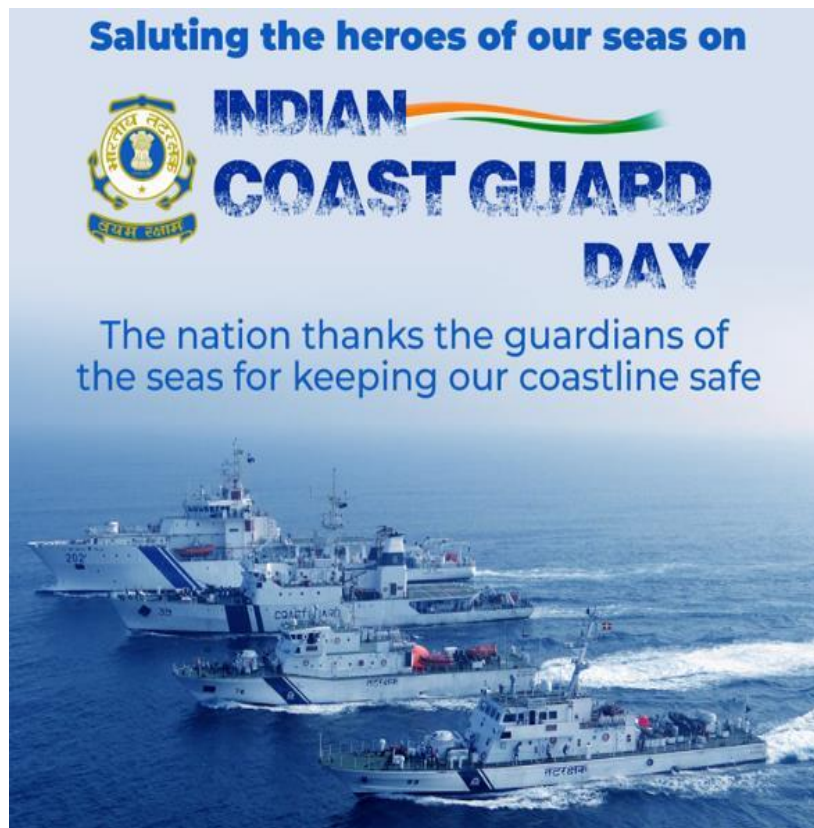


IMPORTANT DAYS

Indian Coast Guard Day 2024 - February 01

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard was established on February 1, 1977.

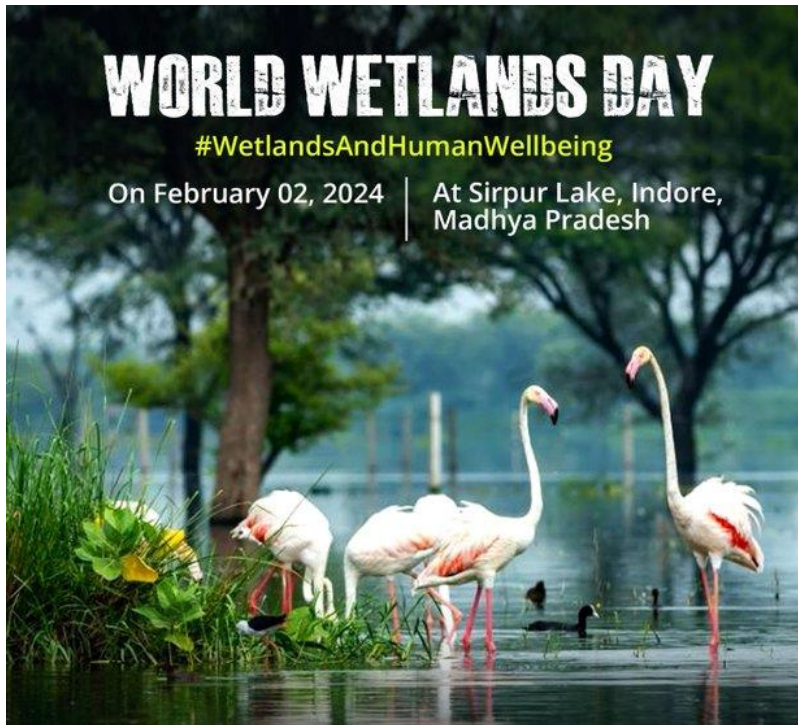
- ❖ It aims to prevent the sea-borne smuggling of goods that hampered the economy.
- ❖ The responsibilities of the Coast Guard include offshore security, marine safety, and coastal security as well as safeguarding India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- ❖ On August 18, 1978, the Parliament announced that the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Day would be celebrated on February 1.
- ❖ The ICG department is ranked as the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world.
- ❖ It is a maritime armed force operating under the Ministry of Defence



World Wetlands Day 2024 - February 02

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness for the importance of wetlands for human lives and the planet.
- ❖ Wetlands can be both freshwater or marine or coastal, consisting of swamps, wet grasslands, marshes, coral reefs and mangroves.
- ❖ Wetlands cover only six percent of the earth, but more than forty percent of animal and plant species live and breed in wetlands.
- ❖ The Ramsar Convention, named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, was an international treaty for the conservation of wetlands.

- ❖ The treaty was signed on February 2, 1971.
- ❖ This year's theme is - Wetlands and human wellbeing.



RA Awareness Day 2024 - February 02

What is Rheumatoid Disease?
also known as Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

- ♥ RA is a progressive, destructive disease frequently leading to disability. It affects 1% of the population.
- ♥ Immune cells attack joints & organs, including heart & lungs.
- ♥ Symptoms like fatigue, joint pain, stiffness, swelling, & fever may be constant or flaring.
- ♥ Almost 2/3 of patients have a 20% response or less to treatments. No cure is known.
- ♥ U.S. spends a fraction on RA research of what is spent on rarer diseases with similar mortality rates.

- ❖ Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) causes inflammation around the body with pain persisting in the joints.



- ❖ It is an autoimmune condition in which the body believes the linings of the joints are foreign tissue, and so attacks and damages them, resulting in inflammation and pain.
- ❖ This day was established by the Rheumatoid Patient Foundation in an effort to increase worldwide understanding of the disease.

