

February - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras will introduce sports quota seats in its undergraduate programmes from the next academic year.
 - This is the first of such initiatives among the IITs in the country, the 'Sports excellence admission' (SEA) is open to Indian nationals only.
- ❖ Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Champai Soren took oath as the twelfth Chief Minister of Jharkhand.
- ❖ Timetooth, Bengaluru based Engineering Company, has launched India's first-ever aircraft passenger seat at Wings India 2024.20
- ❖ The Two-time Asian Games medallist Naorem Roshibina Devi was named the International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) female athlete of the year in the sanda category.
 - She was conferred with the Arjuna Award this year.
- ❖ BCCI secretary Jay Shah's term as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has been unanimously extended for a third term.
- ❖ The 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Government of India declared Gujarat's Surat airport as an international airport.
- ❖ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC), unveiled the "Bharat 5G Portal- an integrated portal" during the 'Bharat Telecom 2024 expo'.
- ❖ NITI Aayog, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have jointly launched the 'Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems' in India.

TAMIL NADU

Share of central taxes in 2023/24

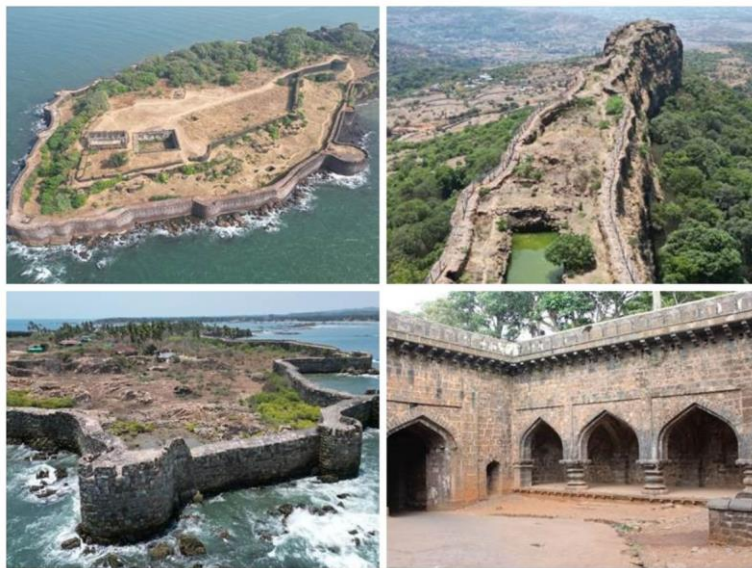
- ❖ Tamil Nadu would get ₹44,760.83 crore as its share of Central taxes as per the revised Union Budget estimates for 2023-24.
- ❖ This is about 7.4% higher than the ₹41,664.86 crore projected in the initial estimates.
- ❖ In the interim Budget estimates for 2024-25, Tamil Nadu's share of Central taxes is estimated to be ₹49,754.95 crore.
- ❖ This is about 11.2% higher than the revised estimates for 2023-24.

- ❖ The actual devolution of Central taxes to Tamil Nadu for 2022-23 stood at ₹38,685.47 crore, as per Union Budget documents.



NATIONAL

Maratha Military Landscapes of India



- ❖ The Ministry of Culture has put forward the 'Maratha Military Landscape' for consideration in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2024-25 cycle.



- ❖ It is encompassing a total of 12 components in this submission.
- ❖ These includes the very iconic forts such as Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohagad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay Durg, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The inception of Maratha military ideology dates back to the 17th century during the reign of Maratha King Chhatrapati Shivaji in 1670 and continued through subsequent rules until Peshwa rule until 1818.
- ❖ Currently, India is home to 42 World Heritage Sites, with 34 being cultural sites, seven natural sites, and one mixed site.

Advocate-on-record (AoR) 2024




- ❖ The Supreme Court has designated 56 lawyers and advocate-on-record (AoR) as senior advocates.
- ❖ These 56 includes the 11 women and 34 first-generation lawyers.
- ❖ The Supreme Court had until now given Senior Advocate status to only 14 women - including two retired judges.
- ❖ Besides this, the top court also gets 198 new AoRs.
- ❖ According to the rules framed by the Supreme Court under Article 145 of the Constitution, only advocates designated as advocate-on-record can file cases in the top court.
- ❖ Supreme Court conducts AoR examinations twice a year.
- ❖ The first female lawyer to be made a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court was Justice Indu Malhotra.

Indian Army's New Fitness Policy

- ❖ The Indian army has brought a new fitness policy in view of the “declining physical standards among officers”.

- ❖ The new policy is aimed at bringing consistency in the testing procedure and addressing issues of officers being physically unfit or obese amid the rising threat of lifestyle diseases.
- ❖ The rules at present require quarterly conducting of Battle Physical Efficiency Test (BPET) and Physical Proficiency Test (PPT).
- ❖ If the tests are failed after the improvement period, then punitive actions under Army Regulation (AR) 15 and Army Act 22 will be taken against the personnel.

THE NEW RULES

Age group: 28 to 32 years					Age group: 33 to 37 years			
Height	Weight				Height	Weight		
	Min	Ideal	Max			Min	Ideal	Max
170	55.8	62.0	68.2	170	57.6	64	70.4	
172	57.2	63.5	69.9	172	59	65.5	72	
174	59.0	65.5	72.1	174	61	67.5	74	
176	60.3	67.0	73.7	176	62.1	69	76	
178	61.7	68.5	75.4	178	63.5	70.5	78	
180	63.5	70.5	77.6	180	65.3	72.5	80	

Age group: 43 to 47 years				Age group: 38 to 42 years				Age group: 48 and above			
Height	Weight			Height	Weight			Height	Weight		
	Min	Ideal	Max		Min	Ideal	Max		Min	Ideal	Max
170	59	65	71.5	170	58.1	64.5	71	170	59	65.5	72.1
172	60	66.5	73.2	172	59.4	66	72.6	172	60.8	67.5	74.3
174	62	68.5	75.4	174	61.2	68	74.8	174	62.1	69	75.9
176	63	70	77	176	62.6	69.5	76.6	176	63.9	71	78.1
178	65	72	79.2	178	64	71.5	78.7	178	65.3	72.5	79.8
180	66.6	74	81.4	180	66	73	80.3	180	67.1	74.5	82

Cervical cancer vaccination

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable types of cancer

More than 99% of cases of cervical cancer are caused by infection with human papillomavirus (HPV)

Screening and vaccination are key to prevent the disease

HPV16 HPV18

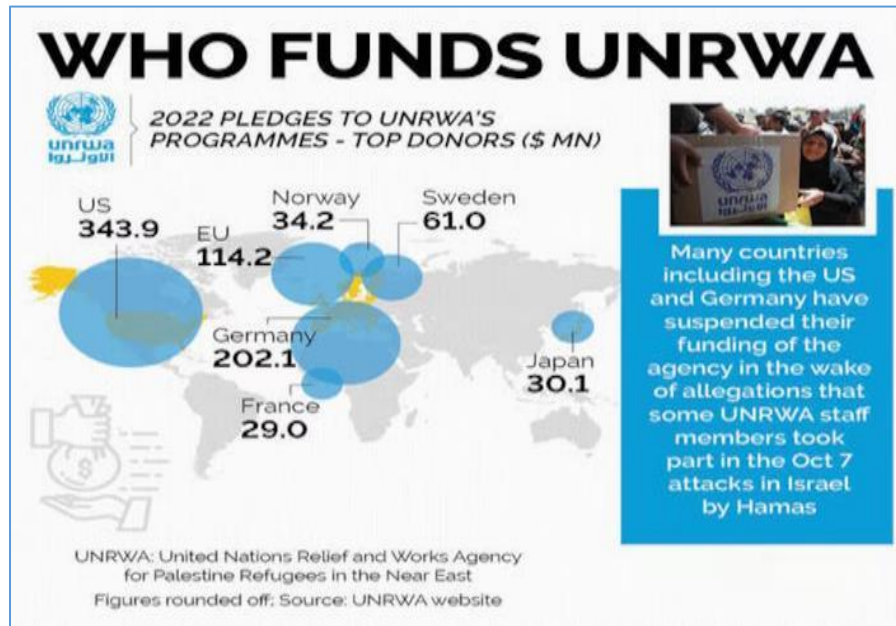
International Agency for Research on Cancer
World Health Organization

- ❖ Interim budget announced the government's initiative to promote cervical cancer vaccination among girls aged 9 to 14.
- ❖ This will involve the administration of the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine.

- ❖ This vaccine is designed to offer protection against specific strains of cervical cancer.
- ❖ Indian population of 511.4 million women aged 15 years and older who are potentially susceptible to the disease.
- ❖ Every year 1,23,907 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 77,348 die from the disease.
- ❖ Cervical cancer ranks as the second most frequent cancer among women in India.

INTERNATIONAL

UNRWA Funding suspension



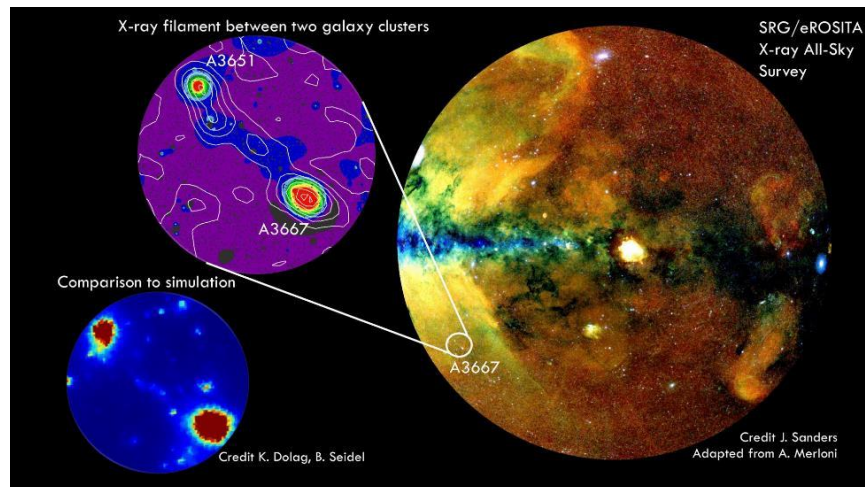
- ❖ The US and eight other Western countries, have decided to pause funding for the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).
- ❖ There are two million Palestinians in Gaza are dependent on UNRWA services.
- ❖ The US and eight other Western countries, which together provided more than half of UNRWA's 2022 budget.
- ❖ UNRWA was founded in 1949 to provide aid to about 700,000 Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.
- ❖ UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions by donor states like the US.

- ❖ It also gets a limited subsidy from the UN, which is used only for administrative costs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

eROSITA Data

- ❖ Scientists have unveiled the largest ever X-ray map of the universe and found over 9,00,000 high-energy cosmic sources.
- ❖ The German "eROSITA" consortium published the data collected by the eROSITA X-ray telescope on board the Russian-German satellite Spektrum-RG.
- ❖ The first eROSITA All-Sky Survey Catalogue (eRASS1) is the largest collection of X-ray sources ever published.
- ❖ Around 7,10,000 supermassive black holes are in distant galaxies.
- ❖ The high-energy cosmic sources (more than 900,000) also comprised 180,000 stars that emitted X-rays.
- ❖ In addition to this, 12,000 clusters of galaxies and a number of X-ray emitting celestial objects are from other exotic classes.

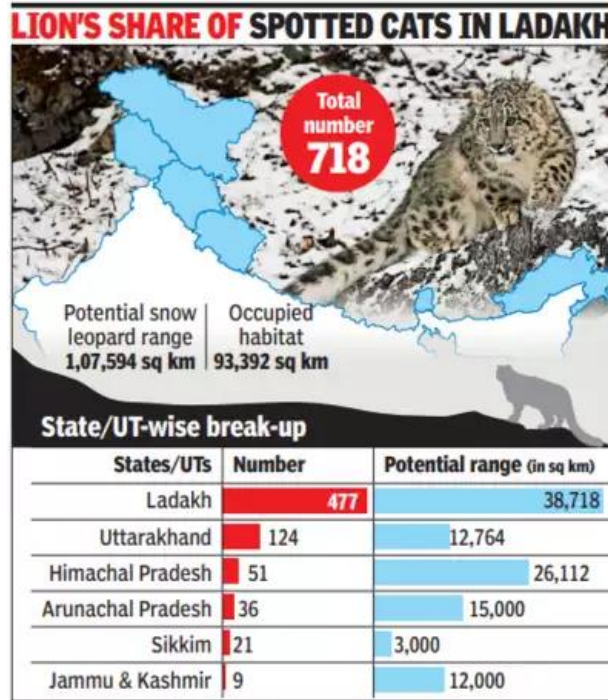


ENVIRONMENT

Status Report of Snow Leopards in India

- ❖ A first-ever national survey recently determined that, India has an estimated 718 snow leopards.
- ❖ Now, the country is home to around 10-15% of its global population.
- ❖ Earlier estimates of the animal ranged from 400 to 700 in the country.

- ❖ The estimated population in different states is as follows: Ladakh 477, Uttarakhand 124, Himachal Pradesh 51, Arunachal Pradesh 36, Sikkim 21, and Jammu and Kashmir 9.
- ❖ IUCN has the snow leopard under its vulnerable category.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Surajkund Mela 2024



- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024 in Haryana's Surajkund.



- ❖ The 37th edition of festival brings the artisans and craftsmen from across the country under one venue.
- ❖ Tanzania is the partner nation for this year's Surajkund International Crafts Mela, while Gujarat is the theme state.

