

February - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's woman robot astronaut Vyommitra space travel is scheduled for the third quarter of this year.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has declared 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians.
- ❖ Dr. Bina Modi, Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, was honoured with the 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year - 2023' Award.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani has been ranked first among all the Indians and second globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024 compiled by Brand Finance.
- ❖ The first yoga and naturopathy hospital in the northeast is to be setup in Assam's Dibrugarh district.
- ❖ The Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions clocked a new high in value in January by touching Rs 18.41 trillion.
- ❖ The US State Department has approved a potential sale of 31 armed MQ-9B Sky Guardian drones, missiles and supporting equipment to India.
- ❖ Canada observed International Development Week (IDW) is commemorated every year during the first full week of February.

TAMIL NADU

First robotic elephant

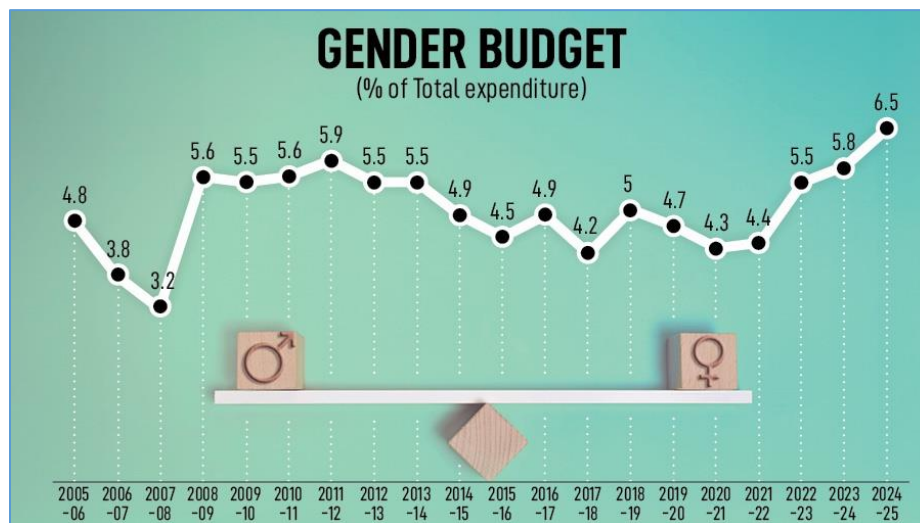


- ❖ A robotic elephant was handed over to the Shivan Temple in Devarshola in Gudalur in Ooty by an NGO, Voices for Asian Elephants.

- ❖ These robotic elephants already have been donated to temples across Kerala, to end the often-criticised practice of maintaining the elephants in captivity at temples, often in unhealthy, inhumane conditions.
- ❖ This is the first such “elephant” to be given to a temple in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ There are 25 captive elephants in Kerala died in 2023 alone, and three have died already in 2024.
- ❖ The robotic elephants will ensure that the culture of the country is still maintained, while also not tormenting elephants by keeping them in captivity.

NATIONAL

Highest ever Gender Budget – 2024



- ❖ A separate statement of the Union budget provides an estimate of budgetary allocations and expenditure targeted towards women and girls.
- ❖ The practice of issuing an annual gender budgeting statement (GBS) as part of the Union budget began in 2005-06.
- ❖ A charter on gender budget cells (GBCs) to be set up across the various ministries was issued in 2007.
- ❖ This year, the total allocation under the gender budget stands at ₹three lakh crores, which is almost 6.5% of the total expenditure.
- ❖ This is an increase of almost 40% over the gender budget for the previous year, and the highest increase in the last decade.
- ❖ 87% of this increase in Gender Budget over last year is owing to increased allocations for women and girls by 7 Ministries/Departments.

- ❖ Nearly 35% of the total gender budget, or ₹one lakh crore, has been allocated towards the MGNREGA.
- ❖ The second biggest contribution of nearly ₹40,000 crore, or close to 13% of the gender budget comes from the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation's Jal Jeevan Scheme's allocation at ₹36,000 crore.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's schemes at about ₹35,000 crores.
- ❖ Both make up a further 11%-12% each of the gender budget.
- ❖ The PM Awas Yojana (Urban)'s allocation of about ₹26,000 crore makes up a further 8.5% of the gender budget.
- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development will be receiving 6.6% of the gender budget.

India Energy Week 2024

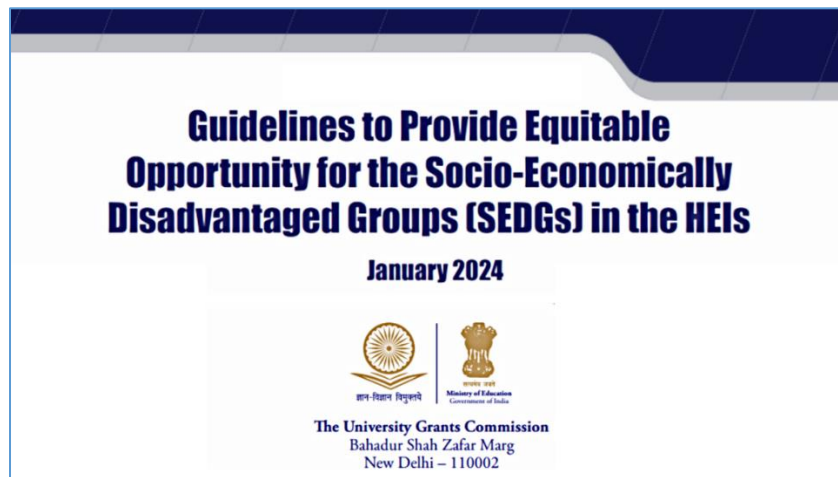


- ❖ The second edition of India Energy Week was held in Goa.
- ❖ It is the India's largest and only all-encompassing energy exhibition and conference, bringing together the entire energy value chain, and serves as a catalyst for India's energy transition goals.
- ❖ Saudi Aramco, one of the largest energy majors, is a sponsor for the event.

UGC - Equal opportunities in higher education

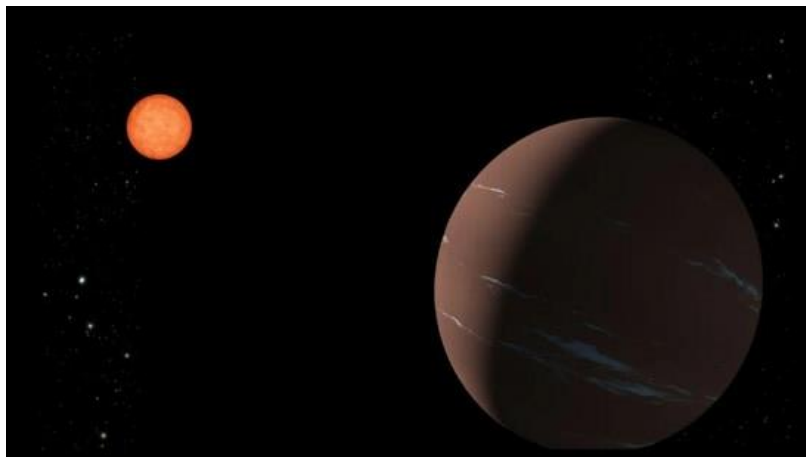
- ❖ University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued guidelines for Higher Education Institutions.
- ❖ It aims to provide 'Equitable Opportunities to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) in Higher Education Institutions.
- ❖ Some key steps are:

- Flexibility for learning and earning
 - Identify on-campus part-time work
 - Promote Earn while Learn
 - Transparent selection process
 - Collaboration for funding
 - Weightage in assessment and accreditation.
- ❖ Dedicated SEDGs cells shall be set up in all to ensure that students from socio-economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs) have access to inclusive, equal, and quality higher education.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TOI-715b

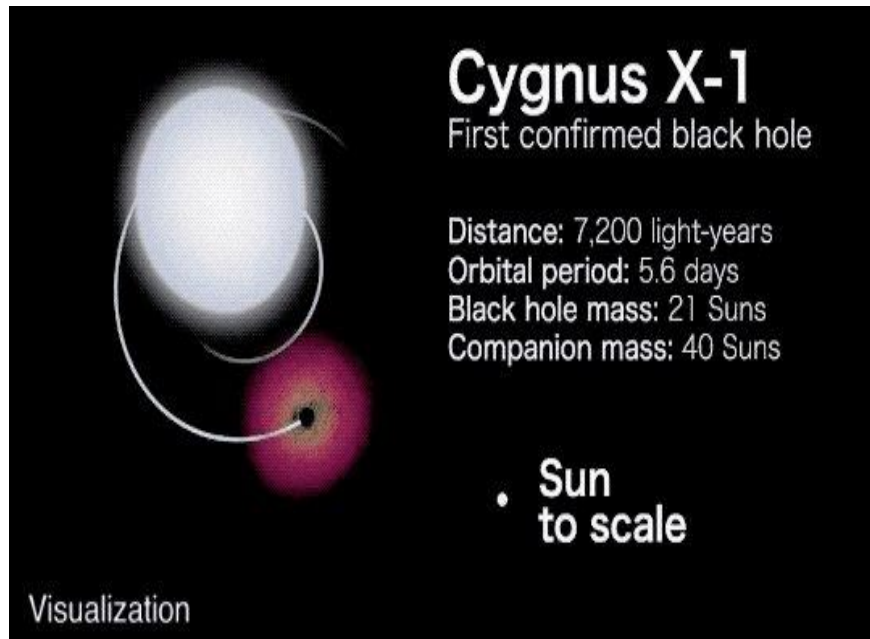


- ❖ NASA have found a 'super-Earth,' a planet that could potentially support life.

- ❖ This planet, called TOI-715 b, is 137 light-years away from us and is about one and a half times as wide as Earth.
- ❖ It revolves around its parent star in the conservative habitable zone.
- ❖ TOI-715 b's parent star is a red dwarf, which is smaller and colder than the Sun.

Cygnus X-1

- ❖ Astro Sat measured the X-ray polarisation of the Cygnus X-1 black hole system from data collected over the last eight years of operation.
- ❖ Astro Sat is the India's first, dedicated multi-wavelength astronomy mission.
- ❖ Discovered over four decades ago, Cygnus X-1 is one of the first confirmed black hole systems in our galaxy.
- ❖ It is located at a distance of 400 million times the distance between the Sun and Earth.
- ❖ The black hole in Cygnus X-1 is 20 times heavier than the Sun, and has a companion - a heavy supergiant star (40 times more massive than the Sun) in a binary system.



REPORTS AND INDICES

TomTom Traffic Index

- ❖ Two Indian cities, Bengaluru (6th) and Pune(7th), found themselves on the list of the ten worst traffic-hit cities globally in 2023.

- ❖ London continues to lead the chart as the worst traffic-hit city.
- ❖ The 'worst day' for travelling in the Silicon City in 2023 was Wednesday, September 27.
- ❖ Delhi secured the 44th position and Mumbai followed closely at 52nd place.

Rank by filter	World rank	City	Average travel time per 10 km	Change from 2022	Congestion level %	Time lost per year at rush hours	Average speed in rush hour
1	6	Bengaluru India	28 min 10 s	-1 min	63	132 hours	18 km/h
2	7	Pune India	27 min 50 s	+30 s	57	128 hours	19 km/h
3	44	New Delhi India	21 min 40 s	-30 s	48	81 hours	24 km/h
4	54	Mumbai India	21 min 20 s	+10 s	43	92 hours	23 km/h

STATES

Patna Declaration



- ❖ A three-day international workshop was held in the Bihar capital recently.
- ❖ It aims to check Illegal hunting of wild and migratory birds and suggest measures to strengthen their conservation efforts in countries falling in the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).
- ❖ Bihar government brought out the 'Patna declaration' at this workshop.
- ❖ The declaration talks about the state's action plan for conserving the birds with respect to CAF.

- ❖ It also aims to developing strategies and concerted actions for curbing illegal hunting, taking and trade of birds in the CAF Region.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 2024 - February 06

- ❖ In 1997, World Health organisation with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) issued a joint statement together against female genital mutilation.
- ❖ In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the resolution for elimination of female genital mutilation.
- ❖ This was the practice for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women.
- ❖ The theme for this year is – Her voice. Her future.

