

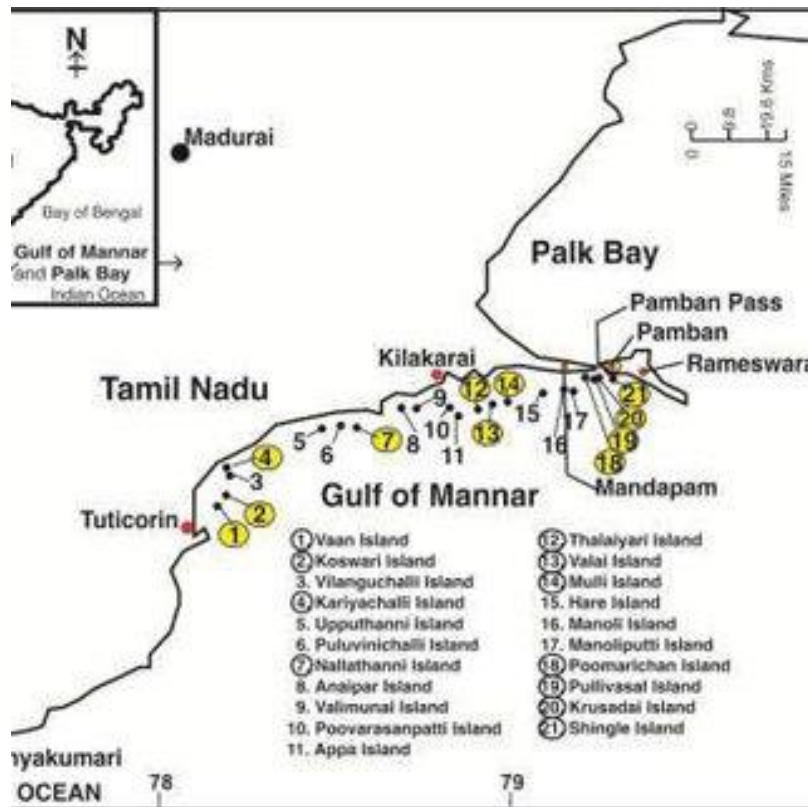
February - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has posted IAS officer Shankar Lal Kumawat as the Additional Chief Electoral Officer in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill, 2024, thus completing the exercise for passage of the interim budget 2024-25.
- ❖ The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) organized Divya Kala Mela 2024 in Agartala, Tripura.
- ❖ The Delhi government announced that bus service for transgender persons will be free in the city along the lines of that for women.

TAMIL NADU

Kariyachalli island Restoration



- ❖ The government has passed an order to restore Kariyachalli as part of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission.
- ❖ The island, used to be 16 hectares, but has shrunk to 5.97 hectares.



- ❖ Without intervention, both the Kariyachalli and Kasuwari Islands will sink by 2035.
- ❖ The Gulf of Mannar has a chain of 21 low-lying uninhabited coral-reef islands.
- ❖ Over 4,300 species of flora and fauna have been recorded so far.
- ❖ Among them are 132 coral species.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has already saved Vaan Island with the help of over 10,000 artificial reef modules.

NATIONAL

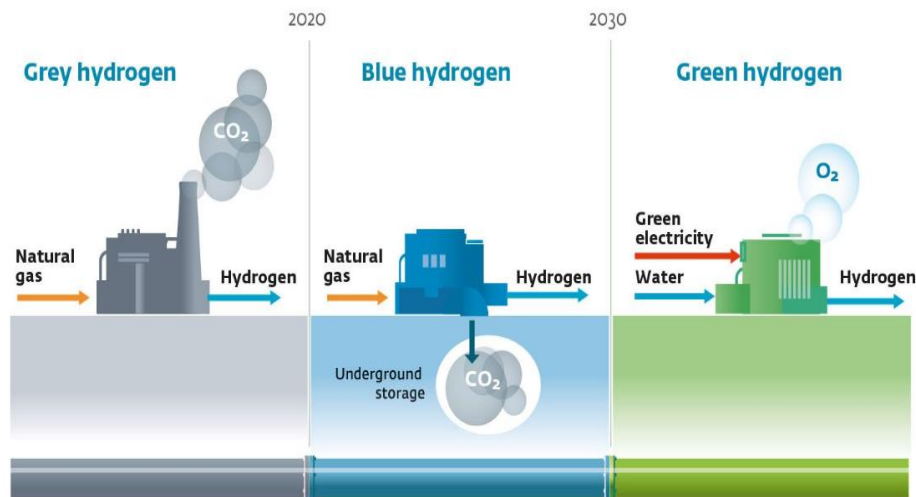
Tribal Affairs Amendment Bill 2024

BOOST FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS
▶ 4 of 13 PVTGs in state – Pauri Bhuyan, Chuktia Bhunjia, Bondo and Mankidia – who did not find place in the ST list, will be included now. The rest 9 groups are already in the ST list
▶ As per the Bill, Muka Dora, Mooka Dora, Nuka Dora, Nooka Dora in Koraput, Nabarangapur, Rayagada and Malkangiri districts will be declared the 63rd community in the state ST list
▶ Konda Reddy, Konda Reddi will form a separate 64th community in the ST list
▶ Tamadia and Tamudia, listed as SCs, will be shifted to the ST list. They will be considered a sub-group of Bhumij

- ❖ Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024 and Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order Amendment Bill, 2024.
- ❖ It cleared the way for the addition of several new communities to the Scheduled Tribes list of Odisha.
- ❖ It also helps to inclusion of synonyms and phonetic variations of existing tribes in the ST lists of both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- ❖ Among the additions were notably seven Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) (a subset of STs) - four in Odisha and three in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ In Odisha, the PVTG communities added are
 - Pauri Bhuyan and Paudi Bhuyan as synonyms of the Bhuyan tribe;

- The Chuktia Bhunjia as a synonym of the Bhunjia tribe;
- The Bondo as a sub-tribe of the Bondo Poraja tribe; and
- The Mankidia as a synonym for the Mankirdia tribe.
- ❖ In Andhra Pradesh, the PVTG communities included were
 - Bondo Porja and Khond Porja as synonyms of the Porja tribe and
 - The Konda Savaras as a synonym for the Savaras tribe.

Guidelines for Green Hydrogen in Steel Sector



- ❖ These guidelines are named Scheme Guidelines for implementation of Pilot projects for use of Green Hydrogen in the Steel Sector.
- ❖ Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) will implement pilot projects in the Steel Sector.
- ❖ It aims to replace fossil fuels and fossil fuel-based feedstock with Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- ❖ These pilot projects will be implemented through the Ministry of Steel and the Implementing Agencies nominated under this Scheme.
- ❖ Three areas have been identified as thrust areas for the pilot projects in the steel sector.
- ❖ They are
 - Use of Hydrogen in Direct Reduced Ironmaking process;
 - Use of Hydrogen in Blast Furnace; and
 - Substitution of fossil fuels with Green Hydrogen in a gradual manner.

- ❖ The scheme will also support pilot projects involving any other innovative use of hydrogen for reducing carbon emissions in iron and steel production.

INTERNATIONAL

Fence on Indo-Myanmar Border

- ❖ India will fence the entire 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar and build a patrolling track next to the fence.
- ❖ Out of the total border length, a 10-km stretch in Moreh, Manipur, has already been fenced.
- ❖ Furthermore, two pilot projects of fencing through a hybrid surveillance system are under execution.
- ❖ They will fence a stretch of 1-km each in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- ❖ Additionally, fence works covering approximately 20 km in Manipur have also been approved.
- ❖ India and Myanmar share an unfenced border.
- ❖ The people on either side have familial and ethnic ties which prompted the arrangement in the 1970s.
- ❖ Recently Free movement regime (FMR) was abolished by India.

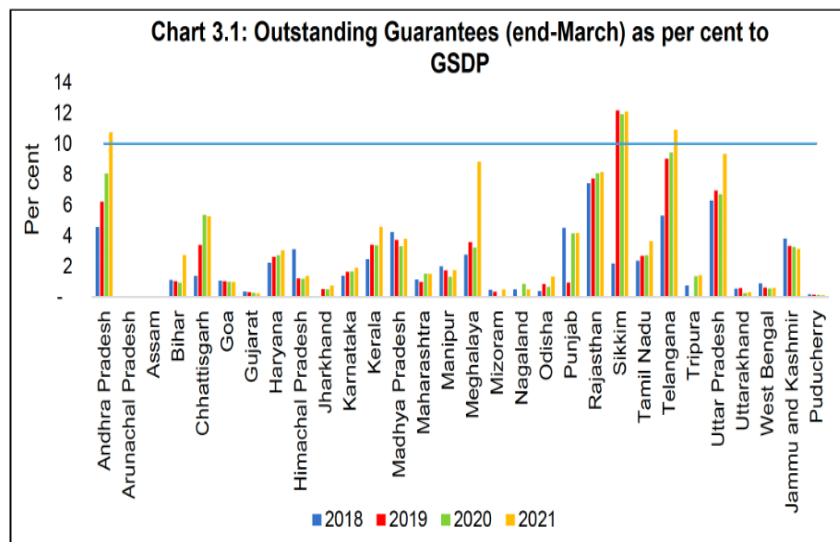


ECONOMY

Guidelines on State Guarantees on Borrowings

- ❖ A working group constituted by the RBI has made certain recommendations to address issues relating to guarantees extended by the state governments.

- ❖ It prescribed a uniform reporting framework for the guarantees extended (by State governments) and a uniform guarantee ceiling.
- ❖ As per RBI, the implementation is “expected to facilitate better fiscal management by State governments.”
- ❖ A ‘guarantee’ is a legal obligation for a State to make payments and protect an investor/lender from the risk of default by a borrower.
- ❖ Per the Indian Contracts Act (1872), it is a contract to “perform the promise, or discharge the liability, of a third person in case of his default.”
- ❖ Primarily, guarantees are resorted to in three scenarios at the State level:
 - First, where a sovereign guarantee is a precondition for concessional loans from bilateral or multilateral agencies (to public sector enterprises);
 - Second, to improve viability of projects or activities with the potential to provide significant social and economic benefits; and
 - Lastly, to enable public sector enterprises to raise resources at lower interest charges or on more favourable terms.

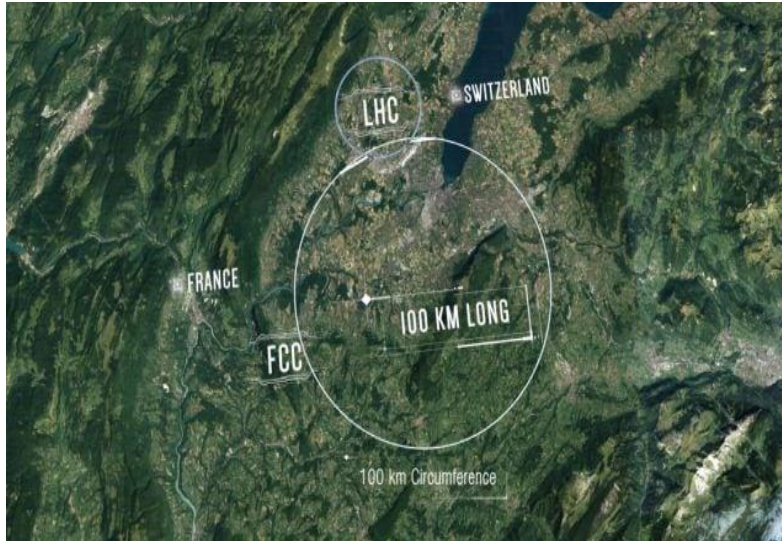


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Future Circular Collider

- ❖ CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, plans to build the three-times bigger (and faster) Future Circular Collider (FCC).
- ❖ FCC is a particle accelerator that will be within a 91-kilometre ring, which will give it three times the circumference of the Large Hadron Collider.
- ❖ FCC would only be operational by 2045 by the very earliest.

- ❖ The goal of the FCC is to push energy and intensity frontiers of particle colliders, with the aim of reaching collision energies of 100 tera electron Volts.



STATES

Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code Bill

HERCULEAN TASK: MAKING OF THE UCC

<p>Feb 12, 2022 UCC plan announced by CM Dhami</p> <p>May 27, 2022 5-member panel formed to create draft</p> <p>Aug 22, 2022 2 sub-panels formed to assist committee</p> <p>Sept 8, 2022 Portal launched to receive suggestions formed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel conducted 43 meetings with stakeholders 2.33 lakh suggestions from people from across state 61,000 through portal; 36,000 via post; 1.1 lakh in person, and 24,000 by email Points taken from similar laws enacted in Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Indonesia, France, Nepal, Germany, Japan, Canada, Azerbaijan 	<p>CM Pushkar Singh Dhami addresses the media after the passage of the UCC bill</p>
<p>Feb 2, 2024 UCC bill draft submitted to govt</p> <p>Feb 4, 2024 Dhami-led cabinet clears draft</p>	<p>Feb 6, 2024 Govt tables bill in state assembly</p> <p>Feb 7, 2024 Bill passed. To be law after Prez, Guv nod</p>

- ❖ Uttarakhand has become the first state to pass the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill.
- ❖ UCC refers to a common set of laws that are applicable to all Indian citizens, and is not based on religion in dealing with marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption, among other personal matters.
- ❖ The bill excludes population control measures and the Scheduled Tribes, constituting 3 per cent of Uttarakhand's population.



- ❖ The distinction between the Ancestral Property and Self-Acquired Property was abolished.
- ❖ In cases of intestate succession, the property will pass on to Class-1 heirs, who include the children, the widow and parents among a long list of others.
- ❖ In the absence of Class-1 heirs, the property will pass on to Class-2 heirs, who include siblings, nieces, nephews and grandparents, among others.
- ❖ The Bill has provisions for equal rights for women in inheritance in ancestral properties, equal rights to adopt, divorce.
- ❖ The practices of bigamy or polygamy are outlawed.
- ❖ It provides the mandatory registration/self-declaration for live-in relationships, mandatory registration of marriage of marriages and divorce.
- ❖ UCC brings the minimum age of marriage to 18 and 21 for Muslim women and men.

