

February - 13

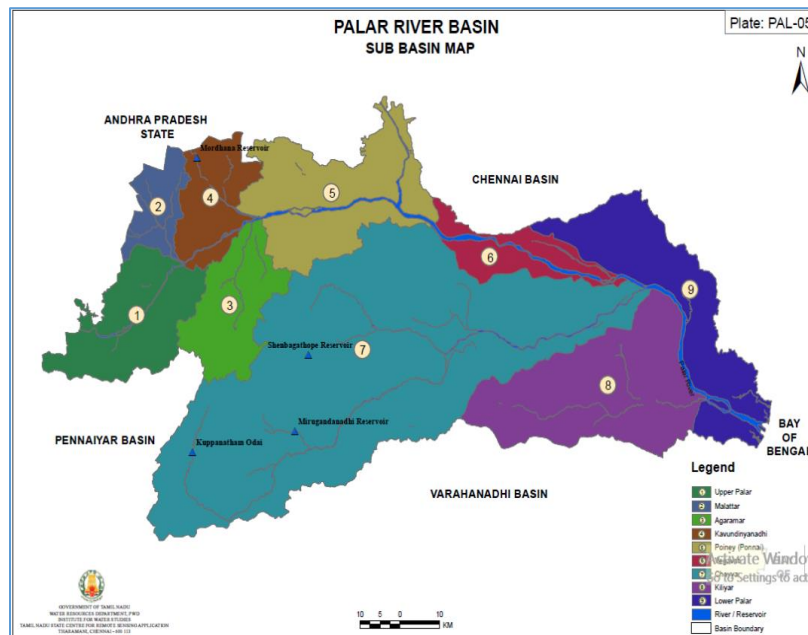
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Pyarelal Sharma, the iconic music composer, has been honoured with the Lakshminarayana International Award for his contribution to art.

TAMIL NADU

Check dam in Ponnai river

- ❖ Work to construct the first check dam along Tamil Nadu - Andhra Pradesh border across Poonai River, in Vellore was commenced recently.
- ❖ Poonai River, also known as thenpennai, is a tributary of Palar.
- ❖ It originates in the Nandi Hills in the Chikkaballapura district of Karnataka.
- ❖ This is the second longest river in Tamil Nadu, with a length of 497 km.
- ❖ It can discharge 61,000 cusecs of excess water into the river.
- ❖ The new check dam will be the second such facility across Poonai River.



Tamil Nadu synchronized bird estimate

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu synchronised bird estimation was conducted by the state Forest Department.

- ❖ Nearly 79 per cent of a total bird count of 6,80,028 are being water birds.
- ❖ About 21 per cent are terrestrial birds.
- ❖ The estimation has covered 894 vantage points at wetlands/water bodies/bird sanctuaries including 179 in forest areas, 555 in rural areas and 170 in urban areas.
- ❖ A total of 6,80,028 birds covering 389 bird species were found in the estimation.
- ❖ Out of these 120 species are found to be water birds and the remaining 269 are terrestrial bird species

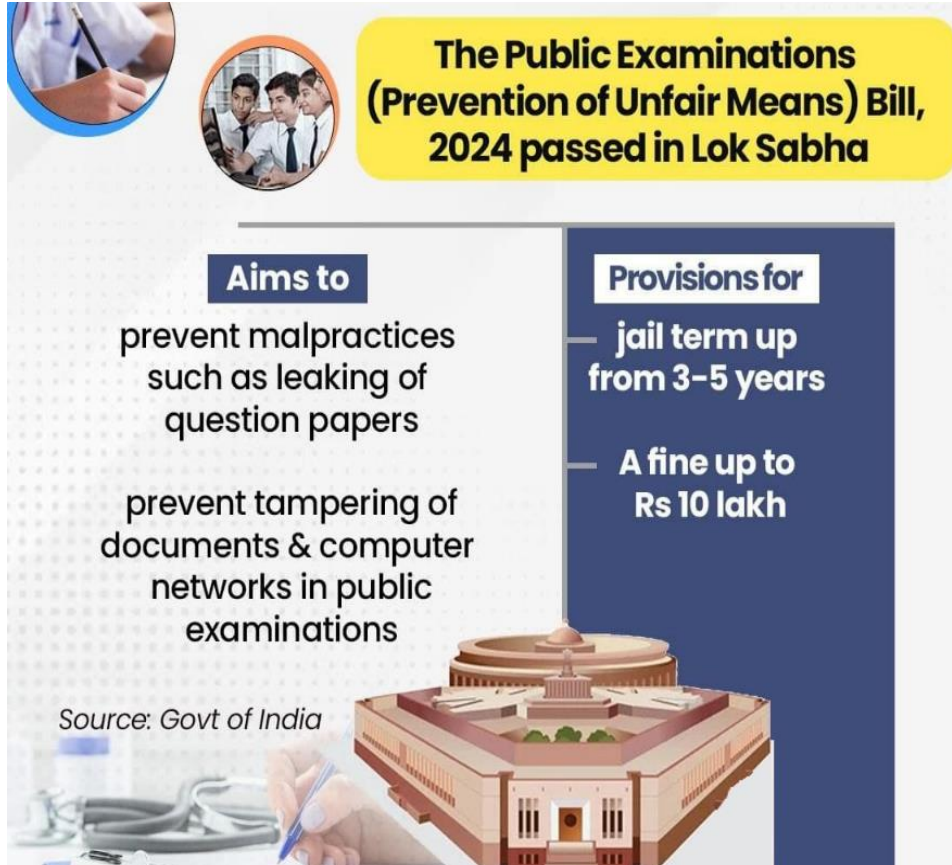


NATIONAL

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

- ❖ The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was introduced in Lok Sabha
- ❖ The Bill aims to prevent “unfair means” in order to “bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examinations system”.
- ❖ Section 3 of the Bill lists at least 15 actions that amount to using unfair means in public examinations “for monetary or wrongful gain”.
- ❖ These acts include:
 - Leakage of question paper or answer key or part thereof” and colluding in such leakage;
 - Accessing or taking possession of question paper or an Optical Mark Recognition response sheet without authority”;
 - Tampering with answer sheets including Optical Mark Recognition response sheets”;
 - Providing solution to one or more questions by any unauthorised person during a public examination”, and

- Directly or indirectly assisting the candidate” in a public examination.
- ❖ Section 9 of the Bill states that all offences shall be cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable.
- ❖ Punishment for “any person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences” can be three to five years in prison, and a fine up to Rs 10 lakh.



The infographic features a yellow header with the title "The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 passed in Lok Sabha". Below the title, there are two columns of text. The left column, under the heading "Aims to", lists two points: "prevent malpractices such as leaking of question papers" and "prevent tampering of documents & computer networks in public examinations". The right column, under the heading "Provisions for", lists two points: "jail term up from 3-5 years" and "A fine up to Rs 10 lakh". At the bottom, there is a source attribution "Source: Govt of India" and an illustration of the Indian Parliament building (Lok Sabha) with a hand holding a pen in the foreground.

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 passed in Lok Sabha

Aims to

- prevent malpractices such as leaking of question papers
- prevent tampering of documents & computer networks in public examinations

Provisions for

- jail term up from 3-5 years
- A fine up to Rs 10 lakh

Source: Govt of India

Bharat Ratna 2024

- ❖ Former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, alongside agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, will be conferred the Bharat Ratna.
- ❖ Earlier, former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur, and former deputy prime minister Lal Krishna Advani were announced to be conferred with India's highest civilian honour.
- ❖ This year's five recipients surpass the four awarded in 1999, marking the highest number of Bharat Ratnas awarded in a single year.
- ❖ Advani served as both the home minister and deputy Prime Minister under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 1999 to 2004.

- ❖ PV Narasimha Rao, a Telugu leader, served a full five-year term as prime minister from 1991 to 1996.
- ❖ He is widely lauded for his pivotal role in introducing economic reforms.
- ❖ Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan is known for his significant contributions to agriculture and the welfare of farmers.



ALL ABOUT THE BHARAT RATNA

IT IS
The highest civilian award of the country

ELIGIBILITY
Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.
There is no written provision that Bharat Ratna should be awarded to Indian citizens only.

INSTITUTED IN
Year 1954

AWARDED
In recognition of exceptional service/ performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour

THE WINNERS RECEIVE
A Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion. The Award does not carry any monetary grant

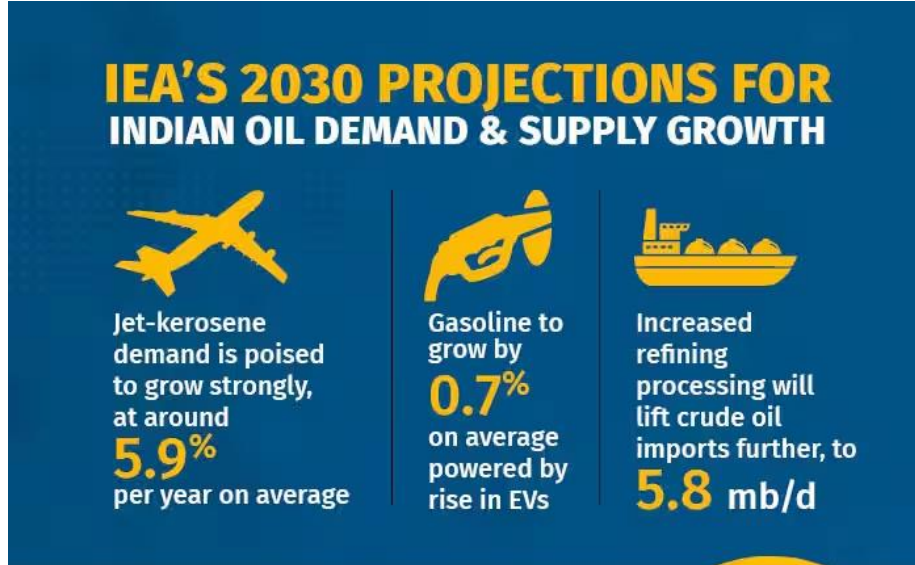
NOMINATED BY
The Prime Minister to the President. No formal recommendations for this are necessary



India's Oil demand 2030

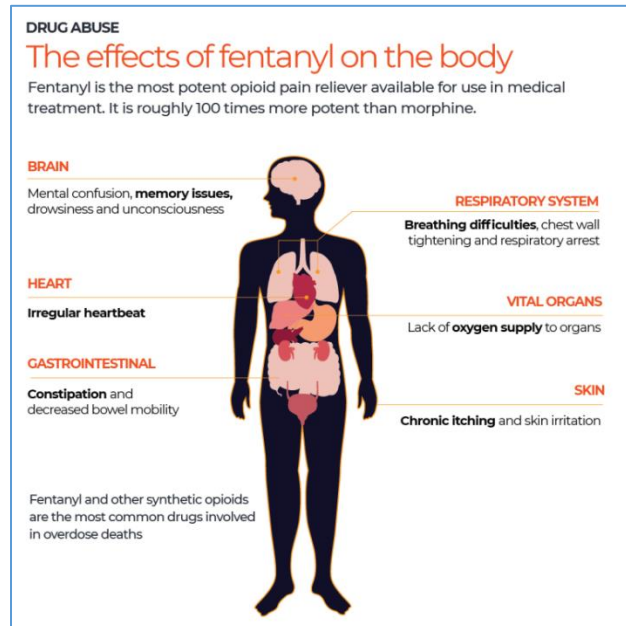
- ❖ India's crude oil demand growth is expected to overtake China's by 2027.
- ❖ India's oil demand is expected to grow at a remarkable 3.7% average annual rate through 2030.
- ❖ It is significantly surpassing the global average of 1.1%.
- ❖ Its domestic production is projected to decrease by 22 per cent.

- ❖ But its oil demand increases of almost 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) between 2023 and 2030.
- ❖ India currently has a strategic crude oil reserve capacity of 5.33 million tonnes spread across three locations.



INTERNATIONAL

Fentanyl Crisis in Mexico



- ❖ The Mexican border cities in the grip of a full-blown drug epidemic.

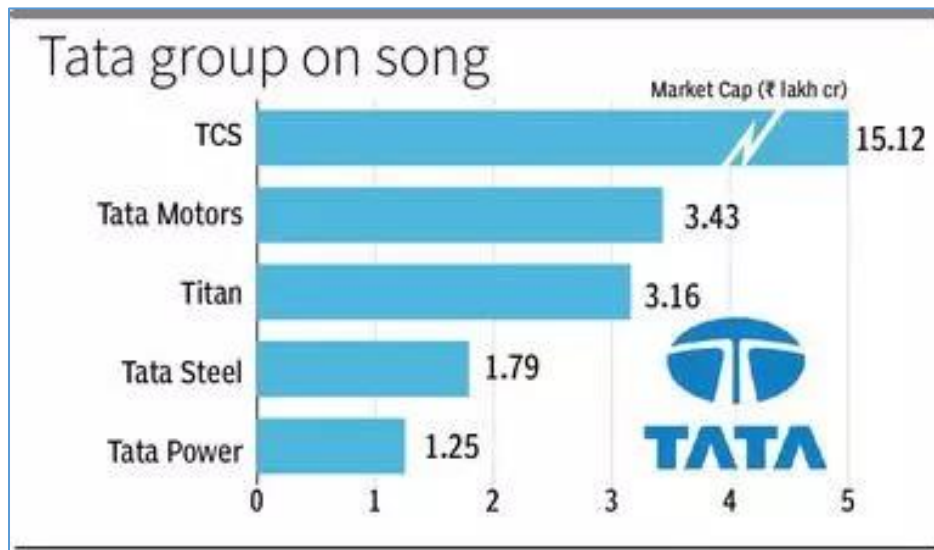


- ❖ Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid is 100 times more potent than morphine and almost 50 times more potent than heroin.
- ❖ It is a drug that a doctor can prescribe to alleviate severe pain.
- ❖ However, as little as 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal.
- ❖ There is an estimated 70,000 people died of overdoses last year.

ECONOMY

Tata Group Milestone

- ❖ Tata Group's combined market capitalisation soared past ₹30 lakh crore, marking a historic moment for Indian business.
- ❖ TCS stock reached a new high surging over 4 percent to a market cap of ₹15 lakh crore.
- ❖ According to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) website, at least eight companies have a market cap of more than ₹6 lakh crore.
- ❖ Reliance Industries has the highest market cap of ₹19.32 lakh crore, followed by TCS (₹15.12 lakh crore) and HDFC Bank (₹10.96 lakh crore).



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility

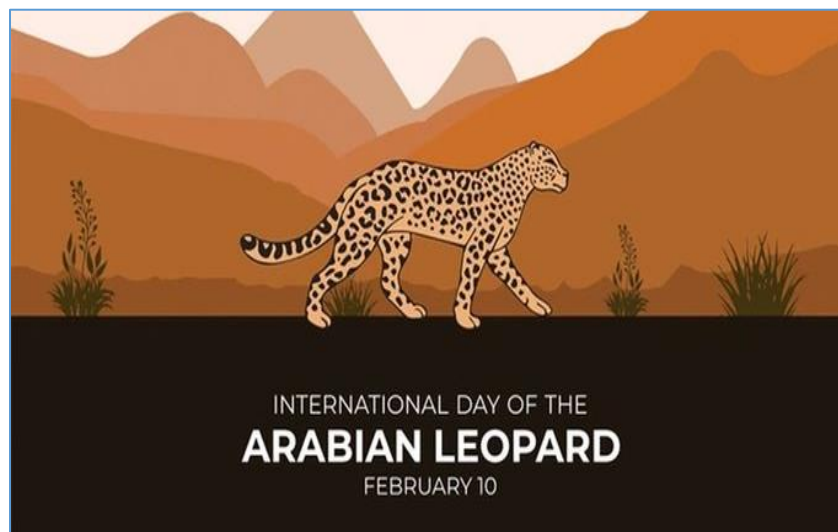
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has successfully built and tested India's first hypervelocity expansion tunnel test facility.

- ❖ The facility is capable of generating flight speeds ranging from 3 to 10 km/s, simulating hypersonic conditions.
- ❖ It is crucial for various applications such as atmospheric entry of vehicles, asteroid entry, scramjet flights, and ballistic missiles.
- ❖ The facility called S2 is nicknamed “Jigarthanda”.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the Arabian Leopard 2024 - February 10

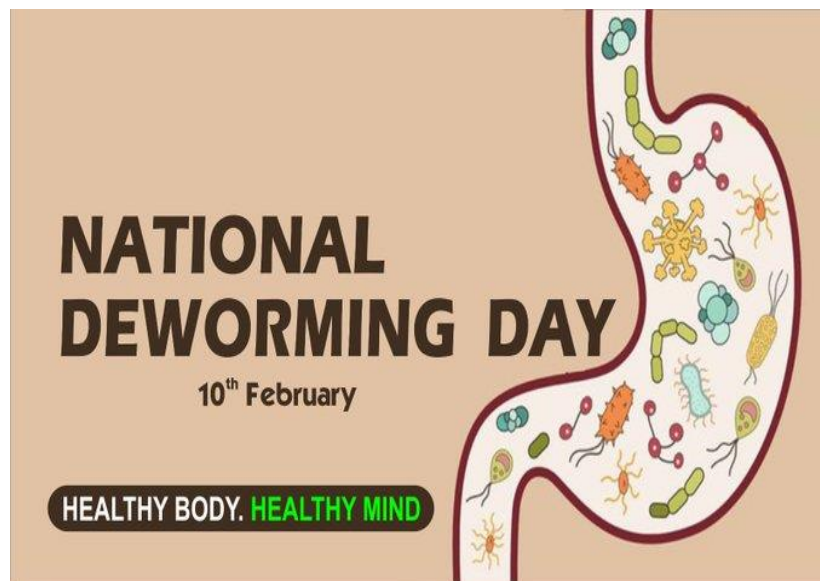


- ❖ It is one of the smallest leopard subspecies.
- ❖ They spread on small isolated pockets in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates.

- ❖ As per estimation, fewer than 200 individuals remaining in the wild.
- ❖ It is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

National Deworming Day 2024 - February 10

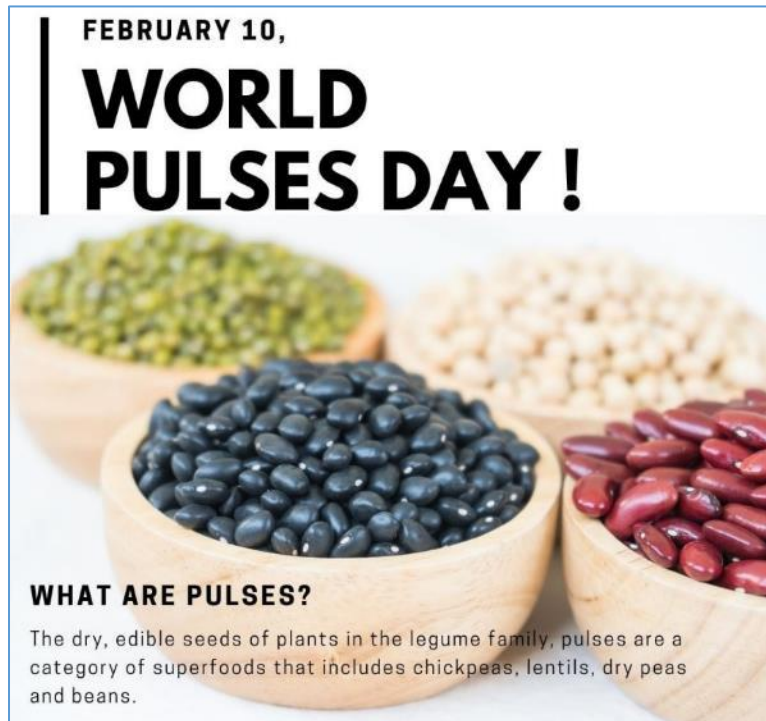
- ❖ The National Deworming Day was established in February 2015 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ It aims to deworm all children (both enrolled and unenrolled) from 1 to 19 years of age.
- ❖ It also aims to target almost 240 million children that are at risk of acquiring soil-transmitted helminths in India.
- ❖ The first round is conducted on February 10.
- ❖ It is followed up by second round on August 10 every year.
- ❖ The three types of worms that infect people are roundworms (*Ascaris lumbricoides*), whipworms (*Trichuris trichiura*), and hookworms (*Necator americanus* and *Ancylostoma duodenale*).



World Pulses Day 2024 - February 10

- ❖ This day is dedicated to highlighting the importance of pulses and their nutritional benefits.
- ❖ Pulses are a class of foods that includes dry peas, beans, lentils, lupins, and chickpeas.
- ❖ They are rich in protein, fiber, vitamins, and minerals.

- ❖ They are low in fat and sugar.
- ❖ The theme for the year is '#Pulses: nourishing soils and people'.



MISCELLANEOUS

390-year-old Deepasthambham



- ❖ A 390-year-old towering lamppost with an inscription dedicated to Kasi Viswanatha was found in Nalgonda district of Telangana.
- ❖ The inscription, on a 20-foot-tall lamppost with hollows for lamps, is a mix of Telugu and Tamil languages dated to 1635 C.E.



- ❖ The inscription begins with obeisance to the god Kasi Viswanatha and records the erection of a pillar for the god Kasi Visvanatha by Polinedu, son of Vali Munulayya.
- ❖ This lamp post (20ft long pillar) might have been the geographical indicator for traders and ships passing through this town

