

February - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National Conference on Promotion of Seaweed Cultivation was held in Kutch, Gujarat.
- ❖ Tata Trusts is set to launch India's first state-of-the-art Small Animal Hospital in Mahalaxmi, Mumbai.
- ❖ The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform - iOncology.ai, to the early detection of breast and ovarian cancer.
- ❖ IRCTC launches Ramayana circuit tourist train to boost tourism.
 - The 18 days journey start from Delhi and would cover Ayodhya, Janakpur (Nepal), Sitamarhi, Varanasi, Nashik, Rameshwaram among others.
- ❖ India has been ranked 38 out of 139 countries according to the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index Report (2023).
 - India's rank has improved by six places from 44 in 2018 and sixteen places from 54 in 2014.
- ❖ Sikkim announced the reinstatement of the Old Pension scheme (OPS) for state government employees appointed on or after April 1, 2006.
 - It becomes the first state in the Northeast to implement this decision.
- ❖ Google has rebranding its AI chatbot Bard as Gemini.
- ❖ Dubai hosted the 2024 World Governments Summit themed 'Shaping Future Governments'.
 - It has designated India, Türkiye, and Qatar as guests of honor.
- ❖ Norway's Telenor opened the world's southernmost mobile phone base station in Antarctica.
 - This bringing regular cell phone services to a corner of the frozen continent for the first time.
- ❖ India and Bangladesh were declared as the joint winners of the SAFF U19 Women's football series, held at Bangladesh.

TAMIL NADU

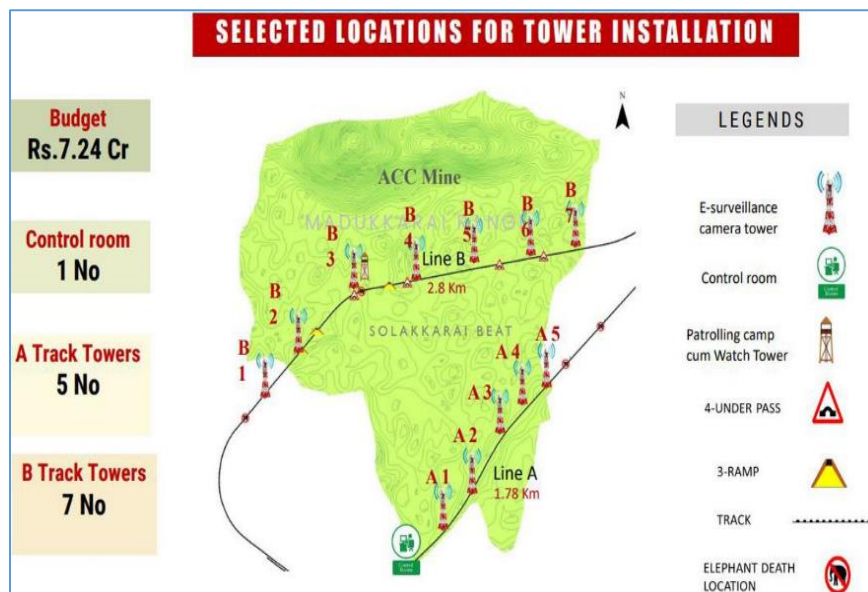
South India's first cinema Theatre

- ❖ South India's first cinema hall – Delite Theatre – on Variety Hall Road in Coimbatore was demolished.

- ❖ Originally known as the 'Variety Hall' cinema, it was established in 1914 by Samikannu Vincent.
- ❖ It was the first theatre to give out printed movie tickets using a pedal printing machine in the 1930s.
- ❖ The name of Variety Hall was changed to Delite Theatre in the late 1950s.
- ❖ The last movie screening was in June 2023 – the 1980s Manidhan.



AI-based early Railway crossing warning system



- ❖ An artificial intelligence (AI) based early warning system was launched to save wild elephants from getting hit by moving trains.
- ❖ It was launched by the Tamilnadu Forest department.

- ❖ The AI-based and machine learning enabled system will detect movement of wild elephants that come near the twin single line or cross the tracks and generate alerts.
- ❖ It is first of its kind in the country, covering a “highly vulnerable area” of about 7 km.
- ❖ The system is in force in Coimbatore division.
- ❖ Around 130 trains pass via the A and B railway lines per day and nearly 1,000 elephant crossings are reported on these tracks every year.

NATIONAL

Amendment Bills for Jammu and Kashmir

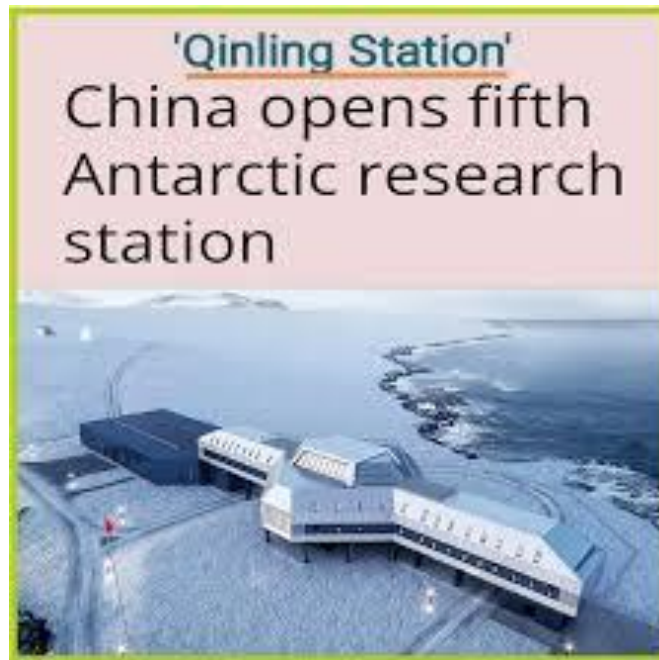


- ❖ The Parliament approved the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- ❖ The Bill aims at empowering Pahari Ethnic Group, Padari Tribes, Koli and Gadda Brahmin by providing the Scheduled Tribe status.
- ❖ The Upper House has also cleared the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- ❖ The Local Bodies Bill-2024 seeks to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It also brings consistency in the local body laws of the Union territory with the provisions of the Constitution.
- ❖ Currently, there is no provision for reservation of seats for OBCs in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ The Scheduled Castes Order Amendment Bill, adds Valmiki community as a synonym of Chura, Balmiki, Bhangi, and Mehtar communities in the list of Scheduled Castes in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order of 1956.

ENVIRONMENT

Qinling Station For Antarctic Study

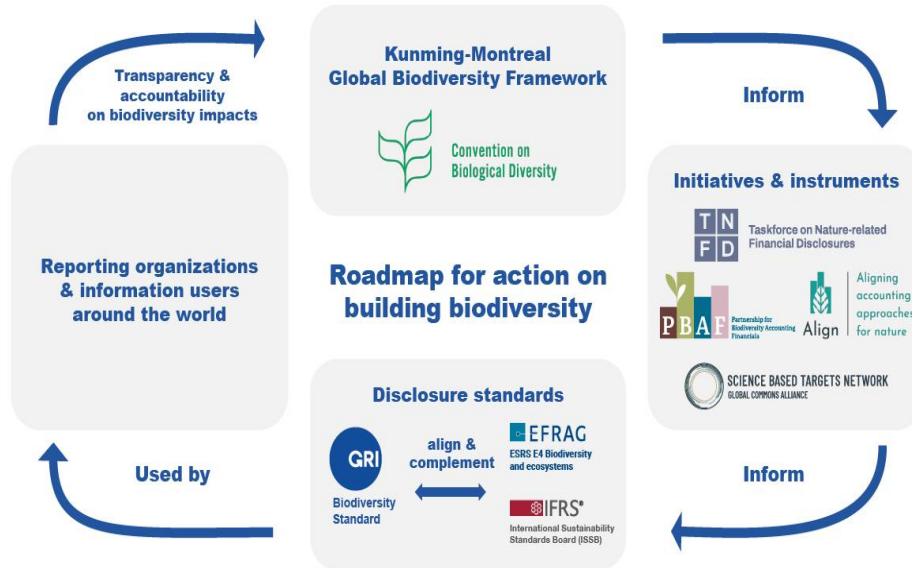


- ❖ China's fifth scientific outpost in the Antarctic, was officially named as Qinling Station.
- ❖ It is the third Chinese research base in Antarctica and will be operational all year.
- ❖ China already built four other research stations – Zhongshan, Taishan, Kunlun, and Great Wall – in the Antarctic from 1985 to 2014.

GRI Biodiversity Standard

- ❖ The Global Reporting Initiative Biodiversity Standard was developed by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).
- ❖ The aim is to understand the impacts as nature faces extreme pressures, with over one million plant and animal species being pushed towards extinction.

- ❖ The new standards are aimed at enabling companies to meet the growing demands sought by multiple stakeholders for information on biodiversity impacts.
- ❖ It demands disclosures on direct drivers of biodiversity loss, such as land use, pollution, invasive species and climate change.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2024



- ❖ An image of a polar bear sleeping on a small iceberg has bagged the 2023 Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.
- ❖ The photo was captured by Nima Sarikhani of British in Norway's Svalbard archipelago.

- ❖ Each year, this photography competition is organised by the Natural History Museum.

SPORTS

Sportstar Aces Awards 2024

- ❖ India cricketer Mohammed Shami and chess Grandmaster R. Vaishali won the ‘Sportsman of the year (Team Sports)’ and ‘Sportswoman of the year (Individual)’ awards respectively.
- ❖ The Amul International Icon award was presented to Muttiah Muralitharan.
- ❖ Other winners
 - Sportsman of the year (parasports): Sumit antil
 - Sportswoman of the year (parasports): Thulasimathi Murugesan
 - Coach of the Year: Rahul Dravid.
 - Sportstar of the year (Male): Neeraj Chopra
 - Sportstar of the year (Female): Sheetal Devi
 - Best State for The Promotion of Sport: Tamil Nadu
 - Best University for The Promotion of Sport: SRM Institute of Science And Technology
 - Ace of Aces Award: Rohan Bopanna



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day of the Sick 2024 - February 11

- ❖ The day is dedicated to those suffering from illnesses and to raise awareness about the importance of healthcare and the need for compassion and support for the sick.

- ❖ This day was first established by Pope John Paul II in 1992 in response to his neuro-degenerative condition.
- ❖ It is also the Memorial Day of Our Lady of Lourdes.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024 - February 11

- ❖ This day observed to honour and acknowledge the achievements and contributions of females in the field of science.
- ❖ It promotes full and equal access and participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.
- ❖ The main theme for 2024 is: “Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability”.
- ❖ The subtheme is “Think Science ... Think Peace”.

