

February - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Telangana Cabinet has decided to adopt 'TG' instead of the present 'TS', indicating the name of the state, on vehicle registration number plates.
- ❖ The Lebanese Judge Nawaf Salam was elected as the new president of the International Court of Justice, for a term of 3 years.
- ❖ The country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy is all set to be established in one of the wings of Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad.

## TAMIL NADU

### TN Assembly resolution 2024



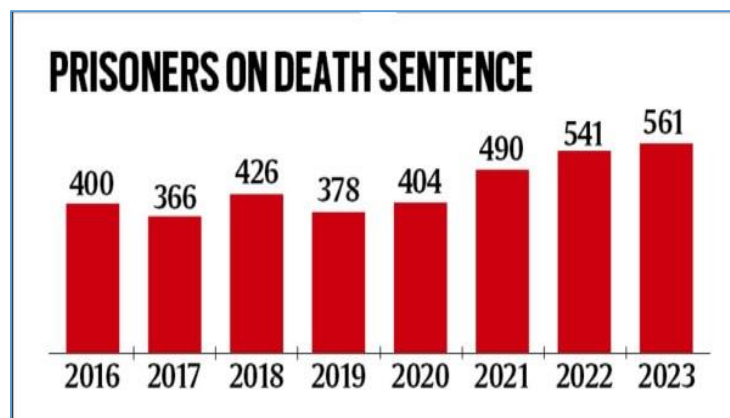
- ❖ The Governor of Tamil Nadu made inaugural customary address for 2024.
- ❖ And he shortened his speech and the remarks citing reasons for his refusal to read the entire speech.
- ❖ But the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to take on record only the speech prepared by the State government, not the shortened speech.
- ❖ The resolution was moved to requesting to relax Rule 17 of the Assembly.

- ❖ It deals with observance of order by members of the House during Governor's address under article 175 or 176 of the Constitution.

## NATIONAL

### Annual Death Penalty Report 2023

- ❖ The report titled, 'Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics 2023', was released by Project 39A, an advocacy group.
- ❖ Only one death sentence was confirmed by a High Court in 2023, marking the lowest rate by the appellate courts since 2000.
- ❖ The Karnataka High Court confirmed a death sentence in a murder simpliciter case.
- ❖ 2023 also saw the Supreme Court not confirming any death sentences, only the second time since 2021.
- ❖ Notably, there has been a 15% decrease in the rate of disposal of death penalty confirmation proceedings at the High Courts in 2023.
- ❖ 57 death penalty cases are disposed in 2023, compared with 68 cases in 2022.
- ❖ There was a 45.71% increase in the number of prisoners under death sentence by the end of December 2023, from that in 2016.
- ❖ Similar to the last five years, the majority of death penalty cases in trial courts are involved crimes related to the sexual offences.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Protocol on Nuclear Reactors Agreement

- ❖ India and Russia have signed a protocol on amendments to the 2008 inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in construction of additional nuclear

reactors in Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project site and in construction of Russia-designed nuclear power plants at new sites in India.

- ❖ The Russian nuclear energy agency has built 2 X 1,000 MWe VVER nuclear reactors and is constructing four more reactors with similar capacity.
- ❖ India's largest nuclear power project Kudankulam is meant to have six 1,000-Megawatt Power plants, with a total installed capacity of 6,000 Megawatts.
- ❖ Of this, the first plant was operationalised in 2013 and the second was operationalised in 2016.
- ❖ The four remaining plants are in various stages of construction.
- ❖ All of these reactors are of the VVER-1000 class.
- ❖ It is a Water-Water Energetic reactor design developed in the erstwhile Soviet Union.

## Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant



## ECONOMY

### White Paper on Indian Economy

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister presented a “White Paper” on the Indian economy in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ It was prepared by the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ It compares the economic performance of 10 years of the Congress-led UPA govt with that of 10 years of the NDA govt.

- ❖ It seeks to inform every one of the nature and extent of governance, economic and fiscal crises that the NDA government had when it assumed office in 2014.
- ❖ It informs about the policies and measures that the (NDA) government took to restore the health of the economy since 2014.
- ❖ It has three main parts.
  - First discusses the macroeconomic situation during the 10 years of UPA rule.
  - Second provides the current status of the various corruption scams of the UPA government.
  - Third part shows how the NDA turned the economy around.
- ❖ The Capital expenditure as a percent of total expenditure (excluding interest payments) was halved from 31% in FY04 to 16% in FY14 (this ratio stands at 28% in the current year).
- ❖ Forex reserves were just enough to finance a little over 6 months of imports in 2013, down from 17 months in end-March 2004.
- ❖ As of January 2024, Forex reserves were sufficient for 10.6 months of imports.

UPA AND NDA YEARS: WHAT SOME CRUCIAL NUMBERS SAY							
Financial Year	Nominal GDP growth rate (%)	Real GDP growth rate (%)	Fiscal Deficit <sup>†</sup> rate (%)	Financial Year	Nominal GDP growth rate (%)	Real GDP growth rate (%)	Fiscal Deficit <sup>†</sup> rate (%)
2004-05	14.10	7.92	3.95	2014-15	10.99	7.41	4.10
2005-06	13.99	7.92	4.03	2015-16	10.46	8	3.87
2006-07	17.14	8.06	3.35	2016-17	11.76	8.26	3.48
2007-08	15.14	7.66	2.59	2017-18	11.03	6.8	3.46
2008-09	12.56	3.09	6.11	2018-19	10.59	6.45	3.44
2009-10	15.46	7.86	6.57	2019-20	6.37	3.87	4.64
2010-11	19.92	8.5	4.89	2020-21	-1.36	-5.83	9.17
2011-12	14.43	5.24	5.91	2021-22	18.36	9.05	6.75
2012-13	13.82	5.46	4.93	2022-23	16.06	7.24	6.38
2013-14	12.97	6.39	4.48	2023-24	8.87	7.32	5.85
AVERAGE OF UPA YEARS				AVERAGE OF NDA YEARS			
2004-2014	14.95	6.80	4.7	2014-2024	10.31	5.9	5.1

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### High Altitude Pseudo Satellite Vehicle

- ❖ The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) of Bengaluru has successfully flown a prototype of a new-generation unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).



- ❖ This one can fly at great heights, about 20 km from ground, runs entirely on solar power, and can remain in the air for months on end.
- ❖ Such UAVs belong to a class of flying objects called HAPS, or high-altitude pseudo-satellite vehicles, or HALE, that is high-altitude long-endurance vehicles.



**MEET HAPS — INDIA'S VERY OWN UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE**

- Can fly 20 km high
- Can float for months
- Solar-powered "pseudo satellite"
- Increases surveillance and monitoring capabilities
- Cost significantly lower than satellites
- 23-kg prototype with a 12-metre wingspan
- Tested for 8.5 hours reaching 3 km altitude
- Aiming for 24-hour flight test to evaluate power generation
- Deployment target by 2027
- Useful for continuous surveillance of border areas
- Can aid in disaster situations and provide mobile communications networks
- Developed by National Aerospace Laboratories, Bengaluru
- Aims to enhance India's high-endurance, high-altitude capabilities
- Potential for industrial production post further development milestones

1st test flight of a prototype was conducted last week

## ENVIRONMENT

### Mahmudia wetland in Romania

- ❖ World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has urged the Romanian government to classify Mahmudia wetland as a 'national interest ecological restoration area'.
- ❖ It aims to protect its natural progress and foster community prosperity.



- ❖ A significant portion of the naturally regenerated wetlands within the Romanian Danube Delta faces the possibility of reversion to agricultural land.
- ❖ In June 2023, the Danube River's high waters has breached the dyke enclosing a marshland in Mahmudia.
- ❖ The ensuing flood submerged 1,000 hectares of farmland, converting them into a typical delta ecosystem.



## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Unani Day 2024 - February 11**

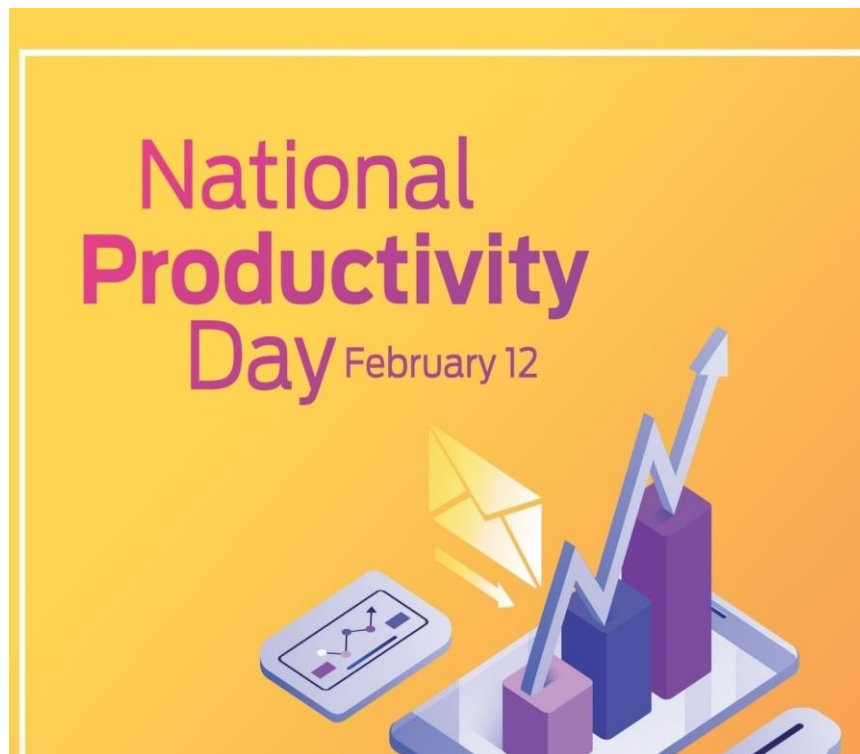
- ❖ This day honours a famous Indian Unani scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan marking his birth anniversary.



- ❖ He is also the catalyst behind the modernization of the Unani system of medicine in India.
- ❖ The Unani system of medicine, also known as Greco-Arab medicine, has its roots in the teachings of Greek physicians such as Hippocrates and Galen.



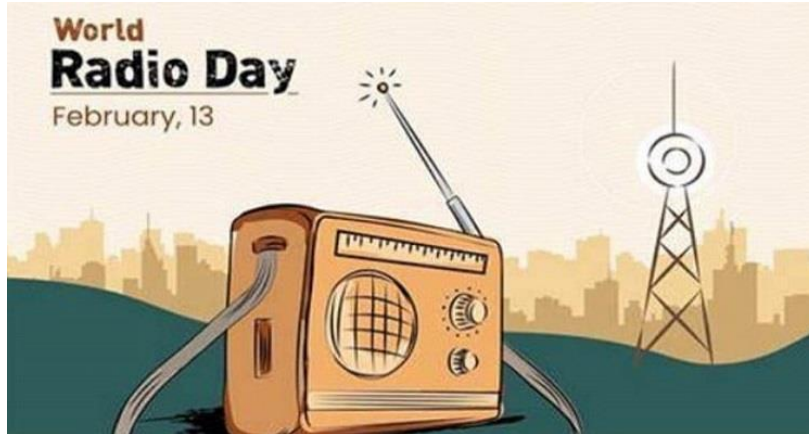
### **National Productivity Day 2024 - February 12**



- ❖ This day commemorates the founding of the National Productivity Council (NPC).
- ❖ The goal of the NPC is to raise national awareness of the need to boost the productivity.

- ❖ The Indian Productivity Week is observed from February 12 to February 18.
- ❖ This year's theme is “Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Productivity Engine for Economic Growth.”

### **World Radio Day 2024 - February 13**



- ❖ UNESCO established this day to highlighting the pivotal role of radio.
- ❖ Radio was invented in 1895 by an Italian physicist and inventor named Guglielmo Marconi.
- ❖ He is credited for being the first to develop a practical and successful system of wireless communication.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is ‘Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating’.

