

February - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The headquarters of the Confederation of International Small Tea Holders (CITS) will be shifted to India from China.
- ❖ Chinese Grand Master Wei Yi emerged triumphant in the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament, held at the Netherlands.
- ❖ India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services were rolled out in Sri Lanka and Mauritius.
- ❖ The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Indian Ocean Conference was held in Perth, Australia.
  - The theme of this event is "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".

## NATIONAL

### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana

Cabinet Decisions: 08 February 2024

#### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

- Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana for formalization of fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises
- Investment of over **Rs. 6,000 crores** over next 4 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 in all States/Union Territories

#### Benefits

- Creation of National Fisheries Digital Platform to provide **40 lakh small and micro-enterprises** work based identities
- Support to **6.4 lakh micro-enterprises** and **5,500 fisheries cooperatives**, providing access to institutional credit

1/2



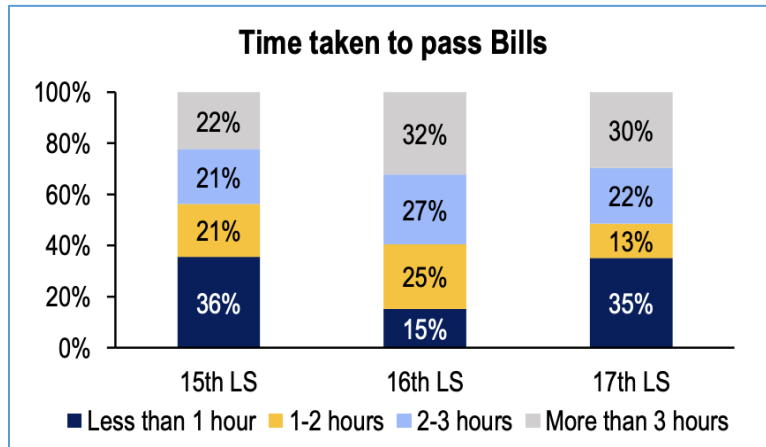
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)".

- ❖ It is a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada scheme.
- ❖ It will aid the formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises.
- ❖ India's total fish output stood at 174 lakh tonnes in 2022-23.
- ❖ India is the third largest fish producer in the world, contributing 8% to total global fish production.

### **Sitting days of 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha**

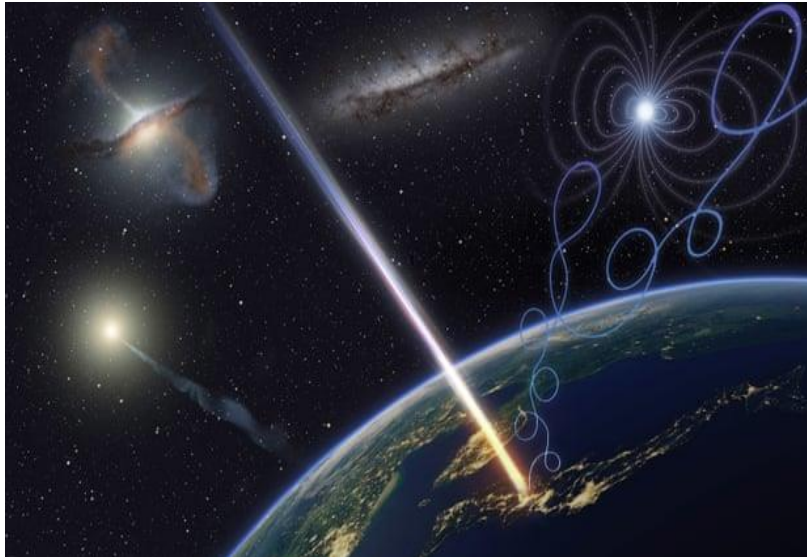
- ❖ The 17th Lok Sabha held its sessions between June 2019 and February 2024.
- ❖ In these five years, Lok Sabha functioned for 88% of its scheduled time, while Rajya Sabha worked for 73%.
- ❖ The 17th Lok Sabha held 274 sittings.
- ❖ Only four previous Lok Sabhas have had fewer sittings.
- ❖ All of which were dissolved before completing the five-year term.
- ❖ The fewest sittings in this Lok Sabha were held in 2020 (33 days), amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ 11 out of the 15 sessions held during this Lok Sabha were adjourned early.
- ❖ As a result, 40 scheduled sittings did not take place (13% of scheduled sittings).
- ❖ During the 17th Lok Sabha, MPs were suspended on 206 instances, across both Houses of Parliament.
- ❖ In Winter Session 2023, 146 MPs were suspended for serious misconduct in the House.
- ❖ 179 Bills (excluding Finance and Appropriation Bills) were passed.
- ❖ The Ministries of Finance and Home Affairs piloted the highest number of Bills (15% each), followed by Law and Justice (9%), and Health and Family Welfare (9%).
- ❖ 16% of Bills were referred to Committees for detailed scrutiny.
- ❖ This is lower than corresponding figures for the previous three Lok Sabhas.
- ❖ Four Bills are set to lapse with the dissolution of this Lok Sabha.
- ❖ This is the lowest number among all Lok Sabhas so far.
- ❖ 729 Private Members' Bills (PMBs) were introduced in the 17th Lok Sabha, which is higher than all previous Lok Sabhas, except the 16th.
- ❖ However, only two PMBs were discussed.

- ❖ During the same period, 705 PMBs were introduced in Rajya Sabha, and 14 were discussed.
- ❖ Till date, only 14 PMBs have been passed and received assent.
- ❖ None have been passed in both Houses since 1970.
- ❖ No adjournment motions were taken up either in the 16th or the 17th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Two such motions were discussed in the 15th and seven in the 14th Lok Sabha.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### High-Energy Particle “Amaterasu”

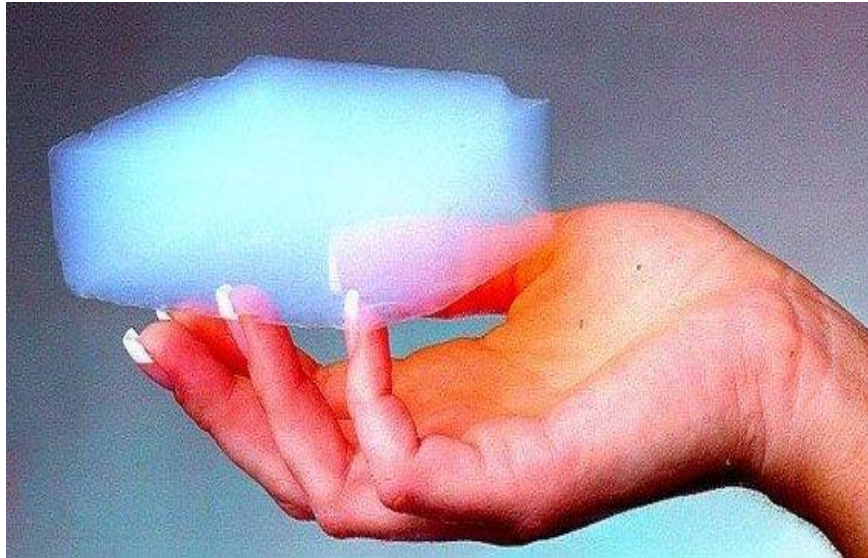


- ❖ Scientists have detected an extremely powerful particle with ultra-high energy.
- ❖ They believed that it has travelled to Earth from beyond the Milky Way galaxy.

- ❖ It has been named the "sun goddess" (Amaterasu in Japanese) particle and is extraordinary.
- ❖ This particle has an energy level one million times greater than what can be generated in most powerful particle accelerators.
- ❖ It rivals the single most energetic cosmic ray ever observed, the "Oh-My-God" particle that was detected in 1991.

### **Frozen Smoke Discovery**

- ❖ Researchers have developed sensors made from highly porous materials known as 'frozen smoke' (aerogels).
- ❖ By precisely engineering the shape of the holes in the aerogels, the sensors were able to detect the fingerprint of formaldehyde at room temperature.
- ❖ Formaldehyde is a common indoor air pollutant.
- ❖ It uses artificial intelligence techniques to detect formaldehyde in real time at concentrations as low as eight parts per billion.
- ❖ It is far beyond the sensitivity of most indoor air quality sensors.



## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **2024 Climate and Catastrophe Insight Report**

- ❖ The 2024 Climate and Catastrophe Insight report was released by risk-mitigation service provider Aon PLC.



- ❖ The year 2023 saw 398 natural disasters that caused \$380 billion in damages worldwide.
- ❖ This is more than the \$355 billion economic loss estimated in 2022.
- ❖ Weather-related factors were responsible for 95 per cent of the 66 natural disasters in 2023 that resulted in damages of at least \$1 billion.
- ❖ In 2023, insurance only covered 40 per cent of losses caused by weather and climate change.
- ❖ Insurance was only paid out \$118 billion, or 31 per cent, of the total damages incurred.
- ❖ Much of the flood losses in 2023 occurred in South and Southeastern Asia, where the insurance penetration remains very low.
- ❖ This includes India, where the seasonal floods caused economic losses of around \$300 million.
- ❖ Floods in India killed at least 2,653 people in 2023.

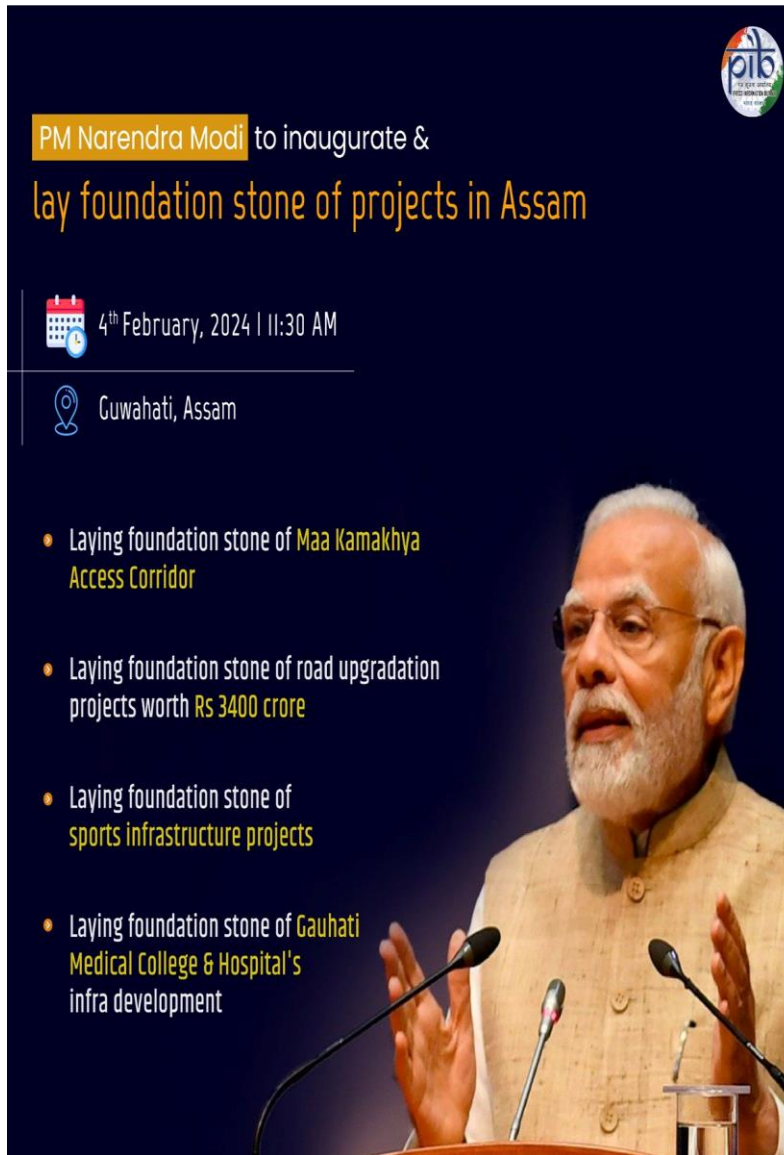
Region	Per cent of global economic loss in 2023	Per cent of global insured loss in 2023	Per cent of protection gap
US	50	67	50 (gap in 2023 decreased from 21st-century average of 47 per cent)
Americas (non-US)	12	5	87 (gap in 2023 above 21st-century average of 85 per cent)
Europe, Middle East and Africa	41	25	85 (gap in 2023 was above the 21st-century average of 71 per cent)
Asia and Pacific	17	5	91 (gap in 2023 was above the 21st-century average of 90 per cent)

## STATES

### **Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana**


- ❖ The foundation stone of Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana (Maa Kamakhya Access Corridor) laying ceremony was held recently.
- ❖ This project was executed under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) scheme.


- ❖ The significant pilgrimage centre Kamakhya temple is located on the Nilachal hills in Guwahati, Assam.



The infographic features a dark blue background with a photograph of PM Narendra Modi on the right side, speaking at a podium. On the left, there is a list of projects to be inaugurated. At the top right, there is a logo for 'pib' (Press Information Bureau). The text is in white and yellow.

**PM Narendra Modi** to inaugurate &  
**lay foundation stone of projects in Assam**

 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 | 11:30 AM

 Guwahati, Assam

- Laying foundation stone of **Maa Kamakhya Access Corridor**
- Laying foundation stone of road upgradation projects worth **Rs 3400 crore**
- Laying foundation stone of **sports infrastructure projects**
- Laying foundation stone of **Gauhati Medical College & Hospital's** infra development

## IMPORTANT DAYS

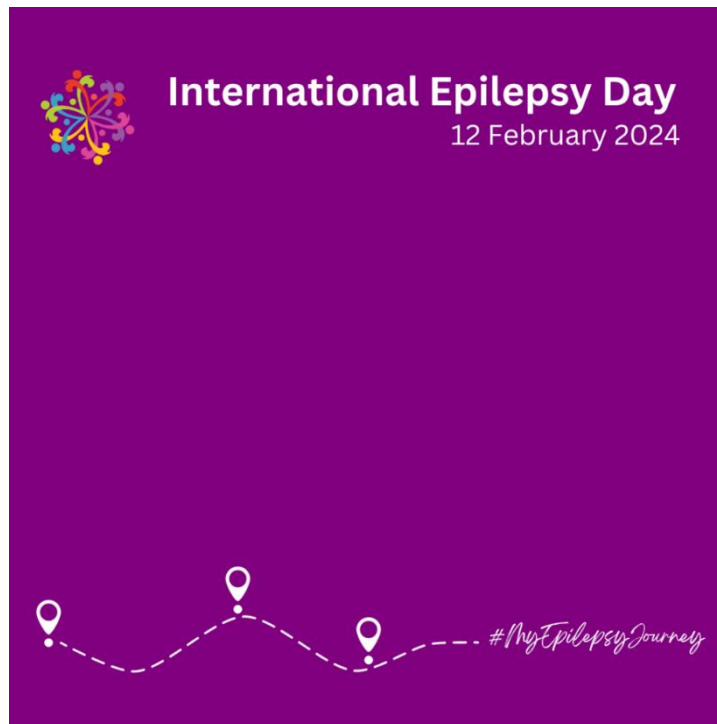
### **International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism 2024 - February 12**

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the dangers of violent extremism and promote international cooperation in tackling this complex issue.
- ❖ This day was established by UNGA in 2015.

- ❖ This year's theme was "Living Together: Fostering the Community Resilience to Prevent Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism".



## International Epilepsy Day 2024 - February 12



- ❖ This has been observed on the second Monday of February every year since 2015.
- ❖ The day provides a platform to educate and create awareness among people.
- ❖ The epilepsy is a non-communicable neurological disease.
- ❖ It affects around 50 million people across the world.
- ❖ Epilepsy is a non-communicable disease.
- ❖ Different factors lead to or cause epilepsy.

- ❖ These categories include structural, genetic, infectious, metabolic, immune, and unknown.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Oldest ever frog fossil

- ❖ A 100-million-year-old fossil of an ancient frog - the oldest ever found - has been unearthed in China.
- ❖ The frog was found with a rare biological feature: a belly consisting of numerous tiny eggs.
- ❖ The fossil formation occurred roughly between 145 million to 100.5 million years ago during the Lower Cretaceous era.
- ❖ This ancient frog belonged to the *Gansubatrachus qilianensis* species.

