

February - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India has secured the prestigious 9th GovTech Prize for its pioneering endeavours in AI-powered government services, at the World Government Summit 2024, held at Dubai.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the first Indian company to achieve a market capitalisation of ₹20 lakh crore.
- ❖ The first-ever Digital India Future Skills Summit was held in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ India's oldest living Test cricketer Dattajirao Gaekwad, who played 11 Tests for India between 1951 and 1962, passed away recently at Baroda, Gujarat.
- ❖ India's first prototype driverless metro train will conduct trial runs in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The World Peace Summit was held in Thiruvananthapuram as part of the United Nations Religious Harmony Week.
 - Theme of the Summit is 'Unity, Power of Peace and Redefining Sustainable Development of Humanity'.
- ❖ The Haryana Police has become the first police force in India to use drones (DRISHYAA drone) to launch tear gas devices.
 - This drone-based tear smoke launcher was developed by the Tear Smoke Unit (TSU) of the Border Security Force (BSF) in 2022
- ❖ India's Permanent Representative to UN, Ruchira Kamboj chaired the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development.
- ❖ Japan has been eclipsed by Germany as the world's third-biggest economy and has slipped into recession.
- ❖ A Qatar court has released eight former Indian naval officers previously on death row for unspecified charges.
- ❖ The Chess Olympiad torch was handed off by India to the 2024 host Hungary.
- ❖ Greece has become the first Orthodox Christian country to legalise same-sex marriage.
- ❖ Arsenale Group and Saudi Arabia Railways (SAR) recently announced a partnership to build the first luxury train that will cross the Kingdom at the end of 2025.

- Dubbed as the Dream of the Desert, the train will be made entirely in Italy with a design inspired by Saudi style and tradition.
- ❖ Saudi hosted the second World Défense Show in Riyadh.
- India's participation was represented by Tri-Service women's.

TAMIL NADU

Minority Welfare measures in Tamilnadu 2024



- ❖ Chief Minister unveils a series of measures, including potential reservations and increased education loans, aimed at empowering religious minorities.
- ❖ The State govt would provide financial assistance under pre-matric (class I to VIII) scholarship scheme for Muslim girl students facilitated through the Waqf board.
- ❖ Education loan for minority students given by Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation through cooperative banks would be increased to 5 lakhs.
- ❖ Girls studying in govt-aided minority schools from sixth to twelfth standard in Tamil medium would be included under 'Pudhumani Penn' scheme under which Rs 1,000 is given per month for students.



- ❖ In the appointment of teachers, the existing age of 53, the maximum age for appointment of teachers in the general category and 58 for other communities in government schools, would also be extended to minority educational institutions.
- ❖ There would be no expiry date mentioned in religious minority certificates.
- ❖ Permanent recognition would be given for minority educational institutions.
- ❖ The order for extending the free morning breakfast scheme for students of standard one to five, studying in govt-aided minority schools in rural areas, would be issued soon.
- ❖ Action would be taken to issue the legal heir certificates to the second wife, who was married under Islamic law, and their sons and daughters.
- ❖ The government will grant permission to the Wakf Board to give its lands, on a lease for 30 years, for the purpose of promoting educational, medical and social goals.
- ❖ The government will also get permission from the High Court to set up a tribunal in Madurai to deal with cases related to Wakf Board properties on the lines of the tribunal now functioning in Chennai.

INTERNATIONAL

IEA's 2024 ministerial meeting

- ❖ Member states of the International Energy Agency (IEA), agreed to begin discussions on the Indian government's request to become a full member of the body.
- ❖ India joined the IEA as an associate member in 2017 and sent a formal request for full membership in October 2023.
- ❖ IEA is an inter-governmental organisation comprising 31 industrialised countries.
- ❖ Four countries are seeking accession to full membership, Chile, Colombia, Israel and Lithuania.
- ❖ The 31 member states and 13 associate members represent 75% of global energy demand.
- ❖ For a country to become a full member of the IEA, it must be a member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- ❖ IEA also mandates its member nations to hold crude oil and/or product reserves (strategic oil reserves) equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports.
- ❖ India's current strategic oil reserves equal 9.5 days of its requirement.

- ❖ And together with storage at refineries and depots, it maintains a stockpile equivalent of 66 days requirement.
- ❖ IEA members coordinate emergency response measures to a significant global oil supply disruption.



iea 50
Ministerial Meeting & 50th Anniversary
13-14 February 2024

 **Eamon Ryan**
Minister for Environment,
Climate & Communications,
Ireland
Co-Chair

 **Bruno Le Maire**
Minister of Economy, Finance, &
Industrial & Digital Sovereignty,
France
Co-Chair

International
Energy Agency

Right to Disconnect – Australia



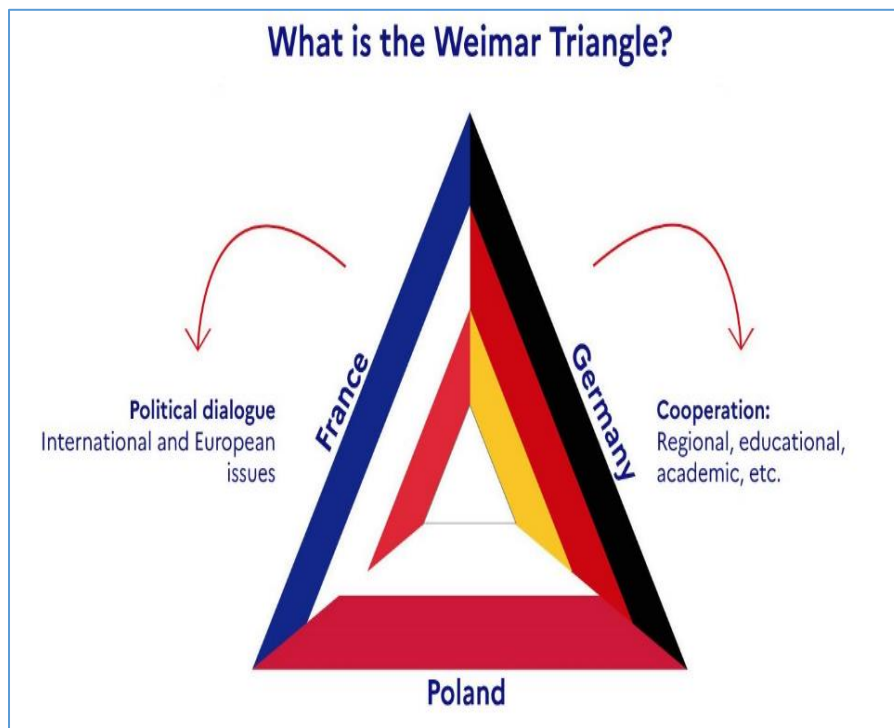
What is the right to disconnect?

- Workers have a right to not respond to electronic communications once the workday ends.
- It doesn't bar electronic communications after hours.
- It protects workers from retaliation.
- It encourages businesses to respect an employee's free time.

- ❖ The government of Australia is looking to pass a law on "Right to Disconnect".

- ❖ It aims to regulate timings for when bosses are allowed to contact employees beyond their working hours via phone calls, messages or emails.
- ❖ Under the Bill, the employees have the right to refuse to engage with employer communications outside of their designated working hours, unless deemed unreasonable.
- ❖ Similar laws have already been passed in France, Italy, and Belgium.
- ❖ The concept of the 'Right to Disconnect' stems from the recognition that modern technology blurs the boundaries between work and personal life.
- ❖ In India, the Right to Disconnect Bill of 2018 was drafted by Baramati MP Supriya Sule.
- ❖ It aimed to empower the employees to negotiate the terms for out-of-work communications.

Weimar triangle



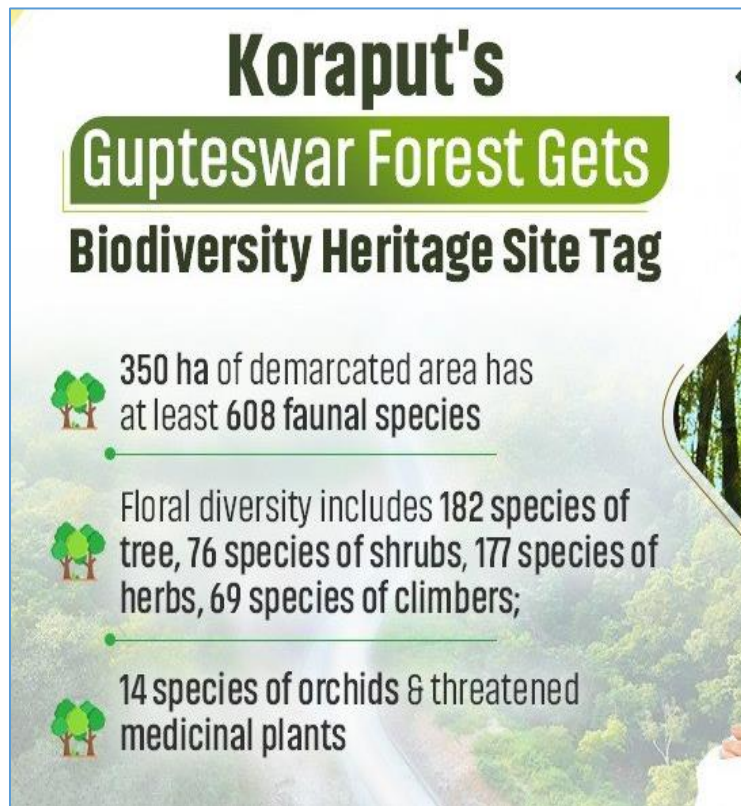
- ❖ The governments of Poland, France and Germany vowed to make Europe a security and defence power with a greater ability to back Ukraine.
- ❖ They discussed for reviving the so-called Weimar Triangle.
- ❖ It is a long-dormant regional grouping that was designed to promote cooperation between France, Germany and Poland.

- ❖ The Weimar Triangle was created in 1991 as Poland was emerging from decades of communism as a platform for political cooperation among the three nations.

ENVIRONMENT

Gupteswar Forest

- ❖ The Gupteswar Forest in Odisha's Koraput district has been declared as the fourth Biodiversity-Heritage Site (BHS) of the state.
- ❖ The site is spread over 350 hectares of demarcated area.
- ❖ Along with its sacred grooves traditionally worshipped by the local community.
- ❖ The limestone caves of Gupteswar are adorned with eight species of bats out of the total 16 species found in southern Odisha.



STATES

Hori Habba

- ❖ The bull racing is a popular event that is organised after Diwali in Karnataka.
- ❖ It is hosted as part of Hori Habba in Karnataka's rural areas.

- ❖ Hori Habba is also known as Hatti Habba.
- ❖ Trained and decorated draught cattle and bulls are forced into running through huge cheering crowds.
- ❖ Copra, cash and gifts are tied to these bovines and people try to catch them and snatch these items from them.
- ❖ Hori Habba is quite similar to Jallikattu, a sport mostly practised in Tamil Nadu.



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