

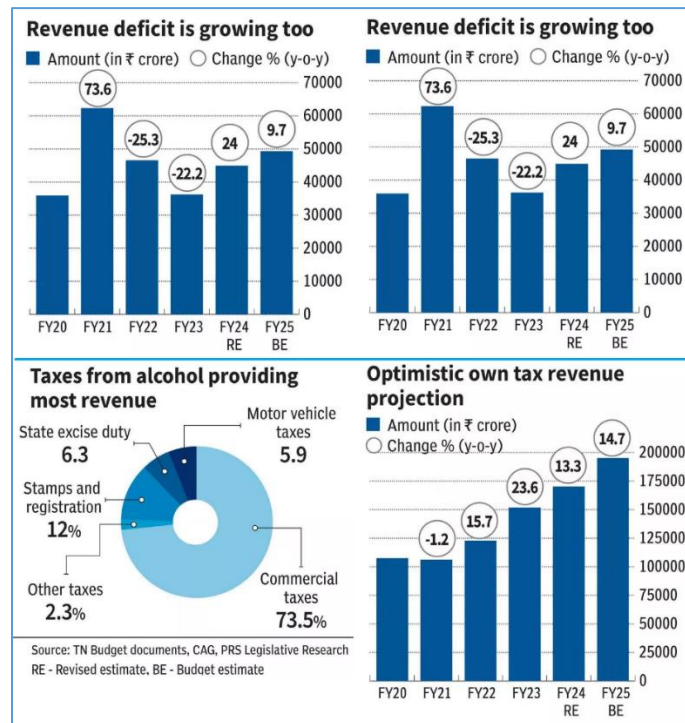
February - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has instructed CCTV camera surveillance in recreational clubs, star hotels, and Tasmac bars ahead of the parliamentary elections.
- ❖ Serum Institute of India tops the list of most valuable unlisted companies in the country.
 - It is followed by National Stock Exchange of India and the Megha Engineering and Infrastructure,
- ❖ 100-year-old Iranian diver Taghi Askari performed an exhibition dive at the 2024 World Aquatics Championships, Doha.
 - He won a silver and bronze medal at the first-ever Asian Games in 1951.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu's 2024 Budget



- ❖ The Budget has presented with the theme 'Crossing obstacles and marching towards growth'.



- ❖ The budget focused on Grand 7 Tamil dream - social justice, welfare of marginalized, transforming Tamil youth as global achievers, knowledge-based economy, equality focused on welfare of women, sustainable future and Tamil language and culture.
- ❖ The total revenue receipts, including Central Transfers, are estimated at Rs.2,99,009.98 crore, marking a modest increase over the previous year.
- ❖ The State's Own Tax Revenue is pegged at Rs.1,95,172.99 crore, indicating healthy growth.
- ❖ Meanwhile, revenue expenditure is expected to rise to Rs.3,48,288.72 crore, with significant allocations for salaries, pensions, and welfare schemes.
- ❖ Despite challenges, the fiscal deficit is contained at 3.44% of GSDP, in line with fiscal consolidation goals.
- ❖ Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Poverty eradication scheme will identify five lakh families living in poverty and provide welfare assistance.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government unveils a new payroll subsidy initiative aimed at boosting high-paying jobs in Global Capability Centres (GCCs).
- ❖ Under the scheme, a subsidy of 30% will be provided in the first year, followed by 20% in the second year, and 10% in the third year for positions offering a monthly salary exceeding Rs 1 lakh.
- ❖ The Government allocates Rs 2 crore to promote Tamil literature globally.
- ❖ It announced free higher education for transgender individuals.
- ❖ This initiative aims to promote inclusivity and equal opportunities in higher education for the transgender community.
- ❖ Rs 1,000 crore allocated for government school infrastructure development, including the installation of smart classrooms in all 23,000 primary schools.
- ❖ It planned to upgrade 45 Polytechnic Colleges to Industry 4.0 standards, aiming to align technical education with contemporary industry needs.
- ❖ Government plans to construct three new Thozhi hostels for working women.
- ❖ New IT Park will be set up in Coimbatore, spanning over two million square feet.
- ❖ The Government plans to establish a new IT park in Thanjavur, with the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT).
- ❖ Rs 120 crore has been allocated for the Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is set to launch the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission.

- ❖ It is aimed at fostering the development and application of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies across various sectors within the state.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is gearing up to host the World Startup Summit in January 2025.
- ❖ The Government is set to introduce the 'Tamil Pudhalvan' scheme, aimed at incentivizing government school students to pursue higher education.
- ❖ Under this initiative, students will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 to support their educational endeavours, fostering greater participation in higher educational institutions.
- ❖ Government intends to set up new industry skilling centres in 100 government arts, science, and engineering colleges.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government is to create four Olympic academies.
- ❖ Rope car facility is to come up at Tiruparankundram and Thiruneermalai.
- ❖ Budget of ₹2 crore has been allocated for ethnographic documentation of Sourashtra and Paduga languages and languages of tribals including Thodas, Kothar, Cholakar, Kaani and Narikuravar.
- ❖ An open-air museum would be constructed at the Keeladi excavation site.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government announces setting up of the 'Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority.
- ❖ The Govt announced a mission for a 'Hut-free Tamil Nadu' by 2030.
- ❖ 'Kalaighnarin Kanavu Illam' is to be implemented at ₹3,500 crore to provide housing facilities to the poor.
- ❖ The property tax reimbursement scheme would be expanded to all ex-servicemen.
- ❖ It unveiled TN-SHORE (Neithal Meetchi Iyakkam), a scheme to restore coastal resources across 14 districts of the State.
- ❖ State of the art film city will be established in Poonamallee at the cost of Rs 500 crore.

NATIONAL

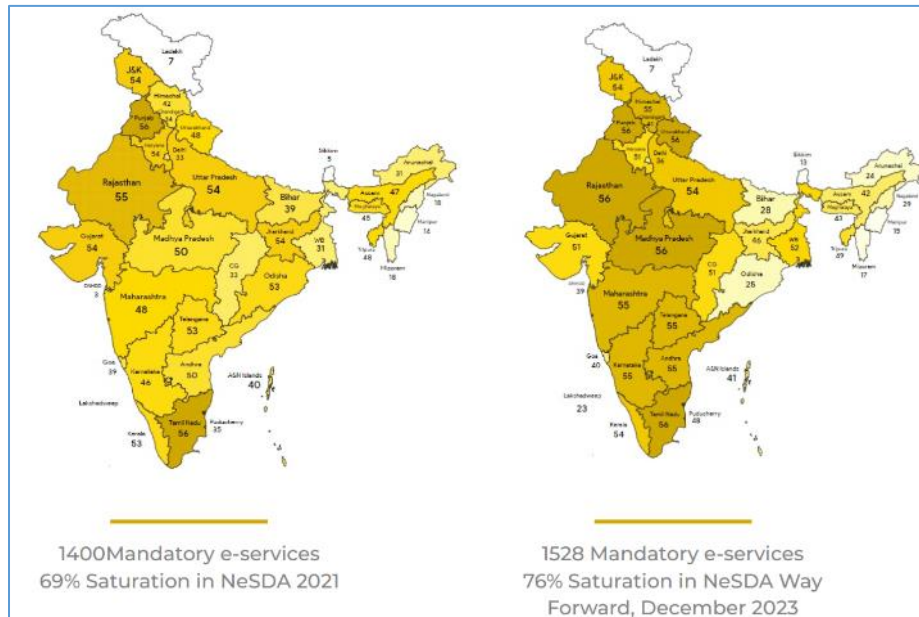
Global Digitalization Milestone

- ❖ The "State of India's Digital Economy Report, 2024," was unveiled by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), a renowned Delhi-based think tank.
- ❖ As per the findings, India has cemented its position as the third-largest digitalized nation in the world.

- ❖ It stands only behind the technological powerhouses of the United States of America (USA) and China.

Top 5 countries in terms of digitalisation of economy			Digitalisation in large states (Top 5)		
Country	CHIPS score		State	CHIPS score	
US	65.1	<div style="width: 65.1%;"></div>	Karnataka	58.7	<div style="width: 58.7%;"></div>
China	62.3	<div style="width: 62.3%;"></div>	Maharashtra	52.6	<div style="width: 52.6%;"></div>
India	39.1	<div style="width: 39.1%;"></div>	Telangana	50.8	<div style="width: 50.8%;"></div>
UK	28.8	<div style="width: 28.8%;"></div>	Gujarat	49.7	<div style="width: 49.7%;"></div>
Germany	23.8	<div style="width: 23.8%;"></div>	Haryana	48.6	<div style="width: 48.6%;"></div>

NeSDA Way Forward Annual Report 2023



- ❖ The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has released the annual NeSDA Way Forward Report 2023.
- ❖ The report highlights the significant progress made by the states and UTs during the year under mandatory e-Services and total e-Services under the NeSDA framework.
- ❖ 76% of mandatory e-services are available, a significant increase from 48% under NeSDA 2019.

- ❖ As per the latest figures, the states and UTs are providing a total of 16,487 e-Services in December, 2023 as against 11,614 in April, 2023.
- ❖ The UT of Jammu and Kashmir tops the list of States/ UTs with maximum numbers 1,117 e-Services.
- ❖ The states of Kerala, Assam and Odisha, besides UT of Jammu and Kashmir, are providing hundred per cent e-Services through their respective unified portals.
- ❖ The tourism sector has the highest saturation for the provision of all mandatory e-services in 23 out of 36 States/UTs.

India's Most Welcoming Region in 2024

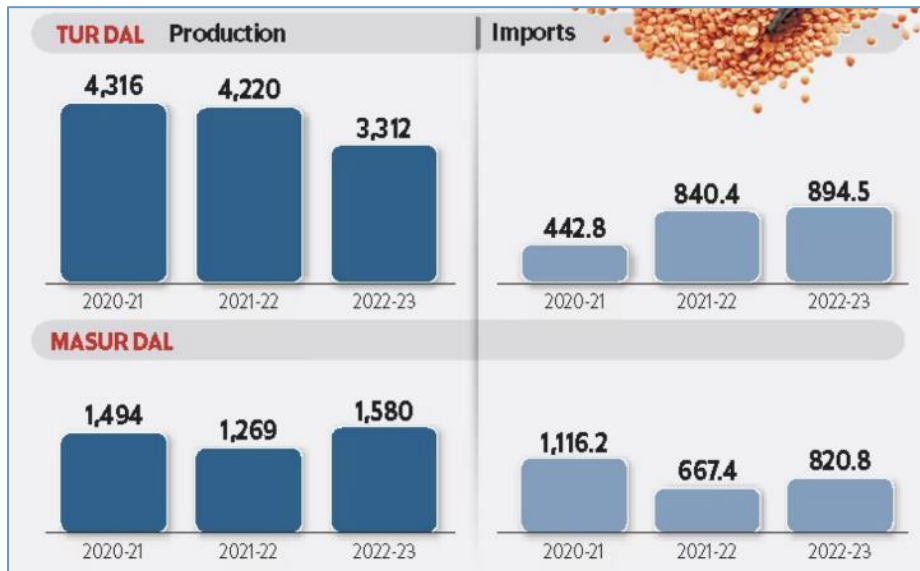


- ❖ The Popular online travel agency Booking.com unveiled its 12th Annual Traveller Review Awards 2024.
- ❖ It highlights the Most Welcoming Regions and Cities in India.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh secured the top spot of the 'Most Welcoming Region in India' category.
- ❖ It is followed by Goa, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Mararikulam (Kerala) topped in the list of the ten 'Most Welcoming Cities in India.'
- ❖ It is followed by Jaisalmer (Rajasthan), Bir (Maharashtra) and Leh (Jammu & Kashmir).

Scheme to Boost Pulses Output

- ❖ Union has formulated a new policy to promote domestic cultivation of pulses like lentils and encourage farmers to grow them instead of traditional crops.

- ❖ It aims to boost India's pulses output to attain self-sufficiency and reduce huge annual imports.
- ❖ The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) will sign 5-year contracts with farmer to assure procurement at pre-fixed Minimum Support Prices (MSP).
- ❖ A roadmap for self-sufficiency in pulses by 2027 also revealed.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sound-Based Anti-Drone System

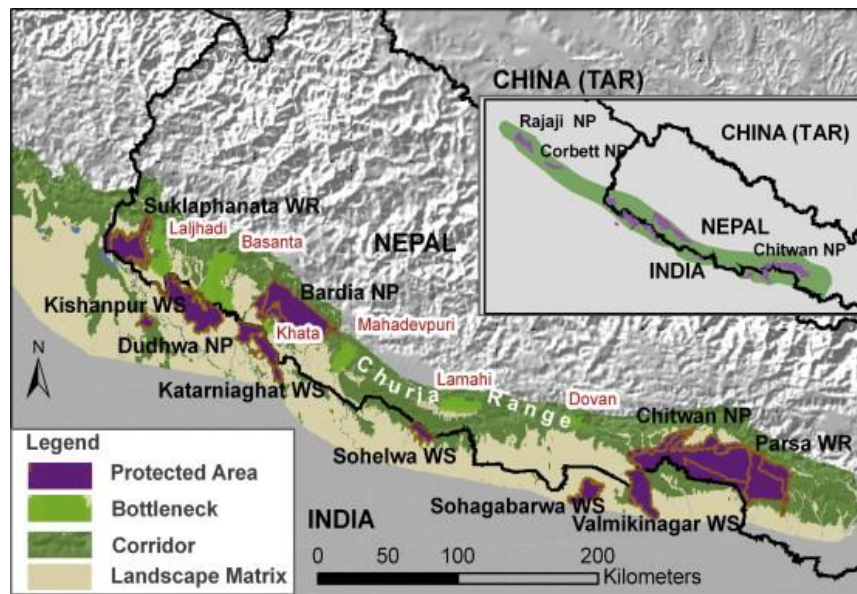


- ❖ The IIT Jammu professor has developed a groundbreaking anti-drone system that utilizes sound technology.
- ❖ The system, known as sound-based detection, is a first-of-its-kind technology that detects the unique sound emitted by drones.

- ❖ By comparing this sound signature with a database, the system is able to accurately identify drones.
- ❖ This system is capable of detecting drones, aircraft, multiple drones, or birds within a range of 300 meters based on their sound.

ENVIRONMENT

Terai Arc Landscape



- ❖ Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) initiative receives global recognition from the U.N. as one of seven World Restoration Flagships.
- ❖ It was launched in 2004 and aimed at restoring ecosystems and creating space for tigers.
- ❖ This initiative restored 66,800 hectares (165,000 acres) of forest and significantly increased the Bengal tiger population in the region.

STATES

Smart Gram Panchayat

- ❖ The pilot project 'Smart Gram Panchayat: Revolution towards Digitization of Gram Panchayat' was launched recently.
- ❖ The aim of the project is to extend PM-WANI (Prime Minister's WiFi Access Network Interface) service in all gram panchayats across Begusarai district in Bihar.

- ❖ Begusarai has now become the first district in Bihar to equip all gram panchayats with WiFi services under PM-WANI.

PM-WANI
(Wi-Fi Access Network Interface)

TOWARDS WI-FI ACCESS FOR ALL

Modi government approves PM-WANI scheme that aims to proliferate public Wi-Fi availability across the length and breadth of India.

Features

- 📶 Public Wi-Fi networks would be set up by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to provide public Wi-Fi hotspots through Public Data Offices (PDOs).
- 📶 An App provider will register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.
- 📶 There will be no license fee.

New Iron Ore Deposits



- ❖ The Rajasthan Mines Department has discovered over 840 million tonnes of iron ore in Khoda, Dadaroli, Todupura, and Liloti near Hindon, Karauli.

- ❖ Initial exploration indications of both magnetite and hematite of iron ore have been found.
- ❖ Iron ore deposits have been found in 462.3 hectares at Khoda of Karauli, 754.38 hectares at Dadaroli, 260.71 hectares at Todupura and 410.94 hectares at Liloti.

Statue of Bir Lachit Borphukan

- ❖ The 125 feet statue of Bir Lachit Borphukan at Lahdoigarh, Hologapar in Jorhat of Assam will be unveiled in March.
- ❖ He is known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat where he thwarted the Mughal invasion.
- ❖ This statue symbolizes the valour and spirit of the Assamese people.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Film Awards 2024

- ❖ The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has dropped the names of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and late actor Nargis Dutt from the National Film Awards.
- ❖ The 'Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a director' will now be simply called 'Best Debut Film of a Director'.
- ❖ Indira's name became associated with the award during the 28th National Film Awards, 1980.
- ❖ The 'Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration' has become the 'Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values'.
- ❖ Nargis's name came to be associated with the National Film Awards in 1965, during the 13th edition of the awards, for best feature film category.



- ❖ The National films awards were first presented in 1954 by the Government of India.
- ❖ It aims “to honour films made across India, on a national scale, to encourage the furthering of Indian art and culture”.



Jnanpith Award 2023



- ❖ The Urdu poet and Bollywood writer and director Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya have been selected for the Jnanpith award 2023.
- ❖ Gulzar or Sampooran Singh Kalra is considered one of the finest Urdu poets of his generation and is a top director and writer of Hindi cinema.
- ❖ Rambhadracharya is a renowned Hindu spiritual leader, educator and writer of more than 240 books and texts, including four epics.
- ❖ He is also the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot in Madhya Pradesh.



- ❖ Gulzar has received the Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu in 2002, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013, and the Padma Bhushan in 2004.
- ❖ He also won, at least five National Film awards for his work.
- ❖ This is the 58th edition of the Jnanpith Award given annually for outstanding contributions to Indian literature since 1965.
- ❖ It is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, which was established in 1944.

