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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Milan 2024, the Indian Navy's biggest multilateral naval exercise, is being held in Vizag, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Neem Summit & Global Neem Trade fair is being organized by collaboration with ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 60th Munich Security Conference (MSC) was held in Munich, Germany.
 - It aims to build trust and contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts by sustaining a continuous, curated, and informal dialogue within the international security community.

TAMIL NADU

Rhodamine-B



- ❖ Tamil Nadu recently banned the sale and production of cotton candy – also known as candy floss.
- ❖ This step was taken by the state government after a lab test confirmed the presence of cancer-causing chemicals.

- ❖ The test was conducted by the Food Analysis Laboratory found Rhodamine-B as an artificial colouring agent.
- ❖ Rhodamine-B is giving blue, pink cotton and green which is unsafe and substandard for consumption.
- ❖ Rhodamine-B or RhB is a chemical commonly used for dyeing in the textile, paper, leather, and paints industry as a colouring agent.

Agriculture Budget 2024



- ❖ Mr. Panneerselvam presented the State Agriculture Budget 2024-25 in the Legislative Assembly, a day after the Tamil Nadu Budget 2024-25 was unveiled.
- ❖ He announced the launch of a new programme, the Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kappom Scheme (CM MK MKS).
- ❖ It is aimed at improving soil quality, and moving towards the sustainable and chemical-free agricultural practices for the well-being of society.
- ❖ It also announced steps to reduce chemical fertilizers in paddy crops.
- ❖ 'One Village, One Crop' scheme was presented in Tamil Nadu Agriculture budget 2024.
- ❖ Several measures to nurture villages is to help them tackle climate change.
- ❖ To help the farmers recovering from loss of income due to unforeseen natural calamities, Crop Insurance Scheme is being implemented.
- ❖ Kalaichari All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme was launched.
- ❖ It aims to transform every village into a model of self-sufficiency by focusing on the development of agriculture as the primary occupation and by converting fallow lands into cultivable lands to increase the net cultivable area.



- ❖ Special climate-smart villages will be developed to demonstrate climate change mitigation technologies to farmers and stakeholders, besides spreading the awareness.
- ❖ To facilitate the easy access of quality agricultural produce and value-added products, to urban consumers, 100 Uzhavar Angadis are to be established along the lines of Uzhavar Sandhais at an outlay of Rs 5 crore from the state fund.
- ❖ Under the State Agriculture Development Scheme, the government will provide maximum assistance of Rs 1 lakh to 100 graduates who establish any agri-based business by availing bank loans.
- ❖ Subsidy is to be granted for the installation of automated irrigation systems.
- ❖ To promote the cultivation of neem trees, 10 lakh neem tree saplings are to be distributed to farmers at no cost.
- ❖ To ensure that agriculture is supplied with enough electricity, 50,000 electricity connections have been provided in the current year.
- ❖ Special schemes for mukhani (mango, banana, jackfruit) development, new horticulture farms and parks like Mullai Garden (In Kanniyakumari), Marutham Park (In Thanjavur), Sun Garden (In Kanniyakumari), Hibiscus Nursery Garden (In Chengalpattu), State Horticulture Farm (In Tenkasi) are to be established.
- ❖ To create a link between the private agricultural machinery owners and the farmers, 'Private Agricultural Machinery Custom Hiring Mobile App' is to be developed.
- ❖ Geographical Indication (GI) tag is to be obtained for 10 agricultural products.
- ❖ Agri-tech-based startups are to be identified and provided with subsidies based on their objectives, sustainability, and business plans.

INTERNATIONAL

World's fourth-largest economy

- ❖ Japan slips to the world's fourth-largest economy, behind the US, China and now Germany.
- ❖ Japan's nominal GDP totalled \$4.2 trillion last year, or about 591 trillion yen.
- ❖ Germany's, was \$4.4 trillion, or \$4.5 trillion, depending on the currency conversion.
- ❖ The Japanese economy has gradually lost its competitiveness and productivity while the population shrinks as Japanese people age and have fewer children.
- ❖ Japan fell from the second-ranked economy behind the U.S. to the third-largest in 2010 as China's economy grew.

- ❖ The gap between developed countries and emerging nations is shrinking, with India certain to overtake Japan in nominal GDP in a few years.

Top 10 Largest Economies		
Rank/ Country	GDP (\$ billion)	GDP Per Capita (\$ thousand)
1. USA	27,974	83.06
2. China	18,566	13.16
3. Germany	4,730	56.04
4. Japan	4,291	34.55
5. India	4,112	2.85
6. UK	3,592	52.43
7. France	3,182	48.22
8. Italy	2,280	38.93
9. Brazil	2,272	11.03
10. Canada	2,242	55.53

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INSAT-3DS Mission

GSLV - F14 / INSAT - 3DS Mission

Launch Details:

- ❖ February 17, 2024, at 17:30 Hrs. IST
- ❖ from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.

In its 16th mission, the GSLV aims at deploying the INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite into the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Subsequent orbit-raising maneuvers will ensure that the satellite is positioned in a Geo-stationary Orbit.

The primary objectives of the mission are:







- ❖ To monitor Earth's surface, carry out Oceanic observations and its environment in various spectral channels of meteorological importance.
- ❖ To provide Satellite Aided Search and Rescue services.
- ❖ To provide the Data Collection and Data Dissemination capabilities from the Data Collection Platforms (DCPs).
- ❖ To provide the vertical profile of various meteorological parameters of the Atmosphere.

- ❖ The GSLV-F14, carrying INSAT-3D meteorological satellite, was successfully launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- ❖ The INSAT-3DS satellite is a follow-on mission of the third-generation meteorological satellite from geostationary orbit.

- ❖ This satellite is an exclusive mission designed for enhanced meteorological observations, monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting, and disaster warning.
- ❖ The INSAT-3DS satellite will augment meteorological services along with the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR in-orbit satellites.
- ❖ This was the 16th mission of the heavy-lift vehicle GSLV-MkII, which has been operational since 2001.
- ❖ Out of its 15 previous missions, 11 have been successful.
- ❖ The GSLV was termed the “naughty boy” of Indian space due to its repeated failures in the past.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Henley Passport Index 2024

PASSPORT	RANK IN 2024	ACCESS
 France	<u>1st</u>	<u>194</u>
 Germany	<u>1st</u>	<u>194</u>
 Italy	<u>1st</u>	<u>194</u>
 Japan	<u>1st</u>	<u>194</u>
 Singapore	<u>1st</u>	<u>194</u>
 Spain	<u>1st</u>	<u>194</u>

- ❖ France leads the list, with its passport granting visa-free access to 194 countries.
- ❖ India's passport ranking has slipped one place from last year, moving from 84th to 85th position.
- ❖ Last year Indian passport holders could travel visa-free to 60 countries, this year that number has increased to 62.
- ❖ Besides, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore and Spain have also occupied top positions, allowing visa-free entry to 194 global destinations.

- ❖ Pakistan maintains its position at 106th place, similar to last year, while Bangladesh has slipped from 101st to 102nd position.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Childhood Cancer Day 2024 - February 15

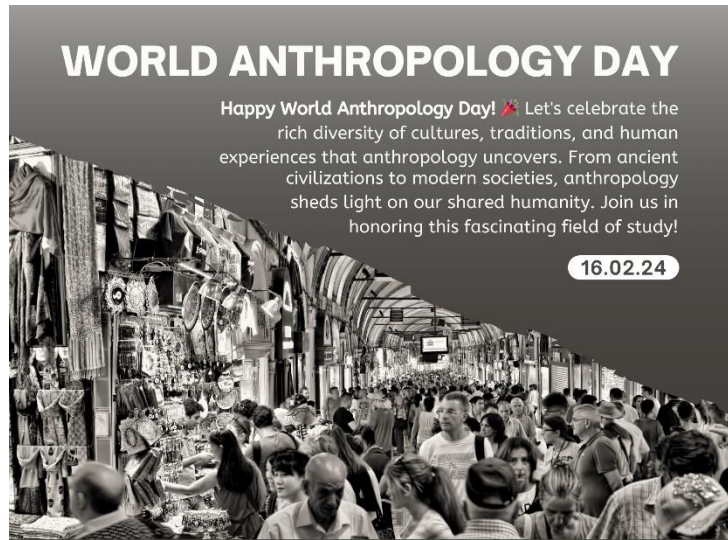
- ❖ This day is observed to highlight the challenges related to childhood cancer and the need to support children, adolescents and their families to battle this dreaded disease.
- ❖ It was established in 2002 by Childhood Cancer International.
- ❖ Over 4 lakh children around the world develop cancer every year but only half of them are diagnosed.
- ❖ 70% of low and middle-income countries, and 20% of children in high-income countries are not cured.
- ❖ Every year, an estimated 4,00,000 children and adolescents between the age 0-19 years, develop cancer.



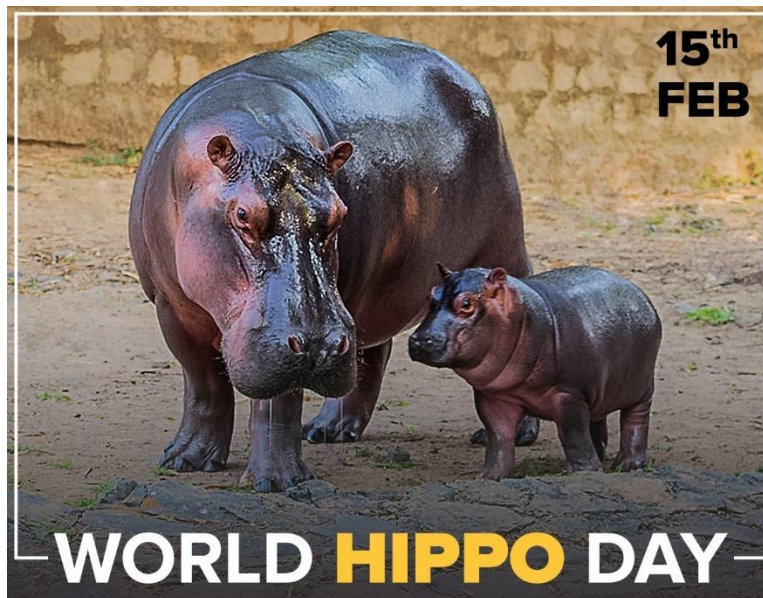
World Anthropology Day 2024 - February 15

- ❖ This day was held on the third Thursday in February.
- ❖ It aims to promote the field of anthropology and raise awareness about its significance in understanding human diversity, cultures and societies worldwide.
- ❖ This Day was established by the American Anthropological Association (AAA) in 2015.

- ❖ This day was initially called National Anthropology Day in 2016 it was changed to World Anthropology Day.



World Hippo Day 2024 - February 15



- ❖ This day was dedicated to raising awareness about the conservation, protection, and appreciation of the hippopotamus.
- ❖ The day was officially established to coincide with the anniversary of the opening of the Turgwe Hippo Trust in Zimbabwe.
- ❖ Hippos are semiaquatic mammals, native to sub-Saharan Africa, and weigh up to 2,000 kg.
- ❖ It is the third-largest land mammal after elephants and rhinos.



❖ Today, the hippo population is estimated to be between 115,000 and 130,000.

