



February - 24

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India is setting up a warehouse facility, named 'Bharat Mart', in the United Arab Emirates covering an area of over 100,000 square meters.
- ❖ The 11<sup>th</sup> International Puppet Festival was kicked off at Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force showcased its offensive capabilities by day and night at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan under Exercise Vayu Shakti-24.
- ❖ President of India has conferred the 'Jeevan Raksha Padak' to Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) constable Shashikant Kumar for the year 2023.
- ❖ The 'Dand Patta' or gauntlet sword, reportedly used by Chhatrapati Shivaji, was declared as the state weapon of Maharashtra.

## TAMIL NADU

### Powers to refuse permission to factories

(2) Rules made under clause (c) of sub-section (1) may empower the panchayat union council in panchayat villages and panchayat unions to set apart specified areas for industrial purposes and provide for the refusal of permissions under section 160 in respect of any factory, workshop, workplace or premises outside such areas and also, subject to the sanction of the prescribed authority for the removal to such areas, of any factory, workshop or workplace which has been already established at any place, or any machinery which has already been installed in any premises, situated outside such areas:

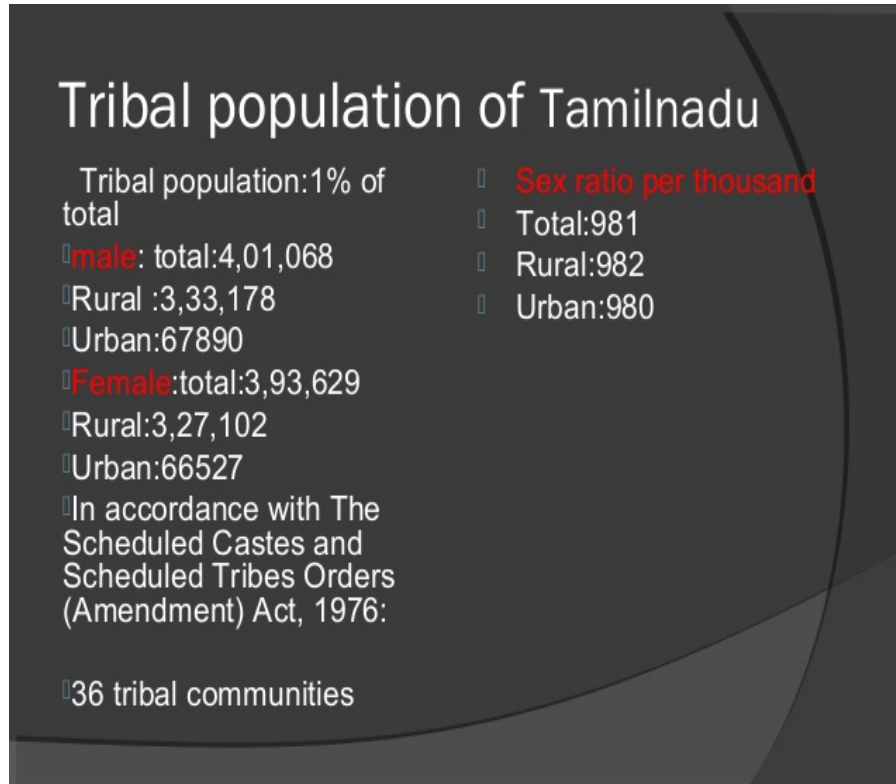
Provided that no such rule shall authorise the removal of any factory, workshop or workplace or machinery installed in any premises, in the occupation or under the control of the Central or the State Government or of a market committee established under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1987.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a Bill that sought to clip the powers of village panchayats and panchayat unions.
- ❖ They were earlier able to set apart specified areas for industrial purposes or to refuse permission for industries.
- ❖ The Bill was aimed at promoting the ease of doing business.



- ❖ The Bill, tabled by him sought to amend the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 aims to replace the 'Panchayat Union Council' with 'Inspector' as the authority for granting and renewal of licences and permissions.
- ❖ It also sought to remove the wordings "offensive or dangerous trade" for imposing penalty on violators.

### **'Tholkudi' scheme**



- ❖ 1,000 crores have been allocated for a new scheme 'Tholkudi' for development of tribals that would be implemented over the next four years.
- ❖ Under the scheme, basic amenities such as road facilities, potable water streetlights and permanent houses would be provided in tribal areas.
- ❖ Dedicated programmes would also be implemented to improve the livelihood of members of the tribal communities as part of this initiative.

### **TN Uagine 2024**

- ❖ Australia is an Innovation Partner Country for Uagine 2024.
- ❖ It is being hosted by the Tamil Nadu government's Information Technology and Digital Services Department.

- ❖ Western Australia will also be a State partner at the Umanage summit.

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### Endangered Species Conservation Fund

**தமிழ்நாடு**  
நிதிநிலை அறிக்கை  
[Tamil Nadu Budget 2024]

**The Tamil Nadu  
Endangered  
Species Conservation  
Fund (TNESCF)**

A special fund, TNESCF, with a corpus fund of Rupees 50 Crores for the Conservation of Endangered Species, will be established through contributions from the Government, CSR, national, and international agencies. The objective is to achieve the conservation of threatened and endangered species in Tamil Nadu

**#TNBUDGET2024**

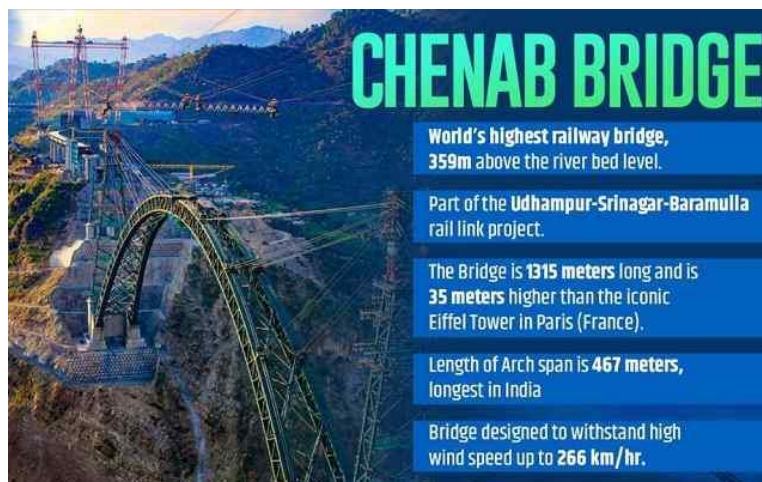
@tnforestdept  
www.forests.tn.gov.in

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government created a dedicated "Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund".

- ❖ It will be a rolling pool with a corpus of Rs 50 crore, to recover some of the biodiversity that is on the verge of extinction.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Environment and Forests gazette notified a list of 23 plant and 16 animal species that are on verge of extinction in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The ministry even prohibited collection of samples from these notified species without the approval of Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board for scientific research or otherwise.

## NATIONAL

### World's Highest Railway Bridge



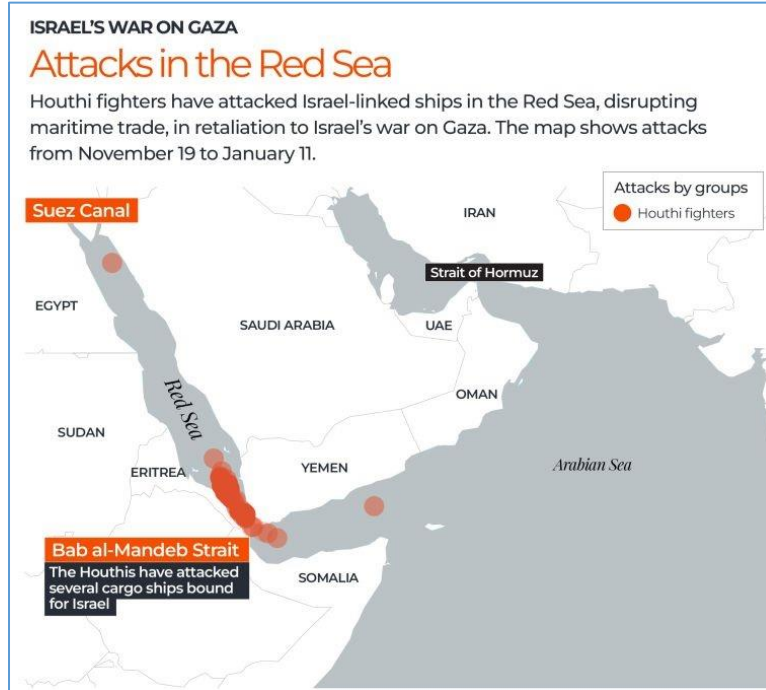
- ❖ The world's highest single-arch railway bridge - Chenab bridge was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ The arch bridge runs between Bakkal and Kauri in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It forms a crucial link from Katra to Banihal.
- ❖ It stands at the height of 1,178 feet above the riverbed, making it 35 metres taller than Paris' Eiffel Tower.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Aspides Mission

- ❖ The European Union launched a naval mission to protect Red Sea shipping from Yemen's Houthi rebels.
- ❖ Several countries have expressed their intention to participate in this mission, called Aspides ("shield" in ancient Greek)

- ❖ This will have orders to fire on the Houthis only if they attack first and will not be authorised to shoot pre-emptively.
- ❖ Since November, the Houthis have been attacking commercial and military shipping in the busy Red Sea, across which 12 percent of global trade travels.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Purple Frog



- ❖ A rare frog, having a bloated body, pointed snout and stout limbs covered under the TN Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is home to two types of Purple Frog: *Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis* and *Nasikabatrachus bhupathi*.
- ❖ It is believed to have co-existed with dinosaurs.
- ❖ The Purple Frog is often dubbed as a 'living fossil', as it has similarities to the Sooglossidae family of frogs in Seychelles.
- ❖ It is supporting the Gondwana landmass hypothesis.
- ❖ The amphibian was in the 'Endangered' category on the Red List of the IUCN in 2004 based on early assessments.
- ❖ It was moved to the 'Near Threatened' category in 2020.

## STAR Metric



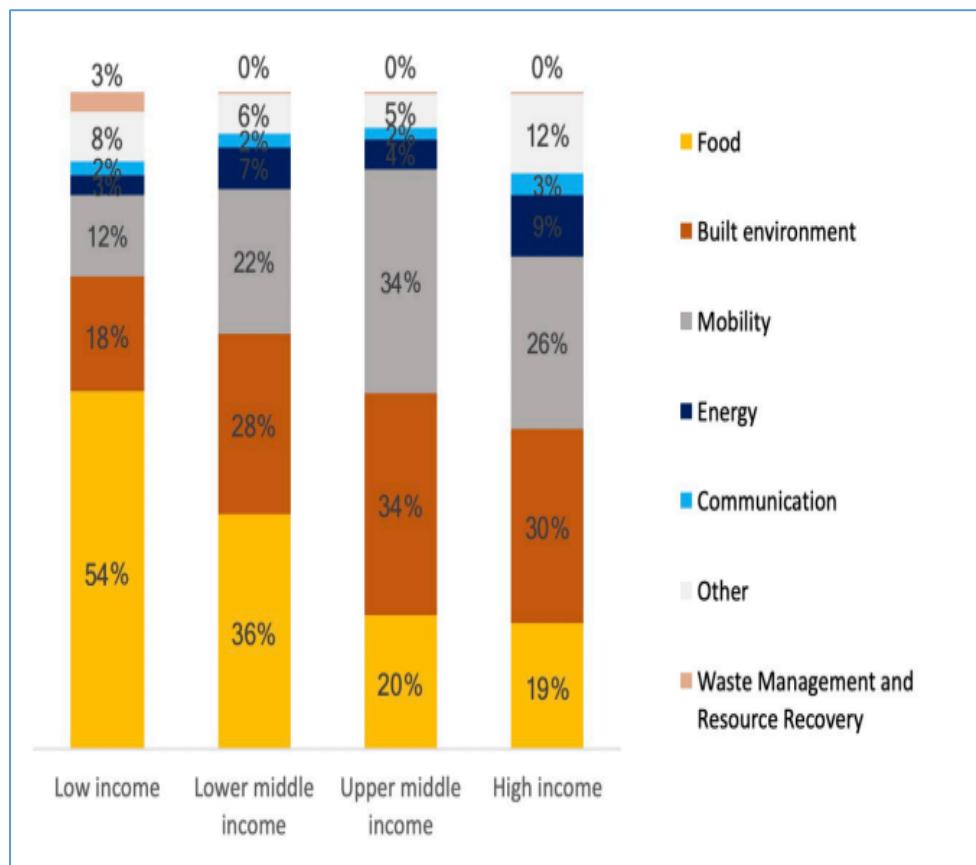
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has introduced the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric.
- ❖ It aims to quantify actions aimed at halting biodiversity loss in oceans.
- ❖ It was first unveiled in 2021 for use in terrestrial areas.
- ❖ STAR helps measure progress towards global biodiversity targets and supports decision-making by governments, businesses, and organizations in conservation efforts.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Resources Outlook Report

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme's Global Resources Outlook.

- ❖ It highlights that, the consumption of natural resources globally is set to rise by 60 percent by 2060.
- ❖ Natural resource extraction has soared by almost 400% since 1970 due to industrialisation, urbanisation and population growth.
- ❖ The stripping of Earth’s natural materials is already responsible for 60% of global heating impacts.
- ❖ It is including land use change, 40% of air pollution impact, and more than 90% of global water stress and land-related biodiversity loss.
- ❖ The Electric vehicles use almost 10 times more “critical raw materials” than conventional cars.

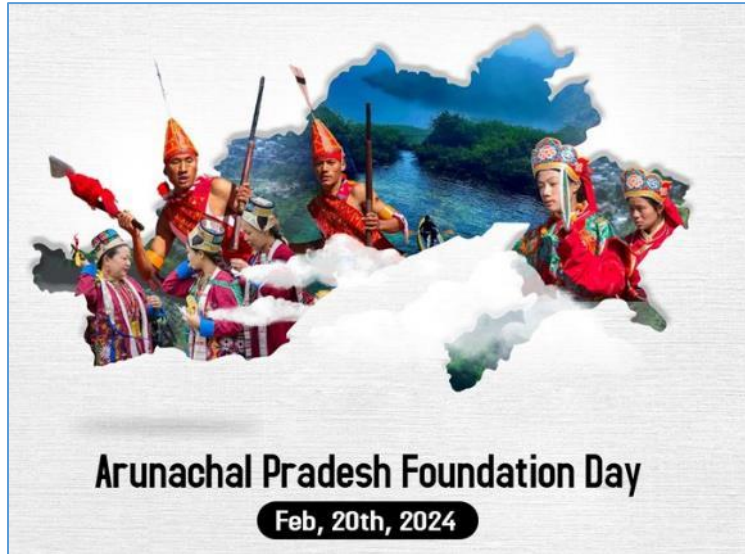


## IMPORTANT DAYS

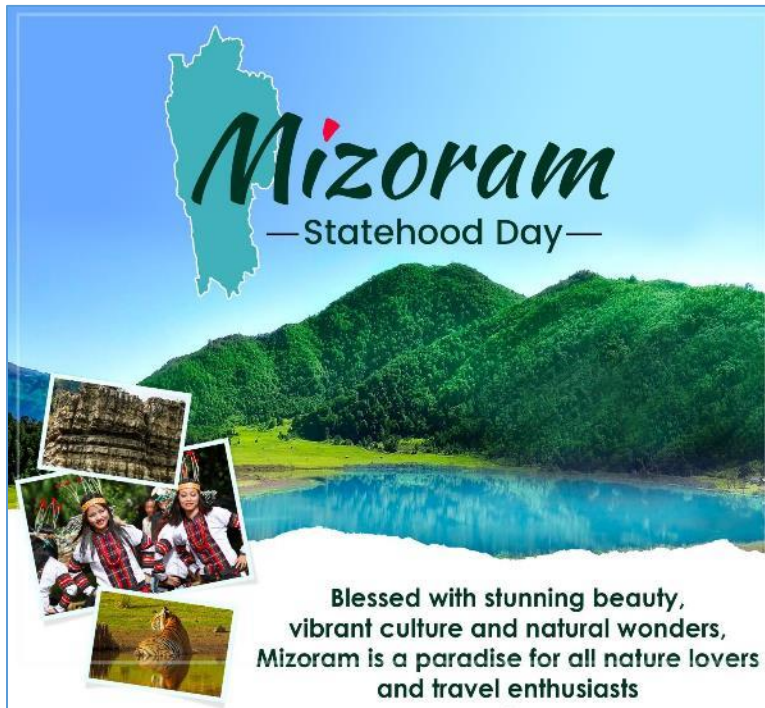
### **Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day 2024 - February 20**

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged state on February 20, 1987.
- ❖ Till 1972, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).

- ❖ It has gained Union Territory status on January 20, 1972 and was renamed Arunachal Pradesh.



### **Mizoram Statehood Day 2024 - February 20**



- ❖ The Mizo Hills area became the Lushai Hills district within Assam at the time of independence.
- ❖ Further, in 1954 it was renamed the Mizo Hills District of Assam.



- ❖ Mizoram was granted the status of a Union Territory in 1972 after signing an accord with the moderates of the Mizo National Front (MNF).
- ❖ The UT of Mizoram was conferred the status of a full state in 1986 after the signing of the Mizoram Peace Accord between the Central government and the MNF.
- ❖ The creation of Mizoram State took place on 20th February 1987 after the 53rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution, 1986.
- ❖ Mizoram has been designated as a "tribal area" under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (Article 244(2)).

### **World Day of Social Justice 2024 - February 20**



- ❖ This day highlights the importance of promoting social justice by addressing issues such as unemployment, poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, human rights and social protection.
- ❖ On November 16, 2007, the UNGA declared this day starting from the 63rd session of the General Assembly.
- ❖ On June 10, 2008, the International Labour Organization (ILO) unanimously endorsed the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is "Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances".

