

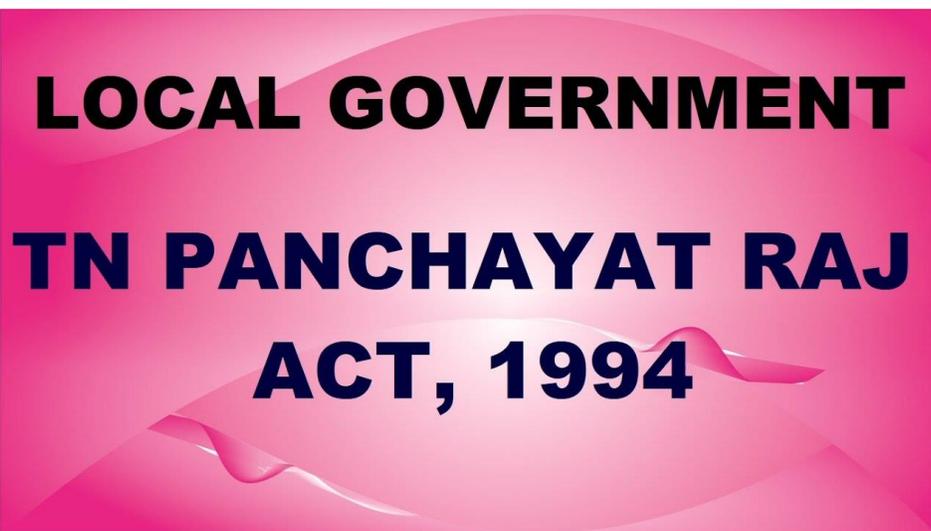
February - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu assembly introduced a bill to omit clause (j) of sub-section (1) of section 66 of the HR and CE Act of 1959.
 - It says, “A person shall be disqualified for being appointed as and for being a trustee of any religious institution if he is suffering from leprosy”.
- ❖ Shashi Tharoor, author and politician of Congress, was conferred France's highest civilian honour “Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur” recently.
- ❖ The Misinformation Combat Alliance (MCA) and Meta, announced plans to launch a dedicated fact-checking helpline on WhatsApp.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Act, 2024



- ❖ TN assembly introduced two separate bills to amend Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act of 1994.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2024, includes detailed measures to regulate the operation and movement of the lorries or any other vehicles used for decanting of septic tanks.
- ❖ It also covers transportation of faecal sludge and septage to ensure their safe disposal in village panchayat areas.
- ❖ A new section said, “No person shall collect, transport or dispose faecal sludge or septage from any building, whether used for residential or commercial or

institutional purposes, within the panchayat limits, without a valid licence granted under the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.

- ❖ But no such licence is necessary for the collection, transportation and disposal of sludge or septage by any local authority or statutory board of the government.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fifth Amendment) Act, 2024 is saying, “it shall be the duty of panchayat to manage the solid waste so as to keep the public places clean by adopting a system of collection of segregated waste at source and its transportation, processing and disposal of solid waste scientifically in a place specifically allotted for this purpose.”

India's first 360-degree immersive dome theatre



- ❖ India's first 360-degree super immersive dome theatre was opened at the Kelambakkam Road in Chennai.
- ❖ Audiences can watch shows like Aladdin, Peter Pan, Saving Tinkerbell and Moby Dick, among others. Each screening will be about 20-30 minutes each.
- ❖ As the first of its kind in the country, the dome theatre sets a precedent for future ventures in the realm of storytelling and audience engagement.

INTERNATIONAL

IBSA Fund

- ❖ India's contribution to the IBSA Fund has cumulatively exceeded \$18 million since the Fund was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006.
- ❖ UNOSSC serves as the Fund Manager and Secretariat of the IBSA Fund.

- ❖ The IBSA countries - India, Brazil and South Africa - each contribute one million dollars annually to the Fund.
- ❖ The IBSA Fund supports projects that are concrete expressions of solidarity.
- ❖ Their objectives range from promoting food security, and addressing HIV/AIDS, to extending access to safe drinking water.
- ❖ The IBSA Fund has allocated \$50.6 million to date, supporting 45 projects across 37 countries of the global South.



ENVIRONMENT

Two New Species of 'Green Anacondas'

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a previously unknown species of the green anaconda, the largest and heaviest snake species on Earth.
- ❖ The green anaconda has long been considered one of the Amazon's most formidable and mysterious animals.
- ❖ Green anacondas are the world's heaviest snakes, and among the longest.
- ❖ They Predominantly found in rivers and wetlands in South America.
- ❖ Historically, four anaconda species have been recognised, including green anacondas (also known as giant anacondas).
- ❖ The first is the known species, *Eunectes murinus*, which lives in Perú, Bolivia, French Guiana and Brazil.
- ❖ They are known in the common name "southern green anaconda".
- ❖ The second and newly identified species is *Eunectes akayima* or "northern green anaconda".

- ❖ It is found in Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.



STATES

New Maratha Reservation Bill



- ❖ The Maharashtra Assembly passed a Maratha reservation bill, granting a 10 per cent quota in education and government jobs to the Maratha community.
- ❖ This marks the third time in a decade that the Maratha quota bill has been passed by the state government.
- ❖ Its previous bill was nullified by the Supreme Court on May 5, 2021.
- ❖ The Supreme Court's decision highlighted the absence of valid grounds to breach the 50 per cent reservation while granting the Maratha quota.

- ❖ The reservation is based on a report submitted to the state government by the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission (MSBCC).
- ❖ The report stated that the Marathas account for 28% of Maharashtra's population, and are in an "exceptional circumstances and extraordinary condition" of backwardness.
- ❖ To justify the attempt to breach the 50% cap, the bill has cited the case of 69% reservation in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Apart from Tamil Nadu, there's 67% in Haryana, 69% in Bihar, 55% in West Bengal, 59% in Gujarat.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Khajuraho Dance Festival



- ❖ The 50th Khajuraho Dance Festival kickstarts at the Khajuraho, in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district.
- ❖ The festival was started in 1975.
- ❖ It is organised every year in Khajuraho by the Culture Department through Ustad Alauddin's Music and Art Academy, Bhopal
- ❖ During the Kathak Kumbh, Khajuraho entered the Guinness World Records.
- ❖ A staggering 1484 participants simultaneously presented their talent amidst the ancient temples of Khajuraho.
- ❖ It is surpassing the previous record of 1204 participants.

Fali S Nariman

- ❖ Eminent jurist and senior Supreme Court advocate Fali Nariman died recently at New Delhi.

- ❖ He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1991 and Padma Vibhushan in 2007.
- ❖ He was appointed the Solicitor General of India in 1972, but he resigned in 1975.
- ❖ He was also the President of the Bar Association from 1991 to 2010.
- ❖ During his time, he left an imprint on the law and the legal profession in a vast array of landmark cases.
 - The Second Judges Case: Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India.
 - National Judicial Appointments Commission case
 - Parliament cannot curtail fundamental rights: I.C. Golak Nath v. State of Punjab
 - Bhopal gas tragedy: Union Carbide Corporation v. Union of India (1989)
 - Governor to act only upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers, chief minister: Nabam Rebia, and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker
 - Cauvery Water Dispute: State of Karnataka v State of Tamil Nadu.



Alexei Navalny

- ❖ Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny has died in the Arctic penal colony where he was serving a 19-year sentence.
- ❖ His Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) made detailed claims about the official corruption.
- ❖ In 2011, he would lead large street protests against President Putin.
- ❖ In 2017, he was barred from standing in the general election.

- ❖ At the time, he was widely regarded as the only candidate with a chance of challenging Russian President.



SPORTS

Khelo India University Games 2024

Rank	University	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total medals
1	Jain University, Karnataka	8	6	5	19
2	Chandigarh University	6	8	10	24
3	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	6	2	2	10
4	University of Kerala	5	1	2	8
5	Savitribai Phule Pune University	4	6	9	19
6	Adamas University	4	2	0	6
7	Utkal University	4	1	1	6
8	University of Mumbai	3	3	5	11
9	Saveetha Institute of Medical & Technical Sciences	3	0	0	3
10	University of Madras	2	5	4	11

- ❖ Over 200 Indian universities are competing for the KIUG 2024 title.
- ❖ Around 4,500 athletes are vying for 822 medals - 245 gold, 245 silver and 332 bronze - in 20 sports.
- ❖ Nagaland hosts the 4th edition of the Khelo India University Games at Kohima.
- ❖ This is the first time that the KIUG is being held in northeast India.



- ❖ Of the three KIUG editions so far, Chandigarh's Panjab University have won two and are also the defending champions.
- ❖ Karnataka's Jain University is the other winner.

