

January - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Thatchankurichi village in Pudukottai district is to be host Tamil Nadu's first jallikattu of 2024 on January 06.
- ❖ Priya Ravichandran, the first officer from the Fire and Rescue Services Department, has been inducted into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
 - She was the first woman officer inducted into the Fire and Rescue Services in Tamil Nadu and would be the first woman from the Fire and Rescue Services to be inducted into the IAS.
- ❖ Para-Military forces will completely switch to 'Sandes App' for all official communication and sharing of documents from the first week of January.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched 'MedTech Mitra (Medical Technology Mitra)'.
 - It aims to empower MedTech Innovators and advance healthcare solutions.
- ❖ With the world's largest grassroot oil refinery in Jamnagar and OPaL petrochemical complex at Dahej in Bharuch district, Gujarat is now recognised as the 'petro capital' of India.
- ❖ The new airport in Ayodhya has been named after sage poet Maharishi Valmiki.
 - Previously its name decided as Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport.

TAMIL NADU

PE-VC investments in Tamil Nadu 2023



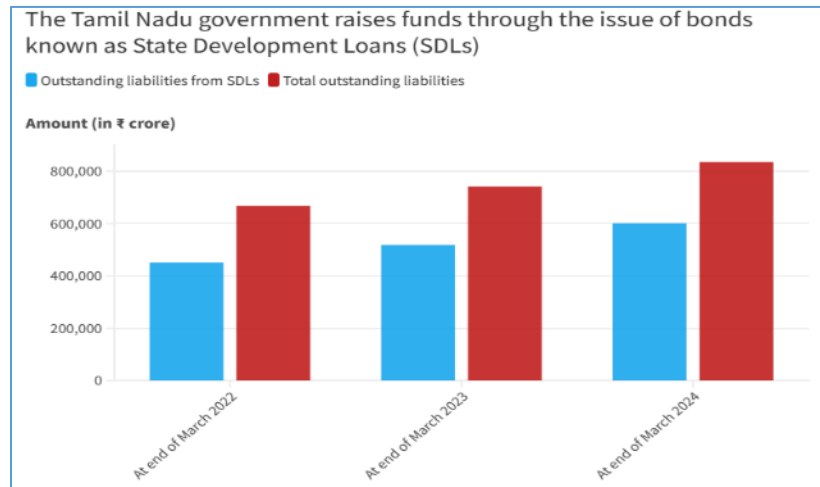
- ❖ Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE-VC) companies have invested \$1,378 million through 61 deals in Tamil Nadu-based firms in 2023.



- ❖ This is low about 49.65% compared to 2022.
- ❖ In 2022, PE-VC firms invested \$2,737 million through 75 deals.
- ❖ This year, the State witnessed 61 deals, compared to 81 in the previous year.

Tamil Nadu borrow in last quarter of 2023

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹37,000 crore in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2023-24.
- ❖ To bridge the income-expenditure gap (fiscal deficit), the State borrows from the market through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs).
- ❖ This forms a major part of its total outstanding liabilities.
- ❖ So far in fiscal 2023-24 (till December), the State government has raised ₹76,000 crore



NATIONAL

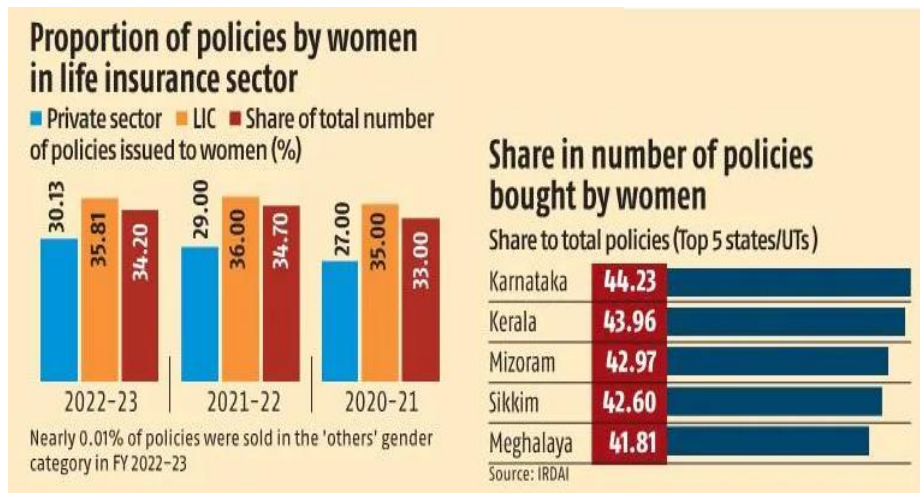
Litchi cultivation in India

- ❖ Litchi is now being cultivated across 19 Indian states.
- ❖ The sweet and juicy fruit earlier restricted to Muzaffarpur in Bihar.
- ❖ The fruit mainly grows in the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- ❖ Litchi cultivation is spread across over 32,000 hectares in Bihar alone.
- ❖ This accounts for nearly 40 per cent of India's litchi production.
- ❖ Bihar is followed by West Bengal (12 per cent of the total) and Jharkhand (10 per cent).

- ❖ Muzaffarpur of Bihar is known as the “Sweet City of India” due to its abundant production of litchis.
- ❖ Muzaffarpur is one of India’s leading litchi producers.



IRDAI annual report 2022-23



- ❖ The share of life insurance policies sold to women in India slightly decreased from 34.7 percent in 2021-22 to 34.2 percent in 2022-23.
- ❖ In the fiscal year 2022-23, the number of life insurance policies issued to women reached 97.38 lakh.
- ❖ Totally 2.84 crore policies are sold during the same period.
- ❖ Share of policies sold to women by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) was higher at 35.81 percent, compared to private life insurers’ 30.13 percent.

- ❖ Karnataka (44.23 percent), Kerala (43.96 percent), Mizoram (42.97 percent), Sikkim (42.6 percent), and Meghalaya (41.81 percent) emerged as the top states in terms of the share of life insurance policies issued to women.
- ❖ Ladakh (23.1 percent), Haryana (27.16 percent), Jammu & Kashmir (28.07 percent), Uttar Pradesh (29.53 percent), and Gujarat (29.59 percent) were among the states with lower percentages.

NTPS - One nation one pass

- ❖ The environment ministry launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS) as a "One Nation-One Pass" regime.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate seamless transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce across the country.
- ❖ Currently, transit permits are issued by different states based on state-specific transit rules.
- ❖ Since each state has its own regulations, one has to get a separate transit pass issued in every state.
- ❖ The entire process, therefore, makes it quite a time-consuming process, causing hurdles in transporting timber and forest products.



INTERNATIONAL

Argentina in BRICS

- ❖ Argentina has announced that it will not join the BRICS bloc of developing economies.
- ❖ This bloc is made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

- ❖ It announced it was admitting six new members in a bid to counter the Western-led global order.
- ❖ The membership of Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates was due to take effect from January 1, 2024.
- ❖ Argentina's new president's geopolitical alignment mostly with the United States and Israel.



ECONOMY

NSE investors data

- ❖ The number of investors in India went past the 8-crore mark in 2023.
- ❖ This registering a 22.4% jump from December 31, 2022.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh added the greatest number of new stock market investors for NSE in 2023.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- ❖ In percentage terms, Mizoram, at 55% showed the biggest jump but on a low base of 9,564 investors.
- ❖ Maharashtra has almost 1.5 crore investors, UP pipped Gujarat (77) with 90 lakh investors.
- ❖ Retail participation also saw spike in West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan.

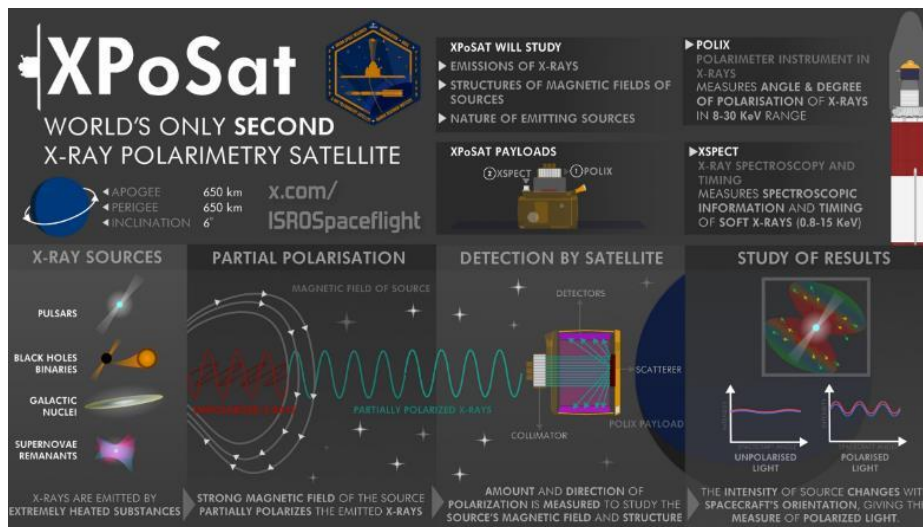
- ❖ The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd is the world's largest derivatives bourse by the number of contracts traded.

Investors

- NSE's investor base reached 8.5 crore by December 2023.
- Investor base increased from 7 crore to 8 crore in eight months to September 2023.
- Uttar Pradesh at second position in terms of total registered investors with 90 lakh investors as on December 29th, 2023.
- 99.85% pin codes covered in terms of investor registrations.
- 23 new Investors Services Centres (ISC) in 2023, taking the total to 42 across the country.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

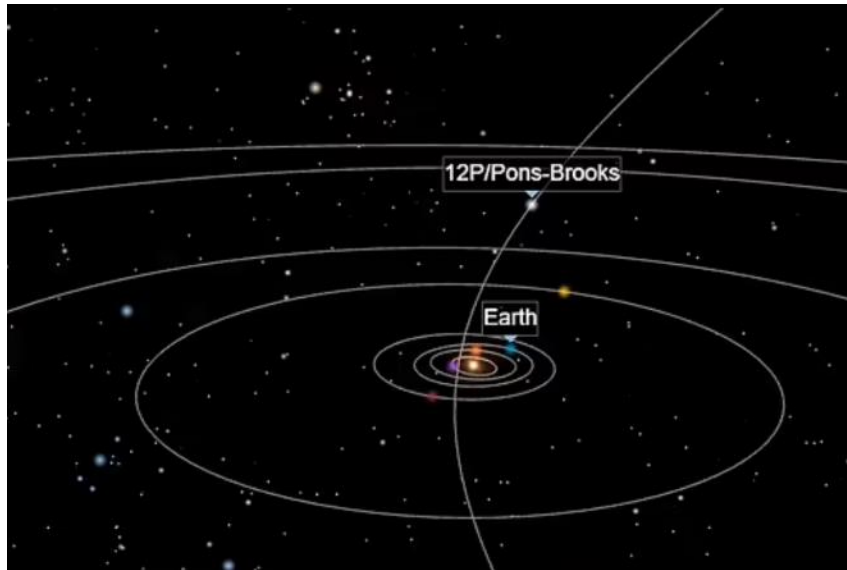
ISRO's PSLV-C58



- ❖ ISRO's PSLV-C58 has launched X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) into an Eastward low inclination orbit recently.
- ❖ XPoSat is the first dedicated scientific satellite from ISRO.
- ❖ It aims to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources.

- ❖ It carries two payloads, namely POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing).
- ❖ The PSLV also launched 10 payloads developed by start-ups, education institutions and ISRO centres.

Devil Comet



- ❖ The "Devil Comet," officially known as 12P, is currently making its way towards Earth and is anticipated to undergo a significant eruption soon.
- ❖ This comet is nearly three times the size of Mount Everest.
- ❖ It is classified as a cryovolcano, which means it erupts due to the build-up and ignition of gas and ice, much like a frozen soda can exploding.
- ❖ The comet is notably large, with a diameter of 18.6 miles, comparable to the size of a small city.
- ❖ It is a short-period comet, completing an orbit around the Sun approximately every 71.2 years, a pattern similar to the well-known Halley's Comet.
- ❖ Comets like this, with an orbital period of less than 200 years, are categorized as short-period comets.

STATES

New Vande Bharat Express

- ❖ New Vande Bharat train was launched between Bengaluru and Coimbatore recently.

- ❖ Karnataka got two new Vande Bharat Express trains newly.
- ❖ Vande Bharat trains between Bengaluru – Coimbatore and Mangaluru - Madgaon will be operated and with these new additions.
- ❖ Karnataka now has five Vande Bharat trains travelling to multiple destinations.

