

**January - 03**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ DRDO carried out a salvo launch test of two indigenous Pralay missiles from the same launcher.
- ❖ The Ministry of Science and Technology has developed new open-source software, Path Gennie, for fast tracking of drug discovery.
- ❖ Amieyra Khoslla clinched the gold medal in the Youth Girls (Under-17) category at the 29th National Sport Climbing Championship 2025.
- ❖ The Indian women's hockey team signed off 2025 with a silver medal at the Women's Asia Cup.
- ❖ Chinese Army (PLA) fired off rockets near Taiwan and conducted military drills, as part of its "Justice Mission 2025".
- ❖ The Centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script of the Santhali Language were held at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
  - Pandit Raghunath Murmu is considered the father of Ol Chiki script.
- ❖ The Karnataka Strategic & Intelligence Unit, will integrate APIs from universities, colleges, training institutions, and government databases.
  - This unified dataset will be processed by an AI layer to identify the emerging opportunities, sectoral gaps, and regional workforce needs.
- ❖ The Indian Army has successfully carried out India's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent.
  - The pioneering glaucoma procedure is marking a significant leap in the precision diagnosis and treatment of a leading cause of irreversible blindness.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Madurai and Camberley - Twin Cities ties**

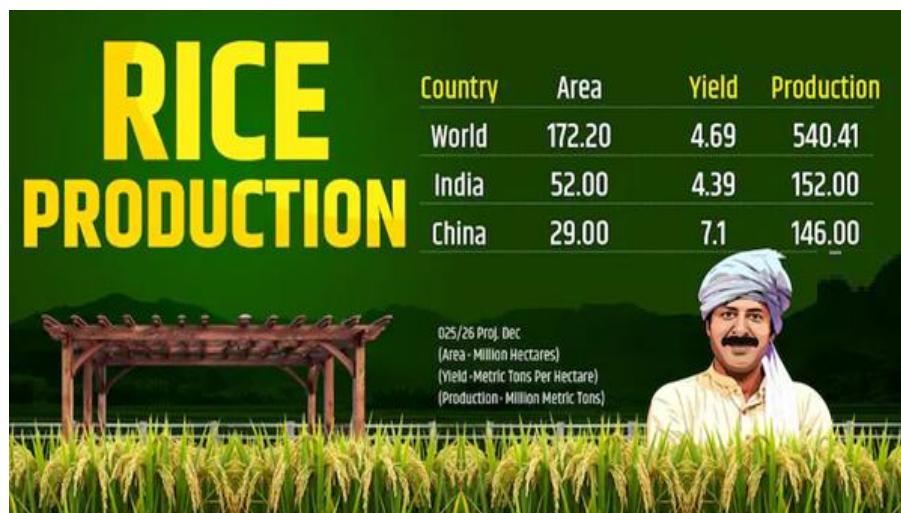
- ❖ Madurai is going to sign a Twin Cities Partnership with Camberley, a town in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ The partnership is a long-term collaboration between cities in different countries.
- ❖ It aimed at promoting cooperation in education and research, culture and heritage, tourism, economic development, and urban governance and sustainability.

- ❖ Through this initiative, students from Tamil Nadu will gain access to U.K. universities, exchange programmes, and joint research opportunities.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### World's largest rice producer 2025



- ❖ By overtaking China, India has reached number one in the world in terms of rice production.
- ❖ This is the first time India has overtaken China in rice production.
- ❖ India's rice production has reached 152 million metric tonnes, while China's output stands at 146 million metric tonnes.

- ❖ The country's share in total global rice production has crossed more than 28%.
- ❖ There are about 123,000 varieties of rice in the world, of which nearly 60,000 are found in India.
- ❖ In 2024–25, India exported agricultural produce worth a record Rs 450,840 crore, with rice accounting for the largest share of about 24%.

### **Ban on Oral Nimesulide**

- ❖ The central government has banned manufacture, sale and distribution of oral formulations of nimesulide containing more than 100 mg.
- ❖ It is a commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) prescribed for pain, fever and inflammation.
- ❖ The ban has been issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ Section 26A empowers the Centre to restrict or prohibit drugs that pose a risk to patients.



## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **New Currency Series – Syria**

- ❖ Syria's interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa unveiled the country's new banknotes.

- ❖ They removed images of ousted leader Bashar al-Assad and his father Hafez al-Assad.
- ❖ The new currency, which enters circulation on 1 January, features denominations of 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 Syrian pounds following the removal of two zeros from existing notes.
- ❖ By 2023, the exchange rate of Syrian pound had fallen to 15,000 pounds per dollar.



### Guinea presidential election



- ❖ Guinea coup leader Mamady Doumbouya has been elected president.
- ❖ This is the country's first election since a military takeover in 2021.
- ❖ He seized power from President Alpha Condé in 2021.
- ❖ Guinea holds the world's largest bauxite reserves and the vast untapped iron ore deposit at Simandou.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### IIP growth – November 2025

- ❖ Growth in the Index of Industrial Production surged to a 25-month high of 6.7% in November 2025.
- ❖ IIP's growth in November 2025 was last outpaced by the 11.9% seen in October 2023.
- ❖ IIP growth averaged 3.6% during October-November 2025, lower than the 4.3% expansion seen in the July-September 2025 quarter.
- ❖ The infrastructure and construction sector grew at 12.1% in November 2025, the fastest since October 2023.
- ❖ Both consumer durables and consumer non-durables sectors witnessed a rebound in growth in November 2025, growing 10.3% and 7.3%, respectively.

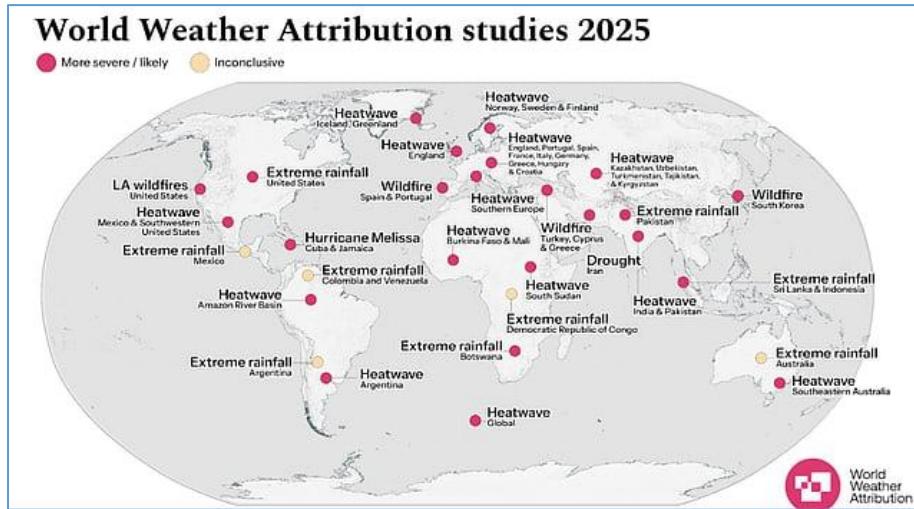


## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Weather Attribution Annual Report 2025

- ❖ Although 2025 did not surpass the global temperature record set in 2024, it will rank among the hottest years ever recorded.
- ❖ Since 2015, Heatwaves have become significantly more intense, with some events nearly 10 times more likely
- ❖ WWA identified 157 extreme weather events in 2025 that met its humanitarian impact criteria.

- ❖ Floods and heatwaves were the most frequent, with 49 events each, followed by storms, wildfires and droughts.



## STATES' NEWS

### Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary - Tiger reserve

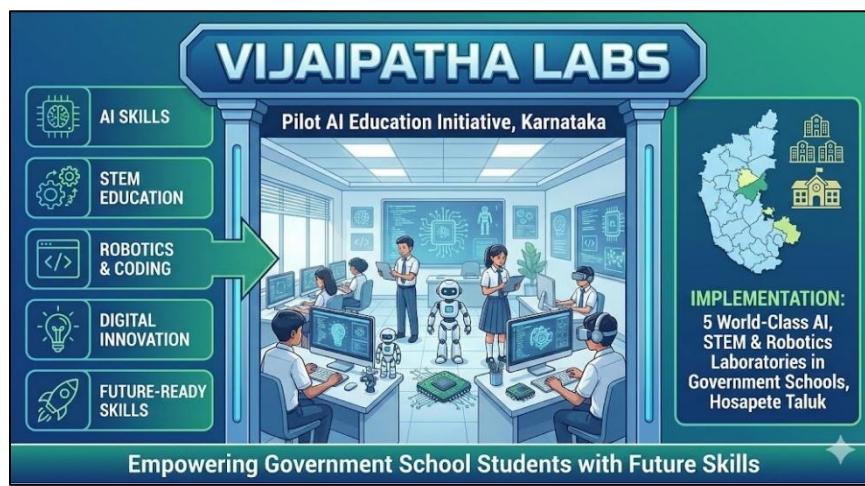


### Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary Set for Tiger Reserve Status After Nod from Bihar Forests Minister

- ❖ The Bihar government has approved a revised proposal to develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary into the state's second tiger reserve.
- ❖ Once approved, this will be Bihar's second tiger reserve after Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) of West Champaran district.
- ❖ Tiger Reserves are notified by State Governments as per provisions of Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ The proposal must be approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

### **'VijAIpatha' labs**

- ❖ 'VijAIpatha', a pilot Artificial Intelligence (AI) education initiative, is launched in Karnataka.
- ❖ It aimed at equipping government school students with future-ready skills in AI, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), robotics, coding and digital innovation.
- ❖ As part of the pilot project, five world-class AI, STEM and Robotics laboratories are being set up in government schools in Hosapete taluk.



## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **Piprahwa relics**



- ❖ The exposition of the sacred Piprahwa Relics was hosted in Delhi.
- ❖ They are believed to be associated with the mortal remains of Lord Buddha.

- ❖ The Piprahwa relics were discovered in 1898 by British civil engineer William Claxton Peppé in Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ most of the relics were handed over to British colonial authorities and placed in the Indian Museum in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1899.
- ❖ However, under the Indian Treasure Trove Act of 1878, Peppe was allowed to retain about one-fifth portion of the findings.
- ❖ In the years that followed, parts of the relics were gifted to Buddhist-majority countries like Thailand, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ In 2025, Indian government negotiated a deal that secured the relics' permanent return to India after 127 Years.

### **150<sup>th</sup> international convention of Theosophical Society**



- ❖ The 150th international convention, celebrated under the theme of 'One World, One life - The spirit of new humanity', at the Adyar.
- ❖ The Theosophical Society was started by Madame H.P. Blavatsky and Colonel H.S. Olcott in New York in 1875.
- ❖ The Theosophical Society moved to Adyar, Madras on December 19, 1882.
- ❖ Dr. Annie Besant entered the society in 1889, she became the president in 1903.

