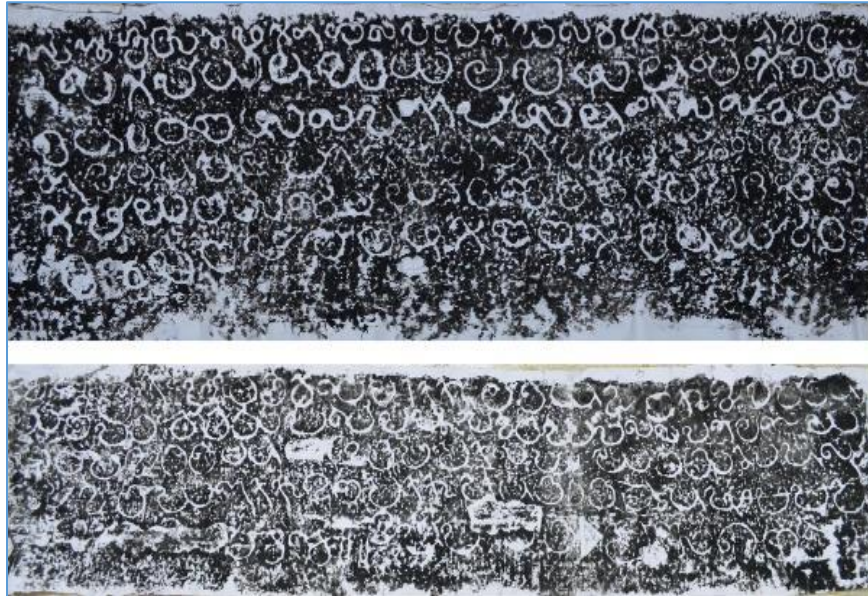


January - 04

## TAMIL NADU

### A Jain learning center

- ❖ A site at Pulloor, near Kariapatti in Virudhunagar district is believed to have housed a Samana palli in the 8th Century to 10th Century CE.
- ❖ At least four inscriptions have been found at the site.
- ❖ One of the inscriptions mentions that 50 goats were donated during the fourth regnal year of a Pandyan ruler named Maran Sadaiyan.
- ❖ Another inscription in the Vattezhuthu script refers to a donation of 25 goats made by one Palathuraikudi Gopalan during the 12th regnal year of Raja Raja Chola, which was 997 CE.



## NATIONAL

### 66<sup>th</sup> DRDO foundation Day

- ❖ The organisation was founded on January 1 in the year 1958.
- ❖ It was formed from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).

- ❖ Starting with 10 laboratories, DRDO has now grown to a network of 52 plus laboratories.



### **India's First Submarine Tourism**



- ❖ The Gujarat government is set to introduce India's first submarine tourism.
- ❖ It will explore the marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka, a small island off the coast of Dwarka city.
- ❖ The project is on the lines of the Titanic submersible expedition.

- ❖ It will enable tourists to dive 100 metres below the sea in a submarine to experience the marine life around the island.
- ❖ The place is believed to have a submerged city, which was created by Lord Krishna, according to mythological texts.

## INTERNATIONAL

### BRICS expansion 2024

- ❖ Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Ethiopia joined the ranks of the BRICS group on January 1.
- ❖ The five countries were to join the group in August 2023 at the 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ❖ Argentina was also invited but backed out at the end of December.
- ❖ The BRICS group of emerging countries was formed in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India and China, with South Africa joining in 2010.



## ECONOMY

### Domestic systemically important banks 2023

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has released the latest list of domestic Systemically important banks (D-SIBs).
- ❖ RBI has retained State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks.

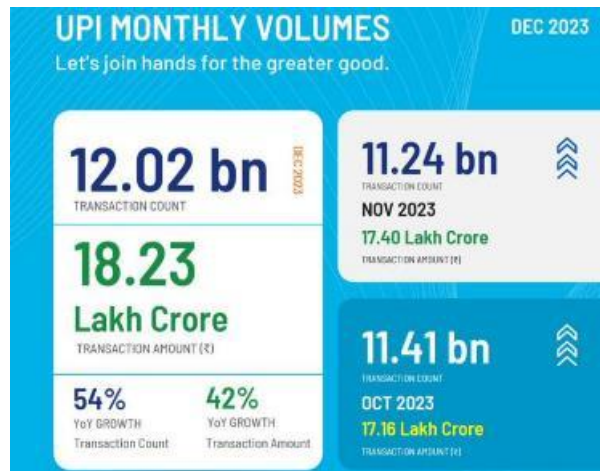
- ❖ The Reserve Bank had announced SBI and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in 2015 and 2016.
- ❖ The D-SIB framework requires the Reserve Bank to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015.
- ❖ RBI places these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).

The list of D-SIBs is as follows:

Bucket	Banks	Additional Common Equity Tier 1 requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs)
5	-	1%
4	State Bank of India*	0.80%
3	-	0.60%
2	HDFC Bank*	0.40%
1	ICICI Bank	0.20%

\* The higher D-SIB surcharge for SBI and HDFC Bank will be applicable from April 1, 2025. Hence, up to March 31, 2025, the D-SIB surcharge applicable to SBI and HDFC Bank will be 0.60% and 0.20% respectively.

### UPI transactions 2023



- ❖ UPI ended 2023 at a high, creating a new record in terms of both the transaction count and value.

- ❖ There were over 1,200 crore transactions in December and they were worth more than Rs 18 lakh crore.
- ❖ It is a marginal increase as compared to the already peaked Rs 17.4 lakh crore in November 2023.
- ❖ Over 11,765 UPI transactions worth Rs 182.2 lakh crore were processed in 2023.
- ❖ It is up 59% in terms of volume and 45% in terms of value compared with 2022.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Tiger at Neora Valley National Park

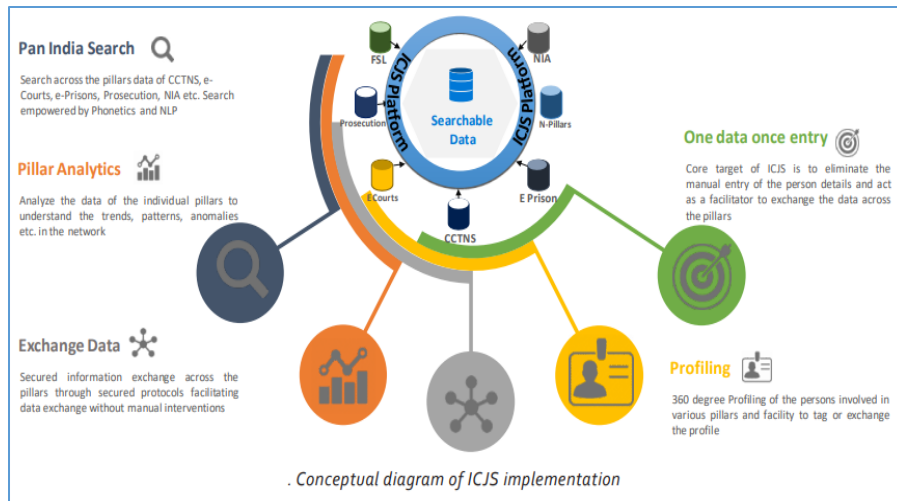


- ❖ The Royal Bengal Tiger was found at the Neora Valley National Park in the hills of West Bengal.
- ❖ This has confirmed the presence of the big cats at an altitude of 10,509 feet above sea level.
- ❖ Neora Valley National Park is located in the Kalimpong district of West Bengal.
- ❖ It is one of the richest biological zones in the entire Northeast.

- ❖ It links the Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim and the Toorsa Strict Reserve of Bhutan.
- ❖ According to the latest count, there are 101 tigers in West Bengal.
- ❖ All tigers have been tracked in the Sunderbans Tiger Belt and its surrounding areas.

## STATES

### Usage of Criminal Justice Data Platform



- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has ranked first for the third consecutive year in recording the highest entry rate on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform.
- ❖ UP has recorded 1.56 crore entries on the ICJS platform so far.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is in the second place with 35 lakh entries and Bihar third with 16 lakh entries.
- ❖ ICJS is conceptualized by the Supreme Court's e-committee and implemented by the ministry of home affairs.
- ❖ This platform facilitates seamless transfer of data and information among various pillars of the criminal justice system nationwide.
- ❖ In these, data related to crime and criminals is exchanged between courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories through a single window system.

### ULFA Peace Accord

- ❖ The United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) signed a historic tripartite peace deal with the Government of India and the state government of Assam.

- ❖ United Liberation Front of Assam was launched during the anti-foreigner's movement of 1979.
- ❖ The Assam Accord, seeking to “find a satisfactory solution to the problem of foreigners in Assam”, was signed in 1985.
- ❖ In 1990, the Centre launched Operation Bajrang, leading to the arrest of 1,221 ULFA insurgents.
- ❖ Assam was declared a ‘disturbed area’, President’s rule was imposed and Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was invoked.
- ❖ In 1992, one faction, later christened as Surrendered ULFA (SULFA), offered to surrender and engage in dialogue with the government.
- ❖ Some ULFA commanders like Arabinda Rajkhowa proposed peace talks with the government called as Rajkhowa-led pro-talk ULFA faction.
- ❖ The faction led by Paresh Baruah, known as ULFA-I, has not joined the peace process.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Leap Year 2024

- ❖ 2024 is a leap year.
- ❖ It means this year will have 366 days instead of 365, and the February month, will have 29 days instead of 28.
- ❖ Generally, a leap year comes every four years.
- ❖ The last leap year was 2020.

- ❖ But the leap year does not come every four years, making a few years an exception.
- ❖ The Earth takes 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds to complete one revolution around the Sun.
- ❖ Thus, scholars, engaged by Roman General Julius Caesar in 46 BC, rounded the year to 365 days.
- ❖ They multiplied the remaining six hours by four to make it 24 hours (one day) and added it to every fourth year.
- ❖ Later, it was decided that the years ending with 00, which were divisible by 400, would be called leap years.
- ❖ Thus, 1900 and 2100 will not be counted as leap years, but 2000 was.

