

January - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 72nd National Volleyball Tournament is being held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ India has launched a new e-Production Investment Business Visa (e-B-4) for Chinese nationals, allowing them to stay in India for up to six months.
- ❖ Venezuela's National Assembly appointed Delcy Rodriguez as interim President.
- ❖ The first phase of the Bhogapuram International Greenfield Airport project in Andhra Pradesh has been officially launched.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has opened its first Braille library dedicated to visually impaired persons.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Impact of Green Manuring

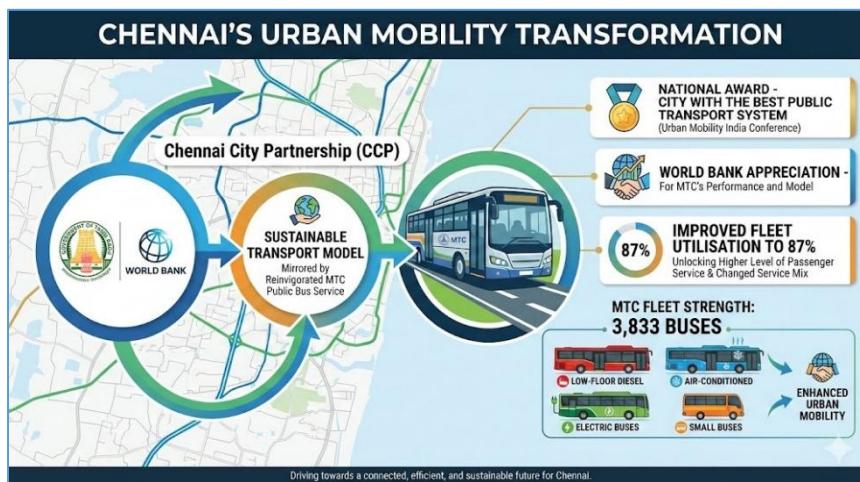


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government reviewed the impact of green manuring under the Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme promotes green manuring, where specific crops are grown and mixed into the soil to improve soil health.

- ❖ Green manure seeds were supplied to farmers across all districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Impact studies have showed an increase in soil nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.
- ❖ Fields using green manuring showed better soil structure and water-holding capacity, especially in paddy cultivation.
- ❖ The practice helped in reducing chemical fertiliser use and improving sustainable farming.

Chennai's Urban Mobility Transformation

- ❖ The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has won appreciation from World Bank.
- ❖ The Chennai City Partnership (CCP) signed between the Tamil Nadu government and World Bank for creating a sustainable transport model by mirroring the public bus service getting reinvigorated through MTC.
- ❖ Through this plan, MTC would be able to unlock a higher level of passenger service by changing the service mix, improving fleet utilisation to 87%.
- ❖ MTC recently got the national award for being the “City with the best public transport system” in the Urban Mobility India conference.
- ❖ MTC has a fleet strength of 3,833 comprising low-floor diesel, air-conditioned, electric and small buses.



Health Benefits of Fermented Rice

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is increasing public awareness about the health benefits of fermented rice after a five-year research study.

- ❖ The research was conducted by the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital (SMCH), Chennai.
- ❖ The study found that the fermented rice (Pazhaiya Soru) contains dietary fibre, resistant starch, protein, and micronutrients.
- ❖ It provides minerals such as iron, zinc, selenium, and B-complex vitamins.
- ❖ The food contains beneficial bacteria that support gut health.
- ❖ It helps in recovery from gastrointestinal disorders, including irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).



Health Dept rolls out research on 'Pazhaya Soru'

Tamilnadu Department of Health has rolled out a research on 'Fermented Rice' which we call 'Pazhayadhu or Pazhaya Soru'. For quite some time the doctors have been prescribing it for patients who come with IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease) as the good bacteria in it helped in maintaining the imbalance which was causing IBD. Now a formal study in a cost of 2.7 crores has been started to formalise a proper way of making it like choosing the best quality rice for it.

UNICEF-Tamil Nadu Partnership

- ❖ UNICEF has signed a landmark partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu as its first-ever sub-national government partner globally.
- ❖ "Sub-National Partner" means UNICEF is officially working with a state government (Tamil Nadu) instead of only the national government.
- ❖ The agreement aims to strengthen public sector innovation and scale evidence-based solutions for children and communities.
- ❖ UNICEF's Office of Innovation will support technical capacity and innovation within Tamil Nadu's public systems.

- ❖ This collaboration is the first of its kind between UNICEF Innovation and any sub-national government in the world.



UNICEF Taps Tamil Nadu as First Sub-National Partner

The UNICEF Office of Innovation in Sweden has selected Tamil Nadu as the first sub-national entity globally for a partnership, proposing a six-month tripartite agreement with the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission.

This initiative is designed to align with Tamil Nadu's long-term vision, focusing on enhancing inclusive social development and streamlining public service delivery.

NATIONAL NEWS

Live Events Development Cell

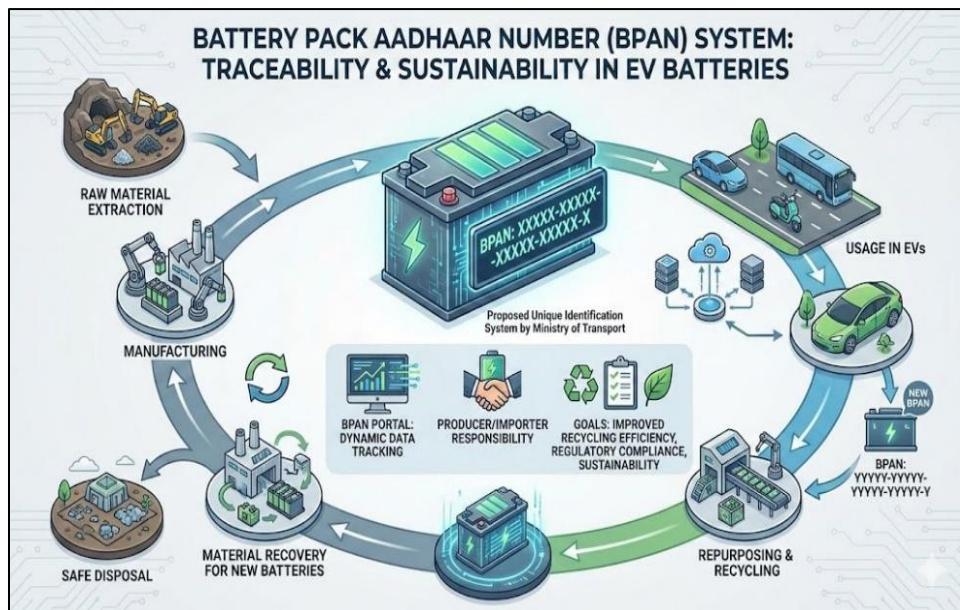


Government Sets Up Live Events Development Cell to Power India's Rapidly Growing Concert Economy

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up the Live Events Development Cell (LEDC) to promote India's concert economy.

- ❖ The LEDC was constituted in July 2025 as a single-window facilitation system for live events.
- ❖ It aims to support the growth of concerts, live shows, and entertainment events across India.
- ❖ India's organised live events market was valued at ₹20,861 crore in 2024.
- ❖ The sector is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18%.
- ❖ Live events generate large-scale employment and support tourism and cultural activities.

Battery Pack Aadhaar Number



- ❖ The Ministry of Transport has proposed a unique Aadhaar-like identification system for electric vehicle (EV) batteries.
- ❖ Under the draft guidelines, each EV battery must be assigned a 21-character Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) by the producer or importer.
- ❖ The BPAN system will allow complete traceability of batteries from raw material extraction and manufacturing to usage, recycling, and final disposal.
- ❖ Producers and importers must also upload the battery's dynamic data on the official BPAN portal for tracking.
- ❖ If a battery is recycled or repurposed, a new BPAN will be issued by the same or a new producer.
- ❖ The system aims to improve recycling efficiency, regulatory compliance, and sustainability in the battery ecosystem.

India's Russian Oil Imports

- ❖ India's oil imports from Russia rose to a six-month high in November 2025, while imports from the US also increased.
- ❖ India imported 7.7 million tonnes of oil from Russia, accounting for 35.1% of total oil imports in November 2025.
- ❖ This was the highest level since May 2025 and was higher than imports in November 2024.
- ❖ In value terms, India imported \$3.7 billion worth of Russian oil in November 2025.
- ❖ Oil imports from the US rose to a seven-month high, making up about 12.6% of India's oil imports.
- ❖ Together, Russia and the US accounted for nearly half of India's total oil imports in November 2025.



Coke Trade Policy

- ❖ The Government of India has removed the import restrictions on low-ash metallurgical coke.
- ❖ The decision was notified by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ Low ash metallurgical coke refers to coke with an ash content of less than 18%.
- ❖ The relaxation also covers coke fines, coke breeze, and ultra-low phosphorous metallurgical coke.

- ❖ Metallurgical coke is an essential raw material for steel production, especially in blast furnaces.
- ❖ The move aims to ensure adequate supply and control input costs for the domestic steel industry.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global Governance Initiative



- ❖ China has reiterated its Global Governance Initiative (GGI) as the core of its four global initiatives.
- ❖ The GGI is China's proposal to reform the existing global governance system.
- ❖ It aims to make global governance more inclusive, representative, and people-centred.

- ❖ The GGI calls for greater participation of developing countries in international decision-making.
- ❖ It supports the reform of international institutions and cooperation on climate change, trade, finance, and artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The initiative seeks to ensure that the benefits of globalisation reach all countries and people.

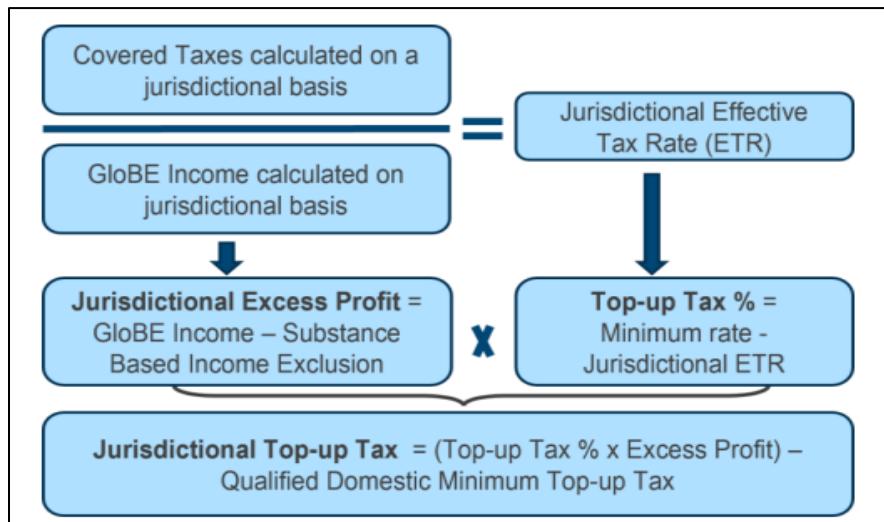
Monroe Doctrine



- ❖ US President Donald Trump invoked the Monroe Doctrine to justify a US military operation in Venezuela.
- ❖ The doctrine continues to affect modern geopolitics and international relations.
- ❖ The Monroe Doctrine was announced in 1823 by US President James Monroe.
- ❖ It stated that European countries should not interfere in the affairs of the Western Hemisphere.
- ❖ In return, the US declared that it would not interfere in European political matters.
- ❖ The doctrine aimed to protect newly independent Latin American countries from European colonisation.

Global Minimum Tax Agreement

- ❖ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 countries agreed on a global minimum tax package.
- ❖ The tax targets the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) by the multinational enterprises.
- ❖ Pillar One reallocates taxing rights to countries where profits are earned.
- ❖ Pillar Two sets a global minimum corporate tax of 15% to prevent tax competition.
- ❖ The package includes simplification measures, safe harbours, and substance-based tax incentives.
- ❖ India is a member of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, launched in 2016 with 147 countries.



ECONOMY NEWS

Delhi Financial Governance Reforms

- ❖ The Delhi Government signed a historic MoU with the RBI.
- ❖ This brings Delhi under the RBI's full banking, cash, and debt management framework for the first time.
- ❖ Under the MoU, RBI will act as Delhi's banker, debt manager, and financial agent.
- ❖ The framework allows market borrowings through State Development Loans, automatic investment of surplus cash, and access to low-cost liquidity facilities.
- ❖ The Professional cash management practices will improve efficiency and reduce borrowing costs.

- ❖ The initiative strengthens fiscal discipline, transparency, and long-term financial sustainability in Delhi's governance.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Taimoor Missile



- ❖ Pakistan Air Force has successfully conducted a flight test of the Taimoor air-launched cruise missile with a range of 600 kilometres.
- ❖ Taimoor is an indigenously developed missile system designed to strengthen Pakistan's defence capability.
- ❖ The missile is capable of striking both land and sea targets with high accuracy.

- ❖ The missile follows a low-altitude flight path, which helps it evade enemy air defence systems.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Reed Snake Species



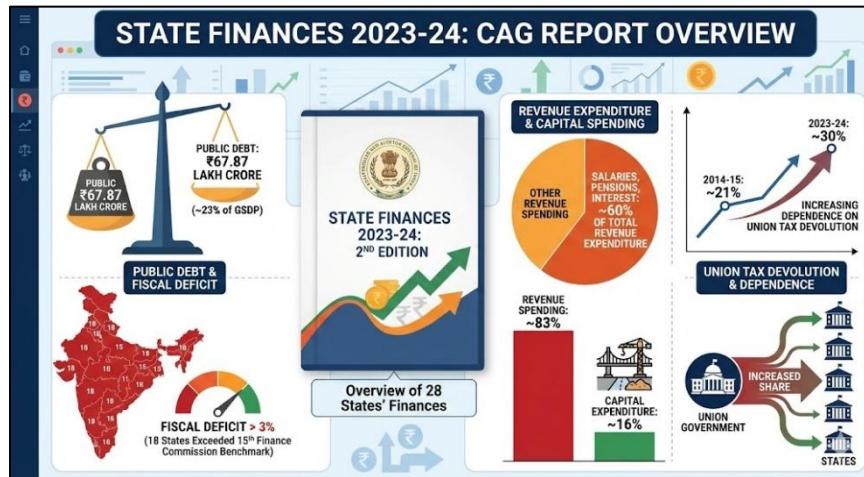
- ❖ A new non-venomous reed snake named *Calamaria mizoramensis* was discovered in Mizoram.
- ❖ The species belongs to the genus *Calamaria*, which currently has 69 recognized species worldwide.
- ❖ *Calamaria mizoramensis* is nocturnal and semi-fossorial, inhabiting humid forested hills at altitudes ranging from 670 to 1,295 metres above sea level.

REPORTS AND INDICES

State Finances 2023-24

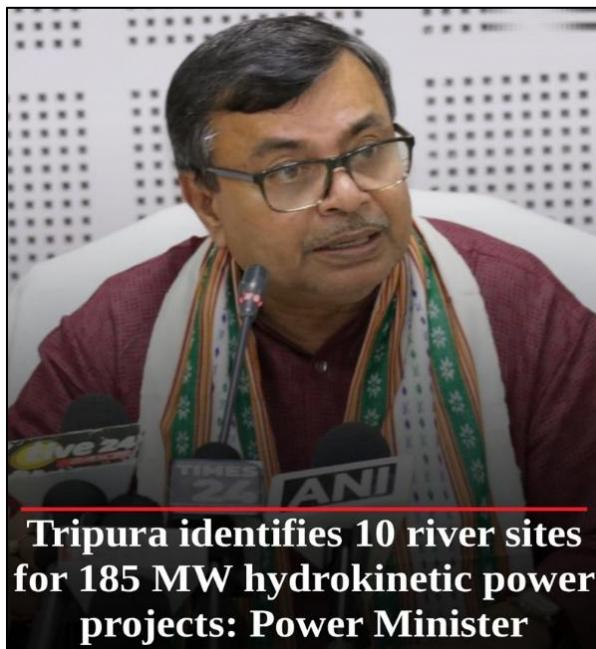
- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India released the second edition of the 'State Finances 2023-24' report.
- ❖ The report presents an overview of the finances of all 28 States for the financial year 2023-24.
- ❖ Public debt of States stood at ₹67.87 lakh crore, about 23% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- ❖ The Eighteen States have exceeded the fiscal deficit benchmark of 3% of GSDP recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
- ❖ Revenue expenditure on salaries, pensions, and interest consumed around 60% of total revenue expenditure.

- ❖ Dependence on Union tax devolution rose from ~21% in 2014-15 to ~30% in 2023-24.
- ❖ Capital expenditure remained low at about 16% of revenue expenditure, while revenue spending dominated at 83%.



STATES' NEWS

Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology

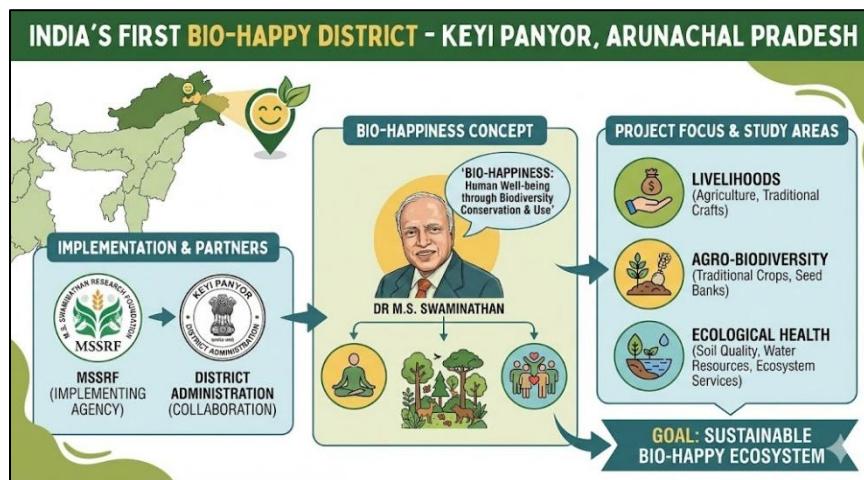


- ❖ The Tripura government identified 10 river sites to generate about 185 megawatts of power using hydrokinetic turbine technology.

- ❖ Hydrokinetic technology produces electricity from the kinetic energy of flowing water, such as rivers and canals.
- ❖ These turbines work without dams or water storage and are placed directly in the river stream.
- ❖ Power is generated when flowing water rotates the turbine blades, which convert motion into electricity.
- ❖ The technology causes minimal environmental impact and does not lead to land submergence.

India's First Bio-Happy District - Keyi Panyor

- ❖ Keyi Panyor district in Arunachal Pradesh is set to become India's first Bio-Happy District.
- ❖ The project is being implemented by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in collaboration with the district administration.
- ❖ Bio-Happiness is a concept coined by Dr M.S. Swaminathan, a renowned agricultural scientist.
- ❖ It focuses on human well-being through the conservation and use of biodiversity.
- ❖ The project will study livelihoods, agro-biodiversity, and ecological health of the district.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Earth's Rotation Day 2026 – January 08

- ❖ Earth's Rotation Day is observed on January 8, 2026, marking 175 years of Léon Foucault's pendulum demonstration (1851).

- ❖ The day remembers Léon Foucault, a French physicist, who experimentally proved that the Earth rotates on its axis.
- ❖ He used Foucault's Pendulum, a long-suspended lead ball, to show Earth's rotation through its changing swing direction.
- ❖ The Earth completes one full rotation in about 24 hours, which creates day and night.
- ❖ This discovery helped improve scientific understanding of astronomy, weather patterns, and ocean currents.

