



January - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) hosting the first meeting of recently constituted Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) in Kolkata.
- ❖ SVAMITVA Scheme had won the prestigious Gold Prize in National Awards for e-Governance 2023 in the category “Use of Emerging Technology for Providing Citizen-Centric Services”.
- ❖ The country’s first healthy & hygienic food street, ‘Prasadam’, was inaugurated in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Assam government launched 'Baayu,' an app-based 100% electric bike taxi service.
- ❖ Kerala’s Suchetha Satish performed in a total of 140 languages during a concert titled Concert for Climate in Dubai, UAE.
 - He bagged the Guinness World Record for this.
- ❖ Senior diplomat of India Indra Mani Pandey assumed the position of Secretary General (SG) of BIMSTEC.
- ❖ Microsoft has unveiled a new initiative, the AI Odyssey.
 - It was designed to equip 1,00,000 developers in India with AI technologies and tools.
- ❖ ONGC commenced its ‘first oil production’ from the deep-water KG-DWN 98/2 Block in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin off the Bay of Bengal on the Kakinada coast, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Gabriel Attal becomes France's youngest and first openly gay prime minister.
 - He replaced Élisabeth Borne, the second women PM of France.
- ❖ Germany defeated Poland in the tennis final to win the 2024 United Cup.

NATIONAL

Work4Food: Algorithm

- ❖ IIT Delhi have proposed a solution to ensure fair compensation for food delivery agents and minimise the platform costs.
- ❖ The solution called 'Work4Food' was recently presented at the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

- ❖ They have developed an order-assignment algorithm (determines which delivery agent gets which order) to ensure that each delivery person earns more than the minimum wage.



Shark Meat Consumption

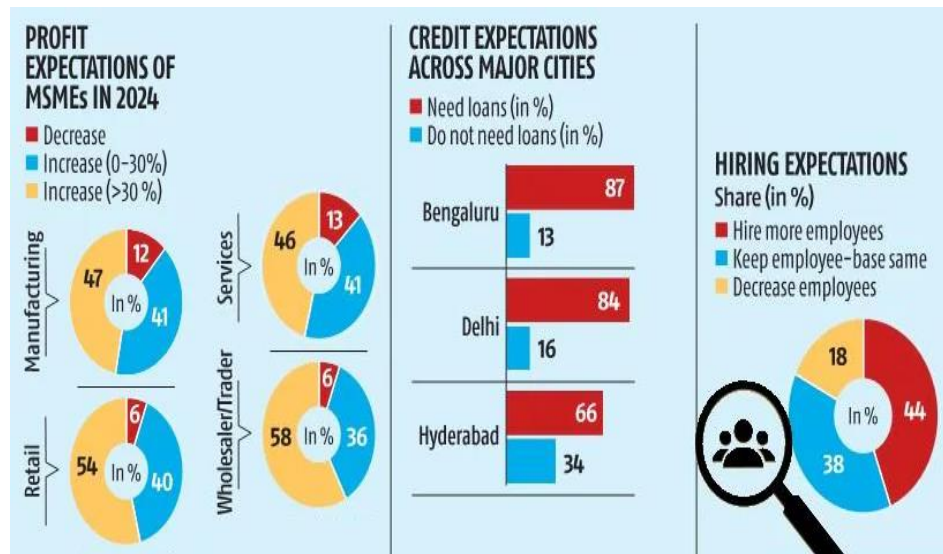


- ❖ The meat of sharks and rays for long is consumed by tribal and coastal people in India.
- ❖ India has banned the live-finning of sharks and also the export of fins of all shark and ray species.
- ❖ Ten species are completely protected from any fishing and trade.

- ❖ But fishing of sharks and rays is continuing, driven in part by legal local meat consumption.
- ❖ Goa had the highest percentage of shark and ray meat selling restaurants (35.8 per cent), followed by Tamil Nadu (34.6 per cent) and Maharashtra (4.6 per cent).
- ❖ Goa and Tamil Nadu together accounted for 70 per cent of all restaurants serving shark meat in India.
- ❖ Some 251.6 tonnes of shark meat are sold every year in India's restaurants.

ECONOMY

MSMEs in India: report

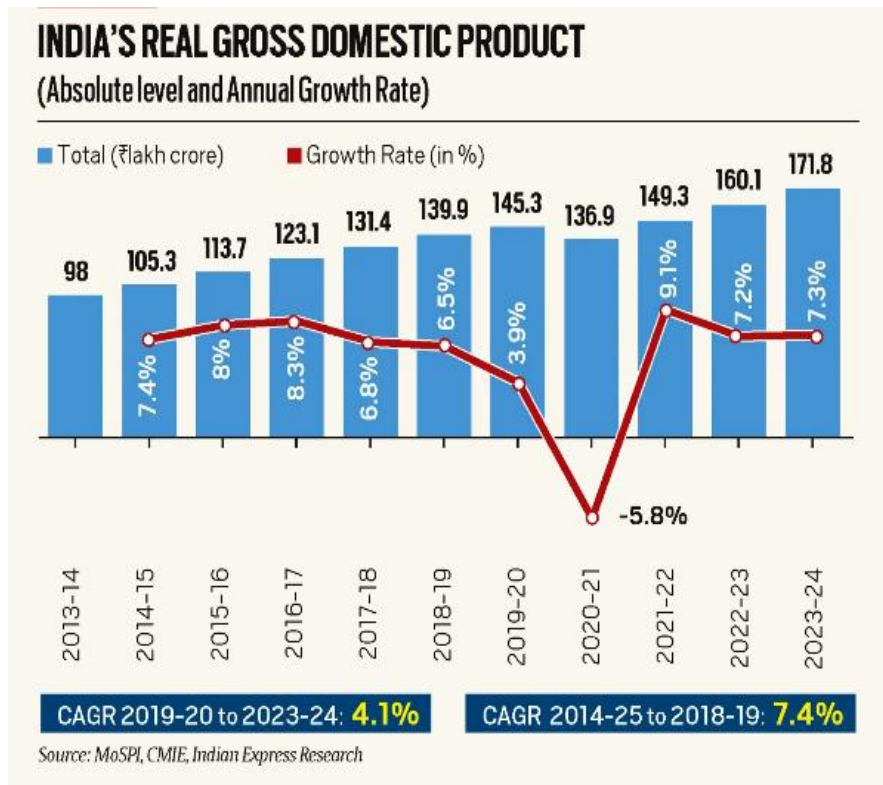


- ❖ As of December 2023, there are over 3 crore MSMEs registered in the country, according to government data.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh collectively contribute nearly 40 per cent of all registered micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh holds a 9 per cent share in the national MSME landscape.
- ❖ The strategic opportunity for Indian MSMEs in the construction sector is contributing approximately 8 per cent to the GDP.

First Advance Estimates of India's GDP for 2023-24

- ❖ The First Advance Estimates (FAEs) was released by the government recently.
- ❖ India's GDP will grow by 7.3% in the current financial year (2023-24) is slightly faster than the 7.2% growth in 2022-23.

- ❖ The growth in Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy eases slightly from 7% in 2022-23 to 6.9% this year.
- ❖ Nominal GDP growth at 8.9% is compared to the 10.5% Budget estimate.
- ❖ This could translate into the fiscal deficit breaching the year's 5.9% of GDP target to hit around 6%, economists cautioned.
- ❖ GVA growth for the farm sector is estimated to more than halve from 4% a year ago to 1.8% this year.
- ❖ The FAE are presented at the end of the first week of January every year.
- ❖ They are only the first estimates of growth for that financial year.



ENVIRONMENT

Micro and Nano plastics in Bottled Water

- ❖ Each litre of bottled water contains 110,000 to 370,000 plastic particles.
- ❖ This is approximately three to ten times higher than prior maximum estimates.
- ❖ About 90 per cent of them are nanosized (less than 1 micro meter in size)
- ❖ These nano plastics are even smaller than microplastics and pose a greater risk to human health.

- ❖ Unlike microplastics (5mm to 1 micro meter), nano plastics can move from the intestines and lungs directly into the bloodstream before reaching the heart and brain.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Creative Arts Emmy Awards



- ❖ Barack Obama won his second Emmy, and John Mulaney won his third of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards.

- ❖ Obama has two Grammys for his voice work on the audiobooks of his two memoirs.
- ❖ “HBO’s The Last of Us” has walked away with the eight awards.
- ❖ The Bear, Wednesday, and The White Lotus all tied with four each.

SPORTS

David warner retirement

- ❖ Warner announced his retirement from One Day International (ODI) on January 1, 2024, and from Test cricket on January 6, 2024.
- ❖ He made his ODI debut in 2009 against South Africa.
- ❖ He had played 161 ODIs, scoring 6,932 runs, and 111 Tests, amassing 8,695 runs.
- ❖ He is ‘Australia’s fifth-leading run-scorer in Test history.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 - January 09

- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is also known as NRI Day (Non-Resident Indian).
- ❖ This day marks the contribution and achievements of overseas Indians in various fields, fostering a strong connection between the homeland and its diasporic communities.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is Connecting for a Brighter Tomorrow.

- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was first introduced in 2003.
- ❖ The day holds historical significance as it marks the return of MK Gandhi to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915.

A PERSON OF INDIAN ORIGIN (PIO)	PIO VS OCI	OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Means a foreign citizen (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal) ➤ A foreign citizen whose one of the parents/ grandparents/ great grandparents was born and a permanent resident of India ➤ Who is a spouse of a citizen of India or a PIO 		<p>A foreign national, who was eligible to become citizen of India on 26.01.1950 or was a citizen of India on or at anytime after 26.01.1950 or belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15.08.1947 is eligible for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI). Minor children of such person are also eligible for OCI. However, if the applicant had ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, he/she will not be eligible for OCI.</p>
BENEFITS		BENEFITS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PIO card holders do not require a visa to visit India for a period of 15 years from the date of issue of the PIO card. 2. They are exempted from registration at FRRO/ FRO if their stay does not exceeds 180 days. In case if the stay exceeds 180 days, they shall have to register with FRRO/ FRO within the next 30 days 3. They enjoy parity with NRIs in economic, financial and educational benefits 4. All future benefits that would be exempted to NRIs would also be available to the PIO card holders 		<p>OCIs are entitled to a multipurpose, multiple entry, lifelong visa allowing them to visit India at any time, for any length of time and for any purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exempted from police reporting for any length of stay in the country ➤ Have also been granted all rights in the economic, financial and education fields in parity with NRIs except, the right to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties

MISCELLANEOUS

Paleolithic Tools in Telangana



- ❖ Paleolithic tools, including a stone axe and stone ornament were found in a stream between Gurrevula and Bhupathipuram villages in Telangana's Mulugu district.

- ❖ Experts have confirmed that the tool was dated to early Stone Age.
- ❖ Palaeolithic Age is also known as Palaeolithic Age or Old Stone Age or early Stone Age.
- ❖ It dates back to 33 lakh years BC and lasted for 10,000 years.

Maori haka



- ❖ New Zealand's youngest MP Hana-Rawhiti Maipi Clarke delivered a captivating maiden speech.
- ❖ She has delivered her first speech performing the 'Maori haka' to honor her indigenous roots.
- ❖ The 21-year-old member of the Maori community, Hana-Rawhiti Maipi Clarke, made history as the youngest MP in 170 years.
- ❖ Maori are the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand, originating with settlers from East Polynesia.
- ❖ They arrived in New Zealand in several waves of canoe voyages between 1320 and 1350.
- ❖ They are the second-largest ethnic group in New Zealand after the European New Zealanders.
- ❖ The Maori language is spoken to some extent by about a fifth of all Maori representing three percent of the total population.
- ❖ The traditional Maori performance of haka is a source of absolute pride for all New Zealanders.

