

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**

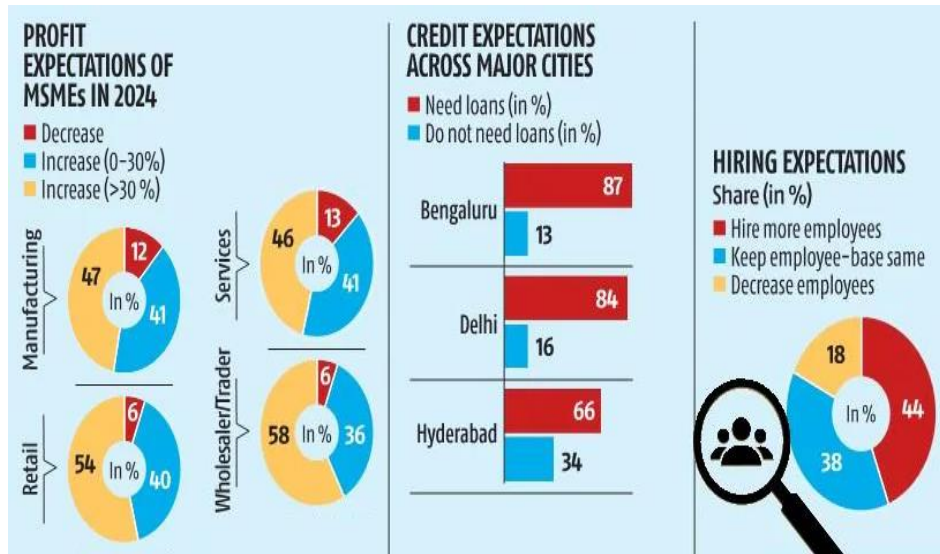


- ❖ The meat of sharks and rays for long is consumed by tribal and coastal people in India.
- ❖ India has banned the live-finning of sharks and also the export of fins of all shark and ray species.
- ❖ Ten species are completely protected from any fishing and trade.

- ❖ 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

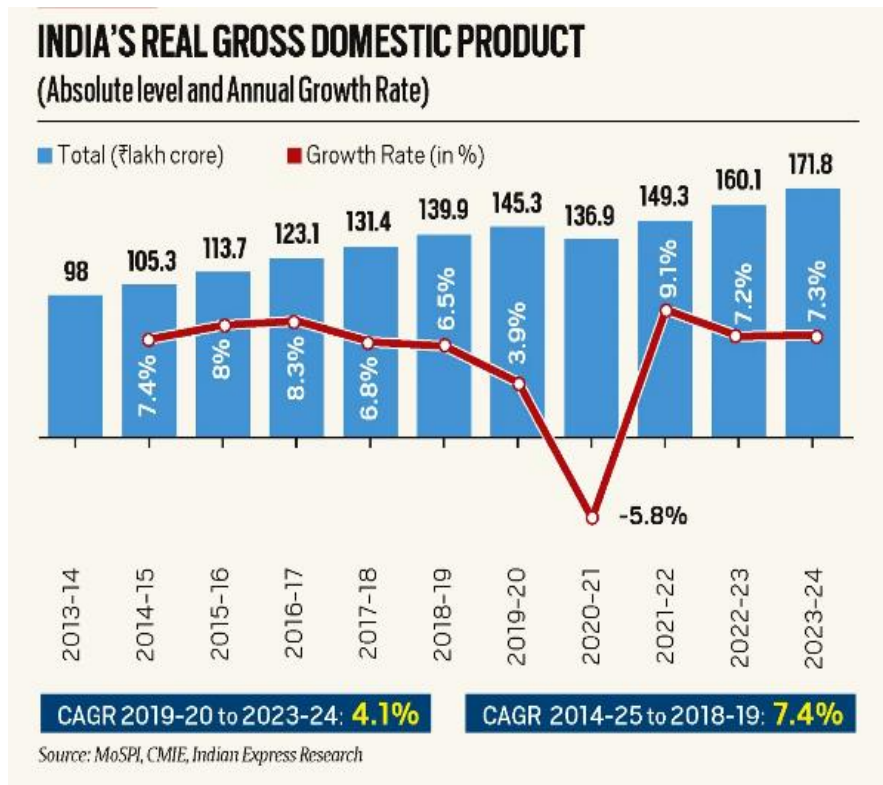


- ❖ As of December 2023, there are over 3 crore MSMEs registered in the country, according to government data.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh collectively contribute nearly 40 per cent of all registered micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh holds a 9 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 2024 - 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"> <li>➤ Means a <b>foreign citizen</b> (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal)</li> <li>➤ A <b>foreign citizen whose one of the parents/ grandparents/ great grandparents was born</b> and a <b>permanent resident</b> of India</li> <li>➤ Who is a <b>spouse</b> of a citizen of India or a PIO</li> </ul>		<p>A <b>foreign national</b>, who was <b>eligible to become citizen of India on 26.01.1950</b> or was a citizen of India on or at anytime after <b>26.01.1950</b> or belonged to a territory that became part of India after <b>15.08.1947</b> is <b>eligible for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)</b>. 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>
<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PIO card holders <b>do not require a visa to visit India</b> for a period of 15 years from the date of issue of the PIO card.</li> <li>2. They are <b>exempted from registration at FRRO/ FRO</b> if their <b>stay does not exceeds 180 days</b>. In case if the stay exceeds 180 days, they shall have to register with FRRO/ FRO within the next 30 days</li> <li>3. They <b>enjoy parity with NRIs in economic, financial and educational benefits</b></li> <li>4. All <b>future benefits that would be exempted to NRIs</b> would also be available to the <b>PIO card holders</b></li> </ol>		<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <p>OCIs are <b>entitled to a multipurpose, multiple entry, lifelong visa</b> allowing them to visit India at any time, for any length of time and for any purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Exempted from police reporting</b> for any length of stay in the country</li> <li>➤ <b>Have also been granted all rights in the economic, financial and education fields in parity with NRIs</b> except, the right to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties</li> </ul>

## 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.

