

January - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Senior advocate PS Raman is set to be appointed the next advocate general of Tamil Nadu.
 - This is his second stint in the post after having been AG between 2009 and 2011.
- ❖ The 'Indus Food 2024', exhibition to showcase India's vibrant and diverse food ecosystem, was held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Famous musician Ustad Rashid Khan passed away recently at Kolkata.

TAMIL NADU

10th Tamil World Economic Conference

- ❖ The 10th World Tamils Economic Conference and Global Economic Summit held at Chennai.
- ❖ The Summit provides a platform to allow businessmen operating flourishing businesses in various countries, to share their knowledge and wisdom under one roof.
- ❖ This summit also helped in showcasing the ancient culture and the rich literature of Thiruvalluvar to the world.



New Biodiversity Heritage Sites

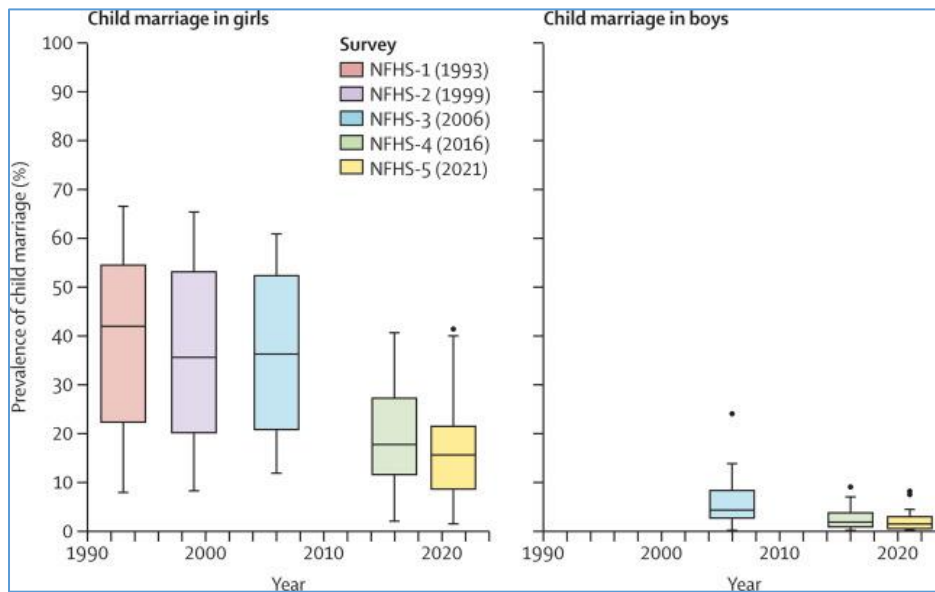
- ❖ After Arittapatti in Madurai district, four more places in Tamil Nadu may be declared Biodiversity Heritage Sites this year.

- ❖ Now, the state has a proposal to approve of and notify Kasampatti (Dindigul), Sendirakkilai Sacred Grove (Cuddalore), Idayapatti (Madurai) and Kuriyanapalli Forest Block (Krishnagiri) as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).
- ❖ The Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site (Madurai district) was notified as the first such Biodiversity Heritage Site of Tamil Nadu, in November 2022.



NATIONAL

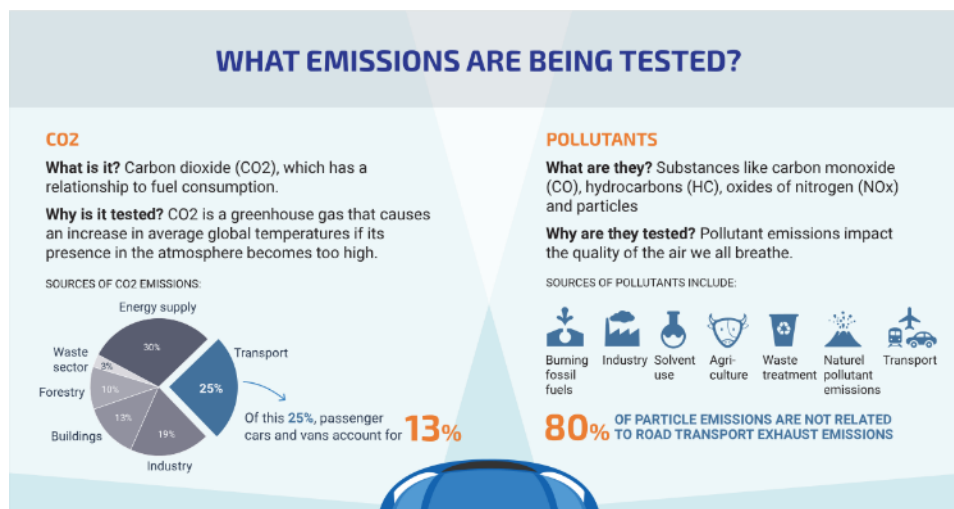
Lancet Study on Child Marriage in India



- ❖ A recent study on child marriage in India published in the Lancet noted the overall decrease in child marriage across the country.
- ❖ But it pointed out that four States, mainly accounted for more than half of the total headcount burden of child marriages in girls.

- ❖ They are: Bihar (16.7%), West Bengal (15.2%), Uttar Pradesh (12.5%), and Maharashtra (8.2%).
- ❖ For boys, Gujarat (29%), Bihar (16.5%), West Bengal (12.9%), and Uttar Pradesh (8.2%) accounted for more than 60 per cent of the burden.
- ❖ One in five girls and nearly one in six boys are still married below the legal age of marriage in India
- ❖ The largest absolute increase in girls headcount was observed in West Bengal, representing an increase of 32.3% in headcount.
- ❖ West Bengal saw the largest absolute increase with over 5,00,000 more girls getting married as children.
- ❖ The National Family Health Survey-5 points out that the women aged 20-24 years who were married before the age of 18 years in West Bengal remains one of the highest in the country at 41.6%.
- ❖ The percentage was the same during the National Family Health Survey- 4.
- ❖ The all-India figure of women aged 20-24 years getting married before they turn 18 is pegged at 23.3%.
- ❖ In 2021, West Bengal registered 105 cases under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu registered 169 cases, Karnataka 273 and Assam 155 cases respectively in the same period.

New Emission Test Rules for Vehicles



- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH) has notified new emission test standards for vehicles seeking approval under BS-VI emission norms.

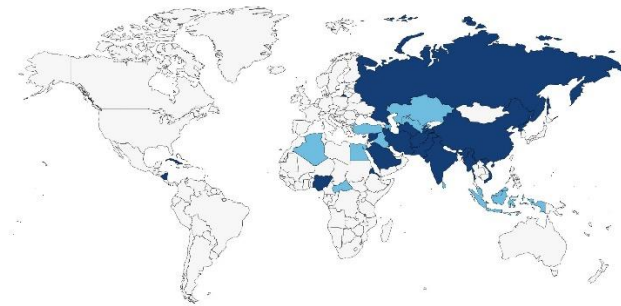
- ❖ All bi-fuel vehicles with flex-fuel options will have to take both gaseous pollutant and particulate matter pollutant tests.
- ❖ However, vehicles that run on Hydrogen, will only have to undergo nitrogen oxide tests.
- ❖ Particulate Matter mass and number limits only apply to cars with direct-injection engines.
- ❖ CO₂ emission and fuel consumption shall be measured as per procedure laid down in AIS 137 and as amended from time to time.

INTERNATIONAL

Countries of Particular Concern

Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) and Special Watch List (SWL)
USCIRF 2023 Annual Report

scroll over country of interest and click to read more



- ❖ The U.S. has designated some countries as "Countries of Particular Concern" for engaging in and tolerating "particularly severe violations of religious freedom."
- ❖ They are Burma, China, Cuba, North Korea, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.
- ❖ In addition, they designated Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Comoros, and Vietnam as Special Watch List countries for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ANEEL Fuel

- ❖ This invention was made by an American company in the nuclear tech, set up by a person of Indian origin.
- ❖ This company has developed a fuel, which is a mix of Thorium and Uranium of a certain level of enrichment, called HALEU (High Assay Low Enriched Uranium).

- ❖ Clean Core calls this concoction ANEEL (Advanced Nuclear Energy for Enriched Life).
- ❖ ANEEL can be used in the existing Pressurized Heavy-Water Reactors (PHWRs).
- ❖ PHWR is an indigenous reactor system that is the workhorse of India's nuclear fleet.
- ❖ India has 18 PHWR reactors of a total capacity of 4,460 MW and is building ten more of 700 MW each.
- ❖ Most of the current reactors run on uranium fuel enriched up to 5 per cent Uranium-235.
- ❖ HALEU is Uranium enriched to more than 5 per cent but less than 20 per cent.
- ❖ At present only Russia and China have the infrastructure to produce HALEU at scale.
- ❖ India has the world's largest reserves of Thorium, estimated at 1.07 million tonnes, enough to last over a century.
- ❖ If India uses this Thorium, it can then produce enough green energy and easily turn net-zero by its target date of 2070.
- ❖ However, Thorium is a fertile material and not a fissile material.
- ❖ This means, it must be paired with Uranium-235 or Plutonium-239 to be used as fuel in a reactor.

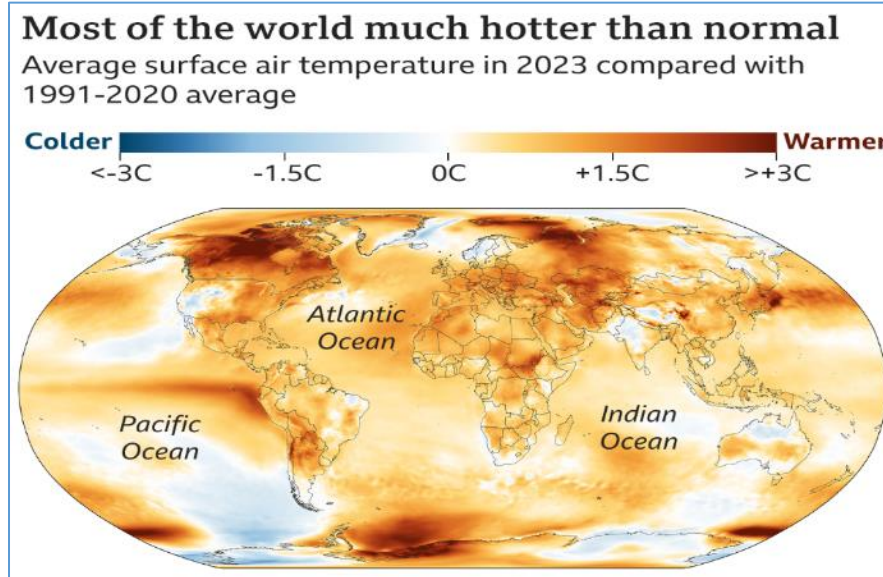


ENVIRONMENT

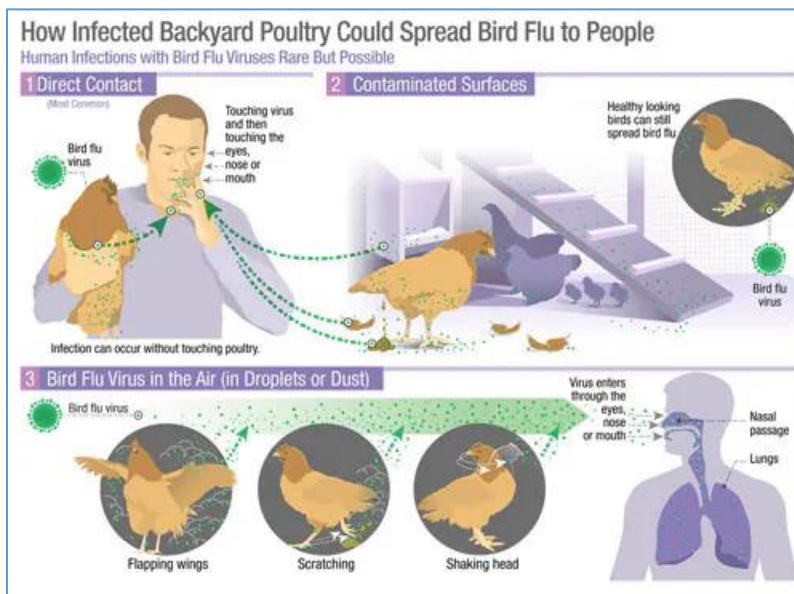
2023 As Hottest Year

- ❖ The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) announced that the year 2023 was the planet's hottest on record by a significant margin and likely the world's warmest in the past 100,000 years.
- ❖ Last year was about 1.48C warmer than the long-term average before humans started burning large amounts of fossil fuels.
- ❖ Last year was 0.17C (0.31F) hotter than 2016, the previous hottest year – smashing the record by a “remarkable” margin.

- ❖ Since June, every month has been the world's hottest on record compared with the corresponding month in previous years.
- ❖ Last year, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere rose to the highest level recorded at 419 parts per million.



Polar Bear Death from Bird Flu



- ❖ Alaska has recorded the first case of a polar bear dying due to bird flu.
- ❖ The polar bear died from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

- ❖ It was contracted by scavenging on bird carcasses infected with the deadly strain H5N1.
- ❖ Black and brown bears have previously contracted the deadly virus.
- ❖ H5N1 was First identified in 1996 in China.
- ❖ In 2020, a new variant of the deadly virus emerged, killing unprecedented birds.
- ❖ The virus has impacted numerous mammals, resulting in thousands of deaths.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hindi Day 2024 - January 10

- ❖ This day was initially observed on January 10, 2006.
- ❖ This date was chosen to commemorate the historic occasion in 1949 when Hindi was spoken for the first time in the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Hindi – Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence'.

