

January - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ "Tamilnilam Geo-Info App" application was launched by Tamil Nadu Govt for public to know the details of their land related documents through mobile phone.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt launched MinMathi 2.0 app to easy reach of the SHG women & opens up newer opportunities for the aspiring women by connecting them to mentors, fellow SHGs across the Country, as well as potential buyers of their products!
- ❖ H Lakshmanan (92), the former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton and a towering figure in the TVS family for nearly seven decades, passed away.
- ❖ Prime Minister will inaugurate the key infrastructure - 13.14 km long Z Morh Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Labour & Employment launched the multilingual functionality on e-Shram portal, with all 22 Scheduled Languages support.
- ❖ The Gaddi dog becomes the fourth indigenous breed registered in India and the first from the Himalayan region.
- ❖ Prime Minister has inaugurated the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a state-of-the-art tourist train, designed exclusively for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- ❖ Retired Supreme Court justice B. N. Srikrishna will chair the ID verification and data sharing platform Equal's newly formed Advisory Board.

TAMIL NADU

Culling of wild boars in farmland



- ❖ The Tamilnadu Forest Department has issued a government order permitting a regulated culling of wild boars that cause distress to farmers in farmland close to forest areas.

- ❖ According to the order, the areas adjacent to reserve forests would be classified into three zones.
- ❖ Culling of wild boars is prohibited in Zone A (within one kilometre of the forest limits).
- ❖ In Zone B (one-three kilometres), the wild boars should be captured and released in the forest areas.
- ❖ In Zone C (beyond three kilometres), shooting of wild boars would be allowed only by the specially trained Forest Department staff.

Bills to prevent sexual crimes

Section	Offence	Punishment at present	Punishment proposed through legislation
74	Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 1 year, but which may extend to 5 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment of either description for not less than 3 years, but which may extend to 5 years with a fine
75 (2)	Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment specified in clause (I) or clause (ii) or clause (iii) of sub-section (1)	Rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend up to 3 years, or with a fine, or both	Rigorous imprisonment for 5 years, and a fine
76	Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 3 years, but which may extend to 7 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment for not less than 5 years, but which may extend to 10 years, and a fine
77	Voyeurism	"Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 1 year, but which may extend to 3 years, and shall also be liable to a fine"	Imprisonment of either description for not less than 2 years, but which may extend to 5 years, and a fine
77	Voyeurism - Second or subsequent conviction	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 3 years, but which may extend to 7 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment of either description for not less than five years, but which may extend to 10 years, and a fine
78 (2)	Stalking	Imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 3 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment for up to 5 years, and a fine
78 (2)	Stalking - Second or subsequent conviction	Imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 5 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment for up to 7 years, and a fine
124 (1)	Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid, etc.	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 10 years, but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and with a fine	Rigorous imprisonment for life, which shall mean rigorous imprisonment for the remainder of the person's natural life and a fine, or death
124 (2)	Voluntarily throwing or attempting to throw acid	Imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 5 years, but which may extend to 7 years, and shall also be liable to a fine	Imprisonment of either description for not less than 10 years, but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and a fine

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed the Criminal Laws (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- ❖ The objective of the Bills was to enhance punishment for sexual crimes against women and children and prosecute those harassing them on digital and electronic platforms.
- ❖ The Criminal Laws Bill proposes a minimum 14 years of rigorous imprisonment for a rape convict, up from the present 10 years.
- ❖ If the rapist is a member of the police force, it seeks to double the minimum rigorous imprisonment to 20 years.

- ❖ If the rape victim is a girl aged below 12, it calls for life term as the minimum punishment and death penalty as the maximum.

Surplus funds of temples



- ❖ Madras High Court held that the surplus funds of revenue-rich temples could be used only for purposes listed out under the Sections 36A, 36B and 66(1)(a) to (l) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Act of 1959.
- ❖ Surplus funds of high-income temples can be used for providing aid to temples with low income, propagating religious tenets, establishing vedic schools, promoting fine arts, administering orphanages for Hindu children and so on.
- ❖ But the surplus should not be used for construction of shopping complexes.
- ❖ Since the shopping complex does not fall within the category of items (a) to (l) of sub section (1) of Section 66 or Sections 36A and 36B, the decision to construct a shopping complex has to be quashed and set aside.

NATIONAL

India Road Infrastructure Growth

- ❖ India's National Highway network has grown by 60% over the past decade.
- ❖ It was expanding from 91,287 km in 2014 to 146,195 km by 2024.
- ❖ This was making it the second-largest road network globally.
- ❖ In addition, high-speed corridors have surged from 93 km to 2,474 km.

- ❖ The Externally Aided Projects have made remarkable progress, with 2,540 km completed out of the planned 3,105 km as of November 30, 2024.



Modified cashless treatment scheme

NATIONWIDE CASHLESS TREATMENT SCHEME FOR ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIMS ANNOUNCED

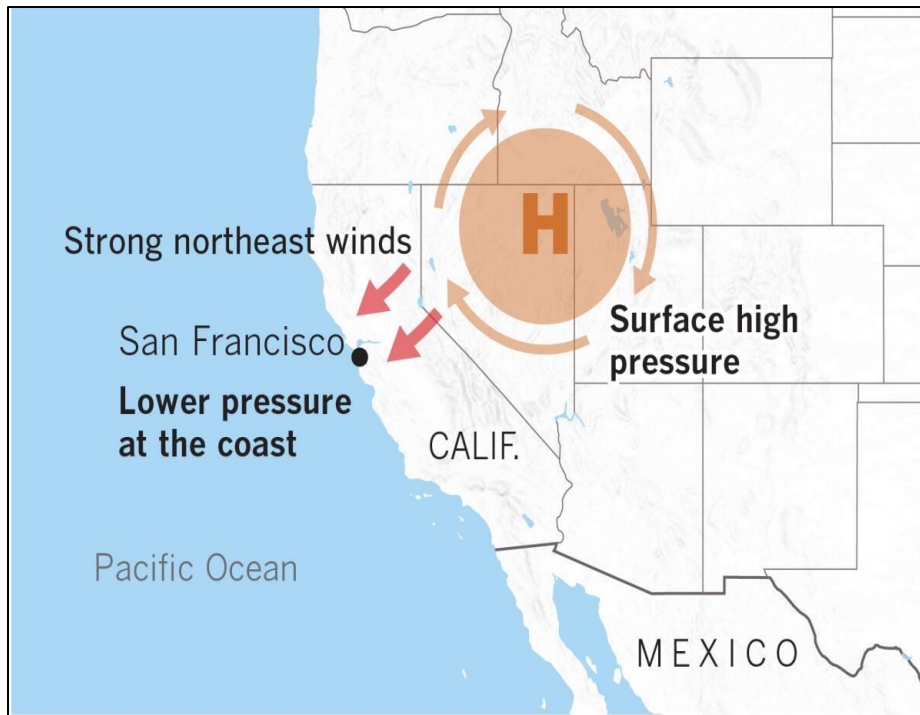
Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced a nationwide cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims, offering up to ₹1.5 lakh per person per accident. Following a pilot in Chandigarh in March 2024, the scheme will be implemented across India by March 2025.

- ❖ Centre unveiled an updated version of the 'Cashless Treatment' scheme.
- ❖ It is aimed at extending financial assistance to victims of road accidents.

- ❖ Under this initiative, the government will cover medical expenses up to Rs 1.5 lakh for seven days of treatment.
- ❖ It is required that the accident is reported to the police within 24 hours.
- ❖ For victims of hit-and-run accidents, families will receive an ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh.

INTERNATIONAL

Southern California wildfires 2025



- ❖ Los Angeles has been devastated by the deadly wildfires in California that started recently in USA.
- ❖ The fire has so far killed at least 11 people and burned more than 10,000 homes and other structures.
- ❖ The last two winters, in 2022 and 2023, were unusually wet for the Los Angeles region.
- ❖ Santa Ana-driven wildfires are a natural part of California's landscape.
- ❖ Santa Ana winds blow when high pressure builds over the Great Basin and the pressure is low over California's coast.
- ❖ The difference in pressure triggers the movement of powerful winds from the Basin's inland deserts, east and north of Southern California, over the mountains toward the Pacific Ocean.

- ❖ The extremely low moisture turns vegetation dry, making it ready to burn.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Thorium-based nuclear energy solutions

- ❖ The NTPC Limited has signed a strategic pact with US-based Clean Core Thorium Energy (CCTE) to explore development and deployment of advanced nuclear energy for enriched life (ANEEL).
- ❖ Aneel is a thorium-based fuel for pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs).
- ❖ Aneel fuel include the utilisation of thorium as a fuel in existing PHWR reactors, significant reduction in nuclear waste.
- ❖ It is also, enhancing India's energy security using domestically-available thorium, and improved safety and proliferation resistance.

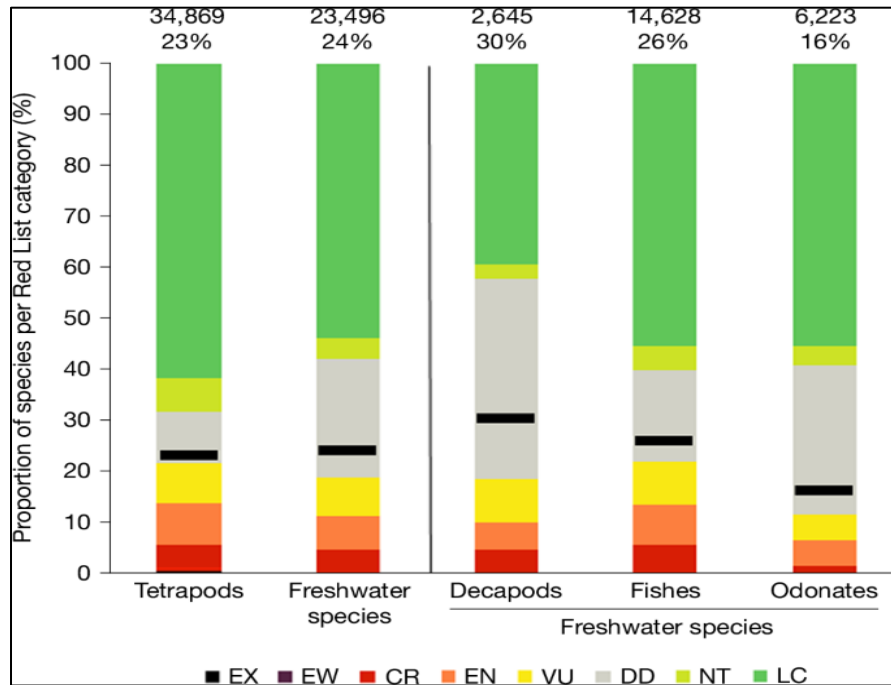


ENVIRONMENT

Multi-taxon global freshwater fauna assessment

- ❖ The first-ever multi-taxon global freshwater fauna assessment for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species conducted recently.
- ❖ It has identified the Western Ghats as a key location with greatest abundance of threatened freshwater species.

- ❖ This comprehensive global assessment has covered 23,496 decapod crustaceans, fishes and odonates.
- ❖ With approximately one-quarter of freshwater species facing a high extinction risk, and a record of 89 confirmed and 187 suspected extinctions since 1500 AD.
- ❖ Among freshwater decapods, fishes, and odonates, 54% of threatened species are impacted by pollution, while 39% are affected by dams and water extraction.
- ❖ The Land-use change associated with agriculture poses a threat to 37% of these species, and invasive species and disease impact 28%.

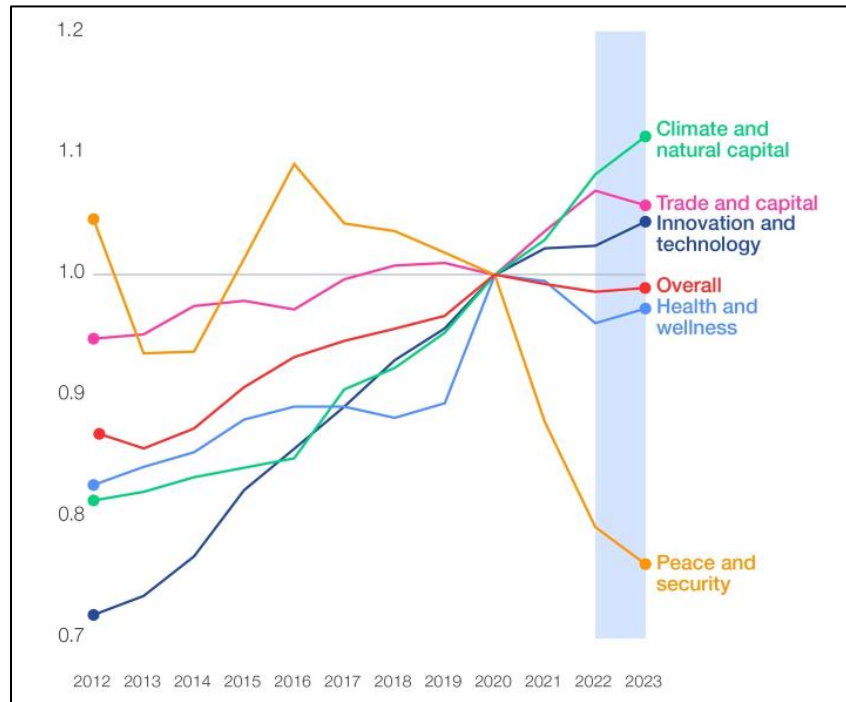


REPORTS AND INDICES

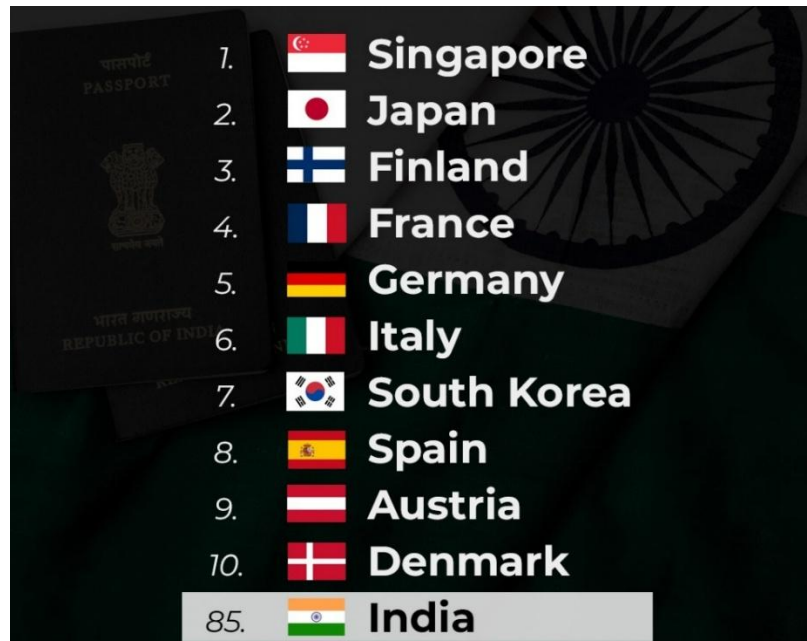
WEF Global Cooperation Barometer 2025

- ❖ The World Economic Forum's Global Cooperation Barometer 2025 was launched in Geneva.
- ❖ It reveals that the international cooperation has stagnated due to increased geopolitical tensions and instability.
- ❖ The barometer uses 41 indicators to measure the current state of the global cooperation along five pillars –
 - Trade and capital flows,
 - Innovation and technology,
 - Climate and natural capital,

- Health and wellness, and
- Peace and security.



Henley Passport Index 2025



- ❖ India's ranking has dropped by five points to 85 this year in a global passport index.

- ❖ An Indian passport holder can travel visa-free to 57 destinations.
- ❖ Singapore topped in the index for second consecutive year.
- ❖ The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations
- ❖ As per the index for 2025, the ranking of Pakistan and Bangladesh stood at 103rd (101st in 2024) and 100th (97th in 2024), respectively.
- ❖ India's ranking in the Henley Passport Index for 2024 was 80th globally.
- ❖ Japan's ranking stood at 2nd this year, while it had the top slot from 2018-2023.
- ❖ In 2024, both Japan and Singapore shared the top rank.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hindi Day 2025 - January 10



- ❖ On this day in 1949, Hindi was spoken for the first time at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ It aims to spread the awareness about the Hindi language, promote its use on international platforms, and strengthen ties among Hindi-speaking communities worldwide.
- ❖ In 1950, Hindi was declared the official language of the Union of India and was designated as Hindi in Devanagari script in Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ In 1975, the maiden World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in Maharashtra's Nagpur.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Hindi: A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride."



❖ The 12th World Hindi Conference-2023 was organised in Fiji.

