

January - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has government announced a 10 crores scheme to teach Tamil and folk arts to children of the Tamil diaspora.
  - Under this programme, 100 Tamil teachers and artists will be sent to various countries to work with Tamil Sangams (associations).
- ❖ The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved oil and gas exploratory drilling in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
- ❖ The CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) has successfully conducted the first trial blast for the Dozer Push Mining Method, integrating advanced digital technologies, at Chhattisgarh, for the first time in India.
- ❖ India has achieved a milestone in genomics with the launch of its own genomic data set and the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) portals, making 10,000 whole genome samples accessible globally.
- ❖ SS Innovations has launched SSI Mantra 3, the next generation, most advanced version of the Mantra surgical robot system.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has launched a special FM channel of All India Radio Kumbhvani (103.5 MHz), dedicated to Maha Kumbh 2025.
- ❖ Kerala's Kappad Beach in Kozhikode and Chal Beach in Kannur have received the prestigious Blue Flag certification from the Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

## TAMIL NADU

### Tamil Diaspora Day awards 2025

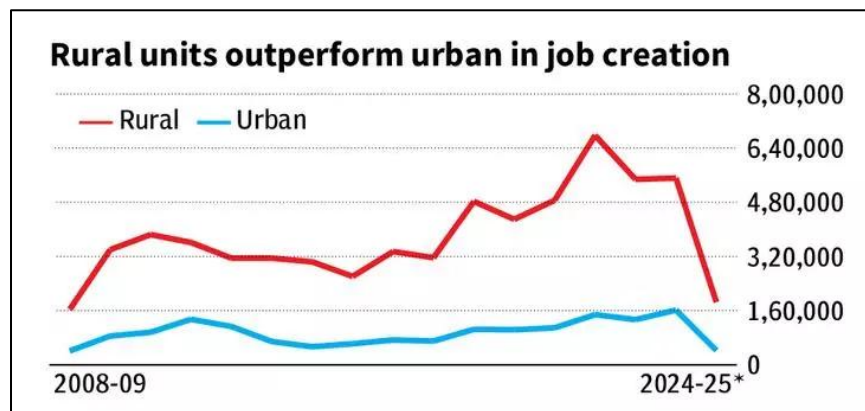
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has handed over 'Tamil Mamani' award to Dr. Vijay Janakiraman who was instrumental in setting up the Tamil Chair in Harvard University.
- ❖ The Best Cultural Ambassador Award was given to Krishnakanthan Sandeep from Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Kaniyan Poongundran awards were bestowed to six individuals.
- ❖ National University of Singapore (NUS) Registrar Rajaram Ramasubban received the award under education category.

- ❖ S. Kamalakannan, who published the history of late social reformer 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy in Japanese, was awarded under social development category.
- ❖ Pudhumai Thamizhachi Trust's Sridevi Sivanandam, received under women's category.
- ❖ The Tecton Engineering and Construction L.L.C's Lakshmanan Somasundaram, under business category, received this awards.
- ❖ While Associate Professor S. Arokiyaraj, Sejong University, Korea received it under S&T category.
- ❖ The ophthalmologist Gangadhara Sundar in the NUS (the National University of Singapore) obtained it under medicine category.



## NATIONAL

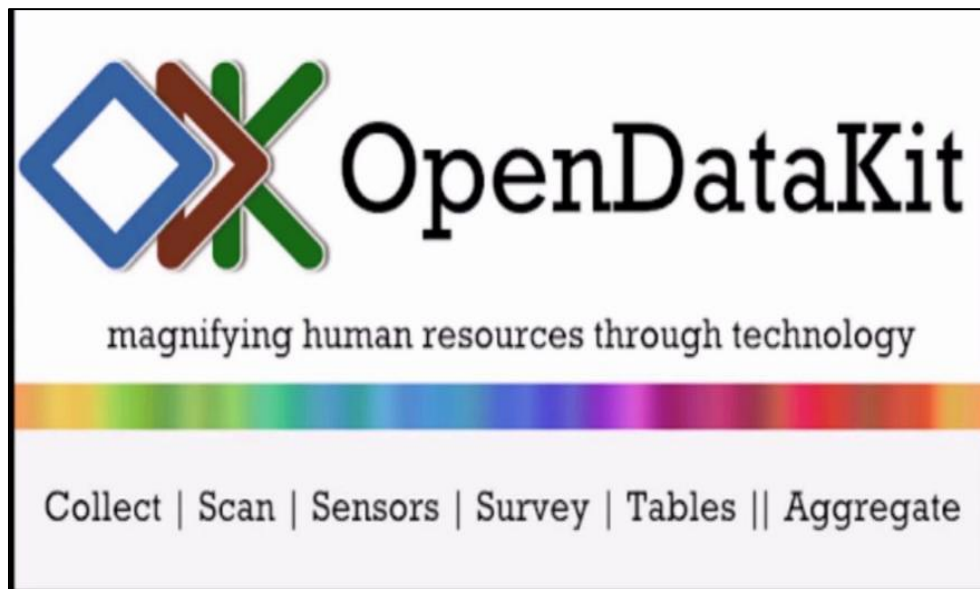
### PMEGP - Rural Job Creation



- ❖ The rural enterprises supported under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) have outperformed their urban counterparts in generating employment.

- ❖ The Micro enterprises established in rural areas across India have created an estimated 8.19 jobs per unit.
- ❖ It was surpassing the 8.07 jobs per unit generated by urban enterprises.
- ❖ Of the total 80.52 lakh estimated jobs created under PMEGP during this period, a substantial 64.55 lakh jobs were generated in rural areas.
- ❖ Out of the total 9.86 lakh units assisted, 79.89 per cent were in rural areas, while only 20.11 per cent were in urban areas.

### **Open Data Kit Platform**



- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is using a new digital tool to improve transparency and accountability in public spending.
- ❖ It allows the CAG to collect and manage data securely.
- ❖ Beneficiary survey is one of the sources of information for audit planning as well as for collection of audit evidence.
- ❖ The toolkit also enables surveys in multiple languages simultaneously.

### **INS Vagsheer 2025**

- ❖ INS Vagsheer has joined the Indian navy.
- ❖ The INS Vagsheer, named after the deep-sea predator Sand Fish, represents India's resolve to counter growing threats in its backyard.
- ❖ It is designed as a hunter-killer submarine under Project 75.
- ❖ It is the sixth and final submarine of the Scorpene-class under this Project.

- ❖ The first submarine, INS Kalvari, was commissioned in December 2017, followed by Khanderi, Karanj, Vela, and Vagir.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Mount Ibu – Indonesia



- ❖ Mount Ibu, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, erupted recently.
- ❖ Mount Ibu has a history of intense activity, recording over 2,000 eruptions in 2023 alone.



- ❖ The country boasts 127 active volcanoes, which pose risks and attract tourists.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Indian Cities' Air Quality Progress Report 2025

- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has released the latest Air Quality Index (AQI) data for cities across India.
- ❖ Delhi topped in the list of worst and most polluted air quality index.
- ❖ It is followed by Ghaziabad, Byrnihat and Chandigarh.
- ❖ Tirunelveli from Tamil Nadu experiencing the best and cleanest air quality.
- ❖ Thanjavur ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the cleanest air quality table.

Rank	City	State	AQI	Prominent Pollutant
1	Delhi	Delhi	357	PM2.5
2	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	332	PM2.5
3	Byrnihat	Meghalaya	303	PM2.5
4	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	302	PM2.5
5	Hapur	Uttar Pradesh	287	PM2.5
6	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	277	PM10
7	Baddi	Himachal Pradesh	276	PM2.5
8	Greater Noida	Uttar Pradesh	270	PM2.5
9	Kunjemura	Maharashtra	269	PM10
10	Noida	Uttar Pradesh	259	PM2.5

Rank	City	State	AQI	Prominent Pollutant
1	Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	33	PM10
2	Naharlagun	Arunachal Pradesh	43	PM10
3	Madikeri	Karnataka	44	PM2.5
4	Vijayapura	Karnataka	47	PM10
5	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu	47	PM10
6	Koppal	Karnataka	55	PM2.5
7	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	55	PM2.5, PM10
8	Hubballi	Karnataka	56	PM2.5, CO
9	Kannur	Kerala	56	PM10
10	Chhal	Chhattisgarh	56	PM10

### Population of wading birds

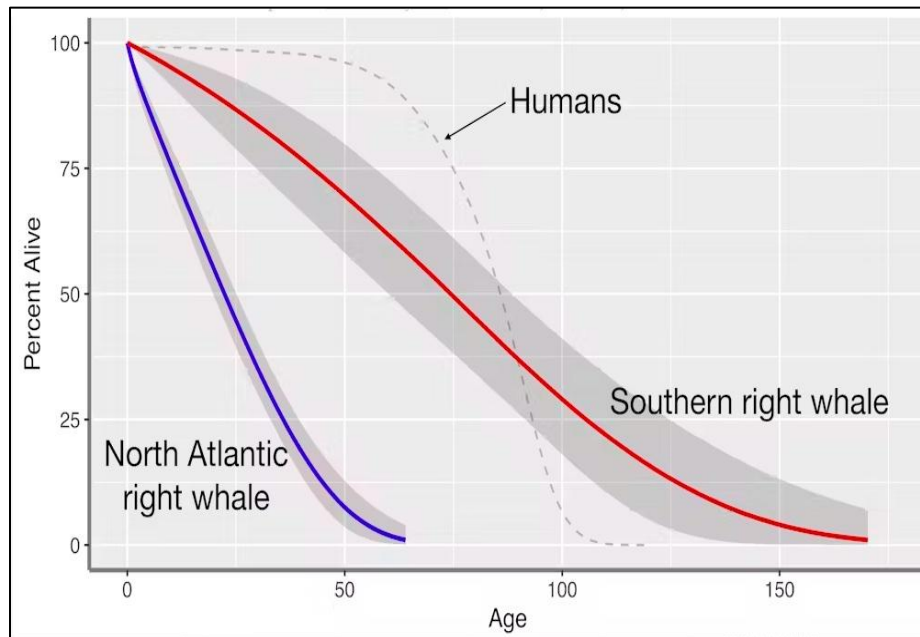


- ❖ The researchers in Kerala have found that the population of wading birds, key indicators of wetland health, have declined in the decade from 2010-2019.

- ❖ The researchers monitored six of the most commonly available wader species.
- ❖ All six species showed highest densities during post-monsoon seasons and lowest densities during the monsoon seasons.

### **Whale Longevity in 2025**

- ❖ The Southern right whales have lifespans that reach well past 100 years, and 10% may live past 130 years.
- ❖ Some of these whales may live to 150.
- ❖ This lifespan is almost double the 70-80 years they are conventionally believed to live.
- ❖ The North Atlantic right whales were also thought to have a maximum lifespan of about 70 years.
- ❖ This critically endangered species' current average lifespan is only 22 years, and they rarely live past 50.
- ❖ Twenty-five years ago, scientists working with Indigenous whale hunters in the Arctic showed that bowhead whales could live up to and even over 200 years.

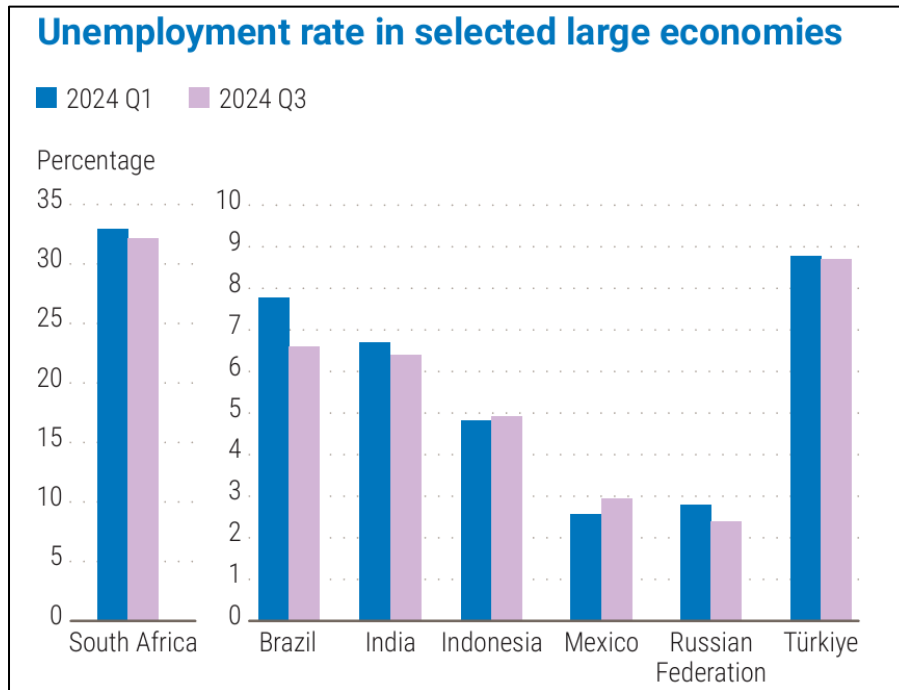


## **REPORTS AND INDICES**

### **UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025**

- ❖ The Global economic growth is forecast at 2.8% in 2025 and 2.9 per cent in 2026.

- ❖ It is largely unchanged from the rate of 2.8% recorded in 2023 and estimated for 2024.
- ❖ China is facing the prospect of the gradual economic moderation, with growth estimated at 4.9% in 2024 and projected at 4.8% in 2025.
- ❖ The Indian economy grew by 6.8% in 2024 and is forecast to expand by 6.6% in 2025, primarily supported by robust private consumption and investment.
- ❖ The Indian economy is projected to return to the 6.8% growth in 2026.
- ❖ Consumer price inflation in India is forecast to decelerate from an estimated 4.8% in 2024 to 4.3% in 2025.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Youth Day 2025 - January 12

- ❖ In 1984, the Government of India has declared that Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary as National Youth Day to honour his contributions to Indian society.
- ❖ It aims to spread Swami Vivekananda's idealistic philosophies and teachings, inspiring young minds to follow his principles.
- ❖ The youth, defined as those within the age group of 15-29 years, make up nearly 40% of India's total population.

- ❖ This year Prime Minister engaged with 3,000 dynamic young leaders from across India, selected through a merit-based and multi-level process from over 30 lakh participants.

Swami Vivekananda, the wandering monk who introduced Hindu Vedanta philosophy to the West, was born today in 1863

## The Patriot Saint

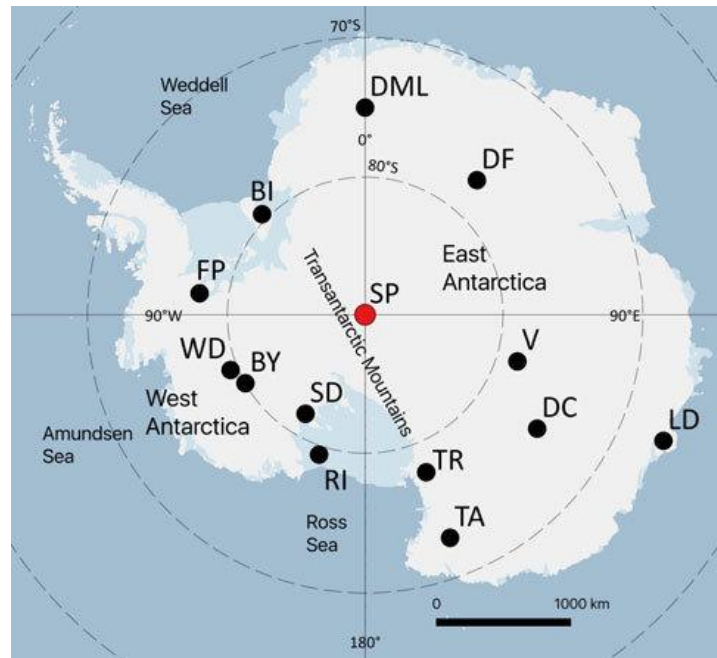
<p><b>Founded the</b> Ramakrishna Math, Ramakrishna Mission, Vedanta Societies</p>	<p><b>Represented India</b> and Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893</p>
<p><b>Played a hand in the revival of Hinduism in India, contributing to the concept of nationalism in colonial India</b></p>	<p>His representations <b>helped accord Hinduism</b> with the status of a major world religion during the late 19th century</p>

His birthday is celebrated as **National Youth Day in India**



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Ancient Ice Core in Antarctica



- ❖ Scientists have successfully extracted what is likely the world's oldest ice.
- ❖ It was dating backed 1.2 million years, from deep within Antarctica.



- ❖ The air bubbles trapped within the ice core provide a direct snapshot of the past atmospheric composition, including greenhouse gas concentrations.

### **Role of Androgen Receptors in birds**

- ❖ The androgen sex hormones are responsible for male sexual development while oestrogen and progesterone essay the same roles in females.
- ❖ New studies have reported that the androgen receptors are as important for sexual development and fertility in females as in males.
- ❖ Both male and female chickens devoid of the androgen receptors turned out to be infertile.
- ❖ The bodies of roosters and male chickens have a circadian rhythm, or internal body clock, that sends strong signals for them to crow at dawn.
- ❖ The neural circuit associated with this crowing behaviour is sensitive to the presence of androgen hormones, especially testosterone.

