

January - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) and Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) have signed an agreement to establish a hydrogen valley innovation hub.
- ❖ Deepa Bhandare made history by winning the distinguished Best Environment Officer Award of Vasantdada Sugar Institute, becoming the only woman in Maharashtra's sugar industry to achieve this honor.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative.
  - It aims to ensure no vehicle uses multiple FASTags.
- ❖ The 27<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival (NYF) was held in Nashik, Maharashtra.
  - Fifteen youngsters from across the country were honoured with the National Youth Award 2020-2021.

## TAMIL NADU

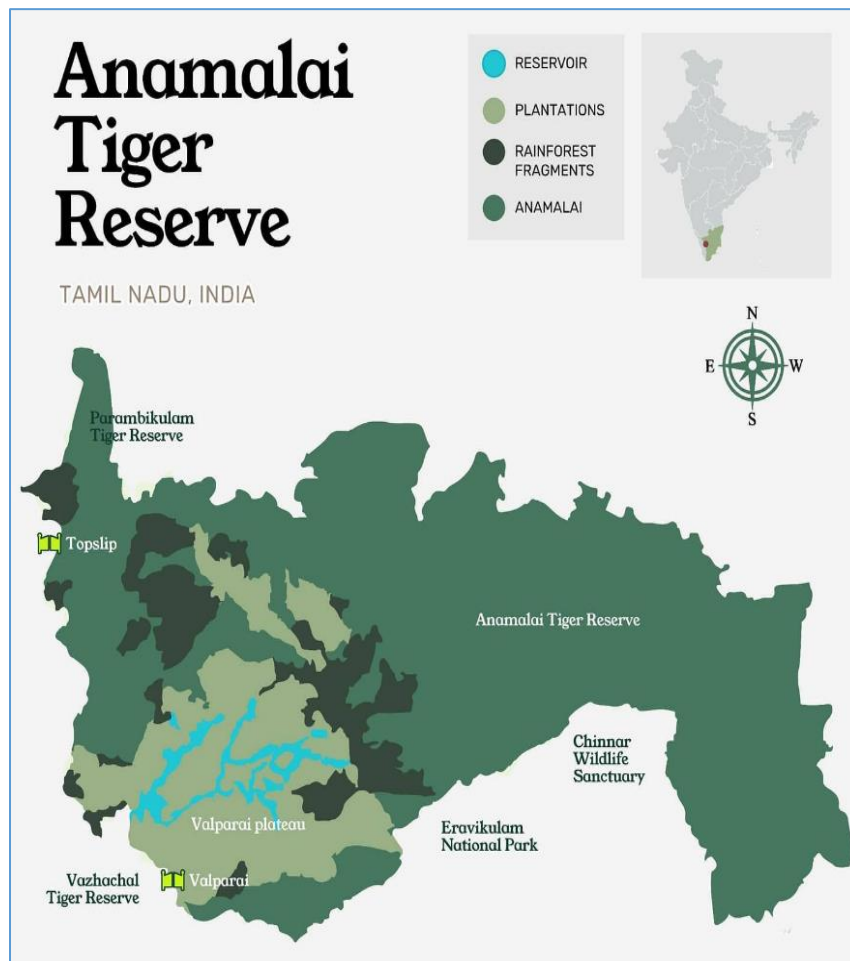
### Target of paddy Procurement



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) is planning to procure more than 20 lakh tonnes of the crop this time.

- ❖ As on January 11, the Corporation procured about 5.46 lakh tonnes since the beginning of the procurement year in September.
- ❖ The TNCSC has planned to open as many as 3,000 direct purchase centres (DPCs) in a phased manner.
- ❖ In 2022-23, the procurement was about 44.22 lakh tonnes from around 5.22 lakh farmers.
- ❖ Of the total quantity of paddy procured, the share of the delta was two-thirds.

### Native trees in Anamalai Tiger Reserve



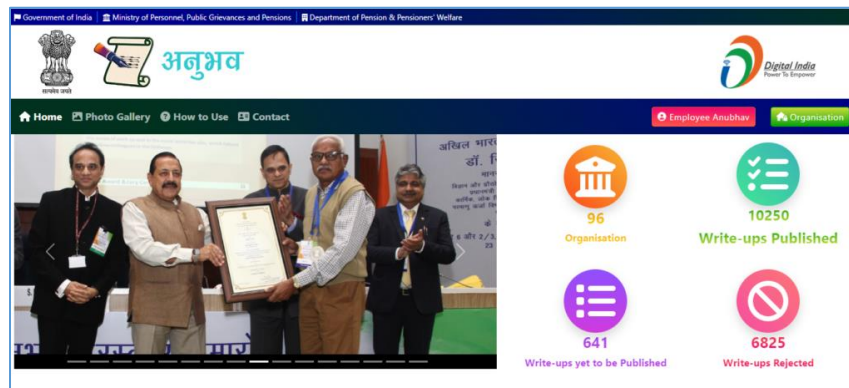
- ❖ The Tamilnadu Forest Department has taken up mass removal of invasive species in the Ulandy range in the core area of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR).
- ❖ Also, they planned to plant saplings of native trees.
- ❖ The works are implemented under the Restoration of Degraded Forests Landscape Project with financial assistance from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

- ❖ Under the project, for which NABARD has given a loan of ₹457 crore, the government aims at restoring 33,290 hectares of degraded forest lands in the State in five years.
- ❖ A total of 270 hectares of land is to be restored in all forest ranges of the ATR.

## NATIONAL

### ANUBHAV Awards Scheme - 2024

- ❖ Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare had launched an on-line platform entitled 'Anubhav Portal' in March 2015.
- ❖ It is used for sharing experiences of retiring/retired Central Government employees while working with the Government.
- ❖ It is envisaged that this culture of leaving notes by retirees will become the foundation stone of good governance and administrative reforms in future.
- ❖ The Government recently has notified the ANUBHAV Awards Scheme 2024.
- ❖ To participate in the scheme, retiring Central Government employees/pensioners are required to submit their Anubhav write ups, 8 months prior to retirement and up to 1 year after their retirement.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Global Economic Resilience

- ❖ After a low-base fuelled rebound to 6.2 percent in 2021, the World Bank estimates global growth cooled to 3.0 percent in 2022 and then to 2.6 percent in 2023.
- ❖ It now projects the world economic growth to slow down further to 2.4 percent in 2024, before edging up to 2.7 percent in 2025.

- ❖ This is well below the 3.1 percent average growth seen in the 2010s.
- ❖ Most economies will likely grow at a slower rate in 2024 and 2025 than they did in the 10 years before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ India's growth edging up steadily from 6.3 percent in 2023-24 to 6.4 percent in 2024-25 and 6.5 percent in 2025-26.

WORLD BANK'S GROWTH FORECASTS			
	2023	2024	2025
World	2.6%	2.4%	2.7%
US	2.5%	1.6%	1.7%
Euro area	0.4%	0.7%	1.6%
Japan	1.8%	0.9%	0.8%
China	5.2%	4.5%	4.3%
Russia	2.6%	1.3%	0.9%
Brazil	3.1%	1.5%	2.2%
South Africa	0.7%	1.3%	1.5%

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **XPoSat's discovery**



- ❖ The ISRO announced that a payload on its recently-launched XPoSat mission has successfully recorded the initial light from a supernova (the explosion of a star).

- ❖ The XSPECT scientific instrument on XPoSat, India's first X-ray polarimetric mission, was launched recently.
- ❖ It has captured its first light from the Cassiopeia A (Cas A) supernova remnant.
- ❖ A supernova is the explosion of a star that occurs when a star reaches the end of its life cycle, undergoing a catastrophic collapse and then rebounding.

## Einstein Probe – China



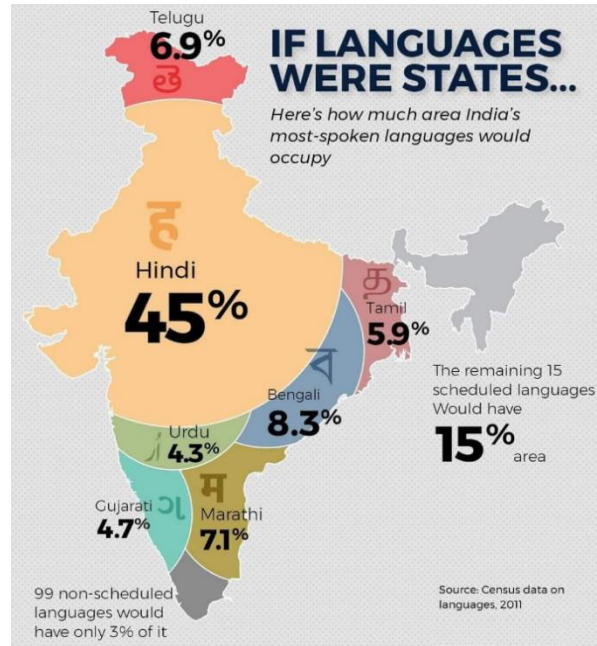
- ❖ China launched the Einstein Probe (EP), a new astronomical satellite, to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe.
- ❖ The satellite is shaped like a lotus in full bloom with 12 petals to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe that flicker like fireworks.
- ❖ It is using the new X-ray detection technology inspired by the functioning of a lobster eye.

## STATES

### Classical status for Bangla language

- ❖ West Bengal requested the central government to officially list Bengali as a “classical language”.
- ❖ As per their claim, Bengali as a language existed, even in writing, as early as, 3rd-4th BCE.

- ❖ Bengali is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most spoken language in India, it is also the 7<sup>th</sup> most spoken language in the world.
- ❖ So far, the Government of India has officially recognised six languages as having classical status.
- ❖ They are Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu, Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).



- ❖ As per the Centre's guidelines, a language must meet following requirements to be declared "classical".
  - The high antiquity of its early texts;

- Recorded history of over 1500-2000 years;
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
- A literary tradition that's original and not borrowed from another speech community; and
- Being distinct from modern, without discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Savita Kanswal**

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu honoured the late Savita Kanswal posthumously with Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2022 in Land Adventure.
- ❖ Savita made history by becoming the first Indian woman to climb both Mt. Everest and Mt. Makalu within a remarkable 16-day period.
- ❖ She died in an avalanche accident on October 4, 2022.



## **SPORTS**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Asian Winter Games**

- ❖ The slogan, emblem and mascots for the 9th Asian Winter Games have been officially unveiled recently.
- ❖ "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia" is the official slogan of the event.

- ❖ They presented the adorable tiger mascots "Binbin" and "Nini" and the official emblem which is the fusion of a short track speed skater figure, a lilac flower and dancing ribbons.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Sidersaura Marae - New Species of Dinosaur**



- ❖ Paleontologists in Argentina have found fossil fragments from a new genus and species of rebbachisaurid sauropod dinosaur.
- ❖ They lived in what is now Argentina during the Cenomanian age of the Late Cretaceous epoch, between 96 and 93 million years ago.
- ❖ This species Scientifically is named as *Sidersaura marae*.





- ❖ The ancient beast was up to 20 m in length, had an estimated mass of 15 tons, and had a very long tail.

