

January - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The three-day International Camel Festival held in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Indian and Japanese Coast Guards have recently conducted a successful joint exercise named 'Sahyog Kaijin' off the coast of Chennai.
- ❖ The Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) conducted a maiden bilateral exercise, named 'Ex-Ayutthaya'.
 - This name symbolises the significance of 'Ayodhya' in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand.
- ❖ Switzerland agreed to host a global peace summit on Ukraine at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.
- ❖ The new campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) was inaugurated at Palasamudram in Sri Satya Sai district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag.
 - In 2011, Gir kesar mango was given the GI tag.
- ❖ On January 14th, the world celebrated World Logic Day
 - It was a tribute established by UNESCO in 2019 to emphasize the importance of logic as a cornerstone of reason, rationality, and critical thinking.

NATIONAL

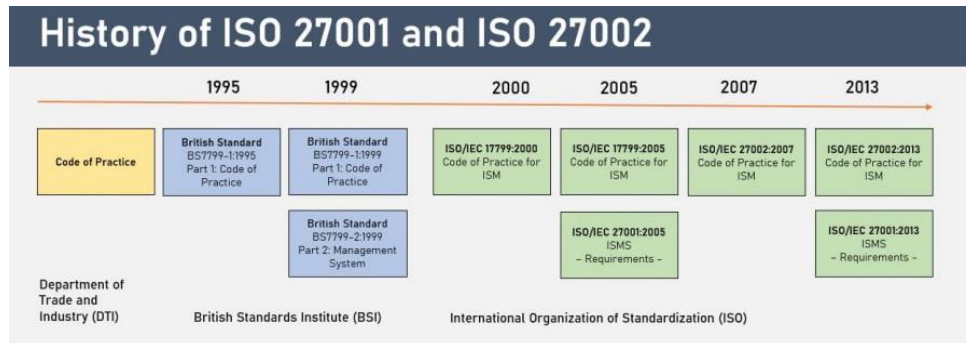
Farsi Language - Classical Languages



- ❖ The Government of India has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy.

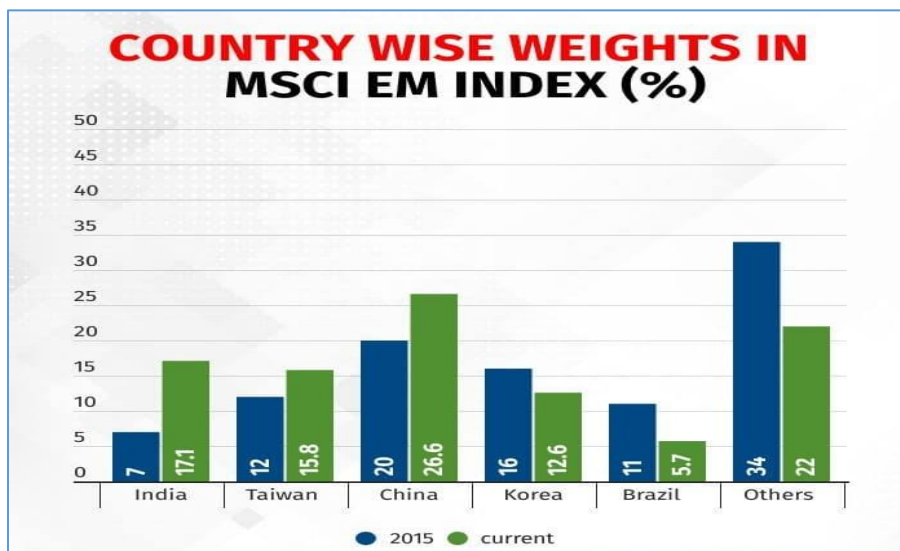
- ❖ Tamil was the first language in India to be accorded classical language status in 2004.
- ❖ Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia are the other languages that have been declared classical languages in India by the central government.

BSI ISO 27001:2022 certificate



- ❖ Haldia Petrochemicals becomes India's First BSI Certified ISO 27001:2022 Petrochemical Firm.
- ❖ The certification was awarded by the United Kingdom based certification body.
- ❖ ISO/IEC 27001:2022 is the latest iteration of the Information Security Management System (ISMS) program published in October 2022.

MSCI EM Index



- ❖ India's weightage surpassed Taiwan in MSCI EM index, now ranking second after China.

- ❖ This solidifies India as a promising investment choice among emerging markets.
- ❖ India's MSCI Emerging Markets index spiked in eight years, leaping from 7 percent to 17.1 percent.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Firepower rankings 2024



- ❖ The United States continues to have the most powerful military in the world, according to the Global Firepower rankings 2024.
- ❖ It is followed by Russia and China.
- ❖ India has the fourth strongest military of evaluated 145 countries.
- ❖ South Korea overtook UK and became the fifth most powerful country in the world in terms of military strength.
- ❖ Pakistan is at number 9 while Bhutan has the least powerful military in the world.
- ❖ US spends the most money on its military with a defence budget of \$831 billion.

- ❖ It is followed by China (\$227 billion), Russia (\$107 billion) and India (\$74 million).
- ❖ Among the top five defence spenders, US accounts for 63.3% of the total expenditure share.

Cabo Verde - Malaria Free City

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) as a malaria-free country.
- ❖ Thus, it was becoming the third country to acquire the status in the global health organisation's African region.
- ❖ The country has now joined Mauritius and Algeria, who were certified in 1973 and 2019, respectively.
- ❖ Africa has the highest malaria burden and accounted for roughly 95 per cent of global malaria cases and 96 per cent of related deaths in 2021.
- ❖ Till now, WHO has awarded the 'malaria-free' certification to 43 countries and 1 territory.



Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI)

- ❖ At the TN Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2024, Denmark announced a Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative.
- ❖ It aims to boost collaboration between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector and advance its joint global goal towards carbon neutrality.

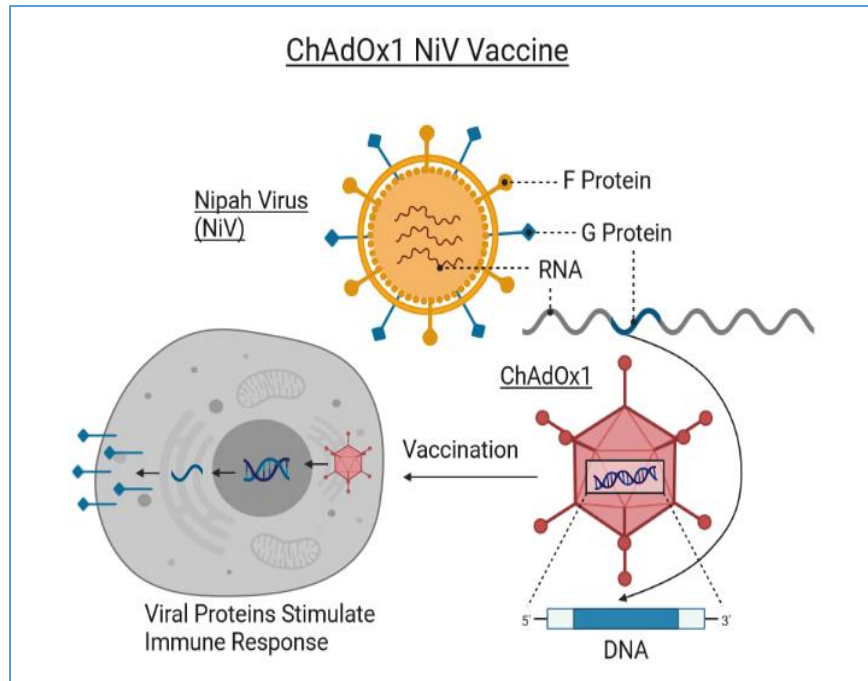
- ❖ The GFAI's primary objective is to promote sustainable energy growth in India by establishing an ecosystem that encourages collaboration among businesses, government entities, research institutions, and financial stakeholders.
- ❖ Nine pioneering Danish organisations have committed themselves to the GFAI initiative as founding members.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the GFAI's advisory board members include India Hydrogen Alliance, Energy Consortium at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, the Danish Energy Agency and State of Green.
- ❖ India is working towards achieving net zero emissions by 2070.
- ❖ The GFAI is demonstrative of activities under the Green Strategic Partnership (GSP) signed between India and Denmark in 2020.



First human vaccine trials for Nipah

- ❖ The University of Oxford, U.K. have launched first-in-human vaccine trials for the deadly Nipah virus.
- ❖ The trials of the ChAdOx1 NipahB vaccine was consisting of 51 people aged 18 to 55.
- ❖ Nipah virus is a devastating disease that can be fatal in around 75% of cases.
- ❖ Outbreaks have occurred in countries in Asia, including Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh and India.

- ❖ Nipah virus is carried by fruit bats and may also be transmitted by contact with infected animals (such as pigs) or from person-to-person via close contact.
- ❖ Nipah virus was first identified in 1998.



WEF annual meeting 2024



- ❖ The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024 is held in Davos.
- ❖ The 54th annual meeting adopts a theme centered on returning to fundamental principles.
- ❖ Key Focus Areas at Davos 2024:
 - Achieving Security and Cooperation amid Rising Geopolitical Tensions:
 - Creating Growth and Jobs for a New Era

- Artificial Intelligence as a Driving Force for the Economy and Society
- A Long-Term Strategy for Climate, Nature, and Energy

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

X-59 Quiet Supersonic Aircraft

- ❖ NASA and Lockheed Martin recently unveiled the X-59 aircraft.
- ❖ It aims to conquer one of the key issues with supersonic aircraft- a sonic boom.
- ❖ The X-59 is the latest in a series of experimental planes which include the X-1.
- ❖ X-1 became the first manned aircraft to exceed the speed of sound in 1947.
- ❖ The X-15, which still holds the record for the fastest ever manned flight, set in 1967 at Mach 6.7.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Water Monitor Report 2023

- ❖ More than 77 countries experienced the highest average annual temperature in 45 years, according to the 2023 Global Water Monitor report.
- ❖ Record-high average temperatures were observed across all seasons.
- ❖ The year 2023 ranked second in relative air humidity, continuing a trend towards drier average and extreme conditions.
- ❖ Despite the warmer and drier conditions, high annual soil water conditions were observed in many regions.
- ❖ The water content in the soil over the land area was 3.5 per cent above the 1998-2005 average.

- ❖ Surface water occurrence (including lakes, rivers and other forms of temporary inundation) was the second lowest in two decades.
- ❖ Globally, the water surface occurrence was 7 per cent below the 2003-2006 average, the lowest since 2011.

