

January - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ This is the first time that Khelo India Youth Games are being held in South India.
 - The Games will be played across four cities of Tamil Nadu, namely Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore
- ❖ NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) has bagged the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) Eminence award in the category of Digital Transformation.
 - The award instituted is by SCOPE, an apex body of public sector enterprises.
- ❖ Ahead of the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, a monumental 300-foot lamp, declared as the world's largest, is set to be illuminated in the city.
- ❖ e-SAKSHI Mobile Application was launched recently for revised fund flow procedure under MPLAD Scheme.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been rated as the second most valuable IT services brand, according to the 2024 Global 500 IT Services Ranking by Brand Finance.
 - Accenture remains the world's most valuable IT services brand, with a brand value of \$40.5 billion.
- ❖ The India's first Graphene Centre IICG has been established at Makers Village Kochi.
- ❖ Apple has overtaken Samsung as the world's top smartphone seller, ending the Korean tech firm's 12-year run as industry leader.

TAMIL NADU

Prehistoric Rock Paintings

- ❖ The Department of Archaeology has declared the entire hillocks with prehistoric rock paintings at Alampadi, Melvaalai, and Sethavarai villages in Villupuram as protected monuments.
- ❖ Melvalai, a nondescript village around 22 km from Villupuram, is a treasure trove of prehistoric rock art.
- ❖ The word, Rattapparai, has become synonymous with the rock art painted in red ochre.
- ❖ The paintings at Melvalai date back to 3000 B.C.
- ❖ The paintings are of human figurines, animals, and symbols.

- ❖ The Melvalai and Sethavarai sites are spread over 4.26 and 110.79 hectares respectively.
- ❖ Alampadi has a combination of prehistoric rock paintings in red and white ochre that are similar to those found at Sethavarai.



NATIONAL

Excavation At Vadnagar



- ❖ A recent excavation in Vadnagar of Gujarat, unearthed evidence of unbroken cultural continuity spanning centuries.
- ❖ The continuity after the Harappan collapse is making it likely that the “Dark Age” was a myth.
- ❖ They found the evidence of a human settlement that is as old as 800 BCE contemporary to late-Vedic/pre-Buddhist Mahajanapadas or oligarchic republics.

- ❖ The period between the collapse of the Indus Valley Civilisation and the emergence of the Iron Age and cities like Gandhar, Koshal, and Avanti is often depicted as a Dark Age.

National Startup Awards 2023

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) released the winners list of the National Startup Awards 2023.
- ❖ The government awarded 20 startups across 15 categories.
- ❖ It includes 'Women led innovation', 'NextGen Innovator', 'Champions of Cultural Heritage', 'Pivot Pro Award', among others.

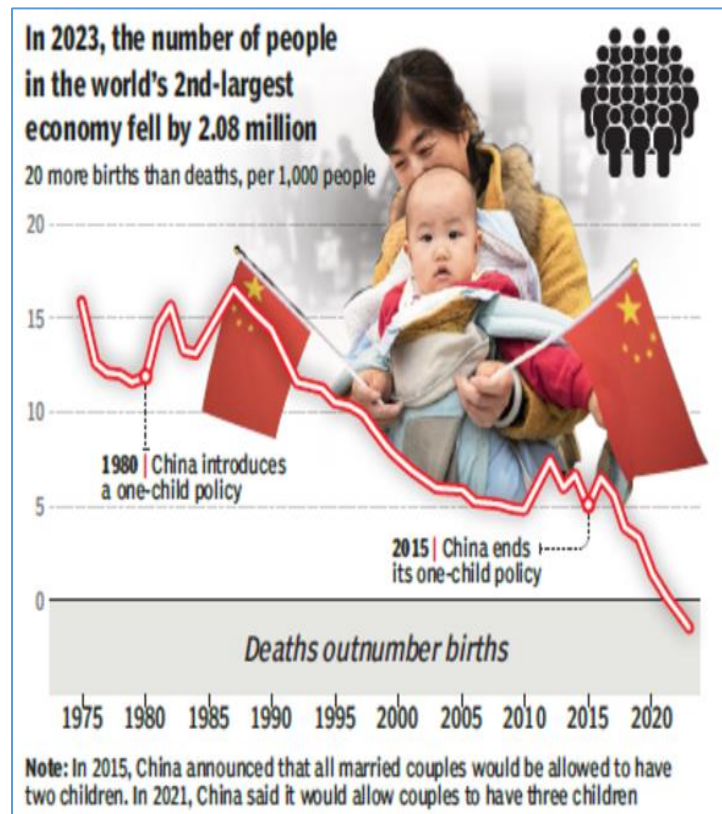
Startups	Sector	State
Axial Aero	Defence	Telangana
Country Clay (OPC)	Handicrafts	Delhi
Blackfrog Technologies	Healthtech	Karnataka
Atsuya Technologies	Climate Tech	Tamil Nadu
SNL Innovations	Agritech	Rajasthan
Aumsat Technologies	Agritech	Maharashtra
Nanosafe Solutions	Biotech	Delhi
Aum Paper Products	Sustainability	Karnataka
Atypical Platform	HRTech	Jharkhand
Saif Automations Services	Robotics	Andhra Pradesh
Krishigati Electric Bull	Agritech	Maharashtra
Avinya Infinity Solutions	Healthtech	Kerala
Jiva Business Ventures	Insurtech	Telangana
Canectar Foods	Foodtech	Maharashtra
VVP Healthcare Evolution	Healthtech	Maharashtra
Vividminds Technologies	Deeptech	Telangana
Eeki Automation	Agritech	Rajasthan
Breathe Applied Sciences	Climate Tech	Karnataka
Greenviro Global	Climate Tech	Tamil Nadu
Autocracy Machinery	Agritech	Telangana

INTERNATIONAL

China's Population Falls Again in 2023

- ❖ China's population fell for a second consecutive year in 2023, as a plunging birth rate and a wave of COVID-19 deaths.
- ❖ The total number of people in China was dropped by 2.75 million to 1.409 billion in 2023, a faster decline than in 2022.

- ❖ It was the first since 1961 during the Great Famine of the Mao Zedong era.
- ❖ The country's birth rate has been plummeting for decades as a result of the one-child policy implemented from 1980 to 2015.
- ❖ By long-term, China's population is shrinking by 109 million by 2050.
- ❖ It will more than triple the decline of their previous forecast in 2019.
- ❖ China's birth rate last year was 6.39 births per 1,000 people, down from a rate of 6.77 births in 2022 and marking the lowest birth rate on record.
- ❖ Japan's rate was 6.3 births per 1,000 people in 2022, while South Korea's was 4.9.
- ❖ China's 2023 rate of 7.87 deaths per 1,000 people, was up from a rate of 7.37 deaths in 2022.
- ❖ This is the highest since 1974 during the Cultural Revolution.

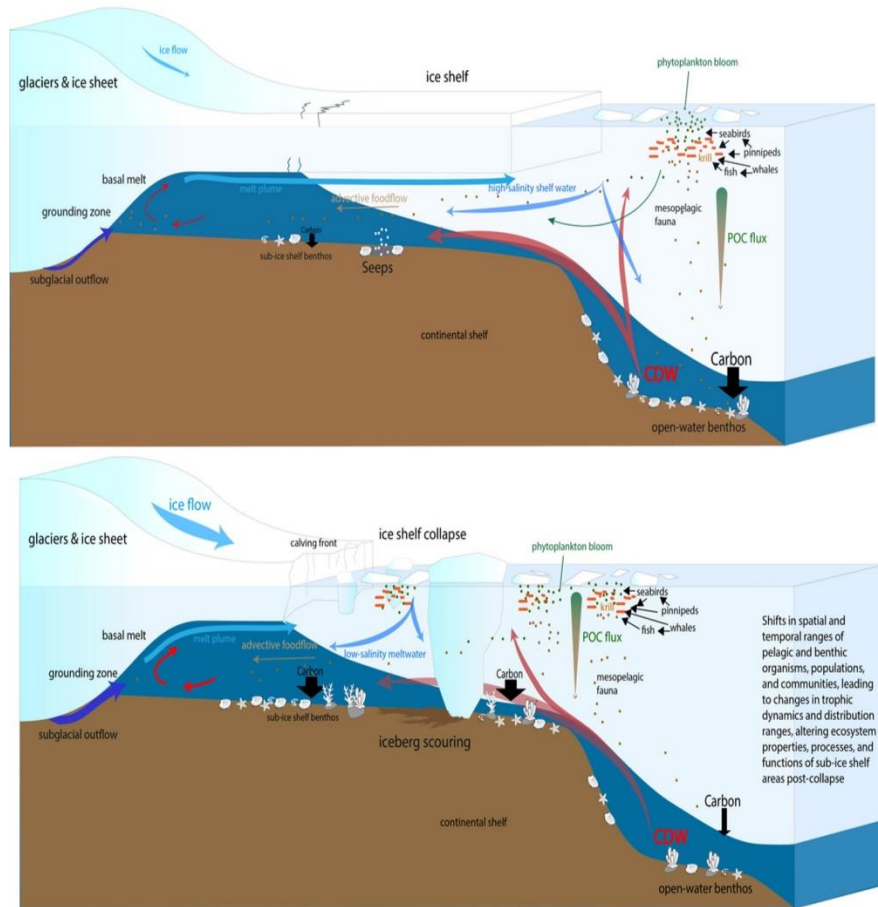


ENVIRONMENT

Antarctic Shelf Ecosystems

- ❖ There was rising acidity levels of the continental shelves in Antarctic Marine Protected Areas (MPA) under high levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

- ❖ Carbon emissions from human activities may be vertically mixed with ocean waters in coastal regions, resulting in severe acidification at all water levels.
- ❖ The study named Severe 21st-century ocean acidification in Antarctic Marine Protected Areas.
- ❖ The ocean helps to mitigate the effects of global warming by absorbing some of the carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) that is released into the atmosphere.
- ❖ The pH scale could decline by up to 0.36 (on the total scale) for the top 200 metres of the ocean by 2100.



STATES

Tallest Ambedkar Statue

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government unveiled the world's tallest statue of BR Ambedkar in Vijayawada.
- ❖ It is standing 206 feet from the ground, the 'Statue of Social Justice' statue will be in the list of the top 50 tallest statues in the world.

- ❖ The second-tallest Ambedkar statue, which is 175 feet, is situated in neighbouring Telangana.



Buffalo Fights - Assam

KEEPING THE TRADITION ALIVE

A buffalo fight marks the Magh Bihu fest at Ahatguri

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Traditional Moh-juj (buffalo fights) is said to have been introduced by Ahom King Rudra Singha	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In 2023, the SC upheld the validity of laws passed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka to allow Jallikattu, bullock-cart races and buffalo racing sport Kambala in their respective regions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In 2014, the SC outlawed the the bull-taming sport Jallikattu and bullock cart races in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra respectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Following this, the Assam cabinet allowed buffalo fights and bulbul fights and issued a strict SOP for that in December last year
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A year later, buffalo fights and bulbul fights were banned by the Assam in 2015	

- ❖ After nine years, the traditional buffalo fight was organized for the first time under stringent government guidelines during Magh Bihu in Assam.

- ❖ The fight was banned in 2015 by state government following a judgment of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The buffalo fight, along with elephant as well as bulbul fight, was introduced by Ahom King Rudra Singha.
- ❖ Since then, the buffalo fight has remained a part and parcel of the Assamese community.

9th Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival



- ❖ This festival focuses on wildlife conservation, with a particular emphasis on hornbills.
- ❖ Four species of the birds - Wreathed, Great Indian, Oriental Pied and the endangered Rufous-necked - are found in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The area is also home to the Nyishi, the largest tribal group in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The festival aims to recognise the role played by the Nyishi in conserving hornbills in PTR.

Vulture restaurant - Jharkhand

- ❖ The restaurant has been set up in Koderma district.
- ❖ It aims to conserve the fast-dwindling population of the bird species due to rampant use of drugs in livestock.
- ❖ It will begin functioning once the protocol for goshalas (cow shelter) and municipalities for providing diclofenac-free animal carcasses is ready.
- ❖ Carcasses of livestock from the goshalas and municipalities will be served as food to the scavenger birds at the 'vulture restaurant', a demarcated feeding site.



- ❖ The Koderma 'vulture restaurant' has been established at Gumo under Tilaiya Nagar Parishad as it is considered to be a feeding site for the birds.
- ❖ In Koderma, vultures were not seen for almost two decades.
- ❖ They were sighted again in the region since 2019.

