

January - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Kanteimundi brinjal, which is widely cultivated in Nayagarh district of Odisha, has received GI (Geographical Indication) tag.
- ❖ The National Stock Exchange of India emerged as the world's largest derivative exchange in 2023 by the number of contracts traded.
 - It also ranked 3rd in the world in the equity segment by number of trades (electronic order book).
- ❖ Sony Group Corp has officially notified Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd that it plans to call off the \$10 billion merger between its India unit and the media network.
- ❖ Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying won the India Open 2024 women's singles title against Chen Yu Fei of China.

NATIONAL

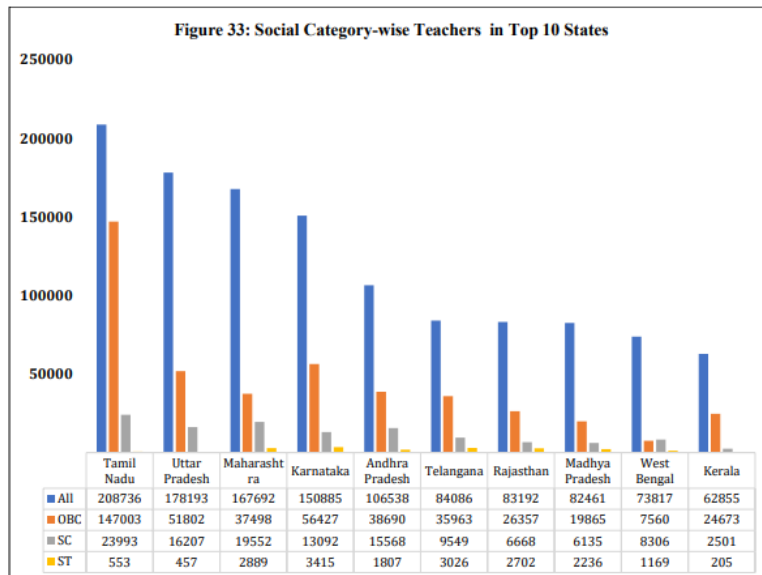
Gallantry Award Winners 2024



- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu announced 80 gallantry awards, including six Kirti Chakra and 16 Shaurya Chakra, for India's armed forces.
- ❖ Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award after Ashok Chakra.
- ❖ The Shaurya Chakra is the third-highest peacetime award.

- ❖ Six Kirti Chakra awards were announced, out of which three were conferred posthumously.
- ❖ Two out of the total 16 Shaurya Chakra awards were conferred posthumously.
- ❖ The awards also included 53 Sena Medal (seven posthumous), one Nao Sena Medal (gallantry) and four Vayu Sena Medals (gallantry).
- ❖ Apart from this, President Murmu approved 311 defence decorations to armed forces and other personnel.

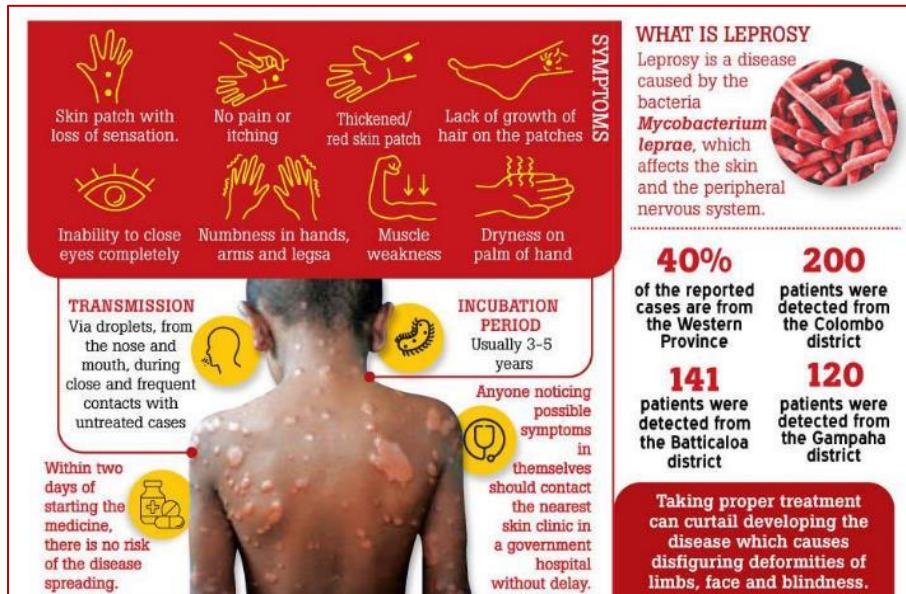
AISHE Survey 2021-2022



- ❖ The Ministry of Education releases All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022.
- ❖ The female enrolment in Higher Education increased to 2.07 crore in 2021-22 from 1.57 crore in 2014-15.
- ❖ It is an increase of 50 lakh students, 32 per cent increase.
- ❖ The enrolment of SC students is 66.23 lakh in 2021-22 as compared to 46.07 lakh in 2014-15 (an increase of 44 per cent).
- ❖ The total enrolment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.33 crore in 2021-22 from 4.14 crore in 2020-21.
- ❖ There has been an increase of around 91 lakhs in the enrolment from 3.42 crore (26.5 per cent) in 2014-15.
- ❖ The enrolment of SC Female students has increased to 31.71 lakh in 2021-22 from 29.01 lakh in 2020-21 and 21.02 lakh in 2014-15.
- ❖ There has been an increase of 51 per cent since 2014-15.

- ❖ The enrolment of ST students has increased to 27.1 lakh in 2021-22 from 16.41 lakh in 2014-15 (an increase of 65.2 per cent).
- ❖ The enrolment of OBC students has also increased to 1.63 crore in 2021-22 from 1.13 crore in 2014-15.
- ❖ There is a notable increase in OBC student enrolment since 2014-15 of around 50.8 lakh.
- ❖ About 78.9 per cent of the total students are enrolled in undergraduate level courses and 12.1 per cent are enrolled in postgraduate level courses.
- ❖ The Government Universities constituting 58.6 per cent of total Universities, contribute 73.7 per cent of total enrolment, and Private Universities account for 26.3 per cent of total enrolment.
- ❖ The total number of Universities / University level institutions registered is 1,168, Colleges 45,473 and Standalone Institutions 12,002.

New 3-Drug Regimen for Leprosy



SYMPTOMS

- Skin patch with loss of sensation.
- No pain or itching
- Thickened/red skin patch
- Lack of growth of hair on the patches
- Inability to close eyes completely
- Numbness in hands, arms and legs
- Muscle weakness
- Dryness on palm of hand

WHAT IS LEPROSY
Leprosy is a disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*, which affects the skin and the peripheral nervous system.

40% of the reported cases are from the Western Province

200 patients were detected from the Colombo district

141 patients were detected from the Batticaloa district

120 patients were detected from the Gampaha district

TRANSMISSION
Via droplets, from the nose and mouth, during close and frequent contacts with untreated cases

INCUBATION PERIOD
Usually 3-5 years

Anyone noticing possible symptoms in themselves should contact the nearest skin clinic in a government hospital without delay.

Within two days of starting the medicine, there is no risk of the disease spreading.

Taking proper treatment can curtail developing the disease which causes disfiguring deformities of limbs, face and blindness.

- ❖ The Central government has approved a new treatment regimen for leprosy, aiming to stop its transmission at the sub-national level by 2027.
- ❖ The National Leprosy Eradication Programme is taking all the required steps to stop the transmission of leprosy.
- ❖ Govt has decided to introduce a three-drug regimen for Pauci-Bacillary (PB) cases in place of a two-drug regimen for six months.
- ❖ WHO had agreed to supply the revised drug regimen from April 1, 2025.

- ❖ Thus, all States and Union Territories have now been asked to send their requisitions for anti-leprosy drugs 12 months beforehand.
- ❖ The revised classification of leprosy and the treatment regimen for PB and multi-bacillary (MB) cases in India will be implemented from the same date.
- ❖ The WHO's recommended treatment regimen consists of three drugs — dapsone, rifampicin and clofazimine.
- ❖ The combination is referred to as MDT.
- ❖ Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by the Mycobacterium leprae bacteria.
- ❖ Free MDT was initially funded by the Nippon Foundation and since 2000.

INTERNATIONAL

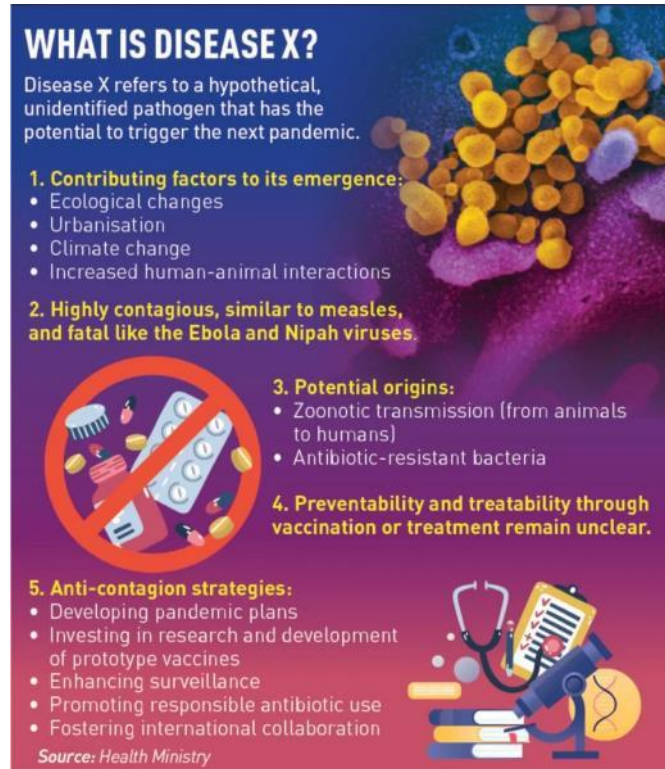
Malathion to Afghanistan



- ❖ India has sent 40,000 litres of Malathion, a pesticide, to Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar port.
- ❖ The pesticide is used to fight the locust menace.
- ❖ Malathion is an environment-friendly pesticide and best suited for arid regions.
- ❖ The Indian assistance will ensure food security in Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- ❖ The Indian government has partnered with the United Nations World Food Programme for the internal distribution of wheat within Afghanistan.

- ❖ Under this partnership, India has supplied 47,500 metric tonnes of wheat as assistance to UNWFP centres in Afghanistan.

Discussion on Disease X



WHAT IS DISEASE X?

Disease X refers to a hypothetical, unidentified pathogen that has the potential to trigger the next pandemic.

- 1. Contributing factors to its emergence:**
 - Ecological changes
 - Urbanisation
 - Climate change
 - Increased human-animal interactions
- 2. Highly contagious, similar to measles, and fatal like the Ebola and Nipah viruses.**
- 3. Potential origins:**
 - Zoonotic transmission (from animals to humans)
 - Antibiotic-resistant bacteria
- 4. Preventability and treatability through vaccination or treatment remain unclear.**
- 5. Anti-contagion strategies:**
 - Developing pandemic plans
 - Investing in research and development of prototype vaccines
 - Enhancing surveillance
 - Promoting responsible antibiotic use
 - Fostering international collaboration

Source: Health Ministry

- ❖ The discussion titled, Preparing for Disease X, was hosted by the World Economic Forum.
- ❖ 'Disease X' represents an unknown disease that could cause a potential epidemic or pandemic.
- ❖ It will make unprecedented impact on health infrastructure and mortality.
- ❖ It is most likely to be a zoonotic disease with a ribonucleic acid (RNA) virus, having a far worse effect on mortality rates than the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ RNA viruses have a high mutation rate and highly infectious.

19th NAM Summit

- ❖ The 19th Summit of the NAM was held in Kampala, Uganda.
- ❖ The theme of the event was "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence".
- ❖ The summit usually takes place every three years.
- ❖ Uganda has taken over as chair from Azerbaijan, to run until 2027.

- ❖ The summit adopted the Kampala Declaration.
- ❖ During this event, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni expressed his regret over the expulsion of Indians in 1970s.
- ❖ In August 1972, Idi Amin, the dictator of Uganda, ordered the expulsion of Indians and other Asians who were living and working in Uganda.
- ❖ Around 80,000 Indians were forced to leave the country within 90 days.
- ❖ Currently, Indian Nationals/PIOs who constitute less than 0.1% of Uganda's population, contribute about 70% of Uganda's direct taxes.
- ❖ At present, NAM has 120 Member States, 17 Observer Countries and 10 Observer organizations.
- ❖ NAM does not have a permanent secretariat or a formal founding charter, act, or treaty.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Japan in moon

- ❖ Despite last-minute engine problems, Japan's "Moon Sniper" craft made a precise lunar landing.
- ❖ Thus, Japan became the fifth country to land softly on the moon, following the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and India.
- ❖ Its unmanned Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM), is also known as the "Moon Sniper".
- ❖ Due to its precision technology, it was designed to land within 100 metres of a specific landing spot on a crater.
- ❖ That is much more precise than the usual landing zone range that experts put at several kilometres.

- ❖ SLIM succeeded in a pin-point soft landing.
- ❖ The landing point is confirmed to be 55 metres away from the target point.

