

July - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Shiv Das Meena was appointed as 49th chief secretary of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Shankar Jiwal was appointed as Tamil Nadu's new Director General of Police.
- ❖ Sandeep Rai Rathore has been appointed as the new Chennai City Police Commissioner.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu beat Haryana 2-1 in the final to clinch the senior women's National football championship at the Guru Nanak stadium in Amritsar.
 - Tamil Nadu had last won the title in 2018.
- ❖ 64th Global Environment Facility (GEF) council meeting held at Brazil.
 - It approved the disbursement of \$1.4 billion to accelerate efforts to tackle the climate, biodiversity, and pollution crises.

TAMIL NADU

Police Drone Unit



- ❖ India's first 'Police Drone Unit' was launched in Chennai.
- ❖ The Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force C. Sylendra Babu inaugurated the newly created special unit at Besant Avenue, Adyar.

- ❖ The unit has been established at a two-storey building and functions with over 20 trained police personnel.
- ❖ At present, the drones are operated around Marina and Elliot's beaches.
- ❖ In this Drone Police Unit, a total of nine drones under three categories namely — Quick response surveillance drones; heavy lift multicopter Drone and long-range survey wing plane — are available and are equipped with built-in artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.
- ❖ These drones can be operated from the control room up to 5 km.

Dismissal of Senthil Balaji



- ❖ The Tamilnadu government released the decree for Senthil Balaji will continue as Minister Without Portfolio already.
- ❖ But Tamil Nadu Governor dismissed the arrested former Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji from the state cabinet.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the order of dismissal of the minister V Senthil Balaji may be kept in abeyance until further communication.
- ❖ The Governor will be approaching the Attorney General for his opinion on this issue.

NATIONAL

Micron semiconductor plant

- ❖ Micron Technology Inc, a US-based semiconductor manufacturer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government to set up a state-of-the-art semiconductor unit in Sanand, near Ahmedabad.

- ❖ It marks a significant milestone in India's journey towards self-reliance in memory chip manufacturing.
- ❖ It will create 5,000 direct jobs and is expected to be commissioned within 18 months.



PM-PRANAM and Urea Gold Schemes

CABINET DECISION
28 JUNE 2023

Package of schemes for farmers

Package

- » Continuation of Urea Subsidy Scheme to ensure constant availability of urea to the farmers at the **same price of Rs 242/ 45 kg bag for 3 years**
- » **8 Nano urea plants** with production **capacity of 44 crore bottles equal to 195 LMT** of conventional urea to be commissioned by 2025-26
- » **Rs. 1451.84 crore** approved for Market Development Assistance for promoting Organic Fertilizers from GOBARdhan Plants
- » Introduction of **Sulphur coated Urea (Urea Gold)**

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- ❖ The Centre has approved a new scheme PM-PRANAM to incentivise states to promote alternative fertilisers and reduce the use of chemical fertilisers.

- ❖ It is including PM-PRANAM, Urea Gold, and the subsidy for organic manure, reflect the government's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ These initiatives include the PM-PRANAM scheme and the introduction of sulphur-coated urea (Urea Gold) to address soil deficiencies.
- ❖ The scheme ensures the availability of fertilizer to farmers at a consistent price of Rs 242/45 kg bag (excluding taxes and neem coating charges).
- ❖ The total outlay for urea subsidy over this period amounts to Rs 3.68 lakh crore.

Green Credit Programme



- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recently notified the draft 'Green Credit Programme (GCP)' implementation rules for 2023.
- ❖ The proposed scheme aims to encourage individuals, industries, farmers producers' organisations (FPOs), urban local bodies (ULB), gram panchayats, and private sectors, among others, to undertake environment-friendly actions such as planting trees, conserving water, waste management, and reducing air pollution.
- ❖ By participating in these activities, entities can earn tradable "green credits" that will be incentivized through a market-based mechanism.

List of "Critical Minerals for India"

- ❖ It was prepared by an expert team constituted by the Ministry of Mines.
- ❖ The Expert Committee has identified a set of 30 critical minerals for India.

- ❖ These are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

CRITICAL MINERALS: INDIA'S NET IMPORT RELIANCE (2020)		
Critical Mineral	%age	Major import sources
Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
Zirconium (zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Graphite (natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands

Source: 'Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential', Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021

INTERNATIONAL

Canada - digital nomad strategy



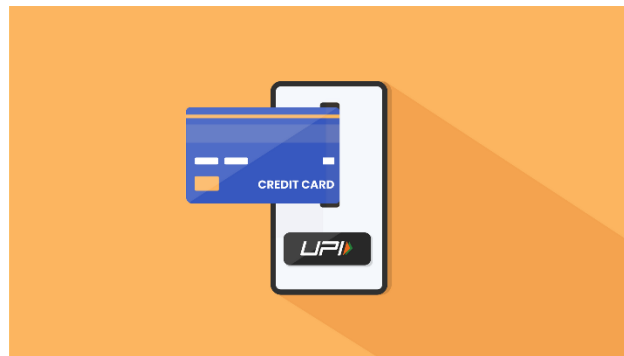
- ❖ Under the digital nomad strategy, foreign workers are permitted to stay in Canada for up to six months.
- ❖ If they receive job offers during their stay, they can extend their time in the country.

- ❖ This initiative is designed to alleviate the shortage of skilled professionals in Canada's tech sector.

ECONOMY

First Government bank to allow UPI payments through credit cards

- ❖ Canara Bank has announced that it has become India's first Public Sector Bank to offer UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments to merchants through RuPay Credit Card.
- ❖ This new feature is available within the bank's popular "Canara ai1" Banking Super App.
- ❖ The bank has partnered with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) to introduce this facility.
- ❖ It enables Canara Bank customers to make quick and seamless payments to merchants using their RuPay Credit Card, providing them with greater flexibility and convenience.
- ❖ This joint initiative aims to provide safe, secure, and convenient payment transactions for Canara Bank customers.
- ❖ The introduction of RuPay Credit Cards on UPI opens new opportunities for both customers and merchants, revolutionizing the credit ecosystem.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Energy Transition Index

- ❖ The World Economic Forum has recently released the Energy Transition Index.
- ❖ India is at 67th position in this ranking.
- ❖ Sweden is at the top of this list.
- ❖ Top 5 countries include Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland.

❖ This time a list of 120 countries has been issued.

Rank	Country	ETI score (2014–2023)	2023 ETI score	SP ¹ ('23)	TR ² ('23)
1	Sweden		78.5	81.0	74.8
2	Denmark		76.1	73.7	79.8
3	Norway		73.7	77.3	68.3
4	Finland		72.8	68.9	78.6
5	Switzerland		72.4	75.7	67.4
6	Iceland		70.6	73.9	65.6
7	France		70.6	73.3	66.5
8	Austria		69.3	69.2	69.5
9	Netherlands		68.8	65.7	73.5
10	Estonia		68.2	74.2	59.2
11	Germany		67.5	64.6	71.9
12	United States		66.3	68.4	63.2
13	United Kingdom		66.2	67.7	64.0
14	Brazil		65.9	68.9	61.3
15	Portugal		65.8	66.7	64.5
16	Spain		65.0	65.1	64.7
17	China		64.9	65.0	64.8
18	Hungary		64.3	68.8	57.5
19	Canada		64.2	66.7	60.3
20	Luxembourg		64.2	61.5	68.2

UNSG report on impact of armed conflict on children



- ❖ Recently, the annual report of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Children and Armed Conflict was published.
- ❖ The report has dropped India’s name from the list in view of measures taken by the Government, specifically in Jammu and Kashmir, to better protect children.
- ❖ The report includes trends regarding the impact of armed conflict on children and information on violations committed.

- ❖ Violations affected 18,890 children (13,469 boys, 4,638 girls, 783 sex unknown) in 24 situations.

STATES

Hemis festival



- ❖ The legendary two days Hemis festival was celebrated in Leh in Ladakh.
- ❖ It's also popularly known as Hemis Tses-Chu.
- ❖ It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Padma sambhava.
- ❖ Guru Padma sambhava was introduced and flourished Vajrayana Buddhist tradition in the entire Himalayas.
- ❖ Guru Padma sambhava is popularly known as the second Buddha.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2023 List of Great Immigrants



- ❖ Ajay Banga, the President of the World Bank, has been recognised on the Carnegie Corporation of New York's annual "Great Immigrants" list.



- ❖ He is an Indian-born American business executive.
- ❖ He is lauded for his contributions and efforts in enriching America and its democracy.

