

July - 06

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader K.M. Khader Mohideen has been selected for the Thagaisal Thamizhar Award of the Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ Saima Wazed, the Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia, was felicitated with the Mental Health Award 2025 at the 24th Annual International Mental Health Conference in Thailand.
- ❖ INS Tamal, the eighth Project 1135.6 stealth frigate and second Tushil-class ship, was commissioned in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- ❖ Six-year-old Teghbir Singh from Punjab set a new world record as the youngest mountaineer to climb Mount Elbrus.
  - Earlier, in 2024, he became the youngest Asian to scale the Mount Kilimanjaro and reached the Mount Everest Base Camp.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### First ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue

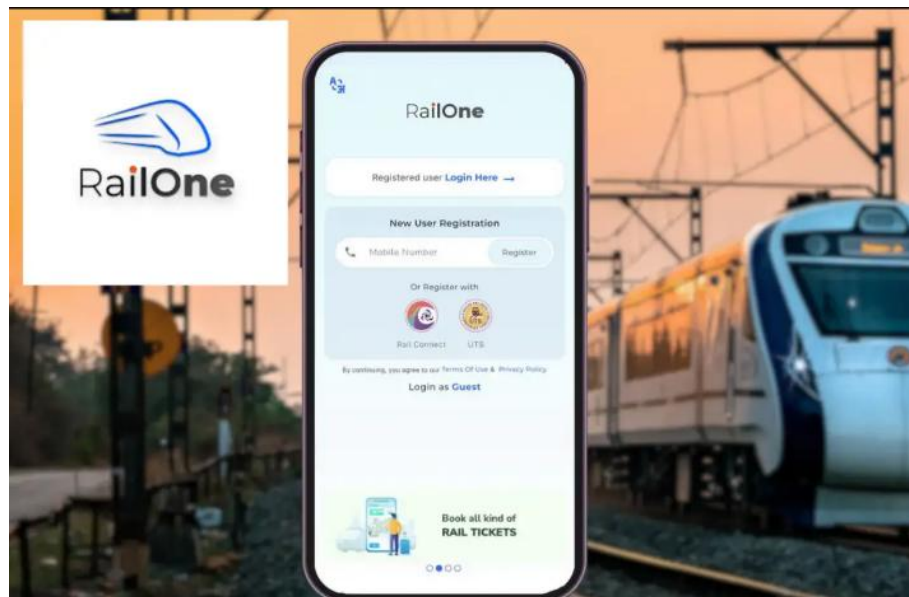


- ❖ India hosts its first ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue in Chennai to boost maritime ties and tourism.
- ❖ The dialogue focused on improving cruise connectivity, sustainable tourism, and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- ❖ It plans to develop 5,000 km of waterways and increase cruise passengers to one million by 2029.

- ❖ An integrated cruise network connecting Indian and ASEAN ports is planned under Sagarmala and Viksit Bharat 2047 initiatives.

### **RailOne App**

- ❖ Indian Railways launched RailOne, a new all-in-one app for passengers.
- ❖ The app was released on the 40th Foundation Day of the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).
- ❖ RailOne combines services like ticket booking, food ordering, and train enquiries in one place.
- ❖ Users can book reserved, unreserved, and platform tickets through RailOne.
- ❖ RailOne offers freight train service enquiries too, making it a full railway service platform.
- ❖ This app brings many old apps together like Rail Connect, IRCTC eCatering, Rail Madad, and UTS.



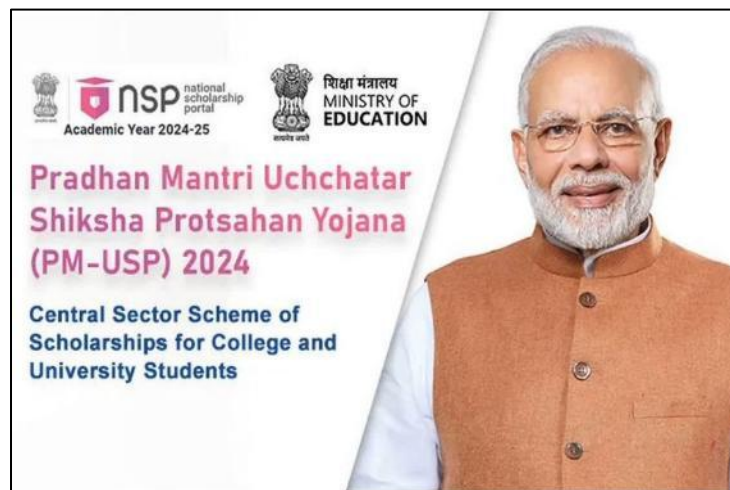
### **India's New Sports Policy 2025**

- ❖ Government approved the National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025 to boost sports in India.
- ❖ This new policy replaces the old one made in 2001 with a modern plan for growth.
- ❖ NSP 2025 wants to make India strong in the world sports, like the 2036 Olympic Games.

- ❖ The policy has five main parts such as global sports success, sports for economy, social growth, people's movement, and sports in education.
- ❖ It also supports better training, new technology, private help, and clear goals for progress.



## PM Scholarship for College Students



- ❖ The government gives a scholarship called Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) under the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS).
- ❖ This scheme helps smart students from poor families pay for their college studies.
- ❖ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced the scholarship for the 2025-26 year on the National Scholarship Portal (scholarships.gov.in).

- ❖ Students are selected based on their Class 12 exam marks.
- ❖ The Scholarships are divided among states based on the number of students aged 18–25 in each state.
- ❖ Scholarships are shared among Science, Commerce, and Arts students in a 3:2:1 ratio.
- ❖ Students in graduation get ₹12,000 per year for the first three years.
- ❖ Students doing post-graduation get ₹20,000 per year.
- ❖ Students in 5-year professional courses get ₹20,000 per year in their 4th and 5th year.
- ❖ The scholarship is sent straight to the student's bank account using the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ❖ Family income must be less than ₹4.5 lakh per year.

### **Jan Suraksha Santruhti Abhiyan**



- ❖ The campaign will be held across the country from July 1 to September 30.
- ❖ It aims to identify the eligible citizens who have not yet received benefits under government welfare schemes and to deliver those benefits to them.
- ❖ The schemes covered include
  - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana,
  - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana,
  - Atal Pension Yojana, and Jan Dhan Yojana.



- ❖ The campaign also includes updating KYC for Jan Dhan accounts, opening new accounts and creating awareness about digital fraud.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Malaria Free - Suriname

- ❖ Suriname became the first country in the Amazon region to be declared malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ It is the 47th country or territory in the world to achieve this status.
- ❖ Malaria is a serious disease spread by mosquitoes and mostly found in tropical areas.
- ❖ India aims to eliminate malaria completely by the year 2030.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### H-2A Rocket Launch

- ❖ Japan successfully launched the 50th and last H-2A rocket recently.
- ❖ The rocket carried the Greenhouse Gas and Water Cycle Observation Satellite (GOSAT-GW) into space.
- ❖ GOSAT-GW will monitor greenhouse gases and sea surface temperatures to study climate change.
- ❖ The H-2A rocket was built by the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- ❖ Since its first launch in 2001, H-2A had a 98% success rate with only one failure.

- ❖ The rocket was capable of the missions to geostationary orbit, lunar orbit, and interplanetary missions like the 2010 Akatsuki Venus probe.
- ❖ After 50 missions, H-2A is retired and will be replaced by the more cost-efficient H3 rocket.



### **Teak Leaf Extract for Laser Safety**



A photograph of a large, green teak leaf with prominent veins. Below the leaf is an orange banner with the text 'TEAK LEAF EXTRACT' in white capital letters, followed by 'A NATURAL SHIELD AGAINST LASER HAZARDS' in smaller white capital letters. Below the banner is a white box containing three lines of text: 'RRI scientists discover teak leaf extract shields eyes and sensors from high-power laser radiation.', 'Extract is rich in anthocyanins—natural pigments with unique nonlinear optical (NLO) properties.', and 'Eco-friendly, non-toxic, and low-cost alternative to synthetic optical materials.'

- ❖ The Scientists at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) of Bengaluru has found the teak leaf extract can protect eyes and sensors from strong laser rays.
- ❖ Teak leaves, usually the agricultural wastes, contain the natural pigments called anthocyanins with special nonlinear optical (NLO) properties.



- ❖ The extract absorbs more intense laser light, showing the high reverse saturable absorption (RSA), which makes it useful for laser safety.
- ❖ This natural dye is eco-friendly, biodegradable, and very cheaper compared to the synthetic materials used in laser protection.

### Global Satellite Launch 2025

- ❖ The United States of America (USA) is leading the world in 2025 by launching 8,530 satellites.
- ❖ China takes second place in satellite deployments, while Russia stands third.
- ❖ India is ranked 7th globally with a total of 136 satellites being launched.
- ❖ The Satellite deployment means sending satellites into space for communication, defense, weather, and navigation uses.
- ❖ Most of the satellites launched are the small-sized one and sent in large numbers together, often called constellations.
- ❖ The Companies like Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) and Amazon's Project Kuiper are driving large satellite numbers.
- ❖ The year 2025 is expected to break records with over 20,000 satellites being launched around the world.

| Top 10 countries with the most satellites |         |            |
|---|---------|------------|
| Rank                                      | Country | satellites |
| 1   | US      | 8,530      |
| 2   | Russia  | 1,559      |
| 3   | China   | 906        |
| 4   | UK      | 763        |
| 5   | Japan   | 203        |
| 6   | France  | 100+       |
| 7   | India   | 136        |
| 8   | Germany | 82         |
| 9   | Italy   | 66         |
| 10  | Canada  | 64         |

### INS Udaygiri

- ❖ INS Udaygiri, a stealth frigate under Project 17A, was delivered to the Indian Navy on July 1.
- ❖ It is the second ship in this series, built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai.

- ❖ These ships are advanced versions of the older Shivalik-class (Project 17) frigates.
- ❖ It is equipped with modern weapons like supersonic missiles, medium-range air defence, and rapid-fire guns.



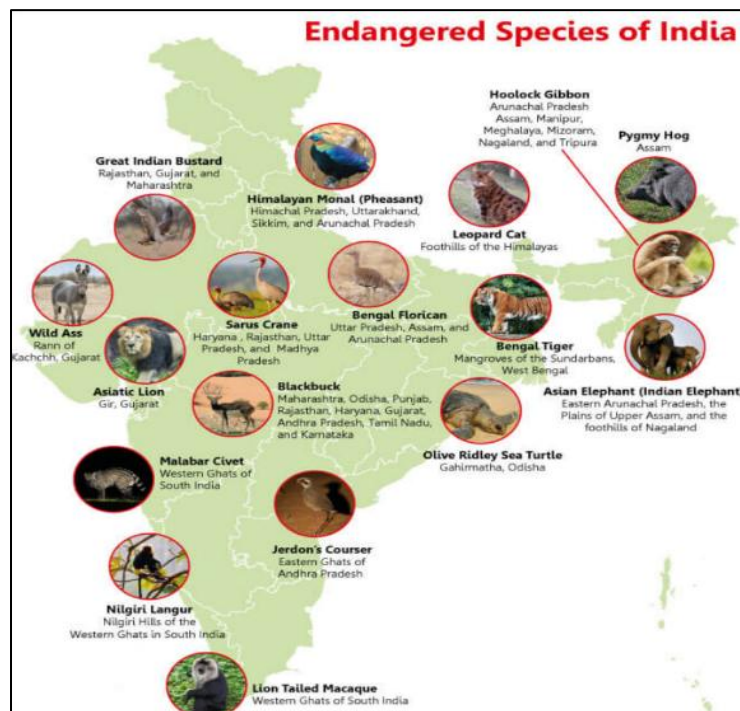
## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### New Animal and Plant Discoveries in India 2024

- ❖ India has found 683 new animal species last year (459 newly discovered and 224 newly recorded).
- ❖ A total of 433 new plant species were identified (410 are newly discovered and 23 are newly recorded).
- ❖ Kerala has led with 101 new animal species (80 newly discovered and 21 newly recorded).
- ❖ Karnataka has followed with 82 new animal species (68 newly discovered and 14 newly recorded).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu reported 63 new animal species (50 newly discovered and 13 newly recorded).
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh recorded 72 new animal species (42 newly discovered and 30 newly recorded).
- ❖ West Bengal has added 56 new animal species (25 newly discovered and 31 newly recorded).



- ❖ Meghalaya has found 42 new animal species (25 newly discovered and 17 newly recorded).
- ❖ Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reported 43 new animal species (14 newly discovered and 29 newly recorded).
- ❖ Important animal discoveries include two new types of reptiles and 37 new reptile species, along with five new amphibians.
- ❖ Kerala recorded the highest number of new plant species with 58.
- ❖ Maharashtra and Uttarakhand have followed with 45 and 40 new plant species respectively.
- ❖ Around 35 percent of all new plant discoveries came from the Western Ghats and North-East regions.

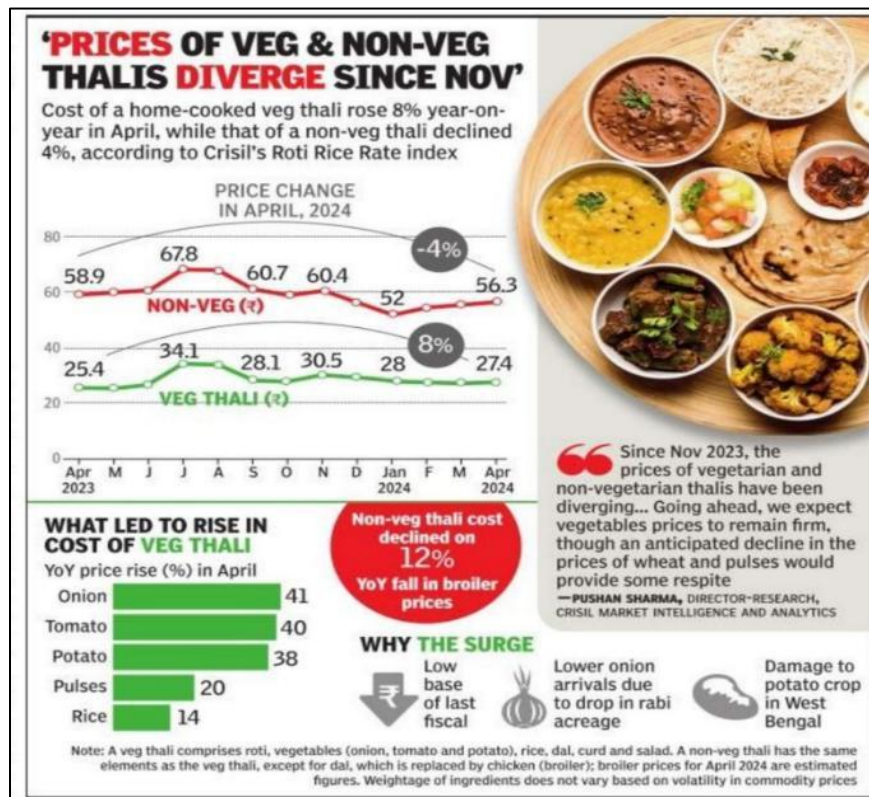


## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Thali Index

- ❖ New reports reveal poverty in India has fallen a lot in recent years.
- ❖ SBI (State Bank of India) reports rural poverty at 4.86% and urban poverty at 4.09% in 2023–24.
- ❖ World Bank presents even lower numbers, with rural poverty at 2.8% and urban at 1.1%.

- ❖ Many experts believe these numbers may not show the true living conditions of people.
- ❖ India still uses an old method that measures poverty by calorie intake.
- ❖ A new idea called the "Thali Index" checks food affordability using a simple Indian meal.
- ❖ Crisil estimates a basic vegetarian thali (meal) costs around ₹30 in India.
- ❖ But 40% of rural and 10% of urban people could not afford two thalis a day in 2023–24.
- ❖ This highlights that even if the poverty looks low, many still suffer from hidden hunger.



## Global Unicorn Index 2025

- ❖ The Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2025 was published by the Hurun Research Institute.
- ❖ The United States is at the top with 758 unicorns, followed by China with 343.
- ❖ San Francisco is the world's top unicorn city, followed by New York and Beijing.
- ❖ India stands at 3rd place with 64 unicorns, showing strong growth in the startup world.

- ❖ Bengaluru leads in India with the most unicorns, ranked 7th among global cities.
- ❖ Mumbai and Gurugram follow, ranked 22nd and 27th globally in unicorn count.
- ❖ Globally, there are 1,523 unicorns in 52 countries, worth a total of \$5.6 trillion.



## UN SDG Index 2025

| Rank | Country | Rank | Country                  |
|------|---------|------|--------------------------|
| 1    | Finland | 167  | South Sudan              |
| 2    | Sweden  | 166  | Central African Republic |
| 3    | Denmark | 165  | Chad                     |
| 4    | Germany | 164  | Somalia                  |
| 5    | France  | 163  | Yemen, Republic          |
| 6    | Austria | 162  | Congo, Dem. Rep.         |
| 7    | Norway  | 161  | Sudan                    |
| 8    | Croatia | 160  | Afghanistan              |
| 9    | Poland  | 159  | Niger                    |
| 10   | Czechia | 158  | Madagascar               |

- ❖ UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025 was released recently.
- ❖ Finland is standing first this year, followed by Sweden and Denmark.
- ❖ Notably, 19 out of the top 20 countries are European.
- ❖ India ranks 99th in the Index, and first time, in the top 100 out of 167 countries.
- ❖ South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and Chad sit at the bottom of the SDG Index.
- ❖ None of the 17 Global Goals is on track to be fully achieved by 2030.

- ❖ Only 17 per cent of the SDG targets are progressing as planned.

## STATES' NEWS

### Meghalaya's Eri Silk

- ❖ Eri Silk recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ This silk is known as 'Ahimsa Silk' because its production is cruelty-free; silk worms are not harmed.
- ❖ The Khasi community has preserved and enriched Eri Silk for generations in Meghalaya.
- ❖ Eri Silk keeps people warm in winter and cool in summer, suitable for the many climates.
- ❖ Recently, Meghalaya's Chief Minister Conrad Sangma had gifted the PM a piece of 'Ryndia Silk', symbolizing the state's cultural pride.

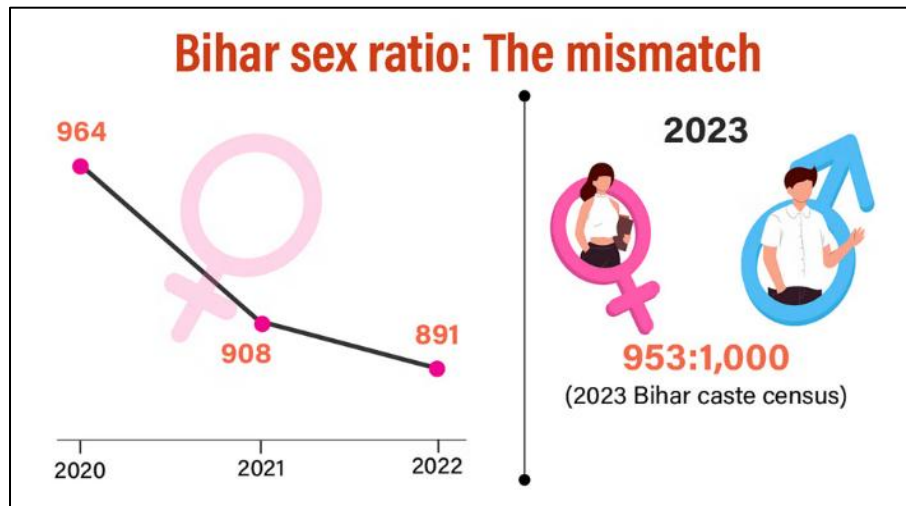


### Lowest sex ratio – Bihar

- ❖ Bihar has recorded the lowest sex ratio at birth for 2022 among all States and Union Territories.
- ❖ It reports just 891 girls born for every 1,000 boys.
- ❖ Bihar is also the only State that has seen its sex ratio at birth declining very consistently since 2020.
- ❖ In 2020, the State reported a sex ratio at birth of 964, which fell to 908 in 2021, before further dipping to 891 in 2022.



- ❖ Other States with the low sex ratios at birth in 2022 were Maharashtra (906), Telangana (907), and Gujarat (908).
- ❖ On the other hand, Nagaland had the highest figure of 1,068 and followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1,036), Ladakh (1,027), Meghalaya (972), and Kerala (971).
- ❖ Of the total registered births in 2022, 52.4% were boys while 47.6% were girls.
- ❖ While about 43% of the births were registered in the rural areas, 56.5% were registered in urban areas.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Delhi saw a general decline in registered births, despite fluctuations.
- ❖ Of the total registered deaths in 2022, the shares of men and women were 60.4% and 39.6% respectively.
- ❖ The report showed that 59.5% of the registered deaths were in rural India, while 40.5% were in urban areas.



## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Gaden Phodrang Trust

- ❖ The 14th Dalai Lama have announced “that the institution of the Dalai Lama will continue” and that the Gaden Phodrang Trust shall be the “sole authority to recognise the future reincarnation”.
- ❖ The term Gaden Phodrang refers to the residential quarters of the Dalai Lama lineage from the second Dalai Lama onward at Drepung Monastery in Lhasa.
- ❖ After the Potala Palace was built (by a decree of the fifth Dalai Lama), the Dalai Lamas moved away from these quarters.



- ❖ He stayed at Potala Palace in winter and Norbulingka (built by the seventh Dalai Lama about 100 years after Potala) in summer.
- ❖ This tradition was followed until the 14th Dalai Lama escaped from Lhasa to India in March 1959.
- ❖ The Zurich-registered Gaden Phodrang Trust is one of the three institutions associated with the Dalai Lama.
- ❖ The other two are Gaden Phodrang Trust, which is a registered body in India and Dalai Lama Trust, which too is a non-profit organisation.

