



July - 13

## TNPSC BITS

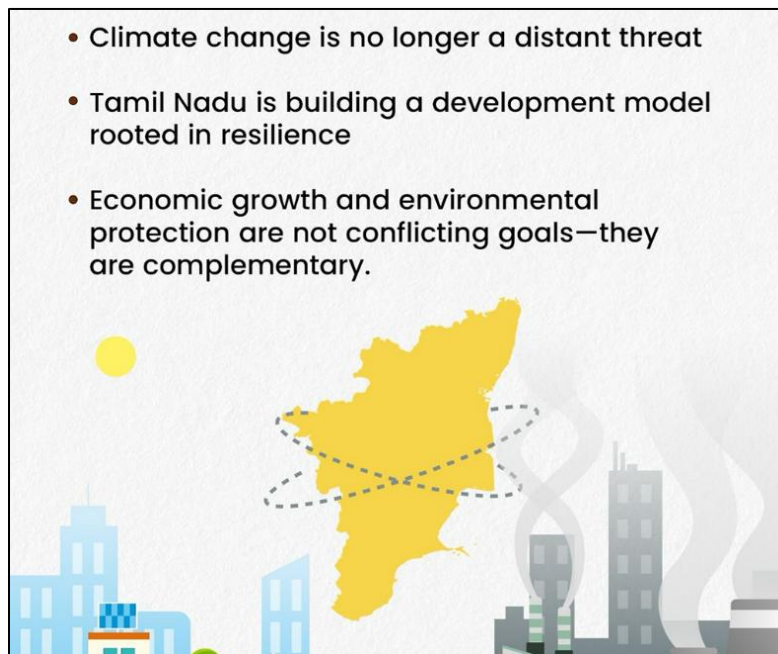
- ❖ The Ministry of Mines awarded seven-star ratings for the first time to three mines – Ultratech Cement's Naokari limestone mine, Tata Steel's Noamundi iron ore mine, and Sandur Manganese and Iron Ore Ltd.'s Kammatharu mine.
- ❖ The three-day Sakambari festival was held at the Kanaka Durga Temple on Indra Keeladri Hill in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Kerala's first skin bank will be launched at Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College Hospital.
- ❖ Assam's first bagless tea brand, Woolah Tea, has been granted a 20-year patent for its innovative 'compressed true whole leaf tea dips and method thereof.
- ❖ Vatsala, believed to be Asia's oldest female elephant at over 100 years, passed away at Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Punjab has launched a Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana, a universal health cover promising free and cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per year for every family of the state, irrespective of income.
- ❖ Trinidad and Tobago has become the first Caribbean nation to enable financial transactions through India's BHIM app using the UPI.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard and the Japanese Coast Guard are conducting a joint exercise, codenamed Jaa Mata (meaning "see you later" in Japanese), in Chennai.
- ❖ The 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the India Maize Summit was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Switzerland has granted the first approval for Coartem® (artemetherlumefantrine) Baby, a malaria medicine designed for small infants.
- ❖ Bulgaria has been approved to adopt the euro effective 1 January 2026, which would make it the 21st member state of the eurozone.
- ❖ The World UFO Day is observed annually on July 02 to spread awareness among people about UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) and encourage scientific thinking.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Heat stress in cities

- ❖ The report titled "Urban Growth and Thermal Stress: A Decadal Assessment of Built-Up Area and Climate Interactions in Tamil Nadu" was prepared by the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission.

- ❖ It reveals that the rising temperatures driven by urban sprawl, deforestation, and changes the land use are putting the people, ecosystems, and infrastructure at increasing risk.
- ❖ The Blocks such as Chennai (with 74% built-up area as of 2015), Coimbatore, and Tiruppur have seen significant urban sprawl.
- ❖ Out of 389 blocks analysed, 94 have shown very severe long-term increases in temperature, while 64 currently experience extreme heat stress.
- ❖ Significantly, 25 blocks, including the parts of Chennai, Karur, and Ramanathapuram, fall into both categories, making them the most vulnerable hotspots in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ High-altitude regions have also recorded noticeable warming, up to 0.7°C in Kodaikanal and 1.2°C in Tiruttani.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu could experience annual air temperature increases of 0.9°C to 2.7°C by 2050.



## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Indian PM's Visit to Brazil**

- ❖ During the visit to Brazil, the Indian Prime Minister was presented with the Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross, the country's highest civilian honour.
- ❖ Also, India and Brazil signed six agreements during the visit.

- ❖ They also cover cooperation in security, digital infrastructure, renewable energy, agriculture, and intellectual property.
- ❖ Both countries set a bilateral trade target of \$20 billion within five years (2030).



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **FATF's Update on Terrorist Financing Risks**



- ❖ The report was titled 'Comprehensive Update on Terrorist Financing Risks'.
- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force has included a separate section on state-sponsored terrorism in its report for the first time.



- ❖ It raised concerns over the misuse of e-commerce platforms and online payment services by terrorist organisations.
- ❖ India's 2022 National Risk Assessment (NRA) on Money Laundering and Terror Financing flagged state-sponsored terrorism as a major concern.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### India's Invisible Trade 2024/25

- ❖ India's exports of goods rose almost fivefold, from \$66.3 billion to \$318.6 billion, between 2003-04 and 2013-14.
- ❖ Thereafter, it flattened out and witnessed a fall and rise.
- ❖ After 2022-23, India's goods exports have dipped again to \$441.4 billion in 2023-24 and \$441.8 billion in 2024-25.
- ❖ On the other hand, the receipts from "invisible" surged to \$576.5 billion in 2024-25.
- ❖ It was \$53.5 billion in 2003-04.
- ❖ An invisible trade includes the exports of services, cross-border remittances and other non-physical transactions.
- ❖ The Software services also grew from \$12.8 billion in 2003-04 to \$180.6 billion in 2024-25.

TABLE 1 INDIA'S 'VISIBLE' VERSUS 'INVISIBLE' EXPORTS					TABLE 2 A DELICATE BALANCE			
	Goods Exports	Invisibles Receipts	Services Exports	Private Transfers		Goods Trade Balance	Invisibles Balance	Current Account Balance
2003-04	66.29	53.51	26.87	22.18	2013-14	-147.61	115.31	-32.30
2013-14	318.61	233.57	151.81	69.64	2014-15	-144.94	118.08	-26.86
2014-15	316.55	241.65	158.11	69.82	2015-16	-130.08	107.93	-22.15
2015-16	266.37	235.04	154.31	65.59	2016-17	-112.44	98.03	-14.42
2016-17	280.14	242.05	164.20	61.30	2017-18	-160.04	111.32	-48.72
2017-18	308.97	283.41	195.09	69.13	2018-19	-180.28	123.03	-57.26
2018-19	337.24	306.48	208.00	76.40	2019-20	-157.51	132.85	-24.66
2019-20	320.43	321.71	213.19	83.20	2020-21	-102.15	126.06	23.91
2020-21	296.30	307.25	206.09	80.19	2021-22	-189.46	150.69	-38.77
2021-22	429.16	369.6	254.53	89.13	2022-23	-265.29	198.24	-67.05
2022-23	456.07	465.8	325.33	112.47	2023-24	-244.91	218.8	-26.11
2023-24	441.44	501.42	341.06	118.71	2024-25	-287.21	263.85	-23.37
2024-25	441.79	576.54	387.54	135.43				

Amt. in (\$ billion) Source: Reserve Bank of India.

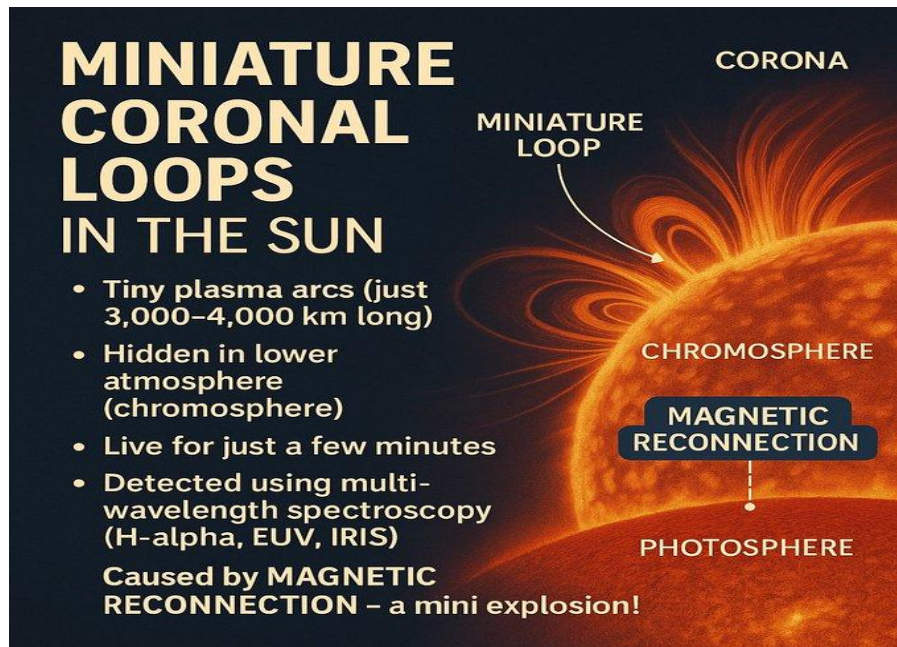
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Miniature Plasma Loops

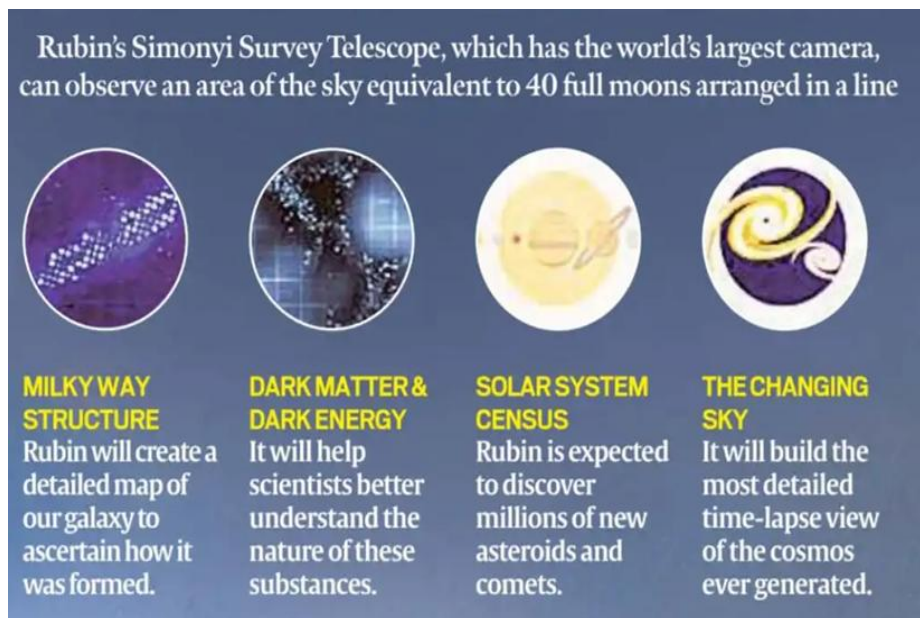
- ❖ Astronomers found small and short-lived loops in the Sun's lower atmosphere.



- ❖ These may reveal how the Sun stores and unleashes magnetic energy.
- ❖ These miniature coronal loops are only 3,000–4,000 km long and <100 km wide.
- ❖ They were previously undetectable due to their size and the brief lifespan (lasting just a few minutes).



### Vera C Rubin Observatory



- ❖ This observatory in Chile has released its first test images.



- ❖ It was showcasing its potential to transform astronomy by detecting millions of celestial events, asteroids, and dark matter signals every night.
- ❖ It is located 8,684 feet above sea level atop the Cerro Pachón Mountain in the Chilean Andes.
- ❖ The telescope has the world's largest digital camera and boasts a staggering resolution of 3,200 megapixels.

### **Increase in Earth's Rotation Speeds**

**EARTH'S ROTATION SPEEDS UP  
ON JULY 9, 22, AUGUST 5, 2025,  
BY SHORTENING DAYS BY 1.3-1.51  
MILLISECONDS.**

- ❖ Earth is expected to spin faster than usual, leading to slightly shorter days.
- ❖ On July 9, July 22, and August 5, 2025, the position of the moon will influence Earth's rotation.
- ❖ This was making each day between 1.3 and 1.51 milliseconds shorter than the standard 24 hours.
- ❖ Earlier on July 5, 2023, Earth completed its spin 1.66 milliseconds faster than normal.

## **ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

### **Melting ice and Volcanic eruptions**

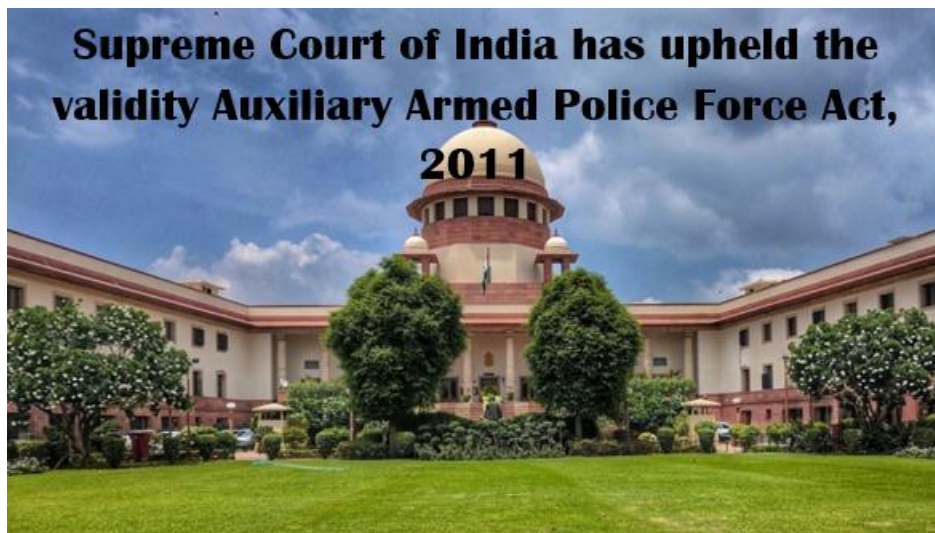
- ❖ A new study suggests that the climate crisis could trigger a surge in volcanic eruptions.
- ❖ The melting glaciers and ice caps relieve the pressure on underground magma chambers.
- ❖ This phenomenon has been observed in Iceland.
- ❖ Glaciers tend to suppress the volume of eruptions from the volcanoes beneath them.

- ❖ But when glaciers retreat due to climate change, these volcanoes go on to erupt more frequently and more explosively.



## STATES' NEWS

### Chhattisgarh Auxiliary Armed Police Act



- ❖ In July 2011, the Supreme Court directed the State of Chhattisgarh to stop using SPOs in any activities related to countering Maoist insurgency.
- ❖ Then the state passed the Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act and authorised the creation of an auxiliary force to assist security forces in maintaining public order and combating Maoist violence.
- ❖ The petition was challenging the State's enactment of the law after its earlier order restricting the use of Special Police Officers (SPOs) in the anti-Maoist operations.
- ❖ This case is known as Nandini Sundar and Ors. Vs State of Chhattisgarh.



- ❖ Now, the Supreme Court has upheld the validity of the Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act, 2011.
- ❖ The Court emphasised the complete power of the legislature to enact laws within constitutional limits, even if such laws alter or override judicial decisions.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **National Chartered Accountants Day 2025 - July 01**



- ❖ This day marks the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1949.
- ❖ It was established under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, passed by the Indian Parliament.
- ❖ This day honours the commitment, knowledge, and moral principles maintained by chartered accountants.

### **Goods and Services Tax Day 2025 - July 01**

- ❖ In August 2016, the Constitution (101st Amendment) Act was passed by the parliament.
- ❖ It gave the central government the authority to impose and collect GST.
- ❖ GST in India was officially launched on July 1, 2017.
- ❖ The GST has replaced multiple indirect taxes levied by the Central and State Governments, such as the excise duty, service tax, value-added tax (VAT), and others.



- ❖ It brought uniformity in the tax structure across India, eliminating the cascading effect of taxes.



### **World Sports Journalists Day 2025 - July 02**



- ❖ It aims to celebrate the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports.
- ❖ Sports journalism is a form of reporting that focuses on matters pertaining to any subject or topic related to sports.
- ❖ Sports journalists work on various media platforms, including print, broadcast, and the internet.
- ❖ The International Sports Press Association (AIPS) established the World Sports Journalist Day in 1994.



- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Championing Fair Play: Reporting with the Integrity and Impact”.

### **USA Independence Day 2025 - July 04**

- ❖ This year marked 249 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776.
- ❖ This day marked the separation of British colonies from Great Britain.
- ❖ The struggle for independence began in 1775.
- ❖ The 13 American colonies sought freedom from British rule under King George III.



### **International Day of Cooperatives 2025 - July 05**



- ❖ It is observed annually on the first Saturday of July.
- ❖ The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) first celebrated it in 1923.
- ❖ In 1995, the United Nations officially recognised this day.



- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World.”
- ❖ The UNGA also declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025)

### **World Zoonoses Day 2025 - July 06**

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases and promote measures for their prevention and control.
- ❖ On this day in 1885, Louis Pasteur administered the first successful rabies vaccine.
- ❖ Over 60% of infectious diseases in humans are zoonotic in origin, and about 75% emerging infectious diseases come from animals.
- ❖ The term “zoonoses” (plural of zoonosis) derives from the Greek words Zoon (animal) and Nosos (disease).

