

June - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Actor-politician Kamal Haasan and five others, including three nominees of the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, are all set to be elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The CM of Tamil Nadu along with other World Bank officials has inaugurated the modernized global business centre (GBC) of the World Bank Group (WBG) in Taramani, Chennai.
- ❖ The Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force became the first Indian in over four decades to travel to space and board the International Space Station (ISS), as part of Axiom Space's Ax-4 mission.
- ❖ The National Highway Authority of India has for the first time outlined its strategy to monetize assets to unlock value and increase public-private participation for developing infrastructure in India.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Lounges for gig workers



- ❖ Lounges for gig workers in Chennai, built by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) in its first phase, was inaugurated at Anna Nagar and K.K. Nagar.
- ❖ The civic body is planning to monitor the lounges by the real-time surveillance through the Integrated Command and Command Centre.



- ❖ The gig workers who are involved in food delivery and e-commerce delivery work will be permitted to utilise the facilities free of cost.
- ❖ Each of the lounges will be able to seat 25 gig workers.

Madras High Court Verdict 2025 on RTE

**Funds Payable
By Centre To States
Under RTE Act Need
Not Be Linked To
NEP Implementation :
Madras High Court**

- ❖ The Madras High Court ordered the central government to immediately allocate the funds required to admit the students in private schools under the Right to Compulsory Education Act to the Tamil Nadu Government.
- ❖ The Central Government did not allocate funds from 2021 to 2023.
- ❖ The Central Government stated that the tuition fee has not been allocated since the state government did not sign a MoU with the Central Government regarding the implementation of the new education policy.
- ❖ Under RTE Act, the tuition fee for the 25 percent reservation for the poor students will be paid by Central Government.
- ❖ The court has also stated that, the Samagra Shiksha scheme under the RTE Act is indeed similar to the implementation of the New Education Policy, 2020, but the duties under the RTE are independent.
- ❖ In the financial year 2024-25, an estimated Rs 3,586 crore was to be allocated under the Samagra Shiksha scheme by both the state and central governments.
- ❖ Of this, the central government's share is Rs 2,151 crore.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ICDRI 2025

- ❖ The seventh year of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) was held in Nice, France.

- ❖ Theme of the event is “Shaping a Resilient Future for Coastal Regions”.
- ❖ It was organised by the New Delhi-headquartered Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- ❖ This is the first time the conference was held in Europe with the CDRI as the co-chair.
- ❖ ICDRI 2025 is aligned with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) in Geneva, and third U.N. Oceans Conference (UNOC3), in Nice.
- ❖ During the event, the Indian Prime Minister has outlined 7 key global priorities to strengthen the disaster resilience, need for the early warning systems and the coordination.

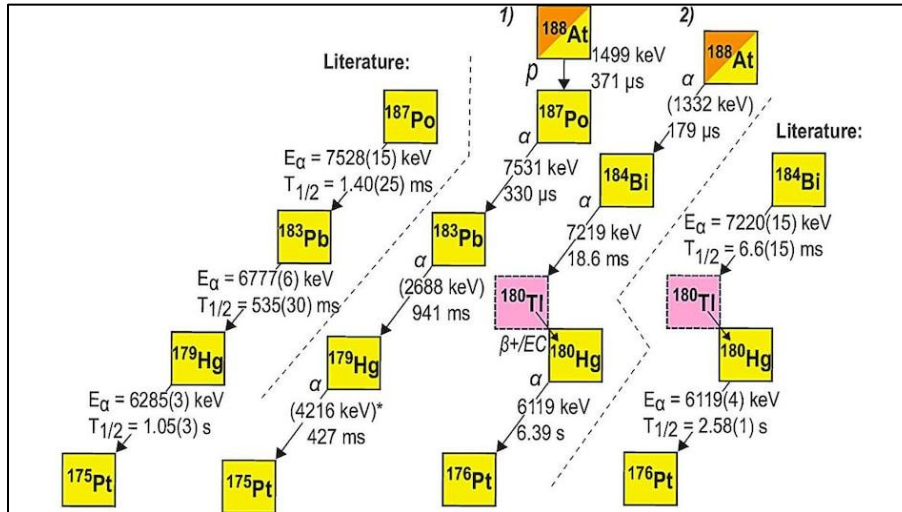
<p>The theme of this conference is 'Shaping a Resilient Future for Coastal Regions.' Coastal regions & islands are at great risk due to natural disasters & climate change</p>	<p>Courses, modules & skill development programs on disaster resilience need to become part of higher education. This will build a skilled workforce that can tackle future challenges</p>	<p>Disaster resilience requires innovative financing. We must design actionable programmes and ensure developing nations have access to finance</p>
<p>Learning from the Super Cyclone of 1999 and the Tsunami of 2004, we adopted & rebuilt factoring in resilience; cyclone shelters were constructed across vulnerable areas. We also helped build a tsunami warning system for 29 countries</p>	<p>Many countries face disaster & rebuild with resilience. A global digital repository of their learnings & best practices would be beneficial</p>	<p>We consider Small Island Developing States as Large Ocean Countries. Due to their vulnerability, they deserve special attention</p>
		<p>Strengthening early warning systems & coordination is crucial. This helps in timely decision making & effective last mile communication</p>

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Heaviest Proton-Emitting Nucleus

- ❖ The Nuclear physicists have detected the radioactive disintegration of a rare isotope of astatine for the first time.
- ❖ They have measured the proton emission and half-life of ^{188}At (^{188}At).
- ❖ This shows that the heaviest element found in nature may be modified a lot, maybe even destroyed, in a way that scientists didn't predict.
- ❖ Astatine (At) is a radioactive, halogenous element with atomic number 85 and with 103 neutrons.
- ❖ It was belonging to the halogen family (Group 17) on the periodic table.

- ❖ It is a rarest natural element on the Earth, not naturally occurring in significant quantities due to its short half-life.
- ❖ This was the first recorded instance of proton emission from astatine, a rare and heavy element.



New method to extract Nickel



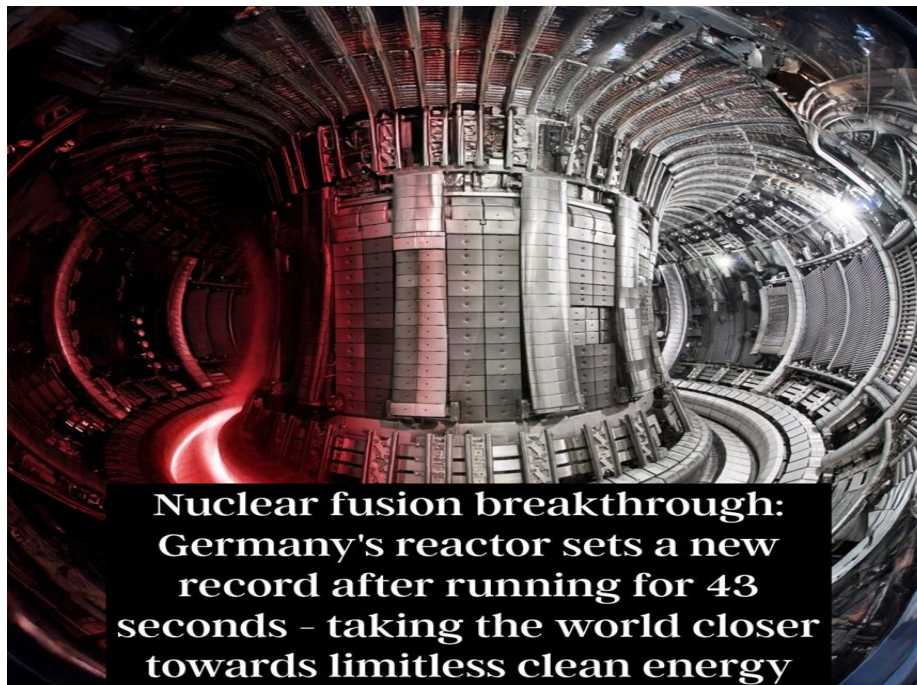
Germany Scientists developed a one-step, carbon-free method for extracting nickel

- ❖ The Scientists in Germany developed one-step, carbon-free method for extracting nickel.
- ❖ The proposed method has the potential to be up to about 18% more energy efficient while cutting direct carbon dioxide emissions by up to 84%.
- ❖ Right now, producing just one ton of nickel generates roughly 20 tons of carbon pollution.
- ❖ Global demand for nickel expected to double by 2040.

- ❖ India has substantial nickel laterite reserves, particularly in Odisha's Sukinda region.
- ❖ These deposits are containing 0.4-0.9% nickel as nickeliferous limonite.

Germany's Wendelstein 7-X stellarator

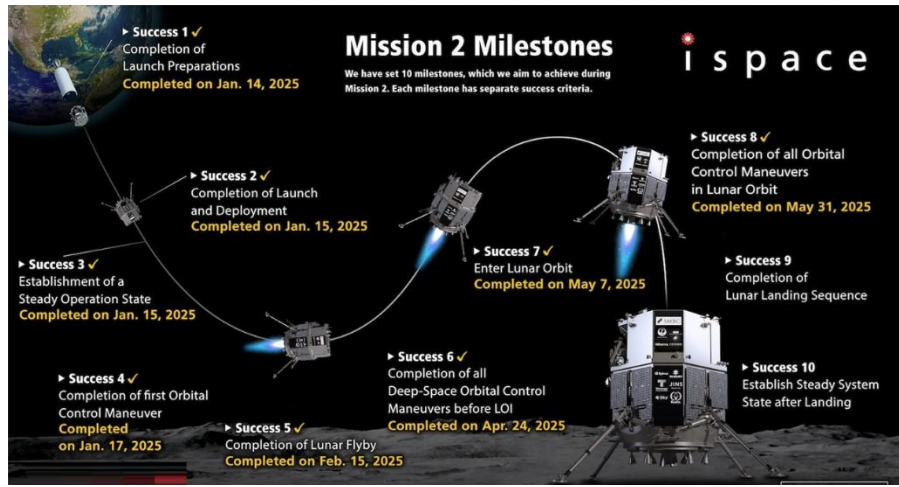
- ❖ The Scientists in Germany have achieved a major milestone in limitless energy through nuclear fusion.
- ❖ With the Wendelstein 7-X reactor, researchers sustained a fusion plasma for 43 seconds, setting a new record.
- ❖ It is the world's largest operational stellarator.
- ❖ This is a type of fusion reactor that uses powerful external magnets to confine superheated plasma.
- ❖ The now-decommissioned JT60U in Japan and JET in the UK — have historically led fusion experiments.
- ❖ In 2023, China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), also known as the "artificial sun," held plasma for 1,000 seconds.



Resilience Mission – Japan

- ❖ Resilience, a lander built by Japan-based Pvt company Ispace, crashed into the lunar surface.

- ❖ This was the second attempt at a soft landing by Ispace.
- ❖ Ispace's first lander, the Hakuto-R spacecraft was crash landed in 2023.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Hexapod species in Nilgiris

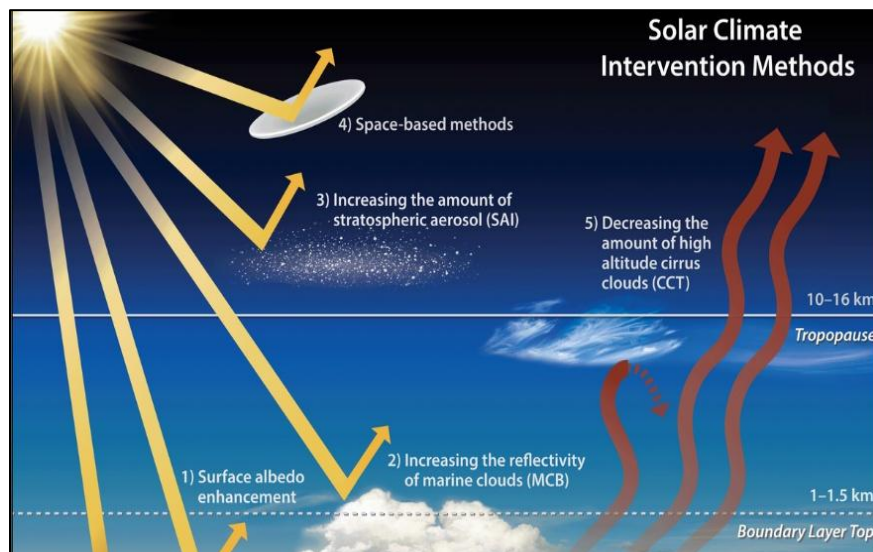


- ❖ A species of hexapod originally described from the Nilgiris close to a century ago, was “rediscovered” recently.
- ❖ J. R. Dennis, a French scientist in 1933, had identified a rare species of springtail (Collembolla) insect from the Devar shola near Gudalur in Nilgiris.
- ❖ He named it *Ballistura fitchi* renamed it as *Ballistura fitchoides* in 1944
- ❖ Though 21 species are recorded throughout the world, genetic data of this genus are not available.

- ❖ Until now only two species of *Ballistura* are reported from India.
- ❖ The second one is from Bengal (*Ballistura bengalensis* by Yosii 1966).

Stratospheric aerosol injection 2025

- ❖ A Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI) is a method in which aerosols are injected into the earth's stratosphere to reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the surface.
- ❖ SAI aims to create a cooling effect that could help to combat the rising surface temperatures.
- ❖ It mimics the natural cooling effects observed after large volcanic eruptions, such as the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo (Philippines).
- ❖ This eruption injected the sulfate aerosols into the stratosphere and temporarily lowered global temperatures by 0.5°C that year.
- ❖ SAI's efficacy have focused on implementing it at 20 km or more, particularly over areas closer to the equator.
- ❖ The cooling effect will also be more pronounced in polar regions rather than in the tropics, where warming is more severe.
- ❖ If one country injects aerosols into the stratosphere, all countries will be affected and not always in a good way.



Dugesia Punensis in Pune

- ❖ A new planarian worm species, *Dugesia punensis*, has been discovered in Pashan Lake, Pune.

- ❖ This marks the first new planarian species recorded in India since 1983.
- ❖ *Dugesia punensis* also demonstrates the notable regenerative abilities, capable of regrowing within 10-13 days.
- ❖ The body size ranges between 8mm-12mm in length.



Spathaspina noohi



- ❖ The insect, named *Spathaspina noohi*, belongs to the weevil family discovered from the forests of Meghalaya.

- ❖ This is not only been identified as a new species but also classified under an entirely new genus.
- ❖ Its name honors P B Nooh, IAS, Director of Tourism for the Government of Kerala, in recognition of his efforts to promote eco-tourism and sustainable development.
- ❖ The Weevils are part of the large beetle family Curculionidae, which includes over 60,000 known species globally.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Wealth Report 2025



- ❖ USA was adding 562,000 millionaires as the country's HNWI population grew by 7.6% to 7.9 million.
- ❖ 36% of the world's centi-millionaires (those with over \$100 million) and 33% of the world's billionaires reside in the United States.
- ❖ India and Japan were standouts in the Asia-Pacific region, with both countries registering 5.6% growth,
- ❖ India's billionaires are emerging faster than millionaires.
- ❖ India has roughly 250 billionaires, just half that of China (which has roughly 520 billionaires).
- ❖ India had 4,290 ultra-HNWIs (over \$30 million in assets), compared to 22,780 in China and 13,620 in Japan.

- ❖ India's high-net-worth individual (HNWI) population grew 5.6% in 2024, with their collective wealth rising 8.8% - outpacing both China and global peers.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2025 - MS Dhoni

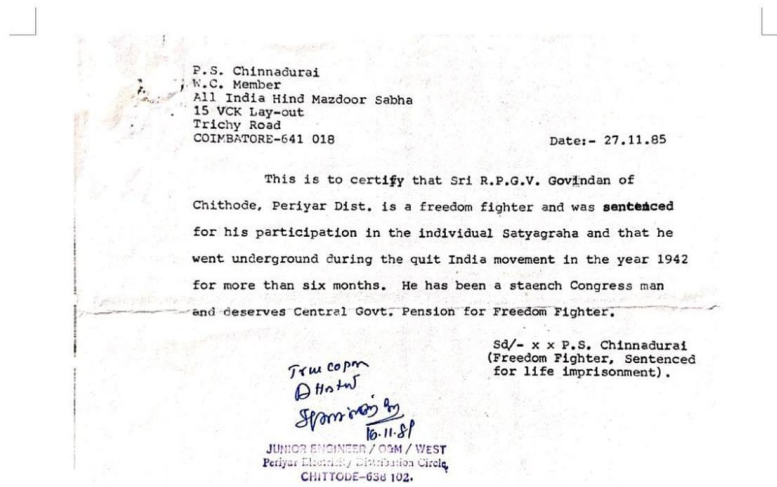
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted seven cricketers — five men and two women — in its Hall of Fame 2025.
- ❖ MS Dhoni has become an inductee at the ICC Hall of Fame and became the 11th Indian player to receive the accolade.
- ❖ Dhoni has a record with 17,266 international runs, 829 dismissals and 538 matches across formats for India.
- ❖ He led India to the T20 World Cup win in 2007, ODI World Cup victory in 2011 and the Champions Trophy in 2013



R.P.G.V. Govindan Chettiyar

- ❖ R.P.G.V. Govindan Chettiyar born at Chithode, a village in Erode Taluk, which was then part of the composite Coimbatore district.
- ❖ As a school student, he participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920–21.
- ❖ On February 28, 1941, he also led a Satyagraha near the Chithode Mariamman Temple, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the nation's freedom.
- ❖ Between February 2, 1941 and March 9, 1941, he undertook a padayatra and made public discourse against British colonial rule.
- ❖ In 1941 he actively took part in the Individual Satyagraha movement.

- ❖ After independence, he had also served as a member of the advisory committee for the Erode National Expansion Scheme.



SPORTS NEWS

Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy



- ❖ The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and BCCI have decided to rename the trophy after James Anderson and Sachin Tendulkar.

- ❖ The series used to be called the Pataudi Trophy when played in England and the Anthony de Mello Trophy when held in India.
- ❖ James Anderson is England's leading wicket-taker in Tests with 704 wickets.
- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar is the leading run-scorer in Tests, with 15,921 runs to his name.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

800-year-old Shiva temple

- ❖ An 800-year-old Shiva temple of the later Pandya period has been unearthed at Udampatti, a village in Melur taluk.
- ❖ The two Tamil inscriptions found on the stone base, says they can be dated to 1217-1218 CE, during the reign of Maravarman Sundara Pandya.
- ❖ As per the inscriptions, the name of the village was Attur and the temple was called Thennavanisvaram.
- ❖ The inscriptions are a sale deed of a waterbody by one Alagaperumal, chieftain of Kalavalinadu, to one Nambi Perambala Kuthan alias Kangeyan.

