



June - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the 'Chennai Book Park' set up at the Central Metro station's concourse.
- ❖ Puducherry becomes the 19th legislature in the country to adopt the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) platform.
- ❖ The world's biggest container ship, MSC IRINA, recently docked at Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala.
- ❖ The Indian government announced a viability gap funding (VGF) worth Rs 5,400 crore for developing 30-gigawatt hour (GWh) of the new battery energy storage systems (BESS) to ensure round-the-clock renewable energy capacities in the country.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs chairs 29th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), in Mumbai.
- ❖ The Researchers from the Centre of Excellence in the Disaster Mitigation and the Management (CoEDMM) at IIT Roorkee have unveiled a novel framework aimed at strengthening early warning systems for landslides triggered by rainfall in the Himalayas.
- ❖ Bengaluru has officially become the 'Leopard Capital' of India, surpassing Mumbai in terms of the highest number (80-85) of free-ranging wild leopards living on the fringes of a major metropolis.
- ❖ The Israeli navy conducted its first direct naval attack on the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah, targeting docks that are a crucial entry point for humanitarian aid.
- ❖ Russia will construct eight nuclear power plants in Iran under a previously signed contract between the two countries.
- ❖ In a global first, China has begun the large-scale application of the non-binary AI chips with deploying them across sectors as critical as the aviation, intelligent displays, and industrial control systems.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TN and Europe in SDG performance

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has made major progress in meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ It now performs better than the average of many European countries, according to the NITI Aayog's latest report.

- ❖ In the 2023–24 SDG India Index, Tamil Nadu scored 78 points, up from 66 in 2018.
- ❖ This puts the state in third place across the nationwide, just behind Kerala and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu achieved ‘front-runner’ status in 13 out of 17 SDG goals.
- ❖ It has topped areas like ending poverty and hunger, ensuring good health, quality education, clean energy, and decent jobs.
- ❖ The state also ranked first in climate action, showing strong efforts in dealing with climate change.
- ❖ Its score is higher than the average SDG score of many European Union countries, which is around 72%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s Vision for Sustainable Development Goals was a report submitted by the state planning commission.
- ❖ It aims at eliminating the extreme poverty and reduce the population below the poverty line in TN to zero by 2030.



NATIONAL NEWS

Cap on MGNREGS Spending

- ❖ For the first time, the government has capped spending limit under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at 60 per cent of its annual allocation.

- ❖ Until now, the rural jobs guarantee scheme has operated as a demand-driven programme with no such spending limit.
- ❖ Now the Finance Ministry informed MoRD that it could spend up to 60 per cent of MGNREGS's annual outlay—Rs 86,000 crore—in the first half of the financial year.
- ❖ This means that only Rs 51,600 crore will be available for the scheme until the end of September.
- ❖ For 2025–26, the Rural Development Ministry has approved a labour budget of 198.86 crore person days.
- ❖ Of this, 67.11 per cent—or 133.45 crore person days — are projected to be created in the first half of the financial year.

AT A GLANCE		■ Finmin introduced the MEP/QEP in 2017 to help ministries manage cash flow
■ Capped spending under MGNREGS at 60% of its annual allocation		
■ Scheme will now come under the monthly/quarterly expenditure plan	■ MGNREGS remained outside its scope until now	

ICGEB Board Meeting of Governors



- ❖ The "International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology" (ICGEB) Board Meeting of Governors was held in New Delhi.

- ❖ The Meeting was being attended by representatives from more than 60 countries of the world.
- ❖ On the occasion, India's first of its kind public funded DST-ICGEB 'Bio-foundry' was unveiled.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

High Seas Treaty updates



- ❖ A special High Seas Treaty event was organised especially for the Conference taking place this week in Nice, France.
- ❖ This Treaty got 18 ratifications at the Conference.
- ❖ Till date, the total number of nations to have formally ratified the legislation is 49.
- ❖ An additional 17 countries also signed the Treaty, marking their intention to ratify it in the future, taking the total number of signatories to 134.
- ❖ The treaty will enter into force 120 days after at least 60 countries ratify it.
- ❖ India is signed the treaty but not yet ratified.
- ❖ It is formally called the Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty.
- ❖ The treaty is crucial to meet a globally agreed biodiversity target of protecting 30 per cent of the oceans and lands by 2030, known as "30x30".

ECCAS and Rwanda

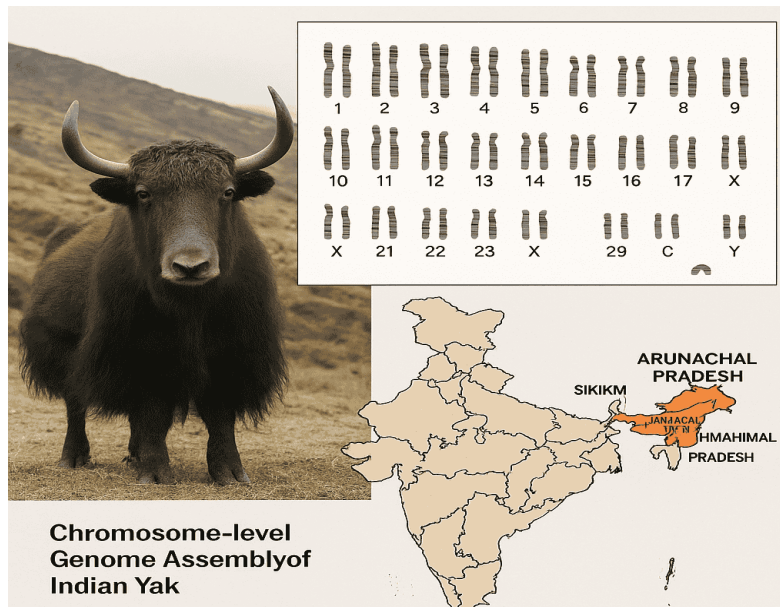
- ❖ Rwanda has announced its withdrawal from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

- ❖ Rwanda had expected to assume the chairmanship of the 11-member bloc at a meeting in Equatorial Guinea.
- ❖ ECCAS was established in the 1980s to foster cooperation in areas like security and economic affairs among its member states.
- ❖ It consists of 11 member states, including Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- ❖ Rwanda is accused of providing military support to M23, which has seized key cities in eastern Congo.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

First chromosome-level genome of the Indian yak

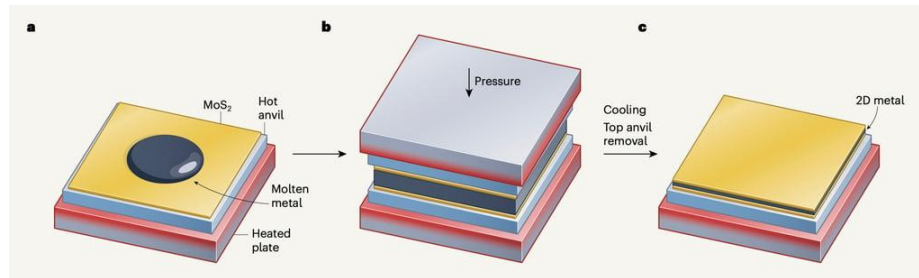


- ❖ Specialists from four institutions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have assembled the first-ever chromosome-level genome of the Indian yak.
- ❖ The Indian yak (*Bos grunniens*) is often called the 'ship of the Himalayas'.

- ❖ The bovine animal has long been recognised for its resilience and adaptability to extreme conditions.
- ❖ In India, yaks are found above 7,000 feet in Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh.

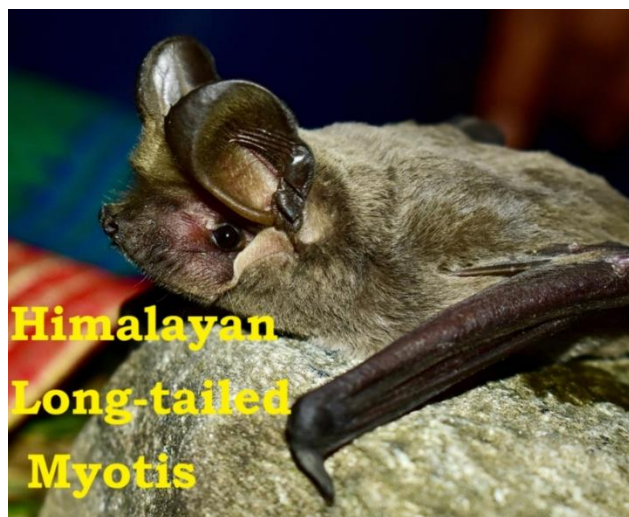
2D metal sheets

- ❖ Scientists in China have successfully fabricated atomically thin 2D metal sheets of bismuth, gallium, tin, and lead using a novel high-pressure technique.
- ❖ 2D metals are ultra-thin layers of metal atoms, usually just 1–2 atoms thick.
- ❖ According to the team, the bismuth sheet was just 6.3 Å thick.
- ❖ Both the strong field effect and the nonlinear Hall effect occur in 2D metals, not in 3D metals.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Himalayan Long-tailed Myotis



- ❖ A new bat species, the Himalayan long-tailed myotis (*Myotis himalaicus*), has been discovered in the high-altitude forests of Uttarakhand.

- ❖ The species are believed to be native to the southern Himalayan slopes.
- ❖ The newly-described species belongs to the *Myotis frater* complex.
- ❖ It is a group of morphologically-similar species distributed across eastern China, Taiwan, Siberia, Korea, Japan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

STATES' NEWS

Arms License Scheme for Indigenous Citizens

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ARMS LICENCE POLICY UNDER ARMS ACT, 1959 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Licences of firearms are given for Prohibited Bore (PB) and Non-Prohibited Bore (NPB) > Licences for Prohibited Bore arms, which are automatic or semi-automatic, are issued by MHA > Licenses for NPB arms, which are non-automatic or bolt action type are issued by district magistrate or state govt > PB licence can be obtained by only those who face grave 	<p>and imminent threat to their lives from terrorists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > NPB licence can be obtained for protection of life and property, sport, crop protection
	ELIGIBILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Must have attained 21 years of age > Must not have been sentenced on conviction of any offence involving violence or moral turpitude to imprisonment > Must not have been ordered to execute a bond for keeping peace or for good behaviour > Must be physically, mentally fit

- ❖ The Assam Cabinet have approved a scheme to issue arms licences to “original inhabitants and indigenous communities” living in “vulnerable and remote” areas near the Bangladesh border.
- ❖ This new arms licence policy will not apply to areas bordering Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland.
- ❖ These regions, though historically involved in border disputes with Assam, are not considered vulnerable in terms of national security.

Punjab Cotton Cultivation

- ❖ In Punjab, the crop diversification efforts got a major fillip with cotton cultivation witnessing around a 20% surge.
- ❖ The total area under cotton cultivation has increased from 2.49 lakh acres last year to 2.98 lakh acres this year in 2025.



- ❖ It shows an increase of over 49,000 acres within a year.
- ❖ Four districts which are leading in the cotton cultivation in the state are Fazilka, Mansa, Bathinda and Sri Muktsar Sahib, respectively.
- ❖ Punjab government has also decided to provide a 33% subsidy on cotton seeds to growers.



**Cotton cultivation witnessing
around a 20% surge in Punjab**

