

March - 01

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Meghalaya government unveiled the Khasi freedom fighter U Tirot Sing Syiem's life-size bust at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is being held between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Indian women's team for the first time won a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024, which was held in Malaysia.
- ❖ Ravichandra Ashwin scripted a record by surpassing Anil Kumble (350) to become the leading wicket-taker (352) in Test matches played on Indian soil.
- ❖ Geeta Batra, an India-born economist, has been named as the new director at the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility.

## TAMIL NADU

### Garbhini-GA2 AI model

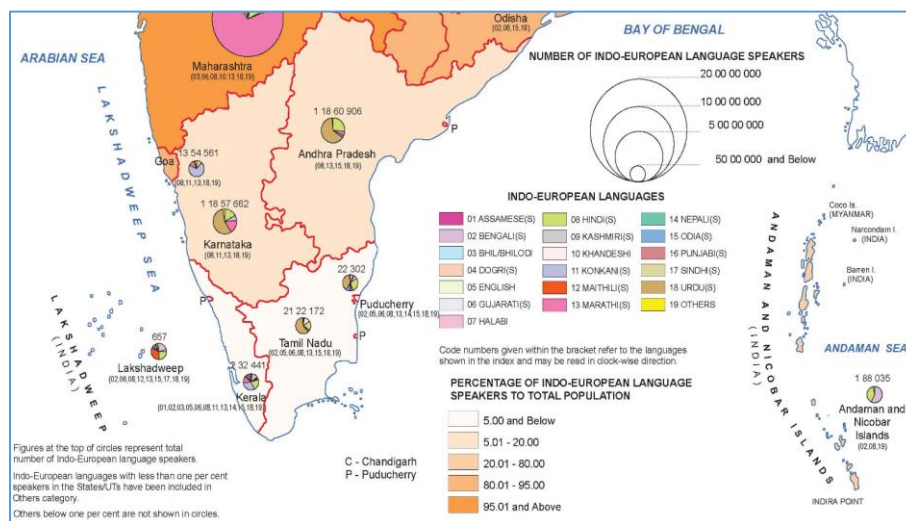


- ❖ The Researchers have developed an India-specific artificial intelligence model to precisely determine the gestational age of a foetus.
- ❖ The model has been designed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, Haryana.

- ❖ It is part of an interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes — the DBT India initiative (GARBH-Ini) programme.
- ❖ The Garbhini-GA2 is the first late-trimester GA estimation model to be developed and validated using Indian population data.
- ❖ The Garbhini-GA2 accurately estimates the foetus' age, reducing error by almost three times.

## NATIONAL

### Language Atlas of India



- ❖ The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, proposes to conduct a linguistic survey across the country to create a 'Language Atlas' of India.
- ❖ It aims to enumerate how many languages are spoken and in which States and regions, can provide the answer.
- ❖ The IGNCIA is an autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry.
- ❖ India recognises 22 languages officially, which are part of Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ According to Census data, 97 % of the Indian population speaks one of these languages.
- ❖ There are an additional 99 non-scheduled languages included in the Census, and according to the 2011 Census.
- ❖ Around 37.8 million people identify one of these non-Scheduled languages as their mother tongue.

- ❖ The native language of 1.2 million people remains unaccounted for due to the decision to not include languages with less than 10,000 speakers in the Census since 1971.
- ❖ The 1961 Census of India recorded 1,554 languages spoken in India.

### Kala Azar in 2023

<b>NEED TO SUSTAIN IMPROVEMENT</b>					
<b>Kala Azar cases of top four states</b>					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
● Bihar	3423	2416	1427	893	547
● Jharkhand	752	541	424	279	187
● UP	110	97	55	49	22
● WB	95	87	57	58	49
● INDIA	4386	3145	1967	1276	810

<b>Deaths due to Kala-Azar</b>					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
● Bihar	0	0	0	20	26
● Jharkhand	0	0	0	5	8
● UP	0	0	3	1	1
● WB	3	6	3	1	1
● India	3	6	6	28	39

- ❖ India has achieved the target of reporting less than one case per 10,000 population across all blocks in 2023.
- ❖ There were 595 cases and four deaths of Kala Azar reported nationwide last year compared to 891 cases and three deaths in 2022.
- ❖ India's initial target year for Kala Azar elimination was 2010, which was later extended to 2015, 2017, and then 2020.
- ❖ Kala Azar (or visceral leishmaniasis) is a parasitic infection transmitted by sandflies.
- ❖ Now Kala-azar is targeted for elimination by 2023 though WHO NTD Road Map goal is 2030.

### Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024

- ❖ The Union government modified the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022.
- ❖ It aims to permit married couples to use donor eggs or donor sperm for surrogacy — a move that provided a big relief to those with medical complications.

- ❖ This revoked a previous amendment made in March 2023 that banned the use of such donor gametes.
- ❖ Now, the modification allowing married couples to use a donor gamete on the condition that a District Magistrate Board certifies that either the husband or the wife suffers from a medical condition.
- ❖ Last year, the 2023 amendment was challenged before the Supreme Court by a woman suffering from the Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) Syndrome.

## SC PROD AFTER FLOOD OF PETITIONS

➤ After notification of March 14 last year, Rule 7 of Surrogacy (Regulation) Act said couple undergoing surrogacy **must use own eggs and sperm, donor gametes not allowed**

➤ SC was flooded with petitions from women after it granted relief to one woman and **prima facie found fault with Rule 7**



➤ On Jan 9, **SC referred to grievances raised by a large section of women** and said many of them could not afford to approach SC

➤ Now, couples can use donor gametes after **district medical board certifies either spouse has a condition preventing use of own gamete**. Single women must use own egg cells

## India's Longest Cable-Stayed Bridge



- ❖ India's longest cable-stayed bridge was inaugurated in Gujarat's Dwarka.
- ❖ The 'Sudarshan Setu' is connecting Okha and Beyt Dwarka island.



- ❖ The bridge, which was known as 'Signature Bridge', has been renamed as 'Sudarshan Setu' or Sudarshan Bridge.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1,000-Year-Old Sominsai Festival

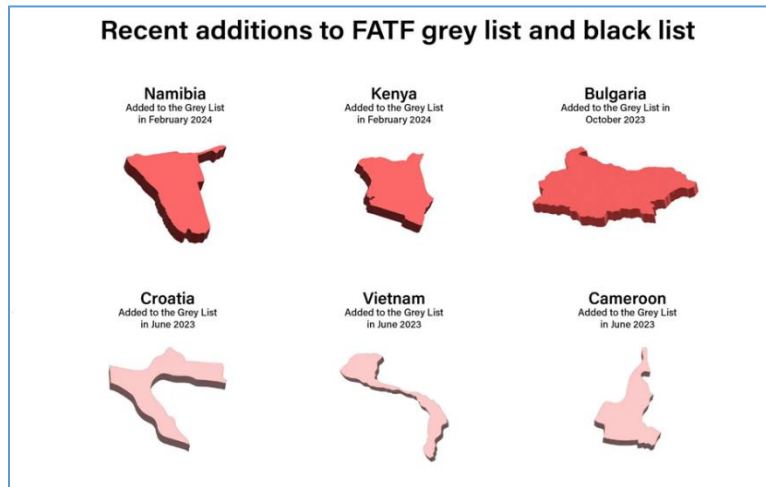
- ❖ Kokuseki Temple's famous "Naked Men" festival held for the last time recently at Japan.
- ❖ This Temple announced the decision to discontinue the festival due to aging participants and a shortage of successors
- ❖ This was First held more than 1,000 years ago, officially called Sominsai.
- ❖ It is involving men competing to grab sacred wooden sticks called shingi, which are thought to bring good luck.
- ❖ The winner is called the "Fukuotoko (lucky man)" and is said to receive great health and fortune in the coming year.



### FATF Gray List

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates was removed from the Financial Action Task Force's grey list.
- ❖ Barbados, Gibraltar and Uganda were also removed from the grey list, while Kenya and Namibia were placed on it.
- ❖ The FATF is an inter-governmental body that sets international standards seeking to prevent international financial crimes that aid terrorism.
- ❖ The FATF was established in July 1989 by a G-7 Summit in Paris.

- ❖ It initially aims to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- ❖ India has been a member of the FATF since 2010.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Buxa Tiger Reserve - resident tiger



- ❖ Buxa Tiger Reserve have finally got at least one resident tiger after a gap of four decades.
- ❖ In the early eighties, the reserve had a record number of tigers residing there.
- ❖ A tiger was clicked by camera traps in BTR in December 2021, after a gap of 28 years.

- ❖ Buxa Tiger Reserve has span over 760 square kilometres in North Bengal's Alipurduar district.

## STATES

### Top state in total vehicle sales

RETAIL SALES: MIXED SIGNALS				
Category	Nov 2022	Nov 2023	% change	
2W	1,856,108	2,247,366	21.08	
3W	81,007	99,890	23.31	
PV	307,550	360,431	17.19	
Tractor	78,720	61,969	-21.28	
CV	86,150	84,586	-1.82	
Total	2,409,535	2,854,242	18.46	

2W:Two-wheeler; 3W: Three-wheeler; PV: Passenger vehicle; Tractor;  
CV: Commercial vehicle

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh witnessed the highest number of three-wheelers sold in the in Oct-Dec 2023 quarter at 23,859 units.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra (20,495), Gujarat (19,743) and Bihar (14,955).
- ❖ Similarly, in the two-wheeler category, Uttar Pradesh topped the list with a total of 6,73,962 units sold in the state.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra (5,15,612), Madhya Pradesh (3,35,478) and Tamil Nadu (3,24,918).
- ❖ However, in passenger vehicle sales, Maharashtra clocked the highest sales with 1,21,030 units.
- ❖ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh (1,01,568), Gujarat (85,599) and Karnataka (71,549).
- ❖ In the commercial vehicles category also, Maharashtra topped the list with 31,055 unit.

- ❖ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh (23,083), Gujarat (20,391) and Karnataka (16,966).

## SPORTS

### Khelo India Winter Games 2024

- ❖ The Khelo India Winter Games 2024 was conducted in two phases.
- ❖ All three previous editions, in 2020, 2021 and 2023, were hosted and won by Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Ladakh made its debut as a host this year.
- ❖ The Indian Army team won the KIWG 2024 title, winning 10 gold, five silver and six bronze.
- ❖ Karnataka won the silver with nine gold medals and two silvers.

Rank	State/UT/Team	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total medals
1	Army	10	5	6	21
2	Karnataka	9	2	0	11
3	Maharashtra	7	8	7	22
4	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	9	17
5	Uttarakhand	3	3	1	7

