

March - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will honour Acharya Lokesh Muni as the 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'.
 - He is the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and the World Peace Center.
- ❖ The senior journalist VN Samy will be awarded the Kalaignar Ezhuthukol Award 2022 in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ DRDO has conducted two successful flight tests of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- ❖ Daljit Singh Chaudhary, Senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- ❖ Nicaragua has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) or Indian Pharma standards.
 - This development follows the signing of a MoU on Pharmacopoeia Cooperation between the governments of India and Nicaragua.

NATIONAL

New initiatives to boost 'Crop Insurance'



- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare launched three new initiatives to bolster crop insurance and help the overall farming community in India.

- ❖ They are
 - Kisan Rakshak Helpline 14447 and Portal
 - Agri-Insurance Sandbox Framework Platform SARTHI and
 - Learning Management System (LMS) Platform
- ❖ KRPH 14447 platform provides multilingual support, enabling transparent communication and real-time resolution of grievances related to compensation delays and insurance queries.
- ❖ SARTHI Platform aims to provide a comprehensive suite of insurance products including government's subsidised PMFBY, tailored explicitly for farmers and rural India.
- ❖ The name SARTHI stands for Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology, and Insurance.
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), launched in 2016, is the government sponsored crop insurance scheme for farmers.

World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme



- ❖ The world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector, for farmers was launched recently.
- ❖ 700 lakh tonne storage capacity will be created in the next five years, with an investment of ₹1.25 lakh crore.
- ❖ Under the scheme, thousands of warehouses and godowns will be constructed across the country.

- ❖ The scheme aims to create storage capacity for storing 100 per cent of India's grain production.

Island On The Air (IOTA) Program



- ❖ A dedicated team of amateur radio operators (HAMs) from Nachugunta Island, Andhra Pradesh, undertook a journey to participate in the Island On The Air (IOTA) expedition Program.
- ❖ It was established in 1964.
- ❖ It is a pioneering programme that connects radio amateurs worldwide with stations on islands.
- ❖ Amateur radio is a popular hobby involving the use of radio frequency spectrum for non-commercial purposes.
- ❖ HAM radio operators communicate using designated radio frequencies, engaging in diverse activities like contests, emergency communication support, experimentation, technical learning, and community engagement.

INTERNATIONAL

Peru – Dengue health emergency

- ❖ Peru declared a health emergency in most provinces in the country due to the rising dengue cases. T
- ❖ The rise in a number of cases is taking place at a time when El Nino, the weather phenomenon is causing higher-than-average temperatures.
- ❖ The emergency would remain in place for 90 days.

- ❖ The health ministry recorded more than 11,500 cases and 16 deaths due to the disease so far in 2023.
- ❖ This represents a "considerable increase" of 72 percent from the same period in 2022.
- ❖ Last year, the country had more than 72,800 dengue cases and 84 deaths.



Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality



- ❖ The 'Alliance for Global Good: Gender Equity and Equality' was launched during the Davos 2024 summit.
- ❖ India unveiled the logo and website for the Alliance.
- ❖ The alliance aims to consolidate global best practices, foster knowledge exchange, and attract investments in women's health, education, and entrepreneurship, in line with various SDGs.

- ❖ The logo of the alliance holds profound significance, symbolizing the essence of equality and equity.

ENVIRONMENT

Report on Leopard Population Status

- ❖ There are an estimated 13,874 leopards in India, up from 12,852 in 2018.
- ❖ Central India and Eastern Ghats has the highest population of leopards (8,820), followed by the Western Ghats (3,596), and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains (1,109).
- ❖ Statewise, Madhya Pradesh boasts of the largest population of leopards (3,907).
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070).
- ❖ In Odisha, the number of leopards dropped from 760 in 2018 to 562 in 2022, and in Uttarakhand, the population declined from 839 in 2018 to 652 in 2022.
- ❖ Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Goa too reported the population declines.

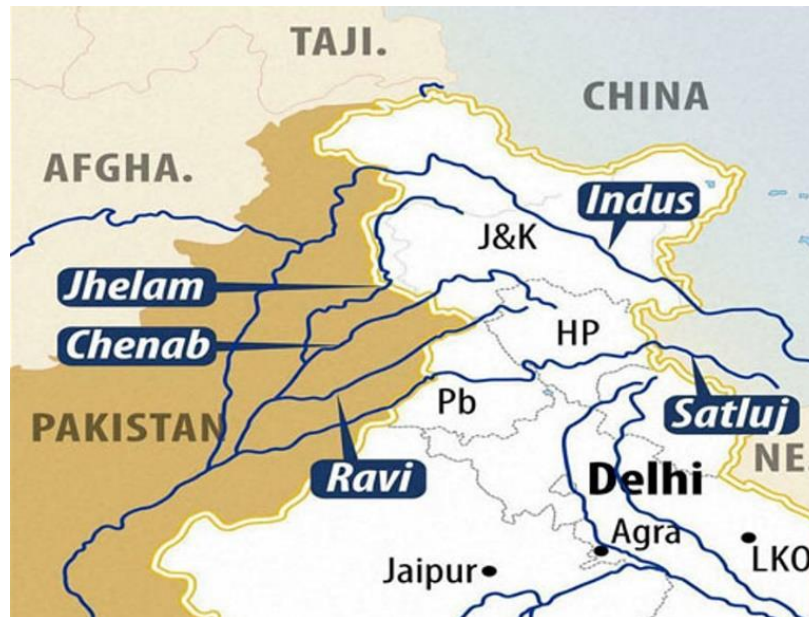
State	2018 Population (SE)	2022 Population (SE)	State	2018 Population (SE)	2022 Population (SE)
Bihar	98 (8)	86 (3)	Goa	86 (3)	77 (13)
Uttarakhand	839 (48)	652 (77)	Karnataka	1,783 (71)	1,879 (261)
Uttar Pradesh	316 (39)	371 (54)	Kerala	650 (28)	570 (76)
Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains	1,253 (95)	1,109 (134)	Tamil Nadu	868 (40)	1,070 (132)
Andhra Pradesh	492 (31)	569 (41)	Western Ghats	3387 (142)	3,596 (482)
Telangana	334 (16)	297 (20)	Arunachal Pradesh	11 (3)	42 (10)
Chhattisgarh	852 (39)	722 (45)	Assam	47 (9)	74 (11)
Jharkhand	46 (10)	51 (10)	North Bengal	83 (17)	233 (21)
Madhya Pradesh	3,421 (150)	3,907 (215)	North Eastern Hills, and Brahmaputra Floodplains	141 (26)	349 (42)
Maharashtra	1,690 (99)	1,985 (122)	India	12,852 (680)	13,874 (1,258)
Odisha	760 (33)	568 (35)			
Rajasthan	476 (39)	721 (112)			
Central India & Eastern Ghats	8071 (417)	8,820 (600)			

STATES

Shahpur Kandi Dam Project

- ❖ The Shahpur Kandi dam on river Ravi in Punjab, bordering Jammu and Kashmir has finally been completed.
- ❖ The 55.5-metre-high dam is part of the Shahpurkandi multipurpose river valley project.

- ❖ It also comprises two hydropower plants with an installed capacity of 206 MW.
- ❖ The project, being implemented by Punjab, will help minimise some of the water of Ravi.
- ❖ Ravi is one of the three eastern rivers of the Indus River system and its water — under the Indus Water Treaty — falls in India's share.
- ❖ Shahpurkandi dam is located 11 km downstream of Ranjit Sagar dam on river Ravi and 8 km upstream of Madhopur barrage.
- ❖ It will help India better utilise the Ravi waters.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Zero Discrimination Day 2024 - March 01



- ❖ This day serves as a potent reminder of the fundamental right to equality and dignity for everyone, regardless of their background or identity.

- ❖ The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014 after UNAIDS.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights.”

World Seagrass Day 2024 - March 01



- ❖ In May 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming this day.
- ❖ Seagrasses are marine flowering plants that are found in shallow waters in several parts of the world.
- ❖ They provide food and shelter to thousands of species of fish, seahorses, turtles and sustain some of the world’s largest fisheries.
- ❖ They can store up to 18 per cent of the world's oceanic carbon, making them a powerful nature-based solutions to tackle climate change impacts.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 has been set as “Healthy Seagrass, Healthy Planet”.

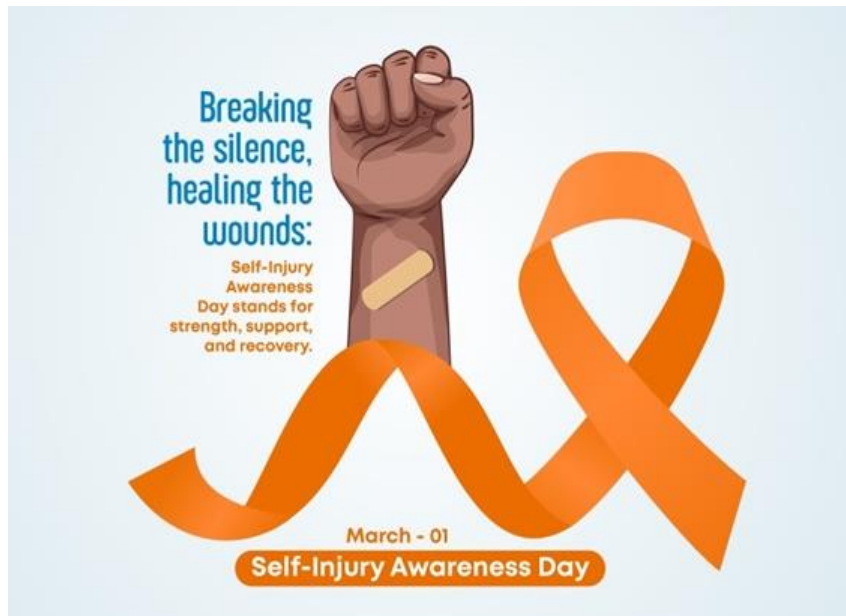
World Civil Defense Day 2024 - March 01

- ❖ In 1990, World Civil Defence Day was announced by International Civil Defence Organisation.
- ❖ This day aims to promote safeguarding of people and their properties from accidents, natural calamities and other emergencies.
- ❖ It also helps in celebrating the heroes who consistently demonstrate commitment to saving lives.
- ❖ The United Nations founded International Civil Defence Organisation.

- ❖ It is an organisation dedicated to coordinate and promote civil defence efforts globally.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is “Honor Heroes and Promote Safety Skills.”



Self-Injury Awareness Day 2024 - March 01



- ❖ This day is observed with the intention of helping people who inflict self-harm on themselves and are too scared of asking for professional help.
- ❖ It helps in raising awareness of the importance of addressing this unhealthy behavioural pattern and getting help to the patients as soon as possible.
- ❖ In the early 20th century, self-harm was declared as one of the symptoms of mental illness.



- ❖ In 1995, the first International Conference on Self-Mutilation was organised.
- ❖ In 1997, the International Society for the Study of Self-Injury was established.

