

March - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ IndiGo has emerged as the world's second fastest-growing airline in terms of seat capacity and the fastest-growing airline in flight frequency.
- ❖ India, Japan, Australia and Republic of Korea are participating in the Sea Dragon 2025 naval exercise at the Guam coast in the western Pacific Ocean, which is hosted by the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet.
- ❖ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is termed as the strongest insurance brand with a steady brand value (12th rank) of \$9.8 billion.
- ❖ The Assam government has decided to name the Electronic City after Ratan Tata as a tribute to his immense contributions to India's industrial and technological development.
- ❖ Tiger state of India, Madhya Pradesh's Madhav National Park has officially been designated as India's 58th tiger reserve as well as its 9th Tiger reserve, .
- ❖ The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched 'SBI Asmita', a collateral-free digital SME loan exclusively for women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Mark Carney has been appointed as the new leader of Canada's Liberal Party and the country's next Prime Minister to replace Justin Trudeau.

NATIONAL NEWS

A Million Women Arise initiative



- ❖ NITI Aayog and the India SME Forum launched a joint initiative called "A Million Women Arise" to empower women entrepreneurs across India.

- ❖ It aims to create a cohesive support system through access to finance, markets, compliance support, skilling, mentorship, and networking.
- ❖ Women-owned enterprises constitute 35% of India's six crore registered MSMEs.

Deal for T-72 tank engines

- ❖ The defence ministry of India has inked a USD 248 million deal with Russia's Rosoboronexport for the procurement of engines for T-72 tanks.
- ❖ The contract also involves the transfer of technology (ToT) to Armoured Vehicles Vehicle Factory in Avadi.
- ❖ The T-72 tank, named Ajeya in the Indian Army, was introduced in India in the 1970s.
- ❖ It is currently fitted with a 780 HP Engine.



Modified Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme

- ❖ The union food ministry has announced Modified Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme.
- ❖ It will provide interest subsidies of 6 per cent per annum or 50 per cent of bank interest rates, whichever is lower, for five years including a one-year moratorium period.
- ❖ The measure aims to support the government's Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) Programme

- ❖ To ensure the functioning of the Cooperative Sugar Mills throughout the year, their existing ethanol plants can be converted into multi-feedstock-based plants to use grains like maize and DFG under the new modified scheme.

GOVT. LAUNCHES

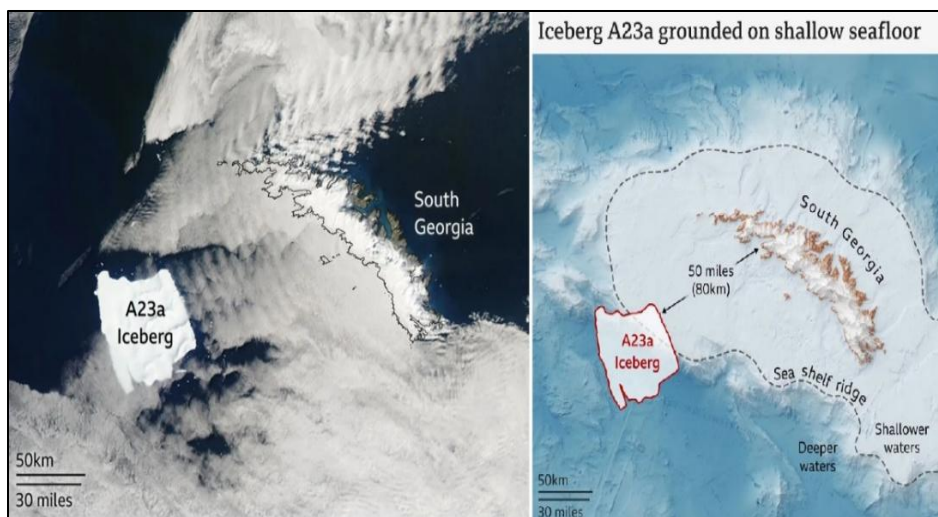
Interest Subvention Scheme to convert sugarcane-based ethanol plants into multi-feedstock units for Co-operative Sugar Mills.

- More operational days for higher productivity
- Increased financial viability and efficiency



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A23a at South Georgia Island



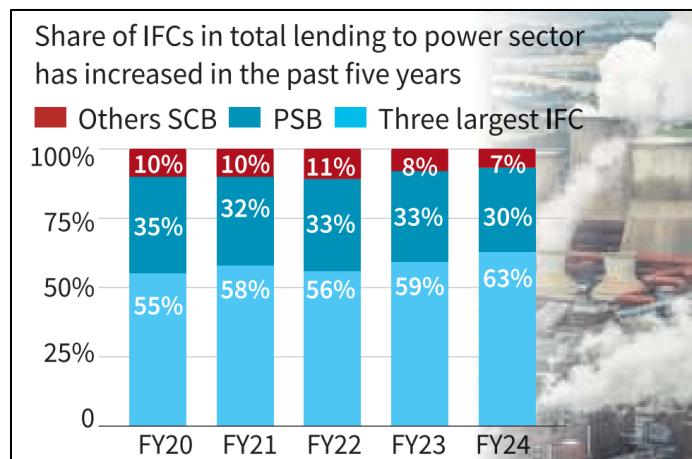
- ❖ The world's largest iceberg has run aground in the shallow waters off the remote British island of South Georgia.
- ❖ The iceberg is about twice the size of Greater London.

- ❖ It calved from Antarctica's Filchner Ice Shelf in 1986.
- ❖ It continued stuck in the Weddell Sea for more than 30 years.

ECONOMY NEWS

India Financial System Stability Assessment 2025

- ❖ It was the International Monetary Fund report titled as "India Financial System Stability Assessment".
- ❖ It found that 63% of the power sector loans were from three largest Infrastructure Financing Companies, a type of an NBFC in fiscal 2024.
- ❖ This increased from 55% in 2019-20.
- ❖ Moreover, 56% of their lending was financed by market instruments and only rest alone by bank borrowings.
- ❖ Public sector banks (PSBs) may have difficulties maintaining a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of barely 9%.
- ❖ The CAR is the ratio of capital to risk weighted assets, used to measure the bank's ability to absorb losses.
- ❖ The RBI mandates a 12% and 9% CAR for PSB and Scheduled commercial banks respectively.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

BM-04 SRBM

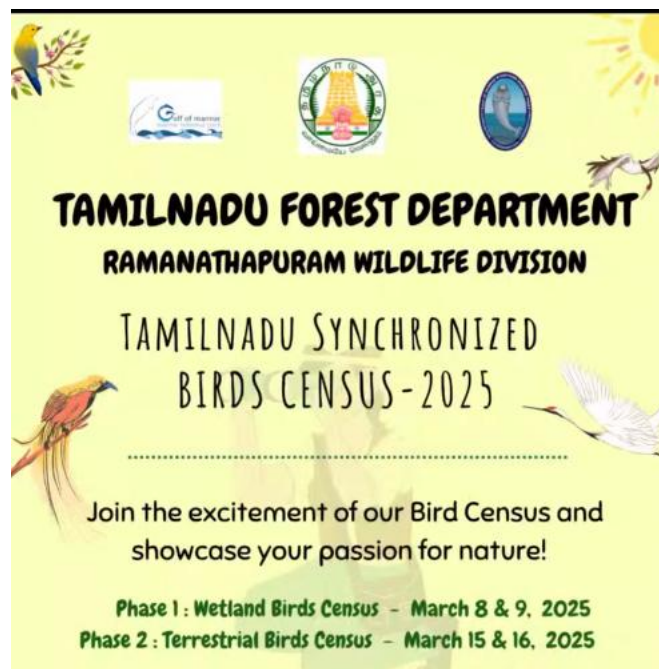
- ❖ The DRDO has revealed a mock-up and details of the country's latest short-range ballistic missile called BM-04.

- ❖ The BM-04 can fly at the hypersonic speeds (Mach 5 and above).
- ❖ The missile will also be used to neutralise enemy anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities
- ❖ The only three other nations - Russia, United States of America and China - have hypersonic missiles in their arsenal.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

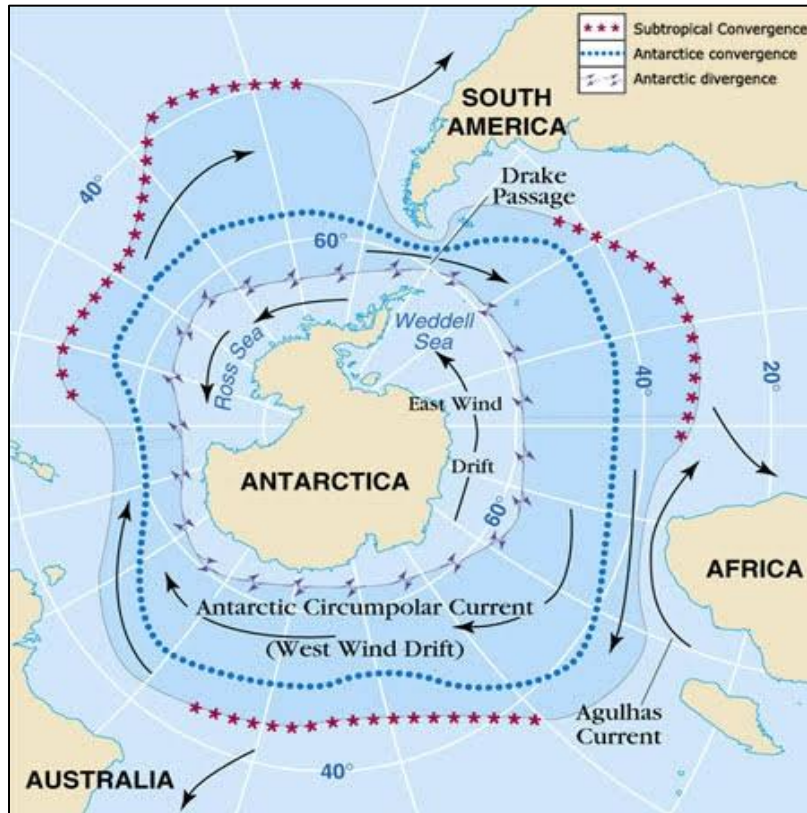
Synchronized Wetland Bird Census 2025 - Tamilnadu



- ❖ Several wetland bird species were sighted and recorded during the Synchronised Wetland Bird Census 2025.

- ❖ The census in Tiruchi district covered 20 wetland sites.
- ❖ The census aimed at monitoring migratory birds, assess bird habitats in lakes, ponds and other waterbodies and ensure the effective management and conservation of wetland birds.
- ❖ In Pudukottai district, the census was carried out in 25 wetlands, including Kavinadu tank, Aariyur tank, Annavasal 'periyakulam' and Sirungakulam.
- ❖ The census in Ariyalur district covered 10 wetlands, which included the Karaivetti bird sanctuary.
- ❖ In Perambalur district, the exercise covered 20 wetlands.

World's strongest ocean current



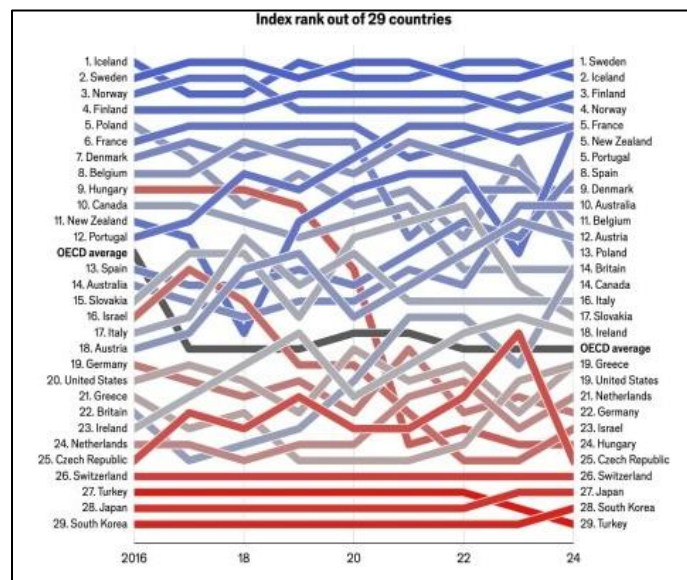
- ❖ The world's strongest ocean current is slowing down due to unchecked melting of Antarctic ice sheet.
- ❖ The Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC), which flows across Antarctica from west to east, plays an important crucial role in regulating the global climate and ocean circulation.
- ❖ As a result of ice melts, vast amounts of freshwater flow into the Southern Ocean, altering its salinity and density.

- ❖ These changes affect the movement of ocean currents, including the ACC.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Glass-Ceiling Index 2025

- ❖ Sweden secured the top position in the index for 2025, ending Iceland's two-year reign as the best country for working women.
- ❖ The OECD has been observing an average increase in women's parliamentary representation to 34%.
- ❖ Japan and Britain recorded significant gains, with representation rising to 16% (up from 10%) and 41% (up from 35%), respectively.
- ❖ In contrast, the United States experienced a slight decline, with representation falling to 28.7%.
- ❖ The average monthly salaries of women in Sweden were 90% of men's.
- ❖ Sweden was also the first country to replace gender-specific maternity leave with gender-neutral leave.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

TN scientist Swathi Sudhakar

- ❖ The young scientist was nominated by the Department of S&T to represent India at the BRICS meeting to speak about her research in space therapeutics last year.

- ❖ Ms. Swathi was also recently offered an honorary visiting fellowship by the Yonsei University, South Korea.
- ❖ Her team is developing nanomaterial-based therapeutics to prevent osteoporosis.
- ❖ The Astronauts work in microgravity conditions in space and are affected by osteoporosis.



SPORTS NEWS

Harry Brook Withdraws from IPL 2025



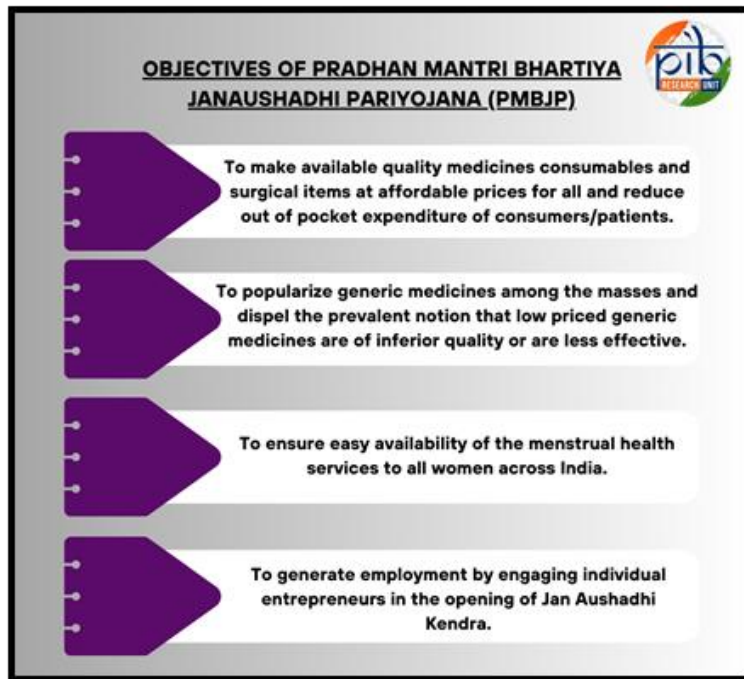
- ❖ England batsman Harry Brook pulled out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 for the second successive season.

- ❖ He was signed to Delhi Capitals for the new IPL season beginning later this month.
- ❖ The Player who registers for [an] auction and, after getting picked at the auction, makes himself unavailable before the start of the season will get banned from participating in the IPL/IPL auction for two seasons.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025 - March 07

- ❖ This day aims to raise the awareness about the scheme and promote the use of generic medicines.
- ❖ The PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched in 2008 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- ❖ It addresses the issue of the expensive branded medicines by offering affordable, generic alternatives.
- ❖ The Prices of the Jan Aushadhi medicines are 50%-80% less than that of branded medicine's prices available in the open market.



International Women's Day 2025 - March 08

- ❖ It is a tribute to the achievements, resilience, and an invaluable contributions of women across the globe.

- ❖ The 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- ❖ “For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.” is the theme of the 2025 year.

