

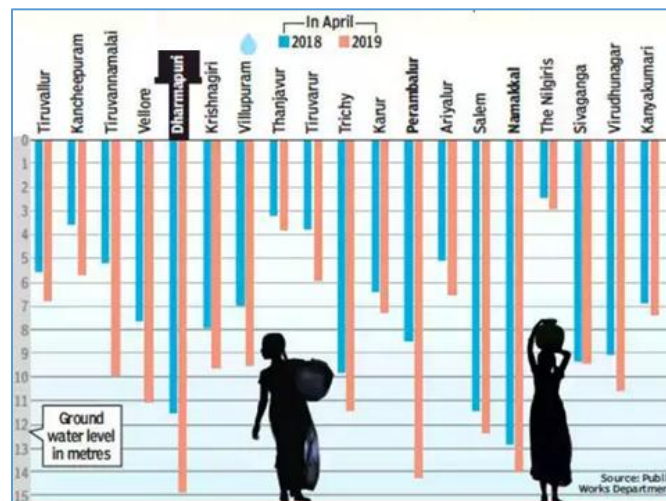
March - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ooty Literature Festival 2025 begins at Nilgiri Library in Udhagamandalam.
- ❖ The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS), comprising the INS Sujata, INS Shardul, and ICGS Veera, has successfully concluded its visit to Phuket Deep Sea Port, Thailand.
- ❖ The Assam government in collaboration with IN-SPACe proposes to set up its own satellite ASSAMSAT.
- ❖ India, participated at Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin - ITB Berlin 2025, a major meeting point for the global industry including tour operators, travel agencies and tech companies.
- ❖ India has taken over the Chairmanship of the 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the primary policy-making body for global drug-related matters.
- ❖ India has won the Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship 2025 title in Tehran, against Iran.
 - India have now won the title in five of the six editions held so far.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Groundwater Aquifer Mapping



- ❖ The Water Resources Department (WRD) plans to begin the groundwater aquifer mapping in three districts in north Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ These districts fall under the critical and over-exploited groundwater extraction categories.
- ❖ Vellore, Tiruvannamalai and Krishnagiri were chosen as these are hard rock areas with high groundwater fluctuations.
- ❖ On an average, each of these districts has nearly 3 lakh groundwater extraction wells for various purposes- industrial, agriculture and domestic.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bills of Lading Bill 2025



The infographic features a dark blue background with white and yellow text. At the top right, there are logos for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sagarmala, and the Gati Shakti National Master Plan. The main title 'BILLS OF LADING BILL 2025' is in large white and yellow letters, with 'Passes in Lok Sabha' below it. A yellow banner on the left contains the heading 'KEY BENEFITS:' followed by four bullet points with yellow arrowheads. On the right, there is a photograph of a large container ship at a port with cranes.

BILLS OF LADING BILL 2025

Passes in Lok Sabha

KEY BENEFITS:

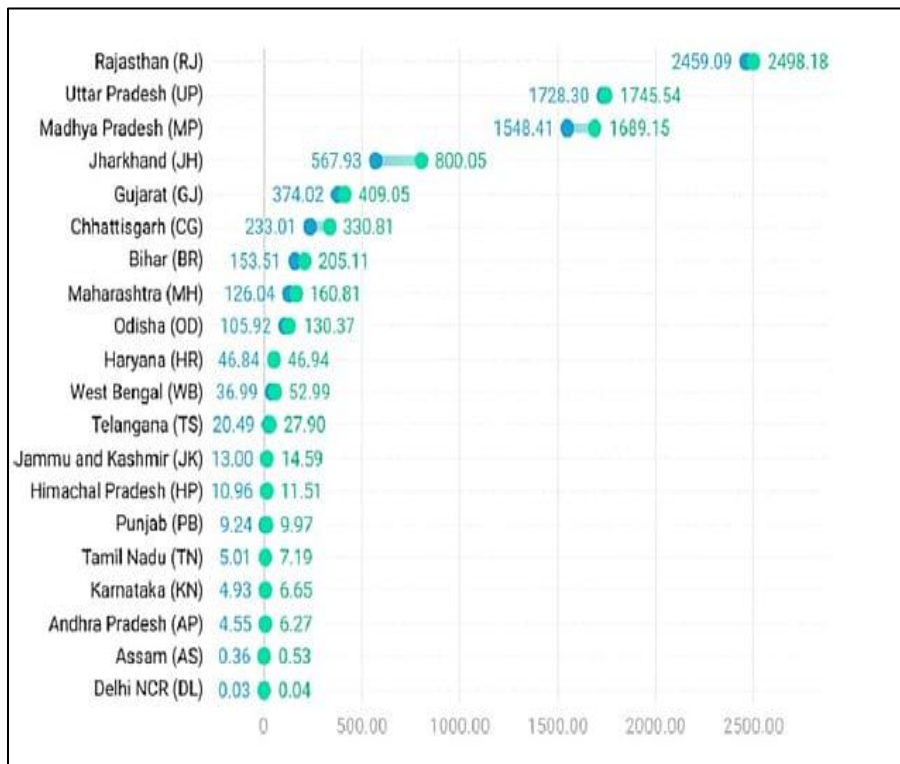
- Will streamline shipping processes
- Will reduce legal disputes
- Will ensure greater ease of doing business
- Will strengthen India's role in global trade

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Bills of Lading Bill, 2024.
- ❖ It aims to update and simplify the legal framework for the shipping documents by replacing the colonial era Act of 1856.
- ❖ It empowers the Central government to issue the directions to facilitate the law's implementation along with an inclusion of a standard repeal and saving clause.
- ❖ A bill of lading refers to a document issued by a freight carrier to a shipper.

- ❖ It contains details such as the type, quantity, condition and destination of goods being carried.

Gully Erosion in India 2025

- ❖ Gully erosion is a serious obstacle in India's land degradation neutrality mission.
- ❖ India needs to intervene on the gully erosion of 77 districts to meet the United Nations agenda of land degradation by 2030.
- ❖ 70 per cent of erosion is in eastern and southern India.
- ❖ As per UNCCD, around 20 to 40 per cent of the total area of the world is affected by land degradation.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US Withdrawal from Climate Loss and Damage Fund

- ❖ The US has withdrawn from the board of the recently-created Loss and Damage Fund
- ❖ This fund provides the financial support to countries ravaged by climate change disasters.

- ❖ It has already pulled out of the Paris Agreement and has cancelled the previously committed money for the Green Climate Fund.

What is “loss and damage”?

The phrase refers to costs already being incurred from climate-fuelled weather extremes or impacts, like rising sea levels

- Climate funding so far has focused on cutting CO2 emissions, while a third of it went towards helping communities adapt to future impacts
- Loss and damage funding is expected to cover the cost of damage that countries cannot avoid or adapt to
- A report by 55 vulnerable countries estimated that their combined climate-linked losses in the last two decades totalled



\$525 billion, or 20% of their collective GDP. This could go upto \$580 billion per year by 2030

- Vulnerable countries and campaigners argue that rich countries that caused the bulk of climate change with their historical greenhouse gas emissions should pay

ECONOMY NEWS

Insider Trading – Nestle

Insider Trading means buying and selling of stock or any security by someone possessing material information that isn't available publicly.	
ADVANTAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Participants can make a massive profit ➤ Insiders can take positions having potential to maximize profit ➤ Helps in avoiding risk by hedging or changing their positions ➤ It encourages them to stay alert so they don't miss any info ➤ It is a belief that insider trading makes market more efficient
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unfair to the investors who trust the market mechanism ➤ People indulged in insider trading earn a bad reputation ➤ It erodes the trust of investors in the financial system ➤ It undermines goodwill of company & its management ➤ If proven guilty of insider trading, then they could face heavy penalties 	DISADVANTAGES

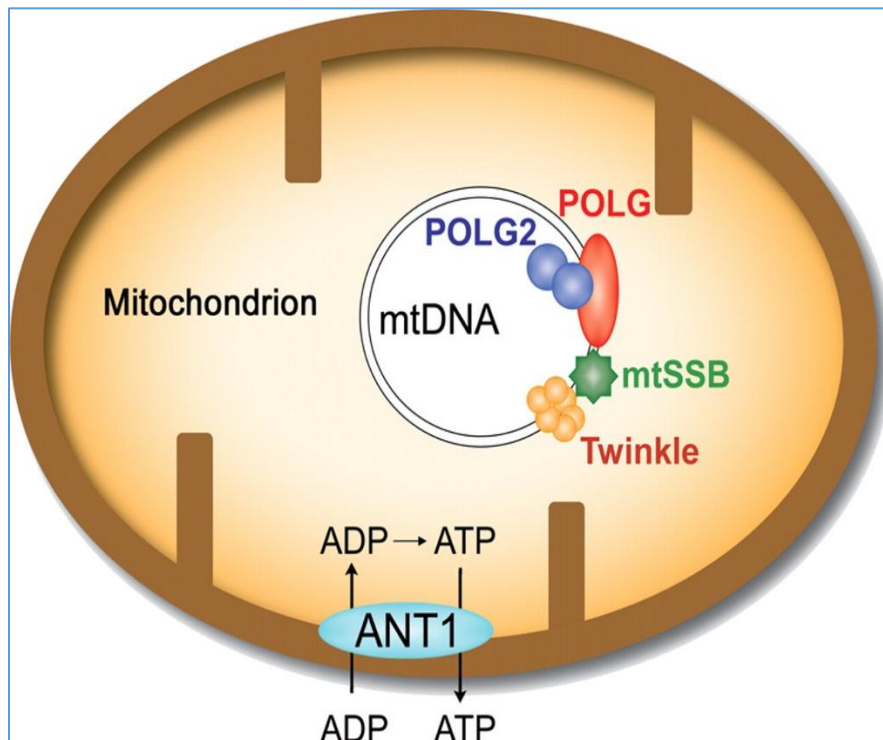
- ❖ The Market watchdog SEBI has issued a warning letter to the FMCG major Nestle India over alleged violation of Insider Trading norms by a senior official of the company.
- ❖ Insider trading is one of the most serious malpractices that exists in the market.
- ❖ The SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 (PIT Regulations) prohibits insider trading in India.
- ❖ They aim to prevent people directly associated with the company from trading in securities based on unpublished price-sensitive information.

- ❖ Section 11(2) E of the Companies Act, 1956 prohibits insider trading.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

POLG Mitochondrial Disease

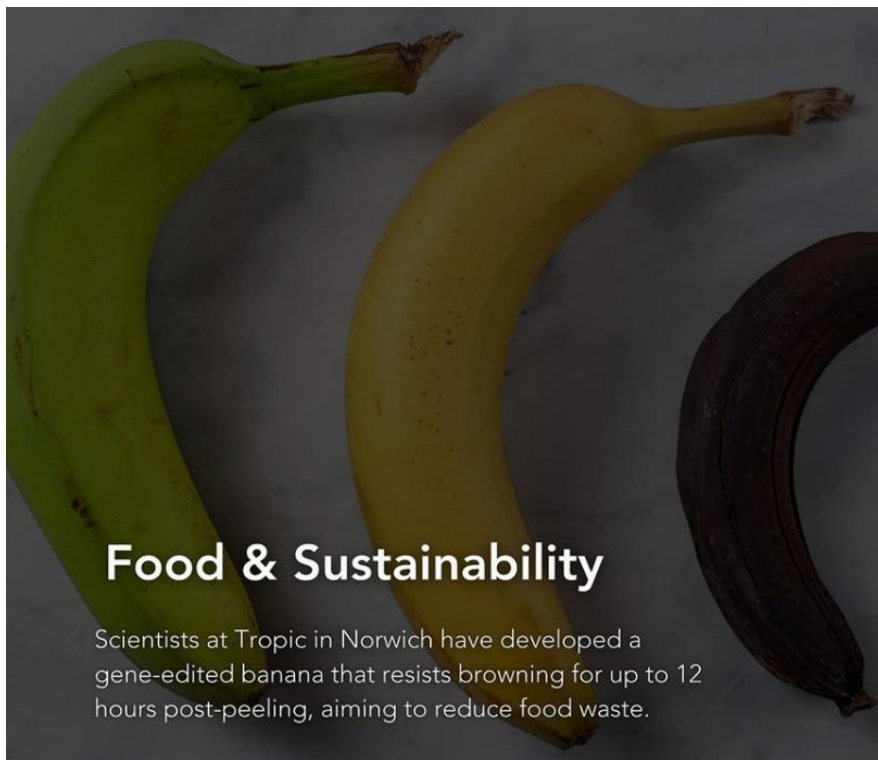
- ❖ Prince Frederik of Luxembourg was recently died due to POLG mitochondrial disease
- ❖ It is a rare genetic disorder affecting approximately one in 5,000 people.
- ❖ POLG is a genetic mitochondrial disorder that deprives the body's cells of energy.
- ❖ This is leading to progressive organ dysfunction and eventual failure.
- ❖ Following his diagnosis, the young prince established the POLG Foundation in 2022.
- ❖ This Foundation aims to support research and increase awareness for those who suffer from the disease.



Gene-edited bananas

- ❖ The Scientists from United Kingdom are developing a new genetically-engineered banana which has a longer shelf-life, and does not brown as much.

- ❖ They claimed that their fruit remains fresh and yellow for 12 hours after being peeled.
- ❖ They made precise changes to existing banana genes such that the production of polyphenol oxidase is disabled.
- ❖ Bananas boast a colourful life cycle — they start at a deep green, change to a delicious yellow, and end (if not consumed beforehand) at an unappetising brown.
- ❖ These changes are a product of their ripening process, which is caused by a hormone called ethylene.
- ❖ The Contact with ethylene triggers the activity of a number of genes, including one which linked to the production of the enzyme polyphenol oxidase (PPO).



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

World Air Quality Report 2024

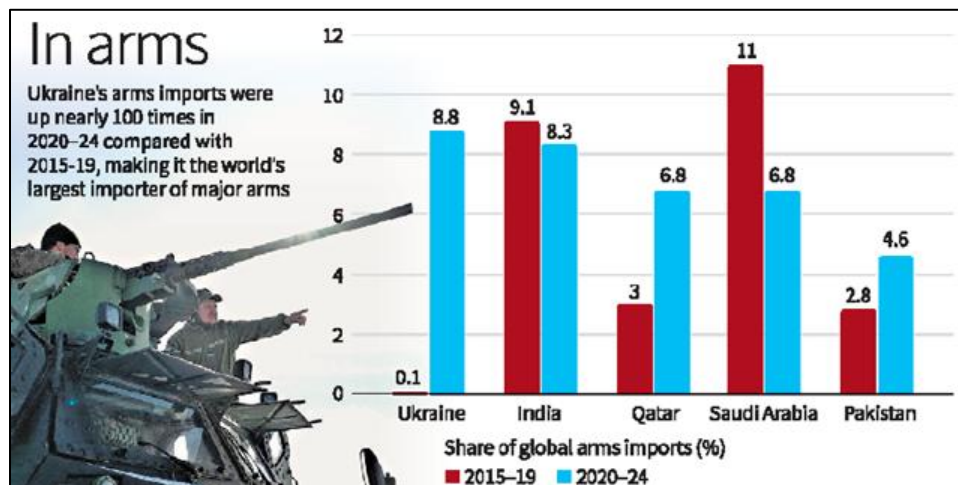
- ❖ Thirteen of the world's top 20 most polluted cities are in India, with Byrnihat in Assam topping the list.
- ❖ Delhi remains the most polluted capital city globally.
- ❖ India ranked as the world's fifth most polluted country in 2024, down from third in 2023.

- ❖ Overall, 35 per cent of the Indian cities reported annual PM2.5 levels exceeding 10 times the WHO limit of 5 micrograms per cubic metre.
- ❖ Air pollution remains a serious health risk in India, reducing life expectancy by an estimated 5.2 years.

India was home to 6 of 9 most polluted global cities	Least polluted cities in the world in 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byrnihat Meghalaya, India • Delhi India • Karaganda Kazakhstan • Mullanpur Punjab, India • Lahore Pakistan • Faridabad Haryana, India • N'Djamena Chad • Loni Uttar Pradesh, India • New Delhi India • Multan Pakistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peshawar Pakistan • Sialkot Pakistan • Gurugram Haryana, India • Ganganagar West Bengal, India • Hotan China • Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh, India • Bhiwadi Rajasthan, India • Muzaffarnagar Uttar Pradesh, India • Hanumangarh Rajasthan, India • Noida Uttar Pradesh, India
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayaguez Puerto Rico • Nieuwoudtville South Africa • Dexter Oregon, USA • Haines Alaska, USA • Chu Kazakhstan • Hawaiian Ocean View Hawaii, USA • Waimea Hawaii, USA • Volcano Hawaii, USA • Emu River Tasmania, Australia • Kapaau Hawaii, USA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken Hill New South Wales, Australia • Kittilä Finland • Underwood Queensland, Australia • White Cliffs New South Wales, Australia • Honaunau-Napoopoo Hawaii, USA • Marin California, USA • Hay New South Wales, Australia • Ocean View Hawaii, USA • Kealakekua Hawaii, USA • Kailua Kona Hawaii, USA

REPORTS AND INDICES

SIPRI Report 2020-24



- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released this report on Arms transactions.
- ❖ Ukraine was the world's largest importer of major arms during 2020-2024.
- ❖ The country's imports surged nearly 100 times over compared to 2015-2019.
- ❖ Most of the major arms supplied to Ukraine came from the US (45 per cent), followed by Germany (12 per cent) and Poland (11 per cent).

- ❖ India ranked second in global arms imports during the same period.
- ❖ India's arms imports declined by 9.3 per cent between 2015–19 and 2020–24.
- ❖ The United States increased its share of global arms exports to 43 per cent, while Russia's exports fell by 64 per cent.
- ❖ China was the fourth largest exporter of arms in 2020–24, with 5.9 per cent of global arms exports.

IMPORTANT DAYS

CISF Raising Day 2025 - March 10

- ❖ The day pays tribute to the bravery, dedication, and service of the CISF personnel who safeguard the nation's key infrastructure and uphold public security.
- ❖ The Central Industrial Security Force was created under the CISF Act of 1968 and established in 1969.
- ❖ They support the protection of public sector initiatives, industrial facilities, and government infrastructure projects.
- ❖ Today, it is one of the biggest and most powerful security forces in the nation, with 188,000 members.



Commonwealth Day 2025 - March 10

- ❖ It is a voluntary association of countries, most of which are formerly British colonies.

- ❖ The Commonwealth has no charter, treaty or constitution.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Together We Thrive'.
- ❖ The Commonwealth Games Federation has announced its rebranding to the Commonwealth Sport on this Commonwealth Day.
- ❖ India is the largest member state of the Commonwealth, with nearly 60% of the total population of the association.
- ❖ India hosted the Commonwealth Summit (CHOGM) and Commonwealth Games (CWG) in 1983 and 2010 respectively in New Delhi.



No Smoking Day 2025 - March 12



- ❖ It is typically observed on the second Wednesday of March.

- ❖ This day was observed to encourage the smokers to quit smoking and to raise awareness about the health risks associated with tobacco use.
- ❖ Tobacco use is responsible for over 8 million deaths annually.
- ❖ It is including 1.2 million non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

World's Oldest Impact Crater

- ❖ In the Western Australia, the researchers have found the oldest meteorite impact crater in the world.
- ❖ It is estimated that a huge meteorite struck the Earth 3.5 billion years ago, creating the North Pole Dome Site in the Pilbara region.
- ❖ Before this discovery, the oldest impact crater was 2.2 billion years old.
- ❖ The shatter cones at the site were formed when a meteorite slammed into the area at more than 36,000 km/h.

