

March - 21

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Election Commission has announced Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee, Sheetal Devi as its National PwD (Person with disability) Icon.
- ❖ Odisha inaugurated India's first indoor athletics and aquatic centres at the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces are conducting the 10th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024'.
- ❖ According to the 2024 DHL Global Connectedness Report, India ranks 62nd out of 171 countries on the DHL Connectedness Index.

## TAMIL NADU

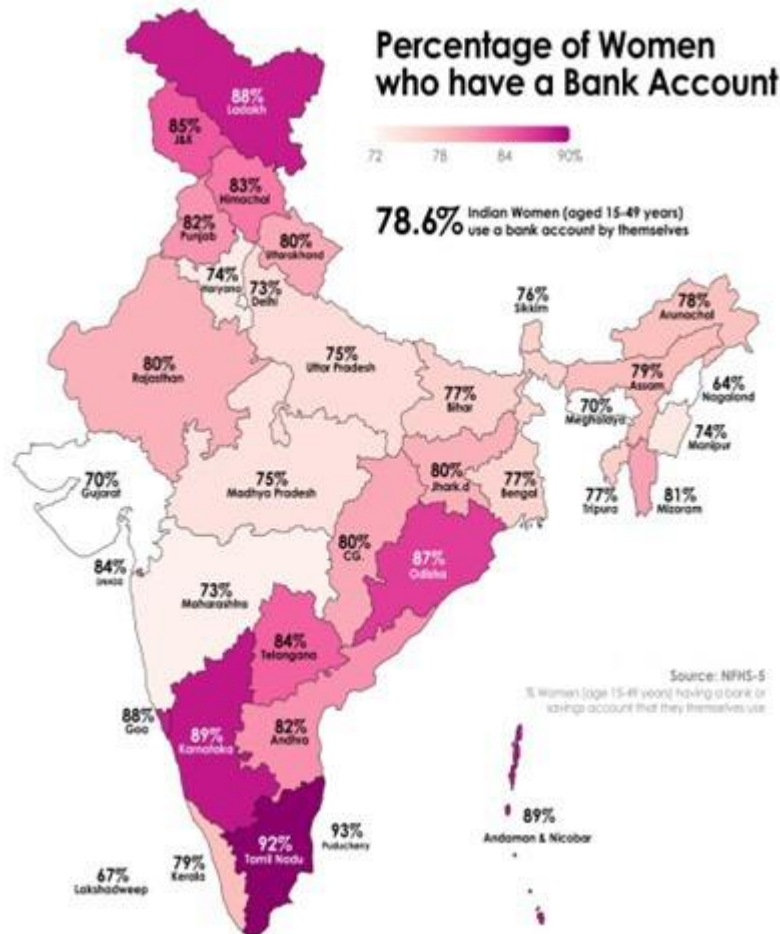
### PM SHRI Schools scheme



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to sign a MoU with the Union Education Ministry to implement the PM SHRI scheme in the state.
- ❖ PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) is a centrally sponsored scheme.

- ❖ It aims to showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and emerge as an exemplary school over a period of time and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.
- ❖ The PM SHRI schools will deliver quality teaching for the cognitive development of students.
- ❖ It will also strive to create and nurture holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st-century skills.

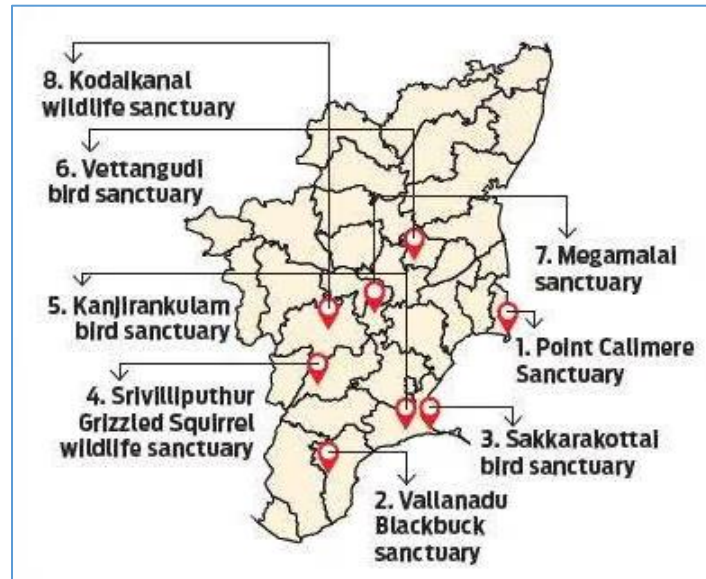
### Women's share in bank credit



- ❖ The share of bank credit to women in Tamil Nadu stood at 20.78% of the total advances as of December 31, 2023.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu loan disbursements made to women by all banks have stood at ₹2,04,737.54 crore up to December 2023.
- ❖ The outstanding portfolio stood at ₹3,08,221.32 crore as of 31, December 2023.

- ❖ In terms of education loan, consumer durable loan, business loan and property loan to women, Tamil Nadu stood number 2 after Maharashtra.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was also among top five States in terms of home loan, auto loan and credit card.

### **Land acquisition for Tiger Reserve**



- ❖ In a first, the Tamil Nadu Forest department has acquired 30.41 acres of erstwhile private patta land, situated in the core area of Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR).
- ❖ It came into being in 2021, making it the youngest of the five tiger reserves in the state.
- ❖ The land was acquired through private negotiation under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.
- ❖ This is the first time in India where the state government has purchased private land for non-commercial use towards forest and biodiversity conservation.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Grievance Redressal Assessment Index 2023-24**

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has consistently ranked amongst the top 10 ministries in 2023-24 in the grievance redressal assessment index (GRAI).
- ❖ It is performing well in all 15 specified indicators.

- ❖ During 2023-24, the MHA has performed exceptionally well by redressing 48,837 public grievances.
- ❖ It took the average redressal time of eight days against the standard 30 days.

- Home Ministry has said it is committed to ensure timely redressal of public grievances on Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System, CPGRAMS. Ministry said in a statement that it has consistently ranked amongst top 10 Ministries during 2023-24 in Grievance redressal Assessment Index, GRAI performing well in all 15 indicators of GRAI.
- During 2023-24, the Ministry has performed exceptionally well by redressing 48 thousand 837 public grievances cases with average redressal time of 8 days against standard of 30 days.
- Only 10 percent of grievances resulted in appeals which is one of the lowest among Ministries. Citizen satisfaction also stands at 40 percent.

### News-sharing service by Prasar Bharati

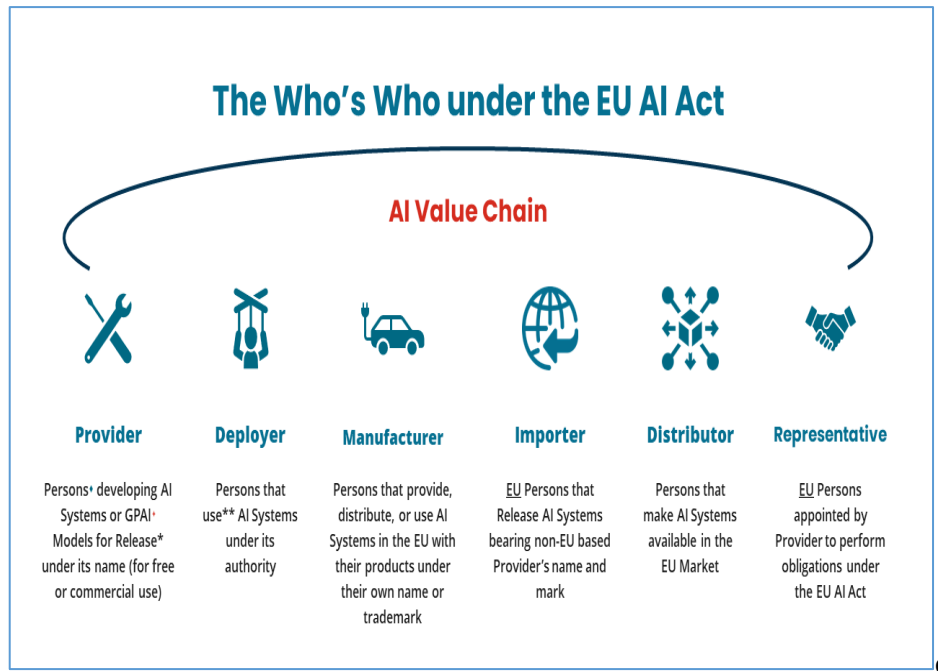


- ❖ Prasar Bharati has launched a news-wire-like service to offer free content across mediums.
- ❖ They will be free of copyright or credit obligations.

- ❖ This service is known as PB-SHABD (Prasar Bharati-Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination).
- ❖ It will offer as a “free service for one year to all news organisations registered with the ministry”.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act, 2024)



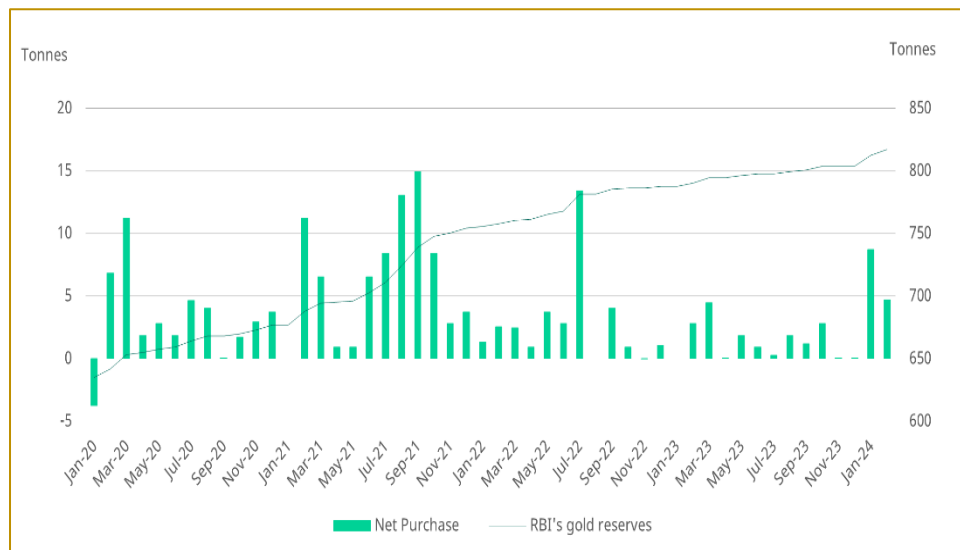
- ❖ The European Union’s parliament has approved the world’s first major set of regulatory ground rules to govern the mediatized artificial intelligence at the forefront of tech investment.
- ❖ The Act, which is intended to be a consumer protection law, imposes different levels of regulation based on the risk of the AI product at issue.
- ❖ These levels are:
- ❖ Unacceptable risk level AI systems:
  - Which provide social scoring, infer the user’s emotions, impose deceptive techniques, assess the risk of an individual committing a crime, and take users’ real-time biometric data;
- ❖ High risk AI systems
  - Which profile an individual’s work performance, economic situation, health, movement, or decision-making patterns without human review; and

- ❖ General purpose AI systems-
  - Which are AI models trained on large amounts of data that self-supervise, such as Chat GPT.
- ❖ The Act prohibits unacceptable risk level AI systems.
- ❖ This Act is expected to come into force at the end of May 2024.

## ECONOMY

### RBI gold purchase in 2024

- ❖ The RBI's net gold buying in the first two months of 2024 (13.4t) already amounts to more than 80% of its 2023 annual net purchase (16.2t).
- ❖ This represents the largest purchase for the period since 2015.
- ❖ The RBI is among several central banks that have been accumulating gold at a steady clip.
- ❖ Its annual net gold purchases is averaged 42t (2018 to 2023).

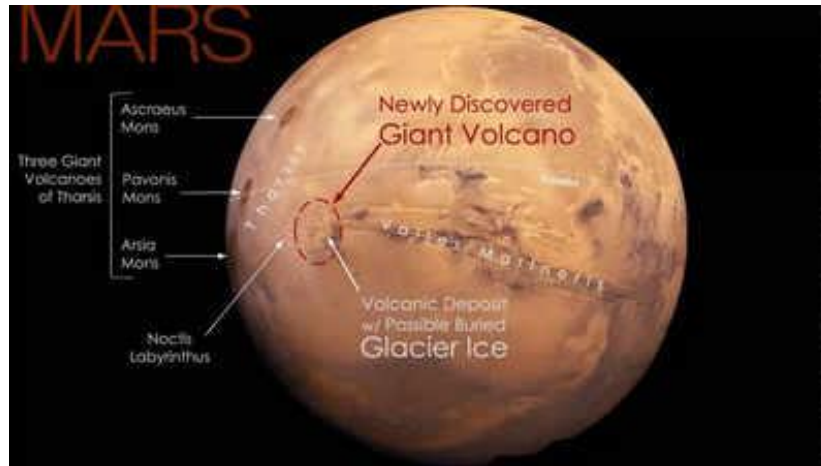


## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Gigantic volcano on Mars

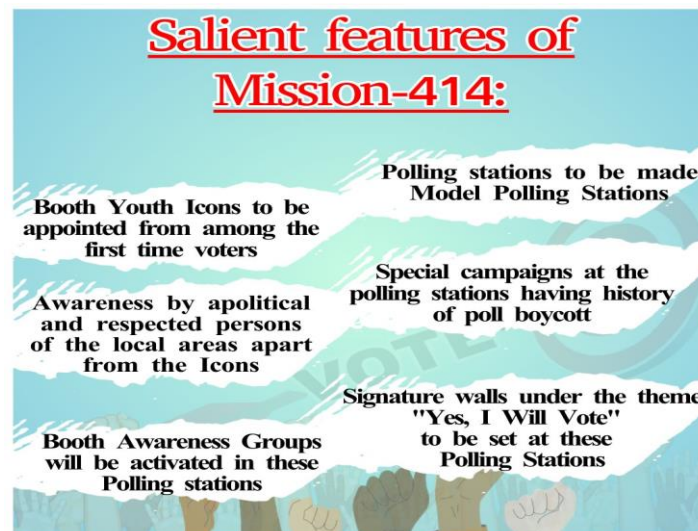
- ❖ The Researchers have unveiled the existence of a 'gigantic' volcano on Mars.
- ❖ This colossal geological feature has been named the 'Noctis Volcano.'
- ❖ It stands at an impressive 29,600 feet in elevation and stretches approximately 450 kilometers in width.

- ❖ The volcano's location is just south of Mars' equator, in the Eastern Noctis Labyrinthus, west of the Valles Marineris, the planet's vast canyon system.



## STATES

### Mission 414



- ❖ The Election Commission (EC) of India has launched a special campaign “Mission 414” in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It aims to maximise voter turnout in 414 polling stations which registered less than 60% voting in the last Lok Sabha polls.
- ❖ Awareness campaigns and cultural events would be held besides making these 414 stations model polling stations.
- ❖ A similar initiative is under way for 22 Assembly segments.

- ❖ And it is aimed at increasing the voter turnout to 72% in polling stations where the turnout was less than 70% in the last Lok Sabha elections.
- ❖ The average voter turnout in Himachal Pradesh in 2019 was 72.42%.

### **The tentative UNESCO site from MP**

- ❖ Six heritage sites in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the tentative UNESCO list.
- ❖ They are
  - Gwalior Fort, renowned for its historical significance;
  - The Historical Group of Dhamnar, representing the rich cultural heritage of the region;
  - The fascinating Rock Art Sites of Chambal Valley, showcasing ancient artistry;
  - The revered Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple, a symbol of religious devotion,
  - Khooni Bhandara in Burhanpur, and
  - God Memorial of Ramnagar, Mandla.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Madras Music Academy Awards 2024**

- ❖ The Carnatic classical vocalist Thodur Madabusi Krishna has been conferred the Sangita Kalanidhi award.
- ❖ It is the most prestigious recognition in Carnatic music and awarded by the Madras Music Academy.
- ❖ Professor Parassala Ravi (V. Raveendran Nair) and Geetha Raja will be conferred with Sangita Kala Acharya awards.





- ❖ Narasimhan and S Venkatesan, known as Thiruvaiyyaru Brothers, and H K Narasimha Murthy have been chosen for TTV awards.
- ❖ Dr Margaret Bastin will receive the Musicologist Award, while Dr Neena Prasad will be conferred Nritya Kalanidhi Award.

