

March - 23

TNPSC BITS

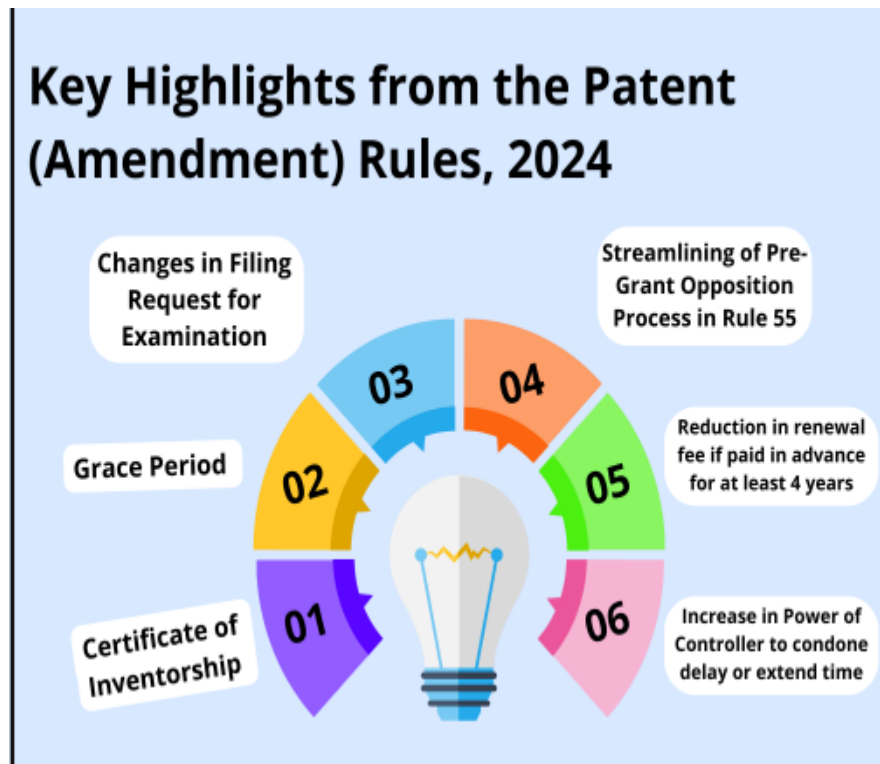
- ❖ The Noted Malayalam poet Prabha Varma has bagged the prestigious Saraswati Samman literary award for 2023.
- ❖ India have achieved a doctor to population ratio of 1:900 against the WHO recommendation of 1:1000.
- ❖ India, Brazil hold first '2+2' defence ministerial dialogue on energy, critical minerals, technology and counter-terrorism.
- ❖ Srinagar witnessed a historic moment as it hosted its inaugural Formula 4 car racing demonstration event recently.
- ❖ India's first integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit by 3F Oil Palm started its commercial operations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Vaughan Gething was elected first minister of Wales and he is becoming the first Black leader of a government in the U.K.
- ❖ The United Nations is observing March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.
 - It aims to taking “concrete action in the face of rising hatred, discrimination, and violence against Muslims”.

NATIONAL

Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has, notified the Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024 to amend the Patents Rules, 2003 (“Amended Rules”).
- ❖ The Amended Rules have already come into effect from the date of publication, i.e., March 15, 2024.
- ❖ The timeline for filing the RFE is now reduced from forty-eight (48) months to thirty-one (31) months from the priority date or application filing date, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ Any “updated” information regarding corresponding foreign applications must be submitted within three months after receiving the First Examination Report (FER).
- ❖ Under Rules 24B and 24C, the applicant could seek an extension of up to three months for filing the response to the examination report.

- ❖ Previously, Rule 138 (power to extend time prescribed) empowered the controller to condone delays, with a few exceptions, for a period of 1 month.
- ❖ The title of Rule 138 has now been changed to 'Power to extend the time specified or condone delay'.
- ❖ Previously, a statement of working had to be filed every year.
- ❖ Now, a working statement has to be submitted only once every three years.



Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024

- ❖ With the expiration of the FAME-II scheme on March 31, the central has announced the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024).
- ❖ The scheme aims to incentivize the faster adoption of electric two-wheelers (e-2W) and three-wheelers (e-3W).
- ❖ Under the EMPS 2024, eligible EV categories include electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, including registered e-rickshaws, e-carts, and L5 category vehicles.
- ❖ The scheme primarily targets e-2W and e-3Ws registered for the commercial purposes.
- ❖ The benefits are also extending to privately or corporate-owned registered e-2W vehicles.

- ❖ The incentives will be provided only to vehicles equipped with advanced battery systems.
- ❖ The government also announced that the subsidies provided under the FAME-II would apply to vehicles sold until March 31, or until the funds are exhausted, whichever first.



The infographic is titled "Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024" and is issued by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. It features a blue background with a light blue rounded rectangle containing text. At the bottom, there is an illustration of various electric vehicles (a car, a scooter, a rickshaw, a van, and a bus) parked at charging stations under a bright sun.

भारतीय उद्योग संजालय
MINISTRY OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES

Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024

- MHI introduces the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 with Rs. **500 crore** allocated for implementation from **April 1st to July 31st 2024, for 4 months.**
- The initiative aims to accelerate the transition towards sustainable transportation by encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).
- The scheme targets the development of the **EV manufacturing sector, particularly for electric two and three-wheelers.**
- **3,33,387 scooters** receive **Rs 10,000** support each, and **41,306 3-wheelers** get **Rs 25,000** support each.
- Large 3-wheelers (25,238) receive **Rs 50,000** each.
- The initiative reaffirms the **Ministry of Heavy Industries'** commitment to e-mobility and green energy.

INTERNATIONAL

Afar Triangle

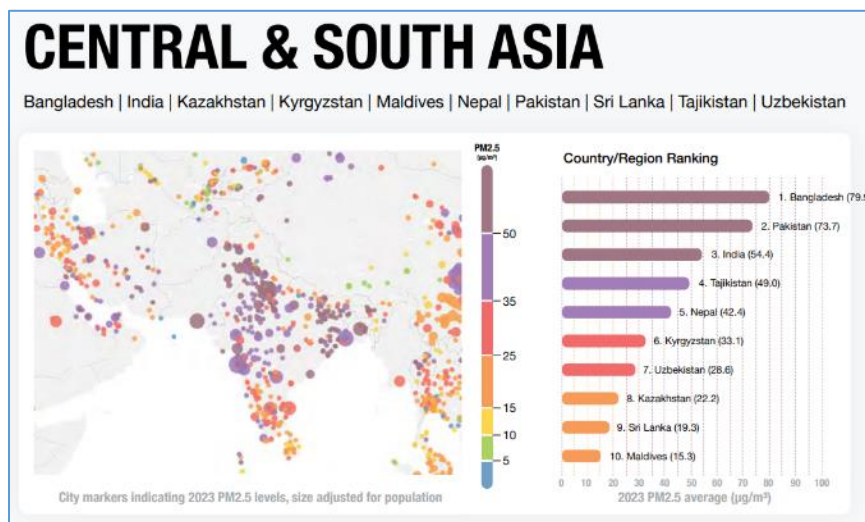
- ❖ According to geologists, the African continent, with its rich and diverse landscapes, is currently experiencing a rare geological phenomenon that could lead to the formation of a new ocean.
- ❖ This process is unfolding in the Afar Triangle, also known as the Afar Depression, located in the Horn of Africa.
- ❖ Geologists predict that the African continent's rift in the Afar Triangle could lead to the formation of a new ocean in 5 to 10 million years.

- ❖ The Afar Triangle is a geological depression where three tectonic plates—the Nubian, Somali, and Arabian plates—converge.
- ❖ This area is part of the East African Rift system, which extends from the Afar region down through eastern Africa.



ENVIRONMENT

World Air Quality 2023

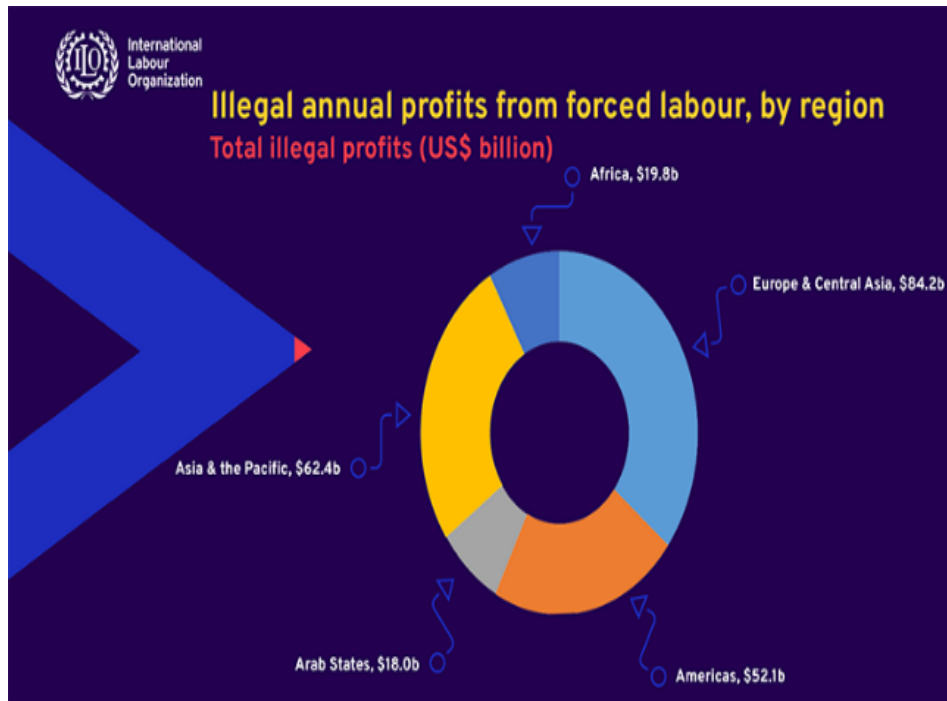


- ❖ India was the third most polluted country in 2023 after Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is based on data from over 30,000 air quality monitoring stations across 7,812 locations in 134 countries.

- ❖ India's annual PM 2.5 was $54.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to Pakistan's $73.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and Bangladesh's $79.9\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- ❖ India's annual PM 2.5 average was $53.3\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2022 when it was the eighth most polluted country.
- ❖ New Delhi ($92.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) was the most polluted capital city globally.
- ❖ Begusarai ($118.9\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) was the most polluted in India followed by Guwahati ($105.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
- ❖ The Union Territory of Delhi had an average PM 2.5 concentration of $102.1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, making it the third most polluted worldwide.

REPORTS AND INDICES

ILO Report on Forced Labour Profits

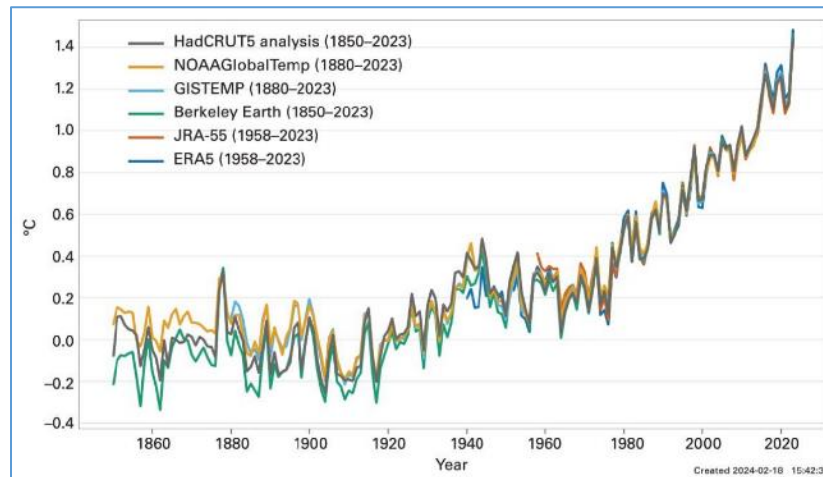


- ❖ A study by the International Labour Organization (ILO) found that forced labour generates illegal profits worth \$36 billion per year.
- ❖ This is an increase of 37% of such illegal profits since 2014.
- ❖ The report was titled 'Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour'.
- ❖ It also estimates that traffickers and criminals are generating close to \$10,000 per victim, up from \$8,269 (adjusted for inflation) a decade ago.
- ❖ Total annual illegal profits from forced labour are highest in Europe and Central Asia (\$84 billion).

- ❖ It is followed by Asia and the Pacific (\$62 billion), the Americas (\$52 billion), Africa (\$20 billion), and the Arab States (US\$18 billion),”

Global Climate Report 2023

- ❖ Greenhouse gas levels, surface temperatures, ocean heat and acidification, and sea level rise all are reached record highs in 2023.
- ❖ The new report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is titled as “State of the Global Climate 2023”.
- ❖ It confirmed that 2023 was the warmest year in the 174-year observational record.
- ❖ The global average near-surface temperature was 1.45 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline (1850-1900).
- ❖ CO2 concentration continued to rise in 2023 while the global mean sea level reached a record high.
- ❖ The rate of sea level rise in the last 10 years (2014–2023) has more than doubled since the first decade of the satellite record (1993 – 2002).
- ❖ The global set of reference glaciers for the hydrological year 2022-2023 have experienced the largest loss of ice on record (1950-2023).



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Vaccination Day 2024 - March 16

- ❖ This day aims to educate people about the benefits of vaccination and dispel any myths or misconceptions about vaccines.

- ❖ In 1988, WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative was started as the first step of eradicating the disease from the planet.
- ❖ In 1995, on the same day, India started the pulse polio Immunisation Program as the first attempt of eradicating the disease from the country.
- ❖ Since then, March 16 has been celebrated as National Vaccination Day.



Ordnance Factories Day (India) 2024 - March 18



- ❖ This day is celebrated to commemorate the day when Ordnance Factory in Cossipore, Kolkata was formed.



- ❖ In 1775, the Board of Ordnance was formed in Fort William, Kolkata.
- ❖ In 1787, a gunpowder factory was formed in Ishapore and a gun carriage factory was formed in Cossipore, Kolkata.
- ❖ Now it's known as Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore.

