

May - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India is likely to host a delegation of Kenyan officials to explore the possibility of sourcing cheetahs from the east African country for the next phase of Project Cheetah.
 - The Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was chosen as the second site for reintroduction of cheetahs
- ❖ Bhavi Mehta won the 9th Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2024 for 'The Book Beautiful' by Pradeep Sebastian.
- ❖ Recently, the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) of the United Nations Environment Agency was held in Ottawa, Canada.
- ❖ May 5th is observed as an African World Heritage Day annually.

TAMIL NADU

Samba/Thaladi cultivation season in Tamilnadu 2024

Crop cover Paddy coverage during Samba/Thaladi/Pishanam season (In lakh acres)					District	Samba/Thaladi 2022-23 03.04.2023	
						Samba coverage	Thaladi coverage
Region	Normal area (5 years' average)	Target	Coverage*				
			2023-24	2022-23			
Cauvery delta	8.914	13.263	11.927	13.528	Cuddalore	1,29,001	18,229
Non-delta	21.716	21.902	21.055	22.984	Tiruchi	90,950	—
Total	30.63	35.165	32.982	36.512	Karur	25,140	—
					Ariyalur	28,706	—
					Pudukkottai	17,594	—
					Thanjavur	1,90,343	1,55,632
					Nagapattinam	1,19,526	40,548
					Mayiladuthurai	77,773	93,067
					Tiruvarur	2,14,749	1,51,599
					Total	8,93,782	4,59,075

- ❖ Despite Tamil Nadu's poor realisation of Cauvery water during the current water year, the delta region has exceeded the normal coverage during the Samba / Thaladi cultivation season by three lakh acres.

- ❖ However, the achievement fell short of the target by about 1.25 lakh acres.
- ❖ At the end of April, the cumulative realisation of Cauvery water was around 78.8 tmc ft.
- ❖ Against the normal coverage of 8.9 lakh acres (based on an average of five years), the delta region achieved about 11.93 lakh acres.
- ❖ The harvested area comprised around 11.67 lakh acres.
- ❖ The area under direct sowing accounts for about 45.7%, or 3.32 lakh acres, in the Samba season alone.

Tamil Nadu's economy in 2024-25

Studying growth

A look at the assumed growth and GSDP for various sub-sectors in 2024-25, based on two different scenarios



GSDP: Gross State Domestic Product

Note: The table has been prepared on the basis of two scenarios. In the first scenario, it is assumed that the growth rate of all the sub-sectors along with taxes minus subsidies will be 0.5 percentage points higher than that of 2022-23. In the second, only six major sub-sectors - Agriculture & allied, Manufacturing, Construction, Trade-repair-hotels, Real estate and Taxes minus subsidies - will register a 0.5% higher growth while the rest will grow as in 2022-23.

Sub-sector	Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
	Assumed growth (%)	GSDP (₹ in crore)	Assumed growth (%)	GSDP (₹ in crore)
Agriculture & allied	4.94	1,60,181	4.94	1,60,181
Mining & quarrying	2.29	5,440	1.29	5,360
Manufacturing	11.4	3,96,109	11.4	3,96,109
Electricity, gas	2.05	10,504	1.05	10,350
Construction	8.51	1,77,616	8.51	1,77,616
Trade, repair, hotels	7.18	1,65,941	7.18	1,65,941
Transport, storage	9.16	82,474	8.16	81,343
Financial services	9.23	1,00,310	8.23	98,935
Real estate	8.88	2,47,416	8.88	2,47,416
Public administration	4.82	35,873	3.82	35,361
Other services	11.49	1,43,248	10.49	1,41,324
Taxes minus subsidies	11.86	2,02,168	11.86	2,02,168
GSDP (Real)	9.29	17,27,280	9.08	17,22,102

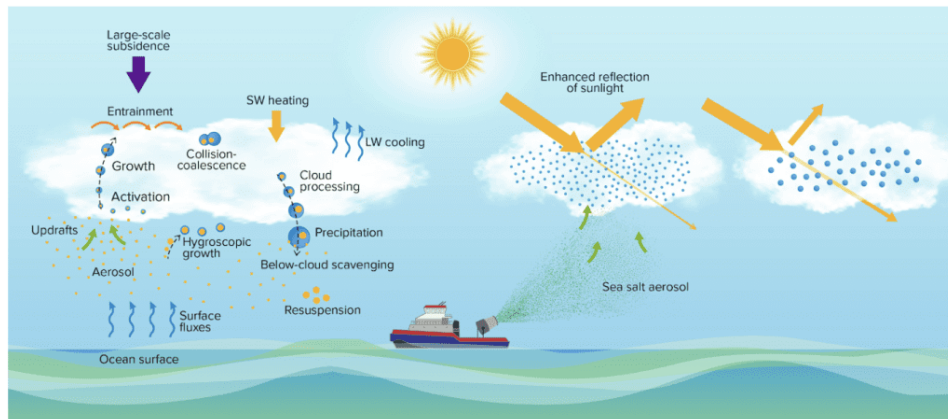
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's economy may grow at a rate of 8.08% to 10.69% in 2024-25.
- ❖ The Madras School Economics has estimated that in the recently concluded financial year of 2023-24, the State's growth rate varied from 8.08% to 9.44%.
- ❖ Country's expected economic growth rate for 2023-24 was 7.3%.
- ❖ The State "registered a strong real growth" of 10.3% from 2005-06 to 2011-12 (2004-05 series), while the all-India growth stood at 8.23%.

- ❖ However, its average growth rate declined to 6.21% during 2012-13 to 2022-23 (2011-12 series), compared with the all-India figure of 5.73%.

ENVIRONMENT

Marine Cloud Brightening

- ❖ Scientists have conducted the inaugural outdoor trial of a technology designed to manipulate clouds and reflect sunlight back into space.
- ❖ This geoengineering technique is called marine cloud brightening.
- ❖ It aims to potentially mitigate the Earth's increasing temperatures.
- ❖ This geoengineering technique involves spraying tiny particles, such as sea salt or other aerosols, into the lower atmosphere over the ocean.
- ❖ These particles act as cloud condensation nuclei, promoting the formation of more numerous but smaller water droplets within existing clouds.
- ❖ As a result, the clouds become brighter and more reflective, effectively increasing their albedo - their ability to reflect sunlight back into space.



Batillipes chandrayaani

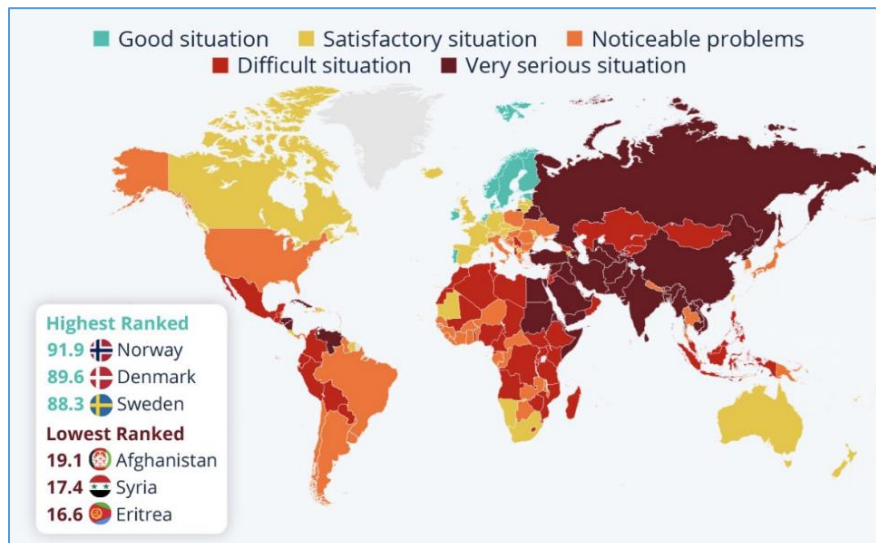
- ❖ This New species was discovered from southeast coast of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It is the third marine tardigrade species to have been scientifically described from the Indian waters and the second from the east coast.
- ❖ It has been named Batillipes chandrayaani after the Chandrayaan-3 moon mission.
- ❖ Tardigrades are microscopic marvels commonly known as 'water bears,' although they have no relation to actual bears.

- ❖ Batillipes chandrayaani is also the 39th species described under the genus Batillipes.
- ❖ Marine tardigrades account for 17% of all known tardigrade species.



REPORTS AND INDICES

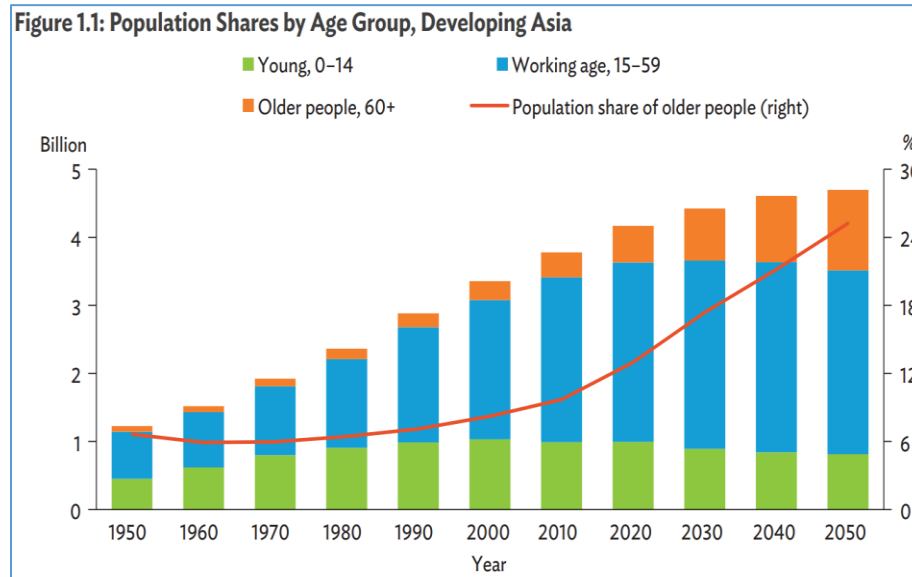
World Press Freedom Index 2024



- ❖ The latest annual World Press Freedom Index was released by Reporters Without Borders.
- ❖ In this, India's rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Pakistan ranked seven spots above India at 152.
- ❖ But, India's score in the World Press Freedom Index fell over the last year, from 36.62 to 31.28.

- ❖ Norway and Denmark topped the RSF table while Eritrea was at the bottom, with Syria just ahead of it.

Aging Well in Asia report 2024



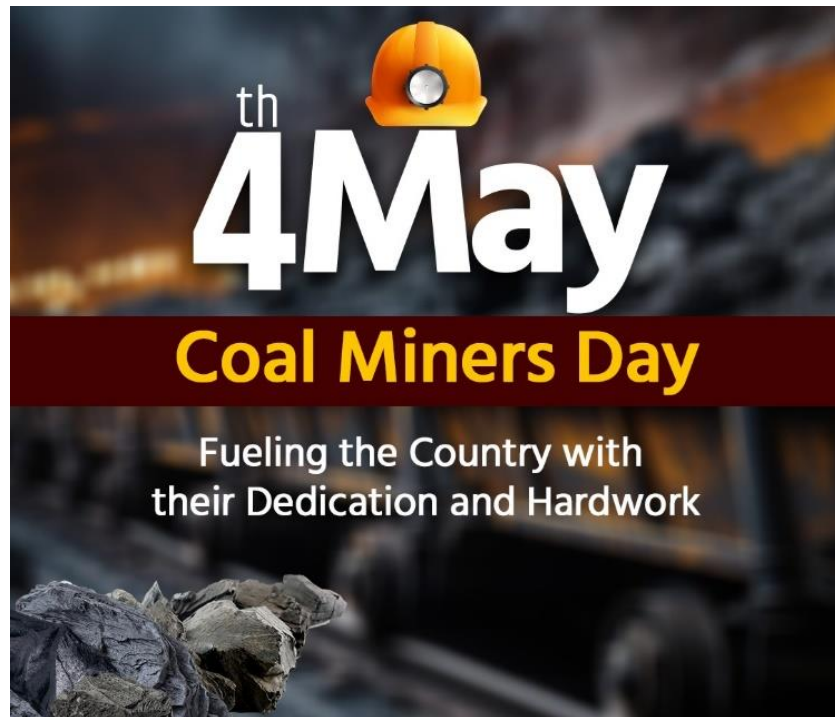
- ❖ The new report titled 'Aging Well in Asia' was prepared by Asian Development Bank.
- ❖ The South Korea and Thailand have achieved universal health coverage.
- ❖ In Bangladesh, Indonesia and India, more than half of those without access to healthcare are in the bottom two wealth quintiles.
- ❖ The number of people aged 60 and older in developing Asia and the Pacific is set to nearly double by 2050 to 1.2 billion or about a quarter of the total population.
- ❖ Others lag behind with India having the lowest health insurance coverage among older people at 21%.
- ❖ At the same time, these economies have an opportunity to reap a "silver dividend" in the form of additional productivity from older people.
- ❖ It could boost gross domestic product in the region by 0.9% on average.
- ❖ Schemes like Ayushman Bharat that provides cashless healthcare to bottom quartile of population has improved health coverage since its launch.
- ❖ Expanding it further will improve the condition and make people aged over 60 years more productive for the economy.
- ❖ The share of financially prepared near-old people (those within 5 years or so of retirement) to be as high as 86% in Japan and 73% in India.
- ❖ But this is somewhat lower at 64% in China and 58% in the Republic of Korea.



- ❖ Older women in India will see the greatest increase in life expectancy at 6.4 years, followed by Kazakhstan; Georgia; and Hong Kong, China at 4.6 years.
- ❖ For older men, Armenia will have the highest increase in life expectancy at 6.1 years, followed by India at 5.7 years and Georgia at 5.2 years.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Coal Miners' Day 2024 - May 04



- ❖ It honours the hard work and sacrifices of coal miners around the world.
- ❖ The day reminds us of its vital role in providing energy for homes, industries, and communities.
- ❖ The history of Coal Miners Day dates back to the opening of the first coal mine in Scotland in 1575.
- ❖ In India, the first coal mine was established in 1774 at the Raniganj Coalfield.

International Firefighters Day 2024 - May 04

- ❖ It aims to honour the heroes who risk their lives to safeguard their communities.
- ❖ It serves as a day to recognise and appreciate the sacrifices of firefighters who protect their communities and save lives while putting their own in danger.



- ❖ This date was chosen for its connection to the feast day of St Florian - the patron saint of all firefighters.
- ❖ On December 2nd, 1998, five firefighters lost their lives while battling a fierce wildfire in Linton, Victoria.

