

May - 08

TNPSC BITS

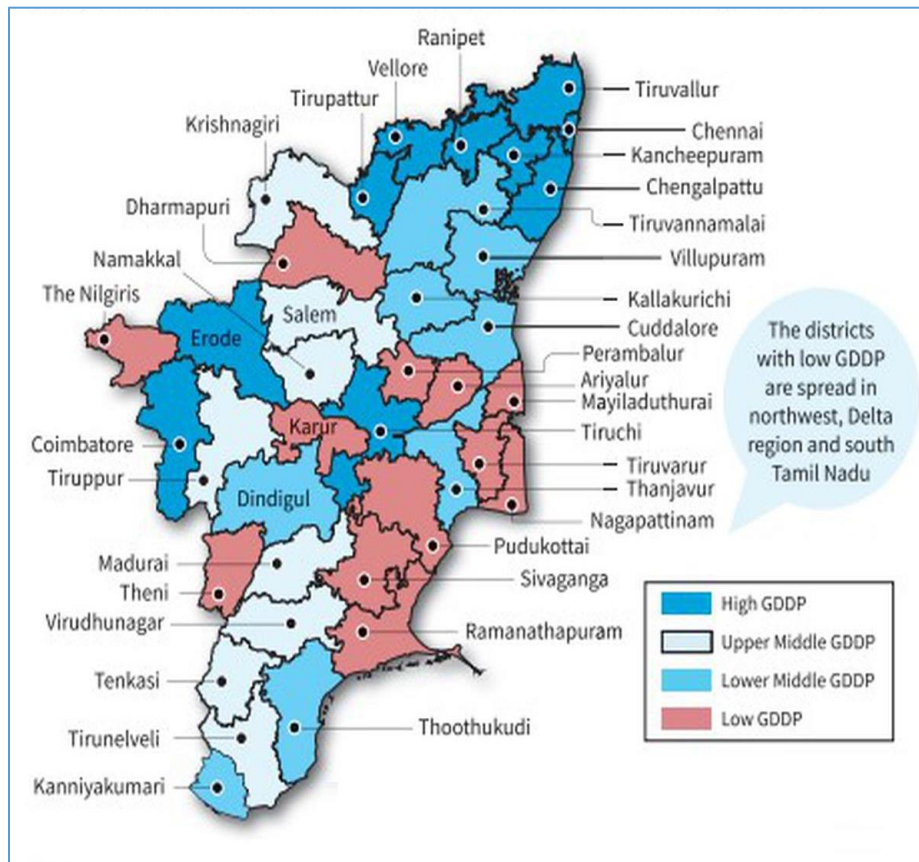
- ❖ Assam's wildlife conservationist, Dr. Purnima Devi Barman has been conferred the Whitley Gold Award for this year.
- ❖ The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and Starscapes, have partnered to launch Nakshatra Sabha, an initiative designed to offer a comprehensive Astro Tourism experience.
- ❖ The first true copy of the painting Indulekha by legendary artist Raja Ravi Varma has unveiled at the Kilimanoor Palace, Kerala.
- ❖ The renowned textile craft Ajrakh, primarily practised in the western part of Gujarat, has been granted GI tag.
- ❖ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has signed a pact with the Bank of Namibia for developing a UPI -like instant payment system for Namibia.
- ❖ Palestinian journalists covering Gaza have been named as laureates of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- ❖ The United Nation's First International Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure was held under India's leadership.
- ❖ China's Chang'e 6 mission is the world's first attempt to retrieve substances from the moon's far side – the side which is not visible from the Earth.
- ❖ The event titled “Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way” is organized during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57) in New York, USA.
 - It was organized by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- ❖ World Portuguese Language Day has been celebrated on May 5th each year.

TAMIL NADU

Lower per capita income districts in Tamilnadu

- ❖ There are 19 districts in Tamil Nadu whose per capita income is lower than that of the State average (₹2,36,783) in 2019-20.
- ❖ The figures of the remaining 13 districts exceeded the State's tally.
- ❖ Tiruvallur topped the list with around ₹3.64 lakh, followed by Erode (₹3.57 lakh), and Coimbatore (₹3.39 lakh).

- ❖ In these districts, per capita income was higher than any of the major Indian States in that year, including Telangana, Haryana, and Karnataka.
- ❖ At the bottom were Perambalur (₹1,07,731), Tiruvarur (₹1,25,653), and Villupuram (₹1,30,103).
- ❖ But these districts levels were “higher than” that of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha in the same year.
- ❖ However, the figures were lower than the all-India figure of ₹1.32 lakh for that year.

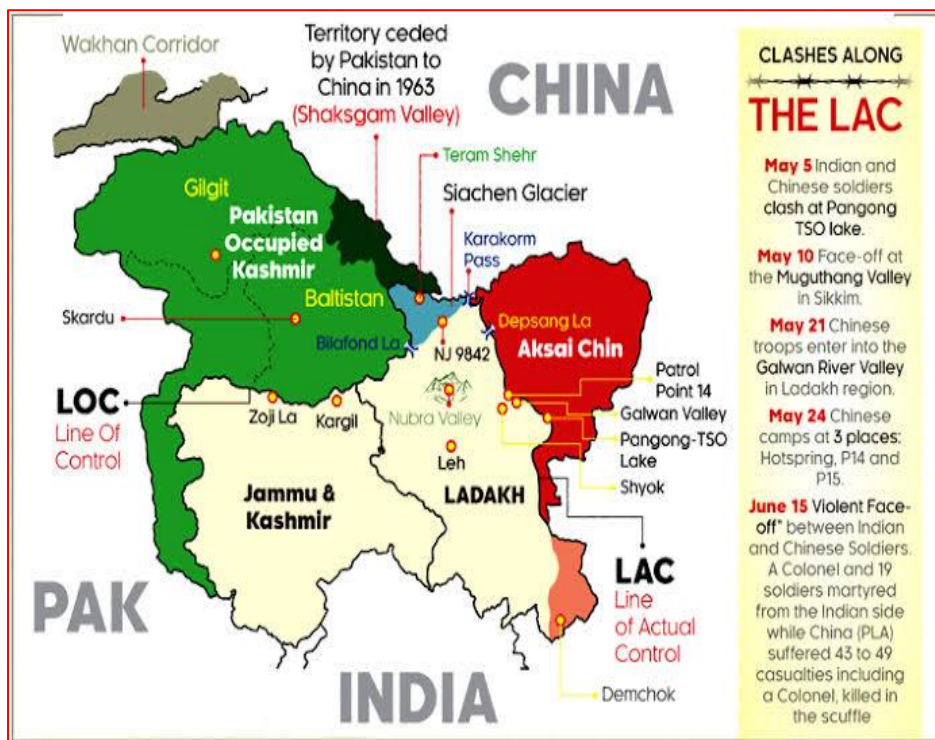


NATIONAL

Shaksgam Valley

- ❖ India has lodged a strong complaint with China over construction work in the Shaksgam valley.
- ❖ It is described as an "illegal" effort to change the situation on the ground.
- ❖ Shaksgam valley is a strategically situated region which is now part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

- ❖ The Shaksgam valley, or the Trans Karakoram Tract, is part of the Hunza-Gilgit Region of PoK.
- ❖ It is bordered by the Xinjiang Province of the People's Republic of China to the north.
- ❖ The northern areas of PoK are to its west and south and the Siachen Glacier region to the east.
- ❖ In 1963, Pakistan ceded the Shaksgam valley to China when it signed a border agreement with Beijing to settle their border disputes.
- ❖ India had never accepted the China-Pakistan border agreement of 1963, under which Pakistan tried to illegally cede this area to China.



INTERNATIONAL

Conflict Minerals

- ❖ The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has protested alleged fuelling of conflict on its territory by multinationals buying “blood minerals” to fuel the energy and digital transformations.
- ❖ It has accused United States smartphone giant- Apple of paying for minerals without critically looking at the suppliers.

- ❖ Apple argued that, the tin, tungsten, tantalum — the 3Ts — and gold that its suppliers purchase is conflict free and do not finance war.
- ❖ The DRC’s mineral-rich eastern region, home to tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold (collectively known as 3T or 3TG), has been plagued by violence for decades.
- ❖ There are approximately 120 armed groups in the eastern DRC, according to the Kivu Security Tracker.
- ❖ These armed groups benefit from the mining and trade of minerals to varying degrees.



Special 301 Report 2024

Priority Watch List	Watch List	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina • Chile • China • India • Indonesia • Russia • Venezuela 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algeria • Barbados • Belarus • Bolivia • Brazil • Bulgaria • Canada • Colombia • Ecuador • Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guatemala • Mexico • Pakistan • Paraguay • Peru • Thailand • Trinidad and Tobago • Türkiye • Turkmenistan • Vietnam

- ❖ The US has once again included India in the ‘priority watch list’ of countries, along with China, Russia, Venezuela, and three others.
- ❖ India remains “one of the world’s most challenging” major economies with respect to the protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP).

- ❖ India still needs to fully implement the WIPO Internet Treaties and to ensure that copyright statutory licenses do not extend to interactive transmissions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Moon occulting Antares

- ❖ The Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) has filmed the passing of the moon in front of Antares, a bright red star.
- ❖ The moon passed in front of Antares on April 27, hiding it for roughly 40 minutes.
- ❖ While moving in its orbit roughly once a month, the moon will occasionally occult, or hide, bright stars that are behind, and sometimes, even planets.
- ❖ This happens now and then for the star Antares (Jyeshtha), which is the brightest star in the constellation of Scorpius.
- ❖ The last such occultation of Antares, which was visible from India, was on February 5 this year.
- ❖ The next one will be in June 2027.
- ❖ However, the occultation of the planet Saturn by the moon can be seen from India on July 24, and again on October 14 in 2024.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hand Hygiene Day 2024 - May 05

- ❖ This global event aims to promote the importance of hand hygiene in preventing the spread of diseases and infections.

- ❖ This campaign, launched in 2009, aims to 'bring people together' in support of hand hygiene globally.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2024 is "Promoting knowledge and capacity building of health and care workers through innovative and impactful training and education, on infection prevention and control, including hand hygiene."



International Day of the Midwife 2024 - May 05



- ❖ It was announced in 1992 by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) to celebrate services of Midwives.
- ❖ This day honours the vital role Midwives play in providing care to women during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum.

- ❖ This year's theme is 'Midwives: A Vital Climate Solution'.

MISCELLANEOUS

Oldest proof of Earth's photosynthesis

- ❖ Scientists have unearthed ancient microscopic thylakoid structures that offer valuable insights into the origination of photosynthesis.
- ❖ These minuscule fossils are preserved for over two billion years within ancient rock formations.
- ❖ These biological structures are remnants of cyanobacteria preserved in fossilized form, dating as far back as 1.75 billion years ago.
- ❖ This is to be the oldest recorded evidence of photosynthesis on Earth to date.
- ❖ Cyanobacteria are photosynthetic microscopic organisms.
- ❖ Thylakoids are linked disc-shaped sacs within the chloroplast's interior membrane.
- ❖ They are essential in the process of oxygenic photosynthesis in cyanobacteria.

