

May - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government increased the wage rate for beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) by fixing the rate at ₹ 336/- per person per day from ₹319.
- ❖ The V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority of Thoothukudi has achieved another major milestone by enhancing bulk cargo handling with two 120 tonnes capacity harbour mobile cranes.
- ❖ USA's Berkshire Hathaway's board has officially named Greg Abel as the next CEO, succeeding Warren Buffett by the end of 2026.
- ❖ The World Portuguese Language Day is observed on May 5th to honour the linguistic and cultural heritage of the language and over 265 million Portuguese speakers.
- ❖ International No Diet Day is observed every year on May 6, to promote the body positivity, encourages self-acceptance, and challenges the societal obsession with thinness.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard conducted the 'SAREX -22' National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise in Chennai to improve search and rescue operations in the maritime domain.
- ❖ In March 2025, the Chennai airport passenger traffic handling recorded a mere 7.2% increase and dropped to the sixth position in the passenger traffic.
 - Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kolkata airports were topped in the list.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, inaugurated the 'Corporate Bhavan' in New Town, Kolkata.
 - The first ever 'Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) Facilitation Centre' is also located in the Corporate Bhavan.
- ❖ DRDO and the Indian Navy have successfully completed the validation trial of the Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM).
 - The MIGM is a sophisticated naval mine developed by DRDO to counter the increasing threat of modern stealth ships.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

VCK - Recognized state party

- ❖ The Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi has been recognised as a state party by the Election Commission of India.

- ❖ The party currently has four MLAs and two MPs.
- ❖ In the 73 years of Tamil Nadu's electoral history, a political party founded by a Dalit has not received such a recognition.
- ❖ The symbol 'Pot' has been reserved for VCK in Tamil Nadu as per a request made by the party in June 2024.

How is a party's status decided

A party needs to fulfill any of the following conditions to get national or state tag

| For national status | For state tag |
|---|---|
| <p>Votes in LS, state polls: A party should secure at least 6% of the votes polled in four or more states in Lok Sabha or assembly elections, and, in addition, have at least four members in the Lok Sabha</p> <p>Seats in LS: It should have at least 2% of the total Lok Sabha seats, and have candidates from not less than three states</p> <p>Must be a state party: It is recognised as a state party in at least four states</p> | <p>Votes in assembly polls: The party must get at least 6% of the votes and win at least two seats in the assembly election</p> <p>1 MP must in LS: It gets at least 6% of the votes polled and has at least one MP in the Lok Sabha</p> <p>Assembly seats: It has at least 3% of the votes or three MLAs in the assembly, whichever is more</p> <p>Strength in House: The party has at least one Lok Sabha member for every 25 assembly members, or any fraction thereof allotted to the state</p> <p>Performance in past polls: It has at least 8% of the total valid votes polled in the state in the previous election to the Lok Sabha or assembly in the state</p> |

Perks of national party

- Common party symbol across states
- Free airtime during elections on public broadcasters
- Space for a party office in New Delhi

Traders' welfare schemes 2025

மே 5ம் தேதி வணிகர் தினமாக
மே 5ம் தேதி வணிகர் தினமாக விரைவில்
அறிவிக்கப்படும்; மதுராந்தகத்தில் நடைபெற்ற
வணிகர் கோரிக்கை பிரகடன மாநாட்டில்
முதலமைச்சர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் பேச்சு

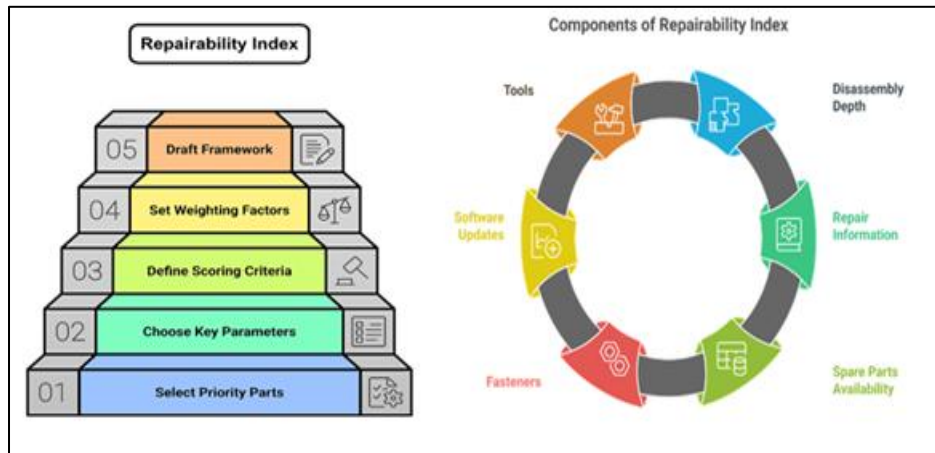
- ❖ The state government will soon issue a G.O. declaring May 5 as Traders Day.
- ❖ The financial assistance provided to the permanent members of the Tamil Nadu Traders Welfare Board will be increased from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.
- ❖ The Food-related businesses operating in spaces below 500 square feet will be permitted through a self-assessment method.

- ❖ A grievance redress panel for commercial establishments will be set up in the Greater Chennai Corporation and other town panchayats.
- ❖ The G.O. allowing commercial establishments to function round the clock will be extended for three years.

NATIONAL NEWS

'Repairability Index' for smartphones and tablets

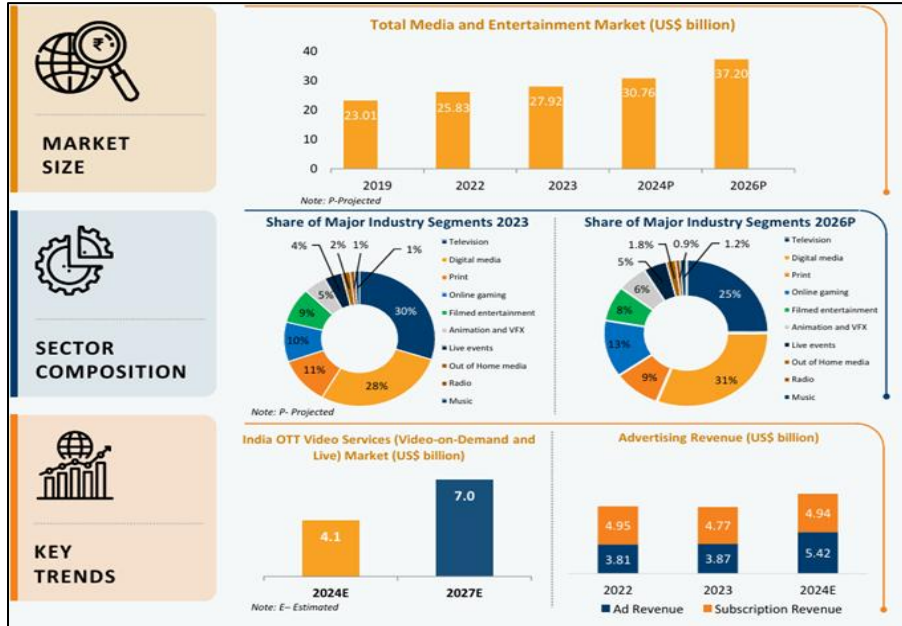
- ❖ The Committee constituted for the Framework on the Repairability Index (RI) in Mobile and Electronic Sector has submitted its Report.
- ❖ The Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) are required to self-declare the Repairability Index based on a standards scoring criteria provided in the framework with no additional compliance burden.
- ❖ The Repairability Index should be displayed at the point of sale/purchase, E-commerce platforms and in form of QR code on packaged products.
- ❖ This index aids to the consumers to choose options that align with the ethos of 'mindful utilization' of their products over 'wasteful consumption'.



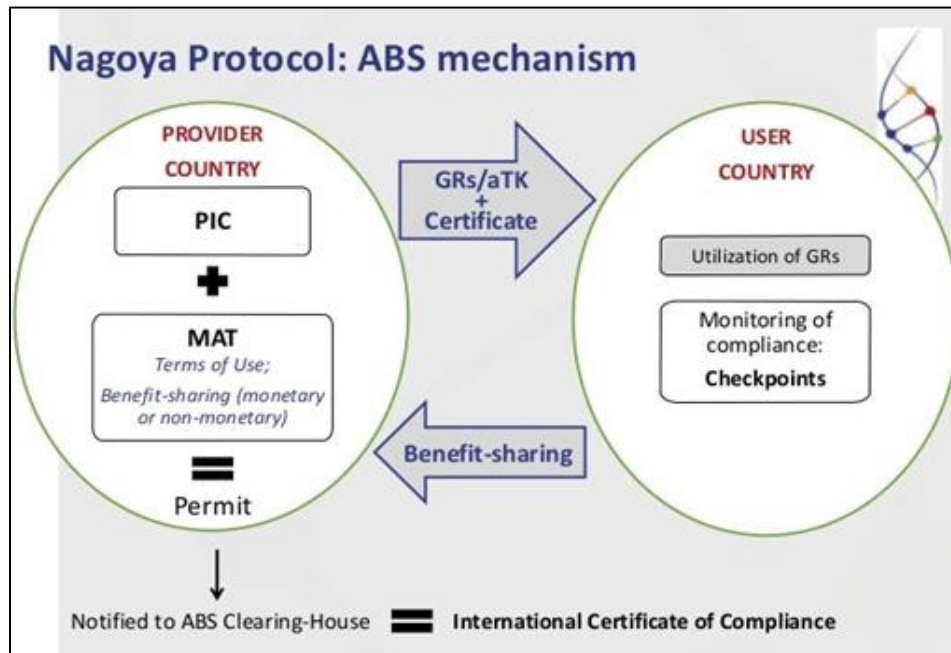
Orange Economy in India

- ❖ The Prime Minister acknowledged the rise of India's orange economy, the creative economy encompassing music, films, food, gaming, and animation in WAVES 2025.
- ❖ The 'orange economy' is also known as the creative economy.
- ❖ It refers to economic activities that leverage creativity, culture, and intellectual property to generate wealth and jobs.
- ❖ The current valuation of India's entertainment industry is \$28 million.

- ❖ India's creator economy is projected to grow at an 18% Compound annual growth rate.




Biodiversity Benefit Sharing Regulations 2025




- ❖ The National Biodiversity Authority has released a new set of rules to manage the sharing of benefits generated through the use of biological resources.

- ❖ This is known as the Biological Diversity (the Access to biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits) Regulation 2025.
- ❖ The rules will now guide the sharing of benefits for the use of biological resources, including digital sequence information or knowledge associated with it.
- ❖ The Users who have an annual turnover of up to Rs 5 crore do not have to share benefits.
- ❖ Those with a turnover between Rs 5 crore and Rs 50 crore have to share 0.2 per cent of the annual gross ex-factory sale price of the product (excluding government taxes).
- ❖ The remaining two slabs indicate that 0.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent of the turnover between Rs 50-250 crore and above Rs 250 crore respectively would need to be shared.
- ❖ All users who have an annual turnover of over 1 crore need to share a statement with information on the resources used per year.
- ❖ Of the total collected, around 10-15 per cent would be retained by the National Biodiversity Authority.

Unified ECINET App

 **A single-point App for stakeholders to subsume over existing 40 IT Apps with enhanced UI/UX.** ECINET will subsume existing Apps like the Voter Helpline App, Voter Turnout App, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham and KYC App which together have clocked over 5.5 crore downloads.



List of 40 existing ECI Applications

| Sl. No. | Application | Type | Sl. No. | Application | Type |
|---------|----------------------|------|---------|-----------------------|--------|
| 1. | Affidavit Portal | Web | 21. | ERONET2.0 | Web |
| 2. | India A Web | Web | 22. | Voters Service Portal | Web |
| 3. | Results Website | Web | 23. | Service Voters Portal | Web |
| 4. | Election24 (Archive) | Web | 24. | ETPBMS | Web |
| 5. | ECI SVEEP | Web | 25. | NGSP | Web |
| 6. | ECI Website | Web | 26. | Electoral Search | Web |
| 7. | Fembosa | Web | 27. | ERONET App | Mobile |
| 8. | Volcenet | Web | 28. | BLO App | Mobile |
| 9. | Myth Vs Reality | Web | 29. | cVigil App | Mobile |
| 10. | Election Trends TV | Web | 30. | Decider App | Mobile |
| 11. | cVigil Portal | Web | 31. | ENCORE Nodal App | Mobile |
| 12. | EMS | Web | 32. | ESMS App | Mobile |
| 13. | RTI Portal | Web | 33. | Investigator App | Mobile |
| 14. | ENCORE | Web | 34. | KYC App | Mobile |
| 15. | Media Voucher | Web | 35. | Monitor App | Mobile |
| 16. | Suvidha Portal | Web | 36. | Observer App | Mobile |
| 17. | Observer Portal | Web | 37. | Saksham App | Mobile |
| 18. | Election Planning | Web | 38. | Suvidha App | Mobile |
| 19. | IEMS | Web | 39. | Voter Helpline App | Mobile |
| 20. | PPRTMS | Web | 40. | Voter Turnout App | Mobile |

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) will be launching a single-point digital platform called ECINET to integrate the commission's 40 existing mobile and web applications.

- ❖ The platform will be offering a seamless and user-friendly interface for electors, election officials, political parties, and civil society.
- ❖ It will consolidate apps like the Voter Helpline, Voter Turnout, cVIGIL, Suvudha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham, and KYC App.
- ❖ ECINET is expected to benefit nearly 100 crore electors and the entire electoral machinery comprising over 10.5 lakh Booth Level Officers (BLOs), around 15 Lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by Political Parties, nearly 45 Lakh Polling Officials, 15,597 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), 4,123 EROs and 767 District Election Officers (DEOs) across the country.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Microgravity and Human Thermoregulation

On the trail of body heat
In the microgravity of space, thermoregulation faces significant challenges



Exiting station: An astronaut taking part in a spacewalk. NASA

- 1 An important factor that determines an astronaut's well-being on space journeys is thermoregulation: their body's capacity to maintain a stable internal temperature
- 2 IIST Thiruvananthapuram researchers have used a model to find that "microgravity consistently increases core body temperature, with fluid shifts playing a crucial role in thermal balance"
- 3 Microgravity environments affect the human body's bones, muscles, the heart, the immune system, metabolism, even individual cells
- 4 Some of the resulting complications can be severe, so space agencies and astronauts continuously monitor a spacefarer's body temperature
- 5 The model simulates "the effects of microgravity on thermoregulation, including blood redistribution, reduced blood volume, changes in metabolism, and alterations in bone and muscle mass"

- ❖ A New study was reporting that "microgravity consistently increases core body temperature, with fluid shifts playing a crucial role in thermal balance."
- ❖ Human bodies respond differently to temperature changes based on age, fitness level, and body fat, among other parameters.
- ❖ In environments with near-zero gravity like the space, the human body changes significantly, affecting the bones, muscles, the heart, the immune system, the metabolism and even individual cells.

- ❖ Specifically, the researchers reported that while the feet and hands become cooler as the body spends more time in microgravity, the head, abdomen, and the core get warmer.
- ❖ The Core body temperature may increase from 36.3°C to 37.8°C (with 30% lower sweating and 36% higher metabolism) in 2.5 months under the influence of the microgravity.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UNDP - Human Development Index 2025

| HDI RANK | Human Development Index (HDI) | SDG 3 Life expectancy at birth | SDG 4.3 Expected years of schooling | SDG 4.4 Mean years of schooling | SDG 8.5 Gross national income (GNI) per capita | GNI per capita rank minus HDI rank | HDI rank | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|----------|----|
| | Value | (years) | (years) | (years) | (2021 PPP \$) | 2023 ^a | 2022 | |
| | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 ^a | 2023 ^a | 2023 | 2023 ^a | 2022 | |
| Very high human development | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Iceland | 0.972 | 82.7 | 18.9 ^a | 13.9 ^a | 69,117 | 12 | 3 |
| 2 | Norway | 0.970 | 83.3 | 18.8 ^a | 13.1 ^a | 112,710 ¹ | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | Switzerland | 0.970 | 84.0 | 16.7 | 13.9 ^a | 81,949 ¹ | 5 | 2 |
| 4 | Denmark | 0.962 | 81.9 | 18.7 ^a | 13.0 ^a | 76,008 ¹ | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | Germany | 0.959 | 81.4 | 17.3 | 14.3 ^a | 64,053 | 13 | 6 |
| 5 | Sweden | 0.959 | 83.3 | 19.0 ^a | 12.7 ^a | 66,102 | 10 | 4 |
| 7 | Australia | 0.958 | 83.9 | 20.7 ^a | 12.9 | 58,277 | 14 | 8 |
| 8 | Hong Kong, China (SAR) | 0.955 | 85.5 ^a | 16.9 | 12.4 | 69,436 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | Netherlands | 0.955 | 82.2 | 18.6 ^a | 12.7 ^a | 68,344 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | Belgium | 0.951 | 82.1 | 19.0 ^a | 12.7 ^a | 63,582 | 9 | 13 |
| 11 | Ireland | 0.949 | 82.4 | 19.2 ^a | 11.7 ^a | 90,885 ¹ | -6 | 10 |
| 12 | Finland | 0.948 | 81.9 | 19.5 ^a | 13.0 ^a | 57,068 | 10 | 11 |
| 13 | Singapore | 0.946 | 83.7 | 16.7 | 12.0 | 111,239 ¹ | -10 | 14 |
| 13 | United Kingdom | 0.946 | 81.3 | 17.8 | 13.5 | 54,372 | 13 | 11 |
| 15 | United Arab Emirates | 0.940 | 82.9 | 15.6 | 13.0 | 71,142 | -4 | 23 |
| 16 | Canada | 0.939 | 82.6 | 15.9 | 13.9 | 54,688 | 9 | 16 |
| 17 | Liechtenstein | 0.938 | 83.6 | 15.4 | 12.4 ^a | 166,812 ¹¹ | -16 | 15 |
| 17 | New Zealand | 0.938 | 82.1 | 19.3 ^a | 12.9 ^a | 47,260 | 17 | 17 |
| 17 | United States | 0.938 | 79.3 | 15.9 | 13.9 | 73,650 | -7 | 18 |

- ❖ The 2025 HDR was titled “A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI”.
- ❖ India was ranked at 130 out of 193 countries in 2023 on the UNDP’s human development index.
- ❖ This marks a 3-spot improvement from 133 in the previous year.
- ❖ With an HDI value of 0.685 India remains in the “medium human development category”.
- ❖ India life expectancy at birth contributed among other factors to the improved ranking which was 71.7 years in 2022 and rose to 72 years in 2023.
- ❖ Expected years of schooling remain almost the same at nearly 13 over 2022 and 2023.

- ❖ Mean years of schooling rose marginally to 6.9 in 2023 from 6.6 in the previous year.
- ❖ Gross National Income per capita rose to \$9047 from \$8475 in 2022.
- ❖ India showed progress in reducing gender inequality finding itself ranked at 102 on the gender inequality index (GII) out of 193.
- ❖ It had 108th rank out of 166 countries in 2022.
- ❖ Inequality reduces India's HDI by 30.7 per cent, one of the highest losses in the region.
- ❖ Bangladesh is at the same rank as India at 130, Nepal at 145 and Bhutan at 125 share space with India in 'medium human development' category.
- ❖ Pakistan's score worsened from 164 to 168 and Afghanistan improved by a point ranking at 181.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Pulitzer Prize 2025



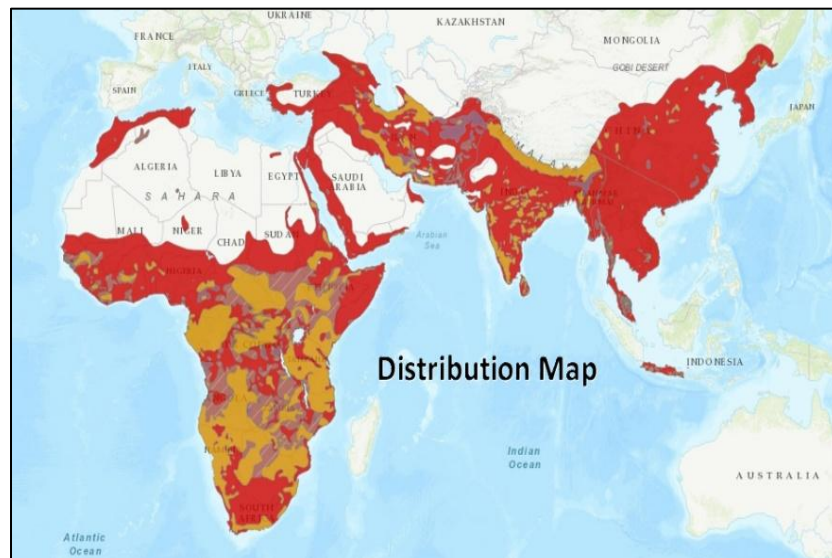
- ❖ The winners of Pulitzer Prizes in a total of 23 categories, including 15 categories of journalism and 8 categories of books, drama, music etc announced recently.
- ❖ Reuters, Agence France-Presse and The New York Times won awards for their outstanding work in journalism.
- ❖ The New York Times secured four awards across 4 categories.

- ❖ The Reuters was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the Investigative Reporting for its expansive series 'Fentanyl Express'.
- ❖ 'Ann Telnaes', a former editorial cartoonist for The Washington Post, won in the Illustrated Reporting and Commentary category.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Leopard Day 2025 – May 03

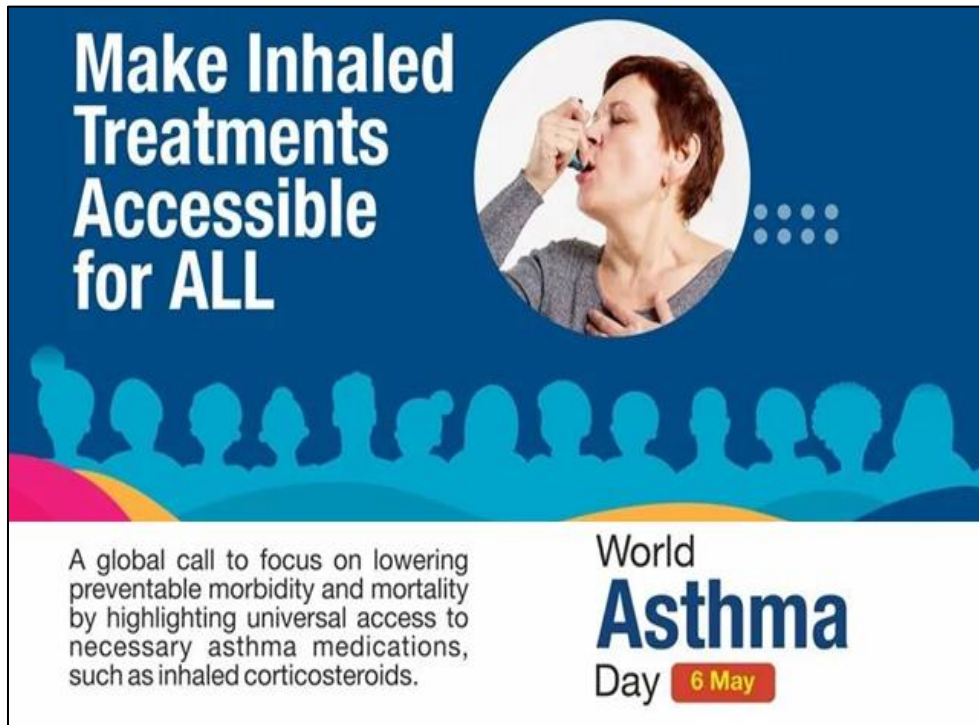
- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness about the leopards and their protection and its conservation.
- ❖ Leopards are elusive and nocturnal animals whose size and colour depend on the habitat.
- ❖ They spread across Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Russia, and the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ They are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN list.
- ❖ India's leopard population is estimated at 13,874 (The Range: 12,616 – 15,132) individuals.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh houses the largest population of leopards in the country – 3907 followed by Maharashtra (1985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070).



World Asthma Day 2025 - May 06

- ❖ This day is observed on the first Tuesday of May to raise awareness about the condition and the risks it poses.

- ❖ Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease where a person's airways become highly inflamed, narrowed, and swollen, producing the excess mucus, which makes the breathing difficult.
- ❖ According to the WHO, 26.2 crore people suffer from asthma, with a mortality count (deaths) of 4.55 lakh globally in 2019.
- ❖ Over 3.4 crores of people in India have asthma.
- ❖ Despite accounting for only 13% of the world's asthma population, India has 42% of global asthma mortality.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL".



The poster features a dark blue background with white text on the left that reads "Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL". On the right, there is a circular inset image of a woman using an inhaler. Below the main text, there is a silhouette of a diverse group of people. At the bottom, a white box contains the text: "A global call to focus on lowering preventable morbidity and mortality by highlighting universal access to necessary asthma medications, such as inhaled corticosteroids." To the right of this text, it says "World Asthma Day" with "6 May" in a red box.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Mangar Bani - archaeological findings

- ❖ A recent excavation in Mangar Bani Forest in the historic Aravalli Hills of the National Capital Region has unearthed prehistoric tools.
- ❖ It was offering a glimpse into early human life during the Lower Palaeolithic age.
- ❖ The excavation has uncovered tools likely used for the butchering, scraping, and sharpening.
- ❖ They are showcasing the ingenuity of early Stone Age communities.
- ❖ These tools' age could well be around 500,000 to 200,000 years.

- ❖ Mangar Bani is considered one of the most sacred groves in the National Capital Region.



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