



May - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India is among the top six countries in terms of filing patents for 6G technologies.
- ❖ The Union government has approved an additional 2.8 million tonnes (totally 5.2 million tonnes) of Food Corporation of India (FCI) rice for ethanol production in 2024-25.
- ❖ Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has been conferred with the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army.
- ❖ The Indian Army launched yet another military action against terrorists called Operation Keller in Kashmir.
- ❖ Colombia has formally agreed to join China's vast Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.
- ❖ The US and Saudi Arabia signed a massive arms deal, amounting to nearly \$142 billion, an agreement being called by the White House as the largest in history.
- ❖ This year's International Day of Families was celebrated on May 15<sup>th</sup> under the theme of "Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development."

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Panel to identify Agamic temples



- ❖ The Supreme Court requested a committee formed by the Madras High Court to identify Agamic temples as against non-Agamic temples in Tamil Nadu in three months.
- ❖ Once the Agamic temples are identified, the status quo must prevail and no appointments of archakars (priests) must be made to them for the time being.

- ❖ The committee headed by the former Madras High Court judge Justice M. Chocka lingam would conduct the identification exercise.

### **Guidelines for issuing 'pouthi pattas'**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has issued guidelines to the District Collectors for issuing 'pouthi pattas'.
- ❖ They are also known as succession pattas and issued to legal heirs in cases where the pattadhars have deceased.
- ❖ Earlier, the 'pouthi pattas' were issued routinely during jamabandhis held in the State.



### **Expanded immunization service under UIP 2025**



- ❖ Tamilnadu launched the expanded immunisation services under the Universal Immunisation Program at all 500 functional health and welfare centres.
- ❖ All the UIP vaccines would be made available in all HWCs on every Wednesday.

- ❖ Such an arrangement is currently available in all the 2,286 Primary Health Centres.
- ❖ The state consistently achieved immunisation coverage of over 99% annually.

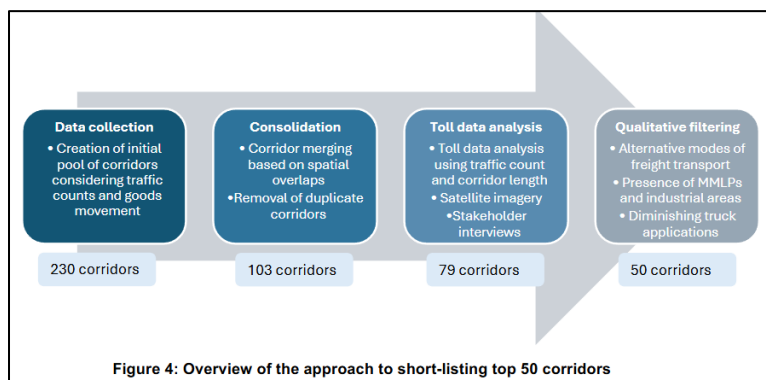
### **Aerial Bunched Cable**



- ❖ TANGEDCO is working on installation of aerial bunched cables along a 12-km stretch within the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).
- ❖ The aerial bunched cables were the overhead power lines used for the power transmission.
- ❖ They are tightly bound together with insulating materials, that made it safer for wildlife, particularly elephants.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **India's Priority Corridors for Zero-Emission Trucking**



- ❖ The Government of India released a report on India's Priority Corridors for Zero-Emission Trucking.



- ❖ The report outlines 10 critical highway corridors across the country that offer the highest potential for adopting zero-emission trucks (ZETs).
- ❖ It aims to guide the future investments in charging infrastructure, public-private partnerships, and regulatory support mechanisms.

## Presidential Reference on article 142

### WHAT IS ARTICLE 143?

- In State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu Case, SC set deadlines on President and Governors to give assent to state bills
- Constitution does not specify any timeframe only says decision must be taken "as soon as possible"
- President Murmu has invoked Article 143 to seek SC's opinion on whether such deadlines are valid
- **Article 143:** Power of President to consult the Supreme Court
- Allows President to seek SC's opinion on any question of law or fact of public importance
- SC's opinion not binding, but holds high persuasive value

- ❖ The Presidential Reference has been sent to the Supreme Court by President Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ It seeks SC's opinion on whether the court can employ its inherent powers under Article 142 to "impose" timelines and prescribe the manner of conduct of Governors and the President while dealing with State Bills sent to them for assent or reserved for consideration.
- ❖ President has listed a series of 14 questions for the Supreme Court to consider and give an opinion under Article 143.
- ❖ The President's Reference said there were "conflicting judgments" of the Supreme Court as to whether the assent of the President under Article 201 was justiciable or not.
- ❖ The Reference has also sought the court's opinion on the "contours and scope" of Article 142 of the Constitution.
- ❖ It highlighted that, the States were resorting to approach the apex court under Article 32, and not Article 131, to raise issues "which by their very nature are federal issues involving interpretation of the Constitution".

## 'Bhargavastra' - anti drone system

- ❖ India has successfully tested the new low-cost counter swarm drone system, 'Bhargavastra'.
- ❖ It is developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL).



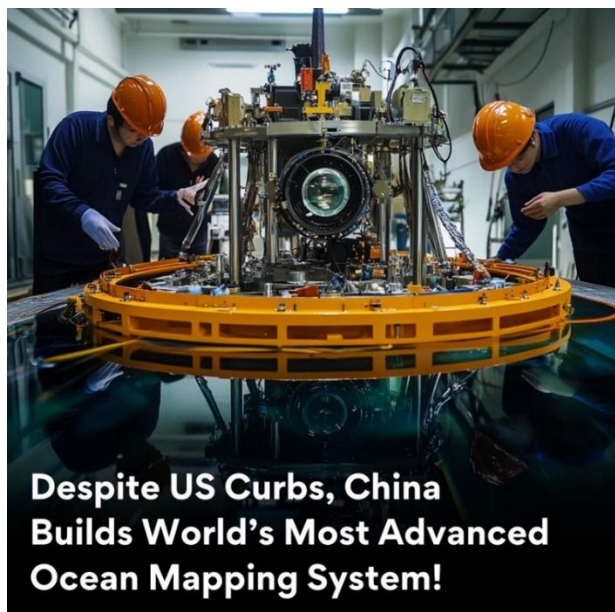
- ❖ It can detect and eliminate small and incoming drones at distances of up to 2.5 km.
- ❖ The system is designed for deployment across diverse terrains, including high-altitude regions above 5,000 metres.

India successfully tested indigenous anti-drone system 'Bhargavastra' in Gopalpur, Odisha. Developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited, the system is capable of destroying drone swarms up to 2.5 km. During the test, the micro rockets met all the performance parameters. The success of 'Bhargavastra' will further strengthen India's defence capabilities, especially in the context of enemy countries like China and Pakistan, which use drone technology.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### LICOMK++ Ocean Simulator



- ❖ Chinese researchers have developed a high-resolution ocean simulation system named LICOMK++, that operates at a 1-kilometre scale.

- ❖ It is offering the enhanced capabilities for modelling ocean dynamics and climate patterns.
- ❖ The simulator is expected to contribute to climate research by providing more accurate data for forecasting and modelling.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### AT2024tvd - Tidal Disruption Event

- ❖ NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have detected a "Space Jaws".
- ❖ It is an event of wandering supermassive black hole swallowing a sun 600 million light-years from Earth.
- ❖ This is rare cosmic event, known as a tidal disruption event (TDE) and designated AT2024tvd.



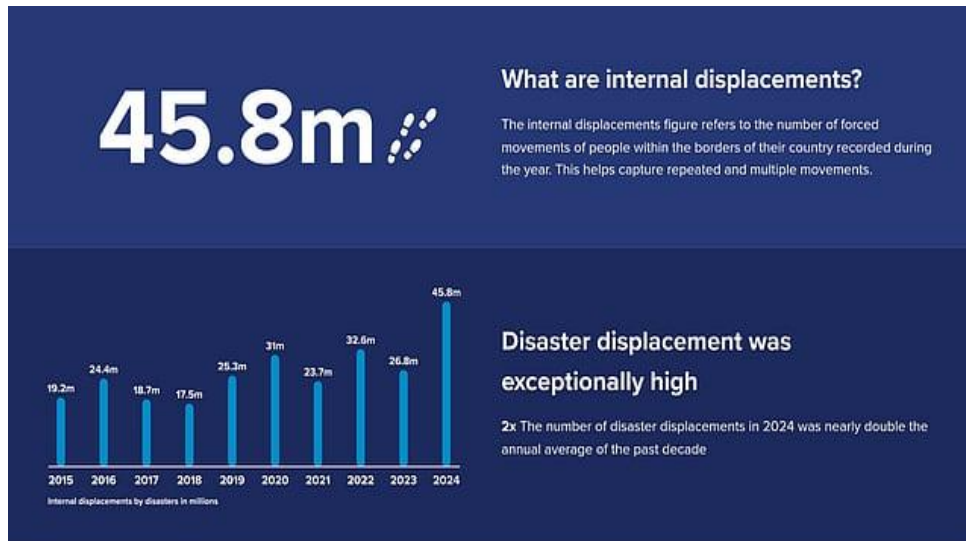
## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Report on Internal Displacement 2025

- ❖ This latest report was released by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).
- ❖ Disaster-related internal displacements were at an all-time high across the world, with 45.8 million forced out of their homes in 2024.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa witnessed the highest number of internal displacements in 2024.



- ❖ Nearly 19.3 million people forced to leave the home due to conflict, violence and disasters.
- ❖ Of this, 7.8 million were displaced due to disasters.
- ❖ East Asia and Pacific followed with 16.2 million internal displacements, of which 14.8 million were due to disasters.
- ❖ This was followed by the Americas, where 14.5 million people were displaced internally in 2024 — 13.1 million for disasters.
- ❖ South Asia recorded 9.2 million internal displacements, almost all of which was due to disasters.
- ❖ Middle East & North Africa recorded 5.7 million internal displacements. Some 599,000 of this was due to disasters.
- ❖ Europe and Central Asia saw the least number of internal displacements in the year at 846,000, of which 358,000 were disaster-related.

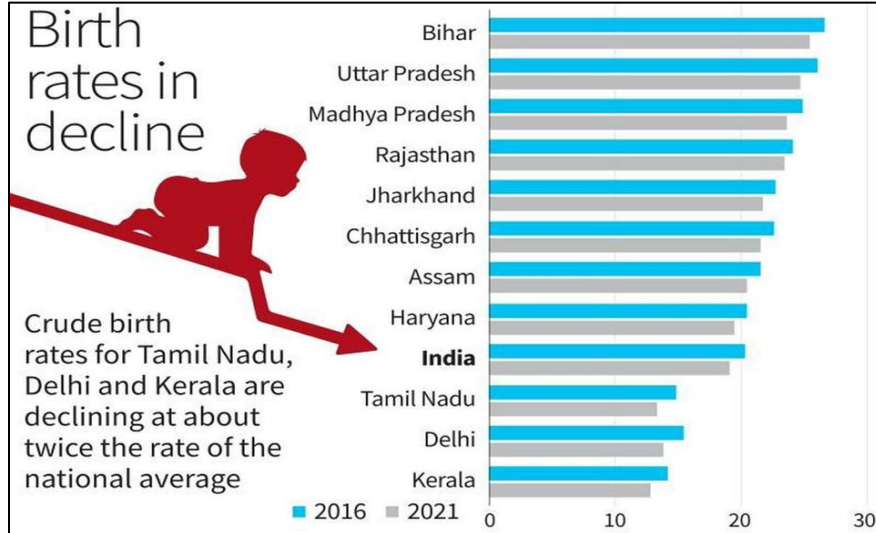


## STATES' NEWS

### Annual crude birth rates

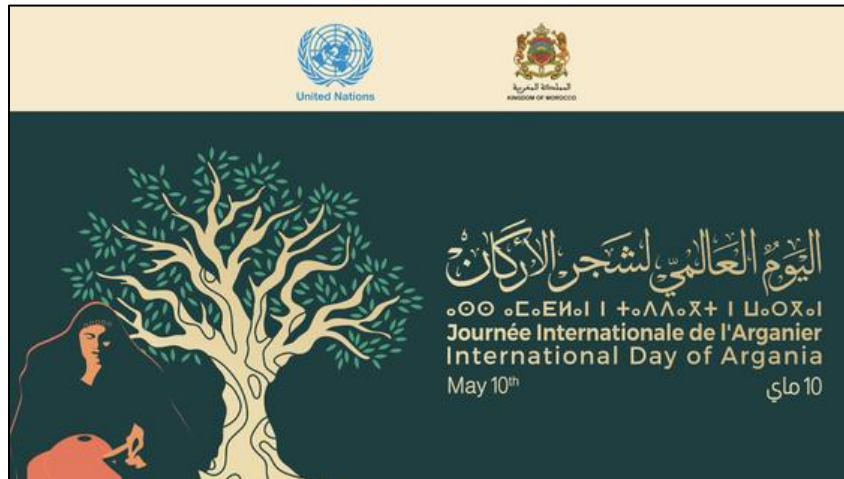
- ❖ The annual crude birth rates for Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Kerala are declining at twice the rate of the national average.
- ❖ The annual crude birth rates are defined as live births per 1,000 people in the population.
- ❖ The Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2021 data showed that the all-India crude birth rate was 19.3 in 2021.
- ❖ It was dropping at a rate of 1.12% every year from 2016 to 2021.

- ❖ In the same period, the birth rate for Tamil Nadu has been declining at a rate of 2.35% every year.
- ❖ Delhi's CBR has been declining at a rate of 2.23% and Kerala's is dropping at a rate of 2.05%.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Argania Day 2025 - May 10



- ❖ It aims to highlight the argan tree's role in the community development and the sustainability.
- ❖ This celebration highlights Morocco's efforts to promote the argan tree as a tree endemic to the Kingdom.



- ❖ The argan tree (*Argania spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, in the southwest of the country.
- ❖ Argan trees hold a special place in Morocco and Moroccan culture, as the country is the world's main exporter of Argan-related products.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### The Gamburtsev Mountains

- ❖ The Gamburtsev Mountains are similar in scale and shape to the European Alps.
- ❖ They are buried beneath the highest point of the East Antarctica ice sheet.
- ❖ Plate tectonic models suggest the crust now forming East Antarctica came from at least two large continents more than 700 million years ago.
- ❖ As per the zircon grains analysis, the Gamburtsev Mountains began to rise around 650 million years ago, reached Himalayan heights by 580 million years ago.
- ❖ Then it experienced deep crustal melting and flow that ended around 500 million years ago.
- ❖ Zircons are often called “time capsules” because they contain minuscule amounts of uranium in their crystal structure.
- ❖ The uranium decays at a known rate and allows scientists to determine their age with great precision.

