



May - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The President of India conferred the 58th Jnanpith Award (2023) on Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Ji.
- ❖ ISRO's 63rd PSLV launch to put the EOS-9 surveillance satellite in orbit could not be accomplished due to the failure of the third of four stages.
- ❖ The world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant has begun its operations in Denmark.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation has declared a polio outbreak in Papua New Guinea and called for an immediate vaccination campaign.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Negative growth rate in agriculture

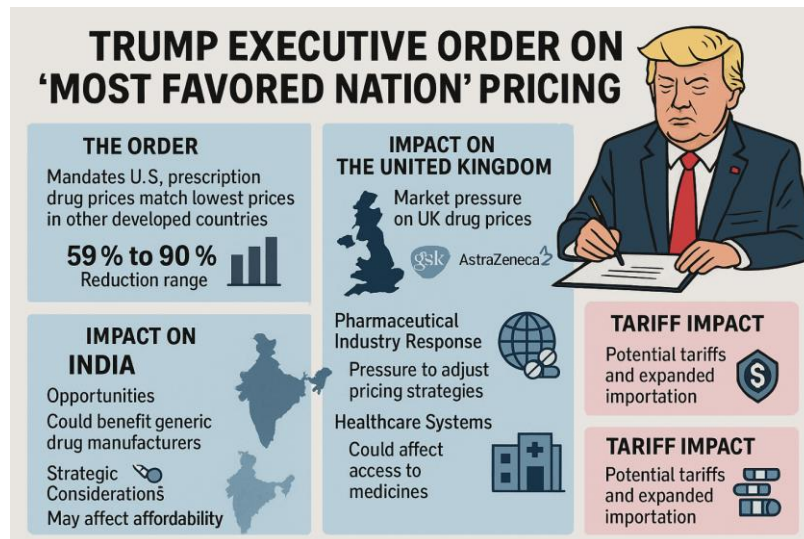
YEAR	VALUE* (₹ in lakh)	GROWTH RATE (%)
2015-16	10091573	2.6
2016-17	9928662	-1.612
2017-18	11127061	12.07
2018-19	11849026	6.5
2019-20	12749166	7.6
2020-21	13321030	4.5
2021-22	14071150	5.6
2022-23	14423448	2.5
2023-24	14987009	3.9
2024-25	14972823	-0.09

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has experienced a negative growth rate in agriculture and its allied activities during 2024-25, for the first time in eight years.
- ❖ Last year, the growth rate in real terms was minus 0.09%.
- ❖ In the same time, the State had achieved a real economic growth rate of 9.69%.
- ❖ It was the highest for any State in the country, also the highest for Tamil Nadu in the past 10 years.
- ❖ Ordinarily, the component of crops, on average, accounts for 40%, with livestock leading with over 50%.

- ❖ Last year, the figure of crops was 39%. As for crops, the growth rate was 9.5% in 2021-22 followed by 3.3% next year and 4.2% in 2023-24.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US MFN Drug Pricing Policy



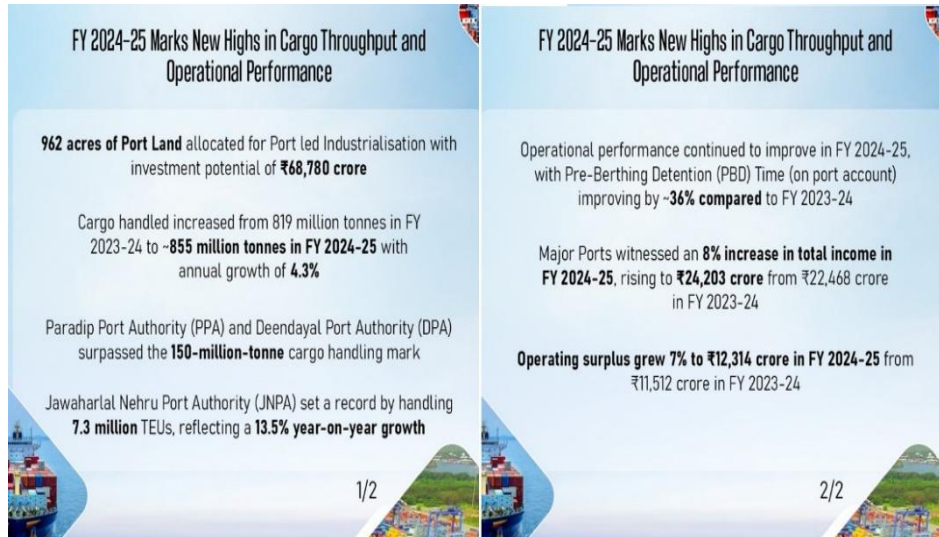
- ❖ The US President Donald Trump's new executive order aims to lower drug costs by 30% to 80% for Americans.
- ❖ The order also proposed that the US be given Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status.
- ❖ It means the drug companies would be asked to match the lowest price for a drug abroad when selling to US consumers.
- ❖ The MFN policy primarily targets Medicare (a federal health insurance program) drugs classified as Part B.
- ❖ Usually, the prescription drugs were on average two to four times more expensive in the US than Australia, Canada and France.

ECONOMY NEWS

Milestones of India's Major Ports in FY 2024-25

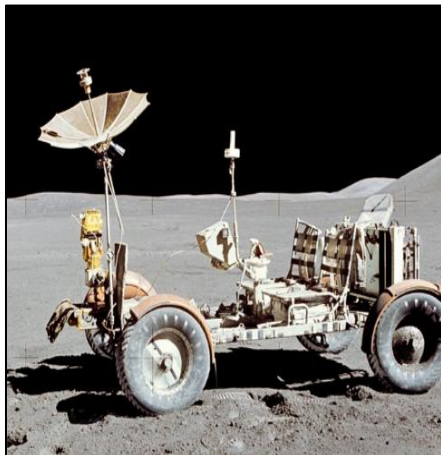
- ❖ In FY 2024-25, Major Ports registered an impressive annual growth rate of 4.3% in cargo handling.
- ❖ This is an increase from 819 million tonnes in FY 2023-24 to ~855 million tonnes in FY 2024-25.

- ❖ The growth was led by higher volumes in container traffic (up 10%), fertilisers (13%), petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) (3%), and miscellaneous commodities (31%)
- ❖ The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) of Odisha and Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) of Kandla in Gujarat achieved a significant milestone by exceeding 150 million tonne (MT) cargo handling.
- ❖ Additionally, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) of Navi Mumbai has achieved a record 7.3 million TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit).



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Lupin - Spain GPS



**New GPS-Like System
For The Moon Could
Be An Astronaut
Version Of Waze**

- ❖ The Spanish technology company GMV unveiled a GPS-like navigation system for the moon.



- ❖ It is named as LUPIN; the project is part of a programme by the European Space Agency.
- ❖ It aims to make lunar missions as intuitive as a drive across town with apps such as Google Maps or Waze.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Yala Glacier

- ❖ Nepal's Yala glacier is believed to be the first Nepalese glacier to be declared "dead".
- ❖ It is one of 54,000 glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas.
- ❖ Yala has already shrunk by 66 per cent and receded nearly 800 metres since the 1970s.
- ❖ Yala is the first glacier in Asia and the third glacier worldwide to carry a plaque with words by author, Andri Snær Magnason in its memory.
- ❖ As per the World Meteorological Organisation, the period between 2022 and 2024 witnessed the largest three-year loss of glacier mass on record.

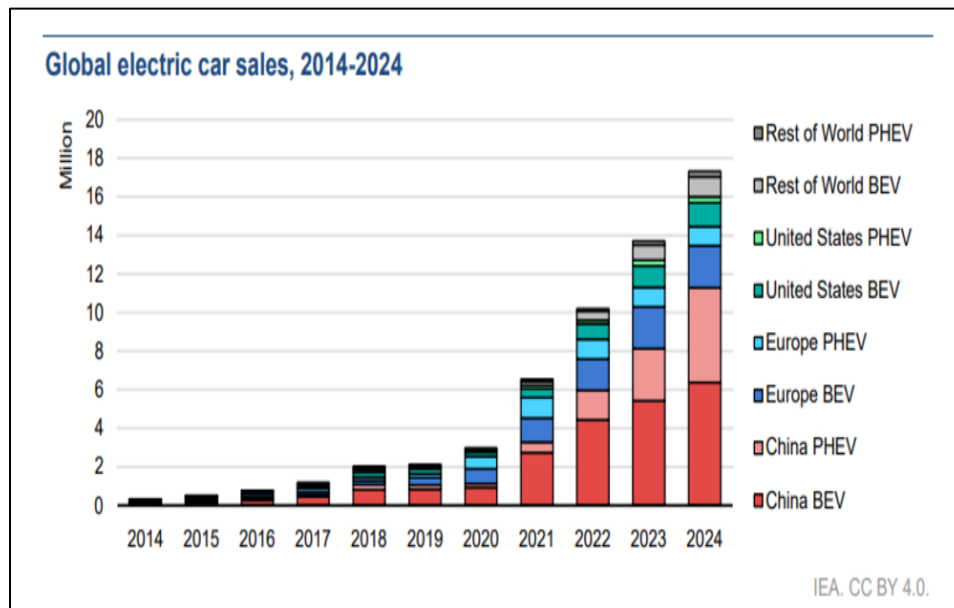


REPORTS AND INDICES

Global EV Outlook 2025

- ❖ The Global EV Outlook 2025 was released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

- ❖ Global sales of electric cars, which exceeded 17 million in 2024, are on track to surpass 20 million in 2025.
- ❖ The global stock of electric cars reached almost 58 million, or 4 per cent of the total passenger car fleet, at the end of 2024.
- ❖ They displaced over 1 million barrels a day (mb/d) of oil consumption that year.
- ❖ China, with its affordable models, dominated global electric car exports in 2024 with 40% share of global exports.
- ❖ In Thailand in 2024, the average price of a Chinese EV was lower than the average price of a conventional car.
- ❖ In Brazil, the Chinese electric car imports increased to reach 85 per cent of the country's EV sales in 2024.
- ❖ In India, high import duties and the availability of local models limited Chinese EVs to less than 15% of the market share.
- ❖ The United States and Canada followed suit with tariffs exceeding 100%.



STATES' NEWS

Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh government notified the Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve.
- ❖ The notification has been issued under Section 36A (1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ It is one of select areas in Himachal Pradesh with a high density of snow leopards.

- ❖ It will join Darlaghat, Naina Devi, Potter Hill, and Shilli as Himachal Pradesh's fifth conservation reserve.

About Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve

- ▶ Tsarap Chu joins Darlaghat, Naina Devi, Potter Hill, and Shilli as Himachal Pradesh's fifth conservation reserve.
- ▶ It is bounded by the Union Territory of Ladakh to the north, the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary extending up to Malang Nala and Lungar Lungpa to the east, Kabjima Nala to the south and Chandratat Wildlife Sanctuary to the west.
- ▶ It is also the location for the confluence of the Unam River and Charap Nala.
- ▶ The Tsarap Chu Conservation Area is renowned for its snow leopard population, which indicates the health of the entire ecosystem.
- ▶ It also hosts species like the Tibetan wolf, bharal, Himalayan ibex, kiang, and Tibetan argali, along with rare birds like the Rose Finch and Tibetan Raven.

Water Heritage Museum – Kozhikode



- ❖ The Water Heritage Museum operated by the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM) in Kozhikode has been included in the Global Network of Water Museums.
- ❖ This is an initiative under the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme.
- ❖ The museum is only the third such institution in the country to be added to the prestigious international network.

- ❖ The global network aims to promote awareness of water's cultural significance and foster community participation in sustainable water management.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Justice Bela M Trivedi

- ❖ Supreme Court Judge Bela Trivedi announced her retirement recently.
- ❖ She was the eleventh woman judge to be elevated to the Supreme Court in its 75-year-old history.
- ❖ She began a carrier as a city civil judge of Ahmedabad, Gujarat in 1995.
- ❖ Her father was also working as a judge in the City Civil and Sessions Court when she was appointed.
- ❖ The Limca Book of Indian records have recorded the entry in their 1996 edition as "Father-daughter judges in the same court".
- ❖ She also served as law secretary to the Gujarat government between 2004 and 2006.
- ❖ She was elevated to the Gujarat High Court in 2011.
- ❖ She was appointed to the Supreme Court on August 31, 2021.

JOINED SC IN '21	
➤ Justice Trivedi joined Ahd civil court as an additional district and sessions judge in 1995 when her father, too, was a judge there	
➤ Became HC judge in 2011. Elevated to SC in Aug 2021	
➤ Though SCBA chief Sibal was present, CJI Gavai said boycott not in good taste	

SPORTS NEWS

Neeraj Chopra's National Record

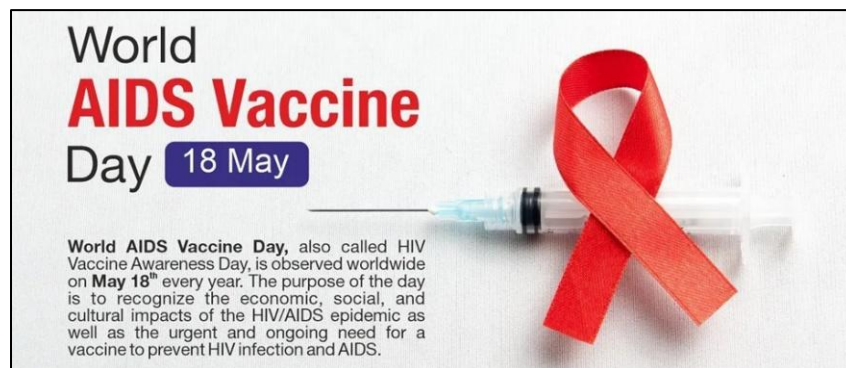
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra broke the elusive 90-meter barrier with a stunning 90.23m throw at the 2025 Doha Diamond League.

- ❖ This throw marked a new personal best and national record, making him the first Indian ever to join the elite 90m club in javelin.
- ❖ He became just the 25th man in history to breach the coveted 90-metre barrier in men's javelin.



IMPORTANT DAYS

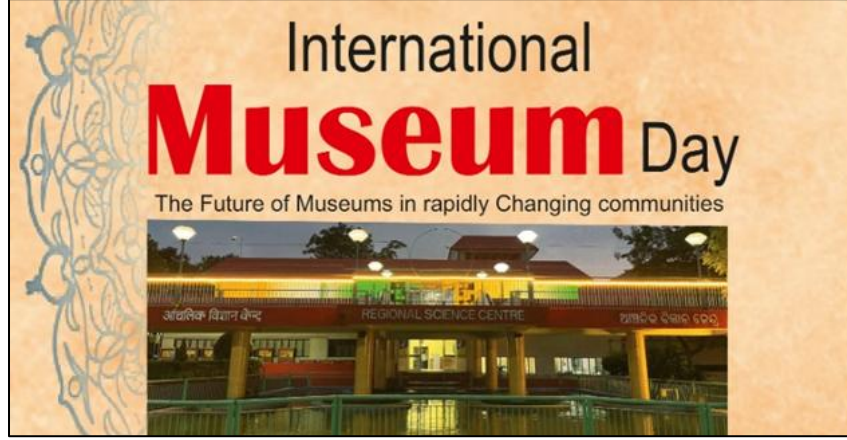
World AIDS Vaccine Day 2025 - May 18



- ❖ It serves as a global platform to highlight the continuous fight against HIV/AIDS and highlight the vital importance of HIV vaccine research.
- ❖ On May 18, 1997, the then US President Bill Clinton called for a global effort to develop an HIV vaccine.
- ❖ The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was celebrated on May 18, 1998, to mark the anniversary of Clinton's speech.

- ❖ Almost 40 million people living with HIV globally and over a million new infections each year.

International Museum Day 2025 - May 18



- ❖ It is observed to highlight the vital role of museums in cultural exchange, education, and societal development.
- ❖ It was established in 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'The Future of Museums in the Rapidly Changing Communities.'

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

New stone inscriptions – Oottathur



- ❖ The New stone inscriptions are deciphered by the Tamilnadu state archaeology department at Suththa Rathneswarar temple in Oottathur village of Trichy.



- ❖ The temple had been believed to belong to the period of Vikrama Chola (1118-1135).
- ❖ But new stone inscriptions show that the temple is in existence since the reign of Parantaka Chola I (907-955).
- ❖ 12 stone inscriptions were found at the temple during an inspection.
- ❖ Out of the five fully readable inscriptions, four were inscribed during the Cholas and one during the Pandyas.

