



May - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Two Indians - Mukesh Ambani (12th) and Gautam Adani (14th) have been included in the list of top 15 extremely rich people in the world in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ❖ Ed Dwight, a 90-year-old sculptor and former Air Force test pilot became the first Black astronaut after flying on Jeff Bezos' rocket.

TAMIL NADU

Wage rate for NREGA in Tamilnadu

| MGNREGA WAGES FOR UNSKILLED MANUAL WORKERS | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------------|----------------|-----|-----|-------|
| REVISED WAGES IN 2024 | | | CHANGE IN % | | | | |
| WAGES IN 2023 | | | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 272 | 300 | 10.2% | Kerala | 333 | 346 | 3.9% |
| Assam | 238 | 249 | 2.9% | Madhya Pradesh | 221 | 243 | 9.9% |
| Bihar | 228 | 245 | 7.4% | Maharashtra | 273 | 297 | 8.7% |
| Chhattisgarh | 221 | 243 | 9.9% | Odisha | 237 | 254 | 7.1% |
| Gujarat | 256 | 280 | 9.3% | Punjab | 303 | 322 | 6.2% |
| Goa | 322 | 356 | 10.5% | Rajasthan | 255 | 266 | 4.3% |
| Haryana | 357 | 374 | 4.7% | Tamil Nadu | 294 | 319 | 8.5% |
| J&K | 244 | 259 | 6.1% | Telangana | 272 | 300 | 10.2% |
| Jharkhand | 228 | 245 | 7.4% | Uttar Pradesh | 230 | 237 | 3% |
| Karnataka | 316 | 349 | 10.4% | Uttarakhand | 230 | 237 | 3% |
| | | | | West Bengal | 237 | 250 | 5.4% |
| Wages in rupees, States | | | | | | | |

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government recently accorded sanction to release ₹1,229 crore for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for 2024-25.
- ❖ While ₹921 crore is the 75% share from the Central assistance for this programme (material component), ₹307 crore is the 25% share of the State government for the same for 2024-25.

- ❖ The Government of India had earlier this year increased the wages under MGNREGS by ₹25 per worker a day.
- ❖ In March this year, the Central Empowered Committee approved “20 crore person days” under the labour budget for Tamil Nadu for 2024-25.
- ❖ The Government of India had that month approved ₹319 per person a day under the MGNREGS for workers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The funds for MGNREGS have three components
 - Wage for unskilled labour (100% funded by the Union government),
 - Material for civil works (75% by the Union government and 25% by the State government) and
 - For salary and other expenditure (100% by the Union government).

NATIONAL

50 years of India's first nuclear test



- ❖ On May 18, 1974, India conducted its first nuclear test in Pokhran, code-named Operation Smiling Buddha.
- ❖ With this, India had entered the league of nations with nuclear capabilities.
- ❖ With Smiling Buddha, India became the first nation to conduct a nuclear test apart from the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.



- ❖ After the nuclear test, there were criticisms that it was an attempt to divert people's attention from the economic crisis the country was facing in the 1970s.
- ❖ In 1998, India again conducted a series of nuclear tests in Pokhran once again, code-named Operation Shakti.

Constitution Bench Verdict

- ❖ The Supreme Court said, A judgement of a constitution bench would be "binding" on benches of lesser strength.
- ❖ The apex court had held that a panchayat cannot claim ownership of the land which has been taken from the real owners from their permissible ceiling limits under the land law in Haryana.
- ❖ The apex court had consequently said panchayats can only manage and control the land which has been taken from the owners and cannot claim title.
- ❖ Earlier, the top court had delivered the verdict on a batch of appeals against a full bench verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which had examined the legality of sub-section 6 of Section 2(g) of the Haryana Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961.



INTERNATIONAL

Bacterial Pathogens Priority List

- ❖ The latest Bacterial Pathogens Priority List (BPPL) updated by the World Health Organization (WHO).

- ❖ This includes gram-negative bacteria resistant to last resort antibiotics, and Mycobacterium tuberculosis resistant to the antibiotic Rifampicin.
- ❖ The list features 15 families of antibiotic-resistant bacteria grouped into critical, high and medium categories for prioritisation.
- ❖ Seven years since it published the last such list, the WHO stated that high priority pathogens, including salmonella and shigella, are of particularly high burden in low- and middle-income countries, along with Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Staphylococcus aureus.
- ❖ They pose significant challenges in healthcare settings.



ECONOMY

Dividend from public sector banks in FY24

- ❖ The government will get about 30 per cent more dividends from public sector banks (PSBs) in FY24 vis-a-vis FY23.
- ❖ PSBs will pay dividends aggregating ₹18,013 crore to the government in FY24 against ₹13,804 crore in the preceding financial year.
- ❖ This calculation does not take into account the 15 per cent dividend distribution tax as the same also goes to the government.
- ❖ Out of 12 PSBs, 10 have declared dividends.
- ❖ The top four PSBs to pay rich dividends (relative to face value) in FY24 are – State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Canara Bank and Indian Bank.

- ❖ Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank did not declare dividend.

Public Sector Banks

Reach Historic High with Over

**Rs 1.4 Lakh Crore
Profit in FY24**



Bank of Maharashtra growth rate



- ❖ State-owned Bank of Maharashtra recorded the highest growth rate last fiscal in terms of total business and deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders.
- ❖ It has registered a 15.94 per cent rise in the total business (domestic) in FY24.
- ❖ It is followed by State Bank of India (SBI) with 13.12 per cent growth.
- ❖ SBI's total business (deposit and advances) was about 16.7 times higher at ₹79,52,784 crore compared to ₹4,74,411 crore of Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) in absolute terms.

- ❖ BoM continued to maintain its top spot in terms of growth in deposit mobilisation, with a 15.66 per cent rise in FY24.
- ❖ It was followed by SBI (11.07 per cent), Bank of India (11.05 per cent) and Canara Bank (10.98 per cent).
- ❖ Out of 12 public sector banks, only these four lenders could log a double-digit growth in deposits in the financial year 2023-24.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SPECULOOS-3b - New Dwarf Planet



- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new Earth-sized planet, orbiting an ultracool red dwarf star.
- ❖ It is called the SPECULOOS-3b, it is 55 light-years away from Earth.
- ❖ It swings around the red dwarf once every 17 hours, which makes a year on this planet shorter than a single day on Earth.
- ❖ Moreover, it is likely missing an atmosphere and differs vastly in environmental conditions.

ENVIRONMENT

Endangered Meitei Ponies

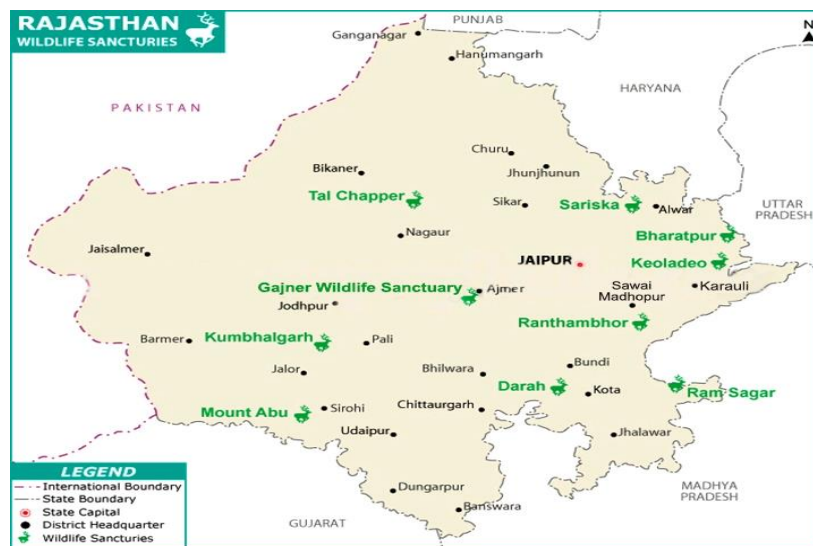
- ❖ The Government of Manipur has recently joined hands with various organisations and associations to save the Manipuri Pony or *Meitei Sagol*.
- ❖ Its population has been dwindling rapidly in recent times - from 1,898 animals in the 17th Quinquennial Livestock Census 2003 to only 1,101 in the 19th Quinquennial Livestock Census 2012.

- ❖ In the last livestock census done in 2019, the number had dropped further to 1,089.
- ❖ The Meitei Sagol is one of the seven recognised horse and pony breeds of India.
- ❖ The others include the Marwari Horse, the Kathiawari Horse, the Zanskari Pony, the Spiti Pony, the Bhutia Pony and the Kachhi-Sindhi Horse.



STATES

SC on Sariska Tiger Reserve



- ❖ The Supreme Court has ordered the Rajasthan government to shutter 68 mines operating within a 1-kilometre periphery of the critical tiger habitat (CTH) of the Sariska reserve.
- ❖ Both the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 prohibit quarrying in and around a tiger reserve.



- ❖ In May 2005, the SC ordered the CBI to investigate the disappearance of tigers from the reserve in the Aravalli roughly halfway between Delhi and Jaipur.
- ❖ That was almost a decade and a half after the court first took up the issue of illegal mining in Sariska.
- ❖ In April 1993, the SC ordered the closure of 262 mines within that area.
- ❖ In September 2005, the SC laid down rules for issuing temporary mining permits in forest areas.
- ❖ But the mines were back in business in 2008 after the Rajasthan government claimed that the sanctuary boundary had been demarcated, and allowed quarries outside the 100-metre periphery of the sanctuary.

