

May - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Writer, activist and lawyer Banu Mushtaq's short story collection 'Heart Lamp' became the first Kannada title to win the coveted International Booker Prize in London.
- ❖ India has been awarded the Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma as a Public Health Problem by the WHO at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

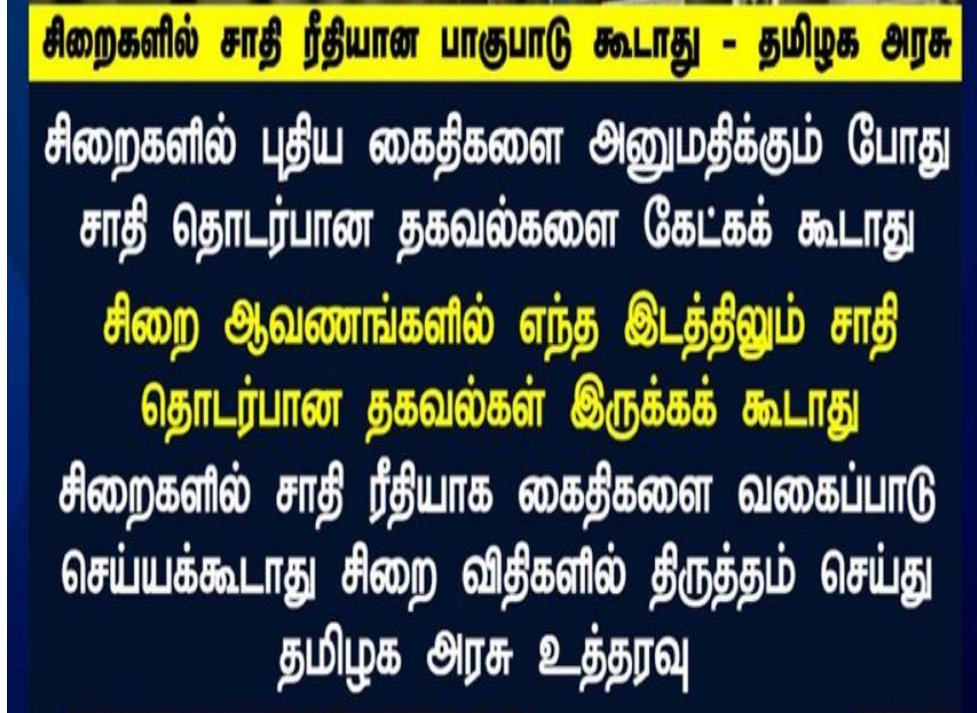
MOU for the Welfare of Government Employees



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government signed a MoU with seven banks that have agreed to provide various insurance covers and concessions free of cost to State government employees.
- ❖ The MoUs signed with SBI, Indian Overseas Bank, Indian Bank, Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Union Bank of India.
- ❖ The provisions of the memoranda are
 - A personal accident insurance cover of ₹1 crore, in case of accidental death or permanent disability,

- Assistance of ₹5 lakh for marriage expenses of daughters of a government employee deceased in an accident,
- Higher education assistance of up to ₹10 lakh would be provided by banks to up to two daughters of a government employee deceased in an accident,
- Term life insurance covers ₹10 lakh in the event of natural death during service.

Tamil Nadu Prison Rules 2024



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has amended the rules to prohibit the caste-based discrimination in prisons and correctional institutions in the State.
- ❖ A sub-rule was introduced in the Tamil Nadu Prison Rules, 2024.
- ❖ Manual scavenging or hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank inside a prison should not be undertaken.
- ❖ It is made in line with the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- ❖ At the time of admission of a prisoner, prison authorities should not enquire or obtain and record any details of the caste of the prisoner, according to the fresh sub-rule.
- ❖ There should be no provision or column about the caste of the prisoner shall be maintained in any register or record.



- ❖ It shall be strictly ensured that there is no discrimination of the prisoners in the allotment of any duty/work in prisons based on their caste.

NATIONAL NEWS

SC judge's status in 2025

- ❖ Since its establishment in 1950, the Supreme Court has only had seven judges from the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ Only 3.6% of the Supreme Court's nominees for the position of judges of various high courts since November 2022 were from scheduled castes and even fewer from scheduled tribes
- ❖ The collegium suggested 221 names to be high court judges.
- ❖ Of these, 8 were belonged to scheduled castes and just 7 to scheduled tribes.
- ❖ Some of these 221 names are yet to be appointed by the central government.
- ❖ Other backward castes or OBCs fared better at about 14.5% or 32 nominees while women came in at 15.3% or 34 nominees.
- ❖ A total of 124 persons, named by the top court's collegium, belonged to the general category, but they were not women, or minorities, making up about 56% of the nominees.
- ❖ About 6% of the judges nominated for these roles were related to other judges.
- ❖ The Supreme Court did not give a reason for putting out the press release, but said it was for "knowledge and awareness of the public".
- ❖ The SC's data also showed that a little over half the recommendations (52.9%) for the positions of High Court judges came from the Bar, indicating advocates-turned-judges are in a majority.
- ❖ Alternatively, the collegium can also recommend names of already-serving judges from district courts for the position of High Court judges.
- ❖ There is no identity-based reservation in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The Supreme Court Collegium makes nominations for the position of a High Court judge based on merit alone, a person's gender or caste identity should not play any role in the same.
- ❖ District judiciary is diverse due to reservations in every state, but district judges are not elevated often enough or for long enough for their diversity to reflect in the High Court.
- ❖ Data from the Department of Justice showed that there were 1,122 positions as judges in high courts and the Supreme Court.

- ❖ The SC provided the data in two parts—from 9 November 2022 to 10 November 2024, and 11 November 2024 onwards till date (May 05, 2025) — marking the tenures of India's last two chief justices.
- ❖ Both these chief justices are related to former judiciary members.
- ❖ Chandrachud is the son of Justice Yeshwant Chandrachud, who was chief justice from February 1978 to 1985.

A JURY OF JUDGES		
WHAT IS THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM?		CRITICISMS
● A forum which decides on appointments, transfers (A/Ts) of judges.	● Born from 'Three Judges Cases' which gave primacy to CJI's call on A/Ts	● Administrative burden of checking professional background data
● Comprised of Chief Justice of India, 4 Supreme Court Judges	● Judiciary gets greater say than Executive on A/Ts	● Closed-door affair, lacks transparency
● President merely approves CJI's choice		● Exclusivity sidelines talented junior judges, advocates
SOME OF THE CHANGES SOUGHT:		
● CJI cannot make unilateral choice		
● Consulted judges' views need to be in writing		
● Non-compliance must make CJI choice non-binding		
● Transfer of Judges reviewable only in case of non-compliance		

ECONOMY NEWS

NLC record profit

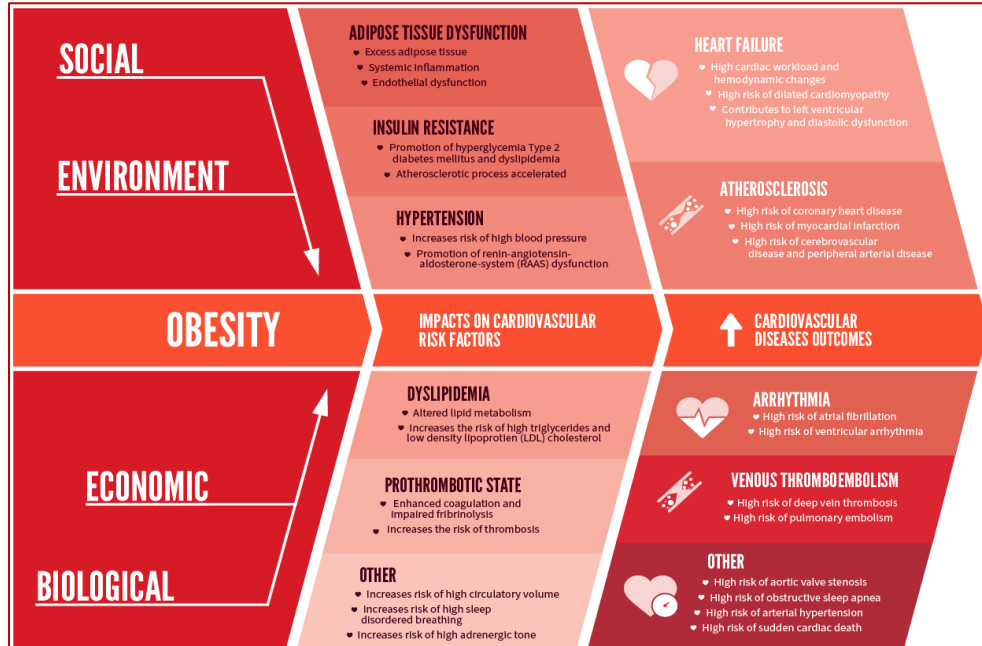
- ❖ The Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) has registered the highest production volumes of lignite and coal.
- ❖ It gains Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹2,713.61 crore.
- ❖ The 2024-25 fiscal also saw the highest-ever Profit Before Tax (PBT) of ₹3,696.93 crore in the history of the Navratna class PSU established in 1956.
- ❖ It is a 28.29% increase over the ₹2,881.64 crore netted in the previous year.
- ❖ The NLCIL achieved the highest-ever coal production of 172.02 LT with a 36.08% growth compared to 126.41 LT in 2023-24.

- ❖ The lignite production stood at 240.60 LT with 1.60% growth compared to 236.80 LT in the previous fiscal.



REPORTS AND INDICES

World Heart Report 2025

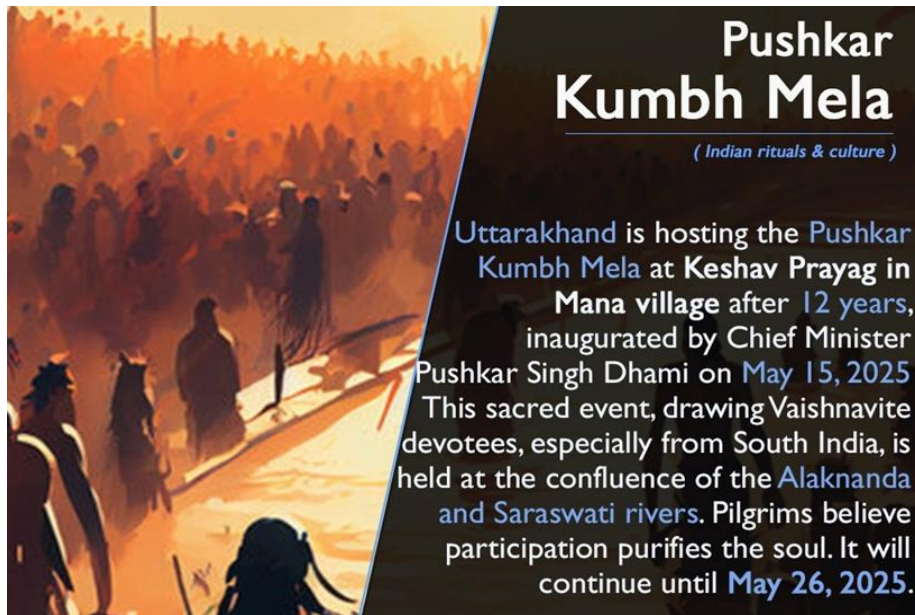


- ❖ The World Heart Federation (WHF) has launched this Report.
- ❖ Nearly 1 in 10 global CVD deaths are now attributable to high BMI.
- ❖ In 2022, 878 million adults lived with obesity, compared with 194 million in 1990.

- ❖ The Mortality from obesity-related heart disease has more than doubled in the past three decades.
- ❖ If trends continue, nearly two-thirds of adults over the age of 25 will be living with overweight or obesity by 2050.
- ❖ In 2021, 3.7 million deaths were attributable to high BMI, including 1.9 million deaths from CVD.
- ❖ Over 10% of global CVD deaths in women are attributable to obesity, compared to 8.9% in men.
- ❖ In India, obesity among women has grown at least sevenfold from 1990 to 2024.
- ❖ 10% of adult women over the age of 20, about 44 million, live with obesity in the country.
- ❖ Obesity among men, in comparison, has risen by 4.9% since 1990, now affecting 26 million Indian men or 5% of India's male population.
- ❖ India has twice as many obese women as men.

STATES' NEWS

Pushkar Kumbh – Uttarakhand

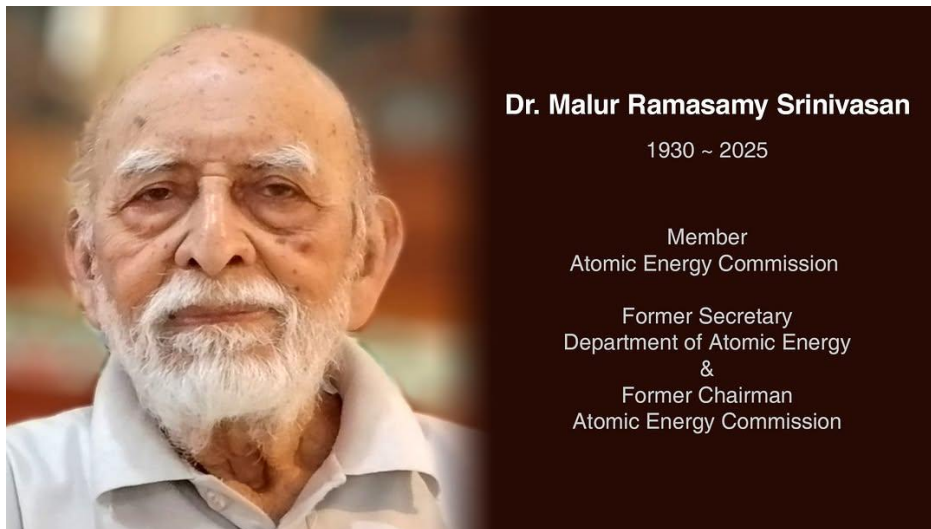


- ❖ The Pushkar Kumbh is organised at Keshav Prayag near Mana, in Uttarakhand, after 12 years.
- ❖ Mana is India's first village near Shri Badrinath Dham.

- ❖ According to religious tradition, when Jupiter enters Gemini in 12 years, Pushkar Kumbh is held in Keshav Prayag located at the confluence of the Alaknanda and Saraswati rivers in Mana village.
- ❖ Vaishnav followers of South India mainly participated in this event.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

M.R. Srinivasan



- ❖ M.R. Srinivasan, the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy, passed away.
- ❖ He worked with Dr. Homi Bhabha on the construction of India's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, which achieved criticality in August 1956.
- ❖ In August 1959, he was appointed Principal Project Engineer for the construction of India's first atomic power station.
- ❖ In 1984, Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board.
- ❖ In 1987, he was appointed Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- ❖ That same year, he became the Founder-Chairman of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
- ❖ He also served as a senior advisor at the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna from 1990 to 1992.
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shri (1984), Padma Bhushan (1990) and Padma Vibhushan (2015).
- ❖ He was a Member of the Planning Commission, Government of India from 1996 to 1998.

- ❖ He was a Member of India's National Security Advisory Board from 2002 to 2004 and again from 2006 to 2008.

Jayant Narlikar - Indian astrophysicist

- ❖ Dr Jayant Narlikar, one of India's most distinguished astrophysicists, passed away.
- ❖ He held the directorship of IUCAA until his retirement in 2003.
- ❖ In 2012, the Third World Academy of Sciences awarded Dr Narlikar their prize for setting up a centre for excellence in science.
- ❖ He is also known for his science fiction stories.
- ❖ He was honoured by UNESCO in 1996 with the Kalinga Award for popular science works.
- ❖ Dr Narlikar was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1965 at the young age of 26.
- ❖ In 2004, he was awarded Padma Vibhushan.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government honoured him with the state's highest civilian award, Maharashtra Bhushan, in 2011.
- ❖ In 2014, the Sahitya Academy selected his autobiography for its highest prize in regional language (Marathi) writing.

