

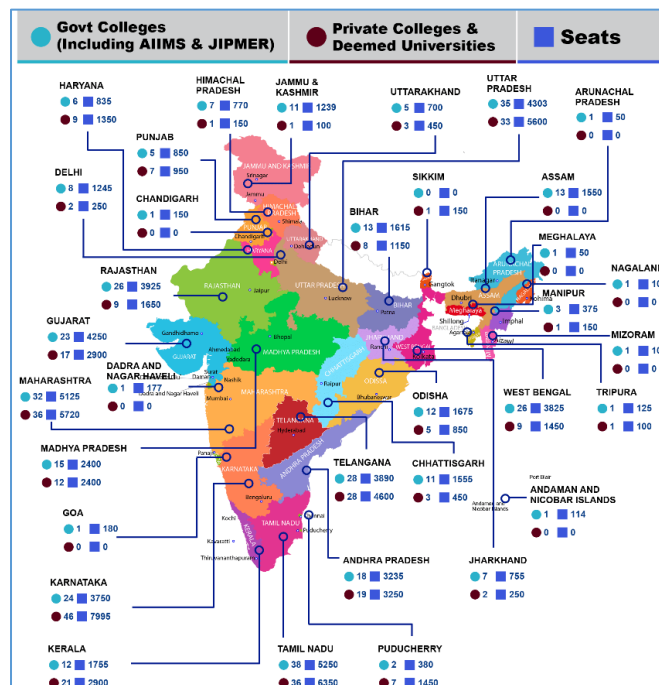
May - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ NTPC has achieved an impressive milestone by securing the 3rd rank globally at the ATD BEST Awards 2024.
- ❖ India-born aviator Gopi Thotakura was among the six space tourists who undertook a short recreational trip to space.
- ❖ The 2024 AI Summit at Seoul was co-hosted by the South Korean and British government.
- ❖ The 10th World Water Forum was held in Bali, Indonesia under the theme “Water for Shared Prosperity”.
- ❖ Maldives will soon launch India’s RuPay service “to bolster the Maldivian Rufiyaa”.
- ❖ Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has made history by becoming the first airport in India to achieve the Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) accolade.

TAMIL NADU

Six new medical colleges



- ❖ The National Medical Commission has granted approval to establish new medical colleges in six districts in Tamil Nadu.



- ❖ Authorisation has been granted to set up medical colleges in six districts namely Tenkasi, Mayiladuthurai, Perambalur, Arakkonam, Ranipet and Tirupattur.
- ❖ Earlier in 2022, Tamil Nadu opened 11 new medical colleges.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a population of a little more than 8 crore and more than 10,000 seats in more than 70 medical colleges.

NATIONAL

Food and Nutrition board



- ❖ A board responsible for providing technical and logistical support for functioning of community nutrition programmes has been "officially dissolved" as part of a plan for rationalisation of government bodies.
- ❖ The Food and Nutrition Board has been shut down by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry.
- ❖ It was a technical wing of the ministry headquartered at the Centre in Delhi.
- ❖ The board had a wide network of offices, including four regional offices and as many quality control laboratories in Faridabad, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.
- ❖ The FNB was originally established under the agriculture ministry but later transferred to the WCD ministry in 1993.

New Driving license rules 2024

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced new driving licence rules from June 1, 2024.



- ❖ It is bringing significant changes aimed at simplifying the process of obtaining a driving licence.
- ❖ One of the most notable changes is that applicants no longer need to take a driving test at the Regional Transport Office (RTO).
- ❖ Instead, the driving test can be conducted at accredited private driving schools.
- ❖ If the applicant passes the test at these schools, they will receive a certificate.
- ❖ That certificate can be used to apply for a driving licence without undergoing further testing at the RTO.
- ❖ However, in the absence of a certificate from an accredited school, the candidate will have to appear for driving test at an RTO.
- ❖ Driving a car without a valid licence now incurs a penalty that can go as high as ₹2,000.

No Need For Driving Tests At RTO: New Driving License Rules From June 1st

What are the key changes in the new driving license regulations announced by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways?

The key changes include allowing individuals to take driving tests at private institutions instead of government RTOs starting June 1, 2024. These centers can conduct tests and issue license eligibility certificates.

How do the new regulations focus on the environment in terms of reducing pollution?

The regulations aim to phase out old government vehicles, totaling around 900,000, and implement stricter car emission standards. This move is intended to contribute to reducing pollution levels.

What are the penalties for minors caught driving under the new regulations?

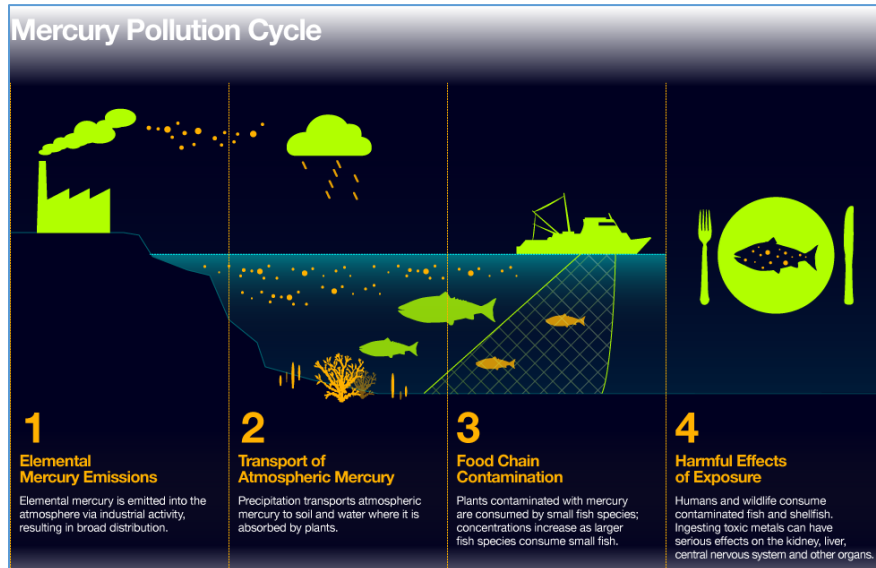
Minors caught driving will face a substantial fine of Rs 25,000, their vehicle owner's registration card will be revoked, and they will be ineligible for a license until they reach 25 years of age. These penalties aim to deter underage driving.

INTERNATIONAL

Eliminating Mercury-Containing Medical Devices

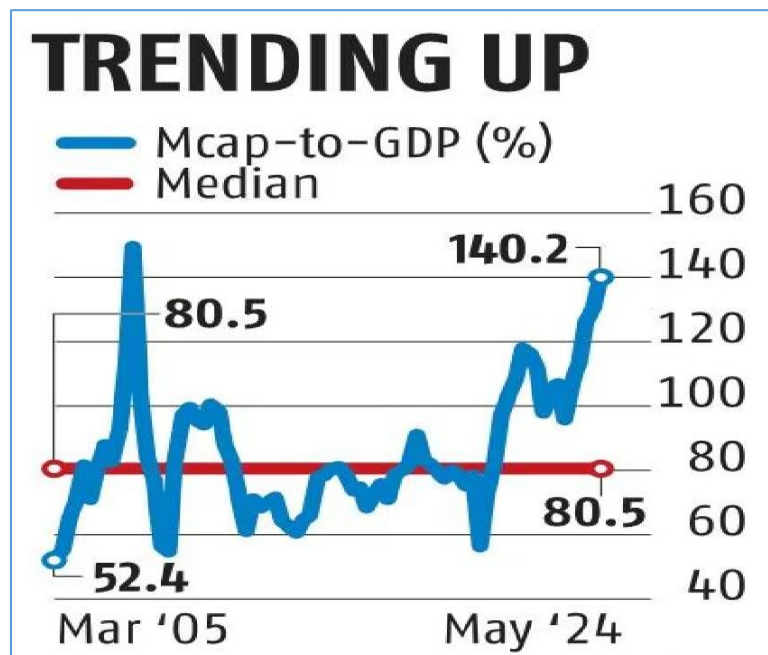
- ❖ Albania, Burkina Faso, India, Montenegro and Uganda have joined forces to halt mercury pollution from the healthcare sector
- ❖ Mercury Used in health-care settings for centuries, is a toxic metal that poses a threat to human health and the environment.
- ❖ \$134-million initiative will support a holistic approach to improve the management of mercury waste and the adoption of alternatives.

- ❖ Medical thermometers and sphygmomanometers contain mercury and are harmless as long as they remain intact.



ECONOMY

India's Market Capitalization



- ❖ The total market capitalisation of BSE-listed stocks closed above \$5 trillion as the benchmark indices ended at record levels led by banks and auto stocks.

- ❖ India's market capitalisation to GDP has surged to 1.42 times, or 142%, inching closer to the peak seen in 2007.
- ❖ The market-cap of all BSE-listed companies stood at \$5.05 trillion (or ₹420.22 lakh crore).
- ❖ India is the fifth country after the US, China, Japan, and Hong Kong whose market capitalisations have crossed the \$5-trillion mark.

ENVIRONMENT

Gangetic Dolphins in India

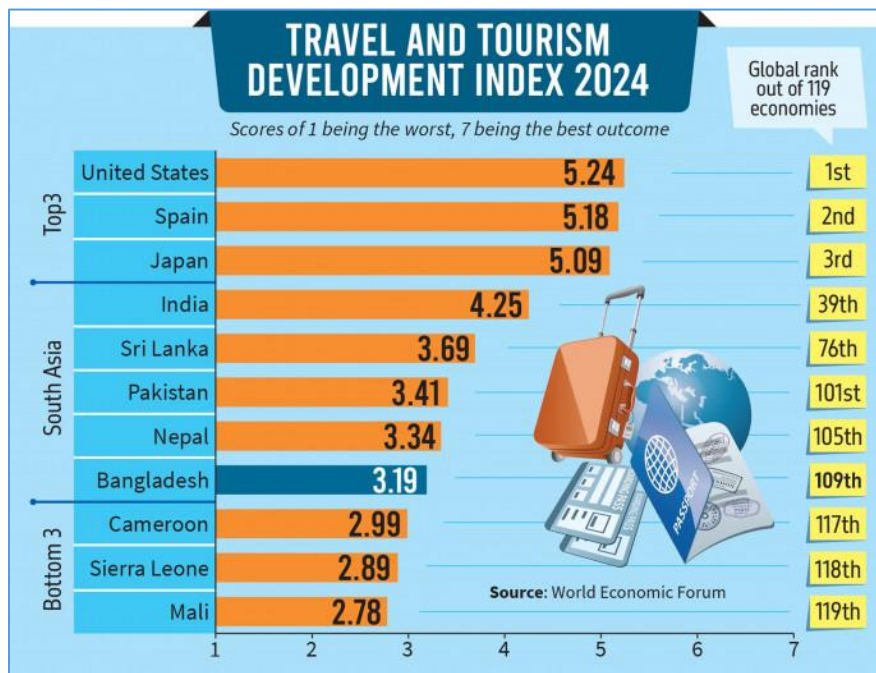


- ❖ According to the Wildlife Institute of India, currently, about 4,000 dolphins are present in the Ganga and its tributaries.
- ❖ The number of Gangetic dolphins in Uttar Pradesh is expected to be 2,000.
- ❖ It is more than half of the total number of Gangetic dolphins found in India.
- ❖ In Uttar Pradesh, the dolphins are mainly found in the Chambal River.
- ❖ Ganges river dolphin also known as blind dolphin, Ganges susu or its scientific name is *Platanista gangetica*.
- ❖ It is mainly found in the mainstream of the Ganga River and its tributaries, Ghaghra, Kosi, Gandak, Chambal, Rupnarayan, and Yamuna.

- ❖ Gangetic river dolphin was declared the National Aquatic Animal of India on 18 May 2010.

REPORTS AND INDICES

WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024



- ❖ India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has risen to 39th place
- ❖ While the US topped the list, India is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies.
- ❖ After the US, Spain, Japan, France and Australia figure among the top five in the 2024 list.
- ❖ Germany was ranked 6th, followed by the UK, China, Italy and Switzerland in the top ten.
- ❖ India was ranked 54th in the previously published index in 2021.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the Markhor 2024 - May 24

- ❖ The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 24 May the International Day of the Markhor and it celebrated for the first time in 2024.

- ❖ The markhor (*Capra falconeri*) is an iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia.
- ❖ The region includes Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ The markhor was categorized as “near threatened” in IUCN Red List.



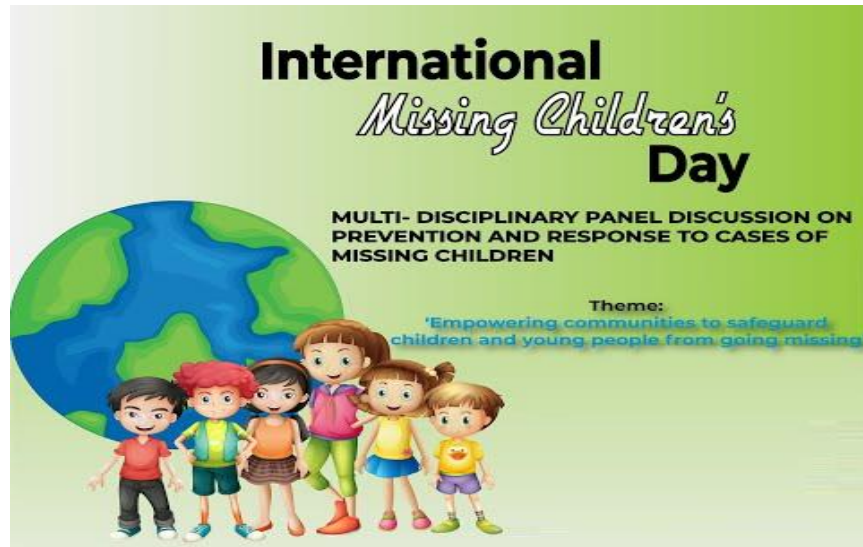
World Schizophrenia Awareness Day 2024 - May 24



- ❖ It aims to bring the global attention to the challenges faced by people with schizophrenia and their families.
- ❖ The day May 24th was chosen, in honour of Dr Philippe Pinel, a French physician.

- ❖ He is considered a pioneer in the humane treatment of psychiatric patients.
- ❖ Schizophrenia is a severe mental health disorder that impacts a person's ability to think, feel, and behave clearly.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Celebrating the Power of Community Kindness."

International Missing Children's Day 2024 - May 25



- ❖ It aims to spotlight the plight of missing children, raise awareness, and reinforce the ongoing efforts to reunite families.
- ❖ This started with the case of 6-year-old Etan Patz in New York City on May 25, 1979, who was abducted from the bus while heading to school.
- ❖ In 1983, President Ronald Reagan declared National Missing Children's Day to recognize the countless children who vanish annually.
- ❖ More than 47,313 children are missing in India, according to the latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), with 71.4 per cent of these being minor girls.
- ❖ Data for 2022 showed that the West Bengal had the highest number of missing children — 12,455 (1,884 boys and 10,571 girls).

