

November - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Government has introduced a new seaplane service named 'Sky Meets Sea' which connects the cities of Vijayawada and Sri Sailam.
- ❖ The Indian Army has inducted 550 'Asmi' Machine Pistols manufactured by the Hyderabad-based defence company.
- ❖ Ladakh's first Polo Stadium was inaugurated at Goshan Drass region.
- ❖ Bengaluru's first digital population clock was inaugurated at the Institute for Social Economic Change to access real-time estimates of Karnataka's and population of the country.
- ❖ The two-day 'Anti-Terrorism Conference-2024' organized by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's smartphone market has emerged as the second largest globally by unit volume and third largest by value in the third quarter of 2024.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Tourism has participated in the World Travel Market (WTM) in London to enhance inbound tourism and elevate India's standing as a premier global travel destination.
- ❖ Samoa has hosted the 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) under the theme 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Commonwealth'.

TAMIL NADU

Tirunelveli - startup hub

- ❖ Tirunelveli is now garnering attention for its burgeoning entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- ❖ Over the past few years, more women from this region are breaking the barriers and venturing into the start-up ecosystem.
- ❖ There were 405 start-ups in the Tirunelveli regional hub.
- ❖ Districts, including Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Thoothukudi, Kanniyakumari and Ramanathapuram, constitute this hub.
- ❖ There are 88 start-ups with women as co-founders.

- ❖ About 43% of the start-ups have been founded or co-founded by women.

'Aadukalam': a series of programmes to identify early-stage business ideas and extend support

'Thadai athai udai': a series of confidence-building events for aspiring entrepreneurs and early-stage start-ups

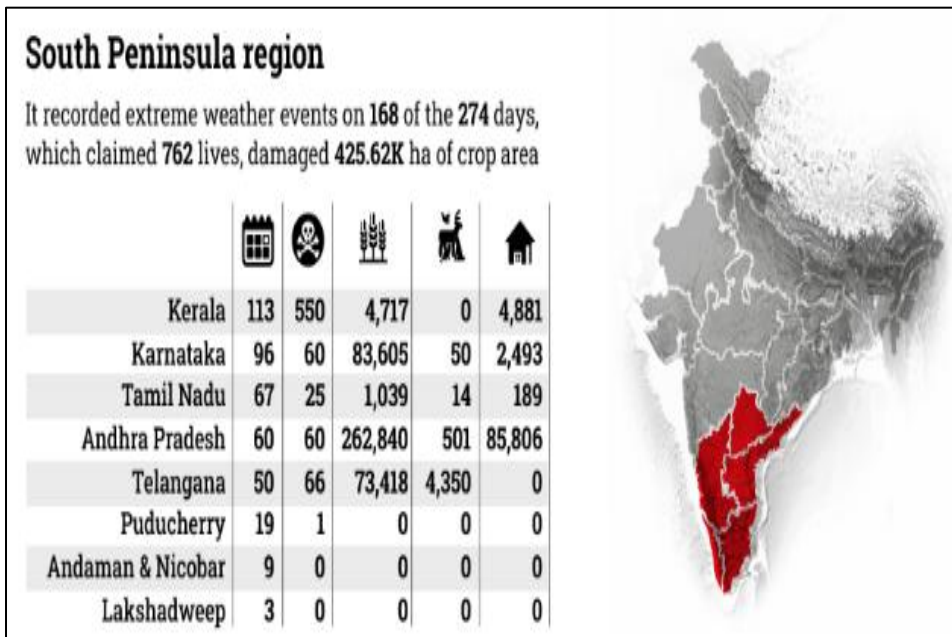
Coffee with Collector: to facilitate direct communication between start-ups and the Collector for enhanced support

Startup to Government (S2G): to enable start-ups to pitch their ideas to government departments and solve their challenges. This provides a much-needed market access to start-ups

She Bootcamp: camps targeting girls, encouraging them to take up entrepreneurship

Mentor Connect: events related to mentorship are conducted at regular intervals

Extreme weather events in 2024



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has experienced a significant rise in extreme weather events in 2024, with 67 extreme weather days recorded so far.
- ❖ This is nearly double of the 27 days reported in 2023.
- ❖ This sharp increase is highlighted in the Climate India 2024 report.
- ❖ It has also reported 25 human fatalities, 14 livestock deaths, and the damage of 149 houses due to these extreme weather events.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu reported 1,039 hectares of crop damage due to irregular rainfall, intense heatwaves, and storm surges.
- ❖ India has experienced extreme weather on 255 out of 274 days in the first nine months of 2024.
- ❖ It is surpassing the number of extreme days recorded in the previous two years.

NATIONAL

PM-Vidya Laxmi Scheme 2024



PM-Vidyalaxmi

- Cabinet approves PM Vidyalaxmi, a new Central Sector scheme that seeks to provide financial support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent anyone from pursuing higher studies
- Any student who gets admission in Quality Higher Education Institution will be eligible to get collateral free, guarantor free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course

Salient features

- Extension of education loans to meritorious students who get admission in the top 860 quality higher educational institutions of the nation, translating to covering more than 22 lakh students every year
- Loan amounts up to Rs.7.5 lakhs will be provided a 75% credit guarantee by the Government of India, to support banks to expand coverage

Salient features

- Administered through a simple, transparent and student-friendly system that will be inter-operable and entirely digital
- 3% interest subvention for loan up to Rs.10 lakhs during moratorium period, for students with annual family income of up to Rs.8 lakhs, and not eligible for benefits under any other government scholarship or interest subvention schemes
- Outlay of Rs.3,600 crore has been made during 2024-25 to 2030-31, expected to benefit 7 lakh fresh students
- Students can apply on unified portal "PM-Vidyalaxmi" for education loan as well as submit request for disbursement of interest subvention

- ❖ The Union cabinet approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme that aims to cover over 22 lakh students a year.
- ❖ The scheme will provide the financial support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent anyone from pursuing higher studies.
- ❖ For students looking at loans of up to Rs 7.5 lakh, the government will provide credit guarantees to the tune of 75 per cent of the outstanding defaults.
- ❖ Students belonging to economically-weaker families with an annual income of up to Rs 8 lakh — will be entitled to a three per cent interest subvention on loans of up to Rs 10 lakh.
- ❖ The ministry's department of higher education will set up a unified portal, PM-Vidyalaxmi.

- ❖ This will allow the students to apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention to all the banks.

Supreme Court on AMU



- ❖ An educational institution established by a minority community will not lose its identity once it is recognised through a statute, the Supreme Court has declared recently.
- ❖ The petitioners had challenged the five-judge Bench judgment in the 1967 case of S. Azeez Basha versus Union of India.
- ❖ It had held that the AMU was a Central university and cannot be considered a minority institution.
- ❖ It has also held that religious minorities did not have the right to administer educational institutions which were not established by them, and cannot claim protection under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.
- ❖ Article 30(1) upholds the right of religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer their own educational institutions.
- ❖ The minority status of the AMU, established in 1875, was then restored by the Parliament through the AMU (Amendment) Act in 1981.

3rd MAHASAGAR Summit

- ❖ The third edition of the high-level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR was conducted by the Indian Navy
- ❖ MAHASAGAR stands for Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region.

- ❖ Maritime Agencies and Senior Leadership from Indian Ocean Region littorals viz., Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania participated in this event.
- ❖ The interaction's theme was 'Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR'.



Digital Life Certificate Campaign 3.0

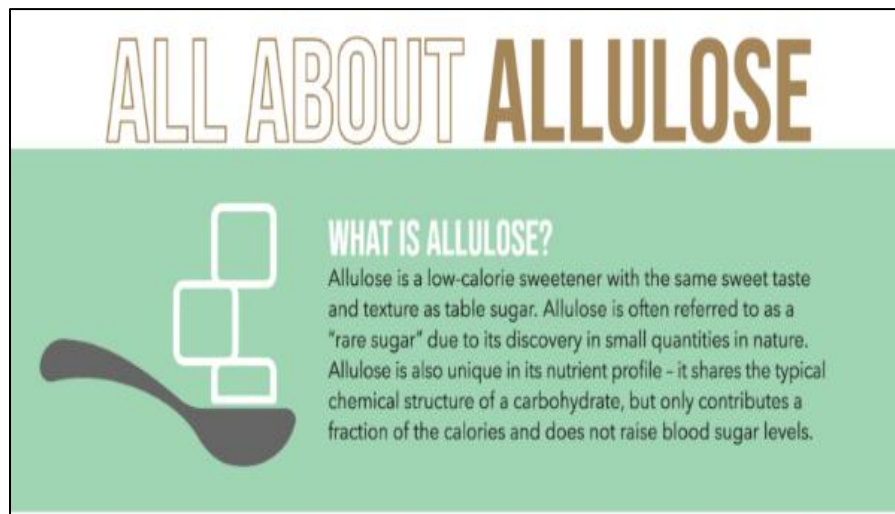


- ❖ The South Western Railway (SWR) has announced the launch of Digital Life Certificate Campaign 3.0.

- ❖ It is a new initiative aimed at simplifying the process for pensioners to submit their life certificates.
- ❖ This new campaign allows for the online submission for continuation of their pension, saving both time and effort.

INTERNATIONAL

Allulose in South Korea

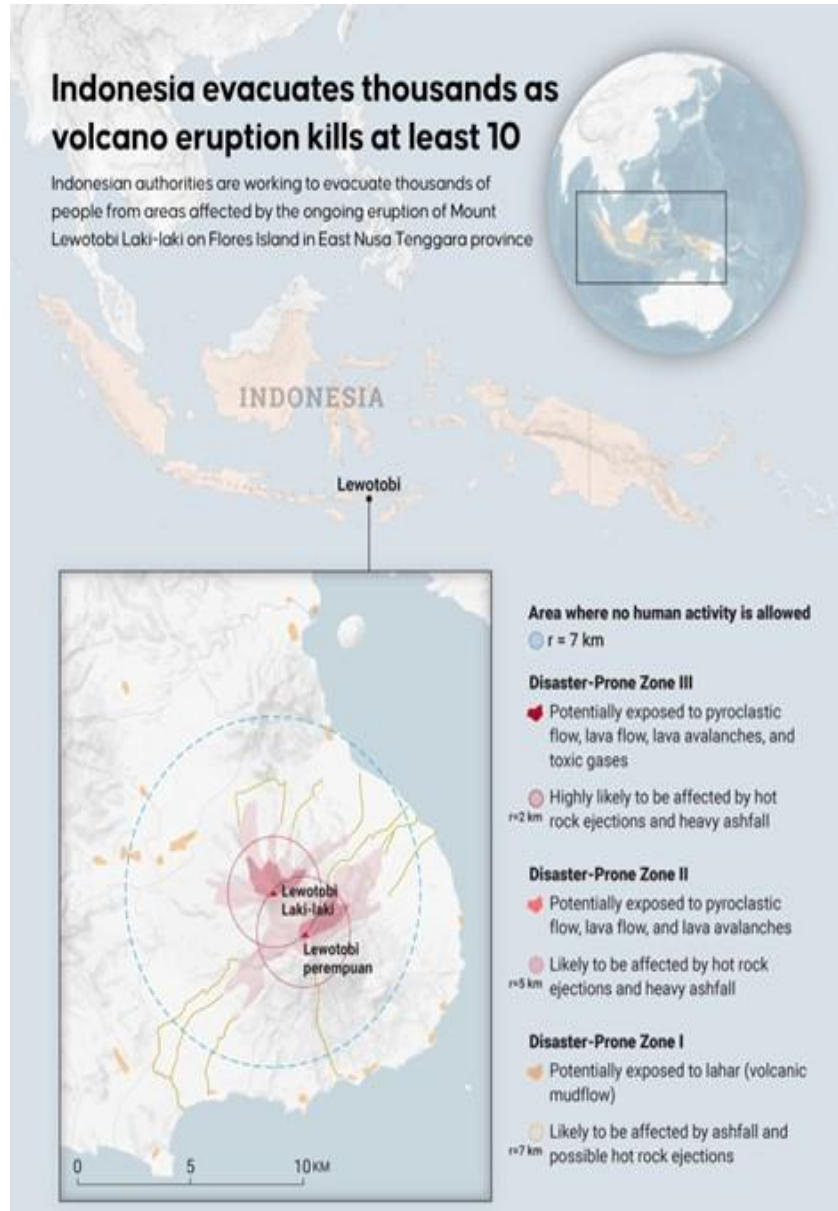


- ❖ South Korea has become a top testing ground for the sweetener allulose.
- ❖ It is a potential rival to sugar substitutes like stevia.
- ❖ Found naturally in figs, kiwis and other fruits, allulose has been approved by both U.S. and South Korean regulators.
- ❖ It is 70% as sweet as sugar and almost calorie-free.
- ❖ The European Union and Canada classify it as a "novel food," requiring further safety assessment.
- ❖ WHO has issued the guidelines against using non-sugar sweeteners for weight control, citing potential long-term risks.

Lewotobi Laki-Laki

- ❖ Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupts for the second time in a week.
- ❖ Lewotobi Laki-Laki is one of a pair of stratovolcanoes in the East Flores district of East Nusa Tenggara province.
- ❖ They are known locally as the husband-and-wife mountains.
- ❖ "Laki-laki" means man, while its mate is Lewotobi Perempuan, or woman.

- ❖ Lewotobi Laki-Laki is one of the 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia.



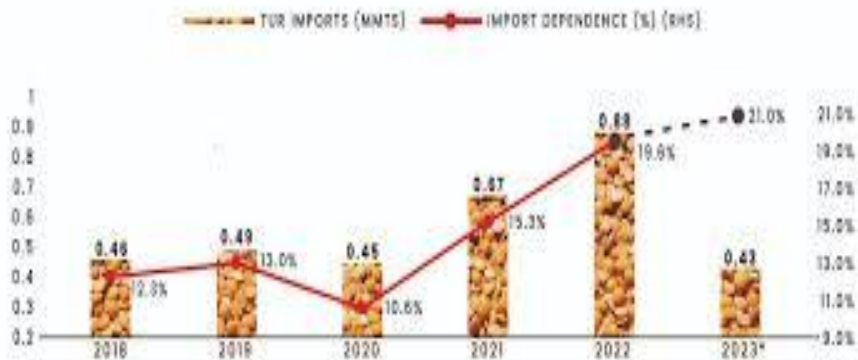
ECONOMY

Urad And Tur Imports 2024

- ❖ Brazil has the potential to become a major source for the import of black gram (urad) and pigeon peas (tur) for India.
- ❖ The quantity of urad import from Brazil has increased from 4,102 tonnes in the 2023 calendar year.
- ❖ It was around 22,000 tonnes till October end of 2024.

- ❖ Australia's Chana production in current year is estimated at about 13.3 lakh tons as against 4.9 lakh tons in 2023, basically for export to India.
- ❖ India imports 3-4 million tonnes of various types of pulses annually to meet the domestic shortages.

INDIAN TUR: IMPORTS (MMTS) AND IMPORT DEPENDENCE (%)



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ancient ocean in Mars



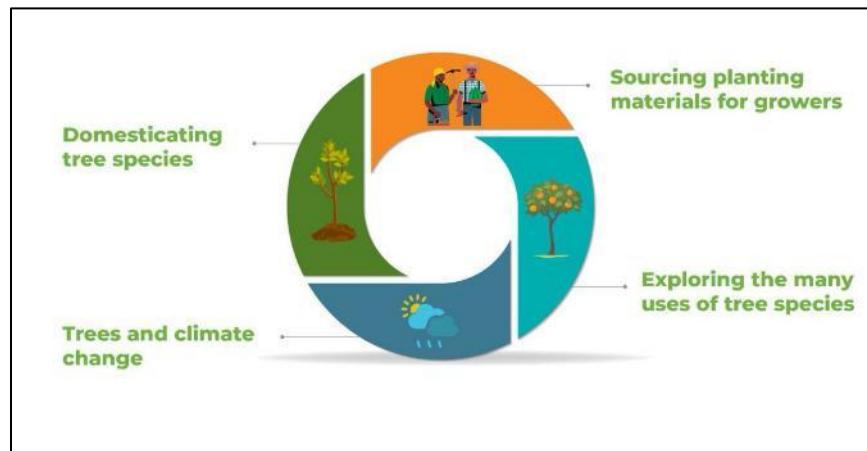
- ❖ Recent findings from China's Zhurong rover suggest that Mars once hosted an ocean.
- ❖ The sediment channels, mud volcanoes, and troughs, point to the presence of a large body of water in the past.
- ❖ This discovery supports the theory that Mars, once a potentially habitable planet with a warm atmosphere.

- ❖ They estimate that Utopia Planitia flooded around 3.68 billion years ago.
- ❖ The ocean seems to have vanished by around 3.42 billion years ago.
- ❖ Mars formed around 4.5 billion years ago, like the other planets in our solar system.

ENVIRONMENT

IUCN First Global Tree Assessment

- ❖ The first Global Tree Assessment was published in an update of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ The findings were announced at the COP16 to CBD.
- ❖ This assessment has found that nearly 38 per cent of the world's tree species are now facing extinction.
- ❖ At least 16,425 of the 47,282 tree species analysed are in danger of extinction.
- ❖ In South America, which boasts the world's highest tree diversity, 3,356 out of the 13,668 assessed species are at risk.
- ❖ The IUCN Red List now includes 166,061 species, of which 46,337 are threatened with extinction.



REPORTS AND INDICES

World Solar Report Series - 3rd edition

- ❖ The 3rd edition of the World Solar Report series was released at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance.

- ❖ The newly launched 4 reports are namely World Solar Market Report, World Investment Report, World Technology Report, and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries.
- ❖ The World Solar Market Report reveals the exceptional solar growth, with global capacity soaring from 1.22 GW in 2000 to 1,418.97 GW in 2023.
- ❖ The latest World Investment Report highlights a global shift toward sustainable energy, with energy investments rising from \$2.4 trillion in 2018 to \$3.1 trillion by 2024.
- ❖ The World Technology Report Highlights include record-setting 24.9% efficiency in solar PV modules, an 88% reduction in silicon usage since 2004.



STATES

Tiger disappearance in Ranthambore NP

- ❖ A recent report is claiming that 25 tigers from Rajasthan's Ranthambore National Park are "missing".
- ❖ After a committee was set up, 10 of the wildcats were traced within three days.
- ❖ Previously, 13 tigers were reported missing between 2019 and 2022.

- ❖ Ranthambore faces territorial stress due to a growing tiger population, with an estimated 88 tigers according to the 2022 census



IMPORTANT DAYS

Uttarakhand Foundation Day 2024 - November 09



- ❖ The state of Uttarakhand came into existence on November 9, 2000.

- ❖ Initially called Uttaranchal, it became the 27th state of India.
- ❖ Its name officially changed to Uttarakhand in 2007.
- ❖ It is commonly referred to as 'Devbhumi' or the 'Land of the Gods'.
- ❖ It was carved from Uttar Pradesh due to cultural, geographic, and administrative distinctions.

World Adoption Day 2024 - November 09



- ❖ This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of adoption and the profound impact it can have on children's lives.
- ❖ The Adoption provides a second chance for children who have been orphaned, abandoned, or neglected.
- ❖ India's adoption process is managed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).
- ❖ The number of available children for the adoption is drastically lower than the number of families waiting in India.

World Science Day for Peace and Development 2024 - November 10

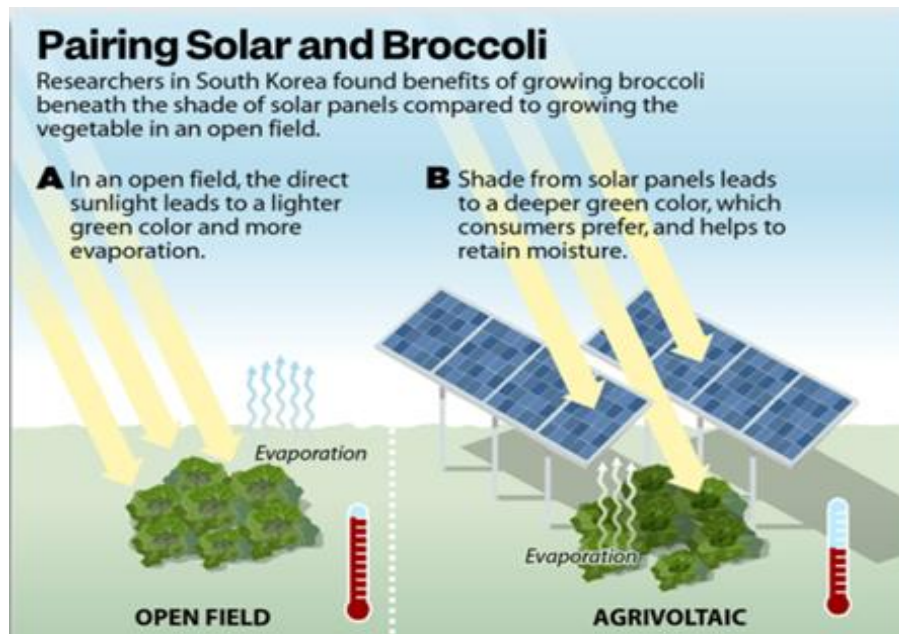
- ❖ It is highlighting the role of science in society and the need to engage people to actively debate on more scientific issues.

- ❖ It was first proposed during the World Conference on Science that took place in Budapest in 1999.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Why Science Matters - Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures'.



MISCELLANEOUS

Agrivoltaic farming



- ❖ India has highlighted its innovation in combining solar energy generation with agriculture in ISA Assembly.
- ❖ Agrivoltaic farming primarily focuses on the simultaneous use of land for both agriculture and solar energy generation.



- ❖ In this method, solar panels are installed above crops, allowing land to be used for both farming and energy generation.
- ❖ It helps maximize land productivity, provides shade for certain crops and reduces soil moisture loss.
- ❖ This system supports sustainable energy transition while enhancing agricultural resilience and productivity, especially in regions with limited arable land.

