



**November - 15**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid the foundation for 12 new Thozhi working women's hostels across the State at a cost of ₹62.51 crore, which will benefit 740 working women.
- ❖ Arshi Gupta of Delhi Public School, Faridabad, became the first female racer who won a National Karting Championship in India.
- ❖ Veteran Indian film art director Thota Tharani has been honoured with the prestigious Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government.
  - It was first received by actor Sivaji Ganesan from Tamil cinema in 1995 and then by Kamal Haasan in 2016.
- ❖ VOC Port in Thoothukudi has created a record by unloading 103 windmill blades from a single ship.
- ❖ Salman Rushdie received the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award (Lifetime Achievement Award) at the Dayton Literary Peace Prize 2025 in Dayton, Ohio, USA.
- ❖ The Collins Dictionary has chosen 'Vibe coding' as its Word of the Year for 2025.
- ❖ The Indian Army has launched Exercise Brahmashira in the Rann and Creek sector of Gujarat as part of the Tri-Services Exercise Trishul.
  - The exercise involves the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Border Security Force to validate integrated operational capabilities across land, sea, and air.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Kovalam Beach Blue Flag**

- ❖ Kovalam beach in Tamil Nadu has retained the International Blue Flag certification for the fifth consecutive year.
- ❖ The certification aims to promote sustainable tourism and responsible coastal management.
- ❖ It was first awarded to Kovalam beach on 21 September 2021, making it Tamil Nadu's first Blue Flag-certified beach.
- ❖ The certification is given by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark, after evaluating 33 criteria.

- ❖ Criteria for this include water quality, environmental education, safety, waste management, cleanliness, and eco-friendly infrastructure.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### CPA Zone-III Conference



- ❖ The 22nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-III Conference concluded in Nagaland.
- ❖ The two-day conference was held under the theme “Policy, Progress & People: Legislatures as Catalysts of Change.”
- ❖ Discussions focused on the role of legislatures in achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 and addressing climate change impacts in the Northeast.

- ❖ Nine resolutions were adopted during the conference by the Members of the CPA India Region Zone-III.
- ❖ A tree plantation drive was also conducted to mark the conclusion of the 22nd Annual Conference.

### **Sugar Production in 2025-26**

- ❖ India's sugar production for 2025-26 is projected to rise 18.6% to 30.95 million tonnes, according to the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA).
- ❖ Higher output is expected in Maharashtra (13.0 MT), Uttar Pradesh (10.32 MT), and Karnataka (6.35 MT).
- ❖ Total sugarcane acreage for 2024-25 is 5.735 million hectares.
- ❖ Opening stocks of 5 million tonnes and 3.4 million tonnes diverted for ethanol leave total sugar availability at 35.95 million tonnes.
- ❖ Domestic consumption is estimated at 28.5 million tonnes, with export potential of up to 2 million tonnes.

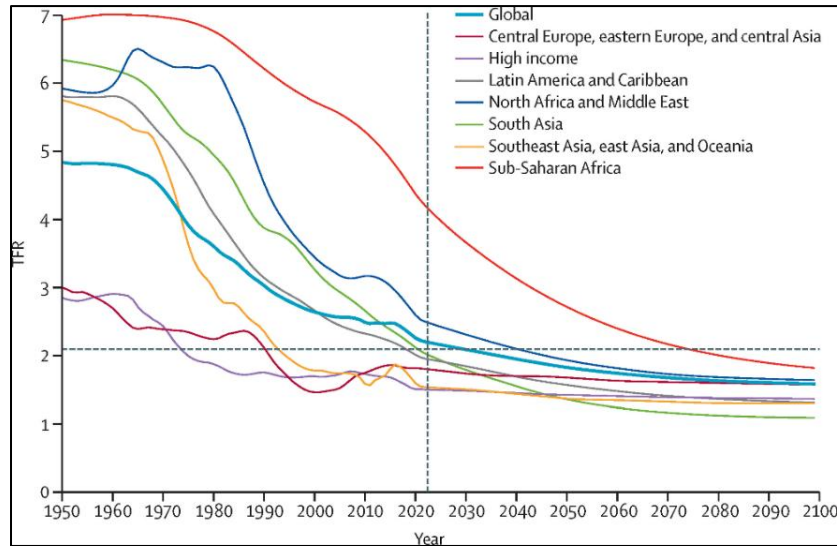


## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Global 'Baby Bust' by 2100**

- ❖ A new study has revealed that the world will soon witness a very low fertility rate.
- ❖ By 2050, 155 of 204 (76%) countries will be below the replacement level of fertility.
- ❖ By 2100 over 97% of countries will have fertility rates below the required percentage.

- ❖ The global TFR has reduced to less than half over the past 70 years, from five children per female in 1950 to 2.2 children in 2021.
- ❖ While almost half of the world, 110 of 204 countries are below the population replacement level of 2.1 births per female in 2021.
- ❖ This is adverse for countries like South Korea and Serbia where the rate is less than 1.1 child for each female.
- ❖ In Chad, the TFR of seven births is the highest in the world.



## Buddha Relics in Bhutan

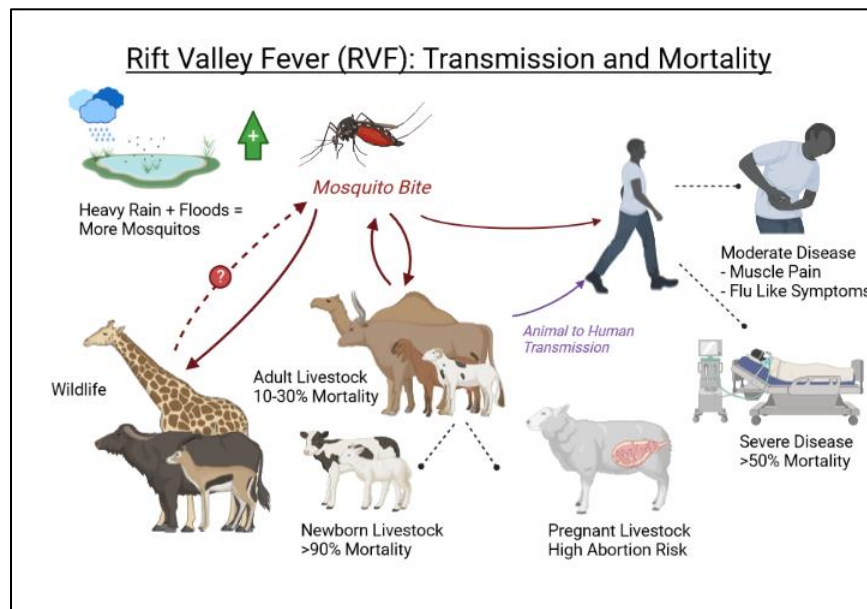


- ❖ A portion of the holy relics of Lord Buddha from India was enshrined at Tashichhodzong Monastery in Thimphu, Bhutan.

- ❖ The relics were placed in the Grand Kuenrey Hall.
- ❖ The sacred relics, known as the Piprahwa Relics of Lord Buddha, were earlier enshrined at the National Museum in New Delhi.
- ❖ This marks the second time these relics have been sent from India to Bhutan, reflecting spiritual unity between the two nations.

### Rift Valley Fever Outbreak

- ❖ Rift Valley Fever (RVF) is a viral zoonotic disease primarily affecting sheep, goats, cattle, and camels in Mauritania and Senegal.
- ❖ The virus is transmitted to humans via mosquito bites or direct contact with infected animal fluids and does not spread person-to-person.
- ❖ It will be affecting the eyes, brain, or liver, with the haemorrhagic form having a fatality rate of nearly 50%.
- ❖ India has not reported any RVF cases, but the disease is monitored under the national One Health surveillance framework due to favourable climatic conditions and livestock populations.

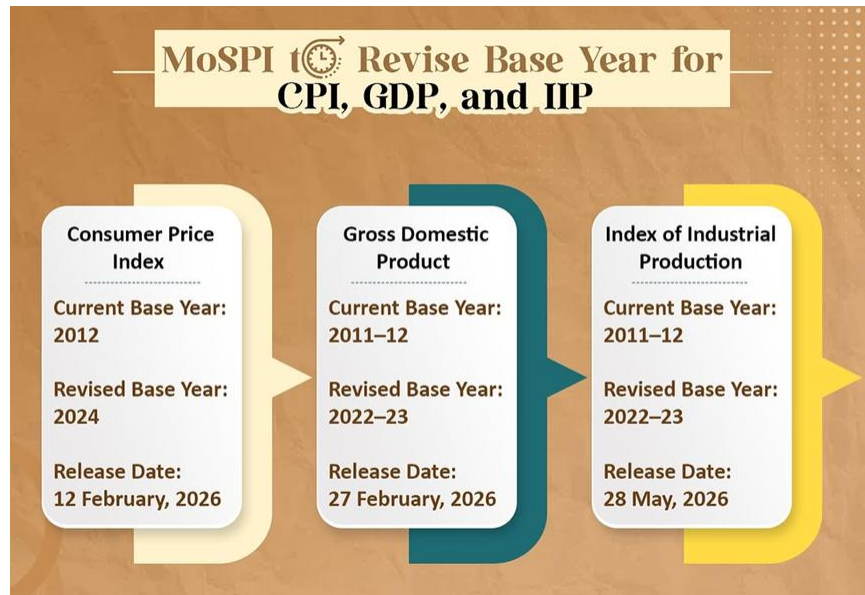


## ECONOMY NEWS

### Revision of the IIP base

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released Discussion Paper 1.0 on the substitution of factories in compiling the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

- ❖ MoSPI is revising the IIP base series by updating methodologies, exploring new data sources, and consulting experts and stakeholders.
- ❖ Some factories in the current panel may be non-operational or have changed production, requiring substitution to maintain continuity in the data series.
- ❖ The paper outlines the proposed methodology for replacing such factories with suitable substitutes producing the same item or item group.



### Neodymium Production in India



- ❖ India is set to raise neodymium production to 500 tonnes by the financial year 2027, up from 200 tonnes in the financial year 2026.
- ❖ Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a state-owned company under the Department of Atomic Energy, mines and processes rare earth elements.
- ❖ Rare earths are used in electric vehicles, clean energy technologies, defence systems, and electronics.
- ❖ IREL operates extraction and refining facilities in Odisha and Kerala, producing eight of the seventeen rare earth elements.
- ❖ India holds about 5 to 6 % of the global rare earth market, ranking third in production and sixth in reserves.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### First Transatlantic Robotic Stroke Surgery



- ❖ A surgeon in Scotland performed a robotic thrombectomy on a cadaver in the United States, covering 4,000 miles.
- ❖ The surgery performed was a thrombectomy, a minimally invasive procedure to remove blood clots after a stroke.
- ❖ The system allowed the surgeon to operate remotely while monitoring live X-ray images in real time.
- ❖ The procedure used a robot developed by Sentante with connectivity support from Nvidia and Ericsson.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Cooling Watch Report 2025

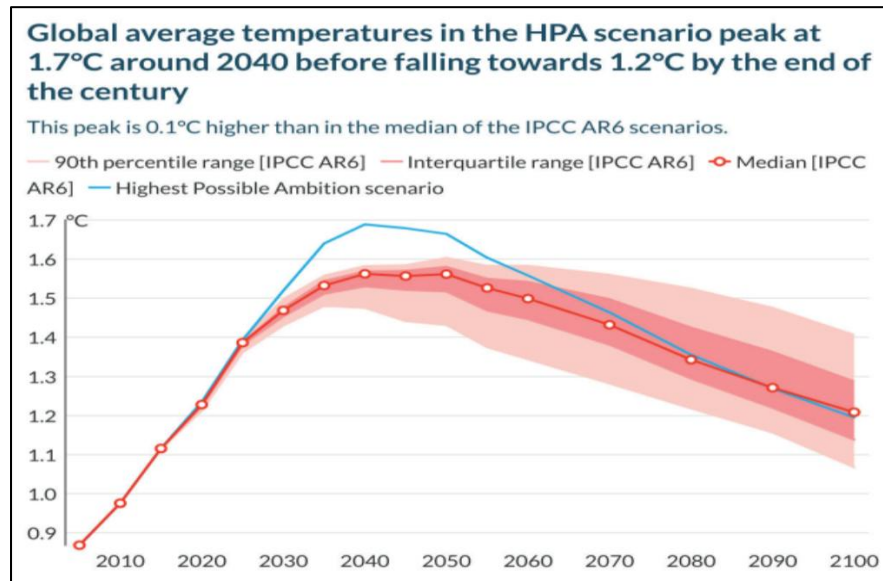
| The Sustainable Cooling Hierarchy |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                   | Action                 | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Step 1                            | Passive Cooling        | Adopt passive strategies that reduce cooling load from both comfort cooling and refrigeration systems, to lower the upfront capital investment needed in cooling equipment and to reduce both direct refrigerant emissions and indirect energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. Passive cooling strategies include urban design, passive building design and various other techniques that can minimize cooling loads (e.g. use of doors on retail refrigerated display cabinets). |
| Step 2                            | Low-Energy Cooling     | After the cooling load has been minimized, prioritize low-energy cooling systems over high-energy options. For comfort cooling, a system that incorporates fans and evaporative cooling in place of, or alongside, air conditioning can greatly reduce the energy used and the cost of providing comfortable conditions.                                                                                                                                                            |
| Step 3                            | Best Energy Efficiency | Ensure that all new cooling equipment is designed and selected to achieve the maximum practical energy efficiency. For example, variable-speed compressor systems are much more efficient than fixed-speed systems.<br><br>Operate all existing cooling equipment with optimized control settings and with regular monitoring and maintenance, to ensure that energy efficiency and performance are maintained throughout the operating life.                                       |
| Step 4                            | Rapid HFC Phase-Down   | Select the refrigerant with the lowest practical global warming potential (GWP) that does not compromise the system efficiency, to continue the momentum and to achieve sustainable cooling.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

- ❖ The Global Cooling Watch 2025 report was released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cool Coalition.
- ❖ The report was released at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belém, Brazil.
- ❖ The United Nations warns that global cooling demand could triple by 2050.
- ❖ Rising demand for air conditioning could double related CO2 emissions to 7.2 billion tonnes without sustainable solutions.
- ❖ A Sustainable Cooling Pathway could cut emissions by 64% and save \$43 trillion in electricity and grid investments by 2050.
- ❖ Over one billion people currently lack adequate access to cooling, a number that could triple by 2050 without intervention.

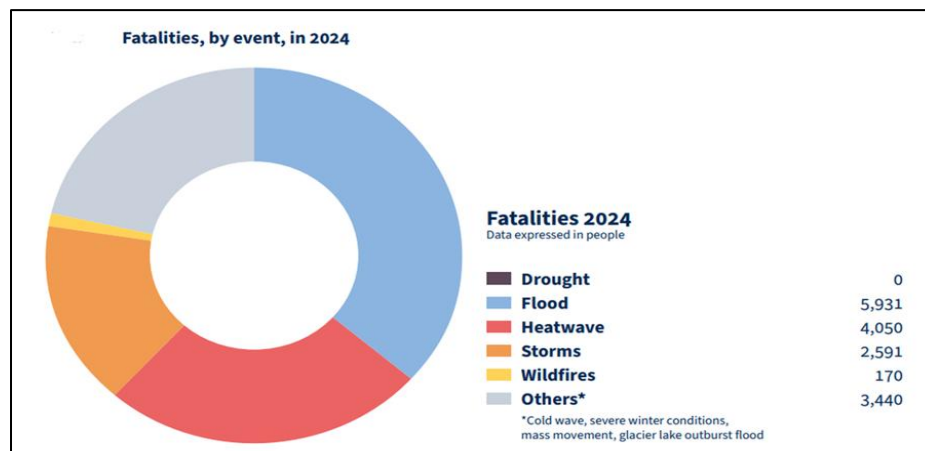
### ICCI report 2025

- ❖ The State of the Cryosphere 2025 report was released by the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI) and reviewed by over 50 scientists.

- ❖ The report warns that global ice loss is accelerating, threatening centuries of sea-level rise and regional water shocks.
- ❖ Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are near stability thresholds at  $\sim 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ , while many mountain glaciers are vulnerable at even lower temperatures.
- ❖ Current national pledges point to over  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  warming, incompatible with retaining much of the world's ice.



## Climate Risk Index 2026



- ❖ The Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026 was released by Germanwatch.
- ❖ India ranks ninth among countries most affected by extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024.

- ❖ The index analyses rapid-onset events like floods, storms, heatwaves, wildfires, and glacial lake outbursts, but excludes slow-onset events like sea-level rise or glacial retreat.
- ❖ In the last 30 years, India faced around 430 extreme weather events, affecting over 1 billion people, causing \$170 billion in inflation-adjusted losses, and more than 80,000 deaths.
- ❖ In 2024 alone, the monsoon affected over 8 million people in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tripura.
- ❖ India ranked third globally for people impacted by extreme weather.
- ❖ India, along with the Philippines, Nicaragua, and Haiti, falls under the “continuous threats” category.
- ❖ This means it faces repeated extreme weather events with cumulative losses over time.
- ❖ Global extreme weather between 1995–2024 caused over 8,32,000 deaths and economic losses exceeding \$4.5 trillion.
- ❖ This highlights the urgent need for adaptation and climate finance support at COP30.

### Time Out City Life Index



- ❖ Mumbai has been ranked the happiest city in Asia in 2025 according to the Time Out City Life Index.



- ❖ The survey covered more than 18,000 residents across Asian cities and measured happiness based on daily life, culture, nightlife, food, and overall quality of life.
- ❖ 94% of Mumbai residents reported feeling happy, and 89% said they are happier in Mumbai than anywhere else.
- ❖ Beijing and Shanghai in China took second and third place, with 93% and 92% of residents expressing satisfaction.
- ❖ Chiang Mai, Thailand, and Hanoi, Vietnam, followed in the top five, each with 88% of residents reporting happiness.

## STATES' NEWS

### GRAP Stage-3 Vehicle Restrictions

| Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)   |              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GRAP Stages                          |              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                       |
| State                                | Category     | AQI                                                                                                                                                            | AQI Color Code                                                                        |
| Stage 1                              | Poor         | 201-300                                                                                                                                                        |   |
| Stage 2                              | Very poor    | 301-400                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| Stage 3                              | Severe       | 401-450                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| Stage 4                              | Severe plus  | 451 and above                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Health Statements for AQI Categories |              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                       |
| AQI                                  | Category     | Possible health impact                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                       |
| 0-50                                 | Good         |  Minimal impact                                                             |                                                                                       |
| 51-100                               | Satisfactory |  Minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people                            |                                                                                       |
| 101-200                              | Moderate     |  Discomfort to people with lung, asthma, and heart diseases                |                                                                                       |
| 201-300                              | Poor         |  Discomfort to most people on prolonged exposure                           |                                                                                       |
| 201-400                              | Very poor    |  Respiratory illness on prolonged exposure                                 |                                                                                       |
| 401-500                              | Severe       |  Affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases |                                                                                       |

- ❖ Delhi has enforced Stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) due to hazardous air quality.
- ❖ The air quality index (AQI) reached 667, placing it in the 'hazardous' category.
- ❖ BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel light motor vehicles are banned from entering the city.
- ❖ BS-IV diesel medium goods vehicles are restricted unless carrying essential commodities or services.
- ❖ Construction, demolition, and dust-generating activities across the National Capital Region (NCR) are prohibited.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### National Water Awards 2024

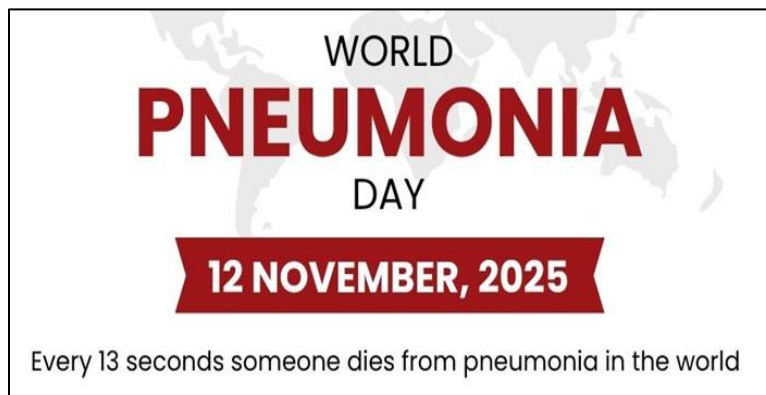
Maharashtra bags 1st place in the 'Best State' category at the 6th National Water Awards 2024 for outstanding water-conservation efforts



- ❖ Maharashtra has topped the 6th National Water Awards 2024 in the Best State category.
- ❖ Gujarat and Haryana secured second and third positions, respectively.
- ❖ This year, 46 winners were selected across ten categories, including Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, and Best Institution.
- ❖ The awards will be presented by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on 18 November 2025.
- ❖ The award, instituted in 2018, the National Water Awards promote sustainable water management under the 'Jal Samridh Bharat' vision.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Pneumonia Day 2025 - November 12



- ❖ The aim is to spread awareness and fight pneumonia, the leading infectious killer of children and adults.



- ❖ It was first observed in 2009 by the Global Coalition Against Child Pneumonia.
- ❖ Pneumonia is contagious and spreads through coughing, sneezing, or contact with infected fluids.
- ❖ The disease is caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi affecting the air sacs (alveoli) in the lungs.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Child Survival".

