

November - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tiruppur textile industry cluster, which contributes 55 per cent of the country's total knitwear exports, has posted a 13 % increase in the first five months of this financial year (FY25).
- ❖ India's First Railway Test Track Worth Rs 820 Crore nears its completion in Rajasthan, which is to be operational by 2025.
- ❖ The 43rd India International Trade Fair is held in New Delhi with the theme of "Viksit Bharat @2047."
- ❖ The Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan chaired the 35th Tri-services Commanders' Conference (TSTCC) at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.

NATIONAL

Decentralized Green Hydrogen Initiative



- ❖ The government has announced a ₹200-crore scheme for the implementation of pilot projects for the production and use of green hydrogen.
- ❖ It will use innovative methods or pathways in the residential, commercial, local community, decentralised or non-conventional applications”.
- ❖ The projects under this scheme includes floating solar-based green hydrogen production, biomass-based green hydrogen, and green hydrogen from waste water.
- ❖ Decentralised use of green hydrogen could include cooking, heating, off-grid electricity generation or powering off-road vehicles

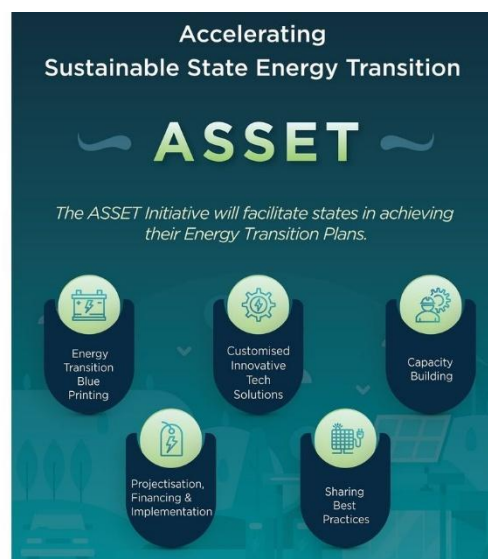
New Guidelines for Coaching Sector Ad

- ❖ The central Government has issued new guidelines aimed at curbing misleading advertisements by coaching institutes.

- ❖ These guidelines are developed by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- ❖ It is titled 'Prevention of Misleading Advertisement in the Coaching Sector'.
- ❖ They apply to all forms of advertising related to academic support, education, and guidance services but exclude sectors such as counselling, sports, and the arts.
- ❖ It specifically prohibiting false promises such as "100 per cent selection" or "100 per cent job security".
- ❖ Under these rules, coaching centres are barred from using the names, photos, or testimonials of successful candidates without their written consent.
- ❖ This written consent must be secured post-selection.



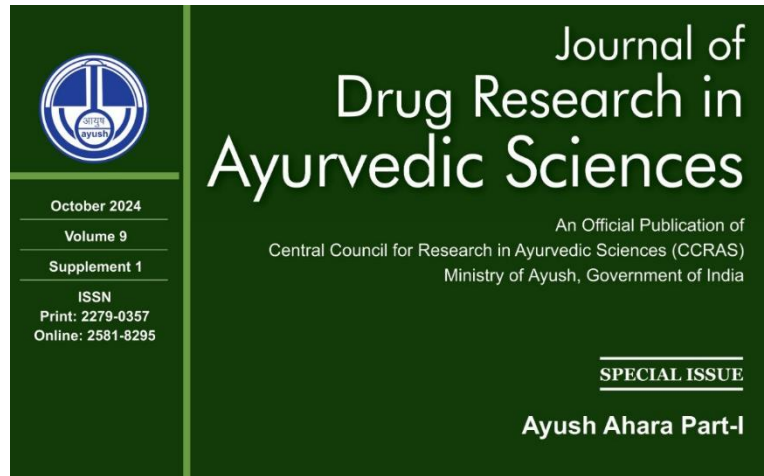
ASSET Platform



- ❖ A symposium was held on the "Green Transition in States" in New Delhi.
- ❖ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the ministry of power and the ministry of new and renewable energy, launched the ASSET platform.

- ❖ ASSET stands for 'Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition'.
- ❖ It aims to support states in accelerating their green transition.
- ❖ The platform will assist in formulating state energy transition blueprints along with aiding in its implementation.

Advancements - Ayurveda Aahara



- ❖ Ministry of Ayush launched a special edition of the Journal of Drug Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (JDRAS) dedicated to the emerging field of Ayurveda Aahara.
- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush had earlier introduced the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022.
- ❖ The Regulation defined "Ayurveda Aahara" as food prepared according to recipes, ingredients, or processes described in authoritative Ayurveda texts.
- ❖ This initiative safeguards the identity and authenticity of Ayurveda-based dietary practices, preserving the original principles of Ayurveda food preparation.

INTERNATIONAL

First Biodiversity and Nature Bond

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has issued its first biodiversity and nature theme bond.
- ❖ It aims to finance a pool of eligible projects across Asia and the Pacific.
- ❖ The A\$150 million (equivalent to US\$100 million), 10-year issue was purchased by the Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, of Japan.
- ❖ ADB is a founding partner of the Coral Triangle Initiative established in 2009.

- ❖ In 2023, ADB launched the Nature Solutions Finance Hub along with partners, as well as the Natural Capital Fund, in partnership with the Global Environment Facility.



8th South and South-West Asia Subregional Forum



- ❖ India chaired SDG 8 session on the progress of Decent Work & Economic Growth at the forum.
- ❖ This forum was co-hosted by NITI Aayog and UN ESCAP.
- ❖ India's unemployment rate down from 6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2022-23.
- ❖ Concurrently, the employment rate rose from 46.8% to 56% in the same period.
- ❖ The e-Shram portal has registered over 300 million workers in the unorganised sector.
- ❖ India has consolidated 29 labour laws into four simplified codes.

ECONOMY

Export restrictions in 2023

- ❖ Indian farmers were implicitly taxed \$120 billion in 2023, the highest among 54 countries, due to export bans, duties or other policies.

- ❖ Among analysed 54 countries, net support to farmers in India has been negative throughout the last two decades but fluctuated markedly.
- ❖ Budgetary transfers and subsidies were to the tune of \$10 billion.
- ❖ Overall, this led to a negative total market price support of \$110 billion.
- ❖ India had the highest negative price support, followed by Vietnam and Argentina.
- ❖ India's negative support had constituted 62.5 per cent of all such taxes globally in 2023.

TABLE 3 DISTRIBUTIONAL CHALLENGES AND MECHANISMS TO ADDRESS SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL DIVIDES BETWEEN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS ACTORS FOR TRANSFORMATION

Potential stakeholders	Distributional challenges	Barriers to addressing challenges	Local versus global	Today versus tomorrow	Mechanisms today for a sustainable and inclusive tomorrow
Primary producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiaries of hidden costs are spread throughout the value chain, but the burden of addressing hidden costs falls on producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymmetric power relations Polluters are not beneficiaries of abatement Difficulty in assessing who bears the risk and uncertain cost of change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental pollution with local impact versus global impact of GHG emissions Social hidden costs at primary production level versus cheaper products globally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hidden costs linked to flows with immediate impact (e.g. water shortages downstream in the same season) versus those linked to stocks (e.g. GHGs in the atmosphere, groundwater depletion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective action (e.g. cooperatives) can provide a greater say on sharing the burden of addressing social and environmental hidden costs Regulatory and financial frameworks to support the cost of transition Inclusive rural transformation to address social hidden costs
Food supply chain actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfair arbitrage Concentration of power and downward price pressure on suppliers Intertemporal trade-offs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty in determining who should contribute along the value chain for a fair solution Vulnerable groups lack access to decision-making processes Addressing hidden costs of tomorrow affects competitiveness of today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social hidden costs along value chains are more visible at local than global level Potential to externalize costs through imports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value chain actors tend to maximize profits in the short term, but also manage future risks Shorter time horizons than needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary standards ESG reporting Compliance with laws and regulations Labelling and certification Industry-wide coalitions to address hidden costs

Systemically Important Banks 2024



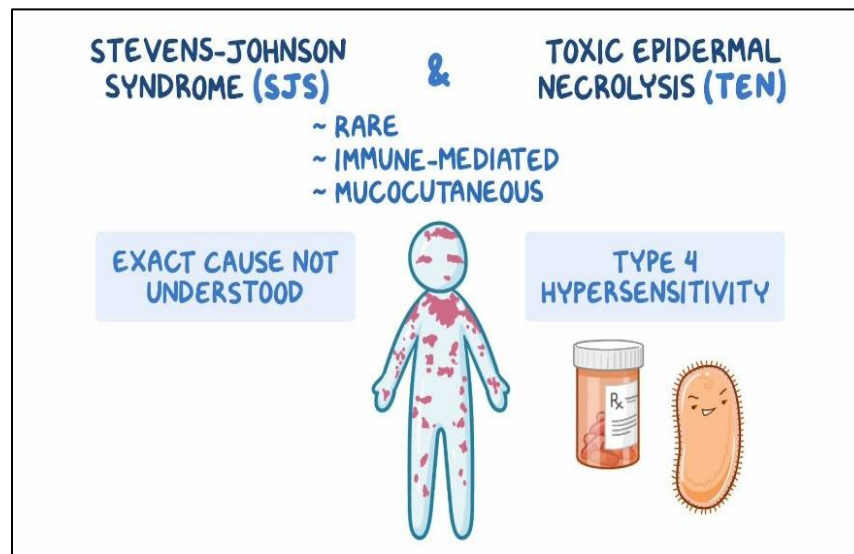
- ❖ The State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank remain classified by RBI as systemically important banks.
- ❖ SBI and HDFC Bank required to maintain additional capital buffers starting April 2025.
- ❖ Systemically important banks are those considered too big to fail due to their size and some other criteria.

- ❖ RBI had classified SBI and ICICI Bank as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) in 2015 and 2016, respectively.
- ❖ In 2017, HDFC Bank was also classified as a D-SIB.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis Treatment

- ❖ A team of researcher's collaboration found the new treatment approach for TEN.
- ❖ Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) is a rare but extremely severe adverse reaction to common medications or certain antibiotics.
- ❖ It causes widespread blistering and detachment of the skin.
- ❖ With a mortality rate of up to 30 percent, it rapidly transforms from a seemingly harmless rash into a life-threatening condition.

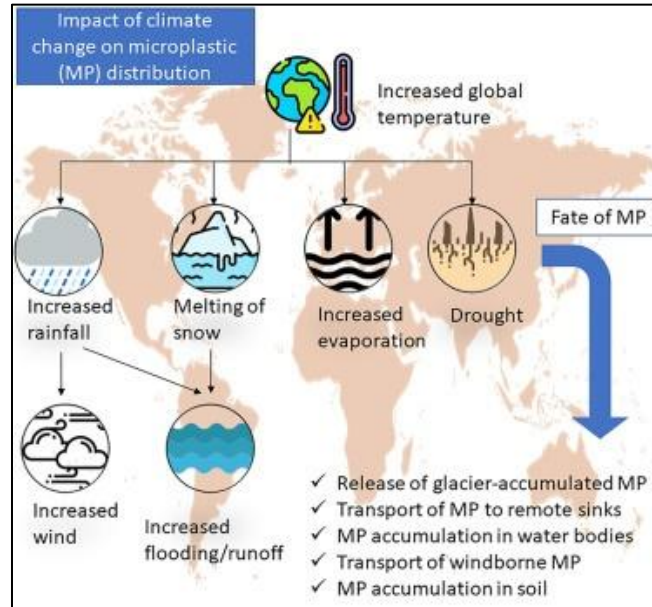


ENVIRONMENT

Microplastics and Weather and Climate Patterns

- ❖ Microplastics act as ice nucleating particles, microscopic aerosols that facilitate the formation of ice crystals in clouds.
- ❖ Microplastics found in clouds freeze at a warmer temperature.
- ❖ Cloud defects, such as the presence of microplastics, change how clouds form, impacting rainfall.

- ❖ This could have an impact on everything from thunderstorms to the global temperatures.
- ❖ This means microplastics could have an impact on precipitation patterns, weather forecasting, climate modelling and even aviation safety.



H5N1 in Elephant Seal

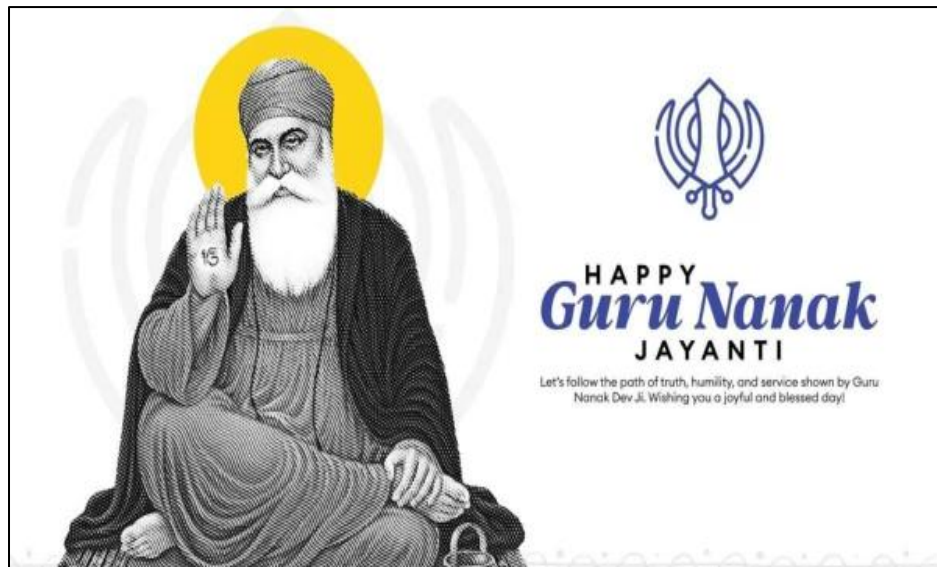


- ❖ The H5N1 strain of avian influenza has led to the deaths of over 17,000 elephant seals in a year.
- ❖ It had wiped out 95 per cent of the pups in 2023.
- ❖ The virus spread along the coasts of Peru and Chile between 2022 and 2023.
- ❖ It was transmitted by porpoises, dolphins and other marine mammals.

- ❖ The outbreak has severely impacted the breeding populations, particularly in Patagonia, Argentina.
- ❖ H5N1 (HPAI-highly pathogenic avian influenza) is a severe viral infection affecting birds and mammals.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Guru Nanak Jayanti 2024 – November 15



- ❖ It celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak.
- ❖ This year is marking the 555th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.
- ❖ He was born on April 15, 1469, at Rai Bhoi Ki Talwandi, near Lahore, the modern-day Pakistan.
- ❖ Guru Nanak is regarded as a spiritual teacher who founded Sikhism in the 15th century.
- ❖ He started writing the Guru Granth Sahib and completed 974 hymns.

International Day against Transnational Organized Crime 2024 - November 15

- ❖ This year marks the first-ever observation of this International Day.
- ❖ It aims to raise an awareness of the threats posed by all forms of transnational organized crime and to enhance international cooperation.
- ❖ This day highlights the urgent need for global solidarity to counter the rising threat of organized crime, which undermines peace, security and progress.

- ❖ The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly in 15 November 2000.
- ❖ Theme for 2024 is “It’s time we pull together to push back”.



MISCELLANEOUS

10 years of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)



- ❖ A decade ago, India became the first country to legally mandate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- ❖ Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 outlines the rules and regulations governing CSR.
- ❖ According to the National CSR Portal, from 2014 to 2023, Rs 1.84 lakh crore of CSR funds were disbursed.
- ❖ CSR is a means of corporates contributing directly for the welfare of the society through socio, economic, environmental contributions.
- ❖ Schedule VII (Sections 13) mentions activities that can be taken by companies in their Corporate Social Responsibility Policies.