

October - 21

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The State-owned BEML secures ₹866.87 Crore contract for 'Made in India' Bullet Trains.
- ❖ The Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) in the Nallamala Forest has been ranked first among India's 55 tiger reserves for its leopard population, with an estimated 360 leopards.
- ❖ National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah was sworn in as Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister.
- ❖ Indian woman scientist, Shubha Tole, has been appointed as the president-elect of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO).
- ❖ The Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution and urged the central government to withdraw the 2024 Waqf Amendment Bill.
- ❖ The Indian Army has rolled out its first overhauled T-90 Bhishma tank, further enhancing its operational readiness.
- ❖ According to UNICEF, the Indian suppliers are the third largest provider of the organisation's health and nutrition support to children globally.
- ❖ Global SWF has crowned Abu Dhabi with the title of world's richest country, in terms of its sovereign wealth funds.
- ❖ A new data from Indeed, reveals a 14% increase in cybersecurity jobs from September 2023 to September 2024 in India.
  - Bangalore leads the openings, with 10 per cent of listings, followed by Delhi NCR (4%), remote jobs (2.2%), and Hyderabad (2%). Mumbai ranks fifth with 2 per cent.

## NATIONAL

### Greenwashing Guidelines

- ❖ The Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Greenwashing or Misleading Environment Claims were issued by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- ❖ Its guidelines are limited to curbing greenwashing in advertisements of products or services.
- ❖ The new norms would complement the existing Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsement for Misleading Advertisements, framed in 2022.



- ❖ Greenwashing refers to the growing tendency of companies, organisations or even countries to make dubious or unverifiable claims about their activities, products or services being environment-friendly or climate-friendly.
- ❖ Generic terms like “clean”, “green”, “eco-friendly”, “good for planet”, “cruelty-free”, “carbon neutral”, “natural”, “organic”, “sustainable”, or similar other descriptions for a product would be allowed only if the company is able to substantiate these with evidence.

<p><b>Clear Definitions:</b> This provide clear definitions of terms related to greenwashing and environmental claims, ensuring that both businesses and consumers have a common understanding.</p>
<p><b>Transparency Requirements:</b> Manufacturers and service providers are required to substantiate their environmental claims with credible evidence. This includes providing detailed information on the methodology and data used to support such claims.</p>
<p><b>Prohibition of Misleading Terms:</b> The use of vague or misleading terms such as "eco-friendly," "green," and "sustainable" without proper substantiation is sought to be prohibited.</p>
<p><b>Third-Party Certifications:</b> Third-Party Certifications are also accepted in substantiation of environmental claims.</p>
<p><b>Adequate Disclosures:</b> The companies are required to provide clear and accessible disclosures of material information.</p>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **SCO Summit 2024 - Pakistan**

- ❖ Islamabad hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2024.
- ❖ The summit aims to address critical issues such as regional security, economic cooperation, and combating terrorism.
- ❖ India’s External Affairs Minister, alongside Prime Ministers from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran’s First Vice-President participated in the event.
- ❖ This is the first high-level visit by an Indian official to Pakistan in nearly nine years.

- ❖ SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international body founded on June 15, 2001, in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ The organisation expanded to nine member countries with the inclusion of India and Pakistan in 2017.



### Mount Adams eruption - USA



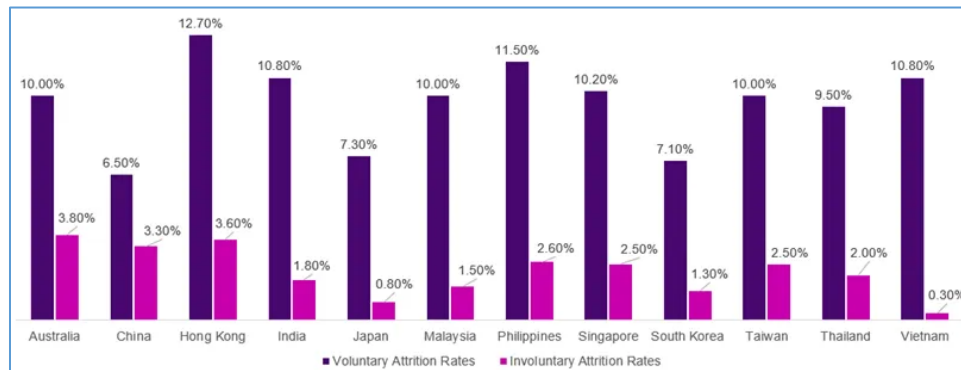
- ❖ The Mount Adams, Washington's largest volcano, has recently shown a surge in seismic activity after remaining largely dormant for thousands of years.

- ❖ Mount Adams has produced four lava flows within the last 12,000 years.
- ❖ The biggest concern is the possibility of lahars—mudflows composed of rock, ash, and ice.
- ❖ Notably, past lahars from Mount Adams reached considerable distances about 6,000 and 300 years ago.
- ❖ Due to the potential risks of these mudflows, Mount Adams is classified as a “high-threat” volcano.

## ECONOMY

### Salary Increase in 2025

- ❖ The median salary increase in India is forecasted to rise by 9.5 per cent in 2025, similar to the 2024 actual salary increase of 9.5%.
- ❖ India continues to be the highest across the region.
- ❖ The others like Vietnam (7.6%), Indonesia (6.5%), the Philippines (5.6%), China (5%) and Thailand (5%) are also projected to maintain a strong salary increase for next year.
- ❖ Almost 28% of companies plan to add headcount in the next 12 months.
- ❖ While 68% companies will maintain their headcount in 2025 as compared to the previous year.
- ❖ The voluntary attrition rates in India have reduced slightly from 11% in 2023 to 10.8% in 2024.

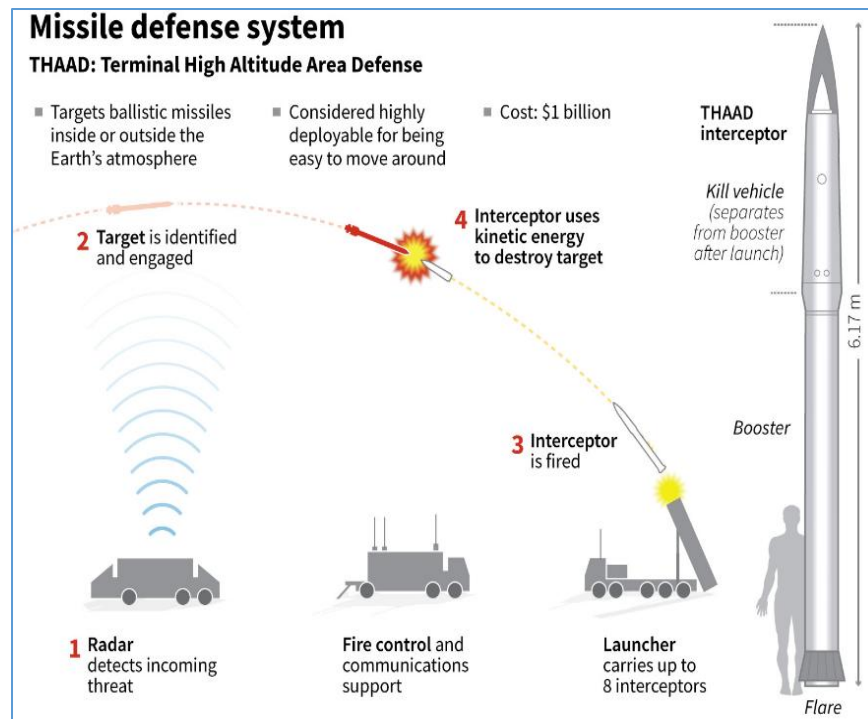


## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### THAAD Missile Defense System

- ❖ The USA is sent its advanced missile defence system THAAD, along with troops to operate it, to Israel.

- ❖ THAAD stands for Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence.
- ❖ The battery is used to intercept and destroy enemy missiles.
- ❖ A THAAD battery consists of 95 soldiers, six truck-mounted launchers, 48 interceptors (eight per launcher), radar surveillance and radar.
- ❖ It is rapidly deployable capability against short-range (up to 1,000 km), medium-range (1,000–3,000 km).
- ❖ It has limited intermediate-range (3,000–5,000 km) ballistic missile threats inside or outside the atmosphere during their final (terminal) phase of flight.

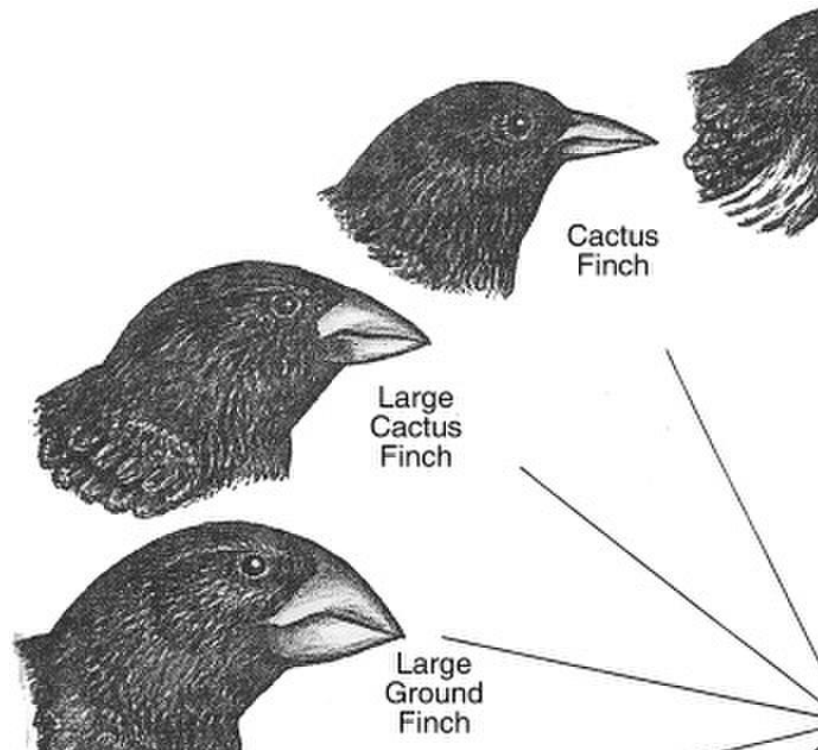


## ENVIRONMENT

### Darwin's Finches

- ❖ The Scientists have revealed that just six consecutive droughts can lead to the emergence of a new species of finch in the Galapagos islands.
- ❖ The physical changes in birds caused by extreme events "provide a pathway" for a new finch species to form.
- ❖ The Galapagos, an Ecuadorian province, is renowned for its diverse finch population, collectively known as Darwin's finches.
- ❖ This is due to their role in helping British naturalist Charles Darwin understand evolution by natural selection.

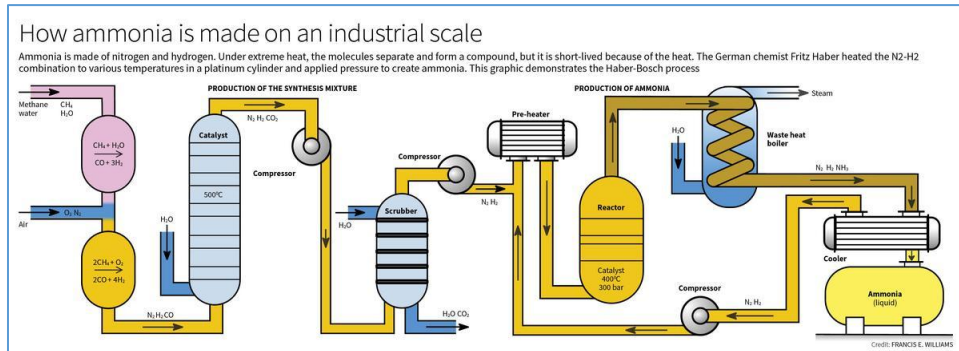
- ❖ Darwin's finches are a group encompassing roughly 18 different passerine bird species.
- ❖ They are noted for their remarkable variation in beak size and functionality.



### **Haber-Bosch Process**

- ❖ A hundred million tonnes of nitrogen are now removed from the atmosphere and converted into fertilizer via the Haber-Bosch process.
- ❖ This is adding 165 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen to the soil.
- ❖ To compare, biological processes replenish an estimated 100-140 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen every year.
- ❖ Engineering by BASF's Carl Bosch turned Haber's tabletop setup into an industrial process to produce fertilizer.
- ❖ Five years after Haber et al.'s accomplishment, BASF opened its first ammonia factory in 1913.
- ❖ The Haber-Bosch method has allowed industries to develop cheap synthetic fertilizers.
- ❖ It was a critical component in the sevenfold rise in the world's food supply during the 20th century.

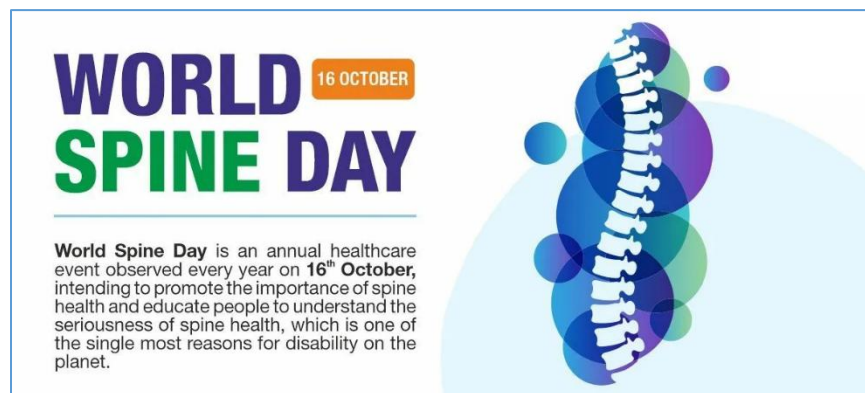
- ❖ A century ago, the average lifespan at birth of an Indian was only 19 years, compared to 67+ years today.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Spine Day 2024 - October 16

- ❖ It aims to raising awareness about spinal health and the prevention of spinal disorders.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2012 as part of the Bone and Joint Decade.
- ❖ The spine is the backbone and the central support structure of the body, which supports basic activities like sitting, standing, walking, twisting and bending.
- ❖ Around 100 crores globally suffer from back pain and spinal-related issues.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Support Your Spine.”



### International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2024 - October 17

- ❖ The day tries to promote the dialogue and understanding about poverty within governments and policymakers.

- ❖ On this day in 1987 over 100,000 people assembled at the Trocadero in Paris to commemorate victims of poverty, hunger, violence and fear.
- ❖ In December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared this day.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment Acting together for just, peaceful and inclusive societies.”



### **Police Commemoration Day 2024 - October 21**

- ❖ The day marks the sacrifice of 10 CRPF men who lost their lives to a Chinese attack in 1959.
- ❖ A police contingent comprising CRPF and ITBF personnel were killed by Chinese troops in an ambush in the Hot Springs area near Ladakh.
- ❖ Hot Spring in Aksai Chin in Ladakh is situated between 15,000 and 16,000 ft above the sea level on the Indo-Tibet border.

