



October - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first 18.4-kilometre-long BRTS elevated corridor is proposed from Kilambakkam to Mahindra World City on the Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu became the first woman head of state of India to offer prayers at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple.
 - She is the second Indian President to visit the shrine after President V. V. Giri's pilgrimage.
- ❖ The International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (IDICH) is observed annually on October 17 to promote awareness of preserving the world's living heritage since 2023.
- ❖ World Trauma Day is observed every year on October 17th to raise awareness about the trauma, which often results from road accidents, falls, and violence.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Real-Time Flood Forecast System

Chennai Gets First Real-Time Flood Alert System

Chennai now has the first real-time flood forecast and spatial decision support system to help residents stay safe. The RTFF & SDSS covers rivers, lakes, drains, and flood-prone areas like Pulianthope, Nungambakkam, Velachery, and Meenambakkam. It provides street-level flood forecasts across Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, and Ranipet. Updates will be shared directly with the public through the TN-ALERT App, helping people plan travel and avoid waterlogged areas.

- ❖ Chennai has become the first Indian city to get a real-time flood forecast and spatial decision support system (RTFF & SDSS).
- ❖ The ₹107.2 crore project provides river and street-level inundation forecasts for vulnerable areas.

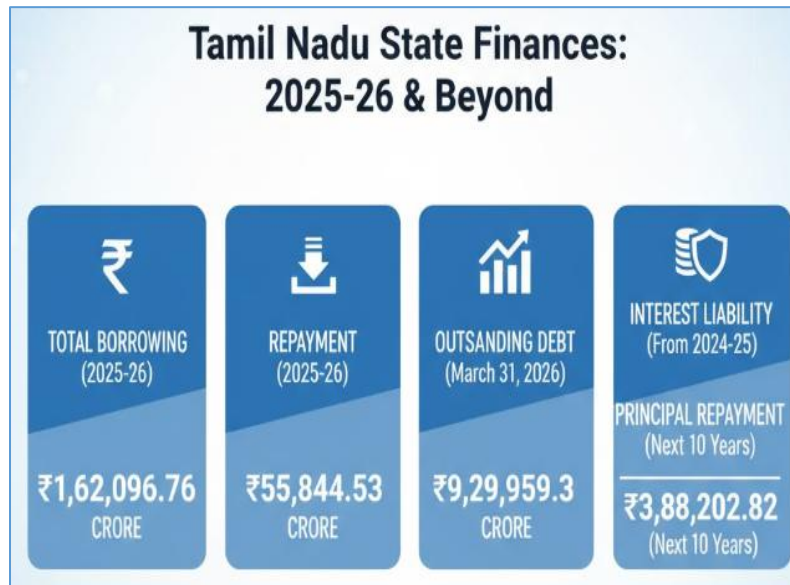


- ❖ The system covers about 4,974 sq km, including Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, and Ranipet districts.
- ❖ It monitors the Adyar, Cooum, Kosasthalaiyar, and Kovalam river sub-basins.
- ❖ The RTFF & SDSS is fully integrated with TNSMART, the State's disaster management platform.
- ❖ Forecasts will be shared with key government agencies and select updates through the TN-Alert mobile app.

Total liabilities of Tamilnadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Financial Responsibility and Budget Management Act (TNFR Act), 2003, defines total liabilities as "liabilities under the Consolidated Fund of the State and the Public Account of the State".
- ❖ The borrowings made by the corporations/agencies for implementing various State-planned programmes are not captured in its financial accounts.
- ❖ These borrowings indirectly add to the liabilities of the State.
- ❖ For State-planned programmes, the principal and the interest are paid by the State government.
- ❖ To curb off-budget borrowings and bring fiscal discipline among States, with effect from FY 2021-22, borrowings made by 'State-owned entities', where principal and/or interest is serviced through State Budgets and/or assignment of taxes/cess or any other State's revenue, are factored in for the purpose of issuance of borrowing consent to State governments.
- ❖ This was done considering the effect of some States bypassing the Net Borrowing Ceiling using off-budget borrowings.
- ❖ States, including Tamil Nadu, raise funds through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs).
- ❖ The auction for the bonds is conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The bonds are issued for various tenures and States have to repay the principal along with interest on maturity. SDLs form a major part of Tamil Nadu's outstanding liabilities.
- ❖ The Union government fixes the borrowing ceiling for States. The borrowing ceiling is 3% of the projected Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2025-26.
- ❖ An additional borrowing of 0.5% of the GSDP is allowed for States, contingent on them undertaking electricity distribution reforms and augmentation of intra-state transmission capacity.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow a total amount of ₹1,62,096.76 crore during 2025-26 and make a repayment of ₹55,844.53 crore.

- ❖ As a result, the outstanding borrowing as on March 31, 2026 will be ₹9,29,959.3 crore, as per the State Budget for 2025-26.
- ❖ According to the CAG report, the State's liability on account of interest would be ₹29,159.18 crore from 2024-25 onwards.
- ❖ And the principal amount would be ₹3,88,202.82 crore on outstanding market loans over the next 10 years.



Kurinji flowers in Gudalur



WHERE ARE THEY FOUND IN INDIA
Mainly in **Western Ghats** of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka including Ooty and Munnar.

SPECIES FOUND IN INDIA
Around **46 varieties** of Neelakurinji have been identified, as per records.
Of all the identified varieties, **not all have the blooming cycles of 12 years. For some species it may range from one year to 16 years.**

- ❖ Kurinji (*Strobilanthes sessilis*) has bloomed in Gudalur's newly notified reserve forest after eight years.

- ❖ The flowering signals the revival of grasslands in the Western Ghats and reflects changing climate patterns.
- ❖ The species sessilis blooms once in 8 years, unlike the neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), which blooms once in 12 years.
- ❖ Botanists have identified 33 kurinji varieties in the Nilgiris, varying in shades of purple, blue, white, and pink.

NATIONAL NEWS

FSSAI Bans Use of ORS



- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) prohibited the use of the term "ORS" (Oral Rehydration Solution) in the branding of beverages.
- ❖ This decision was made to prevent misleading claims regarding the health benefits of certain beverages.
- ❖ The order applies to all beverage manufacturers and marketers across India.
- ❖ Companies found in violation of this directive may face penalties under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

New Projects for NMPA

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways inaugurated the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA).

- ❖ Eight major maritime development projects were launched to enhance port infrastructure, logistics efficiency, and sustainability.
- ❖ NMPA currently handles 46.01 million tonnes of cargo annually with a total capacity of 104 million tonnes per annum.
- ❖ Under the Sagarmala Programme, 840 projects worth ₹5.8 lakh crore are planned by 2035; 272 projects worth ₹1.41 lakh crore are completed.



- ❖ The eight projects launched include:
 - Construction of two covered storage sheds with a total capacity of 14,000 metric tonnes.
 - Development of a dedicated cruise gate for international tourists.
 - Modification of KK Gate entrance and exit with RFID-enabled cargo handling, Customs, and CISF facilities.
 - Expansion of truck parking terminal at Customs House with capacity for 50 to 80 trucks per day.
 - Construction of a 675-meter Pre-Qualified Contractor (PQC) road with drainage facilities at the MDL Yard.
 - Development of a truck parking terminal covering 20,000 square meters at Baikampady with capacity for 180 to 200 trucks.
 - Establishment of a 150-bed multi-speciality hospital under public-private partnership mode with ₹107 crore investment.
 - Launch of a dedicated medical app for hospital beneficiaries.

- ❖ Sustainability is emphasized with initiatives like Harit Sagar Guidelines, Green Tug Transition Programme, and Green Shipping Corridors.

Women-Centric UPI - LxmePay

- ❖ Lxme, India's leading financial platform for women, has launched LxmePay, the country's first Unified Payments Interface (UPI) exclusively for women.
- ❖ LxmePay rewards users with digital gold on every transaction, including money received from other LxmePay users.
- ❖ The app offers smart expense tracking, automated insights, and monthly alerts to help women manage budgets efficiently.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

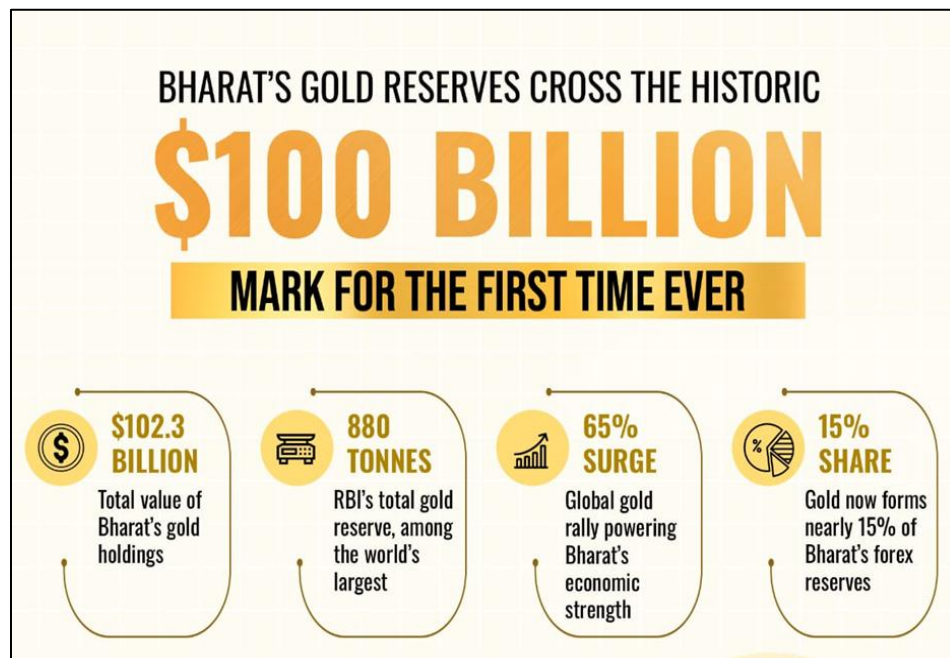
Abolition of the Kafala system

- ❖ Saudi Arabia ended its 50-year-old Kafala sponsorship system in a major labor reform in 2025.
- ❖ The system gave employers control over workers' residency, legal status, and job changes.
- ❖ Around 1.34 crore migrant workers, including many Indians, are expected to benefit.
- ❖ Workers can now change jobs without employer approval and leave the country without exit visas.



ECONOMY NEWS

India's Gold Reserves 2025

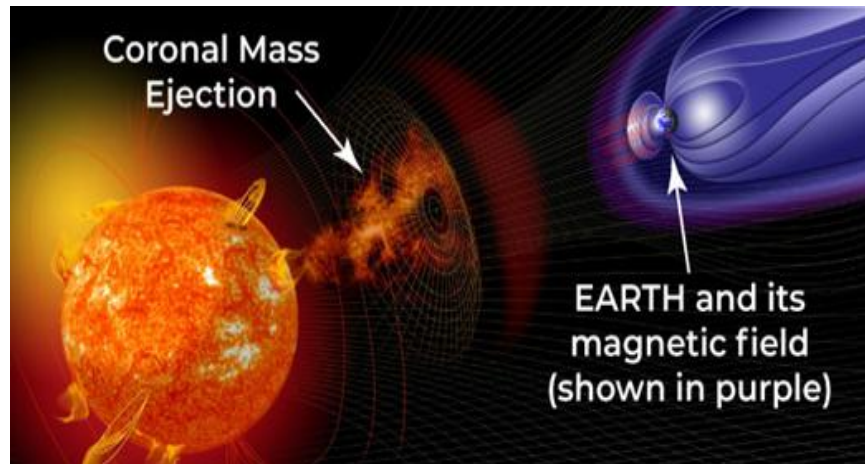


- ❖ India's gold reserves surpassed the \$100 billion mark for the first time, reaching \$102.37 billion as of October 10, 2025.

- ❖ RBI has reported a slight decrease in overall foreign exchange reserves to \$697.78 billion.
- ❖ Foreign currency assets dropped by \$5.61 billion to \$572.10 billion, driving the overall decline in forex reserves.
- ❖ Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) decreased to \$18.68 billion.
- ❖ India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell by \$36 million to \$4.63 billion.
- ❖ Gold's share in India's forex reserves is at its highest level in 20 years, boosted by a \$3.60 billion increase in gold value.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

PUNCH mission



- ❖ NASA's PUNCH mission (2025) revealed solar wind dynamics.
- ❖ PUNCH stands for Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere.
- ❖ It studies the solar corona and solar wind as a single, connected system.
- ❖ The mission captures detailed images of solar wind, making invisible phenomena visible.
- ❖ Solar wind consists of charged particles emitted from the Sun's outer atmosphere.
- ❖ PUNCH operates during the ongoing solar maximum, a phase of high solar activity.
- ❖ This phase includes increased sunspots, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections.
- ❖ The mission helps improve forecasting of space weather and its effects on Earth.

- ❖ Solar storms can disrupt satellites, GPS, power grids, and communication systems.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Mosquitoes Found in Iceland

- ❖ Mosquitoes have been discovered in Iceland for the first time in recorded history.
- ❖ Three specimens of the cold-tolerant *Culiseta annulata* were found in Kjos Valley near Hvalfjörður.
- ❖ Scientists link the discovery to climate change and the northward spread of cold-adapted insect species.
- ❖ With this discovery, Antarctica remains the only mosquito-free continent on Earth.

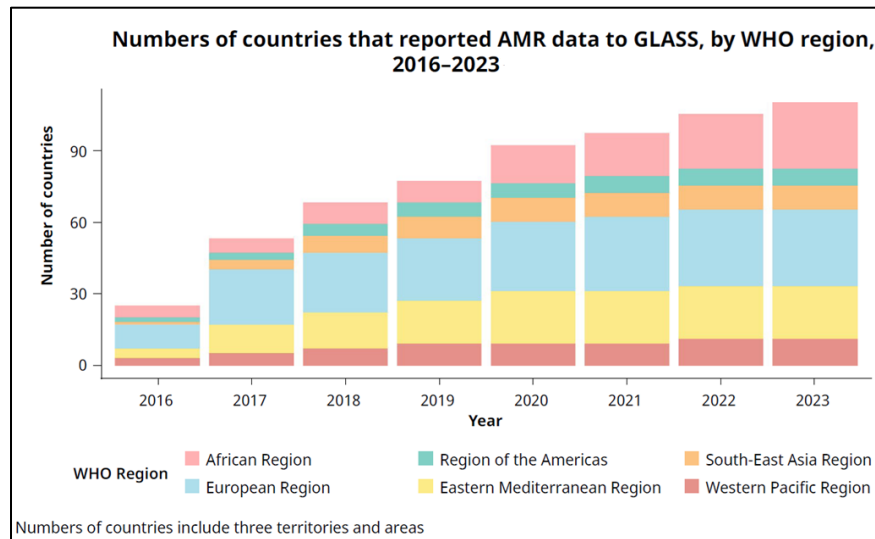


REPORTS AND INDICES

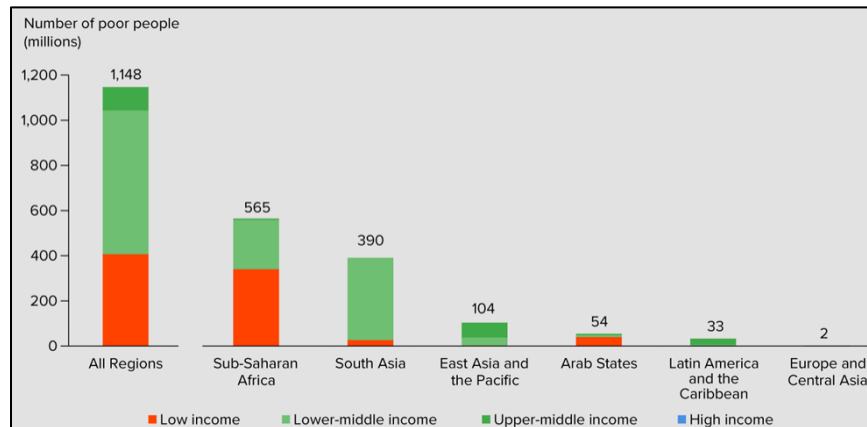
Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report 2025

- ❖ The report was released by WHO.
- ❖ Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens global health by reducing the effectiveness of lifesaving treatments.
- ❖ WHO's Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) helps countries build surveillance systems and collect standardized data.

- ❖ In 2023, 104 countries reported over 23 million confirmed cases of bloodstream, urinary tract, gastrointestinal infections, and urogenital gonorrhoea.
- ❖ The report provides adjusted global and regional AMR estimates for 93 infection-pathogen-antibiotic combinations in 2023.
- ❖ It tracks resistance trends from 2018 to 2023 for 16 key pathogen-antibiotic combinations.
- ❖ The report introduces a scoring system to evaluate national data completeness and recommends actions to strengthen AMR surveillance worldwide.



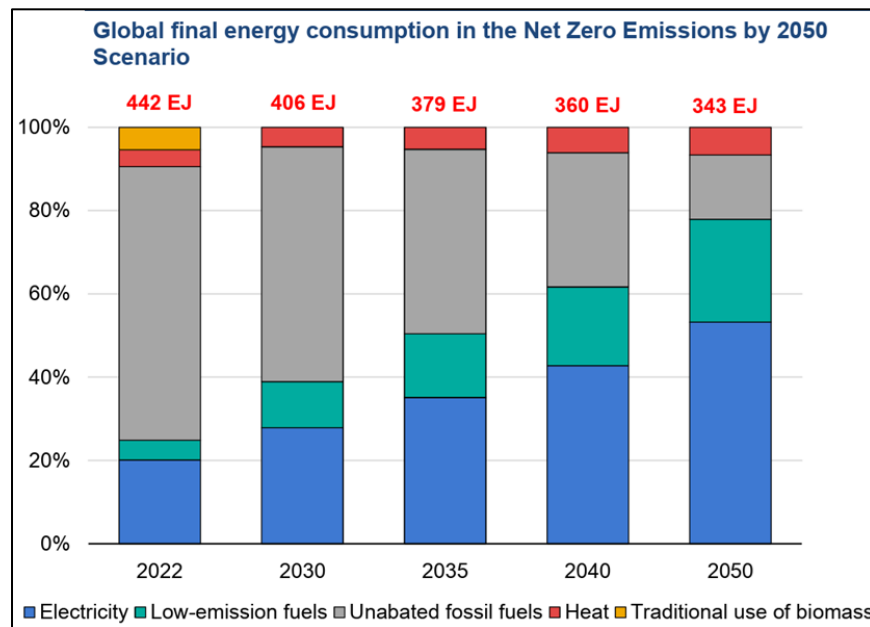
Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2025



- ❖ UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) released the Report titled “Overlapping Hardships: Poverty and Climate Hazards.”
- ❖ The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measures acute poverty across health, education, and standard of living beyond income alone.

- ❖ The 2025 report covers 109 countries and finds 1.1 billion people, or 18.3 percent, live in acute multidimensional poverty.
- ❖ Nearly 43.6 percent of the poor, about 501 million people, experience severe poverty with deprivations in at least half of the MPI indicators.
- ❖ Children, making up 33.6 percent of the global population, represent 51 percent of all multidimensionally poor individuals.
- ❖ Middle-income countries house 740 million poor people, nearly two-thirds of the global poor population.
- ❖ About 80 percent of the poor live in regions exposed to climate hazards such as droughts, floods, or extreme heat, adding environmental risk to deprivation.
- ❖ India reduced multidimensional poverty from 55.1 percent in 2005-06 to 16.4 percent in 2019-21, lifting over 414 million people out of poverty.
- ❖ Nearly 99 percent of India's poor live in climate-vulnerable regions exposed to heatwaves, floods, and pollution.

IEA report on Sustainable Fuels 2025



- ❖ The report titled “Towards Common Criteria for Sustainable Fuels” was released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ❖ Sustainable fuel use could quadruple by 2035, says the IEA.
- ❖ Biofuels, biogases, and low-emissions hydrogen are essential to cut fossil fuel reliance in transport and industry.

- ❖ Sustainable fuels already reduce global oil demand by 2.5 million barrels per day as of 2024.
- ❖ Liquid biofuels currently account for 4% of global transport energy demand, with biogases and hydrogen growing.
- ❖ Countries like Brazil use renewable fuels for nearly 10% of total energy consumption.
- ❖ By 2035, sustainable fuels could supply 10% of road transport, 15% of aviation, and 35% of shipping fuel demand globally.
- ❖ Cumulative investments in sustainable fuels may reach USD 1.5 trillion by 2035, generating nearly 2 million new jobs.

Global Pension Index 2025



- ❖ This Mercer CFA Institute's Index ranked 52 countries based on their pension systems.
- ❖ The Netherlands topped the index with a score of 85.4 and an overall grade A.
- ❖ India ranked 52nd with a score of 43.8 and a grade D, the lowest in the report.
- ❖ The index assesses pension systems on adequacy, sustainability, and integrity.
- ❖ Singapore became the first Asian country to achieve a grade A with a score of 80.0.
- ❖ The report also highlighted challenges in India such as low workforce participation and fragmented pension schemes.

- ❖ New countries like Kuwait, Namibia, Oman, and Panama were added to the 2025 index.

SPORTS NEWS

Cape Verde in Football World Cup

- ❖ Cape Verde has secured its first-ever qualification for the FIFA World Cup by defeating Eswatini.
- ❖ The island nation, with a population of 600,000, is now one of nine African teams headed to the 2026 World Cup in North America.
- ❖ Cape Verde is the second-smallest country ever to qualify after Iceland.

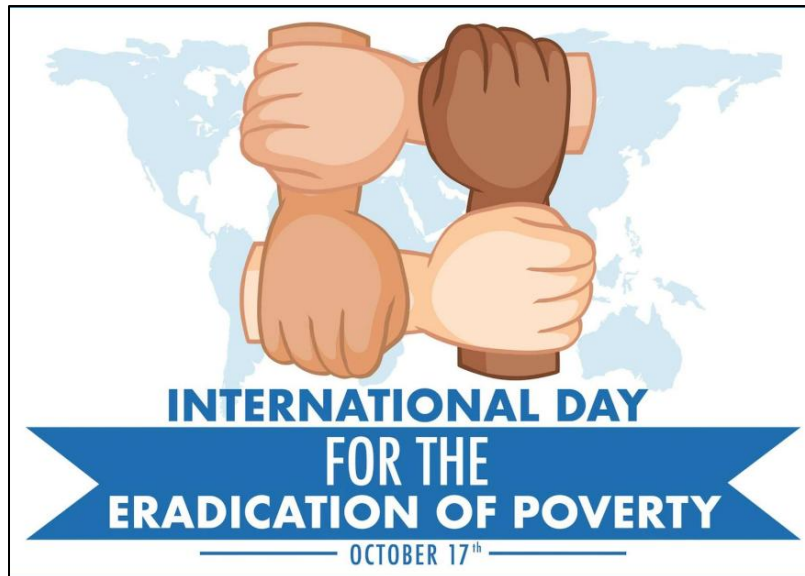


IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – October 17

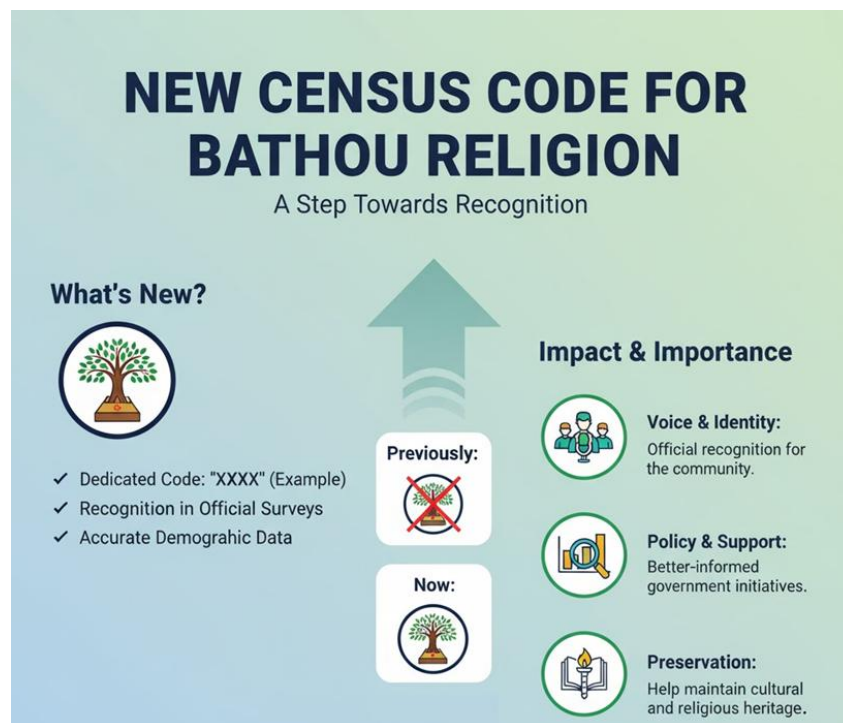
- ❖ On this day in 1987, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger.
- ❖ They proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirmed the need to come together to ensure that these rights are respected.

- ❖ On 22 December 1992, the UN General Assembly declared this day.
- ❖ This year's theme: Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

New Census Code for Bathou Religion





- ❖ The ancient Bathou religion of the Bodo community in Assam will receive a separate code in the upcoming Indian census.
- ❖ This decision grants official national recognition to the Bathou faith for the first time.
- ❖ Bathou religion is based on the five elements: fire, air, earth, sky, and water.
- ❖ Census enumerators will record religion as reported by the respondents, including Bathou.

