

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The first "Global Conference of The International Co-operative Alliance" was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❖ The book, 'Beyond the Higgs Boson: The W Boson and Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal's Quest for the Unknown' is authored by Manik Kotwal and translated by Jerry Pinto.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh's famous Narasapuram lace craft has bagged the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Industrialist and Essar Group Chairman Shashikant Ruia passed away.
- ❖ Ashoka University's Professor Projit Bihari Mukharji was awarded 2024 Pfizer Award for Groundbreaking Book "Brown Skins, White Coats: Race Science in India, 1920–66".
- ❖ India has inaugurated its first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh.
- Hindalco has been ranked the world's most sustainable aluminium company in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) for five consecutive years- 2020 -2024.
- ❖ The famous Chinar boat race 2024 was organised in J&K's Dal Lake by the Indian Army.
- ❖ The 6th meeting of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement Joint Committee held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 91st General Council meeting of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Chemical Council (ICC) has been honoured with the 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Health Pavilion, themed 'One Health', has received the Special Appreciation Medal at the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF), held at New Delhi.
- ❖ India's Divith Reddy (8) from Hyderabad has emerged as the champion in the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship, held at Albania.
- ❖ The International Gita Mahotsay 2024 is held in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has established a permanent hub for the National Security Guard (NSG) in Jammu City to ensure rapid response in the event of a major militant attack.
- ❖ The World Crafts Council (WCC) has announced the 'Seal of Authenticity of the Craft' will certify handmade crafts produced with centuries-old processes in J&K.





- ❖ Eva, a pet cat, has become the first animal to be brought into India through the Kochi international airport in Kerala after a dedicated Animal Quarantine Certification Service (AQCS) was inaugurated in October 2024 at the airport.
- ❖ The world's oldest man, Briton John Tinniswood (112) of UK, passed away recently.
 - o Presently, the world's oldest living person is Tomiko Itooka of Japan, aged 116.
- ❖ A modern milk powder plant is coming up at an estimated cost of ₹150 crore at Padalur in Perambalur district.
- Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has recognized Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine (SHKT) technology under the Hydro Category.
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture organized the commemoration program for 125th birth anniversary of Utkal Keshari Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab.
- ❖ Emily Calandrelli, an MIT-trained engineer and future Blue Origin astronaut, recently made history after she became the 100th woman to venture into space.
- ❖ Australia has enacted a nationwide ban on social media for those under 16, aimed at protecting young people's mental health.
 - o It is the first such country in the World to enact this law.
- ❖ India has secured its re-election to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the 2025-2026 term.
- ❖ Indian Economic historian Amiya Kumar Bagchi passed away recently.
 - o He is known for his book Private Investment in India 1900-1939.
- ❖ The 13th National Seed Congress (NSC) 2024 was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The BCCI's secretary Jay Shah took charge as the chairman of the International Cricket Council, becoming youngest ever and the fifth Indian to head the global body.
- ❖ The first round of the India-Japan Dialogue on Economic Security, including Strategic Trade and Technology, was held recently in Tokyo.
- ❖ The Singapore Army and the Indian Army conducted the 13th edition of Exercise Agni Warrior (XAW) 2024, in Devlali, Maharashtra in India.
- Gujarat's handicraft, 'Gharchola,' has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ India has signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance to fund USD 2 million in solar projects across Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles.
- The fifth edition of Indo-Vietnam Joint Field Training Exercise, VINBAX-2024 was held in Chandigarh, Punjab.





- ❖ The 12th edition of International Tourism Mart (ITM) was held in Kaziranga, Assam.
- ❖ The 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police was held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The national postal exhibition BIPEX-2024 was held in Patna, Bihar.
- ❖ Maharashtra government received the prestigious SKOCH Award for its initiative 'Shaasan Aplya Daari' (Government at your doorstep).
- ❖ India has hosted the 13th Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM) for the Asia-Pacific region at New Delhi.
- ❖ The President-elect Donald Trump has nominated the Indian-origin Kash Patel to serve as the next director of the FBI.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has named the Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin as the ex-officio vice-chairperson of the State Planning Commission.
- ❖ The UNICEF has mentioned two of SCARF's programmes Prevention and Early Intervention for Psychosis (PEPP) and Resource Centre for Youth Mental Health Services (rYMs) in its documents.
- ❖ The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024 took place in IIT Guwahati under the theme of "Transforming India into an S&T-driven Global Manufacturing Hub."
- ❖ The Indian Army launched an online learning platform for the Indian Army nicknamed as "Eklavya" to improve the professional education and training of Indian Army officers.
- ❖ The Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was declared as a tiger reserve.
 - o It is Madhya Pradesh 8th tiger reserve as well as India's 57th Tiger reserve.
- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the designation of Madhav National Park in Shivpuri district in Madhya Pradesh as a Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The UNESCO has recognized West Bengal as a leading destination for heritage tourism, highlighting the state's progress in developing religious, heritage, and tea tourism.
- ❖ The International Volunteer Day, commonly known as IVD, is celebrated on 5 December every year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has bagged an award at the FICCI Turf 2024-14th International Sports Conference and Awards for being the 'Best State in Promoting Sports'.
- ❖ A six-time National champion and an Arjuna Awardee Brigadier Raj Manchanda, the `Old Fox' of Indian squash, passed away.





- Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has made history by becoming only the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the prestigious 2800 ELO rating barrier in classical chess.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government declared the Maha Kumbh area as a new district ahead of the 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela.
- ❖ Nurse Maria Victoria Juan from Philippines, a Consultant at Philippines Army Health Services, has been announced as the winner of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that 81 cases of polio have been recorded in Afghanistan and Pakistan since the beginning of this year.
- ❖ Jasleen Kaur, a Glasgow-born Scottish Sikh artist of Indian heritage, has won the prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her exhibition 'Alter Altar'.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Tourism has allocated ₹169.9 crore for developing Nandavanam Heritage Park in Mamallapuram and the Garden of Flowers in Devala in Ooty under its Scheme for Special Assistance to States for the Capital Expenditure.
- ❖ Devendra Fadnavis sworn in as Maharashtra Chief Minister for the third time.
- ❖ The United States has approved a possible \$1.17 billion deal to sell India support equipment for MH-60R multi-role helicopters under its Foreign Military Sales programme.
- ❖ The Indian men's junior hockey team defeated Pakistan secure their fifth Junior Asia Cup title 2024 (held at Oman) and their third consecutive championship.
- ❖ The fourth edition of the India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise, Harimau Shakti 2024 is being held in Malaysia.
- ❖ 9th International Conference on Waste to Worth was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at New Delhi.
- ❖ India's Pavan Kampelli has made history by securing a bronze medal in eFootball at the 2024 Asian Esports Games held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ Chandigarh becomes the first city in India to fully implement the country's 3 new criminal laws.
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), aimed at empowering rural India with digital literacy, trained 6.39 crore individuals, surpassing its target of 6 crore by March 31, 2024.
- ❖ The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) was held in New Delhi.
- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has organised a two day global India Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme in association with World Bank in New Delhi.





- ❖ The Uber has launched its Shikara (small boats) services on Dal Lake in Srinagar, to improve eco-tourism and heritage transportation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ India and the UK have sealed a framework agreement to co-design and coproduce electric propulsion systems to be used in futuristic warships.
- ❖ Nepal and China signed the execution framework for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Beijing.
- ❖ The 16th GRIHA Summit, organized by GRIHA Council was held in New Delhi, with the theme "Accelerating Climate Action in the Built Environment".
- ❖ Inland Waterways Authority of India's Intermodal Terminal (IMT) at Kalughat in Bihar has received five-star SVAGRIHA rating from GRIHA council.
- ❖ Delhi chief minister inaugurated an underground shooting range at the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Bhawan in Rohini.
- ❖ Pooja Sharma, who has performed funeral rites for over 4000 people, has been named on BBC's list of 100 inspiring and influential women across the globe for the year 2024.
 - o Aruna Roy and Vinesh Phogat from India have made to the list.
- ❖ Kamarajar port (Ennore), India's first corporatised major port celebrated its silver jubilee recently.
- ❖ The Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) Sangathan has announced the establishment of its First school in Theni.
- ❖ India's EPFO was honored with the prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024 for its continuous efforts to reform and enhance social security systems in the country.
- ❖ The 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was held in Republic of Paraguay.
- ❖ The 5th Edition of Vietnam Indian Bilateral Army Exercise "VINBAX 2024" was held at Ambala, Haryana.
- ❖ The General Council of the WTO agreed to reappoint Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General for a second four-year term.
 - o She is the first woman and first African (Nigeria) to hold this position.
- ❖ Professor Thomas Eugene Kurtz, co-inventor of the BASIC programming language, has passed away recently.
- ❖ SBI Card announced that the number of its credit cards in circulation has surpassed 20 million.
 - o Earlier in January 2024, HDFC Bank had achieved the milestone of 20 million cards in force.
- ❖ The Assam Forest Department captured the first photographic evidence of a Royal Bengal Tiger in Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary.





- RBI plans to enable Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to offer pre-approved credit lines via UPI.
- ❖ India has co-sponsored a UN General Assembly draft resolution that was unanimously adopted to proclaim December 21 as World Meditation Day.
- ❖ The Fertiliser producer IFFCO, which has introduced nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP, has now developed nano NPK nutrient.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has adopted a resolution in the Legislative Assembly urging the Union government to immediately cancel the tungsten mining rights granted to Hindustan Zinc Limited in Nayakkarpatti village, Melur taluk, in Madurai district.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has released a book titled 'Sattamandra Nayakar Kalaignar', a compilation of important speeches of the late leader M Karunanidhi delivered in the state Assembly.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has temporarily suspended the initiative to radio-collar individual Nilgiri tahr in the State as part of Project Nilgiri Tahr.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister visited Vaikom in Kerala and share dais with Kerala CM at the valedictory of the Vaikom Satyagraha centenary celebrations.
 - o During his visit, he inaugurated a memorial to 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy and a library renovated by the Tamil Nadu's Public Works Department.
- ❖ ICAR-CIFA developed the "Rangeen Machhli" app which provides multilingual information on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages.
- ❖ IndiGo was named the '2024 Airline of the Year' by CAPA Centre for Aviation (CAPA) at its 2024 Global Aviation Awards for Excellence.
- Sanjay Malhotra, 56, officially assumed office as the 26th governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term.
- ❖ Bangladesh won their second consecutive title beating the India in U-19 Asia Cup Final 2024.
- ❖ Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) won two prestigious awards at the 3rd PSU Transformation Awards 2024.
- ❖ The Supreme Court impleaded ASI and the UNESCO's Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in a plea filed for the restoration of two heritage buildings in Mysore city.
 - o The plea has sought the restoration of the Devaraja Market building and Lansdowne Building in Mysore city.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a Bill that seeks to include a member of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department in the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission.





- ❖ IIT Madras has completed a 410-meter India's First Hyperloop Test Track.
- ❖ The first-ever Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav was held in New Delhi to offer a dynamic stage for showcasing Northeast India's products.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 28 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) across the country.
- ❖ Gujarat signed a MoU with Thailand-based Bodhigaya Vijjalaya 980 Institute to conserve and promote places of Buddhist heritage.
- ❖ The 4th Mekong Ganga Dhamma Yatra was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ India has been chosen to Chair the 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).
- ❖ The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has unveiled an Air Quality Dashboard, a public platform offering real-time and forecasted data on air pollution.
- ❖ Merriam-Webster dictionary announced 'Polarization' as Word of the Year 2024.
- ❖ Aarit Kapil (9) from Delhi has defeated Grandmaster Raset Ziatdinov in a classical chess match at the KIIT International Open and become the youngest Indian and third youngest globally to achieve this feat.
- ❖ Hyderabad has been chosen as the site for India's first Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC).
 - o This the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region, and only the 5th globally.
- ❖ Every year on December 11th, International Mountain Day is observed to increase awareness of the value of mountains in preserving the ecological balance of the globe and promoting human well-being.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government would begin observing U. V. Swaminathar's birthday, which falls on February 19, as Tamil Literary Renaissance Day.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has increased the prize amount for the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award from ₹25,000 to ₹5 lakh.
- ❖ For the first time in the world, IIT Madras released the most detailed 3D high-resolution images with 5,132 brain sections of the foetal brain.
- Artificial intelligence-enabled cameras will be installed at the Maha Kumbh 2025 to ensure an accurate headcount of devotees visiting one of the world's largest religious gatherings.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Education launched PM e-VIDYA Channel 31, a DTH channel dedicated to sign language.
- India's stealth guided missile frigate INS Tushil was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Kaliningrad, Russia.





- ❖ Japan's sake, a quintessential rice wine integral to its cultural heritage, has been added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill that seeks to increase the annual and life-time subscription, re-admission fee, registration fee for the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and also to provide for the issue of estamp.
- ❖ The CMs of Tamil Nadu and Kerala inaugurated the renovated memorial of Tamil reformist E.V. Ramasamy at Vaikom, Kottayam District, Kerala.
- ❖ IIT Madras has launched a truck driver rating app to provide the real-time assessment of their driving behaviour on safety and energy efficiency.
- ❖ TN Social Welfare and Women Empowerment launched the PAATHAI (personality affirming attitude, transformation, holistic approach intervention) initiative to care about to children who are first-time offenders.
- With about 26 % rise of FDI to USD 42.1 billion during the first half of the FY 2024-25, India's gross foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows reached to the USD 1 trillion.
- ❖ The 4th India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2024 was held in New Delhi under the theme "Innovations in Internet Governance for India".
- ❖ Veteran filmmaker Shaji N Karun has been selected for the prestigious JC Daniel Award 2023 for his lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema.
- ❖ Morocco, Portugal and Spain will co-host the FIFA Football World Cup in 2030, and Saudi Arabia will stage the 2034 finals.
- ❖ The Leh will host the ice events of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025 while the Gulmarg will host the snow events.
- ❖ Government of Tamil Nadu, has allocated ₹10 crores for the current financial year (2024-2025) to implement the 6% interest subvention scheme for the textile mills that want to invest and upgrade technology.
- ❖ In a bid to tackle coastal violations, the Tamil Nadu government has planned to establish coastal units in 14 districts.
- ❖ Madras High Court give node to the Music Academy and The Hindu for giving award under the title 'Sangita Kalanidhi M.S. Subbulakshmi Award' to Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu owned Aavin is set to launch a new milk variant, Green Magic Plus, fortified with vitamins A and D.
- ❖ The Keeranatham panchayat of Coimbatore has won the award for the 'best self-sufficient infrastructure' category in the National Panchayat Awards 2024.
- ❖ The Periyar Technology Business Incubator of the Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology, Vallam (Tanjavur), has been adjudged as the "Best Startup-Incubators Promoting facility" in the Aerospace Startup sector.





- ❖ The Southern Railway`s Chennai division will receive an air-conditioned coach for suburban routes by January 2025.
- Madhya Pradesh's Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary was declared India's 57th tiger reserve.
- ❖ India, France, and the UAE held a major air combat exercise, "Desert Knight" over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Former Secretary General Indian Olympic Association Rajeev Mehta has been elected as the Secretary General of the Fencing Confederation of Asia (FCA).
- ❖ Time magazine has named President-elect Donald Trump as its person of the year for 2024 once again after 2016.
- ❖ India's first Integrated Waste Management City cum Learning Centre will come up on 40 acres of land in Suthni village of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The first-ever Indigenous Peoples Forum at COP16, took place to spotlight the invaluable contributions of the Indigenous Peoples to land conservation and the sustainable resource management.
- ❖ The 4th edition of 'SAMPARK' was launched by Indian Navy to enhance healthcare access for Naval Veterans, Veer Naris, and their families in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh's CM unveiled the new logo of the Eagle nest Bird Festival which is going to be held in January 2025.
- ❖ The centre has enabled Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to operate Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJK) under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.
- Prime Minister chaired the fourth National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi.
- ❖ Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) achieved a milestone on Gita Jayanti as over 5,000 Acharyas collectively recited 'Shlokas' to creating a new Guinness World record.
- ❖ Dr. Dinesh Shahra, a renowned philanthropist and the author has launched his book named 'Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness'.
- ❖ An Indian film "The Kumbaya Story" has bagged a trophy at the 13th TVE Global Sustainability Film Awards (GSFA) held at the iconic BAFTA of UK.
- ❖ The Swiss government has suspended the most-favoured nation status (MFN) clause in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Switzerland.
- ❖ The second India-Iran-Armenia Trilateral Consultations were held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project in Thukkatchi, Tamil Nadu, and the BJPCI Conservation Project of Mumbai, Maharashtra have won the UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2024.





- ❖ The Researchers tagged a young shortfin make shark in the Mediterranean Sea, marking the first time this endangered species has been tagged in the region.
- ❖ Manipur commemorated Nupi Lal Numit 2024 to honour the valiant women who fought for justice and freedom during Nupi Lal uprisings of 1904 and 1939.
- ❖ Uttarakhand has hosed the World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 to promote Ayurveda and explore its integration into modern healthcare systems.
- ❖ The AVPN organized the South Asia Summit 2024 in Chennai under the theme 'New Realities, New Opportunities'.
- ❖ Elon Musk has reached a new financial milestone by becoming the first person to exceed \$400 billion in net worth.
- ❖ France President Emmanuel Macron named Francois Bayrou as prime minister of the country.
- Tamil Nadu CM has unveiled the foundation stone for a non-leather footwear and athletic footwear products unit of Hong Fu Group in Ranipet district with an investment of ₹1,500 crore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Planning Commission's executive vice chairperson J. Jeyaranjan has submitted draft policies and reports prepared by the Commission to Chief Minister.
- ❖ The ICMR in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) has set up the country's first diabetes biobank in Chennai.
- ❖ The Republic of Moldova becomes the 121st member of the International Solar Alliance.
- ❖ Britain has officially become the First European Member and 12th member of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- ❖ The 22nd Divya Kala Mela under the theme 'Empowered Divyangjan' will be held at India Gate, Delhi.
- ❖ NHAI has launched a new Route Patrolling Vehicles (RPVs) named 'Rajmarg Saathi' to capture and identify cracks and potholes as well as other elements including vehicles, pedestrians, road signs, and other infrastructure assets.
- Uttarakhand is set to become a global yoga hub with India's first dedicated Yoga Policy.
- ❖ Historian A.R. Venkatachalapathy, has won the Sahitya Akademi Award, 2024, for his book, Tirunelveeli Ezucciyum Vaa. Vuu.ci. Yum 1908.
- ❖ The Legislative Assembly Secretariat of Tamilnadu has declared the Erode East constituency as vacant, following the death of Congress leader E.V.K.S. Elangovan.





- ❖ The 'One Health and Climate Change' of Tamil Nadu symposium was held in Chennai.
- ❖ The Indian Army participated in the 2nd Land Forces Summit (LFS) 2024, along with the Army Chiefs and senior generals from Japan, the US, Australia, and the Philippines.
- ❖ The Centre's air quality panel for Delhi-NCR invoked restrictive measures under stage III of the air pollution control plan amid a sharp dip in air quality due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.
- Mumbai cricket team defeat Madhya Pradesh and wins its second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title.
- Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), has approved infrastructure projects worth Rs 24,276 crore for the development of a greenfield capital Amaravati.
- ❖ SLINEX 2024, the Bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka, aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and was held in Visakhapatnam coast.
- ❖ Mount Semeru, located in East Java, Indonesia, erupted recently.
- ❖ Arabic Language Day is celebrated every year on 18 December to commemorate the day when the UNGA adopted the Arabic as the sixth official language of the Organization in 1973.
- ❖ The first session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 2025 is set to commence on January 6 with the customary Governor's address.
- ❖ The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) has signed an MoU with the FICCI-FLO Chennai to establish creche facilities in 17 SIPCOT industrial parks in the State.
- Renowned Kannada writer and social activist Devanura Mahadeva was honoured with the very prestigious 2024 Vaikom Award for social justice by the Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Kerala government and the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to remove the biomedical and mixed solid waste dumped in villages of Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ Caitlin Sandra Neil, a 19-year-old Indian-American from Chennai, won the Miss India USA 2024 title.
- Cai Xuzhe and Song Lingdong, the two astronauts of the Chinese Tiangong space station completed a nine-hour spacewalk and sets a new global record.
- ❖ Karnataka and Haryana have emerged the men's and women's team winners respectively at the 2024 Senior National Badminton Championship.
 - o Karnataka got its first men's title in nearly five decades.





- ❖ India has risen to become the 3rd largest smartphone exporter globally, up from 23rd in 2019, with exports surpassing ₹20,000 crore in November 2024.
- ❖ The 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024), a landmark event was organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).
- Biocon Group Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw was conferred the prestigious Jamsetji Tata Award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ) for pioneering the biosciences movement in India.
- ❖ The Ram temple project in Ayodhya has received the 'Sword of Honour' from the British Safety Council, recognizing the exceptional safety protocols implemented during its construction.
- ❖ Ravindran Kumeran, a senior consultant gastrointestinal surgeon at Apollo First Med Hospital, Chennai, was recently honoured with the very prestigious Global Medical Excellence Award in Bariatric Surgery at London.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has issued an order enhancing the solatium to ₹10 lakh for the kin of journalists who died during service.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has granted permission to the Centre for Aerospace Research (CASR) to conduct the drone trials for Swarm Drones at the Ulundurpet Airstrip for a period of 6 months.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's very famous Baiga tribal artist Jodhaiya Bai, a Padma Shri recipient (2023), died recently.
- Bharti Airtel has become the first private telecom operator to launch the mobile services in around seven border villages of Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipore districts of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Nagapattinam district administration is set to launch a small cargo service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka with a carrying capacity of 150–200 tonnes.
- ❖ 15 novels, 20 dramas, 15 short stories, over 200 poems, and other literary works of the late DMK leader and former CM M. Karunanidhi, were nationalised without any royalty.
- ❖ The 72nd Plenary of the North Eastern Council (NEC) was held in Agartala of Tripura, for the second time since 2008.
- ❖ The Former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B. Lokur was appointed the Chairperson of the UN Internal Justice Council for a term ending on November 12, 2028.
- ❖ Alexander Dunn, a mathematics professor from Georgia Tech, USA, received the Sastra Ramanujan award 2024.
- ❖ The President of India has appointed the retired Supreme Court Justice V. Rama Subramanian as the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission.





- ❖ The USA President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Indian-origin entrepreneur Sriram Krishnan as Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ India has secured the inaugural U10 Women's Asia Cup T20 title by victory over Bangladesh in the final in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❖ The Veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal, a pioneer of Indian parallel cinema, passed away.
- ❖ India's most celebrated para-athlete, Dr. Deepa Mali's memoir is released in the name 'BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life'.
- ❖ The present system of passing every child till Class 8th will continue in Tamil Nadu schools even though amendments brought by the Union government in the Right to Education Act of 2009.
- ❖ The IIT Madras has launched a research centre to develop next generation Amoled displays for smartphones, tablets, watches and wearables.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt will be bearing the entire cost of undergraduate (UG) education of the government school students who secure admission in premier higher education institutions like IIT, IISc and AIMS.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of the top global destinations for 2025, highlighting its rich heritage, wildlife, and stunning landscapes.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence announced that the theme for the Republic Day 2025 tableaux is "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" (Golden India: Heritage and Development).
- ❖ Indore's Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport has officially become the first zero-waste airport in the country.
- ❖ OpenAI unveiled its video generation model Sora, which is designed to take text, image, and video inputs and generate a new video as an output.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has participated in the Christmas Celebrations hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) in New Delhi.
 - o This is the first time a Prime Minister has attended such a programme at the Headquarters of the Catholic Church in India.
- ❖ Google recently unveiled the Willow, a quantum chip that has reduced the error tendencies of some of its predecessors.
 - Willow will perform a computation in under five minutes that would take one of today's fastest supercomputers 10 septillion years to solve.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu have set a target of 50% of energy consumption coming from the renewable energy sources by 2030.
- ❖ The National Institute of Siddha (NIS) has set a Guinness World Record for providing Varmam therapy to 567 individuals simultaneously in Tambaram, Chennai.





- Masali in Gujarat's Banaskantha district has become the country's first "border solar village" after solar rooftop work in all 199 houses there was completed under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
- TRAI has successfully implemented a framework to ensure the traceability of all commercial SMS, a major step towards creating a safer and spam-free messaging ecosystem.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power, has been honoured with Golden Peacock Award 2024 for Excellence in Corporate Governance.
- ❖ Hindi writer Suryabala won the 34th Vyas Samman 2024 for her novel 'Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary'.
- ❖ India's Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with SASMIRA, has launched a climate-smart Agro-textile demonstration centre in Navsari, Gujarat.
- ❖ The 10th International Forest Fair was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Gujarat-based semiconductor company Suchi Semicon inaugurated the state's first Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Surat.
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU), Vice-Chancellor Priti Saxena has been conferred the prestigious 'Saraswati Samman-2024' by the Saraswati Sangeet Academy, Lucknow, in recognition of her contributions to the field of higher education and academic leadership.
- ❖ In collaboration between Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, UNDP, and Citi Foundation, the seventh 'Youth Co: Lab National Innovation Challenge' has been launched for 2024-2025.
- ❖ Sri Lanka has introduced a new visa policy effective from January 2025, granting free visa travel to citizens from 39 countries, including India.
- * Renowned Indian educationist Arun Kapur has been conferred the 'Bura Marp' (red scarf) and 'Patang' (ceremonial sword) by the Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel at the 117th Bhutanese National Day celebrations.
- ❖ For the First time in India, New Delhi is going to host the 12th Para Athletics World Championships in 2025.
- Bollywood star Salman Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the inaugural Kho-Kho World Cup 2025, New Delhi.
- Tamil Nadu CM announced that an additional allocation of ₹400 crore has been made under the Kalaignar Kanavu Illam scheme, launched to construct one lakh houses in the State.
 - o For the fiscal year 2024-25, a sum ₹3,500 crore was allocated for the project, and each beneficiary would get ₹3,50,000.
- ❖ The tourist (both domestic and foreign) inflow into Tamil Nadu has increased to a record 28.71 crore in 2023 from 14.18 crore in 2020.





- ❖ TN Chief Minister announced the establishment of a chess academy, Home of Chess, under the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT).
- ❖ Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) supremo and former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala passed away recently.
- ❖ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to allowing members to withdraw funds (50%) and insurance claims directly from ATMs from 2025.
- ❖ The NLC India Ltd's first supercritical 1,980 MW Ghatampur Thermal Power Plant (GTPP) in Uttar Pradesh has begun commercial operation.
- ❖ India and France signed a MoU for the development of the new National Museum named Yuga Yugeen Bharat, on the lines of the Louvre in Paris.
 - o Once the museum completed, it would be the largest in the world.
- ❖ Tata Steel has made history by launching India's first-ever all-women shift at its Noamundi Iron Mine.
- ❖ Uber has launched a pilot program in the city called 'Moto Women', exclusively for women two-wheeler riders.
- ❖ The celebration of Ladakhi Losar, marking the New Year in the Tibetan calendar, is being held with great enthusiasm across Ladakh.
- ❖ The International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers is observed every year on 17th December.
- ❖ TN Chief minister inaugurated full-day 'annadhanam' at Kallazhagar temple in Alagarkovil in Madurai, and at Subramaniaswamy temple in Maruthamalai in Coimbatore.
- ❖ The 48th edition of Chennai Book Fair was inaugurated at YMCA Nandanam, Chennai.
- SWITCH Mobility Ltd (Subsidiary of Ashok Leyland) unveiled its contemporary electric bus platform SWITCH EiV12 – India's first low floor electric city bus for the Indian market.
- ❖ Osamu Suzuki of Japan, the former chairman of Suzuki Motor Corporation and the driving force behind its global expansion, has died recently.
- ❖ The centre has inaugurated around 10,000 newly established Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (MPACS), along with Dairy and Fisheries Cooperative Societies.
- ❖ The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the National Quantum Mission (NQM) have jointly launched India's first undergraduate minor programme in quantum technologies.
- ❖ Punjab had become the fifth state in the country to provide 100% piped water supply to rural households under the union government's 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme.





- Brigadier Amitabh Jha, acting UN peacekeeping force commander, passes away at Golan Heights in Syria.
- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar has accepted the Honorary Cricket Membership of Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) of Australia.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has constituted an eight-member committee under Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya to develop a framework for the ethical and responsible adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the financial sector.
- ❖ India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch inaugurated on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ To address the issue of overpriced food and beverages at airports, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken an initiative to start the 'Udaan Yatri Cafe' for the passengers.
- ❖ The Advanced Facility for Pashmina Certification and Next Generation DNA Sequencing Facility was inaugurated at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ India rolled out a 100-days Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Campaign in December 2024 to intensify progress towards ending the disease.
- ❖ Every year on December 21, the World Basketball Day is observed to honour the development and significance of a sport.
- TN Chief Minister inaugurated a mini-Tidel Park in Milavittan in Thoothukudi.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu state government extended the Pudhumai Penn scheme to aid 75,028 students who studied from Class VI to Class XII at government-aided schools.
- ❖ The 18th edition of Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN is being held between the Indian army and Nepal army in Nepal.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has declared the Ratha Saptami as a State festival.
- ❖ The GSI Geoscience Museum was inaugurated at the Victoria Market Building in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ India's Koneru Humpy regained the women's World rapid chess championship after a gap of five years, held at Newyork, USA.
- ❖ ISRO has successfully carried out the sea level hot test of its CE20 Cryogenic Engine featuring a nozzle area ratio of 100 at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri.
- ❖ The INS Nirdeshak, the second ship of Survey Vessel (Large) project, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The Karnataka government has revealed the plan to develop a SWIFT (Startups, Workspaces, Innovation, Finance and Technology) city near Bengaluru.

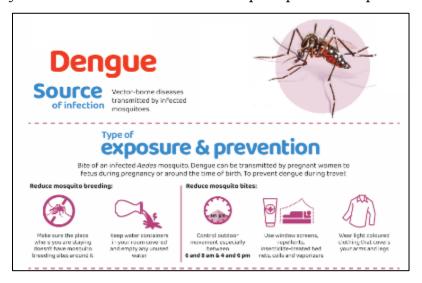




TAMIL NADU

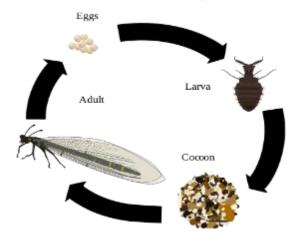
Low dengue prevalence in Tamilnadu

- ❖ As many as 75% of people, who are treated for fever currently, have been diagnosed to have contracted flu viruses.
- ❖ The incidence of dengue is under control and there has been a source reduction of Aedes mosquitoes that transmit dengue.
- ❖ The National Institute of Epidemiology of Chennai, study in 2017, has found that dengue IgG was very high at 77%.
- Now, only 3.76% of the female Aedes mosquito pools were positive for DENV.



Antlions in Tamil Nadu

Antlion Life Cycle



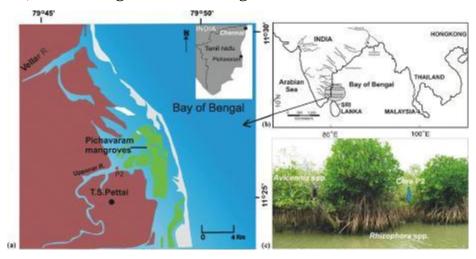




- * Researchers spotted a large-sized adult antlion, palpares contrarius in Chennai.
- ❖ Though it looks like a dragonfly, it has an antenna and a distinct fluttering flight which separates it from them.
- Antlions are found mostly in Africa, Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka and are seen in isolated parts of India such as Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The incidence of palpares contrarius in MCC is a new record in Tamil Nadu.

Sea level rise impact in Tamilnadu

- ❖ A recent study warns that rising sea levels could result in the loss of thousands of hectares of mangrove cover in Tamil Nadu's Pichavaram and Muthupet regions.
- ❖ Up to 2,382 hectares of mangrove forest in the Muthupet region and 413 hectares in Pichavaram could be submerged by 2100 due to sea level rise.
- ❖ The study estimates that the loss of these coastal forests would result in the release of 2.24 Tg (teragram) of carbon from the Muthupet and Pichavaram regions, contributing to climate change.



Pilot project of LPG Kits - Tamilnadu

- ❖ The Fishing boats with marine outboard motors (OBM) using kerosene will soon become environment-friendly.
- ❖ They will get liquefied petroleum gas-powered outboard engines to replace their kerosene-driven ones.
- ❖ 150 such boats in Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari districts will get LPG kits.





- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the first State to introduce such a pilot project to do away with the polluting kerosene as fuel.
- ❖ CO emission in kerosene engines was 1.2%, whereas in LPG ones, it was only 0.32%.



Milk production in 2023 – Tamilnadu



- ❖ The state's milk production has been consistently increasing, with a notable rise from 7.742 million tonnes in 2017 to 10.317 million tonnes in 2023,
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's milk production was 7.742, 8.362, 8.759 million tonnes from 2017 to 2020.





- ❖ Now it has increased to 9.790, 10.107, 10.317 million tonnes in 2021-2023, respectively.
- ❖ The per capita availability of milk was 316 grams per day in 2019-2020.
- ❖ It has increased to 369 grams in 2022-23.

GCC Next Summit 2024

- ❖ The Global Capability Centres (GCCs) Next Summit was held in Chennai.
- It was organised by Guidance Tamil Nadu and Kreateworks.
- ❖ Out of the 1,800 GCCs in India, nearly 300 are in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The state host about 10% of India's GCCs.
- ❖ But the state is yet to excel in terms of Global Capability Centres (GCCs).



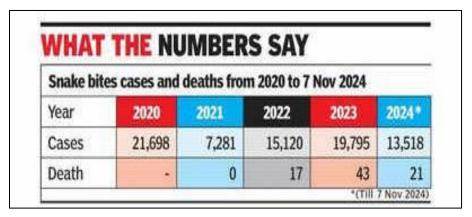
Snakebite data in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Snakebite is the "poor man's disease" disproportionately affecting the country's most vulnerable populations.
- ❖ Common krait, Indian cobra, Russell's viper, and saw-scaled viper are collectively known as the "big four."
- * These snakes are responsible for approximately 90% of snakebite cases in India.
- ❖ Under the new regulation, all hospitals public and private are now required to report snakebite cases to the State health authorities.





- ❖ Till June this year, 7,300 snakebite cases were reported in Tamil Nadu and 13 people have died.
- ❖ The number was 19,795 cases with 43 deaths last year and 15,120 cases with 17 deaths in 2022.
- ❖ A study based on the Million Death Study (2001–2014) estimated that nearly 58,000 people die from snakebites each year much higher than official figures reported by hospitals.
- ❖ Karnataka became the first State to declare snakebites a notifiable disease earlier this year
- ❖ Tamil Nadu also declared snakebite envenoming a notifiable disease under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act of 1939.
- ❖ The Indian government introduced the National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAPSE).
- ❖ Already WHO has launched a global strategy to control snakebite-induced deaths and disabilities.
- ❖ The national action plan aims to halve snakebite deaths by 2030 through a One Health approach.



Arittapatti tungsten mining

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has requested centre to cancel the tungsten mining rights awarded to a private company in Madurai district.
- ❖ The Ministry of Mines declared Hindustan Zinc Limited as the preferred bidder of Nayakkarpatti tungsten block comprising six villages, including Arittapatti in Madurai.
- ❖ It is a notified biodiversity heritage site and is very famous for the archaeological monuments, including the cave temples, sculptures, Jain symbols, Tamil Brahmi scripts, and Pancha Pandavar stone beds.







SC judgment on religious conversion



- ❖ The Supreme Court (Selvarani Case) held that religious conversion without any actual belief, largely intended to procure quota benefits, defeats the social ethos of the reservation policy and amounts to a fraud on the Constitution.
- ❖ The judgment was based on an appeal filed by a woman from Puducherry, Selvarani a Christian by birth.
- ❖ She sought conferment of a Scheduled Caste community certificate on the ground that she had embraced Hinduism.
- ❖ If the purpose of conversion is largely to derive the benefits of reservation but not with any actual belief on the other religion, cannot be permitted.



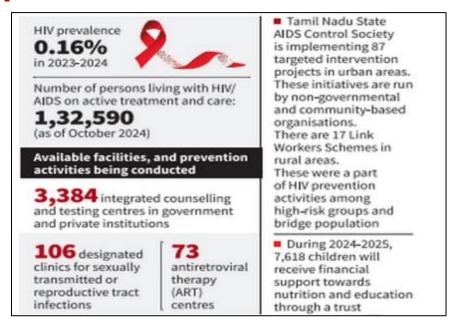


Thirumangai Alwar idol

- ❖ A rare variant bronze statue of saint-poet Thirumangai Alwar will be repatriated from Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (UK) to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It was stolen from the Soundararaja Perumal Temple in Kumbakonam between 1957 and 1967.
- ❖ Thirumangai Alvar was born in the 8th century, and one of the 12 Alvar saints of South India known for their affiliation with the Vaishnava tradition of Hinduism.



HIV/AIDS prevalence - Tamilnadu



- ❖ The prevalence of HIV in Tamil Nadu is dropping to 0.16% in 2023-2024.
- ❖ The State had brought down the HIV prevalence from 1.18% in 1997 to 0.16% during 2023-2024.
- ❖ It is lower than the national average of 0.23%.





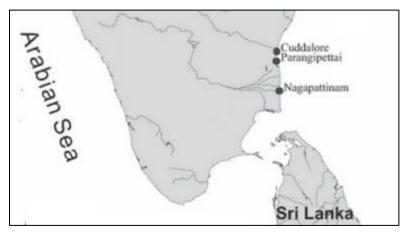
❖ As of October 2024, 73 Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centres offered continuum care, support and treatment to 1,32,590 Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) across the State.

Conservation of the Maratha Durbar Hall

- ❖ The Department of Archaeology and the Heritage Division of the Public Works Department have joined hands to restore the Durbar Hall at the Thanjavur Palace.
- ❖ It is perhaps the largest structure with a lean-to-roof in the country.
- ❖ It aims to restore the glory of the hall which was renovated by Maratha King Shaji in 1684.



Cost-effective import and exports 2024

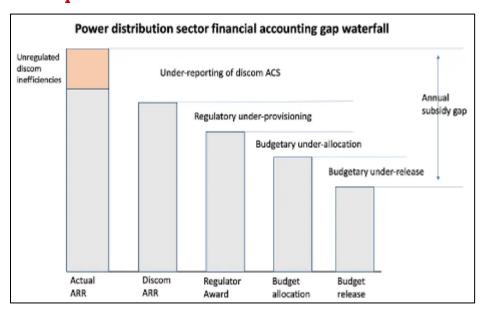






- The Exporters, importers, agents, and vessel owners are encouraged to utilise the ports in Nagapattinam and Cuddalore for efficient and cost-effective operations.
- ❖ These ports are equipped with the necessary facilities, including the customs, immigration, and port health services, to support streamlined cargo operations.
- ❖ The ports have the potential to handle up to 75,000 tonnes of the agricultural, fisheries, and consumer goods annually.

Expenditure on power subsidies 2024



- ❖ The state's expenditure on subsidies as a percentage of revenue receipts is 12% for 2022-23, exceeds the national average of around 9%.
- Among the other States with relatively high expenditure on subsidies are Punjab (24% of revenue receipts), Andhra Pradesh (15%), Rajasthan (13%), and Gujarat (13%).
- ❖ Over 95% of the total subsidies in Punjab and Rajasthan were provided for the electricity sector.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, the gap between the average cost of supply (ACS) and the average revenue realised (ARR) was ₹0.89 per unit.
- ❖ The aggregate technical and commercial losses (AT&C) of the State came down from 14% in 2019-20 to 10% in 2022-23.
- **❖** Tamil Nadu government provided a tariff subsidy of ₹12,069.97 crore and grants of ₹12,315.36 crore to TANGEDCO.





Government's gross market borrowings

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government's gross market borrowings stood at ₹50,000 crore in the first half of fiscal 2024-2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu borrows from the market through issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs) to meet their funding requirements.
- Maharashtra was the top borrowing State in the first half of fiscal 2024-2025, with gross borrowings of ₹64,000 crore.
- ❖ It was followed by Andhra Pradesh at ₹44,000 crore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts stood at ₹1,23,970.01 crore for the first half of 2024-25.
- ❖ This is about 41.46% of the State's budget estimates for 2024-25.
- ❖ The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) accounts for 75.6% of Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts.
- ❖ The balance 24.4% of the revenue receipts comes from the share in Central taxes and grants-in-aid from the Union government.
- **❖** Tamil Nadu's revenue deficit, which indicates that expenditure exceeds receipts, came in at ₹28,717.51 crore in the first half of 2024-25.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit, the difference between total receipts and total expenditure, stood at ₹53,934.32 crore.



TN Endangered Species Conservation Fund

- ❖ The TN State government has issued an order to establish the Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund with an initial corpus of ₹50 crore.
- ❖ It is aiming to protect the endangered and critically endangered species.





- **❖** The fund will begin with a contribution of ₹5 crore by the government.
- ❖ Additional funds are to be raised through government entities, corporate social responsibility contributions, and national and international donations.
- ❖ Additionally, the fund will explore the cultural preservation through the State's Sacred Groves.
- ❖ It is leveraging the Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949, and the Tamil Nadu Hill Preservation Act, 1955, to strengthen conservation efforts.
- ❖ The fund will be initially overseen by the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Foundation.
- ❖ Later, the corpus will be held in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation or the Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation until any further arrangements are made.



HC on Manjolai

- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed petitions filed against the voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) offered by Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Limited (BBTCL) to the Manjolai tea estate workers in Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ It has also directed the Tamil Nadu government to extend all the relief measures which it had agreed to offer to the workers who had suffered job loss.
- ❖ The BBTCL had decided to wind up its operations at Manjolai, Kakkaachi, Nalumukku, Oothu, and Kuthiraivetti (collectively known as Manjolai estates) much before the end of the 99-year lease granted to it by the erstwhile Singampatti Zamindar in 1928.





- ❖ The Zamindar had leased out 3,388.78 hectares to the private company.
- ❖ But the government had notified the entire Singampatti estate as a forest on March 22, 1937 under Sections 26 and 32 of the then Madras Forest Act of 1882.
- ❖ Subsequently, on August 2, 1962, areas forming part of the estate were notified as a part of the Mundanthurai tiger sanctuary under the then Wild Birds and Animals (Protection) Act, 1912.
- ❖ It turned out to be the first notified tiger sanctuary in the country.
- On December 28, 2007, the government declared the areas which formed part of the estate as a core critical tiger habitat by invoking the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972.



'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has not been given any allocation of foodgrains under the 'One Nation One Ration Card' (ONOR) scheme.
- Normally, 5% of foodgrains in excess of the State's allocation is set apart for such cardholders.
- ❖ 13.816 tonnes of foodgrains 13.263 tonnes of rice and 0.553 tonnes of wheat were allocated to the State during 2023-24.
- ❖ Around 22.8 tonnes of wheat and 0.036 tonnes of rice were distributed in the State under the inter-State portability arrangement in the first six months of the current financial year.
- ❖ The State draws an average 65,000 tonnes of rice every month.
- ❖ As for wheat, the Centre provides approximately 8,575 tonnes a month.
- ❖ In addition, the State also procures another 8,500 tonnes every month from the National Co-operative Consumer's Federation (NCCF) under the Open Market Sales Scheme.





For the first time, the same ration card can be used throughout India

Enabled in 35 States/UTs covering nearly 77 crore beneficiaries

Monthly average of 2.5 crore portability transactions

49 crore portability transactions performed during pandemic

Net zero emissions by 2070

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is actively working towards achieving net zero emissions by 2070 through targeted actions
- ❖ The State was ranked third rank in the country for the renewable energy generation.
- ❖ The wind energy alone is accounting for 11,900 million units a year.
- ❖ By 2030, Tamil Nadu plans to source 50% of its energy from the renewable sources.

Sector	2005	2019
Energy	82%	77%
Industrial processes and product use	6%	6%
Waste	8%	5%
Agriculture, forestry, and other land use	496	12%

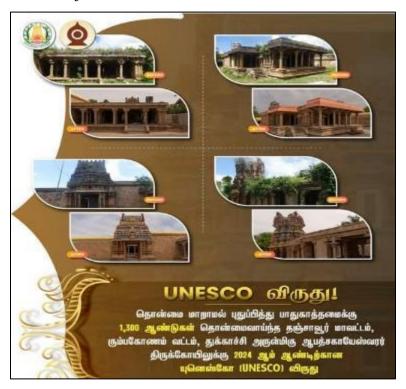
Abathsahayeswarar temple

- ❖ The 1,300-year-old Abathsahayeshwarar Temple in Thukkatchi in Thanjavur district has been chosen by UNESCO to receive the Award of Distinction − 2023.
- ❖ The temple is believed to have been constructed by Kings Vikrama Chola and Kulothunga Chola, is said to have had five prakarams previously.
- ❖ The village was known as Vikrama Chozheeswaram and Kulothunga Chola Nallur.





- ❖ It was Kulothunga who was the first to establish an idol for Sarabeshwarar, which is why this deity is called Aadhi Sarabeshwarar.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had granted a subsidy of ₹100 crore per year to restore and renovated temples over 1000 years old.



Tamil Nadu Model for Reducing Elephant Attacks

Tamil Nadu is using AI to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks



❖ Karnataka directed Forest Department officials to study the Tamil Nadu model for controlling the wild elephant menace in the state.





- **❖** Currently, the proven solution to mitigate the elephant menace is the installation of railway barricades, which costs approximately ₹1.5 crore per kilometre.
- ❖ However, there is a limitation in procuring the sufficient railway tracks for this purpose.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, steel rope fences have been installed as a barrier, costing ₹45 lakh per kilometre.
- ❖ Using locally available materials and minimizes environmental disruption compared to railway barricades.

Cyclone Fengal relief

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the release of ₹944.80 crore to Tamil Nadu from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for providing relief to the people affected by Cyclone Fengal.
- ❖ The SDRF is the main fund available with the State governments for their response to notified disasters.
- ❖ The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for the general category States and Union Territories.
- ❖ But Centre's contributions are 90% for the special category States/Union Territories (Northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir).
- ❖ According to the Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the "NDRF supplements the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF".







SOP to conduct school functions

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu School Education Department has released Standard Operating Procedures to conduct tours, forum discussions, and functions at schools.
- ❖ It also specifies who can be invited to these events.
- ❖ The guidelines have mandated that schools must choose from a pre-approved master list maintained by the department.
- ❖ These guidelines are applicable to all categories of schools functioning in Tamil Nadu, including those under the CBSE and other departments.
- ❖ A State-level and district-level committee will be formed, with the School Education Secretary as chairman of the State-level committee and Collector as chairman of the district committee.
- ❖ The committees will also have SP, District Social Welfare Officer, Differently-abled Welfare Officer, Child Welfare Officer, and Education Officer as members.

'TB-Free Tamil Nadu' campaign

- ❖ The Lok Sabha member from Thoothukudi Kanimozhi launched the 100-day campaign "Tuberculosis-free Tamil Nadu".
- ❖ The Chennai Mayor Priya has launched the 'Tuberculosis-Free Tamil Nadu' awareness campaign vehicle.
- ❖ The campaign aims to raise awareness on tuberculosis (TB) among the public.
- ❖ The State government aims to eradicate TB by 2025.
- ❖ By November 2024, 2,88,331 people had been tested for TB, with 7,968 receiving treatments at public health centres and 4,857 people at private facilities.
- ❖ Among the 8,735 household contacts of diagnosed TB patients, 5,767 were given preventive treatment.

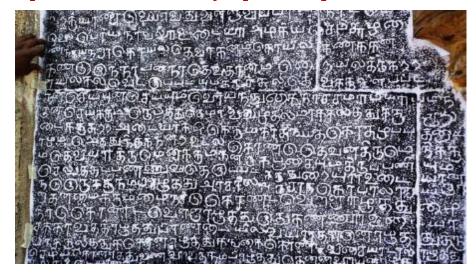
Jumped Deposit scam

- ❖ The Cyber Crime Wing of the Tamil Nadu police has warned citizens of a new and sophisticated scam the 'jumped' deposit scam.
- ❖ It is a tactic designed to trick users into unknowingly approving fraudulent withdrawals through Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ❖ The scam begins with the fraudster sending a small amount, typically around ₹5,000, to the victim's bank account through UPI.





Tamil inscriptions from Alathudaiyanpatti temple



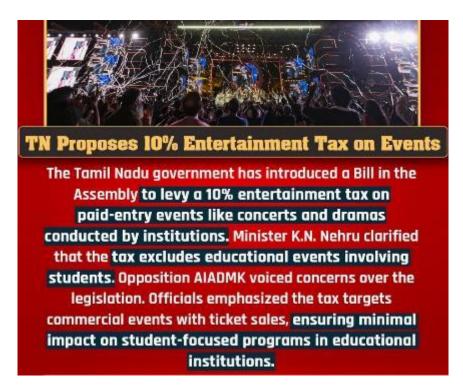
- ❖ The Tamilnadu state Epigraphy Division has recently deciphered two inscriptions copied from Arulmigu Somanathar Temple at Alathudaiyanpatti near Thuraiyur in Tiruchi district.
- ❖ The inscriptions were dated back to the Chola period.
- ❖ The two inscriptions written in Tamil were deciphered by the experts recently and found to be dating back to 13th century.
- ❖ One inscription has information about giving orders to Thirugnanasammandha Pandidhar for a specific period to carry out thirupani in the temple.
- ❖ It dates back to the period of Chola King Rajaraja III.
- ❖ Another inscription records an order of the Nattars Valluvappadi (Nattolai) to Devarkanmi and accountant of the Azhagiya Someswaramudiya Nayanar Temple at Periyanavalur covenying the grant of dry and wet lands.

Tax for entertainment shows

- ❖ The state government has tabled a bill in the Assembly to amend the Tamil Nadu Local Authorities Entertainments Tax Act, 2017.
- ❖ The proposed amendment aims to empower the local bodies to levy a 10% entertainment tax on event where an admission fee is charged.
- It includes concerts, dramas, and other events conducted by any institution, including educational institutions,
- ❖ At present, there is no enabling provision for the levy and collection of the entertainment tax in such cases.







Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019



- ❖ The Assembly passed a bill to amend Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019, in order to include eight private universities into the Schedule of the Act.
- * These eight universities were not fully aligned with the UGC Act and Regulations.
- ❖ Though the State government had earlier notified these eight private universities through notifications, the UGC said a university could be established either by the Act of the Parliament or by the Act of the State Legislature.
- ❖ Another Bill tabled to amend relevant rules that disqualified deaf-mute and those with leprosy from holding positions of authority in the University of Madras.





Tamil Nadu's GSDP for 2022-2023

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2022-2023 grew 14.16% when compared to the previous year.
- ❖ It was driven primarily by the industry and services sectors.
- ❖ The per capita GSDP of the State was nearly 56% higher than the national average.
- ❖ This data was released by the CAG's audit report on 'the State Finances the Government of Tamil Nadu 2022-2023'.
- ❖ During 2021-22, there was a significant boost in GSDP growth, which stood at 15.84%.
- **♦** The GSDP in 2022-23 at current prices was ₹23,64,514 crore, and the GDP in 2022-23 at current prices was ₹2,72,40,712 crore.
- **❖** Further, the per capita GSDP of Tamil Nadu for 2022-23 was ₹3,08,020, while that of the country was ₹1,96,983.
- **❖** From 2018-19 to 2022-23, the revenue receipts grew from ₹1,73,741 crore to ₹2,43,749 crore, with an average annual growth rate of 11.13%.
- ❖ The Capital receipts increased from ₹54,850 crore to ₹1,02,182 crore during this period.
- ❖ The share of grants-in-aid in revenue receipts rose marginally from 13.45% in 2018-19 to 15.48% in 2022-23.
- ❖ The State government received ₹15,270 crore as Central share for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) that year.
- ❖ There were 393 cases of misappropriation and losses amounting to ₹30.81 crore by the end of 2022-23.

வருடம்	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
தமிழ்நாடு மாநிலம்					
GSDP தற்போதைய விலையில் (2011-12 வரிசை)	16,30,209	17,43,144	17,88,074	20,71,286	23,64,514
GSVA	14,90,042	16,01,332	16,54,821	19,15,234	21,76,648
முந்தைய ஆண்டுடன் ஒப்பிட்டவாறு GSDP வளர்ச்சி விகிதம் (விழுக்காடு)	11.27	6.93	2.58	15.84	14.16
முந்தைய ஆண்டுடன் ஒப்பிட்ட வகையில் GSVAன் வளர்ச்சி விகிதம் (விழுக்காடு)	11.99	7.47	3.34	15.74	13.65
தணிநபர் GSDP (₹)	2,15,785	2,29,657	2,34,486	2,70,629	3,08,020





Losses of PSUs in TN

- ❖ Around 30 out of 68 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) incurred losses during 2021-22.
- ♣ But the losses incurred by these PSUs decreased to ₹22,192.94 crore in 2021-22 from ₹25,476.43 crore during 2020-21.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence for an Advanced Manufacturing, a new PSU also reported loss in its first year of operation.
- ♦ Out of total loss, ₹15,357.90 crore was contributed by three PSUs in power sector and ₹6,622.19 crore by eight PSUs in transport sector.
- ❖ Representation of Independent Directors was below the required number in 10 PSUs.
- ❖ There was no women director on the Board of Directors of two PSUs.
- ❖ In six PSUs, the Independent Directors did not attend the general meetings of the PSU.
- ❖ Audit Committee was not constituted in two PSUs and majority of the members of Audit Committee were not Independent Directors in 13 PSUs.
- ❖ Nomination and Remuneration Committee was not constituted by 22 PSUs.
- ❖ There was no whistle blower mechanism in 12 PSUs.

அட்டவணை 5.8: 2020-21 முதல் 2022-23 வரையிலான ஆண்டுகளில் இழப்பு ஏற்பட்டுள்ள பொதுத்துறை நிறுவனங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை (₹ கோடியில்)					
ஆண்டு	இழப்பை சந்தித்த பொதுத்துறை நிறுவணங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை	நடப்பாண்டின் நிகர இழப்பு	திரண்ட இழப்பு	நிகர மதிப்பு [®]	
2020-21	33	25,542.52	1,64,785.03	(-)1,05,425.53	
2021-22	34	22,232.33	1,83,123.14	(-)1,25,300.27	
2022-23	35	16,047.99	2,26,051.29	(-)1,67,419.82	

Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act - 1958

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has tabled a Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act, 1958.
- ❖ It aims to remove the punishment of imprisonment and to provide only for the imposition of fine for contravention of certain offences specified in the act.
- ❖ The government has decided to "remove the punishment of imprisonment and to provide for punishment of fine alone" for contravention of minor offences.





- ❖ It will facilitate the ease of doing of catering business by employers of the catering establishments.
- ❖ Earlier, the Act provided for the punishment of imprisonment for contraventions of provisions of Sections 3-A, 4, 5, 6, 11-A and 14-A.
 - **23. Penalties.** (1) Any employer who contravenes any of the provisions of sections 3-A, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11,11-A, 12 and 14-A or fails to pay wages or compensation in accordance with any order of the appellate authority passed under clause (b) of subsection (2) of section 19 shall, on conviction, be punishable ¹ [with fine which, for a first offence, may extend to five thousand rupees and for a second or subsequent offence, with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees] or with imprisonment which may extend to three months or with both.
 - (2) (a) Any employer who fails to reinstate an employee in accordance with any order of the appellate authority passed under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 19 shall, on conviction, be punishable ¹ [with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.]

TN Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to modify the procedure for grant of licence to hostels, lodging houses and homes for women and children.
- ❖ It has moved a Bill in the Assembly that seeks to suitably amend the Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014.
- ❖ It seeks to receive the application for licence of such hostels, lodging houses and homes in the electronic form and are to be "auto-generated" subject to some conditions.
- **&** Earlier, the applications were to be made to the respective Collector.
- ❖ While the validity was for three years, the Bill now seeks to extend it for 10 years.





First Supplementary Estimates of 2024/25

Trend tracker

A look at Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit over the years



Year	Fiscal deficit (₹ in crore)	(% of GSDP)	Year	Fiscal deficit (₹ in crore)	(% of GSDP)
2011-12	17,274	2.3	2018-19	47,334.89	2.9
2012-13	16,519	1.93	2019-20	60,178.64	3.35
2013-14	20,584	2.13	2020-21	87,742.11	4.61
2014-15	27,162.44	2.49	2021-22	73,739.28	3.38
2015-16	32,627.56	2.69	2022-23	81,885.82	3.46
2016-17	56,171.35	4.2	2023-24*	94,059.72	3.45
2017-18	39,839.52	2.72	2024- 25**	1,08,689.91	3.44

*Revised Estimates **Budget Estimates

Source: T.N. Finance Department documents

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government presented the First Supplementary Estimates for a sum of ₹3,531 crore for 2024-25 in the Assembly.
- ❖ The government sanctioned a sum of ₹1,634.86 crore as additional loss funding grant to the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited.
- ❖ This was as per the guidelines for Additional Borrowing Space of 0.50% of GSDP linked to performance in power sector formulated by the Union government.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Contingency Fund Act of 1954 has been amended and enhanced the contingency fund from ₹150 crore to ₹500 crore.
- ❖ The government has sanctioned ₹70 crore to the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited as grant for providing incentive to milk producers.





Ban on Bike taxi

- ❖ The state government is clarified that, there is no effective ban on bike taxis, and they can continue operating in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Union government has not provided the clear rule on the use of two-wheelers for rental or commercial purposes.
- ❖ Madras high court banned bike taxis in 2018, but the order was stayed on appeal.
- ❖ The state is home to over four lakh workers associated with the platforms such as Rapido, Ola, Uber, Swiggy, Dunzo, and Zomato.



Forest Rights in Anamalai Tiger Reserve

- ❖ Coimbatore District Collector accorded community forest rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, to three tribal settlements in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR).
- ❖ It provided individual forest rights offered under the Act to 14 families in the ATR.
- ❖ Nagaroothu I, Nagaroothu II and Chinnarpathi tribal settlements were given community rights to collect forest produces other than timber.
- ❖ The Residents of these settlements can collect minor forest products, including mango, amla, honey, tamarind and grass for making brooms.
- ❖ The individual forest rights titles were accorded to some 14 families from the Old Sarkarpathy tribal settlement.





Kalaignar Craft Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu will implement 'Kalaignar Kaivinai Thittam,' aimed at empowering artisans and craftsmen based on social justice.
- ❖ The scheme has been formulated to benefit all sections of people who are engaged in 25 trades/crafts.
- ❖ The scheme is not based on family based traditional trades.
- ❖ It envisages subsidy linked credit support, skill and entrepreneur development for expansion of existing trades and launch of new initiatives.
- Credit support of Rs 3 lakh, which includes subsidy of 25 per cent (a maximum of Rs 50,000), 5 per cent interest subsidy and all other necessary support will be provided under this scheme.



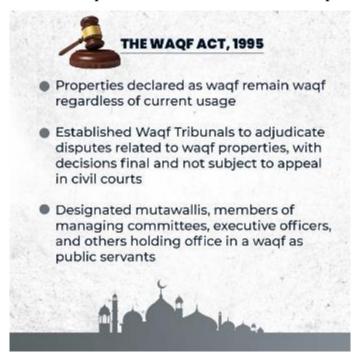
TN Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1975

- ❖ This Bill seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Public Premises (the Eviction of the Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1975 in line with Waqf Act, 1995 retrospectively from January 7, 2021.
- ❖ This bill sought for the necessary validation provision and to reserve it for the consideration of the President as required under the Article 254 (2) of the Constitution.
- ❖ An amendment was made to clause (e) of Section 7 of the Tamil Nadu Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Act, 2010.





- ❖ It is including the waqf premises registered with the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board within the definition of the term "public premises".
- ❖ Several unauthorised occupants from the premises belonging to a waqf registered with the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board were evicted from such premises.



Tax on mineral-bearing lands

Royalty is not a tax. Royalty is a contractual consideration paid by the mining lessee to lessor for enjoyment of mineral rights. The liability to pay royalty arises out of the contractual conditions of the mining lease. Payments made to the govt cannot be deemed to be a tax merely because the statute provides for their recovery as arrears —SC's majority order

The state legislatures have legislative competence under Article 246 read with Entry 49-List II to tax lands and buildings but not lands which comprise of mines and quarries or have mineral deposits as mineral bearing lands do not fall within the description of lands (under Entry 49-List II)

—Justice B V Nagarathna's dissenting order in 8:1 verdict

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill that seeks to levy tax on mineral-bearing lands.
- ❖ The government hoped to augment its revenue through this legislation.

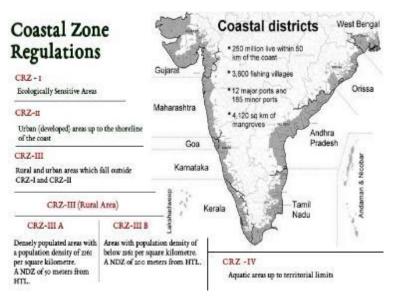




- ❖ The Supreme Court had earlier this year held that the minerals-bearing land fell within the description of 'lands' under Entry 49 of List II of the Seventh Schedule.
- ❖ So, the State Legislatures have the legislative competence under Article 29 to tax on lands, which comprises of mines and quarries.

CAG report on inconsistencies

- ❖ The CAG of India has highlighted significant delays, violations, and lapses in the enforcement of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011, in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ From 2015 to 2022, the TNSCZMA directly approved 114 out of 175 projects without recommending them to the union Ministry of Environment.
- ❖ As many as 23 projects involving the effluent discharge were approved without the obtaining mandatory No-Objection Certificates from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ Around 90 unauthorised constructions were identified in the No Development Zone across Chennai, Chengalpattu, and Thoothukudi.
- ❖ Also, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department not produced any records to CAG for the audit.
- ❖ As per the HR&CE department, there was no jurisdiction for the scrutiny of the records pertaining to religious institutions.
- ❖ The scope of the CAG audit was to be restricted to the funds released from the consolidated fund of the State.
- ❖ The grants released by the government HR&CE department to the alone could be audited under Section 14 of the DPC Act.







HC on Freedom of speech

- ❖ The Madras High Court observed that the right to freedom of speech cannot be taken advantage of by anyone to cross the limits of decency.
- ❖ Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023's Sections 296(b) (uttering obscene words), 352 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) and 353 (making statements with the intent to disturb public tranquillity) deals this issue.
- ❖ Earlier the Calcutta High Court added that freedom of expression not gave anyone a "licence to abuse".

Restrictions on Article 19 • 8) Incitement to an offence: • Obviously, freedom of speech and expression cannot confer a right to incite people to commit offence. • The word 'offence' is defined as any act or omission made punishable by law for the time being in force.

Thrust Sector scheme 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has extended benefits under the Thrust Scheme to manufacturers of sustainable products.
- ❖ The scheme has extended 25% or maximum ₹1.5 crore capital subsidy to eligible MSMEs.
- ❖ The units should have Udyan registration and should manufacture any of the 26 products identified for the thrust sector.

Tamil Nadu's outstanding liabilities 2024

- **❖** Tamil Nadu's outstanding liabilities from open market borrowings had stood at ₹6,00,993 crore as on March 31, 2024.
- ❖ The State's overall outstanding liabilities stood at ₹8,34,544 crore at the end of March 31, 2024.





- ❖ As of March 31, 2023, the overall outstanding liabilities for Tamil Nadu was ₹7,41,498 crore.
- **❖** The State's liability on account of interest would be ₹28,263.67 crore.
- ❖ The liability towards principal amount of market loan would be ₹3,75,951.97 crore over the next 10 years (from 2023-24).
- According to the State budget for 2024-25, the Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow a total of ₹1,55,584.48 crore during 2024-25, and repay ₹49,638.82 crore.
- ❖ As a result, the outstanding debt, as on March 31, 2025, will be ₹8,33,361.80 crore.
- ❖ This constitutes 26.41% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2024-25.

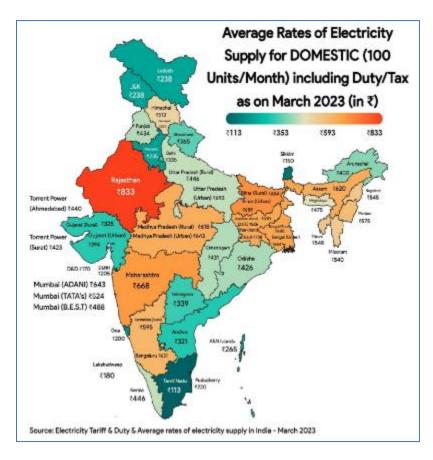


Lowest Domestic Electricity

- ❖ The average cost of electricity in Tamil Nadu, as of March 2023, stands at Rs 113 for 100 units.
- ❖ In comparison, the cost is much higher in other states Rs 643 in Maharashtra, Rs 833 in Rajasthan, Rs 618 in Madhya Pradesh, Rs 689 in Uttar Pradesh, Rs 654 in West Bengal, and Rs 426 in Odisha.
- ❖ Farmers in Tamil Nadu receive free electricity, including 2 lakhs agricultural pumpsets which are fully subsidised.
- ❖ The Powerloom weavers benefit from 1,000 free units of power, while handloom weavers are provided 300 free units every two months.
- * Additionally, domestic consumers enjoy 100 free units of electricity.







Annual income for welfare schemes in 2024

நலத்திட்டங்களுக்கான ஆண்டு வருமான உச்சவரம்பு உயர்வு! பெண்கள், பெண் குழந்தைகளுக்காக செயல்படுத்தப்படும் நலத்திட்டங்களுக்கான குடும்ப ஆண்டு வருமான உச்சவரம்பு ரூ.72,000-லிருந்து ரூ.1,20,000ஆக உயர்வு. - தமிழ்நாடு அரசு அரசாணை வெளியீடு!

- ❖ The Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment of Tamilnadu has officially increased the annual income ceiling of families from Rs 72,000 to Rs 1.20 lakh.
- ❖ Due to the change in economic status, the per capita income and standard of living in Tamil Nadu have registered a rise.

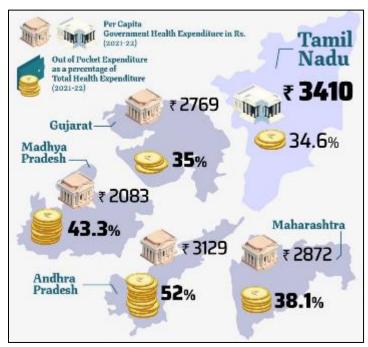




- ❖ There will be an overall surge in beneficiaries for these schemes as the income ceiling has been revised.
- ❖ The department constantly revised the annual income ceiling from Rs 12,000 in 1993 to Rs 24,000 in 2008.
- ❖ Further, in 2012, the ceiling was revised from Rs 24,000 to Rs 40,000 in rural areas and to Rs 60,000 in urban regions.
- ❖ However, the last revision of the income ceiling was made in 2014, raising it to Rs 72,000.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam 2024

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government's flagship health scheme, Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM) crossed a coverage of two crore persons.
- ❖ The scheme provides the comprehensive home-based healthcare services for the hypertension and diabetes across the State.
- ❖ It was launched by CM in Krishnagiri district on August 5, 2021 and it benefits people aged over 45.
- Physiotherapy treatment is also provided to patients.
- ❖ The scheme covers 385 rural blocks with 8,713 health sub-centres, and 21 corporations with 460 urban primary health centres in the State.
- ❖ For this scheme, the UN Inter-Agency Task Force award for 2024 was conferred upon the State's Health Department.

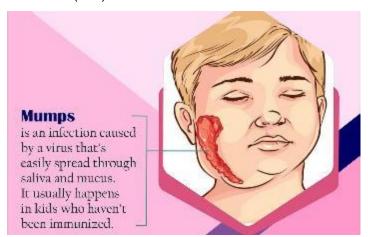






Mumps vaccine to UIP

- ❖ Tamil Nadu records at least 150 cases of mumps in a month now.
- ❖ There were 61 cases during 2021-22 and 129 during 2022-23, the cases soared to 1,091 during 2023-24.
- ❖ Nearly 40% of the cases occurred in the age group of six to nine, followed by children aged less than 5 years, which was 33%.
- ❖ The state requested the union Government to consider adding the mumps vaccine to the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- ❖ Under UIP in Tamil Nadu, 11 vaccines are provided to children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine preventable diseases.
- ❖ The Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine was included in the UIP from April 2017.



Back-to-back weather systems

- ❖ Earlier, Back-to-back weather systems have formed in the Bay of Bengal during Northeast monsoon, similar to this year.
- ❖ But these systems had formed mostly in October and November.
- ❖ There have been 15 occurrences of clusters of cyclones between 1961 and 2010.
- ❖ Similar instances have occurred after 2011 as well.
- ❖ This December, a low-pressure area formed in the Bay of Bengal around December 7 in a few days after Cyclone Fengal moved inland.
- ❖ After that, the present well-marked low-pressure area was formed over the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ There was a break from such incidents between 1999 and 2010.
- ❖ Two cyclones or depressions forming within a gap of eight days are called the clusters.





- ❖ Two separate clusters of tropical cyclones had occurred over the Bay of Bengal in 1966, involving four tropical cyclones.
- ❖ In the 13 years from 2011, there were four incidences of clusters during 2013, 2016, 2020 and 2021 in November.



State Bird Authority 2024



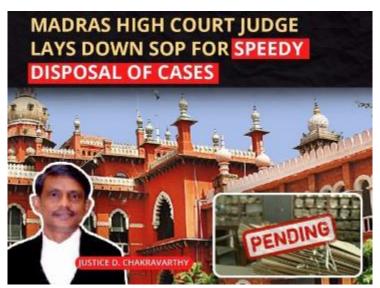




- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has issued an order reconstituting the State Bird Authority.
- It is tasked to monitor and improve bird sanctuaries, nesting conditions for birds, and ecotourism facilities.
- ❖ Earlier this year, an amendment was made to include Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) as a member in the State Bird Authority.

SOP for speedy disposal of cases

- ❖ Madras High Court has formulated a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to help ensure the disposal of more cases.
- ❖ It also ensures avoiding the wastage of court time in mentioning matters and preventing unnecessary adjournments.
- The lawyers could directly obtain motion slips from his Court Officer and present them before the Registry for moving lunch motions and listing fresh cases on the next day.



Increasing power demand in Tamilnadu

- ❖ The 660-MW Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) expansion project would help to ensure grid stability and increase power generation.
- ❖ The State's power demand is increasing by 10% every year.
- ❖ With 11,000 MW of the wind energy capacity, Tamil Nadu ranks second in the country.
- ❖ In terms of the solar energy capacity, the State ranks third with a capacity of 9,400 MW.





- ❖ The State has set a target of adding additional green energy capacity of 100 billion units by 2030.
- ❖ It has set a target that 50% of its energy needs should be met by green energy by 2030.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Green Energy Company Ltd oversees the state's green energy initiatives.

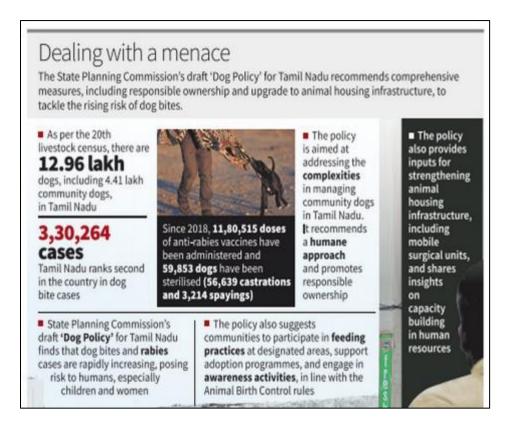


Framework for management of community dog population

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (SPC) has released a comprehensive draft policy framework for community dog management and regulation.
- ❖ It aims to address the challenges posed by the growing dog population in the State and ensuring public health and safety.
- ❖ The policy outlines a strategic approach to manage the dog population in a humane, effective, and sustainable manner.
- ❖ An anti-rabies mass vaccination drive should be conducted on dedicated days to combat rabies in community dogs.
- ❖ Vaccinated animals can be easily identified by marking them to ensure that there is no duplication or omission.
- ❖ It suggests to establish a mobile operation facility is essential to ensure that even local bodies in the distant places can access the periodic animal birth control programmes.
- ❖ The registration of all pet dogs is imperative to promote responsible pet ownership and address dog abandonment.







One Health initiatives

- ❖ The 'One Health and Climate Change' Tamil Nadu symposium was recently held in Chennai.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu launched the 'One Health' logo and released an introductory booklet 'One Health and Climate Change: A Tamil Nadu Perspective'.
- ❖ The government is taking steps to increase the green cover in Tamil Nadu to 33%.
- ❖ The State had recently declared heatwaves a State-specific disaster.

Micro wind turbine in Tamilnadu

- ❖ The new integrated bus terminus (IBT), coming up at Panjapur on the Tiruchi-Madurai Highway, will have a wind tree.
- ❖ This 30-foot-tall micro wind turbine is designed to mimic trees, generating the electricity.
- ❖ Unlike the traditional wind turbine, which requires the wind velocity of 7 km per hour to generate electricity, the wind tree can do it with wind velocity of just 2.5 km per hour.





- ❖ The wind tree will have 10 KW capacity per hour, thereby generating 240 KW of power in a day.
- ❖ It will be the first wind tree in these parts of the region.



Welfare scheme for SC/ST in TN 2024

- இந்த அரசு அமைந்தவுடன் தன்னாட்சி அதிகாரத்துடன் செயல்படும் தமிழ்நாடு மாநில ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியினர் நல ஆணையம் அமைக்கப்பட்டது. இவ்வாணையத்தின் மூலம் தற்போது வரை 3695 மனுக்கள் பெறப்பட்டு 2945 மனுக்களின் மீது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
- ரூ.46.65 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில், 2,000 ஆதிதிராவிடர் மற்றும் பழங்குடியின விவசாயிகளுக்கு துரித மின் இணைப்புத் தீட்டத்தின் (Tatkal Scheme) கீழ் மின் இணைப்புப் பெற 90 சதவிகீதம் மானியம் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
- ரு.10 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில், 200 நிலமற்ற ஆதிதிராவிட மற்றும் பழங்குடியின் விவசாயத் தொழிலாளர்கள் நிலம் வாங்க மானியம் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.
- ரு.100 கோடி மதிப்பீட்டில் மதுரை, கோயம்புத்தூர், தீருச்சிராப்பள்ளி, நீலகீரியில் மாணவர்கள் பயன்பெறும் வகையில் நவீன வசதீகளுடன் நான்கு புதீய விடுதீக் கட்டடங்கள் ஆகீயவை அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. இதுபோல எண்ணற்றத் தீட்டங்களை அரசு செயல்படுத்திவருகிறது.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government listed various welfare schemes being implemented by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department.
- ❖ The Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme is ensuring the very economic development of entrepreneurs belonging to the SC/ST.
- ❖ A total of 1,303 beneficiaries have received subsidies worth ₹159.76 crore under the initiative.





- ❖ The Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme is implemented to improve amenities such as roads and street lights, and provide drinking water to Adi Dravidar habitations in urban and rural areas.
- ❖ A total of 1,966 projects had been taken up under the scheme in 2024-25.
- **❖** Under the Tholkudi scheme, infrastructure would be improved in tribal habitations at a cost of ₹1,000 crore.
- ❖ A total of 3,594 houses would be constructed for tribal people.
- **❖** The Department is setting up of knowledge centres for Adi Dravidar and Tribal students in 120 places at a cost of ₹117.27 crore.
- ❖ It constructed 60 hostels at a cost of ₹300 crore and additional classrooms in Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools.
- ❖ It is also offering incentives to students pursuing higher education abroad.

TN sustainable land use policy - draft version



- ❖ Twenty years after the state government devised a Draft Tamil Nadu Land Use Policy 2004, the State Planning Commission (SPC) has prepared a draft Sustainable Land Use Policy of Tamil Nadu (SLUP).
- ❖ It aims to address the urbanisation, environmental conservation, and economic development by aligning land use with long-term sustainability goals.
- ❖ It proposes the zoning land into development, conservation, agricultural and transition zones to optimise the urban growth, to protect ecosystems, to support agriculture, and regulate development.





- ❖ The policy also emphasises coordinated spatial planning, sustainable practices in resource management, and alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The other three policies submitted were the Tamil Nadu Employment Policy 2023, the Water Policy, and the Community Dog Management and Regulation Policy.

T.N. capital expenditure 2024-25

Committed Expenditure	2022-23 Actuals	2023-24 Budgeted	2023-24 Revised	% change from BE 23-24 to RE 23-24	2024-25 Budgeted	% change from RE 23-24 to BE 24-25
Salaries	68,588	77,240	75,546	-2%	84,932	12%
Pension	32,177	41,232	37,542	-9%	42,509	13%
Interest payment	46,911	54,676	54,669	-0.01%	62,456	14%
Total Committed Expenditure	1,47,676	1,73,148	1,67,756	-3%	1,89,897	13%

- **❖** Tamil Nadu's capital expenditure declined about 8.4% to ₹16,283.84 crore in the first half of fiscal 2024-25, from ₹17,773.80 crore in first half of fiscal 2023-24.
- ❖ For 2024-25, the State has estimated a total capital expenditure of ₹47,681 crore.
- **❖** It is a growth of 12.11% over the Revised Estimates of ₹42,532 crore in 2023-24.
- ❖ On aggregate, for the top 20 states' capital expenditure declined 9.8% in the first half of 2024-25.
- ❖ The contraction in Capital expenditure was particularly sharp in Andhra Pradesh (-72% Y-o-Y), Telangana (-56%), Haryana (-38%), Uttarakhand (-35%), and Uttar Pradesh (-16%).
- However, a few states such as Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, reported double-digit growth in capital expenditure in the first half of 2024-2025.

Tamil Nadu's forest cover 2023

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has seen a 9.09% increase in its forest cover over the last decade, adding 2,205.01 sq.km of greenery.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's forest cover was stood at 24,245.21 sq.km, and by 2023, it had expanded to 26,450.22 sq.km.
- ❖ A comparison between 2023 and 2021 shows a loss of almost 61 sq.km of forest cover in the State.





- ❖ The term "forest cover" includes all lands with at least one hectare in area and a canopy of 10% or more, regardless of ownership or legal status.
- ❖ Of the total 26,450.22 sq.km of forest cover in the State,
 - o Only 13% (3,586.19 sq.km) is classified as very dense forest,
 - o 41.7% (11,027.03 sq.km) is moderately dense, and
 - o 44.83% (11,837 sq.km) is categorised as open forest.

Tamil Nadu	23,188	Bamboo forest (0.49), Eucalyptus (7.47), Eucalyptus with Miscellaneous (1.89), Khair forest (0.25), Low land Hardwood (0.25), Mangrove (0.11), Miscellaneous forest (82.67), Mixed bamboo (1.15), Orchard (0.16), Teak (0.33), Teak with Misc (0.66), Not Applicable (4.59)
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Local bodies elections 2025

	PRIs		ULBs	
	District Panchayats*	36	Municipal Corporations ¹	21
Details of PRIs and ULBs	Block Panchayats	388	Municipalities	138
V	Village Panchayats	12,525	Town Panchayats	490
	Total	12,949	Total	649

- ❖ The election to rural local bodies in 28 districts in the state whose tenure ends in January 2025 is likely to get delayed.
- ❖ The state government has informed the Madras High Court that the polls would be held only after completing the process of delimitation and reservation.
- ❖ On December 27 and 30 of 2019, approximately 77% of a total of about 3.31 crore voters around 2.55 crore participated in election of local bodies.
- ❖ They have elected representatives for 515 district panchayat (DP) wards, 5,090 panchayat union (PU) wards, and 76,746 village panchayat (VP) wards, spread over 27 districts.
- ❖ In addition, the poll was conducted to elect 9,264 VP presidents.
- ❖ The remaining nine districts went to elections in October 2021.





Insurance cover for accident victims

- ❖ The Tamilnadu state government has raised the insurance cover for the treatment up to ₹2 lakh for accident victims under the 'Innuyir Kappom Nammai Kaakkum 48' scheme.
- ❖ So far 3,20,264 persons had benefited under the scheme which was launched on December 18, 2021, by absorbing the cost of hospitalisation for the first 48 hours of accident victims.
- ❖ Currently, 721 healthcare facilities, including 248 government and 473 private facilities, are empanelled to provide treatment under the scheme.
- ❖ The Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai, and the Government Medical College hospitals in Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai were given awards for their performance in connection with the scheme.
- ❖ A special prize was also given to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General hospital, Chennai.







Shoreline analysis of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ An analysis was done as part of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), mandated by the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011.
- ❖ The Shoreline analysis, conducted by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), has identified 69 erosional stretches along the Tamil Nadu coast, and flagged 20 sites that require reformation.
- ❖ Nearly 13.5% of Tamil Nadu's coastline is occupied by artificial structures.
- ❖ Kanniyakumari and Tiruvallur stand out for having the highest concentration of coastal structures.

Coastal zone rules, 2011	Coastal zone rules, 2018	
No development in CRZ- , the most ecologically ensitive zone, except for lefence, strategic purposes	 Eco-tourism activities such as mangrove walks, tree huts and nature trails, among others, in identified stretches, subject to permissions 	
The 500-metre CRZ s apportioned into 4 ubdivisions	 There are now further subdivisions within these 4 regions. For instance, the CRZ-1 is split into CRZ-1a and CRZ-1b and CRZ-3 has 3a and 3b 	
Coastal Regulation Zone hall apply to the land netween high tide line to OO metres on landward side of creeks, estuaries, rivers	 CRZ shall apply to the land area between high tide line to 50 mts on the landward side of creeks, estuaries, backwaters and rivers 	
States have no discretion	• 50 metre-limit after approval of State	- a

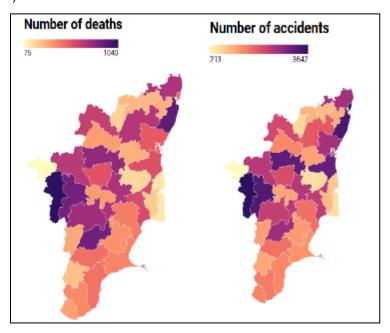
Road accidents in 2022

- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, a total of 18,074 persons died in 66,841 road accidents that were reported in 2023.
- ❖ In 2022, 17,884 fatalities were reported from 64,105 accidents.
- ❖ A total of 18,129 fatalities were reported from 62,685 accidents in 2019 while 18,392 deaths from 67,279 accidents were recorded in 2018.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, a fatality is reported in every fourth accident and 25% of accidents are turning into fatal accidents.
- ❖ Chennai and Coimbatore cities stand at top positions with 3,642 accidents and contribute to 5.45% each of accidents.
- ❖ In the next level, Chengalpattu has 3,387 accidents (5.07%), Tiruppur has 3,292 (4.93%) and Salem 3,174 (4.75%).





- ❖ In terms of fatalities, Coimbatore stands first with 1,040 persons killed last year
 5.75% out of the total 18,074 fatalities.
- Chengalpattu district witnessed 912 persons killed in road accidents (5.05% of total fatalities), Madurai recorded 864 (4.80%), Tiruppur, 861 (4.76%) and Salem 787 (4.35%).



LPG and petrol-diesel dealership - Tamilnadu

- ❖ The State Consumer Co-operative Wholesale Stores are operating 26 LPG supply units.
- ❖ The Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society (NCMS) is running a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) agency business.
- ❖ In addition, 58 outlets are being operated by the different types of cooperative societies, including PACCS for petrol/diesel dealership.
- During 2023-24, it sold about 9,135 KL worth ₹91.09 crore of petrol and diesel in the year 2023-24.

Re-examination of tungsten block

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Mines has asked the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to "reexamine" the tungsten block awarded to Hindustan Zinc Limited in Arittapatti.
- ❖ It also asked to explore the possibility of redefining its boundary by excluding the state's first bio-diversity site from the mining block.
- ❖ Hillocks in Arittapatti village have rich biological and historical significance with the presence of around 250 bird species.





- ❖ It was including 3 flagship Raptor species Laggar Falcon (Falco jugger), Shaheen Falcon (Falco peregrines), and Bonelli's Eagle (Aquila fasciata).
- ❖ The village also features the various types of megalithic structures, Tamil Brahmi inscriptions, Jain Beds, and 2200-year-old rock-cut temples.

Search committee for vice chancellor

- ❖ TN Governor had asked the state government to recall its notification over a search committee constituted for the post of vice chancellor for Annamalai University.
- ❖ He said that it does not include a nominee from UGC and it violates directions of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ As per the acts of universities of Tamil Nadu, the search committees will consist of three members the nominee of the chancellor-governor, govt nominee, and syndicate or senate nominee.
- ❖ Six of 13 state universities have been functioning without vice-chancellors.
- ❖ The extended tenure V-Cs of Bharathidasan University and Periyar University will also end in Feb and May.
- ❖ The Supreme Court also said in 'Jagadish Prasad Sharma Vs Bihar govt' that states need not follow all the guidelines of UGC and they can follow whatever they want to accept.



Self-governing systems in Tamilnadu

- ❖ It was a recent study by the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), a not-for-profit research organisation, on two villages of north Tamil Nadu Kundrathur and Ullavur.
- ❖ It highlights how elaborate self-governing administrative systems existed at the village level for many years before the arrival of the British.
- ❖ This study was based on a survey conducted by Thomas Barnard, a British military officer, in about 2,000 locations in the erstwhile Chengalpattu Jagir between 1767 and 1774.





- The British had obtained this area from the Nawab of Arcot in 1762.
- ❖ The functioning of these villages was in the Jagir from Tamil inscriptions on palm leaves kept by traditional account keepers called 'Kanakkupillais.'
- ❖ As many as 55 inscriptions from the Chola period to the Mughals have been recorded from Kundrathur, which throws light on the history of the village over several centuries.
- ❖ The annual production of foodgrains in the whole of the Chengalpattu Jagir amounted to as much as one tonne per capita.
- ❖ It is five times the average of India today.
- ❖ The Considerable shares from the produce were allocated for the maintenance of water bodies that abound in this region and for the sustenance of high scholars, teachers, musicians, and dancers.

Draft Tamil Nadu Employment Policy 2023



- * It addresses several pressing concerns in the current labour market.
- ❖ Among these are high unemployment rates among the educated youth and a noticeable mismatch between education, skills, aspirations, and the job opportunities.
- ❖ Further, the policy outlines various measures to formulate appropriate solutions.





❖ A 10-year strategy for productive jobs and inclusive growth is crucial to raising the median income level and supporting the fast-paced growth of the economy.

Draft Tamil Nadu state Water Policy

- ❖ It is developed with a multi-disciplinary approach, focuses on addressing the state's specific challenges in water management.
- ❖ It outlines the strategies to ensure equitable access to clean water, protect and enhance water resources, and promote efficient and productive water use.
- ❖ The policy also recommends the establishment of the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Authority, the Water Policy Research Centre, and a unified Tamil Nadu Water Information System, among other initiatives.



Lake areas outside Pulicat sanctuary

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (TNSWA) has said the lake areas outside of the Pulicat bird sanctuary limits should be brought under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- ❖ This will aid to prevent the conversion of wetlands for non-wetland uses.
- ❖ Currently, the Pulicat bird sanctuary has a default 10-kilometre eco-sensitive zone.
- ❖ All the wetlands listed in the National Wetland Inventory Assessment of 2011, including Pulicat lake, must be protected under Rule 4(2).





- ❖ This protection is a mandatory, regardless of whether the wetland has been formally notified.
- ❖ This rule prohibits the conversion of wetlands for non-wetland uses, such as encroachment and the establishment or expansion of industries.
- ❖ It also bans the dumping of solid waste, construction debris, hazardous materials, and untreated waste into wetlands.



25th anniversary of Thiruvalluvar statue

- ❖ The silver jubilee celebrations of the Thiruvalluvar statue at Kanyakumari Triveni Sangamam are being held on the 31st December and 1st of January.
- * CM declared this statue in Kanyakumari will be known as 'Statue of Wisdom'.
- ❖ It was dedicated to the people on January 1, 2000 by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ The total height of the statue and the pedestal combined is 133 feet (41 metres).
- ❖ It denotes the 133 chapters of the Thirukkural.
- ❖ The sculpture of Thiruvalluvar is 95 feet (29 metres) and it stands on a 38 feet (12 metres) pedestal.
- ❖ The pedestal represents the 38 chapters of virtue, the first of three books of the Kural text.
- ❖ The second and third books wealth and love respectively are represented by the statue itself.





- * TN Chief Minister also inaugurated the Glass bridge connecting Vivekananda Rock and Thiruvalluvar statue during the event.
- It is India's first glass bridge on sea.



Chola-era Tamil inscription - Bengaluru

- ❖ The Epigraphy division is taking steps to copy a fragmented Chola-era Tamil inscription engraved on a stone.
- ❖ It is found near Someshwara temple at Kammasandra village in Bengaluru rural district.
- ❖ The inscription in Tamil language dates back to the 11th Century Chola period.
- ❖ It seems to have a record of 12 kandagam (a measure of land) gifted to the Someshwara temple for conducting pujas.







NATIONAL

Basic animal husbandry statistics 2024

- ❖ It is based on the outcomes of the Integrated Sample Survey conducted for the period from March 2023 to February 2024.
- ❖ The total Milk production in the country is estimated as 239.30 million tonnes during 2023-24.
- ❖ It registered a growth of 5.62% over the past 10 years which was 146.3 million tonnes in 2014-15.
- ❖ Further, the production has also increased by 3.78% during 2023-24 over the estimates of 2022-23.
- ❖ The top five milk producing States during 2023-24 was Uttar Pradesh with a share of 16.21% of total milk production followed by Rajasthan (14.51 %), Madhya Pradesh (8.91 %), Gujarat (7.65 %), and Maharashtra (6.71 %).
- ❖ The total Egg production in the country is estimated as 142.77 billion nos. during 2023-24.
- ❖ It registered a growth of 6.8% growth over the past 10 years as compared to the estimates of 78.48 billion numbers during 2014-15.
- ❖ Further, the production has also increased annually by 3.18% during 2023-24 over 2022-23.
- ❖ The major contribution in the total Egg production comes from Andhra Pradesh with a share of 17.85 % of total Egg production followed by Tamil Nadu (15.64 %), Telangana (12.88%), West Bengal (11.37%) and Karnataka (6.63 %).
- ❖ The total Meat production in the country is estimated as 10.25 million tonnes during 2023-24.
- ❖ It registered a growth of 4.85 % over the past 10 years as compared to the estimates of 6.69 million tonnes in 2014-15.
- ❖ Further, the production was increased by 4.95 % in 2023-24 over 2022-23.
- ❖ The major contributor is West Bengal with 12.62 % share and followed by Uttar Pradesh (12.29%), Maharashtra (11.28 %), Telangana (10.85 %) and Andhra Pradesh (10.41 %).
- ❖ The total Wool production in the country is estimated as 33.69 million kg during 2023-24 registered a slight growth of 0.22% over last year.
- ❖ It was 36.76 million kg during 2019-20 and 33.61 million KG in previous year.
- ❖ The top contributor is Rajasthan with a share of 47.53% followed by Jammu & Kashmir (23.06%), Gujarat (6.18%), Maharashtra (4.75%) and Himachal Pradesh (4.22%).





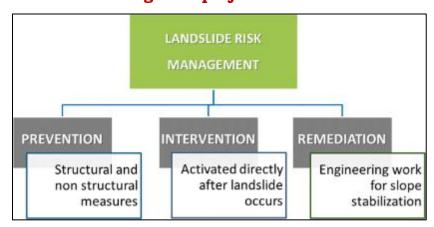
❖ India is leading in milk production globally whereas 2nd in Egg production.

Items	2022-23	2023-24	Y-0-Y
Milk Production (million tonnes)	230.58	239.30	3.78%
Meat Production (million tonnes)	9.77	10.25	4.95%
Egg Production (billion nos)	138.38	142.77	3.17%
Wool Production (million kg)	33.61	33.69	0.22%
Per Capita Milk Gm/Per day	459	471	2.61%
Per Capita Egg (numbers per annum)	101	103	0.98%

TeacherApp

- ❖ In a move to enhance the quality of education, the Union government launched the TeacherApp in New Delhi.
- ❖ This digital platform aims to equip teachers with the skills needed to navigate 21st-century classrooms, fostering continuous professional development.
- ❖ It provides over 260 hours of high-quality content, including courses, videos, podcasts, webinars, quizzes, and more.
- ❖ It is aimed at enhancing teaching practices and boosting student engagement.

National Landslide Risk Mitigation project



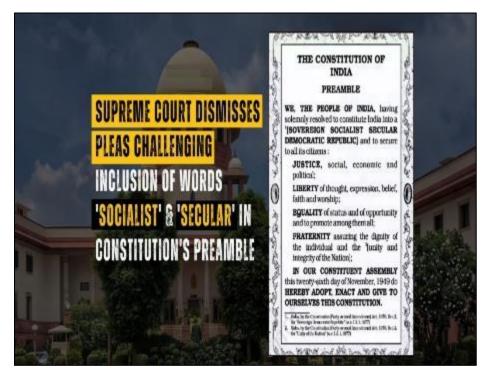




- ❖ The Centre has approved the National Landslide Risk Mitigation project in 15 States at a total cost of Rs. 1000 crore.
- ❖ The committee has approved Rs. 139 crores for Uttarakhand, Rs. 139 crores for Himachal Pradesh, Rs.378 crore for eight North East States, Rs.100 crore for Maharashtra, Rs.72 crore Karnataka, Rs. 72 crores for Kerala, Rs.50 crore for Tamil Nadu and Rs.50 crore for West Bengal.
- ❖ It also approved Rs.1115.67 crore for disaster mitigation and capacity building projects for various states.

SC on Preamble

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the insertion of the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble of the founding document.
- ❖ These words are inserted through the Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976 (42nd Amendment) by Parliament during the Emergency period.
- ❖ 42nd Amendment is often referred to as a 'mini-constitution'.
- ❖ It is because of the sheer number of changes introduced, also this Amendment greatly expanded the powers of the Centre.
- ❖ In July 2020, a Supreme Court advocate by the name of Dr. Balram Singh filed a petition challenging the inclusion of the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble of the Constitution.







National Mission on Natural Farming

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the launching of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme has a total outlay of Rs.2481 crore (Government of India share Rs.1584 crore; State share Rs.897 crore) till the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26).
- ❖ NMNF aims at promoting NF practices for providing safe & nutritious food for all.
- ❖ The Mission is designed to support farmers to reduce input cost of cultivation and dependency to externally purchased inputs.



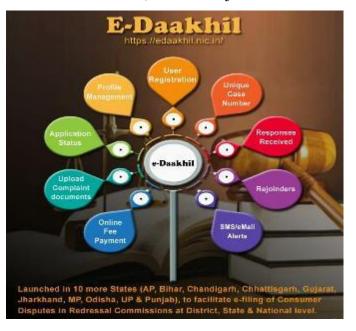
E-Daakhil portal

- ❖ India has achieved a major milestone with the nationwide implementation of the E-Daakhil portal.
- ❖ This online consumer grievance redressal platform is now operational across all states and union territories.





- ❖ It is introduced under the Consumer Protection Act of 2019 and launched on September 7, 2020.
- ❖ E-Daakhil is an innovative platform designed to provide consumers with a hasslefree, paperless mechanism to file complaints online.
- ❖ By November 2024, E-Daakhil had successfully registered over 2,81,024 users, with 1,98,725 cases filed and 38,453 already resolved.



Jarawa Tribe in Electoral roll

- ❖ For the first time in the history of India's election process, 19 members from the Jarawa Tribe had been included on the electoral roll.
- ❖ The Jarawas are the inhabitants of the western coast of Middle Andaman and the South Andaman Islands.
- ❖ The first friendly contact with the tribe was made in 1974.
- ❖ Jarawas continue to be hunting and gathering nomadic tribes.
- ❖ They hunt wild pigs and monitor lizards with bows and arrows.
- Unlike Onges and Andamanese, Jarawas do not use dogs for hunting.
- ❖ The population of Jarawas is 380 as per the census of 2011.

'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' Campaign

- ❖ The centre launched the national campaign "Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat".
- ❖ The anti-child marriage campaign will focus on seven high-burden states—West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.





- ❖ The Child Marriage Free Bharat Portal also inaugurated.
- This online platform enables the citizens to report child marriage incidents, file complaints, and access information about the Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) nationwide.
- ❖ The portal is a significant step in empowering the citizens and enforcing the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
- ❖ The aim is to reduce child marriage prevalence to below 5% by 2029.
- ❖ Child marriage rates dropped from 47.4% in 2006 to 23.3% in 2019-21.



Indian Railways status in 2024

- ❖ Indian Railways has achieved approximately 97 per cent electrification of its total Broad-Gauge network.
- ❖ Around 45,200 route kilometres of the Broad-Gauge network have been electrified since 2014-15.
- ❖ The pace of electrification has been increased from approximately 1.42 km per day during 2004-14 to about 19.7 km per day in 2023-24.
- * Recently it launched the country's first hydrogen-powered train and it will soon undergo a trial run between Haryana's Jind and Sonipat railway stations.





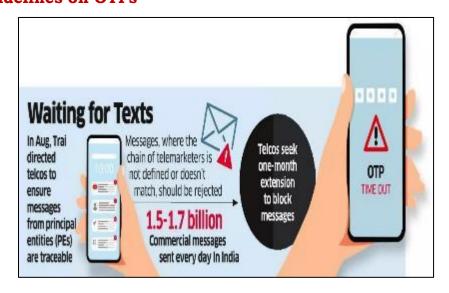


First auction in Offshore areas

- ❖ The Ministry of Mines launched the first-ever auction of mineral blocks in India's offshore areas.
- ❖ This initiative has opened up the nation's territorial waters, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and other maritime zones for the resource development.
- ❖ The first tranche of the auction will feature 13 mineral blocks strategically selected from the Arabian Sea and Andaman Sea.
- ❖ India's EEZ, covering over 2 million square kilometres, is believed to hold vast untapped mineral reserves, including critical materials such as cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements (REE), and polymetallic nodules.

Mineral(s)	Number of Blocks	Location
Construction sand	3	Off the coast of Kerala, Arabian Sea
Lime-mud	3	Off the coast of Gujarat, Arabian Sea
Polymetallic nodules and crusts (containing Cobalt, Nickel, etc.)	7	Off Great Nicobar Islands, Andaman Sea

TRAI's Guidelines on OTPs







- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) traceability guidelines came in to effect on December 1, 2024.
- ❖ The new traceability rules mandate to track the origin of commercial messages and OTPs in order to restrict fraud, spams and phishing.
- ❖ It aims to create a robust and safe ecosystem where online frauds can be reduced.

K-4 Missile

- ❖ The K-4 missile was tested from submarine INS Arighaat at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It was the first test of the submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a submarine.
- ❖ With the missile test, India also became part of a small group of countries that can fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea.



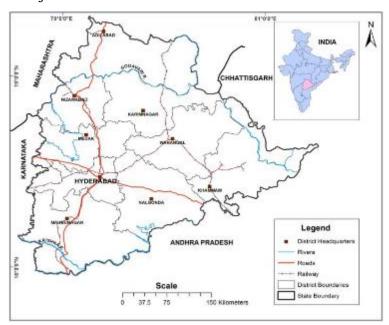
Telangana - Mineral Auction Regime

- ❖ Telangana has become the 14th state to join the mineral auction regime by successfully bidding out two limestone blocks.
- ❖ These auctions come eight years after the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act, 2015 first defined this framework.

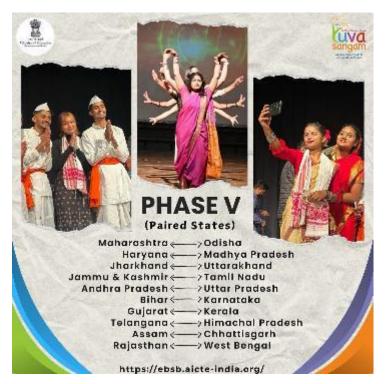




- ❖ The other additions to the mine auction regime are Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh where the centre has conducted bids for critical minerals.
- ❖ A total of 81 mineral blocks have been auctioned across 13 states, including the critical and major minerals.



Yuva Sangam Phase 5







- Yuva Sangam Phase 5 commenced from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh embarked on journeys to Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.
- ❖ Yuva Sangam is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at strengthening people-to-people connections among youth across different States and Union Territories.
- ❖ The program promotes unity in diversity by facilitating meaningful interactions, cultural immersion, and knowledge sharing.
- During Yuva Sangam tours, multi-dimensional exposure under five broad areasthe 5 Ps are Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect), and Prodyogiki (Technology).

Assessing Universal Basic Literacy in India

Statement 1: Percentage of persons able to read and write short simple statements in their everyday life with understanding					
Age group (years)	Male	Female	all-India Person		
15 – 24	97.9	96.0	97.0		
15 – 29	97.5	94.6	96.1		
15 years and above	88.3	74.8	81.6		

- ❖ The 79th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS) "Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey, 2022–23" was conducted between July 2022 and June 2023.
- ❖ 95.9% of individuals in India possess basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- ❖ 95.3% of rural individuals have basic literacy and numeracy skills, and it is 97.4% in urban areas.
- ❖ 97.4% of rural males and 93.4% of rural females possess these skills.
- ❖ In urban areas, 98% of males and 96.7% of females meet this standard.
- ♦ Mizoram (100%), Goa (99.9%), and Sikkim (99.9%) lead in literacy rates.
- ❖ Bihar (91.9%) and Uttar Pradesh (92.3%) lag behind.
- ❖ The term "universal" generally implies full or near-complete coverage, typically close to 100%.





Sabal-20 Logistics Drone

- ❖ The Indian Army has received Sabal 20 logistics drones procured from EndureAir Systems for deployment in the Eastern sector.
- ❖ Sabal 20 is an electric unmanned helicopter based on variable pitch technology, and capable of carrying payloads of up to 20 kg.
- ❖ It will support missions such as long-range deliveries, high-altitude operations, and precision logistics.

RESET Program 2024



- ❖ The Centre has launched the Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training (RESET) Program in august 2024.
- ❖ It aims at facilitating retired athletes' career development by providing them tailor-made education for their academic enhancement.
- ❖ It also provides internship and empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills for their transition into a suitable career option.
- ❖ The RESET Programme also aims at addressing the existing human resource gap in the sports sector.

Global Engagement Scheme 2024

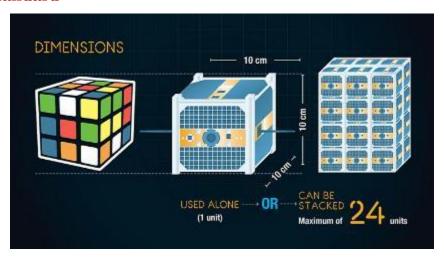
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture implements "Global Engagement Scheme".
- ❖ It aims to promote India's rich cultural heritage and enhance India's image in the global arena in a concerted manner.





- ❖ Under the Scheme, the Festival of India (FoI) is organized abroad to promote people to people connect and bilateral cultural contacts.
- ❖ During 2013-14 to 2023-24, total 62 FoIs have been held in different countries.

CubeSat Standard



- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has adopted the global standard for the CubeSat—a class of small satellites.
- ❖ The CubeSat standard, originally developed for the Stanford University's OPAL mission, has gained international acclaim.
- ❖ They mandate uniform dimensions, low-outgassing materials, kill switches and rigorous testing (vibration, thermal, shock).
- ❖ The Indian satellite communication market was valued at \$1.6 billion in 2022.
- ❖ It is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.75% from 2023 to 2030.
- ❖ India's space economy stands at \$8 billion, contributing around 2-3% of the global space economy.
- ❖ The government expects it to reach \$100 billion by 2040.

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- The Lok Sabha passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- ❖ The Bill allows the bank account holders to have up to four nominees in their accounts.
- ❖ It also proposes some changes related to redefining "substantial interest" for directorships, which could increase to ₹2 crore instead of the current limit of ₹5 lakh.





- ❖ It proposes to increase the tenure of directors (excluding the chairman and whole-time director) in cooperative banks from eight years to 10 years.
- ❖ The Bill would allow a director of a Central Cooperative Bank to serve on the board of a State Cooperative Bank.
- ❖ The Bill also seeks to give greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors.
- ❖ It redefines the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays.
- ❖ The Bill proposed to amend five Acts
 - o The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934,
 - o The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (or the BR Act),
 - o The State Bank of India Act, 1955,
 - The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, and
 - The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

FM MOVES BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024 IN LOK SABHA • I would like to highlight 7 of the 19 amendments to the banking bill • The proposed bill aims to improve governance standards, provide consistency in reporting by banks to the RBI, ensure better protection for the depositors and also for investors, improve audit quality in PSBs, and also increase the tenure of directors in coop banks • Proposed amendments will only strengthen governance in Indian banking sector besides enhancing consumer and customer protection w.r.t nominations and protection of investors





National Achievement Survey 2024

- ❖ The NAS 2024 is a large-scale assessment to obtain information about the learning achievements of schoolchildren.
- ❖ The survey conducts random sampling to select schools and students to prevent bias.
- Students of Class 3 are expected to answer 45 multiple choice questions (MCQs) designed until the Class 2 level, with weightage of 15 marks each for language, maths, and environmental science, in 90 minutes.
- ❖ The 2024 NAS survey will be conducted in 26 languages.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, 5,055 grades which are Classes 3, 6, and 9 will be writing the exam.

SheSTEM 2024



❖ This annual event was organized by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Office of Science and Innovation at the Embassy of Sweden.

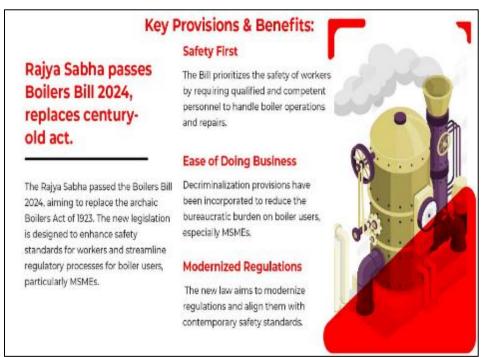




- ❖ It aims to inspire the next generation and encourage the young minds to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- ❖ This year's challenge, focusing on energy storage and sustainability, directly addresses some of the most pressing global challenges
- ❖ It has invited students from grades 6-12 nationwide to submit innovative ideas focused on Battery Technology and Energy Storage (BEST) systems.

Boilers bill 2024

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Boilers Bill 2024, aiming to replace the archaic Boilers Act of 1923.
- ❖ It aims to decriminalise seven offences and promote ease of doing business.
- ❖ For Four major offences, which may result in loss of life and property, criminal penalties are retained.
- ❖ The bill also provisions to ensure the safety of persons working inside a boiler
- ❖ The new law aims to modernize regulations and align them with contemporary safety standards.



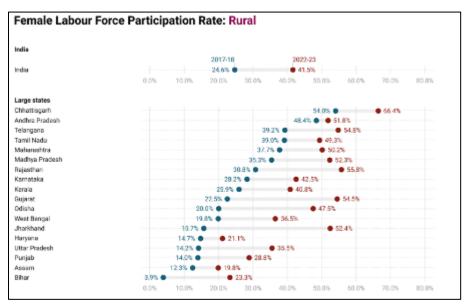
Female Labour force participation 2017-2023

❖ Rural female labour force participation rate has increased from 24.6% to 41.5% between 2017-2018 and 2022-2023 at the national level.





- ❖ This suggests an overall growth of 69% in a span of 5 years.
- ❖ States like Jharkhand, Bihar and Nagaland have witnessed tremendous growth.
- ❖ The urban female labour force participation rate has also increased by 25% from 20.4% to 25.4% between 2017-2018 and 2022-2023 at the national level.
- ❖ Gujarat has witnessed the notable growth of 63% while Tamil Nadu has seen a marginal rise in urban female LFPR.
- ❖ The report also found a significant rise in female LFPR among married women, especially in some of states like Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Rajasthan.



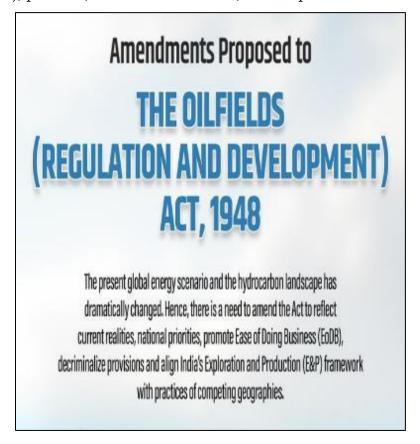
Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill.
- ❖ It aimed at delinking petroleum operations from mining operations.
- ❖ It is broadening the scope of the expression "mineral oils" and introducing the concept of "petroleum lease" among other provisions.
- ❖ India is believed to hold yet-to-find potential of 13 billion tons of oil equivalent.
- ❖ In the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, petroleum and natural gas were the only two defined as mineral oils.
- ❖ This Bill expands the definition to include coal bed methane, oil shale, shale gas, shale oil, tight gas, tight oil, and gas hydrate, but does not include coal, lignite and helium occurring in the petroleum process.

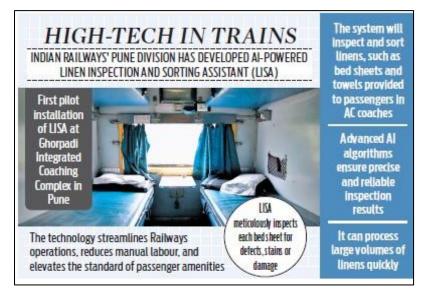




Subsequently, the Bill alters the previously used mining lease to introduce a 'petroleum lease' which allows companies to explore, prospect (search for oil and gas fields), produce, make merchantable, and dispose of mineral oils.



AI-based bedroll inspection

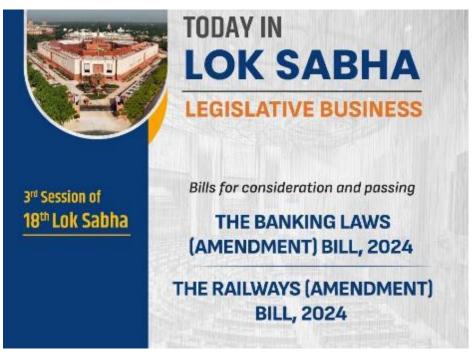






- ❖ The Indian Railways has implemented an Artificial Intelligence-based system to inspect and sort linens.
- ❖ The AI-powered Linen Inspection and Sorting Assistant (LISA) was developed by the Pune division.
- ❖ It is designed to ensure 100% quality inspection of bed sheets used in trains.

Railways Amendment Bill 2024



- ❖ The current Bill proposes to simplify the legal framework by incorporating the proposals of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 in the Railways Act, 1989.
- ❖ It aims to provide statutory backing to the Railway Board, which has functioned without such sanction since its inception.
- ❖ The Bill proposes the decentralising financial and operational decision-making to zones, empowering them to manage the budgets, infrastructure works, and recruitment.
- ❖ It is supported by various committees, including the 2014 Sreedharan Committee.
- ❖ The Bill introduces Section 24A to allow the government to expedite superfast train operations and infrastructure upgrades.
- ❖ It will establish an independent regulator to oversee various aspects of Indian Railways, including tariffs, safety, and private sector participation.





Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024



- ❖ Parliament passed a bill to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act to further improve the ease of doing business in aviation sector.
- ❖ The bill seeks to remove redundancies and replace the Aircraft Act, 1934, which has been amended 21 times.
- ❖ The bill focuses on enhancing the safety, regulatory oversight, and consumer protection while aligning with international standards.
- ❖ The bill also promotes the self-reliance in aircraft manufacturing, encourages investment, and establishes the robust governance structures for civil aviation authorities.
- ❖ The licensing process hitherto conducted by the Department of Telecom will now be managed Directorate General of Civil Aviation.
- ❖ This will ensure a single-window clearance process as aviation personnel can now secure all their certificates from one authority.

Positive Trends Under BBBP Scheme

- * Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme with 100% funding by the Central Government.
- ❖ It focuses on preventing gender-biased sex-selective practices, ensuring the survival and protection of the girl child, and promoting education of girl children.
- ❖ The Sex ratio at Birth (SRB) has been improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 (provisional data) at the national level.

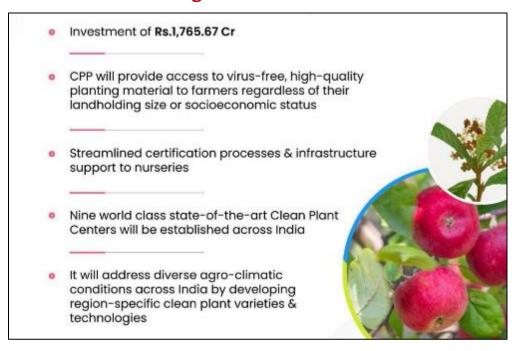




- ❖ There is a slight decline in SRB in respect of the State of Odisha from 948 in 2014-15 to 926 in 2023-24.
- ❖ The Gross Enrolment ratio of girls in the schools at secondary level has increased in the state of Odisha from 75.03 percent in 2014-15 to 80.60 percent in 2021-22.



Atma Nirbhar Clean Plant Program



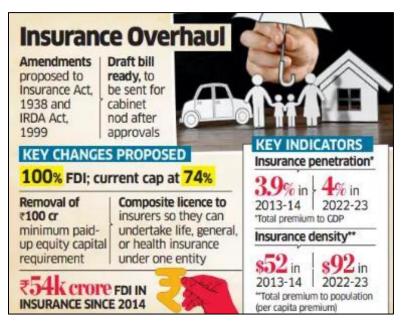




- ❖ India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$98 million loan deal.
- ❖ It aims to improve the horticulture crop farmers' access to certified disease-free planting materials.
- ❖ The project supports the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme (CPP) that enhances plant health management.
- ❖ CPP is part of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- ❖ It will be implemented from 2024 to 2030 with 50% financial assistance from ADB.
- ❖ Horticulture occupies 18% of agricultural land and accounts for 33% of the gross value of agricultural GDP.

Insurance Amendment Bill 2024

- ❖ It aims to amend the Insurance Act 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- ❖ This new Insurance Amendment Bill, proposes 100 per cent FDI in the insurance sector.
- ❖ The FDI limit in Indian insurance companies will be raised from 74 per cent to 100 per cent.
- ❖ The requirement of net-owned funds for foreign re-insurers is also proposed to be reduced from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 1,000 crore.
- ❖ Currently, there are 25 life insurance companies and 34 non-life or general insurance firms in India.



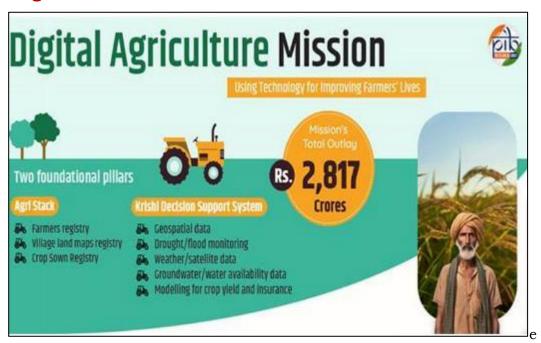




'Anna Chakra' and SCAN Portal

- ❖ The centre launched "Anna Chakra" and the SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) portal.
- ❖ They aim to modernize India's Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ❖ Anna Chakra is a pioneering tool for optimizing the supply chain of the PDS in India.
- ❖ It will identify optimal routes for the transportation of food grains.
- ❖ The SCAN portal will streamline the subsidy claim process for states under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013.

Digital Agriculture Mission 2024 Milestone



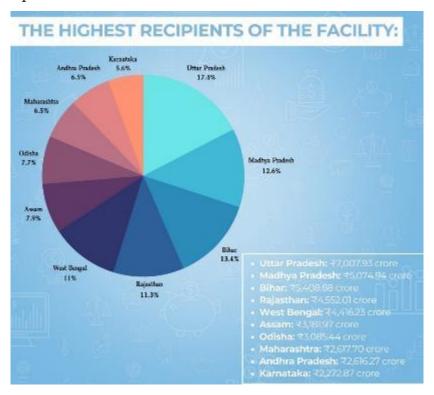
- ❖ Gujarat has become the first state in India to achieve a significant milestone under the Digital Agriculture Mission.
- ❖ It generated 'Farmer IDs' for 25 per cent of the targeted farmers in the state.
- ❖ The Farmer ID, dynamically linked to the state's land records system and based on Aadhaar, ensures seamless updates with changes in land ownership details.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has generated Farmer IDs for 9 per cent of its farmers registered under PM KISAN, followed by Maharashtra at 2 per cent.
- ❖ The other states, which includes Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Rajasthan, have also begun implementing this system.





Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment

- ❖ The Union government has released Rs 50,571.42 crore to states under its 'Special Assistance for Capital Investment' scheme.
- ❖ It aimed at boosting funding for various development projects during the first eight months of the current financial year.
- ❖ 23 out of 28 states have availed the interest-free assistance provided by the Centre, with Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Punjab, and Telangana being the exceptions.
- ❖ This scheme provides 50-year interest-free loans to state governments to boost capital expenditure.

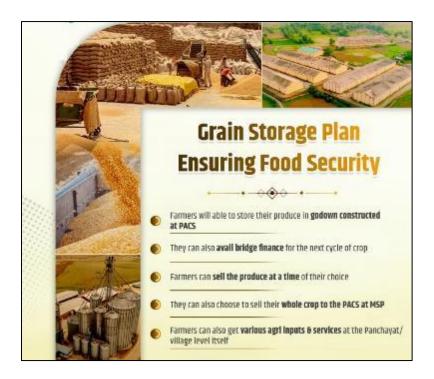


World's largest grain storage plan 2024

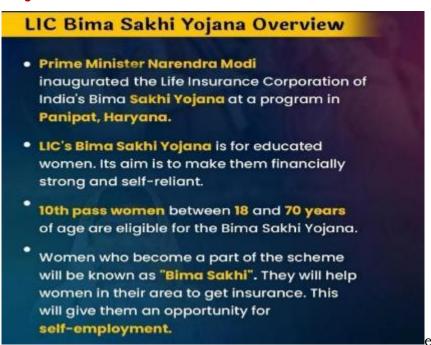
- ❖ Under the pilot phase of the ambitious World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the cooperative sector, godowns have been successfully constructed at Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in 11 states across India.
- ❖ These include Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Telangana, Tripura, and Rajasthan.
- ❖ It has achieved a total storage capacity of 9,750 metric tonnes.
- ❖ Now the government has extended the project over 500 additional PACS across the country.







Bima Sakhi Yojana Scheme



- ❖ The union govt launched this scheme to empower women and further financial inclusion.
- ❖ This is an initiative of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).





- ❖ Through the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana', women in the age group of 18 to 70 years who have passed 10th will be empowered.
- ❖ Under this scheme, women will be given special training and stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.
- ❖ After training, women can work as LIC agents and graduate insurance Sakhis.
- ❖ They will also get an opportunity to work in the role of development officer in LIC.

Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024

- ❖ The Merchant Shipping Bill of 2024 seeks to repeal the Merchant Shipping Act of 1958.
- ❖ This bill redefines and simplify ownership criteria for merchant vessels in the country.
- Currently, only Indian citizens or companies can register ships under the Indian flag.
- ❖ It is making it easier for Indian-flagged vessels to operate, and also streamline a variety of regulations that deal with marine casualties.
- ❖ It has been proposed to expand the eligibility criteria for ownership of the vessels and increasing tonnage under the Indian flag.
- The Bill also makes provision for temporary registration of vessels seeking to be recycled in India.
- ❖ It provides for the constitution of a limitation fund for certain claims and aims to streamline administrative processes with electronic registration and digital records.



Smuggling in India report 2023/24

❖ A recent report titled "Smuggling in India 2024" is released by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).





- ❖ The agency recorded 47 cases in 2023-24 of smuggling of cocaine through the air route, against 21 cases the previous year.
- ❖ 1,319 kg of gold seized during 2023-24 compared to 600 kg the year before.
- **❖** It recorded cases of FTA misuse worth ₹1,427 crore during 2023-24 compared to ₹481 crore in 2022-2023.
- ❖ This region Death Crescent, comprising Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, is a primary source of heroin trafficked into India.
- ❖ This area Death Triangle encompassing Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, is a significant source of synthetic drugs and heroin.



Amrit Gyaan Kosh Portal

- ❖ Centre launched 'Amrit Gyan Kosh' Portal and 'Faculty Development portal' at the Civil Service Training Institutions Convention.
- ❖ The Amrit Gyan Kosh portal provides a shared knowledge bank with India-centric case studies.
- ❖ The Faculty Development portal focuses on training practitioners and faculty to improve knowledge delivery to civil servants.

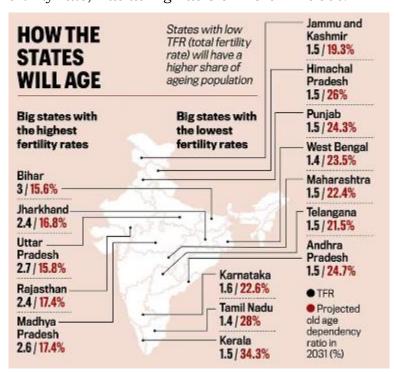
Total Fertility Rate of 2.0

❖ India has achieved a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.0, according to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019–21).





- ❖ This meets the targets set under the National Population Policy 2000 and the National Health Policy 2017, which aimed for a TFR of 2.1.
- ❖ The total fertility rate is the average number of children that a woman will have during her lifetime.
- ❖ It is measured in terms of children per woman.
- ❖ The total fertility rate, was as high as 6 or more in 1950s.



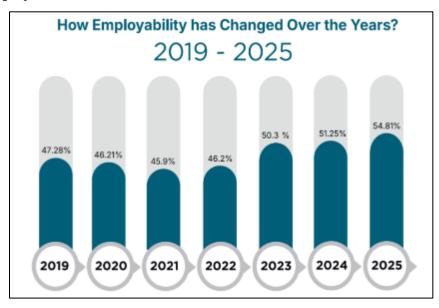
India Skills Report 2025

- ❖ Nearly 55 per cent of Indian graduates are expected to be globally employable in 2025, up from 51.2 per cent in 2024.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi are emerging as major hubs for employable talent.
- Cities such as Pune, Bengaluru and Mumbai are leading the way in providing a skilled workforce.
- ❖ The employability rate for men is expected to rise to 53.5 per cent in 2025 from 51.8 per cent in 2024.
- ❖ Meanwhile, for women the employability rate is projected to decline to 47.5 per cent from 50.9 per cent during the same time.
- ❖ Maharashtra leads in the employability, followed by Delhi, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.



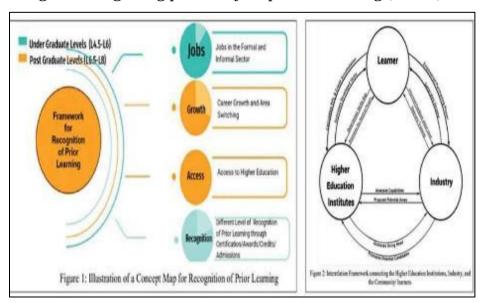


* Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala are the top States favoured for employment across India.



Prior learning in higher education

- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has unveiled the draft guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- ❖ It aims to bridge the gap between informal, non-formal, and formal education by assessing and recognising previously acquired knowledge, skills, and abilities.



❖ This framework enables the individuals to formalise their competencies and earn credits, paving the way for their integration into the formal education system.





- ❖ Through this, the student can earn up to 30 percent of the required credits for a degree programme.
- ❖ The UGC aims to implement RPL for university admissions and job placements by 2026.
- It creates diverse and flexible pathways for individuals with various educational backgrounds and learning experiences to access higher education based on their demonstrated competencies.

New Rules for Clinical Thermometers

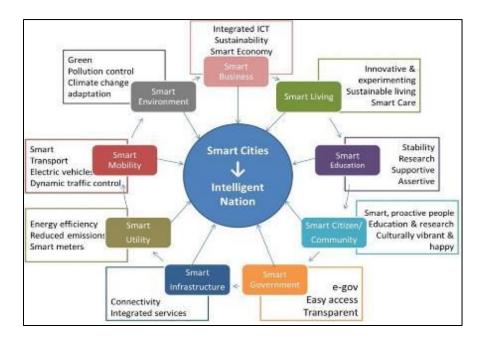


- ❖ The Department of Consumer Affairs has proposed amendment as per the OIML recommendations under the Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011.
- ❖ These rules will standardize the accuracy and reliability of the Clinical Electrical Thermometers.
- ❖ The provisions mandate verification and stamping of these devices to ensure their compliance with prescribed standards
- ❖ The proposed rules aim to foster trust in their measurements, ensuring that the diagnosis and treatment decisions are based on reliable data.

8 New Smart Cities

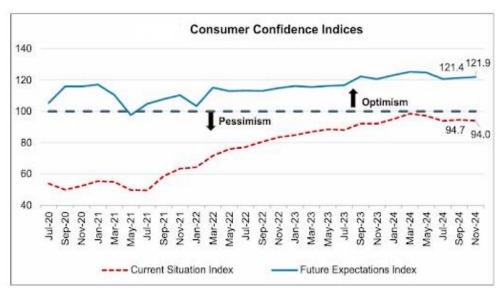
- ❖ The Centre has launched a new scheme as an extension of the Smart City Mission where an allocation of Rs 8,000 crore for the incubation of 8 new cities.
- ❖ A State can have only one new city through this fund.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Thirumazhisai is also part of this list.





Consumer Confidence Survey 2024

- * Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the results of November 2024 round of its bi-monthly consumer confidence survey (CCS).
- ❖ The Indian consumer confidence about general economic situation, employment scenario, their income and spending have weakened.
- ❖ Their confidence for the current period declined marginally owing to the weaker sentiments across the survey parameters except household spending.
- ❖ The future expectations index (FEI) is improved by 0.5 points to 121.9 in the latest survey.







Policy initiatives for agriculture sector



- ❖ The Centre has launched several key initiatives aimed at transforming the agri culture sector by improving production, enhancing farmer's incomes, and by promoting sustainable practices.
- ❖ The Clean Plant Programme (CPP) has been approved to enhance horticultural productivity by providing disease-free planting materials.
- ❖ The Digital Agriculture Mission was sanctioned funds to revolutionize agriculture with digital solutions.
- ❖ The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Expansion was approved to include community farming assets, integrated processing units, and convergence with PM-KUSUM-A projects.
- The National Mission on Edible Oils Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) was launched to increase domestic oilseed production to reduce reliance on imports.
- ❖ The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) was introduced to promote natural farming practices as a sustainable alternative, marking a significant shift towards eco-friendly agriculture.

Performance Rating System for Highways

❖ The NHAI has launched a mechanism to rate the contractors engaged in the operation and maintenance of such stretches.





- ❖ The Contractors scoring less than 60 out of 100 will be declared "non-performers" reducing their chances of securing new projects.
- ❖ The scores and ratings will be based on an objective assessment of the five main parameters: roughness, potholes, rut depth, surface cracking, patchwork, and ravelling.
- ❖ The NHAI will also deploy network survey vehicles (NSVs) fitted with cameras and sensors on the NH network to assess the condition.

Voronezh Radar

- ❖ India and Russia are in the advanced discussions on a \$4 billion defence deal to strengthen India's air defence infrastructure.
- ❖ The deal focuses on the acquisition of the state-of-the-art Voronezh radar system.
- ❖ It will enhance India's ability to detect and respond to aerial threats across an extensive region.
- ❖ It has a vertical range exceeding 8,000 kilometres and a horizontal reach of over 6,000 kilometres.
- ❖ The radar can detect and track the multiple threats, including ballistic missiles, stealth aircraft, fighter jets, and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).
- ❖ According to the Russian claims, the system can monitor more than 500 objects simultaneously and even track near-Earth objects in space.
- ❖ The deal also includes a provision for at least 60% of the radar system to be manufactured domestically.







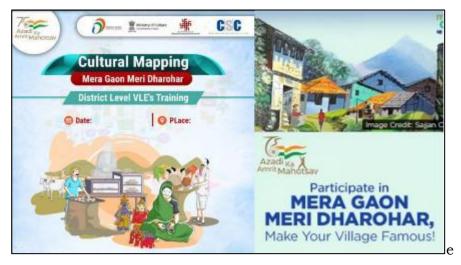
Disaster Management Amendment Bill, 2024

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to amend the existing Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Its main proposals are
 - o Creation of disaster databases at national and state level
 - Constitution of Urban Disaster Management Authority for state capital and large cities having municipal corporation, and
 - o Constitution of State Disaster Response Force by the state governments.
- ❖ The Bill provides a statutory status to existing bodies such as the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) and the High-Level Committee (HLC).

Disaster Management (Amendment Bill), 2024:

- The bill seeks to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005, which was enacted to provide for the effective management of disasters.
- The bill makes provision for the constitution of "Urban Disaster Management Authority" for State capitals and large cities having municipal corporations, except the union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.
- The bill empowers the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authorities to prepare the disaster plan at the national level and state level, respectively, instead of the plans made by the National Executive Committee and the State Executive Committees earlier.

National Mission on Cultural Mapping 2024







- ❖ National Mission on Cultural Mapping has been set up by Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ It aims to identify and well document India's cultural heritage and its creative potential to regenerate and revitalize rural economies.
- ❖ It is mapping the cultural aspects of 6.5 lakh villages and creating a National Register of Artists and Art Practices.
- ❖ The district-wise details are available at Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD) Web Portal.
- ❖ Currently, the data of 4.5 lakh villages have been uploaded on the MGMD Web Portal.

Definitions of International and Domestic SMS

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released the Recommendations on the Definition of International Traffic.
- ❖ The term 'International Traffic' denotes the traffic originating in one country and terminating in another country, where one of the countries is India."
- ❖ The term 'International SMS Message' denotes the international traffic delivered using SMS."
- ❖ Any incoming application to person (A2P) SMS message shall be treated as an international SMS message.
- ❖ But it cannot be generated, transmitted or received without the use or the intervention of any electronic device, computer system or computer application located outside India.
- 'Domestic Traffic' means the traffic originating and terminating within India.
- ❖ Domestic SMS means the domestic traffic delivered using SMS.







India's Women-Owned MSMEs 2024

Number of Women Owned MSMEs				
Financial Year	2020-21 (From 01.07.2020 to 31.03.2021)	Cumulative (till 30.11.2024)		
All India	4,87,287	2,20,73,675		
Gujarat	37,146	9,12,052		
Rajasthan	29,371	8,15,207		

- ❖ By November 30th 2024 out of a total of 2,20,73,675, women-owned MSMEs had registered on the Udyam Registration Portal (URP) and Udyam Assist Platform (UAP).
- ❖ In Gujarat, 9,12,052 women-owned MSMEs have registered, while Rajasthan accounts for 8,15,207 registrations.
- ❖ 11,942 registrations in Gujarat's Valsad District, constituting 18.24 per cent of the total MSMEs there.
- ❖ 7,803 registrations in Rajasthan's Tonk and Sawai Madhopur Districts, comprising 13 per cent of their respective totals.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 1,926,040 Women Owned MSMEs and it is 43% of total registrations.
- ❖ West Bengal topped with 62% Women Owned MSMEs in the list.

First Green Steel Taxonomy

- ❖ India has unveiled the world's first Taxonomy of the Green Steel aimed at decarbonizing the steel industry.
- ❖ The taxonomy defines green steel standards to support the country's net-zero goals by 2070.
- ❖ The taxonomy introduces a star-rating system to classify green steel based on emission intensity.
- ❖ Five-star green steel is requiring emissions below 1.6 tonnes of CO2 per tonne of finished steel (tCO2/tfs).





❖ Steel with emissions below 2.2 tCO2/tfs will qualify for green certification.



Women's Workforce Participation in India 2017-2023

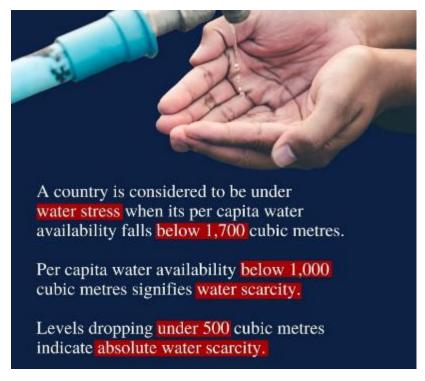
- ❖ The Female labour force participation rate (LFPR) increased in almost all states in India during 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- ❖ Bihar, Punjab, and Haryana have consistently reported very low levels of female LFPR.
- ❖ Rural female LFPR rose to 41.5 per cent (~69 per cent growth) from 24.6 per cent during 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- ❖ Urban LFPR rose to 25.4 per cent from 20.4 per cent.

Female Labor Force Metrics (2017-18 vs. 2023-24)				
Metric	2017-18	2023-24		
Work Participation Rate (WPR) (%)	22%	40.3%		
Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (%)	23.3%	41.7%		
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6%	3.2%		





India's Water Resources Assessment 2024



- ❖ The Central Water Commission (CWC) has released its study titled 'Assessment of Water Resources of India 2024'.
- ❖ It has estimated that India's average annual water availability, between 1985 and 2023, stood at 2,115.95 billion cubic meters (BCM).
- ❖ Brahmaputra (592.32 BCM), Ganga (581.75 BCM), and Godavari (129.17 BCM) were the top three basins with the highest water availability across the country.
- ❖ Sabarmati (9.87 BCM), Pennar (10.42 BCM), and Mahi (13.03 BCM) were bottom three basins in terms of water availability.
- ❖ The average annual per capita water availability for the year 2024 is 1,513 cubic meters.

India's Atomic Power Capacity 2024

- ❖ India's nuclear power generation capacity has nearly doubled in the last 10 years from 4,780 MW in 2014 to 8,180 MW in 2024.
- ❖ The capacity is projected to triple to 22,480 MW by 2031-32.
- ❖ The revision of India's power distribution framework has increased the home state's share of electricity from atomic plants to 50 per cent.
- ❖ 35 per cent is given to neighbouring states, and 15 per cent to the national grid.







129th Constitutional Amendment Bill

- ❖ Two Bills seeking to implement simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies were introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- ❖ It seeks to insert/amend the following provisions
 - Inserting new article 82A simultaneous elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and all legislative Assemblies
 - o Amending Article 83 -Duration of Houses of Parliament,
 - o Amending Article 172 -Duration of State Legislatures and
 - Amending Article 327 Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
- ❖ While a simple majority is required to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution, its passage requires two-thirds majority.
- ❖ As of one estimate, Two-thirds majority (307) was needed out of the total 461 votes in the Lok Sabha on that day.
- ❖ While 263 members voted in favour of introducing the Bill, 198 opposed it.
- ❖ This is the first time that the electronic voting system was used in the new Parliament.





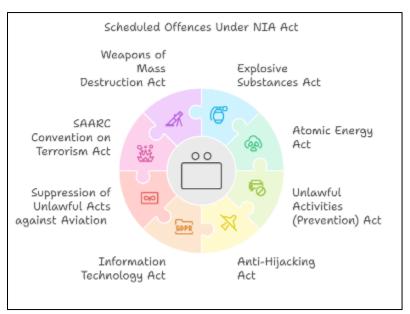
The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024

- Aims to implement One Nation, One Election (ONOE) concept
- Proposes simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
- Seeks to align election schedules across different government levels

The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

 Designed to align elections in Union Territories like Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry with Lok Sabha polls

SC on powers of NIA



- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that the powers of the NIA are not restricted to probing offences mentioned in the schedule of the NIA Act or accused committing such "scheduled offences".
- ❖ NIA Act, 2008 specifies categories of scheduled offences that NIA can investigate.





- * The scheduled offences include offence under
 - o Explosive Substances Act, 1908
 - o Atomic Energy Act, 1962,
 - o Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982,
 - o SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act, 1993 and
 - o Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 etc.

India's First Anti-Pesticide Bodysuit



- ❖ India's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit "Kisan Kavach" has been unveiled recently.
- ❖ It is designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure.
- ❖ The bodysuit offers protection against pesticide-induced toxicity, which often leads to severe health complications, including breathing disorders, vision loss, and, in extreme cases, death.

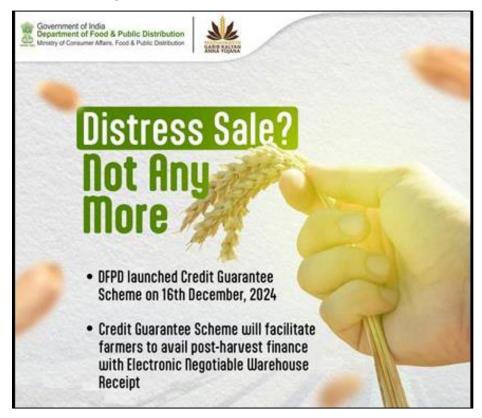
New Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) 2024

- ❖ The Centre has unveiled a credit guarantee scheme (CGS) to help small farmers who engage in distress selling.
- ❖ The scheme provides a corpus of Rs 1000 crore to help farmers.
- ❖ It will aid especially small and marginal to access post-harvest loans using electronic warehouse receipts.





- ❖ Under the revamped credit guarantee scheme, banks will issue Agri loans against warehouse receipts (e-NWR).
- ❖ The farmers will also get the opportunity to submit their produce and get issued e-NWRs by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) registered repositories.
- ❖ It will act as collateral for banks to issue required loans.
- ❖ Farmers can sell their produce when the price goes up.
- ❖ The current post-harvest lending stands at around Rs 40,000 crore out of total agricultural lending Rs 21 lakh crore.



AYUSH New Chairs in 5 countries

- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush has functional academic AYUSH chairs at Bangladesh, Australia, Mauritius, Latvia, and Malaysia.
- ❖ The initiative at foreign institutes is a part of India's broader efforts to promote AYUSH systems of medicine, internationally.
- ❖ Establishing AYUSH Chairs in foreign universities is a key strategy for fostering international collaboration, research, and promoting AYUSH's benefits.





- ❖ The Chair usually aim to advance the academic exchange, research, and public awareness of AYUSH, contributing to its recognition and acceptance in the host country.
- ❖ India signed 24 Country to Country MoUs for Cooperation in field of Traditional Medicine and Homoeopathy with foreign nations.
- ❖ It signed 15 MoUs with International Institutes for setting up of AYUSH Academic Chairs in foreign nations.



Yuva Sahakar Scheme



- ❖ "Yuva Sahakar Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme" is being implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- ❖ It aims to encourage the newly formed cooperative societies with new and/or innovative ideas.





- ❖ The scheme encourages young entrepreneur Cooperative Societies which are in operation for a minimum of 3 months.
- ❖ The loan provided under the scheme is a long-term loan (up to 5 years) and as an incentive.
- ❖ NCDC provides 2% interest subvention on its applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project activities.

SC on Henderson Doctrine

- The pre-requisites which are necessary for Res Judicata are:
 - 1) There must be a final judgment;
 - 2) The judgment must be on the merits;
 - 3) The claims must be the same in the first and second suits;
- 4) The parties in the second action must be the same as those in the

first, or have been represented by a party to the prior action.

- ❖ In a recent case, the Supreme Court explained Henderson doctrine.
- ❖ It is a natural outcome of the Indian doctrine of constructive Res-judicata codified in Explanation IV of Section 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC).
- ❖ It was propounded in the English case of Henderson versus Henderson, 1843.
- ❖ The Court observed that all issues arising from the same subject matter should be addressed in a single proceeding.
- It will prevent repetitive and vexatious legal challenges for the same.
- ❖ The court has observed that once a matter has been adjudicated by a competent jurisdiction, parties are categorically barred from re-litigating issues that could have been raised in the previous proceedings, irrespective of negligence or inadvertence.
- * Res Judicata literally translates to "a thing already decided".
- **!** It applies when:
 - o The matter directly and substantially in issue was previously decided
 - o The parties are the same or claim under the same title
 - o The previous court was competent to try the suit.





Joint Parliament committee 2024 - One Nation One Election

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has adopted a resolution to refer the constitutional amendment bills for holding Lok Sabha and assembly elections simultaneously to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).
- ❖ This JPC will have a total of 39 members, with 27 from the Lok Sabha and 12 from the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ It will be headed by the BJP MP PP Chaudhary.
- ❖ A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is set up by the Parliament for a special purpose, like the detailed scrutiny of a subject or Bill.
- ❖ As the name suggests, it has members from both the Houses and from the ruling parties and the opposition.
- ❖ It is dissolved after its term ends or its task has been completed.
- ❖ The recommendations of a JPC are not binding on the government.
- ❖ The government can choose to launch further investigations based on what the JPC has said, but it can't be forced to do so.



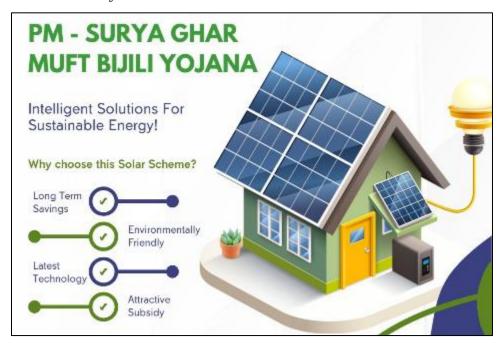
Rooftop solar installations 2024

- Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh have emerged as the top three states with the highest number of rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme.
- ❖ Under the scheme, installations are expected to cross 10 lakhs by March 2025, double to 20 lakhs by October 2025, and reach 40 lakhs by March 2026.
- Six States account for about 88 per cent of the total installations to date.
- ❖ Kerala stands 4th with more than 55,000, Tamil Nadu in 5th place with over 21,000 and followed by Rajasthan with more than 20,000.





❖ The scheme is projected to generate 1,000 billion units of electricity and reduce CO2 emissions by 720 million tonnes.



Atrocities against Scheduled Castes 2024



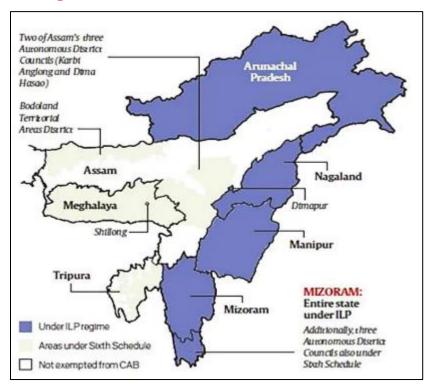
❖ A parliamentary panel has raised the concerns over the failure of several States to establish the necessary mechanisms to effectively address cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes.





- ❖ There are large gaps in implement and strengthen the machinery required under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ❖ States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Odisha were singled out for consistently lagging in fund utilisation and achieving implementation targets.

Protected Area Regime 2024



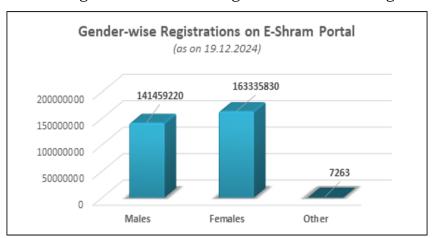
- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has reimposed the Protected Area Regime (PAR) in Manipur, Nagaland, and Mizoram to monitor the movement of foreigners.
- ❖ The Foreigners visiting the three northeastern States would have to seek prior permission and special permits from the government.
- ❖ They are also required to obtain the necessary Protected Area Permits (PAP) in accordance with the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958
- ❖ The relaxation has been withdrawn after a gap of 14 years.
- The PAR was initially relaxed for a year in 2010 in the three States bordering Myanmar and subsequently the duration of the order was extended for five years.
- ❖ The latest PAR order was issued on December 16, 2022 and was valid till December 2027.





E-Shram Portal registration 2024

- ❖ Over 30 crore labourers have registered on the e-Shram portal in the last three years.
- ❖ In 2014-15, 15.84 crore people had registered but the number has gone up to over 29 crores in 2023-24.
- ❖ The E-Shram Portal, to support and empower the unorganized workforce, was Launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on 26th August 2021.
- ❖ By December 19, 2024, the E-Shram portal has 30,48,02,313 registrations.
- Thus, it has emerged as the world's largest database of unorganized workers.



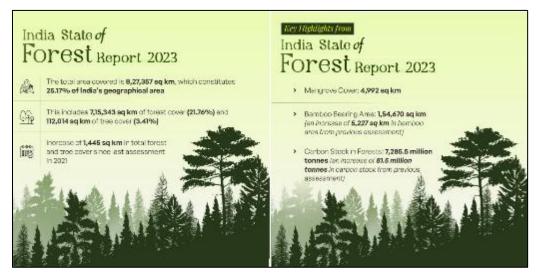
India State of Forest Report 2023

- ❖ The latest 18th biennial assessment ISFR of India's forests by the Forest Survey of India was delayed by over a year.
- ❖ India's total forest and tree cover has increased to 25.17 per cent in 2023 from 24.62 per cent as per the latest report.
- For the first-time trees grown under agroforestry have also been covered.
- ❖ The ISFR 2023 report recorded forest cover and tree cover was 25.17 per cent.
- ❖ The total forest cover was 7,15,342.61 sq km which is 21.76 per cent of the geographical area of the country.
- ❖ With these two, total forest and tree covers are 8,27,356.95 sq km.
- The tree cover is 3.41 per cent of the geographical area of the country.
- ❖ The Top four states showing maximum increase in forest and tree cover are Chhattisgarh (684 sq km) followed by Uttar Pradesh (559 sq km), Odisha (559 sq km) and Rajasthan (394 sq km).

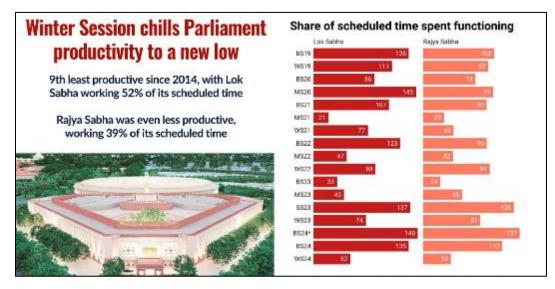




- ❖ Top three states showing maximum increase in forest cover are Mizoram (242 sq km) followed by Gujarat (180 sq km) and Odisha (152 sq km).
- ❖ Area wise top three states having the largest forest and tree cover are Madhya Pradesh (85,724 sq km) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km) and Maharashtra (65,383 sq km).
- ❖ In terms of percentage of the forest cover with respect to total geographical area, Lakshadweep (91.33 percent) has the highest forest cover followed by Mizoram (85.34 percent) and Andaman & Nicobar Island (81.62 percent).
- ❖ The total mangrove cover is 4,992 sq km in the country.



Winter Session 2024



❖ Both Houses of the Parliament were adjourned sine die of the frostiest winter sessions.





- ❖ The session was marked by debate on the Constitution's 75th anniversary, notice of no-confidence moved by the Opposition against the Rajya Sabha Chairman.
- ❖ The government managed to introduce the debatable Bills the Constitution (129) Amendment Bill, 2024 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to give effect to "One Nation One Election".
- ❖ Only four Bills were passed in the Lok Sabha and three Bills in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The productivity of the Lok Sabha was 54.5% and that of the Rajya Sabha 40%.
- ❖ Of the scheduled 16 Bills, only one Bill, the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024, was passed in both Houses.
- ❖ Only one Bill passed in the first six months of the Lok Sabha term.
- ❖ It is the lowest performance in comparison to the last six Lok Sabhas.
- Question Hour did not function in the Rajya Sabha for 15 out of 19 days.
- ❖ In the Lok Sabha, Question Hour did not function for more than 10 minutes in 12 out of 20 days.
- ❖ No private member's business was transacted in the Lok Sabha and only one resolution was discussed in the Rajya Sabha.

Republic Day parade 2025



❖ The tableaus from 15 States and Union Territories have been selected for the next year's January 26.





- ❖ The proposal for tableau of the Delhi Government was not approved by the expert committee for the fourth straight year.
- ❖ Mizoram and Sikkim did not submit the proposals, while Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep did not participate in the selection meetings.
- ❖ A three-year agreement was signed for 2024, 25 and 26 under which every State and UT would get a chance to present at least once during the three years.
- ❖ In the two decades Delhi has presented tableau seven times, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh were selected again.

Amendment to Conduct of Election Rules 1961

New changes The Centre has amended Conduct of Election Rules to restrict public access to a section of poll documents The Election Commission The move comes says the rule mentions after a recent election papers and does direction to the EC not specifically refer to by the Punjab and electronic records. In order Haryana High Court to remove this ambiguity, to share all docuthe rule has been amendments related to ed to safeguard misuse of Haryana Assembly CCTV footage from inside Elections, including the polling stations CCTV footage

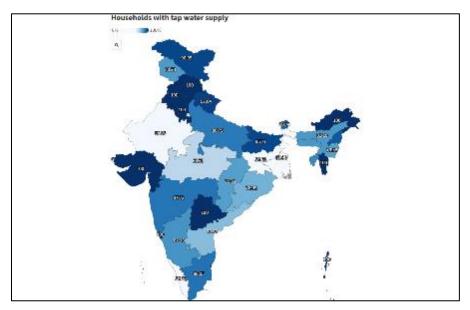
- ❖ The Centre has amended the Conduct of Election Rules to restrict access for the public to a section of poll documents.
- ❖ This was brought into effect through a notification issued by the Ministry of Law following a recommendation by the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ Rule 93(2)(a) of the 1961 Conduct of Election Rules had earlier stated that "all other papers relating to the election shall be open to public inspection".
- ❖ After the amendment, now it reads, "all other papers as specified in these rules relating to the election shall be open to public inspection."
- ❖ The move follows a recent direction to the ECI by the Punjab and Haryana High Court to share all documents related to Haryana Assembly elections.
- ❖ Conduct of Election Rules 1961 comes under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.





Water connection to rural homes

- ❖ The Centre is actively engaging with States that have yet to achieve 100% tap water connection coverage for rural households.
- ❖ 79% (15,37,22,950) of the rural households have been provided with tap water connections so far.
- Over 19 crore rural households have been identified for coverage.
- ❖ Among the States, West Bengal has the lowest coverage at 53.9%.
- ❖ It is followed by Kerala at 54.13%, Jharkhand at 54.62% and Rajasthan at 54.95%.
- ❖ Eleven States and Union Territories have achieved 100% coverage of tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission.



Number of domestic migrants 2011 to 2023

STATES TO	% of Total Passengers 2023	% of Total Passengers 2012	Statewise In- migrants [Census 2011] ⁴⁰	% of Total In-Migrants [Census 2011]	
UTTAR PRADESH	12.68	13.16	56452083	12.39	
MAHARASHTRA	10.74	12,34	57376776	12.59	
WEST BENGAL	7.33	5.00	33448472	7.34	
RAJASTHAN	7.19	6.17	22071482	4.84	
MADHYA PRADESH	6.75	6.89	24735119	5.43	
BIHAR	6.54	6.47	27244869	5.98	
KARNATAKA	6.36	5.84	26463170	5.81	
TAMIL NADU	6.08	5.89	31274107	6.86	
ANDHRA PRADESH	5.73	6.64	38360644	8.42	
DELHI	5.16	5.38	7224514	1.59	
GUJARAT	5.10	6.00	26898286	5.90	
TELANGANA	3.60	3.79		0.00	





- ❖ The number of domestic migrants has lowered by nearly 12% to 40.20 crore between 2011 and 2023.
- ❖ As per estimates, the overall number of migrants in the country, as of 2023, to be 40,20,90,396.
- ❖ This is about 11.78% lower as compared to the number of migrants enumerated as per Census 2011 (45,57,87,621).
- ❖ The migration rate which stood at 37.64% of total population as per Census 2011, is estimated to have reduced to 28.88%.
- ❖ The top origin districts are coalesced around major urban agglomerations viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata etc.
- ❖ As per Census 2011, just five States Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal together account for about 48% of the total outbound migrants.
- Similarly, just five States Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu - together account for about 48% of all the incoming migrants.
- ❖ In the period from 1991 to 2001, the compounded annual growth rate of the number of migrants was 2.7%.
- ❖ This was increased to 3.7% during 2001 to 2011.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture 2024



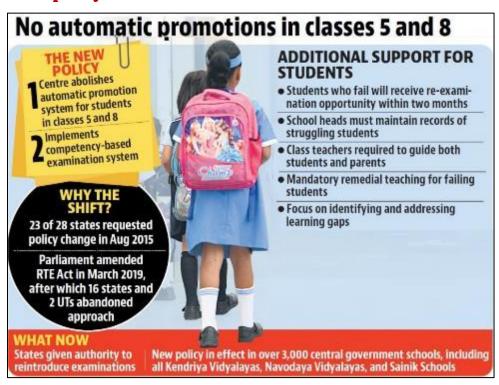
- ❖ A parliamentary committee has recommended implementing a legal guarantee on Minimum Support Price.
- ❖ The committee, chaired by former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.





- ❖ It has recommended subsidies for farmers to keep non-milching animals so that they can manage the problem of stray cattle.
- ❖ The panel asked the Centre to increase the allocation for insuring livestock.
- ❖ The panel said there is also need to prevent further growth of stray cattle from the already existing livestock population of 193.46 million cattle and 109.85 million buffaloes.
- ❖ The committee has recommended that farmers be compensated for managing and disposing of crop residue, or parali, to prevent them from burning it.
- ❖ The committee has proposed increasing monetary support under the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme from Rs 6,000 per annum to Rs 12,000 per annum.
- ❖ It also asked to introduce a scheme to waive off the debts of farmers and the farm labourers to combat the rise in farmer distress and suicides over debt repayment.
- ❖ The committee suggested implementing compulsory universal crop insurance for smallholder farmers with landholdings of up to 2 acres.

No detention policy 2024



- ❖ The Centre has scrapped the no-detention policy in schools governed by it.
- ❖ It is also including Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.
- This allowing them to fail Classes 5 and 8 students who do not clear the yearend exams

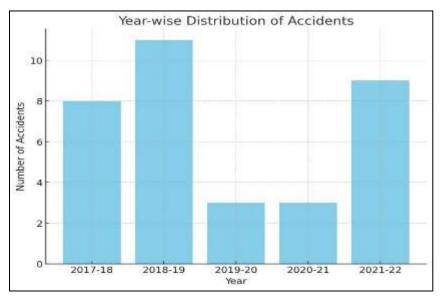




- ❖ The Right to Education Act of 2009 was amended in 2019 to include a clause that allowed the "appropriate government" to decide on holding back children in Classes 5 and 8.
- ❖ Since school education is a state subject, states can make their decision in this regard.
- ❖ Already 16 states and 2 UTs including Delhi have done away with the nodetention policy for these two classes.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defense 2024

- ❖ Of 34 air accidents involving the Indian Air Force (IAF) between 2017-22, 19 were attributable to Human Error (Aircrew).
- ❖ This includes the Mi-17 chopper crash that killed the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat.
- ❖ The ministry's report noted a steady decline in the accident rate per 10,000 flying hours, which dropped from 0.93 (2000–2005) to 0.27 (2017–2022).
- ❖ The current rate for 2020–2024 stands at 0.20, reflecting the improved safety protocols.



TRAI New Telecom Regulations 2024

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued the Telecom Consumers Protection (Twelfth Amendment) Regulations 2024.
- ❖ It is mandating the operators to issue tariff plans with only SMS and voice call benefits.



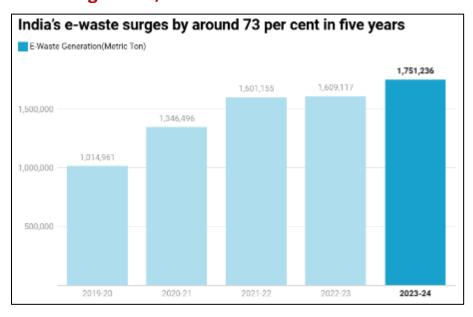


- ❖ The move is expected to help around 150 million 2G users and those who have two SIM cards.
- ❖ This allows users to pay only for the services that they want to use.
- ❖ TRAI has also mandated telcos to increase the validity of Special Tariff Vouchers (STV) from 90 days to 365 days to benefit consumers.

New Consumer Protection Apps

- ❖ The government has launched the revamped Jagriti App to enhance consumer protection and promote digital access to justice.
- ❖ The app was along with the newly introduced 'Jago Grahak Jago App' and 'Jagriti Dashboard'.
- ❖ It aims to equip consumers with tools to identify and address dark patterns on e-commerce platforms, ensuring fair practices and consumer rights protection.
- ❖ Additionally, the revamped National Consumer Helpline Portal, featuring AI-enabled NCH 2.0, was also introduced.
- ❖ The Organic Food Testing Laboratory and the Low Voltage Switch Gear Testing Facility was also launched at the National Test House in Guwahati and Mumbai, respectively.

India's E-Waste Surge 2023/24



❖ India witnessed a surge in electronic waste (e-waste) generation over the past five years, rising from 1.01 million metric tonnes (MT) in 2019-20 to 1.751 million MT in 2023-24.





- ❖ The national-level figures reveal a concerning 72.54 per cent increase in e-waste generation since 2019-20.
- ❖ The proportion of e-waste processed rose from 22 per cent in 2019-20 to 43 per cent in 2023-24.
- ❖ Despite this progress, approximately 57 per cent of the e-waste equivalent to 990,000 metric tonnes remains unprocessed in the country.

PVTG sub-quota in Eklavya



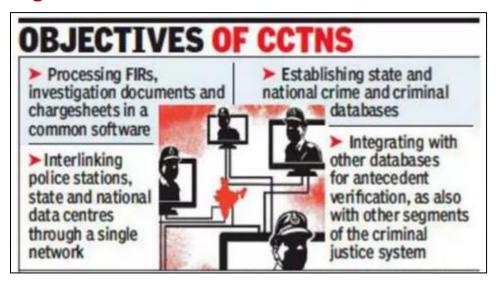
- ❖ In 2019, Centre introduced a sub-quota of 5% for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in admissions to Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- ❖ But the recent data show that schools are struggling to meet this quota with just 3.4% of all EMRS students belonging to PVTG communities.
- ❖ Of the 1,30,101 students enrolled into all 407 functional EMRSs as of October this year, 4,480 belong to PVTG communities.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gujarat were struggling to meet the 5% PVTG student quota.
- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, PVTG students account for 3.8% of the total students, in Chhattisgarh they comprise 2.74% of the student population.
- ❖ In Gujarat, just 21 students out of the total 10,688 students belong to PVTG communities.





- ❖ In Tamil Nadu's EMRSs, PVTGs comprise 8.36% of total students; in Jharkhand, this percentage is at 7.48%; and in Andhra Pradesh, it is 12.91%.
- ❖ According to the very latest available population estimates, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Tamil Nadu are the States with the greatest number of PVTGs.

CCTNS integration



- ❖ Nearly 15 years after it was launched, all 17,130 police stations in the country have been linked through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).
- CCTNS is a centralised online platform to file first information reports (FIRs), chargesheets, and investigation reports.
- ❖ The online database can be accessed by law enforcement authorities across the country.
- **❖** It was launched in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,000 crore.

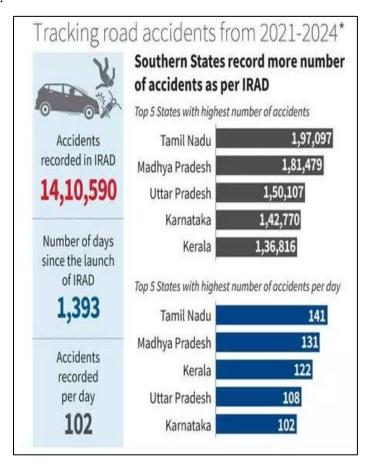
Road accidents in India 2018-2022

- ❖ Over 7.77 lakh fatalities across India in the 2018-2022 period.
- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have witnessed the highest number of road accidents in the last five years.
- ❖ The total number of road accident fatalities in the country reached 1,68,491 in 2022.
- ❖ It is a noticeable increase from 1,53,972 in 2021.





- Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of road accidents with 22,595 deaths in 2022 alone.
- ❖ Maharashtra followed with 15,224 deaths in 2022, while Tamil Nadu reported 17,884 deaths in the same year.
- ♦ Over 23 crore e-challans, amounting to over ₹ 36,700 crore, have been issued since 2020.



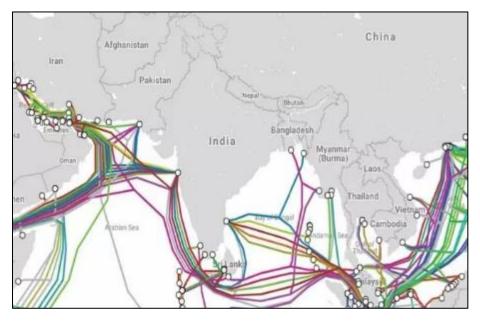
SMILE program - ADB Loan

- ❖ The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) (December 20) signed a landmark \$350 million policy-based loan.
- ❖ It aims to Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) programme.
- ❖ The SMILE programme is a flagship policy-based initiative and it also adopts a comprehensive approach to logistics reforms.
- Spanning two sub programmes, it is designed to enhance the competitiveness of India's manufacturing sector and strengthen the resilience of supply chains.





Undersea cable network



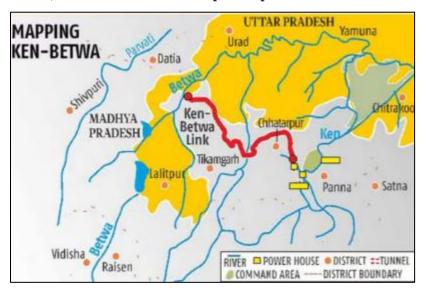
- ❖ The India Asia Xpress (IAX), and the India Europe Xpress (IEX), both connecting India with additional internet links to the two continents is set to launch soon.
- ❖ Both cable systems, cumulatively over 15,000 kilometres in length, are owned by Reliance Jio, with a strategic investment from China Mobile.
- ❖ IAX connects Chennai and Mumbai with Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia in Asia, and IEX connects them with France, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Djibouti.
- ❖ This adds to the dozens of cables landing in India, mainly in Mumbai and Chennai.





Ken-Betwa Link Project 2024

- ❖ Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for India's first interlinking of rivers project Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Madhya Pradesh's Khajuraho.
- ❖ The KBLP envisages transferring the water from the Ken River to the Betwa river, both tributaries of the Yamuna.
- ❖ It aimed at solving the water woes of the Bundelkhand region, spread across parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Ken-Betwa River linking project is expected to address the drinking and irrigation water needs of at least 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh and the various districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The project is also aimed at generating more than 100 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar energy.
- ❖ He also virtually inaugurated a floating solar energy project in Madhya Pradesh's Omkareshwar, the State's first solar power plant.



INS Nilgiri and Surat

- ❖ The Mazagon Docks Shipbuilders Ltd delivered two indigenously built, modern Capital Warships 'Nilgiri' and 'Surat' to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ 'Nilgiri' is the First of Class (FoC) ship of Project 17A
- ❖ 'Surat' is the fourth ship of Project 15B and is a potent platform capable of undertaking a variety of tasks and missions.
- It is armed with supersonic Surface-to-Surface 'Brahmos' missiles and 'Barak-8' Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles.



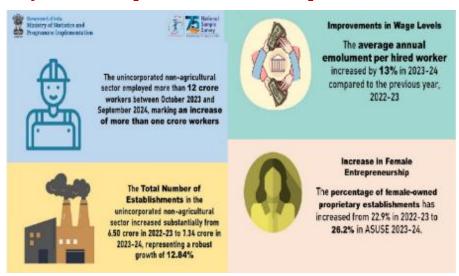


'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' Initiative



- ❖ The union govt launched on Good Governance Day and commemorates the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Vajpayee.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions through enhanced governance tools and knowledge.
- ❖ The initiative is part of the 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur' campaign.
- * It will empower elected representatives and officials in effective governance.
- ❖ The focus is on grassroots-level reforms to create lasting change.

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2023/24







- ❖ The ministry of statistics and program implementation (MoSPI) will launch the next Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) in January.
- ❖ The last survey was conducted between October 2023 and September 2024.
- ❖ The next survey will try to capture district-wise data also to help provide details on how unincorporated enterprises fuel local economies across districts.
- ❖ Additionally, GDP figures, which are currently available at the national and state level, will be extended to the district level.
- ❖ Unincorporated establishments are non-agricultural enterprises, which are not registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ The last survey covered 498,024 establishments, of which 273,085 were from rural areas and 224,939 from urban areas.
- ❖ Its results, released this week, have highlighted a 12.8% increase in the number of unincorporated establishments to 73.4 million in 2023-24 from 65.1 million in the year before.
- ❖ The services sector alone is accounted for the largest share at 30.4 million establishments.
- ❖ It is followed by trade at 22.8 million and manufacturing at 20.1 million.

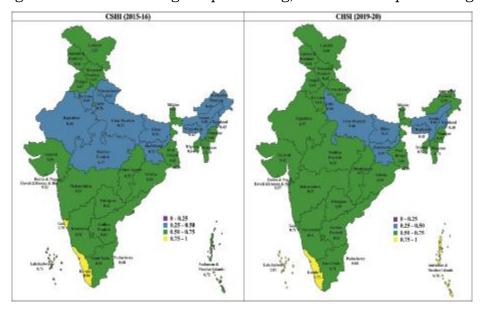
Child Survival and Health Index 2024

- ❖ A team of Indian researchers have built a Child Survival and Health Index (CSHI) for the Indian States and Union Territories by using the data from the National Family Health Survey.
- ❖ The composite CSHI provides a platform to evaluate the performance of India and its various States, both retrospectively, and in the future.
- ❖ 11 major indicators as representing the child survival and health:
 - o 3 from population and household profile,
 - o 1 each from infant/child mortality rates, maternal care, delivery care, child vaccination and anaemia among children and
 - o 3 from child feeding practices and nutritional status of children.
- ❖ Equal weightage was assigned to each parameter to enable comparisons.
- ❖ Their evaluation showed India's CSHI value increased from 0.49 to 0.52. in 4 years, pushing it into a better performer category.
- ❖ But if the current trend continues, India needs about 30 years to increase its CSHI value to 0.75 and reach the top slot.
- Out of 35 regions, 5 Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands - were classified as best-performing.





❖ 25 regions were ranked as good-performing, and 5 as low-performing.



India's Mobile Subscriptions 2024

- ❖ The total number of mobile subscriptions in the country now stands at 115.12 crore (as on October 31).
- ❖ Out of 6,44,131 villages in the country, around 6,23,622 villages now have mobile coverage.
- ❖ The mobile network coverage in rural India has reached nearly 97 per cent and at least 6,14,564 villages are covered with 4G mobile connectivity.
- ❖ 5G services are now available in 779 districts out of 783 districts in the country (as of October 31).

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Broadband Subscribers (Million)	896.81	44.66	941.47
Urban Telephone Subscribers (Million)	625.56	34.86	660.42
Net Addition in October, 2024 (Million)	-2.56	0.83	-1.73
Monthly Growth Rate	-0.41%	2.44%	-0.26%
Rural Telephone Subscribers (Million)	524.86	2.93	527.79
Total Telephone Subscribers (Million)	1150.42	37.79	1188.20





45th meeting of PRAGATI

- ❖ The Prime Minister chaired the 45th meeting of PRAGATI, which leverages the technology to enhance governance and project implementation.
- ❖ The meeting focused on eight projects, including six metro initiatives and one each for road connectivity and thermal power.
- ❖ PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation.
- ❖ The platform encourages collaboration between central and state governments to ensure accountability and efficiency.

Launched in 2015 PRAGATI

(Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is a digital platform for project monitoring.

Aimed at tackling delays in high-value infrastructure projects across India.

Property cards under SVAMITVA scheme



- ❖ The rural residential properties worth Rs 1.37 lakh crore could now be monetised for credit access under the SVAMITVA scheme.
- ❖ This initiative will be utilising drone technology for surveying and demarcating properties in rural areas.

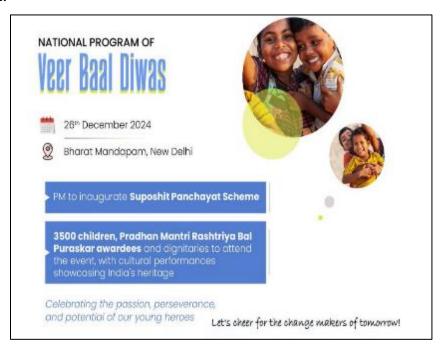




- ❖ It aims to unlock the economic potential of villages and to improve financial inclusion.
- ❖ The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme was launched in 2020 under Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- ❖ So far, around 317,000 villages, or 92% of the total target of 344,000 villages, have been surveyed, with people having received their property cards in 136,000 villages.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Bihar, and Odisha, having updated rural land records, opted out of the scheme.

Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan

- ❖ This mission focused on improving nutrient sources and overall welfare in rural areas.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen the nutrition-related infrastructure and actively engage communities to tackle malnutrition.
- ❖ It encourages villages to adopt practices that ensure better nutrition and overall health.



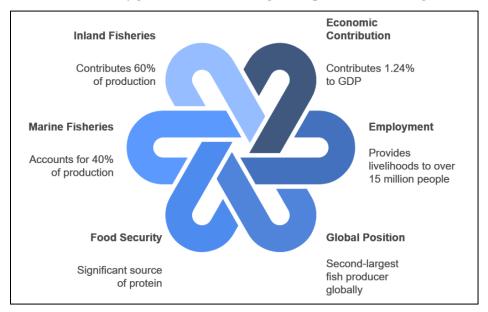
Matsya Seva Kendras and Sagar Mitras

Matsya Seva Kendras and Sagar Mitras help fishers by providing critical support, training, and information to improve productivity and sustainability.





- ❖ The country has witnessed an 83% increase in the national fish production since 2013-14, that stands at a record 175 lakh tons in 2022-23.
- ❖ With 75% of this coming from inland fisheries.
- ❖ India is the second-largest fish and aquaculture producer globally.
- ❖ 'Matsya Seva Kendras' (MSK) has been envisioned as one-stop solution to provide a range of extension services by trained aquaculture professionals.
- ❖ The governmental assistance is to set up such Kendras for women and weaker sections is available to the extent of 60%.
- ❖ "Sagar Mitras" in coastal States and UTs played as a vital interface between the government and sea-borne fishers.
- ❖ They compile information and data on daily marine catch, price fluctuations, and requisite marketing needs at fish landing centres/harbours.
- ❖ They disseminate information to fishers on local regulations, weather forecasts, natural calamities, hygienic fish handling, and potential fishing zones in the seas.



Post Office Rules and Regulations, 2024

- ❖ The new set of subordinate legislations under the Post Office Act, 2023 the Post Office Rules, 2024 and the Post Office Regulations, 2024 has been framed.
- ❖ The Post Office Rules, 2024 are framed as an enabler for the services to be provided by the post offices.
- ❖ The Post Office Regulations, 2024 entail the details and operational aspects of products and services offered by the post office across the country.





- ❖ The limit of amount of remittance through money order has been raised from Rs 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- to cater the disbursement of various social welfare schemes.
- ❖ The existing postal registration was granted in accordance with the provisions of erstwhile India Post Office Act, 1898 and Indian Post Office Rules, 1933.

Report on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

	Registered electors— in LS polls		TAKING STOCK		
Key highlights from the statistical reports	911,950,734	979,751,847	2019 Turnout of woman electors (%) 67.18 Turnout of male electors (%) 67.02		2024 65.78 65.55
on 2024 LS polls:	2019	2024	No. of woman electors per 1,000 male electors	926	946 (All-time high)
Votes polled (million)	614	646.4	Woman electors (%)	48.09	48.62
Voter turnout (%)	67.40	65.66	No. of woman candidates contesting	726	800
Votes via postal ballots (million)	2.80	4.2	Maharashtra had the highest number of woman contesting candidates with 111 in the fray, followed by 80 in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and 77 in Tamil Nadu (In 2019, UP ha the most women candidates at 106) But 152 of 543, or 28 per cent, seats had no woman candidates		
NOTA (%)	1.06	0.99			
Registered overseas electors	99,844	119,000			
Nominations filed	11,692	12,459			
Contesting candidates	8,054	8,360			
Registered persons with disabilities electors	6,167,482	9,028,696			
Registered transgender electors	39,075	48,272			
Transgender voters (%)	14.64	27.09			

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has released a comprehensive statistical report for the Lok Sabha elections 2024.
- ❖ Registered Electors for Lok Sabha were 97,97,51,847 Electors in 2024 as compared to 91,19,50,734 in 2019.
- ❖ Total electors were increased in 2024 over 2019 was 7.43%.
- ❖ Of the 97.97 crore registered electors, 47.63 crore were women, up from 43.85 crore in 2019, comprising 48.62% of the total electors compared to 48.09% in 2019.
- ❖ Puducherry led with the highest percentage of female electors (53.03%), followed by Kerala (51.56%).
- ❖ The female-to-male elector ratio reached a record high of 946 per 1,000 males, up from 926 in 2019.
- ♦ 64.64 crore votes polled in 2024, compared to 61.4 crore in 2019.
- ❖ Of these, 64.21 crore were EVM votes (32.93 crore male, 31.27 crore female, and 13,058 third gender) and 42.81 lakh were postal ballots.
- ❖ Dhubri in Assam recorded the highest turnout at 92.3%, while Srinagar in J&K had the lowest at 38.7%.





- ❖ The 2024 Lok Sabha elections featured 10,52,664 polling stations, an increase from 10,37,848 in 2019.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of polling stations at 1,62,069, while Lakshadweep had the fewest with 55.
- ❖ Bihar saw the largest increase in polling stations with 4,739 additional stations compared to 2019, followed by West Bengal with 1,731.
- ❖ The Highest enrolment of overseas electors in 2024 was recorded in five southern states Kerala (89,839), Andhra Pradesh (7,927), Telangana (3,470), Tamil Nadu (3,432) and Karnataka (3,148).
- ❖ In 2019, as many as 99,844 had registered as overseas electors.
- ❖ Several large states such as Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu saw zero turnout of overseas electors.
- ❖ Maharashtra had the highest number of female candidates (111), followed by Uttar Pradesh (80) and Tamil Nadu (77).
- ❖ However, 152 constituencies had no female candidates.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu registered the highest number of third-gender electors (8,467).
- ❖ The Independent candidates made up 3,921 of the contestants, with only seven winning seats.

Impact of smart classroom initiative



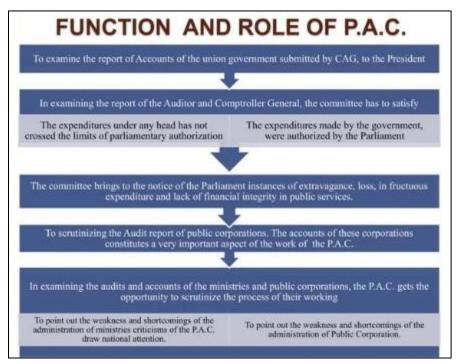
- ❖ The introduction of smart classrooms under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) has led to a 22% increase in overall enrolment in 19 cities between 2015-16 to 2023-24.
- ❖ 71 cities have developed 9,433 smart classrooms in 2,398 government schools.
- The highest number of Smart Classroom projects are in Karnataka (80).





- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan (53) and Tamil Nadu has 23 and Delhi 12.
- ❖ West Bengal, with just two, is among the States at the bottom of the table.
- ❖ As on November 2024, 91% of the projects under SCM have been completed.
- ❖ The SCM launched a platform in 2022, named 'SAAR' (Smart Cities and Academia towards Action and Research).

Public Accounts Committee report 2024



- ❖ The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, tabled its report during the recently-concluded Winter session.
- ❖ The report is titled 'Excesses over voted grants and charged appropriations (2021-22)'.
- ❖ It revealed that the Ministries of Finance, Defence, Railways, and Chemical & Fertilizers spent ₹1,291.14 crore in excess of the 2021-22 Budget sanctioned by Parliament.
- ❖ For the financial year 2021-22, a total of ₹1,291.14 crore was incurred by the Ministry of Finance (₹742.56 crore).
- ❖ It was followed by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (₹493.38 crore), Ministry of Railways (₹55.16 crore), and Ministry of Defence (₹3.17 crore).
- The Ministries and departments involved had already obtained the substantial Supplementary Grants.





❖ Excess expenditures still occurred, with the percentage of overspending ranging from 0.67% to 10.41%.

Supreme Court on tree census



- ❖ The Supreme Court proposed a tree census to be conducted by the Tree Authority in the national capital by employing the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- ❖ It also said that the tree Officers should not be allowed to give indiscriminate permissions to fell trees.
- ❖ Every permission granted by an official to cut 50 or more trees in the national capital under the trees act-1994, would be first vetted and cleared by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC).
- ❖ No trees would be cut until the CEC gave the final go-ahead.
- * The CEC is empowered to reject permission or modify the order to cut trees.
- ❖ If an officer delays the decision beyond the 60 days' period, the applicant concerned was free to deem to have been permitted to cut the trees.

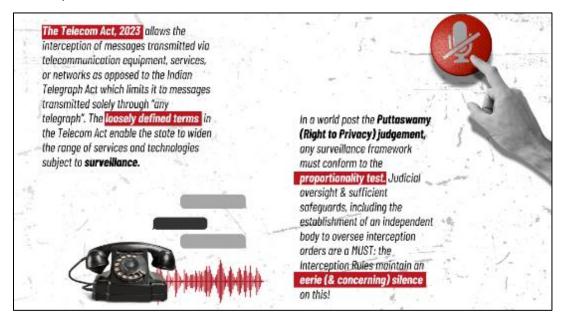
New interception rules 2024

- ❖ The Union Government has notified the Telecommunications (Procedures and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024.
- ❖ It empowers some enforcement and security agencies to intercept the phone messages under certain conditions.
- ❖ These rules supersede Rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951.





- ❖ An officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary to the Union Government, may also issue such order of interception in 'unavoidable circumstances' (without defining such circumstances).
- ❖ The Central Government may also authorise any law enforcement or security agency to intercept messages for reasons specified under Section 20(2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- Now, the condition of interception by the authorised agencies only in 'emergent cases', has been relaxed.



Gas and chemical leakage accidents in India

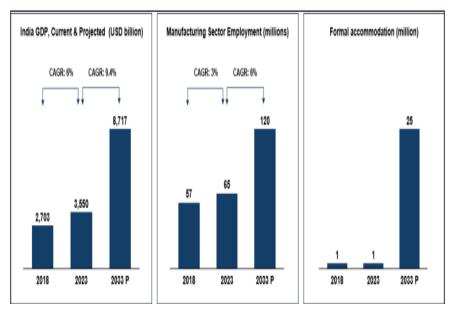






- ❖ The number of gas and chemical leakage accidents in India more than doubled to 30 in the last decade.
- ❖ Gujarat reported 24 of the 30 incidents in 2023.
- ❖ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh with three cases, Assam (2), and Goa (1), resulting in 25 fatalities and 32 injuries.
- ❖ This marks a significant increase from 2013, when 13 incidents were reported nationwide, resulting in 11 deaths and one injury.
- ❖ The cases were spread across Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh, with Telangana recording six incidents

S.A.F.E Accommodation Report



- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report on "S.A.F.E. Accommodation Worker Housing for manufacturing growth".
- ❖ This report explores the crucial role of secure, affordable, flexible, and efficient (S.A.F.E.) accommodations for the industrial workers in boosting of India's manufacturing sector.
- ❖ It identifies key challenges, offers actionable solutions, and highlights the pivotal interventions required to scale up such housing facilities across the country.

India's Coal Production in 2023-24

- ❖ The country has witnessed the highest ever coal production in the Year 2023-24.
- ❖ The all-India coal production in the year 2023-24 was 997.826 million Tonne (mT).

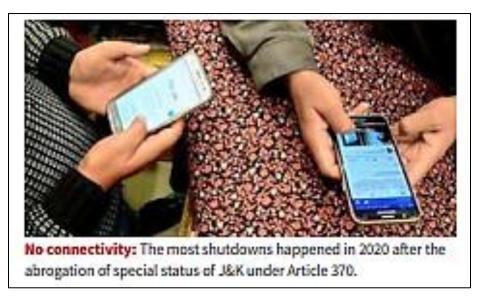




- ❖ It was 893.191 mT in the year 2022-23 and is increased about 11.71%.
- ❖ During Calendar Year 2024 (up to 15th December, 2024 from January 2024), the country has produced about 988.32 mT (Provisional) of coal.
- ❖ It was about 918.02 mT (Provisional) coal during the same period of last year with a growth of about 7.66%.



Internet shutdown in India 2024







- India saw the fewest number of mobile internet shutdowns in eight years in 2024.
- ❖ There have been 60 shutdowns so far this year as against 96 last year.
- ❖ The most internet shutdowns -132 happened in 2020, following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.
- ❖ In 2017, the law was amended and the Government promulgated the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rule 2017.
- ❖ The States and Union Territories can impose an internet shutdown only in case of a "public emergency" or in the interest of "public safety", according to the Indian Telegraph Act.

India's First Multimodal AI Initiative

- ❖ BharatGen is an initiative to make generative AI available to citizens in different Indian languages.
- ❖ It aims to develop advanced AI models tailored to India's multifaceted languages and cultures.
- ❖ BharatGen has launched the Bharat Data Sagar initiative to collect primary data, focusing on languages that lack sufficient representation.







New SAMARTH Centers

- ❖ The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has established four Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (SAMARTH) Centres.
- ❖ It aims to enhance competitiveness in the Indian capital goods sector.
- ❖ The 4 Centres are:
 - o Centre for Industry 4.0 (C4i4) Lab, Pune;
 - o IITD-AIA Foundation for Smart Manufacturing, IIT Delhi;
 - o I-4.0 India @ IISc, Bengaluru; and
 - o Smart Manufacturing Demo & Development Cell, CMTI, Bengaluru.



'Jalvahak' Scheme







- ❖ The Union Ministry for Ports, Shipping & Waterways launched the 'Jalvahak' scheme to promote inland waterways and cargo movement.
- ❖ It aims to unlock the trade potential of inland waterways, reduce logistics costs, and alleviate congestion in road and rail networks.
- ❖ It incentivises long-haul cargo movement on National Waterways (NW) 1 (Ganga), 2 (Brahmaputra), and 16 (Barak).
- ❖ Under the scheme, the cargo owners transporting goods over distances exceeding 300 km via waterways will receive up to 35 per cent reimbursement on operating costs.

Report on Managing Waste 2024



- ❖ The report "Waste to Worth: Managing India's Urban Water Crisis through Wastewater Reuse" was released jointly by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- ❖ India currently treats only 28 per cent of the 72,000 million litres of wastewater generated daily.
- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti mandates that cities recycle at least 20 per cent of the water they consume.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh leads in untreated wastewater volumes, followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Haryana.
- ❖ However, several states have implemented progressive policies.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has prioritised industrial and urban greening applications.
- ❖ Cities such as Nagpur, Bengaluru and Chennai offer successful examples of the wastewater reuse.
- ❖ Nagpur supplies the treated wastewater to power plants, reducing the freshwater consumption.





INTERNATIONAL

Gelephu - Mindfulness City

- ❖ India is supporting to the 2,500 square kilometre "Zero Carbon" city being developed in Gelephu, Bhutan.
- ❖ It is a Special Administrative Region (SAR).
- ❖ It will have its own government and have the independence to have its own lawmaking, as well as an independent judiciary.
- ❖ It will have two protected areas a national park and a wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ The 'Mindfulness City' project has been envisioned by the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Changes in Tilt of Earth's Axis

- ❖ The Earth has tilted 31.5 inches east in just 17 years.
- ❖ The redistribution of groundwater has the largest impact on the drift of the rotational pole.
- ❖ It also has contributed to a sea level rise of about 0.24 inches and altered the distribution of Earth's mass
- ❖ Between 1993 and 2010, scientists estimate 2,150 gigatons of groundwater were pumped and shifted globally.
- ❖ Earth tilt is the angle between the planet's rotational axis and its orbital axis.



Operation Tamarisk

- It was a Cold War-era operation.
- ❖ Operation Tamarisk involved agents from the U.S., U.K., and France.





- ❖ They got many evidences from garbage left behind by Soviet troops stationed in East Germany.
- ❖ Discarded items included food scraps, letters, military documents, and even used toilet paper.
- ❖ Intelligence agents found sensitive information scattered among trash heaps.
- ❖ In some cases, agents retrieved items from hospital waste bins, where discarded limbs provided clues about the types of shrapnel and injuries Soviet soldiers suffered, particularly from their involvement in the war in Afghanistan.
- ❖ In 1948, the U.S. pilot Gail Halvorsen dropped candy from his plane for children in Berlin during the Berlin Airlift, earning the nickname "The Candy Bomber".



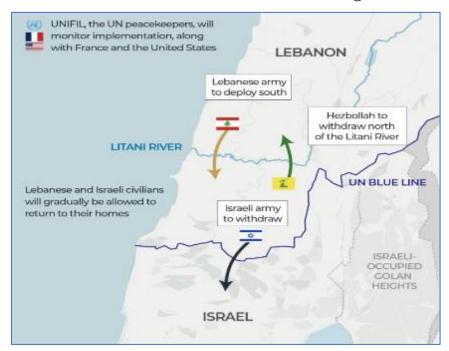
Israel and Lebanon peace agreement

- Israel has agreed to a ceasefire with Lebanon.
- ❖ Israel and Lebanon acknowledge the importance of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701.





- ❖ Israel and Lebanon-based, Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah have been at war for several months now.
- ❖ Hezbollah has been backing Hamas, another Iran-backed militant group which it considers its ally.
- ❖ Israel and Hamas have been at war since October 2023, when the terrorists breached the Israel-Gaza border and took Israeli hostages.



Declaration on Digital Green Action



❖ The Digital Green Action was launched in CoP28 (Dubai, 2023) by International Telecommunication Union (ITU).





- ❖ The COP29 Declaration on Green Digital Action aims to accelerate the climatepositive digitalisation and emission reductions in the Information Communication Technology sector.
- ❖ It also supports climate action and building resilient digital infrastructure.
- ❖ It will establish metrics and indicators to measure the impact of digitization on climate.

International Pathogen Surveillance Network's grants

- ❖ WHO has announced the ten projects to enhance pathogen genomic surveillance.
- ❖ They will each receive around USD \$2 million in funding to enhance the pathogen genomic surveillance capabilities.
- ❖ This funding initiative has been established by the International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN).
- ❖ It aims to assist partners in low- and middle-income regions in advancing their abilities in genomic pathogen analysis.

Global appeal 2025



- ❖ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has launched a \$10 billion appeal for 2025.
- ❖ It aims to meet the critical needs & implement sustainable solutions for millions of refugees, displaced persons & stateless people worldwide.
- ❖ As per 2023 report, 117.3 million People worldwide are forcibly displaced & 40% are children.





Dark Tourism in Ukraine

- ❖ In recent years, the global tourism industry has seen a surge in dark tourism
- ❖ It is a niche travel segment focused on visiting locations of historical tragedy or conflict.
- Now, Ukraine become a hotspot for this form of tourism.
- ❖ These tours focus on areas in Kyiv and its suburbs, where alleged massacres occurred in early 2022.
- Kuldhara Village Jaisalmer (Rajasthan), Cellular Jail Port Blair (Andaman Nicobar island), Roopkund Lake-Uttarakhand and Dumas Beach-Surat (Gujarat) are some Dark Tourism spots of India.



Cascais declaration

- ❖ Cascais declaration was adapted the UN Alliance for Civilizations 10th Global Forum held at Portugal.
- ❖ It outlines a range of actions and focuses on solutions to a current landscape of eroding trust and rising antisemitism, nationalism and online hate.
- ❖ It supported potential use of AI as a tool to advance intercultural and interreligious dialogue.
- ❖ It noted the contribution of "sports diplomacy" as a tool for promoting dialogue.



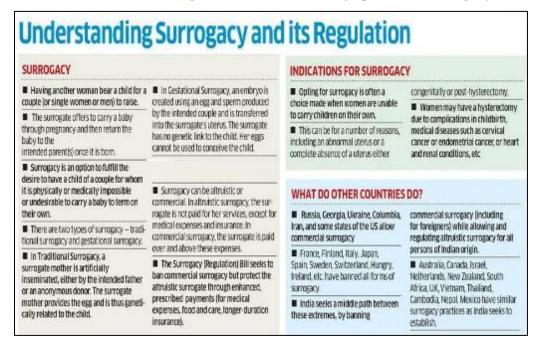


❖ It has also emphasised the need to support and strengthen the role of women as negotiators, mediators and peacemakers.



Italy's Surrogacy Law

- ❖ The Italian Senate recently passed a law-making surrogacy a "universal crime".
- ❖ In Italy, surrogacy is already illegal, and has been since 2004.
- ❖ The new ban will make it a crime for Italians to access surrogacy abroad even in countries where the practice is legal.
- It puts surrogacy on a par with genocide and crimes against humanity.
- ❖ In Greece, non-commercial surrogacy has been legal since 2002.
- ❖ Other countries, including France and Germany, prohibit surrogacy.







UK Law on Assisted Dying

- ❖ The UK passed the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill recently.
- ❖ The Bill allows terminally ill patients (those with little to no hope of recovery from fatal illnesses) to request assistance to end their own life.
- ❖ Assisted dying is the process by which a patient can end their own life with the assistance of a doctor.
- ❖ Euthanasia involves the more active involvement of the doctor to end the life of a terminally ill patient.
- ❖ The Bill says that only a terminally ill person above the age of 18 and with the mental "capacity" to make such a decision can request assisted dying.



RS-28 Sarmat - Russia







- * Russia plans to deploy its RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, also known as "Satan 2".
- ❖ The RS-28 Sarmat is a next-generation intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- ❖ It is designed to replace the Soviet-era R-36 ICBMs, also commonly referred to as "Satan" by NATO.
- ❖ The Sarmat missile can carry up to 15 nuclear warheads, arranged as Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicles (MIRVs).
- ❖ This can strike multiple targets simultaneously.
- ❖ The missile boasts a range of 6,200 to 11,180 miles, enabling it to target regions across the U.S. or Europe.

South Korea emergency



- South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law.
- ❖ He was citing "threats" from North Korea and slamming the main opposition party in South Korea.
- ❖ It was the first time since 1980 that it had been declared in the East Asian country.
- * However, he withdrew martial law within six hours of announcing it.
- ❖ According to South Korean law, the government must lift martial law if the majority of the National Assembly demands votes for its repeal.

Busan Summit 2024

❖ Delegates from 175 countries gathered to finalise a new treaty aimed at tackling plastic pollution in Intergovernmental Negotiations Committee (INC)-5 talks in Busan, South Korea.





- ❖ But a group of fossil-fuel producing nations, primarily led by Saudi Arabia, Russia and Iran, have been resisting any push to include production cuts.
- ❖ They also agreed to adjourn INC-5 in Busan, Republic of Korea, and convene a resumed meeting at a later date.
- ❖ INC-5 did not achieve its objective of delivering a new treaty to the world.



Aleppo City crisis 2024

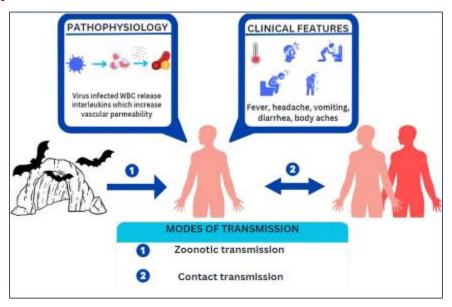






- ❖ Rebel forces in Syria have taken control of the "majority" of the country's second-largest city, Aleppo.
- ❖ An Islamist-dominated rebel alliance launched its assault on forces of the Iranian- and Russian-backed government
- ❖ Russia launched air strikes in response across parts of Aleppo for the first time since 2016.

Bleeding eye disease



- ❖ The Marburg virus, also known as the 'bleeding eye' virus, has killed 15 people in Rwanda.
- ❖ The nickname "bleeding eye virus" comes from its symptoms, which in critical cases can cause bleeding from the eyes, nose, or mouth.
- ❖ It is a highly infectious pathogen from the filovirus family, closely related to the Ebola virus.
- ❖ It causes Marburg virus disease (MVD), a severe haemorrhagic fever with a high fatality rate, ranging from 24% to 88%.
- ❖ This virus spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected individuals, contaminated surfaces, or materials like bedding and clothing.

UNCCD COP 16

- ❖ The CoP16 of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The theme of the event is "Our Land. Our Future".





- ❖ During the event, India showcased the ambitious Aravalli Green Wall Project at the IUCN Pavilion.
- ❖ This transformative initiative aims to restore 1.15 million hectares of degraded landscape across four states in northwestern India.
- ❖ UNCCD was established in 1994 and it is the sole legally binding international agreement.
- ❖ The UNCCD works with the other two Rio Conventions The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UFCCC.

ICJ Climate Change Case - Vanuatu

- ❖ Vanuatu has called for the International Court of Justice to find greenhouse gasemitting nations have acted unlawfully by causing climate change.
- ❖ Australia argued that nations' obligations on climate change didn't extend beyond climate accords like the Paris Agreement of 2015.
- ❖ Nearly 100 countries will speak over two weeks of hearings at the ICJ including the United States and China.
- ❖ Vanuatu is a small Pacific Island nation severely threatened by rising sea levels.
- ❖ Vanuatu was the first country to present evidence in the ICJ in this case.



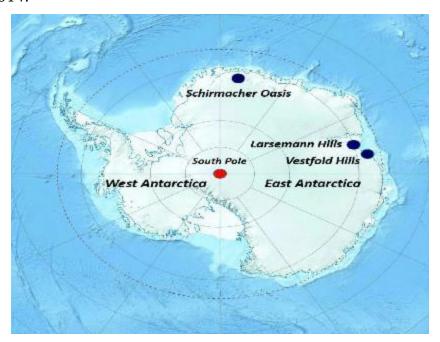
China's Atmospheric Monitoring Station in Antarctica

China's first atmospheric monitoring station in Antarctica started its operations recently.





- ❖ The station is located in Larsmann Hills in East Antarctica.
- China in February opened its Ross Sea scientific research station in Antarctica.
- ❖ It also has five other research stations in Antarctica that were built between 1985 and 2014.



Ban of rare minerals export



❖ China has banned the exports of three key rare minerals — gallium, germanium, and antimony to the United States.

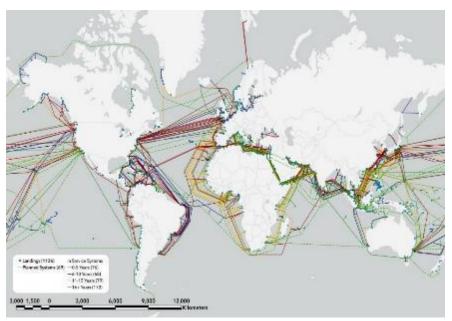




- ❖ They are mostly used in computers, defence, and renewable energy technology.
- ❖ China produces 60% of the world's germanium and 80% of gallium.
- * Recently the US prohibited certain types of chips and machinery and added more than 100 Chinese companies to a restricted-trade list.

International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience

- ❖ The International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) have jointly launched the International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience.
- ❖ This body aims to address the challenges posed by ageing infrastructure, growing environmental threats, and increasing global traffic.
- ❖ The 40-member advisory body includes ministers, regulatory heads, and telecom experts from across the globe.
- ❖ India hosts around 17 international subsea cables across 14 distinct landing stations located in Mumbai, Chennai, Cochin, Tuticorin, and Trivandrum.



Business4land initiative

- The Business 4 Land Forum was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- * UNCCD's Business4Land (B4L) Initiative releases a guide to help the private sector assess land degradation risks and report on mitigation actions.
- ❖ B4L's call to action urges companies to contribute to one or more of the Business 4 Land (B4L) initiative's pillars.

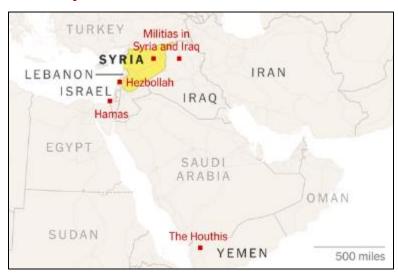




❖ \$44 trillion, over half of global GDP, is at risk from nature loss.



End of Assad rule in Syria



- ❖ Rebels in Syria seized control of the capital, Damascus and proclaimed the end of President Bashar al-Assad's decades-long rule.
- ❖ Under his rule, country became a critical ally of Iran, remaining hostile toward Israel and the United States.
- ❖ Assad's dismissal would end his 24-year iron rule and the 54-year Assad family reign.
- ❖ The Syrian war has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million.





20th Manama Dialogue

- ❖ It is held annually since 2004 in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- ❖ The Dialogue is a central element of the Middle East's security architecture.
- ❖ It facilitates the policy discussions on geopolitics, security trends, and conflict resolution.
- ❖ Theme of this year's event is "the Middle East Leadership in Shaping Regional Prosperity and Security".

World first national soundscape

- ❖ Finland has become the world's first country to release a national soundscape.
- ❖ The soundscape consists of 15 compositions inspired by the country, its people and their characteristics.
- ❖ The soundscape is also intended to increase awareness of Finnish culture, which according to surveys is the least well-known aspect of the country image.

Schengen Zone - Bulgaria and Romania



- ❖ The European Union has cleared Bulgaria and Romania to become full members of the borderless Schengen zone from the start of next year.
- Bulgaria and Romania, both are members of the European Union since 2007.
- ❖ But Austria had objected to expanding the zone, fearing more illegal immigration.

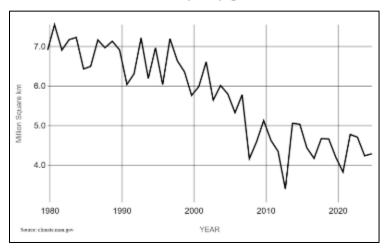




- ❖ Created in 1985, the Schengen zone now comprises 29 members.
- ❖ It also has 25 of the 27 European Union member states plus Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- ❖ It is the world's biggest area without internal border controls, where more than 400 million people can travel freely inside the zone.

Arctic's First Ice-Free Day by 2030

- ❖ Arctic's waters have less than one million square kilometres of sea ice by 2030.
- ❖ Thus, the first ice-free day in the Arctic Ocean could occur before 2030.
- ❖ In the last 40 years, the sea ice extent has been decreasing by 12.6% each decade.
- ❖ This pace of decline is unmatched by any point in at least the last 1,500 years.



Stay on 'Joy Bangla' Slogan







- ❖ Bangladesh's Supreme Court has put a hold on a High Court verdict that declared "Joy Bangla" as the country's national slogan.
- This slogan was popularised by Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during the birth of Bangladesh.
- ❖ The Bangladesh Bank is also printing new currency notes that feature the July uprising, which refers to the student-led protests that forced Hasina's exile.
- ❖ Notably, these new notes will not include the image of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Human Rights Milestones of UAE

- ❖ The Union Association for Human Rights (UAHR) commended the UAE for its advancements in human rights.
- ❖ It ranks seventh globally and first regionally in the 2024 Gender Inequality Index.
- ❖ The country also leads the world in the Lack of Labour Disputes Index.
- ❖ In the UAE, education and housing are constitutional rights; health coverage is provided for all; and a social welfare system supports the most vulnerable citizens and residents.
- ❖ Legislation protects against discrimination and guarantees the right to life, security, freedom of belief and religious practice.
- ❖ The constitution also pays the special attention to the rights of children, women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities (people of determination) and other vulnerable groups.







US Birthright Citizenship

- US President-elect Donald Trump has said he plans to end birthright citizenship in America.
- ❖ The Birthright citizenship is guaranteed under the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.
- ❖ It means that anyone born within American borders automatically becomes a citizen of the United States.
- ❖ This includes the children of tourists, students studying in American colleges on short-term visas and undocumented immigrants.
- ❖ To implement any changes in the Constitution, administration will require the support of a two-thirds majority in both chambers of Congress-- the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- ❖ In addition to this, the amendment must also be ratified by three-fourths of all state legislatures.
- ❖ In 2019, the Migration Policy Institute estimated that 5.5 million children under age 18 lived with at least one parent in the country illegally in 2019, representing 7% of the U.S. child population.

US Citizenship for US-Born Child

- A child born in the US automatically becomes a US citizen. This principle is known as birthright citizenship.
- The Indian Embassy allows parents to obtain an Indian passport for their child, but the final decision on citizenship occurs when the child turns 18 years old.
- It's important to note that parents cannot renounce their child's US citizenship on their behalf.

Cyclone Chido

- ❖ The most powerful cyclone in nearly a century has hit the French Indian Ocean archipelago of Mayotte.
- ❖ France colonised Mayotte in 1843 and annexed the whole archipelago, including Comoros, in 1904.





- ❖ In a 1974 referendum, 95% backed separation but 63% on Mayotte voted to stay French.
- ❖ Grande Comore, Anjouan and Moheli declared independence in 1975.
- ❖ Mayotte is still ruled from Paris.



Visa-Free Travel for Indian Tourists



- ❖ By March 2025, Indian tourists may be able to explore Russia without needing a visa.
- ❖ Both held talks about a bilateral agreement to ease visa rules, aiming to introduce visa-free group tourist exchanges.





- ❖ In August 2023, Indian travellers became eligible for e-visas to Russia, which are typically processed within four days.
- ❖ In 2023, India was one of the top five countries receiving e-visas, with around 9,500 issued to Indian citizens, making up 6% of the total.
- ❖ In 2023, over 60,000 Indians visited Moscow, a 26% increase from 2022.
- ❖ By early 2024, India was ranked at third among non-CIS countries for business tourism, with nearly 1,700 e-visas issued in the first quarter alone.
- ❖ Currently, Russia allows citizens from China and Iran to enter without a visa as part of a visa-free tourist exchange program.
- ❖ Indian passport holders currently have visa-free access to 62 countries.

UNGA Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza



- ❖ The United Nations (UN) General Assembly overwhelmingly approved resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.
- ❖ It was adopted with 158 votes in favour including India and got nine votes against with 13 abstentions.
- ❖ It expressed support for the work of the UN's agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).
- ❖ For the first time, Germany and Italy, who abstained last December, have voted in favour of a Gaza ceasefire.



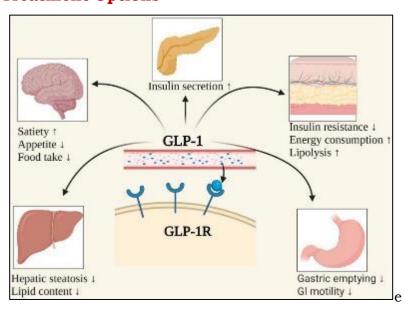


Biden's pardoning act – USA

- ❖ The President Joe Biden is commuting the sentences of roughly 1,500 people who were released from the prison and placed on the home confinement during the coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ He also pardoned 39 Americans convicted of nonviolent crimes.
- ❖ It's the largest single-day act of clemency in modern history.
- ❖ The second largest single-day act of clemency was by Barack Obama, with 330, shortly before leaving office in 2017.



New Obesity Treatment Options



❖ The WHO approved GLP-1 receptor agonists as a treatment for obesity, such as semaglutide and tirzepatide.





- * They will mimic hormones that regulate appetite and blood sugar.
- ❖ The WHO emphasizes that while healthy eating and exercise are crucial, they alone cannot solve the obesity epidemic.
- ❖ In 2022, one in eight people worldwide was classified as obese, totalling 890 million adults and 160 million adolescents.
- ❖ In India, 44 million women and 26 million men were affected by obesity in 2022.

mRNA Cancer Vaccine - Russia



- * Russia has developed its own mRNA vaccine against cancer.
- ❖ The vaccine is expected to be launched in early 2025.
- ❖ Vaccines can combat cancer by stimulating the immune system to recognize and attack cancer cells.
- ❖ The mRNA vaccines work by introducing a piece of messenger RNA to the body, prompting cells to produce a specific protein.
- ❖ Cancer rates in Russia have been rising steadily, with over 635,000 new cases reported in 2022.
- Colon, breast, and lung cancers are among the most common types diagnosed in the country.

US national bird

- ❖ The bald eagle, a symbol of the United States' power and strength for more than 240 years, is now officially the national bird of the country.
- ❖ The bald eagle has been a national emblem in the US for years, appearing on the Great Seal of the US used on US documents since 1782.
- ❖ The bald eagle is indigenous to North America.





- ❖ The Great Seal of the United States is a national symbol used in the official documents such as treaties and commissions.
- ❖ The final design was approved in 1782 and includes a bald eagle, an olive branch, arrows, a flag-like shield, the motto E Pluribus Unum (which translates to "out of many, one") and a constellation of stars.
- ❖ The bald eagle is also protected under the National Emblem Act of 1940, which makes it illegal to sell or hunt the creature.



Phewa dialogue series

- ❖ The Nepal and China governments have launched the "Phewa Dialogue" series together.
- ❖ It follows an earlier initiative by the K P Sharma Oli government to launch the Sagarmatha Dialogue series.
- ❖ The dialogue aims to encourage the policies that promote regional prosperity and peace.
- ❖ It marks Nepal's commitment to encouraging South Asian economic integration through collaborative discussions.

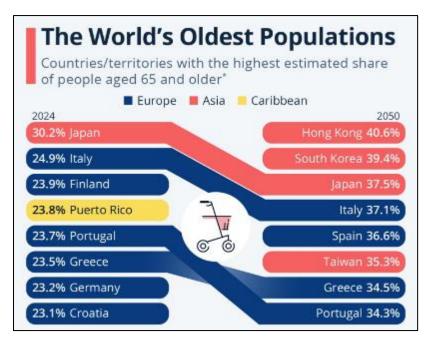
South Korea - Super Aged Society

- ❖ South Korea has now officially entered the category of a "super-aged" society.
- ❖ Individuals aged 65 and older making up one-fifth of its population.
- ❖ 10.24 million people in the country are now aged 65 or above.
- ❖ It represents 20 per cent of South Korea's total population of 51 million.
- ❖ Women in this age group comprise around 22 per cent of the female population.

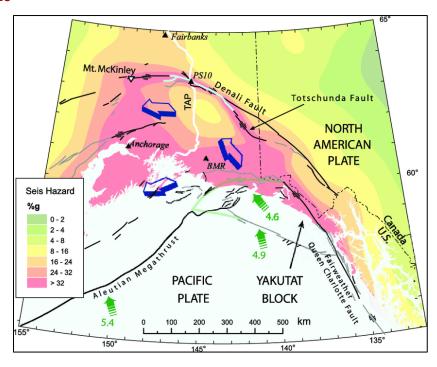




- ❖ Men aged 65 and older account for nearly 18 per cent of the male population
- ❖ In 2008, the age group comprised 4.94 million individuals and accounted for 10 percent of the population.
- ❖ It reached 19.05 per cent in January this year before surpassing 15 per cent in 2019.



Denali Fault







- ❖ The Denali Fault is a significant right-lateral strike-slip fault in western North America.
- ❖ It is stretching from British Columbia, Canada, to central Alaska, USA.
- ❖ It marks the boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate, with the Pacific Plate actively subducting under the North American Plate.
- ❖ This subduction causes significant geological stress and deformation.
- ❖ These three geologic sites along the Denali Fault were once part of a single feature that united two landmasses' millions of years ago.
- Clearwater Mountains, Kluane Lake, and Coast Mountains linked by 300 miles of horizontal movement.

Rwanda - End of Marburg Virus Outbreak

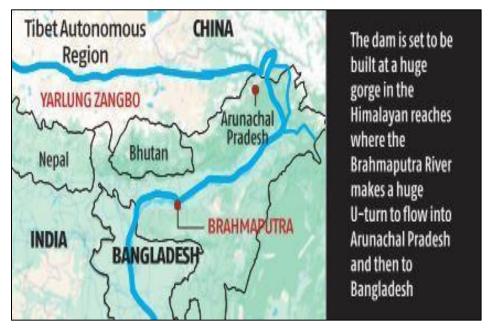
- * Rwanda has successfully managed its first-ever Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) outbreak.
- ❖ A total of 66 confirmed cases and 15 fatalities were recorded during the outbreak.
- ❖ MVD is previously known as Marburg haemorrhagic fever.
- ❖ It is a severe and often fatal illness in humans, with an average case fatality rate of around 50 per cent.
- ❖ The virus is initially transmitted to humans from fruit bats and spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected individuals, as well as the contaminated surfaces and materials.
- ❖ The disease is named for Marburg, the German city where scientists became ill with the disease's first known cases in 1967.







Mega Dam on Brahmaputra - China



- ❖ China has approved the construction of the world's largest dam, costing \$137 billion, on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet.
- ❖ This is stated to be the planet's biggest infra project.
- ❖ This hydropower project is planned in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, the Tibetan name for the Brahmaputra.
- China has already Operationalised the \$1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet in 2015.
- ❖ The Brahmaputra River flows across the Tibetan Plateau, carving out the deepest canyon on Earth and covering a staggering vertical difference of 25,154 feet before reaching India.

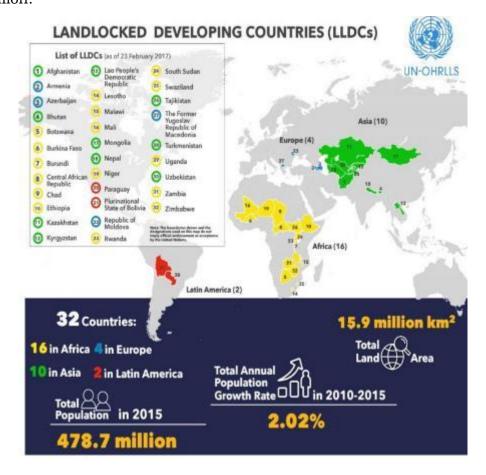
10-year action plan for landlocked countries

- ❖ The UNGA adopted a 10-year action program to address the unique challenges faced by landlocked developing countries.
- ❖ This resolution is titled the Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034.
- ❖ It builds on Vienna Programme of Action (2014-2024) & Almaty Programme of Action (2003).
- ❖ It aims to boost labour productivity & job opportunities across all sectors by 50% by 2034.





- ❖ It also focused on reduce disaster risk in LLDCs through full implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.
- ❖ Landlocked countries are countries that do not have direct access to the sea.
- ❖ There are 32 landlocked developing countries with a population of about 570 million



UN cybercrime treaty 2024







- ❖ It aims at strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime and protecting societies from digital threats.
- ❖ The Convention against Cybercrime will open for signature in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2025.
- ❖ It is first legally binding UN instrument on cybercrime & will enter into force 90 days after being ratified by 40th signatory.
- ❖ It establishes a global criminal justice policy to protect society against cybercrime by 'fostering international cooperation'.

AUSSOM mission – Somalia



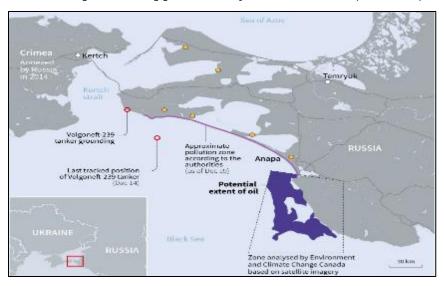
- ❖ The UN Security Council adopted a draft resolution to establish the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM).
- ❖ The AUSSOM will replace the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).
- ❖ It authorizes the African Union (AU) members to deploy up to 12,626 uniformed personnel, including 1,040 police personnel, to AUSSOM until 30 June 2025.
- ❖ The AUSSOM will support Somalia in its fight against Al-Shabaab, strengthen Somalia's stabilization efforts, and enable the delivery of the humanitarian assistance.
- ❖ The recent Ankara Declaration between the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia reaffirming each country's sovereignty, unity, independence, and territorial integrity.





Black sea oil spill 2024

- * Russia declared a federal state of emergency after an oil spill in the Black Sea.
- ❖ A Russian oil tanker named Volgoneft 212, carrying more than 4,000 tons of fuel, broke apart off the coast of Crimea.
- ❖ At least 3,700 tons of heavy oil were spilled.
- ❖ The incident has polluted approximately 55 kilometers (34 miles) of coastline.



Gadhimai Mahotsav







- ❖ It is celebrated every five years; this year's edition will take place at the Gadhimai Temple in Bara District, Nepal.
- ❖ The festival, famous for animal sacrifice, is one of the largest and most controversial slaughter events.
- ❖ It ranks as one of the world's largest animal sacrifice festivals, drawing thousands of devotees from Nepal, India, and beyond.
- ❖ The sacrificial animals include water buffalo, pigs, goats and birds.

Type 076 Amphibious Assault Ship - China

- China has launched its first next-generation Type 076 amphibious assault ship
 Sichuan.
- ❖ The Type 076 ranks among the world's largest amphibious assault ships.
- ❖ Sichuan is the first amphibious assault ship in the world to incorporate the electromagnetic launch technology.
- ❖ This allows it to carry helicopters and fighter jets such as the J-15.







ECONOMY

Windfall Tax End

- ❖ The government has scrapped 30-month-old windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and on export of jet fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol.
- ❖ India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022 joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies.
- ❖ A ₹23,250 per tonne (\$40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on the domestic crude production was levied.
- ❖ The tax rates were reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.
- **♦** The government had garnered about ₹25,000 crore from the levy in the first year of its implementation, ₹13,000 crore in 2023-24 and ₹6,000 crore this year.



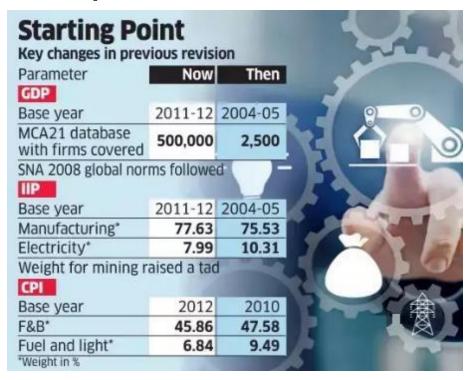
GDP base year change

- ❖ The government has decided to update the base year for the compilation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- ❖ The 26-member Advisory Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar and is expected to complete the exercise by early 2026.
- ❖ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data based on the 2011-12 series was also released in January 2015.
- ❖ The first official estimates of the national income were prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) with the base year 1948-49 for the estimates at constant prices.





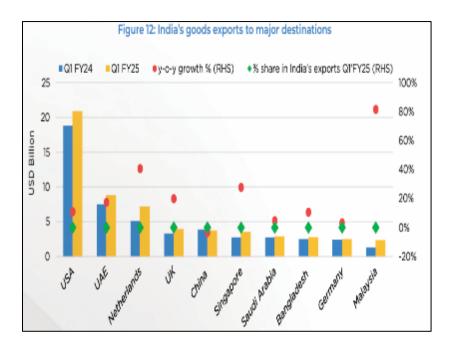
❖ These estimates at the constant (1948-49) prices along with the corresponding estimates at the current prices and the accounts of the Public Authorities were published in the publication, 'Estimates of National Income' in 1956.



First trade watch report

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the Trade Watch Quarterly report for Q1 FY25.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive overview of the country's trade dynamics during April–June 2024.
- ❖ India's total trade performance for the first half of 2024 reached \$576 billion with the year-on-year (YoY) growth of 5.45%.
- ❖ Exports stood at \$231 billion, reflecting a modest increase of 5.41%, imports surged to \$345 billion.
- ❖ It is resulting in a widened current account deficit of \$9.7 billion.
- ❖ Services exports rose by 10.09% YoY to reach \$89 billion.
- ❖ IT services and other business solutions has global market shares of 10.2% and 7.16%, respectively.
- ❖ North America and the European Union continue to be pivotal markets, accounting for 21% and 18.6% of India's exports, respectively.





New UPI Lite Limit 2024

- RBI has enhanced the transaction threshold for offline digital payments made via UPI Lite.
- ❖ The per-transaction UPI Lite ceiling has been increased from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000.
- ❖ The total wallet capacity for the UPI Lite has been expanded from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000.
- ❖ The per-transaction limit in UPI123Pay increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.
- ❖ The UPI Lite enables users to complete low-value purchases without requiring internet connectivity.







RBI's Global Gold Purchases 2024



- ❖ The Reserve Bank has bought 48% of all the gold that the central banks bought in October.
- ❖ It was adding a whopping 27 tonne to its home reserves, taking the total tonnage to 882.
- ❖ Gold buying by all central banks is totalled only 60 tonne in October.
- ❖ Between January and September, the central bank had bought 24 tonnes, taking the total to 854.73 tonne.
- RBI is the second biggest central bank buyer of the yellow metal.

MuleHunter.AI



* Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is making progress in combating financial fraud by promoting the use of MuleHunter.AI.





- ❖ It is an advanced artificial intelligence tool.
- ❖ This technology specialises in detecting and flagging mule accounts, which are often exploited for money laundering activities.
- ❖ 'Mule accounts' are bank accounts used by criminals to funnel illicit funds.

Secured Overnight Rupee Rate

- * RBI has announced Introduction of the Secured Overnight Rupee Rate (SORR) a benchmark based on the secured money markets.
- ❖ The RBI had set up the Committee on the MIBOR Benchmark to review the Rupee interest rate benchmarks in the country.
- ❖ SORR is a benchmark based on secured money markets.
- ❖ It will be based on secured money market transactions in both the market repo and tri-party repo or TREP segments.
- SORR will be more representative of the overnight market funding rate rather than just the call money rate.

To further develop interest rate derivative market, RBI proposes to introduce new benchmark - Secured Overnight Rupee Rate

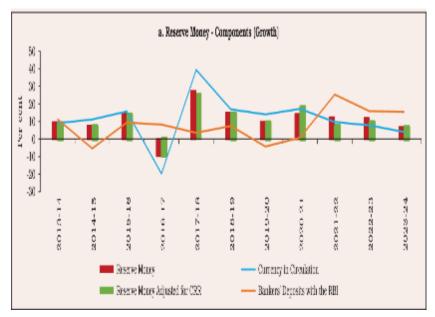
Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2023-24

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has published the latest edition of the Handbook of Statistics on Indian States for 2023-24.
- ❖ It also includes the vital information about demographics, health, and economic indicators.
- ❖ The data spans from 1951 to 2024, providing a historical context for analysis.
- Maharashtra SGDP remains the top contributor with ₹35.24 lakh crore.
- Other contributors include Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Rajasthan.
- Kerala has the highest rural wages, often double the national average.
- ❖ A male construction worker in Kerala earns ₹894 per day.

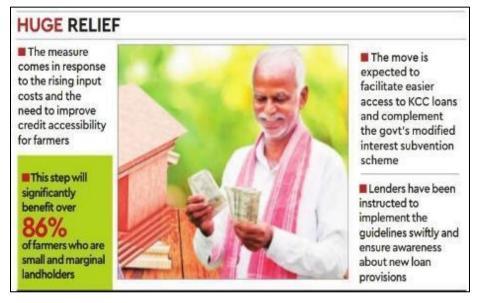




- ♦ But in Madhya Pradesh gives the lowest wages at ₹292 per day.
- * Kerala's construction wages were three times higher than Madhya Pradesh's.



Collateral-Free Loan Limit for Farmers



- ❖ RBI instructs banks nationwide to waive collateral and margin requirements for agricultural and allied activity loans up to ₹2 lakh per borrower.
- ❖ The existing loan limit of ₹1.6 lakh per borrower has been raised to ₹2 lakh, effective from January 1, 2025.
- ❖ This measure will significantly benefit over 86% of the farmers who are small and marginal landholders.



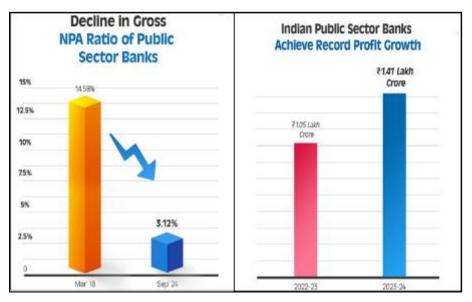


Direct Tax Collection Surges in 2024-25

- ❖ India's net direct tax collections were up 16.5%, crossing ₹15.82 lakh crore by December 17, with non-corporate taxes leading the growth.
- ❖ Net corporate tax receipts were up just 8.6% to close to ₹7.43 lakh crore.
- Net collections from non-corporate taxes rose at almost thrice the pace at 22.5% to ₹7.97 lakh crore.
- ❖ The gross tax receipts had grown 20.3% so far this year to cross ₹19.21 lakh crore, with corporate taxes rising 16.9% and non-corporate receipts up 22%.
- ❖ The receipts from the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) were up a sharp 85.5% to over ₹40,100 crore.

TAX BREAKUP (Figures* in ₹crore)	Gross collection	Refunds	Net collection
Corporation tax	9,24,693	1,82,086	7,42,607
Non-corporation tax	9,53,871	1,56,792	7,97,080
Securities transaction tax	40,114	-	40,114
Others	2,829	46	2,784
Total	19,21,508	3,38,924	15,82,584
Y-o-Y growth in %▶ *as on Dec 17	20.32	42.49	16.45

Public Sector Banks' Profit 2024







- Public sector banks (PSBs) including SBI in 2024-25 are building on their record-breaking aggregate net profit of ₹1.46 lakh crore in 2023-24.
- ❖ PSBs have also enhanced the shareholder value, distributing ₹61,964 crore in the dividends over the past three years.
- ❖ Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) have declined significantly to 3.12 per cent in September 2024 from a peak of 14.58 per cent in March 2018.
- ❖ At the current pace, PSBs are expected to exceed last year's profit milestone of ₹1.46 lakh crore.

India's Alternative Assets Market 2024



- ❖ India's alternative assets market will grow five-fold to \$2 trillion by 2034
- ❖ It was referring to investment options outside of traditional investments such as stocks, bonds and cash.
- ❖ The market has \$400 billion in assets under management (AUM).
- ❖ Globally, the alternatives have seen their share double from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of total global AUM between 2005 and 2020.

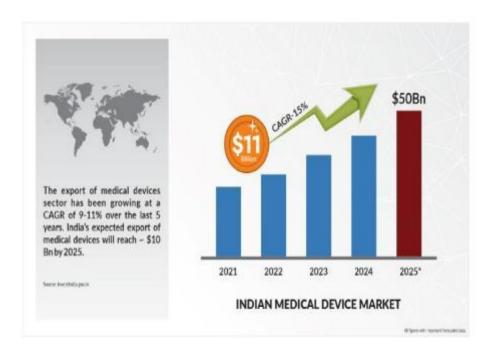
Indian Medtech sector 2024

- ❖ The 21st Health Summit of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was held under the theme of "Transforming Healthcare for Viksit Bharat 2047".
- ❖ The Indian medical devices sector is estimated to be around \$14 billion and it is expected to grow to \$30 Billion by 2030.





- ❖ India is the fourth largest medical devices market in Asia after Japan, China, and South Korea.
- ❖ Also, India is among the top 20 global medical devices markets in the world.
- ❖ The Scheme for Promotion of Medical Devices Parks was launched with a ₹400 crore outlay, providing ₹100 crore each to Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh for infrastructure development.

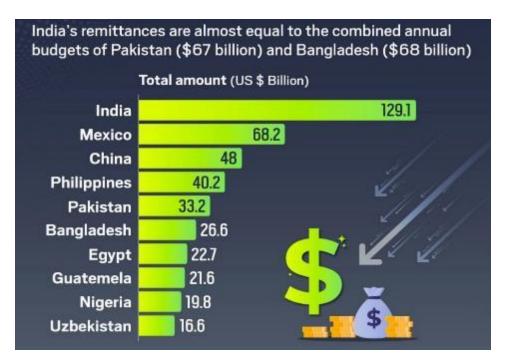


Global Remittances for 2024

- ❖ India retained the number one spot of being the country which saw the maximum amount of monetary inflow \$129 billion from its diaspora.
- ❖ India's remittances alone are nearly as much as the annual budgets of Pakistan (\$67 billion) and Bangladesh (\$68 billion) combined.
- ❖ It is also nearly double that of Mexico, which took the second spot on the highest remittances list.
- ❖ In this, Mexico came second with \$68 billion; China came third at \$48 billion, the Philippines came fourth at \$40 billion, and Pakistan came fifth at \$33 billion.
- ❖ India has steadily been receiving remittances of more than \$100 billion each year for the last five years, except 2020.
- ❖ In the last 10 years, India's overall remittances grew by 57 per cent.
- ❖ In total, between 2014 and 2024, India has received nearly \$1 trillion US dollars (\$982 billion) only in remittances.







55th GST Council Meeting







- ❖ The 55th GST Council met under the Union Finance Minister for in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Council recommended a reduction in the GST rate on Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) to 5%.
- ❖ It also announced a full exemption of GST on gene therapy.
- ❖ The Council clarified that no GST would be levied on the transactions involving vouchers, as they are neither classified as goods nor services.
- ❖ The penal charges levied by the banks and NBFCs for non-compliance with loan terms would not attract GST.
- ❖ It proposed lowering the pre-deposit amount required for appeals related solely to penalties, reducing it to 10% from the earlier 25%.
- ❖ The concessional 5% GST rate on food inputs used for free distribution under government programs will continue.
- ❖ Increased the GST rate from 12% to 18 % on sale of all old and used vehicles.

Specialized Investment Fund

- SEBI has introduced a new asset class called Specialised Investment Fund (SIF).
- ❖ It is designed for informed investors willing to take on riskier investments.
- ❖ The SIF bridges the gap between mutual funds (MFs) and portfolio management services (PMS).
- ❖ It requires a minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh, with the lower thresholds for accredited investors.







India's Crypto Investment

- ❖ Delhi NCR continued to assert its dominance in India's cryptocurrency adoption.
- This was followed by the Bengaluru and Mumbai.
- ❖ More than 36% of India's total crypto investments are concentrated in the three major metropolitan areas: Delhi (20.1%), Bengaluru (9.6%) and Mumbai (6.5%).
- ❖ Pune ranks fourth, accounting for 3.5% of India's crypto investments.
- ❖ Jaipur takes the fifth position with 3.3% of the total crypto investment value.



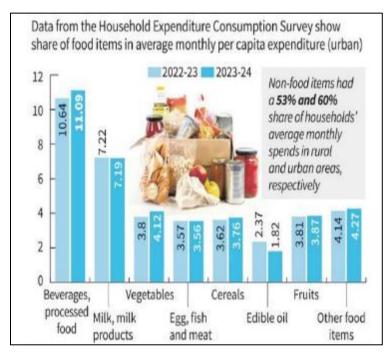
Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-2024

- ❖ The MoSPI has conducted two consecutive surveys on household consumption expenditure during 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- ❖ In 2023-24, the average Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) for the bottom 5% of India's rural population is Rs 1,677.
- ❖ While for the same group in urban areas, it is higher at Rs 2,376.
- ❖ On the other hand, the top 5% of India's rural population spends an average of Rs 10,137, compared to Rs. 20,310 for their urban counterparts.
- ❖ The bottom 5% of India's rural population saw the largest increase in MPCE, with a notable 22% rise from 2022-23.
- ❖ For the equivalent group in urban areas, the growth was slightly lower at about 19%.
- ❖ Households across the country are spending more on non-food items.
- ❖ With these expenses making up 53% of average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) in rural areas and 60% in urban areas.





- ❖ The main areas driving this non-food spending in 2023-24 include:
 - o Transport (conveyance),
 - o Clothing, bedding and footwear,
 - o Entertainment and miscellaneous goods, and
 - o Durable goods.
- ❖ In urban areas, rent also plays a significant role, accounting for about 7% of non-food expenditure.



Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2023

- Profitability of banks improved for the sixth consecutive year in 2023-24.
- ❖ Their gross bad debts or NPAs declined to a 13-year low of 2.7 per cent.
- ❖ Banks' profitability rose for the sixth consecutive year in 2023-24 and continued to rise in H1:2024-25.
- ❖ Their return on assets (RoA) raised at 1.4 per cent and return on equity (RoE) at 14.6 per cent.
- ❖ The gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio is falling to its lowest in 13 years at 2.7 per cent at end-March 2024 and 2.5 per cent at end-September 2024
- ❖ At end-March 2024, India's commercial banking sector is consisted of 12 public sector banks (PSBs), 21 private sector banks (PVBs), 45 foreign banks (FBs), 12 SFBs, six PBs, 43 RRBs, and two LABs.





- ❖ Out of these 141 commercial banks, 137 were classified as the scheduled banks, while four were non-scheduled.
- ❖ The GNPA ratio of NBFCs was dropped to 3.4 per cent at end-September 2024.



Track and Trace Mechanism



- ❖ Cigarettes are expected to be among the first products included in a track-andtrace mechanism approved by the GST Council, with pan masala also under the consideration.
- ❖ It is already in use in regions such as the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom, and Turkey.





- ❖ It requires manufacturers, importers, and supply chain entities to register and obtain unique IDs.
- ❖ Goods are scanned and tracked electronically at every stage, from production or importation to retail.
- ❖ In India, the mechanism will use Unique Identification Marking (UIM).
- ❖ This UIM is affixed to products or packaging, to trace the commodities throughout the supply chain.

RBI's State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2024-25

Year	Own Tax Revenue	Own Tax Revenue without SGST	Own Non- Tax Revenue	Tax Devolution	Grants- in-Aid	Revenue Receipts
2019-20	6.4	3.8	1.4	3.4	2.8	13.9
	(45.8)	(27.7)	(9.8)	(24.4)	(20.0)	(100.0)
2020-21	6.1	3.8	0.9	3.1	3.4	13.5
	(45.3)	(28.0)	(6.8)	(23.0)	(24.9)	(100.0)
2021-22	6.2	3.7	1.0	3.9	2.5	13.7
	(45.6)	(27.0)	(7.6)	(28.4)	(18.2)	(100.0)
2022-23 RE	6.7	3.8	1.0	3.6	3.0	14.4
	(46.3)	(26.5)	(7.2)	(25.3)	(21.2)	(100.0)
2023-24 BE	7.0	4.0	1.2	3.5	2.5	14.1
	(49.5)	(28.1)	(8.3)	(24.7)	(17.7)	(100.0)

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentage shares of total revenue receipts

Source: State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2023-24, RBI

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Report "State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2024-25".
- ❖ State governments contained their consolidated gross fiscal deficit (GFD) within 3% of gross domestic product (GDP).
- ❖ Their revenue deficit stands at 0.2% of GDP during 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- ❖ In 2024-25, States have budgeted a GFD of 3.2% of GDP.
- ❖ Their Capital expenditure rose from 2.4% of GDP in 2021-22 to 2.8% in 2023-24 and budgeted at 3.1% of GDP in 2024-25.
- ❖ States' total outstanding liabilities declined from 31.0% of GDP 2021 to 28.5% in 2024 but remain above the pre-pandemic level.
- ❖ In 2020-21, the combined fiscal deficit of all states had edged up to 4.1 per cent of GDP and their debt-to-GDP ratio had risen to 31 per cent.





SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first AI laboratory to space

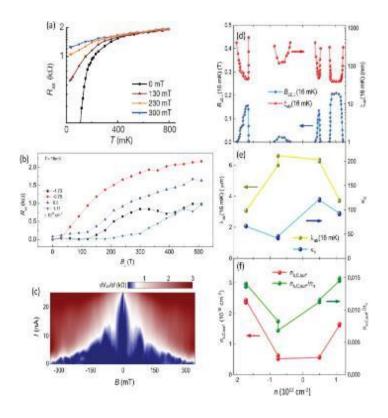
- ❖ ISRO is gearing up to launch the ambitious Proba-3 mission to space aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- ❖ Hyderabad-based space technology firm TakeMe2Space marking this India's first artificial intelligence laboratory in space.
- ❖ This lab has been named as the MOI-TD (My Orbital Infrastructure-Technology Demonstrator).
- ❖ By processing data directly in space, MOI-TD delivers relevant insights to users.
- ❖ This drastically lowers both the cost of data transmission and latency.



New Moiré Superconductor

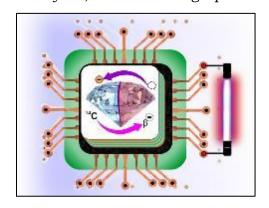
- Scientists reported that moiré materials made from semiconductor materials can also be superconducting.
- ❖ This property was once considered to be exclusive to the graphene system.
- ❖ Moiré materials are the two-dimensional systems created by stacking two layers of material and twisting one layer by a small angle.
- ❖ Moiré Pattern is a periodic structure resulting from atomic misalignment.





Nuclear-powered diamond battery

- ❖ The Scientists from UK have successfully developed the world's first carbon-14 diamond battery.
- ❖ It leverages the radioactive decay of carbon-14, a radioactive isotope commonly used in radiocarbon dating, to generate electricity.
- ❖ Since carbon-14 has a half-life of 5,700 years, the battery will retain half of its power even after thousands of years.
- ❖ The carbon-14 used in these batteries is extracted from graphite blocks, a very byproduct of nuclear fission reactors.
- ❖ The UK alone holds nearly 95,000 tonnes of graphite blocks.

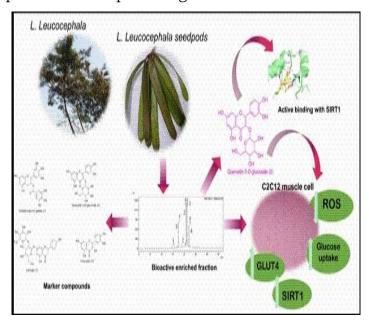






Tropical plant Subabul

- * Research reveals Subabul's potential in improving insulin sensitivity, offering the new hope for managing type 2 diabetes.
- Subabul or Leucaena leucocephala (Lam.) de Wit is a fast-growing leguminous tree commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions.
- ❖ It is mainly found in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In Type 2 Diabetes, the human body doesn't use insulin well and can't keep blood sugar at normal levels.
- ❖ GLUT2 is a protein that helps move glucose and fructose across cell membranes.



Nano Bubble Technology - Delhi Zoo

- ❖ The National Zoological Park in Delhi will soon implement 'nano bubble technology' for cleaning and purifying the water.
- ❖ It employs advanced filtration and recycling methods to remove impurities and prevent algae growth.
- ❖ The technology also minimises water wastage by enabling efficient recycling.
- Nanobubble technology generates tiny bubbles that dissolve in water.
- ❖ These bubbles enhance oxygen levels and purify the water.
- ❖ They can effectively reduce pollutants and improve water clarity.

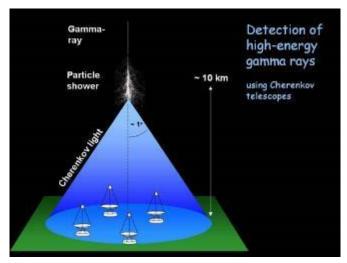






Most energetic cosmic rays ever

- ❖ Group of Scientists at the High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS) observatory in Namibia, have discovered the most energetic cosmic rays ever found.
- ❖ These are being produced by mysterious sources relatively close to Earth.
- ❖ The rays were observed at the energies all the way up to 40 teraelectronvolts (TeV) or 40,000 times the energy of visible light.
- ❖ Cosmic rays are discovered in 1912, by Austrian physicist Victor Hess.
- ❖ They rays are high-energy particles produced by the sun, supernovas, rapidly spinning pulsars, and other, unknown sources.



World's First Self-Driving Satellite

- ❖ China has successfully launched the world's first 'self-driving' satellites.
- ❖ These satellites have been designed to autonomously maintain or change their flight paths without ground intervention.





- ❖ Once operational, the satellites will provide high-resolution, all-day, all-weather radar imagery.
- ❖ It will enable the monitoring of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, tracking deforestation, and carrying out military surveillance.



Heat Shock Protein 70 (HSP70)



- ❖ Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) have made a new discovery that could change malaria and Covid-19 treatment.
- ❖ They identified a human protein, Hsp70, as a critical factor in the spread of diseases like malaria and Covid-19.
- ❖ Hsp70 (Heat Shock Protein 70) is a type of molecular chaperone.
- ❖ It is a protein that plays a vital role in helping other proteins fold into their proper shapes and preventing misfolding.
- ❖ By targeting Hsp70, we can disrupt the Pathogens' ability to replicate and protect themselves from the immune system.





Proba-3 satellite

- ❖ ISRO successfully launched the European Space Agency's PROBA-3 satellite in its 61st commercial mission 'C-59'.
- ❖ PROBA-3 aim is to study the Sun's corona at a level of precision never done before.
- ❖ It is designed to demonstrate precision formation flying.
- ❖ The two satellites will maintain a separation of about 150 meters with millimeter accuracy.
- ❖ Together, they will create an artificial solar eclipse, a unique event in space science.
- ❖ It aims to study the Sun's corona for extended periods far exceeding the brief duration of natural eclipses.
- There are two types of formations.
- ❖ In the Fixed Formation, the spacecraft maintains a fixed distance and orientation relative to each other.
- ❖ In Dynamic Formation, the spacecraft may change their relative positions, such as in missions where spacecraft need to move between different regions of space.



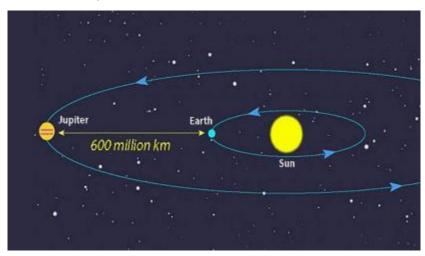
Jupiter reaches opposition

- ❖ Jupiter reached the perihelion point (spot closest to the Sun) in the sky.
- ❖ During this phase the Sun, Earth, and Jupiter will be in a perfectly straight line or in the opposition phenomenon.
- It happens once every 13 months.
- ❖ Since Earth is situated exactly between the Sun and Jupiter at opposition, we can view the planet at its closest point to Earth and in full light.



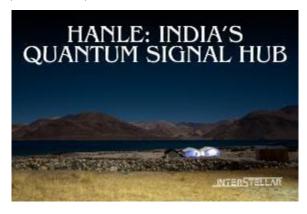


- ❖ Jupiter will look especially bright and conspicuous in the night sky this year because it will be closer to Earth than it has been since November 2023.
- ❖ At this point, Jupiter will be closest to Earth and theoretically should appear double in size compared to its farthest or aphelion point.
- ❖ Jupiter will next oppose on January 10, 2026, and then again on February 10, 2027, and March 13, 2028.



Hanle observatory - quantum signals

- * The Scientists from the Raman Research Institute (RRI) have identified optimal locations in India for beaming quantum signals into space.
- ❖ The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) in Hanle is had the least signal loss among the sites studied
- ❖ This is due to its dry climate and low atmospheric water vapor levels.
- ❖ A quantum signal refers to the information transmitted using the principles of quantum mechanics.
- ❖ Quantum mechanics governs the behaviour of particles at extremely small scales, such as photons, electrons, or atoms.







Sound based selection

- ❖ Moths can hear the sounds emitted by the plants and rely on them to choose on which plant to lay their eggs.
- ❖ A moth species called the Egyptian cotton leafworm used clicks produced by stressed plants to decide where to lay their eggs.
- ❖ The researchers found that the moths preferred to lay their eggs on the "silent" plant.
- ❖ There are approximately 160,000 species of moth.
- ❖ Being highly adapted species, they are found in all climate types, except the polar habitats.
- ❖ Most species of moth are nocturnal, though there are also some diurnal species.

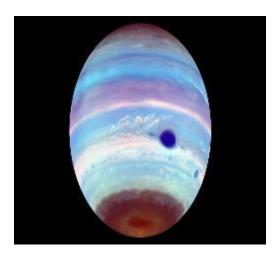


Dark Ovals on Jupiter

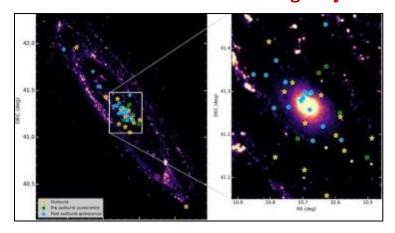
- ❖ Astronomers discovered the presence of Earth-sized dark ovals at the Jupiter's poles just as the Great Red Spot.
- ❖ They are typically found just below the planet's auroral zones.
- ❖ The Observations between 2015 and 2022 show that these features are more prevalent at the south pole, appearing in 75% of the images.
- **\$** But they are rarely seen at the north pole.







Ultraviolet emissions from novae in Andromeda galaxy



- ❖ Astronomers have spotted far ultra violet (FUV) emissions from novae for the first time in the neighbouring Andromeda galaxy.
- ❖ This is a special class of transient astronomical event that causes the sudden appearance of a bright.
- ❖ It is apparently due to a new star that slowly fades over weeks or months, during their outburst.

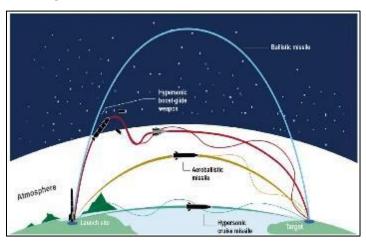
Anti-missile system Dark Eagle

- ❖ The United States has developed a new anti-missile system called Dark Eagle.
- ❖ It is capable of intercepting enemy missiles in mid-air.
- ❖ It is equipped with the medium-range missiles and has a launch speed of 20,826 km/h.
- ❖ US claims that this system is several times more effective than Russia's S-300V4, S-400, and S-500 systems.



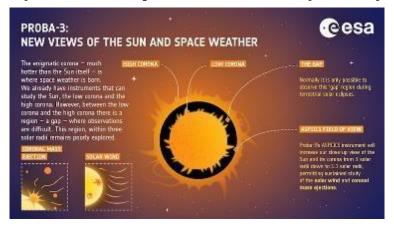


- ❖ It travels with a speed of 3000-3700 metre per second at the height of 50 kilo metres.
- * Russia has the 53T6M anti-missile system, which could be comparable to the America's Dark Eagle.



Artificial Solar Eclipse - Proba 3

- ❖ With Proba-3, the European Space Agency creates an artificial solar eclipse by bringing two satellites together instead of waiting for natural solar eclipses.
- ❖ This artificial eclipse will be used to study the sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona.
- ❖ The corona is the sun's outermost layer. It still remains one of the most mysterious parts of our star.
- ❖ Although the sun's surface glows at about 5,500°C, the corona's temperature goes as high as 1-3 million°C.
- ❖ Normally, the corona is visible when it is eclipsed totally during a total solar eclipse because the moon blocks some light from the sun.
- Unfortunately, these natural phenomena occur rarely and for just short periods.

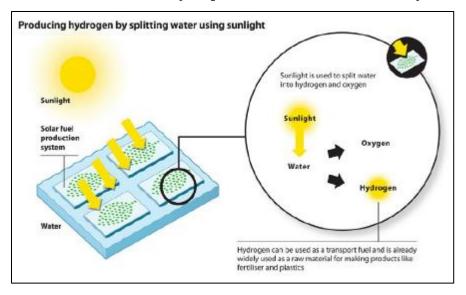






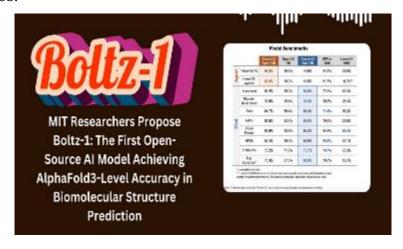
Hydrogen Fuel Production Using Water and Sunlight

- ❖ Japan Researchers utilizes water and sunlight and employs a special reactor with photocatalytic sheets, to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen.
- ❖ It aims to create renewable hydrogen fuel without releasing greenhouse gases.
- ❖ This method currently operates at only 1% efficiency.
- ❖ This is below the 5% efficiency required for commercial viability.



Boltz-1

- ❖ MIT scientists have released a powerful, open-source AI model, called Boltz-1.
- * This could significantly accelerate biomedical research and drug development.
- ❖ Boltz-1achieves state-of-the-art performance at the level of AlphaFold3.
- ❖ AlphaFold3 is a proprietary model from Google DeepMind, in predicting protein structures.

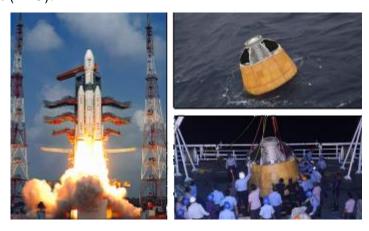






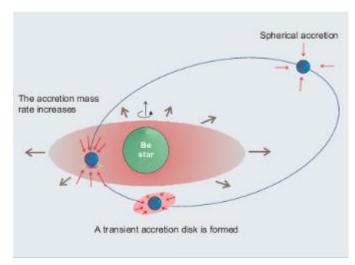
Human Rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3

- ❖ The ISRO commenced the assembly of the Human Rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (HLVM3) for the Gaganyaan mission's maiden uncrewed flight.
- ❖ The event coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3-X/CARE (Crew module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment)) mission, conducted in December 2014.
- ❖ HLVM3 is a three-stage vehicle with a payload capacity of about 10 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).



New X-ray Binary System

- NASA's IXPE (Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer) has helped astronomers better understand the shapes of structures essential to a black hole.
- ❖ The stellar-mass black hole, part of the binary system Swift J1727.8-1613, was discovered in the summer of 2023.



❖ The X-ray binary system formed when one star underwent a supernova explosion.

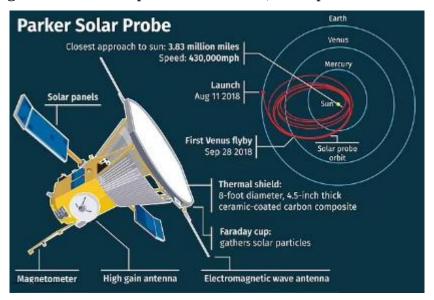




- ❖ The X-ray binary systems typically include two close-proximity stars at different stages of their lifecycle.
- ❖ This system consists of two stars in orbit, one collapsed into a black hole after exhausting its nuclear fuel.

Parker probe 2024

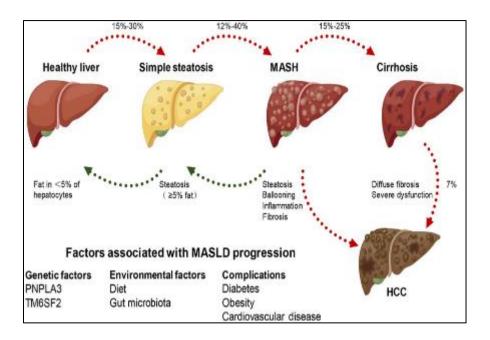
- ❖ NASA's Parker Solar Probe is making the very closest approach to the Sun ever recorded by a human-made object.
- ❖ The probe has passed just 6.1 million kilometres (3.8 million miles) above the Sun's surface.
- ❖ The Parker Solar Probe was launched in 2018 to get a close-up look at the sun.
- ❖ Parker got more than seven times closer to the sun than previous spacecraft, traveling at a maximum speed of about 430,000 mph.



MASLD Disease

- Earlier, the term NAFLD (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease) was renamed MASLD (Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease).
- ❖ The new name highlights the connection between the fatty liver disease and the metabolic problems, such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and abnormal cholesterol levels.
- ❖ MASLD affects about 25 per cent of people globally, with rates rising to 50–70 per cent in those with type 2 diabetes or obesity.





ISRO's LVM3 Rocket - Multi-Orbit Capability







- ❖ ISRO has successfully conducted a crucial test that will enable its largest rocket LVM3 to inject satellites into orbits at different altitudes, all in a single mission.
- ❖ This restart capability is made possible due to the development of a 'multi-element ignitor'.
- ❖ It can help restart the 'CE-20' Cryogenic engine that sits atop the LVM3 rocket.
- ❖ The final stage of the LVM3 rocket has the Cryogenic engine that is responsible for placing satellites into different designated orbits (altitudes) in space.

IRIS² satellites

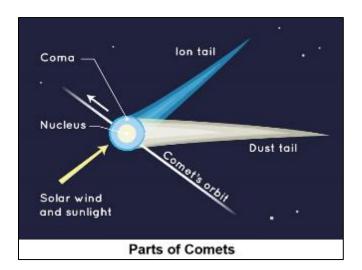


- ❖ The IRIS² constellation stands for Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity and Security by Satellite.
- ❖ It is a multi-orbit constellation of about 300 satellites.
- ❖ They will deliver resilient, secure and fast communications for EU governments, European companies and citizens.
- ❖ It will ensure uninterrupted access to secure governmental connectivity services and provide high-end commercial services.

Dark Comet

- ❖ The Dark Comets are celestial bodies which lack the glowing tails and resemble asteroids.
- ❖ In 2017, NASA discovered and later confirmed the first interstellar object to enter our Solar System.
- ❖ Dark comets are often small, just a few metres to a few hundred metres wide.
- ❖ They are categorised into "outer dark comets", which have eccentric orbits and are larger, and "inner dark comets.
- ❖ They follow elongated, elliptical paths that bring them close to the Sun before sweeping back out to the farthest reaches of the Solar System.





ENVIRONMENT

COP29 - Climate Finance Agreement

- ❖ The developed countries managed to force an agreement at the COP29 meeting in Baku, promising to put together just 300 billion dollars a year, that too from 2035.
- ❖ But the developing countries had been asking for the NCQG to be set at 1.3 trillion dollars every year.
- ❖ The target, or new collective quantified goal (NCQG), will replace the existing \$100 billion goal that is due to expire in 2025.
- ❖ India does not accept the goal proposal in its present form.
- ❖ In 2009, the developed countries had offered to raise 100 billion dollars a year from 2020.

Rare Imperial Eagle in Kerala

- ❖ The Birdwatchers have spotted the rare eagle, scientifically known as Aquila heliaca, from the kole fields.
- ❖ The Imperial Eagle was last reported in Kannur in 2003.
- ❖ It breeds in southeastern Europe, and west and central Asia.
- ❖ During the winter season, they migrate to regions in northeastern Africa, the West Asia, and parts of southeast Asia.





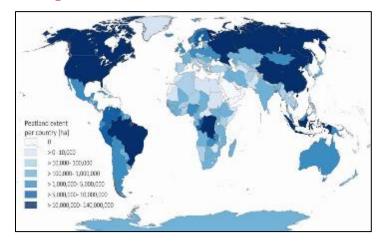
❖ IUCN lists the Imperial Eagle as a species with a potential risk of extinction.



Education for Climate Action report

- ❖ The World Bank Group recently released the 'Choosing Our Future: Education for Climate Action' report.
- ❖ The Climate change induced heat and extreme weather events are significantly disrupting learning and emphasizes that education system can empower, equip, and skill young people for climate mitigation and adaptation.
- ❖ The Countries lost on average 11 days of instruction per year in affected schools due to climate-related school closures.
- ❖ The Climate change awareness is still at only about 65% in low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ The Global green transitions would require skilled workers for an estimated 100 million new jobs.

Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas 2024



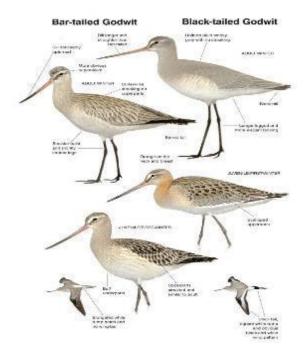
❖ The Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas was published by the UN Environment Program (UNEP).





- ❖ The atlas provides evidence for the need to enhance protection and restoration of peatlands, along with investments in research and monitoring.
- ❖ 488 million hectares of peatlands globally, with 12% highly degraded.
- ❖ Peatlands are only covering around 3-4% of the planet's land surface, contain up to one-third of the world's soil carbon.
- ❖ It is twice the amount of carbon found in the world's forests.
- ❖ Peatlands composed primarily of organic soils rich in carbon (peat), with at least 40 cm of organic material.
- ❖ Peatlands emit 1,941 Mt CO₂e per year due to human activity.
- ❖ India's Peatlands, estimated to be around 0.2%, are generally found in Eastern Himalayas, Western Ghats, and the North-East Indian region.
- ❖ The Congo Basin holds the largest known tropical peatland.

Bar-Tailed Godwit - Pulicat Lake

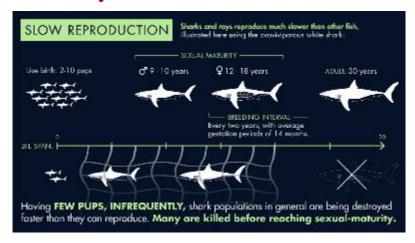


- Five bar-tailed godwits were spotted on a landmass inside the Pulicat lake.
- ❖ It is very rare to see the birds together.
- ❖ At their breeding grounds, they are known to constantly fight over territory.
- ❖ In 2022, a bar-tailed godwit set a record by flying 13,560 km from Alaska to southern Australia.
- ❖ In India, the birds can be seen across all coastal states, but they don't nest or breed here.





Decline in Shark and Rays



- ❖ The world's sharks and rays have declined by more than 50 per cent since 1970.
- Overfishing has decimated populations of chondrichthyan fishes sharks, rays, and chimaeras (closely related to sharks) – by more than half in the past 50 years.
- ❖ Habitat degradation, climate change and pollution resulted over one-third of the chondrichthyans now face the threat of extinction.

World's oldest known wild bird

- ❖ The world's oldest known wild bird, a Laysan albatross named Wisdom.
- ❖ The bird has laid an egg at the ripe age of about 74
- This was its first in four years in Hawaii.
- ❖ Wisdom, first tagged as an adult in 1956, has returned annually to Midway Atoll since 2006 to nest.
- ❖ The typical lifespan of a Laysan albatross is 68 years.



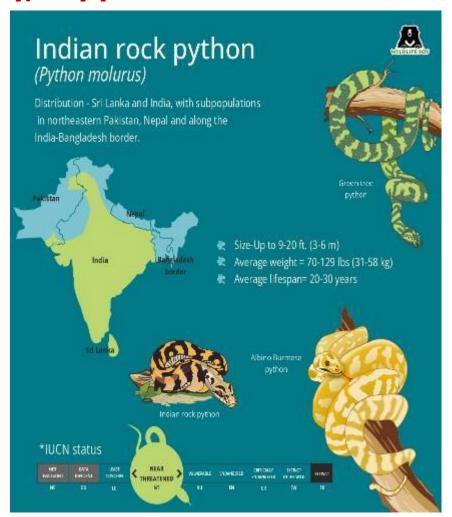




2030 Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands

- ❖ CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), a global leader in the agricultural research, has launched its 2030 Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands (GSRD).
- ❖ It was unveiled at the COP 16 of UNCCD in Riyadh.
- Drylands are critical for global population.
- ❖ It is home to one in every three of world's people, nearly half of the livestock and 44 per cent of food systems.
- ❖ But some 20-35 per cent of them are degraded.

Indian rock python population status 2024



❖ The Indian rock python (Python molurus) is used to be a common sight across Tamil Nadu, especially in agricultural areas and rocky foothills.

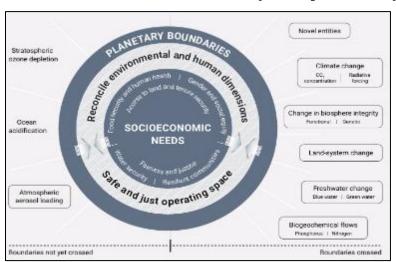




- ❖ However, due to habitat loss, the species is believed to have declined across the State, except in the Moyar Valley.
- ❖ It is Classified as "near threatened" in the IUCN Red list.
- ❖ Between 2018 and 2020, the number was at least 80 individual rock pythons in MTR, STR and Bhavani Sagar.
- Rock pythons are non-venomous, and usually avoid humans.

Report on Land Management 2024

- The 'Stepping back from the precipice: Transforming land management to stay within planetary boundaries' report released by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in collaboration with UNCCD.
- ❖ The Land degradation affects an area of 15 million sq km, and 1.2 billion people globally.
- ❖ The Economic cost of the land degradation is estimated to range between 6.3 and 10.6 trillion US Dollar annually.
- ❖ Land is central to seven of the nine planetary boundaries, which are scientifically determined thresholds within which humanity can operate safely.



Marble Duck

- ❖ A marbled duck, an unusual winter migrant was spotted at Sultanpur National Park, Haryana.
- ❖ The species had not been seen in Sultanpur since 1990.
- ❖ This species is classified as "vulnerable" globally by IUCN.
- ❖ They are native to Europe, where it breeds during summer months.





- ❖ Its last sighting was at Bhindawas wetland in 2022.
- ❖ They are known to breed in the three distinct regions eastern and western Mediterranean and Iran.



Malayan Night Heron - Madurai



- ❖ The Malayan Night Heron, a migratory bird from the Southeast Asia, has been recorded in Madurai for the first time.
- ❖ The bird, native to Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia, migrates to India during winter.
- ❖ It primarily traverses the northern Tamil Nadu and is typically seen in Kerala and Karnataka.

IISR Surasa - New Ginger variety

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Spices Research has released its new ginger variety for commercial applications.
- ❖ Named as IISR Surasa, the variety has been developed through a farmers participatory breeding programme.
- ❖ It is the first ginger variety in India developed exclusively for use as a vegetable.







5 New Species of Rare Darwin Wasps



- ❖ The Researchers have discovered five new species of the Darwin wasp subfamily Microleptinae (Hymenoptera:Ichneumonidae) from India and Thailand.
- ❖ Darwin wasps are parasitic wasps whose larvae consume their hosts from within.
- ❖ This marks the first documentation of this subfamily in India.
- ❖ The family Ichneumonidae comprises 42 subfamilies, with Microleptinae being one of the smallest.
- It contains a single genus, Microleptes, with 14 previously known species world-wide.
- Until now, Microleptes malaisei, reported from Myanmar in 1998, was the only known species from the Oriental region.
- ❖ Out of the four new species from India, *Microleptes chiani* collected from Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR), Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The other 3 speices are *Microleptes gowrishankari*, *Microleptes sandeshkaduri* and *Microleptes tehriensis*.





Outcomes of UNCCD COP 16

- ❖ The UN Convention to Combat the Desertification (UNCCD)'s COP16 summit was concluded without an agreement to tackle drought in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It was the first time a UNCCD COP was held in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- ❖ More than \$12 billion were pledged to tackle the desertification, land degradation and drought around the world, especially in the most vulnerable countries.
- ❖ A prototype of the International Drought Resilience Observatory was launched.
- ❖ It is the first ever global AI-driven platform to help countries assess and enhance their capacity to cope with harsher droughts.
- ❖ The Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership has attracted \$12.15 billion to support 80 of the world's most vulnerable countries in building their resilience to drought.
- ❖ African-led Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land mobilised mass funds from various countries.
- ❖ The US and other partner countries and organisations have announced a total investment of nearly \$70 million to advance the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS).
- ❖ The UNCCD was adopted in Paris on June 17, 1994 and entered into force on December 26, 1996.
- ❖ It is the only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and the effects of drought.
- ❖ There are 197 Parties to the Convention, including 196 country Parties and the European Union.

World's Most Toxic Plant



❖ The Gympie-Gympie, scientifically known as the Dendrocnide moroides, has been considered the most toxic plant globally.





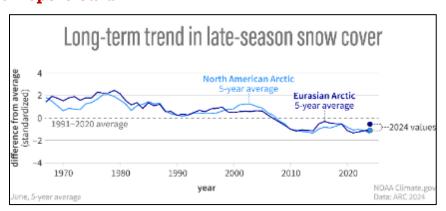
- ❖ It is primarily found in the rainforest areas of Australasia, the Moluccas, and Indonesia.
- ❖ It has a leafy bush with a heart-shaped foliage.
- ❖ The plant has hair-like needles all over its body, filled with powerful neurotoxin.

Little Bunting in Rajasthan



- ❖ Birdwatcher spotted a little bunting, a bird never seen before in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Little bunting, a small migratory bird, typically winters in the northeast India and southern China.
- It breeds in the taiga regions of northeast Europe and northern Asia.

2024 Arctic Report Card

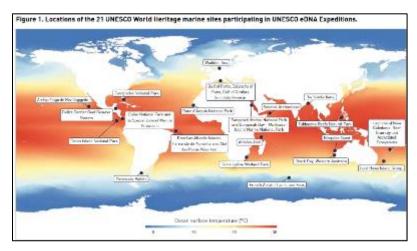


- ❖ For the past 15 years, the Arctic snow season has been one to two weeks shorter than it was historically.
- Overall, 2024 brought the second-warmest temperatures to the Arctic since measurements began in 1900, and the wettest summer on record.
- ❖ For thousands of years, the Arctic tundra landscape of shrubs and permafrost, or frozen ground, has acted as a carbon dioxide sink.
- ❖ Greenland Ice Sheet continued its 27-year record of ice loss.





Safeguard Ocean Life - UNESCO



- UNESCO released a report titled 'Engaging Communities to Safeguard Ocean Life' based on eDNA expeditions.
- ❖ UNESCO's marine biodiversity mapping initiative has used environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling to identify nearly 4,500 species across 21 World Heritage sites.
- Over 70% of these sites are threatened by climate change and hosting about 35% of threatened marine species.
- * Researchers predict that up to all fish species in these areas may surpass their thermal tolerance limits under the most severe climate change scenario.
- ❖ This scenario, known as SSP 8.5 or the 'business as usual' pathway, projects a global temperature rise of 4.4°C by the end of the century.

Wroughton's Free-tailed Bat



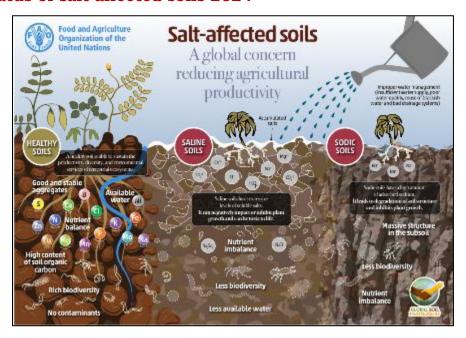
❖ Wroughton's free-tailed bat, a highly rare species of molossus bat, has been spotted at Delhi.





- ❖ This bat species is primarily found in the Western Ghats.
- Small colonies have also been recorded in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, and a single individual was noted in Cambodia.
- ❖ Until 2000, the species was considered critically endangered because of a single known population in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ Later the bat species was placed on the IUCN Red List as data deficient.

Global Status of salt affected soils 2024



- The International Soil and Water Forum 2024 was held in Bangkok.
- ❖ The report was titled 'The Global Status of Salt-Affected Soils' by FAO.
- ❖ Nearly 1.4 billion hectares of land, or 10.7 per cent of the global land area, is affected by salinity.
- ❖ Salt-affected soils are a specific group of soils that have elevated amounts of soluble salts (saline soils) that adversely affect the growth of most plants.
- ❖ Currently, ten countries Afghanistan, Australia, Argentina, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, the United States, Iran, Sudan, and Uzbekistan account for 70 per cent of the world's salt-affected soils.
- ❖ The 3 largest areas with salt-affected soils were found in Australia (357 million hectares or mha), Argentina (153 mha) and Kazakhstan (94 mha).
- ❖ The 3 countries most affected by salinity and sodicity together were Oman (93.5 per cent of the country land area), Uzbekistan (92.9 per cent) and Jordan (90.6 per cent).





- ❖ India had a salt-affected area of approximately 6.72 million ha, or 2.1 per cent of its total geographic area.
- ❖ Of that, 2.95 million ha were saline and the remaining 3.77 million ha were sodic.
- Gujarat (2.23 mha), Uttar Pradesh (1.37 mha), Maharashtra (0.61 mha), West Bengal (0.44 mha) and Rajasthan (0.38 mha) made up about 75 per cent of the country's salt-affected soils.

Higher count of butterfly species



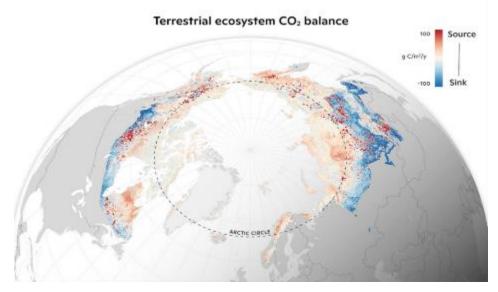
- ❖ The recent survey has found a steady increase in the number of butterfly species on Pachamalai hills near Thuraiyur.
- ❖ 15 species were identified in 2016 and 109 in 2022, the current survey found 126 of them on the hills.
- ❖ The Pachamalai hills comprise several reserve forest areas.
- ❖ It covered the reserve forests of Sengattupatti extension, Kaliyamman Kovil Thittu, Solamathi, Kannimarsolai, eco-tourism park area (Top Sengattupatti) and Mangalam water falls area.
- ❖ The habitat assessment covered mixed deciduous forest, riverine and secondary forest growth.





- ❖ The species count of 126 has been termed a healthy butterfly population.
- ❖ The hills have the potential to record 175 butterfly species.

Arctic Tundra's Carbon Release Crisis

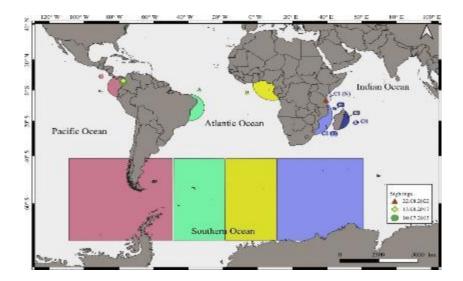


- ❖ The Arctic tundra has now become a source of heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- ❖ The Increased wildfires and unusually high temperatures are the main reasons behind the dramatic transformation of this Arctic ecosystem.
- The Plant and animal remain can stay trapped for thousands of years in a layer of its permafrost.
- ❖ Arctic soils store more than 1.6 trillion metric tonnes of carbon across the region.
- ❖ That is about double the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.
- ❖ The annual surface air temperatures in the Arctic in 2024 were the second-warmest on record since 1900.

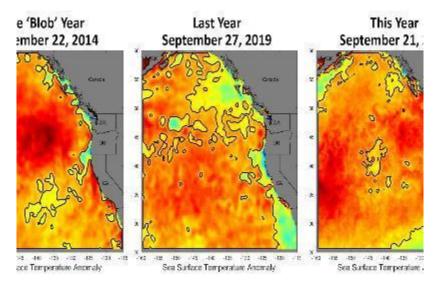
Humpback Whale Migration

- ❖ A male humpback whale swam 13,046 km from South America to Africa.
- ❖ This creates a record for the longest migration and crossing the two breeding populations.
- ❖ This marks the first time an adult male humpback whale has been observed for travelling between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- ❖ Typical humpback whale migrations span around 4,971 miles (8,000 km) one way.





Marine Heat Wave 2024

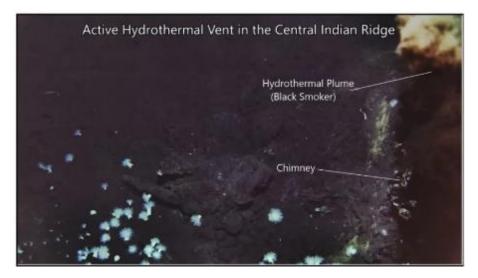


- ❖ Approximately 4 million common murres in Alaska of the USA were killed by an unprecedented marine heatwave, nicknamed 'The Blob'.
- ❖ 'The Blob' was an unusually warm patch of surface water in the northeast Pacific Ocean from late 2014 through 2016.
- ❖ It affected marine ecosystems from California to Alaska.
- ❖ Phytoplankton populations dwindled, which, in turn, triggered a collapse in fish stocks, the murres' primary food source.
- ❖ Common murres, known as guillemots in Europe, are seabirds that look a bit like flying penguins.





Hydrothermal Vent in Indian Ocean



- ❖ India's Deep Sea Mission discovered of an active hydrothermal vent 4,500 metres below the surface of the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The NIOT and the NCPOR captured the first image of an active hydrothermal vent located 4,500 metres below.
- ❖ Hydrothermal vents are like hot springs on the ocean floor.
- ❖ They form along mid-ocean ridges where tectonic plates move apart.
- ❖ The magma from the Earth's mantle rises to fill the gap and cools to form new crust and volcanic mountain chains.
- ❖ When seawater seeps into the cracks in the crust, it gets heated by this magma and shoots back out, carrying dissolved minerals.
- ❖ As the hot water meets the cold seawater, these minerals solidify, creating the chimney-like structures around the vents.
- ❖ The first hydrothermal vent was discovered in 1977 on the Galapagos Rift in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Two red pandas from the Netherlands

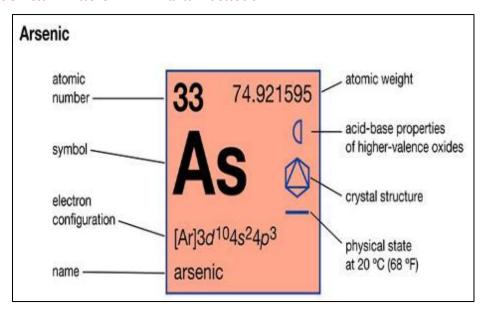
- Two red pandas reached the Darjeeling Zoo (Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park) from Rotterdam in the Netherlands on Christmas.
- No red pandas were brought from any foreign country in the past 10 years.
- ❖ India have named the two red pandas Vishal and Koshi.
- ❖ Currently, the zoo has 19 red pandas (seven males, 12 females, and two cubs).
- ❖ The red panda (Ailurus fulgens) is a small mammal native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.







Arsenic contamination in Indian states



- ❖ Arsenic has been detected in groundwater in parts of 230 districts in 25 states and fluoride in 469 districts in 27 states.
- ❖ The West Bengal and Bihar are impacted the most by arsenic contamination of groundwater.
- ❖ Arsenic is a naturally occurring substance that can be found in air, water, and soil.
- ❖ It is an odourless and tasteless metalloid widely distributed in the earth's crust.
- * WHO's current recommended limit of arsenic in drinking-water is 10 μg/L.





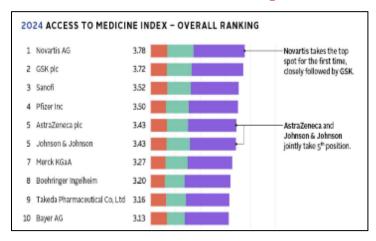
REPORTS AND INDICES

THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025

- ❖ India has emerged as the most represented nation, featuring 65 universities in the rankings.
- ❖ The Anna University has achieved the highest position among Indian institutions, securing the 42nd rank globally.
- ❖ It was followed by VIT University, ranked 65th, and the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (84th).
- Singapore stood out as the only Asian country in the top 10
- ❖ Asia remains the most represented continent in the top 100, with 47 universities.
- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology US topped in the rank.
- ❖ It is followed by Stanford University-US and National University of Singapore.



Access To Medicine Foundation 2024 Index Report







- ❖ It is evaluating 20 leading pharmaceutical companies on their efforts to expand access to their products in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).
- ❖ Overall industry performance has declined since the 2022 Index.
- ❖ 61 per cent of the products assessed still lacking access strategies for low-income countries, compared with 65 per cent in the 2022 Index.
- ❖ Only 43 per cent of clinical trials take place in the 113 LMICs.

State of Tax Justice 2024

- ❖ This report has been released by the Tax Justice Network.
- ❖ Countries are losing US\$492 billion a year to global tax abuse.
- ❖ Nearly half the losses (43%) are enabled by the eight countries such as Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, UK and US.
- ❖ Around two-third (US\$347.6 billion) of this is lost to multinational corporations shifting profit offshore to underpay tax.
- Remaining one-third (US\$144.8 billion) is lost to wealthy individuals hiding their wealth offshore.
- ❖ Countries of Global North lose largest amount of tax revenues in absolute terms.
- ❖ Countries of Global South endure the deepest losses as a share of their tax revenues.

Country	in 5 million	% of GDP	Country	in\$million	% of GDP
Marshall Islands	191	74.2%	United States	73,182	0.3%
Samoa	577	68.4%	United Kingdom	45,346	1.4%
Seychelles	619	48.1%	Germany	43,902	1.0%
Luxembourg	27,462	32.1%	China	30,938	0.2%
Liberia	948	27.0%	Luxembourg	27,462	32.1%
British Virgin Islands	150	9.8%	France	23,671	0.8%
Curação	151	5.5%	Australia	23,555	1.5%
Honduras	1,300	4.6%	India	21,577	0.7%
lersey	505	4.3%	Japan	15,618	0.3%
St. Lucia	77	3.9%	The Netherlands	15,611	1.5%

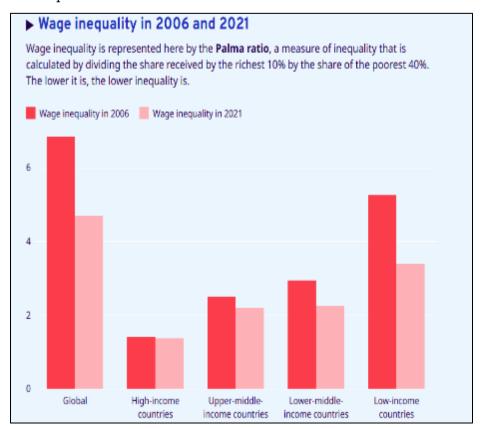
Global Wage report 2024

- ❖ It was released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❖ The share of low-paid wage workers and low-paid non-wage workers combined declined at an average rate of 11.1% per annum over the 10-year period.
- ❖ In India it is declined at an average annual rate of 6.3% and 12.7% between 2008 and 2018.





- ❖ The share of low-paid wage workers those earning less than 50% of the median hourly wage in the country stands at 9.5% in India.
- ❖ On the other hand, it is 9.4% for Pakistan, 10.5% for Nepal, 11.2% for Bangladesh, 13.7% for Bhutan and 25.9% for Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Since 2000, globally the wage inequality, has decreased in several countries at an average rate ranging between 0.5% to 1.7% annually.
- ❖ In low-income nations, the average annual decrease in wage inequality ranged between 3.2% and 9.6% over the past 20 years.
- ❖ The global real wages grew by 1.8% last year.
- ❖ The top 10 percentile of India's income-earners earn 6.8 times more than the bottom 10 percentile.



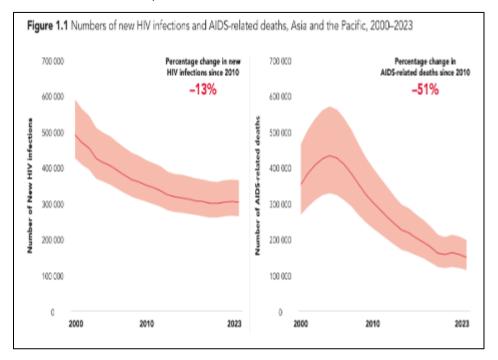
UNAIDS Report 2024

- ❖ The UN has released a report saying that upholding human rights is essential for ending the AIDS pandemic.
- ❖ The human rights violations, including discrimination against girls and women, and criminalization of LGBTQ+ people, obstruct efforts to end AIDS.
- ❖ Approximately 39.9 million people are living with HIV globally.





- ❖ Around 9.3 million of these individuals are not receiving necessary treatment.
- ❖ Last year, 630,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses.
- ❖ Additionally, there were 1.3 million new HIV infections worldwide.
- ❖ In at least 28 countries, new infections are on the rise.



Network Readiness Index 2024

High Income Countries	Upper-Middle Income Countries	Lower-middle Income Countries	Low Income Countries	
1. United States of America (1)	1. China (17)	1. Viet Nam (45)	1. Rwanda (91)	
2. Singapore (2)	2. Malaysia (36)	2. India (49)	2. Uganda (118)	
3. Finland (3)	3. Thailand (40)	3. Philippines (63)	3. Malawi (119)	

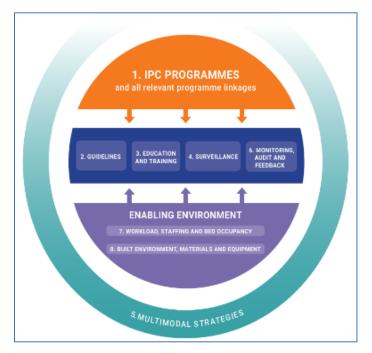
- ❖ India has risen 11 places in the latest Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024), securing the 49th rank globally.
- ❖ The index was published by the Portulans Institute, based in Washington DC of USA.
- ❖ Over the past decade, tele density has risen from 75.2% to 84.69%, while wireless connections have reached 119 crores.





- ❖ India is also ranked 2nd in the group of the lower-middle-income countries after Vietnam.
- ❖ India is ranked 1st at AI Scientific Publications, AI Talent Concentration and ICT Services Exports.
- ❖ It is ranked at 3rd in "Domestic market scale" and 4th in "Annual investment in telecommunication services."
- United States, Singapore and Finland are topped in the index.
- ❖ China is ranked at 17th; Bangladesh is ranked at 89th and Pakistan is ranked at 97th rank.

Global report on IPC 2024



- ❖ Though 71% of countries now have an active infection prevention and control (IPC) program, just 6% met all of the WHO IPC minimum requirements in 2023-2024.
- ❖ This is far behind the target of more than 90% by 2030 set in the WHO Global action plan and monitoring framework on IPC.
- ❖ Approximately one in four (23.6%) of all hospital-treated sepsis cases are health care-associated.
- ❖ Almost one half (48.7%) of all cases of sepsis with organ dysfunction treated in adult intensive care units (ICU) are hospital-acquired.
- **A** Each year, 7.7 million deaths are attributed to bacterial infections worldwide.





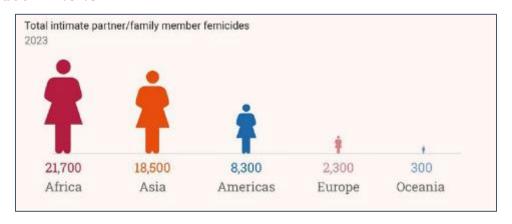
- ❖ The global number of hospital-associated infections resistant to antibiotics was estimated to be 136 million annually.
- ❖ 4.95 million deaths were associated with bacterial AMR annually.

Global Outlook 2025 report

- ❖ Overall outlook for global GDP growth in 2025 is likely to be similar to 2024 at around 3%.
- ❖ Economic growth in the world's two largest countries, the U.S. and China, is expected to slow next year.
- ❖ Not one of the top 45 economies in the world are expected to be in recession next year.
- ❖ Most are expected to grow faster in 2025, including Europe, Japan, Canada, and the U.K.
- ❖ China is the world's second largest economy and accounts for about 18% of the global economy.

GDP % change (not annualized)								
G7 countries	4Q 2024*	3Q 2024*	2Q 2024	1Q 2024	4Q 2023	3Q 2023	2Q 2023	1Q 2023
Canada	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.9%
France	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.7%	0.0%
Germany	0.1%	0.1%	-0.3%	0.2%	-0.4%	0.2%	-0.2%	0.1%
Italy	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	-0.2%	0.4%
Japan	0.4%	0.2%	0.6%	-0.6%	0.1%	-1.1%	0.7%	1.3%
United Kingdom	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%	0.7%	-0.3%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
United States	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	1.1%	0.6%	0.7%

Femicides in 2023

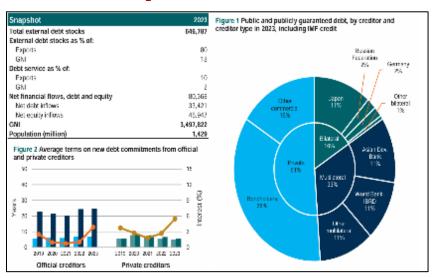






- ❖ The UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) released the "Femicides in 2023: Global Estimates of Intimate Partner/Family Member Femicides report".
- ❖ An estimated 85,000 women and girls were intentionally killed worldwide in 2023 alone.
- ❖ Every day, an average of 140 women and girls were killed by someone they trusted, amounting to one death every 10 minutes.
- ❖ The 2023 estimate is higher than the 48,800 victims reported in 2022.
- ❖ Africa recorded the highest number of victims, with an estimated 21,700 women and girls killed by intimate partners or family members in 2023.
- ❖ The continent also accounted for the highest rate of femicide relative to its population, at 2.9 victims per 100,000 people.
- ❖ The Americas and Oceania have followed, with rates of 1.6 and 1.5 per 100,000, respectively.
- ❖ Asia and Europe reported significantly lower rates, at 0.8 and 0.6 per 100,000.

Annual International Debt report 2024



- The World Bank recently released the "International Debt Report 2024.
- ❖ Tight monetary policies in high-income countries pushed interest rates to a 20-year high.
- ❖ The Developing nations collectively spent an unprecedented \$1.4 trillion servicing their foreign debt in 2023.
- ❖ Interest payments surged nearly 33 per cent to \$406 billion.
- ❖ The world's poorest and most vulnerable nations paid a record \$96.2 billion in debt service during the year.





- ❖ While repayments of principal fell by almost 8 per cent to \$61.6 billion, interest costs hit an all-time high of \$34.6 billion.
- ❖ It is a fourfold increase compared to a decade ago.
- ❖ The combined external debt of low- and middle-income countries have reached a record \$8.8 trillion at the end of 2023, an 8 per cent increase from 2020.
- ❖ Bangladesh and India have experienced over 90% increases in interest payments in 2023.

Top 100 Arms-producing and Military Services Companies, 2023

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) revealed in its 2024 report that global arms revenues reached \$632 billion in 2023.
- ❖ It is a 4.2% increase from the previous year.
- ❖ Among these, US firms contributed \$317 billion, or half of the global total.
- ❖ Lockheed Martin, RTX, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and General Dynamics are the top 5 companies in the list.
- ❖ Three Indian companies in Top 100 are reporting a combined 5.8% increase in revenues to \$6.7 billion.
- ❖ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the largest arms producer in India, saw its arms revenues rise by 6.9% to \$3.7 billion.



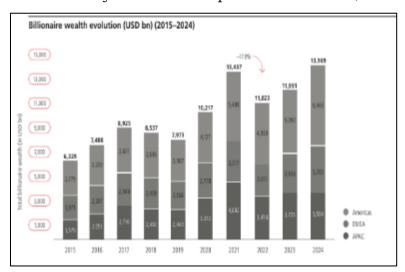
UBS Billionaire Ambitions Report 2024

- ❖ The wealth held by the world's billionaires has jumped by about 17 per cent over the past year.
- ❖ The total number of billionaires had risen to 2,682 from 2,544 a year earlier, and their worth to \$14 trillion from \$12 trillion.

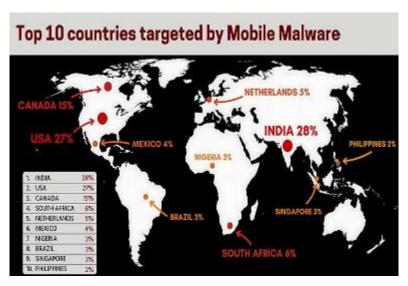




- ❖ In 2015, their total wealth stood at \$6.3 trillion.
- ❖ In the United States, the number of billionaires jumped to 835 from 751.
- ❖ In mainland China, the number of billionaires dropped to 427 from 520.
- ❖ India's number of billionaires increased during the past year by over a fifth to 185 and their wealth by more than 40 per cent to almost \$906 billion.



Global List for Mobile Malware Attacks



- ❖ India is now on top of the list for mobile malware attacks globally.
- ❖ India now accounts for 28% of total mobile malware attacks worldwide.
- ❖ It is even surpassing the United States (27.3%) and Canada (15.9%).
- ❖ But India has improved its ranking as a malware origin point, moving from 5th to 7th place in the APAC (Asia-Pacific) region.





World Malaria Report 2024 - WHO

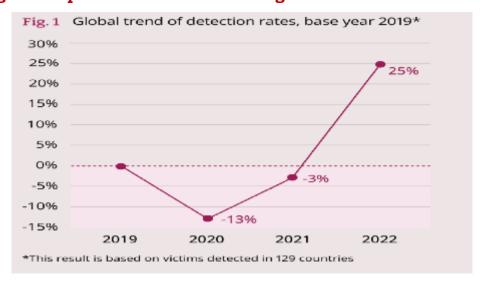
- ❖ In 2023, the South-East Asia Region reported eight malaria-endemic countries accounting for four million cases.
- ❖ India alone contributed to half of the region's cases, followed by Indonesia with nearly one-third.
- ❖ In India, the estimated cases dropped by 17.7 million from 200 to 2023.
- ❖ The malaria incidence fell by 93%, from 20 cases to 1.5 cases per 1,000 people at risk.
- ❖ Sri Lanka was certified malaria-free in 2016.
- ❖ Globally, in 2023, 29 out of 83 malaria-endemic countries were responsible for nearly 95% of global malaria cases and 96% of malaria deaths.
- ❖ Nigeria (25.9%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12.6%), Uganda (4.8%), Ethiopia (3.6%), and Mozambique (3.5%) made up more than half of all malaria cases worldwide.
- ❖ The four countries accounted for more than half of all malaria deaths globally are Nigeria (30.9%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (11.3%), Niger (5.9%), and Tanzania (4.3%).







UNODC global report on human trafficking



- ❖ The Report records a 25 per cent increase in the number of trafficking victims detected globally in 2022 compared to 2019 pre-pandemic figures.
- ❖ Between 2019 and 2022, the global number of victims detected for trafficking for forced labour surged by 47 per cent.
- ❖ The global number of detected child victims were increased 31 per cent in 2022 compared to 2019, with a 38 per cent rise recorded for girls.
- ❖ The Women and girls also continue to account for the majority of victims detected worldwide (61 per cent in 2022).
- Some 45 per cent of detected boys are trafficked for forced labour and another 47 per cent are exploited for other purposes.
- ❖ In total, 162 different nationalities were trafficked to 128 different countries of destination in 2022.

Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2024

- ❖ This report was launched at COP 16 of UNCCD, Riyadh.
- ❖ The report is the second in a series, the first part of which was launched in 2022.
- ❖ As per the report, about 93-95 per cent of the world's Nature-based Solutions (NbS) employments are concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in India was a major contributor.
- ❖ More than half of the 59 million people employed globally through the employment opportunities created through NbS are women.





- ❖ 57 per cent of expenditure occurs in high income countries while Asia- Pacific contributes to 44 per cent of the global NbS expenditure.
- ❖ Globally, only 0.3 per cent of the world's gross domestic product is contributed by NbS.

Region	Current employment (thousands of persons)	Additional employment by 2030 (thousands of persons)
North America	233 – 706	190 – 318
EU27	274 - 398	190 – 318
Rest of Europe and Central Asia	204 - 337	1,166 – 1,426
Latin America and the Carribean	571 - 612	1,375 - 5,799
Arab States	1	615 - 780
Asia and the Pacific	57,291 – 58,819	10,942 – 15,779

Skills for Labour market 2024

	GDP per capita	Population	Working age population	Employed	Participation	Unemployed	NEET
	Current US\$		Millian			%	
Australia	63,933	26	22	14	65.5	3.7	8.9
Brazil	18,583	216	172	99	628	7.9	20.6
China	23,588	1,426	1,141	747	70.9	5.1	12.7
India	9,609	1,429	883	472	55.8	4.2	23.5
Japan	52,594	123	110	67	629	2.6	3.1
Jordan	12,115	11	8	2	38.6	18.2	31.5
Nigeria	5,936	224	93	73	81.3	3.8	13.9
Norway	80,003	5	5	3	66.1	3.6	62
Saudi Arabia	69,396	32	23	14	61.1	5.6	18.4
South Africa	15,533	60	45	19	58.5	28	31.8
Spain	49,384	48	42	21	57.9	12.2	9.1
United Kingdom	57,448	68	54	33	63.2	3.8	11.2
United States	81,695	340	267	161	62.6	3.6	11.2
Vietnam	13,666	99	76	55	73.1	1.5	11.3

- ❖ The report is titled 'Navigating Tomorrow: Mastering Skills in a Dynamic Global Labor Market'.
- Over 70% of Indian professionals are actively seeking opportunities to upskill.
- ❖ The global trust in governments' ability to support upskilling remains low at 20 per cent.





- ❖ Countries like the USA, at 15 per cent, and the UK, at 12 per cent, reported markedly lower trust levels.
- ❖ The Indian respondents also expressed a 49 per cent level of trust in businesses, emphasising the private sector's role in workforce development.

Taste Atlas - 2024-25 Top Food Cities

- ❖ India secured the 12th rank in the "100 Best Cuisines in the World" list.
- ❖ Additionally, four non-vegetarian Indian dishes made it to the "100 Best Dishes in the World"
- ❖ Six Indian cities were recognized for their culinary excellence in the "100 Best Food Regions in the World".
- ❖ Mumbai ranked in 5th globally for its Vada Pav.
- ❖ New Delhi and Hyderabad also ranked at 45th and 50th positions, respectively.
- ❖ Kolkata and Chennai also made the list, securing the 71st and 75th spots.
- ❖ At the top of the list is Naples, Italy, renowned as the birthplace of pizza.



QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

- ❖ A total of 78 Indian universities features in the 2025 QS Sustainability rankings.
- ❖ Total of 21 varsities are new to the ranking this time.





- ❖ The top place in India has been bagged by the IIT Delhi this year (globally 171st rank).
- ❖ IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras bagged the fourth and fifth ranks in India and global ranks of 245 and 277 respectively.
- ❖ Globally, the University of Toronto is the top ranked university this year.
- ❖ It is followed by the ETH Zurich of Swiss, and Lund University in Sweden and University of California, Berkeley (UCB) in joint third.
- ❖ In Asia, six universities from four countries rank in the top 100.

2025 Rank	2024 Rank	Institution	Country
1	1	University of Toronto	Canada
2	18	ETH Zurich	Switzerland
3	8	Lund University	Sweden
3	2	University of California, Berkeley (UCB)	United States
5	189	UCL	United Kingdom
5	4	University of British Columbia	Canada

UN Report on Land Degradation 2024

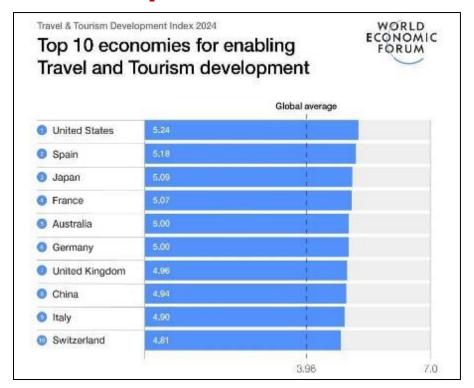
- ❖ 77.6 per cent of the Earth's land likely became permanently drier in the three decades leading up to 2020, compared to the previous 30-year period (1961-1990).
- ❖ Drylands are expanded by about 4.3 million km2 an area nearly a third larger than India, and now cover 40.6% of all land on Earth (excluding Antarctica).
- Currently, 2.3 billion people inhabit the drylands, this number could rise to five billion by 2100.
- Asia is home to 1.35 billion dryland inhabitants, more than half the global total.
- China, India and Pakistan together account for about 50 per cent of the global dryland population.
- ❖ Meanwhile, nearly half of Africa's population (620 million people) also lives in these arid regions.
- ❖ Between 1990 and 2015, African nations recorded a 12 per cent decline in gross domestic product (GDP) due to aridity.
- ❖ Among Asian nations, aridification was considered responsible for a 2.7 per cent GDP drop over the same period.





LAND DEGRADATION IN NUMBERS 60%: Remaining global since 2015 attributed to expansion and poorly forest cover - well planned afforestation. climate change below the safe boundary of 75%. 46%: Global land area 25%: Share of biodiclassified as drylands. versity found in soil 15 MN SQ KM: Degrahome to a third of ded land area, more humanity 50%+: World's major rivers disrupted by than the size of Ant-90%: Share of recent dam construction arctica, expanding by 1 mn sq km annually. deforestation directly caused by agriculture. 47%: Aquifers being 20%: Earth's land depleted faster than surface covered by the 20%: Decline in trees' they are replenished and soil's CO2 savanna, now under threat from cropland absorption capacity Source: UNCCD report

Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024



- ❖ The Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) was published by the World Economic Forum (WEF),
- ❖ India is ranked 39th among 119 countries.
- ❖ In the previous index published in 2021, India was ranked 54th.





- ❖ However, due to a revision in the WEF's methodology, India's 2021 rank was adjusted to 38th place.
- ❖ The top 5 countries in the 2024 edition are the United States, Spain, Japan, France and Australia.
- ❖ Out of the top 30 index scorers in 2024, 19 are based in Europe, seven are in Asia-Pacific, three are in the Americas and one (UAE) is in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA).

4th edition of ILO Global Estimates

- ❖ It was the latest report by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❖ International migrants continue to play a vital role in the global labour market, accounting for 4.7 per cent of the labour force in 2022.
- ❖ 167.7 million migrants were part of the labour force of their destination countries in 2022.
- ❖ Of these, around 102.7 million were men and 64.9 million were women.
- ❖ This represents an increase of more 30 million since 2013, an increase that was mainly observed between 2013-2019.
- ❖ The majority of migrants in the labour force were concentrated in high-income countries.
- ❖ It accounted for 68.4 per cent of the total (114.7 million people), followed by 17.4 per cent (29.2 million) in upper-middle-income countries.
- ❖ Of the 167.7 million migrants in the labour force in 2022, 155.6 million were employed, while 12.1 million were unemployed.
- ❖ Migrants had faced a higher unemployment rate (7.2 per cent) compared to non-migrants (5.2 per cent).
- ❖ Migrant women (8.7 per cent) are experiencing higher unemployment levels than men (6.2 per cent).

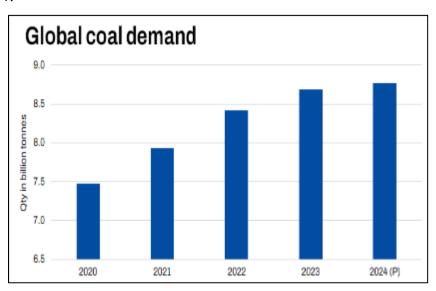
Coal demands report

- ❖ The report forecasts global coal demand, supply, and trade trends until 2027.
- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) has reported the global coal consumption reached an all-time high of 8.7 billion metric tons in 2024.
- Currently, coal accounts for around 60% of China's electricity generation.
- ❖ The demands rising in emerging economies like India, China, and Indonesia.





- Global coal production is expected to hit a record high in 2024 and then stabilize through 2027.
- ❖ India is the largest contributor to global coal production growth, with production exceeding 1 billion tonnes for the first time in 2023.
- ❖ Indian coal production has grown by 10% in 2023 and is expected to rise by 8% in 2024.

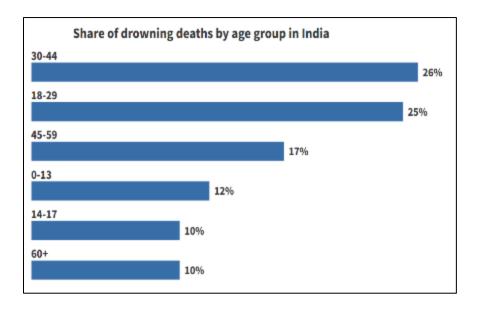


Global status report on drowning prevention 2024

- * WHO published its first-ever global status report on drowning prevention.
- ❖ Three lakh people died by drowning in 2021 around the world (an estimated 30 every hour).
- Close to 92% of such deaths took place in low- and middle-income countries,
- ❖ The WHO's South-East Asia Region (includes India) saw 83,000 deaths, or 28% of the global burden.
- ❖ But the drowning deaths declined 38% since 2000.
- ❖ The WHO's European Region, for instance, saw a 68% drop, while the South-East Asia Region saw a decline of 48%.
- ❖ The Children aged under five accounted for the single largest share of drowning deaths (24%), with a further 19% of deaths among children aged five to 14, and 14% among young people aged 15 to 29.
- ❖ More than 7.2 million people, mainly the children, could die due to this by the year 2050 if current trends continue.

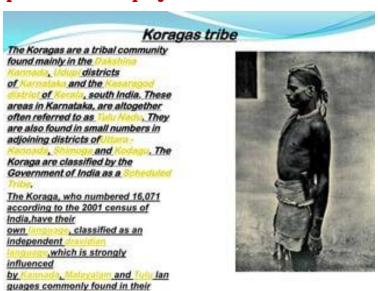






STATES

Koraga tribe - operation smile project



- Kerala has initiated steps to provide land titles (patta) to the Koraga community, a scheduled tribe (ST) group in Kasaragod and Manjeswaram taluks.
- ❖ The initiative comes under a project called Operation Smile.
- ❖ For this operation, it will be utilising the corpus fund of the Scheduled Tribes Development department.
- ❖ The Koraga population in the district totals 1,706 individuals across 539 families.





The Operation Smile will involve surveyors and officers from the gram panchayat, tribal extensions and village offices, as well as community elders and promoters.

Cybercrime Surge in States

SINo	State Ut	2020	2021	2022	Mid Year Projected Population In Lakhs 2022	Rate Of Cognizable Crimes Ipc 2022	Chargesheeting Rate 2022
1	Andhra Pradesh	188997	179611	158547	530.3	299	86.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2244	2626	2308	15.5	14B.B	47.2
3	Assam	111558	119883	59315	3519	167.1	32.6
4	Bihar	194698	186006	211079	1255.3	168.1	75.4
5	Chhattisgarh	65216	70519	73822	259.5	246.5	80.4
6	Goa	3393	2099	2711	15.7	172.B	75.9
7	Gujarat	381849	273056	134600	709.3	189.B	89.8
8	Haryana	103276	112720	125435	259.7	418.6	43.3
9	Himachal Pradesh	14803	13041	13231	74.4	177.B	82.9
10	Jharkhand	51033	47684	48726	391.4	124.5	58.2

- ❖ These data were released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ In States and Union Territories cyber-crimes have seen a 24.4 percent increase.
- ❖ A total of 65,893 cases were registered under Cyber Crimes, showing an increase of 24.4 percent in registration over 2021 (52,974 cases).
- Bengaluru has recorded the highest number of cybercimes in Metropolitan cities (2020-2022) with 9940 cases registered in 2022 with chargesheet rate at 22.6 per cent.
- ❖ This was followed by Mumbai with 4724, Hyderabad was at 4436 and New Delhi recorded 685 in the same period.

Me Gong Festival 2024

- ❖ The Me·Gong Festival 2024, themed "Echoes of Tradition", was celebrated the rich heritage and customs of the Garo people.
- ❖ The two-day event was held at Baljek Airport, Jengjal, West Garo Hills.
- ❖ Garo Hills is a mountainous region in Meghalaya.
- ❖ It is known for its rich cultural heritage.
- * The area is home to the Garo tribe.





ELEMENT project

- ❖ The World Bank has approved USD 225.5 million under its Enhancing Landscape and Ecosystem Management (ELEMENT) Project.
- ❖ It aims to manage forest landscapes better and enhance forest value chains in more than 400 villages across Tripura and Nagaland.
- ❖ The project will support more than 700,000 people to manage forest landscapes better and enhance forest value chains in both states.
- ❖ It will open up economic opportunities for communities through forest produce such as agarwood, bamboo and honey in partnership with the private sector.



Ban on Beef Consumption - Assam

- ❖ Assam has announced a statewide ban on serving and consumption of beef in restaurants, hotels and public places.
- Consumption of beef is not illegal in Assam.
- ❖ But the Assam Cattle Preservation Act of 2021 regulates the transportation, and slaughter of all cattle, and sale of beef and beef products in the state.
- ❖ This act bans cattle slaughter and sale of beef in areas where Hindus, Jains and Sikhs are in majority and within a five-kilometre radius of a temple or satra (Vaishnavite monastery).
- ❖ Violations of the provisions of the bill could lead to imprisonment for three to eight years and a fine between ₹3 lakh and ₹5 lakh.





Tato-I Hydro Electric Project



- ❖ The Centre has approved investing Rs 1750 crores for the Tato-I Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project will be located in Shi Yomi District and is expected to be completed within 50 months.
- ❖ With an installed capacity of 186 MW (3 x 62 MW), the Tato-I HEP will generate 802 million Units (MU) of electricity annually.

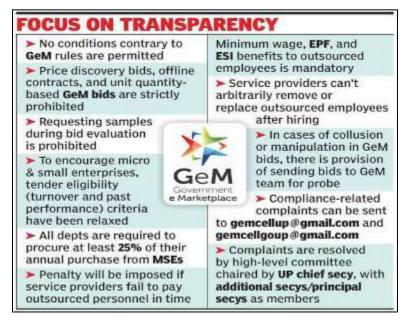
25th Hornbill Festival of Nagaland

- ❖ The vibrant 25th edition of the Hornbill Festival was held at Naga Heritage Village in Kisama.
- ❖ This year, it coincided with the 62nd Nagaland Statehood Day celebrations.
- ❖ The festival brings together Nagaland's 17 major tribes, and each showcase their unique customs, traditional attire, and vibrant dances.
- ❖ Japan, Wales, Peru, and Bulgaria were the part of the event.
- ❖ This event is held annually since December 1999.





Government e-Marketplace 2024



- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to fully integrate its procurement procedure with the Centre's Govt e-Marketplace (GeM).
- This integration mandates that all service providers strictly adhere to central govt regulations.
- ❖ Any deviation from the GeM protocols could result into the disqualification from conducting business with the Uttar Pradesh govt.

Birhor tribe against child marriage

- ❖ The Birhor tribe, a PVTG in Jharkhand, have joined a movement against child marriage in Giridih for the first time.
- ❖ Birhor people are forest-dependent, belong to a semi-nomadic tribal community and are economically and socially much behind others.
- Children's rights protection body Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRC), NGO coordinating these activities.

Punjab Sports Act 2024

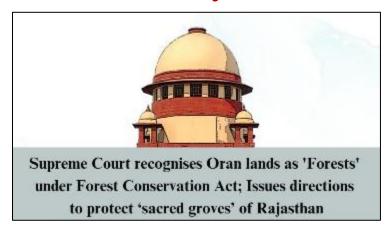
- ❖ Punjab cabinet approved the sports department's plan to enact a new law, the Punjab State (Development & Promotion of Sports) Act, 2024, to promote sports in the state.
- ❖ Punjab will be the first state in the country to do so.





- ❖ The main objective was to adopt best practices for sports and to ensure the fair selection of players.
- ❖ Five-member committee will select the team to represent a district or the state.
- ❖ A five-member sexual harassment committee at the district level also will be notified by the district magistrate.

Legal Protection for Sacred Groves - Rajasthan



- ❖ The Supreme Court directed the state of Rajasthan to complete the survey and notification of sacred groves (orans) in all districts.
- ❖ The forest department of Rajasthan was asked to do the detailed on-ground and satellite mapping of each sacred grove.
- ❖ It includes grooves such as orans, dev-vans, rundhs, or by any other name by which they are known in the respective area.
- ❖ The top court also recommended that Orans be granted the protection under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, specifically through Section 36-C.
- This section allows the declaration of 'community reserves.

Goa Assembly ST Reservation Bill 2024

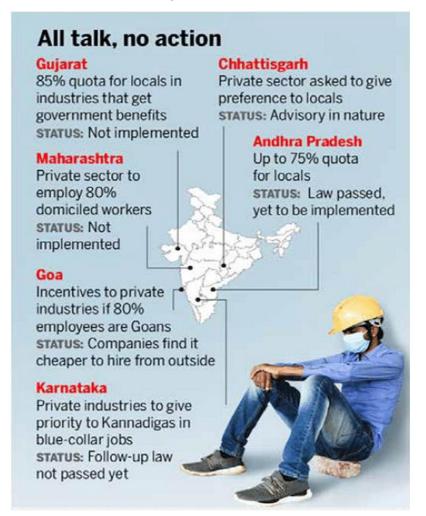
- ❖ The Bill aims to empower the Census Commissioner to ascertain the ST population in Goa.
- ❖ The Election Commission will use the Census data to adjust Assembly seats and reserve certain seats for STs.
- ❖ Goa's ST population saw a rise from 566 in 2001 to 149,275 in 2011.
- ❖ This increase resulted from the inclusion of the Kunbi, Gawda, and Velip communities in the ST list in 2003.
- ❖ This demographic shift necessitates a revaluation of representation.







Jharkhand - Private Sector Job Quota

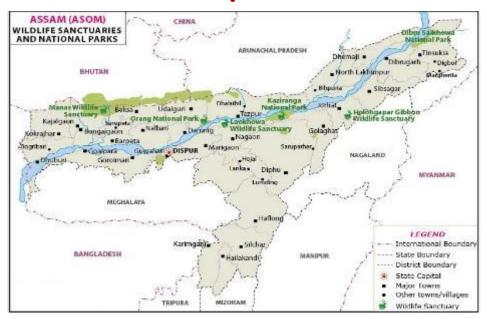






- ❖ The Jharkhand High Court has stayed the implementation of the 75% reservation for locals in jobs in private companies in the State.
- ❖ The law has been in force in the State from 2021 under which it is mandatory to appoint local people in 75% of the posts with salary up to ₹40,000 in private sector companies.
- ❖ Earlier the Haryana government had also implemented a similar law, which had been struck down by the Punjab-Haryana High Court.

Bordoibam - Bilmukh Bird Sanctuary



- ❖ The number of avian species at a major wetland in north-eastern Assam declined by almost 72% in 27 years.
- ❖ A total of 167 avian species were recorded in 1997.
- ❖ But 47 species under 16 orders and 29 families were only observed during our 18-month study in the sanctuary.
- ❖ The drop in the bird species count since 1997 works out to 71.85%.
- ❖ 2011 survey during which 133 species of birds belonging to 41 families were recorded in the sanctuary.
- Out of 133, 86 species were the resident, 23 were the migratory and 24 were local migrants.
- ❖ Assam is one of the most biodiversity-rich States in India and home to about 950 bird species, including 17 endemic species.
- ❖ The State has 55 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas that act as the hotspots for various avian species.





New Governors for Five States

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu appointed two new governors and reassigned three others, reorganising the leadership in five states.
- ❖ Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed as the new Governor of Manipur, replacing Anusuiya Uikey.
- ❖ Arif Mohammed Khan, the governor of Kerala, has been reassigned to Bihar.
- ❖ Hari Babu Kambhampati, the Governor of Mizoram, has been transferred to Odisha.
- ❖ General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh will now serve as the Governor of Mizoram.
- * Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the Governor of Bihar, has been reassigned to Kerala.



Dolphin Tagging Initiative - Assam

- ❖ A team of wildlife conservationists tagged the almost-blind Ganges River dolphin for the first time.
- ❖ It was executed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department and biodiversity conservation group Aaranyak.
- ❖ It aims to help understand the dolphin's seasonal and migratory patterns, range, distribution, and habitat utilisation.
- ❖ Around 90% of the species' population is in India, historically distributed across the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli river systems.

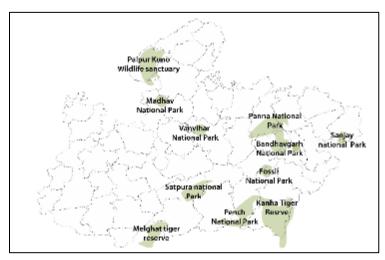
Tiger Translocation by Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government will translocate 14 tigers to Rajasthan, Odisha and Chhattisgarh under the animal exchange program.
- ❖ Four tigers will be relocated to Rajasthan, while two to Odisha, and eight to Chhattisgarh.





- ❖ The big cats will be transferred from the tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh, Panna, Kanha, and Pench.
- ❖ Earlier, Madhya Pradesh has provided two Bengal tigers (one male and one female) from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) to Gujarat.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is housing more than 785, out of 3,800 big cats across the country.



Kreeda App - first sports app

- ❖ The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) introduced 'Kreeda App', a first-of-its-kind mobile application in India.
- ❖ It is designed to modernise and streamline sports management across the state.
- ❖ The app aims to eliminate the malpractices in the issuance of sports quota certificates while providing a unified platform for managing comprehensive sports data.
- ❖ It ensures transparency in player registration, performance tracking, tournament applications, and equipment distribution.







PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Arjun Vajpai

- ❖ Arjun Vajpai has scaled the Mt. Shishapangma (located in Tibet) and completing his 8th successful summit of a peak over 8,000 meters.
- ❖ This marks him as the first Indian to scale the mountain.
- ❖ This also includes the record for the fastest ascent from Base Camp to the summit and back in under 72 hours.
- ❖ He is the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest (2010) and Mt. Lhotse (2011).
- ❖ He has now summited 8 of the 14 tallest mountains on Earth.
- ❖ He is the First Indian to climb eight 8,000-meter peaks.



Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2024

- ❖ Former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet will receive the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development.
- ❖ The prize honours Bachelet's contributions to human rights, peace, and equality.
- ❖ She served as Chile's president from 2006 to 2010 and again from 2014 to 2018.
- ❖ She led UN women from 2010 to 2013 and later served as UN high commissioner for human rights from 2018 to 2022.
- The award also recognized her "contributions to India's relations with Chile".
- ❖ This prize was established in 1986, the prize is awarded annually to individuals and organizations promoting international peace and development.





World Maritime Technology Congress 2024

- ❖ WMTC is held once in 3 years under the auspices of World Maritime Technology Congress.
- ❖ The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Chennai Branch has hosted this year's WMTC.
- ❖ The WMTC consists of 21-member organisations from 17 countries connecting professionals the field of maritime technology and allied sectors.

UN Champions of the Earth 2024

- ❖ The Champions of the Earth award is the UN's highest environmental honour and recognizes pioneers from the public and private sectors, civil society and academia.
- ❖ It has been presented annually since 2005, with 122 laureates to date.
- This year's winners
 - o Sonia Guajajara, Brazil's Minister of Indigenous Peoples.
 - o Amy Bowers Cordalis, an Indigenous rights advocates.
 - o Gabriel Paun, a Romanian environmental defender
 - o Madhav Gadgil, an Indian ecologist
 - o The SEKEM initiative in Egypt.

National Panchayat Awards 2024

SI.No.	State/UT	Category-wise awardees							
		Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar	Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar			Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar	Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar	Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar	Grand Total
		Grave Panchayats	Grem Panchayats	Stock Parchayats	District Panchapais	Gram Panchayats	Gram Panchayats	lostitutions	
.1	Andhra Pradesh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.0	4
2	Assam	1	1.	0	0	. 0	0	0	2
3	Bihar	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
4	Chhattisgarh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5	Gujarat	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
6	Himachal Pradesh	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
7	Kamataka	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
8	Kerala	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
9	Ladakh	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	Maharashtra	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	6
11	Odisha	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	7
12	Tamil Nadu	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
13	Telangana	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	- 1
14	Tripura	4	0	1	1	1	0	0	7
15	Uttar Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0	1.	0	2
	Total	27	3	3	3	3	3	3	45





- ❖ Six panchayats of the state were awarded the National Panchayat Awards-2024 for driving grassroots development.
- ❖ The awards were given under several categories by the Panchayati Raj Ministry.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has won 2 awards in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP) category.

Karmaveer chakra awards 2024-25

- ❖ It is the global civilian honours given by the international confederation of NGO (iCONGO) in partnership with United Nations.
- Rumana Sinha Sehgal, a T-Hub mentor and founder, has received the Karmaveer Chakra Platinum Medal 2024-2025.
- Switcheko's Founder Akshay Deshpande was recognized with the Karmaveer Chakra Bronze Medal.
- ❖ Goodeebag's Founder has been recognized for its pioneering initiatives in sustainable waste management.

Gukesh - 18th World Chess Champion

- ❖ D Gukesh from India (Chennai) defeated defending champion Ding Liren of China at the World Chess Championship, held at Singapore.
- ❖ The win made the Indian Grandmaster the youngest-ever world champion at the age of 18.
- ❖ Before Gukesh, Russian legend Garry Kasparov was the youngest to become the world champion at the age of 22 in 1985.
- ❖ The first grandmaster and world champion from India won the title in 2007 and held it until 2013, winning four times.

E.V.K.S. Elangovan

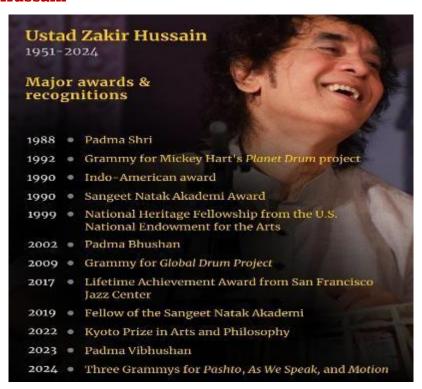






- ❖ Former Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president and Erode (East) MLA E V K S Elangovan passed away.
- ❖ He was also elected as MLA from Sathyamangalam constituency in 1984 and the Erode East constituency in a by-election in 2023.
- ❖ He won his first Lok Sabha election, from Gobichettipalayam in 2004.
- ❖ He served as Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas, and Commerce.
- ❖ He was appointed President of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee 31 October 2014.

Ustad Zakir Hussain



- ❖ The greatest tabla player of his generation, Zakir Hussain (Maharashtra) passed away recently.
- ❖ Zakir Hussain received four Grammy Awards in his career.
- ❖ He also received the Padma Shri in 1988, Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023.

Tulsi Gowda - Encyclopedia of Forests

- ❖ Padma Shri awardee Tulsi Gowda, an environmentalist from Karnataka, passed away.
- ❖ She is revered as the "tree goddess" by the Halakki tribal community.





- ❖ She is known as the 'encyclopaedia of forest'.
- ❖ Gowda has been credited with planting and nurturing over 1 lakh trees across Karnataka.
- ❖ Her contributions have strengthened one community reserve, five tiger reserves, 15 conservation reserves, and 30 wildlife sanctuaries.



Forbes 2024 - 3 Indian Women

- ❖ The Forbes has unveiled its 21st annual list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women.
- ❖ Among these global changemakers are three Indian women who have made remarkable strides in their respective fields.
- ❖ The number 28 on the list is Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra, the Chairperson of HCL Technologies ranked 81st on the list,
- ❖ Ranked at 82nd in the list is Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw as a trailblazer in the biotechnology.

M T Vasudevan Nair

- A Renowned Malayalam writer M T Vasudevan Nair passed away recently.
- ❖ He made his directorial debut in 1973 with the film Nirmalyam, which won that year's national award for best feature film.
- ❖ In 1995, MT was conferred with the Jnanpith and in 2005 the Padma Bhushan.





❖ The Kerala Jyothi Award, the highest civilian award given by the Kerala state government, was conferred to him in 2022.



Rann Utsav 2025

- * Rann Utsav is the festival that started out as a two-day festival and grew into the famed 100-day celebration of local art and culture.
- * Rann of Kutch is the world's second largest salt marsh (7,500 square kilometres) and coarse salt that drapes the arid desert in a white veil.
- ❖ The festival showcases Kutch's rich cultural and artistic heritage, drawing the tourists from India and abroad.

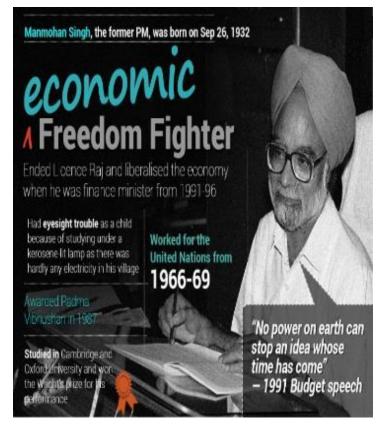
100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh

- ❖ The 100th edition of the Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, the most celebrated classical music festival, was held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Eminent tabla maestro Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri was given the Rashtriya Tansen Samman 2023.
- ❖ Indore-based Sanand Nyas Sanstha was awarded with the Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman 2023.





Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh



- ❖ Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, 92, passed away.
- ❖ His journey in the government of India began with the position of an economic advisor in the commerce ministry in 1971.
- ❖ He served as a director of RBI during 1976-1980.
- ❖ During 1980-82 served as a deputy chairman of Planning commission.
- ❖ In 1982, he became the governor of RBI.
- ❖ He introduced a new chapter in the RBI Act and the established the Urban Banks Department.
- ❖ He becomes the head of Planning commission for 1985-87.
- ❖ He is awarded the Padma Vibhushan award in 1987.
- ❖ In march 1991, He becomes the chairman of UGC.
- ❖ He was suddenly appointed to become finance minister in June 1991.
- ❖ He was the architect of reforms that saved India's economy from a severe balance of payments crisis and promoted deregulation
- ❖ He had retired as member of the Rajya Sabha, representing Rajasthan, in February this year.





- ❖ Before this, he represented Assam in the Upper House for six terms since 1991.
- ❖ He served as the Prime Minister of India twice, from 2004 to 2014.
- ❖ During 1998-2004 he was the opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ In 2004, he sworn as the first non-Hindu Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ His govt introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005.
- ❖ During his tenure as Prime Minister (2004–2014), India saw robust economic growth, averaging around 7-8% annually.
- His policies have helped transform India into one of the world's fastest-growing economies.
- ❖ It was his regime that revolutionized the telecom sector at a time when many people were waiting to get a telephone connection.
- ❖ He won the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year in 1993, the Asia Money Award for finance minister of the year in both 1993 and 1994.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024

- ❖ The 2024 Sahitya Akademi Awards have been announced, recognizing 21 writers and poets from various Indian languages.
- ❖ These awards honor the exceptional works in categories like novels, poetry, short stories, essays, plays, and literary criticism.
- ❖ Hindi poet Gagan Gill received an award for her poetry book Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar.
- ❖ English author Easterine Kire was honored for her novel Spirit Nights.
- ❖ The awards for Bengali, Dogri, and Urdu are yet to announced.

Category	Awardees					
Poetry	Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati), Gagan Gill (Hindi), K. Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Paul Kaur (Punjabi), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani), Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit)					
Novel	Aron Raja (Bodo), Easterine Kire (English), Sohal Koul (Kashmiri)					
Short Stories	Yuva Baral (Nepali), Hundraj Balwani (Sindhi)					
Essays	Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili), Baishnab Charan Samal (Odia)					
Literary Criticism	K.V. Narayana (Kannada), Sudhir Rasal (Marathi), Penugonda Lakshminarayana (Telugu)					
Play	Maheswar Soren (Santali)					
Research	A.R. Venkatachalapathy (Tamil)					





PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Prime Minister's National Award on 17 children, in seven categories.
- ❖ It celebrates extraordinary accomplishments in seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports and environment.
- ❖ The awardees seven boys and 10 girls were selected from 14 States and union territories.
- ❖ Sindhoora Raja (15) from Tamil Nadu was awarded for creating self-stabilising devices for Parkinson's patients.
- ❖ Janane Narayanan (14) the Carnatic music student from Chengalpattu also received this award.
- ❖ In 2023-24, she got the Kalaimamani Award instituted by the Tamil Nadu government.

SPORTS

Syed Modi India International Super 300 tournament 2024

- ❖ PV Sindhu beat China's Luo Yu Wu and won her 3rd title at Syed Modi 2024 title, held at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Lakshya Sen won his maiden title, defeating Singapore's Jia Heng Jason.
- ❖ Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made history by winning India's first women's doubles title at the event.







2024 Asia-Pacific Deaf Games

- ❖ India won the highest tally (55) with 8 gold, 18 silver, and 29 bronze medals at the 2024 Asia-Pacific Deaf Games held in Kuala Lumpur.
- ❖ This is India's best performance in the tournament's history since its inception in 1984.
- ❖ Athletics brought in the highest tally with 28 medals 5 gold, 12 silver, and 11 bronze.
- ❖ 12 players from Tamil Nadu have created a record by collecting 24 medals in total 6 gold, 13 silver and 5 bronze in different sports.

2024 WTA Awards



- ❖ Aryna Sabalenka was crowned Player of the Year as all the winners of the 2024 WTA (Women's Tennis Association) Awards.
- ❖ Emma Navarro earned the Most Improved Player accolade.
- ❖ Paula Badosa was named Comeback Player of the Year.
- ❖ Lulu Sun received the Newcomer of the Year award.
- ❖ The Doubles Team of the Year honor went to Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini.

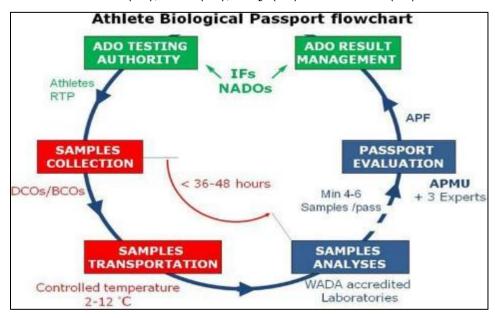
Athlete Biological Passport

- ❖ The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has granted approval to the Delhi-based National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) to establish an Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU).
- ❖ NDTL will manage the biological profiles of athletes with an aim to ensure fair play in sports.
- ❖ The Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) is an advanced anti-doping tool that well monitors an athlete's biological markers over time.





- By analysing variations in parameters such as blood and steroid profiles, the ABP helps to ensure fair play in sports and to protect clean athletes.
- ❖ India was ranked first among countries with the highest percentage of dope offenders in the 2022.
- ❖ India's number of doping violations were higher than some of the major sporting nations like Russia (85), USA (84), Italy (73) and France (72).



Ashwin's retirement

- ❖ The Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin has announced his retirement from the international cricket.
- ❖ He ended his 14-year journey with 537 Test wickets, which is only second to Anil Kumble's 619 wickets.
- ❖ Ashwin played 116 ODIs, taking 156 wickets. In 65 T20Is, he claimed 72 wickets.
- ❖ With 765 international wickets across formats, Ashwin is India's second-highest wicket-taker, behind Kumble (953).
- ❖ He achieved the distinction of being the first bowler to reach 100 wickets in World Test Championship.
- ❖ He also currently leads WTC's wicket-taking charts with 195 dismissals in 41 matches.





FIFA Best Awards 2024

- Real Madrid's Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior won the Best FIFA Men's Player award
- ❖ Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Aitana Bonmati has won the Best FIFA Women's Player title.
- ❖ Manchester United youngster Alejandro Garnacho received the Puskas award.
- ❖ Brazil's Marta won the first-ever 'Marta' award for her goal against Jamaica in a friendly this year.
- Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez (Men's Goalkeeper) and British coach Emma Hayes (Women's Coach) won awards in their respective categories for the second time in their career.





38th National Games 2025

- Uttarakhand is set to host the National Games from January 28 to February 14, 2025.
- ❖ The mascot for the 38th National Games, along with the logo, jersey, anthem, and tagline, was unveiled in Raipur, Dehradun.
- ❖ The mascot, named "Mauli," is inspired by the Monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The logo, also inspired by the Monal, highlights the natural beauty and diversity of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The tagline for the Games is "Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak" (From Resolve to Zenith).

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Conjoined Twins Day 2024 - November 24

- ❖ This year marks the 1st observance of this day.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about conjoined twins, support their well-being, and promote their social inclusion.
- ❖ The case of conjoined twins is a rare condition where the estimated incidence can be 1 in 50,000 births.

World Heritage Week 2024 - November 19/25

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the traditions and cultures of different parts of the world.
- ❖ The ASI has protected over 3,650 ancient monuments and archaeological sites across the country.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Discover and Experience Diversity."

Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2024 - November 25/29

- ❖ It is observed annually during the last week of November to reinforce the industry's commitment to ensuring safety in all aspects of aviation.
- ❖ India's civil aviation journey just began in 1911 with the first commercial flight between Allahabad and Naini.



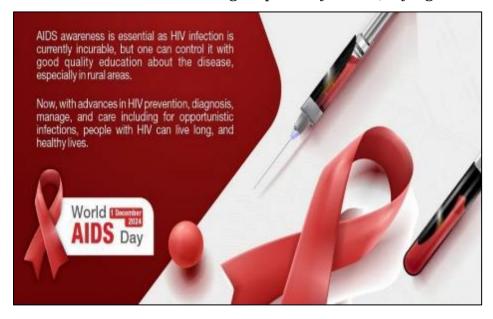


- ❖ The launch of Tata Airlines in 1932, marking the start of scheduled air services in India.
- ❖ India entered in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 1947.
- ❖ Today, India ranks as the third-largest domestic aviation market globally.



World AIDS Day 2024 - December 01

- ❖ It was first established in 1988 by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ It aims to focus global attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, raise awareness, and honour those who had died from AIDS.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Take the rights path: My health, my right!".

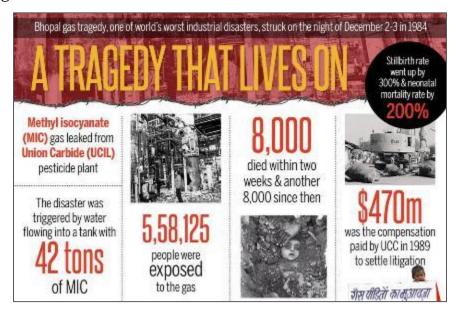






National Pollution Control Day 2024 - December 02

- ❖ This day remembers those who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- ❖ This day is observed to make people aware of pollution-related issues and how it affects our daily lives.
- ❖ Pollution is a huge problem across the world and around 7 million people die every year worldwide due to air pollution
- ❖ The Bhopal Gas Tragedy occurred on December 2, 1984.
- ❖ It had killed around 15,00 to 20,000 people immediately after the toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked and spread in the atmosphere.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Clean Air, Green Earth: A Step Towards Sustainable Living."



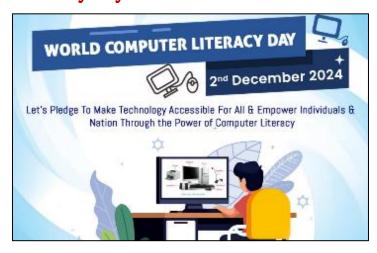
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2024 - December 02

- ❖ This day is focusing on eradicating modern forms of slavery, raising awareness about human trafficking, and promoting the rights and dignity of all individuals.
- ❖ On this day in 1949, UNGA adopted the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
- ❖ As per ILO, there were 27.6 million people in forced labour worldwide in 2021.
- ❖ From 2016 to 2021, the number increased by 2.7 million, mostly due to privately imposed forced labour.
- ❖ According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, India is home to over 11 million slaves, the highest number in any country.





World Computer Literacy Day 2024 - December 02



- ❖ This day promotes computer literacy and make computer use accessible to all.
- ❖ The day was initiated by the National Institute of Information Technology (N.I.I.T.).
- ❖ It aims to bridge the digital divide by focusing on educating women and children in computer literacy.
- ❖ The National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), an Indian multinational corporation, was founded in 1981.
- ❖ This day was first celebrated in 2001 to mark its 20th anniversary.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 - December 03

- This global healthcare event observed for the past 23 years (since 1998).
- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness of the situations of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life.
- ❖ Theme for 2024 is "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future".
- ❖ Persons with disabilities make up 16% of the global population.

Indian Navy Day 2024 - December 04

- ❖ This day acknowledges the role and achievements of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the Operation Trident, a critical naval offensive during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has presented a grand Operational Demonstration at Odisha's Puri's Blue Flag Beach during this year celebration.





- ❖ The Indian Navy was established in 1612 by the East India Company.
- ❖ The Indian Navy also acts as the prime enabler and guarantor of the country's maritime sovereignty and myriad use of sea activities.

World Soil Day 2024 - December 05

- ❖ This day was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002.
- ❖ It commemorates the birthday of the late King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- ❖ He had worked for raising the awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management and rehabilitation for food security, poverty alleviation and more.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Caring for soils: measure, monitor, manage".
- India's soil has been facing widespread deficiency of nitrogen and phosphorus for a long time.
- ❖ The Potassium deficiency became more prevalent in the 1990s, and sulphur deficiency emerged as a major problem in the 2000s.

World Wildlife Conservation Day 2024 - December 04

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about preserving the planet's endangered flora and fauna.
- This day highlights the importance of wildlife conservation and encourages people to take action to protect endangered species.
- ❖ This day began with efforts led by Hillary Clinton, the then US Secretary of State, during the "Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation" event held on November 8, 2012.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Connecting the People and Planet: Exploring the Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation".

International Day of Banks 2024 - December 04

- ❖ It aims to acknowledge the significant potential of banks in financing sustainable growth.
- ❖ On December 19, 2019, the UN General Assembly has adopted the resolution to designate this day.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Empowering Sustainable Development Through Finance."



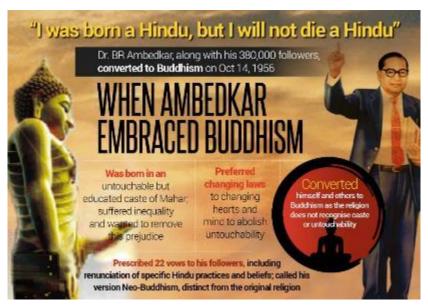


Armed Forces Flag Day 2024 - December 07

- ❖ It is dedicated to honour the soldiers and veterans of India's armed forces.
- ❖ The day aims to collect funds for the welfare of armed forces personnel, especially those injured or killed in action, as well as their families.
- ❖ It serves as an opportunity for citizens to express their solidarity and support for the armed forces.

Mahaparinirvan Diwas 2024 - December 06

- ❖ Mahaparinirvan Diwas commemorates the death anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.
- ❖ He passed away on December 6, 1956.
- ❖ This year marks the 69th Mahaparinirvan Diwas.
- ❖ The term "Mahaparinirvan" is interpreted from the Buddhist Philosophy which represents the state of nirvana which is achieved after death.
- ❖ In 1956, Dr. Ambedkar converted to Buddhism with thousands of his followers.



All India Civil Defense and Home Guards Day 2024 - December 06

- ❖ The Home Guard was raised in the erstwhile Bombay Province on December 6, 1946.
- ❖ It is a voluntary force to assist the police in controlling civil disturbance and communal riots.





- ❖ Following the 1962 Chinese aggression, the central government had advised the states and Union Territories to merge their existing voluntary organisation into one uniform voluntary force.
- ❖ Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards Act and Rules of the states and Union Territories.
- ❖ The total strength of Home Guards in the country is 5,73,793 against which the raised strength is 4,86,401.
- ❖ The organization is spread over all states and Union Territories except in Kerala.



International Cheetah Day 2024 - December 04

- ❖ It was established by the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), a leading organization dedicated to the preservation of cheetahs.
- ❖ The date, December 4, honours the memory of a cheetah cub named Khayam, raised by Dr. Laurie Marker, the founder of CCF.
- ❖ It aims to raise global awareness about the urgent need to save cheetahs from extinction.
- ❖ Cheetahs are primarily found in the open grasslands of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ By 2020, fewer than 8,000 remained in the wild-a staggering 50% decline over four decades.

International Civil Aviation Day 2024 - December 07

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the role of civil aviation in promoting economic growth and global connectivity.
- * This day was established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ❖ It honours the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation promoting the economic growth and global connectivity.





- ❖ 2024 also marks the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation in Chicago, US.
- ❖ India is the third-largest domestic aviation market, trailing only the United States and China.

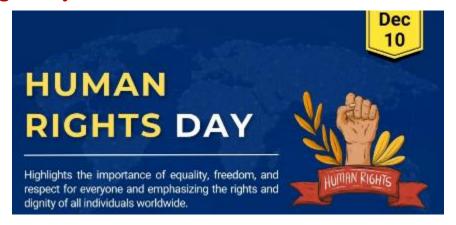
Genocide Prevention Day 2024 - December 09

- ❖ It is also known as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.
- ❖ The date marks the United Nation's adoption of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- ❖ On 10 December 1948, the first human rights treaty was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

International Anti-Corruption Day 2024 - December 09

- ❖ This day aims to spread awareness about the corruption practices.
- ❖ The United Nations Convention against Corruption was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2003.
- ❖ Theme for 2024 is "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity".
- ❖ The Corruption Perception Index is published annually by the Transparency International.

Human Rights Day 2024 - December 10



❖ This day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.





- ❖ This day is dedicated to celebrating and promoting rights that protect people and ensuring that everyone can live with dignity and respect, regardless of their race, gender, religion, nationality, or any other characteristic.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now.'

78th UNICEF Foundation Day 2024 - December 11

- ❖ On December 11 of 1946, the United Nations General Assembly and Ludwik Rajchman established UNICEF.
- ❖ It aims to address the needs of children in World War II-affected nations and give emergency aid to war-affected children and mothers.
- ❖ Its mandates were extended in 1950 to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing nations.
- ❖ In 1953, it became a permanent member of the United Nations system.

International Universal Health Coverage Day 2024 - December 12

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of Universal health coverage (UHC).
- ❖ UHC aims to provide everyone, everywhere with access to quality health services without facing financial hardship.
- ❖ It was first launched on December 12 of 2012 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ This year's theme is "Health: It's on the government".



International Day of Neutrality 2024 - December 12

❖ It aims to raise the awareness regarding the importance of neutrality in the intergovernmental relations and to strengthen peace and security at the global level.

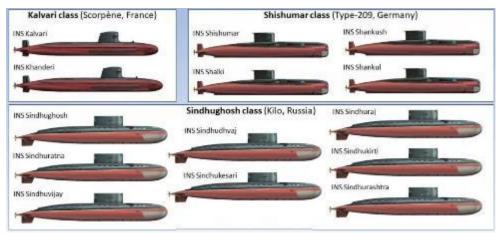




- Neutrality is a legal status resulting from a nation's decision to abstain from participating in wars between other states.
- ❖ Turkmenistan is recognized as a permanent neutral state by the UN since December 1995.

Indian navy submarine day 2024 - December 08

- ❖ On this day in 1967, the first submarine, the erstwhile INS Kalvari, was commissioned.
- * Kalvari is the Malayalam name for Tiger Shark, a predator in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The Kalvari was decommissioned in 1996 after 29 years of service.
- * INS Kalvari came from Russia.
- ❖ Currently, India currently operates 18 conventional submarines, including five Scorpene class (French), four HDWs (German) and seven Kilo-class (Russian).



National Energy Conservation Day 2024 - December 14

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of energy conservation in daily life.
- ❖ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, is tasked with promoting and regulating energy efficiency and conservation in India.
- During this year observation, National Energy Conservation Awards were given in various categories
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd has won award in Paper & Pulp industry category.
- SMR Automotive Systems India Ltd, Kancheepuram has won award in the Plastic industry category.

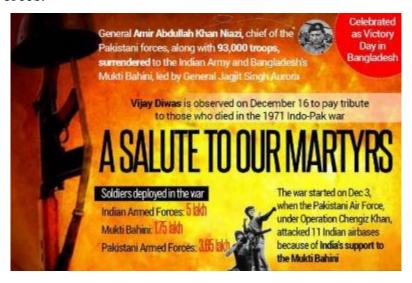




- ❖ Taj Club House and The Residency, Chennai got the Certificate of Merit in Hotel sectors of Building category.
- SBOA School & Junior College, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) got Appreciation prize in National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation 2024.

Vijay Diwas 2024 - December 16

- ❖ This day commemorates India's decisive victory over Pakistan in the 1971 War.
- ❖ The defeat resulted in the liberation of East Pakistan from Islamabad's control and the birth of Bangladesh.
- ❖ This day celebrates the sacrifice, bravery, and strategic brilliance of the Indian Armed Forces.

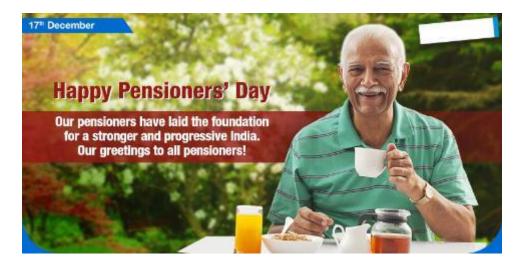


Pensioners Day 2024 - December 17

- ❖ On this day in 1982 that the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment guaranteeing dignity and decency to retired officials and pensioners.
- ❖ The late D.S Nakara fought for years to bring dignity and grace to the community, through the judgment.
- ❖ The liberal pension system implemented by the Centre in 1979 was relatively beneficial for pensioners.
- ♦ However, it was limited to those who retired after March 31, 1979.
- ❖ D. S. Nakara approached the court against this discrimination.
- ❖ The Royal Commission on Civil Establishments, in 1881, first awarded pension benefits to government employees.
- ❖ The Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935 made further provisions.







International Migrants Day 2024 - December 18

- ❖ This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000.
- ❖ The UNGA had established a set of obligations to improve migrant safety in 1960, at its first-ever conference on massive refugee migrations.
- ❖ In 1990, the UNGA has approved the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- ❖ 2023 had the greatest yearly Migrants death toll ever, with more than 8500 deaths.

National Consumer Day 2024 - December 24







- ❖ It commemorates the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ It aims to raising awareness about consumer rights, emphasising the importance of safeguarding consumers, and promoting fair trade practices.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice.

Minorities Rights Day 2024 - December 18

- ❖ This day marks the UN 'Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities' of December 18, 1992.
- ❖ This declaration laid out the principles to protect minorities globally, emphasising their right to preserve their culture, language, and identity.
- ❖ India also established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in 1992.

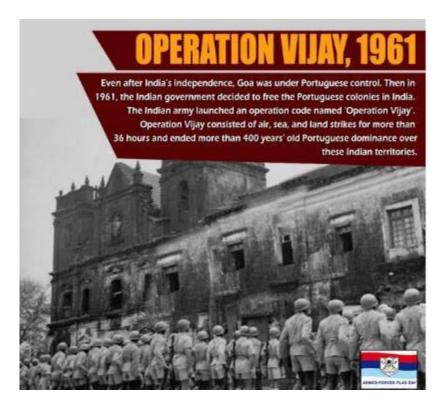


Goa Liberation Day 2024 - December 19

- ❖ It commemorates the liberation of Goa in the year 1961, even though India became independent in 1947.
- Goa was under 450 years of tyranny under Portuguese colonial rule.
- ❖ The Indian Armed Forces have launched the Operation Vijay, a strategic military operation and successfully liberated Goa.
- ❖ On December 19, 1961, the Portuguese Governor-General Vassalo e Silva had surrendered.
- Thus, Goa became part of the Indian Union and granted full statehood in 1987.







Good Governance Week 2024 - December 19/24



- ❖ The decision to celebrate Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah) was taken in 2021.
- ❖ The "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" Nationwide campaign 2024 for Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery to commence in 700+ districts.
- ❖ The Campaign to focus in Effective Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery.





Veer Bal Divas 2024 - December 26

26th December - Veer Baal Diwas

On this day, two sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Sahibzade Zorawar Singh Ji & Fateh Singh Ji attained martyrdom by being bricked alive in a wall after refusing to give up their faith

The bravery of Mata Gujri, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji & four Sahibzades gives strength to build a world that is just & inclusive

- ❖ The day marks the martyrdom of the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs.
- ❖ They showed extraordinary bravery and commitment to protect, uphold and to preserve Sikh values.
- ❖ Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh, the two older sons, bravely gave their lives during the Battle of Chamkaur in December 1705.
- ❖ The Government of India started this day in 2022 to honor the courage, dedication, and sacrifice.

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2024 - December 27

- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness of and strengthen preparedness for the pandemic across the globe.
- ❖ It was initiated by the UNGA in 2020 to take into account the experiences of the health crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- * This day also serves to promote global solidarity and cooperation.

International Human Solidarity Day 2024 - December 20

- ❖ This day recognises our shared humanity and the idea that we are all part of a global community.
- ❖ In order to address the global issues including poverty, inequality, and social injustice, the day aims to promote solidarity, collaboration, and the shared accountability.
- ❖ It reminds the government of their duty under international agreements while uniting people to celebrate diversity and harmony.
- ❖ This day was formally recognized by the UN General Assembly on December 22, 2005.







SSB Raising Day 2024 - December 20



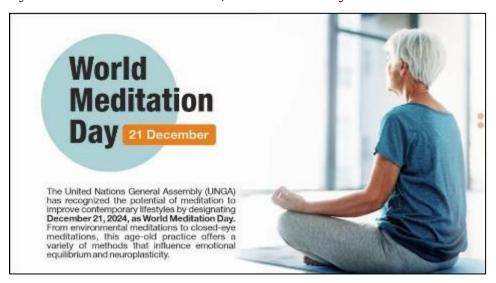
- ❖ It was established as the Special Service Bureau in 1963, in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression in 1962.
- ❖ It was declared a lead intelligence agency for Indo Nepal in June 2001 and assigned the Indo Nepal border.
- ❖ In 2004, it was also assigned Indo Bhutan border.
- ❖ It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs and a part of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).



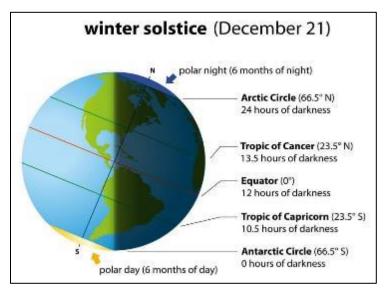


First-Ever World Meditation Day 2024 - December 21

- ❖ This year, the United Nations General Assembly observed the inaugural World Meditation Day.
- ❖ To mark the occasion, the Permanent Mission of India organised an event at the UN headquarters in New York.
- ❖ This date was chosen for its cultural and astronomical significance of the winter solstice.
- ❖ Nagpur-based wellness startup Habuild was setting a world record for the largest virtual meditation session with 2,87,711 participants.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Inner Peace, Global Harmony!".



Winter Solstice 2024 - December 21



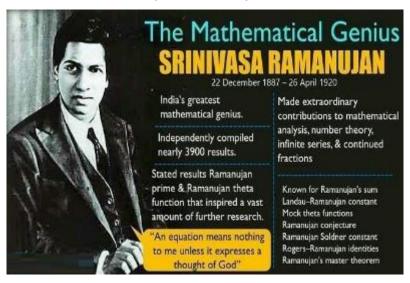




- ❖ This day is marking the official start of winter in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ This is the shortest day and longest night of the year, as the North Pole is tilted farthest away from the Sun.
- ❖ The winter solstice occurs on specific dates in each hemisphere.
- ❖ In the Northern Hemisphere, it falls on either December 21 or December 22 every year.
- ❖ In the Southern Hemisphere, the winter solstice takes place on either June 20 or June 21 annually.

National Mathematics Day 2024 - December 22

- ❖ It marks the birth anniversary of Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- ❖ This day is dedicated to recognising his profound contributions to mathematics and highlighting the pivotal role the subject plays in shaping modern society.
- ❖ It was officially launched by then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2012, on the 125th birth anniversary of Ramanujan.



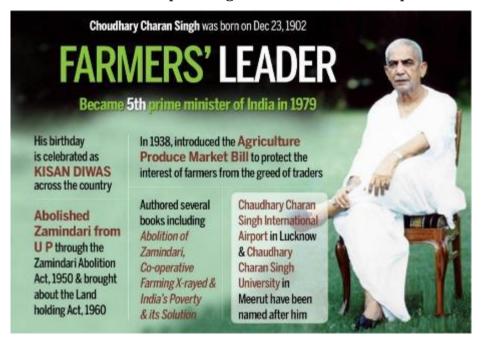
National Farmers Day 2024 - December 23

- ❖ It is marking the birth anniversary of India's fifth Prime Minster, Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- He served as the India's fifth Prime Minister from 1979 to 1980.
- ❖ He is often referred to as the "Champion of Farmers," played a pivotal role in empowering farmers during his tenure.
- ❖ He introduced landmark reforms such as the Debt Redemption Bill of 1939.





❖ The theme for 2024 is "Empowering 'Anna datas' for a Prosperous Nation."



Good Governance Day 2024 - December 25

- ❖ It marks the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- * Three times, Atal Bihari Vajpayee led India as prime minister.
- ❖ In 1996, his first term lasted just 13 days.
- ❖ His second term lasted thirteen months from March 1998 to April 1999.
- ❖ He completed his third full term from 1999 to 2004.
- He received the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honor in India, in 2015.

MISCELLANEOUS

India's busiest airport 2024

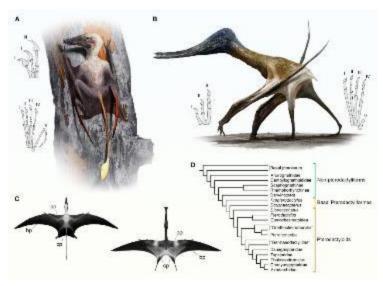
- ❖ In the financial year of 2024, the Indira Gandhi international airport, serving the national capital region of Delhi, handled more than 73.67million passengers.
- ❖ The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has emerged as India's third-busiest airport for international passenger traffic after Mumbai.
- ❖ It surpasses Chennai and Kochi in October 2024.
- ❖ In domestic passenger traffic, Bengaluru remains third after Delhi and Mumbai.





New Pterosaur Species - Japan

- ❖ The first pterosaur specimen was found in Japan derives from the Yezo Group in Hokkaido.
- ❖ The newly-identified species was a member of Quetzalcoatlinae, a subfamily of the pterosaur family Azhdarchidae.
- ❖ Pterosaurs were highly successful flying reptiles that lived between 210 and 65 million years ago.
- ❖ They were the Earth's first flying vertebrates, with birds and bats making their appearances much later.



Cyclone Fengal



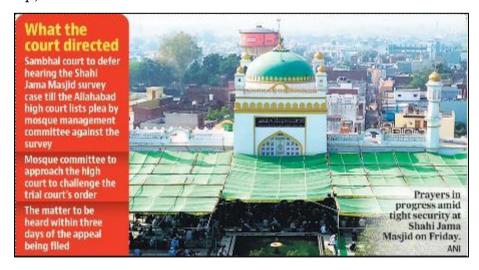




- ❖ The Cyclone Fengal made landfall and it crossed the Tamil Nadu coast between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram.
- ❖ Due to this cyclone, Puducherry recorded its highest rainfall of 46 cm in the last 30 years.
- ❖ Earlier it had received 21 cm of rainfall on October 31, 2004.
- ❖ The name 'Fengal' was given by Saudi Arabia.

Shahi Jama Masjid issue – Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The petition alleged that the 16th Century Jama Masjid in Sambhal was built at the site of an ancient Hari Har Mandir.
- ❖ The claim was similar to those made in the case of Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and Eidgah Masjid Mathura in Uttar Pradesh and Kamal-Maula Masjid in Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Sambhal mosque is a protected national monument.
- ❖ The Jama Masjid in Sambhal is one of the three mosques built by Mughal Emperor Babur during his reign between 1526 and 1530.
- ❖ The other two being the mosque in Panipat and the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya which was demolished in 1992.
- ❖ The Sambhal mosque was built by Babur's general Mir Hindu Beg around 1528.
- ❖ The Hindu tradition believes that, the tenth avatar of Vishnu, Kalki, will descend here in Sambhal.
- ❖ As per the Places of Worship Act 1991, the religious character of all places of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947, has to be maintained.
- ❖ The petition filed in Sambhal seeks to change the basic character of the place of worship, in contravention of the 1991 Act.







Siberian Demoiselle crane - Longest Migration

- ❖ The Siberian Demoiselle crane made a long flight over 3,676 km to Rajasthan and setting a new distance record for migratory birds arriving in the state.
- ❖ The previous longest recorded flight for a Demoiselle crane was about 2,800km, for a bird tagged in Mongolia.
- ❖ Khichan in Phalodi district in Rajasthan is India's first reserve for the Demoiselle cranes.



WINGING IT: Sukpak, a juvenile crane, flew from Tyva in south-central Siberia to Khichan in Rajasthan, via Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Afg & Pakistan

Mineral Water - High-Risk Food



- The FSSAI has reclassified packaged drinking water and mineral water as a highrisk food category.
- ❖ It is mandating stricter regulatory controls and annual facility inspections.
- ❖ The reclassification by FSSAI follows recent amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

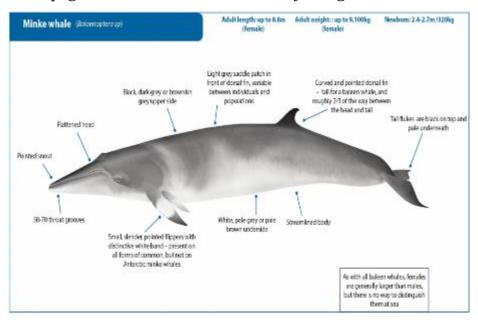
Minke Whales' Hearing Range

❖ The Scientists have directly measured that the minke whales can detect high-frequency sounds as high as 48-90 kilohertz (kHz).





- ❖ It is demonstrating hearing sensitivity far greater than previously believed.
- ❖ Baleen whales the planet's largest mammals may be even more impacted by the anthropogenic ocean noise than currently recognised.



Word of the Year for 2024

- ❖ Dictionary.com has named "demure" its 2024 Word of the Year.
- It defines the word demure as "characterized by shyness and modesty; reserved".
- ❖ 'Manifest' is to become Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year for 2024.
- The phrase "to manifest" is used in the sense of 'to imagine achieving something you want
- Oxford University Press has announced 'brain rot' as the Oxford Word of the Year for 2024.
- ❖ It describes the cognitive decline attributed to the excessive exposure to mindless social media content.

2024 airline rankings

- ❖ India's largest airline, IndiGo, has been ranked (103) among the world's worst airlines in the 2024.
- ❖ Brussels Airlines topped the list and followed by Qatar Airways and United Airlines (8.04).
- ❖ Air India, the only other Indian airline ranked, placed 61st among 109 airlines.

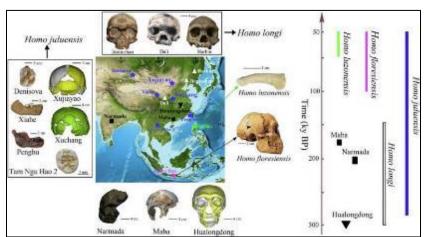






Homo juluensis

- ❖ A new human species called Homo juluensis discovered with distinctively large skulls, dubbed with "Large Head People."
- ❖ This mysterious group once lived alongside Homo sapiens in eastern Asia.
- ❖ These fossilised remains unearthed from sediment layers dated over 200,000 years ago.
- ❖ Initial measurements indicate that their braincases were up to 30% larger than those of Homo sapiens.
- ❖ Homo juluensis lived approximately 300,000 years ago in eastern Asia and disappeared around 50,000 years ago.



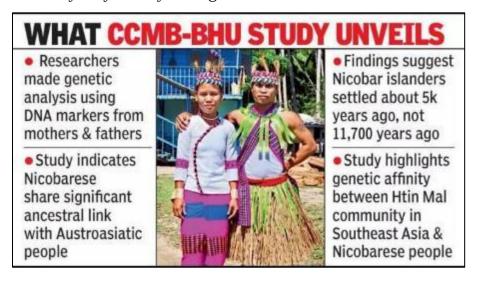
Nicobarese connection with Austro-Asiatic

- ❖ The recent studies revealed connections to ancient Austroasiatic populations in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Previous theories suggested that the linguistic ancestors of the Nicobarese settled in the Nicobar archipelago during the early Holocene, about 11,700 years ago.



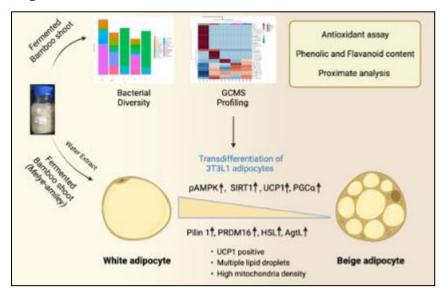


❖ However, these new studies also suggest that the Nicobar islanders settled there approximately only 5000 years ago.



Melye-amiley - Fermented Bamboo Shoot

- ❖ The anti-obesity properties of Melye-amiley, offers a natural dietary solution for managing weight and enhancing metabolic health.
- ❖ It is a traditional fermented bamboo shoot variety from Tripura.
- ❖ In the northeastern India, the communities have developed a unique method for fermenting bamboo shoots, which enhances their nutritional value and flavour.







World's Richest Families 2024

- ❖ The Walmart Waltons have reclaimed the top spot as the world's wealthiest family, with \$432.4 billion.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates' ruling family, with a wealth of \$323.9 billion secured the second position on this year's list.
- ❖ Qatar's Al Thani royal family, valued at \$172.9 billion, ranks third on the list.
- ❖ From India, the Ambanis secured the 8th position (\$99.6 billion).
- ❖ The Mistrys of Shapoorji Pallonji (\$41.4 billion) landed at 23rd on the list.



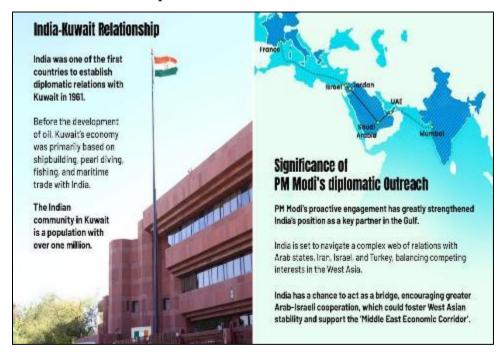
Indian Prime Minister's Kuwait visit

- ❖ Indian prime minister visited Kuwait after a 43 years gap.
- ❖ He attended the opening ceremony of the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup as 'Guest of Honour'.
- ❖ He was awarded with the Wisam Mubarak al-Kabeer, or the Order of Mubarak the Great.
- ❖ It is the 20th international award bestowed upon him by a country.
- ❖ The other recipients of this award include Queen Elizabeth II of England, former American Presidents George HW Bush and Bill Clinton, King Salman of Saudi Arabia and etc.
- ❖ The Indians constitute 21 per cent (1 million) of the total population of Kuwait and 30 per cent of its work-force (around 9 lakhs).
- Kuwait's bilateral trade valued at \$10.47 billion in the financial year 2023-24.
- ❖ Kuwait is India's sixth largest crude supplier, meeting 3% of the country's energy needs.
- ❖ Indian exports to Kuwait reached \$2 billion for the first time, while investments by the Kuwait Investment Authority in India exceeded \$10 billion.





❖ Earlier the then Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi visited Kuwait in 1981.



Dinga Virus Disease - Uganda



- ❖ This mysterious illness is marked by uncontrollable shaking resembling a dance-like movement.
- ❖ Women and girls are mainly affected by the disorder.
- ❖ Till date, there is no scientific evidence that herbal and any other medicine can treat this disease.





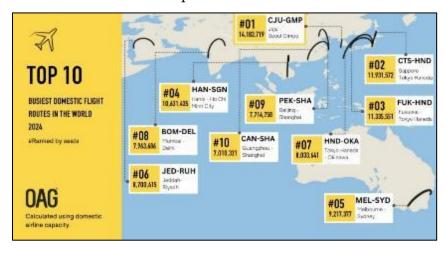
Yana discovery

- ❖ The Russian scientists have revealed the remains of a 50,000-year-old baby mammoth found in thawing permafrost in Siberia's remote Yakutia region.
- ❖ It is named "Yana" after the river basin where it was discovered.
- ❖ The mammoth is said to be the "best-preserved" mammoth carcass ever found.
- ❖ The Scientists unveiled a partial mummified body of a sabre-tooth cat, believed to be just under 32,000 years old.
- ❖ Earlier this year, the remains of a 44,000-year-old wolf were also uncovered.



World's busiest domestic flight route in 2024

- ❖ India's busiest flight route—Mumbai-Delhi—has been ranked as the 8th busiest domestic route globally in the 2024 rankings.
- ❖ Within the Asia Pacific region, the Mumbai-Delhi route was ranked as the sixth busiest.
- ❖ Jeju International Seoul Gimpo in south Korea route retained the top spot.







100th year of Belgaum Session

- Congress leaders commemorate the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's presidency of the historic 1924 Congress session.
- ❖ The 1924 session at Belgaum holds a unique place in India's freedom struggle.
- ❖ It was the only time Mahatma Gandhi served as Congress president.
- ❖ The session came in the aftermath of the 1922 Chauri Chaura incident, which had led Gandhi to suspend the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- ❖ It was causing a split in the party between the Swarajists, led by Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das, and the no-changers who supported Gandhi's vision of nonviolent resistance.
- ❖ During this session, Gandhi presented his ideas on non-violence, communal harmony, and "swaraj".



100th year of CPI formation Day

- ❖ The Communist Party of India (CPI) is the oldest communist party in India.
- ❖ The CPI was founded in modern-day Kanpur on 26 December 1925.
- ❖ CPI was heavily involved in resistance to British colonisation, the fight against the caste system and for land reform.
- ❖ Malayapuram Singaravelu from madras became one of the founding fathers of the Communist Party of India.
- ❖ He chaired its inaugural convention in Kanpur.
- The Communist Party of India (Marxist) which split from CPI in 1964.
- ❖ It considers 17 October 1920 as the founding day of Communist Party of India.





❖ On this day, M. N. Roy, Evelyn Trent-Roy, Abani Mukherji, Rosa Fitingov, Mohd. Ali, Mohamad Shafiq, and M. P. T. Acharya met in Tashkent, the Capital of Uzbekistan, to form the communist movement in India.



Startups with Women Leaders - India



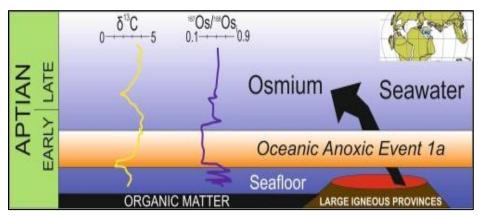
- ❖ India has more than 73,000 startups with at least one-woman director that have been recognised under the Startup India Initiative.
- ❖ This represents nearly half of the 1,57,066 startups supported by the government.
- ❖ In 2023, 13% of the overall funding in the domestic tech space came from womenled startups with women led startups securing \$1.1 billion.
- ❖ With over 100 unicorns, India has emerged as one of the most vibrant startup ecosystems globally.





Ocean Anoxic Event 1a

- ❖ The Ocean Anoxic Event 1a (OAE 1a) was one of the largest disruptions of the global carbon cycle and climate system in the past 200 million years.
- ❖ New research has determined that it was triggered 119.5 million years ago and lasted for 1.1 million years, during the Early Cretaceous Period.
- ❖ This event caused a critical lack of oxygen in the oceans and led to extensive extinctions, particularly among plankton.
- ❖ The cause of OAE 1a was undersea volcanic eruptions, which resulted in a rapid injection of massive amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the ocean and the atmosphere.



5,000-year-old Water Management

- ❖ The ongoing archaeological excavation at Rakhigarhi of Haryana, has uncovered the evidence of sophisticated water management systems and cultural practices dating back nearly 5,000 years.
- ❖ The water storage area between mounds one and two, with an estimated depth of 3.5 to 4 feet.
- ❖ The discovery of a dried-up riverbed, identified as the Chautang river (also known as the Drishavati river), was about 300 meters from the site.
- ❖ These people relied on this river for their water supply, storing water in reservoirs and canals for sustainable use.
- ❖ Rakhigarhi is the largest known Harappan-era site, encompassing a sprawling area of 865 acres.
- ❖ Its history spans multiple occupational phases, from the Early Harappan period to the Mature Harappan period, covering the 5th to 3rd millennia BCE.



