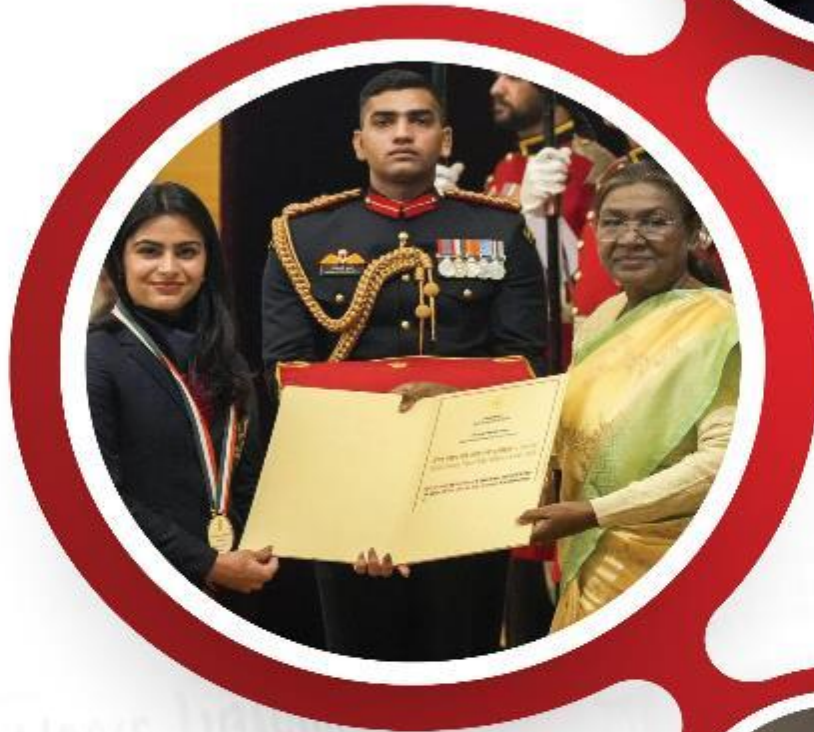




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January 2025

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The BEML Ltd has recently revealed the BD475-2 Dozer, the largest and most advanced in the country.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister launched a Tamil Teaching Programme in Fiji, supported by the Indian government.
- ❖ A Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was inaugurated by the Indian Army on the banks of Pangong Tso Lake of Ladakh at an altitude of 14,300 feet.
- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan (17) from Mumbai has achieved a milestone by becoming the youngest female to scale the highest peaks on all seven continents.
- ❖ Sikkim's Kagyed Dance Festival, which Celebrates peace and prosperity for the new year through masked dances was held at Tsuklakhang Palace, Gangtok.
- ❖ Jeju Air flight has crashed on the runway at South Korea's Muan International Airport killed 179 out of 181 people onboard.
- ❖ The Indian Army established an AI Incubation Centre (IAAIIC) at Bengaluru in collaborates with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to accelerate the development and adoption of AI technologies.
- ❖ IIT Bombay has developed a shockwave-based needle-free syringe that ensures painless and safe drug delivery with lesser damage to skin and lower risk of infection.
- ❖ The 18th Elephant and Tourism Festivals was held in Sauraha, Nepal.
- ❖ The US Mission in India has issued more than one million non-immigrant visas in 2024, marking the second consecutive year this milestone has been achieved.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced that the last week of December will be celebrated as 'Kural Week' (Kural Vaaram) every year.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced the institution of an award in the name of late AJT Johnsingh, a renowned wildlife biologist to an individual or institution for exemplary contribution to wildlife conservation.
- ❖ ISRO is going to make a remarkable achievement with its 100th rocket launch scheduled for January 2025.
- ❖ Maharashtra has received its first made-in-India surgical robot-SSI Mantra surgical robot in Pune's Noble Hospitals and Research Centre.
- ❖ India's badminton player Lakshya Sen, secured a third-place at the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Defence declares 2025 as 'Year of Reforms'.



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has extended the one-time special subsidy on fertilizer Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) at a rate of ₹3,500 per metric tonne till from January 1, 2025 till further orders.
- ❖ The Steel Authority of India Limited has been recognized as 'Great Place to Work' by the Great Place to Work Institute, India, for the second consecutive period.
- ❖ Ministry of Textiles organised the 3rd edition of the Mega event “Viraasat Sari Festival 2024” to celebrate Handloom Saris of various parts of India in New Delhi.
- ❖ India’s R Vaishali has created a history by securing the bronze medal in the women’s section of the World Blitz Chess Championship, held at Newyork, USA.
- ❖ The fourth annual Chennai Flower Show was inaugurated at Semmozhi Poonga.
- ❖ Bhuvnesh Kumar, an Additional Secretary of MeitY, has assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- ❖ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has achieved a perfect 100% conviction rate with 68 accused convicted across 25 cases in 2024.
- ❖ Kerala team won their first-ever Senior National Men's Handball Championship title by defeating Chandigarh, held at Kerala.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu’s first jallikattu for 2025 was held at Thatchankurichi village in Gandarvakottai taluk of the Pudukkottai district.
- ❖ The Centre has set up an 18-member panel, chaired by Dr. Ramesh Chand of NITI Aayog, to revise the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) base year to 2022-23.
- ❖ The Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has completed full-scale implementation of the new Centralised Pension Payments System (CPPS) to provide PF pensions under the Employees’ Pension Scheme (EPS).
- ❖ Zomato-owned quick commerce platform Blinkit has announced a 10-minute ambulance delivery service in flat rate of Rs 2000 in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ Air India has become the first airline to offer in-flight Wi-Fi on both domestic and international routes.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has laid the foundation stone for Sir John Marshall statue and inaugurated Indus Valley Civilization conference.
- ❖ Salman Rushdie's controversial book “The Satanic Verses”, which was banned by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1988, is now available at a Delhi bookstore.
- ❖ Honda Motor and Nissan Motor have agreed to commence full-scale talks for a potential merger in Japan.
- ❖ The Veteran director-writer Sai Paranjpye will receive the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AIFF) 2025.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has officially declared the Cyclone Fengal a severe natural disaster.



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is working in the key landscapes of Coimbatore, Sathyamangalam in Erode and the Nilgiris to raise awareness about the impacts of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) on the native vulture populations.
- ❖ Odisha government declared the unseasonal rains in December as a natural calamity to facilitate payment of compensation to the affected farmers from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- ❖ The Strategically located four-lane stretch of 2.35-km in Ramban–Banihal section of NH-44 in Jammu and Kashmir was successfully completed.
- ❖ Australia won the Border Gavaskar Trophy back after 10 years clinching India vs Australia five-match cricket Test series.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated a 13-km section of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) connecting Sahibabad in Uttar Pradesh to New Ashok Nagar in Delhi (Delhi Metro rail).
- ❖ Vietnam's capital Hanoi has been covered in thick smog over recent weeks, putting it at the top of a list of the world's most polluted cities.
- ❖ West Bengal claim a record 33rd title of the Santosh Trophy, India's top state-level football competition.
- ❖ Prime Minister virtually inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division (69th of India), as development of Jammu and Kashmir's connectivity and infrastructure.
- ❖ The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has designated 2025 as the "Year of Artificial Intelligence" to position India as a global leader in AI.
- ❖ Uttarakhand is going to host the 38th National Games for the first time.
- ❖ Union Home Minister chaired the 7th meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has inaugurated Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ❖ The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha under the theme of "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat".
- ❖ The 82nd Annual Golden Globe Awards was held at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, USA.
- ❖ The model code of conduct is coming into immediate effect in the Erode (East) Assembly constituency, for which polling will be held on February 5.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has named Congress leader K.V. Thangkabalur for receiving the Perunthalaiyar Kamarajar Award for 2024.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first floating restaurant was opened on the backwaters of Muttukadu near Chennai.



- ❖ The Centre appointed V Narayanan as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space.
- ❖ The Pune-based startup Atreya Innovations has developed an AI-based pulse diagnostic tool - Nadi Tarangini for Ayurveda practitioners that can monitor patients' health on 22 parameters and generate report in 10 Indian languages.
- ❖ India's first organic fisheries cluster in Soreng District, Sikkim, under the PMMSY initiative was opened recently.
- ❖ Brazil, the current presiding nation of the BRICS, has officially announced the Indonesia's membership as a full member in the Bloc.
- ❖ India has launched two special category visas for the international students intending to study in India – the 'e-student visa' and the 'e-student-x visa'.
 - The e-student visa is for those who want to pursue education in India, while the e-student-x visa is for the dependents of the e-student visa holders.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has begun installing the steel railings at 13 identified black spots on Chennai - Bengaluru Highway (NH 44), covering Ranipet, Vellore and Tirupattur districts to prevent accidents.
- ❖ Titagarh Rail Systems handed over its first driverless, Made-in-India train set to Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation's (BMRCL) yellow line.
- ❖ Two indigenously designed and constructed fast patrol vessels (FPVs) for the Coast Guard, 'Amulya' and 'Akshay' were launched recently.
- ❖ The Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest for the 2025 Republic Day of India.
- ❖ The Central Government has approved the establishment of a memorial dedicated to former President Pranab Mukherjee in the Rashtriya Smriti complex of New Delhi.
- ❖ Indian Railways has successfully conducted a trial run of a tower wagon on the Anji Khad Bridge, the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge, located in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.
- ❖ India and Malaysia held their first Security Dialogue in New Delhi, co-chaired by NSA Ajit Doval and Malaysia's Raja Nushirwan.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly "unanimously" adopted a public resolution moved for urging the Union government to immediately withdraw the Draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of the Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government would set up a 2 million-sq.ft facility for artificial intelligence (AI) in Coimbatore under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode.



- ❖ The Karnataka Forest Department has launched the 'Garudakshi' online FIR system to curb the forest encroachments, illegal tree-felling, poaching, and unauthorised entry into forest areas.
- ❖ Prime Minister laid the foundation for India's first green hydrogen hub of NTPC Green Energy Limited Project near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ In the first high-level bilateral engagement with the Taliban regime, the Indian Foreign Secretary met the Afghanistan acting Foreign Minister in Dubai, UAE.
- ❖ "Tamilnilam Geo-Info App" application was launched by Tamil Nadu Govt for public to know the details of their land related documents through mobile phone.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu govt launched MinMathi 2.0 app to easy reach of the SHG women & opens up newer opportunities for the aspiring women by connecting them to mentors, fellow SHGs across the Country, as well as potential buyers of their products!
- ❖ H Lakshmanan (92), the former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton and a towering figure in the TVS family for nearly seven decades, passed away.
- ❖ Prime Minister will inaugurate the key infrastructure - 13.14 km long Z Morh Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Labour & Employment launched the multilingual functionality on e-Shram portal, with all 22 Scheduled Languages support.
- ❖ The Gaddi dog becomes the fourth indigenous breed registered in India and the first from the Himalayan region.
- ❖ Prime Minister has inaugurated the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a state-of-the-art tourist train, designed exclusively for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- ❖ Retired Supreme Court justice B. N. Srikrishna will chair the ID verification and data sharing platform Equal's newly formed Advisory Board.
- ❖ India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in 2026.
- ❖ Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) has been chosen for establishing the South India's first Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (IRDL).
- ❖ The Department of Youth Affairs of the Union successfully kicked off Day 2 of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) of Mumbai has become the first airport in India to have received the prestigious Level 5 accreditation from the globally acclaimed Airports Council International (ACI).
- ❖ Malaysia has officially extended its visa exemption for Indian nationals until December 31, 2026, allowing them to visit the country without a visa for up to 30 days.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has government announced a 10 crores scheme to teach Tamil and folk arts to children of the Tamil diaspora.
 - Under this programme, 100 Tamil teachers and artists will be sent to various countries to work with Tamil Sangams (associations).
- ❖ The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved oil and gas exploratory drilling in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
- ❖ The CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) has successfully conducted the first trial blast for the Dozer Push Mining Method, integrating advanced digital technologies, at Chhattisgarh, for the first time in India.
- ❖ India has achieved a milestone in genomics with the launch of its own genomic data set and the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) portals, making 10,000 whole genome samples accessible globally.
- ❖ SS Innovations has launched SSI Mantra 3, the next generation, most advanced version of the Mantra surgical robot system.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has launched a special FM channel of All India Radio Kumbhvani (103.5 MHz), dedicated to Maha Kumbh 2025.
- ❖ Kerala's Kappad Beach in Kozhikode and Chal Beach in Kannur have received the prestigious Blue Flag certification from the Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government's fresh guidelines have asked to monitor all the visitors to the educational institution campuses and further seek to employ real-time tracking and management of visitors.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister inaugurated the Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences at Thalaivasal in Salem district.
- ❖ A total of 3,000 police personnel, in the rank of the grade-II constables, grade-I constables, head constables, and the special sub-inspectors of police are set to receive the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Constabulary Medals this year.
- ❖ Devajit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia have been elected as the Secretary and Treasurer of BCCI respectively.
- ❖ 'Chennai Sangamam - Namma Oor Thiruvizha', the annual cultural extravaganza was organised in Chennai during the Pongal season.
- ❖ The Madras High Court held that, the right to participate in the funeral ceremony of the spouse/parent/children of prisoner will fall within the ambit of Article 25 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The 25th National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions was held at Bengaluru.



- ❖ The Srinagar Meteorology Centre was acknowledged as a Centennial Centre by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ Nvidia released its Jetson Orin Nano Super, a new compact artificial intelligence (AI) supercomputer recently.
- ❖ INS Utkarsh, the second multi-purpose vessel for the Indian Navy was launched at Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh govt signed an MoU with Indichip Semiconductors Limited and its joint venture of Japan for setting up an India's first private semiconductor manufacturing facility.
- ❖ India has successfully tested its first domestically developed micro-missile system - Bhargavastra, at Gopalpur of Odisha engineered to counter the swarm drone threats with 6Km range.
- ❖ Congress party inaugurated the new Congress headquarters, Indira Bhavan, in New Delhi, named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Third Launch Pad (TLP) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India skipper Smriti Mandhana scored a record-breaking century in 70 balls the third Women's ODI cricket against Ireland.
- ❖ The Indian Railways has developed a hydrogen-powered train engine with the highest horsepower (1200HP) in the world.
- ❖ India and Spain have announced 2026 as a 'dual year' to celebrate their cultural, tourism, and AI collaborations.
- ❖ Indian grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has won the early Titled Tuesday weekly blitz competition conducted by Chess.com by beating the World No 1 Magnus Carlsen and World No 2 Fabiano Caruana.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved a major expansion of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which will create two new battalions each comprising 1,025 personnel of various ranks.
- ❖ The Indian Army has celebrated its 77th Army Day with at the Bombay Engineers Group and Centre Parade Ground in Pune, Maharashtra.
 - This marks the third occasion that the Army Day Parade was held outside Delhi.
- ❖ The US-based Hindenburg Research, famously known for its controversial short-selling practices reveal, has decided to cease operations.
- ❖ A delegation from Tamil Nadu, led by Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, is set to attend the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025 held in Davos, Switzerland.



- ❖ The Twipra Student Federation (TSF) of Tripura is demanding the adoption the Roman script for the Kokborok language.
- ❖ Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, India's leading mobility show, has been held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Centre has recently established eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) around the Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ RBI deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the Department of Monetary Policy, which Dr Patra earlier headed.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNSCZMA) has approved the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance for Kalaigarnar Convention Centre in Muttukadu.
- ❖ The Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the toolkit for 9th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS), the world's largest urban cleanliness survey, in its new avatar—simpler, sharper, systematic and all-inclusive.
- ❖ Novak Djokovic has etched another remarkable milestone in tennis history by surpassing Roger Federer's record (429) for the most Tennis Grand Slam matches played.
- ❖ The Former Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Mishra has been appointed as Ombudsman and Ethics Officer of BCCI.
- ❖ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has signed a joint venture agreement with Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to develop the 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project in Nepal.
- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics has signed an agreement with IIT Mandi in collaboration with the IIT Jammu, for the development of "Wideband Spectrum-Sensor ASIC-Chip for Enhancing the Spectrum Utilization".
- ❖ The India Pavilion inaugurated at Heimtextil 2025 in Frankfurt, Germany.
- ❖ The world's first 52x52x52 'Mahamrityunjaya Yantra' has been installed at Tapovan Ashram in Jhunsi Havelis in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The "One Plate, One Bag" campaign was launched for plastic-free Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh to replace plastic bags and disposable items.
- ❖ Maharashtra has announced the formation of a 16-member committee tasked with submitting recommendations for the Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025.
- ❖ Assam police chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh has been appointed Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ❖ Assam has ranked 4th rank on New York Times' list of 52 destinations to visit in 2025.



- ❖ IIT-M's Centre of Biodegradable Packaging establishes centre to develop zero-waste bioplastics.
- ❖ The Professor Urbasi Sinha, faculty at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), was honored with the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ❖ The United Nations will observe year 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, and March 21 marked annually as the World Day for Glaciers from 2025.
- ❖ The nomination of a woman candidate from Bengaluru for the Erode (East) Assembly byelection was rejected by election officials as she was not an ordinarily a resident of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ G. Vibusha from Tamil Nadu, has bagged Bronze Medal in the Cadet National Fencing Championship at Rudrapur, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Karnataka cricket team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024-25 by defeating the Vidarbha team at Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara, Gujarat.
- ❖ Senior IFS officer Sanjiv Ranjan, was appointed as the next Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed the local bodies in Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts to come up with an action plan with a timeline for the rejuvenation of the Vaigai river.
- ❖ The hills Trails in Yelagiri-Swamimalai, Gudiyam caves near Chennai, Baraliyar, Coutrallam - Shenbagadevi falls and Nagalur-Sanniyasimalai peak have emerged as top destinations among trekkers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying organized a conclave, themed "Dialogue for Holistic Development of Livestock Sector in North East India" in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) had organised the National Tribal Health Conclave in New Delhi to addressing the critical health and well-being challenges faced by tribal communities.
- ❖ The three-day Flamingo Festival was held in Andhra Pradesh including Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.
- ❖ The Uttarakhand government has approved the rules for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the government would issue a gazette notification for the legislation by the end of January.
- ❖ The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), situated at Raja mahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh, was officially renamed as the National Institute for Research on Commercial Agriculture (NIRCA).



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid foundation stone for a new open-air museum in Keezhadi and museum in Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- ❖ The union government announced the annulment of the auction of Tamil Nadu's Nayakkarpatti tungsten mineral block, which is near the Arittapatti biodiversity site.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister will inaugurate the Thamirabarani – Karumeniyar – Nambiyar River linking scheme, which benefiting over 15,000 acres of lands in rain-shadow regions in Nanguneri, Thisaiyanvilai and Sattankulam areas.
- ❖ The theme of Republic Day 2025 is Swarnim Bharat – Virasat aur Vikas' (Golden India – Heritage and Development).
- ❖ Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto is the chief guest for Republic Day 2025, marking a significant milestone in the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Indonesia.
- ❖ Indian High Commission announced the renaming of the Jaffna Cultural Centre (Srilanka) as 'Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre', in honour of the great Tamil poet-philosopher Thiruvalluvar.
- ❖ The first astronomical observatory in Eastern India has been inaugurated in Garpanchkot Hills in West Bengal's Purulia district.
- ❖ Usha Vance became the first Indian-American and Hindu Second Lady after her husband J.D. Vance was sworn in as the 50th Vice President of the US.
- ❖ Kerala launched Kerala Warnings, a Crisis and Hazard Management System or 'KaWaCHaM', India's first fully integrated disaster warning system, under the National Cyclone Preparedness Project.
- ❖ The Union govt has set a target of reaching 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by 2030 from current 605 tags.
- ❖ Janet Petro has been appointed as the acting administrator and the first female to lead NASA.
- ❖ The Puducherry-born Thavil exponent P. Datchana Moorthy is among the recipients of the Padma Shri awards 2025.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has unveiled the renovated memorial of Tamil martyrs Natarajan and Thalamuthu at Moolakothalam in Chennai, who sacrificed their lives to protect the Tamil language in the struggle against Hindi imposition in 1939.
- ❖ The Reliance Industries is planning to build the world's largest data center in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The US President has signed an executive order banning the creation and issuance of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in the US.



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh cabinet has decided to impose a liquor ban in 17 religious cities in the state.
- ❖ A federal judge blocked Donald Trump's administration from implementing the executive order curtailing the right to automatic birthright citizenship in the United States, calling it “ unconstitutional.”
- ❖ The Punjab cricketer Arshdeep Singh was named the International Cricket Council (ICC) men's Cricketer of the year 2024.
- ❖ Madison Keys of USA has won her first-ever Grand Slam title by beating two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the Australian Open Tennis final in Melbourne.
- ❖ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will now have its sixth regional office in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
 - Presently it has five regional offices in Guwahati (Assam), Patna (Bihar), Kochi (Kerala), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Kolkata (West Bengal).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu labour department has registered the Samsung India Workers Union (SIWU), followed by a Madras High Court’s directives.
- ❖ The Meteorological Department said that the northeast monsoon has ceased over south peninsular India, including Andhra Pradesh on January 27, 2025.
- ❖ The State Fisheries Department has planned to install artificial coral reefs in 39 locations across two fishing villages in Nagapattinam district to boost the fish production.
- ❖ India’s first-of-its-kind, the CSIR Mega “Innovation Complex”, was inaugurated at Mumbai.
- ❖ The Indian Army has inaugurated two newly built bailey bridges across the Shyok River, improving connectivity between the Shyok and Nubra valleys in Ladakh.
- ❖ The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf Amendment Bill approved the draft with incorporating 14 amendments proposed by its members.
- ❖ Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Udaipur (Rajasthan) became the first two cities from India to join the global list of accredited Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- ❖ The Indian Grandmaster Iniyam Panneerselvam (from Erode in Tamilnadu) has showcased an exceptional performance to win the 9th Johor International Open Chess Tournament in Malaysia.
- ❖ Jannik Sinner of Italy has won his second consecutive Australian Open Tennis championship by beating Germany’s Alexander Zverev, and third Grand Slam title overall.



- ❖ The International Day of Clean Energy was observed on January 26th to raise the awareness and mobilize action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy.
- ❖ Jnanpith award-winning author Amitav Ghosh launched his latest book, Wild Fictions.
- ❖ India will host the prestigious FIDE World Cup 2025 chess tournament this year.
- ❖ The New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 is going to be organised by the National Book Trust of India under the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ Gujarat organises the 1st International Olympic Research Conference to discuss financing and innovative economic models for hosting the Olympics in India.
- ❖ To combat financial fraud, the RBI has mandated that banks use the '1600xx' number series for all transactional calls and '140xx' for promotional calls.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated a mani mandapam (memorial), in honour of 21 “social justice activists”, who lost their lives in the police firing during the ‘Vanniyar’ reservation protest in September 1987, constructed in Villupuram.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM inaugurated a memorial in honour of Govindasamy, who served in the Cabinets headed by former Chief Ministers C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi at Vazhudhareddi, Villupuram District.
- ❖ The ePlane Company, has become the first private Indian company to receive the formal acceptance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the Type Certification of its eVTOL aircraft, the e200X.
- ❖ Assam govt announced that Dibrugarh will be developed as the second capital of Assam.
- ❖ The RBI has set up a new 5 members standing external advisory committee to evaluate applications for universal banks and small finance banks (SFBs) Under by former RBI deputy governor M K Jain.
- ❖ Georgia became the 45th country to be certified malaria free on January 23, 2025 by WHO.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled the foundation stone for the construction of a new mall, to be named 'Unity', in Egmore, Chennai.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26 with a total budget of ₹69,515.71 crore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu players won 14 medals at the 10th Asia Pacific Deaf Games-2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu Forest Department has issued a government order permitting a regulated culling of wild boars that cause distress to farmers in farmland close to forest areas.



- ❖ The 10th edition of the Tamil Nadu International Balloon Festival (TNIBF) was held in Pollachi.
- ❖ IIT Madras collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources).
- ❖ Centre inaugurated the 'Bharatpol' portal to streamline international cooperation for law investigating agencies.
- ❖ The union government launched a new round of steel production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, with a total outlay of Rs 4,400 crore.
- ❖ The 8th edition of National Programme for Organic Production was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Regional Conference on "Drug Trafficking and National Security" event was organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau in New Delhi.
- ❖ Indian Army and the Indian Air Force conducted a joint Exercise 'Devil Strike'.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu tops gold ownership

- ❖ A recent report by the World Gold Council has revealed a data about Tamil Nadu's gold ownership
- ❖ The state owns the largest amount of gold in the world, with a staggering 6,720 tons.
- ❖ This impressive figure accounts for 28% of India's total gold reserves.

Draft employment policy on young adults

- ❖ The draft Tamil Nadu Employment Policy was formulated by the Tamilnadu State Planning Commission (SPC).
- ❖ It has highlighted several critical issues in the current labour market- from high unemployment rates among the educated youth to mismatches between skills and aspirations, and job opportunities.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total labour requirement in 2031-32 would be around 36.5 million as against 34.11 million in 2021-22 — a net increase of 2.3 million.
- ❖ In the previous ten years (from 2011-12 to 2021-22), the net increase in employment was 2.12 million.



- ❖ The report highlighted that the proportion of employed young adults (aged 20–29) had fallen below 50% in 2021-22 — a dip of over 15% since 2004-05.
- ❖ The decline is fully attributed to a drastic reduction in the proportion of young adults working in the agriculture sector, which now stands at a mere 5.9%.
- ❖ The unemployment rate increased to 7.4% for young women (aged 20-29) in 2021-22.

Creation of 13 municipalities

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced the contours of the now proposed reorganisation of numerous local bodies.
- ❖ It will be including the merger of a large number of village panchayats with urban local bodies.
- ❖ The proposal also covers the creation of 13 municipalities and of 25 town panchayats.
- ❖ Among the proposed new municipalities are Kanniyakumari, Harur, and Perundurai.
- ❖ The government has also proposed establishing 25 town panchayats, including Yercaud, Kalayarkoil and Thirumayam.
- ❖ Besides, 29 village panchayats are likely to be merged with 25 town panchayats.

Guidelines for prevention of scrub typhus

- ❖ The Directorate of Public Health of Tamilnadu has released guidelines for the control and prevention of the disease.
- ❖ The mite-borne zoonotic disease, where humans are accidental hosts, has been reported various places.
- ❖ The incubation period for this disease is one to two weeks.
- ❖ Agricultural workers, outdoor enthusiasts, and those living near shrubs or bushy areas with potential exposure to mice and mites.
- ❖ Cold fogging, cleaning the ground of bushes in and around villages, reducing the rodent population are the control and prevention methods.

100 percent transition rate

- ❖ Tamil Nadu school education has achieved a 100% transition rate from primary to upper primary.
- ❖ This means that all students who join Class I are completing up to Class VIII in the state.



- ❖ The transition rate increased from primary to upper primary from 99% in 2019 to 100% in 2024.
- ❖ Among girls, the transition rate increased from 97.5% in 2019 to 100% in 2024.

Excavation in Kodumbalur

- ❖ The Tiruchi Circle ASI has taken up an excavation at the habitation mounds at Kodumbalur in Viralimalai taluk of Pudukkottai district.
- ❖ Kodumbalur, about 40 km from Tiruchi, has several ASI-maintained monuments.
- ❖ It is including the Moovar temple, built by Bhuti Vikramakesari, the Irukkavel chieftain who was believed to have been a political ally of Parantaka II, also known as Sundara Chola (CE 956-973).
- ❖ Kodumbalur finds mention in the Sangam literature Silappadikaram.
- ❖ It is one of the 32 sites we had identified for taking up excavations in the Tiruchi Circle under the ASI's Looking Beyond - Vision Statement for Excavations by 2035.

Deciphering Indus Valley script

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has announced a \$1 million prize for experts or organisations that succeed in deciphering the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- ❖ He also announced a ₹2-crore grant for setting up a chair in the name of noted archaeologist and epigraphist Iravatham Mahadevan to continue the research on the IVC.

Sangam period habitation near Villupuram

- ❖ Researchers has uncovered archaeological evidence of habitation sites dating to the Sangam period near Villupuram.
- ❖ These evidences found on the bank of the Pambai river at Ayyankoyilpattu and Thennamadevi-Anaimedu.
- ❖ The cultural mound at Thennamadevi-Anaimedu stretches to a length of 500 to 600 metres covering an expanse of 10 acres.
- ❖ The mound at Ayyankoyilpattu covers a land mass of more than 15 acres.



Highest numbers of Man-days – Tamilnadu

- ❖ With a total of 8.42 lakh mandays, the state has firmly established itself as a hub of vibrant industries, particularly in the manufacturing and service sectors
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has outperformed states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat to clock the highest number of mandays in the country.

UmagineTN2025 - 3rd Edition

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's flagship IT conference was held on the theme 'Driving Equitable Growth through AI and Transformative Technology.'
- ❖ This two-day conference brought the leading global thinkers to reflect and explore how technology and innovation can shape a brighter, more equitable future.
- ❖ UmagineTN stands as an evolving platform propelling Tamil Nadu towards its trillion-dollar dream.

Toda Tribe - Modhweth Festival

- ❖ The Toda tribe celebrated their traditional 'Modhweth' festival to mark the New Year.
- ❖ They are one of the oldest Dravidian ethnic groups residing in the Nilgiris Hills of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The celebration commenced with prayers at the Moonpo temple, dedicated to the deity Thenkish Amman.
- ❖ The Toda people are strictly vegetarian and abstain from consuming meat, fish, and eggs that can hatch.
- ❖ The Todas are divided into five clans, namely: Paiki, Pekkan, Kuttan, Kenna and Todi.
- ❖ They have their own language, which does not have a script.

Deceased donations 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recording the highest number of deceased donations, over 50% of the donors came from government hospitals.
- ❖ Out of the total 268 donors, 146 donors (54.48%) were from the government hospitals.
- ❖ The year 2024 ended on an all-time high for the State's deceased donor organ transplantation programme — 268 donors (218 men and 50 women) and 1,500 organs/tissues utilised.



- ❖ Private hospitals accounted for 122 donors (45.52%), according to data from the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN).
- ❖ The number of deceased donors rose to 156 in 2022 followed by 178 in 2023.

Bills to prevent sexual crimes

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed the Criminal Laws (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- ❖ The objective of the Bills was to enhance punishment for sexual crimes against women and children and prosecute those harassing them on digital and electronic platforms.
- ❖ The Criminal Laws Bill proposes a minimum 14 years of rigorous imprisonment for a rape convict, up from the present 10 years.
- ❖ If the rapist is a member of the police force, it seeks to double the minimum rigorous imprisonment to 20 years.
- ❖ If the rape victim is a girl aged below 12, it calls for life term as the minimum punishment and death penalty as the maximum.

World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025

- ❖ January 12 is celebrated as World Tamil diaspora Day every year.
- ❖ TN government has inaugurated the World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025 exhibition, celebrating Tamil heritage and culture.
- ❖ The event was themed 'Ethisaiyum Tamizhanangey'.
- ❖ The last year's exhibition was held under the theme 'Tamizh Vellum'.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0

- ❖ The third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangaman (KTS) celebrates the timeless bonds between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- ❖ The programme much aims to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- ❖ 3.0 will be a celebration of one of India's most revered sages Agasthyar's legacy.

TN Commission for the Protection of Child Rights'

- ❖ The Madras High Court has finally cleared the decks for the constitution of the Tamil Nadu Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (TNCPCR).



- ❖ The State government in February 2022 prematurely dissolved the commission constituted in January 2021 for a period of three years.
- ❖ The panel has a term of three years, as per the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

Namma School Namma Ooru Palli (NSNOP) initiative

- ❖ The district-level conference of Namma School Namma Ooru Palli was held in Tiruchi.
- ❖ During the event, School Education Department launched Palli Chaalaram.
- ❖ This web page was designed to connect government school alumni and encourage their contributions to school development.
- ❖ The NSNOP initiative has received the pledges amounting to ₹141 crore from 31 companies for the Tiruchi region.
- ❖ The Tiruchi region encompasses districts such as Tiruchi, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, and Karur.
- ❖ The conference has marked the fourth regional gathering after similar events in Chennai, Madurai, and Coimbatore.

Iron Age in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ TN Government has released a report titled, 'Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu'.
- ❖ The discovery was made through the radiometric dating of burial urn samples from Sivagalai in Thoothukudi district.
- ❖ The study has revealed that the Iron Age may have begun in present-day Tamil Nadu as early as 3,345 BCE.
- ❖ The new findings push the introduction of iron in the Tamil landscape back 5,300 years.
- ❖ The discovery suggests that a contemporary Iron Age civilization existed in the southern India at the same time as the Indus Valley Civilization in northern and northwestern India.
- ❖ Before these discoveries, the earliest iron objects in Tamil Nadu were dated to around 2172 BCE from Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district.
- ❖ Additionally, another site, Adichanallur in Thoothukudi district, had produced a charcoal sample associated with iron objects that was dated to 2517 BCE.



- ❖ In comparison, the iron objects from other regions of India, such as Brahmagiri in Karnataka and Gachibowli near Hyderabad, were dated to around 2140 BCE and 2200 BCE, respectively.
- ❖ Earlier, the Hittite Empire (in modern-day Turkey) was believed to be the first civilization to use iron, with evidence dating back to around 1,380 BCE.

Road accidents in Tamil Nadu 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has reported a significant reduction in fatal road accidents with the number of deaths coming down by 273 in 2024 compared to the previous year.
- ❖ While 18,347 people died in 17,526 fatal road accidents in 2023, the number came down to 18,074 and 17,282 respectively last year.
- ❖ 80,558 driving licences were suspended for violating the motor vehicle rules.
- ❖ Highway patrol vehicles shifted 12,629 people critically injured in road accidents to hospitals within the Golden Hour.

Idhayam Kappom - First assessment

- ❖ The State government launched 'Idhayam Kappom Thittam' on June 27, 2023.
- ❖ It aims to provide cardiac loading doses (aspirin, clopidogrel and atorvastatin) at PHCs/HSCs to prevent deaths due to cardiac illness.
- ❖ Demographics data of the study population showed that most of the patients were men (4,248 persons).
- ❖ Almost half of the study population were aged 45 to 60 years (2,137 men and 1,148 women).
- ❖ Symptoms-wise, 76.5% (4,964) of the persons have reported to the primary care facilities with chest pain.
- ❖ This was followed by the palpitations in 10.9% and the pain was radiating to the neck/jaw/arm/shoulder in 6.6% of the patients.
- ❖ 97.7% of the patients (6,346) were alive and stable, while 2.2% (143) died and 0.1% (4) died during transit.

Recovery in reading and arithmetic ability – Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has made a significant recovery in the reading and arithmetic when compared to where it was in 2022, according to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024.
- ❖ While 4.8% of Class III children from government and private schools could read a Class II-level text in 2022, the figure had increased to 12% in 2024.



- ❖ The reading and arithmetic levels had improved with a 10.4% increase in reading and a 5.8% increase in arithmetic levels of Class V students when compared to the 2022 levels.
- ❖ 27.7% of the children surveyed in Class III were able to do subtraction, and 20.7% from Class V were able to do division.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has seen a drop in admission in government schools.
- ❖ While enrolment had increased in 2014 and 2022 from 67.2% to 75.7%, it has decreased to 68.7% in 2024.
- ❖ Private school enrolment has increased and reached the pre-COVID-19 level, at 31%.
- ❖ Enrolment in anganwadis has decreased marginally when compared to 2022.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has consistently exceeded the national average of 83.2% in training in foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN).
- ❖ Around 90.4% of the schools receiving a directive to focus on FLN.

Tamil Nadu's birth rate in 2024

- ❖ In 2024, the number of live births fell sharply to 8,42,412.
- ❖ In at least five years leading up to 2024, the number of live births stayed above the nine-lakh mark.
- ❖ The number of live births fell by 6.6% last year as the preceding year (2023) recorded 9,02,306 births.
- ❖ The State's birth rate stood at 10.9 in 2024 as against 11.7 the previous year.
- ❖ TN's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stands at 1.4, which is lower than the replacement level of 2.1.
- ❖ The decline in birth rates will lead to a decrease in the productive workforce and increasing the dependent populations.

Pongal Bird Count (PBC) 2025

- ❖ The Pongal Bird Count was coordinated by the Tamil Birders Network and Bird Count India.
- ❖ It is an annual bird monitoring programme for the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It was first conducted in 2015 and this year marks the 10th Bird Count.
- ❖ It aims to know the snapshot of distribution and abundance of the birds of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The number of birds is lower (332) during this year, where last year a total of 345 bird species spotted.



NATIONAL

Private Members' Bills in 17th Lok Sabha

- ❖ During the five-year term of the 17th Lok Sabha that ended in 2024, only 9.08 hours were spent on Private Members' Bills.
- ❖ The Rajya Sabha spent 27.01 hours on them during the period.
- ❖ The Lower House spent 16.43 hours and the Upper House 20.78 hours on Private Members' Resolution.
- ❖ In the two sessions of the 18th Lok Sabha, 0.15 hours was spent on such Bills, while the Rajya Sabha spent 0.62 hours.
- ❖ The Lower House has spent 1.98 hours on resolutions and the Upper House 2.09 hours.
- ❖ Till date, only 14 Private Members' Bills have been passed in both houses and received the assent.
- ❖ None have been passed in both Houses since 1970.

Supreme Court on coconut oil

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that small bottles of coconut oil should be classified as edible oil for taxation purposes.
- ❖ Also, the court had clarified that if coconut oil is packaged in small bottles and labelled for use on hair, it should be classified as hair oil under the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.
- ❖ Currently, under the GST regime, edible oil is taxed at 5%, while hair oil attracts 18%.
- ❖ Coconut oil marketed as edible oil must comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and use edible-grade plastic containers.

Extension of Agri schemes

- ❖ The Centre on January 1 extended two crop insurance schemes for one more year till 2025-26.
- ❖ They are Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).
- ❖ It has also created a separate ₹824.77 crore fund for technology infusion in the implementation of flagship schemes.



- ❖ The Cabinet has also approved the creation of a separate Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT) with a corpus of ₹824.77 crore.
- ❖ The fund will be utilised towards the funding technological initiatives under the scheme namely, YES-TECH, WINDS.
- ❖ The Yield Estimation System using Technology (YES-TECH) uses remote sensing technology for yield estimation with a minimum 30% weightage to technology - based yield estimates.
- ❖ The Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS) envisages setting up Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at the block level and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) at the panchayat level.

Good Governance Index 2023

- ❖ The Centre has decided not to release the Good Governance Index 2023.
- ❖ It is the biennial ranking of states and Union Territories (UTs) scheduled to be released during Good Governance Week (December 19 to December 25).
- ❖ It is now planning to publish the next edition in 2025.
- ❖ The index covers over 50 indicators across the sectors, including agriculture, economic governance, public health, and citizen-centric governance.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Gujarat got first place among big states in the 2019 and 2021 rankings, respectively.

Exchange list of nuclear installations 2025

- ❖ India and Pakistan on January 1 exchanged a list of their nuclear installations in continuation of an over-three-decade practice.
- ❖ Under a bilateral pact that prohibits the two sides from attacking each other's atomic facilities.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ The pact mandates the two countries to inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on January 1 of every calendar year.
- ❖ This is the 34th consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries.

UDISE+ 2023-24 Report

- ❖ Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report was released by the Union Ministry of Education.
- ❖ A total of 24.8 crore students enrolled in the academic year 2023-24.



- ❖ The total enrolment of students has been dropped by over a crore in 2023-24 as compared to the previous years
- ❖ In 2018-19, the total enrolment of students in school was 26.02 crore, which increased in 2019-20 by 1.6% and crossed 26.45 crore.
- ❖ This was an increase of more than 42 lakh students.
- ❖ The enrolments slightly fell in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20.
- ❖ In 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21, total enrolment increased by 0.76%.
- ❖ Even according to data from back in 2012-13, the total enrolment was 26.3 crore.
- ❖ In 2022-23, there was a drop in enrolment with 25.18 crore students being registered and there was a further fall in 2023-24 to 24.8 crore in the total enrolment.
- ❖ This was a drop of 6% (nearly 1.22 crore students) as compared to 2018-19.
- ❖ In 2018-19, 13.53 crore boys were enrolled, this saw a drop to 12.87 crore enrolments in 2023-24 a decrease of 4.87%.
- ❖ While enrolment of girls decreased from 12.49 crore in 2018-19 to 11.93 crore in 2023-24, a decrease of 4.48%.
- ❖ Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra saw among the highest drop in the enrolments.
- ❖ In Telangana, Punjab, West Bengal, Haryana, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Bihar, the percentage of available schools is significantly less as compared to enrolled students, indicating better utilisation of infrastructure
- ❖ The representation of minorities in total enrolment stood at around 20 per cent.
- ❖ Among the minorities, 79.6 per cent were Muslims, 10 per cent Christians, 6.9 per cent Sikhs, 2.2 per cent Buddhists, 1.3 per cent Jains, and 0.1 per cent Parsis.
- ❖ At the national level, 26.9 per cent students registered in UDISE+ were from the general category, 18 per cent from Scheduled Caste, 9.9 per cent from Scheduled Tribe, and 45.2 per cent from the Other Backward Class category.

Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024

- ❖ The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 09.08.2024 and by Rajya Sabha on 05.12.2024.
- ❖ As per the Central Government, the 1st day of January, 2025 the provisions of the said Act, shall come into force.
- ❖ This legislative reform aimed at modernizing India's aviation sector by re-enacting the Aircraft Act, 1934, in alignment with the contemporary needs and the global standards.



- ❖ The Act provides for the regulation and control of the design, manufacture, maintenance, possession, use, operation, sale, export and import of aircraft and connected matters.
- ❖ The legislation also removed redundancies and replace the Aircraft Act, 1934, which has been amended 21 times.

Tobacco farmers income 2024

- ❖ The country's tobacco exports are likely to register an over 8 per cent growth and cross Rs 13,000 crore this year.
- ❖ India is the second largest producer of tobacco in the world after China.
- ❖ It is also the fourth largest producer of Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in the world after China, Brazil and Zimbabwe.
- ❖ India is the second largest exporter of unmanufactured tobacco (quantity terms) after Brazil.
- ❖ Tobacco farmers income has also doubled over the last 5 years.

LEADS 2024

- ❖ The sixth LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) report of 2024 was unveiled by the Union Commerce and Industry Ministry.
- ❖ The index is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical the services necessary for promoting exports and economic growth.
- ❖ Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are among the 13 states and Union Territories that have been categorised as “achievers” in the logistics index chart 2024.
- ❖ 16 states and UTs including Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, have been categorised as “fast movers” in the report.
- ❖ The other states and UTs in the “achievers” category are Chandigarh, Haryana, Telangana, UP, Uttarakhand, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Those in the “aspirers” category include Kerala, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Ladakh.
- ❖ LEADS was conceived on the lines of the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) of the World Bank in 2018.

India's digital infrastructure in schools

- ❖ As per the latest UDISE Plus data, only 57.2% of schools in India have functional computers, and just 53.9% are equipped with Internet access.



- ❖ Over 90% of schools have the basic facilities like electricity and gender-specific toilets.
- ❖ However, more advanced amenities such as ramps with handrails (available in only 52.3% of schools), computers, and Internet access remain sparse.
- ❖ The enrolment landscape has seen changes, with total number of students down by 37 lakhs to 24.8 crore in 2023-24.
- ❖ Boys account for 51.9% of enrolments and girls 48.1%.
- ❖ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) reveals disparities across educational levels.
- ❖ While the preparatory level boasts a GER of 96.5%, the foundational level is at a mere 41.5%.
- ❖ Middle and secondary levels are at 89.5% and 66.5%, respectively.
- ❖ Dropout rates also rise sharply at higher education levels, from 5.2% in middle school to 10.9% at the secondary stage.
- ❖ Retention rates reflect a similar trend, plummeting from 85.4% at the preparatory level to just 45.6% at the secondary stage.

Hotan Prefecture

- ❖ India condemned the China over the announcement of two new counties - He'an and Hekang in China's Hotan Prefecture.
- ❖ Parts of jurisdiction of these so-called counties fall in India's Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ Hotan Prefecture is an administrative division in southwestern Xinjiang, China.
- ❖ Earlier in 2017, China had released the initial list of 'standardised' names for six locations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ In 2021, it released a second list comprising 15 places, with another list featuring the names of 11 additional places released in 2023.

SC Ruling on Non-Cognizable Offences

- ❖ The Supreme Court clarified the parameters for police investigations into serious and non-serious crimes.
- ❖ The Court has distinguished between cognizable and non-cognizable offences, emphasising the importance of safeguards in place for non-cognizable offences.
- ❖ The Section 167 of CrPC empowers a Magistrate to remand an accused person to different forms of custody during the investigation process.



- ❖ The Sub-section (2) of Section 167 is particularly significant as it lays down the procedure for remand and sets a maximum limit of 15 days for police custody.
- ❖ Cognizable offences allow police to initiate investigations without prior approval.
- ❖ Non-cognizable offences require a magistrate's order before police can act.
- ❖ This distinction is crucial for maintaining the balance between individual rights and state authority.

Income Inequality Trends in India 2023

- ❖ India's income inequality in 2023 remained higher than it was in the 1950s.
- ❖ The Gini coefficient for the country stood at 0.410 in 2023, up from 0.371 in 1955.
- ❖ Earlier, in 2021, due to the adverse impact of the pandemic, the Gini coefficient had risen to 0.528.
- ❖ The share of 'bottom 10 per cent' households income decline to 2.38 per cent in 2023 from 3 per cent in 1955.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the share of 'bottom 50 per cent' households rose slightly to 22.82 per cent from 22 per cent during the corresponding time period.
- ❖ The Gini coefficient measures the extent to which the distribution of income among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution.
- ❖ A Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while a coefficient of 1 implies perfect inequality.
- ❖ The higher the value will be the greater the income inequality.
- ❖ As per the World Inequality Database, the 'top 1 per cent' controlled 22.6 per cent of the national income in 2023.

Section 479 of BNSS 2023

- ❖ The Central government has written to all the states and Union Territories (UTs) to implement provisions of Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.
- ❖ The Section 479 (1) of the BNSS provides that if a person, during investigation, enquiry or trial under an offence, has undergone detention for a period of one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for that offence, he shall be released by the court on bail.
- ❖ But that should not be an offence for which the punishment of death or life imprisonment has been specified as one of the punishments under that law.



- ❖ Further, the Section 479 (3) of the BNSS casts a specific responsibility on the superintendent of the prison to make an application to the concerned court for release of aforementioned undertrial prisoners on bail or bond.

Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker inaugurated the “Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0” initiative.
- ❖ It provides an insight into the Constitution and parliamentary procedures to over 500 women representatives from Panchayati Raj institutions from across the country.
- ❖ The programme has brought together 502 elected women representatives from Scheduled Tribes of 22 States and Union Territories.

Sonobuoys - India and USA

- ❖ India and the U.S. announced cooperation on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys for Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It is a high-end technology that allows tracking submarines in the deep seas and oceans.
- ❖ A sonobuoy is a sophisticated device used primarily in maritime operations for underwater detection and monitoring.
- ❖ It is a key tool in anti-submarine warfare and oceanographic research.

Recalculation of India's coastline

- ❖ India's coastline expanded by almost half in just over five decades - from 7,516 km in 1970 to 11,098 km in 2023-24.
- ❖ States like Bengal, Gujarat and Goa adding significantly to their shoreline while Puducherry's shrunk by 10.4%.
- ❖ Gujarat's recalculated coastline has contributed the most to this growth, almost doubling from 1,214km in 1970 to 2,340km in the past 53 years.
- ❖ West Bengal has the highest increase in percentage terms during this period - up 357% from 157km to 721km.
- ❖ Nationally, the coastline increase compared to 1970 data stands at 47.6%.
- ❖ Gujarat retains its position as the state with the longest coastline.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, with a revised length of 1,068km (previously 906km), has overtaken Andhra Pradesh (1,053km), based on the new survey.
- ❖ Kerala reported the smallest increase, adding 30km (5%) to its coastline.



India Road Infrastructure Growth

- ❖ India's National Highway network has grown by 60% over the past decade.
- ❖ It was expanding from 91,287 km in 2014 to 146,195 km by 2024.
- ❖ This was making it the second-largest road network globally.
- ❖ In addition, high-speed corridors have surged from 93 km to 2,474 km.
- ❖ The Externally Aided Projects have made remarkable progress, with 2,540 km completed out of the planned 3,105 km as of November 30, 2024.

PMEGP - Rural Job Creation

- ❖ The rural enterprises supported under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) have outperformed their urban counterparts in generating employment.
- ❖ The Micro enterprises established in rural areas across India have created an estimated 8.19 jobs per unit.
- ❖ It was surpassing the 8.07 jobs per unit generated by urban enterprises.
- ❖ Of the total 80.52 lakh estimated jobs created under PMEGP during this period, a substantial 64.55 lakh jobs were generated in rural areas.
- ❖ Out of the total 9.86 lakh units assisted, 79.89 per cent were in rural areas, while only 20.11 per cent were in urban areas.

INS Vagsheer 2025

- ❖ INS Vagsheer has joined the Indian navy.
- ❖ The INS Vagsheer, named after the deep-sea predator Sand Fish, represents India's resolve to counter growing threats in its backyard.
- ❖ It is designed as a hunter-killer submarine under Project 75.
- ❖ It is the sixth and final submarine of the Scorpene-class under this Project.
- ❖ The first submarine, INS Kalvari, was commissioned in December 2017, followed by Khanderi, Karanj, Vela, and Vagir.

SC on Right to Access to Justice

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that the right to access courts is not absolute and must be exercised responsibly.
- ❖ The Court observed that the Petitioner had repeatedly misused judicial remedies to challenge his dismissal from service over 11 years.



- ❖ In 2016, the Constitution Bench of the SC held that the access to Justice is a Fundamental Right guaranteed to citizens by Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Mission Mausam 2025

- ❖ The 'Mission Mausam' was inaugurated to transforming India into a weather-ready and climate-smart nation.
- ❖ The launch coincides with the 150th Foundation Day celebrations of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ It aims to tackle the growing impact of climate change on weather patterns.
- ❖ It enhances the forecast accuracy by 5-10 per cent and extend predictions to panchayat levels with a 10–15-day lead time.

Nag Mk-2 test

- ❖ DRDO has successfully conducted field evaluation trials of India's indigenous Anti-Tank Missile - Nag Mark 2.
- ❖ Nag Mark-2 is the third-generation Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile.
- ❖ Its fire-and-forget technology enables the operators to lock onto targets before launch, ensuring precision strikes even in complex battlefield scenarios.

30 GW Green Energy in 2024

- ❖ India added about 30 GW (Gigawatt) of new renewable energy capacity last year.
- ❖ It is 113 percent higher compared to 13.75 GW added in 2023.
- ❖ With the expansion, India's total renewable energy capacity has reached 218 GW.
- ❖ India has set a target of developing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

National Turmeric Board 2025

- ❖ The National Turmeric Board (NTB) was inaugurated recently in Nizamabad of Telangana as headquarters and Ganga Reddy was its first chairperson
- ❖ Turmeric, known as 'Golden Spice', are spread across Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and others.
- ❖ India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world with more than 62% share of world trade.



- ❖ During 2023-24, 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products valued at \$226.5 million was exported.
- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce will be the nodal department providing funds and infrastructure for the NTB.

EmpowHER Biz Initiative

- ❖ Recently, the EmpowHER Biz – Sapno Ki Udaan was launched to boost women entrepreneurship in retail.
- ❖ The program is being launched for women from Delhi NCR, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.

SC on Conjugal Rights

- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that the proceedings on the restitution of conjugal rights and those on maintenance are “altogether independent” and “not directly or even indirectly connected”.
- ❖ Also, Husband must continue to pay maintenance to his wife even if she refuses to comply with a decree for the restitution of conjugal rights.
- ❖ Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (HMA) talks about the restitution of conjugal rights.

SC on 106th amendment

- ❖ The Supreme Court dismissed petitions filed in 2023 which challenged provisions of the 106th amendment act.
- ❖ This law provides 33% reservation for the women in the Lok Sabha, the State legislative assemblies, and the Delhi legislative assembly.
- ❖ The Court remarked that there is no question of violation of fundamental rights least Article 14 and therefore, Article 32 jurisdiction will not applicable for this.

Open Market sale scheme policy 2025

- ❖ The Centre announced a revision in the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS(D)] policy for the year 2024-25.
- ❖ This policy aims to enhance food security and ensure efficient distribution of rice to various stakeholders.



iSNR and INR Konnect

- ❖ The Rubber Board has announced two new projects - iSNR and INR Konnect.
- ❖ They were unveiled during the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Rubber Act, 1947.
- ❖ The iSNR (Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber) aims at aligning Indian rubber production with the stringent European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) standards.
- ❖ INR Konnect, a web-based platform, is designed to connect growers of untapped rubber holdings with interested adopters to maximise plantation productivity.
- ❖ India is the third-largest producer of natural rubber globally, following Thailand (1st) and Indonesia (2nd).
- ❖ India is the fourth-largest consumer of natural rubber.
- ❖ Kerala accounts for over 90% of India's natural rubber production.
- ❖ Other states include Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura, Assam, and Meghalaya.

PRABHAAV Factbook and Bharat Startup Challenge

- ❖ PRABHAAV Factbook (Powering a Resilient and Agile Bharat for the Advancement of Visionary Startups) was launched recently.
- ❖ It is the ultimate guide to India's thriving startup ecosystem and its growth story from 2016-2024.
- ❖ PRABHAAV captures the achievements of every region.
- ❖ Bharat Startup Challenge aims to unleash 75 challenges across various sectors.
- ❖ The challenge will see 20 industry leaders and innovators invite thinkers to solve business challenges.

NBM 2.0 & Sanchar Saathi App

- ❖ The Centre has launched the Sanchar Saathi Mobile App, National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0.
- ❖ The Sanchar Saathi Mobile App is a user-friendly platform designed to fortify telecom security and empower citizens.
- ❖ The NBM 2.0 aims to connect 1.7 lakh villages with broadband.

AnSI and TRIs' findings

- ❖ The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) have, for the first time, comprehensively categorised 268 Denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes that previous commissions believed had never been classified.



- ❖ The three-year-long study was commissioned by a NITI Aayog panel.
- ❖ It has recommended the inclusion of 179 of these communities in SC, ST, and OBCs (Central) lists of 26 States and union territories.
- ❖ At least 85 of these are being recommended as fresh additions to these lists.
- ❖ Among the fresh additions, 46 communities have been recommended for OBC status, 29 for SC status, and 10 for Scheduled Tribe status.
- ❖ The greatest number of fresh additions were recommended for Uttar Pradesh (19), followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan at eight each.
- ❖ The study had also concluded that 63 communities (over 20%) studied were “not traceable” anymore.

Mission SCOT

- ❖ Indian space startup Digantara launched the Space Camera for Object Tracking (SCOT) mission.
- ❖ Digantara launched its SCOT satellite aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission recently.
- ❖ Mission SCOT is the world's first commercial Space Situational Awareness (SSA) satellite.
- ❖ It will monitor Low Earth Orbit (LEO) with improved efficiency.

HAL's Combat Air Teaming System

- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully conducted the engine ground run of a full-scale demonstrator, Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) – Warrior.
- ❖ CATS-Warrior is a stealth UCAV designed to accompany manned fighter jets on missions as a loyal wingman platform.
- ❖ It can carry the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAAWs) and Next-Generation Close Combat Missiles (NG CCMs).
- ❖ CATS-Hunter is an air-launched low-observable cruise missile capable of the precision strikes deep inside enemy territory.
- ❖ CATS-Infinity Pseudo Satellite is an ultra-high-altitude, solar-powered pseudo satellite designed to operate at an altitude of approximately 70,000 feet.



6-point plan to boost economic ties

- ❖ India outlined six broad principles for building a mutually beneficial partnership between India and the European Union.
- ❖ The talks were aimed at setting up a new framework for an India-European Union strategic agenda in the area of trade and investment.
- ❖ This economic relationship will integrate the combined market currently estimated at over \$24 trillion, bringing unprecedented opportunities for the 2 billion people of India and the European Union.

Assessment of National Health Mission (NHM)

- ❖ In FY 2021-22, the NHM has facilitated the engagement of 2.69 lakh additional healthcare workers.
- ❖ Additionally, 90,740 community health officers (CHOs) were engaged.
- ❖ Under NHM, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by 83% since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45%.
- ❖ Similarly, the Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) has decreased from 45 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 32 in 2020.
- ❖ It demonstrates a higher decline of 75% in the reduction of the mortality when compared with the global reduction of 60% since 1990.
- ❖ Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has fallen from 39 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 28 in 2020.
- ❖ Moreover, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) decreased from 2.3 in 2015 to 2.0 in 2020.
- ❖ The incidence of TB has reduced from 237 per 1,00,000 population in 2015 to 195 in 2023, and the mortality rate has decreased from 28 to 22 in the same period.
- ❖ In 2021, malaria cases and deaths declined by 13.28% and 3.22%, respectively, when compared with 2020.

NITI Aayog Fiscal health Index 2025

- ❖ Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Jharkhand have emerged as the top-performing 'achievers' among the States listed in NITI Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index (FHI) report.
- ❖ The report is titled 'Fiscal Health Index 2025' ranked States for 2022-23, covering 18 major States.
- ❖ Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala were the worst-performing States in the Index.



- ❖ Each one is focusing significant fiscal challenges, and listed under 'aspirational' category.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka are listed under 'front-runners' category.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan and Haryana were classified as performers.

India Renewable Energy Achievement 2024

- ❖ India achieved a record-breaking milestone in 2024 with the addition of 24.5 GW of solar capacity and 3.4 GW of wind capacity.
- ❖ India's total non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity to 217.62 GW as of January 2025.
- ❖ India is on track to meet its goal of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030.
- ❖ In 2024, India saw a more than twofold increase in solar installations and a 21% rise in wind installations compared to 2023.
- ❖ Solar energy now accounts for 47% of India's total installed renewable energy capacity.
- ❖ The rooftop solar sector grew by 53%, adding 4.59 GW of new capacity.
- ❖ Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are accounting for 98% of the new 3.4 GW capacity of Wind energy.

India in Eurodrone

- ❖ India has, as an observer state, officially joined the Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (MALE RPAS) or the Eurodrone programme.
- ❖ Eurodrone is a four-nation initiative involving Germany, France, Italy, and Spain.
- ❖ The Eurodrone is a remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS).

Unified Pension Scheme implementation

- ❖ The central government officially issued a gazette notification for the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).
- ❖ The scheme will come into effect on April 1, 2025.
- ❖ It aims to strike a balance between the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and the National Pension Scheme (NPS).
- ❖ It will provide guaranteed pensions to government employees after retirement to ensure their financial security.



SANJAY Battlefield Surveillance System

- ❖ The Centre flagged off 'Sanjay', a battlefield surveillance system (BSS), which will be inducted into the Indian Army.
- ❖ SANJAY is an automated system which integrates the inputs from all ground and aerial battlefield sensors.

India's first Mini Budget

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1, marking her eighth consecutive budget.
- ❖ A 'Mini Budget' is a special-occasion budgetary proposal.
- ❖ It is presented when an interim budget has already been presented in an election year by the outgoing government and the new government presents another in the same year.
- ❖ The first Mini Budget in the India's history was presented on November 30, 1956 by T.T. Krishnamachari, India's fourth Finance Minister.
- ❖ A decade later and the second Mini Budget was also presented by him in August 1965.

ASER 2024

- ❖ The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 was released by the NGO Pratham Foundation.
- ❖ The percentage of Class 3 children who can perform at least subtraction at the basic arithmetic level was 33.7% in 2024, up from 25.9% in 2022.
- ❖ The percentage of Class 5 children who can now read a text at the Class 2 level was 44.8% in 2024, up from 38.5% in 2022.
- ❖ From 72.4% in 2018 to 73% in 2022 to 75.9% in 2024, the average student attendance rose.
- ❖ Meanwhile, from 85.1% in 2018, the average teacher attendance rose to 86.8% in 2022 and 87.5% in 2024.
- ❖ From 44% in 2022 to 52.1% in 2024, the percentage of government primary schools with less than 60 enrolled kids increased significantly.
- ❖ Among the older teenagers aged 14 years to 16 years, 89% have access to the smartphones at home.
- ❖ Among 3-year-olds, enrollment in pre-primary institutions increased from 68.1% in 2018 to 75.8% in 2022 to 77.4% in 2024.



- ❖ Among 4-year-olds, the All-India figure for enrollment in pre-primary institutions increased from 76% in 2018 to 82% in 2022 to 83.3% in 2024.
- ❖ Among 5-year-olds, this figure also showed big increases, rising from 58.5% in 2018 to 62.2% in 2022 to 71.4% in 2024.
- ❖ Across all states, enrolment of 6-14 age group is above 95% in 2024.
- ❖ By 2024, the all-India level Government school enrolment declined to 66.8%.
- ❖ The proportion of 15-16-year-old children who are not enrolled in school 7.9% in 2024 at all-India level.
- ❖ The fraction of schools with useable girls' toilets increased from 66.4% in 2018 to 68.4% in 2022 to 72% in 2024.
- ❖ In 2024, 66.2% schools have a playground, similar to 68.9% in 2022 and 66.5% in 2018.

75th year of ECI

- ❖ The Election Commission celebrates 75 years of its dedicated service to the nation on 25th January.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India, established on January 25, 1950, a day before India became a Republic.
- ❖ Election Commission of India is a permanent Constitutional Body.

75 years of supreme court

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India, established on January 28, 1950, has completed 75 years of service.
- ❖ India had the Federal Court created under the Government of India Act of 1935.

India and Cape Town Convention

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the "Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2024 (Cape Town Convention Bill)".
- ❖ The Cape Town Convention (CTC) Bill 2018 aims to implement the treaty India had signed in 2008.
- ❖ It basically assures lessors that their expensive assets like aircraft and engines will not get stuck here when Indian carriers default on paying rentals or go belly up.



National Critical Mineral Mission 2025

- ❖ The government approved a ₹16,300-crore National Critical Mineral Mission.
- ❖ It is envisaging a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore spread over seven years.
- ❖ It aims to achieve the self-reliance and accelerate India's journey towards green energy transition.
- ❖ Public sector enterprises are expected to contribute ₹18,000 crore to the mission.
- ❖ The Critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth are essential raw materials required to fuel the growth of rapidly growing clean energy technologies.
- ❖ 24 critical minerals have been identified.
- ❖ The NCMM will encompass all stages of the value chain, including the mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from the end-of-life products.
- ❖ The mission will intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.
- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken 368 exploration projects for critical minerals over the past three years.
- ❖ 195 projects are currently underway in 2024-25.
- ❖ In 2025-26, GSI will take up 227 projects for various critical minerals.

INTERNATIONAL

Denmark Strait Cataract

- ❖ The Denmark Strait cataract holds the title of the largest waterfall on Earth, with a vertical drop of 11,500 feet.
- ❖ This is about three times the height of Angel Falls, the tallest land-based waterfall.
- ❖ This immense phenomenon spans 300 miles (480 kilometers) in width and operates underwater.
- ❖ It is hidden beneath the Arctic waters between Greenland and Iceland.
- ❖ The cataract's formation dates back to the last ice age, between 17,500 and 11,500 years ago.



Trial run of new Suez Canal channel extension

- ❖ Egypt had successfully tested a new 10 km channel near the southern end of the Suez Canal.
- ❖ The latest expansion extends the total length of the canal's two-way section to 82 km from 72 km, making the canal 193 km long.
- ❖ During the trial run two ships passed through a new stretch of the canal's two-way section without incident.

China's CR450 Bullet Train

- ❖ China has revealed a prototype of its next generation high-speed train- CR450.
- ❖ It had reached test speeds as high as 450 Km (281 miles) per hour and an operational speed of 400 Km (248.5 miles) per hour.
- ❖ Once in commercial service, it could be the fastest high-speed train in the world, surpassing China's current CR400 model, which debuted in 2017.

Aging Society 2024

- ❖ According to a 143-nation survey, India appears far from the prepared, ranking 123rd in its readiness to tackle the challenges of an aging population.
- ❖ Switzerland emerged as the readiest country, followed by Norway and Denmark.
- ❖ Singapore ranked 10th—first among Asian countries—while the UK was ranked 14, followed by Japan (15), the US (24), and China (46).
- ❖ India is at present the youngest nation in the world, with over 50% of its population below the age of 25 and over 65% below the age of 35.
- ❖ At present, as per the 'Nature Aging', India's neighbours fared relatively better—Bangladesh (86), Sri Lanka (94), Nepal (102), and Pakistan (118).
- ❖ India ranked 106 on the universal healthcare access.

20 years of QUAD

- ❖ The foreign ministers of India, Australia, Japan and the United States issued a joint statement on December 31 to mark the “20th anniversary of the Quad Cooperation”.
- ❖ The four had come together “in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami” and its object was “service to the people of this region.”
- ❖ The Quad formally emerged in 2007, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposing the idea.



- ❖ The first official Quad talks were held in the Philippines in 2017.
- ❖ Australia withdrew in 2008 due to Chinese pressure and regional tensions and returned in 2018.

HMPV Outbreak in China

- ❖ China is witnessing a concerning rise in the respiratory illnesses, with Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV).
- ❖ The respiratory infections caused by influenza A, Mycoplasma pneumoniae.
- ❖ It affects particularly among children under the age of 14.
- ❖ First identified in 2001, HMPV belongs to the Pneumoviridae family, closely related to the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

UN environmental summits 2024

- ❖ The United Nations' efforts to address critical environmental challenges have hit multiple roadblocks last year, with four key summits failing to deliver meaningful outcomes.
- ❖ They are - in Colombia on biodiversity, Azerbaijan on climate, Saudi Arabia on land degradation, and South Korea on plastics.
- ❖ The Colombia talks on biodiversity conservation faltered as countries failed to agree on financing mechanisms to support sustainable land-use practices.
- ❖ In Azerbaijan, countries were divided over the pledge to transition away from fossil fuels, a decision made during the last UN climate summit.
- ❖ In Saudi Arabia, the industrialised nations clashed with African countries over the establishment of a legally binding drought protocol.
- ❖ The plastic pollution talks in South Korea also brought to the fore a significant divide among participating nations.

Justin Trudeau resignation

- ❖ Justin Trudeau resigned as the leader of his Liberal Party of Canada effectively ending his nine-year tenure as Canada's Prime Minister too.
- ❖ He took office on November 4, 2015, after leading the Liberal Party to victory in that year's federal elections.
- ❖ He became the second-youngest prime minister in Canada's history.
- ❖ He is the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada and the son of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.



2025 Tibet-Nepal Earthquake

- ❖ An earthquake of 7.1 magnitude hit Tibet near the Nepalese border.
- ❖ The earthquake was triggered by a rupture in the Lhasa block - an area under significant tectonic stress.
- ❖ This area is a hotspot for seismic activity due to the ongoing collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.

Polar Vortex and Winter Storms in US 2025

- ❖ The United States has been experiencing severe winter storms is caused by the expansion of the polar vortex.
- ❖ The polar vortex primarily affects the countries situated in the Northern Hemisphere's mid to high latitudes.
- ❖ The polar vortex spins anticlockwise around the North Pole with wind speeds of about 155mph (250km/h).
- ❖ There are two types of polar vortexes – tropospheric and stratospheric.
- ❖ The tropospheric polar vortex occurs at the lowest layer of the atmosphere where most weather phenomena take place.
- ❖ It extends from the surface up to about 10 km to 15 km
- ❖ The vortex creates milder weather across northern latitudes.
- ❖ The stratospheric polar vortex occurs at around 15 km to 50 km high.
- ❖ Unlike the tropospheric polar vortex, the stratospheric polar vortex disappears during the summer and is the strongest during the autumn.

US-China Science Agreement

- ❖ China and the U.S. agreed to extend the Agreement between China and USA on Co-operation in Science and Technology for an additional five years.
- ❖ The Agreement was first signed on January 31, 1979, by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and U.S. president Jimmy Carter.
- ❖ This agreement facilitates the joint research, mobility between the countries for students and scientists, and encourage institutional cooperation, and set up bilateral research centers.

First ever silver notice by Interpol

- ❖ The Interpol has issued its first Silver Notice to locate assets laundered across borders as part of a pilot project.



- ❖ The first Silver Notice on the request of Italy which has sought information about the assets of a senior mafia member.
- ❖ The pilot project has participation from 52 members including India.
- ❖ At present, the Interpol has eight types of colour-coded notices which allows a member country to seek specific kind of information worldwide.
- ❖ The Red Notice allows a country to request the detention of fugitive living in another country.
- ❖ The Yellow Notice helps locate missing persons, often minors, or identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- ❖ The Blue Notice collects additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
- ❖ The Black Notice is issued to seek information on unidentified bodies.
- ❖ The Green Notice is for providing warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- ❖ The Orange Notice warns of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- ❖ The Purple Notice seeks or provides information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

Mount Ibu – Indonesia

- ❖ Mount Ibu, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, erupted recently.
- ❖ Mount Ibu has a history of intense activity, recording over 2,000 eruptions in 2023 alone.
- ❖ The country boasts 127 active volcanoes, which pose risks and attract tourists.

UN-CEBD member

- ❖ India has joined the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD).
- ❖ The UN-CEBD was created in 2014 to further investigate the benefits and the challenges of Big Data.
- ❖ India will contribute to shaping global standards and practices in harnessing Big Data and data science for official statistical purposes.
- ❖ UN-CEBD consists of 31 member states and 16 international organizations (Including India).



Global Importance of Greenland

- ❖ Greenland is the world's largest island and geographically part of North America.
- ❖ This Arctic Island is one of Denmark's two autonomous territories, the other one being the Faroe Islands.
- ❖ It is 80 percent covered in snow and is around 3,000km (1,864 miles) from the US capital.
- ❖ Greenland is not a member state of the European Union but part of NATO.

World's First CAES system

- ❖ World's first 300-megawatt compressed air energy storage (CAES) demonstration project, "Nengchu-1," has achieved full capacity grid connection in China.
- ❖ The project has set three world records in terms of the single-unit power, energy storage scale and energy conversion efficiency.
- ❖ CAES is an emerging technology has advantages, like short construction periods, high power output, long duration, safety and longevity.

Thailand's ban Plastic Waste Imports

- ❖ Thailand has become the latest country to take on the global plastic waste crisis by banning imports of plastic waste.
- ❖ Since 2018, Thailand has been a leading importer of plastic waste from developed nations such as the US, United Kingdom and Japan.
- ❖ Between 2018 and 2021, the country imported more than 1.1 million tonnes of plastic scraps.
- ❖ In 2023, Japan alone exported about 50 million kilogrammes (50,000 tonnes) of plastic waste to Thailand.

US Entity List update 2025

- ❖ The US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) added 11 entities to its restrictive Entity List related to national security.
- ❖ Additionally, the BIS removed three Indian entities - Indian Rare Earths, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center (IGCAR), and Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC)-from the Entity List.
- ❖ The Entity List is a powerful tool that can be used to shape behavior that advances U.S. national security and global cooperation.



Kampala Declaration 2025

- ❖ The African Union Summit on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) concluded in Kampala, Uganda.
- ❖ The event adopted the transformative Kampala Declaration for Africa's agri-food systems from 2026 to 2035.
- ❖ The new declaration is the successor to the Malabo Declaration, whose implementation period concludes this year.
- ❖ During the summit, African leaders also endorsed the groundbreaking ten-year CAADP action plan (2026–2035)
- ❖ The CAADP was officially launched in July 2003 during the Second Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique.
- ❖ At this session, the Maputo Declaration on the Agriculture and Food Security was adopted.
- ❖ It is urging the AU Member States to allocate at least 10 per cent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development and to achieve annual agricultural productivity growth of at least 6 per cent.

Partner country of BRICS

- ❖ Nigeria has been admitted as a “partner country” of the BRICS bloc of developing economies.
- ❖ Nigeria becomes the ninth BRICS partner country, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ BRICS was formed by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009, with South Africa added in 2010.
- ❖ In 2023, the bloc added Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the UAE, while Saudi Arabia has been invited to join.
- ❖ Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia have formally applied to become the BRICS members.

47th US President

- ❖ Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States.
- ❖ The ceremony, held at U.S. Capitol (Washington), moved indoors for the first time in 40 years due to very low temperatures.
- ❖ Trump has become the first US President since the 19th century to win a second term after losing re-election.



US withdrawal from Paris climate agreement

- ❖ President Donald Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement.
- ❖ US last month offered a plan to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by more than 60% by 2035.

Trump's first executive orders

- ❖ US President Donald Trump issued a flurry of executive orders and directives as soon after taking oath of office.
- ❖ He has pardoned about 1,500 people who stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.
- ❖ He signed orders declaring illegal immigration at the US-Mexico border a national emergency, designating criminal cartels as terrorist organisations.
- ❖ On his first day in office, the President Trump revoked as many as 78 executive actions of the previous Biden administration.
- ❖ He has also fulfilled his campaign promise to pull the US out of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The US is the WHO's top donor, contributing about \$130 million per year to help cover its global health preparedness and response.
- ❖ He also signed a withdrawal from the Paris climate treaty.
- ❖ He signed orders freezing government hiring and new federal regulations.
- ❖ He has declared a national energy emergency, promising to fill up strategic oil reserves and export US energy all over the world.
- ❖ He imposed 25 per cent tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting February 1.
- ❖ He signed an order to Renaming the 'Gulf of Mexico' as the 'Gulf of America.'
- ❖ He also ordered reverting Mount Denali's name back to 'Mount McKinley.'
- ❖ He terminated the CBP One app, which had facilitated legal entry for nearly 1 million migrants under Biden's administration.
- ❖ He has reversed the transgender protections by declaring the federal government will recognize only two biological sexes (male and female).
- ❖ His first term as 45th President of United States, Trump had signed 220 executive orders.



World's Longest Tunnel – China

- ❖ China has completed the construction of the world's very longest express tunnel through the Tianshan Mountains.
- ❖ The Tianshan Shengli Tunnel is just over 22 kilometers (14 miles) and will reduce the travel time through the mountain range in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, from three hours to only 20 minutes.
- ❖ It is one of the longest stretches of mountains in the world.

Project Stargate

- ❖ OpenAI, Oracle, SoftBank and MGX have united for setting up the world's largest AI project - 'Stargate'.
- ❖ It aims to propel the US into global leadership in AI advancements.

Global FDI Decline in 2024

- ❖ Global foreign direct investments (FDI) dipped by eight per cent in 2024.
- ❖ This assessment was released by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ In developing economies, FDI was decreased by 2%.
- ❖ FDI related to the SDGs fell by 11% in 2024.
- ❖ FDI into China decreased by 29%, following its 2023 downward trend.
- ❖ But India saw a rise of 13% in FDI, increasing in both numbers and overall value.
- ❖ For ASEAN group FDI grew by just 2%.

7 new members into WEF's GPAP

- ❖ The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) is an initiative launched by the World Economic Forum.
- ❖ It has recently reached a significant milestone by expanding its network to include 25 countries.
- ❖ Seven new countries — Angola, Bangladesh, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Senegal, and Tanzania — have joined this collaborative effort.

US and OECD Global Tax Deal

- ❖ Donald Trump issued an executive order which effectively pulled the US out of the OECD Global Tax Deal



- ❖ The Global Tax Deal was designed to ensure that multinational corporations paid a fair share of taxes in the countries where they operate.
- ❖ The European Union, Britain and other countries have adopted the 15% global corporate minimum tax
- ❖ The U.S. has a roughly 10% global minimum tax, part of Trump's landmark 2017 tax cut package.

75 years of diplomatic ties between India and China

- ❖ India and China agreed to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and direct flights between the two nations in 2025.
- ❖ It marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between New Delhi and Beijing.
- ❖ The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra as well as direct flights between the two countries were suspended in 2020.
- ❖ Earlier in December 2024, India and China agreed on six points to resolve the border issue.
- ❖ The trade volume between India and China reached 126.6 billion USD in the first 11 months of 2024, showing a 1.9 percent year-on-year growth.
- ❖ The Chinese Embassy was issuing 280,000 visas to Indians last year.

ECONOMY

India's Coffee Exports in FY24

- ❖ India's coffee exports rose to a record high of \$1,146.9 million between April and November in FY24.
- ❖ It was \$803.8 million during the same period last year, registering a 29 per cent rise.
- ❖ This figure is nearly double the exports during the same period in FY21, which stood at \$460 million.
- ❖ Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu and Hassan in Karnataka with 2,48,020 MTs during 2022-23 is the largest producer of Arabica and Robusta coffee.
- ❖ Kerala comes a distinct second at 72,425 MTs followed by Tamil Nadu at 18,700 MTs.



India's bananas export 2023-24

- ❖ India has set a target of \$1 billion banana exports in the coming years.
- ❖ At present, the exports of most of the fruits, including banana, from India are happening by air route.
- ❖ India exported bananas worth \$ 300 million in 2023-24.
- ❖ It was \$ 176 million in 2022-23.
- ❖ The country's share in global banana exports has expanded from a mere 0.21 per cent in 2013 to 1.74 per cent in 2023.

BAANKNET Portal

- ❖ The government launched a revamped e-auction portal 'Baanknet'.
- ❖ It will consolidate information on all properties that put up for e-auction by public sector banks (PSBs).
- ❖ The portal is a one-stop destination for buyers and investor offering a wide range of properties.

RBI's Gold Accumulation

- ❖ The Central banks around the world collectively, in November 2024, added 53 tonnes of gold to their reserves.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India's addition was 8 tonnes.
- ❖ This lifted the year-to-date buying to 73 tonnes and total gold holdings to 876 tonnes.
- ❖ RBI is maintaining its position as the second largest buyer in 2024, after Poland.

Indian Microfinance Sector in 2024

- ❖ The micro finance institutions (MFIs) industry in India has witnessed a high growth of more than 2,176 per cent in the past 12 years.
- ❖ Its business was climbing from Rs 17,264 crore in March 2012 to Rs 3.93 lakh crore as of November 2024.
- ❖ MFIs operate across 723 districts, including 111 aspirational districts, covering 28 states and 8 Union Territories.
- ❖ They cater to the financial needs of nearly 8 crore borrowers, contributing 2.03 per cent to the gross value added (GVA) to India's GDP and supporting 1.3 crore jobs.



Annual India fintech report 2024

- ❖ India ranked third globally in terms of funding received in the fintech segment only after the US and the UK.
- ❖ The fintech sector experienced a notable decline in funding in 2024, with a total of USD 1.9 billion raised.
- ❖ This represents a 33 per cent decrease from the USD 2.8 billion secured in 2023.
- ❖ The sector had raised USD 5.6 billion in 2022.
- ❖ The year 2024 witnessed the emergence of two unicorns, Money View and Perfios.

State Revenue Dependency Trends

- ❖ Over the last decade, States have been relying more and more on transfers and grants from the Centre.
- ❖ In the last decade (FY16 to FY25), 23-30% of the total revenue of States was collected from the Centre as transfers.
- ❖ However, in the 2000s and the first half of 2010, the share was 20-24%.
- ❖ Also, close to 65-70% of the non-tax revenue of States was collected from the Centre as grants in the last decade compared to the 2000s.
- ❖ Many States are not efficiently collecting taxes using avenues at their disposal.
- ❖ For Tamil Nadu, the own tax revenue to GSDP ratio has gradually declined from 7.72% in FY13-15 to 6.17% in FY 22-24.
- ❖ This has also been the case in Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh, too.
- ❖ While the ratio has risen in Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, and Uttarakhand, it has remained stagnant in other States.

India's digital economy 2024-25

- ❖ India's digital economy will grow twice as fast as the rest of the economy.
- ❖ It constitutes 13.42% of the national income by the end of 2024-25, as against 11.74% in 2022-23.
- ❖ The report was prepared by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).
- ❖ By 2030, India's digital economy will account for nearly a fifth of overall GDP.
- ❖ The digital economy in 2022-23 was equivalent to ₹28.94 lakh crore (~\$368 billion) in (GVA) and ₹31.64 lakh crore (~\$402 billion) in GDP.



Coffee production in India 2023-24

- ❖ India has emerged as the world's seventh-largest coffee producer, with exports reaching \$1.29 billion in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ This is almost double the \$719.42 million recorded in 2020-21.
- ❖ Karnataka leads in production, contributing 248,020 million tonnes in 2022-23, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Sachetisation Plan

- ❖ SEBI floated a consultation paper on 'sachetisation' of mutual funds.
- ❖ It aims to increase the reach and facilitate participation from low-income groups in mutual funds.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO - SpaDeX mission 2024

- ❖ ISRO has achieved another milestone with the successful launch of the PSLV-C60 rocket.
- ❖ It was carrying the pioneering Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX).
- ❖ The mission deployed two spacecraft—SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target).
- ❖ It aims to develop and demonstrate India's capabilities in the space docking using two small spacecrafts.

New Treatment for Crohn's Disease

- ❖ About 10 million people globally live with the inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.
- ❖ Mirikizumab is a drug currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of ulcerative colitis.
- ❖ Researchers revealed that, the long-term efficacy and safety of Mirikizumab for not only ulcerative colitis, but also Crohn's disease.
- ❖ Inflammation from ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease can lead to disruptive symptoms.



PSLV-C60 Mission

- ❖ This mission enables the ten Indian space start-up companies to fly their instruments into space.
- ❖ It facilitated the successful establishment and the operationalisation of 10 hosted payloads from Non-Government Entities (NGEs) on board the POEM-4 module of the PSLV-C60/SPADEX mission.
- ❖ The last stage of the PSLV has been re-purposed to last a few months in space and named PS4-Orbital Experiment Module (POEM).
- ❖ The PSLV POEM is a practical solution deployed by ISRO.
- ❖ It allows Indian start-ups, academic institutions, and research organizations to test their space technologies without the need to launch entire satellites.

India – Japan collaboration for space debris

- ❖ The Space startups in Japan and India had agreed to jointly study using laser-equipped satellites to remove debris from orbit.
- ❖ This is an experimental approach to the increasingly imminent problem of orbital congestion.
- ❖ Tokyo-based Orbital Lasers and Indian robotics company InspeCity would study business opportunities for in-space services.
- ❖ It includes de-orbiting a defunct satellite and extending a spacecraft's life.

Cubic Kilometre Neutrino Telescope (KM3NeT)

- ❖ Recently, the scientists have deployed 2 telescopes under the Mediterranean Sea to detect high-energy neutrinos.
- ❖ It aims study high-energy neutrinos also known as ghost particles that could reveal secrets of the cosmos.

CROPS experiment of ISRO

- ❖ ISRO has achieved a remarkable milestone with its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS) aboard the PSLV-C60 mission.
- ❖ The cowpea seeds sent into space have successfully sprouted their first leaves.
- ❖ It was marking a significant advancement in understanding plant growth in micro gravity conditions.
- ❖ The CROPS experiment is designed to study how the plants adapt and grow in the unique environment of space.



India's first space robotic arm demo

- ❖ ISRO has successfully operated its first space robotic arm aboard the POEM4 platform in space.
- ❖ The robotic arm is known as the Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD).
- ❖ The RRM-TD is India's first space robotic manipulator with walking capability.

First meteor shower 2025

- ❖ The Quadrantid meteor shower occurs every year in early January.
- ❖ It is among one of the most intense annual meteor displays, and has a brief peak lasting only a few hours.
- ❖ It branches from the northeast corner of the Boötes constellation.
- ❖ The name Quadrantids comes from the now obsolete constellation Quadrans Muralis.
- ❖ The meteor shower was observed for the first time in the 1830s by Belgian astronomer Adolphe Quetelet.

Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility

- ❖ IIT Madras has launched the Asia's largest Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility that can cater to Indian research and industry requirements.
- ❖ This can address challenging problems in Indian ports, waterways and coastal Engineering.
- ❖ It is a multi-directional shallow wave basin that can handle complex wave and current interactions.
- ❖ The basin can be used for harbour, coastal, offshore, inland waterways and the shallow water manoeuvring-related projects.

IIT Ropar's new Bluetooth system

- ❖ IIT Ropar launched its state-of-the-art AWaDH's Bluetooth Low Energy Gateway and Node System.
- ❖ This first-of-its-kind cost-effective system connects Bluetooth-enabled sensors to cloud platforms.
- ❖ It provides seamless data transmission, real-time environmental monitoring, and advanced analytics across diverse sectors such as agriculture, logistics, and environmental resilience.



- ❖ It supports data transmission up to 1 km in line-of-sight (LOS) scenarios.

Longest tidal tail

- ❖ Astronomers discovered a nascent ultra-diffuse galaxy forming at the end of the longest tidal tail ever observed, associated with the galaxy NGC 3785.
- ❖ This is located approximately 430 million light-years from the Earth in the Leo constellation.
- ❖ The tidal tail was extends an impressive 1.27 million light-years long from NGC 3785.

Thorium-based nuclear energy solutions

- ❖ The NTPC Limited has signed a strategic pact with US-based Clean Core Thorium Energy (CCTE) to explore development and deployment of advanced nuclear energy for enriched life (ANEEL).
- ❖ Aneel is a thorium-based fuel for pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs).
- ❖ Aneel fuel include the utilisation of thorium as a fuel in existing PHWR reactors, significant reduction in nuclear waste.
- ❖ It is also, enhancing India's energy security using domestically-available thorium, and improved safety and proliferation resistance.

Tinnitus matching device

- ❖ IIT Bombay have developed a precise tinnitus matching device and customisable solution (mobile based software) at an affordable cost.
- ❖ Tinnitus is the perception of sound in the absence of any external stimulus.
- ❖ It results in severe sleep disturbance, depression, anxiety, negative impact on mental health, irritability, impacting social life.
- ❖ Tinnitus affects more than 740 million adults globally and is considered to be a major problem faced by more than 120 million people.

New Search and Rescue Aid Tool

- ❖ The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has developed a newer version of its own Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT).
- ❖ It will provide 'better accuracy and utility' and aid the Indian Search and Rescue (SAR) agencies such as the Indian Coast Guard in their operations at sea.



Space Docking Exercise

- ❖ ISRO successfully docks two satellites in space and India became fourth country to achieve feat after US, Russia, China.
- ❖ The SpaDex (Space Docking Exercise) mission is intended to be a technology demonstrator for the docking of two small satellites launched by the PSLV.
- ❖ ISRO has launched two small spacecraft — SDX01, the Chaser, and SDX02 on December 30.
- ❖ In the mission, after the initial 20 km inter-satellite separation, the Chaser satellite approaches the Target satellite by reducing the distance to 5 km, 1.5 km, 500 m, 225 m, 15 m, and 3 m, before the final docking of the two spacecraft.

First Private Satellite Constellation

- ❖ A Bengaluru-based space startup has made history by giving India the first private earth imaging satellite constellation.
- ❖ The constellation - 'Firefly' - has been developed by Pixxel.
- ❖ In April 2022, they launched 'Shakuntala', India's first private Earth-imaging hyperspectral satellite.
- ❖ Three 'Firefly' satellites were launched into 550-kilometre low Earth orbit, using a SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket.
- ❖ The 'Fireflies', is the world's highest-resolution commercial-grade hyperspectral satellites currently.
- ❖ ISRO has about 52 different satellites in space.

Black-eyed Pea Seeds in Space

- ❖ ISRO has successfully germinated black-eyed pea (lobia) seeds in space using its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies.
- ❖ As the humans venture out on lengthy space missions to colonise celestial bodies like Mars and the Moon, the space-grown plants can provide a sustainable food source.

Planet Parade 2025

- ❖ The Four planets in our solar system - Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars have been visible in the night sky to the naked eye.
- ❖ Uranus and Neptune can also be seen alongside these planets, but with the help of a telescope.



- ❖ A 'planet parade' refers to a situation when several planets in our solar system are visible in the night sky, at the same time.

Restart capability of Vikas engine

- ❖ ISRO has achieved a significant milestone with the successful demonstration of restarting its Vikas liquid engine.
- ❖ The Vikas engine, a very reliable workhorse for powering the liquid stages of Isro's launch vehicles, is being refined to enable stage recovery and reusability.
- ❖ In the very latest test, the engine was fired for 60 seconds before being shut off for 120 seconds.
- ❖ It was then successfully restarted and fired again for seven seconds.

Crew Module's Liquid Propulsion System – Gaganyaan

- ❖ ISRO has received the Crew Module for the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan (G1) after successfully completing the integration of the liquid propulsion system.
- ❖ Before sending the crew, the ISRO is planning to send uncrewed mission to the space under its Gaganyaan project.
- ❖ Gaganyaan-G1 is expected to be launched in early part of this year.
- ❖ The subsequent two uncrewed missions Gaganyaan-G2 and G3 will lead to India's maiden human spaceflight.

Stargardt Disease

- ❖ Researchers has developed a technique to edit genes, to demonstrate how it could be used to perhaps cure Stargardt disease.
- ❖ Stargardt disease is an inherited disease that leads to progressive vision loss in children and young adults.
- ❖ It is usually bilateral, involving both eyes.
- ❖ Stargardt disease also known as Stargardt macular degeneration, is commonly caused by changes in a gene, ABCA4.
- ❖ This gene influences how your body uses Vitamin A.
- ❖ In India, the disease prevalence was estimated at 1 in 8000 to 10000 populations.

Active Cooled Scramjet Engine Test

- ❖ The DRDO recently demonstrated the scramjet combustor ground test for 120 seconds for the first time in India.



- ❖ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has called it a crucial milestone in developing next-generation hypersonic missiles.
- ❖ Hypersonic missiles are a class of advanced weaponry that travel at speeds greater than 'Mach 5' – five times the speed of sound.
- ❖ In December 2020, the DRDO has inaugurated the advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility in Hyderabad.

CDSCO – Qartemi

- ❖ Bengaluru-based biotech startup, has launched Qartemi, a CAR-T cell therapy for patients with B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (B-NHL).
- ❖ This “living drug” has been approved for blood cancer patients in India who suffer from an advanced or relapsed stage of the disease.
- ❖ India faces around 1,20,000 new cases and over 70,000 deaths annually from leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

Magnetic north pole at Russia

- ❖ The pole was first discovered about 400 kilometers from Canada in the year 1831.
- ❖ However, they have drifted continuously towards Russia from then and up to date have travelled over 400 km in a hundred years.
- ❖ The speed at which the magnetic North Pole moves has been changing.
- ❖ From 1990 to 2000, the pole drifted at a rate of 55 kilometers per year.
- ❖ The speed had decreased to about 35 kilometers per year by 2015.

Dark Oxygen

- ❖ The Scientists have discovered Dark Oxygen in the depths of the Pacific Ocean, challenging long-held beliefs about how oxygen is produced on Earth.
- ❖ Until now, it was thought that oxygen was created only through photosynthesis, a process that requires sunlight.
- ❖ The phenomenon was discovered in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, a vast flat area of the ocean floor between Hawaii and Mexico.



ENVIRONMENT

2nd fishing cat census

- ❖ The Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) of Andhra Pradesh, India's second-largest mangroves, is home to the endangered fishing cat, *Prionailurus viverrinus*.
- ❖ By 2018, the population of fishing cats was 115, as per the first survey of fishing cats.
- ❖ The second census of the fishing cat is expected to be completed within a few weeks.
- ❖ The ongoing fishing cat census is part of India's first Fishing Cat Collaring Project.
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India-Dehradun is executing the Collaring Project.

2024 – A Year of Climate Crisis - UN Report

- ❖ The year 2024 is set to be the warmest on record, capping a decade of the unprecedented heat fuelled by human activities.
- ❖ Greenhouse gas levels continue to grow to record observed highs.
- ❖ The climate change added 41 days of dangerous heat in 2024.
- ❖ Climate change intensified 26 of the 29 weather events that killed at least 3700 people and displaced millions.
- ❖ 2025 is designated as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, facilitated by UNESCO and WMO.

India's emission reduction since 2005

- ❖ Between 2005 and 2020, carbon emission was down by 7.93% compared to 2019, while emissions intensity reduced by 36%.
- ❖ The share of non-fossil sources in the installed electricity generation capacity was 46.52% by October 2024.
- ❖ Total installed capacity of renewable power is 156.25 GW.
- ❖ Renewable energy sources have grown by over 10.94 % in generation and over 14.7 % in installed capacity in the year 2023-24.
- ❖ The industrial sector was the largest energy consumer in the country, accounting for 48.95% of the total final energy consumption in FY 2022-23.
- ❖ The most energy-intensive subsector of the industrial sector was the iron and steel sector, accounting for 15.15% of energy use.
- ❖ Chemicals and petrochemicals accounted for 4.56% of energy use, followed by construction sector which was 1.80%.



- ❖ Top five emission intensive sectors were energy (75.66%), agriculture (13.72%), industrial process and product use (8.06%); and waste (2.56%).

Excessive Nitrates in India – CGWB (Central Ground Water Board)

- ❖ High nitrate levels have been found in groundwater of 440 districts across India.
- ❖ This is an increase from 359 such districts in 2017
- ❖ 20 per cent of the samples collected are exceeding the permissible nitrate concentration of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- ❖ 9.04 per cent of samples had fluoride levels above the safe limit.
- ❖ 3.55 per cent showed arsenic contamination.
- ❖ Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had over 40 per cent of samples above the limit.
- ❖ There was high contamination in samples from -- Maharashtra at 35.74 per cent, Telangana at 27.48 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at 23.5 per cent and Madhya Pradesh at 22.58 per cent.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Jharkhand and Bihar reported lower percentages.
- ❖ In Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, all samples were within safe limits.

New Ant Species in Western Ghats

- ❖ Scientists have identified a new species of ant from the Western Ghats region in Kodagu district of Karnataka called *Tapinoma onaele*.
- ❖ The word *Onaele* in Kannada means dried leaves, which are a very important part of the forest floor in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ Recently *Probolomyrmex procne* was rediscovered after three decades in this region.
- ❖ This species has only been documented in two other locations in India.

India's emissions inventory

- ❖ India recently submitted its latest report detailing its greenhouse gas emission (GHG) inventory and the efforts it has taken to curb emissions.
- ❖ Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), developing countries are obliged to submit a detailed report on their efforts towards climate action.
- ❖ Between 2005 and 2020, India's emissions intensity of GDP reduced by 36%.



- ❖ India's total GHG emissions were 2,959 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent.
- ❖ After counting the absorption by forestry sector and land resources, the country's net emissions were 2,437 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- ❖ The total national emissions (including land use, land-use change, and forestry) fell 7.93% compared to 2019.
- ❖ On the other hand, it has increased by 98.34% since 1994.
- ❖ CO₂ accounted for 80.53% of emissions, followed by methane (13.32%), nitrous oxide (5.13%) and others 1.02%.
- ❖ The emissions were highest from the energy sector at 75.66%.
- ❖ Agriculture contributed 13.72% emissions while Industrial Process and Product Use and Waste sector contributed 8.06% and 2.56%, respectively.
- ❖ In the energy sector, electricity production alone accounted for 39% of emissions.

World's 1st Lab-Grown Coral Babies

- ❖ The world's first cryo-born baby corals have been successfully settled into their new and natural homes on the Great Barrier Reef.
- ❖ They are created using cryopreservation techniques, which involve freezing coral cells and tissues at very low temperatures.
- ❖ Cryopreservation uses cryoprotectants to remove water from cells during freezing & Support cell structures when thawed.
- ❖ The project aims to deploy millions of heat-tolerant corals onto the reef annually to combat the effects of climate change.

Multi-taxon global freshwater fauna assessment

- ❖ The first-ever multi-taxon global freshwater fauna assessment for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species conducted recently.
- ❖ It has identified the Western Ghats as a key location with greatest abundance of threatened freshwater species.
- ❖ This comprehensive global assessment has covered 23,496 decapod crustaceans, fishes and odonates.
- ❖ With approximately one-quarter of freshwater species facing a high extinction risk, and a record of 89 confirmed and 187 suspected extinctions since 1500 AD.
- ❖ Among freshwater decapods, fishes, and odonates, 54% of threatened species are impacted by pollution, while 39% are affected by dams and water extraction.



- ❖ The Land-use change associated with agriculture poses a threat to 37% of these species, and invasive species and disease impact 28%.

1st year to breach global warming limit

- ❖ The average global temperature for the year exceeded 1.5°C above the pre-industrial baseline for the first time in 2024.
- ❖ The WMO's assessment is calculated using the average global temperature across six datasets, with the period of 1850 to 1900 used to provide a pre-industrial baseline.
- ❖ The average global temperature was 15.1 degrees Celsius - 0.72 degrees above the 1991-2020 average and 0.12 degrees higher than that in 2023, the previous record-holder.

New species of Indo-Burmese pangolin

- ❖ The Scientists have identified a new species of Indo-Burmese pangolin (*Manis indoburmanica*) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is diverged from the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) approximately 3.4 million years ago.
- ❖ They spread across Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Indian Cities' Air Quality Progress Report 2025

- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has released the latest Air Quality Index (AQI) data for cities across India.
- ❖ Delhi topped in the list of worst and most polluted air quality index.
- ❖ It is followed by Ghaziabad, Byrnihat and Chandigarh.
- ❖ Tirunelveli from Tamil Nadu experiencing the best and cleanest air quality.
- ❖ Thanjavur ranked 5th in the cleanest air quality table.

Population of wading birds

- ❖ The researchers in Kerala have found that the population of wading birds, key indicators of wetland health, have declined in the decade from 2010-2019.
- ❖ The researchers monitored six of the most commonly available wader species.
- ❖ All six species showed highest densities during post-monsoon seasons and lowest densities during the monsoon seasons.



La Niña Conditions in 2025

- ❖ La Niña conditions have finally surfaced in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ Below average sea surface temperatures reflected along the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ La Niña is a phase and known as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
- ❖ This climate phenomenon is characterised by changes in sea temperatures along the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, accompanied with fluctuations in the atmosphere overhead.
- ❖ ENSO influences, alters, and interferes with the global atmospheric circulation, which, in turn, influences the weather worldwide.
- ❖ ENSO has three phases – warm (El Niño), cool (La Niña), and neutral — which occur in irregular cycles of two to seven years.
- ❖ La Niña last occurred in 2020-2023, and El Niño in 2023-24.

DDT-Contaminated Soils

- ❖ DDT or di-chloro-di-phenyl-tri-chloro-ethane was introduced as an insecticide in 1939.
- ❖ It is effective against a wide range of pests; it also degraded the soil and rendered it infertile after prolonged usage.
- ❖ In order to recover those infertile tracts, Swedish researchers have found that DDT-contaminated soils, when mixed with biochar, tend to regain fertility.
- ❖ Biochar, which is similar to charcoal in properties, is an environmentally friendly product that is economic to produce.

India on HCFCs

- ❖ India phased out hydrochlorofluorocarbons in manufacturing by the end of 2024.
- ❖ This phase out is part of the goals under the Montreal Protocol-1987.
- ❖ This international treaty that aims to eliminate the production and use of ozone-depleting substances.
- ❖ HCFCs are chemical compounds composed of carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and fluorine.
- ❖ They have widely been used in the foam, refrigeration, and air conditioning industries.
- ❖ Another element used as an alternative to CFCs and HCFCs is hydrofluorocarbon (HFC).



- ❖ They commonly used in refrigeration, air-conditioning (AC), building insulation, fire extinguishing systems and aerosols.
- ❖ In 2016, Montreal Protocol adopted the Kigali agreement where parties agreed to control the use of HFCs as well.
- ❖ The Kigali Agreement set a goal to phase down HFCs by 85% by 2036 for developed countries and by 2047 for developing countries.
- ❖ India became a party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1991 and signed the Montreal Protocol in 1992.

New Tarantula Species in Western Ghats

- ❖ A researcher described four new species of tarantulas, including one new genus, from India's Western Ghats.
- ❖ An entirely new genus of tarantulas called Cilantica is named after the Tamil word for spider.
- ❖ The 2nd new species named Haploclastus bratocolonus (meaning "tree dweller"), makes its home in hollow trees along rivers.
- ❖ Another species, Haploclastus montanus, was found living at elevations higher than 2,000 metres (6,600 feet) in mountain forests.
- ❖ This was making it one of the highest-living tarantulas known from the region.
- ❖ Around 1,264 arachnid species are currently illegally traded worldwide.

Water Hyacinth issue - Kenya

- ❖ Water hyacinth, the world's most widespread invasive species, is blanketing the Lake Naivasha of Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ The water hyacinth is native to South America and was reportedly introduced to Kenya in the 1980s.
- ❖ Water Hyacinth is scientifically known as Eichhornia crassipes.
- ❖ It is an aquatic weed common in water bodies across South Asia, including India.
- ❖ It was introduced to India during the British colonial rule as an ornamental aquatic plant from South America.

Gangetic Dolphin status 2025

- ❖ The Ganga River basin has an estimated population of 3,936 Gangetic dolphins (with a standard error of 763).
- ❖ There were 2,510 dolphin sightings during the survey, with 1,303 in Ganga across Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.



- ❖ It was listed as endangered on the 1996 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ The National Ganga River Basin Authority, declared the Gangetic River dolphin as the national aquatic animal and in 2010.

Karnataka's first Wolf Sanctuary

- ❖ The endangered Indian wolves are thriving very freely at the Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary of Karnataka.
- ❖ The sanctuary hosts the Indian grey wolf species, and one of the wolves recently gave birth to eight pups.
- ❖ The sanctuary is home to many wildlife species, including the wolves, leopards, peacocks, blackbucks, foxes, hares, and porcupines.

Blood-Sucking Flies in Andaman

- ❖ Researchers have identified 23 species of blood-sucking flies in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including 13 species previously unreported in India.
- ❖ Locally called 'Bhusi flies,' these insects belong to the Culicoides genus and are similar to mosquitoes in their feeding habits.
- ❖ They primarily feed on the blood of livestock like sheep, goats, and cattle, as well as wild animals such as deer.
- ❖ Five species of that can transmit the Blue Tongue Disease virus, a condition that can be fatal to livestock.
- ❖ 17 out of the 23 species identified also bite humans, though no human disease transmission has been reported so far.

Brazil Wildfires in 2024

- ❖ Over 30.87 million hectares of wilderness were consumed by fire, an area roughly the size of state Maharashtra in India or Italy.
- ❖ There was a 79 percent increase in burned area from 2023, when 17.24 million hectares were destroyed — an increase of 13.63 million hectares.
- ❖ This figure is the very highest one since 2019, when 18.08 million hectares were incinerated.
- ❖ 10.63 million hectares were lost in a single month -September 2024.
- ❖ Amazônia was the worst-hit region, losing 17.9 million hectares, followed by the Cerrado with 9.7 million hectares, Pantanal with 1.9 million hectares and Mata Atlântica with 1 million hectares.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Business Ready (B-READY) Report 2024

- ❖ The World Bank launched the Business Ready (B-READY) report 2024 to replace the Ease of Doing Business report.
- ❖ In Business Entry, countries like Singapore offer online business registration within a day at minimal cost.
- ❖ In India, businesses still face multiple steps and incomplete digital integration.
- ❖ This report generates two sets of scores for each economy viz Topic Scores and Pillar Scores.
- ❖ Anyway, India did not participate in the 2024 B-READY Report.

IPBES Nexus Report

- ❖ This report was released by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- ❖ The Assessment Report on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health also known as the Nexus Report.
- ❖ Biodiversity decline per decade for last 30-50 years is 2-6%.
- ❖ Around 50% of the emerging infectious diseases are driven by interconnections between ecosystem, animal and human health.
- ❖ Unaccounted-for costs of current economic activity are at least \$10-25 trillion per year.

Threat Landscape Report 2024

- ❖ India has emerged as the second most targeted nation for cyber-attacks globally, with 95 entities falling victim to data theft in 2024.
- ❖ The United States in the top spot with 140 attacks.
- ❖ Israel ranks third, with 57 attacks attributed to ongoing geopolitical tensions.
- ❖ Major breaches included the leak of 850 million records of Indian citizen data from Hi-Tek Group, customer data from Star Health and Allied Insurance, and 2TB of sensitive information from Telecommunications Consultants India.

2024 Global Water Monitor Report

- ❖ The 2024 Global Water Monitor Report was released by the Australian National University (ANU).



- ❖ In 2024 alone, the water-related disasters claimed over 8,700 lives, displaced approximately 40 million people.
- ❖ It inflicted economic losses exceeding \$550 billion.
- ❖ The Significant events included catastrophic flooding in Brazil, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- ❖ Record-high monthly rainfall totals were achieved 27% more frequently in 2024 compared to the early 2000s.
- ❖ Daily rainfall records increased by 52%.
- ❖ Conversely, record-low precipitation events were also seen more frequently.

Future of Jobs report 2025

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) released a report titled 'Future of Jobs Report 2025'.
- ❖ 170 million new jobs will be created and 92 million jobs will be displaced resulting in a net increase of 78 million jobs by 2030.
- ❖ The Big data specialists, FinTech engineers, AI & machine learning specialists, software & applications developers and security management specialists are among the top 5 fastest growing jobs.
- ❖ 59% of the global workforce will need reskilling or upskilling by 2030 to remain competitive.
- ❖ Farmworkers top the list of the largest growing job roles in the next five years and are expected to see 35 million more jobs by 2030.

WEF Global Cooperation Barometer 2025

- ❖ The World Economic Forum's Global Cooperation Barometer 2025 was launched in Geneva.
- ❖ It reveals that the international cooperation has stagnated due to increased geopolitical tensions and instability.
- ❖ The barometer uses 41 indicators to measure the current state of the global cooperation along five pillars –
 - Trade and capital flows,
 - Innovation and technology,
 - Climate and natural capital,
 - Health and wellness, and
 - Peace and security.



Henley Passport Index 2025

- ❖ India's ranking has dropped by five points to 85 this year in a global passport index.
- ❖ An Indian passport holder can travel visa-free to 57 destinations.
- ❖ Singapore topped in the index for second consecutive year.
- ❖ The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations
- ❖ As per the index for 2025, the ranking of Pakistan and Bangladesh stood at 103rd (101st in 2024) and 100th (97th in 2024), respectively.
- ❖ India's ranking in the Henley Passport Index for 2024 was 80th globally.
- ❖ Japan's ranking stood at 2nd this year, while it had the top slot from 2018-2023.
- ❖ In 2024, both Japan and Singapore shared the top rank.

UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025

- ❖ The Global economic growth is forecast at 2.8% in 2025 and 2.9 per cent in 2026.
- ❖ It is largely unchanged from the rate of 2.8% recorded in 2023 and estimated for 2024.
- ❖ China is facing the prospect of the gradual economic moderation, with growth estimated at 4.9% in 2024 and projected at 4.8% in 2025.
- ❖ The Indian economy grew by 6.8% in 2024 and is forecast to expand by 6.6% in 2025, primarily supported by robust private consumption and investment.
- ❖ The Indian economy is projected to return to the 6.8% growth in 2026.
- ❖ Consumer price inflation in India is forecast to decelerate from an estimated 4.8% in 2024 to 4.3% in 2025.

World Employment and Social Outlook Report 2025

- ❖ The International Labour Organization's (ILO) has released a report - World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025 - in Geneva.
- ❖ In 2024, the report said, global employment grew in line with the labour force, keeping the unemployment rate steady at 5%.
- ❖ However, the youth unemployment showed little improvement, remaining high at 12.6%.
- ❖ Economic growth stood at 3.2% in 2024, down from 3.3 and 3.6% in 2023 and 2022, respectively.



- ❖ The estimated number of people who want to work but do not have a job – reached 402 million in 2024.
- ❖ This includes 186 million unemployed people, 137 million who are temporarily unavailable to work, and 79 million discouraged workers who have stopped looking for jobs.
- ❖ The rates of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) have risen.
- ❖ In low-income countries, the young men’s NEET rates increased by 4 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels.
- ❖ It is affecting 15.8 million young men and 28.2 million young women in 2024.

QS World Future Skills Index 2025

- ❖ India was ranked second in terms of preparedness for jobs of the future including artificial intelligence (AI) and green skills, only behind the United States.
- ❖ India was ranked 25th across all indicators, which includes the alignment between the skills and employer needs, academic readiness, and the economic transformation.
- ❖ India’s overall ranking puts it as a “future skills contender,” as per the report.
- ❖ Countries like the USA, UK, Germany, Australia, and Canada, among others in the top ten have been categorised as “future skills pioneers”.
- ❖ India has been ranked second in the ‘future of work’ indicator.

Global risk report 2025

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) released its latest Global Risks Report 2025.
- ❖ Misinformation and disinformation are viewed as the most severe global risk over the coming two years.
- ❖ Extreme weather events ranked second and state-based armed conflict is viewed as the third biggest threat.
- ❖ Over the next decade, extreme weather events remain the biggest concern.
- ❖ It is followed by biodiversity loss, critical change to the Earth’s systems and a shortage of natural resources.
- ❖ Since the report’s first edition in 2006, extreme weather events have been categorised under “environmental risks.”
- ❖ These events have climbed into the top six risks annually since 2014.



- ❖ It is ranking as the foremost global risk from 2017 to 2020 and regaining that position in 2024.
- ❖ In the short term (2025-2027), extreme weather events rank as the second most severe global risk.
- ❖ These events are now listed among the top five short-term risks in 28 countries, up from 24 countries last year.

Global Trust Index 2025

- ❖ India has slipped one place to third slot when it comes to people's trust in the government, businesses, media and NGOs.
- ❖ Within the high-income group, India was ranked fourth after Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and China.
- ❖ While the low-income population made India the third most trusted nation after China and Indonesia.
- ❖ India ranks low at 13th place when it comes to trust of people in other countries, in companies with Indian headquarters.
- ❖ Canada topped this list of foreign-headquartered companies, followed by Japan, Germany, the UK, France and the US.
- ❖ Mexico, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, China and Brazil also ranked higher than India.
- ❖ Five of the largest 10 global economies were among the least trusting nations on the Trust Index: Japan (the least trusting at 37%), Germany (41%), the UK (43%), the US (47%) and France (48%).
- ❖ Developing nations turned out to be more trusting -- China (77%), Indonesia (76%), India (75%) and the UAE (72) %.

ILO report on Global Migrant Workers 2022

- ❖ The fourth edition of 'Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers' was released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❖ In 2022, International Migrants (IM) made up 4.7% (167.7 million) of the global labour force, defined as both employed and unemployed (but available for work); over 30 million more than in 2013.
- ❖ An estimated 155.6 million were employed and 12.1 million unemployed.
- ❖ The share of IM men in the total employment for males globally was estimated at 4.7% and that of IM women at 4.4%.



- ❖ However, between 2019-2022, the rate of growth dipped annually to less than 1%, influenced among other factors by the pandemic.
- ❖ A higher proportion of IM males were employed — 61.3% out of a total of 102.7 million.
- ❖ Conversely, only 38.7% female IMs were employed out of a total of 64.9 million in 2022.
- ❖ At 74.9% (125.6 million), prime-age adult IM workers — those aged between 25 and 54 years, both men and women — constituted the largest majority of IM workers in the labour force in 2022.
- ❖ Less than one out of 10 IMs were below 25.
- ❖ Only 9.3% were young IM workers, aged between 15-24 years, numbering 15.5 million, in the global labour force.
- ❖ IMs aged between 55-64 years were 12.5% and those above 65 at 3.4%.

Forbes Billionaires List 2025

- ❖ The United States leads with a record 813 billionaires, followed by China with 473 and India claiming the third spot with 200 billionaires.
- ❖ Elon Musk is ranking as the world's richest person, with a net worth of \$433.9 billion.
- ❖ Jeff Bezos of amazon has been ranked 2nd with \$239.4 B.
- ❖ Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg has surpassed Oracle founder Larry Ellison to secure the position of the third-wealthiest individual globally.
- ❖ Jensen Huang, the CEO and co-founder of Nvidia, has entered the ranks of the top 10 richest people for the first time.

Global Firepower Index 2025

- ❖ The United States of America has reaffirmed its top position in military strength.
- ❖ It is following by, Russia and China in the second position and third respectively.
- ❖ India has emerged as a significant military power in the 4th rank.
- ❖ South Korea is ranking 5th followed by Japan at 7th, Türkiye at 8th, and Iran at 14th in the index.
- ❖ Pakistan's ranking stood at 12th place dropped from 9th position.



STATES

2024 Elephant Population – Assam

- ❖ Assam has recorded an elephant population of 5,828 during the Elephant Population Estimation 2024.
- ❖ This is an increase from the last such survey in 2017 with 5,719 elephants.
- ❖ 82% of the total population/4,777 elephants are within the five elephant reserves in the state.
- ❖ The highest density was prevailed in Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve.
- ❖ The population stood at 5,620 in 2011, 5,281 in 2008 and 5,246 in 2002.

Chhattisgarh's Green GDP Initiative

- ❖ In a first in India, the Chhattisgarh has introduced a plan that connects the eco system services of its forests with the Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP).
- ❖ The move is aimed to highlight the direct link between significant environmental contributions of biodiversity and the state's economic progress.
- ❖ The action plan is designed to ensure that economic development is achieved while preserving the pristine environment for future generations.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh with 44 per cent of its land covered by forests.

Gujarat - Atlas to Protect Indian Wolf Habitats

- ❖ Gujarat Forest and Environment Department has estimated the population of the Indian wolves to be 222 in the state.
- ❖ At 80, Bhavnagar district has recorded the highest number of wolves in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is followed by 39 in Narmada district, 36 in Banaskantha, 18 in Surendranagar, 12 each in Jamnagar and Morbi, and 9 in Kutch district.
- ❖ Their natural habitats also include the Bhal area in Bhavnagar, which includes the Blackbuck National Park in Velavadar and surrounding Dholera.
- ❖ This atlas will help to identify the important 'corridors' connecting their main habitats.

Gujarat's First Coastal Bird Census

- ❖ The Gujarat government has conducted the country's first-ever census of coastal and wader birds at the Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar.



- ❖ The Marine National Park and Marine Sanctuary in Gujarat is India's first designated marine national park.
- ❖ It is spanning the districts of Devbhoomi Dwarka, Jamnagar, and Morbi, it covers approximately 170 km of coastline and 42 islands between Okha and Navlakhi.
- ❖ This protected area in the Gulf of Kutch was established to conserve the marine biodiversity and mangrove ecosystems.
- ❖ Jamnagar district hosts over 300 species of local and migratory birds, including more than 50 species of wader birds.

Top Cities for Women in India 2024

- ❖ Bengaluru surpassed Chennai as India's top city for women in the third edition of 'Top Cities for Women in India 2024' (TCWI) report.
- ❖ Bengaluru was followed by Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Pune.
- ❖ Cities in Tamil Nadu dominate the Top 25 list in the Index, with 8 cities – Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Madurai, Salem Erode and Tirupur are featuring in the Index.
- ❖ The South emerged as the most inclusive region, scoring comparatively higher in both social and industrial inclusion.
- ❖ The average city inclusion score of the South is 18.56.
- ❖ The South is closely followed by the West (16.92).
- ❖ The Central and the Eastern regions lag, with averages of 11.79 and 10.55, respectively.
- ❖ The average city inclusion score for North is at 14.

Z-Morh Tunnel

- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the 6.5 km long Z-Morh tunnel, also known as the Sonamarg tunnel, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ This tunnel will enhance connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg, providing an all-weather route.
- ❖ It eliminates the avalanche-prone, section of the route that was often blocked for months due to heavy rainfall.
- ❖ The tunnel is constructed at an altitude of over 8,500 ft.

Boda Tyohar Festival

- ❖ The Boda Tyohar festival celebration of the Hatti tribes of the Trans-Giri region is being held in Himachal Pradesh.



- ❖ The month-long festival is known locally as Magho ko Tyohar.
- ❖ It is distinguished by its division into three distinct mini-festivals, each marked by its unique customs and rituals.

Maha Kumbha mela 2025

- ❖ One of the world's largest spiritual events began in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Kumbh Mela occurs every three years in four different locations.
- ❖ However, Mahakumbh is organised only in Prayagraj after every twelve years.
- ❖ Additionally, Mahakumbh 2025 is also because of the rare celestial alignment that occurs only once every 144 years.
- ❖ In 2017, the Kumbh Mela was declared India's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' by UNESCO.

Great Indian Bustard Conservation – Rajasthan

- ❖ At least 12 Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) were spotted in a group in the wild in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The birds, locally known in the northern and western India as “Godawan” and “Maldhok”, were spotted at Desert National Park (DNP).
- ❖ The GIB is a highly endangered bird species found in the Thar area of Rajasthan.
- ❖ Today, only 173 birds are left, of which, 128 are found in the wild and the remaining are bred in captivity.
- ❖ Besides Rajasthan, the bird is found in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- ❖ In 2011, the birds were listed as “critically endangered” by IUCN Red List.

INROAD Project 2025

- ❖ The INROAD project in the North East has received the financial support of ₹100 crore for improving the quality of natural rubber.
- ❖ INROAD stands for Indian Natural Rubber Operations for Assisted Development.
- ❖ INROAD is a first-of-its-kind project in the world in which the tyre industry is contributing directly to the development of rubber plantations.
- ❖ It is financially supported by four members of ATMA, including Apollo, CEAT, JK, and MRF, and implemented by the Rubber Board of India.



Purulia Observatory

- ❖ This observatory was established by the S N Bose Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBCBS) atop the Panchet Hill in West Bengal.
- ❖ The observatory at a height of 600 meters above ground level and at longitude of approximately 86° E.
- ❖ It will be a major observatory not only in eastern India, but also in the world.

Gaan-Ngai 2025

- ❖ The Rongmei Women Cultural Dance Troupe (RWCDT) of Delhi NCR celebrated Gaan-Ngai 2025.
- ❖ This festival showcasing the cultural heritage and identity of the Rongmei Naga community.
- ❖ The event was held under the theme “Our Festival, Our Identity”.

Tripura - Official State Emblem

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the Tripura’s state emblem.
- ❖ The proposal of the state Emblem of the government of Tripura has been made under Rule 4(2) of the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007.
- ❖ In S. R. Bommai v. Union of India Case 1994, SC ruled that states can have their own flags, as long as they do not dishonour the national flag.
- ❖ Also, the Constitution of India does not prohibit the states from having their own flags.

Archaeological Experiential Museum in Vadnagar

- ❖ The museum designed to offer a comprehensive look at the city's 2,500-year-old history through an immersive and interactive experience.
- ❖ It showcases more than 5,000 artifacts, offering an in-depth look into the city’s cultural narrative.
- ❖ Vadnagar is located in Gujarat's Mehsana district.
- ❖ It is renowned for its unique blend of Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and Islamic cultural influences.

Geo-Tagging of Chinar Tree

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir's government began the process of geo-tagging in its bid to preserve heritage Chinar trees in Kashmir.



- ❖ Chinars are oxygen producers.
- ❖ They provided 'Digital Aadhaar' to these trees and installed scannable QR codes.
- ❖ Now, every Chinar has its own 'Aadhar' number and have linked to Digital India.
- ❖ Every district has its own district code with the number of Chinars.
- ❖ So far, they have identified and geo-tagged 28,560 Chinar.

Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day 2025

- ❖ In 1902, it was established as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during the British rule.
- ❖ Post-independence, the United Provinces became an administrative unit in 1947 and the princely states of Tehri Garhwal and Rampur were merged into it by 1949.
- ❖ Finally, on January 24, 1950, the state was renamed Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ But the Uttar Pradesh Day was first celebrated in 1989.
- ❖ In 2000, the hilly areas were carved out to create a new state, originally named Uttaranchal, later renamed Uttarakhand.

Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day 2025

- ❖ The Chief Commissioner's province of Himachal Pradesh came into being on 15th April, 1948.
- ❖ It became a part C state on 26th January, 1950 with the implementation of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh became Union Territory on 1st November, 1956.
- ❖ On 18th December, 1970 the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by the Parliament.
- ❖ On 25 January 1971, Indira Gandhi government gave full statehood to Himachal Pradesh.

Samman Sanjeevani' App

- ❖ Haryana launched the 'Samman Sanjeevani' app.
- ❖ The app tracks benefits under the 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana'.
- ❖ The Sanitary napkins are distributed to BPL women and girls aged 10-45 years via Anganwadi centers and schools.
- ❖ The app ensures timely delivery, collects beneficiary data, and updates monthly benefits.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Personalities	Associated fields	Remarks
Jimmy Carter	39th U.S. President	He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his human rights work around the world.
K.S. Manilal	Botanist	Founding president of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT)
Agnes Keleti	Hungarian gymnast	Five-time Olympic champion
Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram	Nuclear scientist	Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Yoon Suk-Yeol	President	South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol was arrested recently.
Dr. K.M. Cherian	Surgeon	A pioneer of cardiac surgery

Tamil Nadu Government Awards 2025

M. Padikkaramu	Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award
L. Ganesan	Anna Award
Poet Kabilan	Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award
Pon. Selvaganapathy	Bharathidasan award
G.R. Ravindranath	Tamil Thendral Thiru. Vi. Ka. Award
Ve. Mu. Pothiyaverpan	KAP Viswanatham Award
Viduthalai Rajendran	Thanthai Periyar Award
MP Ravikumar	Annal Ambedkar Award
Muthu Vavasi	Kalaighnar Award

Kalaighnar Porkizhi Award 2025

Arunan	Prose/Research
Nellai Jayantha	Poetry
Suresh Kumar Indrajith	Novel
N Sriram	Short Stories
Kalai Rani	Drama



Nirmalya	Translation
K Kanathi's Karpagam bookstore	BAPASI Award
R Kothandaraman	Best Librarian Award
Semmal S Meiyappan	Best Book Seller

Tamil Diaspora Day awards 2025	
Dr. Vijay Janakiraman	Tamil Mamani' Award
Krishnakanthan Sandeep	Best Cultural Ambassador Award
Rajaram Ramasubban	Education Category
S. Kamalakannan	Social Development Category
Sridevi Sivanandam	Women's Category
Lakshmanan Somasundaram	Business Category
S. Arokiyaraj	S&T Category
Gangadhara Sundar	Medicine Category
Governor's Awards 2024	
Social Service (Institution)	Idhayangal
	Hope Public Charitable Trust
Social Service (Individual)	S. Ramalingam
	Swarnalatha J.
	A. Rajkumar
Environmental Protection (Institution)	Chitlapakkam Rising Charitable Trust

Padma Awardees from Tamil Nadu	
Kuppusami Chetti	Owner of renowned brand of silk sarees
Ashwin	Sports



Tamil Nadu Republic Day Awards 2025	
K. Vetrivel	Anna Medal for Gallantry
S.A. Ameer Amsa	Kottai Ameer Award
R. Murugavel	Narayanasamy Naidu Paddy Productivity Award
P. Chinnakamanan, K. Mahamarx K. Karthick K. Siva and P. Poomalai	Gandhi Adigal Police Medals

2025 Republic Day Tableaux	
Uttar Pradesh	Best Tableau of 2025
Tripura	Second Best Tableau of 2025
Andhra Pradesh	Third Best Tableau of 2025
Delhi Police	CAPF/Auxiliary Forces
Ministry Of Tribal Affairs Ministry Of Women & Child Development	Central Ministries/Departments Category
Central Public Works Department (Cpwd) Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam' Dance Group	Two Special Prizes

The Music Academy – Chennai Awards	
T.M. Krishna	Sangita Kalanidhi 2024
Parassala Ravi and Geetha Raja	Sangita Kalaacharya
Dr. Margaret Bastin	Musicologist Award 2024
Thiruvaiyyaru Brothers S. Narasimhan and S. Venkatesan	TTK Award



National Sports Awards 2024	
Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh and Praveen Kumar	Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
Sucha Singh (Former Cyclist)	Arjuna Awards (Lifetime)
Murlikant Rajaram Petkar (Former Para-Swimmer)	Arjuna Awards (Lifetime)
Thulasimathi, Nithya Sree and Manisha (Badminton Paralympians)	Arjuna Awards
Abhay Singh (Squash Player)	Arjuna Award
Subhash Rana (Para-Shooter) Deepali Deshpande (Shooting) Sandeep Sangwan (Hockey)	Dronacharya Award 2024
S Muralidharan (Badminton) Armando Agnelo Colaco (Football)	Dronacharya Award (Lifetime)

2025 Nuclear-Free Future Awards	
P Udayakumar Márcia Gomes de Oliveira Norbert Suchanek	Nuclear-Free Future Award
Edwick Madzimure	Solution Award
Joanna Macy	Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award
Klee Benally	Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award

National Sports Awards Winners 2025	
Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh, Praveen Kumar	Khel Ratna Award
32 athletes, including Sarabjot Singh, Swapnil Kusale	Arjuna Award
Murlikant Rajaram Petkar	Lifetime Achievement Award
Chandigarh University, Lovely Professional University, Guru Nanak Dev University	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy
Murlikant Petkar	Lifetime Arjuna Award
Physical Education Foundation of India	Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar
Deepali Deshpande (Shooting coach), Armando Agnelo Colaco (Football)	Dronacharya Award



ICC Cricketers of the Year 2024	
Smriti Mandhana	ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2024
Jasprit Bumrah	ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year for 2024
Rohit Sharma	ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024
Arshdeep Singh	ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2024
Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)	ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year
Arshdeep Singh, along with Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Rohit Sharma	ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year
Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma	ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year 2024
Azmatullah Omarzai of Afghanistan	ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2024

Padma Awards 2025

- ❖ Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- ❖ The Awards are given in various disciplines / fields of activities, viz. - art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- ❖ Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service.
- ❖ Padma Bhushan' is for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' is for distinguished service in any field.
- ❖ The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.
- ❖ For the year 2025, the President has approved conferment of 139 Padma Awards including 1 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).
- ❖ The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.
- ❖ 23 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.
- ❖ In 2025, Thirteen persons from Tamil Nadu and one from Puducherry have been recognised with the Padma awards this year.



International solar conference 2025

- ❖ The conference on ‘Sun, Space Weather, and Solar-Stellar Connections’ has been organised by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Bengaluru.
- ❖ It aims to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory.
- ❖ The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, a cornerstone of Indian astronomy, was established in 1899.

Gallantry Awards 2025

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 93 Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous.
- ❖ These include two Kirti Chakras, including one posthumous; 14 Shaurya Chakras, including three posthumous; one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry); 66 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous; two Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and eight Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), including one posthumous.
- ❖ The President also approved 305 defence decorations to Armed Forces and other personnel.
- ❖ These include 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals; five Uttam Yudh Seva Medals; 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals; 10 Yudh Seva Medals; one Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 43 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 15 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); four Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 132 Vishisht Seva Medals.
- ❖ In addition, the President has also approved the President’s Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal to eight Coast Guard personnel.
- ❖ 21 police officers of the Tamil Nadu police are on list of President’s Medal.
- ❖ Under the Home Guard and Civil Defence category, Manjit Singh Nayar, Assistant Commandant General of Home Guards, Tamil Nadu, received the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service.

55th World Economic Forum

- ❖ The 55th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting was held with the theme “Collaboration for the Intelligent Age”, at Davos, Switzerland.
- ❖ Football legend David Beckham, fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg, and architect Riken Yamamoto was awarded the prestigious Crystal Awards.
- ❖ It recognised their contributions to social, environmental, and creative progress.
- ❖ High-level representatives from six Indian states—Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala participated in the event.
- ❖ WEF is a Swiss nonprofit foundation, established in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva.



SPORTS

Kho Kho World Cup 2025 Trophies and Mascots

- ❖ India is to host the historic first edition in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) unveiled the trophies for the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup.
- ❖ The tournament will showcase 21 men's and 20 women's teams from 24 countries across six continents.
- ❖ The World Cup will feature two trophies – a blue trophy for the men's championship and a green trophy for the women's event.
- ❖ The KKFI also introduced 'Tejas' and 'Tara,' a duo of gazelles serving as the official mascots for the tournament.
- ❖ These mascots embody the sport's core attributes of speed, agility, and teamwork.
- ❖ Tejas, symbolising brilliance and energy, and Tara, representing guidance and aspiration.

First ever Kho-Kho World Cup 2025

- ❖ The 1st edition of Kho-Kho World Cup 2025 game was hosted by India.
- ❖ The tournament featured 20 men's and 19 women's teams.
- ❖ The Indian men and women's team claimed victory in the inaugural edition against Nepal team.

Khelo India Winter Games 2025

- ❖ The fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 concluded in Leh, Ladakh.
- ❖ The first phase was held in Ladakh from January 23 to 27 while the second will be held in Jammu and Kashmir from February 21 to 25.
- ❖ Currently, Ladakh lead the medal tally with four golds, two silvers and a bronze.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranked second with three gold and two silvers.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Important Day	Theme
January 01	DRDO's 67 th Foundation Day	
January 04	World Braille Day	
January 06	World War Orphans Day	
January 08	Earth Rotation Day	
January 09	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	"The Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat"
January 10	World Hindi Day	"Hindi: A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride"
January 11 to 17	National Road Safety Week	Be a Road Safety Hero
January 12	National Youth Day	
January 14	World Logic Day	
January 14	Armed Forces Veterans' Day	
January 15	77 th Indian Army Day	
January 16	National Startup Day	
January 16	Lokpal's First Foundation Day 2025	
January 19	NDRF Raising Day	
January 21	Statehood Day (Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura)	
January 23	Parakram Diwas	
January 24	National Girl Child Day	"Empowering Girls for a Bright Future"
January 24	International Day of Education	"AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation"
January 25	National Voters Day	"Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure"
January 25	National Tourism Day	"Tourism for Inclusive Growth"
January 25	Tamil Language Martyrs' Day	
January 26	International Customs Day	"Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security and Prosperity"



January 26	World Leprosy Day	“Unite. Act. Eliminate.”
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	“Holocaust Remembrance for Dignity and Human Rights”
January 29	Indian Newspaper Day	“Role of Print Media in the Digital Age”
January 31	International Zebra Day	

MISCELLANEOUS

Sanskrit inscription in PoK's Gilgit

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India has unearthed a Sanskrit inscription discovered on a rock outside Gilgit in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.
- ❖ It is written in Brahmi script; it reportedly belongs to approximately 4th-century CE.
- ❖ There were earlier instances wherein Sanskrit inscriptions were found in Pakistan.

International year 2025

- ❖ The United Nations has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ).
- ❖ The UNGA declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) to be celebrated under the theme “Cooperatives Build a Better World.”
- ❖ The United Nations declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation.
- ❖ It also accompanied by the proclamation of the 21st March of each year as the World Day for Glaciers starting in 2025.
- ❖ 2025 is marks the 80th anniversary since the end of World War II and the approval of the UN Charter.
- ❖ So, the UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust (IYPT).

10th Century Chola-period merchant guild inscription

- ❖ ASI deciphered a Chola-period merchant guild inscription found at Pilippatti village in Illuppur taluk in Pudukkottai district.



- ❖ It mentions trade groups of various territorial divisions, including Ainurruvars of Mangala Nadu, Puramalai Nadu, Poongundra Nadu, Manalur Nadu and Virapattinam of Kodumbalur.
- ❖ The inscription dates back to the 10th century and was probably installed during the reign of either Parantaka Chola or Uttama Chola.
- ❖ The inscription has various symbols including Ankush (sharp pointed hook then used to control elephants), Trishul and lamps.

Nimesulide drug ban

- ❖ The Centre has banned the manufacture, sale, and distribution of the all formulations of Nimesulide — widely used as a painkiller for animals.
- ❖ The department of health and family welfare's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) enforced the ban under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ It aims to safeguard vultures and other scavenger species vital to maintaining the ecosystem's balance.
- ❖ Nimesulide has been widely used as a painkiller for animals, including cattle, pigs, and horses.
- ❖ While formulations differ for human and animal use.
- ❖ Nimesulide has already been banned for children in many countries due to safety concerns.

India Meteorological Department's 150th year

- ❖ The IMD was established in January 15, 1875 and will be completing 150 years of service.
- ❖ IMD is one of the earliest government departments created for the systematic observation, regular reporting, and scientific forecasting of weather in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ It was the establishment of the first Meteorological and Astronomical Observatory in (then) Madras in 1793.
- ❖ Later the India Meteorological Department was established in 1875 with H.F. Blanford as the Meteorological Reporter.



District-Level Climate Risk Assessment

- ❖ IIT Guwahati, IIT Mandi and the Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP) has released the report “District-Level Climate Risk Assessment for India: Mapping Flood and Drought Risks Using IPCC Framework”.
- ❖ 51 districts fall into the ‘Very High’ flood risk category, and another 118 districts fall into the ‘High’ flood risk category.
- ❖ These are primarily in Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Odisha, and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ 91 districts fall in the ‘Very High’ drought risk category and another 188 districts in the ‘High’ drought risk category.
- ❖ These are primarily in Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ 11 districts are at ‘Very High’ risk of both flood and drought.

Indian Railways - highest sports award winners

- ❖ In 2024, out of 32 players shortlisted for Arjuna Awards, five came from Indian Railways.
- ❖ With these 5 Arjuna Awards, it has total 183 Arjuna, 28 Padma Shri, 12 Dhyan Chand, 13 Dronacharya and 9 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardees.
- ❖ This is the largest number of such awardees for any single organization in India.

FSSAI on Methylcobalamin

- ❖ FSSAI has provided clarity on use of Methylcobalamin, a form of Vitamin B12, in health supplements, medical purposes and nutraceutical products.
- ❖ FSSAI Regulations, 2022’s permitted forms of Vitamin B12 currently include cyanocobalamin and hydroxocobalamin.
- ❖ Vitamin B12, a crucial water-soluble vitamin, is integral to DNA synthesis, red blood cell production, and neurological function.
- ❖ Deficiency in this vitamin can lead to the serious health consequences, often requiring supplementation.

First Generation Beta Baby of India

- ❖ The birth of the first recorded Generation Beta baby, Frankie Remruatdika Zadeng, born in Aizawl, Mizoram, at 12:03 am on January 1.
- ❖ The term was coined by Australian futurist Mark McCrindle.
- ❖ This Generation Beta includes children born between 2025 and 2039.



- ❖ These individuals will be the offspring of Millennials (Generation Y) and older Gen Z parents.
- ❖ By 2035, Gen Beta is expected to constitute 16% of the global population, reflecting their significant role in the future social and economic landscape.

13th Century Saint Narahari Tirtha's Idol

- ❖ A researcher has found a three-foot idol of the 13th Century saint, Narahari Tirtha recently.
- ❖ He may have hailed from the Chikakolu town (the present Srikakulam).
- ❖ Tirtha's ancestors were aristocrats in the Gajapati empire in what is now the Odisha state.
- ❖ Available epigraphical evidence suggests that the kings of Eastern Ganga dynasty were assisted by the saint for three decades.
- ❖ This was indicating he was already ordained into the fourth order by Acharya Madhva then.
- ❖ His contributions on this front are well documented in inscriptions available in the Simhachalam and Srikurmam (Srikakulam) temples.
- ❖ Some honorific prefixes were being used along with the name of this saint are: 'Loka Surakṣaṇa Ati Nipuṇaḥ', 'Yo Avati Kalinga Bhū Sambhavān'.

HPAI H5N1 Outbreak on Indian Wildlife

- ❖ Three tigers and a leopard have died after getting infected from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 virus, commonly known as 'bird flu', at the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park in Nagpur.
- ❖ The (HPAI) H5N1 virus is commonly known as 'bird flu'.
- ❖ This is the first instance of the disease having caused mortality among captive wildlife in India.
- ❖ The virus has established its presence in 108 countries, across five continents.

78th Foundation Day of BIS

- ❖ It was set up as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) on 6th January 1947.
- ❖ Later it was restructured under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.
- ❖ BIS works to strengthen quality standards and enhance competitiveness.
- ❖ It functions under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.
- ❖ The ISI Mark given to producers by the BIS for diverse items since 1955.



DSIR's 40th foundation day

- ❖ The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) was Established on January 4, 1985.
- ❖ DSIR's primary mandate is to promote indigenous industrial research by focusing on technology development, transfer, and utilization.
- ❖ The department aims to encourage the industries to engage in research and development (R&D) to create the commercially viable and globally competitive technologies.

Worst cities in Asia for traffic congestion

- ❖ Bengaluru ranks among the worst in Asia for congestion, with drivers spending an average of 132 hours annually stuck in traffic.
- ❖ According to the TomTom Traffic Index 2023, drivers in the city spend an average of 28 minutes and 10 seconds to travel just 10 kilometers.
- ❖ Pune in western India followed in second place for its lengthy travel times at 27 minutes and 50 seconds per 10 km.
- ❖ It is followed by Manila in the Philippines (27 minutes and 20 seconds) and Taichung in Taiwan (26 minutes and 50 seconds).

Most congested city in Asia 2024

- ❖ Kolkata was the second most congested city in the world in 2024 and the most congested in Asia.
- ❖ The Drivers in the city spent an average of 34 minutes and 33 seconds to travel a distance of 10 km.
- ❖ Kolkata was followed closely by Bengaluru, where drivers spent 34 minutes and 10 seconds to cover 10 km.
- ❖ While 110 hours were lost per year due to traffic conditions in Kolkata, it was 117 hours in Bengaluru, 108 hours in Pune and 85 hours in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Pune finished third with a travel time of 33 minutes and 22 seconds for the same distance, leaving India with three cities in the global top five.
- ❖ Barranquilla City (36 minutes, six seconds) in Colombia took the top spot and London (33 minutes, 17 seconds) rounded up the top five of the rankings.

Ancient Ice Core in Antarctica

- ❖ Scientists have successfully extracted what is likely the world's oldest ice.
- ❖ It was dating backed 1.2 million years, from deep within Antarctica.



- ❖ The air bubbles trapped within the ice core provide a direct snapshot of the past atmospheric composition, including greenhouse gas concentrations.

Role of Androgen Receptors in birds

- ❖ The androgen sex hormones are responsible for male sexual development while oestrogen and progesterone essay the same roles in females.
- ❖ New studies have reported that the androgen receptors are as important for sexual development and fertility in females as in males.
- ❖ Both male and female chickens devoid of the androgen receptors turned out to be infertile.
- ❖ The bodies of roosters and male chickens have a circadian rhythm, or internal body clock, that sends strong signals for them to crow at dawn.
- ❖ The neural circuit associated with this crowing behaviour is sensitive to the presence of androgen hormones, especially testosterone.

India's battlefield tourism

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence opened its historical as well as active battlefields and geopolitical zones for visitors as part of its new endeavour 'Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan'.
- ❖ The initiative will see some of its iconic and inaccessible war zones transform into tourist destinations.
- ❖ The newly inaugurated 'Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan' includes Galwan, and Doklam along with 75 other forward sites that have witnessed some military action in the past.
- ❖ These battle sites have been shortlisted by the Indian Army for “the battlefield tourism” in association with the Ministry of Tourism.

New GI tags from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- ❖ For the first time, seven products of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags simultaneously.
- ❖ The products are Nicobar Coconut, Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich (Virgin Coconut Oil), Andaman Karen Musley Rice, Hodi (an outrigger canoe), Nicobari Mat (Chatrai-hileuoi), Nicobari Hut (Chanvi Pati – Nyi hupul), Padauk Wood Craft.
- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) facilitated the process.



Kalaripayattu and 38th National Games

- ❖ In the 37th edition of the National Games, held in Goa in 2023, Kalaripayattu was included in the competition section.
- ❖ However, this year, the art form has been listed as a demonstration event.
- ❖ Kalaripayattu is one of the oldest and most scientific martial art forms in the world.
- ❖ It originated and is widely practiced in Kerala.
- ❖ There are two types of Kalaripayattu — northern and southern, which slightly differ from each other.
- ❖ In north, more weapons are used as compared to south, and all movements in northern Kalari are in a straight line — forward and backward.
- ❖ However, down south, people can move in any direction while practicing it.
- ❖ It is believed that Kalaripayattu was introduced to China at the Shaolin Temple in the 5th century AD by Bodhidharma.

India's First eVTOL Air Taxi 'Shunya'

- ❖ The Bengaluru-based Sarla Aviation, introduced its innovative electric flying taxi, Shunya.
- ❖ The Shunya prototype is designed for the short-distance commutes, capable of covering 20-30 km trips at speeds up to 250 km/h.
- ❖ With a capacity to carry six passengers and a maximum payload of 680 kg.

Kerala tribal king

- ❖ Raman Rajamannan, the tribal king from Kerala's Idukki and his wife, Binumol, are attending the Republic Day 2025 ceremony in New Delhi.
- ❖ There are more than 300 Mannan community families in 48 Scheduled Tribe villages in Idukki.
- ❖ The king has a special place in their rituals.
- ❖ He is selected from the royal families according to the traditional matrilineal inheritance system.
- ❖ The king has no rights or duties in civil society, but oversees community matters with the help of four upa rajas (deputies), one ilayaraja (prince), and a 50-member council of ministers, known as kaanis.



Operation Sard Hawa 2025

- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) has heightened the vigil along the border with Pakistan at Jaisalmer to foil infiltration attempts.
- ❖ The special exercise is aimed at thwarting attempts of infiltration due to reduced visibility caused by fog during winter.
- ❖ Usually, the BSF conducts 'Operation Garam Hawa' in the summer and the operation 'Sard Hawa' in the winter.
- ❖ On the other side, the BSF unearthed the three underground iron bunkers with banned cough syrup worth crore of rupees at the India-Bangladesh border.
- ❖ 62,200 bottles of Phensedyl syrup worth Rs 1.41 crore was found inside the bunker.
- ❖ Phensedyl, a codeine-based cough syrup, is banned in Bangladesh but often smuggled from India due to high demand in the neighbouring country.

Wealth of billionaires Annual - Oxfam report

- ❖ The Oxfam International report, titled Takers, Not Makers, highlights the wealth extracted from India during British colonial rule
- ❖ Between 1765 and 1900, the UK drained \$64.82 trillion from India, with \$33.8 trillion going to the top 10%.
- ❖ In 1750, India contributed 25% to global industrial output, but by 1900, this fell to 2%.
- ❖ In 2024, billionaires' wealth increased by a rate three times faster than 2023.
- ❖ Over 3.5 billion people continue to live on less than \$6.85 per day.
- ❖ The richest 1% now possesses more wealth than 95% of the global population.

Forbes 50 over 50 global list 2025

- ❖ Three Indian women have been honoured on the Forbes 50 Over 50 Global list.
- ❖ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, a Bengaluru-based billionaire, is an entrepreneur in the biopharmaceutical industry and one of India's most successful self-made women.
- ❖ Urmila Asher has launched Gujju Ben Na Nasta, a food business rooted in her Gujarati culinary expertise.
- ❖ Sheela Patel, born in 1952, is a renowned activist and academic dedicated to advocating for the rights of slum dwellers and creating equitable urban spaces.
- ❖ In 1984, she co-founded the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) in Mumbai.



SSI Mantra

- ❖ In a first doctors in India use the tele-robotic system to do two heart surgeries in Jaipur.
- ❖ It is India's indigenous surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra.
- ❖ It has successfully conducted two robotic cardiac surgeries via telesurgery over a distance of 286 km (SSI's robotics control in Gurugram and another at the Manipal Hospital in Jaipur).
- ❖ Both were cardiac surgeries - Internal Mammary Artery Harvesting procedure and Robotic Beating Heart Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB).
- ❖ It is a first in the world.
- ❖ The SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic System is the only robotic system in the world to have received regulatory approval for telesurgery and tele-proctoring.
- ❖ It was approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ❖ The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India.

Genome India Data Conclave

- ❖ Since, the Indian Genomic Data Set was unveiled by Prime Minister, India is no longer dependent on foreign genomic data.
- ❖ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the 'Framework for Exchange of Data Protocols (FeED)' and the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) Portals.
- ❖ It makes 10,000 whole genome samples accessible to researchers across India and the globe.
- ❖ It was done under the 'Genome India' project, spearheaded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- ❖ It aims to create a robust and comprehensive database of India's genetic diversity.
- ❖ So, in India there is diversity not only in food, culture and geography but also in Genome.
- ❖ India's bioeconomy has surged from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with projections to hit \$300 billion by 2030.
- ❖ India now ranks 12th globally in biotech and 3rd in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ India is the largest vaccine producer in the world and the third-largest startup ecosystem.



Northeast monsoon 2024

- ❖ The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai has announced that NE monsoon ceased over the south peninsular region.
- ❖ Though the season was interspersed with gaps in rainfall, the movement of weather systems kept the monsoon active.
- ❖ This is one of the rare years when the monsoon prolonged till January end.
- ❖ Normally, the monsoon withdrawal would occur in between December 26 and December 30 every year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu received nearly 58.9 cm of rainfall against its average share of 44.3 cm of rainfall during the core October and December monsoon months.
- ❖ The State experienced the most delayed monsoon of 1933-34 on January 28.
- ❖ The previous year's season spilled over to the next calendar year during one-third of the years since 1901.
- ❖ Monsoon had retreated from the State during the first 10 days of January during 28 years since 1901.
- ❖ This weather phenomenon of extended monsoon has become more frequent since 2011.
- ❖ Unlike Southwest monsoon, NE monsoon also called retreating monsoon, did not have a dramatic change in weather parameters like reversal in wind flow pattern during withdrawal.
- ❖ The Dip in rainfall was one of the major criteria taken into account for monsoon retreat.

