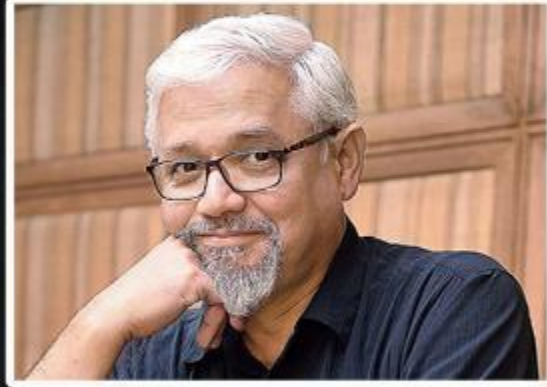


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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Meghalaya government unveiled the Khasi freedom fighter U Tirot Sing Syiem's life-size bust at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is being held between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Indian women's team for the first time won a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024, which was held in Malaysia.
- ❖ Ravichandra Ashwin scripted a record by surpassing Anil Kumble (350) to become the leading wicket-taker (352) in Test matches played on Indian soil.
- ❖ Geeta Batra, an India-born economist, has been named as the new director at the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility.
- ❖ India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat, named 'Suchetha', was inaugurated in Kochi.
 - The V.O. Chidambaranar Port is also the first Green Hydrogen Hub Port of the country.
- ❖ The Assembly Secretariat has declared the Vilavancode Assembly constituency vacant, following the resignation of S. Vijayadharani.
- ❖ Prime Minister dedicated to the nation five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh).
- ❖ The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), has successfully commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which stores energy using solar energy in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Renowned ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas passed away recently at Mumbai.
- ❖ Bharat Tex 2024, one of the largest-ever global textile events, was inaugurated in Delhi.
- ❖ Two 'Ayush Projects' - The National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) in Pune and the Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) in Deverkhana Village, Jhajjar of Haryana were inaugurated recently.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has appointed A S Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge A.M. Khanwilkar was appointed as the chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.
- ❖ The construction of an outer harbour container terminal at VO Chidambaranar port in Thoothukudi, conceived a decade ago, finally takes off with laying the foundation stone.



- ❖ TN's CM has unveiled the foundation stone for the construction of the Kalaigarnar Centenary Park, to be spread over 6.09 acres, in Chennai.
- ❖ The foundation stone for Sikkim's first Indian Railways station was laid in Rangpo.
- ❖ India and Bangladesh collaborated under the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program (ITHCP) for Transboundary Tiger Conservation in Sunderbans.
- ❖ Prime Minister announced that India will have its own space station by 2035 and also become a commercial hub of the sector.
- ❖ The Prime Minister of India inaugurated three significant space infrastructure projects: SLV Integration Facility (PIF) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Semi-cryogenics Integrated Engine and Stage Test (SIEST) facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri (Tirunelveli District) and Trisonic Wind Tunnel at Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ The first council meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) took place recently in Washington DC, United States.
- ❖ Union government formed an expert committee, headed by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan, to formulate uniform Know Your Customer (KYC) rules.
- ❖ 'Fool Bahadur', the first Magahi novel translated into English by Indian poet-diplomat, editor and translator Abhay K. was launched in Patna, Bihar.
 - Magahi, also known as Magadhi, is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal states of eastern India.
- ❖ The world's first Vedic clock is installed at an 85-foot-high tower was constructed in Ujjain.
 - The clock will calculate time period between the two sunrises will be divided into 30 parts whose one hour consists of 48 minutes according to ISD.
- ❖ The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked again as the No. 1 cooperative among the top 300 cooperatives in the world.
- ❖ The 13th ministerial conference (MC) of WTO was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Students at the Centre for Innovation, IIT- Madras, have showcased some of the innovative technology they developed to the public at the 16th edition of the annual Open House organised recently.
- ❖ Reliance Foundation launched 'Vantara' (Star of the Forest) programme at Jamnagar in Gujarat to the rescue, treatment, care and rehabilitation of injured, abused and threatened animals, both in India and abroad.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will honour Acharya Lokesh Muni as the 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'.



- He is the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and the World Peace Center.
- ❖ The senior journalist VN Samy will be awarded the Kalaignar Ezhuthukol Award 2022 in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ DRDO has conducted two successful flight tests of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- ❖ Daljit Singh Chaudhary, Senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- ❖ Nicaragua has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) or Indian Pharma standards.
 - This development follows the signing of a MoU on Pharmacopoeia Cooperation between the governments of India and Nicaragua.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister has launched the 'Neengal Nalama?' scheme, where government officials would interact with citizens to gather feedback on various state initiatives
- ❖ The National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai, was converted as a deemed to be university under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism has included the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Maharashtra) in its Swadesh Darshan Scheme II.
- ❖ The Gujarat Forest department is setting up India's first cheetah conservation breeding centre in Banni Grasslands Reserve, Kutch district.
 - The centre will have open-to-air isolation enclosures and aims to bring cheetahs to Gujarat early next year.³
- ❖ Zoho Corporation had introduced a modern point of sale (PoS) solution named Zakya, for retail stores in the small and medium segments to streamline their day-to-day operations.
- ❖ The 4 days long Tawi Festival showcases the Dugger culture which is held on the bank of the Tawi River in Jammu.
- ❖ Sweden will soon be invited to accede to the Washington Treaty and officially become NATO's 32nd member.
- ❖ India's first government naturopathy hospital of 250 beds with multi-disciplinary research and extension service centre, was inaugurated at Yewalewadi under the "Nisarg Gram Project" of National Institute of Naturopathy in Pune.
- ❖ Indian shuttlers have bagged 18 medals, including three gold, four silver and 11 bronze, at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2024, in Pattaya, Thailand.



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore.
- ❖ The Samudra Laksamana (Bilateral Maritime Exercise) between India and Malaysia was recently concluded off the coast of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Sub-inspector Suman Kumari made history by joining the Border Security Force (BSF) as its first female sniper.
- ❖ A first of its kind jet suit race was organised by the Dubai Sports Council and the Gravity company.
- ❖ The Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) fertilizer plant in Barauni (Bihar) was inaugurated and dedicated to the nation recently.
- ❖ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has commissioned its first indigenously manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant located in Hazira, Gujarat.
- ❖ India's first-ever endangered Gangetic River dolphin research centre was inaugurated in Patna, Bihar.
- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India discovered a new variety of sea slug mollusk off the coasts of Odisha and Bengal.
 - It is named after the President Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ Kerala has introduced its first generative AI teacher, Iris.
 - It is built under the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) project initiated by NITI Aayog
- ❖ The first make in India ASTDS Tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ India's first under-river metro tunnel was inaugurated in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ Spain's women's football team secured a historic victory over France, winning the first-ever UEFA Women's Nations League.
- ❖ Employee Appreciation Day has observed every year on the 1st Friday of March.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) in Thiruvananthapuram is being "actively considered" as a possible location for the proposed Bharat Semiconductor Research Centre.
- ❖ Jindal Stainless (JSL) has commenced the inaugural usage of green hydrogen in its stainless-steel plant located in Hisar, Haryana.
- ❖ South Eastern Coalfield Limited's Gevra Mine in Chhattisgarh is set to become the Largest Coal Mine in Asia.
 - It has received environmental clearance to expand its production capacity to 70 million tonnes annually.



- ❖ The Agriculture Integrated Command and Control Center was inaugurated at the Krishi Bhawan in the national capital.
- ❖ Philanthropist and author Sudha Murty was nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
 - She is the wife of Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and is also the chairperson of the Murty Trust and has authored several books.
- ❖ England's James Anderson has joined Muttiah Muralitharan and Shane Warne in the elite 700 Test wickets club.
- ❖ In recognition of country's efforts to combat Measles and Rubella, India has been bestowed with the prestigious Measles and Rubella Champion Award by The Measles and Rubella Partnership.
- ❖ The first edition of the Biannual Naval Commanders' Conference 2024 was held onboard the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- ❖ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has given approval to Goa-based airline FLY91 to start commercial operations.
- ❖ The first Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 was held at Veterinary College Field in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has chosen feminist, teacher, and novelist Bama Faustina Soosairaj for the Avvaiyar award for the year 2024.
- ❖ IAS officer B. Jothi Nirmala Samy was named the Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner succeeding outgoing retired IAS officer V. Palanikumar.
- ❖ Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora made history as Pakistani province Punjab's first Sikh minister.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir police have initiated "Operation Kamdhenu" to curb the rampant issue of cattle smuggling in the Jammu, Samba, and Kathua (JSK) police ranges.
- ❖ India has celebrated the Jan Aushadhi Diwas on March 7th promote awareness about generic medicines and how they can be helpful for millions across the country.
- ❖ The Prime Minister unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of 'Ahom general' Lachit Borphukan in Assam's Jorhat.
- ❖ Panama has officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and became the 97th member nation.
- ❖ The second outreach programme for the 'Sangam: Digital Twin initiative' was conducted at IIT Bangalore.
- ❖ ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Karnataka was organized a mega "National Horticulture Fair – 2024.



- ❖ Yatin Bhaskar Duggal from Haryana won the first prize in the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024.
 - Vaishna Pitchai from Tamil Nadu won the second prize and Kanishka Sharma from Rajasthan the third prize.
- ❖ Writer Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy's book 'Karunkundram' has been selected for Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023.
 - Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy has translated Mamang Dai's English novel 'The Black Hill' into Tamil.
- ❖ Nayab Singh Saini became the new chief minister of Haryana after Manohar Lal Khattar resignation.
- ❖ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) hosts the largest share of women personnel (9%) among Central Paramilitary Forces in India.
- ❖ The first-of- its-kind "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" was inaugurated at the premier National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali.
- ❖ The world's first mosque built using 3D printing technology was recently inaugurated in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ India has become the second-biggest mobile phone-producing country, only after China.
- ❖ World Plumbing Day is annually celebrated on the 11th of March around the world to spread awareness of the importance of plumbing in protecting public health.
- ❖ India's first small-scale LNG unit was inaugurated at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ A 23-year-old Ganesh Baraiya becomes World's Shortest Doctor and posted at Bhavnagar Government hospital, Gujarat.
- ❖ Gujarat's Vadodra Municipal Corporation has raised 1 billion rupees (\$12.07 million) by issuing Asia's first certified green municipal bond.
- ❖ Nagpur has become the first city in the country to take a step towards sustainable development by launching Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP).
- ❖ Indira Gandhi International Airport of Delhi has been conferred the award for the 'Best Airport' in the Asia-Pacific Region for the sixth consecutive year.
- ❖ Kishor Makwana assumed the charge of Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).
 - Luv Kush Kumar assumed the charge of Member of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).
- ❖ Asif Ali Zardari takes Oath as Pakistan's 14th President.
- ❖ Tata Motors Group, has signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu government for establishing a vehicle manufacturing facility at an investment of over ₹9,000 crore over five years.



- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated Kochrab Ashram and launched the Master plan of Gandhi Ashram Memorial in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ Srinivasan K. Swamy has been presented with IAA Goden Compass Award at the 45th IAA World Congress held in Penang, Malaysia.
- ❖ India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project of Maruti Suzuki India was inaugurated in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- ❖ The comprehensive maritime security exercise 'Sea Defenders-2024' between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) successfully was concluded at Port Blair, Andaman.
- ❖ In a first in Maharashtra, Mumbai is set to witness the installation of 210 artificial reefs in the Arabian Sea, near Worli Koliwada.
 - This is the second artificial reef deployment in the country after Pondicherry.
- ❖ India's first FutureLABS center named, "Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics" was inaugurated in C-DAC of the Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ Retired IAS officers Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were appointed new Election Commissioners of India.
- ❖ Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has busted a major gold smuggling racket under Operation Rising Sun.
- ❖ IIT Madras is collaborating and funding a space startup Vellon Space to demonstrate a miniature space laboratory called 'AsteriX Lab' in orbit by 2025.
- ❖ Maharashtra has decided to purchase 2.5 acres of land in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - Maharashtra is the first state to purchase land in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Mumbai cricket team has won the Ranji Trophy 2024 after beating Vidarbha in Mumbai.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced that the second World Classical Tamil Conference would be held in Chennai in June 2025, for five days.
 - The first World Classical Tamil Conference was held in June 2010 in Coimbatore.
- ❖ Chief Election Commissioner announced the schedule for the upcoming 18th Lok Sabha elections, and for the Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim.
 - Lok Sabha 2024 elections will be held between April 19 and June 1, across seven phases.
- ❖ Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, was bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.



- ❖ Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year has been given jointly to independent journalist Greeshma Kuthar, and Ritika Chopra of the Indian Express.
- ❖ The Maharashtra govt decided to rename Ahmednagar district as 'Ahilya Nagar' in honour of the 18th-century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- ❖ The Centre has announced that it will celebrate September 17 every year as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'.
 - The region was liberated from Nizam's rule on September 17, 1948 after police action namely 'Operation Polo'.
- ❖ Indian Oil launches ETHANOL 100 alternative automotive fuel at selected 183 retail outlets across five states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Indian Navy's dedicated headquarters named 'Nausena Bhawan' was inaugurated at Delhi Cantonment.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved an inter-governmental framework agreement between India and the United Arab Emirates on cooperation for the India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor.
- ❖ India's Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) opens its first overseas office in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ The Election Commission has announced Para Archer and Arjuna Awardee, Sheetal Devi as its National PwD (Person with disability) Icon.
- ❖ Odisha inaugurated India's first indoor athletics and aquatic centres at the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces are conducting the 10th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024'.
- ❖ According to the 2024 DHL Global Connectedness Report, India ranks 62nd out of 171 countries on the DHL Connectedness Index.
- ❖ The Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan has been given the additional responsibility as the in-charge governor of Telangana.
 - This comes after Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned from her Telangana Governor post.
- ❖ Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) beat Delhi Capitals in a final of the 2024 cricket Women's Premier League (WPL) in India.
- ❖ A landslide victory in the Russian presidential elections has ensured another six-year term for Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ The Opening Ceremony of the Bilateral Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Amphibious Exercise between India and US, Tiger Triumph, was held onboard INS Jalashwa.



- ❖ The Noted Malayalam poet Prabha Varma has bagged the prestigious Saraswati Samman literary award for 2023.
- ❖ India have achieved a doctor to population ratio of 1:900 against the WHO recommendation of 1:1000.
- ❖ India, Brazil hold first '2+2' defence ministerial dialogue on energy, critical minerals, technology and counter-terrorism.
- ❖ Srinagar witnessed a historic moment as it hosted its inaugural Formula 4 car racing demonstration event recently.
- ❖ India's first integrated Oil Palm Processing Unit by 3F Oil Palm started its commercial operations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Vaughan Gething was elected first minister of Wales and he is becoming the first Black leader of a government in the U.K.
- ❖ The United Nations is observing March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.
 - It aims to taking “concrete action in the face of rising hatred, discrimination, and violence against Muslims”.
- ❖ Development bank SIDBI has secured approval from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its first anchored project, Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at USD 120 million.
- ❖ India’s first Ayurvedic café - ‘Soma: The Ayurvedic Kitchen’, was inaugurated at the Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital, Delhi.
- ❖ Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda declared Pokhara as the “tourism capital of Nepal”.
- ❖ Meta has unveiled a 'comprehensive approach' to limit misinformation, eliminate voter interference and increase transparency and accountability on its platform during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- ❖ Dr. Sultan Al Jaber of UAE, the President of COP28 (2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference), received the CERAWeek Leadership Award.
- ❖ The 3rd edition of North East Games 2024 kick-started in Sovima, Nagaland.
- ❖ Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) has achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I central public sector enterprise.
- ❖ India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) powered bus inaugurated and operated by Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation.
- ❖ Table tennis player Sathiyam Gnanasekaran has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Indian to clinch a men's singles title at a WTT Feeder Series event held in Beirut, Lebanon.



- ❖ The French Language Day is annually celebrated on March 20, to promote the preservation and revitalization of French language and culture.
- ❖ The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was convened in New Delhi.
- ❖ GoodEnough Energy has announced plans to launch India's first battery energy storage gigafactory in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - The facility aims to reduce over 5 million tons of carbon emissions annually.
- ❖ India, Mozambique and Tanzania navies are participating in the Second edition of Tri Lateral (TRILAT) maritime Exercise - IMT TRILAT 2024.
- ❖ Table tennis player Sharath Kamal will be the Indian team's flagbearer for the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics.
 - Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom has been named as the chef de mission for the Summer Games.
- ❖ The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has elected India as co-chair of its Digital Innovation Board.
 - DoT Secretary, Dr Neeraj Mittal, was unanimously elected as co-chair of the Digital Innovation Board of ITU.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Bhutan's highest civilian award, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo.'
 - He is the first foreign Head of the Government to receive the honour.
- ❖ The World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is celebrated on March 20 to attract the attention of a wider public to the art of theatre for children and young people.
- ❖ NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) has bagged the GEEF Global Environment Award 2024 in the mining category during the Global Clean Energy Summit - 2024 held in New Delhi recently.
- ❖ The first "Global Inequality Research Award" is jointly awarded to Bina Argawal and James K. Boyce for their groundbreaking work in the field of social and environmental inequalities.
- ❖ NASA have successfully tested a 3D-printed engine recently.
 - The innovation system of propulsion is called the Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine (RDRE).
- ❖ Every year on March 22, the people of Bihar celebrate the Bihar Diwas to commemorate the formation of the state.
 - In 1912, Bihar and Orissa became separate states from Bengal.



- ❖ Every year on 24th of March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is celebrated.
 - This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980.
- ❖ International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed on March 25 every year.
 - The Day is observed each year on the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was working for the UNRWA in 1985.
- ❖ The International Day of the Unborn Child is observed on March 25 every year in commemoration of unborn fetuses.
- ❖ The Election Commission has launched Saksham App to facilitate easier voting for Persons with Disabilities and to avail facilities at Polling Stations.
- ❖ The Supreme Court constituted an expert committee to balance the conservation and protection of the endangered Great Indian Bustard bird population with the country's international commitments to promote renewable sources of energy.
 - They have been frequently collided with high-powered power cables running adjacent to its core habitats in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) is launching four variants of milk in the US market.
 - This is the first time; Amul fresh milk will be available outside India.
- ❖ Virat Kohli became the first Indian batter to complete 12,000 runs in T20 cricket.
- ❖ World Piano Day is observed on the 88th day of the year (28 March) unites piano lovers across the globe as they celebrate the “king of musical instruments.”
- ❖ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has emerged as the strongest insurance brand in the world.
 - It is followed by the Cathay Life Insurance from Taiwan and Australia based NRMA Insurance.
- ❖ The Singapore-flagged container ship "Dali" collided with one of the pillars of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, USA.
- ❖ President of Ramakrishna Mission Swami Smaranananda passed away recently.
 - He became the 16th president of the order in 2017.
- ❖ International Transgender Day of Visibility (Trans Day of Visibility) is annually observed on March 31st for celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide.

TAMIL NADU

Garbhini-GA2 AI model

- ❖ The Researchers have developed an India-specific artificial intelligence model to precisely determine the gestational age of a foetus.
- ❖ The model has been designed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, Haryana.
- ❖ It is part of an interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes — the DBT India initiative (GARBH-Ini) programme.
- ❖ The Garbhini-GA2 is the first late-trimester GA estimation model to be developed and validated using Indian population data.
- ❖ The Garbhini-GA2 accurately estimates the foetus' age, reducing error by almost three times.



'Ilakkiya Maamani' awards

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister handed over 'Ilakkiya Maamani' awards to nine Tamil scholars - Aranga. Ramalingam, K.N. Kothandam, Suryakanthan alias M. Marudhachalam, Mani Arjunan, Ara. Thiruvadam, K. Poornachandran, G. Manikkavasagan, S. Shanmugasundaram, Ilakkiya Natarasan alias S. Natarasan.
- ❖ The award carries a cash component of ₹5 lakh, a gold medal and a citation.
- ❖ The CM also virtually unveiled statue of late Tamil scholar Mu. Varadarasan in Ranipet.
- ❖ The statues of late Tamil scholar and freedom fighter Annal Thango was unveiled at Gudiyatham in Vellore district and late anti-caste activist Rettaimalai Srinivasan unveiled at Acharapakkam in Chengalpattu district.

Kulasekarapattinam spaceport



- ❖ The Kulasekarapattinam spaceport will be ready in two years to launch small satellites.
- ❖ This upcoming facility would have the capacity to launch 24 satellites per year.
- ❖ When a satellite is launched into space from ISRO's Sriharikota facility, the rocket first heads east, and then turn south.
- ❖ But the satellite launch from Kulasekarapattinam spaceport doesn't have to take this diversion and the rockets can now head straight in the southern direction.
- ❖ Also, Kulasekarapattinam is closer to the equator than Sriharikota.
- ❖ SSLVs can be used to launch satellites that weigh less than 500 kg into the lower earth orbit.

New e-governance initiative of the state

- ❖ Tamil Nadu state has launched the Tamil Nadu Public Fund Tracking System (TNPFTS).
- ❖ It is aimed at ensuring procedure simplification, complete tracking of funds from the treasury to end-users and expenditure rationalisation, among other aspects.
- ❖ It also launched the 'Kalanjiyam' portal and a mobile application to facilitate self-service requirements of State government employees and pensioners.

- ❖ Another website and mobile application launched to monitor the effective implementation of the New Health Insurance Scheme.

11th century Vishnu temple

- ❖ The T.N. Department of Archaeology has commenced the conservation and maintenance work at the Vishnu temple.
- ❖ It is a protected monument located in Ulagapuram near Vanur in Villupuram district.
- ❖ The temple is said to date back to the 11th century A.D and the village was then known as Ulagamadevipuram.
- ❖ It is named after the chief queen of Chola King Raja Raja I.
- ❖ The temple has inscriptions of Chola king Rajendra 1 and records the grants made to the temple.



SC verdict on Sterlite 2024

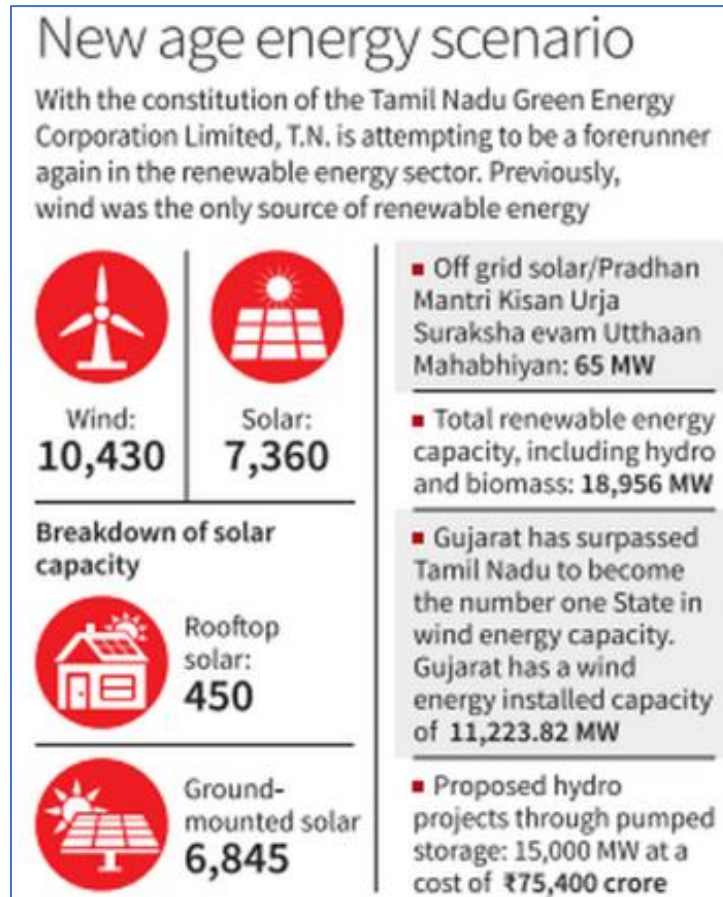
- ❖ The Supreme Court, on February 29, dismissed the special leave petition filed by Vedanta to reopen Thoothukudi Sterlite copper plant.
- ❖ The apex court upholds the Madras High Court judgment of August 2020 confirming the State government and TNPCB decision to permanently shut down plant for causing environmental violations.
- ❖ There had been repeated breaches on the part of the plant, including the indiscriminate dumping of copper slag in 11 sites, including private lands adjoining the Thamirabarani river.
- ❖ There was failure to obtain authorisation for dumping of hazardous waste on the part of the plant.
- ❖ The court has however agreed with the High Court that the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) had shown a “lack of alacrity in discharging its duties”.

<p>JULY 1997: More than 90 people get hospitalised after a sulphur dioxide gas leak in the plant</p>	
<p>MARCH 2013: Former TN CM J Jayalalithaa government orders the closure of the unit</p>	
<p>MAY 2013: The National Green Tribunal overturns the order</p>	<p>Vedanta constructed the Sri Peraathu Selvi Ammal Thirukovil a few months ago</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 2018: Protests resurface after Sterlite announced plans to double the plant's annual capacity</p>	<p>APRIL 10, 2023: A Supreme Court bench allowed Sterlite Copper to perform maintenance works at its Thoothukudi plant</p>
<p>MAY 22, 2018: Police firing kills 13 people and left 102 people injured during a protest</p>	<p>JUNE 12, 2023: Sterlite comes out with an advertisement inviting EoI to carry out 'restart activities'</p>
<p>MAY 24, 2018: The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board ordered the unit's closure</p>	<p>AUGUST 22, 2023: Final hearing to begin in the Supreme Court</p>
<p>JUNE 20, 2022: Vedanta comes out with an expression of interest (EoI) in selling the Sterlite unit</p>	

T.N.'s installed power capacity 2026-27

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total installed power capacity is likely to increase by about 31.8% to 47,048 MW by 2026-27 from 35,690 MW in 2021-22.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu saw a maximum all-time high demand of 19,387 MW on April 20 last year.
- ❖ It has the highest power demand among Southern States.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak electricity demand is expected to be 21,736 MW by 2026-27 when compared to actual demand of 16,891 MW in 2021-22.
- ❖ The total energy requirement is expected to be 1,44,0,86 units by 2026-27.
- ❖ The State's coal capacity is projected to increase to 18,128 MW by 2026-27 from 13,685 MW at the end of March, 2022.
- ❖ The nuclear capacity is expected to increase to 5,940 MW from 2,440 MW, while the gas and hydro capacity are expected to remain stagnant.
- ❖ Among renewable energy sources, the installed wind capacity in Tamil Nadu, is expected to increase to 12,556 MW by 2026-27 from 9,871 MW at the end of March 2022.
- ❖ Solar capacity is expected to increase to 5,316 MW by 2026-27 from 5,112 MW at the end of March 2022.

- ❖ Among the emerging green energy sources, the report expects an installed capacity of 900 MW of pumped storage projects in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Overall, the installed electricity generation capacity in India at the end of March 2027, would be about 609.6 GW.
- ❖ The overall peak electricity demand is likely to be 2,77,201 MW.



Cancelation of Civil Judges recruitment 2024 result

- ❖ The Madras High Court has directed the TNPSC to cancel the provisional selection list it published for the recruitment of 245 Civil Judges.
- ❖ The court held that the TNPSC had not properly followed the rule of reservation while drawing the provisional list.
- ❖ The 92 “carried forward” vacancies should be filled by following Section 27 of the Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Conditions of Service) Act, 2016.
- ❖ The rest of 153 regular vacancies has to be filled by following the general rule of reservation.

Tamil Nadu Incubator Maturity Model report

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ministry launched the Tamil Nadu Incubator Maturity Model (TNIMM).
- ❖ It is a framework for assessing start-up incubators across the State by identifying various parameters and criteria to promote them.
- ❖ An incubator helps early-stage start-ups grow by providing support, resources, and guidance.
- ❖ The framework was released to motivate incubators to compare themselves with top performers and improve their standards.
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at making the State the preferred start-up ecosystem in India and positioning it competitively among global ecosystems.
- ❖ An exclusive portal named 'Startup TN Catalyst' to connect start-ups with appropriate incubators were also launched.

Tamil Nadu's Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Pollution concern
A look at the sector-wise contribution towards greenhouse gas emissions in Tamil Nadu

Sector	2005	2019
Energy	82%	77%
Industrial processes and product use	6%	6%
Waste	8%	5%
Agriculture, forestry, and other land use	4%	12%

- ❖ The greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory was released at the inaugural of the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2.0.
- ❖ The report was titled 'Tamil Nadu's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Pathways for Net-Zero Transition'.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has seen a 84% rise in emissions from 2005 to 2019.
- ❖ It needs nearly 475 gigawatt of solar energy and 90 gigawatt of wind power to achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
- ❖ The State emitted a whopping 184 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2019.
- ❖ Of this, the energy sector contributes 77% of the GHG emissions; the industrial process and product use sector contributes 6%; the share of AFOLU sector is 12%; and the waste sector is responsible for 5% of the emissions.

First-ever herpetofaunal survey

- ❖ The first-ever herpetofaunal survey was conducted in the Core Area of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).
- ❖ The diversity of the region's amphibians and reptiles led to the recording of 82 different species.
- ❖ It includes 51 species of reptiles and 31 species of amphibians.



Neolithic Child Burial Site



- ❖ University of Madras researchers have discovered a neolithic site at Chettimedu Pathur near Chennai.
- ❖ The site yielded the burial remains of a child, along with a variety of cultural artifacts, including rare burnished grey ware and Chola-era coins.
- ❖ The site could be from 2500 BCE to 3000 BCE.

India's 1st Marine Force

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has launched the country's 'first' marine force to protect marine resources and biodiversity in the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Bay.

- ❖ It will focus on the conservation and protection of precious marine biodiversity such as coral reef, sea grass, and other marine flora and fauna.
- ❖ The force will combat marine wildlife crimes, including smuggling, prevention, and poaching of marine animals.
- ❖ Twelve marine watchers have been engaged in the force from the local fishermen community in Ramanathapuram.

Kazhuveli watershed region



- ❖ The Eri (tank) network in the Kazhuveli watershed region in Villupuram district is to be proposed for nomination to the World Monuments Fund Watch 2025 programme.
- ❖ The watershed area stretches from Gingee to Marakkanam all the way up to the Auroville plateau, and covers an area of 740 sq. km.
- ❖ The Watch 2025 is a nomination-based programme that connects local heritage preservation to global awareness and action.

Madras High Court on Srilankan Refugees

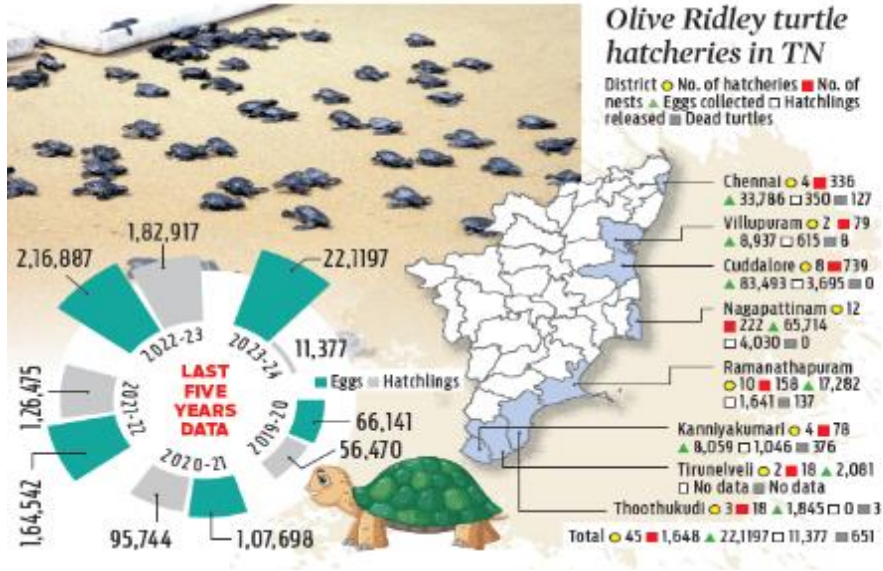
- ❖ The Madras High Court refused to issue a general direction to the Centre to grant Indian citizenship to all children born at the special camps for Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ An Indian citizenship was granted to Indian origin Tamils as per the terms of Sirimavo - Shastri Agreement of the year 1964 and the Sirimavo - Gandhi Agreement of the year 1974.

- ❖ Then, the issue was dealt with under Section 5(1)(b) of the Citizenship Act of 1955, applicable to people of Indian origin.
- ❖ However, the statutory time limit for making an application under the Sirima - Shastri pact of 1964 was fixed to be October 31, 1981.
- ❖ The Indian Origin Tamils who had failed to apply before the cut-off date were not entitled to get Indian citizenship even under Section 5(1)(b).
- ❖ A foreigner who had entered India without valid travel documents and remained beyond permitted period of time would be considered only an illegal migrant under Section 2(1)(b) of the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- ❖ Section 3(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act of 1955 clearly states that those who were born in India after the commencement of the 2003 amendment could claim citizenship by birth only if both the parents were Indian citizens or if one of the parents was an Indian citizen and the other was not an illegal migrant.



Olive Ridley hatcheries

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has set up 'climate-resilient' hatcheries for Olive Ridley Sea turtles.
- ❖ As many as 10 hatcheries — two each in Chennai and Nagapattinam, one each in Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tirunelveli, Ramnad, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari have been established.
- ❖ Warmer temperatures are known to produce a higher proportion of female hatchlings and cooler temperatures lead to a higher proportion of males from the nests.
- ❖ The Sea turtles exhibit temperature-dependent sex determination with pivotal temperatures close to 30°C.



New Municipal Corporations 2024

தமிழ்நாட்டில் 4 புதிய மாநகராட்சிகள்

புதுக்கோட்டை, நாமக்கல், திருவண்ணாமலை, காரைக்குடி ஆகிய நகராட்சிகளை, மாநகராட்சிகளாக தரம் உயர்த்தி முதலமைச்சர் மு.க.ஸ்டாலின் அறிவிப்பு.

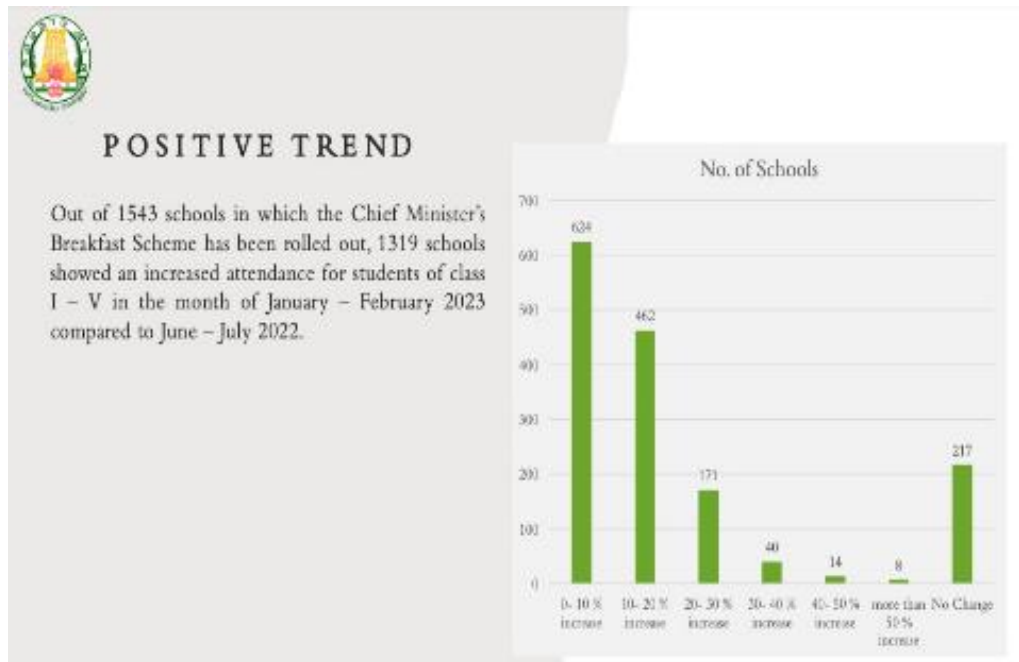
புதுக்கோட்டை நகராட்சியில், 11 ஊராட்சிகளை இணைத்து மாநகராட்சியாக தரம் உயர்த்தி அறிவிப்பு.

நாமக்கல் நகராட்சியில், 12 ஊராட்சிகளை ஒன்றிணைத்தும், திருவண்ணாமலை நகராட்சியில் 18 ஊராட்சிகளை இணைத்தும் மாநகராட்சியாக அறிவிப்பு.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has issued orders for upgrading Pudukkottai, Namakkal, Tiruvannamalai and Karaikudi into municipal corporations.
- ❖ With these four, the total number of municipal corporations in Tamil Nadu would increase to 25.
- ❖ Pudukkottai Municipality and 11 neighbouring village panchayats would form parts of the Pudukkottai Municipal Corporation.
- ❖ Tiruvannamalai Municipality and 18 village panchayats would constitute the new Tiruvannamalai Corporation.
- ❖ Namakkal Municipality and 12 village panchayats would jointly become the new Namakkal Municipal Corporation.
- ❖ Karaikudi Municipality, two town panchayats and five village panchayats would together become the Karaikudi Municipal Corporation.

- ❖ The new Municipal Corporations will be established by following the procedures laid down under the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is one of the most urbanised states in the country and as per 2011 census, the urban population stood at 48.45%.
- ❖ It is now estimated that the urban population in the state has increased to 53%.

Impact of Breakfast scheme



- ❖ Of the 1,543 government schools in Tamil Nadu where the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme has been rolled out, 1,319 schools showed an increase in attendance of students of Classes I-V in January and February this year.
- ❖ In Tirupattur, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Tiruvarur, the attendance at all schools where the scheme is running is 100%.
- ❖ These districts are followed by Krishnagiri (98.5%), Karur (97.4%) and the Nilgiris (96.8%).
- ❖ At 1,086 schools, the increase in attendance is up to 20%, while 22 schools report more than 40% increase.

Impact of Makkalai thedi Maruthuvam scheme

- ❖ The Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM), a scheme to deliver medical care at the doorsteps of people, has reached out to the most vulnerable groups, such as women in rural areas and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories.

- ❖ While diabetes and hypertension were the most widely covered the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) under MTM, cancer screening coverage was extremely low, it found.
- ❖ Among the study participants, 4,155 (60%) were from rural areas and 2,701 (40%) from urban areas.
- ❖ Nearly 78.84% of the study participants were aware of MTM, and 73% had been visited by Women Health Volunteers (WHV).
- ❖ In screening for hypertension, 81.25% of the study population had been screened for hypertension, and among them 93.8% were screened in the last year.
- ❖ Among those screened in the last year, 73.6% were screened through MTM.
- ❖ It also found that a higher proportion of women (82.6%) were screened compared to men (79%), with the screening through MTM in the last year also being higher in women (75.1% versus 71.2%).
- ❖ Screening through MTM for hypertension was 61.5% in urban areas compared to 82.9% in rural areas.
- ❖ Only four per cent of survey participants had ever undergone screening for oral cancer.
- ❖ Mere 11.06% of women screened for cervical cancer and 14.24% of women for breast cancer.

மக்களை தேடி மருத்துவம் - 1.7 கோடி பேர் பயன்!

“மக்களை தேடி மருத்துவ திட்டத்தின் மூலம் இந்த ஆண்டு 1 கோடி 7 லட்சம் பேர் பயனடைந்துள்ளனர். மேலும் தீவிர சிகிச்சை பெரும் நோயாளிகளின் எண்ணிக்கை 50 சதவீதம் குறைந்துள்ளது. பழங்குடியினர் அதிகம் உள்ள உள்மாவட்டங்களில் பழங்குடியின மக்கள், பெண்கள் அதிகம் பயனடைந்துள்ளனர். மக்களிடம் அதிகமாக வரவேற்றவை மக்களை தேடி மருத்துவ திட்டம் பெற்றுள்ளது”

Illegal trade in shark body parts

- ❖ Tamil Nadu accounted for almost 65% of the illegal trade in shark body parts.
- ❖ About 16,000 kg of shark fins were seized from 2010 to 2022, constituting almost 80% of the shark-derived products.
- ❖ The confiscated products were destined for Singapore, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Sri Lanka, and mainland China.

- ❖ Shark's meat is consumed as food, skin as leather, liver oil (squalene) as a lubricant, in cosmetics and as a source of vitamin A.
- ❖ Of 160 shark species reported in India, only 26 sharks and rays have been given the highest protection status under the amended Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 by listing them in Schedules I and II.

SHARKS FACING RISK OF EXTINCTION

➤ According to a recent report, 16,000kg of shark fins were seized in India in the last 12 years from January 2010 to December 2022

➤ Tamil Nadu accounted for 65% of shark seizure incidents,

followed by Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra

➤ Confiscated products were destined for Singapore, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and China

➤ Overfishing, coupled with low biological productivity, puts them at a higher risk of extinction



Impact of Pudhumai Penn Scheme

49K More Girl Students In TN To Get Rs 1K Every Month

Over 49,000 more girl students studying in Tamil-Medium in government aided colleges across Tamil Nadu will get a monthly stipend of Rs.1000 in their bank accounts under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme-Pudhumai Penn Scheme. The state government yesterday issued orders expanding the scheme to the students of aided colleges.

- ❖ Over 49,600 more girl students studying in Tamil medium at aided schools across Tamil Nadu will benefit from the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme-Pudhumai Penn Scheme.
- ❖ 49,664 Tamil medium girl students were studying at aided schools, including 23,560 students at minority institutions.
- ❖ The government issued an order to expand the scope of the scheme to cover the Tamil medium students who have studied from Class VI to Class XII at all aided schools.
- ❖ The scheme was launched by Chief Minister in September 2022.

- ❖ It aims to empower girls, especially those who have studied Classes VI to XII at government schools, by providing an incentive of ₹1,000 a month to each.

Single certificate to De-notified communities

DENOTIFIED TRIBES - MEANING

- DE notified Tribes (DNTs), also known as *Vimukta Jati*, are the tribes that were originally listed as "Criminal Tribes" and "addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences."
- Once a tribe became "notified" as criminal, all its members were required to register with the local magistrate, failing which they would be charged with a "crime" under the Indian Penal Code.



- ❖ TN Govt ordered that De-notified Communities and De-notified Tribes be issued a single certificate as against separate certificates.
- ❖ The People from these communities who were affected by the Criminal Tribes Act during the British rule in the pre-Independence era were classified under the 'Denotified Communities'.
- ❖ They are given a 20% reservation among the most backward communities.
- ❖ 68 communities getting the State government reservation were classified as the Denotified Communities.
- ❖ But for availing of Union government benefits, they were classified as Denotified Tribes.

PM SHRI Schools scheme

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has decided to sign a MoU with the Union Education Ministry to implement the PM SHRI scheme in the state.
- ❖ PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ❖ It aims to showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and emerge as an exemplary school over a period of time and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.
- ❖ The PM SHRI schools will deliver quality teaching for the cognitive development of students.

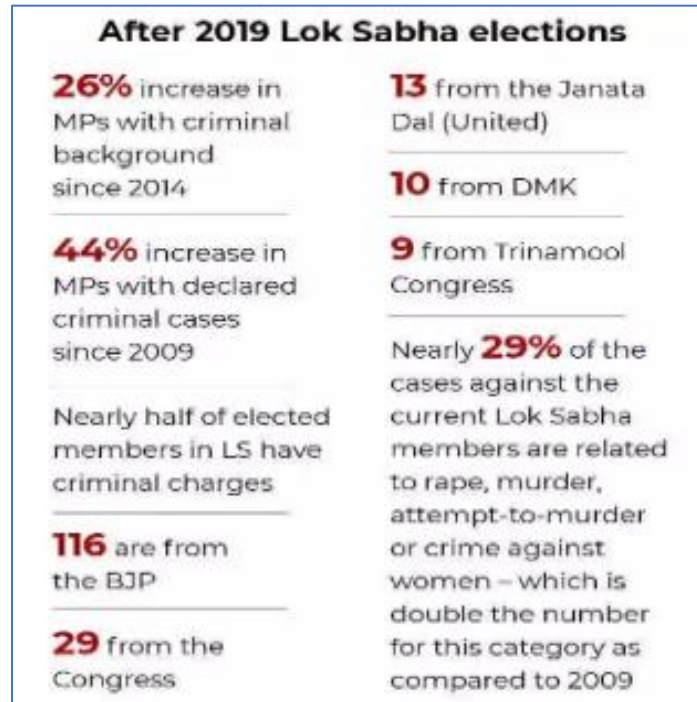
- ❖ The share of bank credit to women in Tamil Nadu stood at 20.78% of the total advances as of December 31, 2023.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu loan disbursements made to women by all banks have stood at ₹2,04,737.54 crore up to December 2023.
- ❖ The outstanding portfolio stood at ₹3,08,221.32 crore as of 31, December 2023.
- ❖ In terms of education loan, consumer durable loan, business loan and property loan to women, Tamil Nadu stood number 2 after Maharashtra.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was also among top five States in terms of home loan, auto loan and credit card.

Land acquisition for Tiger Reserve



- ❖ In a first, the Tamil Nadu Forest department has acquired 30.41 acres of erstwhile private patta land, situated in the core area of Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR).
- ❖ It came into being in 2021, making it the youngest of the five tiger reserves in the state.
- ❖ The land was acquired through private negotiation under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.
- ❖ This is the first time in India where the state government has purchased private land for non-commercial use towards forest and biodiversity conservation.

Lok Sabha polls and criminal cases



- ❖ The process of filing nominations for the Lok Sabha polls are commenced from, March 20, 2024, in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo has asked political parties to provide information on candidates with criminal cases, as per the prescribed format.
- ❖ As per Supreme Court directions, candidates who have criminal cases against them, either pending cases or cases of conviction in the past, and political parties that nominate these candidates should publish a declaration to this effect for wide publicity in newspapers and on TV channels.
- ❖ The declarations must be published on at least three different dates from the day following the last date for withdrawal of candidature, and up to 48 hours before the conclusion of the polls.
- ❖ Recognised parties and registered unrecognised parties that nominate candidates with criminal cases are required to publish these declaration giving details in this regard for wide publicity on their websites, as well as on TV channels and newspapers.

India's second privately developed rocket

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is to witness history when one of its space start-ups launches its first rocket.

- ❖ The Chennai headquartered space start-up Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited is going to launch its first rocket Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD).
- ❖ Agnibaan will be the India's first launch from a private launchpad.
- ❖ It is the India's first semi-cryogenic engine powered rocket launch.
- ❖ Also, this is the world's first single piece 3D printed engine designed and built indigenously.

Chola-era inscriptions in Tiruchi



- ❖ Two Chola-period inscriptions have been found at the Viraiachilai Andavar Temple in Rachandar Thirumalai, Tiruchi.
- ❖ One is a land record and another pertaining to tax exemption granted to a temple.
- ❖ The inscription of Kulottunga III appears to be a land document and throws light on a bronze icon, referred to as 'Desanayaga Perumal', at the temple.
- ❖ The inscription indicates that temple officials had purchased two plots of land at Karaiyur and Merkaraiyur from a few Brahmins of Maduranthaka Chadurvedimangalam by paying 3,000 anradu narkasu.
- ❖ Another inscription reveals a royal order of Rajaraja III that was written by Neri Yudai Chola Muvendavelan, the chief document writer of the king.
- ❖ As per the order, two veli of lands belonging to the two bronze icons of the temple named Desanayagar and Nachiyar, were exempt from all taxes including antharayam and pattam.

Tamil Nadu's peak power demand in 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak power demand hit a new record of 19,409 MW on March 22.
- ❖ This surpasses the previous record of 19,387 MW set on April 20, 2023.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest power demand among the southern States.
- ❖ The State’s peak power demand is expected to touch 20,806 MW in 2024 summer.
- ❖ TANGEDCO’s own thermal power capacity stands at 4,320 MW.
- ❖ The State’s conventional installed capacity stands at 16,417.38 MW.



Arcot site museum



- ❖ The erstwhile official residence of the Nawab of Arcot, Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah, during the 16th century, will soon become a permanent place for the Arcot site museum.

- ❖ Arcot was the capital of the Carnatic region when Zulfiqar Khan was the Nawab appointed by Aurangzeb in 1690.
- ❖ The dilapidated bungalow remained the official residence for Nawab Ali for many years before he decided to move to Madras to be closer to the British army.
- ❖ He vacated the bungalow after he built his Chepauk palace in 1768.
- ❖ Among its over 1,200 rare artefacts, the site museum has stone sculptures, terracotta figurines, coins, Islamic antiquities, porcelain ware, iron implements, wooden artefacts, and antiquities from excavation in the region.

Megalithic burials atop Jawadhu Hills

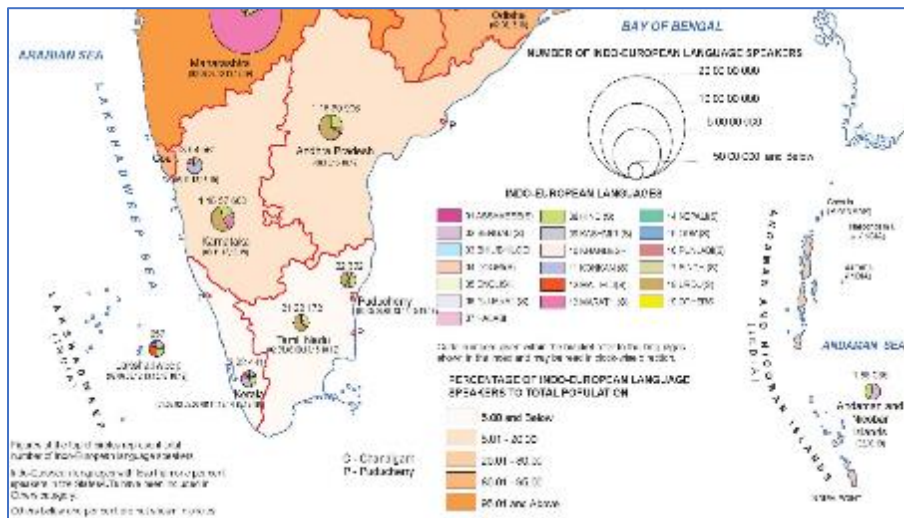


- ❖ TN Archaeology Department officials found over 100 megalithic burials inside Pattarakadu reserve forest (RF) atop Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai.
- ❖ Most of the megalithic burials were menhirs as they did not find any burial remains including things used by the deceased.
- ❖ Each burial site, on an average, was 7.5 metres in diameter and 1.5 metres in height.
- ❖ Most burials, which are made of huge granite stones, are located in the south-west and north-east direction.
- ❖ Similar types of megalithic burials without remains were also found in Mallachandram (Krishnagiri) and Coimbatore region.
- ❖ A megalith is a large stone that has been used to construct a prehistoric structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones.
- ❖ Such sites are two types, namely those that have actual burial remains like dolmenoid cists or they are simply memorial sites like menhirs.

NATIONAL

Language Atlas of India

- ❖ The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, proposes to conduct a linguistic survey across the country to create a 'Language Atlas' of India.
- ❖ It aims to enumerate how many languages are spoken and in which States and regions, can provide the answer.
- ❖ The IGNCA is an autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry.
- ❖ India recognises 22 languages officially, which are part of Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ According to Census data, 97 % of the Indian population speaks one of these languages.
- ❖ There are an additional 99 non-scheduled languages included in the Census, and according to the 2011 Census.
- ❖ Around 37.8 million people identify one of these non-Scheduled languages as their mother tongue.
- ❖ The native language of 1.2 million people remains unaccounted for due to the decision to not include languages with less than 10,000 speakers in the Census since 1971.
- ❖ The 1961 Census of India recorded 1,554 languages spoken in India.



Kala Azar in 2023

- ❖ India has achieved the target of reporting less than one case per 10,000 population across all blocks in 2023.

- ❖ There were 595 cases and four deaths of Kala Azar reported nationwide last year compared to 891 cases and three deaths in 2022.
- ❖ India's initial target year for Kala Azar elimination was 2010, which was later extended to 2015, 2017, and then 2020.
- ❖ Kala Azar (or visceral leishmaniasis) is a parasitic infection transmitted by sandflies.
- ❖ Now Kala-azar is targeted for elimination by 2023 though WHO NTD Road Map goal is 2030.

NEED TO SUSTAIN IMPROVEMENT

Kala Azar cases of top four states					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
● Bihar	3423	2416	1427	893	547
● Jharkhand	752	541	424	279	187
● UP	110	97	55	49	22
● WB	95	87	57	58	49
● INDIA	4386	3145	1967	1276	810

Deaths due to Kala-Azar					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
● Bihar	0	0	0	20	26
● Jharkhand	0	0	0	5	8
● UP	0	0	3	1	1
● WB	3	6	3	1	1
● India	3	6	6	28	39

Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024

- ❖ The Union government modified the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022.
- ❖ It aims to permit married couples to use donor eggs or donor sperm for surrogacy — a move that provided a big relief to those with medical complications.
- ❖ This revoked a previous amendment made in March 2023 that banned the use of such donor gametes.
- ❖ Now, the modification allowing married couples to use a donor gamete on the condition that a District Magistrate Board certifies that either the husband or the wife suffers from a medical condition.
- ❖ Last year, the 2023 amendment was challenged before the Supreme Court by a woman suffering from the Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) Syndrome.

SC PROD AFTER FLOOD OF PETITIONS

<p>➤ After notification of March 14 last year, Rule 7 of Surrogacy (Regulation) Act said couple undergoing surrogacy must use own eggs and sperm, donor gametes not allowed</p>	<p>➤ On Jan 9, SC referred to grievances raised by a large section of women and said many of them could not afford to approach SC</p>
<p>➤ SC was flooded with petitions from women after it granted relief to one woman and prima facie found fault with Rule 7</p>	<p>➤ Now, couples can use donor gametes after district medical board certifies either spouse has a condition preventing use of own gamete. Single women must use own egg cells</p>



India's Longest Cable-Stayed Bridge



- ❖ India's longest cable-stayed bridge was inaugurated in Gujarat's Dwarka.
- ❖ The 'Sudarshan Setu' is connecting Okha and Beyt Dwarka island.
- ❖ The bridge, which was known as 'Signature Bridge', has been renamed as 'Sudarshan Setu' or Sudarshan Bridge.

India's 1st septic tank cleaning robot

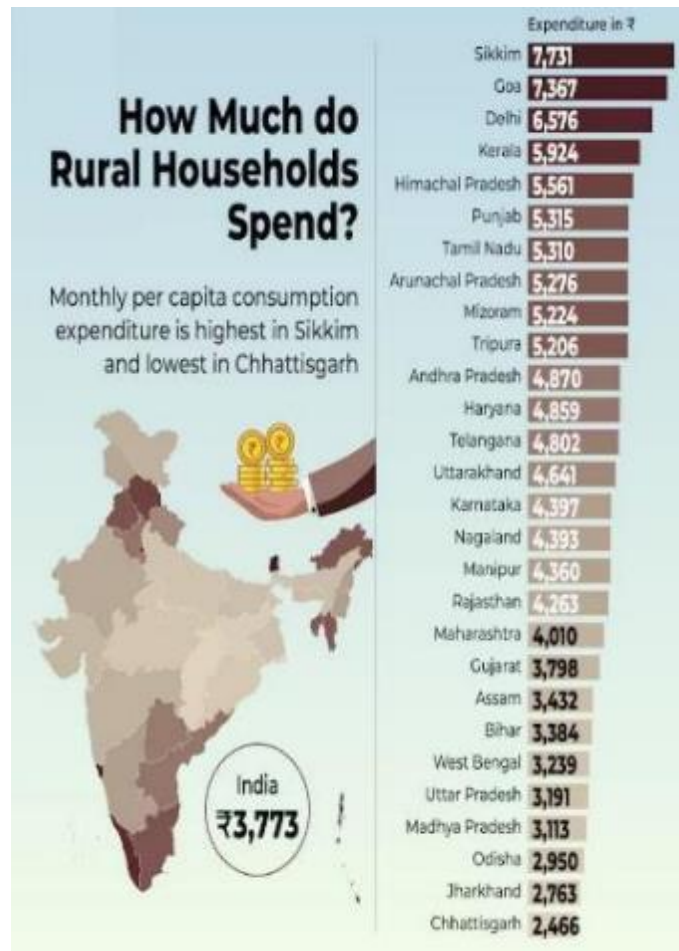
- ❖ India's first septic tank/manhole cleaning robot, offering an end-to-end solution to eliminate manual scavenging, is strengthening the swachhata abhiyan.
- ❖ The technology called Homosep Atom was developed by the startup incubated in the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IIT Madras.
- ❖ It has reached 16 cities in different parts of India and empowers extensive blade cleanings, solid waste desilting, suction and storage at one device.

- ❖ It is reducing the cost of owning multiple assets and promotes robotic cleaning in sewers.



Household Consumption Survey – states rank

- ❖ The Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) 2022-23 was released recently.
- ❖ Sikkim spends the most across rural and urban households, while Chhattisgarh ranks the lowest on both metrics.
- ❖ Sikkim tops with an average MPCE of Rs 7,731 in rural areas and Rs 12,105 in urban areas.
- ❖ Jharkhand came in above Chhattisgarh with an average MPCE of Rs 2,763, preceded by Odisha at Rs 2,950.
- ❖ For urban consumption, Bihar at Rs 4,768 took up the second spot, and Manipur was third at Rs 4,880.
- ❖ Among states, in rural and urban consumption, Goa, with an average MPCE of Rs 7,367 and Rs 8,734, respectively, came in second.
- ❖ Kerala was in third place at Rs 5,924 for expenditure by rural households, and Arunachal Pradesh took the third spot for urban.
- ❖ The rural-urban difference in average MPCE among the states was found to be the highest in Meghalaya (83 percent) followed by Chhattisgarh (82 percent).
- ❖ Among the Union Territories, MPCE was the highest in Chandigarh (rural at Rs 7,467 and urban at Rs 12,575), and the lowest in Ladakh (Rs 4,035) and Lakshadweep (Rs 5,475) for rural and urban areas, respectively.
- ❖ 21 states and Union Territories had an average MPCE that was higher than the national average at Rs 6,459 in 2022-23.
- ❖ Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh, had a lower consumption level compared to the all-India figure.



Economic transformation plan

- ❖ The NITI Aayog has prepared a plan for economic transformation of Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi and Vizag.
- ❖ The plan aims to leverage economic activities in these cities, aligning with the broader goal of transforming India into a developed economy.
- ❖ The Aayog also plans to prepare economic planning of 20-25 more cities, as they are the centre of economic activities.
- ❖ In 2023, NITI Aayog was entrusted with the task of consolidating the 10 sectoral thematic visions into a combined one for Viksit Bharat @2047.

Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture now intends to set up a Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Academy in Hyderabad.
- ❖ It will be known as Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik kendra.

- ❖ The academy has no presence in South India so far.
- ❖ An auditorium named as “Bharat Kala Mandapam” will be constructed within the “Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik kendra”.
- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Academy is the national academy for music, dance, and drama.
- ❖ It was established in 1953 and aims to preserve and promote India's diverse cultural heritage.

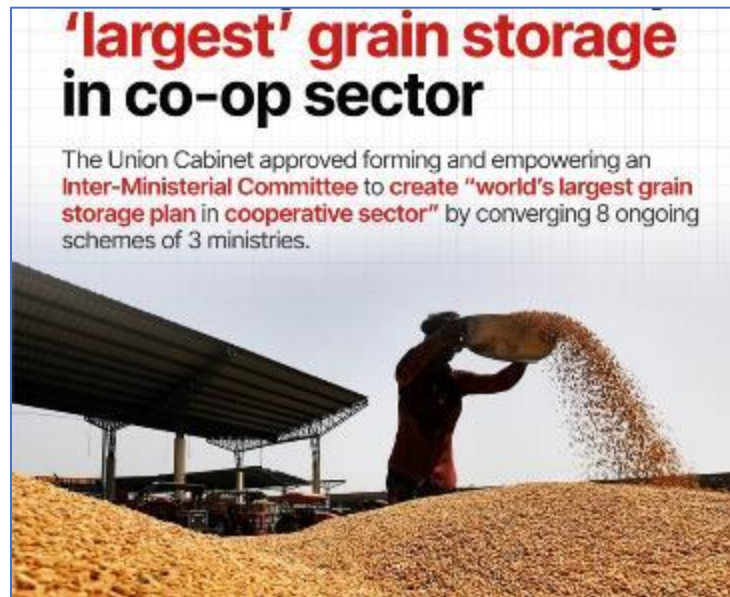
New initiatives to boost ‘Crop Insurance’



- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare launched three new initiatives to bolster crop insurance and help the overall farming community in India.
- ❖ They are
 - Kisan Rakshak Helpline 14447 and Portal
 - Agri-Insurance Sandbox Framework Platform SARTHI and
 - Learning Management System (LMS) Platform
- ❖ KRPH 14447 platform provides multilingual support, enabling transparent communication and real-time resolution of grievances related to compensation delays and insurance queries.
- ❖ SARTHI Platform aims to provide a comprehensive suite of insurance products including government’s subsidised PMFBY, tailored explicitly for farmers and rural India.

- ❖ The name SARTHI stands for Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology, and Insurance.
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), launched in 2016, is the government sponsored crop insurance scheme for farmers.

World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme



- ❖ The world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector, for farmers was launched recently.
- ❖ 700 lakh tonne storage capacity will be created in the next five years, with an investment of ₹1.25 lakh crore.
- ❖ Under the scheme, thousands of warehouses and godowns will be constructed across the country.
- ❖ The scheme aims to create storage capacity for storing 100 per cent of India's grain production.

Island On The Air (IOTA) Program

- ❖ A dedicated team of amateur radio operators (HAMs) from Nachugunta Island, Andhra Pradesh, undertook a journey to participate in the Island On The Air (IOTA) expedition Program.
- ❖ It was established in 1964.
- ❖ It is a pioneering programme that connects radio amateurs worldwide with stations on islands.

- ❖ Amateur radio is a popular hobby involving the use of radio frequency spectrum for non-commercial purposes.
- ❖ HAM radio operators communicate using designated radio frequencies, engaging in diverse activities like contests, emergency communication support, experimentation, technical learning, and community engagement.

Development of Six Mega Ports by 2047



Ports Upgrade

- ▶ **Ports Master Plan** in the works with respect to vision 2047
- ▶ **Target 10,000 mtpa** port handling capacity
- ▶ **In line** with GDP estimates & export growth
- ▶ **Lower** turnaround time of ships
- ▶ **Improve** handling capacity of domestic ports
- ▶ **Focus** on improving non-major ports with vacant land

What will it entail

- Revive shut down ports
- Introduce cargo handling at passenger only ports
- Bring in private sector to improve efficiency

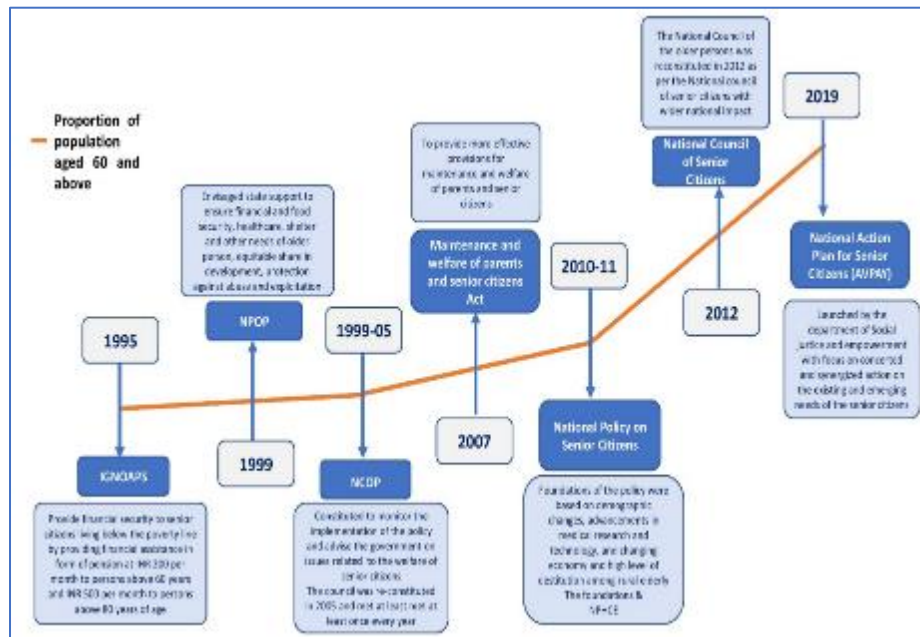
- ❖ India aims to develop six mega ports by 2047 as part of its ambitious maritime expansion plans.
- ❖ It will significantly be increasing its cargo handling capacity outlined in the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- ❖ Port development will focus on two categories
- ❖ Capacity Exceeding 500 million Tonnes Per Annum
 - Deendayal and Tuna Tekra Port Cluster (Gujarat)
 - Jawaharlal Nehru – Vadhavan Port Cluster (Maharashtra)
- ❖ Capacity Exceeding 300 million Tonnes Per Annum
 - Cochin – Vizhinjam Port Cluster (Kerala)
 - Galathea South Bay Port (Andaman)
 - Chennai – Kamarajar – Cuddalore Port Cluster (Tamilnadu)
 - Paradip and Other Non-Major Ports Cluster (Odisha)

Underwater Harbor Defence and Surveillance System

- ❖ A Precision Approach Radar (PAR) was inaugurated at INS Utkrosh in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ It will enable “highly accurate horizontal and vertical guidance to land an aircraft safely in low visibility conditions, such as heavy rain and fog”.
- ❖ The Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS) also inaugurated at Naval Jetty, Port Blair.
- ❖ It is capable of detecting, identifying & tracking surface and under water targets in vicinity of naval jetty thereby enhancing security of Port Blair harbour.



Senior Care Reforms in India



- ❖ NITI Aayog, has published a report titled 'Senior Care Reforms in India - Reimagining the Senior Care Paradigm'.

- ❖ This report underscores the essential steps required to empower elderly citizens financially and integrate them more fully into the nation's economic fabric.
- ❖ The recommendations in this paper categorize the specific interventions needed in terms of empowerment, service delivery, and their inclusions under four core areas: Health, Social, Economic/ Financial, and Digital.
- ❖ The elderly in India currently comprises a little over 10% of the population, translating to about 104 million.
- ❖ It is projected to reach 19.5% of the total population by 2050.

Equal opportunity policy for transgender



- ❖ The Indian government has announced a first of its kind equal opportunity policy for transgender people.
- ❖ The policy will prohibit the disclosure of a trans person's gender identity without their consent as the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules 2020 requires.
- ❖ This will encourage the fair treatment of trans people and create workplaces free from discrimination, harassment and bias.
- ❖ The policy seeks to ensure a trans employee's the right to choose a pronoun, gender and a chosen name — every business.

Potash derived from molasses

- ❖ The Sugar mills can now sell potash derived from molasses (PDM) to fertiliser companies to earn additional revenue.
- ❖ And also, they can receive nutrient-based subsidies on it.
- ❖ PDM, a potassium-rich fertiliser, is a by-product of the sugar-based ethanol industry.
- ❖ It is derived from ash in molasses-based distilleries.
- ❖ India currently imports 100% of the potash it needs for fertilisers, in the form of muriate of potash (MOP).

- ❖ Distilleries produce a waste chemical called spent wash during ethanol production, which is burned to produce ash.
- ❖ This ash can be processed to produce PDM, which has 14.5% potash content.
- ❖ This can be used by farmers as an alternative to MOP, which is 60% potash.



Swayam Plus Platform

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Education launched the 'SWAYAM Plus' platform to offer courses developed collaboratively with the industry.
- ❖ IIT Madras will be operating the 'SWAYAM Plus' Platform.
- ❖ It seeks to enhance the employability of both college students and lifelong learners.
- ❖ The industry-academia partnership would combine the academic rigour of educational platform with the real-world expertise and relevance offered by industry partners.

India's 3rd aircraft museum

- ❖ The iconic Indian Navy's decommissioned aircraft TU-142M and made as a aircraft museum in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ This museum marks the third of its kind, joining the ranks of Visakhapatnam and Kolkata.
- ❖ Also, this is the second such aircraft museum in the State.

Coal Logistics Plan and Policy

- ❖ The Indian government released the Coal Logistics Plan and Policy.
- ❖ It is aimed at ramping up coal supplies, especially to power generation plants.
- ❖ Coal logistics refers to the carriage of coal from the mines to their destinations.
- ❖ The objective of the policy is to make coal logistics cheaper, faster and cleaner.



MAJOR GROWTH AREAS FOR COAL TRAFFIC IN INDIA

The major coal producing states of **Odisha, Chhattisgarh & Jharkhand** along with parts of **Madhya Pradesh** are the major clusters for coal evacuation, accounting for 75% of the total domestic raw coal dispatch in India.

The National Coal Logistics Plan recommends 20 new railway lines. Some of these include:

- Tripling of Jharsuguda-Barpali-Sardega
- Doubling of Angul-Balram line
- Tripling of Korba – Champa Line
- Shaktinagar-Mahadiya new line
- Nagpur – Wardha Triple Line
- Execution of MCRL Inner and Outer Corridor

Cinema halls accessibility guidelines

- ❖ The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has released the draft Guidelines of Accessibility Standards in the Public Exhibition of Feature Films in Cinema Theatres for persons with hearing and visual impairment.
- ❖ This is applicable for those feature films that are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for public exhibition in cinema halls/movie theatres for commercial purposes.
- ❖ It has the information and assistive devices needed by persons with disabilities to enjoy films in cinema theatres.

India's population under extreme poverty

	Total population	Number of people living in extreme poverty	%
	(in crore)		
2016	132.37	7.59	5.7
2018	135.29	6.26	4.6
2020	138.21	6.73	4.9
2022	140.85	4.69	3.3
2024	143.48	3.44	2.4

- ❖ As per the World Poverty Clock, India has managed to bring down 'extreme poverty' below 3 per cent of its population.
- ❖ The World Poverty Clock provides real-time poverty estimates through 2030 for nearly every country in the world.
- ❖ The clock has taken \$2.15 a day income to present the finding.
- ❖ Accordingly, nearly 3.44 crore people are living in extreme population in 2024 against 4.69 crore in 2022.
- ❖ As a share of total population, number of people living in extreme poverty has come down to 2.4 per cent from 3.3 per cent in 2022.

Minimum age to cast postal ballots



- ❖ The government has amended the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to raise the minimum age for senior citizens eligible for voting by postal ballot to 85 years from 80 years.
- ❖ Postal ballot facility was extended under Rule 27A of the Conduct of Election Rules, to senior citizens above 80 years, persons with disability, poll officers, and Covid-positive persons.

- ❖ The total number of senior citizens above 80 years is around 1.75 crore, with those aged 80-85 years being around 98 lakhs.

Legislators taking bribes to vote in Parliament



- ❖ The Supreme Court has declared that parliamentary privilege will not protect legislators who take bribes to vote or speak in Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies from criminal prosecution.
- ❖ Now, the legislator will face criminal prosecution whether or not he makes a speech or votes in favour of the bribe-giver.
- ❖ The unanimous verdict overruled a 25-year-old majority view of the Supreme Court, laid down in the infamous JMM bribery case judgment of 1998.
- ❖ The ruling held that, the lawmakers who took bribes were immune from the prosecution for corruption if they go ahead and vote or speak in the House as agreed.

INS Jatayu

- ❖ The Indian Navy has commissioned INS Jatayu, at Minicoy Island in the Lakshadweep Islands.
- ❖ This is its second base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweep rakshak in Kavaratti.
- ❖ INS Jatayu is the beginning of a phased expansion plan to strengthen India's surveillance and security posture in the strategically located islands close to the Nine Degree channel and critical sea lanes of communication.

- ❖ The Navy also commissioned its first MH-60R multi-role helicopter squadron INAS 334 'Seahawks' at Kochi.

Chakshu Platform



- ❖ The Centre has launched two new digital platforms, 'Chakshu' and 'Digital Intelligence Platform'.
- ❖ The portal aims to empower subscribers to report suspected fraud calls and messages, as well as instances of leaked phone numbers by businesses.
- ❖ The new platforms, 'Chakshu' and 'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)', will integrate with the Sanchar Saathi portal.

Swachhata Green Leaf Rating initiative

- ❖ Swachhata Green Leaf Rating Initiative was launched by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ This rating system aims to ensure world-class hygiene and sanitation in hotels, resorts and homestays.
- ❖ But it has become a non-starter with no state is opting for it as of now.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has taken the lead by obtaining the first Five Swachhata Green Leaf Rating Certificate of Recognition.

DefConnect 2024

- ❖ 'DefConnect 2024' was inaugurated to give a boost to indigenous innovation in defence production.
- ❖ The event aims to forge partnerships and tackle emerging security challenges.



- ❖ During the event, Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme was launched.
- ❖ It was organized by Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO).

Verdict on Dying Declaration

- ❖ The Supreme Court observed that if the Court is satisfied that the dying declaration is true and voluntary, it can be made sole basis for conviction without any further corroboration.
- ❖ This was held during the Naeem Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ During the case of Atbir v. Government of NCT of Delhi, the Supreme Court laid down certain factors to be taken into consideration while resting the conviction on the basis of dying declaration.

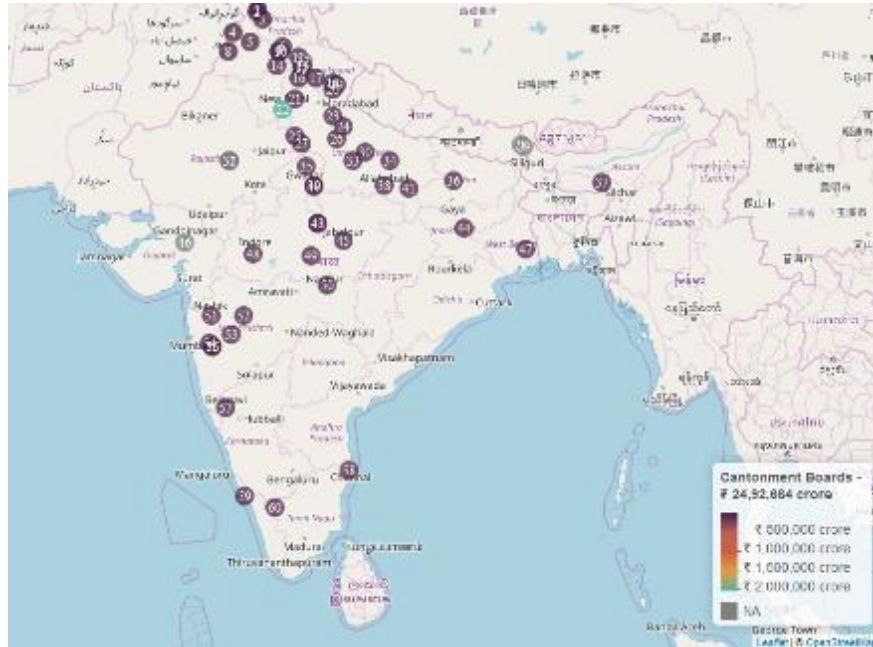
Fourth edition of Lineman Diwas

- ❖ The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of Power is organizing the celebration of the fourth edition of 'Lineman Diwas'.
- ❖ The day is being celebrated in order to recognize the tireless dedication and service of the linemen and ground maintenance staff.
- ❖ The theme for the fourth edition is 'Seva, Suraksha, Swabhiman'.

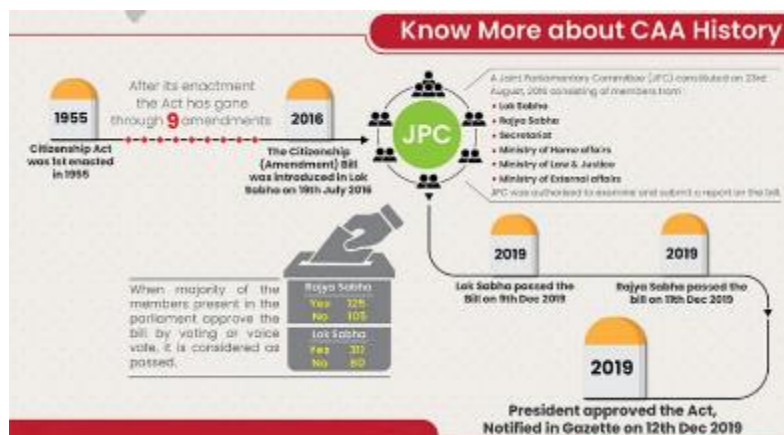
Denotification of 10 Cantonments

- ❖ The Centre issued a gazette notification to denotify civil areas of 10 cantonments (out of 58) in the country.
- ❖ These areas will now be merged with the state municipalities (local bodies) concerned.
- ❖ The process to remove civil areas from other cantonments, including six of Himachal Pradesh, is underway.
- ❖ The 10 include
 - Dehradun and Clement Town Cantonments in Uttarakhand;
 - Fatehgarh, Babina, Shahjahanpur and Mathura Cantonments in UP;
 - Deolali Cantonment in Maharashtra;
 - Ramgarh Cantonment in Jharkhand;
 - Ajmer and Nasirabad Cantonments in Rajasthan.

- ❖ Cantonments are designed as places of residence of both civilians and military personnel.
- ❖ The Cantonments are notified under the Cantonments Act, 1924 (Now by the Cantonments Act, 2006).
- ❖ The central government, after consulting the state governments and cantonment boards, hereby declares its intention to exclude certain areas of the said cantonments and the merger of such areas with the state local bodies.



Citizenship Amendment Act 2019



- ❖ The ministry of home affairs has notified the Citizenship Amendment Act's (CAA) rules recently.
- ❖ It is paving the way for the law's implementation across the country.



- ❖ These rules, called the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 will enable the persons eligible under CAA-2019 to apply for grant of Indian citizenship.
- ❖ The law makes it easier for Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian and Parsi refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, to get Indian citizenship.
- ❖ The law aims to give citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from these countries, who came to India before December 31, 2014.
- ❖ The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the president's assent.

Resignation of Election Commissioner

- ❖ Weeks before the Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commissioner Arun Goel has quit and his resignation has been accepted by the President.
- ❖ The three-member Election Commission of India already had a vacancy and will now be left only with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.
- ❖ In a landmark ruling in March last year, the Supreme Court had directed that Election Commissioners would be appointed by a panel consisting of
 - The Prime Minister,
 - The Leader of the Opposition and
 - The Chief Justice of India.
- ❖ The bench also stated that the order would stay in force until a law was made by Parliament.
- ❖ In December, the Parliament passed a Bill to replace the Chief Justice of India in the panel with a Union Cabinet minister.
- ❖ The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, was passed by Parliament.

Free Trade Agreement with EFTA Bloc

- ❖ India signed a free trade agreement with the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein are the four members of the EFTA.
- ❖ The deal is officially dubbed as the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- ❖ The agreement is likely made with the plan to attract \$100 billion in investments over a period of 15 years.

- ❖ Earlier to the signing, India had sought an investment commitment of \$50 billion during the first 10 years after the implementation of the agreement.
- ❖ Another \$50 billion will get over the next five years from the bloc members.

22nd Law Commission on Trade Secrets



- ❖ The 22nd Law Commission recommended that new legislation be introduced to protect trade secrets with exceptions relating to whistleblower protection, compulsory licensing, government use, and public interest.
- ❖ The 22nd Law Commission headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.
- ❖ Trade secrets are intellectual property rights on confidential information that may be sold or licensed.
- ❖ They derive their value from being kept secret.
- ❖ Currently, India lacks a specific law for the protection of trade secrets.
- ❖ Instead, they are safeguarded under the general laws governing contracts, common law, criminal law, and principles of breach of confidence and equity.

World's Longest Twin-Lane Sela Tunnel

- ❖ The world's longest twin-lane Sela tunnel was recently inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The tunnel is situated at an elevation of 13,000 feet and is strategically crucial as is close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- ❖ The Sela tunnel has been constructed using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM).



Zero-food children

- ❖ India had by far the largest number of zero-food children (6.7 million).
- ❖ It is almost half of all zero-food children in the 92 countries.
- ❖ Nigeria had the second-highest number of zero-food children (962 000).
- ❖ It is followed by Pakistan (849 000), Ethiopia (772 000), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (362 000).
- ❖ The Zero-food children are children between 6 and 23 months old who did not consume any milk, formula, or food in the last 24 hours.

Country	No., thousands (%)
Many children and high prevalence	
India	6732.2 (19.3)
Nigeria	961.9 (8.8)
Pakistan	848.5 (9.2)
Ethiopia	771.9 (14.8)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	362.4 (7.4)
Egypt	254.5 (6.8)

National Cooperative Database

- ❖ The National Cooperative Database was launched to help in the expansion and development of cooperatives in the country.
- ❖ It is a web-based digital dashboard wherein data of cooperative societies, including national/state federations, have been captured.

- ❖ It has collected or mapped information about 8 lakh cooperatives with over 30 crore people connected with them.
- ❖ 'National Cooperative Database 2023: A Report' was also unveiled recently.



‘NITI for States’ Platform



- ❖ Niti Aayog is launching a digital cross-sectoral knowledge platform called Niti for States.
- ❖ It will create a digital public infrastructure (DPI) for policy and governance.

- ❖ It is an integrated platform hosting numerous documents and datasets required for the government's Viksit Bharat action plan.
- ❖ Niti for States will have a multi-sectoral live repository of 7,500 best practices, 5,000 policy documents, over 900 datasets, 1,400 data profiles of states, districts, blocks etc.
- ❖ It is broken down by demography and socioeconomic indicators, and 350 NITI publications.

e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi

- ❖ The digital platform e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi was launched to help the farmers to take loans against their produce kept in registered warehouses.
- ❖ Farmers will get easy credit at 7 percent interest rate without any guarantee.
- ❖ The loans given to the farmers will be provided on the basis of Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR).
- ❖ There are currently over 5,500 registered godowns under the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority.
- ❖ While the total number of agri-godowns is estimated at around one lakh.



UNNATI – 2024

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI – 2024) for a period of 10 years.

- ❖ It is set to be effective from the date of notification and will run until March 31, 2034, inclusive of eight years of committed liabilities.
- ❖ The scheme is aimed at developing industries and generating employment in the North East Region.
- ❖ It seeks to create productive economic activity in manufacturing and services.
- ❖ Districts are categorized into two zones: Zone A (Industrially Advanced Districts) and Zone B (Industrially Backward Districts).
- ❖ 60% of the outlay of Part A has been earmarked for the eight NE states, and the remaining 40% will be allocated on a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) basis.



Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI-2024)

- Cabinet approves UNNATI – 2024 for a period of 10 years for development of industries and generation of employment in North East Region.
- Scheme will be effective from the date of Notification and up to 31.03.2034 along with 8 years of committed liabilities.
- Financial outlay of Rs.10,037 crore for the scheme period from the date of notification for 10 years. (Additional 8 years for committed liabilities).
- Eligible industrial Units to commence their production or operation within 4 years from the grant of registration.
- Districts categorized into Zone A (Industrially Advanced Districts) & Zone B (Industrially Backward Districts).
- Scheme envisages approximately 2180 applications.

IndiaAI Mission

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the IndiaAI Mission with an outlay of Rs 10,372 crore for the next five years.
- ❖ The government will allocate funds towards subsidising private companies looking to set up AI computing capacity in the country, among other things.
- ❖ It will be used to create computing infrastructure for the country, AI centres for multi-modal LLMs, 10,000 graphics processing units and more.

Catch the Rain 2024 Campaign

- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2024' Campaign.
- ❖ It aims to optimise the rainwater harvesting and other sustainable water management practices.
- ❖ The campaign aims to cover water conservation, rainwater harvesting, geo-tagging of water bodies, establishment of Jal Shakti Kendras, intensive afforestation, and awareness generation.

Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024



BACKGROUND

- 1887** The Wild Birds Protection Act was passed by the British India Government
- 1912** A second law was enacted in 1912 called the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act. This act was amended in 1935.
- 1960** There is a rising issue for protection of wildlife and the prevention of certain species from becoming extinct came into the limelight.
- 1972** 'forests' part from state subject was shifted to **Concurrent List** by passing the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**

- ❖ The Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024 are issued by the Union environment ministry.
- ❖ People with exotic pets such as macaws, cockatoos or a variety of soft-shell turtles will have to register them with the state wildlife department.
- ❖ The species covered by these are those listed under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- ❖ “Animal species’ means any living specimens of any animal species listed in Schedule IV appended to the Act” which covers species under the Convention.”
- ❖ These rules do not apply to other wildlife that is already protected under the Wildlife Protection Act and cannot be kept in captivity.
- ❖ Section 49 M of the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022 provides for the registration of possession, transfer, reporting of birth and death of living the scheduled animal species which are listed in the Appendices of CITES and listed in the Schedule IV of the Act.

KIRTI Program

- ❖ The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme was launched recently.
- ❖ The scheme is aimed at school children in the age group of nine to 18 years.
- ❖ It will also focus on using sports as a tool for healthy life and primarily keep youngsters away from drugs and gadgetry distractions.

- ❖ Fifty thousand applicants were being assessed in the first phase across 10 sports disciplines, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, hockey, football, and wrestling.

The poster features logos for the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, KHELO INDIA, and SAI (Sports Authority of India). The title is "KHELO INDIA RISING TALENT IDENTIFICATION (KIRTI) PROGRAM". Below the title, it states: "Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Brings you a platform to showcase your Sports skills under the Khelo India Rising Talent Initiative (KIRTI) Program. The Talent Hunt will be done for Following Sports in Mumbai." A list of sports is provided: 1. Kho-Kho, 2. Kabaddi, 3. Athletics, 4. Football. Illustrations show a person performing a hurdle jump, a person playing football, and a person running. The text concludes: "All Athletes (Male & Female) between the Age of 9 years to 18 years are hereby encourage to be part of this Talent Hunt Program held at Sports Authority Of India, Regional Centre, Kandivali East from 11th March 2024. Only the Registered athletes will be allowed to Participate in the Talent Hunt". At the bottom, it says "So Hurry up and Register Now!!" with illustrations of athletes.

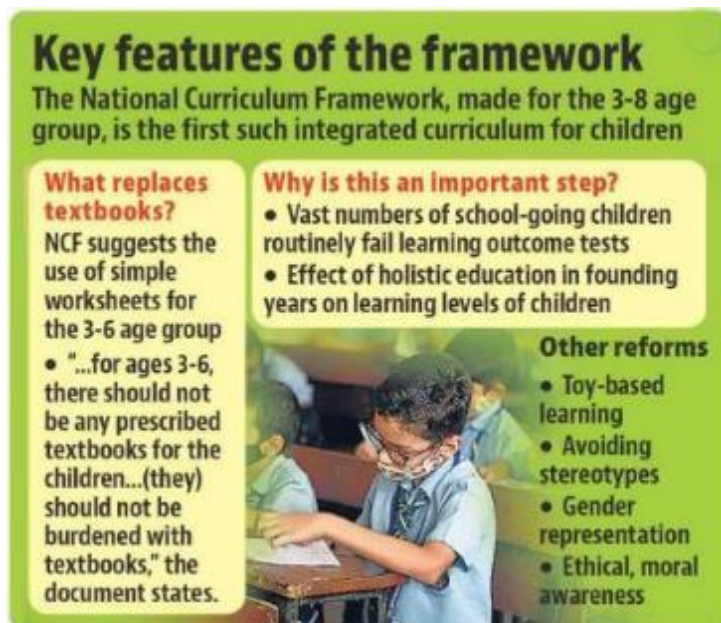
UNDP Gender Inequality Index 2022



- ❖ In Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022, India has been ranked at 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437.
- ❖ India stood at rank 122 out of 191 countries in the Gender Inequality Index 2021.
- ❖ Over the last 10 years, India's rank in GII has become consistently better.
- ❖ In 2014, this rank was 127, which has now become 108.
- ❖ However, the country also has one of the largest gender gaps in its labour force participation rate.
- ❖ India has 47.8 per cent difference between women (28.3 per cent) and men (76.1 per cent) in labour force participation rate.

Launch of NFECs and NECCE

- ❖ The Government of India is launching a National Curriculum for ECCE and a National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation.
- ❖ ECCE covers children from three to six years old as well as a National Framework deals with Early Childhood Stimulation for children from birth to three years.
- ❖ These initiatives recognizing the pivotal role of early years in development and thereby seeking to strengthen India's Early Childhood Care and Education landscape.
- ❖ NECCE deals with children between the ages of 3 and 8 and focuses on “playful joy-based learning”.
- ❖ NFECs provides a combination of activities, including in-centre and at-home, indoor and outdoor, child-led and educator-led, and robust assessment tools.



Key features of the framework
The National Curriculum Framework, made for the 3-8 age group, is the first such integrated curriculum for children

What replaces textbooks?
NCF suggests the use of simple worksheets for the 3-6 age group


- "...for ages 3-6, there should not be any prescribed textbooks for the children...(they) should not be burdened with textbooks," the document states.

Why is this an important step?

- Vast numbers of school-going children routinely fail learning outcome tests
- Effect of holistic education in founding years on learning levels of children

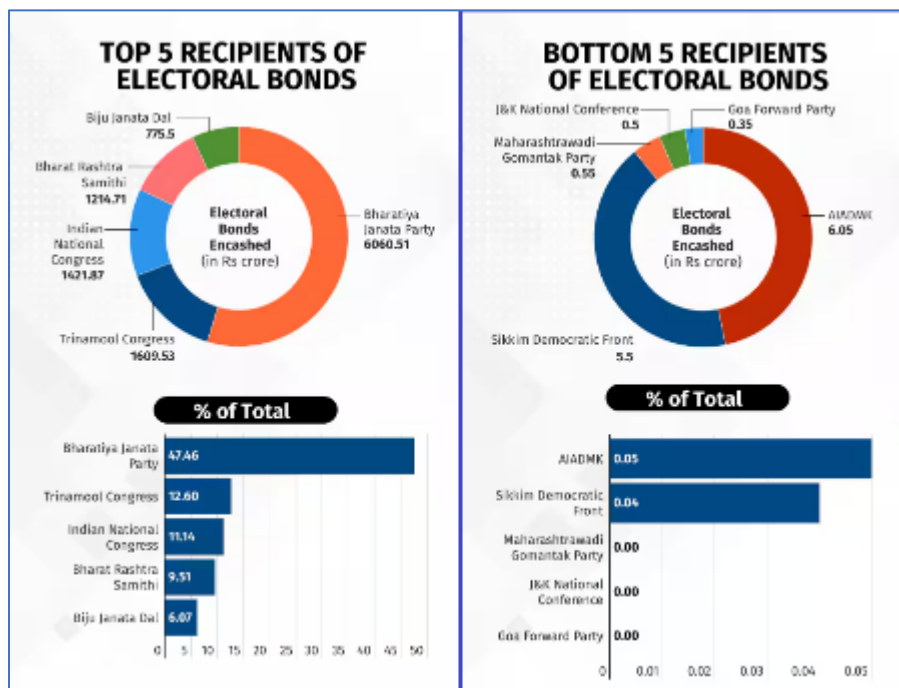
Other reforms

- Toy-based learning
- Avoiding stereotypes
- Gender representation
- Ethical, moral awareness



Electoral Bonds data

- ❖ The Bharatiya Janata Party was by far the biggest beneficiary of the electoral bonds scheme, receiving Rs 6,061 crore as political donations in the last five years.
- ❖ This amounts to 48 percent of all electoral bonds encashed by political parties since the start of 2019-20.
- ❖ At the second place is Trinamool Congress, which mopped up Rs 1,610 crore, followed by the Indian National Congress at Rs 1,422 crore.
- ❖ The 4th and 5th are Bharat Rashtra Samithi, formerly Telangana Rashtra Samithi, with Rs 1,215 crore and the Biju Janata Dal with Rs 776 crore respectively.



Model Code of Conduct 2024

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced on March 16 that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into effect.
- ❖ The country would vote in seven phases in the Lok Sabha elections, from April 19 to June 1 and the results will be announced on June 4.
- ❖ The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate the campaigning of political parties and the candidates during elections.
- ❖ Its main aim is to conduct free and fair elections by preventing any activities that could influence voters or disrupt the poll process.

- ❖ The Model Code of Conduct was first used during the 1960 Assembly elections in Kerala.
- ❖ Following its success, the Election Commission introduced it nationwide during the 1962 Lok Sabha elections.
- ❖ During the 1991 Lok Sabha elections, the poll panel decided to enforce the MCC more strictly due to repeated violations of election norms and concerns over corrupt practices.
- ❖ MCC has no statutory backing.
- ❖ Simply put, this means anybody breaching the MCC can't be proceeded against under any clause of the Code.
- ❖ The EC uses moral sanction or censure for its enforcement.



Panel for Simultaneous Elections

- ❖ The high-level committee on 'one nation, one election' submitted its report to the President Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ The panel was led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ The committee is put unanimous opinion that simultaneous polls should be held.
- ❖ At first, the Lok Sabha elections and state polls should be held simultaneously followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.
- ❖ The Constitution would have to be amended to introduce the concepts of a “full term” and an “unexpired period” (where the House or the assembly is dissolved sooner than the expiry of its “full term”).

- ❖ Also, the provisions have to be made so that the elections held where the House or an assembly is dissolved sooner than its “full term” would be considered to be a “mid-term” election.
- ❖ The election held after the expiry of five years would be considered a “general election.”
- ❖ In the event of a mid-term dissolution, the term of the reconstituted legislature shall be for the remaining unexpired period of the original term of five years.
- ❖ Then the next election to the legislature concerned could take place with “general election”.
- ❖ Conducting polls simultaneously was the norm in India until 1967 and four elections were held this way.
- ❖ The practice stopped after some state assemblies were dissolved prematurely in 1968-69.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha was also, for the first time, dissolved a year ahead of schedule in 1970 and mid-term elections had been held in 1971.

HOW, WHAT & WHEN OF JOINT ELECTIONS		
<p>How will elections be synchronised? In 2 stages, says panel report. Step 1: Simultaneous polls to be held for Lok Sabha, state assemblies. Constitutional amendment needed, but no ratification by states required. Step 2: Local body polls to be held within 100 days of LS & assembly elections. Amendment for this will require ratification by at least half the states. How will a cutoff date be fixed and varying assembly tenures adjusted? President will, through a</p>	 <p>Former President Kovind gives report to President Murmu</p>	<p>are held after this date will have tenure only till next Lok Sabha elections (which will be simultaneous)</p> <p>What happens if there is a hung House or governing party loses trust vote? Elections will be held for the remaining period of the five-year term</p> <p>When will simultaneous elections kick in? After legislative changes are undertaken, President will notify the 'appointed date' on the first day the newly elected LS sits</p>
	<p>notification, bring simultaneous polls into force on the date of first sitting of Lok Sabha after a general election. This becomes the 'appointed date'. Assemblies for which elections</p>	

Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2024

- ❖ The union government announced a new electric vehicle (EV) policy.
- ❖ It is expected to provide a major boost to Tesla's plans to start operations in India.
- ❖ As part of the new policy, the government will lower import taxes on certain electric vehicles for companies.
- ❖ Interested companies must commit a minimum investment of Rs 4150 crore (USD 500 Mn).

- ❖ However, there is no limit on maximum investment.
- ❖ They will be granted a three-year period to establish local manufacturing facilities for electric vehicles (EVs).
- ❖ They must reach 50 per cent domestic value addition (DVA) within 5 years at the maximum.
- ❖ The Domestic Value Addition (DVA) refers to the percentage of localised components used in manufacturing.
- ❖ Companies must achieve a localization level of 25 per cent by the 3rd year and 50 per cent by the 5th year.



Launch of 'Agray' and 'Akshay'

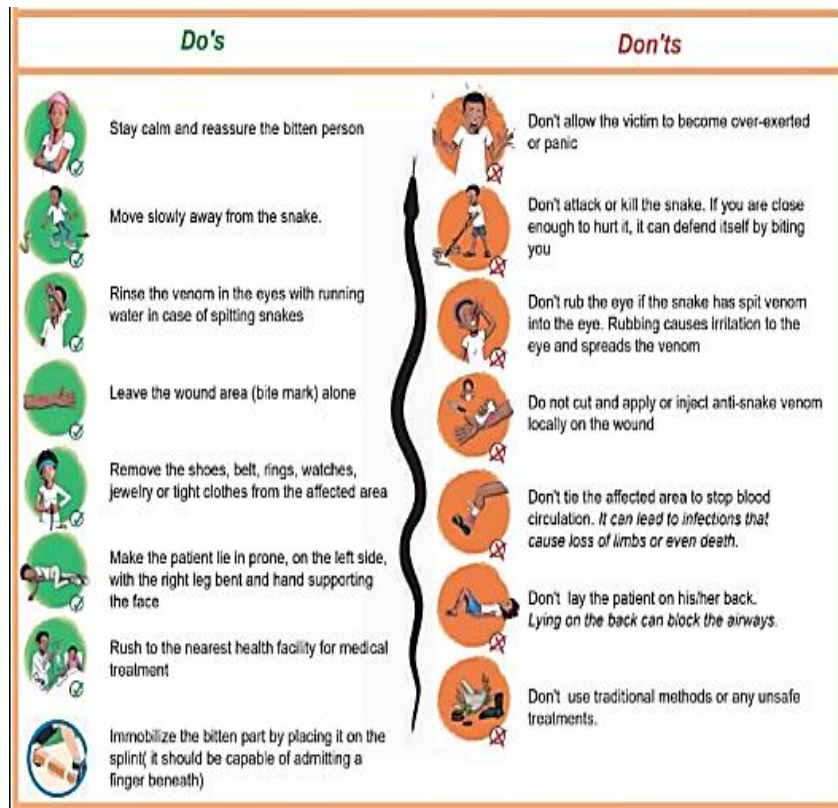


- ❖ Two ships 'Agray' and 'Akshay' were launched recently.
- ❖ Agray and Akshay are named after erstwhile Abhay Class Corvettes Agray and Akshay of Indian Navy.
- ❖ These are the 5th and 6th ships in the SWC project series.

- ❖ They are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations.

NAP-SE

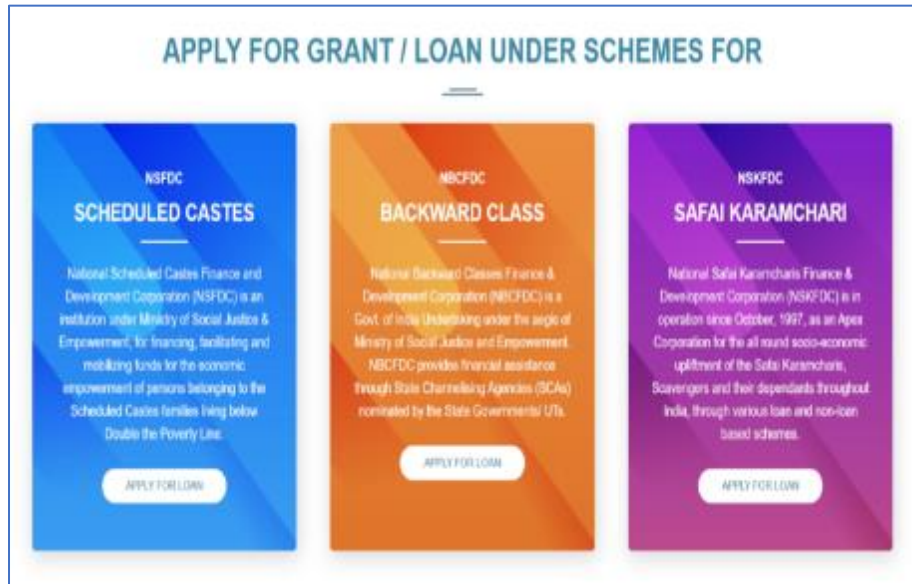
- ❖ A National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE) was launched in India.
- ❖ It aims to reduce snakebite deaths by half by 2030.
- ❖ The NAPSE provides a broad framework for states to develop their own action plan for management, prevention and control of snakebites through the 'One Health' approach.
- ❖ The activities envisaged under human, wildlife, tribal and Animal health component will be undertaken by concerned stakeholders at all levels.



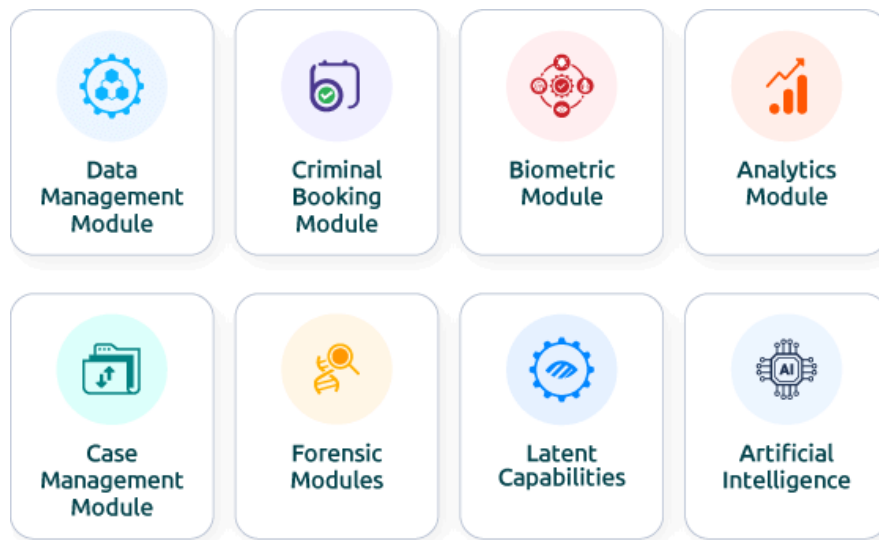
PM-SURAJ portal

- ❖ The 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ This portal aims to offering credit support to the marginalized segments of society.

- ❖ By using this, People from disadvantaged sections of society can apply for and monitor the progress of all loan and credit schemes already available to them.



Criminal Case Management System



- ❖ A unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS) was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❖ It will enable the NIA personnel to better coordinate in terrorism and organised crime cases, thereby improving justice delivery.
- ❖ A mobile app ‘Sankalan’ was also launched recently.
- ❖ It is a compendium of New Criminal Laws by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

- ❖ This app has been designed for navigating through new criminal laws as a bridge between old and new criminal laws.
- ❖ This app will work as a comprehensive guide for all stakeholders.

Atmospheric Testbed Facility

- ❖ The first phase of India's Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) was inaugurated at Silkhedha in Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The facility will house 25 high-end meteorological instruments for studying vital cloud processes associated with the monsoons over central India's Monsoon Core Zone (MCZ).
- ❖ The facility aims to conduct ground-based observations of weather parameters like temperature, wind speeds, etc.

Calling Name Presentation

- ❖ TRAI has recently recommended the introduction of Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) by telecom operators.
- ❖ The feature will allow users to see the caller's name and might help combat spam calls.
- ❖ CNAP is a service similar to Truecaller that will show the caller's name.
- ❖ According to TRAI, network providers should use the name identity provided by telephone subscribers in their Customer Application Form (CAF) for CNAP.
- ❖ All service providers should provide the facility to their subscribers upon request.
- ❖ This means the name you use when purchasing a SIM card will be the one visible to the person you are calling.



Grievance Redressal Assessment Index 2023-24

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has consistently ranked amongst the top 10 ministries in 2023-24 in the grievance redressal assessment index (GRAI).
- ❖ It is performing well in all 15 specified indicators.
- ❖ During 2023-24, the MHA has performed exceptionally well by redressing 48,837 public grievances.
- ❖ It took the average redressal time of eight days against the standard 30 days.

- Home Ministry has said it is committed to ensure timely redressal of public grievances on Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System, CPGRAMS. Ministry said in a statement that it has consistently ranked amongst top 10 Ministries during 2023-24 in Grievance redressal Assessment Index, GRAI performing well in all 15 indicators of GRAI.
- During 2023-24, the Ministry has performed exceptionally well by redressing 48 thousand 837 public grievances cases with average redressal time of 8 days against standard of 30 days.
- Only 10 percent of grievances resulted in appeals which is one of the lowest among Ministries. Citizen satisfaction also stands at 40 percent.

News-sharing service by Prasar Bharati



- ❖ Prasar Bharati has launched a news-wire-like service to offer free content across mediums.

- ❖ They will be free of copyright or credit obligations.
- ❖ This service is known as PB-SHABD (Prasar Bharati-Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination).
- ❖ It will offer as a “free service for one year to all news organisations registered with the ministry”.

Namo Drone Didi Scheme

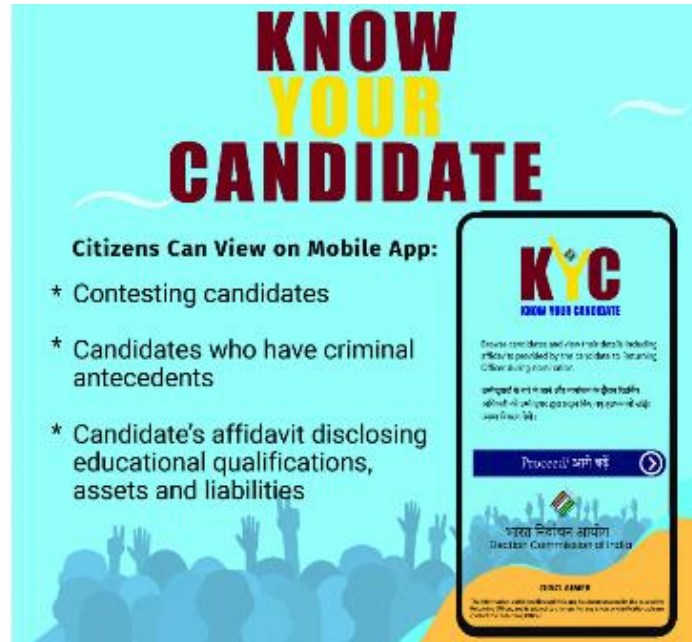
- ❖ Under the initiative, the rural women are trained to become drone pilots for agricultural purposes.
- ❖ The initiative aims to enhance economic empowerment and financial autonomy among women, especially in rural areas.
- ❖ The initiative aims to equip 15,000 women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with agricultural drones to assist in tasks such as crop monitoring, spraying fertilisers and sowing seeds.
- ❖ This will also provide additional income opportunities for many women.



‘Know Your Candidate’ App

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has announced the launch of a new mobile application called Know Your Candidate (KYC).
- ❖ This app allows voters to check if any candidate standing for elections in their constituency has a criminal record.

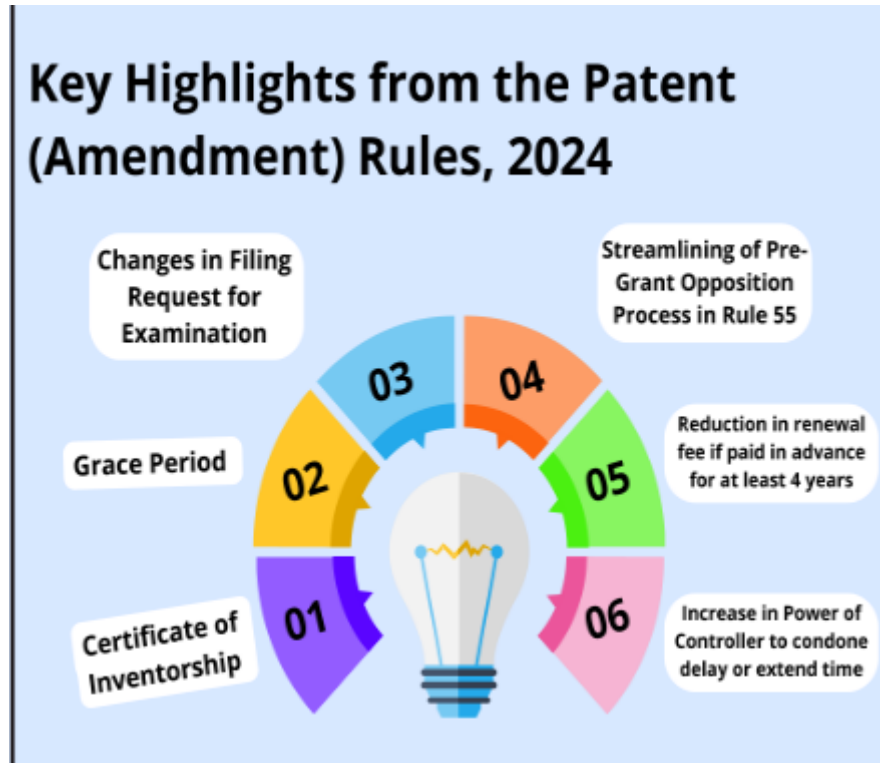
- ❖ The app is available for download on both Android and iOS platforms.
- ❖ It will enable voters to find out if a candidate, who is bidding to represent them in the Lok Sabha, has a criminal background.



Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024

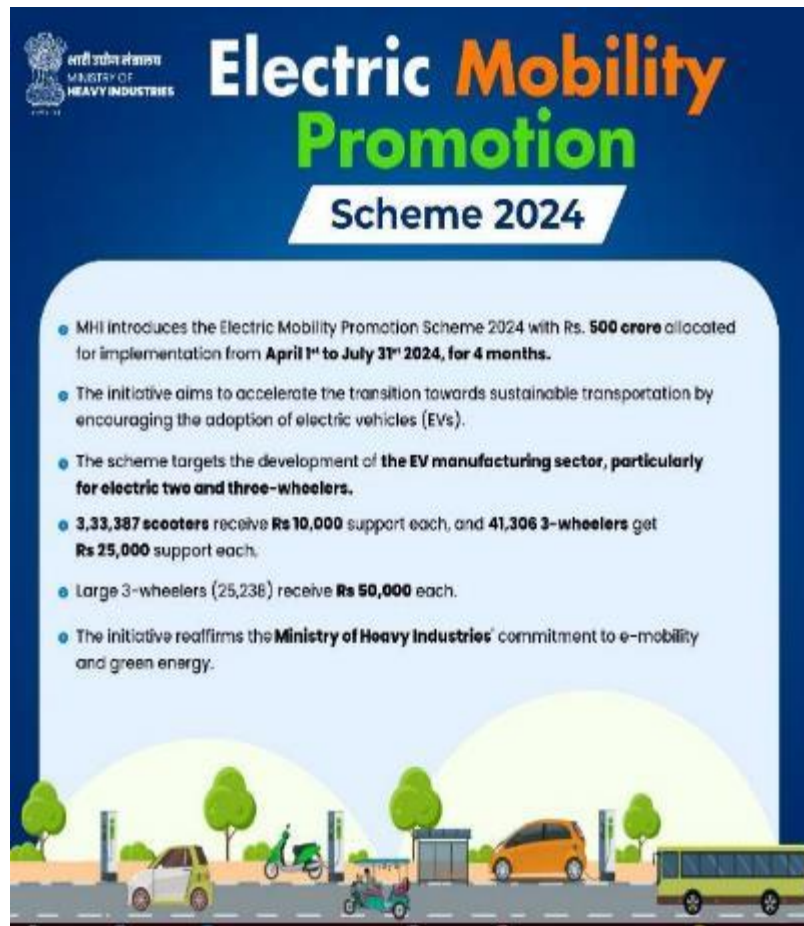
- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has, notified the Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024 to amend the Patents Rules, 2003 (“Amended Rules”).
- ❖ The Amended Rules have already come into effect from the date of publication, i.e., March 15, 2024.
- ❖ The timeline for filing the RFE is now reduced from forty-eight (48) months to thirty-one (31) months from the priority date or application filing date, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ Any “updated” information regarding corresponding foreign applications must be submitted within three months after receiving the First Examination Report (FER).
- ❖ Under Rules 24B and 24C, the applicant could seek an extension of up to three months for filing the response to the examination report.
- ❖ Previously, Rule 138 (power to extend time prescribed) empowered the controller to condone delays, with a few exceptions, for a period of 1 month.
- ❖ The title of Rule 138 has now been changed to ‘Power to extend the time specified or condone delay’.
- ❖ Previously, a statement of working had to be filed every year.

- ❖ Now, a working statement has to be submitted only once every three years.



Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024

- ❖ With the expiration of the FAME-II scheme on March 31, the central has announced the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024).
- ❖ The scheme aims to incentivize the faster adoption of electric two-wheelers (e-2W) and three-wheelers (e-3W).
- ❖ Under the EMPS 2024, eligible EV categories include electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, including registered e-rickshaws, e-carts, and L5 category vehicles.
- ❖ The scheme primarily targets e-2W and e-3Ws registered for the commercial purposes.
- ❖ The benefits are also extending to privately or corporate-owned registered e-2W vehicles.
- ❖ The incentives will be provided only to vehicles equipped with advanced battery systems.
- ❖ The government also announced that the subsidies provided under the FAME-II would apply to vehicles sold until March 31, or until the funds are exhausted, whichever first.



Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought out the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate the transfer and transport of elephants.
- ❖ The circumstances under which captive elephants can be transferred are
 - When an owner is no longer in a position to maintain the elephant,
 - The elephant will likely have a better upkeep than in the present circumstances; or
 - when a state's Chief Wildlife Warden "deems it fit and proper" in the circumstances of the case for better upkeep of the elephant.
- ❖ Until August 2022, the Wildlife Protection Act explicitly prohibited the trade in wildlife including both wild and captive elephants.
- ❖ However, amendments to the Act brought in an exemption that for the first time allowed captive elephants to be transferred.
- ❖ The captive elephant population of Kerala had dwindled to an all-time low of 400.

STEAG Group



- ❖ The Indian Army has established the first of its kind, the Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG).
- ❖ It will function as an elite technology Unit which will research and evaluate futuristic communication technologies.
- ❖ It includes technologies like AI, 5G, 6G, machine learning and quantum technologies for defence applications.

World Cooperative Economic Forum

- ❖ World Cooperation Economic Forum will collaborate with many organisations including ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture.
- ❖ This collaboration aims to promote the cultivation of exotic horticulture crops in the Himalayan region.
- ❖ The forum has been set up to strengthen cooperative movement in India.
- ❖ The initial focus will be on promoting Hazelnut, Walnut and other exotic crops across 13 Himalayan States/ Union Territories.
- ❖ Based on New Delhi, it is formed on the lines of World Economic Forum.

Kalpa Suvarna

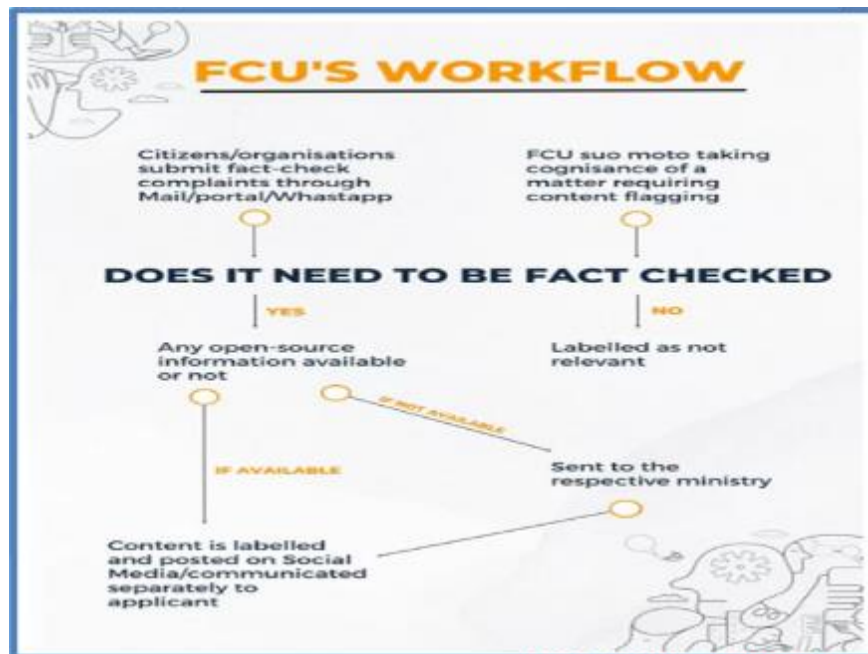
- ❖ A new dwarf coconut variety named 'Kalpa Suvarna' and two new hybrid varieties of cocoa developed by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) were released recently.
- ❖ One of the cocoa varieties released is tolerant to black pod rot which is high in high rainfall regions of Karnataka and Kerala.
- ❖ Kalpa Suvarna' variety is ideal for tender coconut and copra production.

- ❖ The coca varieties – VTL CH I and VTL CH II – released have high fat and nutrient contents.
- ❖ The VTL CH I is a high yielder and can be cultivated as an inter-crop both in Arecanut and coconut plantations.

SAKHI App

- ❖ The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has developed a multi-purpose app named 'SAKHI'.
- ❖ SAKHI stands for 'Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction'
- ❖ It will help astronauts on the Gaganyaan space flight mission carry out a range of tasks such as looking up vital technical information or communicating with one another.
- ❖ SAKHI will also keep a close watch on their health like blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation.

SC on fact checking unit



- ❖ The Supreme Court stayed the operation of the amended Information Technology (IT) Rules.
- ❖ This rule empowered the government to identify “fake news” on social media platforms through a “Fact Check Unit” (FCU).



- ❖ The Union Electronics and IT Ministry had notified the FCU as a statutory body under the Press Information Bureau.
- ❖ It has a power to flag what it believes is false information related to the central government and its agencies on social media sites.
- ❖ Earlier, the Bombay High Court held that the “state cannot coercively classify speech as true or false and compel the non-publication of the latter.
- ❖ It is argued that, these rules violative of Article 14, Article 19(1)(a) and (g), and Article 21 of the Constitution, and Section 79 and the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act).

FLNAT Test

- ❖ The government conducted the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) as part of Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram across 23 states.
- ❖ The assessment comprises three subjects – Reading, Writing, and Numeracy – each carrying 50 marks, totalling 150 marks.
- ❖ The FLNAT assesses Reading, Writing, and Numeracy skills, to evaluate the foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
- ❖ New India Literacy Program, popularly known as ULLAS is a centrally sponsored scheme for the period 2022-2027.
- ❖ ULLAS stands for - Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society.

Start-up Mahakumbh 2024

- ❖ A three-day “Startup Mahakumbh” event was organised by the government to bolster the startup ecosystem and attract investments in the sector in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is serving as a dynamic platform for all stakeholders in the country's startup ecosystem.
- ❖ The event, aimed at nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship nationwide, has attracted significant interest from the leading investors, innovators, and aspiring entrepreneurs.

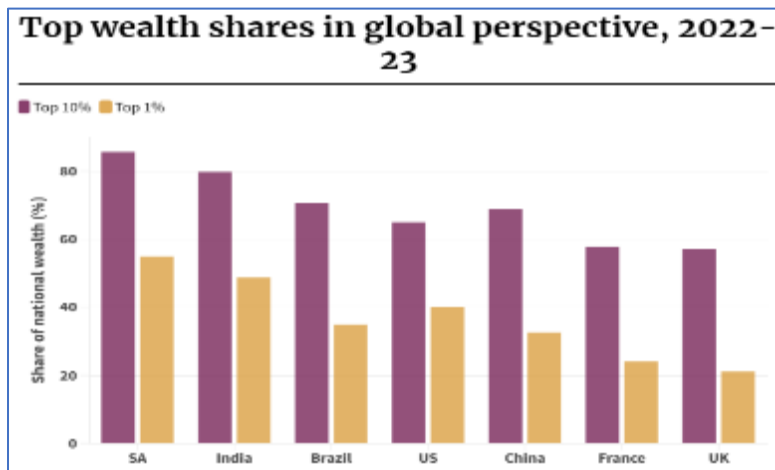
BhashaNet Portal

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) on Thursday unveiled the BhashaNet portal.
- ❖ The portal is designed to establish a multilingual internet environment, where website names and email addresses can be accessed in local languages.

- ❖ By catering to users in their native languages, the initiative promotes inclusivity and enhances accessibility.



Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023



- ❖ The paper titled “Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj” was released recently.
- ❖ Inequality in India has skyrocketed since the early 2000s.
- ❖ The income and wealth share of the top one per cent of the population is rising to 22.6 per cent and 40.1 per cent, respectively, in 2022-23.
- ❖ By 2022-23, top one per cent income and wealth shares (22.6 per cent and 40.1 per cent) are at their highest historical levels.
- ❖ India’s top one per cent income share is among the very highest in the world, higher than even South Africa, Brazil, and the US.

- ❖ The top 1 per cent income shares consistently fell over the next two decades and reached 6.1 per cent by 1982.
- ❖ It has consistently increased over the next 30 years to reach an all-time high of 22.6 per cent in 2022.
- ❖ A “super tax” of two per cent on the net wealth of the 167 wealthiest families in 2022-23 would yield 0.5 per cent of national income in revenues.
- ❖ From 13 per cent in 1922, the top 1 per cent income share increased significantly to over 20 per cent in the inter-war period.

Vote-from-Home



- ❖ ECI has, for the first time in the history of the Lok Sabha elections, extended its ‘vote-from-home’ facility to Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and senior citizens aged 85 and above.
- ❖ This move would allow more than 85 lakh senior citizens and 88.4 lakh persons with disabilities to cast their votes through postal ballots.
- ❖ Form 12D can help you cast your vote from home.
- ❖ As on March 10, 2024, there are 81,87,999 senior citizen electors above 85 years and 2,18,442 electors above 100 years in the country.

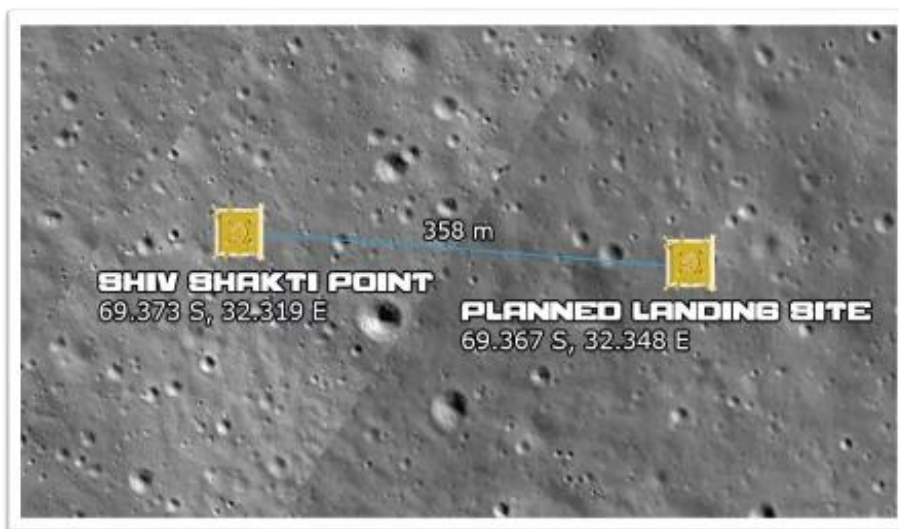
Project ANAGRANINF

- ❖ The Technology Development Board (TDB) has penned an agreement with M/s Peptris Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and the Foundation for Neglected Disease Research (FNDR) recently.

- ❖ Under the agreement, the Board has sanctioned a grant of ₹75 Lakhs towards the project "ANAGRANINF - Development of a Novel Class of Antibiotics Against Gram-Negative Bacterial-Infections,"
- ❖ It aims to develop a novel lead compound, particularly an antibiotic, adept at inhibiting the FabI enzyme and combatting critical gram-negative pathogens.

Statio Shiv Shakti

- ❖ The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has granted approval for the name 'Statio Shiv Shakti' to designate the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.
- ❖ It is a compound word from Indian mythology that represents the masculine (Shiva) and feminine (Shakti) duality of nature.
- ❖ India's Chandrayaan-1's moon impact probe (MIP) had impacted on the lunar surface on November 14, 2008.
- ❖ The impact site was named 'Jawahar Point' or 'Jawahar Sthal'.



Bharat Biotech's TB vaccine

- ❖ Bharat Biotech, based in Hyderabad, has started clinical trials of MTBVAC.
- ❖ This is the world's first Mycobacterium tuberculosis vaccine derived from a human source, in India.
- ❖ It is being developed by Spanish biopharma player Biofabri in collaboration with Bharat Biotech.
- ❖ MTBVAC is being developed as a more effective and potentially longer-lasting vaccine than BCG vaccine, that is over 100 years old.

FIGHTING TB

- It's claimed to be **world's first Mycobacterium tuberculosis vaccine (MTBVAC)** from a human source
- MTBVAC is considered a **more effective and potentially longer-lasting vaccine** than the over 100-year-old BCG
- The **live attenuated vaccine** is meant for **newborns** as well as **adolescents and adults**

50 years of Chipko Movement



- ❖ The Chipko movement, which began in Uttarakhand (Chamoli Gopeshwar) in early 1973, marks its 50th anniversary.
- ❖ It involved villagers, particularly women, protesting against deforestation and commercial logging by hugging trees to prevent their felling.
- ❖ The movement was named Chipko, which means "to hug" in Hindi.
- ❖ Environmental activists like Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prasad Bhatt played instrumental roles in mobilizing local communities and garnering national and international support for the movement.
- ❖ This anniversary serves as a reminder of the power of ordinary citizens to effect change and inspires ongoing environmental movements worldwide.

Afanasy Nikitin Seamount

- ❖ India applied to the International Seabed Authority (ISBA), Jamaica, for rights to explore two vast tracts in the Indian Ocean seabed that aren't part of its jurisdiction.
- ❖ The application to explore one of these regions, a cobalt-rich crust long known as the Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount), is a gambit by India.
- ❖ Rights to the region have already been claimed by Sri Lanka under a separate set of laws.
- ❖ But India's application is part-motivated by reports of vessels by China undertaking reconnaissance in the same region.
- ❖ The AN Seamount is a structural feature (400 km-long and 150 km-wide) in the Central Indian Basin.
- ❖ It is located about 3,000 km away from India's coast.
- ❖ From an oceanic depth of about 4,800 km, it rises to about 1,200 metre rich in deposits of cobalt, nickel, manganese and copper.
- ❖ Countries have exclusive rights up to 200 nautical miles, and its underlying seabed from their borders.
- ❖ Some ocean-bound states may have a natural stretch of land, connecting their border and the edge of the deep ocean that extends beyond this 200, as part of their so-called continental shelf.



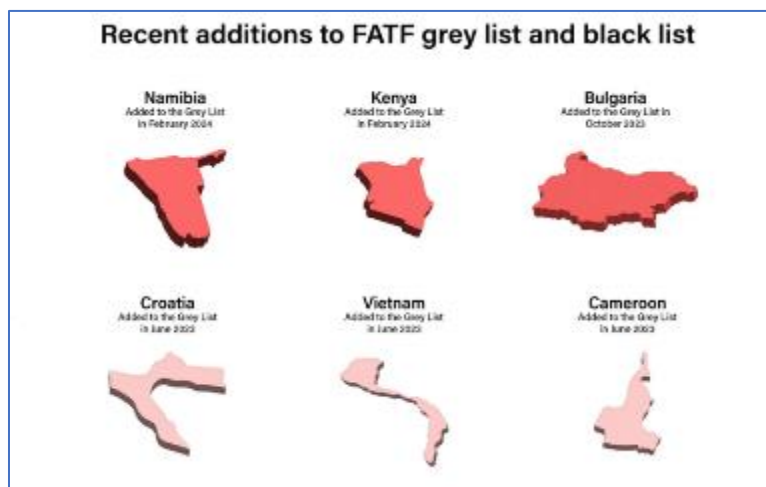
INTERNATIONAL

1,000-Year-Old Sominsai Festival

- ❖ Kokuseki Temple's famous "Naked Men" festival held for the last time recently at Japan.
- ❖ This Temple announced the decision to discontinue the festival due to aging participants and a shortage of successors
- ❖ This was First held more than 1,000 years ago, officially called Sominsai.
- ❖ It is involving men competing to grab sacred wooden sticks called shingi, which are thought to bring good luck.
- ❖ The winner is called the "Fukuotoko (lucky man)" and is said to receive great health and fortune in the coming year.

FATF Gray List

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates was removed from the Financial Action Task Force's grey list.
- ❖ Barbados, Gibraltar and Uganda were also removed from the grey list, while Kenya and Namibia were placed on it.
- ❖ The FATF is an inter-governmental body that sets international standards seeking to prevent international financial crimes that aid terrorism.
- ❖ The FATF was established in July 1989 by a G-7 Summit in Paris.
- ❖ It initially aims to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- ❖ India has been a member of the FATF since 2010.



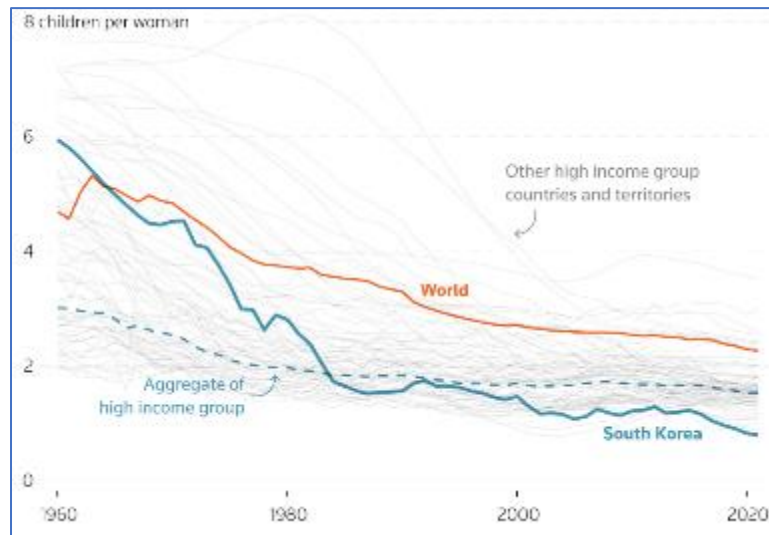
First-ever woman Chief Minister in Pakistan

- ❖ Senior leader Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, became the first-ever woman Chief Minister of a Punjab province in Pakistan.
- ❖ Punjab province is home to 120 million people.
- ❖ She defeated Rana Aftab, who received no votes as his party boycotted the election.



South Korea's Fertility Rate

- ❖ South Korea's fertility rate, already the world's lowest, continued its dramatic decline in 2023.
- ❖ The average number of expected babies for a South Korean woman during her reproductive life fell to a record low of 0.72 from 0.78 in 2022.
- ❖ The previous projections estimate that this will fall even further, to 0.68 in 2024.
- ❖ That is far below the rate of 2.1 per woman needed for a steady population and well behind the rate of 1.24 in 2015.
- ❖ South Korea also has the worst gender pay gap in the OECD.
- ❖ The Korean women bring home about two-thirds of the income than men.
- ❖ Also, in neighbouring China and Japan, fertility rates hit record lows of 1.09 and 1.26 respectively in 2022.



Services sector agreement of WTO

What is the GATS

- The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) was negotiated under the Uruguay Round in the Context of single undertaking.
- It lays down rules and disciplines covering multilateral international trade in services.
- The Agreement came into effect in 1995 and is part and parcel of the WTO agreements.
- Provides for Most favoured nation and national treatment clause.

- ❖ India would benefit from a move of over 70 nations like the U.K., U.A.E. and Australia that have agreed to take on additional obligations in the services sector under an agreement of the World Trade Organisation.
- ❖ These WTO members are taking the additional obligations under the General Agreement on Goods in Services (GATS).
- ❖ It aims to ease the non-goods trade among themselves and extend similar concessions to all other members of the WTO.
- ❖ These obligations under their schedules in GATS seek to
 - Mitigate unintended trade restrictive effects or
 - Measures relating to licensing requirements and procedures,

- Qualification requirements and procedures, and
- Technical standards among themselves
- ❖ The move will help reduce services trade costs by 10% for lower-middle-income economies and 14% for upper-middle-income economies, with overall savings of \$127 billion.

Project PANGEA



- ❖ Scientists across the globe convened in Cameroon to initiate a knowledge-sharing initiative to guide Project PANGEA.
- ❖ PANGEA stands for PAN tropical investigation of bio-Geo-chemistry and Ecological Adaptation.
- ❖ It aims to understand the combined effects of climate and land-use change in tropical forests within and between continents.
- ❖ It will examine similarities and differences in forest composition, structure and biogeochemical cycling across tropical regions.
- ❖ It also, guide decision making to support societal responses to climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity conservation.

Panda Diplomacy review

- ❖ China has signed agreements with two zoos in the United States and Spain on panda conservation.
- ❖ A pair of pandas may soon be sent to the American zoo.
- ❖ The development was also seen as a return to so-called 'Panda diplomacy'.

- ❖ Pandas are native to China and are only found there in the wild at present.
- ❖ From 1957 to 1982, China donated a total of 23 giant pandas to nine countries: the Soviet Union, North Korea, the US, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Spain and Mexico.”
- ❖ In 2016, the IUCN Red List degraded the threat level for pandas from “endangered” to “vulnerable”.



Peru – Dengue health emergency



- ❖ Peru declared a health emergency in most provinces in the country due to the rising dengue cases.
- ❖ The rise in a number of cases is taking place at a time when El Nino, the weather phenomenon is causing higher-than-average temperatures.
- ❖ The emergency would remain in place for 90 days.



- ❖ The health ministry recorded more than 11,500 cases and 16 deaths due to the disease so far in 2023.
- ❖ This represents a "considerable increase" of 72 percent from the same period in 2022.
- ❖ Last year, the country had more than 72,800 dengue cases and 84 deaths.

Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality

- ❖ The 'Alliance for Global Good: Gender Equity and Equality' was launched during the Davos 2024 summit.
- ❖ India unveiled the logo and website for the Alliance.
- ❖ The alliance aims to consolidate global best practices, foster knowledge exchange, and attract investments in women's health, education, and entrepreneurship, in line with various SDGs.
- ❖ The logo of the alliance holds profound significance, symbolizing the essence of equality and equity.

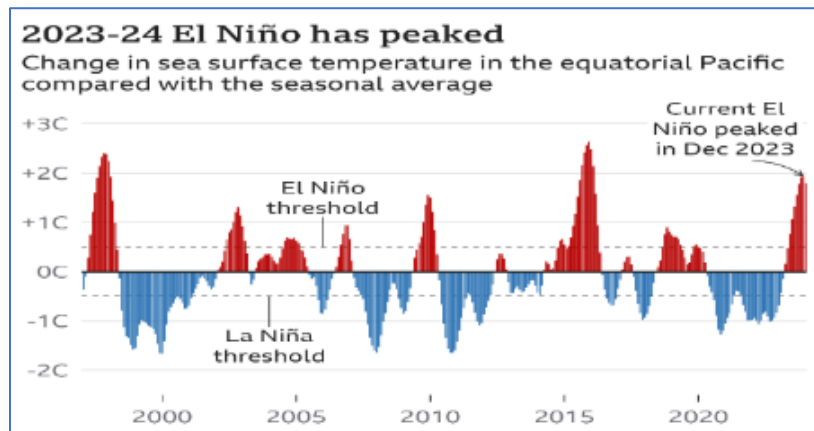
French Constitution on Abortion

- ❖ French lawmakers have approved a bill that will enshrine the right to an abortion in the Constitution of France.
- ❖ The move makes France the first country in the world to offer explicit protection for terminating a pregnancy in its basic law.
- ❖ France have already adopted a bill to amend Article 34 of the constitution to specify a woman's right to an abortion is guaranteed.
- ❖ Women have had the legal right to abortion in France since 1974.

Strongest El Niño 2023-24

- ❖ The 2023-24 El Niño has peaked as one of the five strongest on record.
- ❖ It will continue to impact global climate in the coming months despite a weakening trend.
- ❖ The prevailing El Niño conditions fuelled record temperatures and extreme events the world over, with 2023 being the warmest on record.
- ❖ It has displayed a peak value of about 2.0 degrees Celsius above the 1991 to 2020 average sea-surface temperature for the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ This made it one of the five strongest El Niño events ever, though it was weaker than the 1997-98 and 2015-2016 events.

- ❖ The global mean temperature has breached the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold for an entire year for the first time in January.
- ❖ Every month since June 2023 has set a new monthly temperature record -- and 2023 was, by far, the warmest year on record.
- ❖ El Niño is a periodic warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It occurs every two to seven years on an average, and typically lasts nine to 12 months.



WHO report on Dolutegravir

- ❖ As per the new report by WHO, resistance to the antiretroviral drug dolutegravir (DTG) is increasing among HIV patients.
- ❖ Since 2018, WHO has recommended dolutegravir as the preferred first- and second-line HIV treatment due to its effectiveness, ease of use and minimal side effects.
- ❖ In 2022, more than 75% of the 39 million people living with HIV globally were receiving HIV treatment.
- ❖ 1.3 million new HIV infections and 630,000 HIV-related deaths are reported in 2022.

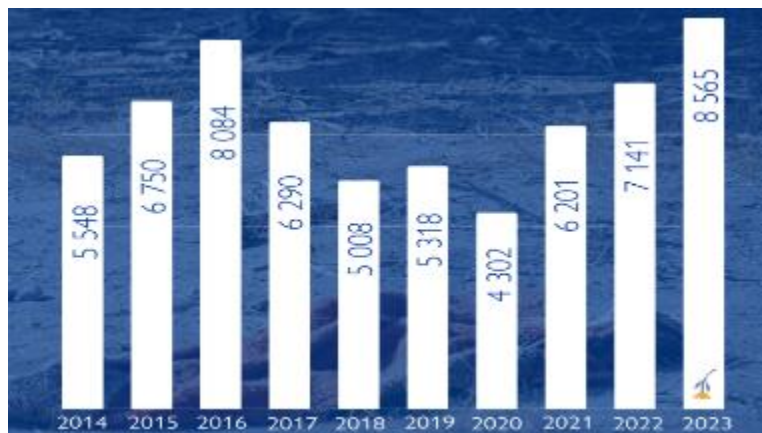
2nd biggest man-made methane leak

- ❖ The drilling incident took place last year at an exploration well in the Mangistau region of southwestern Kazakhstan was possibly the second biggest man-made methane leak ever.
- ❖ The drilling incident at the exploration well caused a fire that raged between June and December 2023 and released 127,000 tonnes of methane into the atmosphere.

- ❖ Methane is a potent greenhouse gas traps heat in the atmosphere and adds to global warming.
- ❖ Leaks from fossil fuel operations are the biggest source of methane emissions.
- ❖ About 40% of human-caused methane emissions come from such operations.



Deadliest Year for Migrants – 2023



- ❖ As per the United Nations report, at least 8,565 people died on migration routes worldwide in 2023.
- ❖ This is making 2023 as the deadliest year since records began a decade ago.
- ❖ The 2023 death count represents a tragic increase of 20 percent compared to 2022.
- ❖ The 2023 total surpassed the previous record reached in 2016, when 8,084 people died during migration.
- ❖ The Mediterranean Sea, where many migrants try to reach southern Europe from northern Africa, continues to be the deadliest route for migrants.



Blue Leaders High-Level Event

- ❖ The Blue Leaders High-Level Event on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction was held in Belgium.
- ❖ It urges nations to ratify a new treaty to protect the high seas from pollution, climate change and overfishing.
- ❖ Countries like Belgium, Cape Verde, Greece, Monaco, Nigeria, Norway and the United Kingdom participated in the event.
- ❖ Countries agreed to a new treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty) in March 2023. It was formally adopted two months later.
- ❖ So far, 88 countries are signatories to the treaty. Only two — Chile and Palau — have ratified it so far.
- ❖ The BBNJ will “enter into force” when at least 60 countries ratify it.

Yaounde Declaration

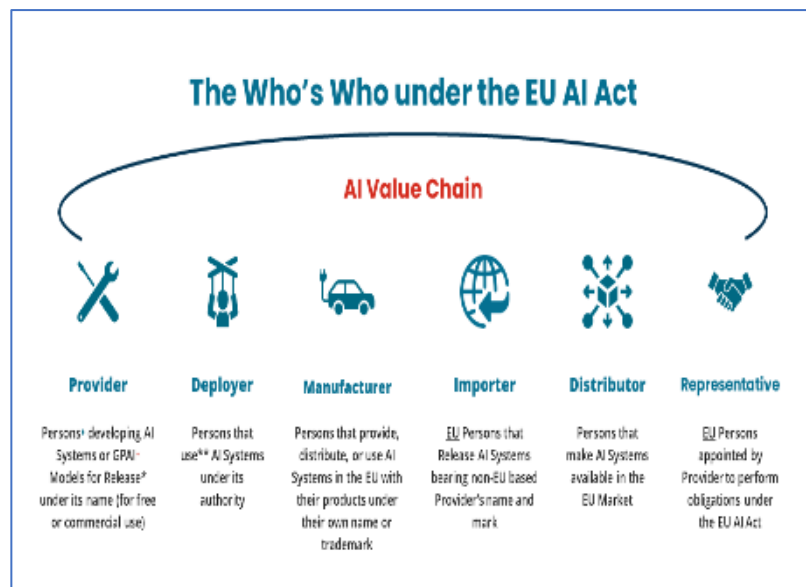
- ❖ The Ministers of Health from African countries with the highest burden of malaria recently signed the Yaounde Declaration with the objective of ending malaria deaths.
- ❖ Globally, the number of malaria cases in 2022 surged significantly compared to the pre-COVID-19 era.
- ❖ The total cases rose from 233 million in 2019 to a staggering 249 million.
- ❖ Africa remains the epicentre of the malaria crisis, bearing an immense burden.
- ❖ It accounts for 94 per cent of all global malaria cases and a staggering 95 per cent of global malaria-related deaths, totalling an estimated 580,000 deaths in 2022.

Legalize “Aid in Dying” – France

- ❖ French president Emmanuel Macron has announced a new legislation to legalize “aid in dying”.
- ❖ It will allow adults facing end-of-life illness to take lethal medication, a first in the country.
- ❖ Only people aged 18 or above who are capable of forming their own views will be allowed to get in the process.
- ❖ Those with severe psychiatric conditions and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease won’t be eligible.



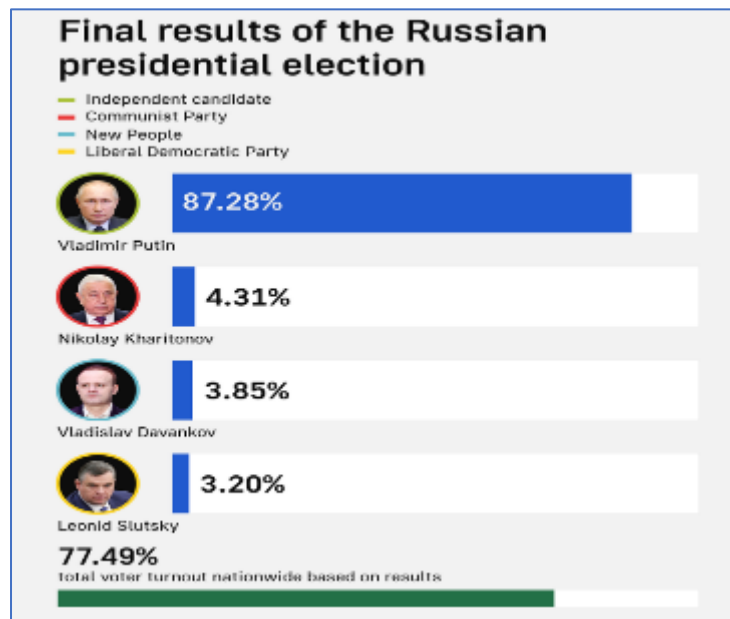
Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act, 2024)



- ❖ The European Union's parliament has approved the world's first major set of regulatory ground rules to govern the mediatized artificial intelligence at the forefront of tech investment.
- ❖ The Act, which is intended to be a consumer protection law, imposes different levels of regulation based on the risk of the AI product at issue.
- ❖ These levels are:
- ❖ Unacceptable risk level AI systems:
 - Which provide social scoring, infer the user's emotions, impose deceptive techniques, assess the risk of an individual committing a crime, and take users' real-time biometric data;

- ❖ High risk AI systems
 - Which profile an individual's work performance, economic situation, health, movement, or decision-making patterns without human review; and
- ❖ General purpose AI systems-
 - Which are AI models trained on large amounts of data that self-supervise, such as Chat GPT.
- ❖ The Act prohibits unacceptable risk level AI systems.
- ❖ This Act is expected to come into force at the end of May 2024.

Russian presidential election 2024



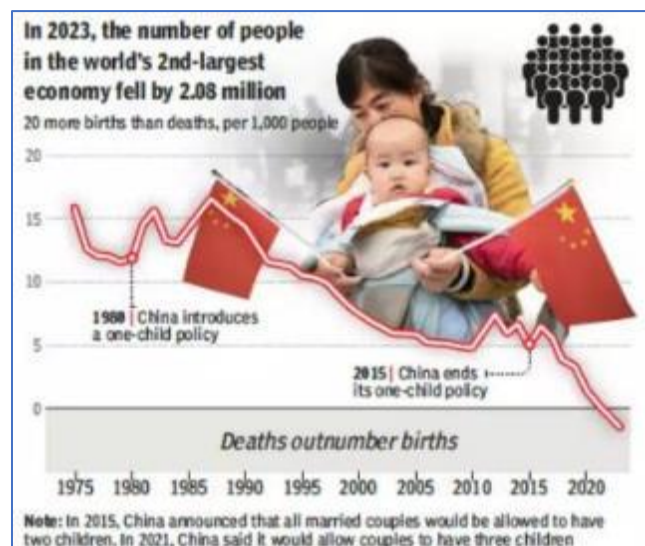
- ❖ A landslide victory in the Russian presidential elections has ensured another six-year term for Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ Mr Putin will become the longest-serving Russian leader since the reign of Catherine 'the Great', should he complete his next six-year tenure.
- ❖ The former empress ruled over Russia for 34 years and four months between 1762 and 1796.
- ❖ Joseph Stalin, the former general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, led the country for 29 years from 1923 to 1954.
- ❖ If Mr Putin sees through his tenure, he will surpass Stalin's reign and become the longest-serving Russian leader in 200 years.
- ❖ The 71-year-old, who first rose to power in 1999, has already led the country for 25 years.

Afar Triangle

- ❖ According to geologists, the African continent, with its rich and diverse landscapes, is currently experiencing a rare geological phenomenon that could lead to the formation of a new ocean.
- ❖ This process is unfolding in the Afar Triangle, also known as the Afar Depression, located in the Horn of Africa.
- ❖ Geologists predict that the African continent's rift in the Afar Triangle could lead to the formation of a new ocean in 5 to 10 million years.
- ❖ The Afar Triangle is a geological depression where three tectonic plates—the Nubian, Somali, and Arabian plates—converge.
- ❖ This area is part of the East African Rift system, which extends from the Afar region down through eastern Africa.



China's Marriage Rates





- ❖ China's Marriage Rates rose for the first time in nine years.
- ❖ The number of newlyweds rose to 7.7 million last year.
- ❖ This was up 845,000 couples from 2022 but still far below the peak of 13.5 million couples hit in 2013.

ISA 29th Session

- ❖ The Council of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) commenced the first part of its 29th session recently at Kingston, Jamaica.
- ❖ The ISA is an autonomous international organization established in 1994.
- ❖ It was established under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS.
- ❖ It organizes and controls all mineral-resources-related activities in the Seabed Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole.
- ❖ The seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

2024 Summit for Democracy

- ❖ The third Summit for Democracy (S4D3) was held in Seoul, South Korea.
- ❖ The summit, held outside the United States for the first time, aimed to champion and spread the idea of democracy globally.
- ❖ Theme of the event is "Democracy for Future Generations."
- ❖ This year's summit agenda has focused on digital threats to democracy, including misinformation, artificial intelligence, and deep fakes.
- ❖ U.S. President Joe Biden established the summit in 2021.

Barberton Greenstone Belt

- ❖ The Scientists have found signs of some of the earliest known earthquakes in 3.3-billion-year-old rocks.
- ❖ The rocks provide early evidence of plate tectonics, which explains Earth's crust as split into large plates that glide across the mantle.
- ❖ The rocks also point to what conditions may have been like when life first evolved.
- ❖ This discovery has made while investigating the Barberton Greenstone Belt, a complex geological formation in southern Africa.

- ❖ The belt is remarkably similar to much younger rocks in New Zealand.
- ❖ They have experienced earthquake-triggered submarine landslides along the Hikurangi subduction zone.
- ❖ The Barberton Greenstone, named after its greenish hue, provides one of the most extensive geological records for Earth between 3.2 billion and 3.6 billion years ago.



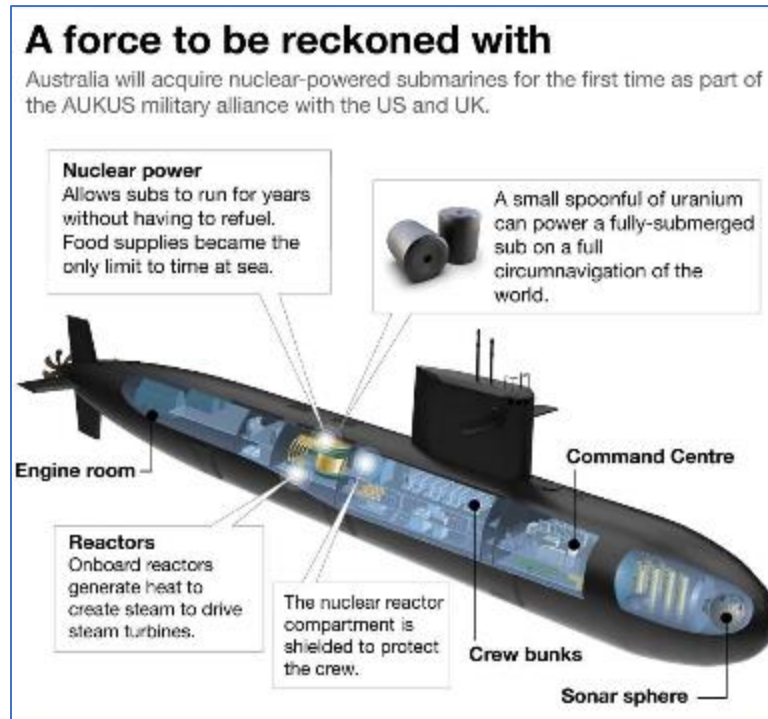
Operation Indravati



- ❖ India launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its nationals from Haiti.
- ❖ The Caribbean nation of Haiti has been plagued by widespread gang violence for over two years since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.
- ❖ After the assassination, the country's de facto leader, Prime Minister Ariel Henry, assumed power, with the support of several nations.

- ❖ Various armed groups launched coordinated attacks on key installations in Haiti in an attempt to force the resignation of the PM.
- ❖ Haiti has not held functional elections since 2019.

SSN-AUKUS Submarine Program



- ❖ Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States have entered into a trilateral security partnership called AUKUS.
- ❖ It aims to build nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy.
- ❖ The AUKUS partnership was first announced in 2021.
- ❖ The Australian government has selected Australia's ASC to join BAE Systems in building the country's new fleet of nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs).

UN Resolution on AI

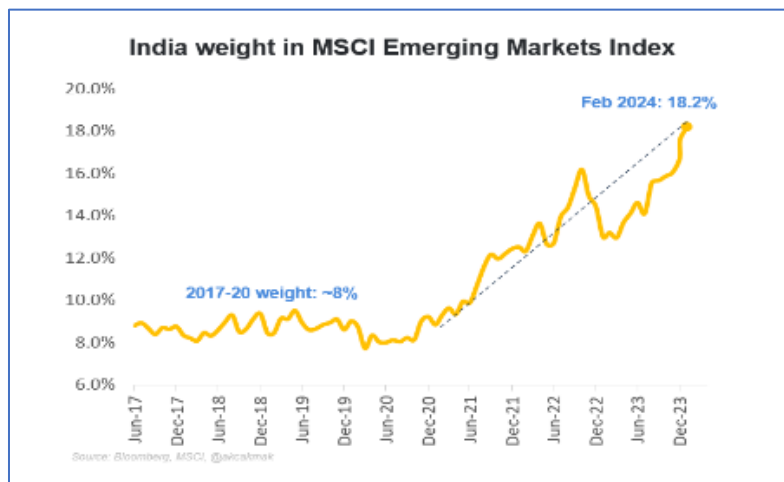
- ❖ The UN General Assembly has approved the first United Nations resolution on artificial intelligence.
- ❖ It is giving global support to an international effort to ensure the powerful new technology benefits all nations, respects human rights and is "safe, secure and trustworthy."

- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind global approach to the development and use of this powerful emerging technology.
- ❖ Unlike Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding but they are a barometer of world opinion.



ECONOMY

MSCI Global Standard Index



- ❖ Index provider MSCI raised India's weightage in its Global Standard (Emerging Markets) index to a historic high of 18.2%.
- ❖ India's weightage in the index has nearly doubled since November 2020.

- ❖ The climb can be attributed to India's standardized foreign ownership limit (FOL) in 2020.
- ❖ India has the second-highest weightage in the MSCI Global Standard index, after China.

India's Unemployment Rate 2023

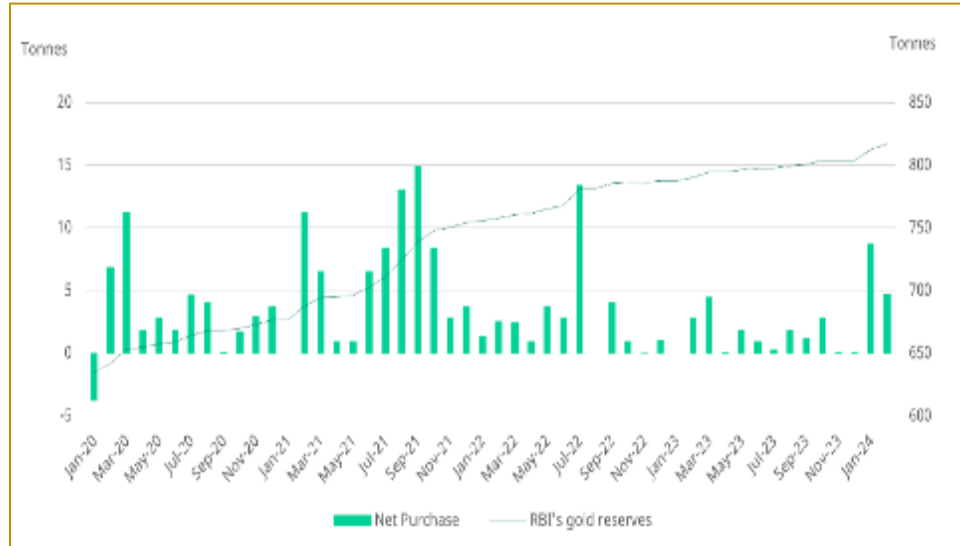


- ❖ India's unemployment rate declined to 3.1% in 2023 from 3.6% in the previous year.
- ❖ A significant reason for the decline in the unemployment rate was the decline in urban unemployment.
- ❖ The overall rate of unemployment declined in urban areas to 5.2 per cent in 2023 from 5.7 per cent in 2022 and 6.5 per cent 2021.
- ❖ In rural areas, it came down to 2.4 per cent in 2023 from 2.8 per cent in 2022 and 3.3 per cent in 2021.
- ❖ The unemployment rate among females also declined to 3 per cent in 2023 from 3.3 per cent in 2022 and 3.4 per cent in 2021.
- ❖ For males, it came down to 3.2 per cent in 2023 from 3.7 per cent in 2022 and 4.5 per cent in 2021.

RBI gold purchase in 2024

- ❖ The RBI's net gold buying in the first two months of 2024 (13.4t) already amounts to more than 80% of its 2023 annual net purchase (16.2t).
- ❖ This represents the largest purchase for the period since 2015.

- ❖ The RBI is among several central banks that have been accumulating gold at a steady clip.
- ❖ Its annual net gold purchases is averaged 42t (2018 to 2023).

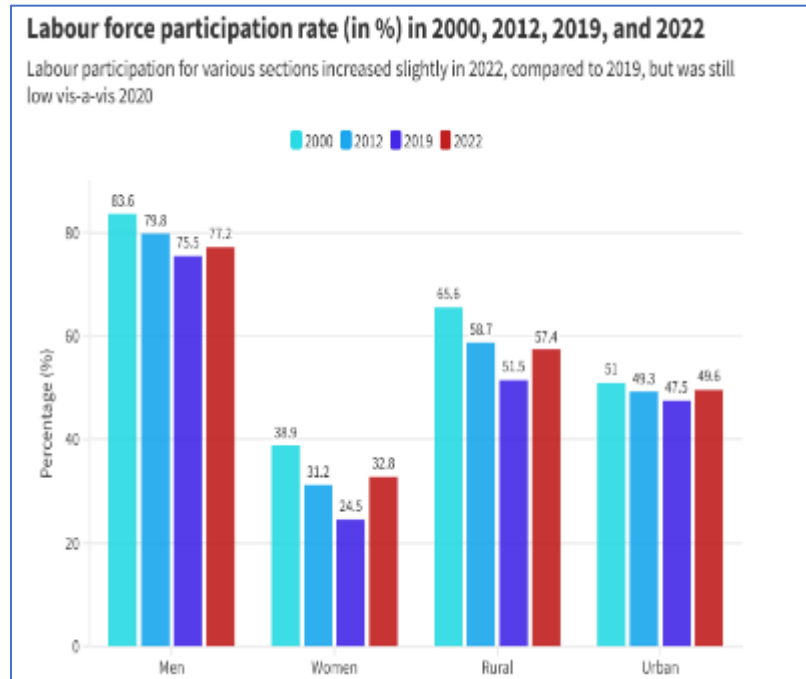


Gaia AI Project

- ❖ The Bank for International Settlements have broken new ground by using artificial intelligence to collect data for assessing climate-related financial risks.
- ❖ Their experimental Gaia AI project was used to analyse company disclosures on carbon emissions, green bond issuance and voluntary net-zero commitments.
- ❖ Gaia was able to overcome differences in definitions and disclosure frameworks across jurisdictions to offer much-needed transparency.
- ❖ Also, this makes it easier to compare indicators on climate-related financial risks.



India Employment Report 2024

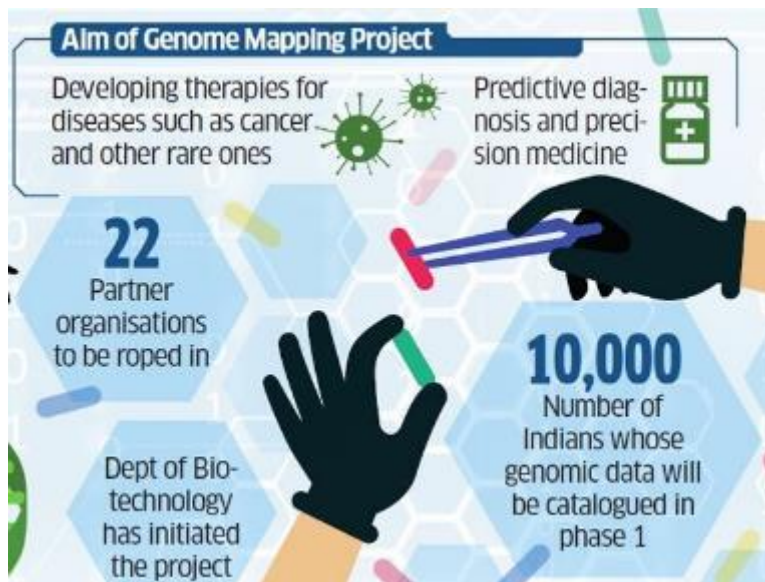


- ❖ India Employment Report 2024 has been released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD).
- ❖ In 2022, India's youth accounted for 83% of the country's total unemployed population.
- ❖ The share of educated youngsters among all jobless people, increased from 54.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022.
- ❖ Also, at present there are more women (76.7%) than men (62.2%) among the educated but unemployed youths.
- ❖ In 2000, half of the total employed youth population was self-employed, 13% had regular jobs, while the remaining 37% had casual jobs.
- ❖ Almost 90% of workers remain engaged in informal work, while the share of regular work, which steadily increased after 2000, declined after 2018.
- ❖ 75% of youth unable to send emails with attachments, 60% unable to copy and paste files, and 90% unable to put a mathematical formula into a spreadsheet.
- ❖ India will add 7-8 million (70-80 lakh) youths to its labour workforce during the next decade.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

10,000 Genomes Project

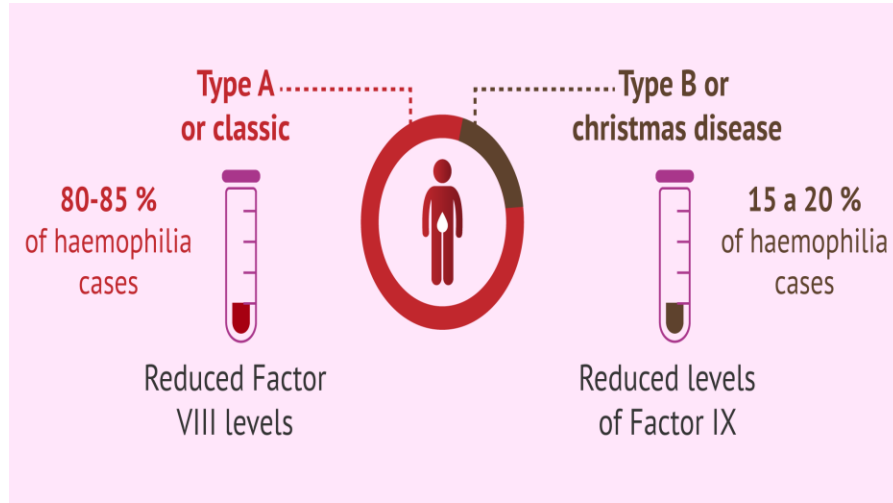
- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) officially announced the completion of the '10,000 genome' project.
- ❖ It is an attempt to create a reference database of whole-genome sequences out of India.
- ❖ India first sequenced a complete human genome in 2006.
- ❖ Creating a database of the diversity of India's population is seen as a key step to being able to learn about genetic variants that are unique to India's population groups and use that to customise drugs and therapies.
- ❖ The Indian population of 1.3 billion consists of over 4,600 population groups, and many of them are endogamous.
- ❖ The United Kingdom, China, and the United States are among the countries that have programs to sequence at least 1,00,000 of their genomes.



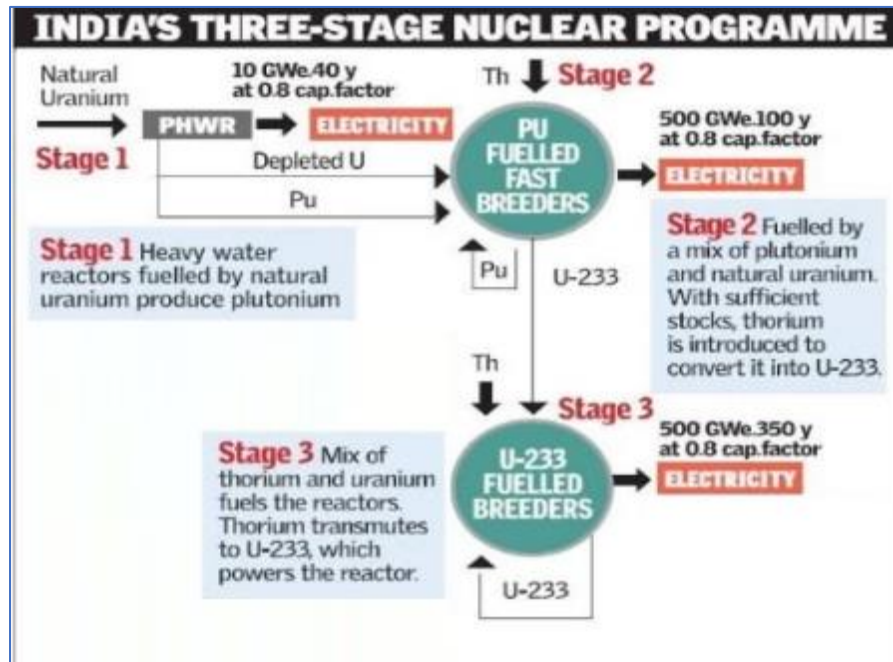
Haemophilia A gene therapy

- ❖ India has conducted the first human clinical trial of gene therapy for 'haemophilia A' at Christian Medical College – Vellore.
- ❖ Hemophilia is a group of conditions that impact the blood's ability to coagulate, or clot.
- ❖ Hemophilia occurs when an individual has low levels of certain proteins in the blood, known as clotting factors.

- ❖ Hemophilia A and hemophilia B are the two main types of hemophilia.
- ❖ Both conditions have similarities but are distinguishable by the genetic variation that causes the blood clotting problem.
- ❖ People living with hemophilia A have a genetic variation in the F8 gene, which is responsible for producing blood clotting factor VIII.
- ❖ Hemophilia B have a genetic alteration in the F9 gene, which results in the underproduction of blood clotting factor IX.



Indigenous prototype fast breeder reactor



- ❖ The fuel loading was started at the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Fast breeder reactors form the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme.
- ❖ The PFBR is a machine that produces more nuclear fuel than it consumes.
- ❖ The operationalisation of the PFBR will mark the start of stage II of India's three-stage nuclear power programme.
- ❖ In the first, India used pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) and natural uranium-238 (U-238).
- ❖ It contains minuscule amounts of U-235, as the fissile material.
- ❖ The reactions produce plutonium-239 (Pu-239) and energy.
- ❖ In stage II, India will use Pu-239 together with U-238 in the PFBR to produce energy, U-233, and more Pu-239.
- ❖ In stage III, Pu-239 will be combined with thorium-232 (Th-232) in reactors to produce energy and U-233.
- ❖ Homi J. Bhabha had designed the three-stage programme because India hosts roughly a quarter of the world's thorium.

Juice Jacking



Beware of Juice Jacking

Attackers use USB charging ports available at public places to install malware, steal data or even take complete control of your device.

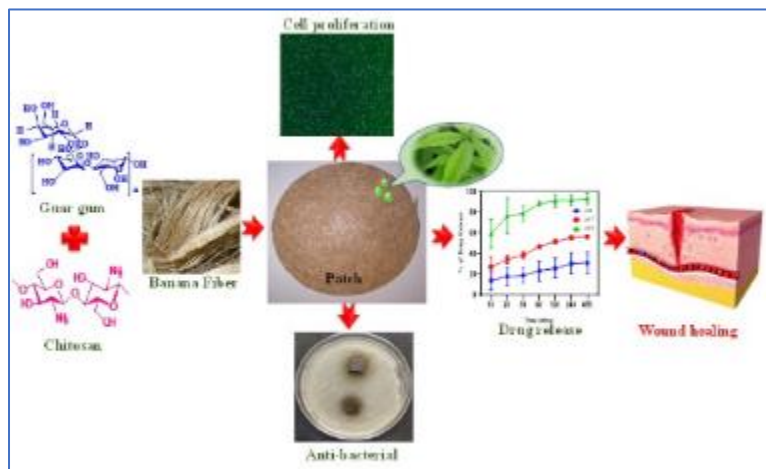
Tips to stay safe

- Disable data transfer feature on your mobile phone while charging
- Get a charge only cable instead of cable supporting charging and data transfer capabilities
- Try to carry a power bank
- If possible, switch off the device while charging from public ports

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a cautionary message to mobile phone users advising them against charging their devices using public ports.
- ❖ The warning comes amidst growing concerns over the security risks posed by a cyberattack known as “juice jacking”.
- ❖ Juice jacking is a form of cyberattack where hackers tamper with public USB charging ports.
- ❖ They infecting them with malware or making hardware changes that allow them to steal data from devices connected to them.

Dressing material from banana fibres

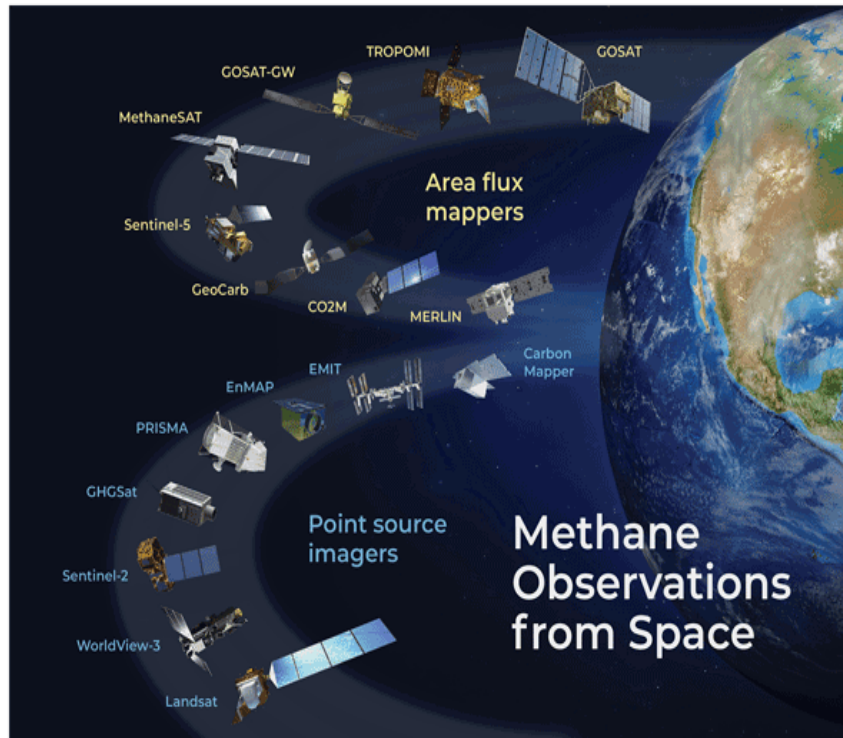
- ❖ Scientists at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) in Assam has formulated a sustainable and economical wound dressing material utilising banana fibres.
- ❖ The scientists combined banana fibres with biopolymers such as chitosan and guar gum to create the innovative dressing material.
- ❖ Additionally, the patch was loaded with an extract from the Vitex negundo L. plant, showcasing its capabilities in in vitro drug release and antibacterial activity.



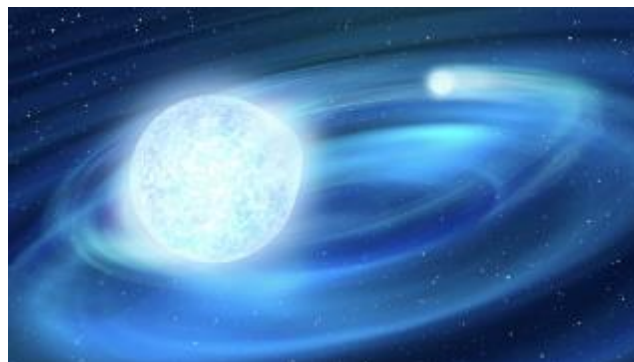
MethaneSAT

- ❖ MethaneSAT is a satellite which will track and measure methane emissions at a global scale was launched recently.
- ❖ A US-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is the entity behind MethaneSAT.
- ❖ MethaneSAT will orbit the Earth 15 times a day, monitoring the oil and gas sector.

- ❖ It will create a large amount of data, which will tell “how much methane is coming from where, who’s responsible, and are those emissions going up or down over time
- ❖ Methane is an invisible but strong greenhouse gas, and the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide.
- ❖ It is responsible for 30 per cent of global heating since the Industrial Revolution.



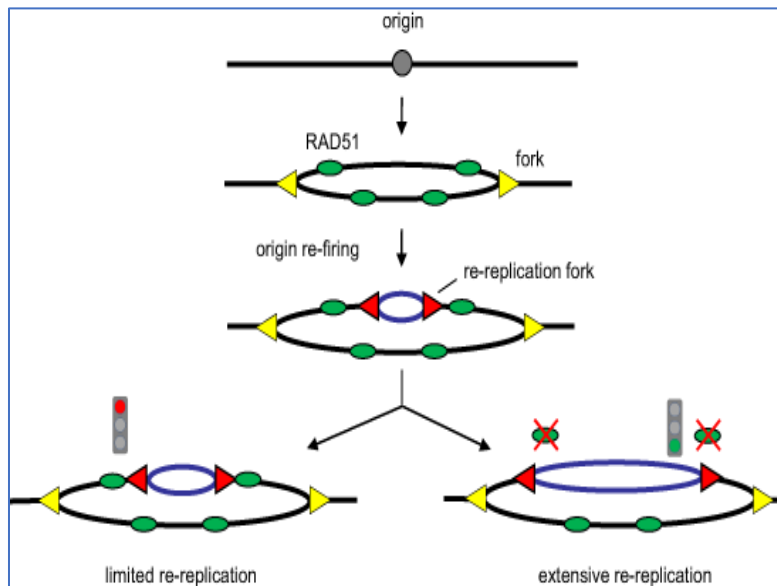
Helium-Rich Hot Subdwarf Stars



- ❖ A large international team of astronomers has discovered the smallest known star to date.
- ❖ Also, it found that it is paired with another, somewhat larger star.

- ❖ They burn helium at their cores and are typically found in galactic stellar groups.
- ❖ This star is part of a binary system known as J0526 and is located approximately 2,760 light years from Earth.
- ❖ The two stars are named J0526A, the larger unseen white dwarf; and J0526B, the hot subdwarf.
- ❖ The smaller star is approximately seven times the size of Earth, which means it is smaller than Saturn.
- ❖ It also has a surface temperature of approximately 2,226°C.
- ❖ It orbits the larger star approximately every 20 minutes.
- ❖ This means that it squeezes almost 72 years into just one Earth Day.
- ❖ Before TMTS J0526B, one of the smallest stars ever observed was the red dwarf EBLM J0555-57Ab, located 600 light-years from Earth.

RAD51 Protein



- ❖ Researchers observed that RAD51 temporarily binds to the newly synthesized DNA.
- ❖ Thus, RAD51 prevents genomic duplications that could arise from re-activated origins.
- ❖ Every time a cell divides, its DNA is duplicated so that the two daughter cells have the same genetic material as their parent.
- ❖ This means that millions of times a day a biochemical wonder takes place in the body: the copying of the DNA molecule.

- ❖ It is a high-precision job carried out by specific proteins and includes systems to protect against potential errors that could lead to diseases such as cancer.
- ❖ When a region of DNA is over-replicated, breaks are created in the molecule, and the likelihood of a cancer-related gene being over-expressed increases.
- ❖ Therefore, avoiding excess replication prevents DNA damage and reduces the chances of oncogenes being amplified.

Mission Divyastra

- ❖ India has conducted the first flight test of the indigenously produced Agni-5 missile as part of its 'Mission Divyastra'.
- ❖ The weapon is equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.
- ❖ This technology enhances its effectiveness in delivering multiple warheads to different targets with precision.
- ❖ This is the first flight test of indigenously developed 5,000-km range Agni-5 nuclear missile.
- ❖ At present, the US, UK, France, China, Russia and India are among the elite group that possesses the technology.
- ❖ The project was led by a woman scientist from the country's missile complex in Hyderabad, Sheena Rani.
- ❖ Her husband, PSRS Sastry, also worked with the DRDO on missiles and was also in-charge of the Kautilya Satellite launched by ISRO in 2019.



India's MIRV punch
India has joined select group of nations that have Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology

Agni-5 missile uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine
5,000km range

USING MULTIPLE WARHEADS

- MIRVs can cause more destruction than missiles that carry single warhead.
- It will allow Agni-V to deliver multiple nuclear warheads against different targets across hundreds of kilometres.

India completed its nuclear trial in 2018 when nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Arihant, completed its first deterrence patrol

India's nuclear doctrine, promulgated in 2003, commits to a 'no first use' posture, with weapons to be used only in retaliation against a nuclear attack

Haiper AI model

- ❖ Haiper, a company founded by former members of Google DeepMind, TikTok, and top labs from research academia, has introduced a eponymous new text-to-video model.
- ❖ It allows everyone, with or without technical training, to generate high-quality video content with ease.
- ❖ Haiper offers tools such as text-to-video, animated static images, video repainting tools, etc.

Astronomical Grand Cycles

- ❖ The Earth undergoes climate fluctuations in a newly discovered 2.4-million-year cycle.
- ❖ Geological sedimentary evidence in the deep sea has proved the existence of the cycle, which is linked with Mars' orbit.
- ❖ We are now about 200,000 years into a warming cycle.
- ❖ In about 1 million years, we'll reach the next peak.
- ❖ The gravity fields of the planets in the solar system, interfere with each other and this interaction, called a resonance.
- ❖ It changes planetary eccentricity, which measures how close to circular their orbits are.
- ❖ This interaction leads to periods of higher incoming solar radiation and warmer climates in cycles of 2.4 million years on Earth.



Devin AI

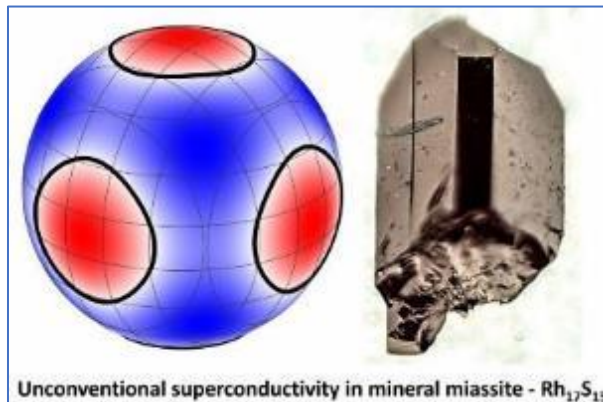
- ❖ US-based startup Cognition launched Devin AI, an artificial intelligence software.
- ❖ It alters the way code is debugged, written and deployed.
- ❖ Devin AI is a first of its kind and has the ability of taking a simple command and turning it into a functioning website or software program.

- ❖ It can also manage the whole process of creating and releasing whole software applications.



Miassite (Rh₁₇S₁₅)

- ❖ Scientists have discovered Miassite, the first unconventional superconductor found in nature.
- ❖ It's one of only four minerals that exhibit superconductivity when grown in the lab.
- ❖ Miassite shares properties with high-temperature superconductors.
- ❖ Superconductivity allows electricity transmission without energy loss.



Lunar Colonies by 2040

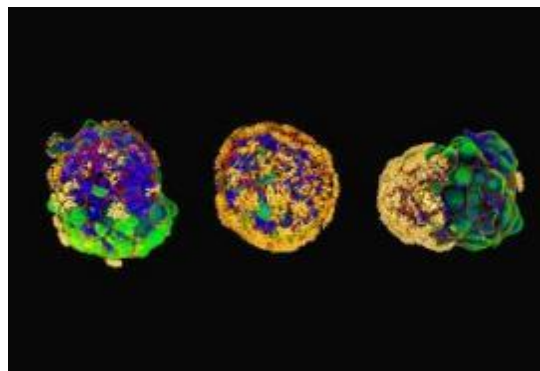
- ❖ NASA plans to create human settlements on the moon by 2040.
- ❖ It has developed the Artemis program, a multifaceted initiative that aims to return humans to the lunar surface and set up a sustainable presence.
- ❖ It aims to develop the architecture for habitable structures to facilitate prolonged human presence and scientific endeavours on the moon.

- ❖ The key challenges are, create a secure living space shielded from the moon's harsh elements like extreme temperatures, micrometeorite impacts and cosmic radiation.



Anthrobots

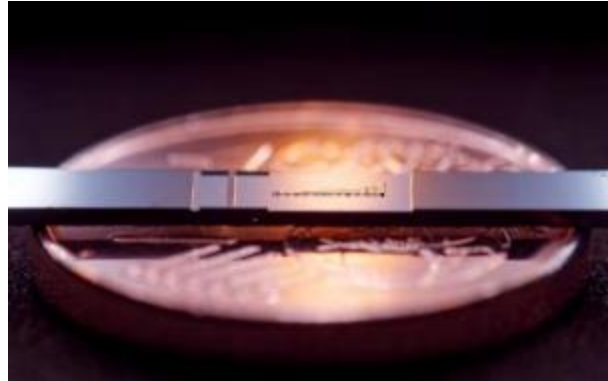
- ❖ Researchers have developed miniature robots using human cells capable of both movement and healing neurons within a laboratory setting.
- ❖ They are termed as 'Anthrobots'.
- ❖ These bioengineered entities consist of human tracheal cells and possess the ability to autonomously configure themselves into various forms and dimensions.
- ❖ These biobots can be used as the innovative instruments for the purposes of regeneration, recovery, and the management of diseases.



Nanophotonic Electron Accelerator

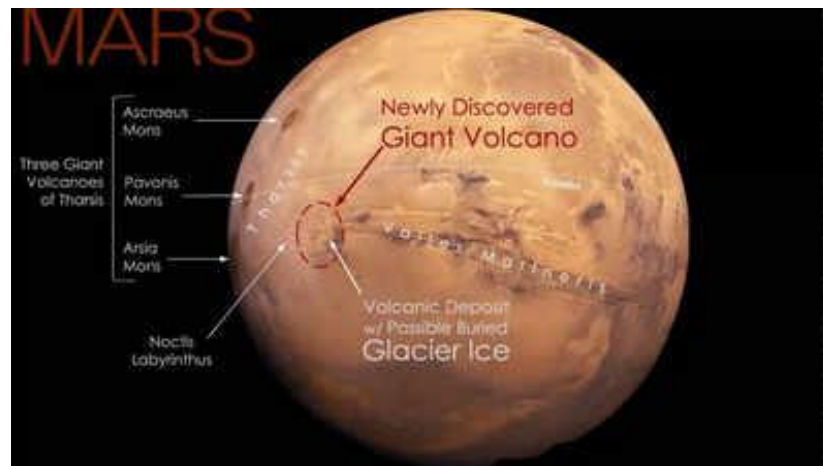
- ❖ Researchers have successfully activated the world's smallest particle accelerator.
- ❖ It could revolutionize various applications, including the potential for miniature particle accelerators to be employed in medical treatments.

- ❖ The newly developed machine is known as a nanophotonic electron accelerator (NEA).
- ❖ It is a miniature technological marvel approximately the size of a small coin.
- ❖ This tiny accelerator relies on a small microchip housing a vacuum tube made up of thousands of individual "pillars."
- ❖ The 16.8-mile-long (27 KM) Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN in Switzerland is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator.



Gigantic volcano on Mars

- ❖ The Researchers have unveiled the existence of a 'gigantic' volcano on Mars.
- ❖ This colossal geological feature has been named the 'Noctis Volcano.'
- ❖ It stands at an impressive 29,600 feet in elevation and stretches approximately 450 kilometers in width.
- ❖ The volcano's location is just south of Mars' equator, in the Eastern Noctis Labyrinthus, west of the Valles Marineris, the planet's vast canyon system.



Red Sprite



- ❖ A European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut recently photographed an uncommon occurrence termed a red sprite.
- ❖ These images have captured for the Thor-Davis experiment at Danish Technical University.
- ❖ The experiment aims to investigate upper atmospheric lightning and its implications on greenhouse gas levels, thereby influencing global warming.
- ❖ The Scientists approximated the dimensions of the red sprite in the image to be around 14 by 26 kilometres (8.7 by 16.2 miles).
- ❖ A red sprite represents an extraordinary meteorological phenomenon categorized as a Transient Luminous Event (TLE).
- ❖ Occasionally dubbed red lightning, it occurs above thunderclouds at altitudes between 40 and 80 kilometres (25 - 50 miles) above the Earth's surface.

Cassiopeia A: New Image of Star

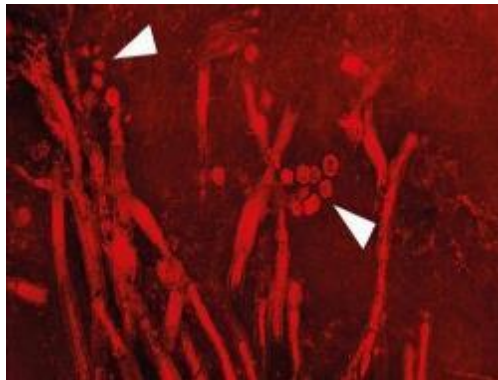


- ❖ A star that exploded in the supernova remnant Cassiopeia A (Cas A) has been captured by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope.

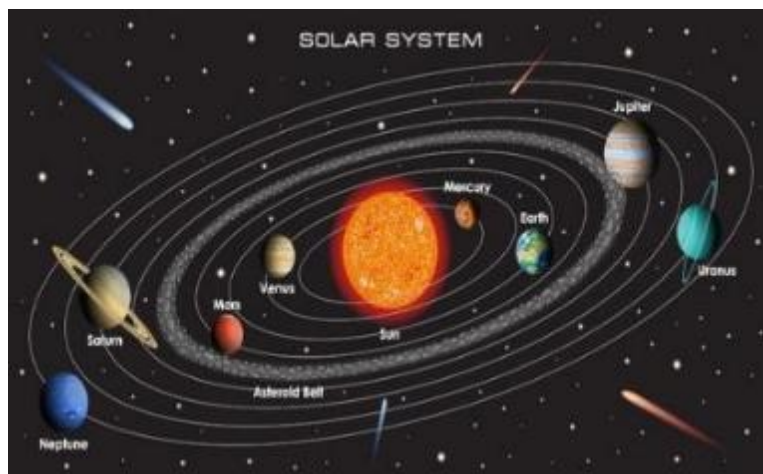
- ❖ Cas A is one of the most thoroughly researched supernova remnants across the entire universe.
- ❖ The whole of Cas A spans 10 light-years, or 60 trillion miles.
- ❖ The Cas A supernova remnant is located 11,000 light-years away in the constellation Cassiopeia.
- ❖ It is estimated to have exploded about 340 years ago from our point of view.

Oldest Disease-Causing Fungus

- ❖ A 407-million-year-old fossilized fungus was found in Natural History Museum of London.
- ❖ This is the oldest evidence of a disease-causing fungus ever.
- ❖ It is named *Potteromyces asteroxylicola*, after the renowned mycologist Beatrix Potter.



Mars resonance on Earth



- ❖ Mars is almost 140 million miles away from the Earth.

- ❖ However, it still has impact on the Earth due to gravitational push or pull factors, often termed as resonance.
- ❖ Mars' resonance may be responsible for giant whirlpools in the Earth's deep oceans.
- ❖ This phenomenon may cause serious climatic conditions on the Earth.

Winged rocket – Pushpak



- ❖ ISRO successfully conducted the second landing test of its RLV, Pushpak.
- ❖ Pushpak is an SUV-sized winged rocket dubbed the "swadeshi space shuttle".
- ❖ This is marking a major milestone in the country's attempt to enter the reusable rocket segment.
- ❖ The rocket was dropped from an Air Force helicopter as part of the test.

Astrophysical neutrinos

- ❖ Scientists using data from the Ice Cube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica believe they have potentially found the first evidence for "ghost particles".
- ❖ Neutrinos are miniscule subatomic particles that hardly interact with anything.
- ❖ Astrophysical neutrinos are the name for high-energy neutrinos that come from the farthest reaches beyond our galaxy.
- ❖ These particles come in three different "flavours": electron, muon and tau.
- ❖ The last one has proven to be especially difficult to observe and detect, earning the moniker of "ghost particle."

Planet TOI-270 d

- ❖ Astronomers using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have found hints of a distant planet that could be entirely covered in a deep ocean.

- ❖ The planet, known as TOI-270 d, is located 70 light-years away and is twice the size of Earth.
- ❖ Observations of the planet's atmosphere revealed water vapour, methane, and carbon dioxide, which is consistent with a water world.
- ❖ Some researchers believed that TOI-270 d might be too hot for liquid water, with temperatures reaching 4,000 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ There might be an ocean on TOI-270 d because they haven't detected ammonia in its atmosphere.

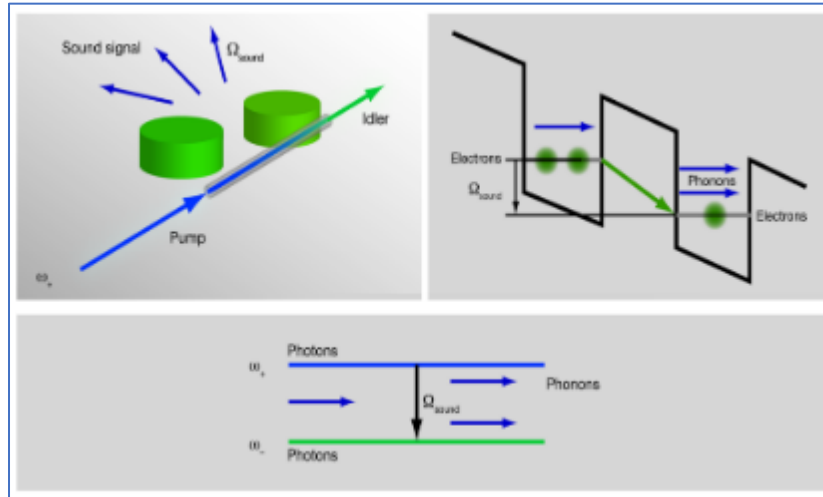


Hyodol's social robot



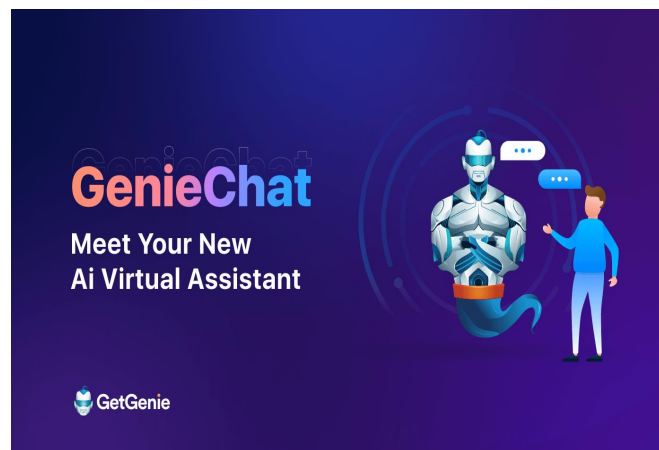
- ❖ The South Korean company Hyodol has come up with a way to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to beat loneliness among elders with dementia.
- ❖ It has unveiled a 'social robot' named Hyodol.
- ❖ Their advanced language processing and ability to recognise emotions, talk, and play music can offer some form of engagement to seniors.

Sound Laser by China



- ❖ Scientists in China have created an unprecedentedly bright laser that shoots particles of sound instead of light.
- ❖ This is the most powerful "sound laser" yet.
- ❖ Unlike regular lasers, that emit light particles called photons, these machines release particle-like chunks of sounds called phonons.
- ❖ The output is similar - the particles are released in a narrow beam, like optical lasers emit photons.
- ❖ Phonons are less affected while moving through liquids, and can be more effective in imaging watery tissues and deep-monitoring.
- ❖ Since they can emit sound in the terahertz frequency range, the beam can also be used in airport scans.

Genie - AI Model



- ❖ Google DeepMind introduces Genie, an AI model that generates interactive virtual worlds for gameplay on 2D platforms.
- ❖ Genie can create playable environments from synthetic images, photographs, sketches, and even real-world photographs.
- ❖ Genie also has the ability to learn and reproduce controls for in-game characters exclusively from internet videos.

Hanooman: Series of Large Language Models

SPEECH-TO-TEXT ON OFFER TOO

<p>➤ BharatGPT shared a sneak peek of its model Hanooman at a tech conference in Mumbai</p>	<p>making it user-friendly given millions in the country still cannot read or write</p>
<p>➤ It will work in 11 local languages, and four key fields: health care, governance, financial services and education</p>	<p>➤ Large language models by larger cos like OpenAI involve workarounds due to computational constraints and simpler models affordable to smaller businesses and govt departments</p>
<p>➤ Hanooman will also offer speech-to-text capabilities,</p>	



- ❖ The Bharat GPT group — led by IIT Bombay along with seven other elite Indian engineering institutes has built the ‘Hanooman’ series of Indic language models.
- ❖ This can respond in 11 Indian languages like Hindi, Tamil, and Marathi, with plans to expand to more than 20 languages.
- ❖ Hanooman has been designed to work in four fields, including health care, governance, financial services, and education.
- ❖ Large language models use deep learning techniques to process large amounts of text.

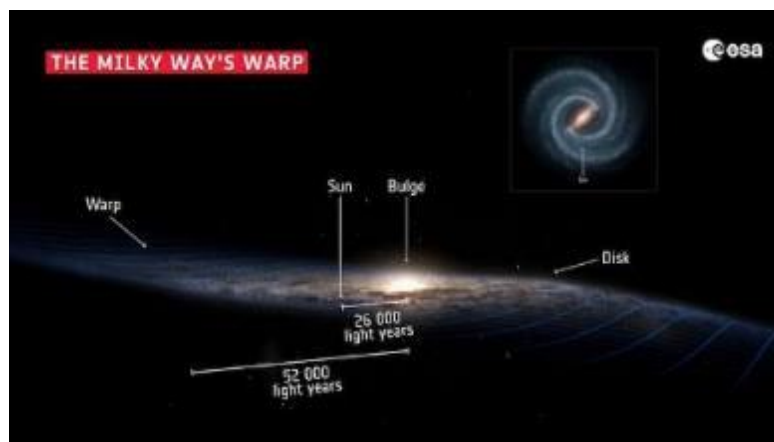
Most Luminous Object

- ❖ A team of astronomers in Australia has discovered a massive quasar, energized by a colossal black hole.
- ❖ It surpasses the brightness of our sun by an astonishing 500 trillion times.
- ❖ The black hole central to this quasar is has a mass 17 billion times that of our sun.

- ❖ It consumes the equivalent of the sun's material every day.
- ❖ This voracious consumption powers the quasar's remarkable luminosity, allowing it to be visible.
- ❖ Its light is traveling a massive distance of 12 billion years to reach us.



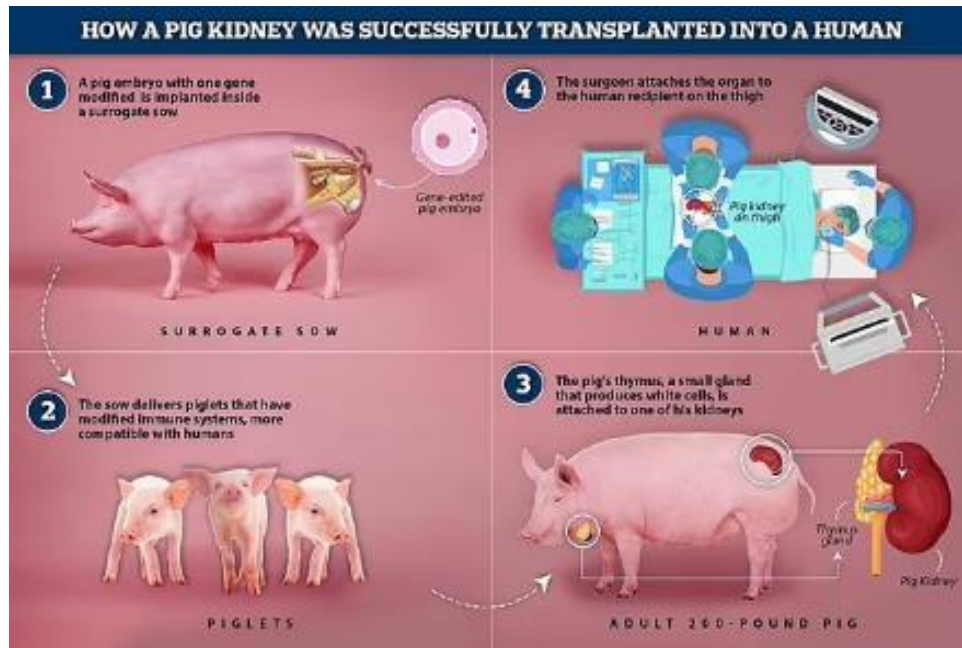
Ancient streams of stars



- ❖ The European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope has unveiled two ancient streams of stars, named Shiva and Shakti.
- ❖ They have significantly advanced our understanding of the Milky Way's origins.
- ❖ These celestial formations, woven together over 12 billion years ago.
- ❖ They are among the earliest structures to have contributed to the formation of our galaxy.
- ❖ They predate even the oldest parts of the Milky Way's spiral arms and disc.
- ❖ Each stream carries the mass of about 10 million Suns, with stars aged between 12 to 13 billion years, moving in remarkably similar orbits and compositions.

First pig-to-human kidney transplant

- ❖ A 62-year-old man with end-stage renal disease has become the first human to receive a new kidney from a genetically modified pig.
- ❖ The kidney was provided by eGenesis of Cambridge, Massachusetts, from a pig.
- ❖ The pig has been genetically edited to remove genes harmful to a human recipient and add certain human genes to improve compatibility.



Budgett's frog

- ❖ Researchers from the IISc have identified that peptides (short protein) produced from Budgett's frog can combat enzymes of disease-causing pathogens.
- ❖ The peptides (short proteins) produced from the skin of amphibians have long been studied because of their ability to counter unfavourable conditions in the environment, including harmful pathogens.
- ❖ This frog-secreted peptide inhibited two key enzymes called subtilisin carlsberg and proteinase K., produced by pathogens.
- ❖ Budgett's frog found in South America is kept as a pet in many countries because of their intelligent behaviour.
- ❖ The frogs have developed a defensive mechanism through their skin.
- ❖ They generally combat the microorganisms and other harmful things through their skins.



Oldest Black Hole in Cosmic History



- ❖ Scientists have discovered the oldest black hole yet; a cosmic beast formed a mere 470 million years after the Big Bang.
- ❖ Observations given the universe is 13.7 billion years old, that puts the age of this black hole at 13.2 billion years.
- ❖ This black hole is a whopper — 10 times bigger than the black hole in our own Milky Way.
- ❖ It's believed to weigh anywhere from 10% to 100% the mass of all the stars in its galaxy.

SAMAR-2 missile system



- ❖ The SAMAR air defence missile system was fired at the Exercise Vayushakti for the first time.
- ❖ It is developed in-house by the units of Indian Air Force's Maintenance Command.
- ❖ SAMAR stands for Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation.
- ❖ It is utilizing old Russian-origin R-27 air-to-air missile systems from its inventory.

3D-printed brain tissue

- ❖ Researchers have created the world's first 3D-printed brain tissue that behaves like a natural brain tissue.
- ❖ This model will help us to understand how brain cells and parts of the brain communicate in humans.
- ❖ This will greatly aid on treatments for a broad range of neurological and neurodevelopmental disorders.



Roen olmi



- ❖ Two researchers in Goa have synthesised gold nanoparticles from a wild mushroom species that is widely eaten as a delicacy in the coastal state.
- ❖ Mushrooms of the Termitomyces species, which grow on termite hills, is locally known as 'roen olmi'

- ❖ It is an edible wild mushroom popular among Goans and consumed during the monsoons.
- ❖ This species of mushroom has been cultured in a pure three-dimensional pelletised form and successfully used to produce gold nanoparticles.
- ❖ The demand for gold nanoparticles is so high in various applications, such as targeted drug delivery, medical imaging and electronics manufacturing.
- ❖ In February 2016, a single milligram of gold nanoparticles cost around \$80, which equates to \$80,000 dollars per gram.
- ❖ Other countries are using very toxic chemical agents for production.

POEM-3 mission

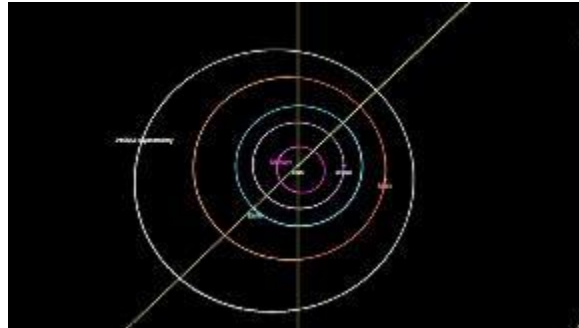
- ❖ ISRO has achieved another milestone as the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) met its fiery end through a re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ The PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission has practically left zero debris in orbit.
- ❖ After completing the primary mission of injecting all satellites into their desired orbits, the terminal stage of PSLV was transformed into a 3-axis stabilized platform, the POEM-3.
- ❖ The stage was de-orbited from 650 km to 350 km, which facilitated its early re-entry, and was passivated to remove residual propellants to minimize any accidental break-up risks.



Asteroid 2005 EX296

- ❖ International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named an asteroid after Prof. Jayant Murthy.
- ❖ The asteroid 2005 EX296 has been designated as (215884) Jayant Murthy.
- ❖ The asteroid (215884) goes around the Sun in an orbit that lies between that of Mars and Jupiter once every 3.3 years.

- ❖ International Astronomical Union's Working Group on Small Bodies Nomenclature is the designated body to provide official names to all asteroids, comets and other small objects in the Solar System.



ENVIRONMENT

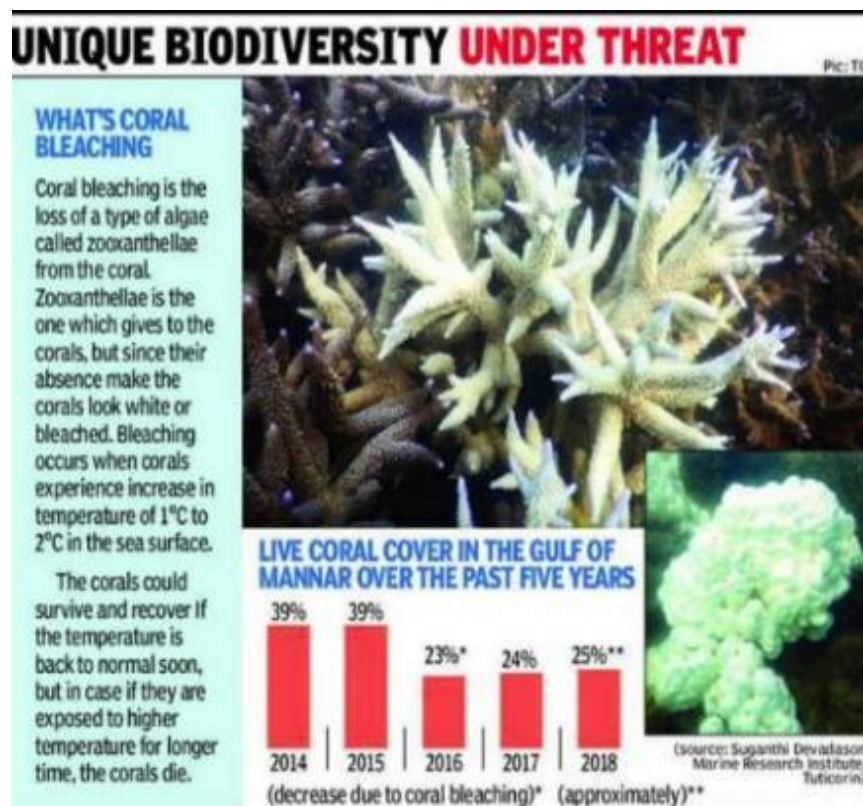
Buxa Tiger Reserve - resident tiger



- ❖ Buxa Tiger Reserve have finally got at least one resident tiger after a gap of four decades.
- ❖ In the early eighties, the reserve had a record number of tigers residing there.
- ❖ A tiger was clicked by camera traps in BTR in December 2021, after a gap of 28 years.
- ❖ Buxa Tiger Reserve has span over 760 square kilometres in North Bengal's Alipurduar district.

Share of live corals in Gulf of Mannar

- ❖ The report titled ‘Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mannar: Decadal Changes in Status and Management Paradigms’, was released at the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2.0 in Chennai.
- ❖ The average live coral cover in Gulf of Mannar, one of the major coral reef areas in India, dropped from 37% in 2005 to 27.3% in 2021.
- ❖ The share of live corals hit an all-time high of 42.9% in 2009.
- ❖ It dropped after widespread coral mortalities due to the second (2010) and third (2016) global bleaching events.
- ❖ The more severe impact occurred in the Mandapam region than in the Keelakarai and Tuticorin regions.
- ❖ The baseline survey in 2005 recorded 117 coral species and more were added by the subsequent surveys till 2021 with updated nomenclature increasing the number to 132.

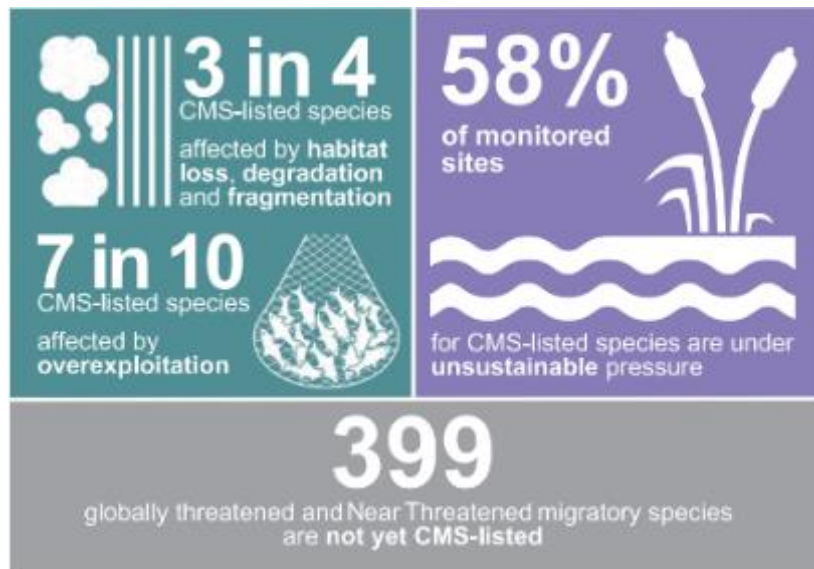


COP14 on Convention of Migratory Species

- ❖ The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP 14) was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

- ❖ Parties agreed to adopt listing proposals for 14 migratory species and several other resolutions for global wildlife.
- ❖ These listings aim to enhance protection and conservation efforts for these species.
- ❖ The proposals emphasised the importance of cooperation between range states to address threats to migratory species, conduct research, and implement the conservation activities.
- ❖ Several species, were recognized as 'Vulnerable,' 'Endangered,' or 'Critically Endangered' in IUCN Red List, due to population decline and various threats.
- ❖ Conservation of Migratory Species is popularly known as Bonn Convention.
- ❖ It was signed in 1979 and in force since 1983.

State of the World's Migratory Species Report



- ❖ 44 per cent (520 species) of CMS-listed species are undergoing population declines.
- ❖ One in five CMS species face risks of extinction.
- ❖ 97 per cent of migratory fish is listed under CMS face the risk of extinction.
- ❖ These fish species have seen a steep decline in relative abundance in the past 50 years on average.
- ❖ 28 of the total fish species facing threats are categorised as 'Critically Endangered'.
- ❖ 82 per cent (142 out of 180 listed species) of Appendix I species face threat of extinction.

- ❖ While 76 per cent (137 species) show declining population trends.
- ❖ Eighteen per cent of Appendix II species face extinction threats and almost 42 per cent (477 species) showing declining population trends.
- ❖ There are 4,508 species that are considered to be migratory.
- ❖ Of these, 3,339 (74 per cent) are not currently listed in the CMS appendices.
- ❖ Of the 3,339 non-CMS species, 277 (eight per cent) are considered to be 'Globally Threatened'.
- ❖ Another 122 species (four per cent) have been categorised as 'Near Threatened'.

Single Species Action Plan: CMS COP14

- ❖ CMS COP14 adopted the Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle.
- ❖ It is developed under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).
- ❖ It aims to implementing coordinated measures to restore migratory waterbird species to a favourable conservation status.
- ❖ Hawksbill Turtle is classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List.



Report on Leopard Population Status

- ❖ There are an estimated 13,874 leopards in India, up from 12,852 in 2018.
- ❖ Central India and Eastern Ghats has the highest population of leopards (8,820), followed by the Western Ghats (3,596), and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains (1,109).
- ❖ Statewise, Madhya Pradesh boasts of the largest population of leopards (3,907).
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070).
- ❖ In Odisha, the number of leopards dropped from 760 in 2018 to 562 in 2022, and in Uttarakhand, the population declined from 839 in 2018 to 652 in 2022.

- ❖ Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Goa too reported the population declines.

State	2018 Popula- tion (SE)	2022 Population (SE)	State	2018 Popula- tion (SE)	2022 Population (SE)
Bihar	98 (8)	86 (3)	Goa	86 (3)	77 (13)
Uttarakhand	839 (48)	652 (77)	Karnataka	1,783 (71)	1,879 (261)
Uttar Pradesh	316 (39)	371 (54)	Kerala	650 (28)	570 (76)
Shivalik Hills & Gangetic Plains	1,253 (95)	1,109 (134)	Tamil Nadu	868 (40)	1,070 (132)
Andhra Pradesh	492 (31)	569 (41)	Western Ghats	3387 (142)	3,596 (482)
Telangana	334 (16)	297 (20)	Arunachal Pradesh	11 (3)	42 (10)
Chhattisgarh	852 (39)	722 (45)	Assam	47 (9)	74 (11)
Jharkhand	46 (10)	51 (10)	North Bengal	83 (17)	233 (21)
Madhya Pradesh	3,421 (150)	3,907 (215)	North East- ern Hills, and Brahmaputra Floodplains	141 (26)	349 (42)
Maharashtra	1,690 (99)	1,985 (122)	India	12,852 (680)	13,874 (1,258)
Odisha	760 (33)	568 (35)			
Rajasthan	476 (39)	721 (112)			
Central India & Eastern Ghats	8071 (417)	8,820 (600)			

World's Tiniest Frog



- ❖ Scientists have discovered a frog the size of a pea hiding in a Brazilian forest.
- ❖ The 'flea toad' measures just 7.1 millimeters, on average, could be the world's smallest vertebrate.
- ❖ The little frog's top-facing back blends into its surroundings in a 'ground color' of varying browns.
- ❖ The Brazilian flea toad, or *Brachycephalus pulex*, was first discovered in 2011.
- ❖ It's almost one millimetre smaller than the next smallest frog.

Rediscovery of Brazilian holly tree

- ❖ After nearly 200 years without a confirmed sighting, a rare Brazilian tree species called the Pernambuco holly has been found in northeastern Brazil.

- ❖ The Pernambuco holly tree (*Ilex sapiiformis*) can grow to a height of 12 meters (nearly 40 feet).
- ❖ The trees live in vast area of Atlantic Forest.
- ❖ But now less than 7% of its original forest biome remains mostly in small fragments.
- ❖ The holly is one of the 25 “most wanted” lost plant and animal species targeted for rediscovery by the Search for Lost Species project.
- ❖ It’s the ninth that’s been “rediscovered” since the initiative began in 2017.



Metal Mining Contamination on Floodplains

- ❖ Recent studies estimates that approximately 23 million people worldwide live on floodplains contaminated by toxic waste from metal mining activity.
- ❖ It includes contamination from active and inactive metal mining sites, including tailings storage facilities.
- ❖ The contamination affects around 479,200 kilometers of river channels.
- ❖ And it covers 164,000 square kilometers of floodplains globally.
- ❖ These areas support 5.72 million livestock.
- ❖ And they encompass over 65,000 square kilometers of irrigated land.



1,036 species for backyard bird count

CHECKLISTS ▾		SPECIES ▾			
1	United States	172,025	1	Colombia	1,363
2	India	60,810	2	Ecuador	1,130
3	Canada	25,420	3	India	1,036
4	Australia	4,856	4	Brazil	1,007
5	United Kingdom	4,327	5	Peru	939

- ❖ Birding enthusiasts from all over the country documented 1,036 species for the Global Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 2024.
- ❖ India has submitted over 1,000 species in a global citizen science initiative to document bird diversity.
- ❖ This is the second highest number of submissions in the world.
- ❖ India submitted the second-highest number of checklists and the third-highest species among all participating countries.
- ❖ The United States submitted the greatest number of checklists with 172,025.
- ❖ It is followed by India; Canada had the third highest number of checklists at 25,420.
- ❖ Colombia (1,363) and Ecuador (1,130) submitted the most species.
- ❖ Kerala recorded the highest number of checklists (14,023), followed by Tamil Nadu (13,661) and Maharashtra (5,725).
- ❖ The backyard bird count happens every year, usually over a four-day period in February.

6th United Nations Environmental Assembly

- ❖ The sixth edition of United Nations Environment Assembly, or UNEA-6, was held in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ UNEA-6 adopted 15 resolutions aimed at addressing some of the planet's most-pressing environmental challenges, including climate change, air pollution and desertification.
- ❖ Every two years, all 193 UN Member States have an opportunity to collectively address critical environmental issues facing the planet.
- ❖ UNEA was created in 2012, as an outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Brazil.

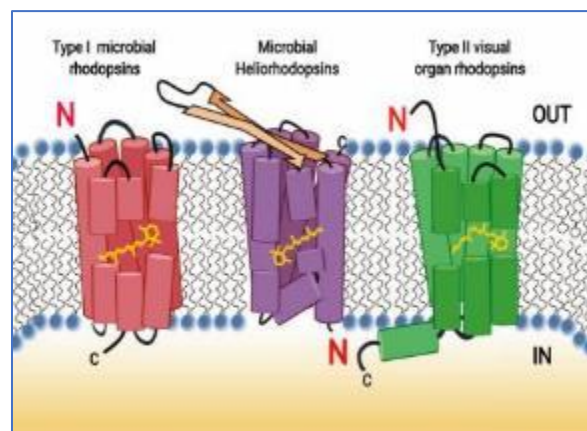
Grey Whale Reappearance



- ❖ The Scientists have confirmed the presence of a whale off New England that went extinct in the Atlantic Ocean two centuries ago.
- ❖ The gray whale was vanished from the Atlantic Ocean by the 18th century.
- ❖ But there have been five documented observations of the animal in Atlantic and Mediterranean waters in the last 15 years.
- ❖ According to the most recent estimates, there are believed to be about 14,000 gray whales, down from 27,000 in 2019.

Microalgae adaptation to warming

- ❖ The Microalgae, which form the base of the food chain in the ocean and capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, appear to rely on a unique strategy to cope with global warming.
- ❖ As the climate change reduces the availability of nutrients in the sea, marine microalgae or eukaryotic phytoplankton fire up a protein called rhodopsin.
- ❖ It is related to the protein in the human eye responsible for vision in dim light.
- ❖ This light-responsive protein is helping the microalgae flourish with the help of sunlight in place of traditional chlorophyll.
- ❖ They may absorb as much light as chlorophyll-based photosynthesis in the sea, which also captures light to generate energy and food.



Asiatic lion IUCN status

- ❖ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which categorized the Asiatic lion as endangered in 2008, has reclassified it as vulnerable.
- ❖ The likelihood of a 33% decline in lion population in Africa is 19 times higher than in India.
- ❖ The lion population in Africa is estimated to have a 41% probability of declining by one third (33%) within three lion generations (past, present and future).
- ❖ But this risk is estimated to be at just 2% in Saurashtra, India.

India's golden langur population 2024

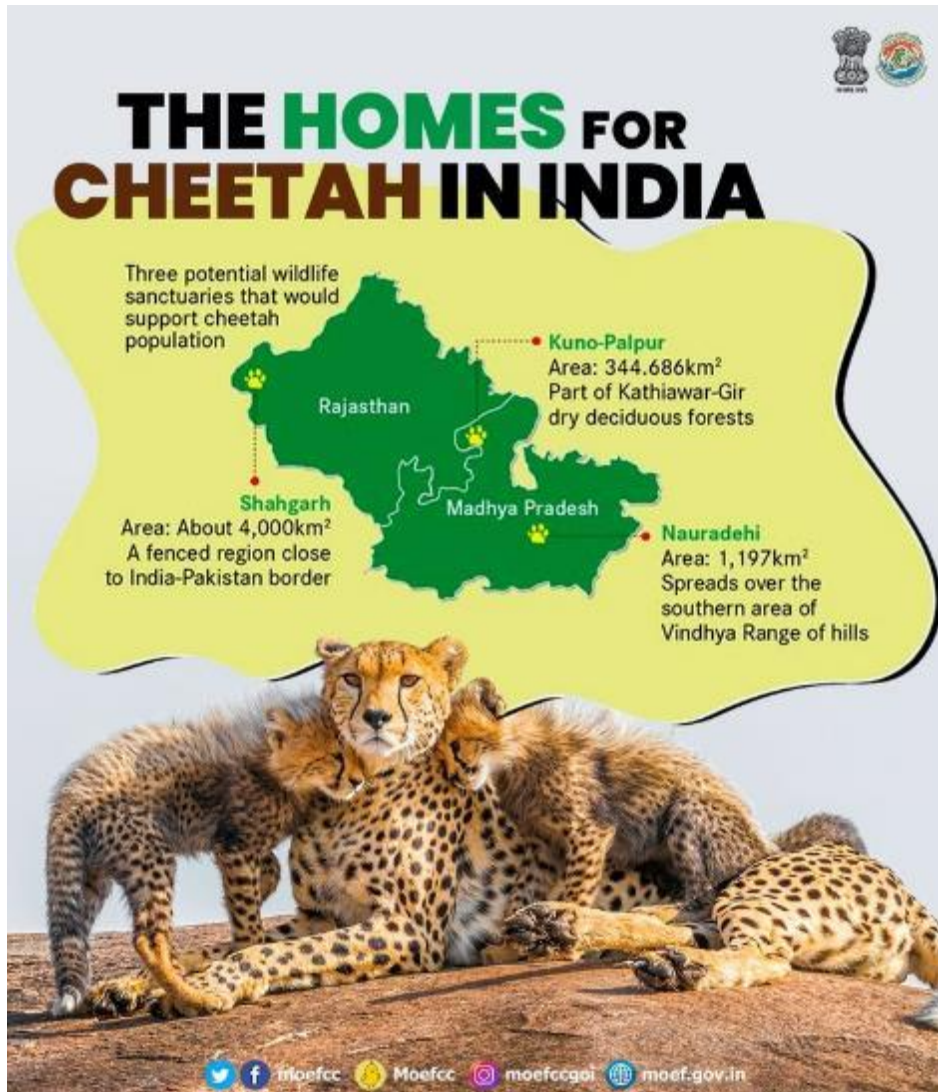


- ❖ As per the latest survey, there are an estimated 7,396 golden langurs in India.
- ❖ The entire distribution range of the golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) covers the Manas Biosphere Reserve and all fragmented forests in the western part of Assam.
- ❖ The population of golden langurs is divided into two major sub-populations - The northern extended population and the southern fragmented population.
- ❖ The previous population estimation in 2008-09 recorded 6,000 golden langurs in India.

Cheetah Population in Kuno National Park

- ❖ In Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, India, the population of Indian-born cheetahs has reached 13, with the recent addition of five cubs born to South African Cheetah Gamini.
- ❖ The total cheetah population, including cubs, now stands at 26.
- ❖ This is marking a significant achievement for India's conservation project.
- ❖ This is the first litter by a South African Cheetah in India.

- ❖ Eight Namibian cheetahs arrived at Kuno National Park on September 17, 2022.



Milk feeding Egg-Laying Amphibians

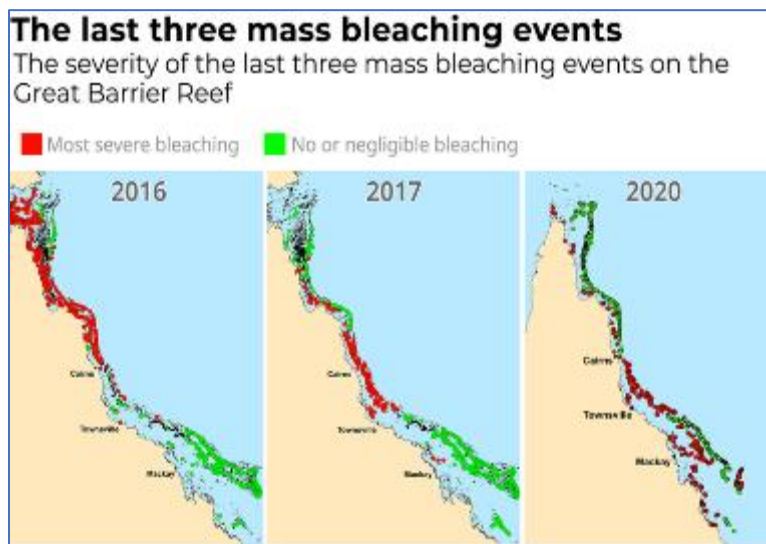
- ❖ A species of worm-like amphibian has been caught on camera feeding a fat-rich, milk-like fluid to its young.
- ❖ The long, cylindrical creatures are the first egg-laying amphibians known to feed hatchlings this way.
- ❖ The creature, known as a caecilian, lives underground.
- ❖ Caecilians are descended from the same lineage as frogs and salamanders.
- ❖ Hundreds of millions of years ago, their ancestors burrowed deep into the ground.

Pregnant Megamouth Shark

- ❖ A pregnant megamouth shark, a rare and elusive deepwater species, was discovered washed up on a beach in the Philippines.
- ❖ This is only the 60th ever seen and the first ever observed to be pregnant.
- ❖ This is confirming for the first time that these mysterious creatures give birth to live young.
- ❖ The groundbreaking finds have revealed that megamouth sharks, specifically the *Megachasma pelagios* species, are ovoviviparous.
- ❖ This means that their offspring develop in eggs inside the mother, leading to live births.
- ❖ Megamouth sharks, like many deep-sea inhabitants, are believed to spend the majority of their time at depths of up to 4,600 metres (15,100 feet).



4th Global mass coral bleaching in Great Barrier Reef



- ❖ A widespread coral bleaching event has engulfed the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), Australia.
- ❖ The reef is spread over an area larger than Italy.
- ❖ Climate change is the greater threat to the GBR and other coral reef ecosystems across the world's oceans.
- ❖ The GBR stretches across 2,300 km and is made up of around 3,000 individual reefs.
- ❖ Mass coral bleaching events have been witnessed in the past, starting from 1998 and then reported in 2002, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022 and the latest in 2024.
- ❖ The current coral bleaching event marks the fifth event in the past eight years.

Mechanized tropical seaweed farm

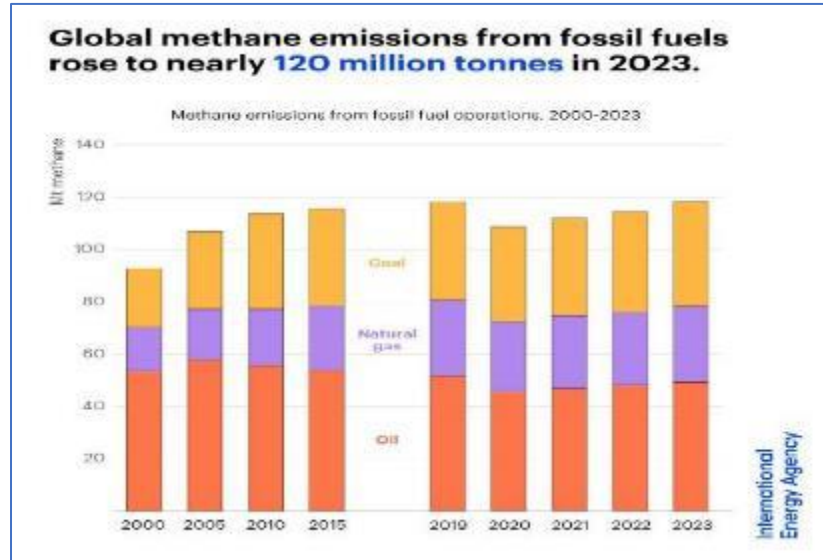
- ❖ Sea6 Energy launched the world's first large-scale mechanized tropical seaweed farm in Lombok, Indonesia.
- ❖ The farm is located off Ekas, on the island of Lombok.
- ❖ Sea6 Energy is a Bangalore-based company that specializes in cultivating and processing tropical seaweed species.
- ❖ The company has developed a cultivation mechanism called the Sea Combine.
- ❖ By using this, we can harvest and replant seaweed in deep ocean waters.



Global Methane Tracker 2024

- ❖ Methane emissions from fuel use in 2023 were close to being the highest ever at 120 million tonnes
- ❖ Of the 120 Mt of methane that escaped into the atmosphere, around 80 Mt came from the top 10 emitter countries.
- ❖ The United States, being the largest emitter of methane from oil and gas operations, topped the list, followed by Russia.

- ❖ Methane emissions rose by more than 50 per cent in 2023 compared to 2022.
- ❖ More than 5 Mt was traced back to major fossil fuel leaks around the world.
- ❖ Bioenergy — largely from biomass use — contributed a further 10 Mt emissions.



Scorpion with 8 Eyes and Legs

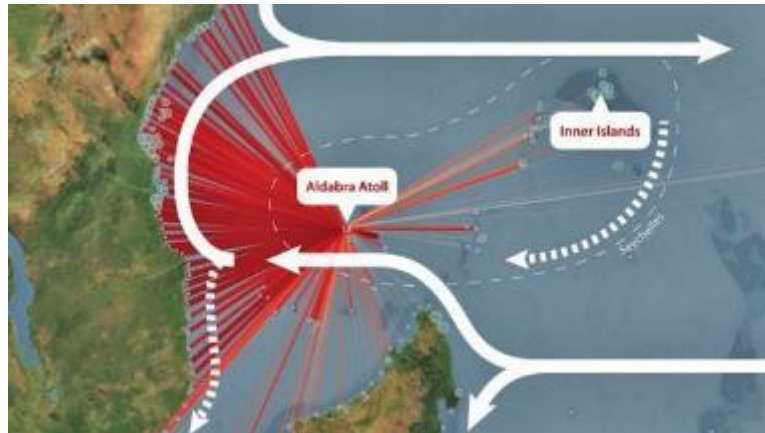
- ❖ Team of researchers discovered a previously unknown species of scorpion.
- ❖ This new species belongs to the subgenus Euscorpions and has been named Euscorpions Krachan after the national park in Thailand.
- ❖ They are 'very small in comparison to most other species of the subgenus'.
- ❖ They also have eight eyes and eight legs.



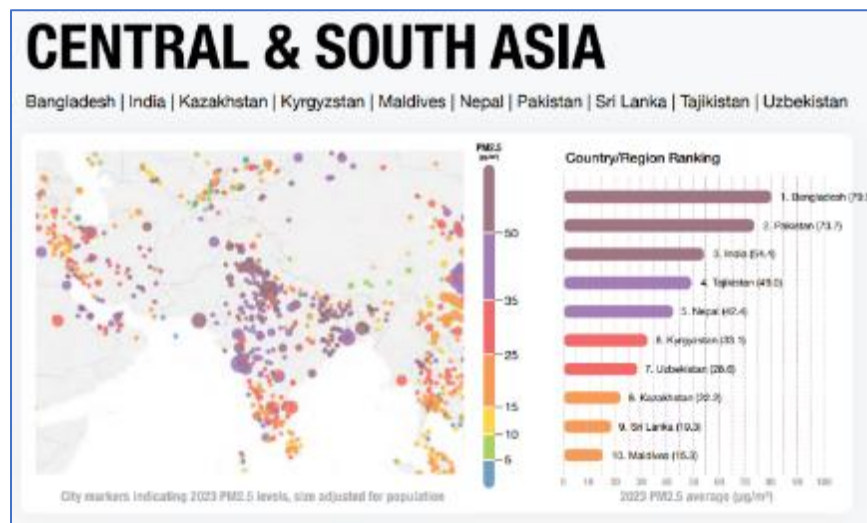
Coral Superhighway

- ❖ The Remote coral reefs across the Seychelles are closely related despite being scattered across more than a million square kilometres.

- ❖ Ocean currents scatter larvae between these distant islands, creating a kind of “coral superhighways.”
- ❖ This discovery is very important because a key factor in coral reef recovery is larval supply.



World Air Quality 2023

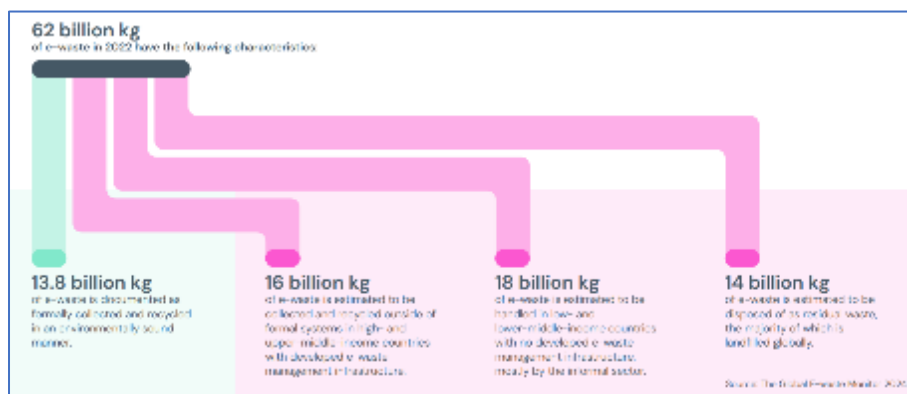


- ❖ India was the third most polluted country in 2023 after Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is based on data from over 30,000 air quality monitoring stations across 7,812 locations in 134 countries.
- ❖ India’s annual PM 2.5 was $54.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to Pakistan’s $73.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and Bangladesh’s $79.9\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- ❖ India’s annual PM 2.5 average was $53.3\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2022 when it was the eighth most polluted country.
- ❖ New Delhi ($92.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) was the most polluted capital city globally.

- ❖ Begusarai (118.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) was the most polluted in India followed by Guwahati (105.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).
- ❖ The Union Territory of Delhi had an average PM 2.5 concentration of 102.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, making it the third most polluted worldwide.

The Global E-waste Monitor 2024

- ❖ The world has produced a whopping 62 billion kg of electronic waste (e-waste) in 2022.
- ❖ It contained 31 billion kg of metals, 17 billion kg of plastics and 14 billion kg of other materials (minerals, glass, composite materials, etc).
- ❖ That number is projected to rise to 82 billion kg in 2030.
- ❖ In 2010, the world generated 34 billion kg of e-waste.
- ❖ Of this 62 billion, 13.8 billion kg is documented as formally collected and recycled in an environmentally sound manner.
- ❖ This figure was 8 billion kg in 2010.
- ❖ 18 billion kg is handled mostly by the informal sector in low- and lower-middle-income countries.
- ❖ A whopping 58,000 kg of mercury and 45 million kg of plastics containing brominated flame retardants are released into the environment every year.
- ❖ Europe (17.6 kg), Oceania (16.1 kg) and the Americas (14.1 kg) generated the highest amount of e-waste per capita in 2022.
- ❖ Countries in Asia generate almost half of the world's e-waste (30 billion kg).



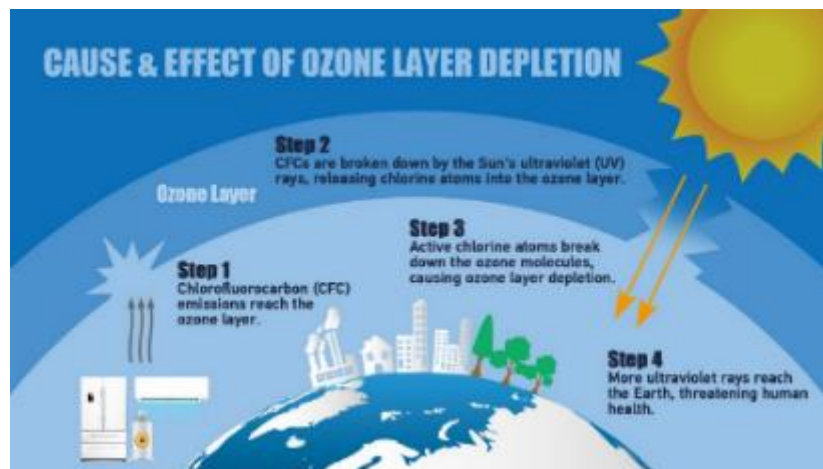
70-Million-Year-Old Snail

- ❖ Scientists have recently discovered a new species of an extinct land snail called Ferussina.

- ❖ The specimen is believed to have lived about 72 million years ago during the Maastrichtian age of the Late Cretaceous epoch.
- ❖ The newly-described species, *Ferussina petofiana*, belonged to a small genus of land snails that existed during the Paleogene period.
- ❖ It is currently classified in its own family, *Ferussinidae*, in the superfamily *Cyclophoroidea*.

Antarctic Ozone Hole Recovery Trends

- ❖ The ozone hole over the Antarctic has not only grown larger but also thinner throughout most of the spring.
- ❖ Despite making a recovery in area and depth since the 2000s, the Antarctic ozone hole has been massive in the last four years.
- ❖ There is much less ozone in the centre of the ozone hole compared to 19 years ago and may take longer to recover.
- ❖ The hole averaged 23.1 million square kilometres, approximately the size of North America, making it the 16th largest over this period.
- ❖ The Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances quadrennial assessment report of 2022 confirmed the phase-out of nearly 99 per cent of banned ozone-depleting substances.



Santjordia Pagesi

- ❖ In 2002, scientists aboard a research vessel discovered a peculiar jellyfish near a volcanic crater off Japan.
- ❖ Spotting the same creature again in 2020, scientists have now confirmed that it is a new species named *Santjordia pagesi*.

- ❖ Its name “Santjordia” refers to Saint George in Catalan.
- ❖ Its most distinctive feature is a bright red, cross-shaped stomach.



FARM Program

- ❖ The Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Programme (FARM) is a \$379 million initiative to combat agrochemical pollution.
- ❖ It is Funded by the Global Environment Facility; the programme is led by UNEP.
- ❖ It seeks to change that, elaborating the business case for banks and policy-makers to reorient policy and financial resources towards farmers.
- ❖ These resources will help them adopt low- and non-chemical alternatives to toxic agrochemicals and facilitate a transition towards better practices.
- ❖ The five-year programme is projected to prevent over 51,000 tons of hazardous pesticides and over 20,000 tons of plastic waste from being released.
- ❖ It will avoid 35,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- ❖ It is protecting over 3 million hectares of land from degradation as farms and farmers convert to low-chemical and non-chemical alternatives.
- ❖ The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health.

The COP Presidencies Troika

- ❖ COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber has addressed global climate leaders and ministers at the Copenhagen Climate Ministerial.
- ❖ He revealed a new historic initiative aimed at strengthening global climate efforts.
- ❖ Al Jaber described the COP Presidencies Troika as a bold initiative aimed at ensuring a consistent approach and continuity between COP28, COP29, and COP30.

- ❖ The COP Presidencies Troika is a major achievement of the UAE Consensus-mandated COP28 presidency, uniting COP28 with the next two COP presidencies, Azerbaijan and Brazil.
- ❖ This Troika will help to ensure that the next crucial round of Nationally Determined Contributions is in line with keeping our collective North Star of 1.5°C within reach.



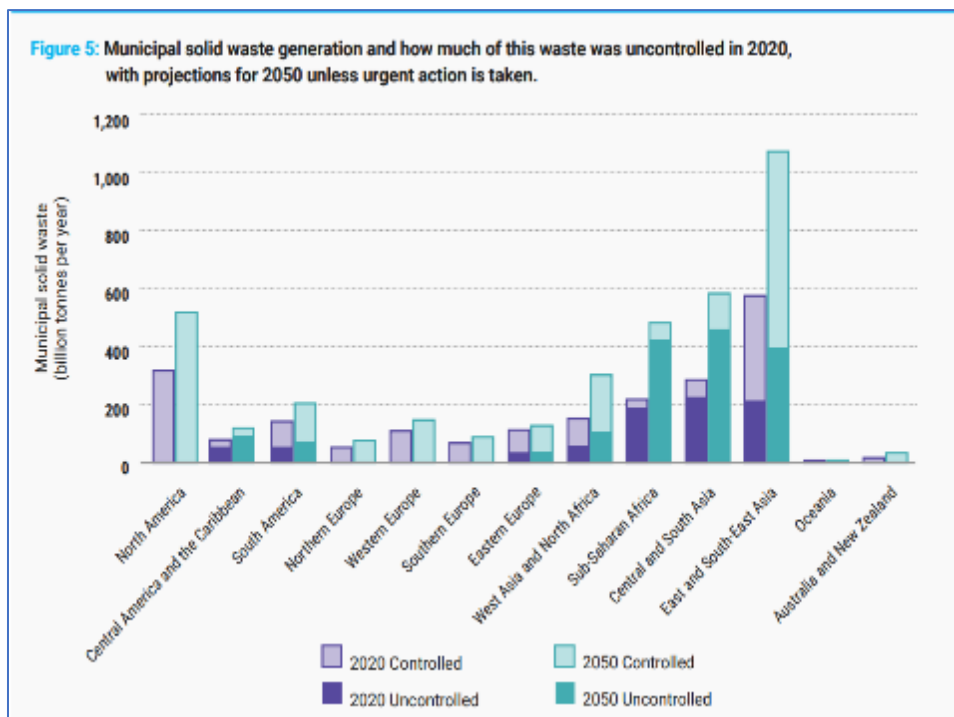
REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Intellectual Property Index 2024

- ❖ The US Chamber of Commerce released the 12th edition of its International IP (intellectual property) Index. I
- ❖ India was ranked at 42 out of the 55 countries in the index with an overall score of 38.64 per cent.
- ❖ The United States emerged at the top of the list followed by the United Kingdom and France.



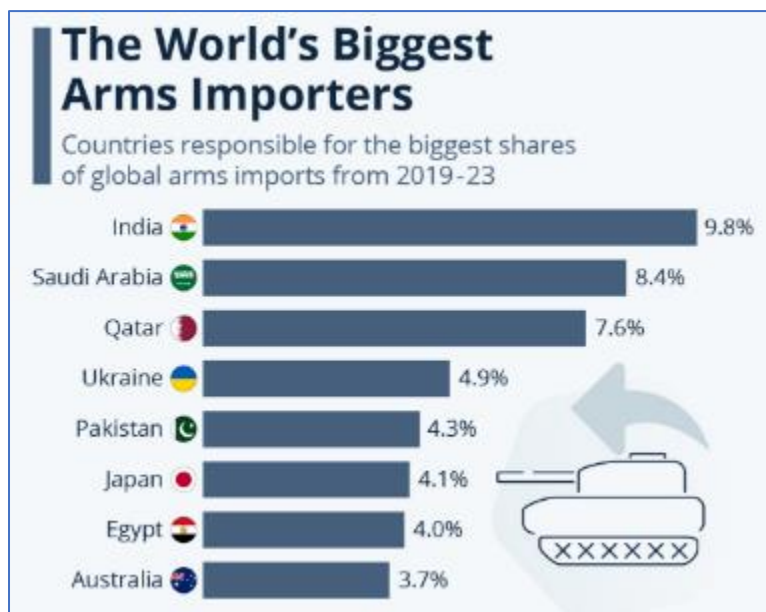
Global Waste Management Outlook 2024



- ❖ The UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and ISWA (International Solid Waste Association) recently published 'Global Waste Management Outlook 2024'.
- ❖ Urban solid waste is predicted to rise from 2.3 billion to 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050
- ❖ Over 2.7 billion people in the Global South and developing regions of the world not having their waste collected.

- ❖ Two billion of the 2.7 billion live in rural areas, while 700,000 live in cities.
- ❖ About 540 million tonnes of municipal solid waste, an equivalent of 27 per cent of the global total waste, is not being collected.
- ❖ In 2020, the global direct cost of waste management was an estimated \$252 billion.
- ❖ By 2050 this global annual cost could almost double to a staggering \$640.3 billion.

Trends in International Arms Transfers - 2023



- ❖ India continues to hold the title of the world's largest arms importer.
- ❖ Between 2019 and 2023, the country accounted for a significant 9.8% of the total global arms imports.
- ❖ India's arms imports increased 4.7% in-between 2014-18 and 2019-23.
- ❖ Russia remained India's main arms supplier, accounting for 36 per cent of its arms imports.
- ❖ The period between 2019-23 marked the first five-year span since 1960-64 where Russian deliveries comprised less than half of India's arms imports.
- ❖ France and the United States are emerging as key suppliers to India, collectively accounting for 46% of its arms imports.
- ❖ India's position as the top arms importer is followed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Ukraine, Pakistan, Japan, Egypt, Australia, South Korea, and China.

- ❖ Among the top arms exporters, the United States leads with a 42% share, followed by France and Russia.
- ❖ The top arms exporters include the United States (42%), France (11%), Russia (11%), China (5.8%), Germany (5.6%), Italy (4.3%), UK (3.7%), Spain (2.7%), Israel (2.4%), and South Korea (2%).
- ❖ China plays a pivotal role as the primary arms supplier to Pakistan, with a substantial 61% of its exports directed towards Islamabad.
- ❖ India's defense sector has attracted only a meager Rs 5,077 crore in FDI since its opening to private companies in 2001.

Democracy Report 2024

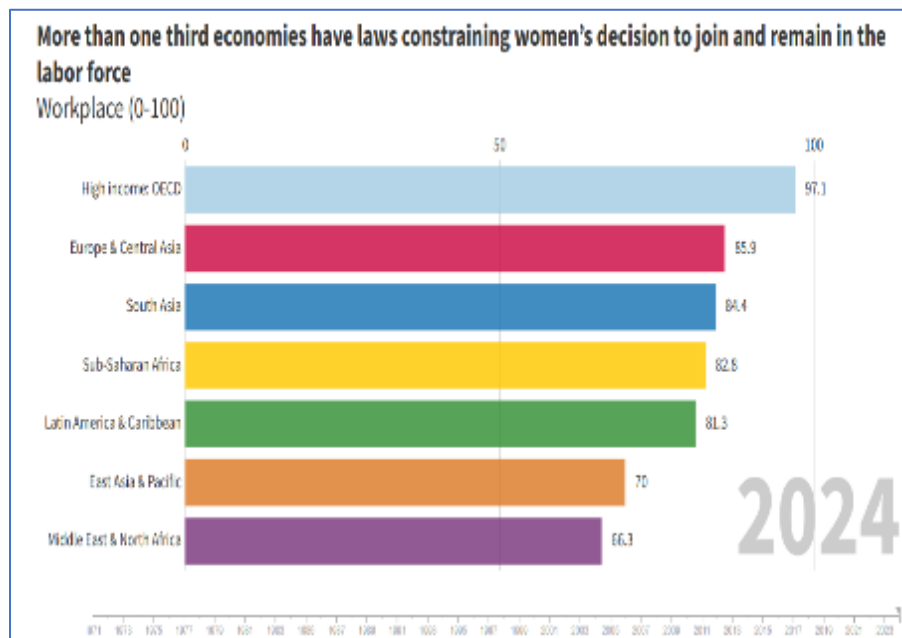


- ❖ India still remains an electoral autocracy with falling scores for the various components, according to V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2024.
- ❖ India also lists in the top 10 standalone autocratizers in 2023.
- ❖ India was to be in the bottom 40-50% of the 179 countries reviewed, and now situated between Niger (better) and Ivory Coast (worse).
- ❖ Autocratisation is ongoing in "42 countries, home to 2.8 billion people, or 35% of the world's population.
- ❖ India, with 18% of the world's population, accounts for about half of the population living in autocratizing countries."
- ❖ The report finds "South and Central Asia is now the second most autocratic region in the world."

Women, Business and the Law Report 2024

- ❖ The World Bank (WB) Group has released a report titled 'Women, Business and the Law 2024'.
- ❖ It offers a comprehensive picture of the obstacles that women face in entering the global workforce and contributing to greater prosperity—for themselves, their families, and their communities.

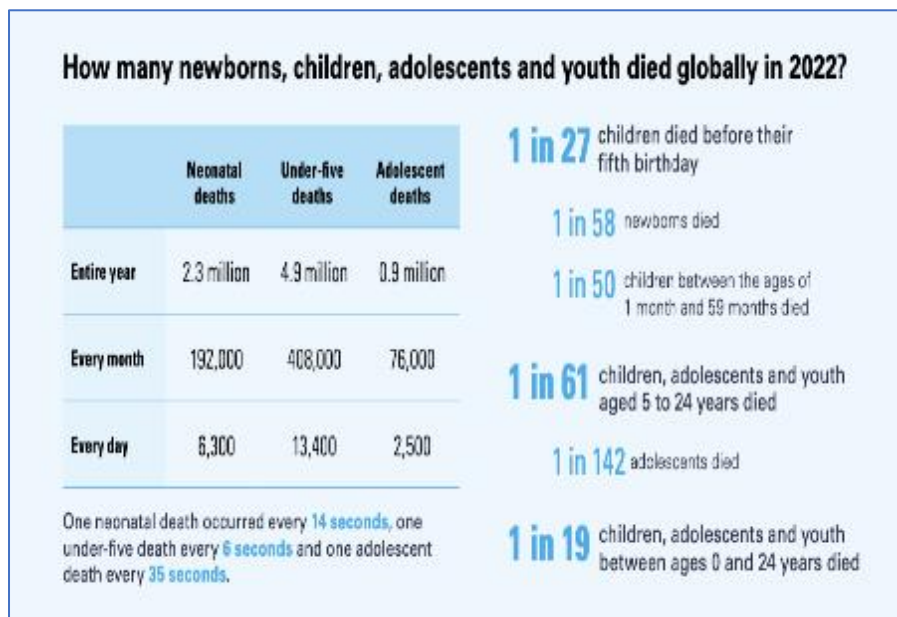
- ❖ Women on average enjoy just 64% of the legal protections that men do—far fewer than the previous estimate of 77%.
- ❖ Only 98 economies have enacted legislation mandating equal pay for women for work of equal value.
- ❖ Yet only 35 economies have adopted pay-transparency measures or enforcement mechanisms to address the pay gap.
- ❖ In 2023, governments were assertive in advancing three categories of legal equal-opportunity reforms—pay, parental rights, and workplace protections.
- ❖ Women enjoy barely one third of the needed legal protections against domestic violence, sexual harassment, child marriage and femicide.
- ❖ Although 151 economies have laws in place prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace, just 39 have laws prohibiting it in public spaces.
- ❖ In the area of pay, women earn just 77 cents for every \$1 paid to men.
- ❖ Women spend an average of 2.4 more hours a day on unpaid care work than men, much of it on the care of children.



UN IG for Child Mortality Estimation

- ❖ The Global child deaths reached a historic low in 2022, according to the latest estimates by the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation.
- ❖ The annual number of global under-five deaths in 2022 declined by more than half from the 2000 estimate — from 9.9 million to 4.9 million.

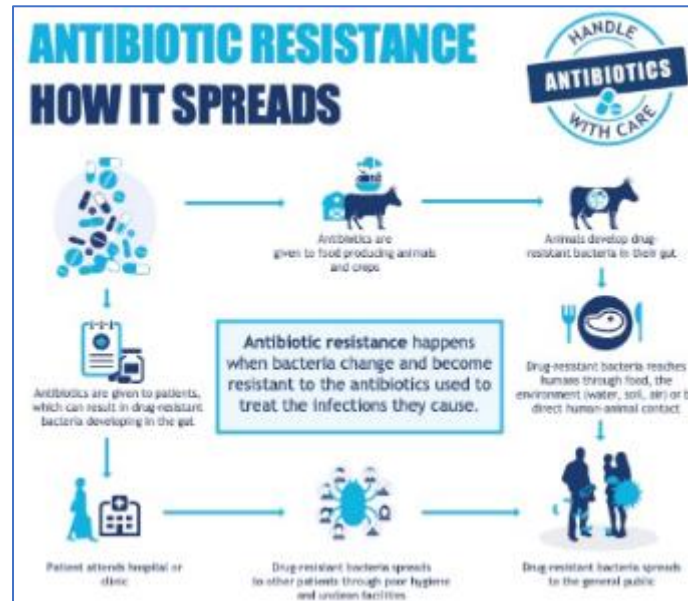
- ❖ Globally, the neonatal deaths, or the death of a baby within 28 days of birth, happened every 14 seconds.
- ❖ A child aged under five died every six seconds and an adolescent died every 35 seconds in 2022.
- ❖ The report noted a 62 per cent decline in child deaths from the 1990 estimates.
- ❖ Between 2000 and 2022, the world lost 221 million children, adolescents, and youth.
- ❖ Children younger than 5 comprised 162 million and neonatal deaths accounted for 72 million with most under-five deaths being increasingly concentrated in the neonatal period.
- ❖ The trend of under-five deaths has increased in the neonatal period from 41 per cent in 2000 to 47 per cent in 2022.



INFAAR 2019-22 Report

- ❖ FAO and ICAR published the surveillance data of the Indian Network for Fishery and Animal Antimicrobial Resistance (INFAAR) for 2019-22.
- ❖ This is the first report on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance trends in fisheries and livestock sector from India.
- ❖ Antibiotic use in food animal production is known to be a driver for AMR.
- ❖ In E coli isolates, the notable resistance was against cefotaxime (46 per cent) and ampicillin (41 per cent).

- ❖ Both S aureus and CONS isolates showed around 75 percent resistance to the penicillin.
- ❖ In addition, 41 of the total S aureus isolates (452) were found to be methicillin-resistant S aureus (MRSA), a drug-resistant variant of Staphylococcus.
- ❖ For both E coli and Staphylococci, isolates from poultry origin exhibited higher resistance rates for all the tested antibiotics as compared to all the other food animals.



Global Connectedness Report, 2024

- ❖ DHL and New York University’s Stern School of Business have released a report called “New DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024”.
- ❖ The report tracks how flows of trade, capital, information, and people move around the world and measures the globalisation of 181 countries and territories.
- ❖ Globalisation reached a record high in 2022 and stayed almost as high in 2023.
- ❖ The share of global output traded internationally was back to a record high level in 2022.
- ❖ The report ranked Singapore as among the top most globalised countries followed by the Netherlands.
- ❖ According to it, 143 countries became more globally connected, while only 38 saw their levels of connectedness decline.
- ❖ Europe is the world’s most globally connected region, followed by North America and the ‘Middle East & North Africa’.

GDP Rank	Country	Score	Change 2017 to 2022	
			Rank	Score
1.	United States	57	-10	0
2.	China	50	-10	-1
3.	Japan	55	-1	+1
4.	Germany	64	+1	+2
5.	India	52	+1	+1
6.	United Kingdom	69	-1	+2
7.	France	61	-2	+1
8.	Russian Federation	49	-31	-3
9.	Canada	59	0	+1
10.	Italy	58	+3	+2

Human Development Index 2023-24



- ❖ The 2023/24 Human Development Report, titled “Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a polarized world,” was released recently.
- ❖ India’s HDI value has increased to 0.644 in 2022, placing the country 134 out of 193 countries and territories.
- ❖ While rich countries have attained record human development, half of the poorest remain below their pre-crisis level of progress.

- ❖ In 2022, India saw improvements across all HDI indicators—life expectancy, education, and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.
- ❖ Life expectancy rose from 67.2 to 67.7 years, expected years of schooling reached 12.6.
- ❖ Mean years of schooling has increased to 6.57, and GNI per capita saw an increase from \$6,542 to \$6,951.
- ❖ India has demonstrated progress in reducing gender inequality.
- ❖ India’s GII value of 0.437 is better than the global and South Asian averages.
- ❖ India has also shown progress in reducing gender inequality and ranks 108 out of 166 countries in the GII 2022.

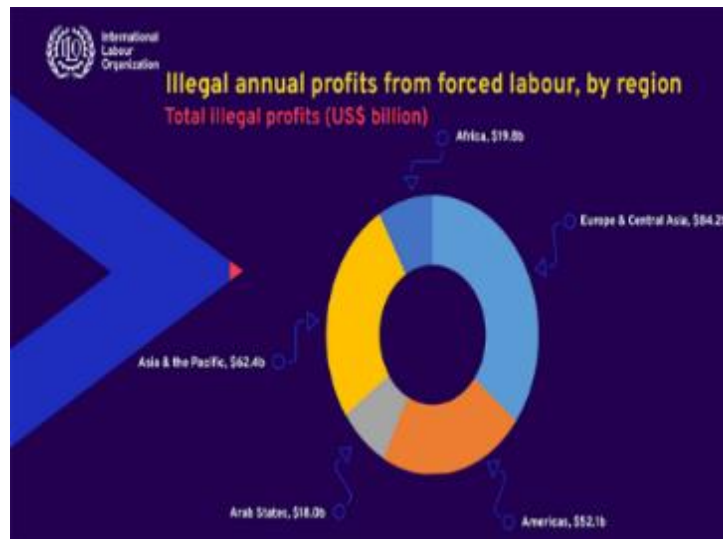
World Happiness Report 2024



- ❖ Finland has once again secured its top position as the world's happiest country for the seventh consecutive year.
- ❖ Nordic nations continue to dominate the top rankings, with Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden trailing closely behind Finland.

- ❖ Meanwhile, Afghanistan maintains its position at the bottom of the list among 143 surveyed countries.
- ❖ India maintained its position at 126, like the preceding year.
- ❖ All of India's neighbouring countries ranked higher, with China at 60, followed by Nepal at 93, Pakistan (108), Myanmar (118), Sri Lanka (128), and Bangladesh (129).

ILO Report on Forced Labour Profits

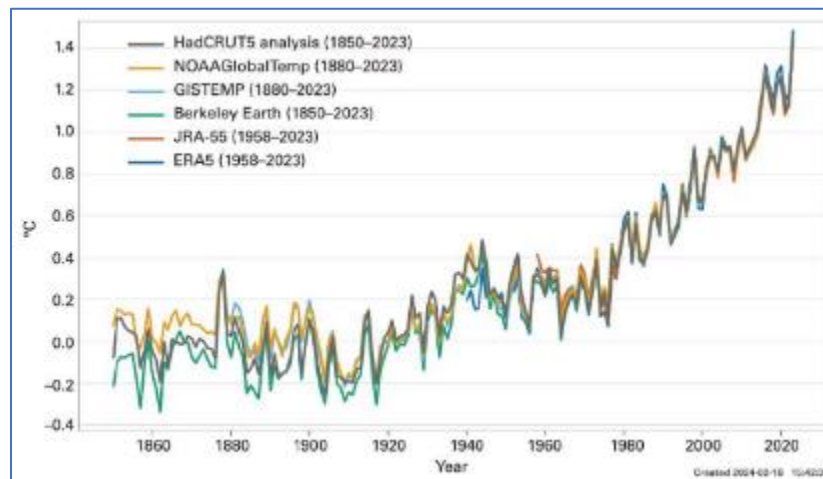


- ❖ A study by the International Labour Organization (ILO) found that forced labour generates illegal profits worth \$36 billion per year.
- ❖ This is an increase of 37% of such illegal profits since 2014.
- ❖ The report was titled 'Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour'.
- ❖ It also estimates that traffickers and criminals are generating close to \$10,000 per victim, up from \$8,269 (adjusted for inflation) a decade ago.
- ❖ Total annual illegal profits from forced labour are highest in Europe and Central Asia (\$84 billion).
- ❖ It is followed by Asia and the Pacific (\$62 billion), the Americas (\$52 billion), Africa (\$20 billion), and the Arab States (US\$18 billion)".

Global Climate Report 2023

- ❖ Greenhouse gas levels, surface temperatures, ocean heat and acidification, and sea level rise all are reached record highs in 2023.
- ❖ The new report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is titled as "State of the Global Climate 2023".

- ❖ It confirmed that 2023 was the warmest year in the 174-year observational record.
- ❖ The global average near-surface temperature was 1.45 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline (1850-1900).
- ❖ CO2 concentration continued to rise in 2023 while the global mean sea level reached a record high.
- ❖ The rate of sea level rise in the last 10 years (2014–2023) has more than doubled since the first decade of the satellite record (1993 – 2002).
- ❖ The global set of reference glaciers for the hydrological year 2022-2023 have experienced the largest loss of ice on record (1950-2023).

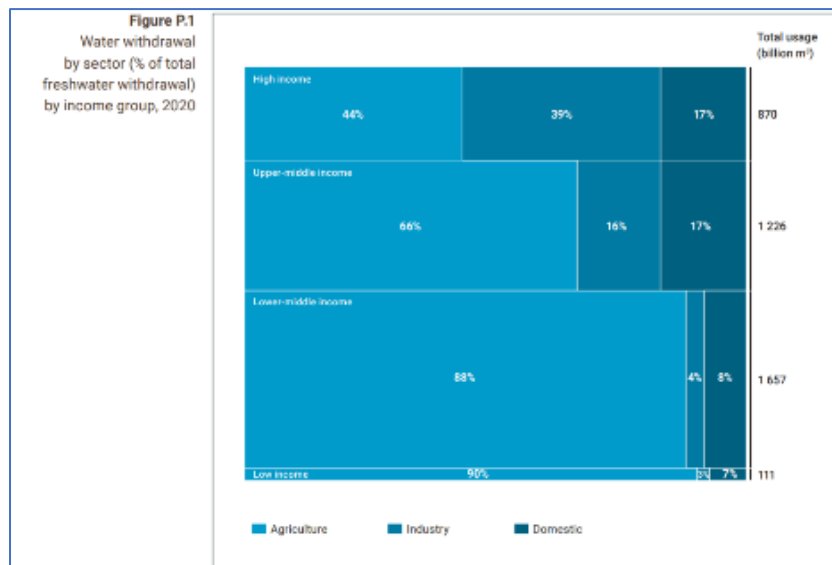


Global Trade Overview 2023 and 2024 Outlook

- ❖ The international trade is expected to rebound in 2024, reversing the last year's downturn.
- ❖ This report was released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ UNCTAD noted that global forecasts for GDP growth remain at around 3 per cent for 2024.
- ❖ During 2023, imports and exports of developing countries declined by an average of 5 and 7 per cent, respectively.
- ❖ Conversely, trade for developed countries are decreased by about 4 per cent for imports and 3 per cent for exports.
- ❖ India's goods imports are increased by 3 per cent and exports were up 5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2023.
- ❖ However, both imports as well as exports declined in 2023.



UN World Water Development Report 2024

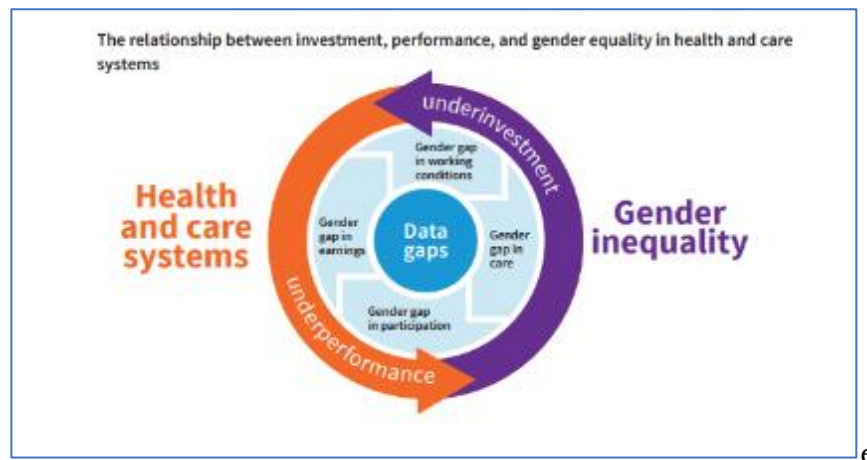


- ❖ The Freshwater use has been growing by just under 1% per year.
- ❖ Agriculture accounts for roughly 70% of freshwater withdrawals.
- ❖ It is followed by industrial (~20%) and domestic (~10%) uses are the main drivers of increasing water demand.
- ❖ One quarter of the world’s population face ‘extremely high’ levels of water stress.
- ❖ In higher-income countries, runoff from agriculture poses the most serious problem.
- ❖ Emerging contaminants of concern include per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), pharmaceuticals, hormones, industrial chemicals, detergents, cyanotoxins and nanomaterials.

- ❖ High concentrations of antimicrobials, originating from insufficiently treated domestic wastewater, livestock farming and aquaculture, have been found across all regions.

Fair Share for Health and Care Report

- ❖ The World Health Organization recently released the report titled 'Fair share for health and care: gender and the undervaluation of health and care work'.
- ❖ Women comprise 67 per cent of the global health and social care workforce.
- ❖ In addition to this paid work, it has been estimated that women perform an estimated 76% of all unpaid care activities.
- ❖ Globally, on average, 90 per cent of women's earnings were directed towards their families' well-being, compared to only 30–40 per cent of men's.
- ❖ In India, women spent around 73 per cent of their total daily working time on unpaid work.
- ❖ But men spent around only 11 per cent of their daily working time on unpaid work.



Hurun Research Institute Report

- ❖ Mumbai has overtaken Beijing as Asia's billionaire capital, according to the latest report from the Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute.
- ❖ Mumbai boasts 92 billionaires, securing its position as Asia's third billionaire capital, trailing behind New York (119) and London (97).
- ❖ India's economy is growing at 7.5% in 2023.
- ❖ It facilitated the addition of 94 billionaires, marking the country's highest count since 2013.

- ❖ China is maintaining the top spot with 814 billionaires in the report.
- ❖ But it experienced a decline in ultra-rich individuals, with 155 fewer billionaires compared to 2022.
- ❖ The list encompasses 3,279 individuals from 73 countries, highlighting the global distribution of wealth.

Hurun Rich List 2024 Global Top 10

Rank	Name	Wealth (\$bn)	Change YOY	Main Company	Age	Country of Residence
1	Elon Musk	231	47%	Tesla	52	USA
2	Jeff Bezos	185	57%	Amazon	60	USA
3	Bernard Arnault	175	-13%	LVMH	74	France
4	Mark Zuckerberg	158	132%	Meta	39	USA
5	Larry Ellison	144	44%	Oracle	79	USA
6	Warren Buffett	144	24%	Berkshire Hathaway	93	USA
7	Steve Ballmer	143	41%	Microsoft	67	USA
8	Bill Gates	138	26%	Microsoft	68	USA
9	Larry Page	123	64%	Alphabet	50	USA
10	Mukesh Ambani	115	40%	Reliance Industries	66	India

STATES

Top state in total vehicle sales

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh witnessed the highest number of three-wheelers sold in the in Oct-Dec 2023 quarter at 23,859 units.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra (20,495), Gujarat (19,743) and Bihar (14,955).
- ❖ Similarly, in the two-wheeler category, Uttar Pradesh topped the list with a total of 6,73,962 units sold in the state.

- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra (5,15,612), Madhya Pradesh (3,35,478) and Tamil Nadu (3,24,918).
- ❖ However, in passenger vehicle sales, Maharashtra clocked the highest sales with 1,21,030 units.
- ❖ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh (1,01,568), Gujarat (85,599) and Karnataka (71,549).
- ❖ In the commercial vehicles category also, Maharashtra topped the list with 31,055 unit.
- ❖ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh (23,083), Gujarat (20,391) and Karnataka (16,966).

RETAIL SALES: MIXED SIGNALS			
Category	Nov 2022	Nov 2023	% change
2W	1,856,108	2,247,366	21.08
3W	81,007	99,890	23.31
PV	307,550	360,431	17.19
Tractor	78,720	61,969	-21.28
CV	86,150	84,586	-1.82
Total	2,409,535	2,854,242	18.46

2W: Two-wheeler; 3W: Three-wheeler; PV: Passenger vehicle; Tractor; CV: Commercial vehicle

Attukal Pongala festival

- ❖ Women devotees have gathered with 'Pandara Aduppu' at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ The Attukal Pongala is one of the largest gatherings of women in the world.
- ❖ It falls on the ninth day of the annual ten-day festival at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple.
- ❖ Attukal Temple is called the "Women's Sabarimala" as only women perform rituals.
- ❖ In 2009, the ritual had made it to the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest religious gathering of women on a single day when over 2.5 million people took part in it.

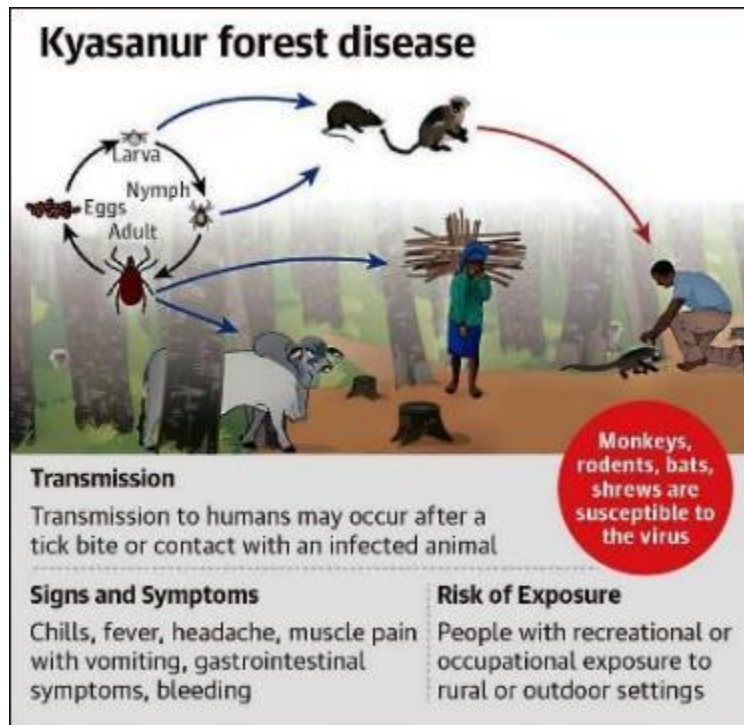
Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill



- ❖ Uttarakhand govt will table a bill that makes rioters accountable for damages to govt and private property.
- ❖ The bill is named as Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill.
- ❖ Those guilty of causing riots and other disturbances will be liable to pay compensation under this Bill.
- ❖ The UP govt passed a similar bill in 2020.
- ❖ Haryana also followed suit and Uttarakhand will be the third state to enact such a law.

Kyasanur Forest Disease

- ❖ Karnataka is grappling with the outbreak of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), commonly known as monkey fever.
- ❖ Since January 1, 2024, the state has reported 49 positive cases of monkey fever.
- ❖ Monkey fever is caused by the Kyasanur Forest disease virus (KFDV), a member of the Flaviviridae virus family.
- ❖ The virus was first identified in 1957 when it was isolated from a sick monkey in the Kyasanur Forest of Karnataka.
- ❖ Transmission to humans primarily occurs through tick bites or contact with an infected animal, particularly a sick or recently deceased monkey.
- ❖ There is no evidence of person-to-person transmission.



New GI tags – March 2024

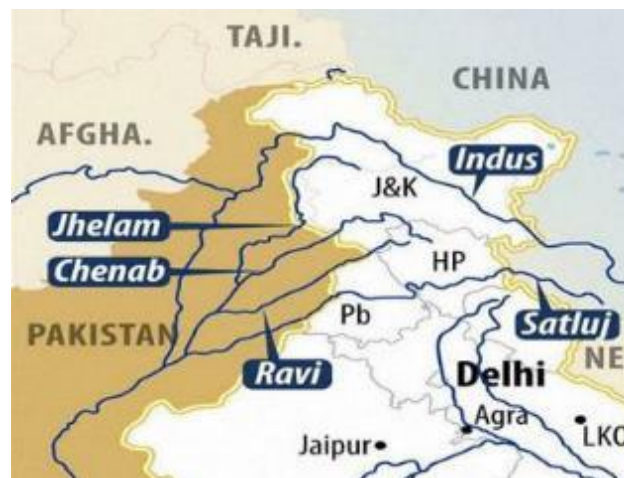


- ❖ The famous Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi (Silver Filigree) from Odisha has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Filigree has been traditionally associated with fine craftsmanship and luxurious design in classical jewellery.
- ❖ Archaeological evidence suggest that filigree was incorporated into jewellery as early as 3500 BCE in Mesopotamia.
- ❖ The other products to join the GI league are Banglar muslin, one of the popular traditional handloom craft of Bengal, Narasapur crochet lace products of Andhra Pradesh and Kutch rogan craft of Gujarat.

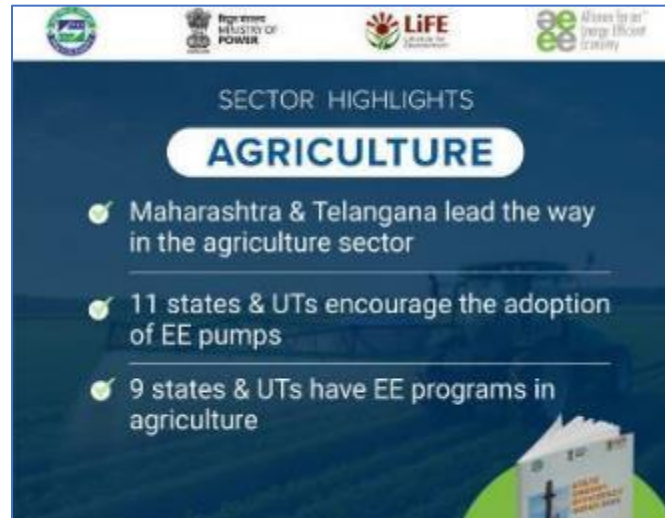
- ❖ The Banglar muslin is one of the popular traditional handloom craft of Bengal.
- ❖ This finest sort of muslin is made of cotton.
- ❖ Narsapur in West Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh is known for crochet skills, has received global acclaim for its intricate craftsmanship.
- ❖ Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun (Garlic), a variety named after Riyawan village in Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh, also bagged the GI tag along with the Ambaji White Marble from Gujarat.
- ❖ This Marble is formed when limestone is re-crystallised under the earth's crust due to intense pressure and heat.
- ❖ Tripura Risa Textile, Hyderabad Lac Bangles, Majuli Mask of Assam and the Assam Majuli Manuscript Painting are the other products that got GI tag.

Shahpur Kandi Dam Project

- ❖ The Shahpur Kandi dam on river Ravi in Punjab, bordering Jammu and Kashmir has finally been completed.
- ❖ The 55.5-metre-high dam is part of the Shahpurkandi multipurpose river valley project.
- ❖ It also comprises two hydropower plants with an installed capacity of 206 MW.
- ❖ The project, being implemented by Punjab, will help minimise some of the water of Ravi.
- ❖ Ravi is one of the three eastern rivers of the Indus River system and its water — under the Indus Water Treaty — falls in India's share.
- ❖ Shahpurkandi dam is located 11 km downstream of Ranjit Sagar dam on river Ravi and 8 km upstream of Madhopur barrage.
- ❖ It will help India better utilise the Ravi waters.



State Energy Efficiency Index 2023



- ❖ The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) is a measurement tool used to assess and compare the annual energy efficiency performance of different states/UTs.
- ❖ The most improved states in this assessment are Maharashtra and Haryana.
- ❖ Karnataka is top-performer and Andhra Pradesh is runner-up in implementation of energy efficiency policies.
- ❖ The Chandigarh administration has bagged the prestigious first prize in Group 4 category.
- ❖ Chandigarh won this for the second year in a row for its strong commitment to eco-friendly practices for a more energy conscious future.

Chapchar Kut Festival

- ❖ Chapchar Kut is a celebration held in anticipation of a golden harvest of Mizoram.
- ❖ In recent times, the festival is celebrated on the first Friday of March every year.
- ❖ The greatest highlight of the Chapchar Kut is the popular bamboo dance called Cheraw.

Lac bangles from Hyderabad

- ❖ The Lacquer or lac bangles of Hyderabad got a Geographical Indication tag.
- ❖ The bangles of the Laad Bazaar are known for their dazzling stonework.
- ❖ Lac bangles are made of resin which is malleable with heat and has a special ability to absorb colour.
- ❖ Lac bangles is the 17th product from Telangana to get the GI tag.



Remarriage Incentive Scheme – Jharkhand

- ❖ In a first of its kind initiative in the country, Jharkhand launched ‘Vidhwa Punar vivah Protsahan Yojana’ (widow remarriage incentive scheme).
- ❖ Under this, women who chose to get married again after the death of their husbands, will be given an incentive of Rs 2 lakh by the government.
- ❖ The beneficiary should be of marriageable age and not a government employee, pensioner or income tax payer.

Centre for Industrial Revolution

- ❖ Hyderabad witnessed the inauguration of the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR).
- ❖ This is the world’s first thematic centre focussed on healthcare and life sciences.
- ❖ The C4IR focuses on three key areas: real-world evidence, healthcare analytics and informatics, and software as a medical device.

Ban on Tiger Safari

- ❖ The Supreme Court has banned tiger safari in the core areas of the Jim Corbett National Park.
- ❖ It is reprimanding Uttarakhand government for illegal construction and felling of trees in the Reserve that is causing danger to wildlife.
- ❖ Jim Corbett National Park is one of the 13 protected areas under World Wide Fund for Nature under their Terai Arc Landscape programme.
- ❖ It aims to protect three of the five terrestrial species – tigers, Asiatic elephants and green-horned rhinoceros.

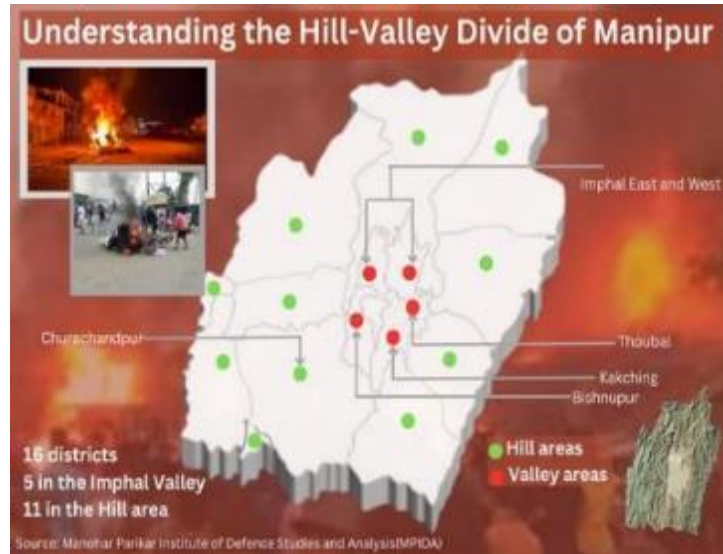
State-Run OTT Platform

- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister inaugurated the state's own Over-The-Top (OTT) platform - CSpace recently.

- ❖ This India's first government-backed OTT platform addresses challenges in selecting and distributing content.
- ❖ It will manage by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).
- ❖ CSpace operates under the support of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Government of Kerala.



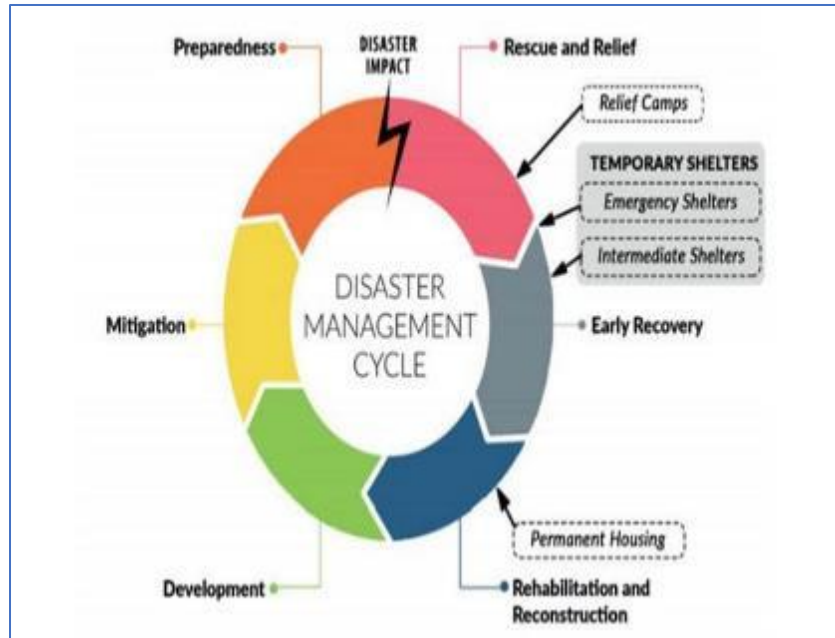
Scheme for internally displaced persons of Manipur



- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has notified a scheme for internally displaced persons of Manipur to vote at the relief camps.
- ❖ The ECI said the internally displaced electors would be provided with the facility to vote at “special polling stations” to be set up in the relief camps.

- ❖ More than 60,000 people were displaced within weeks of the ethnic violence that broke out on May 3, 2023.
- ❖ Most of them are lodged in relief camps.
- ❖ Another 9,000 are taking shelter in Mizoram.

State Specific Disaster – Kerala



- ❖ Kerala declared man-animal conflict as a state-specific disaster, becoming the first state in the country to do so.
- ❖ At present, managing man-animal conflict is the responsibility of the forest department, which acts as per the Wild Life Protection Act.
- ❖ Once the issue is declared a state-specific disaster, the onus to deal with it shifts to the state disaster management authority.
- ❖ It is powered by the Disaster Management Act, so they can take quicker and more decisive action.
- ❖ District collectors can directly intervene in their capacity as the chairman of the district disaster body.
- ❖ In 2015, Odisha had declared snakebite a state-specific disaster.
- ❖ In 2020, Kerala declared Covid as a state specific disaster.
- ❖ Besides, heat waves, sunburn and sunstroke have been declared so in 2019, the phenomenon of soil piping in 2017, and lightning and coastal erosion in 2015.

Aghanashini Estuary

- ❖ Aghanashini River in central Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka will be pitched for Ramsar tag.
- ❖ Aghanashini River originates in the Western Ghats and flows westward towards Arabian Sea and a major part of its course flows through the forested gorges and valleys.
- ❖ The other contender in the list is Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Mandya district of Karnataka.



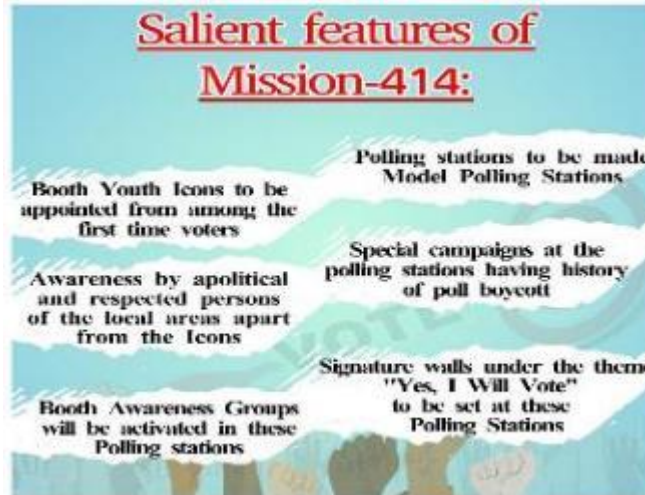
Pandavula Gutta



- ❖ Pandavula Gutta has been officially recognised as the sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.
- ❖ It is older than the Himalayas and showcases ancient rock paintings in various colours like green, red, yellow, and white.
- ❖ The paintings depict symbols such as swastikas, circles, squares, and animals like bison, antelope, tiger, and leopard.

- ❖ Geo-heritage refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant offering insight into earth's evolution or history to earth science or that can be utilized for education.

Mission 414



- ❖ The Election Commission (EC) of India has launched a special campaign "Mission 414" in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It aims to maximise voter turnout in 414 polling stations which registered less than 60% voting in the last Lok Sabha polls.
- ❖ Awareness campaigns and cultural events would be held besides making these 414 stations model polling stations.
- ❖ A similar initiative is under way for 22 Assembly segments.
- ❖ And it is aimed at increasing the voter turnout to 72% in polling stations where the turnout was less than 70% in the last Lok Sabha elections.
- ❖ The average voter turnout in Himachal Pradesh in 2019 was 72.42%.

The tentative UNESCO site from MP

- ❖ Six heritage sites in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the tentative UNESCO list.
- ❖ They are
 - Gwalior Fort, renowned for its historical significance;
 - The Historical Group of Dhamnar, representing the rich cultural heritage of the region;
 - The fascinating Rock Art Sites of Chambal Valley, showcasing ancient artistry;

- The revered Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple, a symbol of religious devotion,
- Khooni Bhandara in Burhanpur, and
- God Memorial of Ramnagar, Mandla.



Saurauia Punduana – Manipur

- ❖ Saurauia Punduana plant, a critically endangered species has been recorded for the first time in Manipur's Tamenglong district.
- ❖ Its fruits are spherical shining white, and are used in veterinary medicine.
- ❖ The native range of this species is from Bhutan to Southeastern Tibet.



Rajasthan - water resource dashboard

- ❖ A first-ever water resource dedicated portal was launched in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ It will provide real time information on the water level in dams and reservoirs and the quantity of water available in canals in different parts of Rajasthan.
- ❖ The portal is expected to help in an efficient water management and facilitate prediction of floods and drought.
- ❖ Rajasthan was the first State to develop a system which would bring the information on the availability of water to the public domain.

- ❖ The portal will provide full data of 805 dams, daily data of 242 dams and live data of 88 dams.

India's Oldest Temple

- ❖ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is excavating two mounds in Nachne village, Panna district, Madhya Pradesh, to uncover India's potentially oldest temple.
- ❖ The excavation sites are near two ancient temples- a Gupta-era Parvati temple- and close to Chaumukhi temple, built by the Kalachuri Dynasty.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh boasts several ancient temples, including the 'Sanchi 17' from the Gupta period, dating back to the 5th century CE.
- ❖ This temple is considered the oldest surviving complete temple in India till date.
- ❖ The excavation team hopes to find pre-Gupta-era temples.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Gaganyaan Mission astronauts



- ❖ India's first human-crewed spaceflight – Gaganyaan mission's "astronaut" was introduced recently.
- ❖ The four candidates are Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair (47), Angad Pratap (41), Ajit Krishnan (41) and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla (38).
- ❖ They all are officers of the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ Capt. Ajit Krishnan hails from Tamil Nadu is the fighter pilot.
- ❖ He is an alumnus of NDA and a recipient of the President's Gold Medal and Sword of Honour at the Air Force Academy.

Manohar Joshi

- ❖ Former Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi passed away recently.
- ❖ Joshi emerged as a key leader within the Shiv Sena, known for his organisational skills and grassroots connect.
- ❖ In 1995, he was appointed as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- ❖ He succeeded Sharad Pawar of the Indian National Congress, marking the first time the Shiv Sena had assumed power in the state.
- ❖ He was also elected as a Member of Parliament and was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004.

India's Oldest MP - Shafiqur Rahman Barq

- ❖ Senior Samajwadi Party leader, and MP from Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, Shafiqur Rahman Barq passed away recently.
- ❖ He is India's oldest MP in Parliament.
- ❖ Barq, who has been a four-time MLA, was elected MP from Sambhal for the fifth time in 2019.
- ❖ Barq won the Muradabad Lok Sabha seat three times (1996, 1998, and 2004) and the Sambhal Lok Sabha seat twice (2009 and 2019) from SP.
- ❖ He had also served as a cabinet minister in the Uttar Pradesh government and was elected as a legislator from the Sambhal seat four times.

Tyler Prize 2024



- ❖ The 2024 Tyler Prize for environmental achievement will be awarded to Johan Rockstrom.
- ❖ This recognises his groundbreaking contributions and pioneering work to the development of the Planetary Boundaries framework.



- ❖ Rockstrom is director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and co-chair of the Earth Commission.
- ❖ The Planetary Boundaries is an international collaboration across multiple Earth system science disciplines.
- ❖ The theory establishes defined boundaries for nine Earth systems.
- ❖ They are emphasising the critical importance of their stability and resilience in preserving life as we understand it.
- ❖ The prestigious Tyler Prize is often described as Nobel Prize for environment.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2022 and 2023

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred 94 Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 and 2023.
- ❖ They were given to eminent artists in the field of performing arts, including music, dance, drama, folk and tribal arts.
- ❖ Twelve people from the field of music, and equal number from dance, 9 from the field of theatre and 11 from folk and tribal arts have received the Akademi awards for 2023.
- ❖ Some notable artists include
 - Carnatic vocalist Bombay Jayashri Ramnath from Tamil Nadu,
 - Neyveli Narayanan from Tamil Nadu for Carnatic Instrumental (Mridangam),
 - Urmila Sathyanarayanan, from Tamil Nadu for Bharatanatyam and
 - Pallavi Krishnan from Kerala for Mohiniattam.
- ❖ The President of India also bestowed the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship to 6 eminent artists.
 - Vinayak Khedekar, Goa, Indian Music
 - R. Visweswaran, Karnataka, Indian Music
 - Sunayana Hazarilal, Maharashtra, Indian Dance
 - Raja & Radha Reddy, Delhi, Indian Dance
 - Dulal Roy, Assam, Indian Theatre
 - D.P. Sinha, Uttar Pradesh, Indian Theatre
- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship or “Akademi Ratna” is the highest honour given to eminent artists in the field of performing arts for his or her exceptional contribution to performing art form.
- ❖ It is restricted to 40 at any given time.

Miss World 2024



- ❖ Czech Republic's Krystyna Pyszkova won the Miss World 2024 title in Mumbai.
- ❖ Miss Lebanon Yasmina Zaytoun was named the first runner-up.
- ❖ Pyszkova is the second Miss World from Czech Republic after 2006 pageant winner Tatana Kucharova.
- ❖ India hosted the event after 28 years, was represented by 22-year-old Sini Shetty.
- ❖ India has won the prestigious title six times.

National Creators Award 2024



- ❖ Prime Minister has presented the first-ever National Creators Awards in New Delhi.
- ❖ This award celebrates the contributions of digital content creators who have brought about positive social change and innovation.
- ❖ Playback singer Maithili Thakur was announced the winner of 'Cultural Ambassador of The Year'.
- ❖ Some other winners: -
 - Gaurav Chaudhary - Best Creator in Tech Category

- RJ Raunac (Bauaa) - Most Creative Creator-Male
- Shraddha - Most Creative Creator-Female
- Jahnvi Singh - Heritage Fashion Icon Award
- Lakshay Dabas - Most Impactful Agri Creator
- Keerthika Govindasamy - Best Storyteller

Erasmus prize 2024

- ❖ The Eminent writer Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the prestigious Erasmus Prize 2024.
- ❖ He receives the prize for his passionate written contribution to the theme 'imagining the unthinkable'.
- ❖ He received Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary prize, in 2018.
- ❖ Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands founded the Premium Erasmianum in 1958.



96th Academy Awards

- ❖ The 96th edition of the Academy Awards held at the Dolby Theatre in California, USA.
- ❖ Christopher Nolan's epic biographical thriller Oppenheimer swept seven awards.
- ❖ Winner's list
 - Best Picture - Oppenheimer
 - Best Director - Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer
 - Best Actor - Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer
 - Best Actress - Emma Stone, Poor Things
 - Cinematography – Oppenheimer
 - Best Supporting Actor - Robert Downey Jr., Oppenheimer

- Editing - Oppenheimer
- Original Score – Oppenheimer
- Documentary Feature - 20 Days in Mariupol
- Original Song - “What Was I Made For?” (Barbie)

Pritzker Architecture Prize 2024

- ❖ The Japanese architect Riken Yamamoto is the winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize.
- ❖ This is the highest international award in the field, which is sometimes referred to as the “Architecture Nobel”.
- ❖ The prize has been awarded every year since its founding in 1979.
- ❖ Yamamoto is the ninth laureate from Japan.
- ❖ This award aims to honour a living architect whose built work demonstrates talent, vision and commitment, who has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture”.



Madras Music Academy Awards 2024

- ❖ The Carnatic classical vocalist Thodur Madabusi Krishna has been conferred the Sangita Kalanidhi award.
- ❖ It is the most prestigious recognition in Carnatic music and awarded by the Madras Music Academy.

- ❖ Professor Parassala Ravi (V. Raveendran Nair) and Geetha Raja will be conferred with Sangita Kala Acharya awards.
- ❖ Narasimhan and S Venkatesan, known as Thiruvaiyyaru Brothers, and H K Narasimha Murthy have been chosen for TTV awards.
- ❖ Dr Margaret Bastin will receive the Musicologist Award, while Dr Neena Prasad will be conferred Nritya Kalanidhi Award.

Diana Legacy Awards



- ❖ A total of 20 people from the world were honored with the 'Diana Memorial Award'.
- ❖ India's Uday Bhatia and Manasi Gupta were honored with the 'Diana Memorial Award'.
- ❖ Uday's low-cost invention can provide relief from power cuts.
- ❖ During the pandemic, Manasi Gupta's mental health services were appreciated and she got a different recognition.
- ❖ This award is given every two years in memory of Princess Diana.
- ❖ This award is given to exceptional youth of the world for their social work or humanitarian services.

Golden Book Award 2024

- ❖ Author Rakhi Kapoor wins her second Golden Book Award for her twenty-sixth book titled Breaking Free Embracing Me – healing from childhood abuse and Toxic Conditioning.
- ❖ This prestigious award recognizes and applauds the literary achievements that captivate readers and contribute significantly to the world of Literature.
- ❖ Some of other winners of the Golden Book Awards 2024 are:
 - Srividya Balakrishnan – Tales in verse from distant lands
 - Navveen Balani – Echoes of Tomorrow: The Responsible AI Awakening



- BK Shivani – The Power of One Thought: Master Your Mind, Master Your Life
- Sahana Murali – Fish can fly
- Prakash Narkhede – Unbox Your Creativity.

Abel Prize 2024

- ❖ The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has awarded the 2024 Abel Prize to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France.
- ❖ This is awarded “for his groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics.”
- ❖ Much of his work involves understanding and utilizing the “Gaussian distribution”, also known as the “normal distribution” or the “bell curve”.

SPORTS

Khelo India Winter Games 2024

- ❖ The Khelo India Winter Games 2024 was conducted in two phases.
- ❖ All three previous editions, in 2020, 2021 and 2023, were hosted and won by Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Ladakh made its debut as a host this year.
- ❖ The Indian Army team won the KIWG 2024 title, winning 10 gold, five silver and six bronze.
- ❖ Karnataka won the silver with nine gold medals and two silvers.

Rank	State/UT/Team	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total medals
1	Army	10	5	6	21
2	Karnataka	9	2	0	11
3	Maharashtra	7	8	7	22
4	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	9	17
5	Uttarakhand	3	3	1	7



IMPORTANT DAYS

Zero Discrimination Day 2024 - March 01

- ❖ This day serves as a potent reminder of the fundamental right to equality and dignity for everyone, regardless of their background or identity.
- ❖ The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014 after UNAIDS.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights.”

World Seagrass Day 2024 - March 01

- ❖ In May 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming this day.
- ❖ Seagrasses are marine flowering plants that are found in shallow waters in several parts of the world.
- ❖ They provide food and shelter to thousands of species of fish, seahorses, turtles and sustain some of the world’s largest fisheries.
- ❖ They can store up to 18 per cent of the world's oceanic carbon, making them a powerful nature-based solutions to tackle climate change impacts.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 has been set as “Healthy Seagrass, Healthy Planet”.

World Civil Defense Day 2024 - March 01

- ❖ In 1990, World Civil Defence Day was announced by International Civil Defence Organisation.
- ❖ This day aims to promote safeguarding of people and their properties from accidents, natural calamities and other emergencies.
- ❖ It also helps in celebrating the heroes who consistently demonstrate commitment to saving lives.
- ❖ The United Nations founded International Civil Defence Organisation.
- ❖ It is an organisation dedicated to coordinate and promote civil defence efforts globally.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is “Honor Heroes and Promote Safety Skills.”

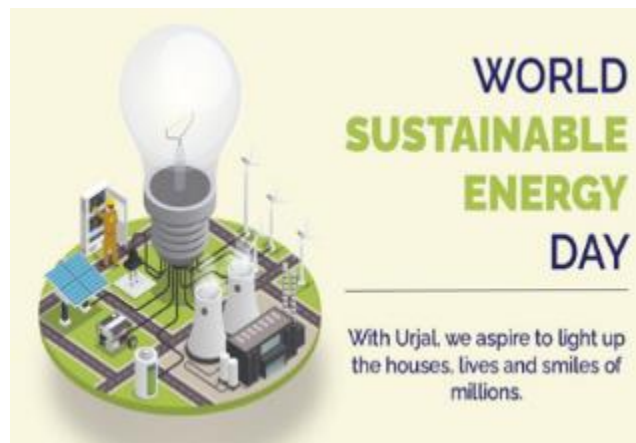
Self-Injury Awareness Day 2024 - March 01

- ❖ This day is observed with the intention of helping people who inflict self-harm on themselves and are too scared of asking for professional help.

- ❖ It helps in raising awareness of the importance of addressing this unhealthy behavioural pattern and getting help to the patients as soon as possible.
- ❖ In the early 20th century, self-harm was declared as one of the symptoms of mental illness.
- ❖ In 1995, the first International Conference on Self-Mutilation was organised.
- ❖ In 1997, the International Society for the Study of Self-Injury was established.

World Sustainable Energy Day 2024 - March 02

- ❖ It promotes the use of sustainable energy sources in day-to-day life.
- ❖ It also contributes to showcasing innovative and effective sustainable energy technologies.
- ❖ It was first held in 1992 by the Austrian Energy Agency (AEA).
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Energy transition now – fast, smart, resilient!".



World Wildlife Day 2024 - March 03

- ❖ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed on this day in 1973.
- ❖ It is celebrated to promote sustainable practices that can help conserve biodiversity and raise public awareness of the need to protect and care for animals.
- ❖ It was first proposed by Thailand to the UN General Assembly in 2013.
- ❖ The General Assembly adopted a resolution on 20 December 2013, designating this day.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation".

World Hearing Day 2024 - March 03

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about preventing deafness and hearing loss and promoting ear and hearing care around the world.
- ❖ This day was first recognised by WHO in 2007.
- ❖ Previously, the day was recognised as International Ear Care Day.
- ❖ After 2016, WHO changed the name to World Hearing Day.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all."

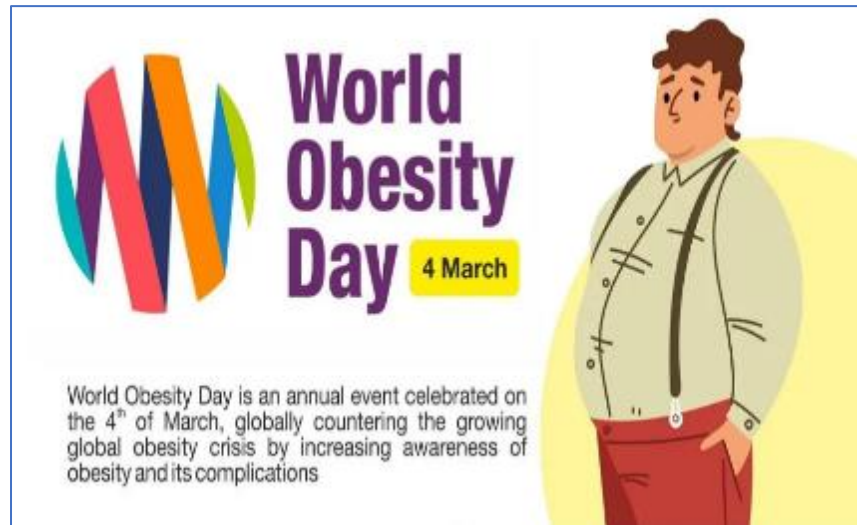


National Safety Day 2024 - March 04

- ❖ This day is marking the establishment of the National Safety Council of India (NSC) by the Ministry of Labour in 1966.
- ❖ The council's primary objective is to advocate for national security, public health, and environmental protection.
- ❖ This day was first observed in 1972.
- ❖ This year's theme was "Focus on Safety Leadership for ESG Excellence".

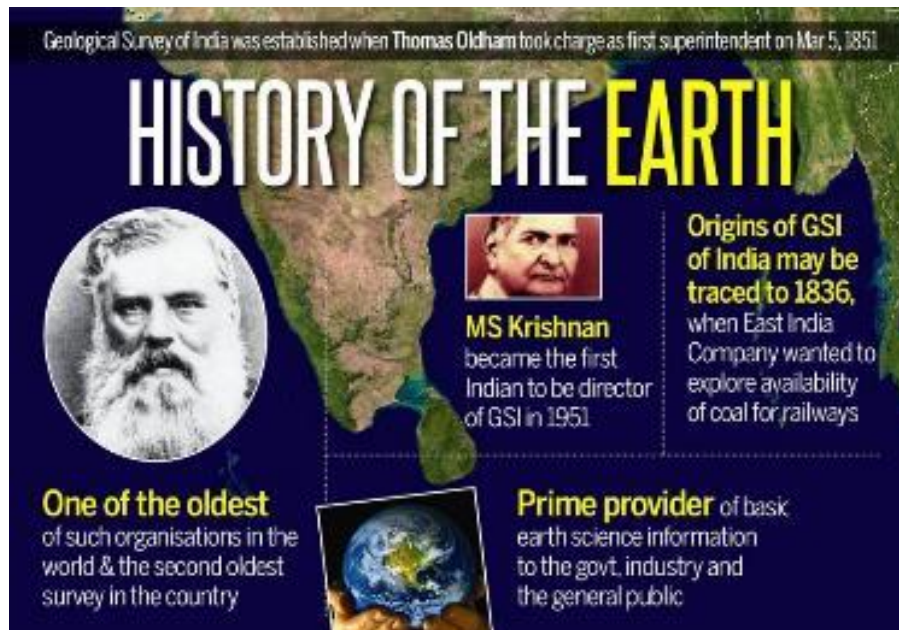
World Obesity Day 2024 - March 04

- ❖ It aims to changing perspectives on obesity, correcting misconceptions, ending stigmas and raising awareness on this medical condition.
- ❖ It can cause serious health problems such as heart diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, severe arthritis and even certain cancers.
- ❖ According to the WHO, a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or higher is considered overweight and a BMI of 30 or higher is considered obese.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Let's Talk About Obesity And...!'



Foundation Day of GSI 2024 - March 04

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) celebrated its 174th Foundation Day on 4 March.
- ❖ GSI was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- ❖ John McClelland for the first time used the term Geological Survey of India in his report in 1848.
- ❖ GSI is headquartered in Kolkata.
- ❖ It also has six regional offices located at Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong, and Kolkata.



World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development 2024 - March 04

- ❖ It was established by UNESCO in 2019 to raise awareness of the importance of engineering in achieving sustainable development.
- ❖ It aims to improve public understanding of how engineering and technology are central to modern life and sustainable development.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World”.

International HPV Awareness Day 2024 - March 04

- ❖ This day was developed in 2018 by the International Papillomavirus Society (IPVS).
- ❖ It aims to educate about Human Papillomavirus and its association with cancers and prevention tips against the virus.
- ❖ Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a group of related viruses that can infect various parts of the body, primarily the genital area.
- ❖ Of the over 100 different types of HPV, some are classified as high-risk, increasing the likelihood of developing cancer.

World Day of the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation 2024 - March 04

- ❖ The day’s primary goal is to unite the world to take a stand against all forms of sexual exploitation.
- ❖ 98 per cent of the victims are women and children.
- ❖ In 2009, the first World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is observed as a global movement.





International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness - March 05

- ❖ It aims to promote better awareness and understanding of disarmament issues among the public, especially young people.
- ❖ In 2022, global military spending has reached \$2.24 trillion.
- ❖ 2,500 nuclear weapons remain an existential threat to humanity today.

Dissociative Identity Disorder Awareness Day 2024 - March 05

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the difficulties faced by people with dissociative identity disorder and what we can do to improve their standards of life.
- ❖ It is also known as Multiple Personality Disorder.
- ❖ It is the condition where a person believes that he/she has multiple people living inside their minds.
- ❖ They are often controlled by multiple personalities and may face difficulties getting on with their normal lives.

What is Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)?

People with DID will experience intense changes in their identity, feeling like different aspects of their identity are in control of their behaviour. This can happen in various ways:

- Each identity state may have a different pattern of thinking and relating to the world.
- These identity states may come across as different ages and genders.
- There may be one 'main' part of their identity.
- The different parts of their identity may have conflicting memories or experiences
- Some people refer to these different parts of their identity as alters or parts, and to all the parts together as a system.
- They might not feel like they have control over when different parts of their identity take over.
- They may experience amnesia when another part of their identity is in control.

International Women's Day 2024 - March 08

- ❖ This day is acknowledging the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
- ❖ The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.



- ❖ 2024's theme is 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' and the campaign theme is 'Inspire Inclusion.'
- ❖ In 1910, Clara Zetkin proposed International Women's Day at the International Women's Conference in Copenhagen.
- ❖ The United Nations began celebrating the day in 1975.
- ❖ In 1977, UN General Assembly invited member states to proclaim this day.

CISF Raising Day 2024 - March 10

- ❖ The Central Industrial Security Force is instrumental in safeguarding the assets and infrastructures of the country.
- ❖ Under the CISF Act, 1968, the Central Industrial Security Force was established to address growing needs.
- ❖ They help in safeguarding the government infrastructure projects, industrial establishments and public sector undertakings.
- ❖ With 165000 personnel, it is one of the largest and strongest security forces in the country.

International Day of Women Judges 2024 - March 10

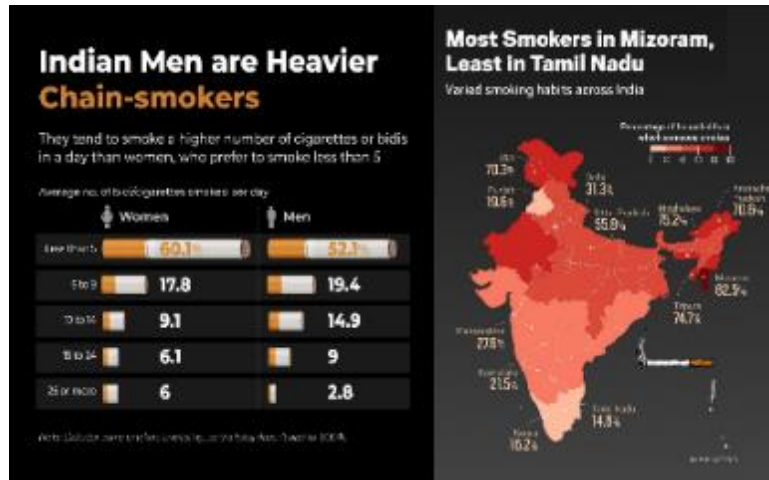
- ❖ The day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of women judges worldwide.
- ❖ It aims to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in the judiciary.
- ❖ In India, Anna Chandi became the first female judge of a high court in 1937.
- ❖ In 1989, Fathima Beevi became the first female judge of the Supreme Court of India.

World Day Against Cyber Censorship 2024 - March 12

- ❖ Amnesty International and Reporters Without Borders first observed this day in 2008.
- ❖ This day seeks to unite people in favour of an unrestricted single Internet.
- ❖ Additionally, the organisation wants to guarantee that everyone can access the internet.



No Smoking Day 2024 - March 13

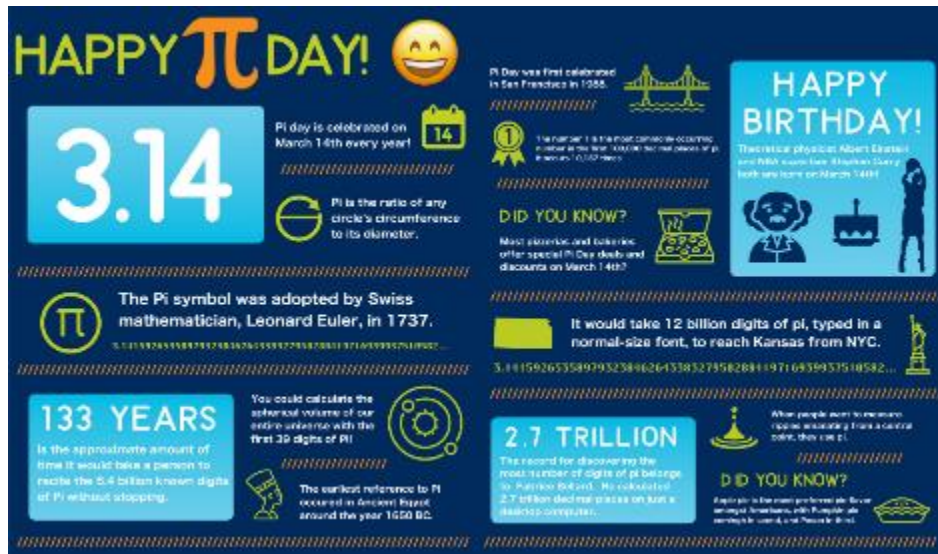


- ❖ Every year the day is observed on the second Wednesday of March.
- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the adverse impacts of smoking and to encourage people to quit the dangerous habit.
- ❖ This day was first observed on Ash Wednesday in 1984.
- ❖ Tobacco is a deadly cocktail of over 60 carcinogens, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), aromatic amines, volatile organic hydrocarbons, and various metals.

Pi Day 2024 - March 14

- ❖ When the date is written in the format of month and date, it matches the first three digits of the Pi (π) value.
- ❖ Pi is the ratio of the circumference of the circle to the diameter.

- ❖ The ratio is a constant of 3.14 PI.
- ❖ The constant value of Pi was first calculated by Mathematician Archimedes of Syracuse.
- ❖ In 1737, Leonhard Euler used the symbol of Pi, and hence it got accepted in the scientific community.
- ❖ In the year 1988, American physicist Larry Shaw celebrated the first Pi Day.
- ❖ Incidentally, Pi Day is observed on the birth anniversary of renowned Physicist Albert Einstein.



World Rotaract Day 2024 - March 13

- ❖ This day acknowledges the services provided by the Rotaractors across the globe.
- ❖ The day is observed with a week-long program of World Rotaract Week.
- ❖ Rotaract was first established in 1968 in North Carolina, USA.
- ❖ Now it has over 250,000 members in more than 10,000 clubs around the world.

International Day of Mathematics 2024 - March 14

- ❖ UNESCO declared this International Day at the 40th General Conference on November 19, 2019.
- ❖ This day sheds light on Mathematics' importance in different areas like climate change, energy, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development.
- ❖ This Day coincides with International Pi Day.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Playing with Math.'


International Day of Action for Rivers - March 14

- ❖ It highlights the importance of ensuring that the all communities have access to clean, free-flowing water.
- ❖ It urges to bring collective responsibility to defend these rights and protect our rivers now more than ever.
- ❖ This day was approved at the first International Meeting of People Impacted by Dams in March 1997 in Curitiba, Brazil
- ❖ This year's theme is "Water for All".



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIVERS

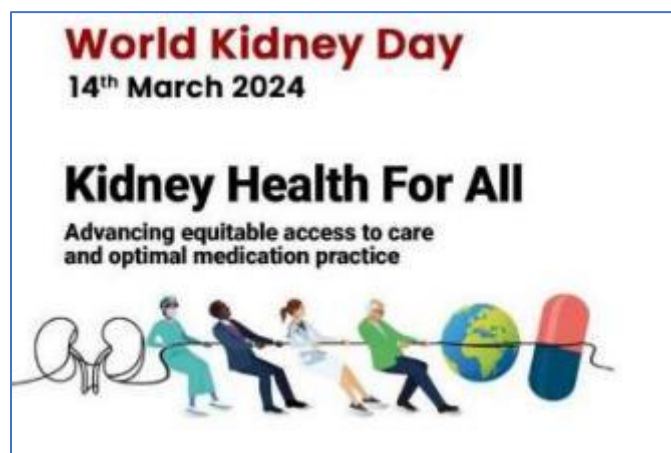
ISSUE FACED:
 The river channel was encroached upon completely at its origins.

INITIATIVE:
 River rejuvenation across the whole channel length of river was done.

OUTCOME:
 River channel became free of encroachments, enhanced water conservation and storage, flood and soil erosion control, increase in ground water level and irrigation area, etc.

The infographic features two circular images: the top one shows people engaged in river rejuvenation work, and the bottom one shows a clear, flowing river.

World Kidney Day 2024 - March 14



World Kidney Day
14th March 2024

Kidney Health For All
Advancing equitable access to care
and optimal medication practice

The poster features an illustration of four diverse people (a doctor, a patient, a caregiver, and a child) holding hands, with a kidney icon on the left, a globe in the center, and a large red and blue pill on the right.

- ❖ This day aims to create awareness about the importance of healthy kidneys and how one can maintain kidney health and prevent kidney-related diseases.
- ❖ This day is observed on the second Thursday of March, every year.
- ❖ The theme for the 2024 campaign is 'Kidney Health For All.'

World Consumer Rights Day 2024 - March 15



- ❖ It aims to create awareness about the rights of the consumers that exist which can protect them from discrimination, unfair practices and exploitation.
- ❖ On March 15, 1962, President John F. Kennedy spoke before the US Congress and addressed consumer rights.
- ❖ This incident marked the first time that a world leader spoke of consumer rights.
- ❖ In 1983, the first World Consumer Rights Day was observed.
- ❖ Since then, the United Nations has recognised the special day.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Fair and responsible AI for consumers'.

World Sleep Day 2024 - March 15

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about sleep-related issues in medicine, education, social work and driving, as well as to celebrate great sleep.
- ❖ World Sleep Day has been celebrated on the Friday before the March equinox in the northern hemisphere since its commencement in 2008.
- ❖ The theme for World Sleep Day 2024 is 'Sleep Equity for Global Health'.

National Vaccination Day 2024 - March 16

- ❖ This day aims to educate people about the benefits of vaccination and dispel any myths or misconceptions about vaccines.
- ❖ In 1988, WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative was started as the first step of eradicating the disease from the planet.
- ❖ In 1995, on the same day, India started the pulse polio Immunisation Program as the first attempt of eradicating the disease from the country.
- ❖ Since then, March 16 has been celebrated as National Vaccination Day.



Ordnance Factories Day (India) 2024 - March 18

- ❖ This day is celebrated to commemorate the day when Ordnance Factory in Cossipore, Kolkata was formed.
- ❖ In 1775, the Board of Ordnance was formed in Fort William, Kolkata.
- ❖ In 1787, a gunpowder factory was formed in Ishapore and a gun carriage factory was formed in Cossipore, Kolkata.
- ❖ Now it's known as Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore.



Global Recycling Day 2024 - March 18

- ❖ It is a day to promote recycling and conservation by educating people about the status of essential resources.
- ❖ The Global Recycling Foundation was established in 2018 to promote recycling and conservation worldwide.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Keeping Promises: A Commitment to Sustainability”.

International Day for Digital Learning 2024 - March 19

- ❖ This day was celebrated for the first time in 2024 by UNESCO members.
- ❖ It recognises the value of digital learning in addressing educational challenges & promoting sustainable development.
- ❖ In 2005, just 16% of the global population was connected to the Internet.
- ❖ As of 2023, that number had risen to 67%.
- ❖ Only 40% of primary schools are connected to the Internet and 70% of rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa lack electricity.

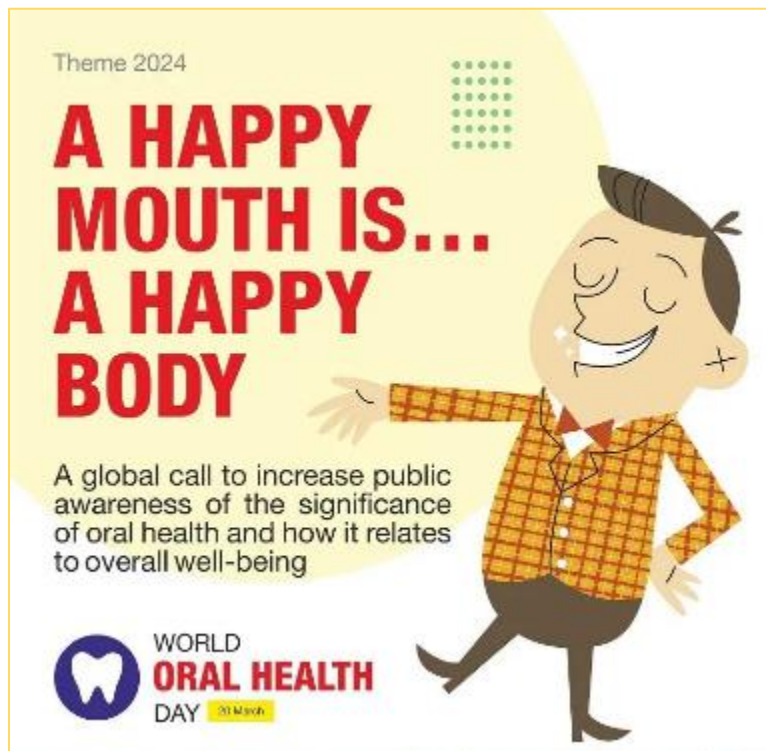


International Day of Happiness 2024 - March 20

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) first declared this special day in 2013.
- ❖ It aims to honour the happiness and well-being as universal objectives and aspirations shared by people everywhere.
- ❖ The day's goal is to make the world a kinder and happier place by encouraging people to practise simple, daily happiness habits.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Reconnecting for Happiness: Building Resilient Communities".

World Oral Health Day 2024 - March 20

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness around oral health and its intricate link with the overall health.
- ❖ This day was first celebrated September 12, 2007, on the birthday of World Dental Federation Founder Dr Charles Godon.
- ❖ Oral diseases that are highly preventable affect 3.5 billion people all over the world.
- ❖ The 2024 campaign's theme is - A happy mouth is....a happy body.

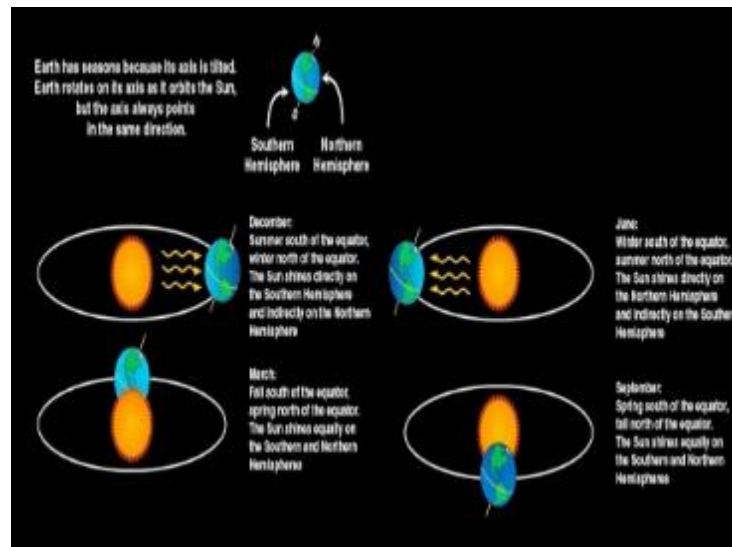


World Sparrow Day 2024 - March 20



- ❖ The Nature Forever Society of India, along with other organisations around the world, started World Sparrow Day in 2010.
- ❖ Sparrows are more than just cute little birds.
- ❖ They play a vital role in our ecosystem.
- ❖ There are over 60 different sparrow species around the world.
- ❖ The official theme for 2024 is "I Love Sparrows".

March Equinox 2024 - March 20

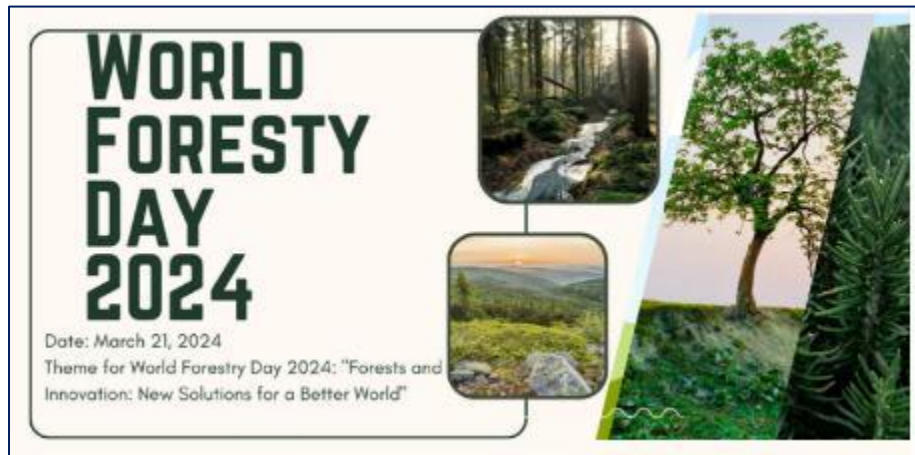


- ❖ The March spring equinox occurs around March 20 or 21 each year.
- ❖ On this day, the Sun crosses the celestial equator, moving from south to north.

- ❖ During this time, day and night are approximately equal in length all over the world.
- ❖ This astronomical event is called the March Equinox or the Vernal Equinox.

World Forestry Day 2024 - March 21

- ❖ It aims to remind people of the significance of forests and trees in our lives.
- ❖ The idea of World Forestry Day was proposed in 1971 by the General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture.
- ❖ March 21 was chosen by the United Nations as it aligns with the Vernal Equinox and Autumn Equinox in the northern and southern hemispheres, respectively.
- ❖ The theme for this year is - Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World.



World Down syndrome Day - March 21





- ❖ This day aims to promote awareness about Down syndrome and to assist those who live with the condition.
- ❖ Down syndrome is a genetic condition caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21.
- ❖ This additional genetic material affects the development of a person, leading to distinct physical and cognitive characteristics.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'End the Stereotypes'.

World Poetry Day 2024 - March 21

- ❖ The day aims to honour poets and bring back the practice of poetry readings.
- ❖ UNESCO has decided to celebrate this day annually during its 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999.
- ❖ Some countries still celebrate Poetry Day on October 15, on the birthday of the Roman poet Virgil.
- ❖ 'Standing on the Shoulders of Giants' is the theme for 2024.

World Puppetry Day 2024 - March 21

- ❖ The Day seeks to recognise puppetry as a global art form.
- ❖ The International Puppetry Association (UNIMA) was created in Prague of Czech Republic in 1929.
- ❖ In 2002, UNIMA declared this Day.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'the Climate'.

International Day of Nowruz 2024 - March 21

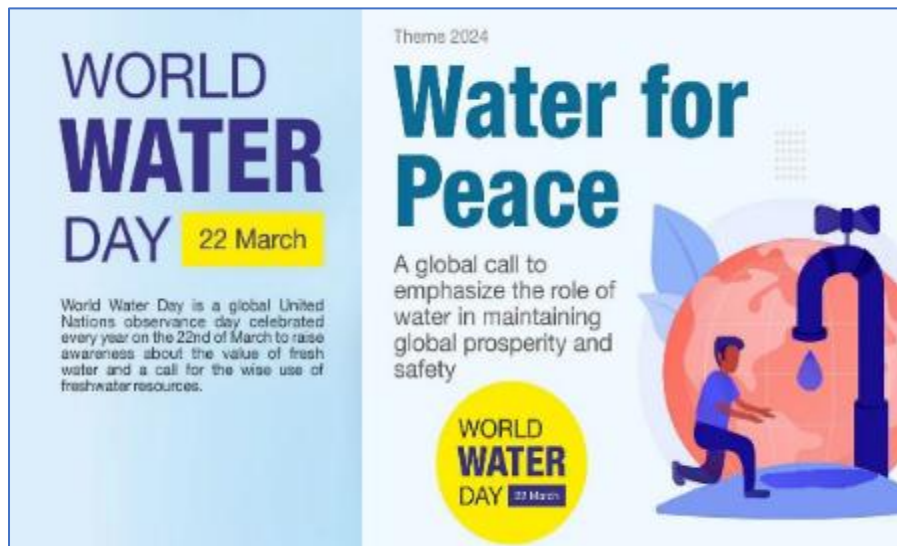
- ❖ Nowruz, also spelt Norooz or Nowrooz, is the Iranian New Year, marking the beginning of the spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ An ancient festival with roots in Zoroastrianism, Nowruz marks the beginning of the Iranian Solar Hijri calendar.
- ❖ It falls on or around the spring equinox, typically between March 19th and March 21st.
- ❖ This year, it was celebrated on March 20, with the exact moment of the vernal equinox occurring at 6:36 AM in Tehran, Iran.
- ❖ However, the United Nations recognises March 21st as the International Day of Nowruz, emphasising its global observance and cultural significance.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2024 - March 21

- ❖ On this day in 1960, the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws".
- ❖ In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a program of activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.
- ❖ This year's theme is: "A decade of recognition, justice and development: the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent."

World Water Day 2024 - March 22

- ❖ This day aims to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- ❖ In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro saw the first formal proposal of this day.
- ❖ A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'Water for prosperity and peace'.



World Meteorological Day 2024 - March 23

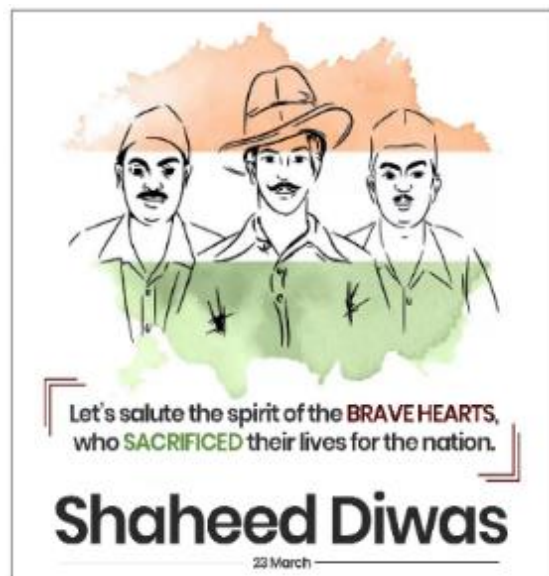
- ❖ It commemorates the formal establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- ❖ On March 23, 1950, the World Meteorological Organisation Convention came into force and it became a UN specialised agency in 1951.

- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “At the Frontline of Climate Action.”



Martyr's Day/ Shaheed Diwas 2024 - March 23

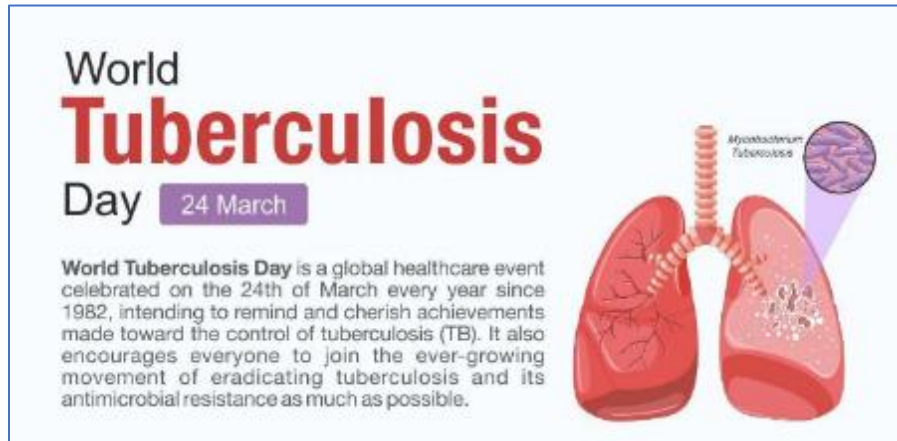
- ❖ This day honours the courageous freedom fighters who valiantly fought for India's independence.
- ❖ On March 23, 1931, in Lahore jail, young freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were executed by the British government.
- ❖ Their sacrifice for India's freedom is honored every year on Shaheed Diwas.



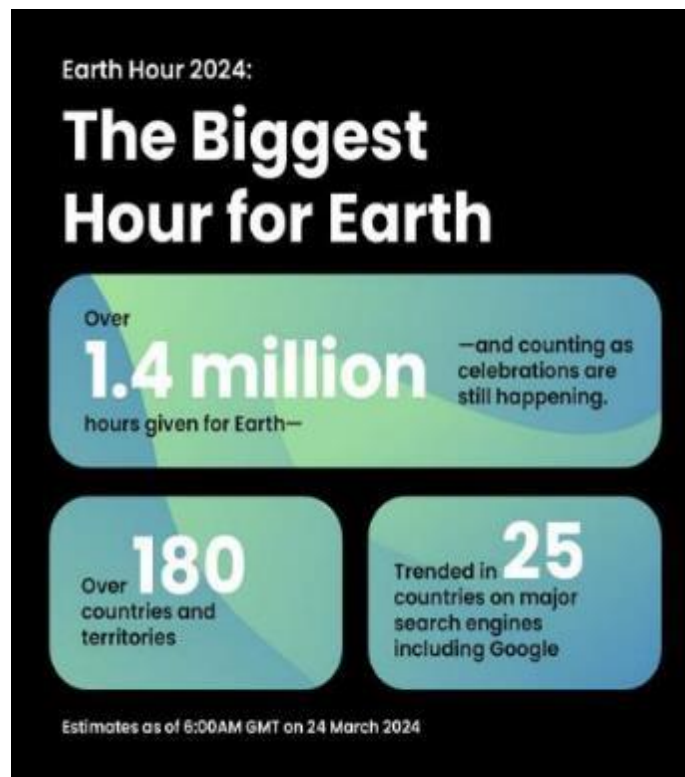
World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2024 - March 24

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness around the disease, increase efforts to eradicate the disease, and mobilise support for those affected by TB.

- ❖ Tuberculosis mainly affects lungs, is one of the leading killer diseases that led to 1.3 million deaths in 2022.
- ❖ It is caused by a type of bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Yes! We can end TB”.



Earth Hour 2024 - March 23



- ❖ Earth Day has been held since 2007 on the last Saturday in March.
- ❖ This annual event is organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to raise an awareness about environmental issues.

- ❖ This year marks the 18th edition of Earth Hour, with the theme "Biggest Hour for Earth."
- ❖ The event encourages people worldwide to turn off their lights for 60 minutes from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. as a symbolic gesture of support for our planet.

World Theatre Day 2024 - March 27

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of theatre and its contribution to the cultural and social development of societies worldwide.
- ❖ The idea of World Theatre Day was first proposed in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).
- ❖ The first World Theatre Day was celebrated on March 27th, 1962.

International Day of Zero Waste 2024 - March 30

- ❖ It highlights both the importance of bolstering waste management globally and the need to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- ❖ Every year, the humanity generates between 2.1 billion and 2.3 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste.
- ❖ Some 2.7 billion people lack access to waste collection, 2 billion of whom live in rural areas.
- ❖ Humanity produces 430 million tons of plastic a year, two-thirds of which are short-lived products that quickly become waste.
- ❖ Without urgent action, the annual municipal solid waste generation will hit 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050.





World Bipolar Day 2024 - March 30



- ❖ This day coincides with the birthday of Vincent Van Gogh, a renowned artist who suffered from bipolar disorder.
- ❖ It aims raise awareness and eliminate the stigma associated with this life-long mental health condition affecting millions worldwide.
- ❖ It is commonly known as manic-depressive illness.
- ❖ It is characterised by episodes of extreme mood swings, including mania or hypomania and depression.
- ❖ This year's theme is #BipolarStrong.

Rajasthan Day 2024 - March 30

- ❖ At the time of independence, there were a total of 22 princely states in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The state was formed on March 30th, 1949 when Rajputana was merged into the Dominion of India.
- ❖ Jaipur, being the largest city, was declared as the capital of the state.
- ❖ The process of merger of the erstwhile princely states was lasted from 18 March 1948 to 1 November 1956.

MISCELLANEOUS

Patagonia Cave Paintings

- ❖ The Archaeologists have discovered the earliest dated cave paintings in South America in Argentine Patagonia, dating back 8,200 years.
- ❖ The 895 paintings were found by Argentine and Chilean archaeologists in the Huenul 1 cave.
- ❖ The practice of painting the particular pattern seen in the cave was sustained for a period of at least 3,000 years.



Cavum Clouds

- ❖ NASA shared a picture of clouds that showcasing the breathtaking view of Cavum clouds as seen from space.
- ❖ The Cavum clouds are also called hole-punch clouds or fallstreak holes.
- ❖ These odd cloud formations are caused by airplanes.
- ❖ Cavum clouds form when planes fly through banks of altocumulus clouds, mid-level clouds that have supercooled (below the freezing point of water but still liquid) water droplets.
- ❖ As air moves around the plane, a process called adiabatic expansion can make the droplets freeze into ice crystals.
- ❖ The ice crystals eventually grow heavy and fall out of the sky, leaving a hole in the cloud layer.

