



SANGAMAM

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INSAT-3DS
LAUNCH SUCCESSFUL

DIRECTOR: SIVARAJAVEL S**EDITORS:**

Elakkiya M

SUB EDITORS:Archana S
Manivannan S
Venkatesan T**DESIGNERS:**Thomas Kalaivanan S
Kalaiselvi R**INSAT3-DS LAUNCH SUCCESSFUL**

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It is expected to observe movements from earthquakes, landslides and volcanic activity, and track dynamic changes to forests, wetlands and agricultural lands.

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Anna nagar West, Chennai – 600 040**Ph: 9626364444****BRANCH OFFICES****TIRUNELVELI**No.106B, 3rd floor, Gilgal Complex, VOC ground opposite,
Palayamkottai - 627 002.**Ph: 9626252500****TRICHY**No.143, 4th Floor, Lakshmi Complex, Salai Road,
Thillai Nagar, Trichy - 620 018.**Ph: 9751500300 / 9786500300**

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TAMILNADU NEWS

For the first time in the country... Tamil Nadu

- Introduction of a new facility to inform the people of Tamil Nadu Government projects through video recording by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu; You can scan the QR CODE in the newspaper advertisement and watch the video recording; (Augmented reality) This video recording has been created

Ungalai thedi ungal ooril

- The Government of Tamil Nadu has launched an innovative program called “Looking for you, in your town(Ungalai Thedi Ungal Ooril)” to resolve the grievances of the public.
- The scheme aims at expeditious redressal of public grievances.
- Under this initiative, the District Collector and senior government officials visit a taluk and stay for one day in a month (4th Wednesday) to inspect the government offices in that area and listen to the grievances of the public.

Thalapathy Vijay entering politics, launches Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam party:

- Legendary Indian actor Vijay announced his entry into politics on 2 February 2024 by launching his party, Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam, with the slogan “Pirappokkum Ella Uyirkkum (transl. All are equal by birth)”. This decision was reached during the General and Executive Council Meeting of the newly formed political group.
- The statement further read, “We are not going to contest the 2024 elections and we are not going to support any party. We have made this decision for the General and Executive Council Meeting.”Vijay that he applied on 2 February on behalf of his party to register with the Chief Election Commission of India.

- Vijay the party’s objective is to contest and win the 2026 assembly elections in Tamil Nadu to provide the political change yearned by the people of the state.

Makkalai Thedi Aavaga Sevai

- The first implementation of the “Makkalai Thedi Aavaga Sevai” program across Tamil Nadu at the Primary Health Center in Thollavilai area near Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District, Health Minister Hon. Subramaniam inaugurated it.
- The main objective of this scheme is to send the laboratory tests of the beneficiaries to high quality laboratories and avoid unnecessary movement of the beneficiaries thereby increasing the number of laboratory tests. The scheme is to be implemented across Tamil Nadu.

First Aboriginal woman judge

- Mrs. Sreepathi from Puliyur village next to Javvadumalai in Tiruvannamalai district has passed the law judge examination at the age of 23. A tribal woman from an underprivileged hill village has achieved this at a young age.

Pink Squad

- Pink Squad takes charge to enhance safety of women passengers on Chennai metro rail.
- 23 women security personnel trained in martial arts have been inducted into the newly launched Pink Squad of the Chennai Metro Rail to step up the safety of women passengers. These personnel will do rounds on the trains and visit some of the most crowded stations within the 54-km Chennai Metro Rail system, including Chennai Central, Alandur, and Chennai Airport Metro Rail stations. “Our priority is to ensure that our presence makes women passengers feel confident. If there is any issue, they can always reach out to us,” she adds.



Rajya Sabha Elections

- Election Commission released the date for the Rajya Sabha elections to 56 seats from 15 states of India.
- In the current Rajya Sabha, there are a total of 238 elected members.
- Rajya Sabha is the permanent House of the Parliament in which members are appointed for a 6 year tenure.
- One-third of the members retire every two years, which ensures the continuity of its proceedings.

Diamond Jubilee of Supreme Court

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the citizen-centric information and technology initiatives during Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court.
- These include Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR): It will make Supreme Court judgments available to citizens of country free of cost and in electronic format.

Digital Courts 2.0 :

- Launched under e-Courts project which aims to make court records
- available to Judges of district courts in electronic format.
- A new website of Supreme Court to be available in both English and Hindi language.

Preeti Rajak Becomes Indian Army's First Female Subedar

- Havildar Preeti Rajak, a distinguished trap shooter in the Indian Army, has reached a historic milestone by being promoted to the esteemed rank of Subedar.
- She becomes the first woman in the Indian Army to hold this prestigious rank, signifying not only her personal accomplishment but also a significant advancement for women in the armed forces.

NATIONAL NEWS

- Rajak embarked on her journey with the Corps of Military Police in December 2022, earning her place through her outstanding performance in trap shooting. She made history as the first meritorious sportswoman in the shooting discipline to be enrolled in the army as a havildar, laying the foundation for her trailblazing career.

Green Hydrogen in the Steel Sector

- The Government of India has come out with guidelines for undertaking pilot projects for using green hydrogen in the steel sector. The guidelines, named "Scheme Guidelines for implementation of Pilot projects for use of Green Hydrogen in the Steel Sector under the National Green Hydrogen Mission", have been issued by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) on 2nd February, 2024.

About

- Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, along with other initiatives, MNRE will implement pilot projects in the Steel Sector, for replacing fossil fuels and fossil fuel-based feedstock with Green Hydrogen and its derivatives. These pilot projects will be implemented through the Ministry of Steel and the Implementing Agencies nominated under this Scheme.
- The guidelines also note that upcoming steel plants should be capable of operating with green hydrogen, thus ensuring that these plants are able to participate in future global low-carbon steel markets. The scheme will also consider greenfield projects aiming at 100% green steel. The Scheme will be implemented with a total budgetary outlay of Rs. 455 crores till FY 2029-30.

Smile-X

- In January, 3,479 child labourers were rescued from across the State through Operation Smile-X, a month-long operation organised by the Telangana police. The State police carry out

this operation in January every year to trace and rescue missing and trafficked children. The Cyberabad police alone rescued 718 children.

- According to the Cyberabad police, 329 children—301 boys and 28 girls—were from within the State whereas 389 children—360 boys and 29 girls—belonged to other states. While most children were rescued from child labour (640), the police was also able to rescue one child who was reported ‘missing’. This number was seven at state level.

The Constitution Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on February 5, 2024. The Bill amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Odisha.
- Communities added to the list of Scheduled Tribes: The Bill adds following communities to the list of Scheduled Tribes in Odisha: (i) Muka Dora, Mooka Dora, Nuka Dora, Nooka Dora (for districts of Koraput, Nowrangapur, Rayagada, and Malkangiri), and (ii) Konda Reddy, Konda Reddi.
- Certain communities moved from list of Scheduled Castes to Scheduled Tribes: The Bill removes Tamadia and Tamudia communities from the list of Scheduled Castes in Odisha, and instead adds them to the list of Scheduled Tribes.
- Synonyms for certain communities: The Bill also adds synonyms or phonetic variations for certain communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Odisha.

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

- In an attempt to arrest cheating in government recruitment exams, the Parliament on February 9 cleared the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, which aims to prevent use of “unfair means”

in public examinations in order to bring “greater transparency, fairness and credibility”. Recognizing that as on date, there is no substantive law dealing with adoption of unfair means in public examinations and associated offences, the Bill says that it is imperative for “elements that exploit vulnerabilities of examination system” to be identified and “effectively dealt with by a comprehensive Central legislation”.

Offences under the Bill (“Unfair Means” which term include):

- unauthorized access or leakage of question paper or answer key,
- (ii) assisting a candidate during a public examination,
- (iii) tampering with computer network or resources,
- (iv) tampering with documents for shortlisting or finalizing of merit list or rank, and
- (v) conducting fake examination, issuing fake admit cards or offer letters to cheat, for monetary gain.

INSAT-3DS - ISRO

- The satellite was launched atop the GSLV-F14 rocket from Sriharikota. It will observe various atmospheric parameters and provide information related to the weather and the climate, the space agency said.
- INSAT-3DS has improved capabilities over the existing weather forecasting INSAT series satellites INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR, Somanath said. Mission director Tomy Joseph said the GSLV has become a robust vehicle for the space agency, like the PSLV.
- INSAT-3DS is designed for enhanced meteorological observations and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning.
- It is expected to observe movements from earthquakes, landslides and volcanic activity, and track dynamic changes to forests, wetlands and agricultural lands.



SLIM Misson – Japan

- SLIM is a small-scale exploration lander designed for pinpoint landings on the Moon's surface, reduction in the size and weight of equipment used in Moon landings, and investigation into the Moon's origins.
- It will also test technology fundamental to exploration in low-gravity environments, an important requirement for future scientific investigation of the solar system. SLIM is a small-scale exploration lander designed for pinpoint landings on the Moon's surface, reduction in the size and weight of equipment used in Moon landings, and investigation into the Moon's origins.
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- Following are the SLIM mission objectives:
 - Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) endeavors to contribute to future missions to explore the moon and other planets;
 - Demonstration of the accurate lunar landing techniques embodied in a small explorer.
 - Acceleration of the study of the moon and other planets using the lighter exploration system.
 - Future solar science exploration will demand the level of navigation accuracy that JAXA is in the quest for through the SLIM mission.
 - As scientific knowledge builds on the study object, more specific research will be needed. Placing spacecraft with precision facilitates the expertise.
 - Planetary science exploration will additionally call for highly capable equipment for observation. Downsizing the exploration system can reinforce the instruments to be

placed into a locale especially well suited for its mission of landing.

Coltan Deposits in Kenya

- Kenya has confirmed the discovery of its first coltan deposits, a valuable mineral integral to the production of various electronic devices. Coltan, short for columbite-tantalite, is a valuable mineral that is used in various industries.
- Tantalum, derived from coltan, is used in the production of capacitors, which are essential components in electronic devices like smartphones and tablets.
- Coltan is also used in the production of capacitors for computers and electric car batteries. Minister for Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs, Salim Mvurya, stated, "It is now official that Kenya has coltan reserves."

Traffic Index Ranking 2023 - London

- A recent report from a company called TomTom, which specialises in location technology, showed that London had the slowest traffic in 2023. During busy hours, the average speed in London was only 14 kilometres per hour. The report looked at 387 cities in 55 countries, measuring how traffic affected travel time, fuel costs, and carbon emissions using data from over 600 million car navigation systems.
- Two cities in India, Bengaluru and Pune, were among the ten worst for traffic in 2023, according to the TomTom report. Bengaluru was in 6th place, taking an average of 28 minutes and 10 seconds for a 10-kilometre journey, and Pune was in 7th place, taking 27 minutes and 50 seconds.
- Bengaluru, known as the IT capital of India, was also named the second most congested

city in 2023, with Dublin, Ireland being the only city worse.

Visa-free travel for Indians



- Iran joins the list of countries that have allowed visa-free travel for Indians. But unlike other countries, there are four conditions that you need to follow if you plan to travel to Iran.
- Indians holding ordinary passports will be allowed to enter the country without a visa once every six months, with a maximum stay of 15 days. This is applicable only for 15 days, so please don't extend your stay.
- This visa-free travel only applies to individuals entering Iran for tourism purposes.
- If Indian nationals wish to stay longer, make multiple entries within a six-month period, or require other types of visas, they must obtain the necessary visas through the respective representations of the Islamic Republic of Iran in India.
- The visa abolition applies only to Indian nationals who enter the country just through the air border.
- Visa-free entry has already been initiated for Indian citizens starting February 4.
- List of Countries That've Allowed Visa-Free Travel to Indians
- Malaysia: Indian and Chinese nationals can stay in Malaysia for up to 30 days without a visa. The new rule had kicked off from last year in December.
- Thailand: After Malaysia, Thailand has allowed Indian nationals a 30-day visa-free entry starting November 1, which is applicable till May 10, 2024.
- Sri Lanka: India's neighbouring country has

introduced visa-free entry not just for Indians but also for other nationals from China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, and Thailand. It is believed that this will remain so until March 31, 2024.

- Kenya: On 1 January, Kenya took the call to allow visa-free entry to all international travellers.

7th Edition of Indian Ocean Conference

- The 7th Edition of Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) is being held in Perth, Australia.
- About Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)
- IOC started in 2016, serving as the premier consultative forum for countries in the Indian Ocean region on regional affairs.
- The first edition of the Conference was held in Singapore in 2016.
- It is organised by India Foundation in partnership with other organizations in the region.
- It aims to bring together critical states and maritime partners to discuss regional cooperation under the concept of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

SAGAR :

- SAGAR stands for 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' and was initiated by PM Narendra Modi in 2015 at Mauritius.
- It aims to leverage the blue economy and maintain strategic partnerships with littoral states in Asia and Africa.
- It seeks to provide leadership in capacity building and capability enhancement programs transparently, aligning with other maritime initiatives like Act East Policy, Project Mausam, and Blue Economy.

Air Taxis

- Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed an agreement with California-based electric airline Jobi Aviation to launch air taxi services in the city by 2026. The company is aiming for "initial operations" as early as 2025, with the service operational by 2026.



SCHEMES

T.N. increases allocation for meals under ICDS by ₹41 cr:

- The Tamil Nadu government increased the financial allocation for providing hot cooked meals to children in the age group of two to six under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) by ₹41.14 crore annually.
- The additional expenditure of ₹41.14 crore would benefit over 11.50 lakh children, an official release said. With the increase in funds, ₹2.39 will now be allocated per child a day to meet the expenditure towards vegetables, condiments, and fuel.
- Earlier, to meet the expenditure towards vegetables, condiments, and fuel, ₹1.52 per child per day would be spent on three days (Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday) when dal was used and ₹1.81 would be spent for three days (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) when dhal was not used.

Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme



- The State government on Wednesday has allocated ₹100 crore for the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme run by the School Education Department.
- According to government order, the additional funds have been allotted for orientation, learning materials and incentivisation of volunteers for the scheme. However, the scheme will also be scaled down. "Based on the achievements of the scheme, it will be scaled down in the period 2024 -2025," the order stated.

▪ The scheme was introduced in 2021 which is aimed at bridging learning gaps or losses the children would have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tamil Nadu Launches 'Kalaignar Sports Kit' Initiative

- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin recently announced a pioneering scheme aimed at nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level. Named after the late Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the 'Kalaignar Sports Kit' initiative is set to provide sporting kits to 12,000 village panchayats across the state.
- The launch of the Kalaignar Sports Kit scheme coincides with the birth centenary of Kalaignar Karunanidhi, a towering figure in Tamil Nadu politics and culture. The initiative seeks to honor his legacy by promoting sports development among the youth of Tamil Nadu.
- Inauguration Ceremony in Trichy - Distribution of Sports Kits under Artist Sports Kit Scheme was held in Trichy on 7th February.

Sugar subsidy for Antyodya Anna Yojna (AAY):

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved extension of scheme of sugar subsidy for Antyodya Anna Yojna (AAY) families distributed through Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) for two more years i.e. 31 March 2026.
- As another indication of unwavering commitment of Central Government to wellbeing of citizens of the country and ensuring sweetness of platter of the poorest of the poor in the country, the Scheme facilitates access of sugar to the poorest of the poor and adds energy to their diet so that their health improves. Under the Scheme, the Central Government gives subsidy of Rs.18.50 per kg per month of sugar to AAY families of participating States. The approval is expected

to extend benefits of more than Rs.1850 crore during period of 15th Finance Commission (2020-21 to 2025-26). The scheme is expected to benefit about 1.89 crores AAY families of the country.

- With this approval, the Government will continue giving subsidy to participating States for distribution of sugar to AAY families through PDS at the rate of One kg per family per month. States have the responsibility to procure and distribute sugar.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

- The Union Cabinet chaired approved the “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)”, a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada for formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises.
- It will be implemented for 4 (four) years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 across all the States and UTs.

Aims and objectives of PM-MKSSY:

- Gradual Formalization of the unorganized fisheries sector through self registration of fishers, fish farmers and supportive workers under a National Fisheries Sector Digital Platform including creation of work based digital identifies of fish workers for improved service delivery.
- Facilitating access to institutional financing fisheries sector micro and small enterprises.
- Providing one-time incentive to beneficiaries for purchasing aquaculture insurance.
- Incentivizing fisheries and aquaculture microenterprises through performance grants for improving fisheries sector value-chain efficiencies including creation and maintenance of jobs.
- Incentivising micro and small enterprises through performance grants for adoption and expansion of fish and fishery product safety and quality assurance systems including creation and maintenance of jobs.

Tamil Puthalvan scheme



- To make the poor students who studied in government schools into achievers and to increase the higher education enrollment of government school students, the Tamil Puthalvan scheme will be introduced from the coming financial year.
- Through this, students studying from 6th to 12th and enrolling in higher education will get Rs. 1,000 has been announced to be paid into the bank account. Allotment of Rs.360 crore for the new project ‘Tamil Puthalavan’

Mudalamaicharin Thayumanavar

- The Government of Tamil Nadu today announced a scheme called ‘Mudalamaicharin Thayumanavar’ to identify 5 lakh poor families and improve their livelihood.
- Finance Minister Thangam Tennarasu submitted the financial statement for the year 2024-25 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. The budget was presented divided into 7 parts under the title ‘Maperum Tamil Kanavu’. In this, Tamil language and our ancient specialty have been given great importance.
- Similarly, the Tamil Nadu government has announced a new scheme in the financial statement to restore the lives of the poor. Thangam Tennarasu announced the new scheme ‘Mudalamaicharin Thayumanavar’ in the assembly to restore the poor. The scheme will identify the poorest families and rehabilitate them within two years.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS



Tamil Nadu Expands Environmental Protection:

- Ramsar sites in Tamil Nadu is 16 as of now, which is the highest in the country. Tamil Nadu government had submitted proposals for the Longwood Shola Reserve Forest in The Nilgiris and the Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary in Ariyalur. The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ramsar Sites Secretariat accepted them, and both places were designated as Ramsar sites on January 31.

About

- The Longwood Shola covers 116.07 hectares and is among the places deemed Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. It is also home to more than 700 species of flora and fauna. At least 177 bird species have been identified in the Longwood Shola and of these 177 bird species, 14 are endemic to the Western Ghats.
- The Longwood Shola is rich in herpetofauna diversity, with several species endemic to the Western Ghats, and is also considered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be threatened. It is also an integral part of the fragile Nilgiris ecosystem, and is a major source of water for Kotagiri, supplying water to 18 villages downstream.
- The Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary covers 453.7 hectares and is also one of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of Tamil Nadu. The site is home to more than 500 species of flora and fauna. The sanctuary lies in the Central Asian Flyway, and is an important breeding and foraging ground for waterbird.

A report on the status of snow leopards

- The Report on the Status of Snow Leopards in India (SPAII) was recently released in 2019.
- According to this estimate, there are an estimated 718 snow leopards in India.
- The largest number of snow leopards is

estimated to be in Ladakh (477). It is followed by Uttarakhand (124) and Himachal Pradesh (51).

- According to current estimates, the Indian snow leopard population is estimated to be 10% to 15% of the global population.

Ariosoma Kannani and Ariosoma Gracile

- The researchers from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) have identified two new specimens of congrid eels (*Anguilliformes*), namely *Ariosoma Kannani* and *Ariosoma Gracile*, off the coasts of Tamil Nadu (TN) and Kerala, respectively.
- The discovery was published in an international, peer-reviewed life science journal *Zoosystematics and Evolution*.
- Both the new species belongs to genus *Ariosoma*.

About *Ariosoma kannani*:

- *Ariosoma Kannani* is found in landing centre of Rameswaram (TN) & Gulf of Mannar (TN).
- The species is named after late Professor L. Kannan, former director of Marine Biology, Annamalai University (Cuddalore, TN) and former Vice-Chancellor of Thiruvalluvar University (Vellore, TN).

About *Ariosoma Gracile*:

- *Ariosoma Gracile* is found along the coast of Cochin (Kochi), in Ernakulam, Kerala.
- The new species differ from other eels by longer tail, dorsal-fin and, intermaxillary teeth patch.

Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Governor of Tamil Nadu (TN) Ravindra Narayana Ravi, has declared the Reserve forest areas of Anthiyur taluk of Erode district as Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary with effect from 30th January 2024. This becomes the 18th Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) of TN

- The declaration was made in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 26-A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972).



About :

- Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary with an area of about 80,114.80 hectares is located between the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) of TN, the Male Mahadeshwara WLS and the Cauvery WLS of Karnataka.
- The above WLS links Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary to the Nilgiri Biosphere through STR and Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve (Karnataka). The region also connects Nilgiris with Kollegal forests in Karnataka
- The region is also part of the Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats Elephant Reserve (Nilgiri Elephant Reserve). This forest area is one of the tiger corridors approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). WIS also hosts six tribal habitations.

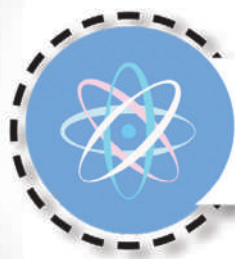
Sphaerotheca varshaabhu:



- According to the researchers, *Sphaerotheca varshaabhu* has adapted to its urban surroundings displaying behaviours and physical attributes that help it navigate challenges posed by urbanization.
- Researchers from various national and international organisations have identified and documented a previously unknown species of frog which has been thriving amidst the urban landscape of Bengaluru.
- The researchers said that this discovery marks a significant milestone in biodiversity research and underscores the resilience of wildlife in unexpected urban ecosystems.

fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) of Odisha Government:

- Gupteshwar forest within the Thondrakol reserve under the Jaipur forest division of Koraput district has been declared as the fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) of Odisha Government.
- Spread over an area of 350 hectares, this place houses the famous Gupteshwar Shiva temple. Apart from its sacred groves traditionally worshiped by the local community, the site is endowed with a wide range of flora and fauna.
- A biodiversity inventory and survey conducted by the Odisha Biodiversity Board shows the presence of notable fauna such as Kangar Crocodile, Kangar Valley Rock Gecko, Sacred Grove Bush Frog and bird species like Black Bassa, Jerdon's Bassa, Malabar Drogon, Common Hill Myna, White-bellied Woodpecker and Banded Bay Cuckoo.
- The Gupteswar limestone caves are home to eight bat species out of the total 16 bat species found in southern Odisha. Among them, two species, *Hipposideros galaritus* and *Rhinolopus rouxi*, are listed as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



SCIENCE AND TECH



7th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha

- The 7th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha held on 29 January 2024. Hon'ble Prime Minister interacted with students, teachers and parents in this exciting edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- The PM's interaction with school students from classes 9 upwards will be available through Live Web streaming on websites of Prime Minister's Office (PMO), MoE, Doordarshan, MyGov.in and YouTube channel of MoE, Facebook Live and Swayamprabha channels of MoE.

INSAT-3DS satellite

- INSAT-3DS, is an exclusive meteorological satellite realized by ISRO with the primary objective to provide continuity of services to the existing in-orbit INSAT-3D and 3DR satellites and significantly enhancing the capabilities of INSAT system is flagged off to SDSC-SHAR launch port on January 25, 2024 for the launch onboard GSLV F14.
- The Satellite had successfully completed Satellite Assembly, Integration & Testing activities at U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru. Pre-Shipment Review (PSR) was held with the participation of members from user community on January 25, 2024.
- The satellite is a user funded project with Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), configured around ISRO's well proven I-2k bus platform with a Lift-Off Mass of 2275 kg. Indian Industries have significantly contributed in the making of the Satellite.

Green Propulsion System

- An indigenously-developed 'Green Propulsion System' developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated 'in-orbit' functionality on a payload launched by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-58 mission.

About

- This project, a 1N Class Green Monopropellant Thruster aimed at altitude control and orbit maintenance of microsattellites, was sanctioned to a Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based start-up Bellatrix Aerospace Pvt Ltd.
- Green Propulsion System is performed under the RUDRA 0.3 HPGP Payload.
- ISRO launched XPoSats (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) onboard PSLV-C58 on 1st January 2024, the mission also includes the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) aiming to accommodate and execute 10 payloads, RUDRA 0.3 HPGP is one among them.

Super-Earth - NASA

- NASA has made a significant discovery of a 'super-Earth' planet named TOI-715b, located 137 light-years away in the habitable zone, suggesting it could be a potential candidate for hosting life.
- The exoplanet is 1.5 times larger than Earth and orbits a small, reddish star that emits temperatures suitable for liquid water to exist on the surface — a crucial component for supporting life.
- Scientists, led by the University of Birmingham, utilized Earth-based telescopes in conjunction with NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), which launched six years ago.

About:

- The super-Earth has a tighter orbit than Earth, completing one orbit every 19 days, and always presents the same side to its star.
- This unique orbital position may result in extreme temperature differences between day and night sides, influencing the exoplanet's climate and weather patterns.
- The same stellar system might also host a second, Earth-sized planet, making it the smallest habitable zone planet discovered by TESS if confirmed.



SPORTS NEWS



Khelo India Youth Games 2023

- The 6th edition of Khelo India Youth Games was concluded at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.
- Maharashtra topped the medal tally with 57 gold, 48 silver and 53 bronze medals and retained the Gallo India Youth Games title. This is their fourth KIYG title. Host Tamil Nadu finished second with 38 gold, 21 silver and 39 bronze.
- Haryana, which has won two KIYG titles, finished third with 35 gold, 22 silver and 46 bronze medals. Telangana swimmer Vrithi Aggarwal bagged 5 individual gold medals and topped the rankings.
- Squash KIYG debuts this year, with Silambam, a form of indigenous martial arts, featured as a demonstration sport.

Tennis star Rohan Bopanna



- The world no.1 ranked men's doubles tennis star Rohan Bopanna historic Australian Open title win.
- Bopanna, who made his 17th Australian Open appearance in this edition, comfortably wrapped up his maiden Grand Slam men's doubles title victory. Aged 43 years 329 days, he also became the oldest Grand Slam champion.

- The Indian tennis player is also the third Indian man in the Open Era to win a major men's doubles title, following Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi.
- This was Bopanna's second Grand Slam triumph, his first in men's doubles. His previous Grand Slam victory came in mixed doubles with Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada at the 2017 French Open.

Historic Gold medal - Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024

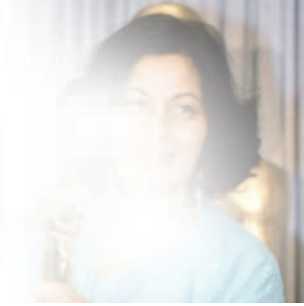
- India women recorded a historic Gold medal with a thrilling win over Thailand in the final of the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024 in Malaysia on Sunday, February 18. Youngster Anmol Kharb once again rose to the occasion with a clutch win in the singles that sealed India's 3-2 win over three-time champions.
- Ace shuttler PV Sindhu won her singles match with a dominant performance against Supanida Katethong to give India a lead. Youngsters Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand then extended India's lead to 2-0 with a thrilling 21-16, 18-21, 21-16 win over Thailand pair Jongkolphan-Rawinda in the doubles event in the second match.

Ravichandran Ashwin - 500 Test wickets

- R Ashwin has become the ninth man, and only the second Indian, to reach the landmark of 500 Test wickets. The 37-year-old offspinner got there on the second day in Rajkot, dismissing England's Zak Crawley in the final session. He is also the second-fastest bowler to achieve the feat, getting there in his 98th Test.



AWARDS



Three Indian Scientists To Be Honored With Prestigious UK Prize In London

- The prestigious Blavatnik Awards will recognize the exceptional contributions of Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, Tanmay Bharat, and other early career scientists at a black-tie gala in London on February 27.
- These awards, totaling 480,000 pounds in grants, underscore the importance of recognition and research funding in propelling scientific breakthroughs.



- Rahul R Nair, has been honored as the Laureate in Physical Sciences & Engineering for his pioneering work in developing innovative membranes using two-dimensional (2D) materials.
- Professor Mehul Malik work harnesses high-dimensional entanglement to create robust quantum networks, promising secure transmission of data over long distances.
- Dr. Tanmay Bharat, a structural microbiologist at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, utilizes cryo-electron tomography to uncover atomic-level details of cell surface molecules.

Bharat Ratna - Lal Krishna Advani

- The announcement of Bharat Ratna, the

country's highest civilian award for Lal Krishna Advani.

- Lal Krishna Advani is an Indian politician who served as the 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004. He is one of the co-founders of Bharatiya Janata Party and a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a right-wing Hindu nationalist volunteer.
- The union government announced India's highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, to former Prime Ministers Narasimha Rao along with Chaudhary Charan Singh, and agricultural scientist and father of India's Green Revolution, MS Swaminathan. (posthumous)
- **Rao's** tenure as Prime Minister was marked by significant measures that opened India to global markets, fostering a new era of economic development. Furthermore, his contributions to India's foreign policy, language and education sectors underscore his multifaceted legacy as a leader who not only steered India through critical transformations but also enriched its cultural and intellectual heritage".
- **Chaudhary Charan Singh** had dedicated his entire life to the rights and welfare of farmers. Be it the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh or the home minister of the country and even as an MLA, he always gave impetus to nation building. He also stood firm against the Emergency. His dedication to our farmer brothers and sisters and his commitment to democracy during the Emergency is inspiring to the entire nation,"
- **Dr.M.S.Swaminathan** played a pivotal role in helping India achieve self-reliance in agriculture during challenging times and made outstanding efforts towards modernizing Indian agriculture. His invaluable work as an innovator and mentor and encouraging learning and research among several students.
- "Dr. Swaminathan's visionary leadership has

not only transformed Indian agriculture but also ensured the nation's food security and prosperity.

Benefits of Bharat Ratna

- Bharat Ratna recipients are considered state guests while traveling anywhere in India.
- Awardees are awarded a VIP lounge at the airport, a separate immigration counter. Moreover, they are provided with all support during their foreign visits.
- On Air India, they can enjoy a free lifetime of first-class flight travel.
- Recipients can be given Z category protection whenever required.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs publishes the Table of Precedence where Bharat Ratna winners are placed at the 7A position.
- Bharat Ratna winners get a pension of 50 per cent of the Prime Minister of India's salary.
- As mentioned before as well, all the recipients of the Bharat Ratna award get a certificate called Sanad and a peepal leaf-shaped medallion. The certificate is signed by the President of India.

Grammy award

- The album 'This Moment' by the band 'Shakti' has won a Grammy award for the 'best global music album' category for 'This Album' at the Los Angeles event.
- The band comprises renowned musicians such as Shankar Mahadevan as the vocalist, tabla

player Ustad Zakir Hussain, guitarist John McLaughlin and violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan.

Gyan peeth Award 2023 – Gulzar:

- Renowned Urdu poet-lyricist-filmmaker Gulzar has been awarded the Gyan peeth Award, India's highest literary award given annually by the Bharatiya Gyanpeeth to a writer for 'outstanding contribution to literature'.
- 89-year-old Samburan Singh Kalra, popularly known as Gulzar, is celebrated for his works in Hindi cinema and is considered one of the greatest Urdu poets of this era.
- Ramabhadracharya, 74, founder and president of Tulsi Peedham in Chitrakuda, is a renowned Hindu spiritual leader, educator and author of more than 240 books and texts, including four epics.
- In a statement issued by the Gyan Peeth Examination Committee, it has been decided to give the award (for the year 2023) to famous writers of two languages namely Sanskrit writer Jagadguru Ramabhadracharya and famous Urdu writer Sri Gulsar.
- Gulzar received the Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu in 2002, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013, the Padma Bhushan in 2004 and at least five National Film Awards for his work.
- His best works include the song "Jai Ho" for the film "Slumdog Millionaire" which won him an Oscar in 2009 and a Grammy in 2010, and songs for critically acclaimed films like "Machis" (1996), "Omkaara".



IMPORTANT DAYS



DATE	DAY	THEME AND OBJECTIVES
February - 2	World Wetlands Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is celebrated to raise awareness among all sections of the society about values and functions of wetlands, utilization of their resources and their environmental importance. Each year, a global theme is adopted to focus attention and help raise public awareness about the value of wetlands. The theme of WWD-2024 is 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing' which underscores the critical role wetlands play in enhancing our lives. It highlights how wetlands contribute to flood protection, clean water, biodiversity and recreational opportunities, all of which are essential for human health and prosperity.
February - 4	World Cancer Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Cancer Day is an international day marked on 4 February to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. World Cancer Day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration, written in 2008. This year, the theme for the annual global anniversary of World Cancer Day, which is marked every 4th of February, is: "Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access to Cancer Care."
February - 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place on February 6 as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003. 2024 Theme: Her Voice. Every survivor's voice is a call to action, and every choice they make in reclaiming their lives contributes to the global movement to end this harmful practice.

February - 6	Safer Internet Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an effort to foster a safer and more positive online environment, Safer Internet Day is observed on February 6. This annual event is a global initiative to raise awareness about the importance of a secure Internet experience for individuals of all ages, with a particular focus. • The theme for Safer Internet Day 2024 is 'Together for a Better Internet', which revolves around promoting a secure online environment for all users, with a special focus on safeguarding children and young people
February - 10	National Deworming Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Deworming Day is observed in all states and union territories on February 10 every year, with a mop-up day on February 15. Some states also conduct a bi-annual round on August 10, depending on the worm prevalence in their state. • However, based on previous themes and the ongoing focus of the program, some potential themes for NDD 2024 could be: "Eliminate STH: Invest in a healthier future for children." "Together, we can deworm our future." "STH-free children: A healthy and productive workforce for India.
February - 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is an annual observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to promote the full and equal access and participation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields. • Bringing Communities Forward for Sustainable and Equitable Development." This theme emphasizes the crucial role that women and girls in science play in driving innovation, demonstrating solutions, elevating their voices, and advancing sustainable and equitable development for communities worldwide.
February - 13	World Radio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Radio Day (French: Le jour mondial de la radio) is an international day celebrated on the 13th of February each year. The day was decided by UNESCO on November 3, 2011 during its 36th conference. • The theme for this year is "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating." This theme perfectly highlights the remarkable history of radio, its relevant present, and the promising future to cater to the world with information, entertainment and educational content.

February - 13	National Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Women's Day is annually celebrated on the 13th of February in India. It is a national observance dedicated to honouring the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, a remarkable revolutionary activist, poet, and politician who played a significant role in India's struggle for independence. The theme for International Women's Day 2024 is 'Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress'.
February - 20	World Day of Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on February 20 with the objective to raise a voice against social injustice. Today, poverty and inequalities within and among countries are on the rise. It will likely focus on getting people to talk about and work together on issues like inequalities from conflicts and the rights of workers.
February - 21	International Mother Language Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1999, a special day to promote mother languages was created: International Mother Language Day. The day was also intended to raise awareness of just how many languages we have on this planet (around 6,500) and to protect them. UNESCO's celebration of International Mother Language Day 2024 will highlight the importance of implementing multilingual education policies and practices as a pillar to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 which calls for inclusive, quality education and lifelong learning for all as well as to the objectives of the International Decade on Indigenous Languages
February - 23	World Peace and Understanding Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Peace and Understanding Day takes place on February 23 every year. This day is actually a commemoration of the first meeting of Rotary that was held. This meeting of businessmen, which aimed to be a space where their backgrounds didn't matter, started the chain of events that led to the formation of Rotary International. An international organization dedicated to humanitarian service as well as peace and goodwill throughout the world, Rotary International began in Chicago, U.S. The date of the first meeting has since become World Understanding and Peace Day, which is part of the World Understanding Month celebrations in February.

February - 24	Central Excise Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Excise Day is dedicated to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act which was established on 24th February 1944. On this day, CBIC officers are being admired for their sincere duties. Central Excise Day is celebrated annually to aware people about the hard work and commitment of CBIC.
February - 27	World NGO Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The idea behind celebrating World NGO Day is to make people aware of the importance of NGOs and their role in global development. This day also aims to raise awareness about NGOs' work at local levels on poverty, inequality, and education. The theme for World NGO Day 2024 is “Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.
February - 28	National Science Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman effect' by Sir CV. The Government of India designated 28th February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.

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Vijayaraghavan Committee

- In an abrupt move, the Government of India set up a nine-member committee late last month to revamp the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), primary governmental agency dedicated to defence R&D.
- Considering that just in March this year, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence had appreciated the 'large number of steps' taken by DRDO to make 'rapid progress' in R&D activities by involving the private sector.
- Headed by Prof Vijay Raghavan, a former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, the committee has been tasked to redefine the role of the Department of Defence (R&D) and the DRDO. While the former is a department of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the latter is technically an organisation functioning under its administrative control.
- The committee is expected to recommend steps to maximise participation of the academia, start-ups, MSMEs in developing cutting-edge technologies; attract and retain scientists through a system of rigorous performance assessment, incentives and disincentives; rationalise the laboratory structures; and modernise administrative and financial systems to ensure speedier execution of projects.

INS Sandhayak: A New Chapter In India's Naval Mapping And Surveillance

- On February 3, Visakhapatnam's Naval Dockyard will witness a momentous occasion as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presides over the commissioning ceremony of INS Sandhayak.
- Built by the GRSE in Kolkata, the 110-meter-long INS Sandhayak displaces about 3,800

tonnes and boasts an impressive 80 percent indigenous content.

- The ship is propelled by two robust diesel engines, ensuring she can reach speeds over 18 Knots. With an endurance of over 25 days, INS Sandhayak is well-equipped for extended missions.

Exercise Vayu Shakti-24

- The Indian Air Force will be conducting Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on 17 February 2024 at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range, near Jaisalmer. The last edition of exercise Vayu Shakti was held on 16 February 2019. As always, Ex Vayu Shakti will be a riveting demonstration of the offensive and defensive capabilities of the IAF, spanning across day and night. The exercise will also showcase joint operations with the Indian Army.

About

- This year, the exercise will see participation by 121 aircraft, including the indigenous Tejas, Prachand and Dhruv.
- Other participating aircraft would include the Rafale, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Jaguar, Hawk, C-130J, Chinook, Apache and Mi-17.
- Indigenous Surface to Air Weapon systems Akash and Samar will demonstrate their capability to track and shoot down an intruding aircraft.
- Exercise Vayu Shakti will be a demonstration of the IAF's capability to deliver weapons with long range, precision capability as well as conventional weapon accurately, on time and with devastating effect, while operating from multiple air bases.
- Special operations by the IAF transport and helicopter fleets, involving the Garuds and Indian Army elements will also be on display.

The inaugural joint military exercise, Sada Tanseeq:

- Marks a significant bilateral event facilitated by the defense ministries of India and Saudi Arabia. It enhances regional security, defense cooperation, and diplomatic relations by sharpening military capabilities and highlighting strategic alignment.



About

- Sada Tanseeq aims to improve interoperability between the armed forces, crucial in modern warfare. Through tactical drills and exchanges of best practices, troops gain valuable experience, fostering continuous improvement.
- Scheduled till February 10, the exercise involves various activities designed to enhance tactical proficiency.
- Beyond military dimensions, Sada Tanseeq signifies solidarity and partnership, reinforcing both nations' commitment to regional stability and counter-terrorism efforts. It reflects India's deepening engagement with Saudi Arabia.

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Interim Budget 2024-2025 Speech by Nirmala Sitharaman

- On February 01, 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Interim Budget for 2024. This budget, known as a vote-on-account, serves as a provisional measure to address crucial government expenses until the establishment of a new government following the Lok Sabha elections.
- Transformation of Indian Economy: Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, our government has overcome significant challenges and implemented structural reforms and pro-people programs with the slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.
- Capital expenditure for next year is projected to increase by 11.1 per cent to Rs 11,11,111 crore, which will be 3.4 per cent of GDP.
- India's real GDP is projected at 7.3 per cent, according to the first advance estimates of national income for the financial year 2023-24, accompanied by the finance minister's speech. This is in line with the RBI (in its December 2023 Fiscal Policy Committee meeting) raising its growth forecast for FY2023-24 from 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent, driven by strong growth in Q2 of FY2023-24.
- Despite global economic challenges, the Indian economy has demonstrated resilience and maintained healthy macro-economic fundamentals. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook (WEO), October 2023 revised India's growth forecast for the financial year 2023-24 to 6.3 per cent from 6.1 per cent projected in July 2023.
- According to the IMF, India will become the third largest economy (in USD at market exchange rate) by 2027 and India's contribution to global growth will rise by 200 basis points in 5 years. Also, various international agencies like the World Bank, IMF, OECD and ADB project India to grow by 6.4 per cent, 6.3 per cent, 6.1 per cent and 6.7 per cent in 2024-25 respectively.
- GST collection in December 2023 was ₹1.65 lakh crore. This is the seventh time that total GST revenue has crossed ₹1.6 lakh crore.
- In a major announcement, the finance minister said the fifty-year interest-free loan scheme for capital expenditure for states will continue this year too with a total of Rs 1.3 lakh crore. An interest-free loan of Rs 75,000 crore over fifty years has been proposed this year to support Vixit Bharat milestone-linked reforms of state governments.
- It is estimated to be 5.1 percent of GDP by 2024-25, following that trajectory.
- Similarly, gross and net market borrowings through bonds dated in 2024-25 will be Rs. 14.13 and 11.75 lakh crore, and both will be lower than that in 2023-24.
- He announced that 2014-23 would mark a golden era of FDI inflows of USD 596 billion, more than double that of 2005-14.
- Smt Nirmala Sitharaman said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi strongly believes in and focuses on four major castes. They are 'Gareeb' (poor), 'Makhizhen' (women), 'Yuwa' (young man) and 'Annadada' (farmer). Their needs, their aspirations and their welfare are the highest priority of the government because when they progress, the country will progress.
- Development programs, in the last ten years, have targeted every family and individual, achieving 'Housing for All', 'Harkarjal', Electricity for All, Cooking Gas for All, Bank Accounts for All and Financial Services in record time.



12 forts of Marathas for UNESCO World Heritage List:

- India has nominated the “Maratha Military Landscapes”, a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- The 12 components of this nomination are the forts of Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnaburg, Panhala, Vijaydurg and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

Digital Detox - Karnataka government

- The Karnataka government said it would launch a ‘Digital Detox’ initiative in collaboration with the All India Game Developers Forum (AIGDF), with special emphasis on gaming and social media.
- The aim is to spread awareness about the ills of spending too much time in the digital world and instead create an environment of responsible gaming, Minister for IT&BT Priyank Kharge said.
- Speaking at the valedictory function of GAFX 2024, he said, “The Digital Detox initiative is yet another step towards fulfilling this government’s commitment of building a digitally empowered Karnataka through responsible use of technology.”

Candida auris infections :

- Although healthy individuals seldom contract the infection, severe Candida auris infections in the United States have a 30% to 60% fatality rate. Individuals can contract Candida auris by

coming into close contact with a carrier of the fungus or by touching surfaces or objects that have been contaminated with it. The fungus can survive on surfaces for at least two weeks, according to studies.

- First discovered in Japan in 2009, Candida auris is a type of yeast that can cause severe illness and spreads easily in unhealth care facilities.
- Cases proliferated during the Covid-19 pandemic. Widespread infections in the US led the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to label it an “urgent threat.”
- More recently, scientists in China called for closer monitoring of the potentially fatal fungus after a study showed found that almost all of the cases recorded there in 2023 exhibited resistance to drugs.

Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024,

- In a significant development, the Parliament today (February 9) cleared the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which aims to provide reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the local bodies of the Union Territory (panchayats and municipalities) as well as to bring local bodies’ laws in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution. As per stipulations, the number of seats to be reserved for OBCs will be decided by a Commission to be constituted as and when the Bill is enacted as a law.

Corruption perceptions index for 2023

- India ranked 93 out of 180 countries on the corruption perceptions index for 2023 as its

overall score remained largely unchanged, according to a Transparency International report.

- The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- The overall score for India in 2023 was 39, a slight decrease from 40 in 2022. In 2022, India was ranked 85.

Robotic Elephant

- Kerala temple introduces 'robot' elephant built at a cost of Rs 5 lakh for ritual duties. 'Nadayiruthal' or ritualistic offering of a robotic elephant was performed at the Irinjadapilli Sree Krishna Temple at Kallettumkara. This lifelike mechanical elephant has been named 'Irinjadapilli Raman'.

SWATI portal

- In recognition of the wide-ranging contributions of Women in Science (WiS), Dr. Renu Swarup (then Secretary of DBT) announced an online portal dedicated to all Women Scientists funded by Department of Biotechnology.
- Development of the portal was assigned to the NIPGR HRD Cell and it was termed "SWATI" portal (Science for Women: A Technology and Innovation Portal). The SWATI portal is intended to serve as a Gateway to view the Expertise and Contributions of Indian Women in Science, specially to mark the 75th year of Indian Independence, in celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- In 2022, the SWATI portal was adopted for expansion by the IAP (Inter Academy panel) of the Indian science academies to cover all Indian women in STEM.

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2023 FEBRUARY MONTH QUESTIONS

- Which state was the first to introduce the new facility of informing the people of government schemes through video recording?**
 - Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Puducherry
 - Telangana
- Which of the following scheme aims at speedy redressal of public grievances?**
 - Makkaludan Mudhalvar Scheme
 - Makkalai Thedi Mayor Scheme
 - Ungalai Thedi Ungal Ooril Scheme
 - Makkalai Thedi Aaivaga Scheme
- What is the slogan of Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam?**
 - Ulluva Thellam Uyarvullal
 - Theetum Nandrum Pirar Thara Vara
 - Ennam Pol Vazhkkai
 - Pirapokkum Ellam Uyirkkum
- In which district was the first Makkalai Thedi Aaivaga Scheme launched?**
 - Chennai
 - Madurai
 - Kanyakumari
 - None of the above
- Consider the following statements about Digital Courts 2.0**
 - Launched under the e-Courts scheme aimed at creating court records in electronic format for judges.
 - It is available in all Indian official languages.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

 - Only 1 is correct
 - Only 2 is correct
 - Both statements are correct
 - Both statements are wrong
- Who was the first woman Subedar of Indian Army?**
 - Ruchi Sharma
 - Havildar Preethi Rajak
 - Alka Khurana Sharm
 - Priya Jingan
- Which Ministry has issued guidelines for undertaking pilot projects for the use of green hydrogen in the steel industry?**
 - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
 - Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
 - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Smile-X is associated with which of the following?**
 - Tracing missing and abducted children
 - Monitoring of migrant workers
 - Ensuring the safety of women and girls
 - None of the above
- Which of the following article in the Constitution of India refers to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?**
 - Article 155
 - Article 341
 - Article 224
 - Article 300
- Parliament passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill on _____.**
 - 9 February 2024
 - 7 February 2024
 - 8 February 2024
 - 4 February 2024
- SLIM - is**
 - A satellite that observes the Sun
 - A small-scale exploratory lander designed to land on the Moon
 - A small space exploration center
 - Sending Man to Mars

12. Which country has recently confirmed its first discovery of gold reserves?
- Japan
 - India
 - Kenya
 - Uzbekistan
13. Which is called the IT capital of India?
- Pune
 - Bangalore
 - Mumbai
 - Jharkhand
14. Among the following countries that have allowed visa-free travel for Indians, select the one that does not apply
- Malaysia
 - Thailand
 - Iran
 - America
15. Where is the 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) being held?
- Singapore
 - Australia
 - Poland
 - Japan
16. SAGAR was started in which year?
- 2024
 - 2018
 - 2015
 - 2022
17. Choose the incorrect statement from the following
- Tamil Nadu increased food allocation under ICDS by ₹41 crore.
 - It is a scheme to provide hot cooked meals to children aged two to six years.
 - An allocation of ₹ 4.39 per child per day will be made to meet the expenditure on vegetables, spices and fuel.
- 1 only
 - 2, 3 only
 - 3 only
 - All of the above
18. How much is the budget allocated by the state government for the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme?
- 70 crores
 - 100 crores
 - 150 crores
 - 40 crores
19. The 'Kaalinar Sports Kit' scheme provides sports equipment to _____ Gram Panchayats across the state.
- 500
 - 1000
 - 12000
 - 1200
20. Choose the correct statement from the following.
- Central Government Antyodhya Anna Yojana (AAY) sugar subsidy scheme has been extended for another 4 years.
 - The scheme facilitates access of sugar to the poor and adds energy to their diet.
 - Government continues to subsidize participating states to supply sugar at the rate of one kg per family per month.
 - About 1.89 crore AAY families of the country are expected to benefit through this scheme.
- 1,4 only
 - 2, 3,4 only
 - 4 only
 - All of the above
21. What is the scheme of the Central Government to regularize the fisheries sector and support small and micro-scale fishing industries?
- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
 - Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
22. Which state in India has the most Ramsar sites?
- Uttar Pradesh
 - Odisha
 - Rajasthan
 - Tamilnadu

23. According to current estimates, the Indian snow leopard population is what percentage of the world population?
- 4% - 8%
 - 10% - 15%
 - 22% - 42%
 - 2% - 3%
24. Which is the 18th Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) of Tamil Nadu?
- Chitrangudi Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Sujjalkuttai Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary
25. Sphaerotheca warshabu belongs to which species?
- Eel
 - Fish
 - frog
 - plant
26. Odisha's fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site is located in which district?
- Balasore
 - Koraput
 - Kendujhar
 - Jagatsinghpur
27. Which committee was constituted by the Government of India to restructure the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)?
- Vijayaraghavan Committee
 - Rangarajan Committee
 - Dave Committee
 - Shivaraman Committee
28. INS Sandhayak, is what kind of vessel?
- Survey vessel ship
 - Frigate
 - Naval Destroyer
 - Aircraft Carrier
29. Who was the first tribal woman judge of Tamil Nadu?
- Srimathi
 - Sridevi
 - Sripathi
 - Srinithi
30. "Sada Tanseeq" was the inaugural joint military exercise between India and _____.
- Saudi Arabia
 - Iran
 - Sri Lanka
 - Malaysia
31. Who designed INSAT-3DS satellite?
- ISRO
 - NASA
 - JAXA
 - CNSA
32. A 'super-Earth' planet NASA has named TOI-715b lies _____ light-years away in the habitable zone.
- 120 light years
 - 145 light years
 - 137 light years
 - 150 light years
33. Where will the 'Exercise Vayu Shakti 24' be held ?
- Jodhpur
 - Pokhran
 - Balasore
 - Ajmer
34. Choose the correct statement from the following about the Khelo India Youth Games 2023
- The 6th Khelo India Youth Games concluded at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.
 - Tamil Nadu, which hosted the tournament, bagged the first position with 38 gold, 21 silver and 39 bronze.
 - This year at KIYG, Squash and Chimpanzee debuted as a form of domestic martial arts.
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - 1,3 only
 - 1,2 only
35. Who developed innovative membranes using two-dimensional (2D) materials?
- Rahul R Nair
 - Professor Mehul Malik
 - Dr. Tanmay Bharath
 - None of the above

36. Who among the following is not related to the recipient of Bharat Ratna, the country's highest award?
- Narasimha Rao
 - Chowdhury Charan Singh
 - MS Swaminathan
 - John McLaughlin
37. Who won Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu language in 2002?
- Sadiqua Nawab Saher
 - Gulzar
 - Anis Ashfaq
 - Chander Bhan Khayal
38. Which country will win Badminton Asian Team Championship 2024?
- India
 - Thailand
 - China
 - Sri Lanka
39. Objective of the Tamil Puthalvan Scheme
- Students studying in government schools from class 10th to 12th get Rs. 1,000 payment into bank account.
 - Students studying from 6th to 12th and enrolling in higher education will get a monthly allowance of Rs. 1,000 payment into bank account.
 - Students studying higher education in government colleges will get Rs. 1,000 payment into bank account.
 - Monthly for hostel students Rs. 1,000 payment into bank account.
 -
40. What is the new scheme launched by the Tamil Nadu government to restore the lives of the poor People?
- Maperum Tamil Kanavu Scheme
 - Mudalamaicharin Thayumanavar Scheme
 - Innuyir kappom scheme
 - Makkaludan Muthalvar
41. When is World Wetlands Day celebrated?
- February 01
 - February 05
 - February 02
 - February 10
42. National Women's Day is celebrated in the memory of whom?
- Jhansi Rani
 - Sarojini Naidu
 - Annie Besant
 - Velu Nachiar
43. A special day to promote mother tongues was created in which year?
- 1998
 - 1997
 - 1999
 - 2000
44. Government of India declared _____ year _____ as National Science Day (NSD).
- 23, 1968
 - 28, 1989
 - 28, 1986
 - 24, 1998
45. When was World Cancer Day started?
- 2008
 - 2005
 - 2001
 - 2010
46. Which state is going to start a program called Digital Detox?
- Telangana
 - Karnataka
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Puducherry
47. India ranks _____ in the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index.
- 85
 - 69
 - 80
 - 93
48. Which state has introduced a robotic elephant for temple rituals?
- Punjab
 - Kerala
 - Andhra
 - Uttar Pradesh

49. The _____ portal serves as a gateway to view the expertise and contributions of Indian women in science.

- a) Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram(RKSK)
- b) Mission Indradhanush (MI)
- c) Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)
- d) Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

50. Where was *Candida aureus* infection first diagnosed?

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) America
- d) Australia

Answers:

1.	B	11.	B	21.	C	31.	A	41.	C
2.	C	12.	C	22.	D	32.	C	42.	B
3.	D	13.	B	23.	B	33.	B	43.	C
4.	C	14.	D	24.	D	34.	C	44.	C
5.	A	15.	B	25.	C	35.	A	45.	A
6.	B	16.	C	26.	B	36.	D	46.	B
7.	C	17.	C	27.	A	37.	B	47.	D
8.	A	18.	B	28.	A	38.	A	48.	B
9.	B	19.	C	29.	tC	39.	B	49.	C
10.	A	20.	B	30.	A	40.	B	50.	A