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Monthly Current Affairs for Competitive Exams | DECEMBER- 2024 (English / Tamil)

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN Announces Retirement

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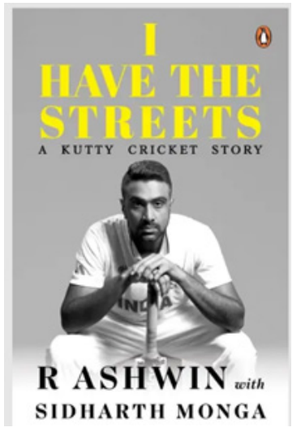
RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN



2011: Ashwin made his Test debut against West Indies and became the seventh Indian bowler to take a five-wicket haul on debut.

Record vs Australia: Took 29 wickets in a four-match Test series—the most by any Indian bowler in such a series.

16–2015 Season: Took 48 wickets and scored 336 runs in eight Test matches, along with 27 wickets in 19 T20Is.

2016 Awards: Won ICC Cricketer of the Year and ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year.

ICC Test Team Honors: Named five times in the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year and included in the ICC Men's Test Team of the Decade (20–2011).

2015: Awarded the Arjuna Award by the Government of India.

18 December 2024: Announced retirement from all forms of international cricket.

Achievements (as per ICC Cricket records)

Test Cricket Records

Fastest Indian to 300 Test Wickets – Achieved in just 54 matches, surpassing legends like Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

Fastest to 350 & 300 ,250 Test Wickets (Among Indian Bowlers) – One of the quickest to these milestones.

Second-Highest Wicket-Taker for India in Tests – Surpassed 490 wickets, trailing only Anil Kumble.

Most Wickets in a Four-Test Series for India – Took 28 wickets in the 16-2015 series vs South Africa.

Five Test Centuries as a Bowler – Among the few bowlers with +5 centuries in Test cricket.

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25th anniversary of Thiruvalluvar statue

- The silver jubilee celebrations of the Thiruvalluvar statue at Kanyakumari Triveni Sangamam are being held on the 31st December and 1st of January.
- CM declared this statue in Kanyakumari will be known as 'Statue of Wisdom'.
- It was dedicated to the people on January 1, 2000 by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M. Karunanidhi.
- The total height of the statue and the pedestal combined is 133 feet (41 metres).
- It denotes the 133 chapters of the Thirukkural.
- The sculpture of Thiruvalluvar is 95 feet (29 metres) and it stands on a 38 feet (12 metres) pedestal.
- The pedestal represents the 38 chapters of virtue, the first of three books of the Kural text.
- The second and third books – wealth and love respectively – are represented by the statue itself. 77
- TN Chief Minister also inaugurated the Glass bridge connecting Vivekananda Rock and Thiruvalluvar statue during the event.
- It is India's first glass bridge on sea.

Pilot project of LPG Kits – Tamilnadu

- The Fishing boats with marine outboard motors (OBM) using kerosene will soon become environment-friendly.
- They will get liquefied petroleum gas-powered outboard engines to replace their kerosene-driven ones.
- 150 such boats in Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari districts will get LPG kits.
- Tamil Nadu is the first State to introduce such a pilot project to do away with the polluting kerosene as fuel.
- CO emission in kerosene engines was 1.2%, whereas in LPG ones, it was only 0.32%.

GCC Next Summit 2024

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

Snakebite data in Tamil Nadu

- Snakebite is the "poor man's disease" disproportionately affecting the country's most vulnerable populations.
- Common krait, Indian cobra, Russell's viper, and saw-scaled viper are collectively known as the "big four."
- These snakes are responsible for approximately 90% of snakebite cases in India.
- Under the new regulation, all hospitals — public and private — are now required to report snakebite cases to the State health authorities.
- Till June this year, 7,300 snakebite cases were reported in Tamil Nadu and 13 people have died.
- The number was 19,795 cases with 43 deaths last year and 15,120 cases with 17 deaths in 2022.

- A study based on the Million Death Study (2001–2014) estimated that nearly 58,000 people die from snakebites each year — much higher than official figures reported by hospitals.
- Karnataka became the first State to declare snakebites a notifiable disease earlier this year
- Tamil Nadu also declared snakebite envenoming a notifiable disease under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act of 1939.
- The Indian government introduced the National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAPSE).
- Already WHO has launched a global strategy to control snakebite-induced deaths and disabilities.
- The national action plan aims to halve snakebite deaths by 2030 through a One Health approach.

Arittapatti tungsten mining

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

Supreme Court judgment on religious conversion

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

Thirumangai Alwar idol

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

HIV/AIDS prevalence – Tamilnadu

- The prevalence of HIV in Tamil Nadu is dropping to 0.16% in 2023-2024.
- The State had brought down the HIV prevalence from 1.18% in 1997 to 0.16% during 2023-2024.
- It is lower than the national average of 0.23%.
- As of October 2024, 73 Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centres offered continuum care, support and treatment to 1,32,590 Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) across the State.

Conservation of the Maratha Durbar Hall

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

TN Endangered Species Conservation Fund

- The TN State government has issued an order to establish the Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund with an initial corpus of ₹50 crore.
- It is aiming to protect the endangered and critically endangered species.
- The fund will begin with a contribution of ₹5 crore by the government.
- Additional funds are to be raised through government entities, corporate social responsibility contributions, and national and international donations.
- Additionally, the fund will explore the cultural preservation through the State's Sacred Groves.
- It is leveraging the Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949, and the Tamil Nadu Hill Preservation Act, 1955, to strengthen conservation efforts.
- The fund will be initially overseen by the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Foundation.
- Later, the corpus will be held in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation or the Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation until any further arrangements are made.

High Court on Manjolai

- The Madras High Court dismissed petitions filed against the voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) offered by Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Limited (BBTCL) to the Manjolai tea estate workers in Tirunelveli district.
- It has also directed the Tamil Nadu government to extend all the relief measures which it had agreed to offer to the workers who had suffered job loss.
- The BBTCL had decided to wind up its operations at Manjolai, Kakkaachi, Nalumukku, Oothu, and Kuthiraivetti (collectively known as Manjolai estates) much before the end of the 99-year lease granted to it by the erstwhile Singampatti Zamindar in 1928.
- The Zamindar had leased out 3,388.78 hectares to the private company.
- But the government had notified the entire Singampatti estate as a forest on March 22, 1937 under Sections 26 and 32 of the then Madras Forest Act of 1882.
- Subsequently, on August 2, 1962, areas forming part of the estate were notified as a part of the Mundanthurai tiger sanctuary under the then Wild Birds and Animals (Protection) Act, 1912.
- It turned out to be the first notified tiger sanctuary in the country.
- On December 28, 2007, the government declared the areas which formed part of the estate as a core critical tiger habitat by invoking the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972.

'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme in Tamilnadu

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

Net zero emissions by 2070

- Tamil Nadu is actively working towards achieving net zero emissions by 2070 through targeted actions

- The State was ranked third rank in the country for the renewable energy generation.
- The wind energy alone is accounting for 11,900 million units a year.
- By 2030, Tamil Nadu plans to source 50% of its energy from the renewable sources.

Abathsahayeswarar temple

- The 1,300-year-old Abathsahayeshwarar Temple in Thukkatchi in Thanjavur district has been chosen by UNESCO to receive the Award of Distinction – 2023.
- The temple is believed to have been constructed by Kings Vikrama Chola and Kulothunga Chola, is said to have had five prakarams previously.
- The village was known as Vikrama Chozheeswaram and Kulothunga Chola Nallur.
- It was Kulothunga who was the first to establish an idol for Sarabeshwarar, which is why this deity is called Aadhi Sarabeshwarar.
- Tamil Nadu had granted a subsidy of ₹100 crore per year to restore and renovated temples over 1000 years old.

Tamil Nadu Model for Reducing Elephant Attacks

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

Cyclone Fengal relief

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

'TB-Free Tamil Nadu' campaign

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

Jumped Deposit scam

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

Tamil inscriptions from Alathudaiyanpatti temple

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

Tax for entertainment shows

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

Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019

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

Tamil Nadu's GSDP for 2022-2023

- Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2022-2023 grew 14.16% when compared to the previous year.
- It was driven primarily by the industry and services sectors.
- The per capita GSDP of the State was nearly 56% higher than the national average.
- This data was released by the CAG's audit report on 'the State Finances – the Government of Tamil Nadu 2022-2023'.
- During 2021-22, there was a significant boost in GSDP growth, which stood at 15.84%.
- The GSDP in 2022-23 at current prices was ₹23,64,514 crore, and the GDP in 2022-23 at current prices was ₹2,72,40,712 crore.
- Further, the per capita GSDP of Tamil Nadu for 2022-23 was ₹3,08,020, while that of the country was ₹1,96,983.

- From 2018-19 to 2022-23, the revenue receipts grew from ₹1,73,741 crore to ₹2,43,749 crore, with an average annual growth rate of 11.13%.
- The Capital receipts increased from ₹54,850 crore to ₹1,02,182 crore during this period. The share of grants-in-aid in revenue receipts rose marginally from 13.45% in 2018-19 to 15.48% in 2022-23.
- The State government received ₹15,270 crore as Central share for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) that year.
- There were 393 cases of misappropriation and losses amounting to ₹30.81 crore by the end of 2022-23. 50 Losses of PSUs in TN
- Around 30 out of 68 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) incurred losses during 2021-22.
- But the losses incurred by these PSUs decreased to ₹22,192.94 crore in 2021-22 from ₹25,476.43 crore during 2020-21.
- Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence for an Advanced Manufacturing, a new PSU also reported loss in its first year of operation.
- Out of total loss, ₹15,357.90 crore was contributed by three PSUs in power sector and ₹6,622.19 crore by eight PSUs in transport sector.
- Representation of Independent Directors was below the required number in 10 PSUs.
- There was no women director on the Board of Directors of two PSUs.
- In six PSUs, the Independent Directors did not attend the general meetings of the PSU.
- Audit Committee was not constituted in two PSUs and majority of the members of Audit Committee were not Independent Directors in 13 PSUs.
- Nomination and Remuneration Committee was not constituted by 22 PSUs.
- There was no whistle blower mechanism in 12 PSUs.

First Supplementary Estimates of 2024/25

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

Forest Rights in Anamalai Tiger Reserve

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

Kalaignar Craft Scheme

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

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

- This Bill seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Public Premises (the Eviction of the Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1975 in line with Waqf Act, 1995 retrospectively from January 7, 2021.
- This bill sought for the necessary validation provision and to reserve it for the consideration of the President as required under the Article 254 (2) of the Constitution.
- An amendment was made to clause (e) of Section 7 of the Tamil Nadu Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Act, 2010.
- It is including the waqf premises registered with the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board within the definition of the term "public premises".
- Several unauthorised occupants from the premises belonging to a waqf registered with the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board were evicted from such premises.

Tax on mineral-bearing lands

- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill that seeks to levy tax on mineral-bearing lands.
- The government hoped to augment its revenue through this legislation.
- The Supreme Court had earlier this year held that the minerals-bearing land fell within the description of 'lands' under Entry 49 of List II of the Seventh Schedule.
- So, the State Legislatures have the legislative competence under Article 29 to tax on lands, which comprises of mines and quarries.

High Court on Freedom of speech

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

Thrust Sector scheme 2024

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

Tamil Nadu's outstanding liabilities 2024

- Tamil Nadu's outstanding liabilities from open market borrowings had stood at ₹6,00,993 crore as on March 31, 2024.
- The State's overall outstanding liabilities stood at ₹8,34,544 crore at the end of March 31, 2024.
- As of March 31, 2023, the overall outstanding liabilities for Tamil Nadu was ₹7,41,498 crore.
- The State's liability on account of interest would be ₹28,263.67 crore.
- The liability towards principal amount of market loan would be ₹3,75,951.97 crore over the next 10 years (from 2023-24).
- According to the State budget for 2024-25, the Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow a total of ₹1,55,584.48 crore during 2024-25, and repay ₹49,638.82 crore.

- As a result, the outstanding debt, as on March 31, 2025, will be ₹8,33,361.80 crore.
- This constitutes 26.41% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2024-25.

Lowest Domestic Electricity

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

Annual income for welfare schemes in 2024

- The Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment of Tamilnadu has officially increased the annual income ceiling of families from Rs 72,000 to Rs 1.20 lakh.
- Due to the change in economic status, the per capita income and standard of living in Tamil Nadu have registered a rise.
- There will be an overall surge in beneficiaries for these schemes as the income ceiling has been revised.
- The department constantly revised the annual income ceiling from Rs 12,000 in 1993 to Rs 24,000 in 2008.
- Further, in 2012, the ceiling was revised from Rs 24,000 to Rs 40,000 in rural areas and to Rs 60,000 in urban regions.
- However, the last revision of the income ceiling was made in 2014, raising it to Rs 72,000.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam 2024

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

Mumps vaccine to UIP

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

Back-to-back weather systems

- Earlier, Back-to-back weather systems have formed in the Bay of Bengal during Northeast monsoon, similar to this year.
- But these systems had formed mostly in October and November.
- There have been 15 occurrences of clusters of cyclones between 1961 and 2010.
- Similar instances have occurred after 2011 as well.
- This December, a low-pressure area formed in the Bay of Bengal around December 7 in a few days after Cyclone Fengal moved inland.
- After that, the present well-marked low-pressure area was formed over the Bay of Bengal.
- There was a break from such incidents between 1999 and 2010.
- Two cyclones or depressions forming within a gap of eight days are called the clusters.
- Two separate clusters of tropical cyclones had occurred over the Bay of Bengal in 1966, involving four tropical cyclones.
- In the 13 years from 2011, there were four incidences of clusters during 2013, 2016, 2020 and 2021 in November.

State Bird Authority 2024

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

SOP for speedy disposal of cases

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

Increasing power demand in Tamilnadu

- The 660-MW Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) expansion project would help to ensure grid stability and increase power generation
- . The State's power demand is increasing by 10% every year.
- With 11,000 MW of the wind energy capacity, Tamil Nadu ranks second in the country.
- In terms of the solar energy capacity, the State ranks third with a capacity of 9,400 MW.
- The State has set a target of adding additional green energy capacity of 100 billion units by 2030.
- It has set a target that 50% of its energy needs should be met by green energy by 2030.
- The Tamil Nadu Green Energy Company Ltd oversees the state's green energy initiatives.

Framework for management of community dog population

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

- The registration of all pet dogs is imperative to promote responsible pet ownership and address dog abandonment.

One Health initiatives

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

Micro wind turbine in Tamilnadu

- The new integrated bus terminus (IBT), coming up at Panjapur on the TiruchiMadurai Highway, will have a wind tree.
- This 30-foot-tall micro wind turbine is designed to mimic trees, generating the electricity. Unlike the traditional wind turbine, which requires the wind velocity of 7 km per hour to generate electricity, the wind tree can do it with wind velocity of just 2.5 km per hour.
- The wind tree will have 10 KW capacity per hour, thereby generating 240 KW of power in a day.
- It will be the first wind tree in these parts of the region.

Welfare scheme for SC/ST in TN 2024

- The Tamil Nadu government listed various welfare schemes being implemented by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department.
- The Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme is ensuring the very economic development of entrepreneurs belonging to the SC/ST.
- A total of 1,303 beneficiaries have received subsidies worth ₹159.76 crore under the initiative.
- The Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme is implemented to improve amenities such as roads and street lights, and provide drinking water to Adi Dravidar habitations in urban and rural areas.
- A total of 1,966 projects had been taken up under the scheme in 2024-25.
- Under the Tholkudi scheme, infrastructure would be improved in tribal habitations at a cost of ₹1,000 crore.
- A total of 3,594 houses would be constructed for tribal people.
- The Department is setting up of knowledge centres for Adi Dravidar and Tribal students in 120 places at a cost of ₹117.27 crore.
- It constructed 60 hostels at a cost of ₹300 crore and additional classrooms in Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools.
- It is also offering incentives to students pursuing higher education abroad.

Tamil Nadu's forest cover 2023

- Tamil Nadu has seen a 9.09% increase in its forest cover over the last decade, adding 2,205.01 sq.km of greenery.
- Tamil Nadu's forest cover was stood at 24,245.21 sq.km, and by 2023, it had expanded to 26,450.22 sq.km.
- A comparison between 2023 and 2021 shows a loss of almost 61 sq.km of forest cover in the State.
- The term "forest cover" includes all lands with at least one hectare in area and a canopy of 10% or more, regardless of ownership or legal status.
- Of the total 26,450.22 sq.km of forest cover in the State, o Only 13% (3,586.19 sq.km) is classified as very dense forest, o 41.7% (11,027.03 sq.km) is moderately dense, and o 44.83% (11,837 sq.km) is categorised as open forest.

Local bodies elections 2025

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

Insurance cover for accident victims

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

Shoreline analysis of Tamil Nadu

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

Road accidents in 2022

- In Tamil Nadu, a total of 18,074 persons died in 66,841 road accidents that were reported in 2023.
- In 2022, 17,884 fatalities were reported from 64,105 accidents.
- A total of 18,129 fatalities were reported from 62,685 accidents in 2019 while 18,392 deaths from 67,279 accidents were recorded in 2018.
- In Tamil Nadu, a fatality is reported in every fourth accident and 25% of accidents are turning into fatal accidents.
- Chennai and Coimbatore cities stand at top positions with 3,642 accidents and contribute to 5.45% each of accidents.
- In the next level, Chengalpattu has 3,387 accidents (5.07%), Tiruppur has 3,292 (4.93%) and Salem 3,174 (4.75%).
- In terms of fatalities, Coimbatore stands first with 1,040 persons killed last year - 5.75% out of the total 18,074 fatalities.
- Chengalpattu district witnessed 912 persons killed in road accidents (5.05% of total fatalities), Madurai recorded 864 (4.80%), Tiruppur, 861 (4.76%) and Salem 787 (4.35%).

Self-governing systems in Tamilnadu

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

Chengalpattu Jagir between 1767 and 1774.

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

Draft Tamil Nadu Employment Policy 2023

- It addresses several pressing concerns in the current labour market.
- Among these are high unemployment rates among the educated youth and a noticeable mismatch between education, skills, aspirations, and the job opportunities.
- Further, the policy outlines various measures to formulate appropriate solutions.
- A 10-year strategy for productive jobs and inclusive growth is crucial to raising the median income level and supporting the fast-paced growth of the economy.

Draft Tamil Nadu state Water Policy

- It is developed with a multi-disciplinary approach, focuses on addressing the state's specific challenges in water management.
- It outlines the strategies to ensure equitable access to clean water, protect and enhance water resources, and promote efficient and productive water use.
- The policy also recommends the establishment of the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Authority, the Water Policy Research Centre, and a unified Tamil Nadu Water Information System, among other initiatives. Lake areas outside Pulicat sanctuary
- The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (TNSWA) has said the lake areas outside of the Pulicat bird sanctuary limits should be brought under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- This will aid to prevent the conversion of wetlands for non-wetland uses.
- Currently, the Pulicat bird sanctuary has a default 10-kilometre eco-sensitive zone.
- All the wetlands listed in the National Wetland Inventory Assessment of 2011, including Pulicat lake, must be protected under Rule 4(2).
- This protection is a mandatory, regardless of whether the wetland has been formally notified.
- This rule prohibits the conversion of wetlands for non-wetland uses, such as encroachment and the establishment or expansion of industries.
- It also bans the dumping of solid waste, construction debris, hazardous materials, and untreated waste into wetlands.

TAMIL NADU reduced dengue Transmission

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

Ant-lions(palpares contrarius) in Tamil Nadu

- Researchers spotted a large-sized adult antlion, palpares contrarius in Chennai.
- Though it looks like a dragonfly, it has an antenna and a distinct fluttering flight which separates it from them.
- Antlions are found mostly in Africa, Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka and are seen in isolated parts of India such as Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh.
- The incidence of palpares contrarius in Madras Christy College is a new record in Tamil Nadu. Sea level rise impact in Tamilnadu
- A recent study warns that rising sea levels could result in the loss of thousands of hectares of mangrove cover in Tamil Nadu's Pichavaram and Muthupet regions.
- Up to 2,382 hectares of mangrove forest in the Muthupet region and 413 hectares in Pichavaram could be submerged by 2100 due to sea level rise.
- The study estimates that the loss of these coastal forests would result in the release of 2.24 Tg (teragram) of carbon from the Muthupet and Pichavaram regions, contributing to climate change.

Chola-era Tamil inscription - Bengaluru

- The Epigraphy division is taking steps to copy a fragmented Chola-era Tamil inscription engraved on a stone.
- It is found near Someshwara temple at Kammasandra village in Bengaluru rural district. The inscription in Tamil language dates back to the 11th Century Chola period.

Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024

- The Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024 report provides key insights into livestock, dairy, poultry, and fisheries production in India. It covers growth trends, productivity, and contributions to the agricultural GDP. The data is crucial for policymakers to enhance rural livelihoods, boost exports, and improve animal health and welfare. The report also highlights government initiatives for sustainable livestock management, disease control programs, and schemes like Rashtriya Gokul Mission and National Livestock Mission.

TeacherApp Initiative

- The TeacherApp is a digital platform launched to enhance the professional development of educators in India. It provides interactive training modules, best teaching practices, and subject-specific content to improve pedagogy. The app aims to bridge skill gaps, ensuring teachers are well-equipped to handle modern classrooms. Available in multiple languages, it supports continuous learning, helping educators align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It also promotes inclusive and technology-driven education.

National Landslide Risk Mitigation Project

- The National Landslide Risk Mitigation Project (NLRMP) is an initiative to reduce landslide disasters in vulnerable regions of India. It includes mapping landslide-prone areas, installing early warning systems, and implementing mitigation measures such as slope stabilization. The project also involves training local communities and officials on disaster preparedness. By leveraging scientific research and technology, the government aims to minimize loss of life and infrastructure damage, especially in hilly states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Supreme Court on Preamble Interpretation

- The Supreme Court of India reviewed the interpretation of the Preamble, reinforcing its importance as the guiding philosophy of the Constitution. The judgment reaffirmed that the Preamble is not just a symbolic introduction but has legal significance in understanding constitutional principles. The court emphasized that ideals like justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity must be upheld in all laws and policies. The ruling impacts debates on fundamental rights, secularism, and democratic governance.

National Mission on Natural Farming

- The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) promotes eco-friendly, chemical-free agriculture. It encourages farmers to adopt techniques like zero-budget natural farming, agroforestry, and organic composting. The mission aims to reduce dependency on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, enhancing soil health and sustainability. Financial incentives, training, and research support are provided to farmers. This initiative aligns with India's goal of doubling farmers' income and ensuring food security while minimizing environmental degradation.

E-Daakhil Portal for Consumer Grievances

- The E-Daakhil portal is an online system launched by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) to facilitate the filing of consumer complaints. It streamlines the dispute resolution process by enabling digital submissions, case tracking, and virtual hearings. The platform enhances transparency and efficiency in consumer protection laws. Available in multiple languages, it helps consumers nationwide seek redressal against defective goods, unfair trade practices, and service deficiencies without lengthy legal procedures.

Jarawa Tribe Inclusion in Electoral Roll

- The inclusion of the Jarawa tribe in India's electoral roll marks a historic step in recognizing their democratic rights. The Jarawas are a protected indigenous tribe of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, living in isolation. The move, however, raises concerns about their exposure to mainstream society, which may threaten their traditional way of life. The government must balance electoral inclusion with protective measures to preserve their culture and prevent exploitation.

'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' Campaign

- The 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign is a nationwide movement to eradicate child marriage in India. Led by the government and NGOs, it focuses on community awareness, stricter law enforcement, and providing education opportunities for girls. The initiative aligns with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, aiming to uplift underage girls by preventing forced marriages. By empowering families with financial support and education, the campaign promotes gender equality and women's rights.

Indian Railways Status Update 2024

- The Indian Railways Status Report 2024 highlights modernization efforts, infrastructure projects, and service improvements. Key developments include new high-speed trains, electrification of railway routes, and safety upgrades. The government has also emphasized green energy initiatives, such as solar-powered stations and bio-toilets. The report assesses passenger satisfaction, freight efficiency, and digital ticketing improvements. These reforms aim to enhance connectivity, reduce carbon emissions, and make rail travel more efficient for millions of commuters.

First Auction in Offshore Areas

- India conducted its first auction for offshore oil and gas exploration blocks to boost domestic energy production. The initiative, under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), attracted global investors, promoting self-reliance in energy. Offshore reserves are crucial for reducing import dependency and strengthening energy security. The auction also aligns with India's push for a balanced energy mix, incorporating fossil fuels, renewables, and green hydrogen initiatives.

TRAI's Guidelines on OTPs

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) introduced new guidelines on OTP (One-Time Password) authentication to enhance cybersecurity and user privacy. The regulations aim to prevent OTP fraud, SIM swap scams, and unauthorized access to financial transactions. It mandates stricter encryption, multi-factor authentication, and time-sensitive OTPs. Telecom operators must ensure compliance, protecting consumers from identity theft and digital fraud while promoting a secure digital payment ecosystem.

K-4 Missile Development

- India successfully tested the K-4 missile, a nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) developed by DRDO. With a range of 3,500 km, it enhances India's second-strike capability, strengthening nuclear deterrence. The K-4 missile is designed for deployment on Arihant-class submarines, making India one of the few nations with such advanced SLBM technology. The development boosts maritime security, reinforcing India's defense posture in the Indian Ocean region.

Telangana - Mineral Auction Regime

- Telangana introduced a new mineral auction regime to enhance transparency and efficiency in mining leases. The policy ensures fair bidding, promotes sustainable mining practices, and boosts state revenue. The government is focusing on key minerals like coal, limestone, and bauxite. By inviting private investment and ensuring environmental safeguards, Telangana aims to balance economic growth with responsible resource management.

Yuva Sangam Phase 5 Youth Exchange Program

- The Yuva Sangam Phase 5 is a youth exchange initiative promoting cultural and educational interactions between different Indian states. Organized under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat scheme, it encourages students and young professionals to experience diverse traditions, languages, and lifestyles. The program fosters national unity, strengthens inter-state relationships, and provides exposure to India's rich heritage. Participants engage in workshops, heritage tours, and community engagement projects.

Assessing Universal Basic Literacy in India

- This initiative evaluates India's progress toward achieving universal basic literacy. It focuses on the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, digital learning access, and literacy programs for marginalized communities. The assessment highlights challenges such as school dropouts, gender disparity, and rural-urban education gaps. Government initiatives like the NIPUN Bharat Mission and e-learning platforms are being leveraged to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy skills for all children.

Sabal-20 Logistics Drone

- The Sabal-20 is an advanced logistics drone developed to transport medical supplies, essential goods, and emergency aid to remote areas. It enhances India's drone ecosystem, reducing delivery time in inaccessible regions. With high payload capacity and AI-driven navigation, the drone supports disaster relief and defense logistics. Its deployment aligns with India's drone policy, which encourages domestic production and innovation in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology.

RESET Program 2024

- The RESET (Resilient and Sustainable Economic Transition) Program 2024 focuses on boosting India's economic resilience post-pandemic. It includes strategies for job creation, financial inclusion, and sustainability. The program promotes investments in green industries, digital infrastructure, and skill development. By enhancing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and promoting self-reliance, RESET aligns with India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, ensuring economic stability and growth in key sectors.

Global Engagement Scheme 2024

- The Global Engagement Scheme 2024 is an initiative to strengthen India's diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations with international partners. It focuses on expanding trade agreements, academic exchanges, and joint research collaborations. The scheme enhances India's global influence through strategic partnerships, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. It also promotes Indian industries, startups, and higher education institutions in global forums, fostering economic growth and technological advancements.

CubeSat Standard for Small Satellites

- India introduced a new CubeSat standard to streamline small satellite development. CubeSats are miniaturized satellites used for research, communications, and Earth observation. The standardization simplifies satellite manufacturing, reducing costs for startups and educational institutions. ISRO's initiative allows for faster deployment of small satellites, boosting India's space industry. This aligns with the growing demand for low-cost, high-efficiency satellite solutions in scientific and commercial applications.

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 aims to modernize India's banking regulations, ensuring better governance, transparency, and financial stability. The bill proposes structural reforms in public sector banks, enhancing their operational efficiency. Key provisions include increasing private sector participation, improving digital banking security, and streamlining the loan recovery process. It also strengthens the role of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in overseeing banking operations and financial policies.

National Achievement Survey 2024

- The National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2024 assesses the learning outcomes of students across India. Conducted by the Ministry of Education, it evaluates reading, mathematics, and science skills in primary and secondary education. The survey helps policymakers identify gaps in curriculum implementation and teacher effectiveness. By analyzing regional and socioeconomic disparities, NAS guides reforms to enhance student performance and educational quality under initiatives like Samagra Shiksha and NIPUN Bharat.

SheSTEM 2024 Women in STEM Initiative

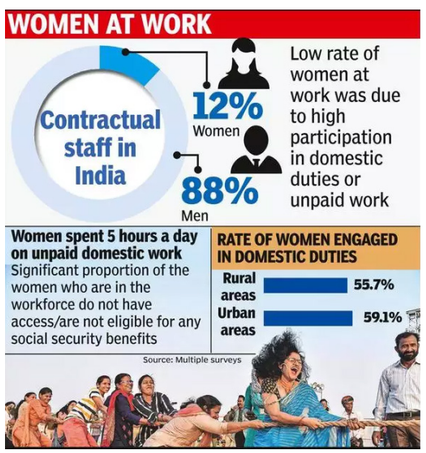
- SheSTEM 2024 is a government initiative promoting women's participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It offers scholarships, mentorship programs, and research grants to encourage young women to pursue careers in these fields. The initiative collaborates with universities and tech companies to bridge the gender gap in STEM industries. By fostering an inclusive innovation ecosystem, SheSTEM empowers women to contribute to India's technological advancements.

Boilers Bill 2024

- The Boilers Bill 2024 introduces new safety standards and regulatory measures for the operation and maintenance of industrial boilers. It aims to prevent workplace accidents by ensuring compliance with advanced safety protocols. The bill simplifies licensing procedures and promotes energy-efficient boiler technologies. Industries using steam-based processes, such as power plants and manufacturing units, must adhere to these revised regulations. The reform enhances worker safety and industrial productivity.

Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024

- The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 modernizes India's petroleum sector regulations. It streamlines oil and gas exploration processes, attracting private investment and enhancing energy security. The bill includes provisions for environmental sustainability, reducing the carbon footprint of extraction activities. By encouraging domestic production, it reduces reliance on oil imports and aligns with India's energy transition goals, including the adoption of alternative fuels like biofuels and hydrogen energy



Female Labour Force Participation 2017-2023 Report

- The Female Labour Force Participation Report 2017-2023 highlights trends in women's employment in India. It analyzes factors like economic growth, urbanization, and government policies affecting female workforce inclusion. Despite improvements, gender disparities persist due to societal norms, unpaid care work, and workplace biases. Initiatives like maternity benefits, skill development programs, and flexible work policies are crucial for increasing women's economic participation and bridging the gender gap.

Israel-Lebanon Conflict

- The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militant group in Lebanon, has intensified. Hezbollah supports Hamas, another militant organization engaged in conflict with Israel since October 2023. This prolonged war has escalated tensions in the region, affecting global diplomatic relations and security

Declaration on Digital Green Action

- The Digital Green Action was launched at CoP28 in Dubai by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This initiative aims to accelerate digital transformation while ensuring environmental sustainability. It focuses on emission reductions in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector, building resilient digital infrastructure, and establishing metrics for climate-positive digitization

WHO's Pathogen Surveillance Grants

- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced funding for ten projects under the International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN). Each project will receive $2 million to enhance pathogen genomic surveillance, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. This initiative aims to improve global readiness in responding to infectious disease outbreaks

UNHCR's Global Appeal 2025

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched a $10 billion appeal for 2025 to address the needs of 117.3 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. The appeal prioritizes critical humanitarian assistance, sustainable solutions, and child-focused interventions, as 40% of the displaced population consists of children

Dark Tourism in Ukraine

- Ukraine has become a hotspot for dark tourism, where travelers visit war-torn locations to witness the impact of conflict firsthand. Kyiv and its suburbs, where alleged massacres occurred in early 2022, are now attracting tourists seeking to understand the war's devastation. This trend raises ethical concerns about commercializing human suffering

Cascais Declaration

- The Cascais Declaration was adopted at the UN Alliance for Civilizations 10th Global Forum in Portugal. It addresses global issues such as rising nationalism, online hate, and antisemitism. The declaration highlights the role of AI in fostering inter-religious and intercultural dialogue while promoting sports diplomacy as a tool for peace

Global Wage Report 2024

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) released its Global Wage Report, showing a decline in low-paid wage workers worldwide. In India, the rate of low-paid workers dropped by an annual average of 6.3% between 2008 and 2018. The report also highlights global wage inequality trends and policy recommendations

Italy's Surrogacy Law

- Italy has introduced strict regulations banning surrogacy, making it a punishable offense even if conducted abroad. The law criminalizes individuals seeking surrogacy services outside Italy, reinforcing the country's conservative stance on reproductive rights and ethics.

UK's Law on Assisted Dying

- The UK is debating a new assisted dying law that would allow terminally ill patients to seek medical assistance in ending their lives. The proposed legislation aims to provide dignity to individuals suffering from incurable illnesses while implementing strict safeguards against abuse

Russia's RS-28 Sarmat Missile

- Russia has officially deployed its RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, also known as Satan II. This advanced missile system, capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads, enhances Russia's strategic deterrence capabilities and escalates geopolitical tensions.

South Korea's Emergency Preparedness

- South Korea has upgraded its emergency response systems following recent tensions with North Korea. The government is investing in modernized civil defense infrastructure and rapid alert mechanisms to ensure preparedness for potential conflicts

Busan Summit 2024

- The Busan Summit in South Korea focused on economic cooperation and digital transformation among Asia-Pacific nations. Key discussions included trade agreements, AI governance, and cybersecurity cooperation, reflecting the region's commitment to fostering innovation and economic resilience.

Aleppo City Crisis 2024

- Syria's Aleppo continues to face severe humanitarian crises due to ongoing conflict and economic instability. Shortages of essential supplies, including food and medical aid, have worsened, prompting international organizations to call for immediate intervention and relief efforts

Arctic's First Ice-Free Day by 2030

- Scientists predict that the Arctic will experience its first completely ice-free summer by 2030 due to rapid climate change. This alarming development poses severe consequences for global weather patterns, marine ecosystems, and coastal communities worldwide

UN Cybercrime Treaty 2024

- The UN is drafting a new cybercrime treaty to address increasing digital threats and cyber offenses. The treaty aims to create a global legal framework for tackling cybercrime, ensuring cross-border cooperation, and protecting individual privacy. The initiative comes in response to the rising incidence of cyber fraud and digital warfare.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

COP29 - Climate Finance Agreement

- The developed nations at COP29 in Baku agreed to raise $300 billion annually by 2035 for climate finance. However, developing countries demanded a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) of $1.3 trillion per year. India opposed the current proposal, citing inadequate funding to address climate change impacts.

Rare Imperial Eagle Spotted in Kerala

- Birdwatchers recorded the sighting of the rare Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca) in Kerala's Kole fields. Last spotted in Kannur in 2003, the species migrates from Central Asia and is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN, highlighting the importance of conservation efforts.

Education for Climate Action Report

- The World Bank released the 'Choosing Our Future: Education for Climate Action' report, stating that climate change-induced weather disruptions cause an average loss of 11 school days per year. The report stresses the need for climate education to create a skilled workforce for green jobs.

Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas 2024

- The UN Environment Program (UNEP) published the Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas, revealing that peatlands store twice as much carbon as forests. Covering only 3-4% of the planet's land, peatlands are rapidly degrading due to human activity, emitting 1,941 Mt CO_2 annually.

Bar-Tailed Godwit Sighted in Pulicat Lake

- The Bar-Tailed Godwit, a migratory shorebird, was spotted at Pulicat Lake in Tamil Nadu. The bird, known for its record-breaking non-stop migration flights, highlights the lake's ecological significance as a crucial wintering habitat.

Decline in Shark and Ray Populations

- A global study revealed that 77% of oceanic shark and ray populations have declined over the past 50 years due to overfishing. Conservation efforts are being intensified to protect these marine species from further depletion.

World's Oldest Known Wild Bird

- A Laysan albatross named Wisdom, first banded in 1956, continues to breed at 73 years old, making it the world's oldest known wild bird. Her longevity provides insights into seabird biology and the impact of climate change on marine ecosystems.

2030 Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands

- The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) launched a global strategy to restore drylands, emphasizing sustainable land management. The plan aims to combat desertification affecting over 2 billion people globally.

Indian Rock Python Population Status

- A survey in India reported stable populations of the Indian Rock Python, a non-venomous snake crucial to maintaining ecological balance. However, habitat destruction and illegal wildlife trade pose significant threats.

Report on Land Management 2024

- The UN released a report emphasizing sustainable land use practices to combat deforestation and soil degradation. It highlighted India's afforestation programs as a model for balancing development and environmental conservation.

SCIENCE AND TECH

India's First AI Laboratory in Space

- ISRO is set to launch India's first artificial intelligence laboratory in space aboard the PSLV rocket. Developed by TakeMe2Space, the MOI-TD (My Orbital Infrastructure-Technology Demonstrator) will process data directly in space, reducing transmission costs and latency.

New Moiré Superconductor

- Scientists have discovered that moiré materials made from semiconductor materials can also exhibit superconducting properties. Previously, this was thought to be exclusive to graphene-based systems.

Nuclear-Powered Diamond Battery

- Scientists in the UK have developed a carbon-14-based nuclear diamond battery capable of generating electricity for thousands of years. It is powered by radioactive decay and could revolutionize energy storage.

World's First Self-Driving Satellite

- China has successfully launched the world's first autonomous satellite, designed to change its flight path without human intervention. This breakthrough could enhance space exploration and monitoring capabilities.

Heat Shock Protein 70 (HSP70) and Disease Treatment

- Researchers at Jawaharlal Nehru University have identified the HSP70 protein as a key factor in the spread of malaria and COVID-19. Targeting this protein may lead to new treatment strategies.

Proba-3 Satellite for Artificial Solar Eclipse

- ESA's Proba-3 mission aims to create an artificial solar eclipse in space using two satellites flying in precise formation. This will help scientists study the Sun's corona in greater detail.

Jupiter Reaches Opposition

- Jupiter reached opposition in 2024, appearing its brightest and largest in the sky. This rare astronomical event provided scientists with valuable data for planetary studies.

Sound-Based Selection Technology

- Scientists have developed a novel sound-based selection technique to differentiate cell types in biomedical research. This innovation could improve precision in medical diagnostics.

Dark Ovals on Jupiter

- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has captured images of mysterious dark ovals in Jupiter's atmosphere. These features, likely related to atmospheric storms, provide insights into the planet's dynamic weather patterns.

Nano Bubble Technology at Delhi Zoo

- The National Zoological Park in Delhi is set to implement nano bubble technology for water purification. This technology increases oxygen levels in water, reducing pollutants and preventing algae growth.

SPORTS NEWS

PV Sindhu Wins Syed Modi India International 2024

- PV Sindhu clinched her third title at the Syed Modi India International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. She defeated China's Luo Yu Wu in the finals, showcasing her dominance in badminton.

India Tops 2024 Asia-Pacific Deaf Games

- India secured the highest medal tally (55) at the 2024 Asia-Pacific Deaf Games held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The team won 8 gold, 18 silver, and 29 bronze medals, making it the nation's best performance since the tournament's inception.

Aryna Sabalenka Named WTA Player of the Year

- Aryna Sabalenka was crowned Player of the Year at the 2024 WTA Awards. Other winners included Emma Navarro (Most Improved Player), Paula Badosa (Comeback Player), and Lulu Sun (Newcomer of the Year).

Athlete Biological Passport Implementation

- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has approved the establishment of an Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) system in India. The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) will oversee biological profiling of athletes to prevent doping.

Ravichandran Ashwin Announces Retirement

- Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin has retired from international cricket. With 537 Test wickets, Ashwin is India's second-highest wicket-taker in Tests, behind Anil Kumble.

38th National Games 2025 to be Held in Uttarakhand

- The 38th National Games will be hosted by Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14, 2025. The official mascot, "Mauli," inspired by the Monal bird, was unveiled at the event.

Vinicius Junior Wins FIFA Best Men's Player Award

- Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior was awarded the Best FIFA Men's Player title for 2024. Barcelona's Aitana Bonmati won the Best FIFA Women's Player award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1 December – World AIDS Day

- World AIDS Day is observed on 1 December every year to raise awareness and knowledge about HIV and a call to move toward ending the HIV epidemic. It was first celebrated in 1988. The theme of 2023 is "Lead The Communities".

2 December - National Pollution Control Day

- National Pollution Control Day is celebrated on 2 December to raise awareness about pollution and its hazardous effects. This day is observed in memory of the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal gas calamity which is considered one of the biggest industrial disasters.

2 December - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

- It was observed on 2 December to make people aware of the modern slavery that works against human rights. Do you know more than 40 million people in the world are victims of modern slavery? This day reminds the situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse due to threats, violence, coercion or abuse of power.

2 December - World Computer Literacy Day

- It is observed on December 2 and aims to encourage the development of technological skills, mainly among children and women in India.

3 December - World Day of the Handicapped or International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- World Day of the Handicapped is also known as the International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD). It is observed on 3 December to raise awareness about understanding and accepting people with disabilities. The theme for 2021 was "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world."

4 December - Indian Navy Day

- Indian Navy Day is celebrated every year on 4 December to highlight the role, achievements, and difficulties that Navy people face.

5 December - International Volunteer Day

- International Volunteer Day (IVD) is celebrated on 5 December every year. This day provides a chance for volunteers and organisations to celebrate their efforts, and values and promotes their work among their communities, etc.

5 December - World Soil Day

- World Soil Day is observed on 5 December to raise awareness about the importance of soil, healthy ecosystems, and human well-being.

6 December - BR Ambedkar's death anniversary

- On 6 December 1956, he passed away. The day is observed to commemorate his unforgettable contribution to society and his achievements.

6 December - National Microwave Oven Day

- It is observed on 6 December to celebrate and honor the invention that has made their lives easier by making it convenient and faster for them to cook and reheat food.

7 December - Armed Forces Flag Day

- Armed Forces Flag Day is observed across the country on 7 December to collect funds from the common people and honor the martyrs and the men who fought with bravery on the borders to safeguard the country's honor.

7 December - International Civil Aviation Day

- International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December worldwide to raise awareness about its importance to the social and economic development of States and the role that ICAO plays in International air transport.

8 December- Bodhi Day

- Every year on December 8, Bodhi Day is observed all over the world, usually under various names. To honor Gautam Buddha and his preachings, it typically occurs on the eighth day of the 12th month of the lunisolar calendar.

9 December - International Anti-Corruption Day

- International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on 9 December every year to highlight how corruption affects health, education, justice, democracy, prosperity, and development.

10 December - Human Rights Day

- Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10 December. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly. This day is observed to protect the fundamental human rights of all people and their basic human freedom.

10 December - Death Anniversary of Alfred Nobel

- He was a famous scientist, inventor, businessman, and founder of Nobel Prizes. His father was an engineer and inventor. He was born on October 21, 1833, and died on December 10, 1869. He invented dynamite and other more powerful explosives.

11 December - International Mountain Day

- International Mountain Day is celebrated on 11 December every year to educate children and people about the role that mountains play in providing fresh water, clean energy, food, and recreation. The theme of 2021 is "Sustainable mountain tourism".

11 December - UNICEF Day

- It is observed on 11 December by the United Nations. UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children Emergency Fund.

12 December - Universal Health Coverage Day

- The United Nations proclaimed 12 December as International Health Coverage Day (UHC) by resolution 72/138 on 12 December 2017. The purpose behind celebrating the day is to spread awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.

13 December- National Horse Day

- In some parts of America, December 13 is recognized as National Horse Day. This day honours the historical, cultural, and economic contributions that horses have made. Look up the background and significance of the unique observance.

13 December- U.S. National Guard Birthday

- The U.S. National Guard celebrates its birthday every December 13th, honoring its establishment in 1636, making it one of the oldest military organizations in the United States. On this day, the nation reflects on the Guard's vital role in defending the country, supporting communities during emergencies, and serving overseas in various missions.

14 December - National Energy Conservation Day

- It is observed on 14 December to raise awareness about the need for energy and its conservation in daily life. Since 1991, it is celebrated every year on 14 December by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power.

16 December- Vijay Diwas

- Vijay Diwas is celebrated on 16 December in India to remember the martyrs, and their sacrifices, and to strengthen the role of armed forces for the cause of the nation.

18 December - Minorities Rights Day in India

- Minorities Rights Day in India is observed on 18 December to preserve and promote the rights of minority communities in India. This day focuses on issues like the safety of minorities in the state. On this day several campaigns, seminars, and events are conducted to inform and educate people about them.

18 December - International Migrants Day

- International Migrants Day is celebrated on 18 December to raise awareness about the protection of migrants and refugees. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is calling on the international community to come together and remember the migrants and refugees who have lost their lives or have disappeared while reaching a safe harbor.

19 December - Goa's Liberation Day

- The Liberation Day of Goa is celebrated on 19 December annually. On this date in 1961, Goa was released from the Portuguese dominion after an army operation and extended freedom movement. This day is celebrated in commemoration of the Indian armed forces that helped Goa to receive freedom from Portuguese rule.

20 December - International Human Solidarity Day

- International Human Solidarity Day is observed on 20 December annually to highlight the importance of unity in diversity. This day also reminds people to work together in fighting poverty, hunger, and disease.

21 December- Blue Christmas

- A Western Christian practice known as "Blue Christmas" takes place on or near the longest night of the year, which is typically December 21 (the Winter Solstice). It aims to console grieving family members or friends who are having a difficult time finding joy and hope during the holiday season.

21 December - December Solstice

- The December Solstice, occurring on December 21, marks a significant astronomical event that signals the official start of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and summer in the Southern Hemisphere. On this day, the Earth's axial tilt is at its maximum angle away from or toward the Sun, resulting in the shortest day and longest night of the year in the north, and the opposite in the south.

21 December- World Saree Day

- An effort has been made to recognize and celebrate the elegance of this traditional clothing on World Saree Day. It is observed every year on December 21. Sarees are among the most exquisite, graceful, and beautiful gifts made by Indian artisans and handed down through the ages.

22 December - National Mathematics Day

- National Mathematics Day is celebrated on 22 December annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of the famous mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. He had made remarkable contributions to various fields of mathematics and its branches. He was born on 22 December 1887 in Erode (today in the city of Tamil Nadu).

23 December - Kisan Diwas

- Kisan Divas or Farmer's Day in India or National Farmer's Day is celebrated on 23 December across the country to commemorate the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. On this day various events, seminars, functions, and competitions are organized on agriculture and its importance to educate and provide knowledge to the people.

24 December - National Consumer Rights Day

- National Consumer Rights Day is observed on 24 December annually with a particular theme across the country. The Consumer Protection Act, of 1986 received the assent of the president on this day. No doubt it is considered a historic

milestone in the consumer movement in the country. This day also provides awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.

24 December: DMRC Foundation Day

- The first line of the Delhi Metro, the Red Line, was inaugurated by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister of India on 24 December 2002. The first segment of the Red Line from Tis Hazari to Shahdara was opened to the public on 25 December 2002.

24 December - Christmas Eve

- Christmas Eve, celebrated on December 24, marks the magical evening before Christmas Day, a time filled with anticipation and joy. It is a cherished occasion for families and communities to come together, engage in traditions, and reflect on the spirit of giving and togetherness.

25 December - Christmas Day

- Christmas Day is celebrated on 25 December worldwide annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

25 December - Good Governance Day (India)

- Good Governance Day in India is observed on 25 December to commemorate the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, His Samadhi namely 'Sadiav Atal' was dedicated to the nation and reflected his personality as a poet, humanist, statesman, and a great leader.

- He died at the age of 93 on 16 August 2018. The Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to pay tribute to the former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee to raise awareness about accountability in governance among the people of India.

25 December- Hannukah Beginning

- The Jewish festival of lights, Hanukkah, starts on December 25 this year. It commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and is celebrated with traditions like lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, and sharing festive meals.

- Constitution Day: Date, History, Significance, Celebrations, and Key Facts

26 December: Veer Bal Diwas

- Veer Bal Diwas is observed on December 26 to pay homage to the courage and martyrdom of the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the last Sikh Guru.

26 December: Boxing Day

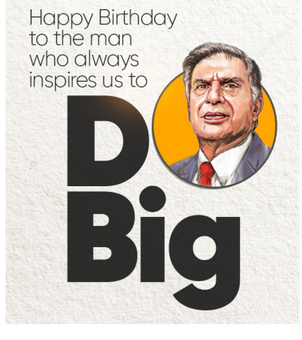
- Boxing Day, the day after Christmas was when boxes filled with small gifts and money would be given to household servants and employees who had to work on Dec. 25.

27 December: International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

- International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed on December 27 to fulfil the great need to raise awareness, the exchange of information, scientific knowledge and best practices, and quality education to curb the fatality of the Epidemic.

29 December- International Cello Day

- International Cello Day, celebrated annually on December 29, honors the legacy of Pablo Casals, one of the greatest cellists in history, born on this day in 1876. This special day pays tribute to the cello's rich history, its soulful music, and the artists who bring its deep, resonant sounds to life.



28 December: Ratan Tata Birthday

Ratan Naval Tata, the Indian industrialist, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and former chairman of Tata Sons needs no introduction. You may not find him on Forbes, but he surely has space in the hearts of all ages, genders, and groups.

The Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025

- India has emerged as the most represented nation in the rankings, featuring 65 universities. Anna University ranked the highest among Indian institutions at 42nd globally, followed by VIT University (65th) and SRM Institute of Science and Technology (84th). MIT topped the rankings.

Access To Medicine Foundation 2024 Index Report

- This report evaluates 20 pharmaceutical companies on their efforts to expand access to medicine in low- and middle-income countries. The report highlights a decline in industry performance, with 61% of products lacking access strategies.

State of Tax Justice 2024

- The Tax Justice Network released this report, revealing that global tax abuse causes countries to lose $492 billion annually. Nearly two-thirds of this loss results from multinational corporations shifting profits offshore.

UNAIDS Report 2024

- The UNAIDS report provides an overview of global HIV/AIDS trends, including advancements in treatment and challenges in achieving the 2030 elimination targets.

- Network Readiness Index 2024

- This index assesses global digital transformation readiness. India made significant progress in technology adoption, ranking among the top emerging economies.

Global Outlook 2025 Report

- This report provides economic predictions for the coming year, analyzing trends in inflation, trade, and employment across different economies.

Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024

- Published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), this report ranks countries based on tourism competitiveness. India remains a top performer in South Asia.

World Malaria Report 2024 - WHO

- The WHO's World Malaria Report highlights progress in malaria eradication efforts. India recorded a significant decline in malaria cases due to better vector control programs.

UN Report on Land Degradation 2024

- This report emphasizes the increasing threat of land degradation globally and urges nations to implement sustainable land management practices.

Global Wage Report 2024

- Released by the International Labour Organization (ILO), this report highlights the decline in low-paid wage workers globally. In India, the share of low-paid workers dropped at an annual rate of 6.3% between 2008 and 2018.

ECONOMY NEWS

Windfall Tax End

- The Indian government has scrapped the windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and the export of jet fuel, diesel, and petrol. Initially imposed in July 2022, the tax aimed to capture excess profits from energy companies. The government garnered ₹25,000 crore in the first year, ₹13,000 crore in 2023-24, and ₹6,000 crore in 2024 before discontinuing it.

GDP Base Year Change

- India has decided to update the base year for GDP calculation from 2011-12 to 2022-23. A 26-member Advisory Committee chaired by Biswanath Goldar will complete the exercise by early 2026. The last revision took place in 2015. This update aims to provide a more accurate representation of India's economic growth.

First Trade Watch Report

- NITI Aayog released its first Trade Watch Quarterly report for Q1 FY25, providing insights into India's trade performance. India's total trade for the first half of 2024 reached $576 billion, with exports at $231 billion and imports at $345 billion. The report also highlighted a widened current account deficit of $9.7 billion.

New UPI Lite Limit 2024

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the transaction limit for offline digital payments via UPI Lite from ₹500 to ₹1,000. The overall wallet capacity for UPI Lite has been raised from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000. The new limits aim to enhance digital payment adoption in rural areas.

RBI's Global Gold Purchases

- India's Reserve Bank bought 48% of all central bank gold acquisitions in October 2024, adding 27 tonnes to its reserves, which now total 882 tonnes. The move strengthens India's financial stability and hedge against inflation. Central bank gold buying worldwide reached only 60 tonnes in October.

Direct Tax Collection Surge

- India's net direct tax collections rose 16.5% in 2024-25, surpassing ₹15.82 lakh crore. Non-corporate tax collections grew at 22.5%, outpacing corporate tax growth of 8.6%. The Securities Transaction Tax (STT) surged by 85.5% to over ₹40,100 crore.

Public Sector Banks' Profit Rise

- Public sector banks (PSBs) recorded a record net profit of ₹1.46 lakh crore in 2023-24. Dividends paid over the last three years totaled ₹61,964 crore. The gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio declined to 3.12% in September 2024, down from 14.58% in 2018.

India's Alternative Assets Market Growth

- India's alternative assets market is projected to grow five-fold to $2 trillion by 2034. The market, which includes investments outside traditional stocks and bonds, currently manages $400 billion in assets. The global share of alternative investments has doubled from 10% to 20% between 2005 and 2020.

Global Remittances 2024

- India remained the top recipient of global remittances, receiving $129 billion in 2024. This amount surpasses the annual budgets of Pakistan ($67 billion) and Bangladesh ($68 billion) combined. Mexico ranked second in remittance inflows globally.

55th GST Council Meeting

- The GST Council's 55th meeting addressed tax rate adjustments and compliance measures to boost revenue collection. Key decisions included reducing GST rates on essential goods and extending input tax credit to more sectors. The council also discussed measures to simplify tax filing for small businesses.

AWARDS

Arjun Vajpai's Historic Ascent

- Arjun Vajpai became the first Indian to summit Mt. Shishapangma in Tibet, marking his eighth successful ascent of an 8,000-meter peak. He is also the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest (2010) and Mt. Lhotse (2011).

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2024

- Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet was awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for her contributions to human rights, peace, and development. She also served as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2018 to 2022.

World Maritime Technology Congress 2024

- India hosted the World Maritime Technology Congress (WMTC), bringing together 21 member organizations from 17 countries. The event focused on advancements in maritime technology and sustainability.

UN Champions of the Earth 2024

- The UN's highest environmental award was given to five individuals and organizations, including Indian ecologist Madhav Gadgil. The award recognizes exceptional contributions to environmental sustainability.

Gukesh Becomes World Chess Champion

- D Gukesh from Chennai became the youngest-ever World Chess Champion at 18, defeating China's Ding Liren. This victory broke Garry Kasparov's record as the youngest world champion.

Ustad Zakir Hussain's Passing

- Renowned tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain passed away in 2024. He won multiple Grammy Awards and received the Padma Vibhushan in 2023.
- Tulsi Gowda – Encyclopedia of Forests
- Tulsi Gowda, an environmentalist from Karnataka, passed away. Known as the "tree goddess," she planted over 100,000 trees and significantly contributed to forest conservation.

Forbes 2024 – 3 Indian Women

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, and Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw were featured in Forbes' list of the 100 Most Powerful Women.
- Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024
- The Sahitya Akademi honored 21 writers and poets across various Indian languages, recognizing excellence in novels, poetry, essays, and literary criticism.
- PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024
- Seventeen children received the Prime Minister's National Award for their accomplishments in art, innovation, social service, sports, and environmental initiatives.

M T Vasudevan Nair's Passing

- Renowned Malayalam writer M T Vasudevan Nair passed away. He won the Jnanpith Award in 1995 and the Padma Bhushan in 2005.

Rann Utsav 2025

- The Rann Utsav, a 100-day festival celebrating Kutch's rich culture, is set to showcase Gujarat's folk traditions, crafts, and cuisine.

100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh

- Gwalior hosted the centennial edition of the Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, India's premier classical music festival. Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri received the Rashtriya Tansen Samman.

Karmaveer Chakra Awards 2024-25

- The Karmaveer Chakra Awards, global honors for social impact, recognized Rumana Sinha Sehgal and Akshay Deshpande for their contributions to sustainable innovation and environmental conservation.

Former PM Manmohan Singh's Passing

- Dr. Manmohan Singh, India's former Prime Minister (2004-2014), passed away at 92. He was the architect of India's 1991 economic reforms and a key figure in India's modern economic growth.