



JANUARY MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS-2024

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TAMIL NADU

First jallikattu of 2024

1. **Thatchankurichi village** in **Pudukottai district** is to be host Tamil Nadu's first jallikattu of 2024 on January 06.

First Inducted IAS

1. **Priya Ravichandran**, the first officer from the **Fire and Rescue Services Department**, has been inducted into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
2. She was the **first woman officer** inducted into the Fire and Rescue Services in Tamil Nadu and would be the **first woman from the Fire and Rescue Services** to be inducted into the IAS.



A Jain learning center

1. A site at **Pulloor**, near **Kariapatti in Virudhunagar district** is believed to have housed a **Samana palli** in the **8th Century to 10th Century CE**.



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2. One of the inscriptions mentions that **50 goats were donated** during the fourth regnal year of a **Pandyan ruler named Maran Sadaiyan**.
3. Another inscription in the **Vattezhuthu script** refers to a **donation of 25 goats** made by one **Palathuraikudi Gopalan** during the 12th regnal year of **Raja Raja Chola**, which was 997 CE.

New excavation sites in Tamilnadu

1. Tamil Nadu has sought **permission from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** for carrying out excavations in **four new places** this year.



Site name	District	Reason for excavation
Thirumalapuram	Tenkasi	In search of evidence of origin of high tin bronze
Kongalnagaram	Tiruppur	Sangam age artefacts and Tamil Brahmi script
Marungur	Cuddalore	Evidence of dating in Iron age
Chennanur	Krishnagiri	Neolithic period

2. The four sites would be:
 - **Marungur** in Cuddalore;
 - **Kongalnagaram** in Tiruppur;
 - **Thirumalapuram** in Tenkasi; and
 - **Chennanur** in Krishnagiri districts.
3. One of the significant findings last year was the **discovery of 2,030 graffiti marks**, including four with **Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions**, from **Thulukarpatti in Tirunelveli district**.

SEZ in Tamil Nadu 2024

1. Tamil Nadu has the highest concentration of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country, with **54 of them** in operation.
2. It is accounting for **one-third of the State's exports**.



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3. The SEZ started as a **policy in 2002** and became an **Act in 2005**.

Top Indian city for women in 2023

1. Chennai emerged as the top Indian city for women in 2023 in terms of **inclusivity and conduciveness** to working women.
2. Tamil Nadu cities topped both categories that the study covered - **49 cities** in the **million-plus population** category and **64 cities** in the less than a **million- population** category.
3. **Chennai** topped the million plus category and **Tiruchirappalli** came on top of the less than a million category.
4. The state also had a **total of seven cities** such as **Coimbatore (Million plus)**, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Salem, Erode, and **Tirupur (Less than a million)** featuring in the lists.
5. Chennai also retains its **Social Inclusion Score rank** in the **first place**.

10th Tamil World Economic Conference

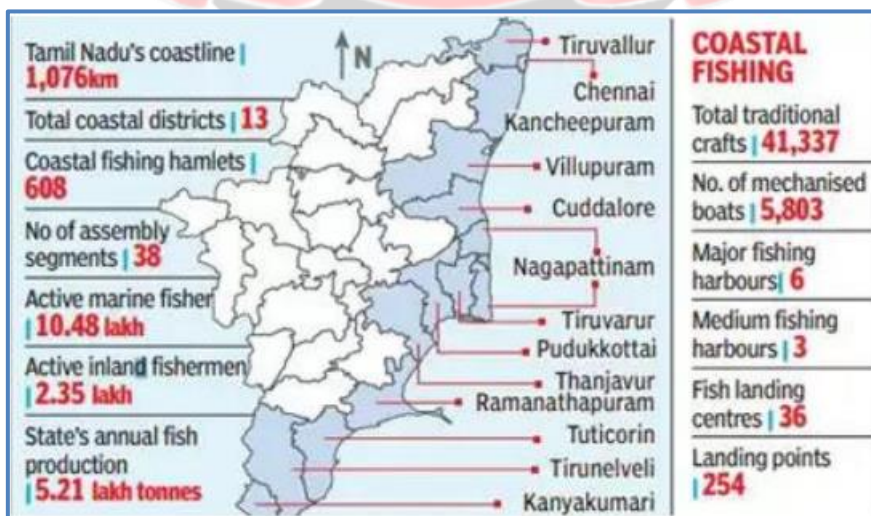
1. The 10th World Tamils Economic Conference and Global Economic Summit held at **Chennai**.
2. This summit also helped in showcasing the **ancient culture and the rich literature of Thiruvalluvar** to the world.

Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission

1. The State government has issued orders to implement the Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission over the **next five years**.
2. The project cost is about Rs. 1,675 crore with the **World Bank support**.
3. The mission includes projects to **strengthen coastal biodiversity, improve coastal livelihood** through **sustainable tourism**, and **reduce plastic waste** in marine environments.

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4. The mission has **four focus areas**:
- Enhancing coastal biodiversity;
 - Coastal protection;
 - Improving livelihood through the creation of blueflag beaches and sustainable tourism; and
 - Pollution abatement.
5. A special purpose vehicle, named **Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency**, will be established to
- Monitor the restoration of mangroves and seagrass;
 - Control erosion; restore the corals at Kariyachalli Islands of the Gulf of Mannar ecosystem; and
 - Strengthen coastal management systems.
6. The mission includes **previously launched projects** such as
- Establishing a **biodiversity and conservation park** at Kadambur, Chengalpattu;
 - **Sea turtle conservation** centres at Nagapattinam and in Chennai; and
 - An **international dugong conservation centre** at Manora, Thanjavur.



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2. The project was started on a **pilot-basis** and now, the project is in the process of being **expanded to 100 schools**.
3. The teachers have been trained to teach the students **HTML, C++, Python, game development and AI**.
4. The programme now **aims to empower the teachers** to train the students.

Arogyam Paramam Dhanam

1. Tamil Nadu has decided to go ahead with the **rebranding exercise** and **retain the tagline 'Arogyam Paramam Dhanam'** in line with the directive of the **Government of India**.
2. All AB-HWCs in the State will now be rebranded as '**Maruthuva Nallavazhu Nilayam**' in both English and Tamil.
3. It will have the tagline of '**Arogyam Paramam Dhanam**' in **English** and '**Noyatra Vazhve Kuraivatra Selvam**' in **Tamil**.
4. In **November 2023**, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare asked the States to rename the **Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres** (AB-HWC) as '**Ayushman Arogya Mandir**' with the tagline of '**Arogyam Paramam Dhanam**' in **English and Hindi**.



Prehistoric Rock Paintings

1. The **Department of Archaeology** has declared the entire hillocks with prehistoric rock paintings at **Alampadi, Melvaalai, and Sethavarai** villages in **Villupuram** as **protected monuments**.

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2. Melvalai, a nondescript **village around 22 km from Villupuram**, is a **treasure trove of prehistoric** rock art.
3. The word, **Rattapparai**, has become synonymous with the rock art **painted in red ochre**.
4. The paintings are of **human figurines, animals, and symbols**.
5. Alampadi has a **combination of prehistoric rock paintings in red and white ochre** that are similar to those found at **Sethavarai**.



Statue for Marudhu Brothers

1. Bhumi Puja performed for installing the statues of "Marudhu Pandiyar Brothers" on the tank bund of **Gangineni Cheruvu tank of Chittoor corporation, Andhra Pradesh**.
2. Marudhu brothers said that during the late 18th century, **Periya Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu** were in the **service of the Siva Gangai region king**.
3. Against British Raj, the brothers started the unification of the anti-British forces from the coastal belt from **Tamil Nadu to West Bengal** and raised an armed force to wage a battle for Independence.

Grantham Inscriptions - Kangeyam

1. Two stone inscriptions of '**Grantham**' and **Tamil** dating 11th and 16th centuries respectively were discovered at **Pazhnchervazhi village near Kangeyam**.
2. The stone bearing 11th century 'Grantham' inscriptions were created by Tamils for writing the **North Indian language**.

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3. The inscribed words denote that the '**manthra**' stone was worshipped by people in the **past for curing diseases**.
4. The **16th century Tamil inscription** describes a **donation of four rupees** for lighting the perpetual lamp in the Vishnu temple.



Kazhugumalai rock cut temples

1. The entire hillock housing the famous Vettuvan Koil and the Jain abode at Kazhugumalai is to be declared as '**Protected Archaeological Monument**' of the Department of Archaeology.



2. It is known as '**Ellora of Southern India**'.
3. Vettuvan Koil of **Thoothukudi** that translates into '**Sculptors' Paradise**,' is a **Pandya-era incomplete** Hindu cave temple built between **8th and 9th century**.
4. The **Kazhugumalai Jain beds** are rock relief sculptures dating back to **8th or 9th century** with **rock-cut images of 'tirtankaras'**.

Idhayam Kappom initiative

1. Tamil Nadu's Idhayam Kappom initiative has **completed six months** and covered over **5,000 beneficiaries**.
2. It is a **preventive heart health scheme** rolled out by the State government.



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3. The **emergency loading doses** are made available at the primary healthcare level to prevent deaths due to heart attacks.
4. The scheme was launched in **June 2023**.

Nalam Naadi App

1. Minister for School Education unveiled the Nalam Naadi app for **special educators to track students** with learning disabilities in **Chennai**.
2. The students **undergo health screening** which is undertaken by the teachers at the school.
3. This data is then fed into the **health app** under the **Education Management Information System (EMIS)** which is run by the School Education department.



STATE

Largest tabla ensemble

1. Around **1,300 tabla players** performed at the **99th International Tansen Samaroh in Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh**.
2. It has entered the **Guinness World Records** for achieving the “largest tabla ensemble”.

Petro Capital of India

1. With the world's largest grassroot oil refinery in **Jamnagar and OPaL petrochemical complex at Dahej in Bharuch district, Gujarat** is now recognised as the 'petro capital' of India.

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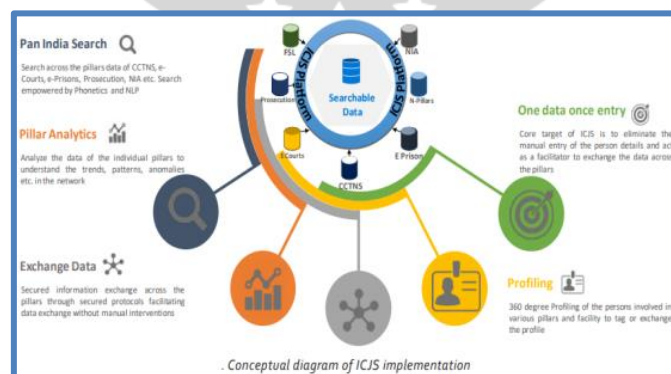
Gujarat Sets Guinness Record

1. Gujarat made history with the largest **Surya Namaskar event**, engaging **4,000+ participants** earning a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records.
2. The chosen number of **108 holds special significance** in Indian culture, and the venues for the mega event included the iconic **Modhera Sun Temple**.



Usage of Criminal Justice Data Platform

1. **Uttar Pradesh** has **ranked first** for the third consecutive **year** in recording the highest entry rate on the **Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform**.
2. **Madhya Pradesh** is in the **second place** with 35 lakh entries and **Bihar third** with 16 lakh entries.



3. ICJS is conceptualized by the **Supreme Court's e-committee** and implemented by the **ministry of home affairs**.

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4. In these, data related to **crime and criminals** is **exchanged between** courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories through a **single window system**.

First State To Map All Accident Prone Sites

1. **Punjab** has become the first in India to meticulously map all **784 accident black spots** using the **Mappls App**, a cutting-edge navigation system developed by MapMyIndia.
2. This collaboration aims to provide citizens with crucial information about **black and blind spots**, ensuring a safer driving experience.



Kadamba Inscription

1. An inscription dating back to the **10th century A.D.** has been found in the **Mahadeva temple at Cacoda in southern Goa**.





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2. The inscription, written in **both Kannada and Sanskrit**, sheds light on a historical episode during the Kadamba period, providing valuable insights into the region's past.
3. The inscription narrates a significant historical event during the rule of **Talara Nevayya, who governed the Mandala region.**

First floating air conditioned restaurant

1. The **Uttar Pradesh's** first floating air conditioned restaurant run by Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Department Corporation, was inaugurated on **Yamuna River.**

First Industrial Biotech Park

1. North India's first industrial biotech park was inaugurated at **Kathua in Jammu.**

GI tags for over 17 products

State	Products
Arunachal Pradesh	Wancho Wooden Craft Adi Kekir (Ginger) Handmade Carpets
West Bengal	Tangail Saree Garad Saree Korial Saree Kalonunia Rice Sundarban Honey
Odisha	Dhenkanal Magji Khajuri Guda Similipal Kai Chutney Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal Dongaria Kondh Embroidery Shawl Koraput Kalajeera Rice Lanjia Saura Paintings
Gujarat	Kachchhi Kharek
Jammu & Kashmir	Ramban Anardana



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International Purple Fest 2024

1. The International Purple Fest – **Goa 2024**, India’s inaugural inclusive **festival for persons with disabilities**, kicked off and is set to captivate audiences until January 13.

West Bengal - state song and state day

1. The West Bengal government has issued a notification declaring **Poila Boisakh**, the **first day of the Bengali New Year**, as the State Day.
2. It also declares a **song Banglar Mati Banglar Jal** written by **Rabindranath Tagore** as the State Song.
3. The State Song that the approximate playing time is **1 minute and 59 seconds**.

'RICH GLORY, CULTURE & HERITAGE'	
> Poila Baisakh will be state day, Bangla Divas	participants must stand like during national anthem
> 'Banglar Mati, Banglar Jal' will be state song	> 13 states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Odisha and Assam, have state songs
> State govt programmes to start with state song and end with national anthem	> Most states have foundation or formation day
> During state song,	

Classical status for Bangla language

1. **West Bengal** requested the central government to officially list **Bengali as a “classical language”**.
2. As per their claim, Bengali as a language existed, even in writing, as early as, **3rd-4th BCE**.
3. Bengali is the **2nd most spoken language** in India, it is also the **7th most spoken language in the world**.

India’s First Dark Sky Park

1. The **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in **Maharashtra** has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park.



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2. It is the **fifth such park in Asia** for **protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution**, making the facility ideal for astronomy enthusiasts.



Tallest Ambedkar Statue

1. The **Andhra Pradesh government** unveiled the world's tallest statue of BR Ambedkar in **Vijayawada**.
2. It is standing **206 feet from the ground**, the **'Statue of Social Justice'** statue will be in the list of the **top 50 tallest statues** in the world.
3. The **second-tallest** Ambedkar statue, which is **175 feet**, is situated in neighbouring **Telangana**.



Kolam tribes

1. The Central government extended basic facilities to the endangered Kolam tribe under the **Jan Jati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan**.
2. They are listed as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in the state of **Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh**.

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Operation Sarvashakti

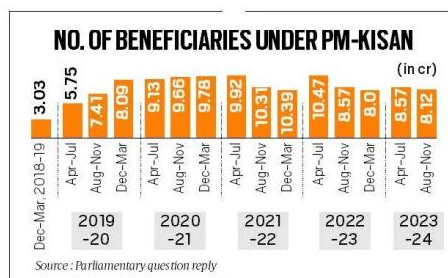
1. In response to escalating terrorist activities in **Jammu and Kashmir**, the **Indian Army** is launching Operation Sarvashakti, a **strategic initiative aimed at curbing the influence of Pakistani proxy terrorist groups**.
2. This operation seeks to eliminate terrorists operating in the sensitive **Rajouri Poonch sector**.
3. Operation Sarvashakti aims to conduct combined counter-terrorist operations on both sides of the **Pir Panjal ranges**.



NATIONAL

PM-KISAN Scheme beneficiaries

1. The number of PM-Kisan beneficiaries are **dropped by over 20%** to 8.12 crore now from a peak of 10.47 crore in April-July 2022.
2. The government has added back 34 lakh farmers under the **“saturation drive”**.
3. Of the 34 lakh, **Uttar Pradesh** accounts for the most — 8.50 lakh.
4. It is followed by **Rajasthan** 2.39 lakh, **Manipur** 2.27 lakh, **Jharkhand** 2.2 lakh, and **Maharashtra** 1.89 lakh.





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Litchi cultivation in India

1. Litchi is now being cultivated across **19 Indian states**.
2. The **sweet and juicy fruit** earlier restricted to **Muzaffarpur in Bihar**.
3. The fruit mainly grows in the **foothills of the Himalayas** in Uttarakhand, **Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand**.
4. **Muzaffarpur of Bihar** is known as the “**Sweet City of India**” and is one of India’s leading litchi producers.

NTPS - One nation one pass

1. The **environment ministry** launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS) as a "One Nation-One Pass" regime.
2. It aims to **facilitate seamless transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce** across the country.



Bharat Brand rice



1. The Government is considering a proposal to **sell FCI** (Food Corporation of India) rice under the 'Bharat' brand.



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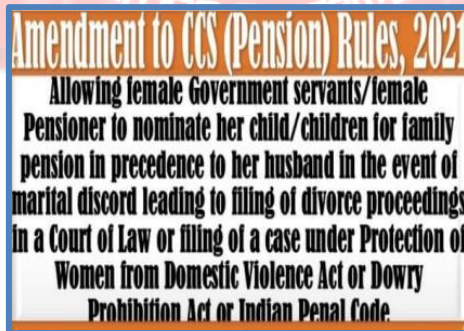
2. Under the OMSS, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is offering quality rice at a reserve price of **Rs. 29 per kg.**
3. Rice inflation is at **13% year-on-year.**

India's First Submarine Tourism

1. The **Gujarat government** is set to introduce India's first submarine tourism.
2. It will **explore the marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka**, a small island off the coast of Dwarka city.
3. The project is on the lines of the **Titanic submersible expedition.**
4. It will enable tourists to **dive 100 metres below** the sea in a submarine to experience the marine life around the island.



Amendment of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 2021



1. The **Indian Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions** announced that the provisions are amended.
2. It will be allowing the **female government employees** to **nominate their child or children for the family pension** in place of their **husband if divorce proceedings are pending** or a case has been filed against their spouse.

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3. Till now, the rules provided for the family pension to first go to the surviving spouse and the **children became eligible to receive it only after the death of the spouse.**

UN Statistical Commission membership

1. India started its **four-year term as a member** of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
2. The country had **won the election** to the global statistics body in April after a gap of **nearly two decades.**
3. They are elected by the **United Nations Economic and Social Council.**



SMART 2.0

1. The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** along with **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** has launched 'SMART 2.0' program.
2. SMART stands for **Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research among Teaching professionals.**





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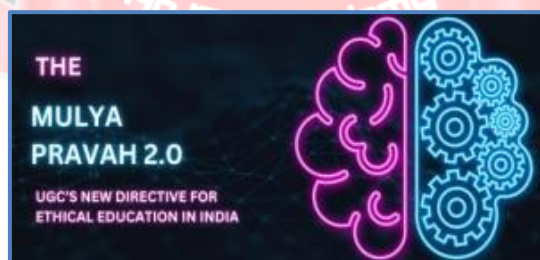
3. It aims to **promote robust clinical studies** in priority areas of Ayurveda with **Ayurveda academic institutions/hospitals across the country** through mutual collaboration.

India Innovation Week 2024

1. The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** (DPIIT) is organizing the Startup India Innovation Week from **January 10 - 18**.

Mulya Pravah 2.0

1. In a significant move to **promote ethical practices** in higher education, the **University Grants Commission** (UGC) of India has introduced Mulya Pravah 2.0.
2. This new guideline comes as a response to surveys that highlighted **unethical practices** such as **favouritism, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination** within various educational organizations.
3. It aims to build value-based institutions by **orienting individuals and institutions** towards developing a deep respect for **fundamental duties and constitutional values** and bonding with the country.

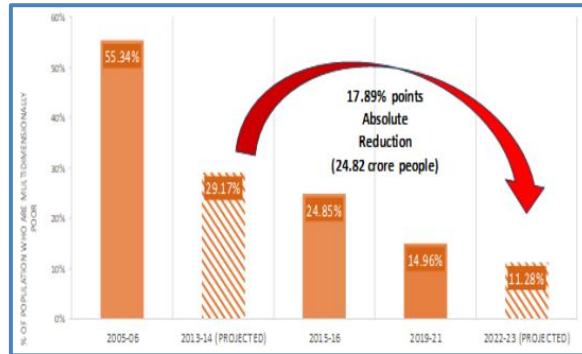


NITI Aayog report on Multidimensional Poverty

1. Multidimensional poverty in India **declined from 29.17% in 2013-14** to **11.28% in 2022-23**.
2. **Uttar Pradesh** registered the **largest decline** in the number of poor people with **5.94 crore people** escaping multidimensional poverty over the **last nine years**.

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3. Multidimensional poverty is measured by **improvement in health, education and standard of living.**



75th Republic Day Highlights

1. This year's Republic Day parade was '**women-centric**', indicating the roles played by women in various sectors.
2. **French President Emmanuel Macron** participated as its chief guest.
3. For the first time, the parade was heralded by **100 women artists** playing Indian musical instruments.
4. The theme of this year's Republic Day is '**Viksit Bharat**' and '**Bharat: Loktantra ki Matraka**'.
5. Tamil Nadu tableau carried **Kudavolai System in Ancient Tamil Nadu - Mother of Democracy.**



All Women contingent's parade

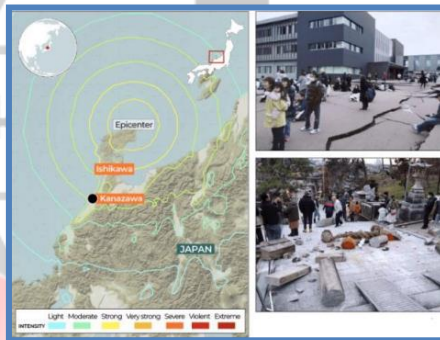
1. Women contingents from the Armed Forces, Border Security Force (BSF), Delhi Police, and Agniveers paraded on **Kartavya Path, Delhi.**

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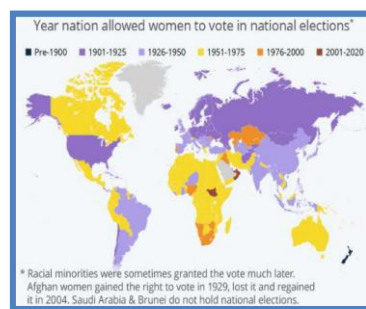
2. This bloc is made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
3. The membership of **Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates** was due to take effect from **January 1, 2024**.

Japan Earthquake

1. A major earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of **7.6 hit north-central Japan**.
2. Soon after, the Japan Meteorological Agency issued a tsunami warning along the coastal regions of **Ishikawa, Niigata and Toyama prefectures**.
3. Waves more than **1-metre-high** hit the coast of Wajima City in Ishikawa Territory.



Women's Suffrage at Vatican



1. In October 2023, **Pope Francis** allowed **women to vote** at the Synod of Bishops for the first time.



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2. With this historic move, **Vatican City** became the **last country** in the world to give its women the right to vote.
3. This was making **Sister Raffaella Petrini** the highest-ranking woman in the world's smallest state.

India at Square Kilometre Array Observatory

1. India has joined a **mega project** – **Square Kilometre Array Observatory** (SKAO).
2. The SKAO is not a **single telescope** but an array of thousands of antennas, to be installed in **remote radio-quiet locations** in **South Africa and Australia**.
3. It will operate as **one large unit** meant to observe and **study celestial phenomena**.
4. Some of the countries taking part in building the SKA include the **UK, Australia, South Africa, Canada, China, France, India, Italy and Germany**.



Global Firepower rankings 2024

1. The **United States continues** to have the most powerful military in the world, according to the Global Firepower rankings 2024.
2. **India has the fourth strongest** military of evaluated **145 countries**.

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DEFENCE

Desert Cyclone 2024

1. The Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024' between **India and UAE is held in Rajasthan.**

Exercise Sea Dragon 24

1. The **Indian Navy** marked its **presence in the Pacific**, with the arrival of a **P-81 aircraft at Guam, USA.**
2. This deployment signals the navy's participation in the fourth edition of Ex Sea Dragon 24, an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise **spearheaded by the US Navy.**
3. Ex Sea Dragon 24 fosters collaboration and interoperability among the navies of the **US, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and India.**



'Ugram', Indigenous Assault Rifle

1. The weapon, developed at the **Armament Research and Development Establishments (ARDE)**, the DRDO's Pune-based laboratory, is designed to meet the Indian Army's 'GSQR' (General Staff Qualitative Requirement) of a rifle **weighing less than four kg.**
2. The operational prototype of the **7.62 x 51mm** assault rifle was unveiled by **Dr S V Gade**, director general (Armament & Combat Engineering Cluster).



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Joint Exercise 'Sahyog Kaijin'

1. The **Indian and Japanese Coast Guards** have recently conducted a successful joint exercise named 'Sahyog Kaijin' **off the coast of Chennai.**

Astra Missile

1. Union Minister of State for Defence, marked a historic moment, by **flagging off the indigenously developed Astra air-to-air missiles.**
2. Developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and manufactured by BDL for the IAF, the Astra Weapon System boasts unparalleled capabilities in its category, with a remarkable range **exceeding 100 kilometers.**



Exercise KHANJAR

1. The 11th edition of the **India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces** Exercise KHANJAR has kicked off at the Special Forces Training School in **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.**





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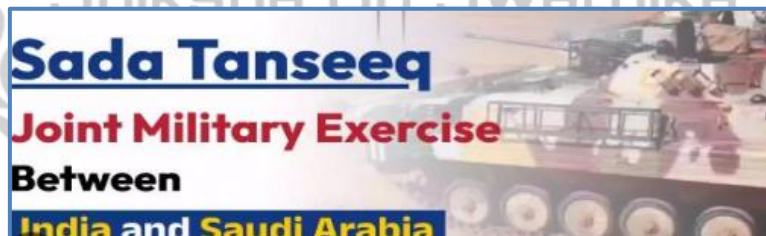
EX-DESERT KNIGHT

1. The **Indian Air Force** (IAF) conducted Exercise Desert Knight along with the **French Air and Space Force** (FASF) and the **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) Air Force.



EXERCISE SADA TANSEEQ

1. The inaugural joint military exercise, Sada Tanseeq, **between the armies of India and Saudi Arabia**, is poised to commence in **Rajasthan**, showcasing a significant leap in **bilateral relations** between India and Saudi Arabia.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SLIM Mission - Japan

1. Japan's **Smart Lander for Investigating Moon** (SLIM) spacecraft entered into orbit around the moon recently.
2. If the landing attempt succeeds, **Japan** will become only the **fifth country** to **softland** a robotic craft on the natural satellite.

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ISRO's PSLV-C58

1. ISRO's PSLV-C58 has launched **X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** into an Eastward low inclination orbit recently.
2. XPoSat is the **first dedicated scientific** satellite from ISRO.
3. It aims to carry out **research in space-based polarisation measurements** of X-ray emission from celestial sources.
4. It carries **two payloads**, namely **POLIX** (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and **XSPECT** (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing).

Engineered Plant Cells To Produce Drug For Cancer

1. Researchers from the prestigious **Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT Madras)** and Mandi have successfully **metabolically engineered plant cells** to boost the **production of the anti-cancer drug camptothecin (CPT)**.



Aditya-L1 Mission

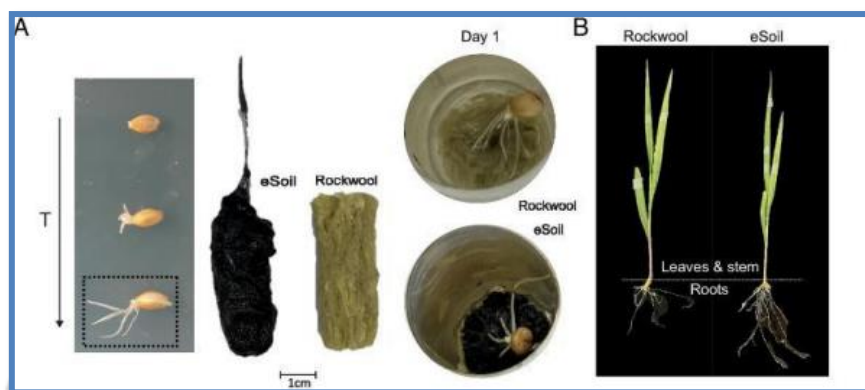
1. ISRO has placed the Aditya-L1 spacecraft in a **halo orbit** around the Lagrangian point (L1).
2. India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1 reached the L1 point on **January 6, 127 days after it was launched on September 2, 2023.**
3. After a **1.5-million km** journey the spacecraft was placed in a **halo orbit** around L1.
4. It is located roughly **1.5 million km** from earth on the continuously moving **Sun- Earth line** with an orbital period of about **177.86 earth days.**

JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

5. There are currently four operational spacecraft at L1 which are **WIND**, Solar and Helio spheric Observatory (**SOHO**), Advanced Composition Explorer (**ACE**) and Deep Space Climate Observatory (**DSCOVER**).

ENVIRONMENT

eSoil: New Development



1. New method of soilless gardening, or hydroponics, using an electrically conductive growing medium is called "electronic soil" or eSoil.
2. eSoil is a low-power bioelectronic growth substrate that can electrically stimulate the root system and growth environment of plants.
3. This novel substrate is environmentally friendly, being derived from cellulose and a conductive polymer called PEDOT.
4. eSoil uses low energy and minimises resource consumption.

Tiger at Neora Valley National Park

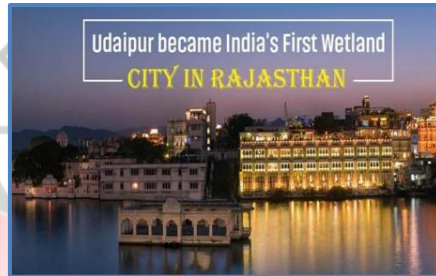


JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

1. The **Royal Bengal Tiger** was found at the **Neora Valley National Park** in Kalimpong district in the hills of West Bengal.
2. This has confirmed the presence of the big cats at an **altitude of 10,509 feet above sea level**.
3. It is one of the **richest biological zones** in the entire Northeast.
4. It links the **Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary** in Sikkim and the **Toorsa Strict Reserve** of Bhutan.

Wetland City Tag

1. **Sirpur Wetland** (Indore), **Yashwant Sagar** (Indore), **Bhoj Wetland** (in Bhopal), have been nominated for the prestigious voluntary **Wetland City Accreditation along with Rajasthan's Udaipur**.
2. The scheme aims to **promote conservation** and **wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands** as well as **sustainable socio-economic** benefits for local populations.



Status of Northeast African Cheetah

1. The experts have appealed to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to reclassify the status of the Northeast African Cheetah to **'endangered' from 'vulnerable'**.



JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

New ‘silverline’ butterflies

1. A new species of Silverline butterfly **Cigaritis meghamalaiensis** has been **discovered at the Meghamalai hills**.
2. It has become the **first butterfly species** to be described from the **Western Ghats in 33 years**.



Sisal leaves

1. Scientists have reported a method to produce from sisal leaves a **“highly absorbent and retentive material”**.
2. The material can potentially **replace cotton, wood pulp**, and chemical absorbents in **sanitary napkins**.
3. The ancient **Aztec and Mayan civilisations** were perhaps the first to begin making paper out of sisal leaves.



Snow leopard Conservation Breeding Program

1. **Darjeeling zoo** now has the **world’s largest number** of snow leopards.

JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

2. This is the highest since the launch of the breeding programme at **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** (PNHZZP), also commonly known as **Darjeeling Zoo**.
3. Snow leopards are in the “**vulnerable**” category of the International Union for Conservation of Nature or IUCN “Red List of Threatened Species”.



Golden Tiger

1. The 'rarest' golden tiger was captured on camera in **Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve** (KNPTR) after **three years**.
2. The “golden tiger,” was an example of **unusual colour aberration**, and it could be due to **excessive inbreeding**.



World's First 'Black Tiger Safari'

1. In a groundbreaking move, **Odisha** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled plans for the establishment of the **world's first 'black tiger safari'** near the **Similipal Tiger Reserve** (STR) in **Mayurbhanj**.

JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

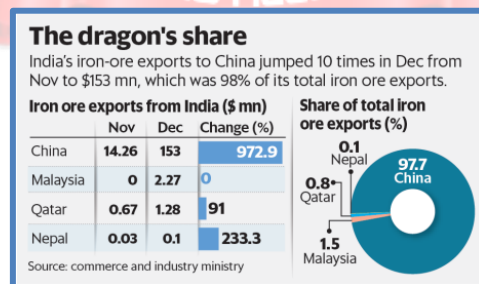
- This visionary project aims to provide tourists and visitors with a **rare glimpse of the melanistic tigers**, commonly known as black tigers, recently spotted at the Similipal National Park.



ECONOMY

Iron Ore Exports to China

- China** has emerged the **highest buyer of iron ore** from India with nearly **24.75 million tonnes (mt)**.
- This is the **highest export to China** in absolute terms in over the last three years.
- So far, this fiscal, nearly **95% of India's iron** ore shipments have gone to China.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Maha Kavithai

- Chief Minister M K Stalin launched poet and writer **Vairamuthu's latest book Maha Kavithai**.

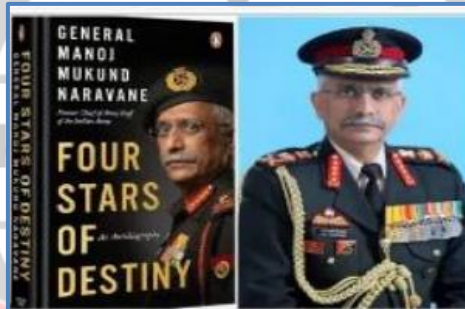
JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

2. The book explores the **five elements- soil, wind, fire, sky, and water.**



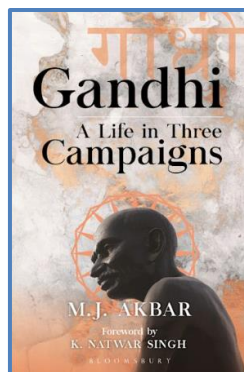
Four Stars Of Destiny

1. **General Manoj Mukund Naravane**, the **former Chief of Army Staff** (CoAS) of the Indian Army, has penned his autobiography titled **“Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography.”**
2. General MM Naravane served as the **28th Chief of Army Staff**, leading the Indian Army with distinction from **December 2019 to April 2022.**



"Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns"

1. "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns" has been published by **M.J. Akbar**, with co- author **K. Natwar Singh.**



JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

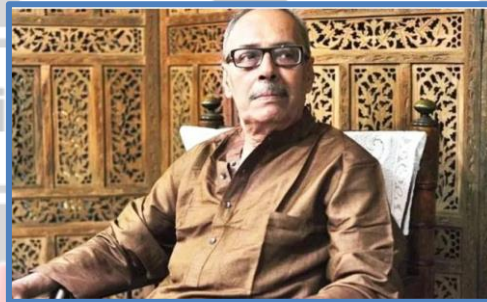
India's First Multi-Sports Beach Games

1. **Madhya Pradesh** became the overall champion in the first Beach Games held in **Diu**.
2. India's first multi-sports Beach Games, "**The Beach Games 2024**" was held at the **Blue Flag-certified Ghoghla Beach** in Diu.

AWARDS AND EVENTS

2023 Kuvempu Award

1. Renowned **Bengali writer Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay** receives the 2023 Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar, celebrating his **significant contributions to Indian languages** in honor of the late poet Kuvempu.
2. The **previous year's** recipient was **Tamil writer Iyayam**.



National Youth Award 2024

1. Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has selected **Bisathi Bharat of Anantapur district** for the National Youth Award.

M S Swaminathan Award





JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

1. **Haryana Agricultural University's Vice Chancellor Prof. B.R. Kamboj** has been honoured with the prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award.
2. This is the recognition of his contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the **field of agronomy**.

Bharat Ratna - Karpoori Thakur

1. Karpoori Thakur, **the former Chief Minister of Bihar**, was chosen for the country's **highest civilian award** Bharat Ratna (posthumously).
2. When he **first became an MLA in 1952**, he was selected for an official delegation to Austria.

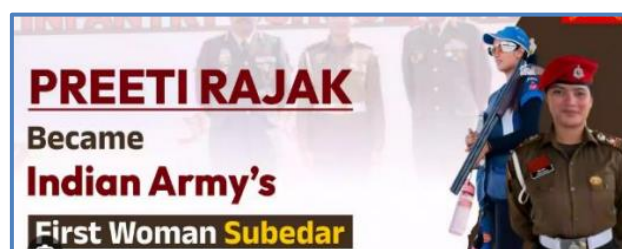
PERSONALITIES

Bloomberg Billionaires Index

1. **Françoise Bettencourt Meyers** has become the first woman in the world to be **worth over \$100 billion**, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Army's First Woman Subedar

1. **Shooter Preeti Rajak** becomes Army's first woman Subedar.
2. **Havildar Preeti Rajak**, who won a **silver medal** in the women's trap shooting at the 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou in China last year, has been promoted to the rank of Subedar, becoming the Army's first woman Subedar.



JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

APPOINTMENTS

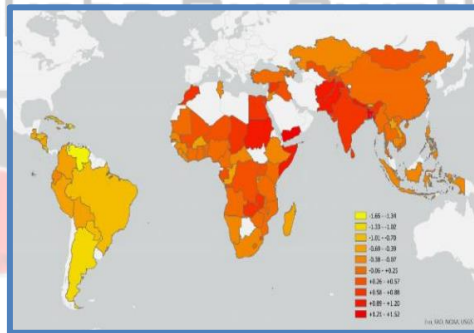
Director General of CISF

1. The Centre appointed **Nina Singh** as the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force.
2. It is making her the **first woman** to head this elite force.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Climate crisis: Inequality hotspot study

1. **India stood 12th on the risk index** developed by researchers from six institutes.
2. The other Asian countries included Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal, ranking second, fourth, seventh and eighth respectively.
3. It ranked **87 countries** based on the level of climate change threat faced by women working in agricultural sectors.



JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

Best City For Indian Women

1. **Chennai** emerged as the top Indian city for women in 2023 in terms of **inclusivity and conduciveness to working women**, as per findings from diversity, equity, and inclusivity consultant **Avtar Group's Top Cities for Women in India (TCWI) 2023**.



Henley Passport Index 2024

1. The European nations of France, Germany, Italy and Spain, and Asia's Japan and Singapore sharing the number one spot.
2. India, meanwhile, has improved its ranking and moved up to **the 80th position** from the previous year's **ranking of 84**.
3. Those holding an Indian passport have visa-free access to **62 destinations**.

Ranking world's passports	
RANK 1	France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Spain
RANK 2	Finland, South Korea, Sweden
RANK 3	Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands
RANK 4	Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, UK
RANK 5	Greece, Malta, Switzerland
RANK 6	Australia, Czechia, New Zealand, Poland
RANK 7	Canada, Hungary, United States
RANK 8	Estonia, Lithuania
RANK 9	Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia
RANK 10	Iceland



80th position for India. It is ranked along with Senegal and Togo, with visa-free access to 62 countries.

India was ranked 87 in 2017, 81 in 2018, 82 in 2019 and 2020, 90 in 2021, 83 in 2022 and 84 in 2023

METHODOLOGY

The passport ranking is based on a comprehensive methodology that considers national GDP data, political relations, bilateral agreements, and international regulations. The index includes 199 different passports



JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

1. India Placed **93rd Among 180 Nations** In 2023 Corruption Index.
2. **Transparency International's** Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) offers valuable insights into India's standing in the **global arena of public sector integrity**.
3. For the sixth consecutive year, **Denmark has retained its top position** on the index, securing a score of 90, credited to its robust "well-functioning justice systems.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme / Importance
January 01	Global Family Day	"Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Families."
January 04	World Braille Day	"Empowering Through Inclusion and Diversity."
January 05	National Birds Day	"Right To Fight".
January 06	World Day Of War Orphans	"Orphan Lives Matter" and "Standing Up for War-Affected Children."
January 11 to 17	National Road Safety Week 2024	Be a road safety hero
January 12	National Youth Day 2024	'MYBharat-ViksitBharat@2047- By the Youth, For the Youth'.
Whole Month	Cervical Cancer Awareness Month	"Learn. Prevent. Screen"
January 23	Parakram Diwas 2024	Birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose. 'Parakram Diwas' or Courage Day
January 24	International Day of Education 2024	'learning for lasting peace'.



SHIKSHA BY SWATHIKA – AN IAS ACADEMY

Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!

JANUARY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2024

January 24	National Girl Child Day 2024	“Saving our Girls: Educating our Girls.”
January 25	National Voters Day 2024	'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'.
January 25	National Tourism Day 2024	"Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories".
January 28	World Leprosy Day 2024	Beat Leprosy
January 30	Martyr's Day 2024	Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was assassinated.

