



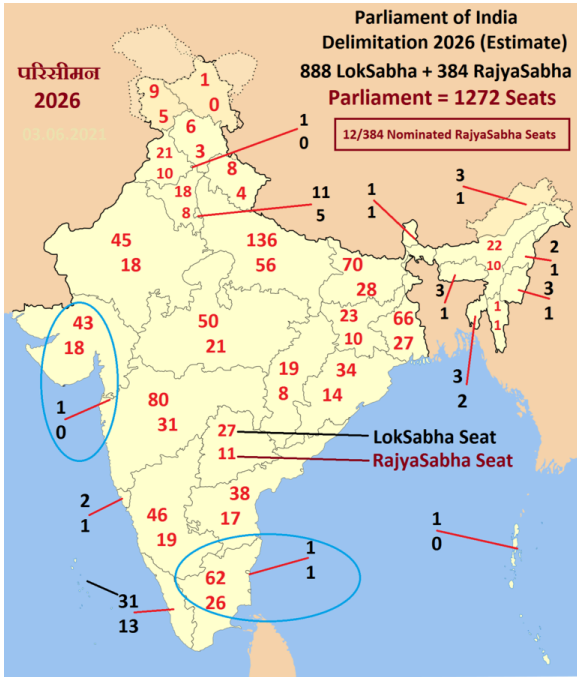
07 February 2024

National and International News

<p>Uttarakhand's UCC Bill</p> <p>About UCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 44, enshrined in Chapter IV of the 1950 Constitution of India, outlines that "The State shall make efforts to ensure the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across all of India's territories." • Chapter IV of the Indian Constitution elaborates on DPSP (Articles 36-51), which are guidelines for the State to enact policies for the overall welfare of society. • Our Constituent Assembly adopted the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) from the 1937 Irish Constitution. • The UCC seeks to establish uniform personal laws applicable to all religions in India. • Areas covered by the UCC include Marriage, Inheritance, Maintenance, Guardianship, Succession, Adoption, and others. 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami presents the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the State Assembly. • The UCC encompasses various aspects such as live-in relationships and divorce, aiming for uniformity across communities. • Notably, Scheduled Tribes are excluded from the Bill's provisions. <p>Key Provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UCC ensures equal rights in divorce matters, eliminating practices like 'Halala' and 'Iddat'. • Marriages under the UCC are restricted to one man and one woman, with specified ages for marriage. • Registration of marriages and divorces becomes mandatory, penalizing non-compliance. • The Bill addresses live-in relationships, imposing penalties for non-registration or false information. • Children born from such relationships are recognized as legitimate under the UCC. • Sons and daughters are granted equal rights in property inheritance, regardless of their status. • Widows and children gain equal inheritance rights in a deceased person's property, a departure from previous laws.
<p>Tax-to-GDP Ratio Set to Reach New High in FY25</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Secretary, Sanjay Malhotra, forecasts India's tax-to-GDP ratio to hit a record 11.7% in 2024-25, with direct taxes leading the increase. • Simplification and rationalization of the tax regime are ongoing to minimize disputes and enforcement issues.



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	<p>Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is primarily because of direct taxes increasing from 6.1% of GDP in 2022-23 to 6.6% this year and 6.7% next year. • As the economy grows and per capita income increases, the tax-to-GDP also increases. • Malhotra anticipates a surge in direct tax collection, driven by more taxpayers opting for the new tax regime. • The new regime offers a higher tax-free income threshold but disallows deductions.
<p>Delimitation Exercise</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delimitation entails fixing the number of seats and boundaries of constituencies, including reserved seats for SC and ST, as per Article 82 and 170 of the Constitution. • It's carried out by the Delimitation Commission after each Census. <p>Background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delimitation has been frozen as per the 1971 Census in order to encourage population control measures. • This was done through the 42nd Amendment Act till the year 2000 and was extended by the 84th Amendment Act till 2026. <p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The uneven population growth among states poses challenges. • Discussions revolve around redistributing seats among states or increasing the total number of seats, both potentially disadvantageous to certain regions. <p>International Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States: Seats in the House of Representatives are redistributed after each Census, aiming for equal proportion representation among states. • European Union: The EU Parliament allocates seats based on a principle of degressive proportionality, where population size influences the number of seats. <p>(Mentioned figure is just an estimate)</p>
<p>Request for Neutrality</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Naga Council (UNC) Appeals for



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	<p>Non-involvement of Nagas in Meitei-Kuki-Zo Conflict.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UNC, representing Nagas in Manipur, seeks to distance Nagas from the ongoing ethnic strife between Meiteis and Kuki-Zos. <p>Overview of Ethnic Violence in Manipur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 3 May 2023, ethnic tensions flared up in Manipur, a north-eastern state in India, primarily between the Meitei community residing in the Imphal Valley and the Kuki-Zo tribal group inhabiting the surrounding hills. <p>Causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a court directive on 14 April 2023, the Manipur High Court instructed the state government to forward a proposal to the central government regarding the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.
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Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala Budget 2024-25 seeks to mop up additional resources, attract investment</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Budget for the 2024-25 fiscal presented by Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal on February 5 sought to mop up additional resources and draw private investment in key sectors, even as it proposed Chinese-model special development zones (SDZ) for tapping the potential of the Vizhinjam seaport project and a new 'assured' pension system for government employees. Budget was also described as a "platform for a forward leap for Kerala," as it has sought to raise ₹1,067 crore through various measures like river sand mining, increased judicial court fees, and a gallonage fee on liquor The government also targets ₹3 lakh crore in private investment over three years through "out-of-the-box" project models and special development zones
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<p>40% increase in transgender voter enrolment in district</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transgender voter enrolment camp was held in the district against the backdrop of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. • Assistant Collector Akhil V. Menon inaugurated the enrolment camp held under the umbrella of the district SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) and the electoral literacy club of the Government College for Women, Vazhuthacaud. • This resulted in an of 40% increase transgender voter enrolment.
<p>Launch of Centre of Excellence in Microbiome</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, officially launched the Centre of Excellence in Microbiome • This center aims to be a global hub for research and entrepreneurship in the field of microbiome science. • It focuses on five key areas: human, animal, plant, aquatic, and environmental microbiomes. • The CoEM will conduct interdisciplinary research, facilitate collaborations across different domains, and promote the development of innovative products related to the microbiome. • This initiative is significant in the context of understanding the role of microbiota in health, agriculture, and the environment.
<p>Gender Budget outlay goes up to 21.35%</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian state of Kerala allocated ₹4,661.51 crore for its Gender Budget in 2024-25, representing 21.35% of the total plan outlay. • This marks an increase of 0.23 percentage points from the 2023-24 allocation of 21.12% (₹4,670.22 crore). • The allocation for schemes specifically targeting women (90-100% women beneficiaries) rose to 10.5% (₹2,291.69 crore) from 6.69% in the previous year. • However, the allocation for schemes with less than 90% women beneficiaries decreased by 10.85%.
<p>Kerala brings out 'Environment Budget' as a separate document for the first time</p>	<p>Context:</p>



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- For the first time, the Kerala government has introduced an Environment Budget as a separate document along with the State Budget.
- The Environment Budget was also tabled in the Assembly alongside other Budget documents.
- The document highlights 81 schemes in nine sectors and their Budget allocations in environment-related areas.
- This provides a significant impetus to green projects and initiatives, accelerating progress towards environmental goals.

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