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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

TN CA 18 November 2024

<p><b>Standing Committee on Defence (SCOD)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence visited various establishments of the Army and the Coast Guard in Chennai.</li></ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Standing Committee on Defence constituted under <b>Rule 331 C of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.</b></li><li>• The Committee has the <b>Ministry of Defence</b> under its jurisdiction.</li><li>• The Committee consists of <b>31 Members: 21 Members from Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.</b></li><li>• <b>Functions of the Committee:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ To consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence, make reports on the same and present them to the Parliament;</li><li>○ To examine such Bills pertaining to the Ministry of Defence as are referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be, and make reports thereon;</li><li>○ To consider Annual Report of the Ministry of Defence and make reports thereon; and</li><li>○ To consider National Basic Long-Term Policy Documents presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be, and make reports thereon.</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>16th Finance Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 16th Finance Commission arrives in Tamil Nadu for an official visit.</li></ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Government of India, in adherence to <b>Article 280(1) of the Constitution</b>, has established the <b>Sixteenth Finance Commission, appointing Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog and Professor at Columbia University, as its Chairman.</b></li><li>• Specific terms of reference have been outlined, including the <b>distribution of tax proceeds between the Union and States, principles governing grants-in-aid to States, and measures to bolster State funds for local bodies like Panchayats and Municipalities.</b></li><li>• The Commission has also been tasked with reviewing disaster management financing arrangements under the</li></ul>



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	<p><b>Disaster Management Act, 2005</b>, and making recommendations for improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commission has been requested to make its report available by 31st October, 2025.</li> </ul>
Rice Cultivation	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rice millers have reiterated their demand for removing rice from the ambit of the Goods and Service Tax (GST).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rice is a <b>tropical and Kharif crop</b> that needs heat, rain, and labor.</li> <li>Rice has three cropping seasons: <b>Kharif, Rabi, and Summer crop</b>.</li> <li>It requires a warm climate and can be grown almost yearly (<b>2-3 crops</b>) in hot and humid regions of eastern and southern parts of India.</li> <li>Rice requires <b>semi-aquatic conditions (rainfall or irrigation throughout the season) and the soil should never be dry during the growing season</b>.</li> <li>The fields during rice cultivation must be flooded under <b>10-12 cm deep water</b> when sowing.</li> <li>The average annual rainfall of rice-growing areas above <b>150 cm is good</b> for the crop.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discuss:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About <b>Goods and Service Tax (GST)</b></li> </ul>
Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the government order, the revised fines came into effect on October 28, 2022, in line with the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.</li> <li>This revision resulted in higher penalties for certain offenses under various sections of the Motor Vehicles Act.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 15, 2019 by the Minister for Road Transport and Highways.</li> <li>The Bill seeks to <b>amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to provide for road safety</b>.</li> <li>The Act provides for <b>grant of licenses and permits related to motor vehicles, standards for motor vehicles, and penalties for violation of these provisions</b>.</li> </ul>
Species in news: Siberian stonechat (Saxicola maurus), Steppe Eagle (Aquila)	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rainy winter weather attracts exotic birds to the regional biodiversity of Tiruchi.</li> <li>The Siberian Stonechat (Saxicola maurus), Steppe Eagle</li> </ul>



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nipalensis) &  
Flycatcher (*Hypothymis  
azurea*)

(*Aquila nipalensis*) and Black-naped Blue Flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea*), are among the birds spotted by local birdwatchers.

### Key Points:

- **Siberian stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*):**
  - The Siberian stonechat or Asian stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) is a recently validated species of the Old World flycatcher family (Muscicapidae).
  - It breeds in the East Palearctic including in easternmost Europe and winters in the Old World tropics.
- **Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*):**
  - The steppe eagle's well-feathered legs illustrate it to be a member of the subfamily Aquilinae, also known as the "booted eagles".
  - The steppe eagle undertakes a massive migration from essentially its entire breeding range, especially those of the Middle East, Red Sea and the Himalayas.
- **Flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea*):**
  - The black-naped monarch or black-naped blue flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea*) is a slim and agile passerine bird belonging to the family of monarch flycatchers found in southern and south-eastern Asia.
  - They have a call that is similar to that of the Asian paradise flycatcher, and in tropical forest habitats, pairs may join mixed-species foraging flocks.