

July - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ ISRO successfully conducted the Integrated Main Parachute Air Drop Test (IMAT-05) for the Gaganyaan G1 mission at the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) drop zone in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The rare Laudankia Vine Snake (Ahaetulla laudankia) was documented in the Ubeshwar wildlife area of Udaipur, Rajasthan, after nearly 30 years.
- ❖ Karnataka announced plans to establish India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence (AI) University in Bengaluru.
- ❖ World Horse Day is observed annually on 11 July to recognise the contribution of horses to agriculture, transport, livelihoods, sports, tourism, culture, and animal-assisted therapy.
- ❖ International Day of Hope is observed every year on July 12 to promote hope as a global value by encouraging peace, dignity, tolerance, social stability and sustainable development through collective action.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Building Collective Resilience, Teaching Hope, and Using It to Advance Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

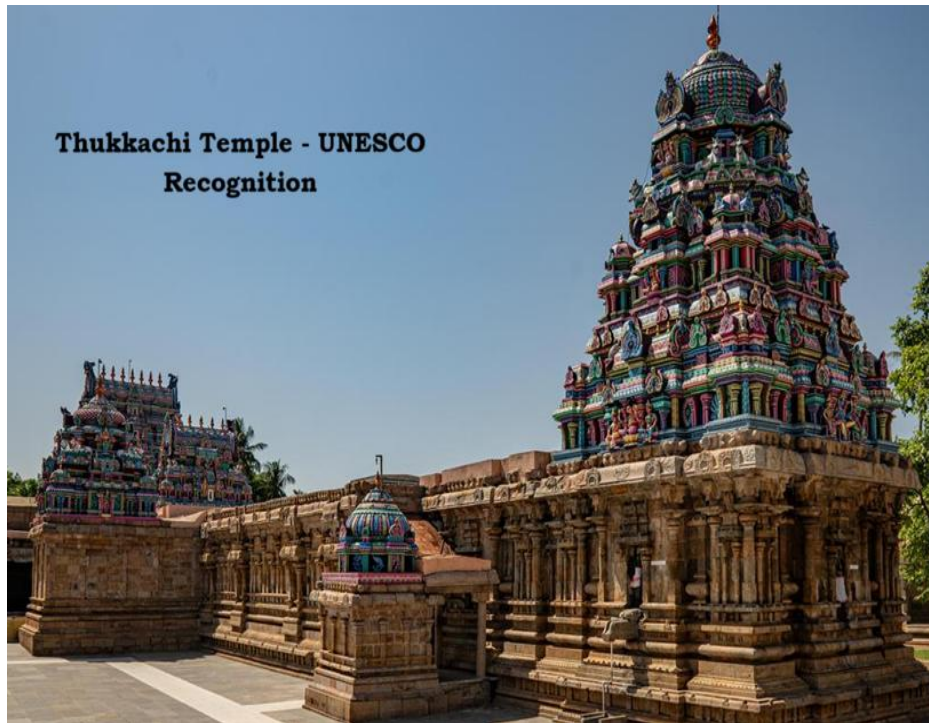
### Nalam TN Public Service Portal



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has launched the Nalam TN integrated digital public healthcare portal in Chennai.

- ❖ The portal is a single digital platform that integrates government healthcare services for patients, hospitals, and public health institutions.
- ❖ It enables online access to health services, hospital coordination, and a monitored system for individuals and organisations to make direct contributions to government hospitals.
- ❖ The portal strengthens the State's digital healthcare system and complements NalamAI, the WhatsApp-based chatbot used for outpatient (OP) appointment booking.
- ❖ It was launched by the State Health and Family Welfare Department as part of Tamil Nadu's initiative to improve accessible, transparent, and technology-enabled public healthcare.

### **Thukkachi Temple - UNESCO Recognition**

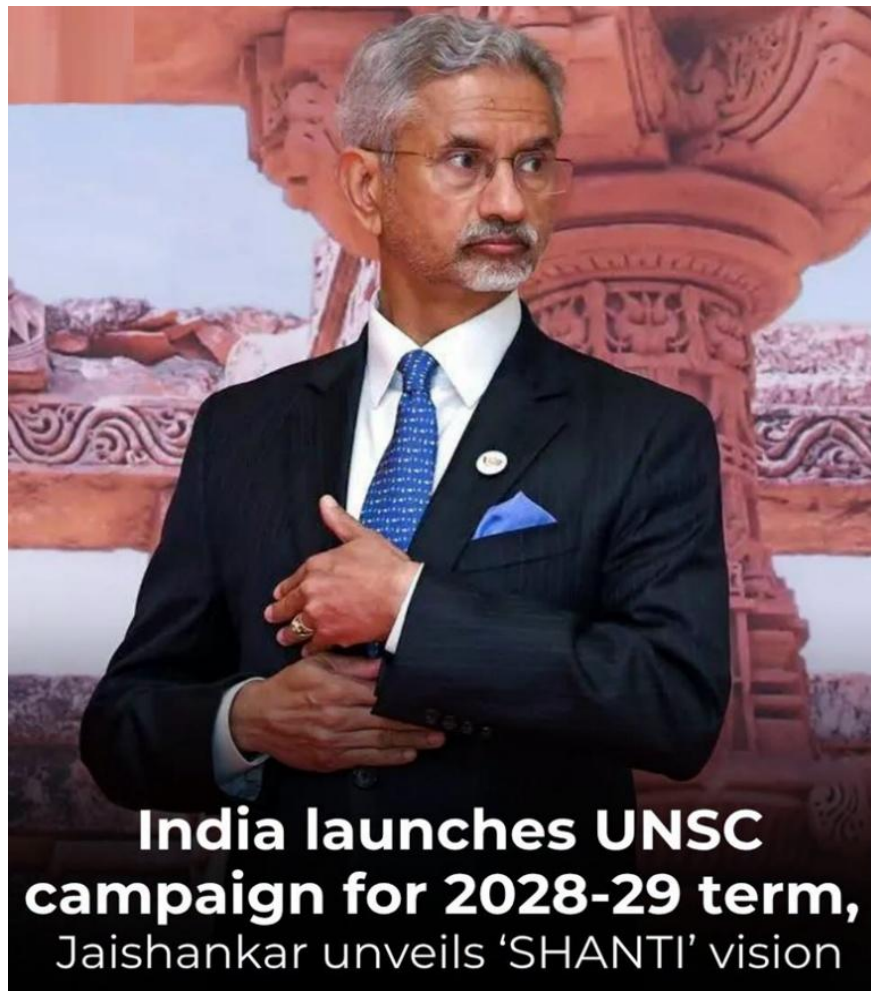


- ❖ The 12th-century Abathsahayeswarar Temple at Thukkachi, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu, received the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction (2024) for heritage conservation.
- ❖ The temple is a later Chola period monument associated with Kulottunga I and Vikrama Chola and is a living historic temple.
- ❖ It features a rare Kara Kovil architecture, where the temple sanctuary is designed like a processional chariot.

- ❖ The restoration used drone surveys, digital mapping, and anastylosis techniques to carefully dismantle and rebuild granite blocks in their original positions.
- ❖ The ₹5-crore conservation project combined traditional Sthapatya Veda and Agama Shastra principles with modern engineering methods.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **India's UNSC 2028-29 Campaign**



- ❖ India officially launched its campaign for election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar unveiled India's SHANTI vision (Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity) at the UN Headquarters, New York.
- ❖ India has contributed nearly 3 lakh personnel to around 50 UN peacekeeping missions since the organisation's formation.

- ❖ India currently has over 4,300 personnel serving in 10 UN peacekeeping missions.
- ❖ If elected, India will serve a two-year term and will join after previously serving eight terms as a non-permanent UNSC member.

### **India-UK CETA Update**

- ❖ The India-United Kingdom (UK) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came into effect to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties.
- ❖ CETA provides zero-duty access for nearly 99% of India's exports to the UK, covering almost 100% of trade value.
- ❖ The agreement improves market access in sectors such as textiles, agriculture, fisheries, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, services, and manufacturing.
- ❖ It promotes digital trade, professional mobility, innovation, and investment opportunities between India and the UK.
- ❖ The agreement includes commitments for services trade, mutual recognition of professional qualifications, and easier movement of skilled professionals.



### **Codex Food Standards - India**

- ❖ India led the adoption of seven Codex standards during the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49) held in Geneva.
- ❖ The Codex Alimentarius Commission is a joint body of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ Two standards for dried coriander seeds and fresh curry leaves were developed under India's chairmanship.



- ❖ Other adopted standards covered vanilla, large cardamom, food processing water safety, poultry food safety and food labelling.
- ❖ India's proposal to develop a Codex Standard for cashew kernels was also approved.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### European Missile Defence Coalition



- ❖ Nine European countries and Ukraine formed an Integrated Anti-Ballistic Missile Coalition in Paris, France, to develop a shared missile defence system.
- ❖ Founding members include Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.
- ❖ The coalition aims to build anti-ballistic missile capabilities through joint research, technical cooperation, and defence planning.
- ❖ The initiative focuses on Ukraine's Freyja anti-ballistic system, developed by Fire Point, as a cost-effective alternative to the Patriot system.

- ❖ Ballistic missile defence uses sensors, command networks, and interceptors to detect and destroy incoming ballistic missiles.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### India's Indigenous Surveillance Airships

- ❖ India launched the Airship-based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS) programme for indigenous long-endurance surveillance airships.
- ❖ The ₹15,000-crore programme aims to strengthen border monitoring, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), and communication capabilities.
- ❖ High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (HAPS) operate in the stratosphere (20–30 km altitude) and can remain airborne for months.
- ❖ The airships can carry radars, optical surveillance systems, electronic intelligence payloads, and communication equipment.
- ❖ The programme is being developed under the Make-I procurement framework, with support from the Indian Air Force and private industry.

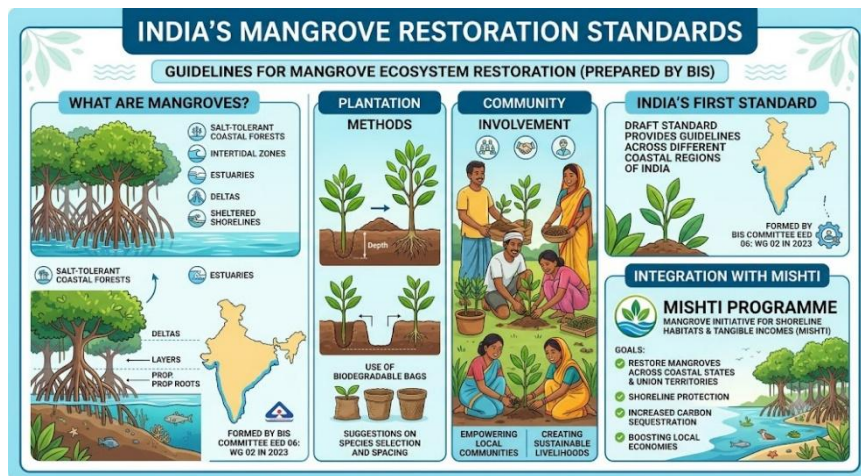


## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Mangrove Restoration Standards

- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is preparing India's first standard for mangrove ecosystem restoration titled "Restoration of Mangrove Ecosystem — Guidelines."

- ❖ The draft standard provides guidelines for restoring mangrove ecosystems across different coastal regions of India.
- ❖ Mangroves are salt-tolerant coastal forests found in intertidal zones, estuaries, deltas, and sheltered shorelines.
- ❖ The BIS committee EED 06: WG 02 was formed in 2023 to develop a unified restoration standard.
- ❖ The standard includes suggestions on plantation methods, use of biodegradable bags, and involvement of local communities.
- ❖ The MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes) programme aims to restore mangroves across coastal states and Union Territories of India.



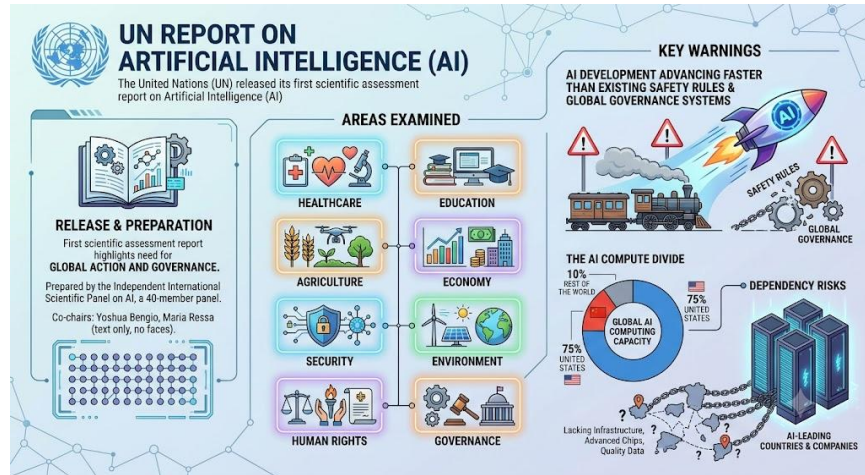
## REPORTS AND INDICES

### UN Report on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) released its first scientific assessment report on Artificial Intelligence (AI), highlighting the need for global action and governance.
- ❖ The report was prepared by the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, a 40-member panel co-chaired by Yoshua Bengio and Maria Ressa.
- ❖ It examined AI developments in areas including healthcare, education, agriculture, economy, security, environment, human rights, and governance.
- ❖ The report warned that AI development is advancing faster than existing safety rules and global governance systems.
- ❖ It highlighted the AI compute divide, with the United States (US) holding around 75% and China around 15% of global AI computing capacity.



- ❖ The report stated that countries lacking computing infrastructure, advanced chips, and quality data may become dependent on a few AI-leading countries and companies.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Jnanpith Award - R. Vairamuthu



- ❖ Tamil poet, lyricist, and writer R. Vairamuthu was conferred the 60th Jnanpith Award (2025) in New Delhi.



- ❖ He is the third Tamil literary figure to receive the award, after Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002), ending a 24-year gap.
- ❖ He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2003 for his novel Kallikattu Ithikasm.
- ❖ Instituted in 1961, the Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honour, presented annually for lifetime contribution to literature in any language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- ❖ The award is presented by Bharatiya Jnanpith, an institution established in 1944 to promote Indian languages, literature, and cultural heritage.
- ❖ The award comprises a cash prize of ₹11 lakh, a bronze statue of Goddess Vagdevi, and a citation.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica 2026 – 11 July**



- ❖ The day remembers the 1995 Srebrenica genocide, in which more than 8,000 Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) men and boys were killed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- ❖ The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through a resolution adopted on 23 May 2024.
- ❖ It is observed every year on 11 July to honour the victims of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide and to promote remembrance, justice, and genocide prevention.
- ❖ The resolution rejects genocide denial and historical revisionism and encourages education and awareness to prevent future atrocities.

- ❖ The International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) have ruled that the 1995 Srebrenica killings constituted genocide.

### **International Malala Day 2026 – July 12**

- ❖ The day aims to honour Malala Yousafzai's advocacy for girls' education and human rights.
- ❖ It is observed annually on 12 July, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai, and was declared by the United Nations (UN) in 2013.
- ❖ The day promotes every child's right to free, safe, and quality education, especially for girls around the world.
- ❖ Malala became a global symbol of education rights after surviving an attack in 2012 for speaking out against the ban on girls' education.
- ❖ Malala is the youngest Nobel Peace Prize recipient, receiving the award in 2014 at the age of 17.

