



August - 06

TNPSC BITS

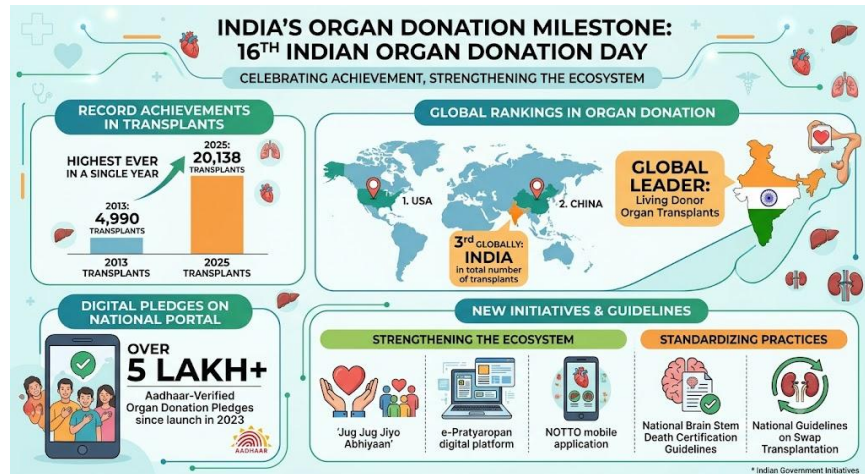
- ❖ Scientists discovered a new species of blind, blood-red eel named *Rakthamichthys anchi* in underground aquifers connected to dug-out wells in Goalpara district, Assam.
 - The species belongs to the *Rakthamichthys* genus, a group of subterranean swamp eel's endemic to India.
- ❖ Varsha Ashok Aglawe, a palaeontologist, became the first woman Director General (DG) of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its 176-year history, assuming charge as the 54th DG and succeeding Asit Saha.
- ❖ More than 13,000 tribal women and girl students performed Dhimsa dance at Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram, Andhra Pradesh, creating a Guinness World Record for the largest Dhimsa dance.
- ❖ India's distributed solar capacity increased to 31.5 Gigawatt (GW) in Financial Year (FY) 2026, rising over 17 times from 1.8 GW in FY 2018.
 - Rooftop solar capacity increased from 1.1 GW (FY 2018) to 25.7 GW (FY 2026), while solar pumps under PM-KUSUM reached 5.8 GW.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal developed India's first indigenous MA-104 cell line-based Live Attenuated African Swine Fever (ASF) Vaccine for pigs.
 - African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly infectious viral disease caused by the African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV), affecting domestic and wild pigs with mortality rates that may reach 100%.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Organ Donation Milestone

- ❖ India observed the 16th Indian Organ Donation Day, highlighting record organ transplant achievements and launching new initiatives to strengthen organ donation.
- ❖ India performed a record 20,138 organ transplants in 2025, the highest ever in a single year, compared with 4,990 transplants in 2013.
- ❖ India has crossed 5 lakh Aadhaar-verified organ donation pledges since the launch of the National Digital Pledge Portal in 2023.

- ❖ India ranks 3rd globally in the total number of organ transplants, after the United States and China, and remains the global leader in living donor organ transplants.
- ❖ The government launched the 'Jug Jug Jiyo Abhiyaan', the e-Pratyaropan digital platform, and the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) mobile application to strengthen the organ donation ecosystem.
- ❖ The government also released the National Brain Stem Death Certification Guidelines and the National Guidelines on Swap Transplantation to standardise organ transplant practices across India.



India's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone

- ❖ India's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone will be established in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It will be done by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.
- ❖ India aims to connect 100 crore (1 billion) people to 5G technology by 2030, doubling its current base of nearly 50 crore users.
- ❖ Union Minister of Communications Unveils Theme for 10th Edition of India Mobile Congress 2026 ('Scale without boundaries').
- ❖ It is the landmark edition of Asia's largest digital technology forum to be held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 10th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 is anchored around four key pillars.
- ❖ It reflects India's vision of building a digitally empowered, secure and growth-oriented future.

- ❖ Srishti – Building the Future, which will focus on fostering innovation, emerging technologies and solutions that shape the next generation of digital infrastructure.
- ❖ Suraksha – Strengthening Trust, which will underscore the importance of secure, resilient and trusted digital ecosystems.
- ❖ Sashakt – Expanding Opportunities, aimed at leveraging technology to empower citizens, businesses, startups and communities while ensuring inclusive access to digital opportunities.
- ❖ Samvardhan – Fuelling Growth, which will highlight the role of digital technologies in driving economic growth, investment, entrepreneurship, job creation and India's emergence as a global technology leader.



ECONOMY NEWS

Near-Universal Banking Coverage

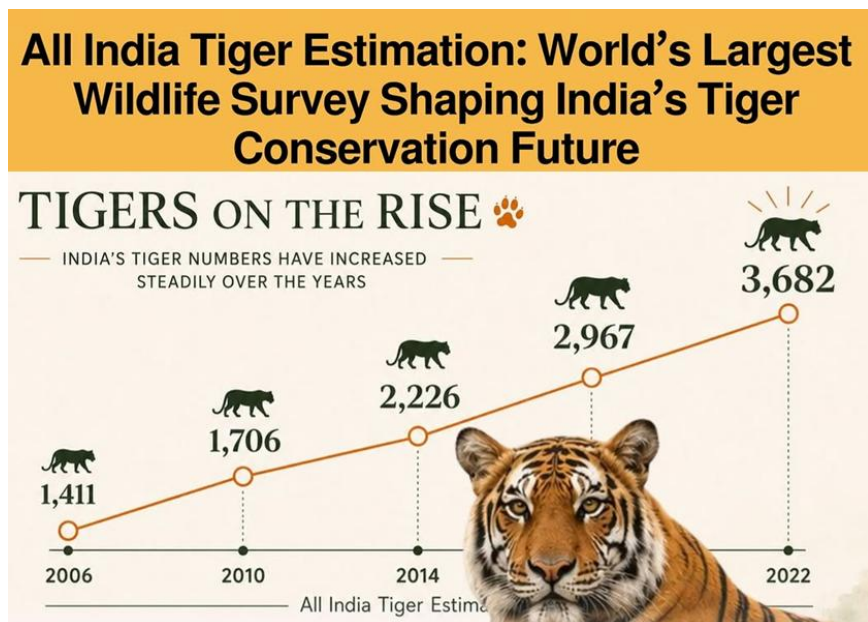


- ❖ India has achieved near-universal banking coverage, with 99.92% of inhabited villages having a banking outlet within a 5-kilometre radius.

- ❖ Out of 6,01,328 inhabited villages, 6,00,868 villages are covered by a bank branch, Business Correspondent (BC), or India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) centre.
- ❖ The banking network includes over 1.81 lakh bank branches, 17.36 lakh Business Correspondents (BCs), and 1.65 lakh India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) centres.
- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), 58.77 crore bank accounts have been opened with deposits of ₹3,12,414 crore (as of 17 July 2026).
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) aims to provide a banking outlet within 5 km of every inhabited village and requires 25% of new branches to be opened in unbanked rural centres.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Tiger Reserve Report 2026



- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) released the "Roadmap for Active Management of Tigers in India" report based on the 2022 All India Tiger Estimation.
- ❖ The report states that about two-thirds (38 of 58) of India's tiger reserves have a declining prey base, poor habitat quality, or both.
- ❖ Only 20 tiger reserves have both adequate prey and good habitat, while 36 reserves face prey shortages and 17 reserves have both poor habitat and inadequate prey.

- ❖ Nine tiger reserves have zero or critically low resident tiger populations, and 25 reserves have declining tiger numbers.
- ❖ India has an estimated 3,682 tigers, with 2,338 inside tiger reserves and 1,344 outside protected areas; about 75% of the world's wild tigers are found in India.
- ❖ The report recommends habitat restoration, prey recovery, anti-poaching measures, removal of invasive species, and protection of wildlife corridors to improve tiger conservation.

101st Ramsar Site - Glaw Lake

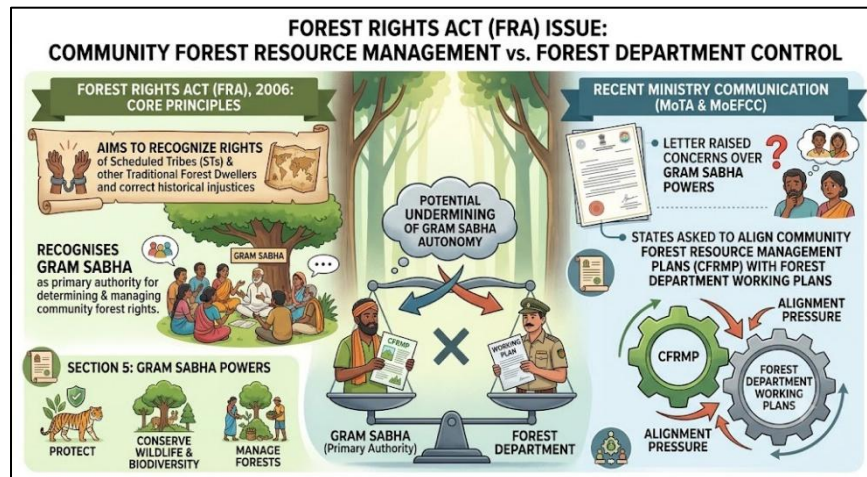
- ❖ Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh has been designated as India's 101st Ramsar Site, becoming the state's first Ramsar Site.
- ❖ With this addition, India's total number of Ramsar Sites has increased to 101, up from 26 sites in 2014.
- ❖ Glaw Lake is a pristine freshwater lake located inside the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in the Eastern Himalayas.
- ❖ The wetland is a biodiversity hotspot, supporting over 150 tree species and 49 orchid species in and around its catchment area.
- ❖ Ramsar Site designation promotes wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, water and climate security, and sustainable livelihoods.



Forest Rights Act (FRA) Issue

- ❖ A communication by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on Community Forest Resource Management Plans (CFRMP) raised concerns over Gram Sabha powers.

- ❖ The letter asked states to align Community Forest Resource Management Plans with Forest Department Working Plans.
- ❖ The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognises Gram Sabha as the primary authority for determining and managing community forest rights.
- ❖ Under Section 5 of the FRA, 2006, Gram Sabhas have powers to protect, conserve and manage forests, wildlife and biodiversity.
- ❖ The FRA, 2006 aims to recognise the rights of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other traditional forest dwellers and correct historical injustices.



Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026

- ❖ It is a data-driven global benchmark.
- ❖ It serves as a vital analytical tool for evaluating national progress toward achieving global sustainability targets, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement objectives.
- ❖ It was developed by Institutes of Yale and Columbia University, along with support from the McCall MacBain Foundation.
- ❖ Its coverage will be 177 nations, 47 indicators, and 12 issue categories under three core objectives.
- ❖ Three core policy objectives are Environmental Health, Ecosystem Vitality, and Climate Change.

Environmental Health

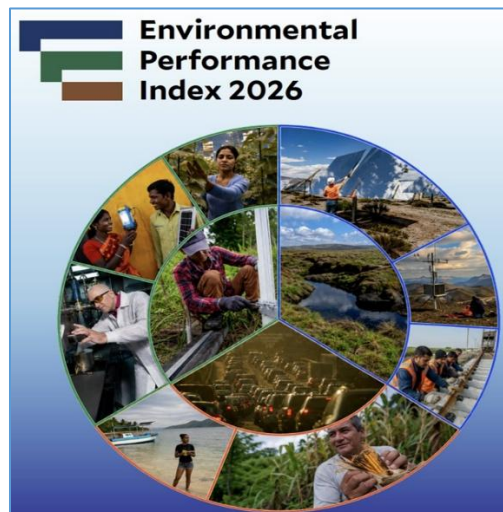
- ❖ Air quality (measuring exposure to pollutants like PM2.5).
- ❖ Sanitation and drinking water.
- ❖ Heavy metals exposure.

Ecosystem Vitality

- ❖ Biodiversity and habitat protection.
- ❖ Forests and tree cover loss.
- ❖ Fisheries and fish stocks.
- ❖ Agriculture and sustainable practices.
- ❖ Water resources and wastewater treatment.

Climate Change

- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions mitigation.
- ❖ CO2 emissions from various sectors.
- ❖ Clean energy transition and tracking carbon intensity.
- ❖ Top Ranks – Estonia (1st, score 74.79); followed by Luxembourg, UK, Finland, Netherlands (Top 5 – All from Europe).
- ❖ India is at 176th (score 22.46), the second lowest; severe air quality and biodiversity loss.
- ❖ India has remained among the five worst-performing countries in the EPI since 2022.
- ❖ India performed poorly in Environmental Health, Air Quality, and Biodiversity (ranked 174th in both Air Quality and Biodiversity).



REPORTS AND INDICES

FAO Peatland Emissions Report 2026

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) released the Peat-Emit Report 2026 to improve the accuracy of greenhouse gas emission estimates from peatlands.

- ❖ The report introduced updated emission factors and identified data gaps to strengthen climate monitoring, especially in developing countries.
- ❖ Peatlands cover only 3–4% of Earth's land surface but store around 30% of global soil organic carbon (about 450–650 gigatonnes).
- ❖ Drained, degraded, or burnt peatlands release large amounts of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), and Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), contributing to climate change.
- ❖ The Peat-Emit project compiled 560 emissions and removal data points from developing countries, improving the evidence base for greenhouse gas assessments.



STATE NEWS

First Rare Earth Minerals Exploration Licence – Rajasthan



- ❖ It spans the Balotra and Jodhpur districts in Rajasthan.

- ❖ It is awarded to the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) under the national critical minerals framework.
- ❖ Geological studies indicate the presence of Lanthanum, Cerium, Praseodymium, and Neodymium in the exploration blocks.
- ❖ Rare Earth Elements are widely used in electric vehicles (EVs), renewable energy, defence, aerospace, semiconductors, electronics, and telecommunications.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Justice M. S. Liberhan Demise



Justice (retd.) M.S. Liberhan, Who Headed Commission of Inquiry into Babri Masjid Demolition, Dies

- ❖ Former Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court and Madras High Court, Justice M. S. Liberhan, passed away at the age of 87 in Chandigarh.
- ❖ Justice Liberhan headed the Liberhan Commission, constituted to investigate the Babri Masjid demolition of December 6, 1992.
- ❖ The Liberhan Commission submitted its report after nearly 17 years, becoming one of India's longest-running commissions of inquiry.
- ❖ He was a former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and served as Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh and Madras High Courts.

- ❖ Justice Liberhan was known for his long judicial career and contribution to the rule of law and the Indian judiciary.

COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026

- ❖ Astrophysicist Annapurni Subramaniam received the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026 for her contribution to space research.
- ❖ The Vikram Sarabhai Medal was instituted in 1990 in honour of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme.
- ❖ The medal is jointly awarded by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to scientists from developing countries.
- ❖ Annapurni Subramaniam became the 4th Indian and the first Indian woman scientist to receive this medal; she is also the third female recipient of the award.
- ❖ Other Indian recipients include U. R. Rao (1996), Gurbax Singh Lakhina (2014), and Anil Bharadwaj (2024).



IMPORTANT DAYS

Indian Organ Donation Day 2026 – August 03

- ❖ The day aims to promote awareness about organ donation and encourage people to pledge their organs.
- ❖ The day commemorates India's first successful deceased-donor heart transplant, performed on August 3, 1994, at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

- ❖ Organ donation involves donating healthy organs (kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, pancreas and intestines) or tissues (corneas, skin, bone and heart valves) to save or improve lives.
- ❖ Organ donation in India is regulated under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) and follows strict medical and legal procedures.
- ❖ According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), India recorded over 5 lakh organ donation pledges in 2026, reflecting growing public awareness.



International Clouded Leopard Day 2026 - August 04

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the conservation of clouded leopards.
- ❖ The clouded leopard is the smallest big cat and includes two species: Mainland Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) and Sunda Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis diardi*).
- ❖ Both species are listed as Vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List due to habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, and human-wildlife conflict.

- ❖ India's Conservation Action Plan (CAP) focuses on 14 priority landscapes, habitat protection, scientific monitoring, anti-poaching measures, community participation, and climate-resilient conservation.

