

July - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Government has proposed seven new bullet train (high-speed rail) corridors to expand India's high-speed rail network.
 - The proposed corridors are Mumbai–Pune, Pune–Hyderabad, Hyderabad–Bengaluru, Hyderabad–Chennai, Bengaluru–Chennai, Delhi–Varanasi, and Varanasi–Siliguri.
- ❖ India successfully conducted its first satellite-based landing of a jet aircraft using GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) at Udaipur Airport.
 - GAGAN is India's Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS), jointly developed by the ISRO and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to improve Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation accuracy.
- ❖ Nasha Mukta Bharat Saptah 2026 was observed across India from 17–26 June 2026 under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - It was organised under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, launched in 2020, to reduce drug demand through awareness, counselling and community outreach.
- ❖ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Women's Forum 2026 was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, with SCO member countries discussing women's leadership, gender equality, and socio-economic participation.
- ❖ The National Insurance Awareness Day is observed every year on June 28 to encourage people to review and update their insurance policies.
- ❖ World Allergy Week 2026 is observed from June 21–27 to raise awareness about allergic diseases and their prevention, diagnosis, and management.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Allergy Care is Essential Care.”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Reconstitution of Curriculum Design Committee

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has reconstituted the Curriculum Design Committee and appointed Mylswamy Annadurai as its new Chairman.
- ❖ Mylswamy Annadurai replaces Sultan Ahmed Ismail, while all other committee members have been retained.
- ❖ The committee has been given a three-year tenure to guide the revision of the State school curriculum.

- ❖ The committee was originally constituted in 2025 as part of Tamil Nadu's school curriculum revamp.
- ❖ New curriculum-based textbooks have already been introduced for Classes I to III, and work is in progress for higher classes.

Mayilsamy Annadurai To Head Curriculum Committee

The Tamil Nadu govt has reconstituted the Curriculum Design Committee to oversee the development of the State curriculum and syllabus. **The committee will be chaired by Dr. Mayilsamy Annadurai and comprises experts from science, education, history, Tamil studies and academia.** The move supersedes an earlier government order and aims to strengthen curriculum planning and syllabus development for schools across the State.

VB-G RAM G in Tamil Nadu



What's New Under VB-G RAM G

-  Guarantees 125 days of wage employment
-  Focus on durable assets & quality infrastructure
-  Improve transparency via digital monitoring
-  Aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047 vision

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has notified the implementation of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G) from July 1, 2026.

- ❖ The ₹12,642-crore scheme is funded in a 60:40 ratio, with the Union Government contributing ₹7,585 crore and the State Government ₹5,057 crore.
- ❖ It guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year to rural households willing to undertake unskilled manual work.
- ❖ The scheme focuses on water conservation, rural infrastructure, livelihood assets, and works to reduce the impact of extreme weather events.
- ❖ A State Rural Employment Guarantee Council and a Steering Committee will oversee and monitor the implementation of the scheme.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Drug Control Plan 2026



- ❖ The Union Government launched the Vision Document on Drug Control (2026–2029) during the 10th Apex-Level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The document was launched by the Union Home Minister during the NCORD meeting organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- ❖ It provides a three-pronged strategy: detect trafficking networks, disrupt supply chains, and destroy drug ecosystems.
- ❖ It aims to dismantle major drug cartels through coordinated multi-agency operations and financial disruption.
- ❖ The plan integrates over 40 ministries, state governments, and institutions for coordinated action.
- ❖ It strengthens enforcement under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.

DISHA 2.0 - Access to Justice



- ❖ The Union Government approved DISHA 2.0 (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) to improve access to legal aid through digital and AI-based systems.
- ❖ It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, for the period 2026–2031 with an outlay of ₹255 crore.
- ❖ The scheme builds on DISHA (2021–2026), which reached more than 2.37 crore beneficiaries.
- ❖ Key components include Tele-Law (legal advice via Common Service Centres), Nyaya Bandhu (pro bono legal services), and Legal Literacy & Awareness Programme (LLLAP).
- ❖ A new digital platform, VIDHI-Sanjeevani, is introduced for monitoring and data-driven governance of legal aid delivery.

Foodgrain Entitlement Changes - Antyodaya Anna Yojana

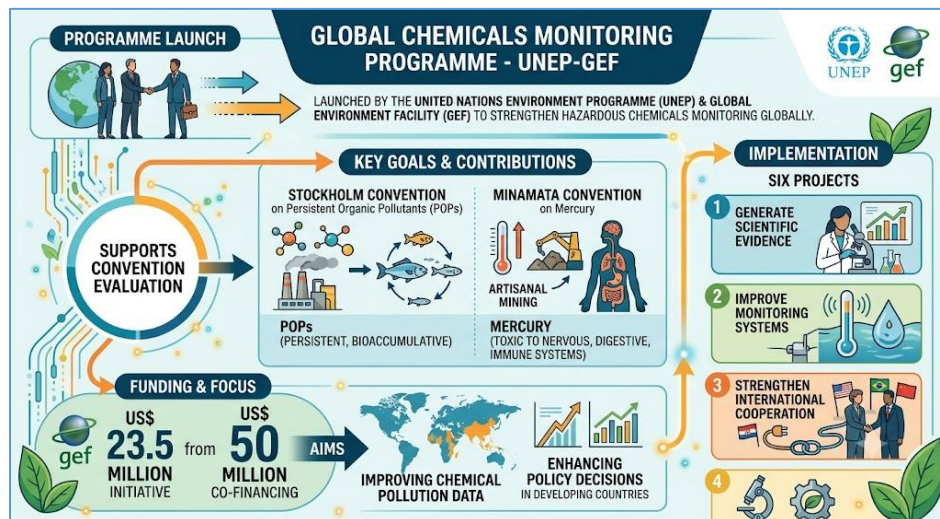
- ❖ The government proposed an amendment to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, to revise foodgrain entitlement for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries.
- ❖ It proposes 7 kg per person per month instead of household-based allocation, while retaining a maximum cap of 35 kg per household.
- ❖ The change aims to reduce inequality in per-capita food distribution, especially for large households under AAY.

- ❖ It aligns foodgrain norms with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) nutritional guidelines (~7.5 kg of cereals per adult per month).
- ❖ AAY covers the poorest of the poor households, while Priority Households (PH) receive 5 kg per person per month at subsidised rates.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme – UNEP/GEF



- ❖ Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP) was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to strengthen monitoring of hazardous chemicals globally.

- ❖ It supports the evaluation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- ❖ GCMP is a US\$ 23.5 million initiative with about US\$ 50 million co-financing, aimed at improving chemical pollution data and policy decisions in developing countries.
- ❖ It will implement six projects to generate scientific evidence, improve monitoring systems, and strengthen international cooperation on chemical safety.
- ❖ POPs are toxic chemicals that persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in food chains, while mercury is a toxic element affecting the nervous, digestive, and immune systems.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Sistan Sand Boa Species



- ❖ A new herpetological study reported the first confirmed record of the Sistan sand boa (*Eryx sistansensis*) in India.
- ❖ The species was documented in the northern Thar Desert region of Rajasthan, India.
- ❖ Sistan sand boa is a small, non-venomous, burrowing snake species.
- ❖ It was previously known from Iran and Pakistan, and this is its first confirmed presence in India.
- ❖ With this discovery, India now has four sand boa species: red sand boa, rough-scaled sand boa, Whitaker's boa, and Sistan sand boa.
- ❖ The species is listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in India.

Vulture Reintroduction Setback



Radio-tagged vulture electrocuted in Nilgiris

A radio-tagged white-rumped vulture relocated from Maharashtra to the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve as part of a conservation initiative died after being electrocuted by an overhead power line in the Nilgiris. The captive-bred scavenger was struggling to settle in its new habitat and repeatedly ventured into surrounding areas.

- ❖ A radio-tagged White-rumped Vulture died due to electrocution after coming into contact with a power line near Ebbanad, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The captive-bred bird was released in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in April 2026 as part of a reintroduction programme.
- ❖ The vulture had earlier been released in Tadoba–Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, in December 2025 before being relocated to Mudumalai.
- ❖ The White-rumped Vulture is endemic to South Asia, is listed as Critically Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ Its population declined sharply due to poisoning from the veterinary drug Diclofenac, which causes kidney failure in vultures feeding on treated livestock carcasses.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Poet Puviyarasu demise

- ❖ Two-time Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Tamil poet Puviyarasu (birth name: S. Jegannathan) passed away at the age of 96.

- ❖ Born in 1931 at Lingavanayakanpudur near Udumalpet (Tiruppur district), he was one of the founders of the Vanampadi literary movement and served as a teacher for over 30 years.
- ❖ He authored 80+ books and translated works of William Shakespeare, Khalil Gibran, Rabindranath Tagore, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and others into Tamil.
- ❖ He received the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award (2006) for Puratchikaran (translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's poems) and the Sahitya Akademi Award (2009) for his poetry collection Kaiyoppam.
- ❖ Notable works include Kaiyoppam, Mukkoodal, Puratchikaran, and Meeral; Mukkoodal won the Tamil Nadu Government's Best Modern Poetry Book Award.

புவியரசு



- ◆ கோவை மாவட்டம், பெரியநாயக்கன்பாளையம் அருகேயுள்ள பிரஸ் காலனியைச் சேர்ந்தவர் கவிஞர் புவியரசு (96)
- ◆ கலை இலக்கிய செயல்பாடுகளில் ஆளுமையாக இருந்த இவர் கவிதை, மொழிபெயர்ப்பு, நாடகம் சார்ந்த 100-க்கும் மேற்பட்ட புத்தகங்களை எழுதியுள்ளார்
- ◆ ஷேக்ஸ்பியர், கலில் ஜிப்ரான், உமர் கய்யாம், ஒஷோ, ஃபியோதர் தாஸ்தோவ்ஸ்கி மற்றும் ரவீந்திரநாத் தாகூர் ஆகியோரின் படைப்புகளைத் தமிழில் மொழிபெயர்த்துள்ளார்

IMPORTANT DAYS

GST Day 2026 - July 01



- ❖ Goods and Services Tax (GST) completed 9 years on July 1, 2026, marking its launch on July 1, 2017.
- ❖ GST introduced the "One Nation, One Tax" system by replacing 17 indirect taxes and 13 cesses with a unified tax framework.
- ❖ GST is a destination-based indirect tax on the supply of goods and services and is administered through Central GST (CGST), State GST (SGST), and Integrated GST (IGST).
- ❖ The GST Council guides GST policy and promotes cooperative federalism between the Centre and States.
- ❖ As of May 2026, the number of GST taxpayers increased to about 1.65 crore, compared to 66.5 lakh in 2017, reflecting greater formalisation of the economy.

International Day of the Tropics 2026 – June 29



- ❖ The day is observed to highlight the importance of tropical regions.
- ❖ The observance was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2016.
- ❖ The tropics lie between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and include parts of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific.
- ❖ The region covers about 40% of Earth's surface and holds nearly 80% of global biodiversity.
- ❖ The day focuses on climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in tropical regions.

