

July - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Albania is witnessing the "Flamingo Revolution" against a luxury resort project in the Vjosa–Narta Protected Area, backed by Jared Kushner.
 - The protests began over environmental concerns and have expanded into wider demands for accountability; the project site is home to flamingos and over 70 endangered species.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Seychelles' highest honour, "Guardian of the Blue Horizon," during his State Visit to Seychelles.
- ❖ The United States (US) has launched Valiant Shield 2026 and Resolute Dragon 26 military exercises in the Western Pacific to strengthen regional deterrence and Indo-Pacific security.
 - Valiant Shield 2026 involves the US, Japan, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, while Resolute Dragon 26 is a US–Japan exercise focused on island defence, joint command, and multi-domain operations.
- ❖ The Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC) 2026, held in Hamburg, Germany, hosted the release of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Report 2026.
 - It is an annual international multi-stakeholder forum that promotes the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through cooperation between the Global North and the Global South.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended Seychelles' 50th Independence Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour, becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to do so.
 - Seychelles gained independence from the United Kingdom (UK) on 29 June 1976, and 2026 marks 50 years of its independence and of India–Seychelles diplomatic relations.
- ❖ The I-2SEA (India–Singapore–Malaysia) submarine cable project was unveiled on 2 July 2026 to strengthen digital connectivity between India, Singapore, and Malaysia.
 - The 3,600-km fibre-optic submarine cable will have landing stations at Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and South Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in India.
- ❖ Chartered Accountants (CA) Day is observed every year on July 1 to mark the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in 1949.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

New Chola-Era Stone Inscriptions - Ariyalur

- ❖ Three new stone inscriptions linked to Rajathirajan I, grandson of Emperor Raja Raja Cholan, have been found at Sri Sundareswarar Temple in Kolathur, Ariyalur district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ One inscription is believed to date to the reign of Rajathirajan I (1044–1052 AD).
- ❖ Another inscription confirms that the temple existed during both the Pandya and Vijayanagara periods.
- ❖ The inscriptions provide new historical evidence about the temple and the Chola Empire.
- ❖ Fossils were also discovered near the temple during the study.



NATIONAL NEWS

Integrated Battle Groups

- ❖ The Indian Army plans to operationalise its first Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) from 1 July 2026 under the XVII Corps (Mountain Strike Corps) at Panagarh, West Bengal.

- ❖ An IBG is a brigade-sized, self-contained combat formation with 5,000+ troops, integrating infantry, artillery, engineers, signals, air defence, logistics and medical units under one command.
- ❖ The IBGs are designed for rapid mobilisation (within 48 hours) and offensive and defensive operations, especially along the China border in mountainous terrain.
- ❖ The concept was proposed by General Bipin Rawat and was first tested in 2019 in IX Corps and Exercise HimVijay.
- ❖ The Army plans to complete IBGisation by 2029 as part of its wider force modernisation, alongside Rudra Brigades, Bhairav Battalions, Divyastra Batteries and Shaktibaan units.



Aarogya Setu 2.0



- ❖ Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched Aarogya Setu 2.0 and new digital health initiatives under the ABDM (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- ❖ Aarogya Setu 2.0 has been transformed from a COVID-19 contact-tracing app into a Personal Health Record (PHR) application integrated with ABDM.
- ❖ It allows users to create and manage an ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account), securely share digital health records with consent, and use Scan & Share for faster hospital registration.
- ❖ The launch also included the NHCX (National Health Claims Exchange), Drug Registry, CLCI (Common LOINC Codes for India), and BHTS (Bharat Health Terminology Service) to standardise digital healthcare and insurance claims.
- ❖ As of June 2026, ABDM had generated 90+ crore ABHA accounts, with over 4.8 lakh registered health facilities and 9.5 lakh registered doctors.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Birthright Citizenship in USA

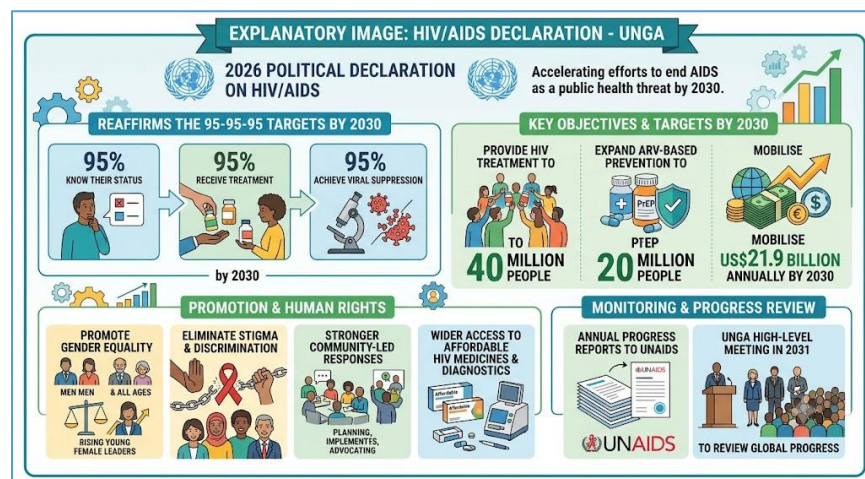


- ❖ The United States Supreme Court upheld birthright citizenship and rejected an executive order limiting citizenship for children born to undocumented or temporary immigrants in the United States (U.S.).
- ❖ The court relied on the 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship to all persons born in the U.S. and subject to its jurisdiction.

- ❖ The ruling reaffirmed the 1898 precedent in Wong Kim Ark, which recognised citizenship for U.S.-born children of foreign nationals.
- ❖ The executive order, signed by President Donald Trump, was part of immigration restrictions and was blocked by lower courts.
- ❖ The order had sought to exclude children of non-citizens from automatic citizenship, affecting over 250,000 births annually.

HIV/AIDS Declaration - UNGA

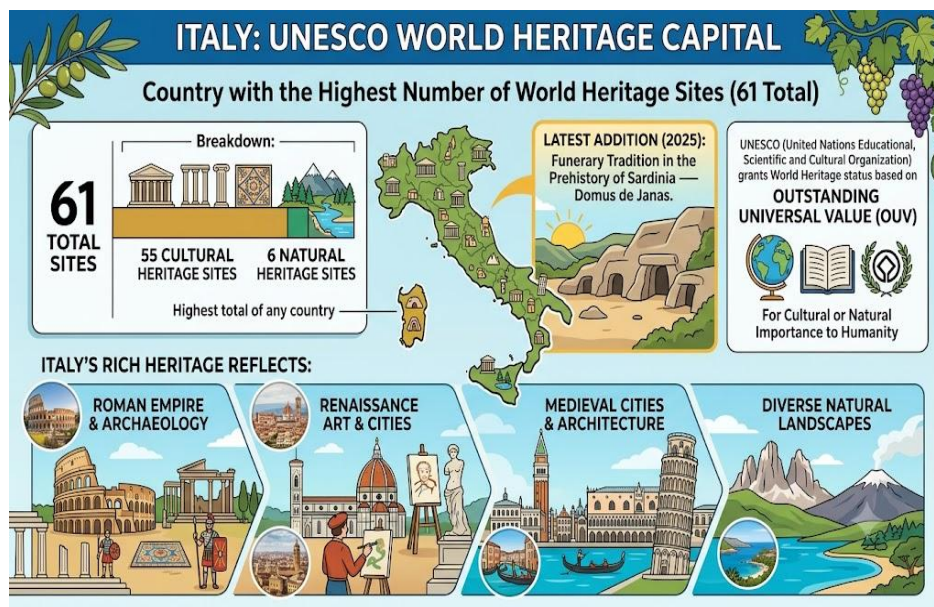
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the 2026 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS to accelerate efforts to end Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) as a public health threat by 2030.
- ❖ It reaffirms the 95-95-95 targets by 2030, under which 95% of people with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) should know their status, 95% should receive treatment, and 95% should achieve viral suppression.
- ❖ It aims to provide HIV treatment to 40 million people, expand Antiretroviral (ARV)-based prevention to 20 million people, and mobilise US\$21.9 billion annually by 2030.
- ❖ The declaration promotes gender equality, elimination of HIV-related stigma and discrimination, stronger community-led responses, and wider access to affordable HIV medicines and diagnostics.
- ❖ It also calls for annual progress reports to UNAIDS and a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting in 2031 to review global progress.



UNESCO World Heritage Capital - Italy

- ❖ Italy has become the country with the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with a total of 61 protected sites.

- ❖ Italy has 55 Cultural Heritage Sites and 6 Natural Heritage Sites, the highest total for any country.
- ❖ The latest addition is the Funerary Tradition in the Prehistory of Sardinia – Domus de Janas, inscribed in 2025.
- ❖ UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) grants World Heritage status to sites of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for their cultural or natural importance.
- ❖ Italy's heritage includes landmarks such as Rome, Florence, Venice, Pisa, Pompeii, the Dolomites, and Mount Etna.
- ❖ Italy's rich heritage reflects the legacy of the Roman Empire, the Renaissance, medieval cities, archaeological sites, and diverse natural landscapes.

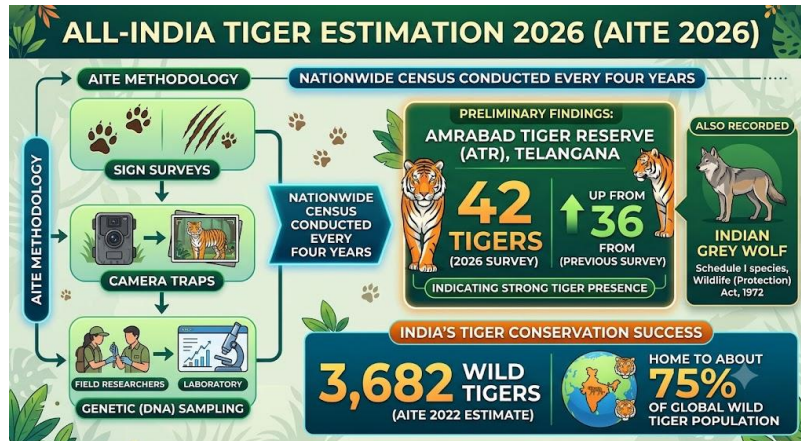


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

All-India Tiger Estimation 2026

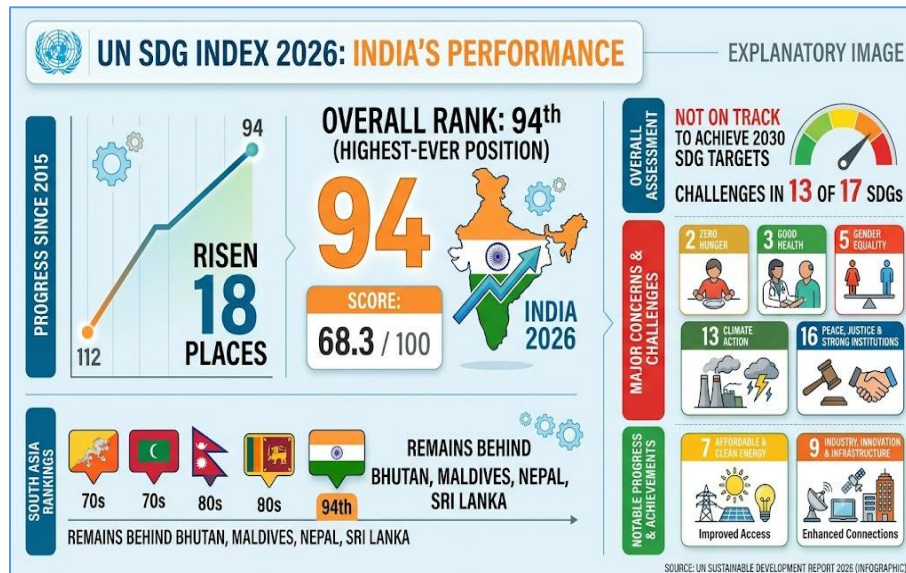
- ❖ Preliminary findings of the All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026 reported a rise in tiger numbers at the Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Telangana.
- ❖ AITE is a nationwide tiger census conducted every four years using sign surveys, camera traps, and genetic (DNA) sampling.
- ❖ The 2026 survey at ATR recorded 42 tigers, up from 36 in the previous survey, indicating a strong tiger presence.
- ❖ The survey also recorded the Indian Grey Wolf, a Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- ❖ India's previous AITE (2022) estimated 3,682 wild tigers, accounting for about 75% of the global wild tiger population.



REPORTS AND INDICES

UN SDG Index 2026



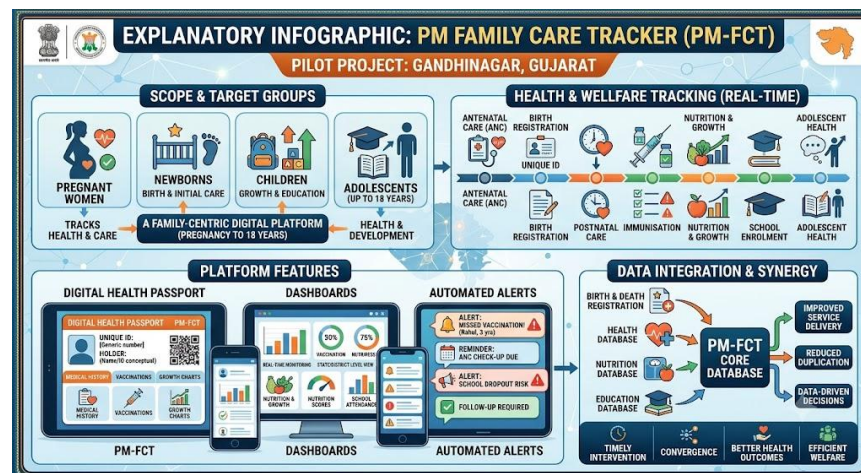
- ❖ India improved to 94th rank (score 68.3/100) in the 2026 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, its highest-ever position.
- ❖ India has risen 18 places since 2015, but remains behind Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in South Asia.
- ❖ The report says India faces challenges in 13 of 17 SDGs and is not on track to achieve the 2030 SDG targets.

- ❖ Major concerns include Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health (SDG 3), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16).
- ❖ India has made notable progress in electricity access (SDG 7) and digital connectivity (SDG 9).

STATE NEWS

PM Family Care Tracker

- ❖ The Prime Minister Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT) was launched as a pilot project in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ It is a family-centric digital platform to track the health, nutrition and welfare of pregnant women, newborns, children and adolescents (up to 18 years).
- ❖ It provides real-time monitoring of antenatal and postnatal care, immunisation, nutrition, growth, school enrolment and adolescent health.
- ❖ The platform includes Digital Health Passports, dashboards and automated alerts for missed vaccinations and other essential services.
- ❖ It integrates data from birth and death registration, health, nutrition and education databases to improve service delivery and reduce duplication.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Parliamentarism 2026 – June 30

- ❖ The day is celebrated to mark the founding of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 1889.

- ❖ The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018.
- ❖ It highlights the role of parliaments in making laws, ensuring transparency and accountability, and protecting human rights.
- ❖ Since 1976, the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians has worked to protect parliamentarians facing human rights violations.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is "Bring Human Rights into Focus".

