

July - 05

TNPSC BITS

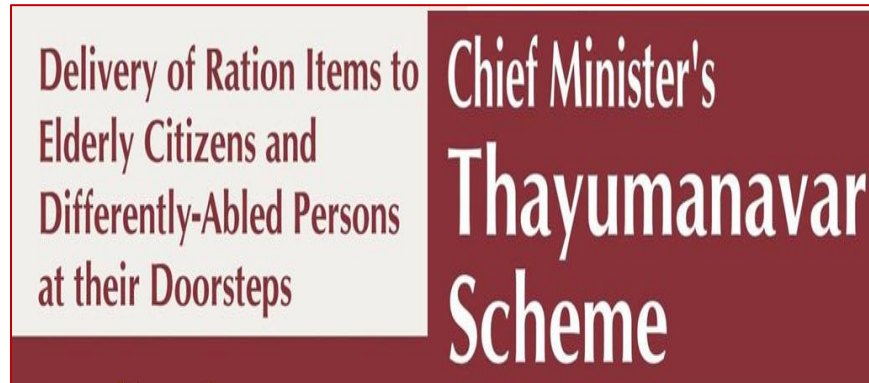
- ❖ ISRO successfully conducted a 175-tonne hot test of the Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Akashvani launched Swar Prerna Veethika, a permanent photo gallery, to mark its 90th anniversary and the upcoming 100 years of radio broadcasting in India (2027).
 - Akashvani has served as India's public service broadcaster since 1936, providing a platform for classical, folk, devotional, and regional music.
- ❖ ICGS Akshay, a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard (Bharatiya Tatrakshak) at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa.
- ❖ The proposal for India's first offshore airport has been approved for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Maharashtra.
 - The airport is planned near Kore Beach in Palghar district and will serve as the third international airport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).
- ❖ India and Seychelles signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Seychelles by the end of 2026.
- ❖ Rajasthan and Haryana signed the Yamuna Water Project Agreement for the construction and implementation of the project to supply drinking water.
 - The project is based on the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the sharing of utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin.
- ❖ International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on July 3, 2026, to raise awareness about reducing single-use plastic bags and promoting reusable alternatives such as cloth, jute, and paper bags.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Breaking Free from Single-Use Plastics: Towards a Sustainable Future."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Thayumanavar Scheme Expansion

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government plans to expand the Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme to benefit more elderly persons, widows, and persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The scheme provides doorstep delivery of essential commodities through the Public Distribution System (PDS) ration shops.

- ❖ The government plans to reduce the eligibility age from 70 years to 60 years.
- ❖ Around 4 lakh additional beneficiaries are expected to be covered under the expanded scheme.
- ❖ At present, nearly 20 lakh elderly persons and persons with disabilities receive doorstep ration supplies through over 34,000 Public Distribution System (PDS) outlets.



NATIONAL NEWS

National Digital Platform - DIKSHA



- ❖ The Central Government designated DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) as "One Nation, One Digital Platform" for school education.

- ❖ DIKSHA was launched in 2017 and is managed by NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) with support from CIET (Central Institute of Educational Technology).
- ❖ It provides curriculum-based digital learning resources from the Foundational Stage to Class 12 and is used by education boards across almost all States and Union Territories.
- ❖ It supports teacher training through the NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) programme with self-paced certification courses.
- ❖ DIKSHA also enables offline access, downloadable content, DAISY-format materials, and text-to-speech features to improve accessibility for learners with disabilities.

Major Capital Expansion - NIIF

**Government of India approves
Rs. 30,000 crore additional allocation to NIIF**

This allocation takes the Government of India's total commitment to NIIF to **Rs. 60,000 crore** and will support:

- INFRASTRUCTURE FUND II**
Successor to NIIF's first flagship infrastructure fund, targeting a corpus of Rs. 30,000 crore.
- NEW AND SUCCESSOR FUND STRATEGIES**
Support for bilateral and strategic funds aligned with India's long-term investment priorities.
- CATALYSING INSTITUTIONAL CAPITAL**
Gov's commitment is expected to help attract global and domestic institutional investors into India's infrastructure and growth sectors.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved an additional ₹30,000 crore investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- ❖ This increases the Government of India's total commitment to ₹60,000 crore.
- ❖ National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is India's sovereign-anchored investment platform, with the Government holding a 49% stake.
- ❖ The investment will support NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, which has a target corpus of ₹30,000 crore.

- ❖ The fund will invest in transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure, and e-mobility sectors.

SUMAN Roadmap 2030



**WHAT IS
SUMAN
ROADMAP 2030?**

Targets:

- Maternal mortality below **70 per 100,000 births by 2030**
- Fewer newborn & infant **deaths**
- **Zero preventable maternal & newborn deaths**

- ❖ SUMAN Roadmap 2030 was launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ SUMAN Roadmap 2030 is a strategic framework to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare in India.
- ❖ It is anchored in the RMNCHA+N (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition) approach.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) below 70 per 1 lakh live births by 2030.
- ❖ It targets a reduction in the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).
- ❖ It covers 130 districts across 13 high-focus states for targeted interventions.

- ❖ It includes digital monitoring, emergency obstetric care, and high-risk pregnancy tracking.

Integrated Child Health Programme - SSBSK

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) to improve newborn and child healthcare through integrated home-based care and digital tracking.
- ❖ SSBSK merges Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Young Child Care (HBYC) into one programme.
- ❖ It provides risk-based home visits for children up to 36 months, with extra visits for pre-term and low birth weight babies.
- ❖ Frontline workers like Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), Community Health Officers (CHO) and Anganwadi workers implement the programme.
- ❖ It includes maternal mental health screening, growth monitoring, immunisation support and early childhood development activities.



India's Nuclear Warheads Deployment

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 2026 Yearbook classified 12 of India's estimated 190 nuclear warheads as "operationally deployed," indicating higher readiness of a small part of India's nuclear arsenal.

- ❖ SIPRI stated that 12 Indian nuclear warheads are now “operationally deployed” with delivery systems and under military control.
- ❖ This does not indicate any change in India’s “No First Use (NFU)” nuclear doctrine or credible minimum deterrence policy.
- ❖ Operational deployment means warheads are mated with delivery systems such as missiles or submarines and kept in a ready state.
- ❖ The development is linked to the strengthening of India’s nuclear triad, especially Arihant-class nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs).

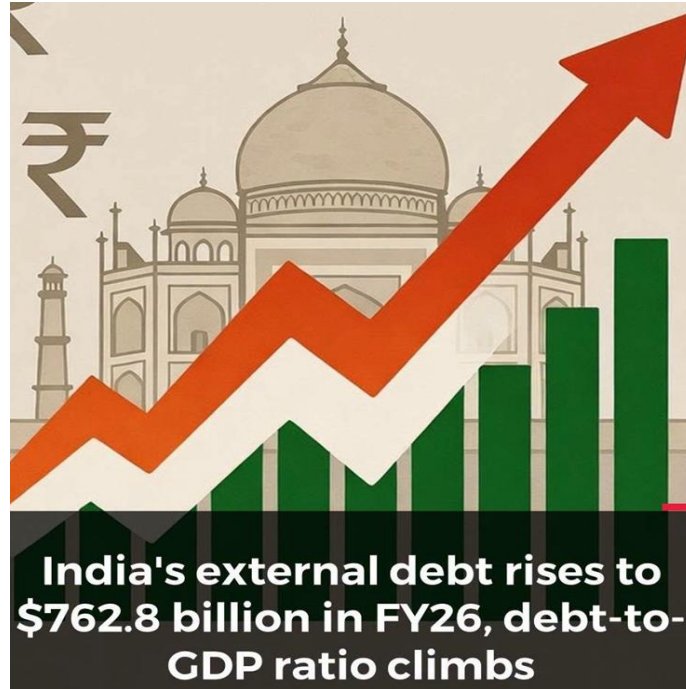


ECONOMY NEWS

India's External Debt in FY26

- ❖ As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data for FY26, India’s external debt increased to \$762.8 billion, along with a rise in the debt-to-GDP ratio to 20.8%.
- ❖ India’s external debt stood at \$762.8 billion in FY26, marking an increase of \$26.3 billion compared to FY25.
- ❖ The external debt-to-GDP ratio rose from 19.8% to 20.8% during the same period.
- ❖ External debt includes borrowings by the government, banks, and the private sector from foreign sources.

- ❖ The increase was influenced by higher overseas borrowings and global currency valuation effects.



STATE NEWS

Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2026



- ❖ Delhi government notified the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0 to promote electric mobility and reduce vehicular emissions.

- ❖ The policy aims to achieve 30% electrification of Delhi's total vehicle fleet by 31 March 2030.
- ❖ From 1 January 2027, only electric three-wheelers and N1 category goods vehicles will be registered in Delhi.
- ❖ From 1 April 2028, only electric two-wheelers will be eligible for new registration.
- ❖ Existing fossil-fuel vehicles will be allowed to complete their lifecycle.
- ❖ The policy provides incentives, scrappage benefits, and expansion of charging infrastructure.
- ❖ It excludes hybrid vehicles from subsidies and focuses only on pure electric vehicles.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Global Skills Challenge 2026



- ❖ India won five medals (3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) at the Global Skills Challenge 2026, held in Australia.
- ❖ The event is a preparatory competition for the 48th WorldSkills Competition, scheduled in Shanghai, China (2026).

- ❖ The competition saw participation from around 600 competitors from 16 WorldSkills member countries under the WorldSkills movement.
- ❖ India's gold medals were won in Additive Manufacturing, Cloud Computing, and Health & Social Care.
- ❖ The silver medal was won in 3D Digital Game Art, and the bronze medal in Painting and Decorating, highlighting India's growing vocational skill strength under Skill India initiatives.

