

July - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched the Electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) platform, enabling eligible applicants to complete the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) application process fully online.
  - The e-OCI card is the digital version of the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card, which was originally introduced in 2005.
- ❖ Indian badminton player Kidambi Srikanth won the silver medal in the men's singles event at the US Open in 2026.
- ❖ The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) presented its 2026 Leadership Award to Indian business leader Sunil Bharti Mittal.
- ❖ India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has been launched in Greece through Eurobank.
- ❖ The United States (U.S.) is celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence on July 4, 2026, through the nationwide Freedom 250 campaign.
  - The anniversary marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, by representatives of the 13 American colonies in Philadelphia.
- ❖ Eight traditional products from Himachal Pradesh have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags, increasing the state's total GI-tagged products to 17.
  - The newly GI-tagged products are Spiti Seabuckthorn (Chharma), Salooni Safed Makka (White Maize), Chamba Metal Art, Sirmauri Loiya, Kinnauri Topi, Sepuvadi of Mandi, Kinnauri Apple, and Kinnauri Jewellery.
- ❖ Kerala's Ancy Sojan broke Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old Indian women's long jump national record with a 6.88 m jump at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships 2026 held at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ Chota Tingrai Tea Estate in Tinsukia district, Assam, has produced and sold India's first commercially produced matcha tea at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre.
  - Matcha is a finely ground shade-grown green tea powder made from *Camellia sinensis* leaves that are grown under reduced sunlight.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Interoperable Criminal Justice System

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced that the nationwide rollout of the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is on track.

- ❖ From 1 January 2027, all investigations and trials under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSS) will be digitally recorded.
- ❖ Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a national digital platform that connects police, courts, prisons, prosecution, and forensic laboratories into a single system.
- ❖ It is implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ❖ ICJS follows the "One Data, Once Entry" principle, allowing case information to be entered once and securely shared across all connected agencies.
- ❖ The system aims to improve the speed, transparency, and efficiency of criminal investigations and trials through paperless and digital case management.



### **Amendment to Drug Rules, 1945**

- ❖ The Government amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, to bring advanced cell, stem cell, gene therapy products, and xenografts under a uniform central regulatory system.
- ❖ The amendment places these products under the Centrally Licensed Approving Authority (CLAA) for licensing and regulation.
- ❖ CLAA is a division of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's national drug regulatory authority.
- ❖ Gene therapy products use genes to treat or prevent diseases, while stem cell-derived products are made using stem cells for medical treatment.
- ❖ Xenografts are organs or tissues transplanted from one species (such as pigs) to another species (such as humans).

- ❖ The amendment aims to ensure uniform regulation, safety, quality, and oversight of advanced therapies across India.

## NITI Aayog's Roadmap on Ayurveda



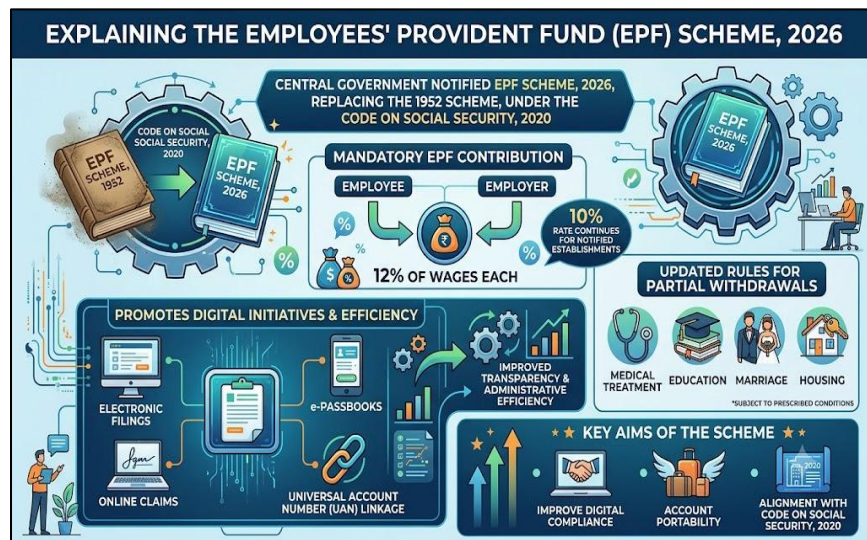
- ❖ NITI Aayog released the "Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global" to expand Ayurveda's global reach from 2025 to 2047.
- ❖ Ayurveda exports increased from USD 1.09 billion (2014) to USD 2.16 billion (2023) and now reach about 150 countries.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has included Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani (ASU) in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) and the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI).
- ❖ The roadmap proposes a Global Ayurveda Register (GAR), World Health Organization-Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certification, international education, research, and Medical Value Travel (MVT) hubs.

- ❖ It aims to achieve recognition of Ayurveda in at least 20 national health systems and insurance coverage in 10 countries by 2047.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 2026

- ❖ The Central Government notified the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 2026, replacing the EPF Scheme, 1952, under the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- ❖ The mandatory EPF contribution remains 12% of wages each by the employee and employer, while the 10% rate continues for notified establishments.
- ❖ The scheme promotes electronic filings, online claims, e-passbooks, and Universal Account Number (UAN) linkage to improve transparency and administrative efficiency.
- ❖ It also updates rules for partial withdrawals for medical treatment, education, marriage, housing, and other specified purposes, subject to prescribed conditions.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve digital compliance, account portability, and alignment with the Code on Social Security, 2020.

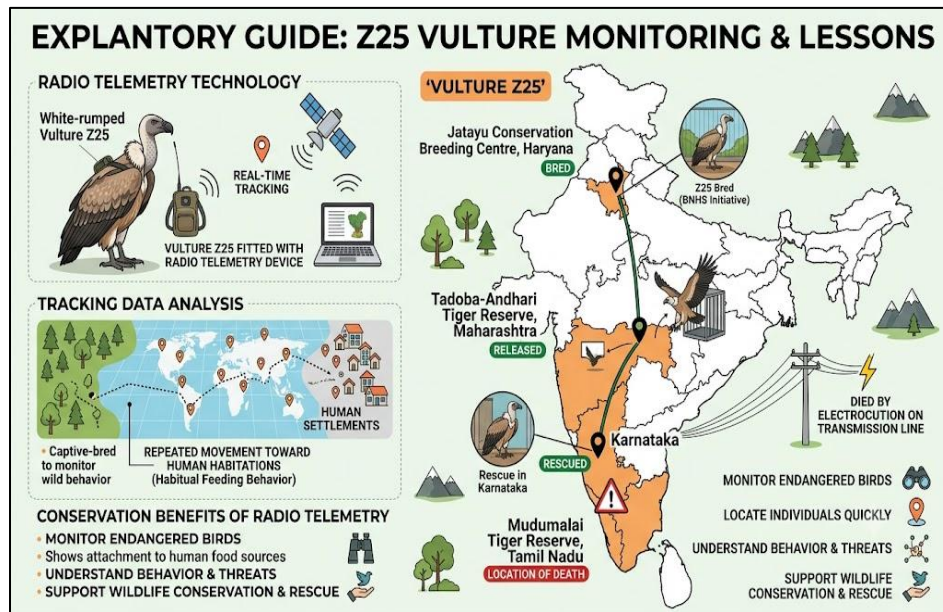


## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Z25 Vulture Monitoring

- ❖ A radio-tagged White-rumped Vulture (Z25) was tracked by conservation scientists, but it died after being electrocuted by a power transmission line in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.

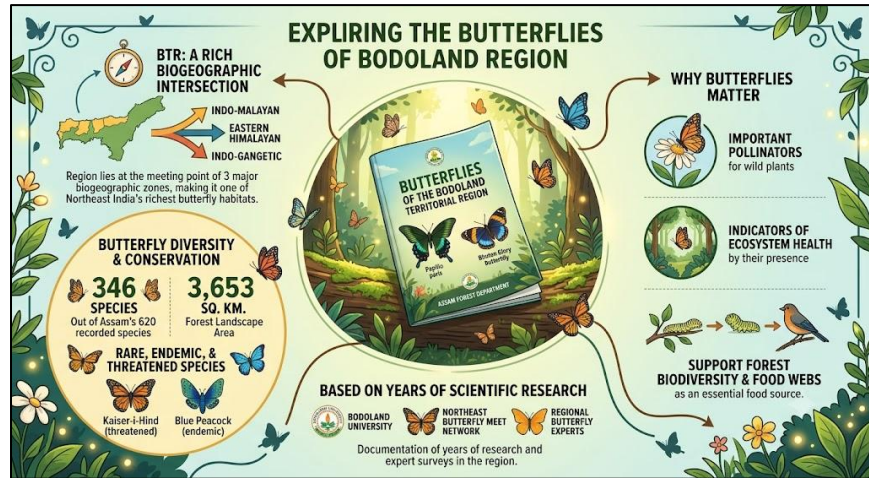
- ❖ Z25 was one of five captive-bred vultures fitted with radio telemetry devices by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) to monitor their movements in real time.
- ❖ The bird was bred at the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Haryana, released in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, and later shifted to Mudumalai after being rescued in Karnataka.
- ❖ Tracking data showed that Z25 repeatedly moved towards human settlements because it had become used to human feeding instead of living in the wild.
- ❖ Radio telemetry helps scientists monitor endangered birds, locate them quickly, and support wildlife conservation and rescue efforts.



### Butterflies of Bodoland Region

- ❖ The Assam Forest Department released a booklet documenting the butterflies of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) in Assam.
- ❖ The 3,653 sq. km. Bodoland forest landscape supports 346 butterfly species out of Assam's 620 recorded species, including many rare, endemic, and threatened species.
- ❖ The region lies at the meeting point of the Indo-Malayan, Eastern Himalayan, and Indo-Gangetic biogeographic zones, making it one of Northeast India's richest butterfly habitats.
- ❖ Butterflies are important pollinators, indicators of ecosystem health, and supporters of forest biodiversity and food webs.

- ❖ The booklet is based on years of scientific research by Bodoland University, the Northeast Butterfly Meet Network, and other regional butterfly experts.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### New Era for Booker Prize



- ❖ The International Booker Prize has been renamed the Bukhman International Booker Prize after Bukhman Philanthropies committed funding for the next 10 years.
- ❖ The winner's prize money has been doubled from £50,000 to £100,000, to be shared equally between the author and translator.

- ❖ The prize recognises the best translated fiction published in English in the United Kingdom (UK) or Ireland.
- ❖ Bukhman Philanthropies, founded by Daria Bukhman and Dmitri Bukhman, will support the prize until 2036.
- ❖ The prize began in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize, became an annual award in 2016, and was renamed the International Booker Prize in 2019.

