

July - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India unveiled its first EXIM (Export-Import)-grade shipping container at the Maersk–CONCOR Inland Container Depot in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ A banyan tree in Munger, Bihar, has been scientifically identified as the world's oldest accurately dated banyan tree, with an estimated age of about 700 years.
- ❖ Prime Minister of India inaugurated India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra, Balotra district, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The National Commission for Women (NCW) has expanded its 24×7 Women Helpline – 14490 to provide support for women in distress.
 - The helpline enables complaint registration, psychological counselling, and referral support through a digital platform.
- ❖ ICMR-MINDS won the Gold Award at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026 under the category of Innovation by Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and New Age Technologies for Citizen-Centric Services.
- ❖ World Rural Development Day is observed every year on 6 July to raise awareness about the importance of rural development, poverty reduction, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Financing the First Mile of Food Systems."
- ❖ World Kiswahili Language Day is observed every year on 7 July to promote Kiswahili as one of the world's most widely spoken languages and to encourage intercultural dialogue, peace, and cultural diversity.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Kiswahili for Peace, Solidarity and Global Economic Diplomacy."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu's AAY Rice Quota

- ❖ Tamil Nadu drew less rice than its allocated quota under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) in five of the last seven years, according to official data.
- ❖ Under AAY, eligible households currently receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month per household under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
- ❖ The Central Government has proposed to provide 7 kg of foodgrains per person per month, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has requested the Centre to continue the existing 35 kg per household entitlement, irrespective of family size.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has about 18.65 lakh AAY ration cards, covering nearly 69.27 lakh beneficiaries.

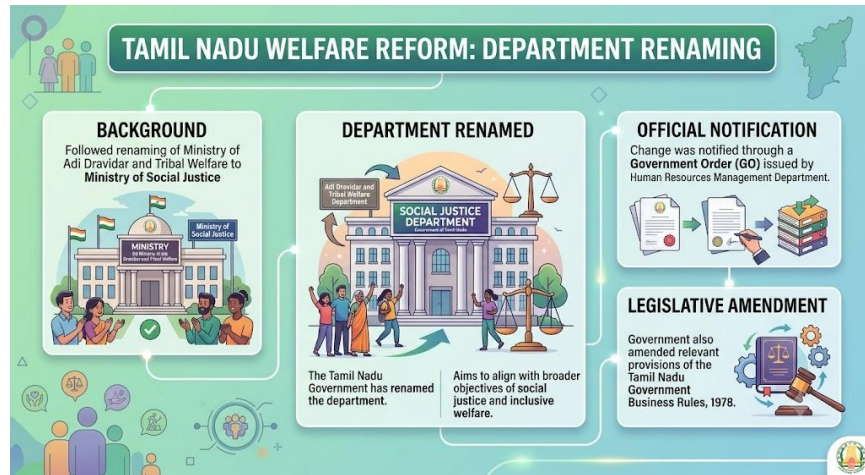
Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards in Tamil Nadu: Allocation and Off take (drawal)

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) targets the poorest of the poor, providing them with 35 kg of food grains per family per month free of cost.

Values in tonnes

Year	Allocation	Off take (drawal)	(In %)	Distributed
2019-20	6,89,246	7,50,046	108.82	
2020-21	6,99,628	6,86,052	98.06	
2021-22	7,04,819	5,42,877	77.02	
2022-23	7,43,975	5,50,171	73.95	
2023-24	7,51,547	5,52,537	73.52	
2024-25	7,38,492	5,85,126	79.23	
2025-26	7,39,718	8,01,574	108.36	
2026-27*	1,30,462	1,90,135		1,21,709

Tamil Nadu Welfare Reform



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has renamed the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department as the Social Justice Department.
- ❖ The change was notified through a Government Order (GO) issued by the Human Resources Management Department.
- ❖ The government also amended the relevant provisions of the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, 1978.
- ❖ The decision follows the renaming of the Ministry of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare as the Ministry of Social Justice.

- ❖ The renaming aims to align the department's name with the broader objective of social justice and inclusive welfare.

NATIONAL NEWS

Underwater Fibre Optic Sensing System

- ❖ DRDO launched a project to deploy an indigenous Underwater Fibre Optic Sensing System (UFOSS) for seabed-based submarine surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- ❖ UFOSS is a fixed underwater network of acoustic and hydrographic sensors that provides continuous monitoring of underwater activities.
- ❖ It detects submarines by capturing propeller noise, engine vibrations and machinery sounds through seabed-mounted hydrophones.
- ❖ The system converts acoustic signals into optical data through underwater fibre-optic cables and analyses them at naval shore stations.
- ❖ It is designed with marine-grade components and a 20-year operational lifespan and aims to strengthen India's maritime security capabilities.



National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction Initiative

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to prevent substance abuse and promote rehabilitation.

- ❖ The framework focuses on prevention, awareness generation, capacity building, treatment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of affected individuals.
- ❖ A 2019 national survey estimated that over 7 crore people in India were affected by substance use disorder.
- ❖ The ministry has expanded its de-addiction and rehabilitation network to 768 centres across the country.
- ❖ The toll-free de-addiction helpline 14446 provides support, while the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan promotes awareness and a drug-free India.

National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

- ₹1,707.61 Crore Released (2014–2026)
- 38.36 Lakh Beneficiaries Reached
- 332.28 Crore Released in FY 2025-26 – Highest Ever Annual Support
- 348 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA)s
- 145 District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs)
- 154 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs)
- 76 Outreach & Drop-In Centres (ODICs)
- 45 Community-Based Peer-Led Intervention (CPLI) Programmes

NASHA Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan



Call 14446 today and get help with Drug De-addiction

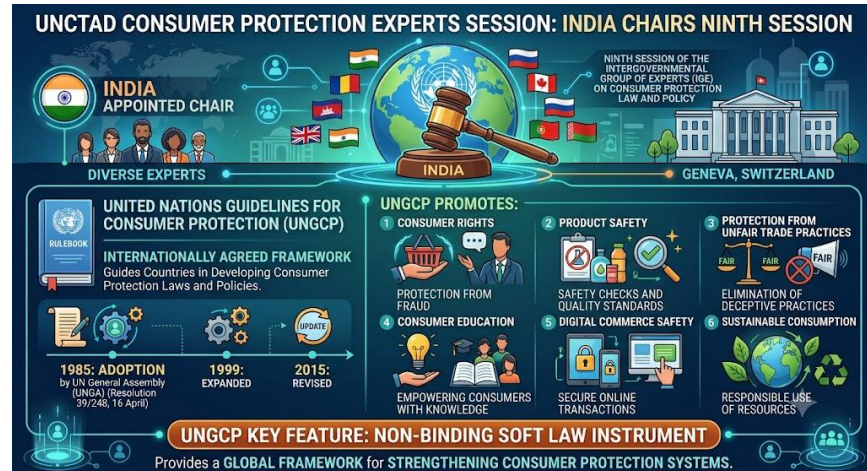
 **12 Years** of Expanding Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Support

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UNCTAD Consumer Protection Experts Session - India

- ❖ India has been appointed as the Chair of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ The United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (UNGCP) is an internationally agreed framework that guides countries in developing consumer protection laws and policies.

- ❖ UNGCP was first adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through Resolution 39/248 on 16 April 1985 and was expanded in 1999 and revised in 2015.
- ❖ It promotes consumer rights, product safety, protection from unfair trade practices, consumer education, digital commerce safety, and sustainable consumption.
- ❖ UNGCP is a non-binding soft law instrument that provides a global framework for strengthening consumer protection systems.



India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)



- ❖ India and Israel signed a new Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA), making Israel the first Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) country to adopt India's new investment treaty model.

- ❖ The agreement replaces the earlier Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed in 1996, which was terminated in 2017.
- ❖ A BIA is a legal agreement between two countries to protect and promote investments through investor rights and dispute settlement mechanisms.
- ❖ The agreement aims to increase bilateral investments, protect against unfair expropriation, ensure compensation, and improve investor confidence.
- ❖ India's investment treaty framework is based on the Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) 2015, which balances investor protection with the government's regulatory powers.

AI for Good Global Commission



- ❖ Kazakhstan joined the AI for Good Global Commission as a founding member at the invitation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ❖ The Commission was established under the ITU to develop practical approaches for advancing trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) and reducing the digital divide.
- ❖ It includes over 40 global leaders from governments, international organisations, and technology companies.
- ❖ It focuses on developing trustworthy AI, reducing the digital divide, improving access to advanced technologies, and ensuring AI contributes to sustainable development.
- ❖ The Commission was launched as part of the AI for Good Global Summit organised by the ITU in Geneva, Switzerland.


- ❖ The Commission acts as a platform for sharing policies, developing AI governance approaches, and ensuring equitable access to AI technologies worldwide.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Placenta-on-Chip Platform

- ❖ Indian scientists from Mumbai have developed a lab-grown placenta-on-chip platform to study pregnancy functions and test medicines.
- ❖ The technology was developed by researchers from IIT Bombay and ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)–NIRRH (National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health), Mumbai.
- ❖ A placenta-on-chip is a microfluidic device that replicates human placenta functions in a controlled laboratory environment.
- ❖ The platform models the placenta's role in transferring oxygen and nutrients to the foetus and removing waste products.
- ❖ It can be used for drug testing and research on pregnancy complications such as preeclampsia and gestational diabetes.

- Mumbai scientists recreate key functions of the human placenta on a chip
- It's a scalable lab model that mimics maternal-fetal interface for pregnancy research and drug testing
- The chip produce pregnancy hormones, transport nutrients, remove waste
- In the near future, scientists will use it for drug testing in pregnancy understanding pregnancy disorders such as gestational diabetes, pre-eclampsia and fetal growth restriction
- Reduce animal use



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Egyptian Vulture Decline in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Conservationists have urged urgent conservation measures for the Endangered Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) in Tamil Nadu, including a breeding programme.

- ❖ The species has become locally extinct in the Nilgiris and has no confirmed active breeding sites in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Major threats include diclofenac (veterinary Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID)), electrocution, poisoning, habitat disturbance, and reduced food availability.
- ❖ Fewer than 150 resident Egyptian Vultures are estimated to remain across Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- ❖ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has proposed an Egyptian Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Potential conservation sites include Nilgiris, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, and Coimbatore, based on habitat suitability.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Passport Index 2026



- ❖ India's rank in the Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026 declined to 125th position, one place lower than the previous year.

- ❖ The index is published by Global Citizen Solutions (GCS) and ranks passports based on mobility, investment, and quality of living benefits.
- ❖ It evaluates passports under Enhanced Mobility (50%), Investment (25%), and Quality of Living (25%) categories using 14 indicators.
- ❖ The index uses data from institutions such as the World Bank, the World Economic Forum (WEF), and the Sustainable Development Report.
- ❖ The strongest passports in the 2026 index are Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Bioproduct Day 2026 – July 07

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about bioproducts and their contribution to a sustainable future.
- ❖ The day has been celebrated annually since 2021 by the World Bioeconomy Association.
- ❖ Bioproducts are products made wholly or partly from renewable biological resources, replacing or complementing fossil-based products.
- ❖ Bioproducts support the bioeconomy by reducing dependence on fossil resources, promoting the circular economy, utilising side streams and waste, and lowering environmental impact.
- ❖ The 2026 campaign promoted the message "Bioproducts are everywhere – often without us even noticing."

