



July - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India approved its first utility-scale 100 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery Energy Storage System (VRFB BESS) project at Khavda Solar Park, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Centre approved the 1,000 Megawatt (MW) Naying Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh to boost renewable energy generation.
 - The project will be developed on the Naying River, a tributary of the Siang River basin in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ India won 1 gold and 3 silver medals at the 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026 held in Vilnius, Lithuania.
 - Bhavyaa Gunwal (Haryana) secured the gold medal, while Soumil Maity (West Bengal), Nishit Kalani (Rajasthan), and Anmol Kumar (Punjab) won silver medals.
- ❖ Tiger Lightning 2026 is an annual 13-day bilateral joint military drill between the Bangladesh Armed Forces and the United States Army Pacific (USARPAC).
 - This year's exercise was held at Jalalabad Cantonment, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- ❖ National Broadcasting Day is observed annually on 23 July to mark the beginning of organised radio broadcasting in India in 1927.
 - The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) started its first radio service on 23 July 1927, which later evolved into All India Radio (AIR) in 1936.
- ❖ National Space Exploration Day was observed on 20 July 2026 to mark the 57th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.
- ❖ World Brain Day is observed on 22 July 2026 to raise awareness about brain health and neurological disorders.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Brain Health: Access For All".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

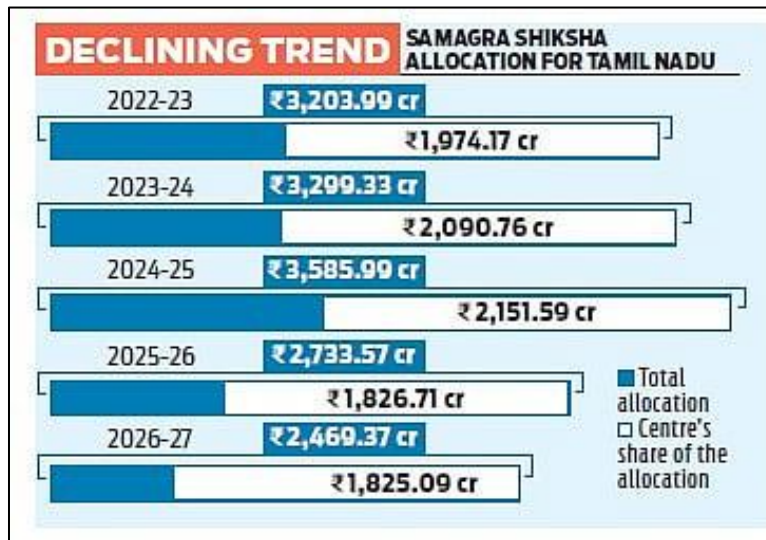
Tamil Nadu's Merchandise Exports 2025-26

- ❖ The Union Government has informed Parliament that Tamil Nadu's merchandise exports increased to US\$58.95 billion in 2025-26.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu remained the third-largest exporting State in India for the third consecutive year (since 2023-24).
- ❖ The State's merchandise exports increased from US\$43.22 billion (2023-24) to US\$51.83 billion (2024-25) and US\$58.95 billion (2025-26).

- ❖ In 2025–26, Tamil Nadu accounted for 41.63% of India's electronics exports, 33.38% of motor vehicles and cars, 35.59% of leather and leather products, 23.13% of textiles and allied products, and 16.66% of engineering goods.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's share in India's electronics exports increased from 32.84% (2023–24) to 38% (2024–25) and 41.63% (2025–26).
- ❖ Between 2014–15 and 2025–26, 94 projects worth ₹12,523 crore were implemented at Tamil Nadu's major ports to strengthen export infrastructure.



Samagra Shiksha Funds for Tamil Nadu

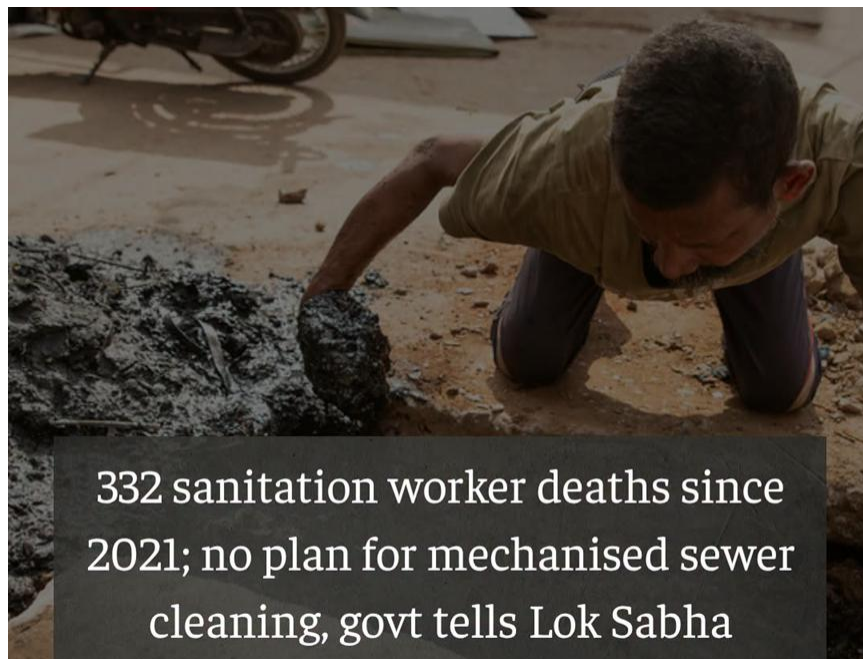


- ❖ The Union Government reiterated that the release of Samagra Shiksha funds to Tamil Nadu is linked to the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

- ❖ The Centre also stated that the Right to Education (RTE) (Entitlements) component under Samagra Shiksha will be released to the State separately in due course.
- ❖ The Centre stated that Tamil Nadu has not signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme and is therefore not implementing NEP 2020 in its entirety.
- ❖ For 2026–27, Tamil Nadu has been allocated ₹3,041.81 crore under Samagra Shiksha, including ₹1,825 crore as the Centre's share (60 percent) and ₹1,216 crore as the State's share (40 percent).
- ❖ The total allocation declined from ₹3,586 crore (2024–25) to ₹3,044.52 crore (2025–26) and ₹3,041.81 crore (2026–27).
- ❖ The RTE (Entitlements) component for 2026–27 is ₹624.19 crore, including the Centre's share of ₹374.51 crore.
- ❖ Samagra Shiksha is an integrated school education scheme covering elementary education, secondary education, and teacher education.

NATIONAL NEWS

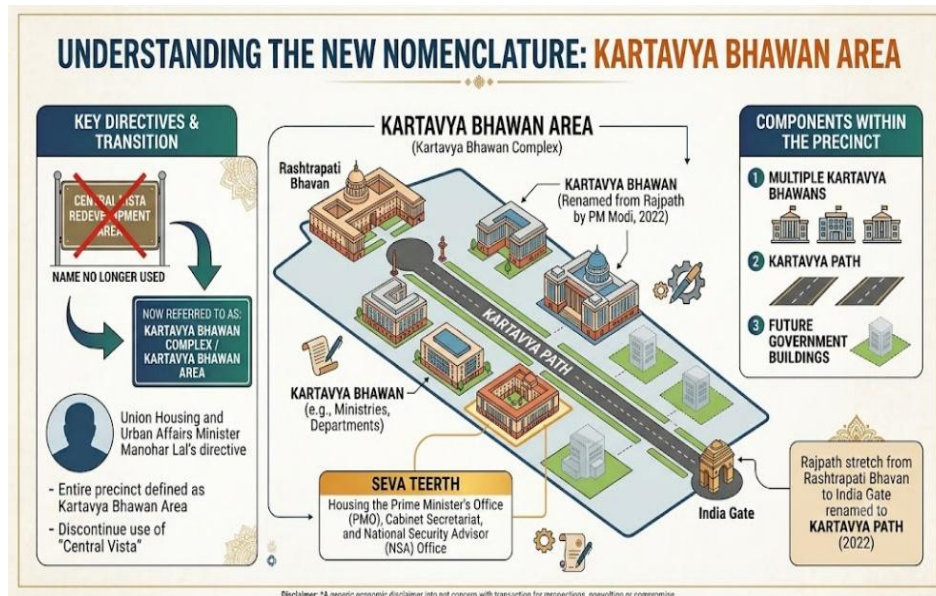
Manual Scavenging Deaths in India



- ❖ The Union Government informed Parliament that 332 people died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks across India during the last five years.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded 38 deaths, making it the third-highest in the country after Maharashtra (58) and Haryana (47).
- ❖ The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 prohibits the employment of manual scavengers and provides for their rehabilitation.
- ❖ The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 was the first central law banning manual scavenging and the construction of dry latrines.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India (2023) directed all States and Union Territories to fully mechanise sewer and septic tank cleaning and ensure compensation for victims' families.

Kartavya Bhawan Area



- ❖ Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal said the Central Vista redevelopment area should be referred to as the "Kartavya Bhawan Complex" or "Kartavya Bhawan Area".
- ❖ The name "Central Vista" should no longer be used.
- ❖ The entire precinct — comprising multiple Kartavya Bhawans, Kartavya Marg and any future government buildings in the zone — would be known as the Kartavya Bhawan Area.
- ❖ In 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially renamed Rajpath — the two-kilometre stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate — as Kartavya Path.

- ❖ Similarly, the new complex housing the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat and the office of the National Security Advisor was named "Seva Teerth".

‘Catch the Rain’ Campaign 2026

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is advancing the objectives of the nationwide initiative across urban India under AMRUT 2.0.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is in convergence with Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), under Jal Shakti Abhiyan–Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 2.0.
- ❖ A focused nationwide campaign was undertaken to intensify rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, restoration of traditional water bodies, plantation activities, and public participation.
- ❖ It was guided by the principles of Community, CSR, and Cost (3Cs).
- ❖ The Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) Programme is being implemented under AMRUT 2.0 to enhance groundwater recharge through scientific aquifer mapping and targeted interventions.
- ❖ It aims to sustain the momentum of the "Catch the Rain – Where it Falls, When it Falls" campaign.



GI Registration by NABARD

- ❖ NABARD has facilitated geographical indication registration of 28.

- ❖ Overall, it supported to 176 products in securing GI registration.
- ❖ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development was established in 1982 and headquartered in Mumbai.
- ❖ It was based on the recommendation of Sivaraman committee in 1979.
- ❖ It is India's apex development finance institution.
- ❖ It is fully owned by the Government of India.
- ❖ It is responsible for regulating, financing, and promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- ❖ It is an apex Supervisory Body for overall supervision of Regional Rural Banks, State Cooperative Banks and District Central Cooperative Banks in India.
- ❖ It functions under the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ It serves as an apex financing agency for the institutions providing investment and production credit for promoting the various developmental activities in rural areas.
- ❖ It also refines fund from World Bank and Asian Development Bank to state co-operative agriculture and rural development banks (SCARDBs), state co-operative banks (SCBs), regional rural banks (RRBs), commercial banks (CBs) and other financial institutions approved by RBI.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India's First Presidential Visits to Moldova and North Macedonia

- ❖ The President of India completed the first-ever State Visit by an Indian Head of State to Moldova and North Macedonia.

- ❖ India decided to double Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training slots for professionals from both countries, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) skill development in North Macedonia.
- ❖ In Moldova, India focused on strengthening trade, investment, and resilient supply chains through the India-Moldova Business Forum.
- ❖ Moldova is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, bordered by Romania and Ukraine, and received European Union (EU) candidate status in 2022.
- ❖ North Macedonia is a landlocked Balkan country in Southeast Europe and became a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member in 2020 after resolving its name dispute with Greece.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

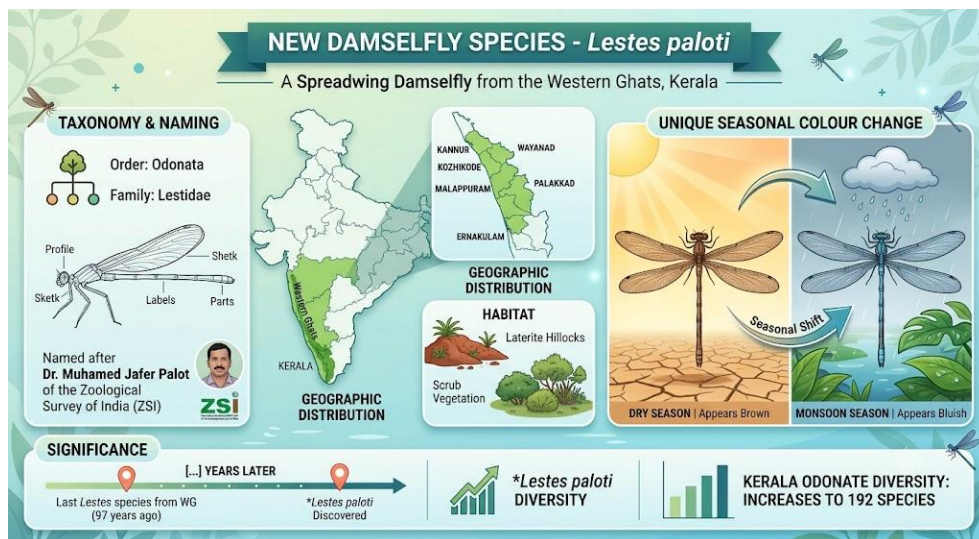
A23a Iceberg Disintegration

- ❖ The world's largest iceberg, A23a, has broken into smaller fragments in the South Atlantic Ocean after drifting for nearly 40 years.
- ❖ A23a calved from the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf, Antarctica, in 1986 and remained grounded on the ocean floor for decades before beginning its long drift.
- ❖ It covered an area of around 3,900 sq km at its peak, making it one of the largest icebergs ever recorded and larger than many cities.
- ❖ The iceberg drifted through the Weddell Sea and later entered the South Atlantic, where warmer waters accelerated melting and fragmentation.

- ❖ Its breakup was caused by prolonged exposure to warmer ocean currents, wave action and meltwater, reflecting changes in Antarctic environments.



New Damselfly Species - *Lestes paloti*



- ❖ Scientists discovered *Lestes paloti*, a new species of spreading damselfly, in the Western Ghats of Kerala.
- ❖ *Lestes paloti* belongs to the family Lestidae under the order Odonata and was named after Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

- ❖ The species has been recorded from six districts of Kerala—Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Malappuram, Palakkad, and Ernakulam—and inhabits laterite hillocks and scrub vegetation.
- ❖ It shows a unique seasonal colour change, appearing brown during the dry season and bluish during the monsoon.
- ❖ The discovery comes 97 years after the last *Lestes* species was described from the Western Ghats and increases Kerala's odonate (dragonflies and damselflies) diversity to 192 species.

Two New Spider Species



- ❖ Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) documented two new spider species — *Simonia lawbah* and *Hamataliwa papikonda* from Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ *Simonia lawbah* is a new cave-dwelling ray spider found in Krem Lawbah Cave, Meghalaya, belonging to the family Theridiosomatidae.
- ❖ It is the first recorded species of the genus *Simonia* in India.
- ❖ *Hamataliwa papikonda* is a new lynx spider discovered in the Papikonda National Park, Andhra Pradesh, belonging to the family Oxyopidae.

- ❖ It is the first documented occurrence of the genus *Hamataliwa* in Andhra Pradesh.

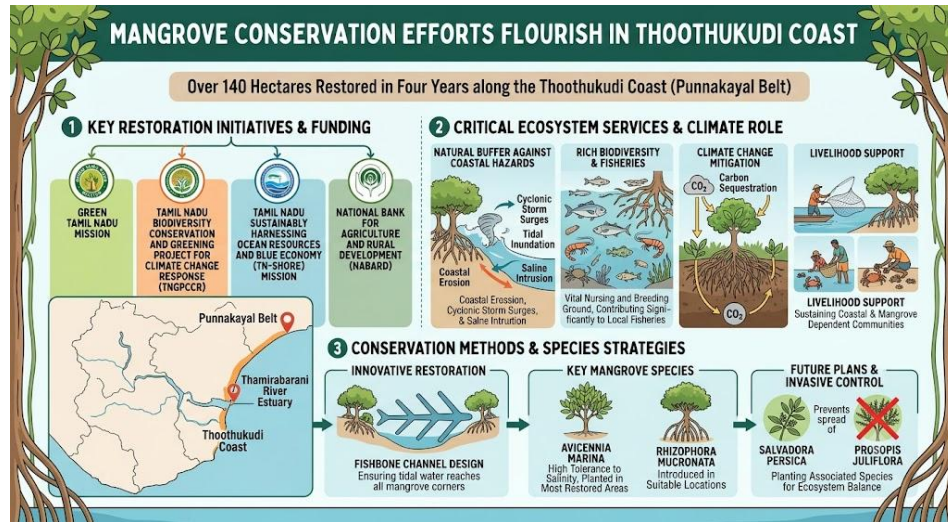
Great Indian Bustard Conservation Status



- ❖ The latest assessment by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) reported that the population of the Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) remains stable at around 110–150 birds.
- ❖ The Great Indian Bustard, listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, is now restricted to only 16% of its potential habitat in Rajasthan's Thar Desert.
- ❖ The survey recorded around 130 Great Indian Bustards (± 21 variation) along with 35 GIB flocks, 1,568 Chinkara herds and 79 Desert foxes.
- ❖ Major threats include habitat fragmentation, agricultural expansion, poaching, egg predation and collisions with power transmission lines.

- ❖ Conservation measures include Project Great Indian Bustard, captive breeding at Sam and Ramdevra centres, habitat improvement and power line management as directed by the Supreme Court.

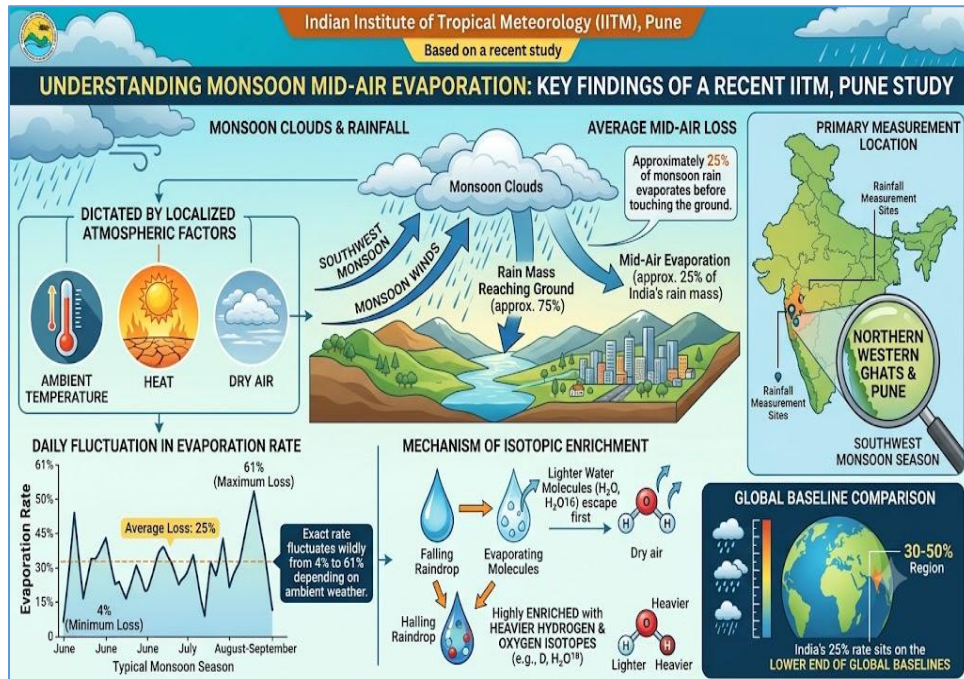
Mangrove conservation efforts in Thoothukudi coast



- ❖ Mangrove conservation efforts flourish along Thoothukudi coast with over 140 hectares restored in four years.
- ❖ The restoration has been carried out under various initiatives including Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TNGPCCR), Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy (TN-SHORE) Mission and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- ❖ Mangroves serve as a natural buffer against coastal erosion, cyclonic storm surges, tidal inundation and saline intrusion.
- ❖ The forest department is focusing on the restored areas in Punnakayal belt, where the Thamirabarani river estuary is located.
- ❖ As part of the restoration efforts, fishbone channel designs have been implemented to ensure that tidal water reaches every corner of the mangrove ecosystem.
- ❖ Mangrove species such as Avicennia marina have been planted in most of the restored areas due to its high tolerance to salinity.
- ❖ While Rhizophora mucronata has also been introduced in suitable locations.
- ❖ The mangroves also support rich marine and estuarine biodiversity and serve as a vital nursing and breeding ground of fish, prawn and other aquatic organism.
- ❖ Thus, it is contributing significantly to the local fisheries.

- ❖ In addition, they also play an important role in climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration.
- ❖ And they provide essential ecosystem services that sustain the livelihood of coastal and mangrove dependent communities.
- ❖ There are also plans under way to plant associated species such as *Salvadora persica* to prevent the spread of *Prosopis juliflora*.

Evaporation of Monsoon



- ❖ Approximately 25% of India's monsoon rain mass evaporates mid-air before ever touching the ground.
- ❖ It was a recent study by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.
- ❖ The mid-air loss is dictated primarily by localised atmospheric factors like ambient temperature, heat, and dry air.
- ❖ While the average mid-air loss sits at 25%, the exact evaporation rate fluctuates wildly from day to day—ranging from 4% up to 61% depending on ambient weather conditions.
- ❖ When water evaporates, lighter water molecules escape into the air first.
- ❖ This leaves the remaining falling raindrop highly enriched with heavier hydrogen and oxygen isotopes.
- ❖ India's 25% mid-air evaporation rate sits on the lower end of global baselines.

- ❖ The primary measurements were gathered over the northern Western Ghats and Pune during the Southwest monsoon season.

28th Meeting of the Plants Committee (PC28) – CITES



- ❖ 28th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC28) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in Geneva, Switzerland
- ❖ It is the first plant-focused meeting since CoP20 (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Dec 2025)
- ❖ It marks the beginning of a new 3-year cycle leading up to CoP21 (Panama City, Nov 2028)
- ❖ Plants Committee is one of two permanent scientific bodies under CITES (the other is the Animals Committee).
- ❖ As a New Dimension, Fungi was discussed as a separate agenda item for the first time.
- ❖ It is a sign that CITES' scientific interest is widening beyond plants and animals
- ❖ India argued for stronger scientific backing before listing guggul, supported by Central African Republic and Congo.
- ❖ Guggul, listing under Appendix II, affects India's Ayurvedic industry.
- ❖ India earlier kept Agarwood or Aquilaria malaccensis out of the Review of Significant Trade, citing cultivation in Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura.
- ❖ India had secured a higher export quota;

- ❖ India is part of the working group refining agarwood trade guidance.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Terrorism Index 2026

GTI 2026 Overall Results MEASURING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM			
Rank	Country	Score	Rank Change
1	● Pakistan	8.574	↗ 1
2	● Burkina Faso	8.324	↘ 1
3	● Niger	7.816	↗ 2
4	● Nigeria	7.792	↗ 2
5	● Mali	7.586	↘ 1
6	● Syria	7.545	↘ 3
7	● Somalia	7.391	↔
8	● Democratic Republic of the Congo	7.171	↗ 4
9	● Colombia	7.116	↗ 5
10	● Israel	6.79	↘ 2
11	● Afghanistan	6.678	↘ 2
12	● Cameroon	6.593	↘ 2
13	● India	6.428	↗ 2

- ❖ The 13th edition of Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2026 reported a decline in global terrorism in 2025, with terrorism-related deaths falling by 28% and incidents declining by 22%.
- ❖ The report was released by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), based in Sydney, Australia.
- ❖ Terrorism is becoming more concentrated, decentralised and digitally driven despite the decline in attacks.
- ❖ Nearly 70% of terrorism-related deaths occurred in Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Niger and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

- ❖ Terror groups increasingly use online radicalisation, lone-wolf attacks, small autonomous cells and digital platforms.

STATE NEWS

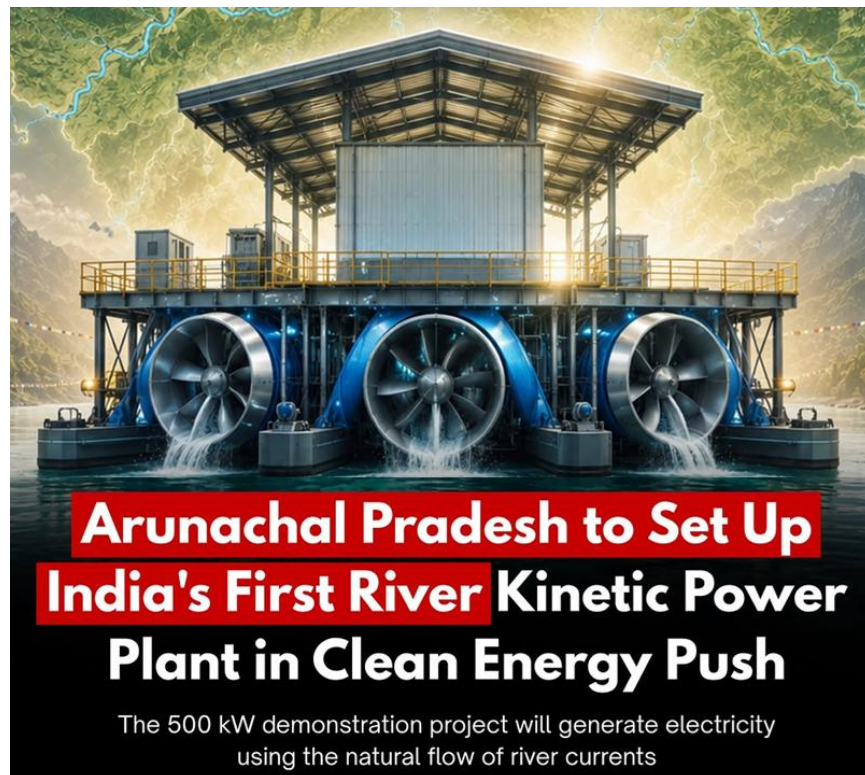
Uniform Civil Code Bill in Madhya Pradesh



- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh cabinet has approved the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill.
- ❖ The tribal communities, covered under Articles 342 and 366 (Clause 25) of the Constitution, have been kept outside the scope of this law to protect their “unique cultural heritage and traditional lifestyle”.
- ❖ The UCC will give equal status to everyone in the state.
- ❖ The multiple marriages will no longer be valid in the state.
- ❖ Verbal divorce or decisions made by informal panchayats have been declared completely illegal.
- ❖ Now, a marriage can be dissolved only on clear and statutory grounds prescribed by law
- ❖ Those in live-in relationships will have to register within one month.

- ❖ While the minimum age for entering a live-in relationship remains 18, the proposed legislation provides that if either partner is below 21 years of age, information regarding the commencement and termination of the live-in relationship will be sent to their parents or guardians, and that the registrar will also share the record with the local police.
- ❖ Marriage registration will also be made mandatory down to the village level.
- ❖ It proposes a prohibition on practices like polygamy and nikah halala.
- ❖ It will be mandatory to register marriages and divorces across all communities through government portals, to ensure marital rights, alimony and various legal protections for women.
- ❖ Children of married or unmarried parents—whether biological, adopted, or born through surrogacy or Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)—will enjoy equal legal status.
- ❖ It also seeks to provide equal inheritance rights to sons and daughters irrespective of their marital status.

India's first river kinetic energy demo plant in Arunachal



- ❖ The Arunachal Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding with Norway's Tidal Sails AS to establish India's first kinetic energy demonstration plant.

- ❖ It will help the State implement a 500-kW project to demonstrate a technology to generate electricity directly from river currents without requiring major civil infrastructure.
- ❖ Thus, it will be offering an environmentally sustainable and cost-effective renewable energy solution.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh has an estimated hydropower potential of 58,000 MW.

Risk-Based Business Approval System



CHHATTISGARH
EASE OF DOING BUSINESS ACT
2026

Risk-based classification — simpler approvals for low-risk & detailed scrutiny for high-risk units

Self-certification and **third-party certification** replace repeated inspections

Lifetime valid certificates for low & medium risk units

15 lakh MSMEs to benefit
Risk-based, trust-based business reform

- ❖ Chhattisgarh passes Ease of Doing Business Act 2026.
- ❖ It introduces Risk-Based Approval System.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh becomes first in India to adopt a trust-based business permission framework aimed at easing compliance for MSMEs.
- ❖ It is set to become the first state in the country to introduce a comprehensive risk-based permission framework for industries and commercial establishments.
- ❖ The Act aims to reduce compliance burdens, simplify procedures related to setting up and operating businesses.
- ❖ Under the new framework, industries and businesses will be classified into different risk categories based on their size and nature of operations.

- ❖ Low-risk enterprises will be eligible for simplified approvals, while projects falling under higher-risk categories will continue to undergo technical scrutiny and inspections.

Implementation of NeVA



- ❖ Maharashtra Legislature expressed its commitment to adopt the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- ❖ It is a Mission Mode Project of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, under the Digital India Programme.
- ❖ It is aimed at digitalizing all 37 State and Union Territory Legislatures through a unified digital platform for conducting legislative business.
- ❖ It is the vision of "One Nation, One Application".
- ❖ It will enable the Members to discharge their legislative responsibilities more efficiently while providing citizens with easier access to legislative business and proceedings.
- ❖ Thus, it will be enhancing transparency, strengthening public participation and contributing to a digitally empowered legislative ecosystem.

- ❖ Till July 2026, 21 Legislatures have already transitioned into fully Digital Houses.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Flag Day 2026 - July 22

- ❖ National Flag Day is observed to commemorate the adoption of the Tiranga (National Flag of India) by the Constituent Assembly on 22 July 1947.
- ❖ The present National Flag features three horizontal bands—India Saffron, White, and India Green—with a 24-spoke Ashoka Chakra in navy blue at the centre.
- ❖ The Ashoka Chakra replaced the Charkha (spinning wheel) in the national flag adopted in 1947.
- ❖ The Flag Code of India came into effect on 26 January 2002 and was amended in 2021 and 2022 to regulate the display and use of the National Flag.
- ❖ The National Flag symbolises India's unity, sovereignty, freedom, democracy, and constitutional values.

