



July - 29

TNPSC BITS

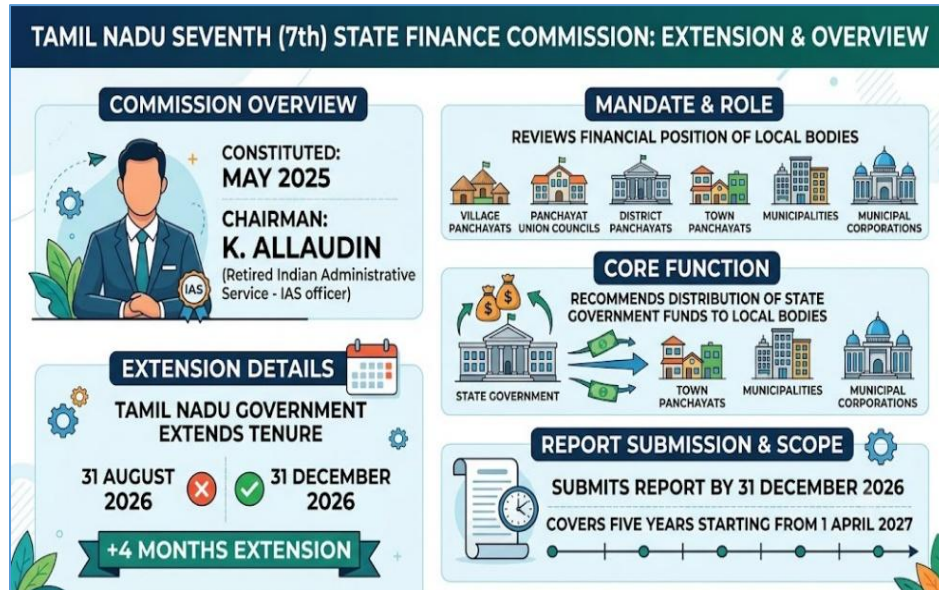
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will host the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting at Mamallapuram in August 2026.
 - The Southern Zonal Council is a statutory body established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, comprising Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry.
- ❖ Bihar-born para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar won India's first medal at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026 held in Glasgow, securing a bronze medal in the men's heavyweight para powerlifting event.
- ❖ India hosted an international conference marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).
 - The conference discussed challenges from digital commerce, technological changes, supply chain disruptions, and evolving global trade patterns.
- ❖ Indian squash player Anahat Singh became the first Indian to win the World Junior Squash Individual Championship 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's indigenous Bhargavastra Counter-Swarm Drone System was demonstrated in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ France is the first nation in Europe to impose a nationwide ban on social media for teenagers (Children Under 15).
 - Last December, Australia became the first country in the world to require TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and other top sites to remove accounts held by under-16s or face heavy fines.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

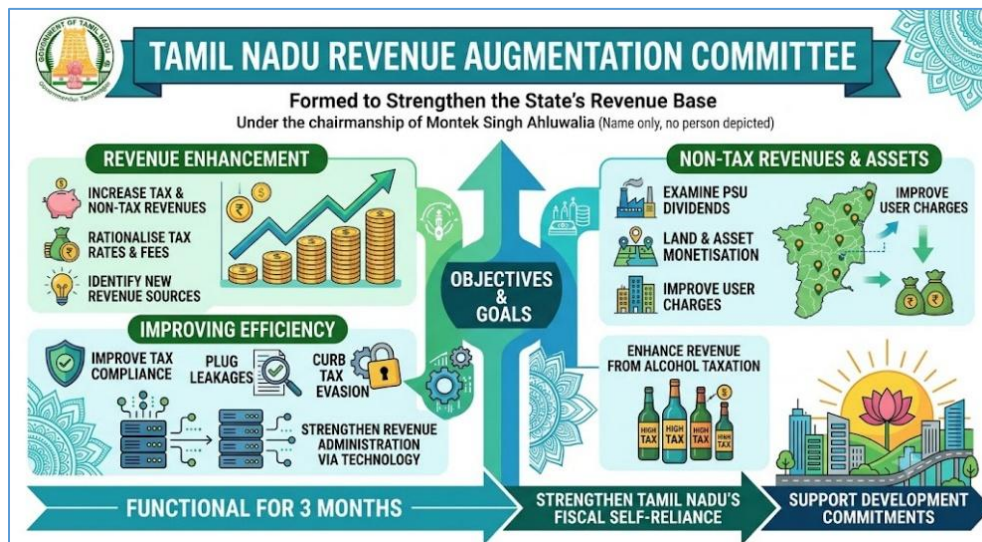
Extension of Seventh State Finance Commission

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has extended the tenure of the Seventh State Finance Commission by four months, from 31 August 2026 to 31 December 2026.
- ❖ The Commission was constituted in May 2025 under the chairmanship of K. Allaudin (Retired IAS officer).
- ❖ It reviews the financial position of Village Panchayats, Panchayat Union Councils, District Panchayats, Town Panchayats, Municipalities, and Municipal Corporations.
- ❖ The Commission recommends the distribution of State government funds to local bodies.

- ❖ It will submit its report by 31 December 2026, covering the five years starting from 1 April 2027.



Tamil Nadu Revenue Augmentation Committee



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has constituted a Revenue Augmentation Committee under the chairmanship of Montek Singh Ahluwalia to strengthen the State's revenue base.
- ❖ The committee will recommend measures to increase tax and non-tax revenues, improve tax compliance, plug leakages, rationalise tax rates and fees, and identify new revenue sources.
- ❖ It will also examine non-tax revenues such as Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) dividends, land and asset monetisation, and improved user charges.



- ❖ The committee will recommend measures to curb tax evasion, improve revenue administration through technology, and enhance revenue from alcohol taxation.
- ❖ The committee will function for three months to help strengthen Tamil Nadu's fiscal self-reliance and support its development commitments.

NATIONAL NEWS

Examination Reforms Task Force

- ❖ Prime Minister of India announced the formation of a high-powered task force to suggest reforms in the examination system.
- ❖ The task force will be headed by technology expert Nandan Nilekani to improve transparency, credibility, and use of technology in examinations.
- ❖ Members include former Intelligence Bureau (IB) Director Tapan Deka, former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somnath, and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Director V. Kamakoti.
- ❖ Other members are former Education Secretary Anita Karwal and logistics expert Amrit Lal Meena.
- ❖ The government will introduce a new law in Parliament with strict provisions to prevent examination irregularities and protect students' interests.

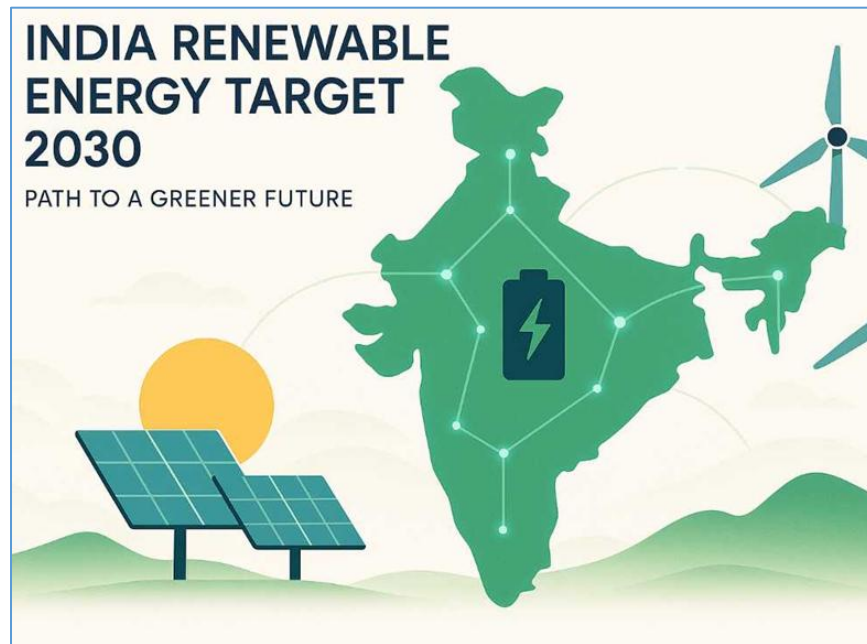
EXAM REFORMS TASK FORCE FORMED

PM Narendra Modi announced a high-powered task force on examination reforms led by technology expert Nandan Nilekani. The panel will recommend measures to make exams more transparent, secure, and technology-driven, with the government promising swift action to restore trust in the examination system.

2030 renewable energy target

- ❖ India is on track to meet 2030 renewable energy target.
- ❖ India has already achieved its target of 50% installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of the 2030 deadline.
- ❖ The country had installed 297.36 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity and 288.58 GW of renewable energy capacity.
- ❖ Solar power accounted for the largest share at 162.15 GW.

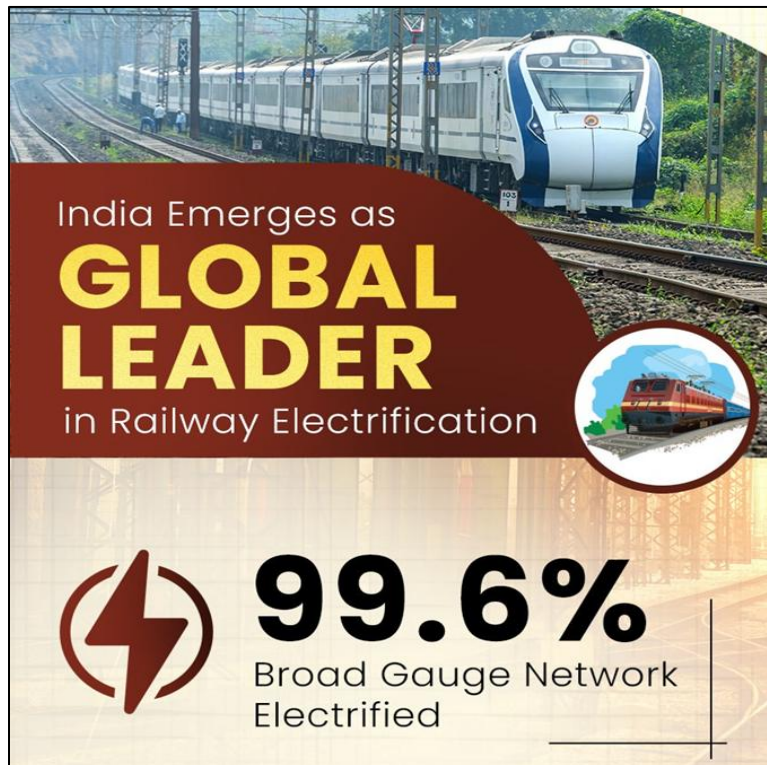
- ❖ It is followed by wind power at 57.44 GW, large hydro power at 52.06 GW, bio power at 11.75 GW, and small hydro power at 5.18 GW.
- ❖ India is also well on track to achieve its target of 500 GW installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources by 2030.
- ❖ India ranks as the 3rd largest globally (After China, USA) in total renewable energy installed capacity.
- ❖ The main challenges in expanding renewable energy include land acquisition, transmission infrastructure, and grid integration.



Global Leader in Railway Electrification

- ❖ India emerges as Global Leader in Railway Electrification with 99.6% Broad Gauge Network Electrified.
- ❖ India is second only to Switzerland.
- ❖ It is ahead of several major railway networks, including China (82 per cent), Spain (67 per cent), Japan (64 per cent), France (60 per cent) and the United Kingdom (39 per cent).
- ❖ Rail transport emits about 11.5 grams of carbon dioxide per tonne-kilometre, nearly 89 per cent lower than road transport, which emits around 101 grams.
- ❖ Electrification has also reduced Indian Railways' dependence on imported fossil fuels.

- ❖ Apart from environmental benefits, electric traction has improved operational efficiency by enabling higher hauling capacity, faster train speeds and reduced travel time.
- ❖ Across railway zones, 15 zones, including Central, Northern, Eastern, Western, South Central and East Coast Railways, along with Konkan Railway and Kolkata Metro, have already achieved 100 per cent electrification.
- ❖ At the state level, several states and Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Punjab and Delhi, have achieved complete railway electrification.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

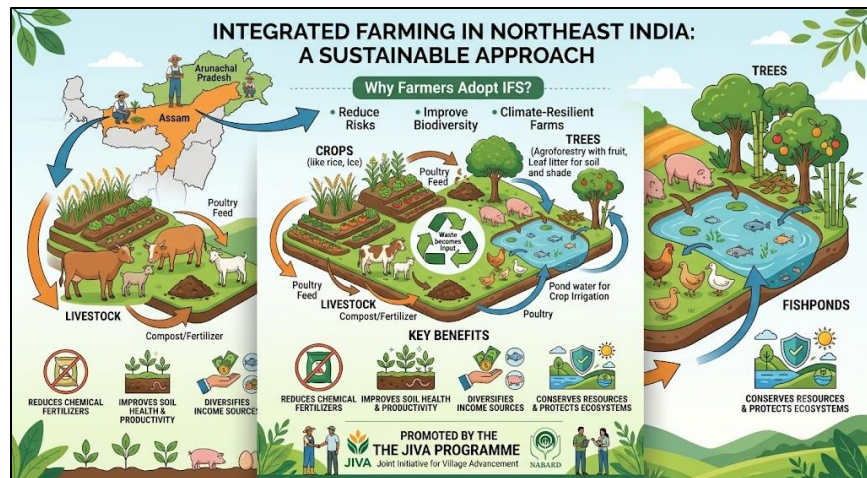
Community Forest Conservation - Bundelkhand Forests

- ❖ A 2026 study found that sacred groves (Devsthalis) in Bundelkhand (Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh) preserve greater biodiversity than nearby degraded forests despite lacking legal protection.
- ❖ Sacred groves recorded 70–72 plant species, compared with 40–51 species in nearby degraded forests, including several medicinal plants.
- ❖ These community-protected forests are conserved through traditional beliefs, with tribal and Dalit women playing a key role in protecting biodiversity.

- ❖ Major threats include land encroachment, mining, changing religious practices, and lack of legal recognition.
- ❖ In December 2024, the Supreme Court directed a nationwide survey of sacred groves and recommended recognising local communities as custodians under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.



Integrated Farming in Northeast India



- ❖ Farmers in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh are adopting Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) to reduce risks, improve biodiversity, and develop climate-resilient farms.
- ❖ IFS combines crops, livestock, fishponds, poultry, pigs, and trees, where waste from one component becomes an input for another.
- ❖ The approach reduces dependence on chemical fertilisers and external inputs, while improving soil health and farm productivity.

- ❖ The Joint Initiative for Village Advancement (JIVA) programme, supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), promotes integrated farming in the region.
- ❖ Integrated farming helps small farmers by diversifying income sources, conserving resources, and protecting ecosystems from climate-related challenges.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UN SOFI report 2026



- ❖ Global hunger falls in 2025, but world remains off track for zero hunger goal
- ❖ The world remains off track to meet the 2030 Zero Hunger goal.
- ❖ It is estimated that 7.8 per cent of the world's population faced hunger in 2025.
- ❖ Conflict, extreme weather, aid cuts and the rising cost of nutritious food could reverse recent gains.
- ❖ For the first time since such data has been tracked, Africa has overtaken Asia as the region with the largest number of hungry people.

- ❖ Most severe hunger crises occur in South Sudan, Burundi, Somalia, the Central African Republic, and Chad.
- ❖ Much of the unaffordability in Africa was linked to nutrient-rich animal-source foods, including milk, eggs and meat.
- ❖ State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 report was released jointly by five specialised agencies of the United Nations: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

SPORTS NEWS

CWG 2026



- ❖ The 23rd Commonwealth Games (CWG 2026) are being held in Glasgow, Scotland.
- ❖ It is a quadrennial international multisport event contested by athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations.
- ❖ This is the fourth Commonwealth Games to be hosted in Scotland, following the 1970 and 1986 games in Edinburgh, and the 2014 Games in Glasgow.
- ❖ India was sending a 126-strong contingent, significantly smaller than in previous editions.
- ❖ India finished fourth in the 2022 Birmingham Games with 61 medals.
- ❖ The following are excluded - Badminton, cricket, hockey, squash, table tennis, and wrestling.

- ❖ The Commonwealth of Nations is a group of 56 countries composed mostly of former British colonies.
- ❖ It was established by the London Declaration in 1949.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Nature Conservation Day 2026 - July 28

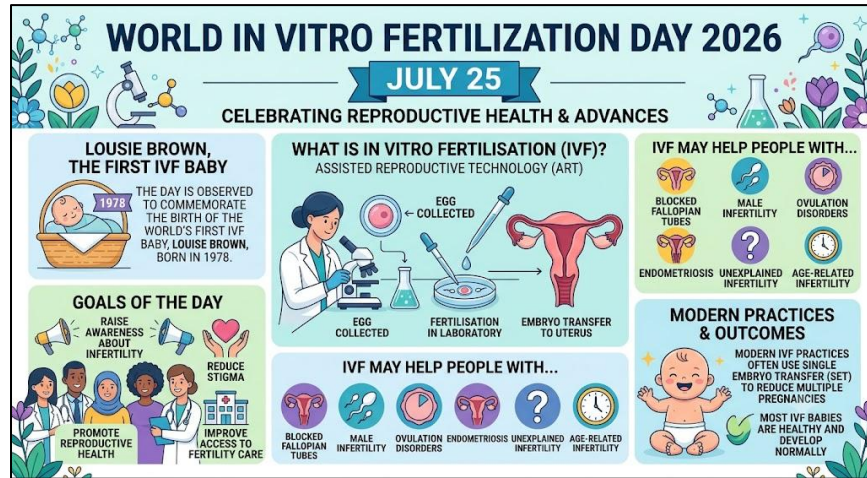
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about conserving biodiversity, natural resources, and ecosystems for a sustainable future.
- ❖ The day promotes the protection of forests, wildlife, water, soil, and other natural resources through sustainable practices.
- ❖ It supports global efforts to conserve biodiversity and protect endangered species and their habitats.
- ❖ The observance aligns with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.
- ❖ It also highlights the importance of healthy ecosystems in ensuring clean air, clean water, food security, and climate stability.



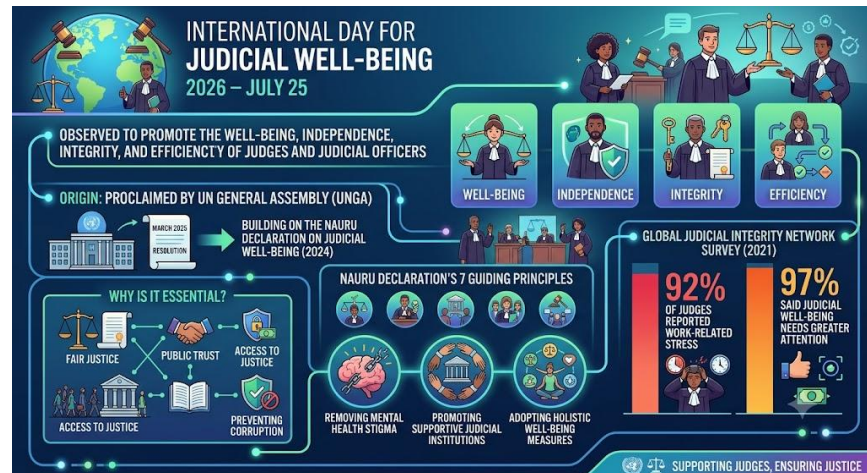
World In Vitro Fertilization Day 2026 – July 25

- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate the birth of the world's first IVF baby, Louise Brown, born in 1978.
- ❖ In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is an Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) in which an egg is fertilised with sperm in a laboratory before the embryo is transferred to the uterus.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about infertility, reduce stigma, promote reproductive health, and improve access to fertility care.
- ❖ IVF may help people with blocked fallopian tubes, male infertility, ovulation disorders, endometriosis, unexplained infertility, or age-related infertility.

- ❖ Modern IVF practices often use single embryo transfer to reduce multiple pregnancies, and most IVF babies are healthy and develop normally.



International Day for Judicial Well-being 2026 – July 25



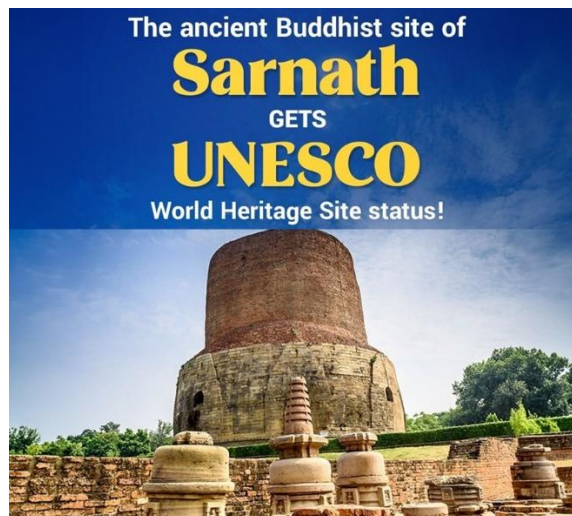
- ❖ The day is observed to promote the well-being, independence, integrity, and efficiency of judges and other judicial officers.
- ❖ The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in March 2025 through a resolution, building on the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being (2024).
- ❖ It highlights that judicial well-being is essential for fair justice, public trust, access to justice, and preventing corruption.
- ❖ The Nauru Declaration outlines seven guiding principles, including removing mental health stigma, promoting supportive judicial institutions, and adopting holistic well-being measures.

- ❖ According to a 2021 Global Judicial Integrity Network survey, 92% of judges reported work-related stress, and 97% said judicial well-being needs greater attention.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath - UNESCO Status

- ❖ The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, has been inscribed on the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage List in the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Busan, South Korea (2026).
- ❖ Located in Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh, Sarnath is the place where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammachakra Pravartan) after attaining enlightenment.
- ❖ With this inclusion, India now has 45 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- ❖ Sarnath joins other Indian Buddhist heritage sites such as the Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (Bihar) and Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (Madhya Pradesh).
- ❖ UNESCO recognition requires a site to have Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and fulfil at least one of the 10 selection criteria.



Henley Passport Index 2026

- ❖ India's passport ranking declined to 81st position in the latest Henley Passport Index 2026, from 75th earlier in February 2026.

- ❖ Indian passport holders can access 55 destinations with visa-free or visa-on-arrival facilities.
- ❖ The Henley Passport Index ranks 199 passports across 227 travel destinations using data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ Singapore retained the top position, offering visa-free access to 192 destinations.
- ❖ Japan, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) jointly ranked second with access to 188 destinations.
- ❖ The index measures global mobility based on the number of destinations accessible without obtaining a prior visa.

India's passport has dropped from 75th to 81st in the latest global passport rankings. The ranking is based on how many countries Indians can visit without getting a visa in advance or with easier entry rules. The change happened because some countries updated their visa policies.

