

June - 06

TNPSC BITS

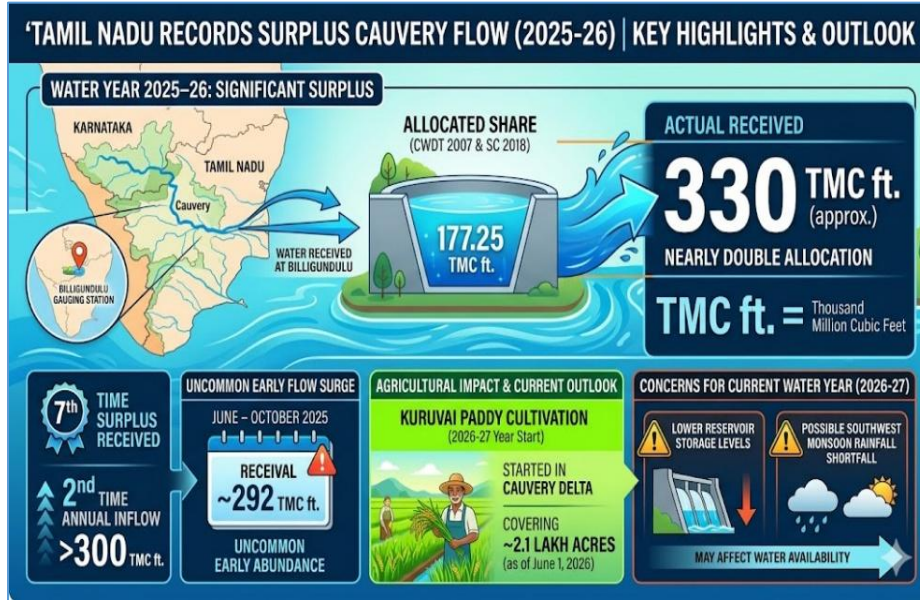
- ❖ Mesalina bishnoi, a newly identified lizard species belonging to the genus Mesalina, has been recorded in India for the first time from an open semi-desert habitat near Gajner, Bikaner district, Rajasthan.
 - The species is named after the Bishnoi community in recognition of its long-standing tradition of wildlife conservation.
- ❖ Admiral Krishna Swaminathan assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2026, succeeding Dinesh Kumar Tripathi after his retirement.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu farmer Valluvan from Pollachi has been recognised as an “FAO Soil Farmer Hero” by the Food and Agriculture Organization for promoting the sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ Paradip Port Authority (PPA), Odisha, received the Sagar Aankalan Award 2026 from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) for excellence in port operations and logistics performance.
 - PPA also secured third rank in the Sagar Aankalan Certificate for Logistics Port Performance.
- ❖ World Peatlands Day is observed annually on 2 June to raise global awareness about the importance of peatlands and peat.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Surplus Cauvery Flow

- ❖ Tamil Nadu received more Cauvery water than its allocated share during the water year 2025–26.
- ❖ During June 2025–May 2026, Tamil Nadu received about 330 thousand million cubic feet (TMC ft.) of Cauvery water at Biligundulu, against the allocated 177.25 TMC ft.
- ❖ The allocation was fixed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award of 2007 and modified by the Supreme Court (SC) in 2018.
- ❖ This is the seventh time Tamil Nadu has received more than its prescribed share, and the second time annual inflow crossed 300 TMC ft.
- ❖ Around 292 TMC ft. of water was received between June and October 2025, which is an uncommon occurrence.

- ❖ Kuruvai paddy cultivation has begun in the Cauvery delta, covering about 2.1 lakh acres as of June 1, 2026.
- ❖ Lower reservoir storage levels and a possible Southwest Monsoon rainfall shortfall may affect water availability during the current water year (2026–27).



NATIONAL NEWS

Chenab-Beas Link Project

- ❖ The Central Government approved the Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel Project in May 2026 in Himachal Pradesh.

- ❖ The project involves an 8.7-km tunnel to divert surplus water from the Chenab basin to the Beas River system and has an estimated cost of ₹2,352 crore.
- ❖ Phase I includes a 19-metre-high barrage on the Chandra River near Koksar village in the Lahaul Valley of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project will be implemented by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and is expected to support about 4,000 Megawatts (MW) of additional hydropower generation.
- ❖ The Chenab River is one of the western rivers of the Indus River System governed by the Indus Waters Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960.

18th Railway Zone - South Coast Railway



- ❖ Indian Railways unveiled a new 18-star logo after the South Coast Railway (SCoR) became the country's 18th railway zone on 1 June 2026.
- ❖ South Coast Railway was created with its headquarters at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The new zone comprises the Guntakal, Guntur, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam railway divisions.
- ❖ It was formed from parts of the existing East Coast Railway and South Central Railway zones.

- ❖ The South Coast Railway headquarters is being developed at Visakhapatnam at an estimated cost of ₹183.58 crore.

90 Crore - ABHA Milestone

- ❖ The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) crossed the milestone of 90 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs) on 30 May 2026.
- ❖ ABHA is a unique digital health ID that enables secure storage and sharing of health records with patient consent.
- ❖ The number of ABHAs increased from over 14 crores in 2021 to 90 crores in 2026.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh leads with over 15 crore ABHAs, followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra with over 7 crore each.
- ❖ Women account for 49.75% of all ABHA holders, reflecting growing participation in India's digital health ecosystem.

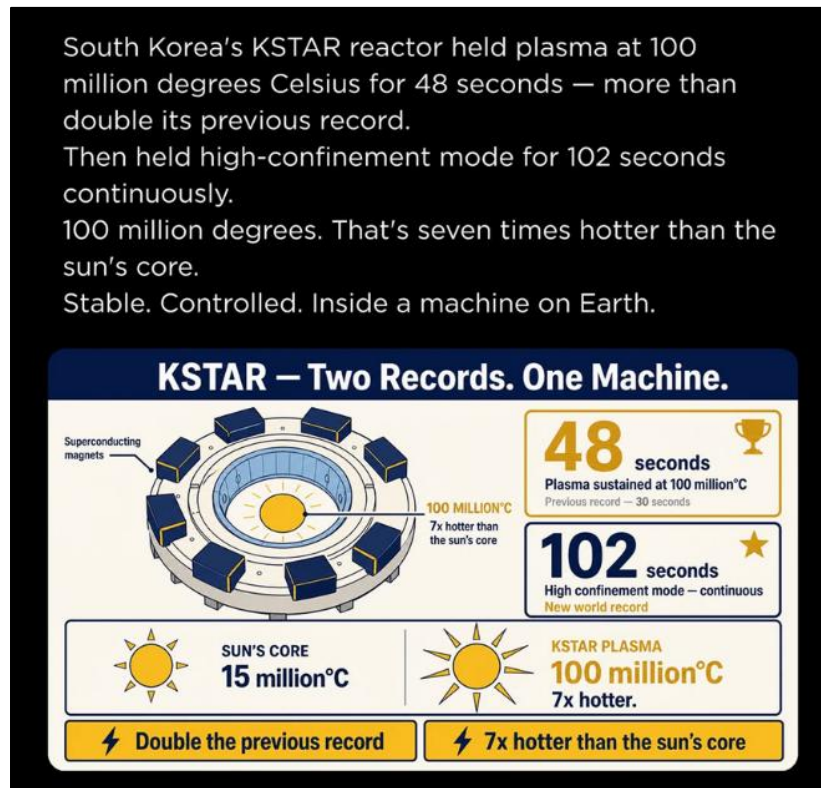


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

KSTAR Plasma Breakthrough

- ❖ South Korea's Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR) sustained plasma in high-confinement mode for 102 seconds, achieving a major milestone in fusion research.

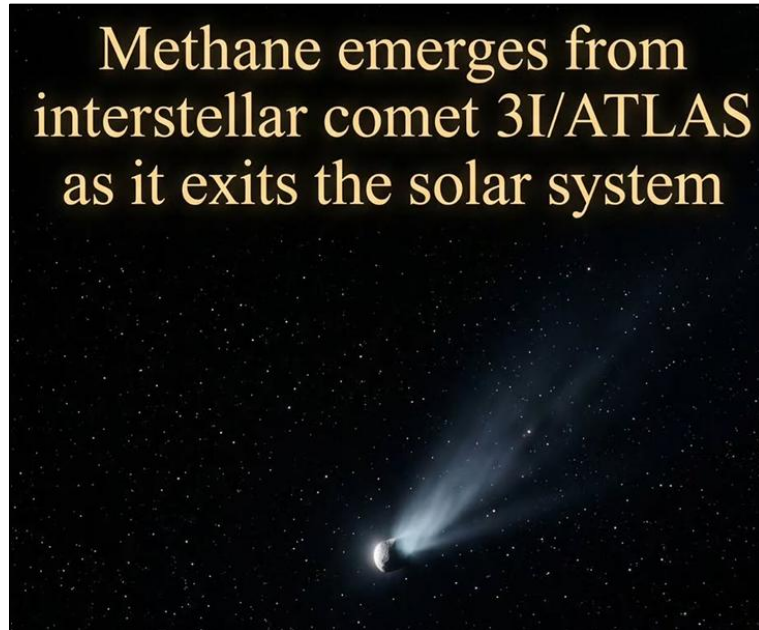
- ❖ KSTAR is a superconducting tokamak operated by the Korea Institute of Fusion Energy (KFE) in Daejeon, South Korea; a tokamak uses magnetic fields to confine plasma for nuclear fusion.
- ❖ It maintained plasma at 100 million degrees Celsius for 48 seconds, surpassing its previous record of 30 seconds set in 2021.
- ❖ The device was upgraded with tungsten divertors, which remove heat, impurities, and exhaust particles from plasma and can withstand extremely high temperatures.
- ❖ High-Confinement Mode (H-mode), first observed in 1982, improves the confinement of heat and particles inside plasma.



Methane on Interstellar Comet

- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope detected methane on the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS, marking the first direct detection of methane on an object originating outside the Solar System.
- ❖ The discovery was made using the telescope's Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI).
- ❖ Scientists found that methane became detectable after the comet passed close to the Sun, suggesting it was trapped beneath the surface and released by solar heating.

- ❖ The comet contains unusually high amounts of methane and carbon dioxide compared with most comets in the Solar System.
- ❖ These chemical characteristics indicate that 3I/ATLAS formed in an environment different from that of most Solar System comets.



India in Global AI Initiative

**India Gets Access to
Anthropic's Mythos AI Model
Under Project Glasswing**

Anthropic has expanded Project Glasswing to 15+ countries, including India, giving selected organisations access to its Claude Mythos Preview AI model.

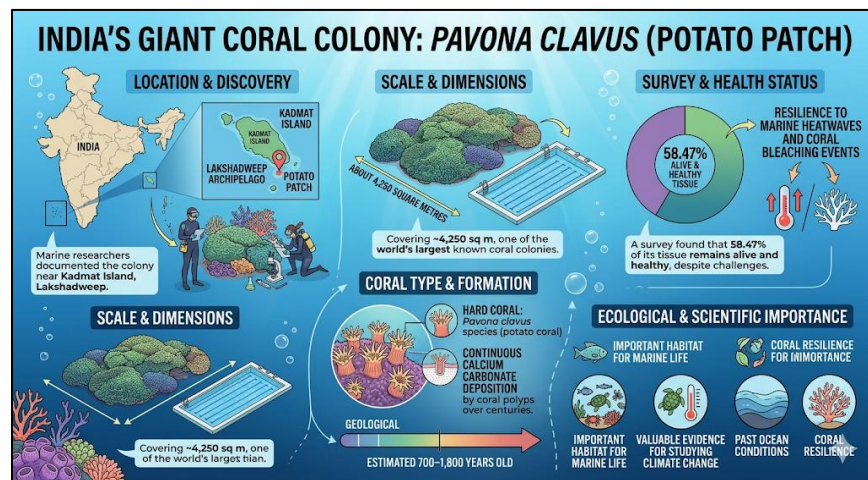
- ❖ India has joined Project Glasswing, through which the United States-based Artificial Intelligence (AI) company Anthropic expanded access to its advanced Claude Mythos Preview Large Language Model (LLM).
- ❖ India is among more than 15 countries participating in the programme, which provides controlled access to the AI model for about 150 organisations.
- ❖ The programme supports critical infrastructure sectors such as power grids, water systems, healthcare, and telecommunications.

- ❖ Anthropic opened its first India office in Bengaluru in early 2026, and India has become its second-largest market after the United States.
- ❖ India and Anthropic are set to co-host the Global AI Summit 2026, focusing on responsible Artificial Intelligence development.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

India's Giant Coral Colony

- ❖ Marine researchers have documented the giant *Pavona clavus* (Potato Patch) coral colony near Kadmat Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.
- ❖ The Potato Patch is a hard coral colony of the species *Pavona clavus* (potato coral), covering about 4,250 square metres, making it one of the world's largest known coral colonies.
- ❖ Located in the southeastern coastal waters of Kadmat Island, the colony is estimated to be 700–1,800 years old and was formed through continuous calcium carbonate deposition by coral polyps.
- ❖ A survey found that 58.47% of its tissue remains alive and healthy, despite repeated marine heatwaves and coral bleaching events.
- ❖ The colony serves as an important habitat for marine life and provides valuable evidence for studying climate change, past ocean conditions, and coral resilience.



STATE NEWS

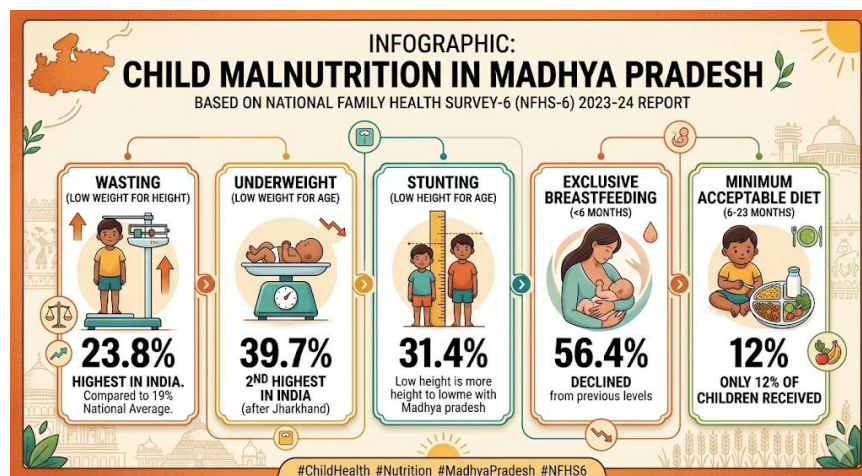
Mission Senehjori

- ❖ The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) launched Mission Senehjori to promote Assam's Muga silk as a global luxury brand.

- ❖ Mission Senehjori is a cluster-based textile initiative focused on the development of Muga silk, which is found only in Assam.
- ❖ The mission aims to increase the income of Muga rearers and weavers and strengthen the global market for Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Muga silk.
- ❖ It includes plantation expansion, modern reeling units, digital traceability using Quick Response (QR) codes, and the formation of Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs).
- ❖ The mission targets Muga silk exports of over 2,000 kg annually by 2028 and promotes silk tourism through a Muga Silk Trail, Silk Tourism Park, and Muga Utsav.
- ❖ Muga silk is known as the world's only naturally golden silk and is a unique cultural heritage product of Assam.



Child Malnutrition - Madhya Pradesh



- ❖ The National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) 2023–24 reported high levels of child malnutrition in Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh recorded 23.8% wasting (low weight for height), the highest in India, compared to the national average of 19%.
- ❖ The State recorded 39.7% underweight children (low weight for age), the second highest in India after Jharkhand (41.1%).
- ❖ Stunting (low height for age) stood at 31.4%, while exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months declined to 56.4%.
- ❖ Only 12% of children aged 6–23 months received a minimum acceptable diet, according to NFHS-6.

Decline in Child Stunting - Meghalaya

- ❖ The National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) 2023–24 recorded a decline in child stunting in Meghalaya.
- ❖ Child stunting (low height-for-age) among children under five years fell from 46.5% in NFHS-5 (2019–21) to 36.8% in NFHS-6, a decline of 9.7 percentage points.
- ❖ The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale household survey that collects data on health, nutrition, and family welfare indicators in India.
- ❖ NFHS-6 recorded that 76.4% of children in Meghalaya were breastfed within one hour of birth, while 97.1% of infants under six months were currently breastfeeding.
- ❖ Meghalaya’s Mission 1000 Days aims to further reduce stunting through maternal health services, nutrition support, and community participation.

