

June - 13

TNPSC BITS

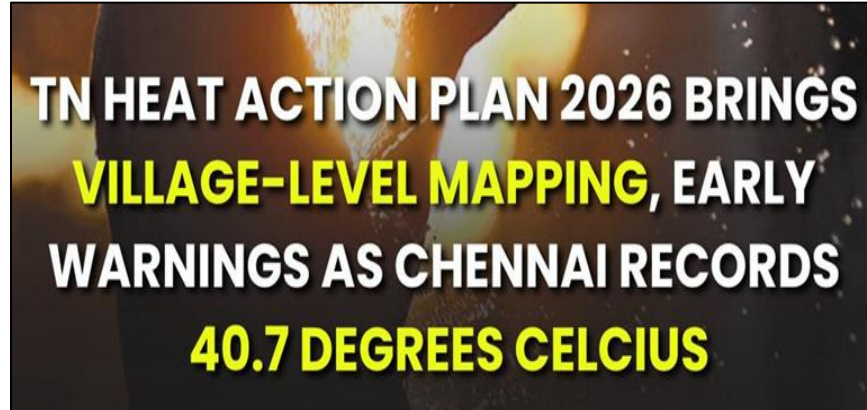
- ❖ The Kerala Cabinet has approved the Priyadarshini Scheme, which provides free travel for women and transgender persons on Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) ordinary bus services from 15 June 2026.
- ❖ India won the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Women's Championship 2026 by defeating Bangladesh 3–1 in the final held in Goa.
- ❖ Veteran Tamil filmmaker Bharathiraja passed away in Chennai at the age of 84; he was a recipient of multiple National Film Awards and the Padma Shri for his contributions to Indian cinema.
- ❖ Uttarakhand's disaster management model was recognised at the second meeting of the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group held in Puri, Odisha.
- ❖ The Excavation Zojila Tunnel project completed on 9 June 2026, bringing all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh closer.
 - It is being constructed between Baltal in Jammu & Kashmir and Minimarg in Ladakh on the Srinagar–Leh National Highway.
- ❖ West Bengal became the 36th State to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), completing nationwide coverage.
 - AB-PMJAY provides health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization.
- ❖ The International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations is observed annually on 10 June to promote mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation among diverse cultures and civilizations.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Heat Action Plan 2026

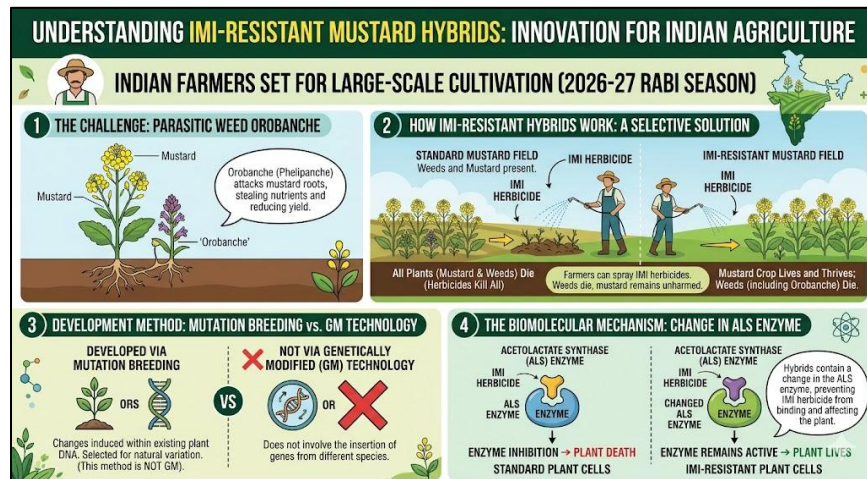
- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu released the State Heat Action Plan (HAP) 2026 to reduce heat-induced illnesses and strengthen heatwave preparedness across the State.
- ❖ The plan provides a roadmap for heat-risk forecasting, preparedness, and decision-making through multi-sectoral collaboration.
- ❖ It uses the Steadman Heat Index, which combines air temperature and relative humidity to assess human-perceived heat stress.
- ❖ The plan includes hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and heat-risk assessments at village panchayat and urban ward levels.

- ❖ It was prepared by the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA) and the Tamil Nadu Disaster Risk Reduction Agency (TNDRRA).
- ❖ The HAP recommends measures for heatwave management, hospital preparedness, and rapid response to heat-related illnesses.



NATIONAL NEWS

IMI-Resistant Mustard Hybrids



- ❖ Indian farmers are set to begin large-scale cultivation of Imidazolinone-Resistant (IMI-Resistant) Mustard Hybrids during the 2026–27 rabi season.
- ❖ These mustard hybrids are resistant to imidazolinone (IMI) herbicides and help control the parasitic weed Orobanche (Phelipanche).
- ❖ They were developed through mutation breeding, not through Genetically Modified (GM) technology.
- ❖ The hybrids contain a change in the Acetolactate Synthase (ALS) enzyme, making them resistant to IMI herbicides.

- ❖ Farmers can spray IMI herbicides to kill weeds while leaving the mustard crop unharmed.

BIS Norms for Tea Bags

- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued standards for tea bags for the first time, banning the use of epichlorohydrin and chlorine bleaching.
- ❖ Epichlorohydrin is a paper-strengthening chemical classified as a potential carcinogen.
- ❖ Chlorine bleaching has been prohibited in the manufacture of tea bag paper.
- ❖ The new standards prescribe safety, quality, labelling, and traceability requirements for tea bags.
- ❖ The standards apply to tea bags made from filter paper, non-woven fabric, biodegradable materials, or other food-grade materials.
- ❖ India's tea bag market is estimated at around 500 million US dollars.



SC on Homemakers Domestic Work

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India held that the loss of domestic care provided by a homemaker is a separate and compensable head of damages in motor accident claims.
- ❖ A bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh fixed the value of homemakers' domestic services at a minimum of ₹30,000 per month for compensation purposes.
- ❖ The Court recognised that unpaid domestic work, including childcare, elder care, cooking, cleaning, and household management, has measurable economic value.

- ❖ The ruling adds “loss of domestic care” as an additional ground for compensation beyond those recognised in the National Insurance Co. Ltd. v. Pranay Sethi judgment of 2017.



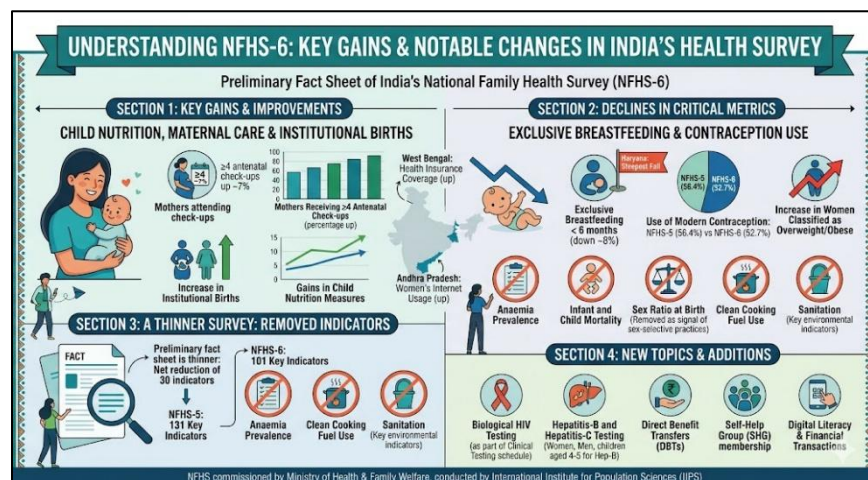
NFHS-6 findings

- ❖ India’s latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) records gains in child nutrition, maternal care, institutional births and women’s internet use.
- ❖ But its preliminary fact sheet is also thinner than the last round, with 101 indicators compared with 131 in NFHS-5.
- ❖ Key indicators such as Anaemia, mortality, sex ratio at birth, sanitation, and clean cooking fuel have been removed from the survey.
- ❖ The Union Health Ministry released the fact sheets of NFHS-6 on May 29, covering 2023-24.
- ❖ The survey recorded data from nearly 6.8 lakh households across every State and Union Territory except Manipur.
- ❖ The NFHS is commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ It designates the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) to conduct the survey.
- ❖ Preliminary findings report clear gains on several measures, including mothers getting at least four antenatal check-ups, up about seven percentage points from NFHS-5, an increase in institutional births and women’s internet usage.
- ❖ It also points to declines in several metrics, such as exclusive breastfeeding of infants under six months, down nearly eight percentage points, and the use of modern contraception, down to 52.7% from 56.4%.



- ❖ NFHS-4 in 2015-16 introduced district-level estimates and tablet-based digital interviewing for survey collection.
- ❖ NFHS-5 pushed the indicators further, including new topics, such as preschool education, disability, access to a toilet facility, death registration, bathing practices during menstruation and methods and reasons for abortion.
- ❖ It also extended blood pressure and blood sugar measurements from adults aged between 15 and 49 to all adults aged 15 and above. The survey measured 131 key indicators, up from 114 in NFHS-4.
- ❖ While the HIV testing component was dropped from NFHS-5, it retained questions on HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, prior testing, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual behaviour.
- ❖ In NFHS-6, biological HIV testing has been brought back as part of the clinical, anthropometric and biochemical testing schedule.
- ❖ The NFHS-6 fact sheet does not separately spell out whether all HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitude questions were retained.
- ❖ NFHS-6 also added new questions on direct benefit transfers, self-help group memberships, digital literacy and financial transactions.
- ❖ It also includes testing for Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C among women and men, as well as dried blood spot collection from children aged 4-5 for Hepatitis-B testing.
- ❖ But for the first time, the survey has also subtracted overall, showing a net reduction of 30 indicators in the preliminary results.
- ❖ Among the dropped indicators, the most notable ones, such as Anaemia, infant and child mortality, sex ratio at birth, clean cooking fuel use, and sanitation, have all appeared since at least NFHS-4.
- ❖ Between NFHS-4 in 2015-16 and NFHS-5 in 2019-21, anaemia rose across the board.
- ❖ Among children, anaemia prevalence went up from 58.6% to 67.1%, among women aged 15-49, it rose from 53.1% to 57%, and among pregnant women, anaemia rose from 50.4% to 52.2%.
- ❖ The rise in anaemia was near-universal across the country, with child anaemia increasing in 28 States and Union Territories, and in some cases by big leaps, from 35.7% to 68.4% in Assam and 19.3% to 46.4% in Mizoram.
- ❖ The three mortality indicators — neonatal, infant and under-five — have also been cut, but these will be tracked by the Sample Registration System, whose latest bulletin put infant mortality at 24 per 1,000 live births.
- ❖ The Registration System, however, does not carry district-level data and socio-economic breakdowns that are available in NFHS.

- ❖ The sex ratio of the total population and the sex ratio at birth, 929 females per 1,000 males in NFHS-5, are both absent, removing a standard signal of sex-selective practices.
- ❖ Four cancer-screening indicators, covering cervical, breast and oral cancer, introduced only in NFHS-5 are gone after a single round.
- ❖ NFHS-6 reported a drop in the number of women who have experienced spousal violence.
- ❖ Health insurance coverage rose the most in West Bengal, from 33.7% of households in NFHS-5 to 88.2% in NFHS-6.
- ❖ Women's internet use saw its largest increase in Andhra Pradesh, from 21% to 63.6%.
- ❖ Haryana recorded the steepest fall in exclusive breastfeeding among infants under six months, from 69.5% to 41.2%.
- ❖ The share of women classified as overweight or obese increased in every State.



CJP – Animal Symbols

- ❖ The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) is not a political party.
- ❖ Even if it registers and asks for the cockroach as its election symbol, the Election Commission is unlikely to allow it.
- ❖ The EC allots election symbols to parties and independent candidates as per the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
- ❖ The candidates are allotted to the reserved symbol of their respective parties.
- ❖ The EC allots symbols from a list of “free symbols”.
- ❖ The independent candidates & unrecognised parties can request their choice of symbol from the list, but they are not assured of getting the same.

- ❖ The EC list states that certain symbols can be allotted freely except in certain states and Union Territories.
- ❖ Different recognised parties in different states can use the same symbol, since there's no rule against it, and they usually don't compete.
- ❖ Following representations from animal welfare activists in the 1990s, the EC stopped allotting animals as election symbols.
- ❖ Some parties that received animal symbols before the ban continue to retain them.
- ❖ The most prominent example is the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which still uses the elephant as its reserved symbol.
- ❖ Sub-section 3 of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 lists what all are deemed to be corrupt practices for this Act.
- ❖ No symbol allotted under this Act to a candidate shall be deemed to be a religious symbol or a national symbol for this clause.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026

- ❖ The BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026 was held in Indore under India's BRICS Chairmanship to discuss key issues in the global agriculture sector.

- ❖ The meeting focused on food security, farmer welfare, nutrition, and climate-smart agriculture.
- ❖ Discussions covered agricultural trade, supply chains, digital agriculture, research, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and robotics.
- ❖ The meeting was organized by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW).
- ❖ BRICS currently comprises 11 member countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Artemis III Mission



- ❖ NASA announced the four-member crew for the Artemis III mission.

- ❖ Artemis III is part of NASA's Artemis programme for deep-space and lunar exploration.
- ❖ The mission is planned for launch in late 2027 from the Kennedy Space Centre in the United States.
- ❖ The four-member crew includes Randy Bresnik (United States), Luca Parmitano (Italy), Andre Douglas (United States), and Frank Rubio (United States).
- ❖ The mission will test rendezvous and docking operations before future lunar missions.
- ❖ The first human lunar landing under the revised Artemis programme is currently targeted for Artemis IV in 2028.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Global Heat-Risk Hotspots

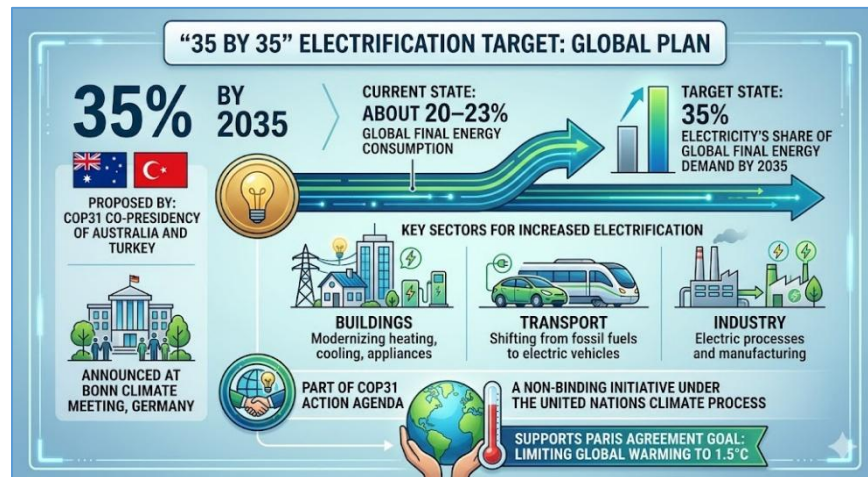


- ❖ A study by the University of Oxford ranked Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai among the world's top 50 urban centres facing significant heat risk.
- ❖ It assessed heat risk based on heat exposure, population vulnerability, and coping capacity.
- ❖ Hyderabad ranked among the world's 30 most heat-vulnerable cities with a heat-risk score of 0.68.
- ❖ A total of 14 Indian cities featured among the world's top 50 urban centres facing significant heat risk.

- ❖ A study by the University of East Anglia found that Indian urban areas may warm about 45% faster than surrounding rural regions.
- ❖ According to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, over 76% of India's population faces high to very high risk from extreme heat.

“35 by 35” Electrification Target

- ❖ The COP31 co-presidency of Australia and Turkey has proposed the “35 by 35” target to increase electricity's share of global final energy demand to 35% by 2035.
- ❖ The proposal was announced during the Bonn Climate Meeting held in Bonn, Germany.
- ❖ It aims to raise electricity's share from the current level of about 20–23% of global final energy consumption.
- ❖ The target focuses on increasing electrification in sectors such as buildings, transport, and industry.
- ❖ It is part of the COP31 Action Agenda, a non-binding initiative under the United Nations climate process.
- ❖ The proposal supports the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.



STATE NEWS

Two Child Norm - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh Government has withdrawn the two-child norm that restricted eligibility for government jobs and service benefits.

- ❖ The earlier rule made persons with more than two children born on or after 26 January 2001 ineligible for government service.
- ❖ The provision was introduced in 2001 under the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965.
- ❖ The State Government directed the removal of the provision from the proposed civil services rules.
- ❖ The decision benefits government employees and job aspirants who were covered under the restriction.
- ❖ The withdrawal will not have a retrospective effect; employees previously dismissed under the rule will not be reinstated.



SPORTS NEWS

2026 FIFA World Cup - 23rd edition

- ❖ It is the largest, most ambitious tournament in football history.
- ❖ It is marking the first time the men's event features 48 teams, an expansion from the previous 32.
- ❖ It is jointly hosted across three nations (the United States, Canada, and Mexico).
- ❖ It will be the first World Cup since 2002 to be co-hosted by multiple nations.
- ❖ It will be Canada's first-time hosting or co-hosting the tournament.
- ❖ Mexico is the first nation in history to host three men's World Cups (previously hosting in 1970 and 1986).

- ❖ FIFA is introducing digital 3D avatars for every player to enhance VAR and semi-automated offside decisions.
- ❖ Referees can instantly review fouls and offsides from multiple angles.
- ❖ As the host nations, Canada, Mexico, and the United States all automatically qualified.
- ❖ Cape Verde, Curaçao, Jordan, and Uzbekistan will all make their World Cup debuts.
- ❖ Argentina is the defending champion, having won its third World Cup title in 2022.

