

June - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India validated Truenat HR-HPV-Plus, the country's first indigenous Human Papillomavirus (HPV) screening test for cervical cancer, developed by Molbio Diagnostics.
 - It became the first indigenous point-of-care HPV screening test to fully meet international validation criteria.
- ❖ IIT Bhubaneswar has developed ArsenSafe, a portable device that rapidly detects arsenic contamination in drinking water without laboratory facilities.
 - ArsenSafe is a handheld and field-deployable device that can test water directly at the source with minimal training.
- ❖ Former Asian Games gold medallist and renowned shooting coach Jaspal Rana passed away on 12 June 2026 at the age of 49.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government honoured Lance Naik A. Meenatchi Sundaram, a Kirti Chakra awardee, with a ₹48 lakh cash reward in recognition of his exceptional bravery during an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ India has approved Pluvicto, the country's first radioligand therapy (RLT) for treating advanced prostate cancer.
- ❖ World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on 14 June to honour voluntary and unpaid blood donors and raise awareness about the need for safe blood donation.
 - The theme of the year 2026 is "One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives."
- ❖ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2026 is observed every year on 15 June to raise awareness about elder abuse, including physical, psychological and financial abuse, and neglect of older persons.
 - The theme of the year 2026 is "Beyond Awareness: Making Elder Abuse Prevention Work."

TAMIL NADU NEWS


White Paper on State Finances 2026

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government released a White Paper on State Finances (2021–22 to 2025–26), presenting the State's fiscal position and debt status.
- ❖ The White Paper stated that Tamil Nadu's total outstanding debt is ₹13.18 lakh crore, and each child born in the State carries an estimated debt burden of ₹1.28 lakh.

- ❖ The White Paper stated that the headline debt of ₹10 lakh crore represents only the Tamil Nadu government's direct borrowings, including market loans, institutional debt, and public account liabilities.
- ❖ It does not include the debts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), statutory boards, and special purpose vehicles (SPVs) that are guaranteed or supported by the State government.
- ❖ The power sector is the largest source of PSU debt, accounting for ₹2.47 lakh crore, with major liabilities from the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC) and Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's debt-to-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio stood at 28.3% in 2025–26, while the revenue deficit reached ₹78,324 crore, the highest in absolute terms.
- ❖ Interest payments in 2025–26 amounted to ₹67,050 crore, consuming about 23% of total revenue receipts and exceeding the State's annual capital expenditure by nearly one-third.
- ❖ The White Paper highlighted a declining working-age population and projected that elderly people will constitute 18.2% of Tamil Nadu's population by 2031.
- ❖ It stressed the need for revenue mobilisation, expenditure management, Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) reforms, and effective debt management to improve the State's fiscal position.

Fiscal strain

The report pointed out that the T.N. govt's revenue deficit has become structural, and the State is borrowing to fund current consumption rather than investment



Indicator	Window start (2021-22)	Closing (2025-2026 Pre-AC)
Revenue deficit (₹ in crore)	46,538	78,324
Revenue deficit as % of GSDP	2.25%	2.22%
SoTR / GSDP (own-tax effort)	5.93%	5.45%
Outstanding liabilities / GSDP	28.7%	28.3%
Capital expenditure / GSDP	1.79%	1.44%
Committed expenditure / TRR	60.4%	64.4%

NATIONAL NEWS

SAPLING Dialogue 2026

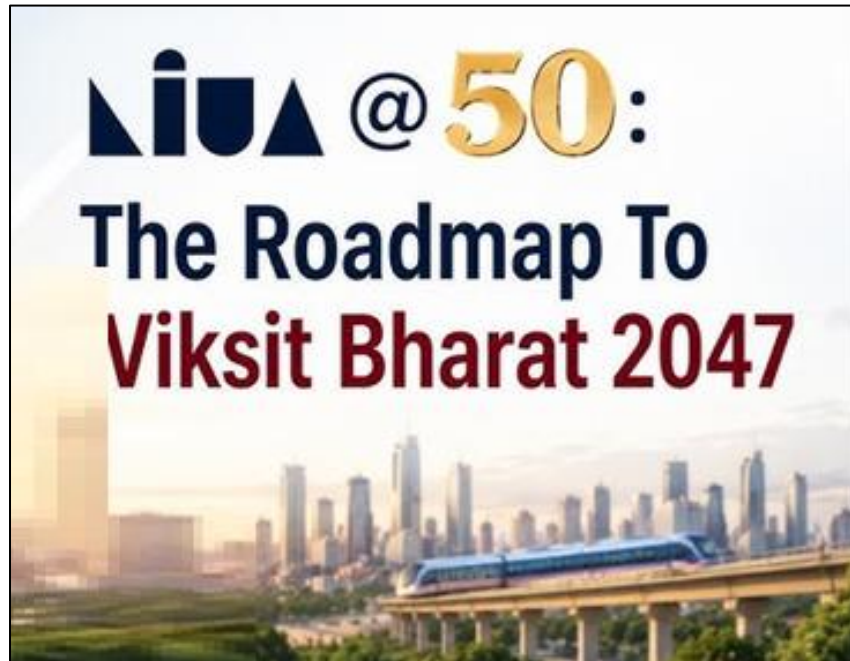
- ❖ The SAPLING (South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth) Dialogue 2026 concluded in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- ❖ The dialogue was jointly organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI – Ministry of Food Processing Industries) and the World Bank Group.
- ❖ The theme of the dialogue was "Unlocking Value: Advancing Food Processing for Employment Generation and Sustainable Growth in South Asia."
- ❖ SAPLING is a regional multi-stakeholder platform led by the World Bank Group to promote resilient, inclusive and nutrition-focused food systems in South Asia.
- ❖ A report titled "Assessment of the Level of Food Processing in India" was released, which stated that India's food processing level increased from about 10% in 2016 to nearly 17% in 2023.



50 Years of NIUA

- ❖ The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) marked its golden jubilee (50 years) at Vigyan Bhawan under the theme "Resilient Urban India @2047."
- ❖ The NIUA is a premier think tank under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and was established in 1976.
- ❖ The event launched the National Urban Learning Platform as the urban arm of iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training)-Mission Karmayogi for capacity building in urban governance.
- ❖ Two key publications were released: "Vision for a Resilient Urban India: Building Sustainable and Future-Ready Cities" and "Understanding the New Geography of India's Urbanisation: A Geospatial Approach."
- ❖ The event featured nine technical sessions on urban resilience, covering climate-responsive planning, housing, mobility, urban finance, circular economy and digital governance.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

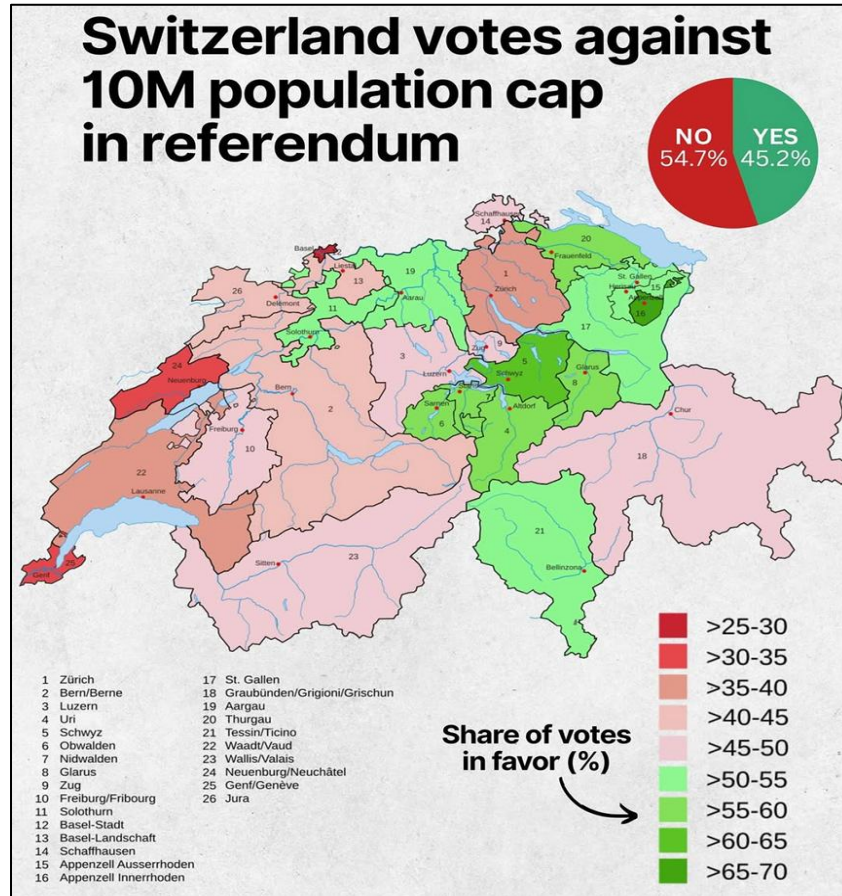
India–France Tech Corridor



- ❖ The India–France ATL (Atal Tinkering Labs) Bridge was officially launched during the Bharat Innovates 2026 summit held in Nice, France.
- ❖ The initiative is a bilateral education and technology corridor connecting school-level innovators and educators of India and France.
- ❖ It was established through a partnership between the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and La Fondation Dassault Systèmes.
- ❖ The initiative aims to promote early-stage engineering, scientific temper and design thinking among school students.

- ❖ It will establish France's first School Innovation Lab based on India's Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) model and provide exposure to technologies such as robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3D (Three-Dimensional) printing and microelectronics.

Swiss Referendum - Population Ceiling



- ❖ Voters in Switzerland rejected a proposal to cap the country's population at 10 million, with nearly 55% voting against and 45% voting in favour.
- ❖ The proposal was introduced by the Swiss People's Party, which advocates stricter immigration controls.
- ❖ Switzerland's population has grown from 7.3 million in 2002 to about 9.1 million, and 27% of residents are non-Swiss citizens.
- ❖ Approval of the proposal would have ended Switzerland's free movement of people agreement with the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Switzerland follows a system of direct democracy, where citizens can trigger a nationwide referendum by collecting 100,000 signatures.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

First Scientific Report on Greater Hog Badger

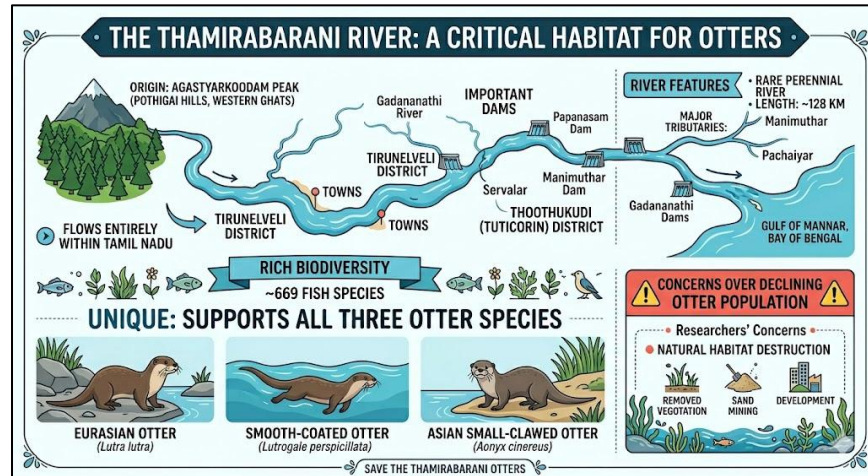
- ❖ Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has released its first-ever scientific assessment report on the Greater Hog Badger (*Arctonyx collaris*).
- ❖ The Greater Hog Badger is a nocturnal, medium-sized omnivorous and burrowing mammal found in Northeast India and parts of South and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ It is locally called 'Mati Gahori' (Earth Pig) in Assam because of its pig-like snout and digging behaviour.
- ❖ The species is classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ It receives the highest legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in India.
- ❖ By digging and turning the soil, the animal helps in soil aeration, nutrient recycling and the creation of micro-habitats for other species.



Otter Habitat in Thamirabarani

- ❖ Researchers have raised concerns over the declining otter population in the Thamirabarani River due to the destruction of their natural habitat.
- ❖ Thamirabarani, also called Tamraparni or Porunai, is a rare perennial river that flows entirely within Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It originates from Agastyarkoodam Peak in the Pothigai Hills of the Western Ghats and drains into the Gulf of Mannar in the Bay of Bengal.

- ❖ The river is about 128 kilometres (km) long and flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) districts.
- ❖ Major tributaries are the Gadanathi, Manimuthar, and Pachaiyar rivers, and important dams include Papanasam, Karaiyar, Manimuthar, Servalar, and Gadanathi Dams.
- ❖ The river is rich in biodiversity, with about 669 fish species, and it is one of the few rivers in India that supports all three otter species—the Eurasian Otter, Smooth-coated Otter, and Asian Small-clawed Otter.



STATE NEWS

Four New GI Tags - Jharkhand

- ❖ Four traditional products from Jharkhand—Bhagaiya silk, Kuchai silk, Munda jewellery and bamboo craft—have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ In India, GI registration is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- ❖ Bhagaiya silk and Kuchai silk are traditional Tussar silk products known for their natural golden sheen and indigenous hand-reeling techniques.
- ❖ Munda jewellery is a traditional tribal craft featuring geometric patterns and nature-inspired motifs of the Munda community.
- ❖ Jharkhand bamboo craft includes eco-friendly products such as baskets, mats and decorative items, supporting sustainable livelihoods in rural areas.



Jharkhand's Bhagaiya & Kuchai silk, Munda jewellery and bamboo craft get GI tag

Telangana - Iran Manuscript Digitization Pact



- ❖ The Department of Heritage, Telangana, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Noor International Microfilm Centre to digitise and preserve rare manuscripts and archival records.
- ❖ The agreement covers 737 manuscripts, 3,091 paintings, 14,522 library books and 101 Dastawazats (archival records).
- ❖ The collections include documents in Persian, Urdu, Arabic and other languages, and the work will be funded by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran at no cost to Telangana.



- ❖ The Telangana State Archives and Research Institute houses over 43 million documents, of which about 80% are in Persian and Urdu, with records dating back to 1406 AD.
- ❖ The archives contain records from the Bahmani, Qutb Shahi, Adil Shahi and Mughal dynasties and include rare items such as the Ramayana and Bhagavata Mahapurana in Persian, Quran verses on gold-coated paper and a 10.5-metre-long royal scroll.

