

June - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, began commercial operations and is operated by Geomysore Services India Pvt Ltd, making it India's only private-sector primary gold mine since Independence.
 - It is located in the Rayalaseema region and started trial production in May 2026.
- ❖ Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise living on St Helena Island, is the world's oldest living land animal and has been officially recognised as a Guinness World Records ICON.
- ❖ Indian jurist Prof. Bimal N. Patel has been elected as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the 2026–2035 term.
- ❖ Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) President Harsh Vardhan was honoured at the UK House of Lords with the Global Prestige Award in London for his contributions to sports development.
- ❖ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been assigned to build a new Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ International Day of Women in Diplomacy is observed every year on 24 June to recognise the contributions of women in diplomacy and international decision-making.
- ❖ Day of the Seafarer is observed every year on 25 June to recognise the contribution of seafarers to global trade and the global economy.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Carrying world trade. Carrying the risks."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

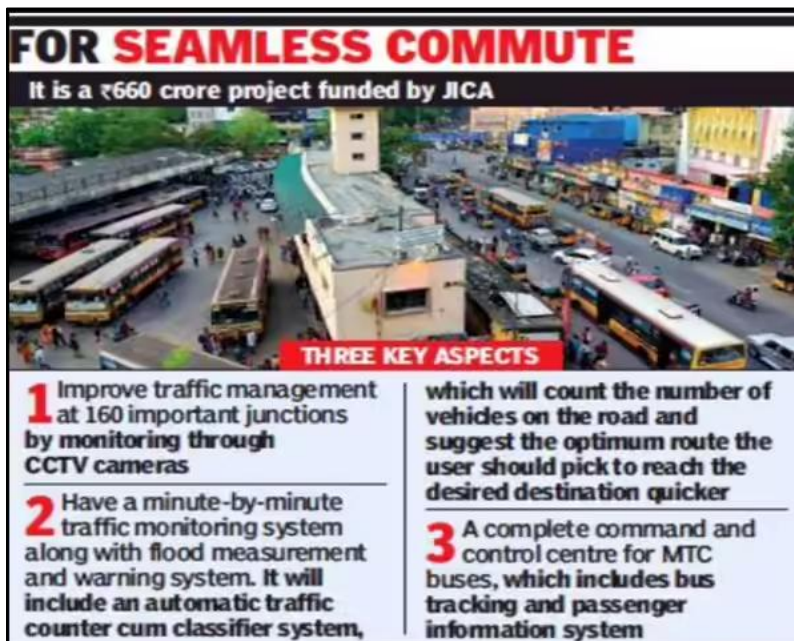
Tamil Nadu Electricity Department White Paper

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government released a White Paper on the State electricity department, highlighting its financial position and infrastructure status.
- ❖ The White Paper stated that the combined debt of Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC), Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL), Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) and Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO) stands at ₹2.47 lakh crore.

- ❖ It reported shortages in power generation capacity, ageing transmission and distribution infrastructure, and a 45% manpower shortage in the electricity department.
- ❖ The report proposed modernising power infrastructure, renovating substations and recruiting 15,000 employees to improve electricity services.
- ❖ The State Government also announced that there will be no electricity tariff revision in 2026.

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar on Thursday released the Electricity Board White Paper, which said the board's cumulative deficit declined from ₹58,534 crore during the 2016-21 AIADMK regime to ₹34,447 crore under the 2021-26 DMK government. During the period, revenue increased by ₹1.78 lakh crore, while expenditure rose by ₹1.54 lakh crore, narrowing the overall deficit by ₹24,087 crore.

Chennai Intelligent Transport System



FOR SEAMLESS COMMUTE
It is a ₹660 crore project funded by JICA

THREE KEY ASPECTS

- 1** Improve traffic management at 160 important junctions by monitoring through CCTV cameras
- 2** Have a minute-by-minute traffic monitoring system along with flood measurement and warning system. It will include an automatic traffic counter cum classifier system,
- 3** A complete command and control centre for MTC buses, which includes bus tracking and passenger information system

which will count the number of vehicles on the road and suggest the optimum route the user should pick to reach the desired destination quicker

- ❖ The Central Government approved over ₹500 crore for the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) project in the Chennai Metropolitan Area.

- ❖ The project has a total estimated cost of ₹645.59 crore and is funded through a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the Central Government.
- ❖ The project includes adaptive traffic signal control at 165 junctions, traffic incident detection systems at 58 locations, variable message signs at 17 locations, and red-light violation detection systems at 50 junctions.
- ❖ It is being implemented by Chennai Smart City Limited with support from multiple agencies, and a pilot project began at 17 locations in January 2024.
- ❖ As of 6 March 2026, junction improvement works were completed at 104 of the 165 identified junctions, and the system is expected to become fully operational by August 2026.

NATIONAL NEWS

Free Bus Travel for Women in India

WOMEN TRAVEL FREE, INDIA MOVES FORWARD!

8 STATES & UTs WHERE WOMEN CAN TRAVEL FREE ON GOVERNMENT BUSES

WEST BENGAL BECOMES THE LATEST TO JOIN THE LIST!

SAFE TRAVEL STRONG WOMEN STRONGER INDIA

- 1 DELHI**
"Pink Ticket" scheme since 2019. Women can travel free in DTC buses. Smart Card system coming soon.
- 2 TAMIL NADU**
"Vidyal Payanam" scheme ke through women can travel free in govt. buses.
- 3 WEST BENGAL**
From 1 June 2026, women will be able to travel free in government-run buses. A big step towards empowering women!
- 4 KARNATAKA**
"Shakti Scheme" ke under women can travel free in non-luxury government buses.
- 5 PUNJAB**
Free bus travel scheme since 2021. ID proof required.
- 6 TELANGANA**
"Mahalakshmi Scheme" ke under women and transgender passengers travel free.
- 7 JAMMU & KASHMIR**
Free ride facility for women in Smart City e-buses and JKRTC buses.
- 8 ANDHRA PRADESH**
"Stree Shakti" scheme launched in August 2025.

GOVT. BUS

WOMEN TRAVEL FREE ♀

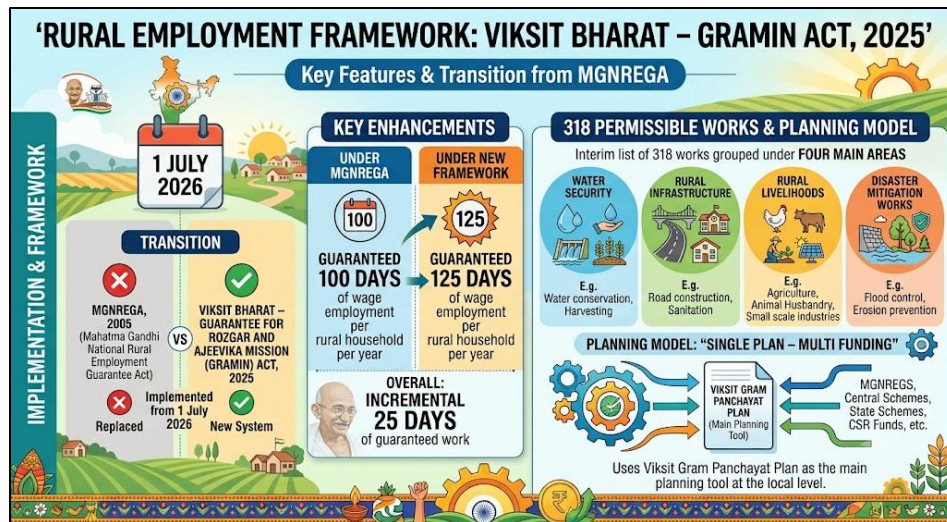
SAVING MONEY. BUILDING FUTURES. EMPOWERING WOMEN.

BETTER ACCESS TO EDUCATION **MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES** **SAFETY, DIGNITY & EQUALITY**

- ❖ A recent review highlighted the implementation of free bus travel schemes for women across different States and one Union Territory in India.

- ❖ Eight States and one Union Territory currently provide free bus travel for women in government-run buses, with eligibility rules varying across regions.
- ❖ The eligible States and Union Territories are Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Most States issue a 'zero-ticket', which is a free ticket used for travel records, after verifying the passenger's identity.
- ❖ Some States have introduced smart cards or QR code-based cards to verify eligible passengers and issue zero-tickets.
- ❖ The schemes generally apply only to government-operated buses, while premium, luxury and interstate services are excluded in many States.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Kerala, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh also extend the benefit to transgender persons, while Tamil Nadu additionally covers persons with disabilities under its scheme.


Rural Employment Framework



- ❖ The Government of India notified an interim list of 318 permissible works under the new rural employment framework.
- ❖ The framework will be implemented from 1 July 2026 under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.
- ❖ The new system provides a guaranteed 125 days of wage employment per rural household per year, compared to 100 days under MGNREGA.
- ❖ The 318 works are grouped under four areas: water security, rural infrastructure, rural livelihoods, and disaster mitigation works.

- ❖ It introduces a “single plan – multi funding” model using the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan as the main planning tool at the local level.

Passport Not Proof of Citizenship - MEA Clarification

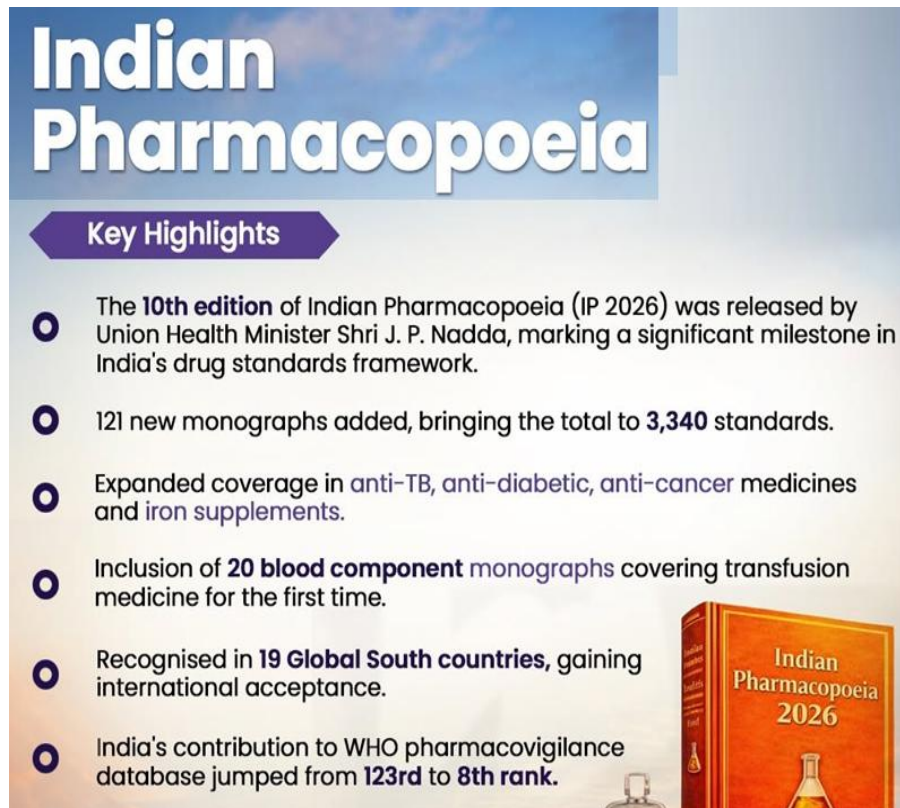
'WHAT PAPERS PROVE WE'RE CITIZENS?'	
<p>➤ MEA officials' clarification triggers social media debate</p> <p>➤ A netizen posts: 'Passport is not a document of citizenship, Aadhaar card is not a document of citizenship, voter ID card is not a document of citizenship. Then what is?'</p>	<p>➤ Many point out that passport is issued only to Indians after extensive document checks and verification that shows the holder is a citizen, so how can it not count as citizenship proof?</p>
	
<p>What Govt Said On Dec 20, 2019, govt's Press Information Bureau, in a Q&A related to NRC, stated: 'Citizenship can be proved by submitting any documents related to date of birth and place of birth. However, a decision is yet to be taken on such acceptable documents'</p>	

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that a passport is not proof of Indian citizenship, reaffirming its long-standing legal position.
- ❖ Officials stated that under the Passports Act, 1967, a passport is issued as a travel document, not as conclusive proof of citizenship.
- ❖ The Act allows the issuance of passports even in certain cases where citizenship status may not be definitive, as it regulates travel documents and departure from India.
- ❖ Courts, including the Bombay High Court (2013 rulings), have held that possession of a passport cannot be treated as final proof of citizenship.
- ❖ Citizenship is governed separately under the Citizenship Act, 1955, while identity documents like Aadhaar, EPIC, and ration cards also do not serve as conclusive citizenship proof.

Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 – Blood Standards

- ❖ Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) 2026 introduced the world's first dedicated standards for blood and blood components.
- ❖ The 10th edition of the Indian Pharmacopoeia was released on 2 January 2026 in New Delhi by the Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda.

- ❖ It includes 20 new monographs and 2 revised monographs for regulating blood quality and safety.
- ❖ The standards define identity, purity, strength, and quality of medicines and blood products used in transfusion services.
- ❖ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, develops and updates these standards.
- ❖ The aim is to improve blood safety and reduce transfusion-transmitted infections in healthcare systems.



Indian Pharmacopoeia

Key Highlights

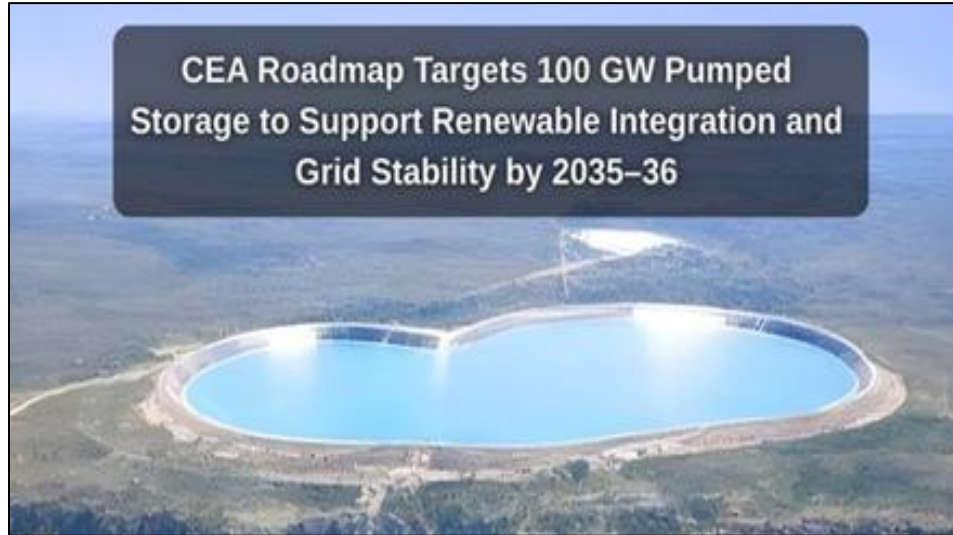
- The **10th edition** of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP 2026) was released by Union Health Minister Shri J. P. Nadda, marking a significant milestone in India's drug standards framework.
- 121 new monographs added, bringing the total to **3,340** standards.
- Expanded coverage in anti-TB, anti-diabetic, anti-cancer medicines and iron supplements.
- Inclusion of **20 blood component** monographs covering transfusion medicine for the first time.
- Recognised in **19 Global South countries**, gaining international acceptance.
- India's contribution to WHO pharmacovigilance database jumped from **123rd** to **8th rank**.

Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026

India's Clean Energy Storage Target 2035-36

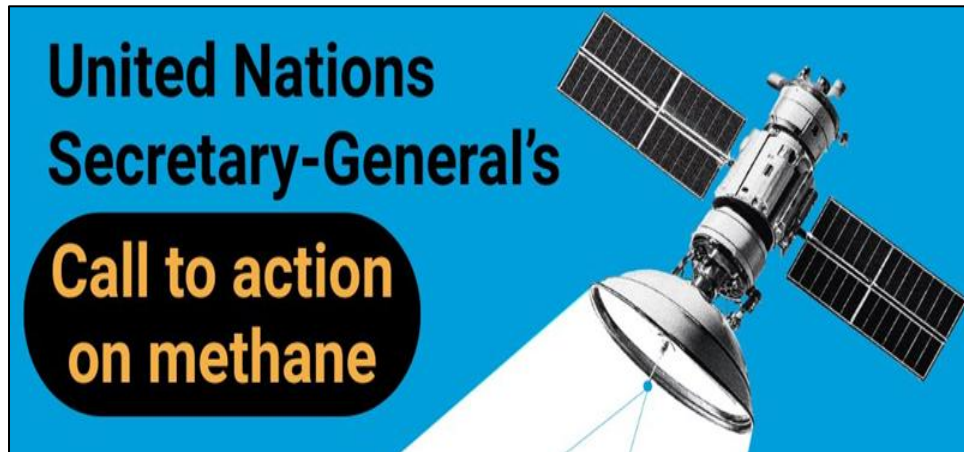
- ❖ India has set a target to achieve 100 GW pumped storage hydropower capacity by 2035-36 to strengthen energy storage and grid stability.
- ❖ The roadmap has been prepared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) under the Ministry of Power.
- ❖ Pumped storage hydropower uses two reservoirs at different elevations to store and generate electricity during peak demand.
- ❖ As of December 2025, India has about 7.2 GW of operational capacity and 11.6 GW under construction.

- ❖ India's total hydropower capacity stands at about 56.3 GW, with significant untapped potential for expansion.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Global Methane Reduction Initiative



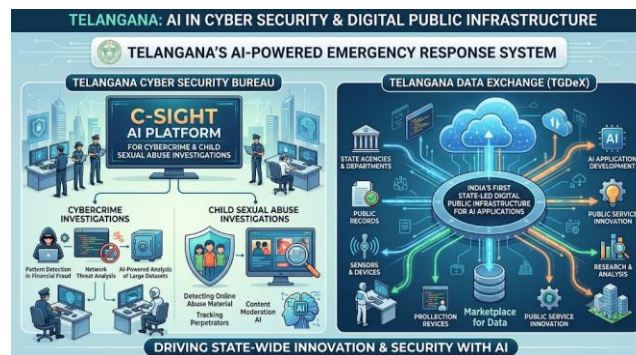
- ❖ The United Nations launched a global Call to Action on Methane and an AI Environmental Transparency Initiative during London Climate Action Week on 23 June 2026.
- ❖ The initiative aims to reduce methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term.
- ❖ The oil and gas sector is identified as a major source of methane emissions through leaks, venting, and flaring.

- ❖ The UN called for near-zero methane emissions and wider use of existing technologies to reduce emissions by up to 70%.
- ❖ The AI initiative seeks mandatory disclosure of carbon, water, and land footprints of major AI companies and data centres.
- ❖ The UN urged AI firms to power data centres fully with renewable energy by 2030 to reduce environmental impact.

STATE NEWS

Telangana AI-Powered Emergency Response System

- ❖ Telangana has deployed Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems in its emergency response and cybercrime management infrastructure.
- ❖ Telangana uses AI in the 112 Emergency Response System and Dial 100 police helpline to filter spam and irrelevant calls.
- ❖ The 1930 Cybercrime Helpline uses an AI voice assistant supporting English, Telugu, and Hindi languages.
- ❖ The AI system converts calls into structured reports and helps to freeze fraud-related funds faster.
- ❖ Telangana Cyber Security Bureau launched the C-SIGHT AI platform for cybercrime and child sexual abuse investigations.
- ❖ Telangana Data Exchange (TGDeX) is planned as India's first state-led Digital Public Infrastructure for AI applications.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Passport Seva Divas 2026 – June 24

- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate the enactment of the Passports Act, 1967, which forms the legal basis for passport issuance in India.

- ❖ The Passport Seva Programme Version 2.0 has improved passport services through e-Passports, Passport Seva Mobile Vans, Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs).
- ❖ The passport service network has expanded from 77 Passport Seva Kendras in 2014 to 545 Passport Seva Kendras and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras across the country.
- ❖ The day recognises the contributions of officials and stakeholders involved in passport service delivery across India.
- ❖ It highlights the commitment of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to provide efficient, secure, transparent and citizen-centric passport services.



The poster for Passport Seva Divas 2026 features a central image of a blue Indian passport with the text 'भारत गणराज्य REPUBLIC OF INDIA' and 'पासपोर्ट PASSPORT'. The background shows a world map, an airplane, and a family silhouette with a suitcase. The text 'PASSPORT SEVA DIVAS 2026' is prominently displayed, along with the date '24 JUNE 2026' and the tagline 'Connecting Citizens, Enriching Journeys'. Below this, four key pillars are listed: PEOPLE FIRST, FASTER SERVICES, SECURE IDENTITY, and GLOBAL ACCESS, each with a corresponding icon and a brief description.

PASSPORT SEVA DIVAS 2026
24 JUNE 2026
Connecting Citizens, Enriching Journeys

PEOPLE FIRST	FASTER SERVICES	SECURE IDENTITY	GLOBAL ACCESS
Putting citizens at the heart of every service.	Continually improving processes for quick and convenient service delivery.	Ensuring a trusted identity with the highest standards of security.	Enabling seamless travel and global opportunities for citizens.

