

June - 29

TNPSC BITS

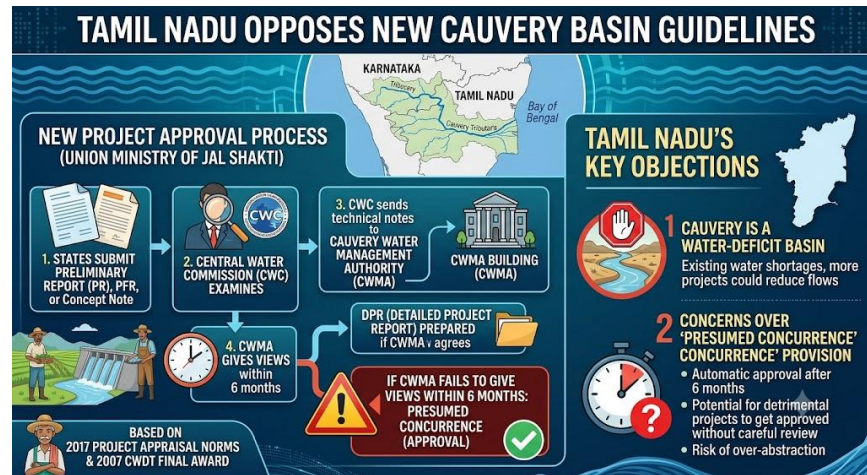
- ❖ Khurasani Imli of Mandu, a historic town in Madhya Pradesh, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - Khurasani Imli is the fruit of the Baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*), which is native to Africa and is believed to have been brought to Mandu about 600 years ago by Afghan and Arab traders.
- ❖ Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana, became the first university in India to receive four International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certifications simultaneously, awarded by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
 - The certifications cover academic administration, environmental management, energy management, and food safety management systems.
- ❖ Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) became India's 28th Nav ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) and operates major petroleum refineries at Manali (Chennai) and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Harmanpreet Kaur, India's women's cricket team captain, became the first cricketer in the world (men's and women's) to play 200 Twenty20 International (T20I) matches during the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 against South Africa in Manchester.
- ❖ The Indian Women's Hockey Team won the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) Nations Cup 2026 by defeating New Zealand 2-0 in the final.
- ❖ The BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) Meeting 2026 was held in Bengaluru under India's chairmanship.
 - The meeting focused on remote sensing satellite systems for disaster management and climate change monitoring.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

New Cauvery Basin Guidelines

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has opposed the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti's new guidelines for approving water resource projects in the Cauvery basin.
- ❖ The new guidelines require States to submit a Preliminary Report (PR), Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR), or concept note before preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- ❖ The Central Water Commission (CWC) will examine the proposal and send its technical note to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

- ❖ If the CWMA does not give its views within 6 months, its approval will be treated as presumed concurrence under the new guidelines.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has objected to the guidelines, stating that the Cauvery is a water-deficit basin and raising concerns over the presumed concurrence provision.
- ❖ The guidelines are based on the 2017 project appraisal norms and the 2007 Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) final award.



Madras High Court on BC (Muslim) Status for Converts

Madras HC Rules Converts to Islam Cannot Claim BC Muslim Reservation

The court also **struck down a 2024 Tamil Nadu Government Order (G.O.)** that allowed converts from Backward Classes (BC), Most Backward Classes (MBC), Denotified Communities (DNC) and Scheduled Castes (SC) to **obtain community certificates** under one of the state's seven notified Backward Class Muslim communities.

- ❖ The Madras High Court has ruled that a person who converts to Islam cannot claim Backwards Class (Muslim) status and declared the Tamil Nadu Government's 2024 Government Order (G.O.) unconstitutional.

- ❖ The court held that a person who converts to Islam becomes only a Muslim and cannot claim membership in a Muslim community or sect based on birth.
- ❖ It struck down the 2024 Government Order (G.O.), which allowed certain converts to receive Backwards Class (Muslim) reservation benefits.
- ❖ The GO ordered that a convert to Islam from Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities or Scheduled Castes may be treated as BC (Muslim) for availing the benefit of reservation and on such conversion, (s)he may be issued with community certificate as belonging to one of the notified seven sects.
- ❖ However, the State said, a convert from a forward community to Islam would not get the BC (Muslim) tag.
- ❖ Only those who already enjoyed the benefit of reservation in their original religion would not lose it on account of conversion to Islam.
- ❖ Hence, Social balance will not be affected by this.
- ❖ The judgment stated that recognised Muslim communities such as Lebbai, Rowther, and Marakkayar are birth-based communities and cannot be acquired through conversion.
- ❖ The court said a Government Order cannot override or nullify earlier court judgments.
- ❖ The doctrine of separation of powers is an entrenched principle in the Constitution and that it is an essential constituent of rule of law.
- ❖ This principle applies to the final judgments of the courts.
- ❖ The legislature cannot declare any decision of a court of law to be void or of no effect.
- ❖ The ruling was delivered while hearing a petition seeking a Muslim Lebbai community certificate after conversion to Islam.

Farmer Official Link 2.0 Scheme

- ❖ The Cauvery Delta Farmers' Federation has urged the Tamil Nadu Government to continue the Farmer Official Link 2.0 (Uzhavar Aluvalar Thodarbu 2.0) scheme and not withdraw it.
- ❖ The scheme allows one government official to coordinate services for farmers growing multiple crops, reducing the need for visits by officials from different departments.
- ❖ It aims to ensure faster crop inspection, technical guidance, and timely subsidy payments for farmers.

- ❖ According to the federation, 76% of Tamil Nadu's agricultural area is under crops, and 24% is under horticulture crops across 17,163 revenue villages.
- ❖ The federation stated that continuing the scheme will reduce delays in providing subsidies and improve services for farmers.

NATIONAL NEWS

World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation - India

- ❖ India became the world's largest ship recycling nation in 2025, accounting for 35.4% of global ship recycling.

- ❖ India recycled 2.99 million gross tons of ships in 2025, up from 1.86 million gross tons in 2024.
- ❖ Alang Ship Recycling Yard in Gujarat is one of the world's largest ship recycling facilities.
- ❖ The Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, aligns India's ship recycling rules with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.
- ❖ India ratified the convention in 2019, and it became mandatory from 26 June 2025.
- ❖ India aims to expand its ship recycling capacity to 9 million Light Displacement Tons (LDT) under Maritime India Vision 2030.

World's Second-Largest Fish Producer - India

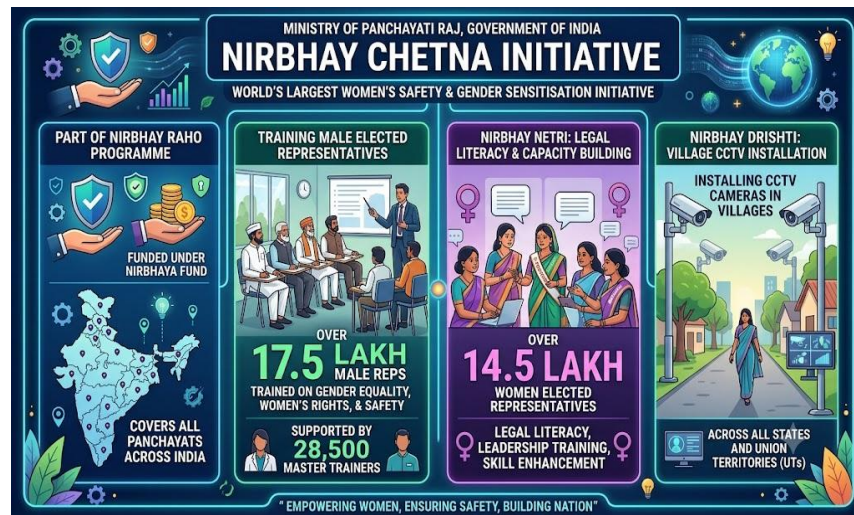
- ❖ India contributed about 9% of global aquatic animal production in 2024, ranking second after China.
- ❖ India is the largest producer of inland fish, producing 2.2 million tonnes from rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and wetlands.
- ❖ India is also the second-largest aquaculture producer, contributing 12% of global aquaculture production.
- ❖ The fisheries sector supports the livelihoods of nearly 30 million people and contributes to food security, exports, and agricultural growth.
- ❖ The report noted that global fisheries and aquaculture production reached a record 235 million tonnes in 2024, driven mainly by aquaculture.



Nirbhay Chetna Initiative

- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched Nirbhay Chetna, the world's largest women's safety and gender sensitisation initiative.

- ❖ Nirbhay Chetna is part of the Nirbhay Raho programme, funded under the Nirbhaya Fund, and will cover all Panchayats across India.
- ❖ The programme will train over 17.5 lakh male elected Panchayati Raj representatives on gender equality, women's rights, and safety, supported by 28,500 Master Trainers.
- ❖ Nirbhay Netri will provide legal literacy and capacity-building training to over 14.5 lakh women elected representatives.
- ❖ Nirbhay Drishti will install CCTV cameras in villages across all States and Union Territories to improve women's safety.



ADB Investment in India



- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced that it will provide about \$1 billion in direct financing for India's private sector in 2026, continuing its investment momentum in the country.

- ❖ In 2025, ADB provided more than \$1 billion for private sector operations and over \$4 billion for sovereign projects.
- ❖ Funding focuses on sectors such as renewable energy, green hydrogen, e-mobility, green data centres, urban infrastructure, and agriculture.
- ❖ ADB also supports trade and supply chain financing, which has increased due to global disruptions.
- ❖ The financing is aligned with India's development priorities and sustainable growth goals.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue

- ❖ India's first Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue was launched at the 5th Indian Space Congress (ISC) held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue is India's first centralized digital repository of space-sector capabilities.
- ❖ It maps organizations across the upstream, midstream, and downstream segments of India's space ecosystem.
- ❖ The catalogue provides information on the capabilities, products, and services of Indian space-sector organizations.
- ❖ It serves as a continuously updated platform for industry, government, researchers, investors, and international partners.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

International Big Cat Alliance - Bangladesh

- ❖ Bangladesh became the 27th member country of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

- ❖ The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is a treaty-based intergovernmental organisation headquartered in New Delhi, India, for the conservation of seven big cat species.
- ❖ The alliance was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023 during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger, and became a treaty-based organisation on 23 January 2025.
- ❖ The seven big cat species covered under the IBCA are the tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- ❖ Bangladesh joined the alliance to strengthen cooperation in big cat conservation, including the protection of the Bengal tiger in the Sundarbans shared by India and Bangladesh.



Venezuela Earthquake 2026 - Seismic Doublet Event

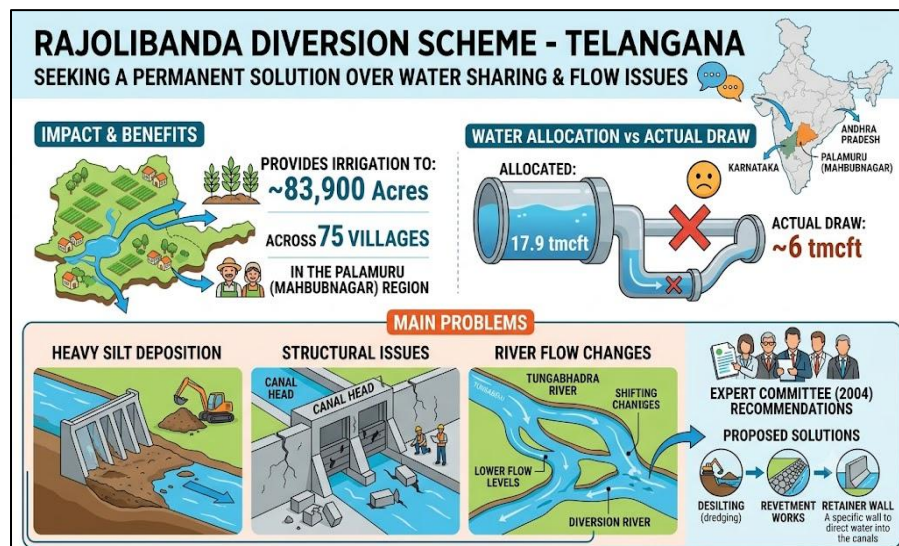


- ❖ Venezuela was hit by twin powerful earthquakes, causing major destruction and an emergency response.

- ❖ A magnitude 7.2 earthquake occurred near San Felipe, followed within 39 seconds by a stronger magnitude 7.5 earthquake near Morón.
- ❖ The earthquakes occurred along the boundary of the Caribbean Plate and South American Plate, due to shallow strike-slip faulting.
- ❖ The event is known as a Seismic Doublet, meaning two major earthquakes of similar magnitude occur closely in time and location.
- ❖ In a seismic doublet, both quakes act as primary earthquakes, unlike normal aftershocks, where only one mainshock occurs.

STATE NEWS

Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme - Telangana



- ❖ Telangana has sought a permanent solution from the Centre and neighbouring States over water sharing and flow issues in the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme provides irrigation to about 83,900 acres across 75 villages in the Palamuru (Mahbubnagar) region of Telangana.
- ❖ Telangana is allocated 17.9 tmcft of water but is able to draw only about 6 tmcft due to flow restrictions.
- ❖ Main problems include heavy silt deposition, structural issues at the canal head, and changes in river flow in the Tungabhadra River system.
- ❖ An expert committee (2004) recommended desilting, revetment works, and a retainer wall to improve water entry into canals.
- ❖ The Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) is an interstate irrigation project built across the Tungabhadra River, a tributary of the Krishna River.

- ❖ It is an essential lifeline for drought-prone agricultural regions, benefitting three riparian states: Telangana, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

