

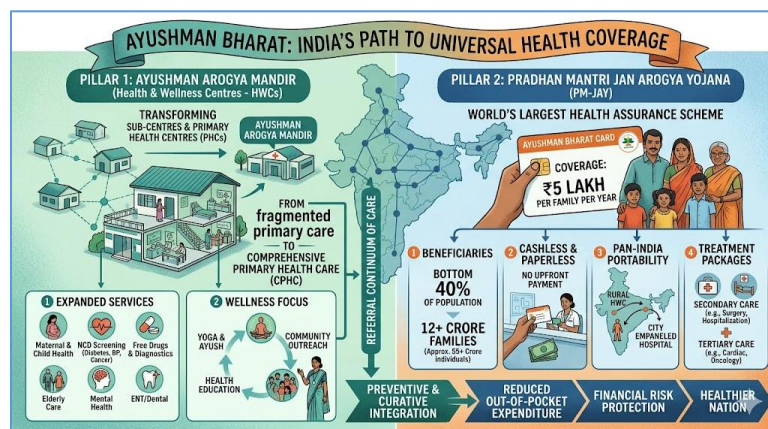
May - 02

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ R. Rithika Sri from Salem became India's first transgender cricket umpire from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ N. Alim Yusuf was honoured by the World-Wide Fund for Nature for developing an AI-based app that identifies nearly 100 invasive plant species in Kerala, supporting early detection and biodiversity conservation.
- ❖ Padma Shri awardee Raghu Rai, a renowned Indian photographer, passed away in Delhi at the age of 83.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Pune installed a new X-band Doppler Weather Radar at Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra under Mission Mausam, improving real-time monitoring and short-term forecasts for nearby regions.
- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation conducted the maiden salvo launch of NASM-SR (Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range) with the Indian Navy from a helicopter off the Odisha coast in the Bay of Bengal.
  - Salvo launch means firing two missiles quickly from one platform.
- ❖ World Immunization Week is observed every year from 24 to 30 April to spread awareness about vaccines.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "For every generation, vaccines work".

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2026



- ❖ The day is observed on 30 April to promote universal healthcare in India.


- ❖ It celebrates Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), launched in 2018.
- ❖ The scheme provides cashless health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year.
- ❖ It benefits over 10.74 crore families across India.
- ❖ It supports Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and aligns with World Health Organization goals.

## **Creamy Layer – SC/ST Reservation Issue**

### **Case history**

Salient points from the past verdicts which dealt with the application of creamy layer concept in reservation

- **Nine-judge Bench in 1992 Indra Sawhney case:** SCs/STs are the most backward among backward classes. Once part of the Presidential List under Articles 341 & 342, there is no question of showing their backwardness again
- **Five-judge Bench in 2006 M. Nagaraj case:** Quota benefits should go to the weakest of weak and not be snatched away by members of the class who are in the "top creamy layer"
- **Five-judge Bench in 2018 Jarnail Singh case:** Creamy layer ensures that only the deserving among the SCs/STs get the benefits of reservation



- ❖ Supreme Court of India issued notice to Centre and States on a PIL (Public Interest Litigation) seeking exclusion of a "creamy layer" from SC/ST reservations, based on the interpretation of State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh.
- ❖ The 7-judge Bench in Davinder Singh (2024) allowed sub-classification within Scheduled Castes (SC) to direct benefits to the most marginalized, not creamy layer exclusion.
- ❖ The creamy layer principle originated in Indra Sawhney v. Union of India, where OBC (Other Backward Classes) reservations were upheld, but advanced sections were excluded based on relative equality.
- ❖ 1993 OM (Office Memorandum) defined creamy layer mainly by status (Class I/II government posts), recognizing intergenerational institutional power; income was secondary and excluded salary and agricultural income.



- ❖ 2004 DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) letter treated PSU salary as a disqualification, but it was struck down in *Union of India v. Rohith Nathan*, restoring status-based criteria and ruling parental salary alone cannot decide creamy layer.
- ❖ B. R. Ambedkar (1932 Lothian Committee note) called the exclusion of wealthy/educated SC persons “erroneous”, stating that caste status depends on community, not individual progress.
- ❖ At the 1936 Mahar Conference, he noted educated and wealthy persons from marginalized castes still face social exclusion in jobs and public life.
- ❖ Data from *Jaishri Patil v. Union of India* showed that even Group D employees were excluded from benefits due to income limits; the same ceiling treated ₹6 lakh and ₹24 lakh families equally.
- ❖ Impact of reservation is concentrated among less-educated SC members in rural areas, not an elite “creamy layer”.
- ❖ This creates a “creamy layer trap”: threshold excludes moderately stable families while caste-based disadvantages persist.
- ❖ Sub-classification identifies the least represented SC sub-groups, whereas creamy layer exclusion removes individuals based on parental income.
- ❖ Justice B. R. Gavai acknowledged that SC/ST criteria cannot be identical to OBC criteria.
- ❖ SC/ST representation in Group A Union posts is slightly below their population share and quota; backlog vacancies remain unfilled.
- ❖ Extending the creamy layer to SC/ST is argued as constitutionally and sociologically weak; Parliament has the authority to clarify that sub-classification and creamy layer are distinct mechanisms.

### **SC Upholds RTE Admission Rule**

- ❖ In *Lucknow Public School Vs. The State of Uttar Pradesh*, the Supreme Court of India said neighbourhood schools must give immediate admission under the RTE Act.
- ❖ The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, gives free and compulsory education to children aged 6–14 years.
- ❖ It is based on Article 21A (added by the 86th Amendment Act, 2002), which makes education a fundamental right.
- ❖ The Act requires 25% reservation for EWS (Economically Weaker Sections) and disadvantaged groups in private schools.

- ❖ The government must provide schools, teachers, and basic facilities, and reimburse expenses to private schools.
- ❖ Other provisions: Article 51A(k) (parents must educate children) and Article 45 (early childhood care).



## ECONOMY NEWS

### E-PRAAPTI Portal

**EPFO to Launch E-PRAAPTI Portal**  
to Access Inactive PF Accounts Without UAN

**What It Is and How It Helps You**

- Find Inactive PF Accounts
- Verify with Aadhaar
- Link with UAN
- Activate and Access Your PF Savings

**E-PRAAPTI**  
EPF Aadhaar-Based Access Portal  
Access · Track · Link · Activate

- Identify Old PF Accounts
- Aadhaar Authentication
- UAN Linking
- Activate Account

Secure Login with Aadhaar

Secure, Simple, Accessible.  
Your PF, Now Easier to Access.

*Your Money Shouldn't Stay Locked Just Because You Changed Jobs*

PASSBOOK  
EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

- ❖ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to launch the E-PRAAPTI portal for EPF account management.

- ❖ E-PRAAPTI (EPF Aadhaar-Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts) helps track, link and activate old EPF accounts.
- ❖ A Provident Fund (PF) account becomes inactive if no contribution is made for 36 months or if it is not linked to UAN.
- ❖ UAN (Universal Account Number) is a 12-digit number given to employees since 2014.
- ❖ The portal uses Aadhaar-based authentication to securely access and link old accounts.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0



- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 for FY 2023–24 to assess rural local bodies.
- ❖ PAI is a nationwide framework to measure the progress of Gram Panchayats using objective indicators linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ It converts 17 SDGs into 9 Localised Sustainable Development Goal (LSDG) themes for grassroots monitoring.
- ❖ PAI 2.0 evaluates over 2.5 lakh Panchayats using 150+ indicators and 230 data points across sectors like health, water and infrastructure.
- ❖ It classifies Panchayats into five categories: Achiever, Front Runner, Performer, Aspirant and Beginner based on scores (0–100 scale).

- ❖ Around 97.3% participation was recorded with over 2.59 lakh Gram Panchayats assessed, and 3,635 emerged as Front Runners.
- ❖ About 45.7% Panchayats are in the “Performer” category, no Panchayat achieved the A+ (Achiever) overall grade, and Tripura, Kerala, and Odisha are the top-performing states.
- ❖ The index supports data-driven governance, helps prepare Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs), and promotes transparent, participatory rural development.

## Women and Men in India 2025 Report

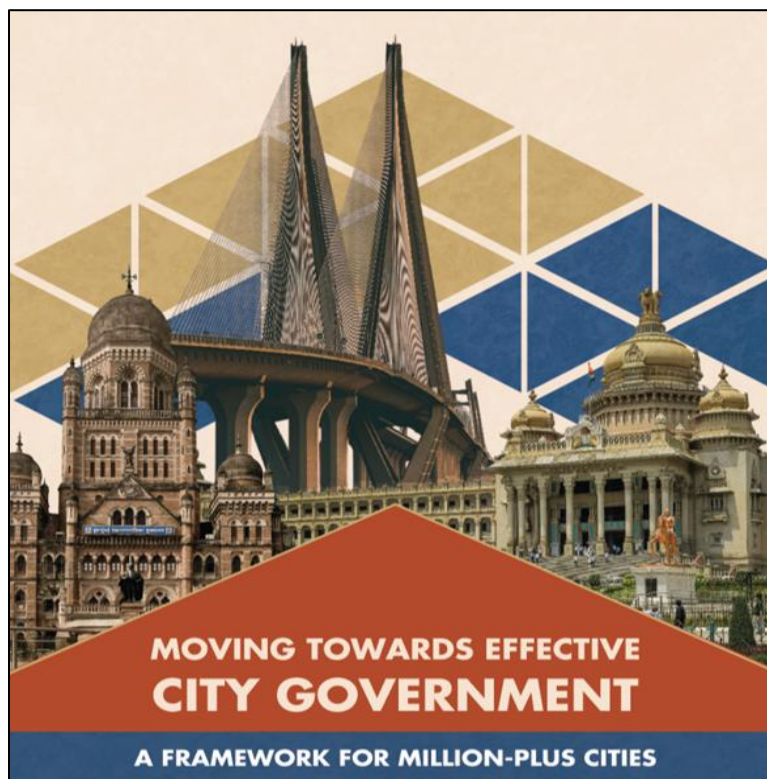


- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the 27th edition of Women and Men in India 2025 report.
- ❖ It is an annual report since 1995 covering socio-economic status in health, education, economy and population.
- ❖ Sex ratio at birth improved to 917 (2021–23), and infant mortality declined.
- ❖ Gender parity was achieved in school education, and female GER increased to 30.2.
- ❖ Female labour participation rose, especially among rural women, from 37.5% to 45.9%, and women in managerial roles increased sharply.
- ❖ Issues remain like 14.4% literacy gap, low cancer screening (1.7%) and a high unpaid work burden.

## NITI Aayog Report on City Governance

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the report “Moving Towards Effective City Government: A Framework for Million-Plus Cities”.

- ❖ India has 47 million-plus cities that house about one-third of the urban population and contribute nearly 60% to GDP (Gross Domestic Product).
- ❖ These cities face problems like weak powers under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, poor funds, weak services, and a lack of clear leadership.
- ❖ City governments have control over only a few functions and depend heavily on state governments for funds.
- ❖ The report suggests directly elected Mayors, better coordination of services, and stronger municipal finances through SFCs (State Finance Commissions).
- ❖ It also recommends legal reforms and clearer roles to improve urban governance and service delivery.



## STATE NEWS

### **West Bengal Assembly Elections 2026 – Record Turnout**

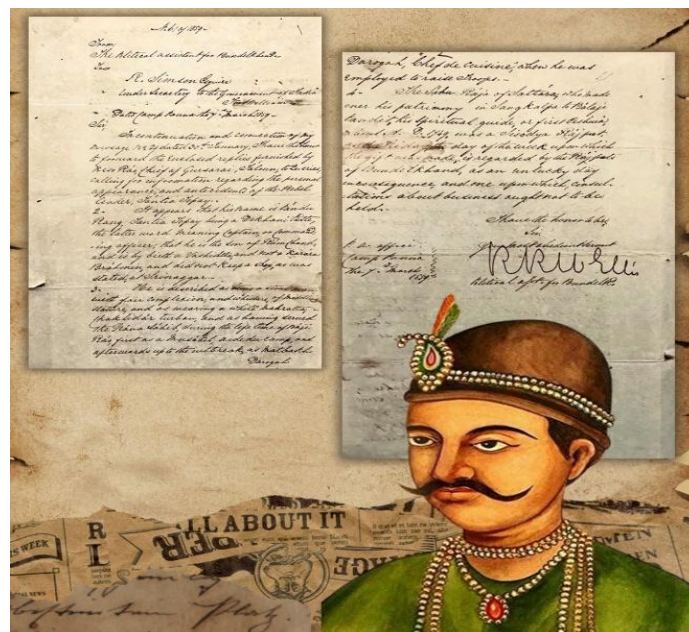
- ❖ West Bengal recorded the highest-ever voter turnout of 92.47% in the 2026 Assembly elections since Independence.
- ❖ The elections were held in two phases, with 93.19% turnout in Phase 1 (April 23) and 91.66% in Phase 2.

- ❖ The state has a total voter base of about 6.81 crore, with women's turnout (92.28%) higher than men's (91.07%).
- ❖ The previous highest turnout in West Bengal was 84.72% in the 2011 Assembly elections.
- ❖ Tripura holds the national record with 93.61% turnout in the 2013 Assembly elections.
- ❖ Counting of votes will be held on 4 May for West Bengal and other states.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Tatya Tope's 1857 Letter





- ❖ A letter from Tatya Tope from 1857 was found in the Madhya Pradesh archives under the Gyan Bharatam Mission.
- ❖ Tatya Tope (1814–1859) was a key leader of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against British rule.
- ❖ He worked under Nana Saheb (adopted son of Baji Rao II) and led important battles at Kanpur.
- ❖ He fought with Rani Lakshmibai and later took control of rebel forces at Gwalior.
- ❖ He used guerrilla warfare to continue resistance in central India after major battles.
- ❖ He was captured by the British, tried in court, and executed in 1859.

