

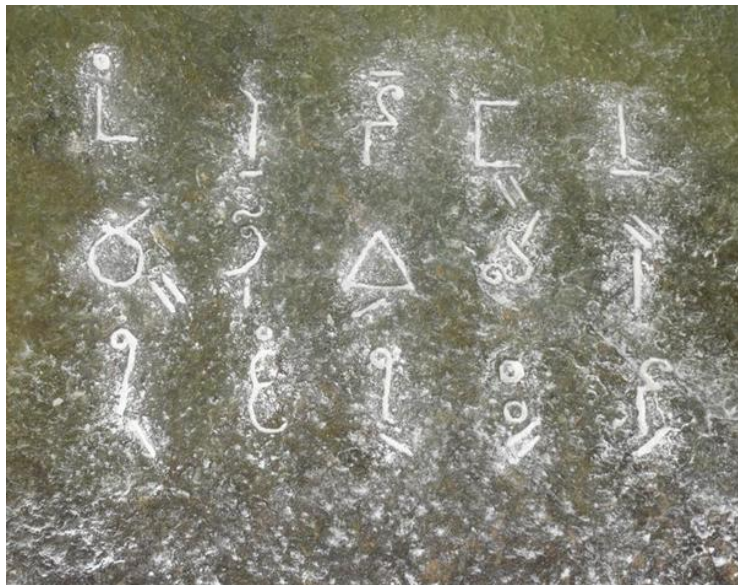
May - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Southern Railway recorded its best-ever performance in Traction Distribution (TRD) assets in 2025–26.
 - Asset failures reduced to just 3 failures in 2025–26 from 13 in 2024–25, showing a 77% improvement in Southern Railway performance.
- ❖ India launched its first barrier-free Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) toll plaza on NH-48 in Gujarat.
 - The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways plans to expand barrier-free tolling across all four-lane highways by 2029.
- ❖ International Leopard Day is observed on May 3 every year to raise awareness about leopard conservation.
- ❖ World Asthma Day is observed on the first Tuesday of May (May 5 in 2026) to raise awareness about asthma care.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need”.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Courtallam Cave Inscription



- ❖ An ancient inscription in Courtallam Hills has been successfully deciphered after remaining unread for many years.

- ❖ The discovery was decoded by K. Balakrishnan and Mathur B. Pavendan after 2.5 years of detailed research.
- ❖ The inscription is located in the Sanyasi Pudavu cave at around 1000 m elevation.
- ❖ It uses the Prakrit-Brahmi script with modified diacritic marks to represent Tamil language words.
- ❖ Researchers identified 14 out of 15 characters and used mathematical methods and comparison with Sanskrit and Pali to decode them.
- ❖ The message highlights wisdom and unity, stating that knowledge remains the same even if taken from different sources.
- ❖ The cave and inscription were earlier mentioned in the 1917 Tinnevely Gazetteer during British rule.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Summit on Public Health Innovations



- ❖ Union Health Minister inaugurated the 10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity in Public Health.
- ❖ The summit was organised under the National Health Mission to showcase best practices in healthcare.
- ❖ Key initiatives launched include the Swasth Bharat Portal, JANANI digital platform, and RBSK 2.0 (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram for child health).
- ❖ Swasth Bharat Portal is a digital platform to track health programmes, monitor performance, and improve decision-making.
- ❖ JANANI Digital Platform supports maternal and child healthcare services, ensures tracking of pregnancies, and promotes safe deliveries.
- ❖ The 17th Common Review Mission Report is an assessment of the progress and performance of health schemes across States and Union Territories.
- ❖ Integrated Training Module is a standardised system to train primary healthcare workers, improve service quality, and strengthen coordination.

- ❖ Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram 2.0 provides updated guidelines to strengthen child health screening and ensure early treatment of diseases.
- ❖ India achieved zero median out-of-pocket expenditure for outpatient care in government health facilities (no average cost for patients).

Parliamentary Committees 2026–27

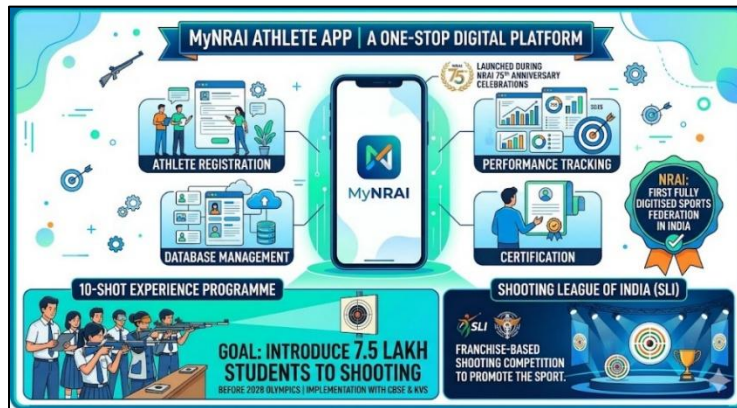
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker reconstituted four major Parliamentary Committees for 2026–27.
- ❖ The four committees include the Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, Committee on Public Undertakings, and Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ Parliamentary Committees are groups of Members of Parliament formed to examine government functioning and ensure executive accountability.
- ❖ Types include Standing Committees, permanent bodies such as Financial Committees, Departmentally Related Standing Committees, and Ad hoc Committees for specific tasks.
- ❖ They provide detailed scrutiny of bills, policies, government performance, and public sector undertakings.



MyNRAI Athlete App

- ❖ The National Rifle Association of India launched the MyNRAI athlete app during its 75th anniversary celebrations.

- ❖ MyNRAI is a one-stop digital platform for athlete registration, performance tracking, certification, and database management.
- ❖ It makes NRAI the first fully digitised sports federation in India.
- ❖ The initiative aims to introduce 7.5 lakh students to shooting through a “10-shot experience” programme before the 2028 Olympics.
- ❖ The programme will be implemented with the Central Board of Secondary Education and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.
- ❖ NRAI also announced the Shooting League of India (SLI), a franchise-based shooting competition to promote the sport.



Childhood Diabetes Guidelines 2026

Early intervention


The Union Health Ministry has introduced a structured and standardised national framework for the screening, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management of diabetes in children

- Integration of childhood diabetes care in the public health system aims to ensure universal diabetes screening of all children from birth to 18 years of age

- It provides for a comprehensive, free-of-cost care package at public health facilities

It aims to reduce financial burden and ensure uninterrupted treatment for children diagnosed with diabetes

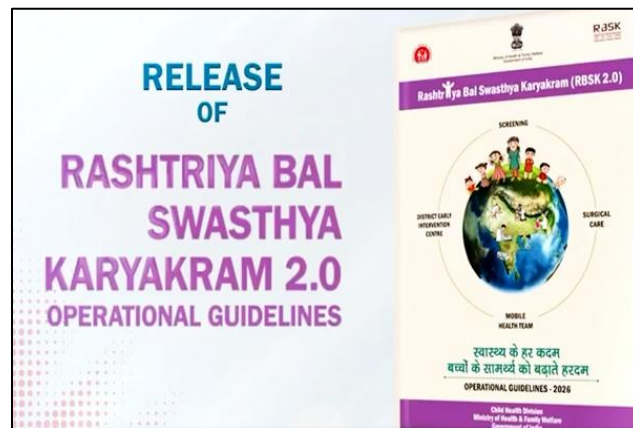
- The guidance document emphasises family and caregiver empowerment, providing structured training on insulin administration, blood glucose monitoring, emergency response, and daily disease management



- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the first guidance document on Diabetes Mellitus in children.

- ❖ The guidelines provide a national framework for screening, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management for children from birth to 18 years.
- ❖ Free services at public health facilities include screening, insulin therapy, glucometers, test strips, and follow-up care.
- ❖ The system ensures a continuum of care from community screening to district hospitals and medical colleges.
- ❖ The 4Ts framework (Toilet, Thirsty, Tired, Thinner) is used for the early detection of Type 1 diabetes.

RBSK 2.0 Guidelines



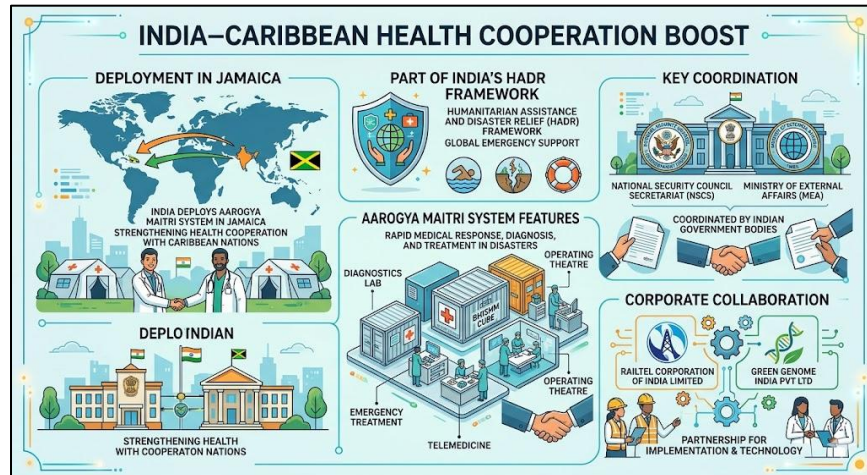
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 guidelines.
- ❖ RBSK (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram) is a child health screening programme under the National Health Mission (NHM – National Health Mission).
- ❖ It screens children (0–18 years) for 4Ds – Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies, and Developmental delays.
- ❖ New guidelines expand 4Ds to include non-communicable diseases, mental health, and behavioural issues.
- ❖ It promotes lifecycle-based screening with continuous care and strengthens referral systems with digital health records.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India–Caribbean Health Cooperation Boost

- ❖ India deployed the Aarogya Maitri system in Jamaica to strengthen health cooperation with Caribbean nations.

- ❖ It is part of India's HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) framework for global emergency support.
- ❖ The system is a portable, modular healthcare unit for rapid medical response, diagnosis, and treatment in disasters.
- ❖ The deployment was coordinated by the National Security Council Secretariat and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ❖ It involves collaboration between RailTel Corporation of India Limited and Green Genome India Pvt Ltd.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Mission Drishti OptoSAR Satellite



- ❖ GalaxEye launched Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite.
- ❖ It is India's largest privately developed Earth observation satellite, weighing about 190 kg.

- ❖ The satellite combines Electro Optical and Synthetic Aperture Radar sensors for all weather, day and night imaging.
- ❖ It was launched aboard Falcon 9 by SpaceX from California.
- ❖ Mission Drishti supports applications in defence, agriculture, disaster management, and infrastructure planning.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Press Freedom Index 2026

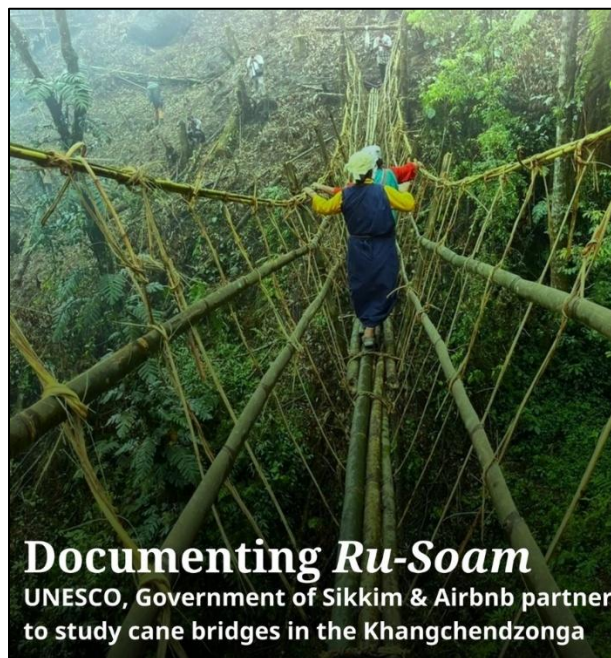


- ❖ India ranked 157th out of 180 countries in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders.
- ❖ The World Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking that measures press freedom using indicators like media independence, safety, and legal environment.
- ❖ India is placed in the “very serious” category and dropped from rank 151 (2025) to 157 (2026).
- ❖ The 2026 report noted issues like violence against journalists, media ownership concentration, and legal pressures.
- ❖ Globally, more than half of the countries fall under “difficult” or “very serious” categories in 2026.

STATE NEWS

Lepcha Traditional Bridge System

- ❖ UNESCO and the Government of Sikkim are documenting Ru-Soam Engineering of the Lepcha community.
- ❖ Ru-Soam refers to traditional bamboo and cane footbridges built by the Lepcha people in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve.
- ❖ These bridges use natural materials like bamboo and cane, acting like modern suspension bridges without steel or concrete.
- ❖ Key parts include the main support cables (Soamgyang), suspender loops (Ahood), and bamboo deck (Soamgur).
- ❖ The bridges can span up to 100 metres and usually support 2–3 people at a time.
- ❖ They are eco-friendly (low carbon footprint) and resilient to earthquakes due to their flexibility.



Namma 112 AI Emergency System

- ❖ Bengaluru City Police introduced an AI-powered multilingual upgrade to the Namma 112 emergency system.
- ❖ Namma 112 is part of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), India's national emergency helpline 112.
- ❖ The new system, called VANKI Multilingual Voice AI for Nationwide Key Interventions, enables real-time translation during emergency calls.

- ❖ The system helps provide faster response by police, ambulance, and fire services without language barriers.
- ❖ Bengaluru becomes the first city in India to introduce multilingual AI in emergency helpline services.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Malcolm Adiseshiah and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Awards 2026



- ❖ The Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2026 has been awarded to Raghav Das Gaiha for his contributions to development studies.
- ❖ He is a visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania and a former Professor of Public Policy at the University of Delhi.
- ❖ Kanika Mahajan has been selected for the Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award 2026.
- ❖ She is an Associate Professor of Economics at Ashoka University, Haryana.
- ❖ These awards are presented by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to honour social scientists for outstanding work in development studies.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

THE Asia University Rankings 2026

Times Higher Education: Asia University Rankings 2026			
Rank	Institution	Country/Territory	Score
1	Tsinghua University	China	93.6
2	Peking University	China	93.1
3	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore	91.1
=4	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore	85.1
=4	The University of Tokyo	Japan	85.1
6	University of Hong Kong (HKU)	Hong Kong	84.3
7	Fudan University	China	82.9
8	Zhejiang University	China	82.6
9	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China	82.1
10	The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)	Hong Kong	81.1

- ❖ Times Higher Education released the Asia University Rankings 2026.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science is the top-ranked Indian institution, placed 43rd in Asia.
- ❖ India has the highest number of ranked institutions with 128 universities, followed by Japan and China.
- ❖ Other top Indian institutions include Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, IIT Indore, Shoolini University, and Jamia Millia Islamia.
- ❖ Top universities in Asia include Tsinghua University, Peking University, and National University of Singapore.

