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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ IIT Madras Global Research Foundation established its first international centre in Menlo Park, California, USA, to support deep-tech research and startups.
- ❖ The Archibald Prize 2026 was awarded to Melbourne-based artist Richard Lewer for his portrait of Iluwanti Ken.
 - It is an Australian portraiture award established in 1921 and is awarded annually for portrait painting.
- ❖ O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) became India's first Institution of Eminence (IoE) to receive accreditation from the Data Science Council of America (DASCA).
- ❖ Suwendu Adhikari took oath as Chief Minister of West Bengal, leading the first BJP government in the State after the 2026 Assembly elections.
- ❖ Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath as the Chief Minister of Assam for a second consecutive term on 12 May 2026, becoming the first non-Congress leader to serve consecutive terms in the post.
- ❖ The International Day of Plant Health is observed every year on 12 May to spread awareness about protecting plant health.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Plant Biosecurity for Food Security".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Oath Ceremony of MLAs in Tamil Nadu Assembly

- ❖ The elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) took oath in the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 11 May 2026.
- ❖ The oath ceremony was conducted in the presence of Pro-tem Speaker M. V. Karuppaiah.
- ❖ He was sworn in as the Pro-tem Speaker by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.
- ❖ Thousand Lights MLA J. C. D. Prabhakar was nominated for the post of Speaker of the Assembly.
- ❖ Chief Minister Vijay handed over the nomination papers to Assembly Secretary K. Srinivasan.
- ❖ Vijay also nominated Thuraiyur MLA M. Ravisankar for the post of Deputy Speaker.

- ❖ The strength of the Assembly became 233 after Vijay resigned from his second seat, Tiruchi East.



Pro-tem Speaker

- ❖ Pro-tem Speaker M. V. Karuppaiah administered the oath to newly elected MLAs of the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 11 May 2026.
- ❖ A Pro-tem Speaker is a temporary presiding officer appointed during the transition between two legislative assemblies.
- ❖ The term “pro tem” means “for the time being.”
- ❖ The Pro-tem Speaker acts as the bridge between the formation of a new Assembly and the election of the permanent Speaker.
- ❖ The main role of the Pro-tem Speaker is to administer the oath of office to newly elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
- ❖ The Pro-tem Speaker also presides over the House until the election of the permanent Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- ❖ Usually, the senior-most member of the House, based on the number of terms served, is chosen for the role, though it is not a legal rule.
- ❖ The Governor appoints the Pro-tem Speaker in State Legislative Assemblies and administers the oath of office to them.

- ❖ In the Lok Sabha, the oath to the Pro-tem Speaker is administered by the President of India.
- ❖ The functions of the Pro-tem Speaker are similar in both the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- ❖ The office of the Pro-tem Speaker is temporary and ends immediately after the election of the permanent Speaker of the House.



Singappen Special Task Force



- ❖ The Singappen Special Task Force was formed by the Tamil Nadu government to strengthen women's safety and preventive protection across the State.
- ❖ The task force functions under the direct supervision of Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay.

- ❖ The first phase of the force has 36 sanctioned posts and is headed by an Inspector General of Police (IGP).
- ❖ The sanctioned strength includes one Inspector General of Police, one Superintendent of Police (SP), two Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), four Inspectors, eight Sub-Inspectors, and 20 personnel from other ranks.
- ❖ The task force has been created mainly for prevention and protection related to women's safety.
- ❖ It will identify vulnerable and crime-prone areas across the State.
- ❖ The unit will conduct surveillance and deploy personnel in places frequently visited by women.
- ❖ Key focus areas include bus stands, railway stations, educational institutions, and other public spaces.

NATIONAL NEWS

Recent Advisories by PM Modi



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued advisories asking citizens to adopt fuel-saving and economic precautionary measures amid global uncertainty, rising oil prices, and supply chain concerns.
- ❖ India imports nearly 85–90% of its crude oil requirements, making the country vulnerable to global oil price shocks and foreign exchange pressure.

- ❖ The advisories include reducing petrol and diesel usage, preferring public transport, encouraging carpooling, adopting work from home, and conducting online meetings.
- ❖ Citizens were advised to shift goods transportation to railways and avoid unnecessary domestic and foreign travel.
- ❖ The Prime Minister also advised people to reduce overseas destination weddings and avoid non-essential gold purchases to reduce import pressure.
- ❖ The advisories encouraged support for “Made in India” products, reduction in cooking oil consumption, and use of locally manufactured goods.
- ❖ Farmers were advised to reduce chemical fertiliser usage and promote natural farming practices.
- ❖ The measures also promote electric vehicles (EVs), solar-powered alternatives, and solar pumps to reduce fuel imports and energy dependency.

Supreme Court Judge Strength 2026



UNION CABINET APPROVES INCREASE IN SUPREME COURT STRENGTH TO 38 JUDGES | AMENDMENT BILL 2026

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**.
- The strength of Supreme Court judges will be increased from **34 to 38**.
- The Bill seeks to amend **Article 124** of the Constitution of India.
- The move aims to **reduce the pendency of cases** and ensure timely justice.
- Supreme Court strength has been increased before in **1956, 1960, 1977, 1986** and **2009**.
- This decision marks a significant step towards **strengthening the judiciary** and upholding justice for all.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, to increase the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court of India from 34 to 38 judges, including the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- ❖ The amendment will change the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- ❖ This is the first increase in the strength of Supreme Court judges since 2019.
- ❖ The decision was taken due to the rising backlog of cases and increased digital e-filings after the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ Article 124(1) of the Constitution allows Parliament to increase the number of Supreme Court judges through law.
- ❖ The Bill must be passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha with a simple majority before receiving Presidential assent.
- ❖ The original strength of the Supreme Court under the Constitution was one Chief Justice of India and seven other judges.
- ❖ This move aims to address a backlog of over 92,000 cases.

STATE NEWS

Road RADAR Initiative

- ❖ The Delhi Pollution Control Committee launched the Road RADAR (Real-time Air Pollution Detection Across Roads) initiative to identify sources of air pollution through daily ground-level surveys in Delhi.
- ❖ The initiative uses geo-tagged reporting through the MCD-311 mobile application for quick action on pollution sources.
- ❖ The programme covers around 18,000 km of roads every month across Delhi.
- ❖ Road RADAR tracks 11 categories of pollution sources, including road dust, garbage, biomass burning, plastic burning, and construction and demolition waste.
- ❖ The initiative aims to improve real-time monitoring, administrative accountability, and rapid redressal of pollution-related complaints.



Odisha in PMAY-U 2.0

- ❖ Odisha became the top-performing state in house completions under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 as of 8 May 2026.

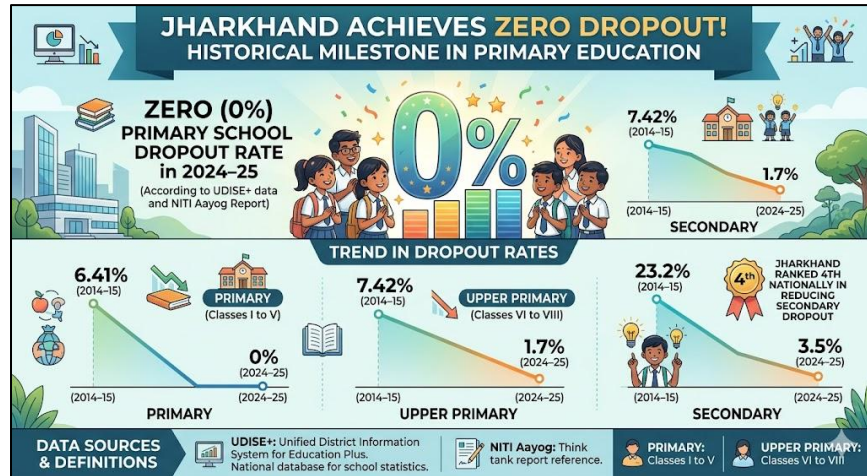
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 was launched in September 2024 to provide pucca houses for eligible urban poor and middle-income families.
- ❖ Odisha held the first position in house completion performance from March 2025 to March 2026.
- ❖ A total of 24,625 houses were sanctioned under the scheme in Odisha, of which around 23,464 sites were geo-tagged for monitoring and implementation.
- ❖ Foundation work had started for 3,134 houses, and 2,008 houses had been completed by 5 May 2026.
- ❖ The scheme uses geo-tagging, foundation tracking, and completion monitoring to track construction progress.



Jharkhand's achievement - Zero Dropout

- ❖ Jharkhand recorded a 0% primary school dropout rate in 2024–25, according to Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) data and a NITI Aayog report.
- ❖ The primary dropout rate in Jharkhand declined from 6.41% in 2014–15 to 0% in 2024–25.
- ❖ The upper primary dropout rate reduced from 7.42% to 1.7%, while the secondary dropout rate declined from 23.2% to 3.5%.
- ❖ UDISE+ is the national database used for school education statistics in India.
- ❖ Primary education in India generally covers Classes I to V, while upper primary covers Classes VI to VIII.

- ❖ Jharkhand ranked fourth nationally in reducing secondary school dropout rates in 2024–25.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

MSP in Scotland – Manivannan



- ❖ Manivannan was elected as a Member of the Scottish Parliament.
- ❖ Manivannan is a non-binary transgender person from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Scottish Parliament is the devolved legislature of Scotland and is located at Holyrood in Edinburgh.

- ❖ Members of the Scottish Parliament are known as MSPs (Members of the Scottish Parliament).
- ❖ Manivannan became the first person elected to Holyrood without a permanent visa to live in the United Kingdom.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War 2026 – May 8 and 9

- ❖ The observance was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2004.
- ❖ It remembers the millions of civilians and soldiers who lost their lives during the Second World War (1939–1945).
- ❖ May 8 is celebrated as Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), marking the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945.
- ❖ The observance highlights the importance of peace, reconciliation, human rights, and international cooperation.
- ❖ The Second World War created the conditions for the establishment of the United Nations in 1945 to prevent future wars.

