

May - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India conducted the maiden test of a nuclear-capable Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) from Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
 - An Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) is a long-range missile with a range above 5,500 km and can carry conventional or nuclear warheads.
- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2026 is observed every year on 9 May and 10 October to promote migratory bird conservation through community science and public participation.
 - The theme for 2026 is “Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter!”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

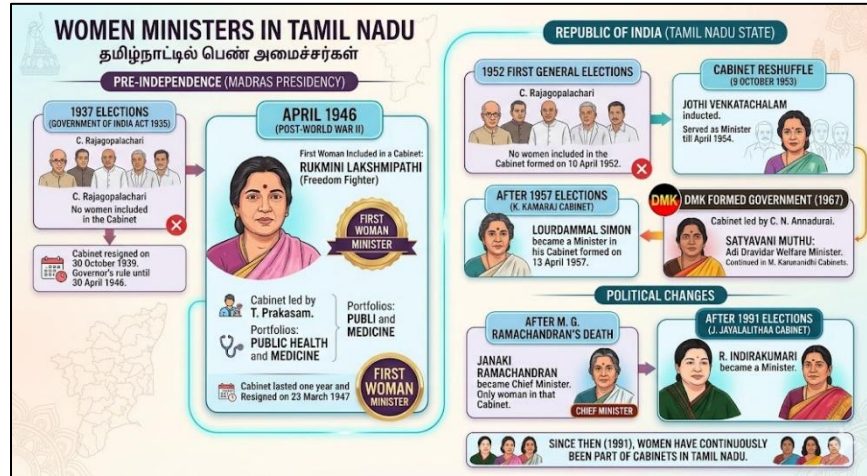
Speaker of the Tamil Nadu



- ❖ J. C. D. Prabhakar of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 12 May 2026.
- ❖ After taking charge, Speaker Prabhakar conducted the Deputy Speaker election in which Ravishankar was elected unopposed.
- ❖ Chief Minister Vijay recalled that the tradition of the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition escorting the Speaker to the Chair originated in the United Kingdom Parliament system.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has ordered the closure of 717 Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation liquor shops located within 500 metres of educational institutions and places of worship within two weeks.
- ❖ TASMAL operates 4,765 retail liquor outlets across Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The Madras High Court restrained TVK MLA R. Seenivasa Sethupathy from participating in the Assembly trust vote scheduled on 13 May 2026.
- ❖ The interim order was passed by a summer vacation Bench of Justices on 12 May 2026.
- ❖ The writ petitioner claimed confusion during elections due to two constituencies named Tirupattur in Tirupattur district and Tirupattur in Sivaganga district with similar names and spellings.

Women Ministers in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ No women were included in the Cabinet formed in the Madras Presidency under C. Rajagopalachari, after the 1937 elections held under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- ❖ The Cabinet resigned on 30 October 1939, after which Governor's rule continued till 30 April 1946.
- ❖ After the Second World War, a new Cabinet led by T. Prakasam took office on 30 April 1946.
- ❖ Freedom fighter Rukmini Lakshmi Pathi became the first woman included in a Cabinet in the Madras Presidency and handled the Public Health and Medicine portfolios.
- ❖ The T. Prakasam Cabinet lasted for one year and resigned on 23 March 1947.
- ❖ After India became a Republic, no women were included in the Cabinet formed by C. Rajagopalachari on 10 April 1952 after the first general elections.
- ❖ During the Cabinet reshuffle on 9 October 1953, Jothi Venkatachalam was inducted along with M. Bhakthavatchalam and K. Rajaram, and she served as Minister till April 1954.

- ❖ No women were included in the later Cabinet formed under K. Kamaraj, but after the 1957 elections, Lourd Ammal Simon became a Minister in his Cabinet formed on 13 April 1957.
- ❖ When the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam formed the government for the first time in 1967, Satyavani Muthu became Adi Dravidar Welfare Minister in the Cabinet led by C. N. Annadurai and later continued in the Cabinets of M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ After the death of M. G. Ramachandran, Janaki Ramachandran became Chief Minister for a short period, and she was the only woman in that Cabinet.
- ❖ After the 1991 elections, R. Indirakumari became a Minister in the Cabinet formed by J. Jayalalithaa, and since then, women have continuously been part of Cabinets in Tamil Nadu.

NATIONAL NEWS

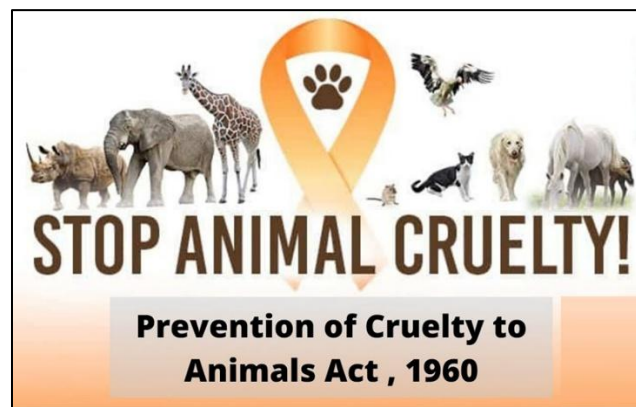
India's Renewable Energy Growth



- ❖ India became the world's 3rd largest country in installed renewable energy capacity.
- ❖ India's non-fossil fuel energy capacity crossed 262.7 Gigawatt (GW), accounting for more than 50% of the country's total installed power capacity.
- ❖ Domestic solar module manufacturing capacity increased from 38 GW in 2024 to 74 GW in 2025.
- ❖ Solar cell manufacturing capacity also increased from 9 GW to 25 GW during the same period.
- ❖ Despite this growth, 60–80% of upstream solar components such as wafers and polysilicon are still imported from China.
- ❖ Solar and wind energy remain the major contributors to renewable energy expansion, with solar capacity reaching 44 GW additions in 2025.

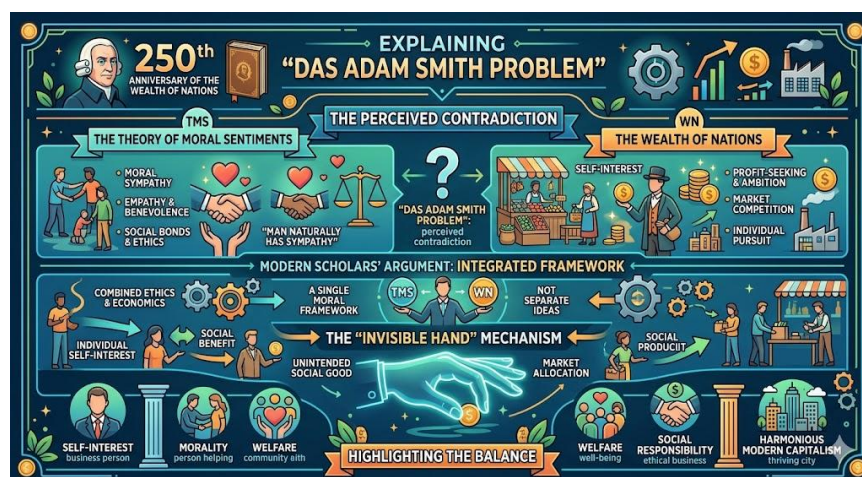
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

- ❖ The National Crime Records Bureau compiled national-level statistical data for the first time on crimes registered under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
- ❖ The Act aims to prevent unnecessary pain or suffering to animals.
- ❖ The Act defines an animal as any living creature other than a human being.
- ❖ The highest number of cases was reported from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Animal Welfare Board of India was established under Section 4 of the Act to advise the government on animal welfare and the prevention of cruelty.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Das Adam Smith Problem



- ❖ The 250th anniversary of The Wealth of Nations revived debates on the “Das Adam Smith Problem” in economic thought.

- ❖ The Das Adam Smith Problem refers to the perceived contradiction between self-interest in The Wealth of Nations and moral sympathy in The Theory of Moral Sentiments.
- ❖ Modern scholars argue that Adam Smith combined ethics and economics into a single moral framework instead of treating them as separate ideas.
- ❖ The concept of the “Invisible Hand” explains how individual actions in markets can produce socially beneficial outcomes.
- ❖ The idea highlights the balance between self-interest, morality, welfare, and social responsibility in modern capitalism.

ECONOMY NEWS

Electronic Gold Receipts



- ❖ National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) trading in 2026.
- ❖ EGRs are SEBI-regulated digital instruments representing physical gold stored in SEBI-approved vaults under the Gold Exchange Framework, 2022.
- ❖ Each EGR represents gold of 995 or 999 purity and is held in demat form through National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) or Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) accounts.
- ❖ EGR trading started on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in October 2022 and on the NSE in 2026 with T+1 settlement.
- ❖ Investors can convert EGRs into physical gold bars or coins by paying applicable withdrawal charges and 3% Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- ❖ EGRs provide transparent pricing, exchange trading, and investor protection compared to unregulated digital gold platforms.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Panchayat Awards 2025



- ❖ National Panchayat Awards recognised outstanding Panchayats for achievements in rural development and local governance.
- ❖ Kawrthah North Village of Mizoram received the top rank under the “Clean and Green Panchayat” category.
- ❖ Karnataka topped the awards with 6 awards, followed by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh with 5 awards each.
- ❖ A total of 34 Gram Panchayats (GPs) were selected under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP).
- ❖ Eight Panchayats were selected under the Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSVP).
- ❖ New Napam Gaon Panchayat of Assam won India’s Best Gram Panchayat award under NDSPSVP 2025.
- ❖ Telcup of Bihar and Biraharu of Uttar Pradesh have secured the second and third positions respectively.

National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 to 15 nursing professionals at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 12 May 2026 (International Nurses Day).

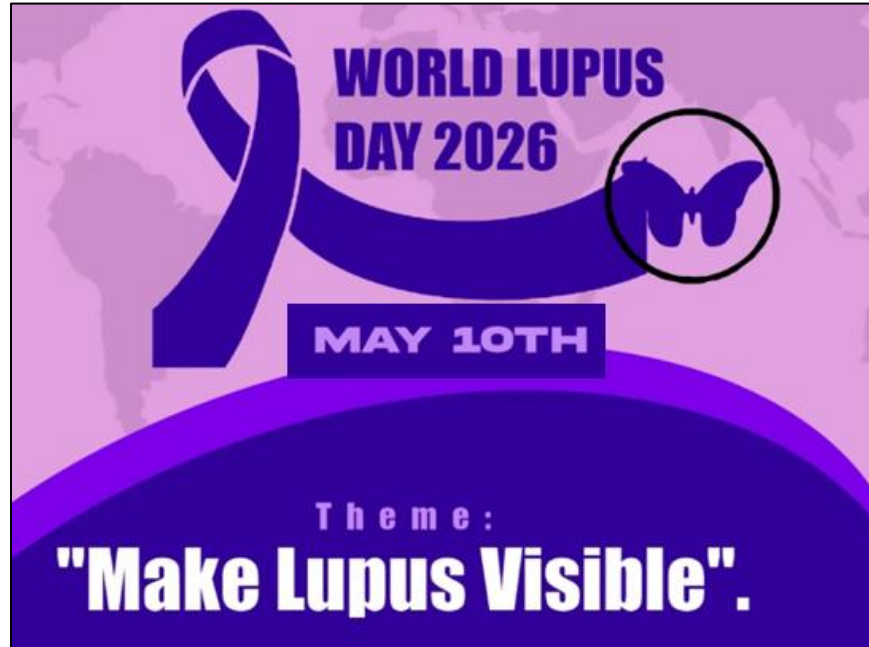
- ❖ The awards are given by the Union Health Ministry to recognise the service of Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), registered nurses, nursing officers, and nursing educators.
- ❖ Aysha Beebi K from Lakshadweep received the award for handling a critical midnight delivery on a remote island in 2026.
- ❖ Kulwinder Parhi from Ladakh was honoured for nearly 30 years of nursing service in high-altitude regions.
- ❖ Each awardee received a Certificate of Merit, a medal, and a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.



IMPORTANT DAYS

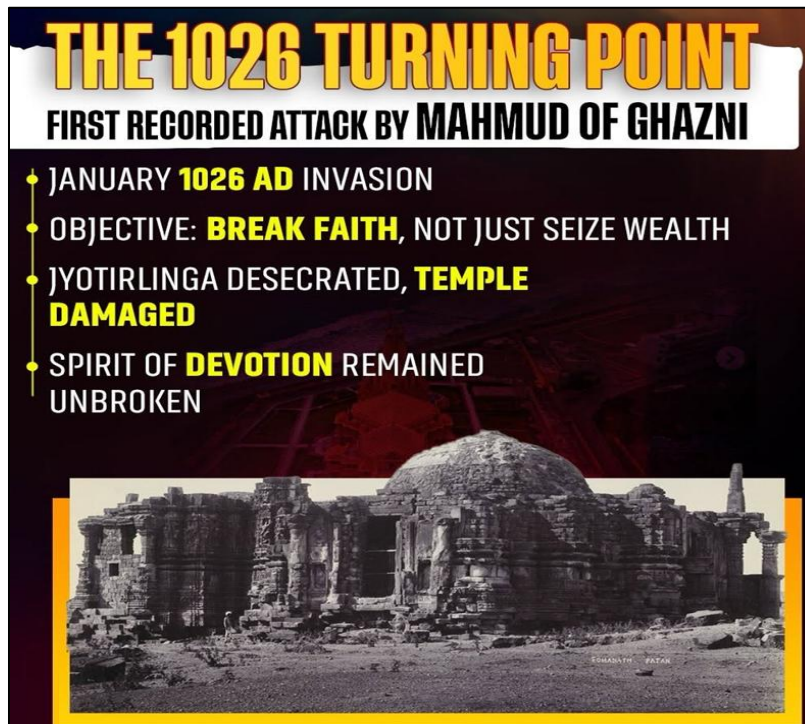
World Lupus Day 2026 - May 10

- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease.
- ❖ Lupus is an autoimmune disease in which the immune system attacks healthy tissues and organs.
- ❖ Common symptoms include fatigue, joint pain, butterfly-shaped facial rash, fever, hair loss, and mouth ulcers.
- ❖ The observance promotes awareness, early detection, patient support, and reduction of stigma related to autoimmune diseases.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Make Lupus Visible”.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Somnath Temple 2026



- ❖ Somnath Temple is commemorating 75 years of its reopening in May 1951 and 1000 years since the first recorded invasion of the temple in 1026.

- ❖ The temple was ceremonially reopened on 11 May 1951 by India's first President, Rajendra Prasad, after reconstruction efforts led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ Somnath is the first among the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva and is located at Prabhas Patan in Gujarat.
- ❖ The temple faced repeated invasions and destruction from the 11th century onwards, beginning with the first recorded attack in 1026.
- ❖ The present temple was rebuilt in the Kailash Mahameru Prasad architectural style and stands as a symbol of faith, resilience, and cultural continuity.
- ❖ PM, Chairman of the Somnath Trust, visited the temple on 11 May 2026 during the Somnath Swabhiman Parv celebrations.
- ❖ Somnath is aiming to become India's first Net-Zero temple through rainwater harvesting, waste recycling, vermicompost production, Miyawaki forests, and renewable sustainability initiatives.

