

May - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India signed an MoU to set up the country's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.
 - The project is part of the India–Republic of Korea maritime cooperation framework called VOYAGES (Shared Vision for Operation of Yard Assisted Growth with Efficiency and Scale).
- ❖ Scientists discovered a rare giant tree species named *Daturodendron* in the Andes Mountains, belonging to the Solanaceae family, which grows up to 20 metres tall in the cloud forests of Colombia and Peru.
- ❖ Soma Mandal from India won the South Asia regional award in the Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026.
- ❖ Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based private space startup, became India's first space-tech unicorn after raising USD (United States Dollar) 60 million in funding.
 - A unicorn is a startup company valued at more than USD 1 billion.
- ❖ South Korea introduced its first humanoid robot monk named "Gabi" at the Jogye Temple in Seoul ahead of Buddha's Birthday celebrations.
- ❖ International Nurses Day is observed on May 12 every year to honour the contribution of nurses in healthcare services.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

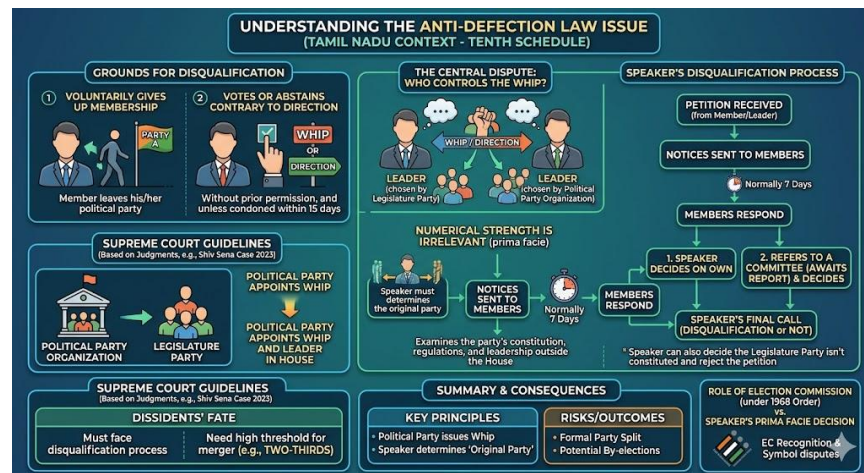
India's 2nd Largest Jewelry Leasing Market - Chennai

- ❖ Chennai became India's second-largest jewellery leasing market in 2025, according to a report by CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ Chennai accounted for 27% of India's jewellery leasing activity in 2025, rising sharply from 16% in 2024.
- ❖ The city recorded around 0.25 million square feet of cumulative jewellery leasing during 2023–2025.
- ❖ Major jewellery leasing activity was concentrated in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai, which together contributed over 90% of total leasing volume.

- ❖ Areas such as T. Nagar, Anna Nagar, and Velachery remained key retail destinations with premium rental demand.



Anti defection law issue in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ As per the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and the Members of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (Disqualification Ground of Defection) Rules, 1986, there are two grounds for disqualification in the event of defection.
- ❖ When a member voluntarily gives up membership of his or her political party and when a member votes or abstains from voting contrary to any direction issued by his or her political party.
- ❖ Over the years, different judicial pronouncements have been given and, in some cases, judgments have differed from each other.
- ❖ Palaniswami is of the view that he, being the general secretary of the party, had appointed his colleague-former Minister "Agri" S.S. Krishnamurthy, as the whip of the legislature party and the latter, in turn, conveyed through e-mail, registered

post and SMS, about the line to be pursued by the legislators in the Assembly on the trust motion.

- ❖ He claims the AIADMK's legislative party has been constituted with him at the helm.
- ❖ He also contends that written consent has been secured from all the legislators with regard to his election as the leader of the legislature party.
- ❖ However, the opposite camp dismisses Mr. Palaniswami's account of events and asserts that no election has taken place.
- ❖ It also demands that the resolution with regard to the appointment of the leader and the whip be made public.
- ❖ On the contrary, that group has nominated persons for different posts in the legislature party.
- ❖ If Mr. Palaniswami gives a petition to the Speaker requesting him to initiate disqualification proceedings, Mr. Prabhakar can set the process in motion by sending notices to the legislators concerned.
- ❖ Ordinarily, seven days will be provided to such members for giving their comments.
- ❖ Upon the receipt of the members' responses, the Speaker can either decide on his own or refer the matter to a committee and await the panel's report, after which he can take a final call.
- ❖ Else, the Speaker can conclude that the AIADMK's legislature party has not yet been constituted and may not take cognisance of the petition, if any, given by the Palaniswami camp.
- ❖ Palaniswami will have to decide whether to seek the disqualification of those who voted against him.
- ❖ The 10th Schedule gives a political party the option of condoning such a vote within 15 days.
- ❖ In 2017, he did not seek action against 11 AIADMK legislators of the O. Panneerselvam faction when they voted against him.
- ❖ A related question is whether a whip was issued and received by all members of the AIADMK.
- ❖ It remains to be seen whether Mr. Palaniswami is going to cite the second scenario, which appears to be a straightforward instance of defection.
- ❖ In September 2017, the then Assembly Speaker P. Dhanapal referred to the first scenario while disqualifying 18 AIADMK MLAs for having given representations in the previous month to Governor Vidyasagar Rao, expressing their lack of confidence in Mr. Palaniswami, who was the Chief Minister.



- ❖ The Supreme Court verdict in Subash Desai vs. Principal Secretary to the Governor, delivered in May 2023, deals squarely with the fate of dissident legislators who are numerically larger than the MLAs loyal to the original party leadership.
- ❖ A key ruling in the judgment is that it is the political party and not the legislature party that appoints its whip and gives the direction to vote in a particular manner or abstain.
- ❖ Therefore, any claim by another faction that it has its own whip and its own direction to vote cannot be countenanced by the Speaker.
- ❖ The second principle in the judgment is that the numerical strength of respective factions is irrelevant.
- ❖ However, the Court also recognised that the Speaker may have to determine which of the two factions constitutes the original party, and he may examine the party's own constitution and other regulations that spell out its structure.
- ❖ The structure of leadership outside the House is also a relevant consideration.
- ❖ The Speaker's determination on which group constitutes the party is only a prima facie finding, and would not have any impact on the Election Commission's power to adjudicate the question under Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
- ❖ That order deals with the recognition of parties and the allotment of symbols.
- ❖ A key question is whether the dissidents have incurred disqualification under the anti-defection law.
- ❖ The camp led by Mr Palaniswami cites the Supreme Court's judgement in the Shiv Sena case of May 2023, wherein the Court addressed one of the issues which is of relevance to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In Maharashtra, too, conflicting whips were issued by rival groups to members of the Shiv Sena.
- ❖ Eventually, the Court held that "to hold that it is the legislature party which appoints the Whip would be to sever the figurative umbilical cord which connects a member of the House to the political party."
- ❖ It concluded that "the political party, and not the legislature party, appoints the Whip and the Leader in the House."
- ❖ Under the rules governing the question of disqualification in the Assembly, each party has to submit a list of its members and designations within 30 days of the first sitting of the House.
- ❖ The appointment of a member as the Whip, as well as the existence of a 'direction' to the members on the manner of voting (the word 'whip' is not used in the Tenth

Schedule) and its communication to all members, will all be questions of fact that may require adjudication.

- ❖ If he seeks the rebels' disqualification, the move may lead to a formal split in the party, and may result in byelections that would lead to further marginalisation.
- ❖ On the other hand, even if he doesn't, the other faction, led by former ministers S.P. Velumani and C. V. Shanmugam, may gain the upper hand within the party structure.
- ❖ However, what stands in his favour is that the dissidents are in no position to save themselves from disqualification, as they do not have the requisite two-thirds strength to claim that they have merged with another party.
- ❖ The 2023 judgment of a Constitution Bench on related questions arising from the anti-defection law is also not in their favour.

Illegal voting in the 2026 elections



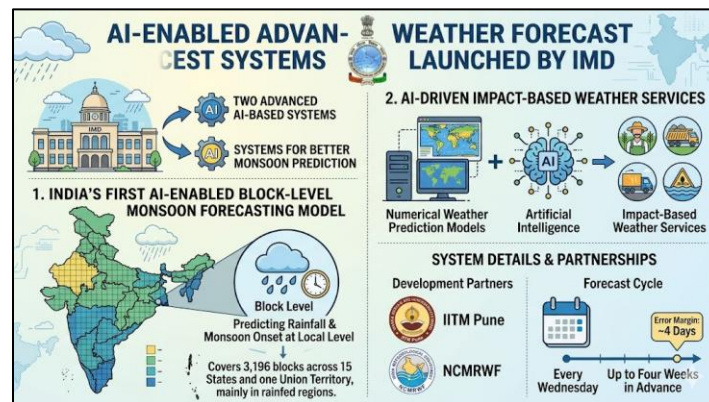
- ❖ About 25 foreign nationals have been arrested or detained so far for allegedly casting votes with fraudulently obtained identity documents in the recent Tamil Nadu Assembly election.
- ❖ The accused persons, carrying foreign passports, were intercepted by officials of the Bureau of Immigration and detained by the local police after indelible ink (the mark of a cast ballot) was found on their index fingers.
- ❖ Legal proceedings under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and other laws were initiated against them.

- ❖ Under ECI rules, an ‘overseas elector’ must be a citizen of India who has not acquired citizenship in any other country.
- ❖ While Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can register themselves to vote under Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, they are required to produce an original Indian passport at the polling booth.
- ❖ Those who have renounced Indian citizenship are barred from voting.

NATIONAL NEWS

AI-Enabled Advanced Weather Forecast Systems

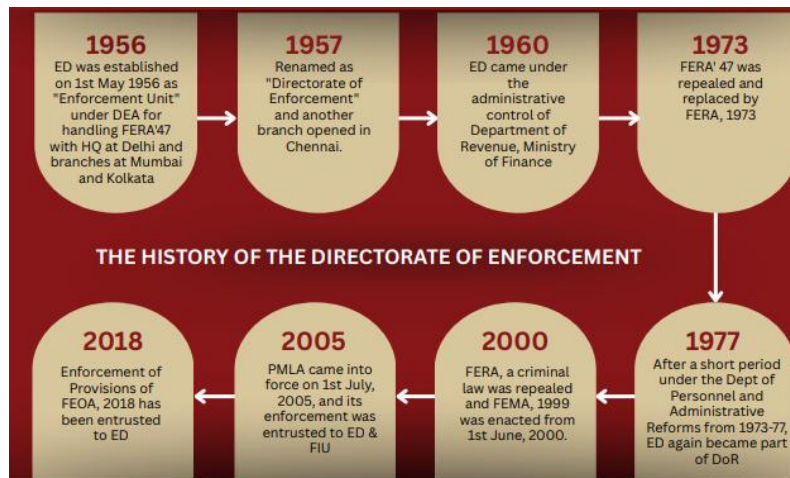
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department launched two advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based weather forecast systems for better monsoon prediction.
- ❖ The first system is India’s first AI-enabled block-level monsoon forecasting model for predicting rainfall and monsoon onset at the local level.
- ❖ The second system provides AI-driven impact-based weather services by combining numerical weather prediction models with Artificial Intelligence technology.
- ❖ The systems were developed with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting.
- ❖ The model gives forecasts every Wednesday up to four weeks in advance with an error margin of nearly four days.
- ❖ At present, the system covers 3,196 blocks across 15 States and one Union Territory, mainly in rainfed regions.



70 Years of the Directorate of Enforcement


- ❖ The Enforcement Directorate (ED) was established on May 1, 1956, under the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance.

- ❖ ED is a non-constitutional and non-statutory executive body that investigates financial crimes and enforces economic laws across India.
- ❖ It works mainly under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- ❖ Under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA), 2018, ED can seize properties of economic offenders who flee India to avoid prosecution.
- ❖ ED is headed by the Director of Enforcement and has its headquarters in New Delhi with 10 zonal offices and 11 sub-zonal offices across the country.



ECLGS 5.0 Scheme

Cabinet approves
Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0



Salient Features:

- Eligible borrowers include:
 - › MSMEs and non-MSMEs with existing working capital limits
 - › Scheduled passenger airlines having outstanding credit facilities, as of March 31, 2026 whose accounts are standard
- Guarantee coverage is **100%** for MSMEs and **90%** for non-MSMEs and airline
- Scheme would be applicable to all loans sanctioned during the period from the date of issue of these guidelines by NCGTC upto 31.03.2027

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 to support businesses affected by the West Asia crisis.

- ❖ The scheme will provide additional credit support through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited to banks and lending institutions.
- ❖ ECLGS 5.0 targets an extra credit flow of ₹2.55 lakh crore, including ₹5,000 crore for airlines.
- ❖ The scheme offers 100% guarantee coverage for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and 90% coverage for non-MSMEs and airlines.
- ❖ The scheme will apply to loans sanctioned up to 31 March 2027.

India Semiconductor Mission 2.0



- ❖ The Union Budget 2026–27 announced India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 to strengthen India’s semiconductor ecosystem.
- ❖ ISM 2.0 aims to make India a major player in the global semiconductor value chain under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.
- ❖ A budget allocation of ₹1,000 crore has been made for the Financial Year 2026–27.
- ❖ The mission focuses on indigenous manufacturing of semiconductor equipment, chemicals, gases, and materials to reduce import dependence.
- ❖ Under ISM 1.0, approved in 2021, ten semiconductor projects worth ₹1.60 lakh crore have been approved across six states.
- ❖ India’s semiconductor market is expected to grow from \$45–50 billion in 2024–25 to \$100–110 billion by 2030.

School Management Committee Guidelines 2026

- ❖ The Union Education Minister launched the School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines 2026 in New Delhi.

- ❖ Every school up to Grade 12 must form a School Management Committee (SMC) within one month of the academic year.
- ❖ At least 75% of SMC members must be parents or guardians, and 50% members must be women.
- ❖ The guidelines require SMCs to prepare a three-year School Development Plan (SDP) for infrastructure and academic improvement.
- ❖ SMCs will monitor school safety, government grants, social audits, and student welfare activities.



International Big Cat Alliance Summit 2026

- ❖ The Union Environment Minister launched the official website and logo for the 1st International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ IBCA was launched on 9 April 2023 as an inter-governmental alliance for global big cat conservation.
- ❖ The IBCA Secretariat is headquartered in New Delhi, India and connects 95 big cat range countries.
- ❖ The alliance focuses on the conservation of seven big cats — the tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

- ❖ IBCA aims to strengthen transboundary cooperation, scientific research, capacity building, and conservation financing.
- ❖ The 2026 Summit is expected to adopt the first global declaration on big cat conservation.



CBI director extension 2026



- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director, Praveen Sood, has been given another one-year extension.

- ❖ It was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee.
- ❖ The 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was earlier granted a one-year extension in May 2025 after completion of his two-year term as CBI chief.
- ❖ The Selection Committee, headed by the Prime Minister, also includes Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and the Opposition leader.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) is India's highest-level executive body responsible for appointing senior officials to top positions in the central government, public sector undertakings, and financial institutions.
- ❖ The committee consists of the Prime Minister (Chairperson) and the Minister of Home Affairs.

Phase III of Special Intensive Revision

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for Phase 3 of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 16 States and three Union Territories.
- ❖ The States and Union Territories where the SIR-3 would be carried out in a staggered manner are: Delhi, Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- ❖ With this phase, the exercise would cover the entire country, except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ❖ The SIR schedule for these States would be announced later, after considering the completion of Phase-II of the Census and due consideration of the weather in the upper reaches or snow-bound areas.
- ❖ In Assam, due to the legalities of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a “special revision” was conducted.
- ❖ While announcing Phase 2, the EC had introduced certain changes with learnings from Bihar.
- ❖ In Bihar, the first phase had been carried out.
- ❖ The most important of them was that no documents were to be collected from electors during the Enumeration Phase.
- ❖ Aadhaar had been added as the 12th document as directed by the Supreme Court, but only as proof of identity and not of citizenship.
- ❖ The Special Intensive Revision is being conducted to ensure that only eligible voters are included in the electoral rolls.

- ❖ The Commission also informed that electors aggrieved by decisions of the ERO may file an appeal before the District Magistrate under Section 24(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- ❖ It is followed by a second appeal to the Chief Electoral Officer under Section 24(b) and Rule 27 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

SIR Phase 3 announced for remaining India; HP, J&K, Ladakh excluded for now

One Case One Data Initiative



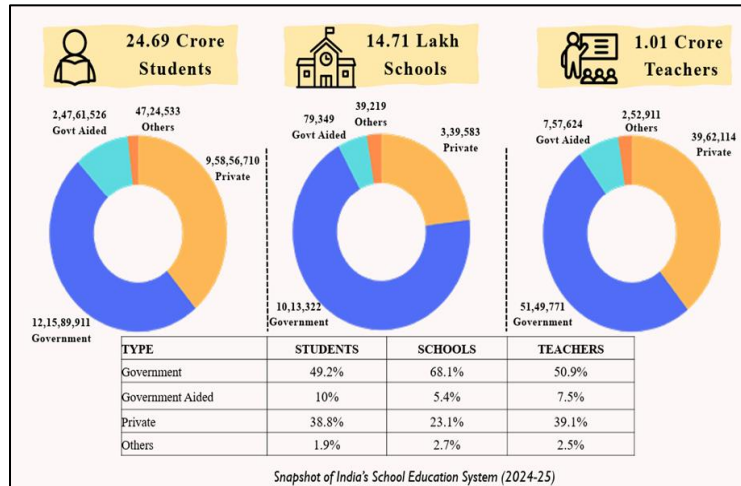
- ❖ The Chief Justice of India (CJI) launched the 'One Case One Data' initiative and an AI-powered chatbot called 'Su Sahay'.

- ❖ It is a major digital infrastructure project designed to integrate judicial information across all levels of the Indian judiciary into a single, unified system.
- ❖ The primary goal is to develop an efficient national case management system that eliminates data fragmentation by connecting the records of different court tiers, thereby enhancing the speed and transparency of the judicial process.
- ❖ 'Su Sahay' is an Artificial Intelligence-powered assistance chatbot integrated directly into the Supreme Court of India's website.
- ❖ It was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry.

NITI Aayog report on school education system (2014-15 to 2024-25)

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a policy report titled 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement'.
- ❖ It is a policy document that presents a comprehensive, decade-long analysis of India's School Education System across key parameters such as access and enrolment, infrastructure, equity and inclusion, and learning outcomes.
- ❖ It draws on secondary data from UDISE+ 2024-25, PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, NAS 2017 and 2021, and ASER 2024.
- ❖ India's school education system today spans 14.71 lakh schools, serving over 24.69 crore students, making it the largest system in the world.
- ❖ While there are about 7.3 lakh primary schools, there are only around 1.64 lakh higher secondary schools.
- ❖ Four out of every 10 children who enter the system drop out before completing higher secondary education.
- ❖ It means only 5.4% of schools offer a continuous journey from Grade 1 to 12.
- ❖ Close to 7,993 schools across the country reported zero student enrolment.
- ❖ The highest numbers were seen in West Bengal (3,812) and Telangana (2,245).
- ❖ The report recommends 'Cylindrical' Schooling to fix the "leaky pipeline" of student dropouts, which involves creating composite schools that cover Grades 1-12 under one roof.
- ❖ The report highlights that, according to UDISE+ 2024-25, 1.19 lakh schools lack access to functional electricity.
- ❖ Access to water and hygiene facilities is also inconsistent.
- ❖ The share of schools with drinking water facilities has increased from 96.5% in 2014 to 99% in 2025, but 14,505 schools still lack functional water sources, and nearly 59,829 lack hand-washing facilities, compromising student health and hygiene.

- ❖ Improving learning outcomes in children and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are challenges that need to be tackled in the school education system.
- ❖ The report points to the fact that the Right to Education Act ends at age 14, leaving families to bear the costs of tuition, books, and transport for older children.
- ❖ The report noted that India's current 4.6% GDP allocation to education remains below the 6% target first recommended in 1964.



Justice Aravind Kumar Committee



- ❖ Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has announced to constitute a high-powered committee headed by Supreme Court Justice Aravind Kumar to prepare a blueprint for the Modernisation of courts across the country.
- ❖ And it will secure a government allocation of 40 to 50 thousand crore rupees for the purpose.

- ❖ The 'Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee' will address infrastructural deficiencies in courts through substantial financial support from the government.
- ❖ It will focus on seven key areas, including identifying systemic constraints, improving facilities for litigants and lawyers, and implementing cutting-edge technology to accelerate case disposal.
- ❖ The panel will also focus on the e-courts initiative to bridge the digital divide and the construction of modern court complexes designed for the 21st century.

Human-Animal Conflict Zones 2025/26

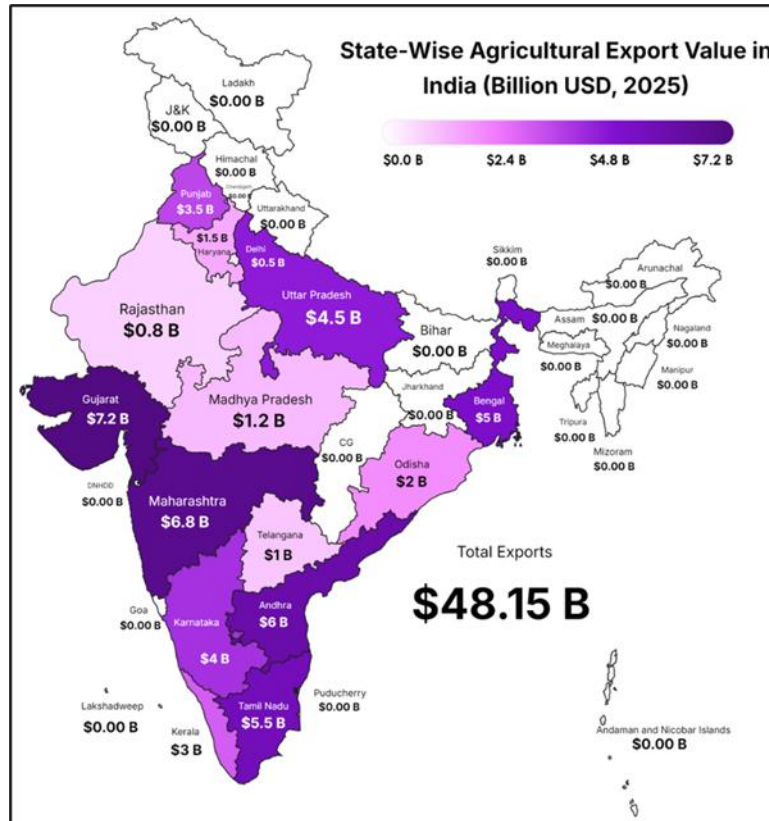
- ❖ In 2025, India recorded 166 tiger deaths, the highest annual figure since 1973
- ❖ Karnataka is recording 53 human deaths in the 2025-26 fiscal year, and Madhya Pradesh is witnessing a crisis with 28 tiger deaths in the first five months of 2026.
- ❖ Approximately 500 people are killed annually in India due to encounters with elephants alone, primarily in Odisha, West Bengal, and Assam.



Indian Agri-Exports 2025/26

- ❖ Indian Agri-Exports defied Trade Barriers to post record growth.
- ❖ It was surpassing \$50 billion in FY 2025–26, despite steep tariffs imposed by the United States.
- ❖ Share of processed food exports has risen consistently, from ~15 % in FY18 to ~20 % in FY25.

- ❖ Lower crop yields in the world's biggest coffee producers (Brazil and Vietnam) created a lucrative gap for Indian exports.
- ❖ The marine product exports saw rising shipments to China, Vietnam, Japan, and Belgium.
- ❖ In spices, India has become a substantial exporter of chilli, cumin, mint, turmeric, coriander, ginger, fennel, oleoresins and curry powder/paste.
- ❖ India is also a net importer of traditional plantation spices such as pepper and cardamom.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India–Jamaica Trade Cooperation

- ❖ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar made his first bilateral visit to Jamaica to strengthen India–Jamaica relations.
- ❖ Both countries signed agreements related to digital transformation, cultural exchange, sports, and digital payments.
- ❖ India recognised Jamaica as an important logistics hub and gateway to the Caribbean region.

- ❖ India appreciated Jamaica's support for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for 2028–29.
- ❖ India announced humanitarian assistance, including dialysis units, fishing boats, GPS devices, and support for Jamaica's recovery after Hurricane Melissa.

INDIA, JAMAICA AGREE TO BOOST TRADE, SKILLED MOBILITY: JAISHANKAR

Kingston, India and Jamaica have agreed to strengthen trade linkages and explore cooperation for recruitment and mobility of skilled professionals, including healthcare workers and teachers, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

India–Vietnam Strategic Relations



India-Vietnam Ties Hit Historic High as PM Modi Announces Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

- ❖ The President of Vietnam visited India during the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- ❖ India and Vietnam upgraded ties to an “Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”.

- ❖ Both countries set a bilateral trade target of USD 25 billion by 2030.
- ❖ Vietnam joined India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) to support a free and open Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ India and Vietnam signed agreements on defence, digital payments, rare earth minerals, healthcare, and cultural cooperation.
- ❖ Both nations supported freedom of navigation and peaceful dispute resolution in the South China Sea under UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) 1982.

Marka-e-Haq Day of Pakistan

- ❖ Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced that May 10 will be celebrated as 'Marka-e-Haq Day' annually.
- ❖ In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year.
- ❖ The day honours the Pakistani armed forces' response during the April 22 – May 10, 2025, conflict with India.

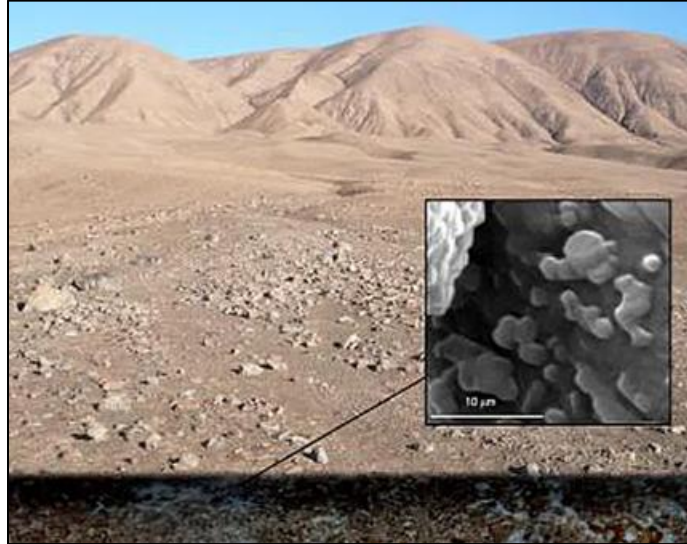


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Life Under the Atacama Desert

- ❖ Scientists discovered a microbial ecosystem two metres below the surface of the Atacama Desert in Chile.
- ❖ The ecosystem contains bacteria, archaea, DNA, and microscopic roundworms called nematodes living in extreme desert conditions.
- ❖ The Atacama Desert is the driest hot desert in the world and is widely used for astrobiology studies because its environment is similar to Mars.

- ❖ Earlier studies found microbial life mainly within the top 30 centimetres of soil, but recent findings show life can survive at much greater depths.
- ❖ Researchers from the University of Cologne collected 112 soil samples from six regions and identified at least 36 genera from 21 nematode families.



Plastic Waste Road Technology



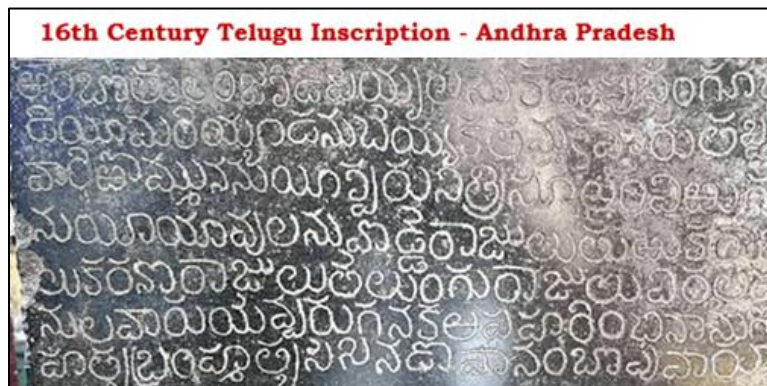
- ❖ CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) and BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited) received recognition from the India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records.
- ❖ They created the first roadblock section using technical textile geocells made from end-of-life plastic waste.
- ❖ The project was developed to promote sustainable road infrastructure and scientific plastic waste management.
- ❖ The technology converts difficult-to-manage plastic waste into durable road construction material, supporting the circular economy.

- ❖ The project was recognised as a first-of-its-kind innovation in road engineering and sustainable infrastructure development in India.

STATE NEWS

16th Century Telugu Inscription - Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ A 16th century Telugu inscription was discovered at Sri Bugga Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The inscription was found on the north wall of the temple at Tadipatri.
- ❖ Historian MyNaa Swamy dated the inscription to either 1574 CE or 1634 CE.
- ❖ The inscription records obeisance paid by Basavappa, son of Satram Cheruvupalli Kalayya, from Mahimaluru in Udayagiri Seema.
- ❖ The carving also shows Basavappa and his wife standing beside a Sivalingam in a devotional posture.
- ❖ Tadipatri was part of Pennabadi Seema under the Vijayanagara Empire during that period.



Draft Uniform Civil Code Bill – Assam

- ❖ The Assam Government will introduce the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the State Assembly.
- ❖ The proposed legislation aims to address issues including the legal age of marriage, polygamy, inheritance, and live-in relationships.
- ❖ The religious practices would remain outside the scope of the Bill.
- ❖ Tribal communities living in both the hill and plain regions of the State will also be exempted from the provisions of the proposed law.
- ❖ With this move, Assam is set to become the third State, after Uttarakhand and Gujarat, to table a Uniform Civil Code Bill.

- ❖ Uttarakhand became the first Indian state to enact a Uniform Civil Code law in 2024.
- ❖ Goa is the only Indian state to implement a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), governed by the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867.
- ❖ Article 44 of the Constitution of India places the UCC among the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Assam Cabinet to introduce Uniform Civil Code Bill in Assembly on May 26



2022 Hijab Ban Order

- ❖ The Karnataka government has withdrawn its February 2022 order on school uniforms.
- ❖ It issued new guidelines that permit students to wear a limited range of traditional and religion-based symbols alongside prescribed uniforms in government, aided and private schools and pre-university colleges.
- ❖ It said institutions were spaces intended to promote scientific temper, rationality, equality, dignity, fraternity, discipline, secularism, mutual respect & social harmony.
- ❖ It allows students to wear the hijab or headscarf, turban, Shivadhara, sacred thread and Rudraksha with the institutional uniform.
- ❖ But provided they do not interfere with discipline, safety or student identification.

- ❖ At the same time, no student can be compelled either to wear or to remove such symbols.

