

September - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Shakti Sharma has become the first woman officer from the non-medical branch of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal.
- ❖ Researchers discovered and formally described a new scorpion species, *Liocheles gracilipalpus*, from the Shivalik Hills of Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir.
 - It belongs to the Hormuridae family and was discovered at an elevation of 1,655 metres above sea level.
- ❖ Scientists discovered a new species of stingless honey bee named *Tetragonula nagalandensis* in the Medziphema region of Nagaland.
 - The species was named *nagalandensis* in honour of Nagaland, where it was first discovered, taking the total number of known stingless bee species in India to 19.
- ❖ A rare Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) was recently spotted in Chandu village, Gurgaon.
 - Its International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List status is Vulnerable.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Handloom and Textile Measures in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced a 10% increase in basic wages and dearness allowance (DA) for handloom weavers who are members of cooperative societies.

- ❖ The government contribution under the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Handloom Weavers' Savings and Security Scheme will increase from 8% to 16%.
- ❖ A Tamil Nadu Knitwear Board will be established with representatives from the government and various stakeholders.
- ❖ A Silk Export Trade Facilitation Centre will be set up at the Perarignar Anna Handloom Silk Park, Kancheepuram, to support high-quality silk production and exports.
- ❖ 100% subsidy will be provided for installing solar panels in 1,000 handloom units, while a Natural Dye House will be established at a cost of ₹1 crore.
- ❖ A Design Studio for Thirubuvanam silk will be established in Thanjavur district for ₹20 lakh, and a Centre of Excellence for Home Textiles will be planned in Karur.

Vetri Kaivinai Kalaignargal Thittam

“வெற்றி கைவினைக் கலைஞர்கள் திட்டம் (VKKT)”

25 கைவினை தொழில்களில் ஈடுபடும் கைவினைக் கலைஞர்களுக்கு உதவிடும் வகையில் “வெற்றி கைவினைக் கலைஞர்கள் திட்டம் (VKKT)” செயல்படுத்தப்படும்.

இத்திட்டத்தின் கீழ் அதிகபட்ச திட்ட மதிப்பீடு 10 இலட்சம் ரூபாயாக நிர்ணயம் செய்யப்பட்டு மானியம் 50 விழுக்காடு வழங்கப்படும்.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu is set to implement the Vetri Kaivinai Kalaignargal Thittam (VKKT) to support artisans engaged in 25 traditional craft trades.
- ❖ The scheme aims to preserve traditional arts and add value to Tamil Nadu's traditional handicraft products.
- ❖ Artisans will receive loan assistance of up to ₹10 lakh, with a 50% subsidy.
- ❖ The scheme will provide financial support to artisans and create new opportunities for the growth of their traditional craft businesses.
- ❖ It is intended to support the development of traditional crafts and the livelihoods of artisans.

Vettri Karangal Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government launched 'Vettri Karangal' to provide international skill training to construction workers for overseas employment.
- ❖ Under the scheme, 1,000 registered construction workers will receive international-level skill training at a cost of ₹15 crore.
- ❖ Another 50,000 registered workers will receive seven-day training in masonry, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing and painting, with ₹800 per day as wage-loss compensation.
- ❖ The government will also double accident insurance cover for registered gig workers to ₹10 lakh and bear interest on bank loans for 1,000 gig workers buying e-bikes.
- ❖ 50 worker facilitation centres and temporary shelters for migrant construction workers will be established in Chennai and Coimbatore metropolitan areas.



NATIONAL NEWS

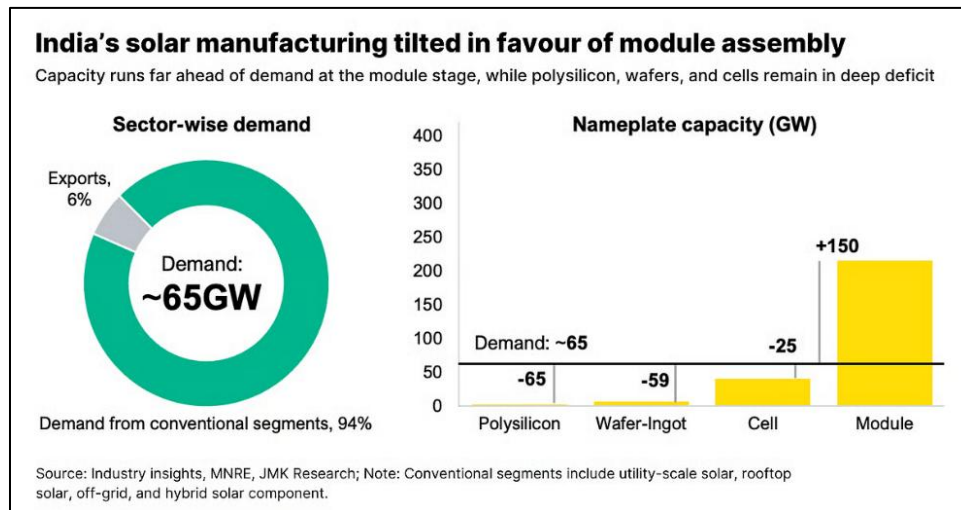
National Conference on Quantum Biotechnology 2026

- ❖ The National Conference on Quantum Biotechnology 2026 was held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to promote quantum technology applications in life sciences and healthcare.
- ❖ It focused on applications in diagnostics, biomedical imaging, drug discovery, precision medicine, and biosensing.
- ❖ QMet Tech Foundation at IIT Bombay is the thematic hub for Quantum Sensing and Metrology under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

- ❖ Key discussions included quantum biology, quantum biosensors, and the transition of biosensing technologies from laboratories to industry.



Solar PV Overcapacity Risk



- ❖ India's solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity reached 233 gigawatts (GW) by June 2026, raising concerns about overcapacity and weak upstream manufacturing.
- ❖ India had 233 GW of solar module capacity, but only about 35 GW of cell capacity and very limited ingot and wafer capacity, showing a major upstream gap.
- ❖ Module factories were operating at only 35% to 40% utilisation, while another 135 GW of capacity was planned or under construction.
- ❖ Data centres, green hydrogen and exports could add 17 GW to 22 GW of solar demand by 2030, but this may not absorb the expected surplus.
- ❖ India exported about 4.5 GW of solar modules in Financial Year (FY) 2026, with nearly 97% going to the United States (US), creating high export dependence.

- ❖ Small non-integrated manufacturers and those using older Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell (PERC) technology face higher risks, while Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact (TOPCon) already accounts for over 70% of India's module capacity.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Artemis Accords - Turkey

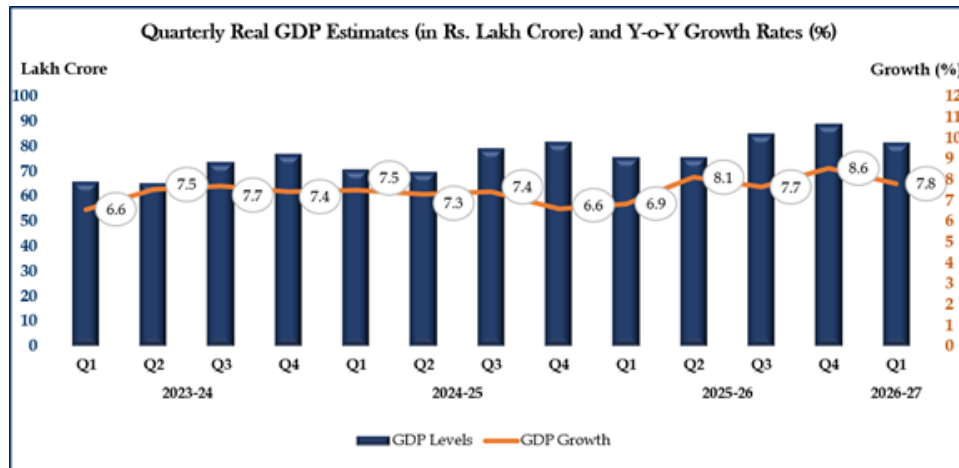


- ❖ Turkey became the 71st country to join the Artemis Accords, a framework for safe and peaceful space exploration.
- ❖ The Artemis Accords were launched in 2020 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Department of State.
- ❖ The agreement promotes safe, transparent and peaceful exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond, based on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.
- ❖ Signatories commit to sharing scientific data, assisting astronauts during emergencies and promoting interoperability of space systems.
- ❖ Turkey is the seventh West Asian country to join the Accords, after the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan and Israel.
- ❖ Turkey is developing its first uncrewed lunar mission, AYAP-1, and aims to strengthen its capabilities in space exploration.

ECONOMY NEWS

GDP Methodology and Q1 Estimates

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) explained the revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates for the first quarter (Q1) of 2026-27.
- ❖ A negative 1.5% manufacturing GVA (Gross Value Added) deflator does not mean manufacturing prices fell; it resulted from input prices rising faster than output prices under the double-deflation method.
- ❖ Manufacturing nominal GVA grew 7.7%, while real GVA grew 9.2% in Q1 2026-27.
- ❖ Q1 2025-26 current-price GDP was revised from ₹86.05 lakh crore to ₹80.00 lakh crore due to the new 2022-23 base year, improved data sources, and updated indicators.
- ❖ The GDP deflator, Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) differ because they cover different goods, services, and economic activities.
- ❖ Mining and Quarrying real GVA fell 2.4%, while nominal GVA grew 22.3%, mainly due to sharp increases in mineral prices.

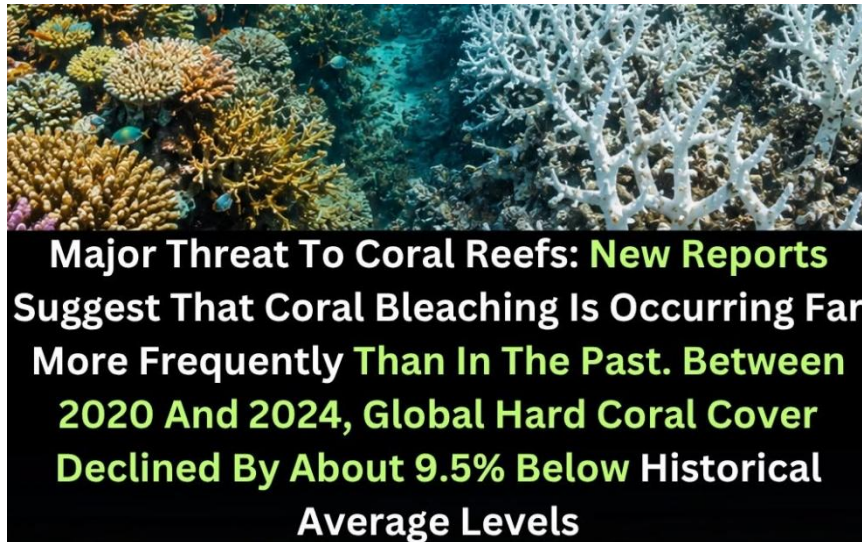


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Coral Bleaching Threat

- ❖ The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) released its seventh Status of Coral Reefs of the World report, showing that coral bleaching events are becoming more frequent.
- ❖ Global hard coral cover declined by about 9.5% compared with the 1980–2009 reference period, with a major decline since 2010.

- ❖ In 2024, 87% of reefs experienced unprecedented heat stress, while 42.6% faced heat stress severe enough to risk widespread bleaching and coral mortality.
- ❖ Marine heatwaves, intensified by human-caused climate change, have become the strongest global driver of coral-cover decline; reef recovery periods have shortened from about 10 years to 4–6 years in many regions.
- ❖ The fourth global mass coral bleaching event began in 2023 and was likely the most severe and widespread event recorded, with its full impact expected to continue after 2024.
- ❖ The assessment used 21.1 million observations from 87,299 surveys across 36,886 reef sites between 1980 and 2024.



REPORTS AND INDICES

UN Report on Warming Overshoot

- ❖ A landmark United Nations (UN) report warns that the world is likely to cross the 1.5°C global warming limit by around 2030, but temporary overshoot can still be reversed later this century.
- ❖ The Paris Agreement (2015) aims to keep global warming well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- ❖ The world is already about 1.4°C warmer than pre-industrial levels, and crossing 1.5°C could increase extreme weather, sea-level rise, biodiversity loss, and other climate risks.
- ❖ With rapid fossil fuel phase-out and emission cuts, warming could potentially be limited to around 1.8°C, followed by carbon removal to bring temperatures back to 1.5°C or below.

- ❖ Carbon dioxide removal could involve tree planting and ecosystem restoration, while technologies such as rock weathering and ocean alkalinity enhancement are still not proven at large scale.
- ❖ The report stresses urgent emission reductions, international cooperation, climate finance, and strong political action to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach.



STATE NEWS

Census 2026 in Manipur

- ❖ The Centre defers Census operations in Manipur (Centre defers Census operations in Manipur).
- ❖ There are demands to first conduct the State's National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise with 1951 as the base year.
- ❖ A demand was raised by the people of Manipur, specifically Meitei, Pangals (Meitei Muslims), and Nagas, to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before conducting the Census.
- ❖ The Meiteis, who are in the majority in Imphal Valley, opposed the Census 2027 exercise.
- ❖ The Manipur government has consistently backed the NRC.
- ❖ The petitions in Manipur High court sought directions to update the NRC using 1951 as the base year and to address concerns over illegal migration from Myanmar before the Census is carried out.
- ❖ Earlier, the influential Kuki-Zo Council dismissed the NRC demand and welcomed the Census exercise.
- ❖ The NRC, requiring the transfer of data from Census slips, was born out of independent India's first census in 1951.

- ❖ All States were mandated to compile an NRC, but it was done only in Assam.
- ❖ The census in India is conducted under the Census Act, 1948
- ❖ The Union Government holds the power to order a census via a notification in the official Gazette.
- ❖ The census comes under the Union List as per the 7th schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India handles the operations under the Ministry of Home Affairs.



The name of the High Court of Kerala

- ❖ The name High Court of Kerala (HCK) would stay despite Kerala becoming Keralam.
- ❖ Kerala's name change to Keralam will leave no impact on the High Court of Kerala.
- ❖ The amendment process for the High Court has to be initiated by Parliament on a recommendation by the State executive and after ascertaining the views of the State Judiciary.
- ❖ The name change of the High Court can be made only through a High Court Name Amendment Act to be passed by Parliament.
- ❖ Though there were proposals for amending the names of the High Courts of Madras and Bombay in 2016, the amendment bills introduced in Parliament did not get passed and subsequently lapsed.

- ❖ Moreover, the judiciary is not part of the State government and has an independent footing as one of the three pillars of democracy.
- ❖ The name changes introduced by the State government need not reflect on the name or character of the High Court.
- ❖ Any such decisions may have to be initiated by Parliament.
- ❖ The judge also pointed out the instances of High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Orissa where the original names of the courts were retained despite the changes in the names of the respective States.
- ❖ The HCK was established on November 1, 1956, with its seat at Ernakulam following the formation of the State of Kerala as per the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, by merging the princely States of Travancore-Cochin State and the Malabar District of Madras State.
- ❖ While the State of Travancore had a High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin had its High Court at Ernakulam and Malabar District was under the jurisdiction of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ With the integration of the States of Travancore and Cochin on July 1, 1949, the High Court of Travancore-Cochin was formed with its seat at Ernakulam.



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