

April - 01

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems 2026 started in New Delhi with the theme “Driving Progress, Attaining New Heights”.
- ❖ Arpita Patra became the second Indian woman to summit Nevado Ojos del Salado, the world’s highest volcano, reaching a height of 6,893 metres on the Chile–Argentina border.
- ❖ India successfully completed oscillation trials of its first hydrogen-powered train, marking a major step in green railway transport.
- ❖ Japan launched the world’s first freight-only bullet train based on the Shinkansen system to improve fast and safe cargo transport.
- ❖ The Indian Navy hosted IMEX (IONS Maritime Exercise) TTX 2026 in Kochi to strengthen maritime cooperation.
- ❖ The inaugural meeting of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council–Research Advisory Board (BRIC-RAB) was held at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad.
- ❖ Russia’s key Baltic oil export hub, Ust-Luga Port, was damaged again after a Ukrainian drone strike, causing fire and disruption in operations.
  - The port is one of Russia’s largest petroleum export terminals, which handling around 700,000 barrels per day of oil exports.
- ❖ World Piano Day was celebrated on March 29, 2026, and it is observed every year on the 88th day of the year, symbolising the 88 keys of a piano.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **New TV Rating Policy 2026**

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified a new TV Rating Policy to improve transparency, accountability, and reliability in audience measurement.
- ❖ Net worth requirement is reduced from ₹20 crore to ₹5 crore to allow more agencies and increase competition in the sector.
- ❖ At least 50% board members must be independent and not linked to broadcasters or advertisers to ensure fair and unbiased ratings.
- ❖ Metered homes will be increased to 80,000 in the short term and up to 1.2 lakh to collect more accurate and representative TV viewership data.
- ❖ A dual audit system (internal and external) is introduced.

- ❖ Agencies must follow the DPDP (Digital Personal Data Protection) Act, 2023, to ensure data safety and transparency.
- ❖ The policy replaces the 2014 guidelines and aims to create a fair and reliable TV audience measurement system.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### WTO MC14 Ministerial Conference 2026



- ❖ The WTO Ministerial Conference 14 concluded in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to decide global trade rules.
- ❖ It is the highest decision-making body of the World Trade Organization, which meets every two years.
- ❖ Negotiations on fisheries subsidies were extended, while India opposed certain provisions due to concerns over revenue loss and fairness.

- ❖ Discussions also continued on the e-commerce moratorium and Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD).

## **ECONOMY NEWS**

### **Orange Economy**

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has launched three initiatives to promote India's Orange Economy (creative economy).
- ❖ The initiatives are the National AI Skilling Initiative, the MyWAVES platform, and the Advanced EPG (Electronic Programme Guide) with in-built satellite tuners in TVs.
- ❖ National AI Skilling Initiative aims to train 15,000 professionals in the AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics) sector with support from Google and YouTube.
- ❖ MyWAVES platform promotes user-generated content (UGC) and supports Indian creators in multiple languages.
- ❖ Advanced EPG allows access to DD Free Dish without a set-top box, improving digital access in remote areas.
- ❖ Orange Economy refers to sectors based on creativity, culture, and intellectual property, like media, films, gaming, and design.



### **RBI Payments Vision 2028**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India released Payments Vision 2028, focusing on bank account portability.

- ❖ It allows customers to change bank accounts easily without affecting linked services like salary, EMI and bills.
- ❖ The RBI has proposed PaSS (Payments Switching Service) to transfer all payment instructions from one bank to another.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the “stickiness” of accounts and increase customer choice and competition among banks.
- ❖ The vision also focuses on faster and cheaper cross-border payments as per G20 goals.



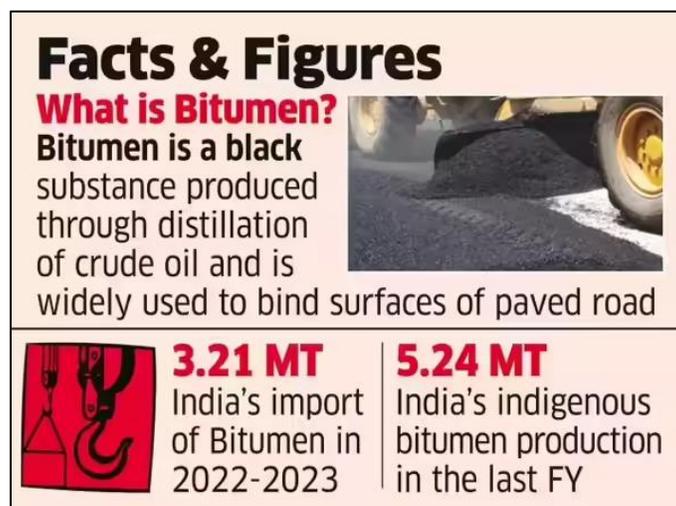
**RBI Releases**  
**Payments Vision 2028**

Anchored in the theme “Shaping India’s Payment Frontier,” it focuses on user empowerment, strengthening safeguards against fraud, enhancing efficiency of cross-border payment frameworks, and promoting ease of doing business, underscoring the need to consolidate and strengthen existing systems and infrastructure, while pioneering the future of payments.

The Vision looks to guide the ecosystem towards an AI-led, data-driven approach to payments and charts a course of action up to December 2028.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Bio-Bitumen Technology



**Facts & Figures**

**What is Bitumen?**  
Bitumen is a black substance produced through distillation of crude oil and is widely used to bind surfaces of paved road

	<b>3.21 MT</b> India’s import of Bitumen in 2022-2023	<b>5.24 MT</b> India’s indigenous bitumen production in the last FY
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- ❖ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) transferred the bio-bitumen technology for large-scale road construction use.

- ❖ The technology is developed by CSIR–CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) and CSIR–IIP (Indian Institute of Petroleum).
- ❖ Bio-bitumen is made from crop residue (lignocellulosic biomass) using thermochemical conversion.
- ❖ It helps reduce stubble burning, supports the circular economy, and gives extra income to farmers.
- ❖ It is a low-carbon alternative suitable for national highway construction and supports India’s Net Zero goals.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Great Indian Bustard in Gujarat

#### Gujarat sees rare Great Indian Bustard chick after a decade through jumpstart approach



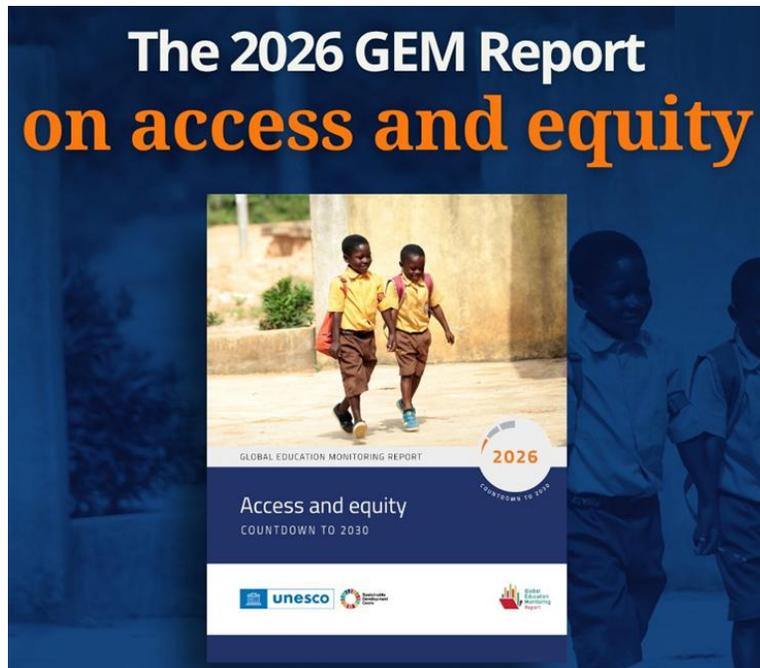
- ❖ A Great Indian Bustard (GIB) chick was born in Gujarat after a decade under a “jumpstart” conservation approach.
- ❖ The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ It is the first inter-state conservation effort where a fertile egg was transported from Rajasthan to Gujarat in a portable incubator over a 770 km journey.
- ❖ The egg was placed in the nest of a female GIB, which successfully incubated and hatched the chick in its natural habitat in Kutch.

- ❖ The initiative is part of Project GIB, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Wildlife Institute of India.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Global Education Monitoring Report 2026

- ❖ The Global Education Monitoring Report 2026, titled “Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030”, was released by UNESCO to assess progress towards SDG 4 (quality education).
- ❖ It is the first part of the Countdown to 2030 series, focusing on education access and equity across pre-primary to post-secondary levels.
- ❖ The report highlights global disparities in education linked to gender, location, wealth, and disability, despite some progress in enrolment rates.
- ❖ It warns that many countries are off-track to meet 2030 targets, with over 270 million children still out of school globally.



## STATE NEWS

### Elderly Support Bill 2026 - Telangana

- ❖ Telangana passed the Telangana Employees Accountability and Monitoring of Parental Support Bill, 2026, to ensure financial support for elderly parents.

- ❖ The Bill makes it legally compulsory for government, private employees, and public representatives to support their parents.
- ❖ If neglected, up to 15% salary or ₹10,000 (whichever is lower) can be deducted and given to parents.
- ❖ It expands the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, by including more categories, like private employees.



### **Balirajgarh Excavation**

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has started new excavation work in 2026 at the historic Balirajgarh site.
- ❖ Balirajgarh is located in the Madhubani district of Bihar and was an important centre of the ancient Videha Kingdom.
- ❖ The site is also linked with King Bali, a legendary ruler in Indian mythology, and is believed to be his capital.
- ❖ Excavations have revealed cultural remains from the Sunga, Kushan, Gupta, and Pala periods, showing long historical continuity.

- ❖ It was declared a protected monument of national importance in 1938 under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.



**Balirajgarh, Madhubani Excavation  
After a Decade : ASI Launches New  
Excavation at Balirajgarh**

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **Para Archer of the Year 2025**



- ❖ Sheetal Devi was named Para Archer of the Year 2025 by World Archery for her outstanding performance.

- ❖ She is a 19-year-old archer from Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ She became the first armless female archer to win gold at the World Para Archery Championships in Gwangju, South Korea.
- ❖ She won three medals (gold, silver, bronze) in one championship, showing consistency at the international level.
- ❖ She also won a bronze medal at the Paris Paralympics and silver medals at the Asian Para Games and Asian Championships.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of Zero Waste 2026 – March 30



- ❖ It is organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat to promote better waste management.
- ❖ The day aims to reduce waste generation and promote sustainable consumption and production.
- ❖ Every year, the world generates about 2.1–2.3 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste, which may reach 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050.
- ❖ Around 1 billion tonnes of food was wasted in 2022, nearly one-fifth of total food.
- ❖ Food waste causes up to 10% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and about 14% of methane emissions.

