

April - 02

TNPSC BITS

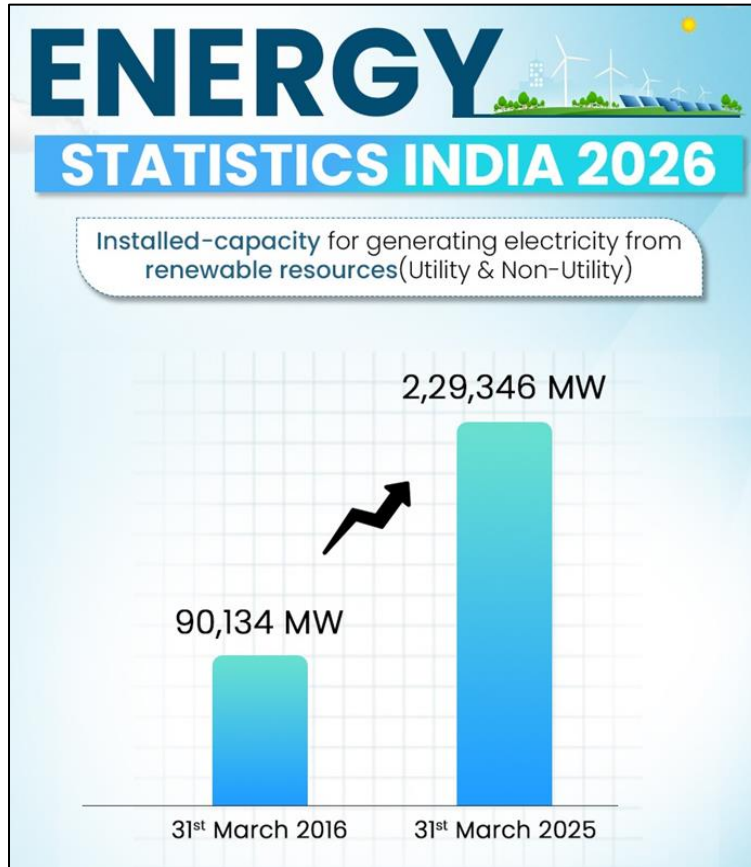
- ❖ Indonesia banned social media use for children under 16, becoming the first country in Southeast Asia to impose such a restriction.
- ❖ India conducted Exercise Dweep Shakti as a Tri-Service exercise involving the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force to strengthen coastal and island defence preparedness.
- ❖ Vijaypat Singhania, ex-chairman of Raymond and Padma Bhushan awardee known for his aviation achievements, including a world-record hot air balloon altitude, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 87.
- ❖ India is set to launch the 11th Open Acreage Licensing Policy round, offering 21 oil and gas blocks for exploration.
 - The policy is part of the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy to increase domestic oil and gas production.
- ❖ Hyderabad hosted the World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026, with over 20 countries, focusing on non-violence, compassion, and dialogue.
- ❖ Indian Navy received the indigenous stealth frigate INS Dunagiri under Project 17A, which is the fifth ship of the Nilgiri-class frigates, to strengthen maritime defence capabilities.

NATIONAL NEWS

Energy Statistics India 2026

- ❖ The National Statistics Office released the publication “Energy Statistics India 2026”.
- ❖ It provides data on reserves, capacity, production, consumption, and import-export of energy sources like coal, petroleum, natural gas, and renewable energy.
- ❖ Total Primary Energy Supply increased by 2.95% and reached 9,32,816 KToe in FY 2024–25.
- ❖ Renewable energy potential reached 47,04,043 Megawatt, with solar energy having the highest share of about 71%.
- ❖ Installed renewable energy capacity increased to 2,29,346 Megawatt and electricity generation also showed steady growth.
- ❖ Per capita energy consumption increased, and transmission and distribution losses reduced from about 22% to 17%.

- ❖ Coal remained the dominant energy source, while total final energy consumption increased by over 30% during the period.
- ❖ Credit flow to the energy sector increased significantly from ₹1,688 crore in 2021 to ₹10,325 crore in 2025.



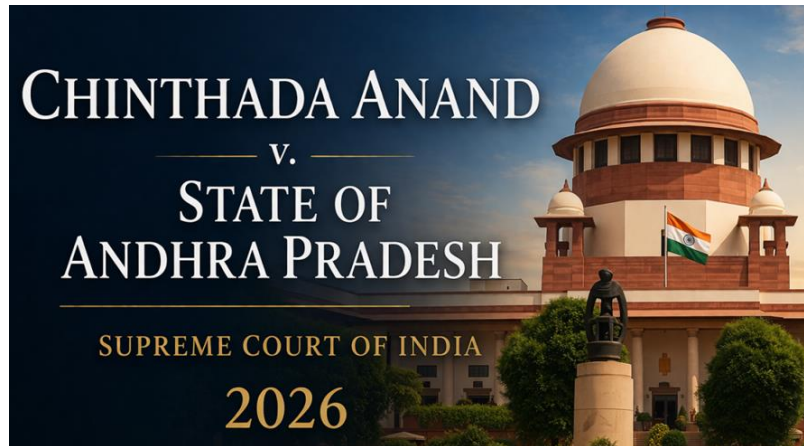
Samrat Samprati Museum and Semiconductor Plant



- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Museum and a semiconductor plant in Gujarat.

- ❖ The Samrat Samprati Museum is located at Koba in Gandhinagar and is dedicated to Jain history and Emperor Samprati.
- ❖ The Kaynes Semiconductor plant was inaugurated at Sanand for manufacturing advanced Intelligent Power Modules.
- ❖ Intelligent Power Modules are used in automotive and industrial systems for efficient power control.

Chinthada Anand vs State of Andhra Pradesh



- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that a person who converts to Christianity cannot claim Scheduled Caste status.
- ❖ The judgment came in the case of Chinthada Anand vs State of Andhra Pradesh, related to a pastor from the Madiga community.
- ❖ The Court stated that the Scheduled Caste status is limited to Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists as per the existing law.
- ❖ Scheduled Castes are defined under Article 341 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The issue is important as many Dalit Christians are demanding inclusion in the Scheduled Caste category.
- ❖ The Ranganath Misra Commission had earlier recommended extending the Scheduled Caste status to converted Dalits.

ECONOMY NEWS

Census 2027 – First Digital Census

- ❖ India will conduct its first fully digital Census starting from April 1, 2026.
- ❖ It will be the 16th Census since inception and the 8th after Independence in 1947, covering the entire country.

- ❖ For the first time, mobile applications and self-enumeration will be used, allowing citizens to submit details online in 16 languages.
- ❖ The Census will be conducted under the Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990.
- ❖ It will be carried out in two phases—the House listing phase from April to September 2026 and the Population enumeration phase in February 2027.
- ❖ The reference date will be March 1, 2027, while some hilly regions will have October 1, 2026, due to climatic conditions.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Celeste Satellites Mission



- ❖ The European Space Agency launched two Celeste satellites to improve navigation systems.
- ❖ The satellites, named Celeste IOD-1 and IOD-2, were launched from New Zealand using an Electron rocket.
- ❖ The mission will support Europe's Galileo navigation system.
- ❖ These satellites work in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which helps give stronger signals and better accuracy.
- ❖ They use L-band and S-band frequencies for communication and navigation.
- ❖ More satellites will be launched by 2027 for uses like transport, aviation, and disaster management.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026

NEW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES NOTIFIED

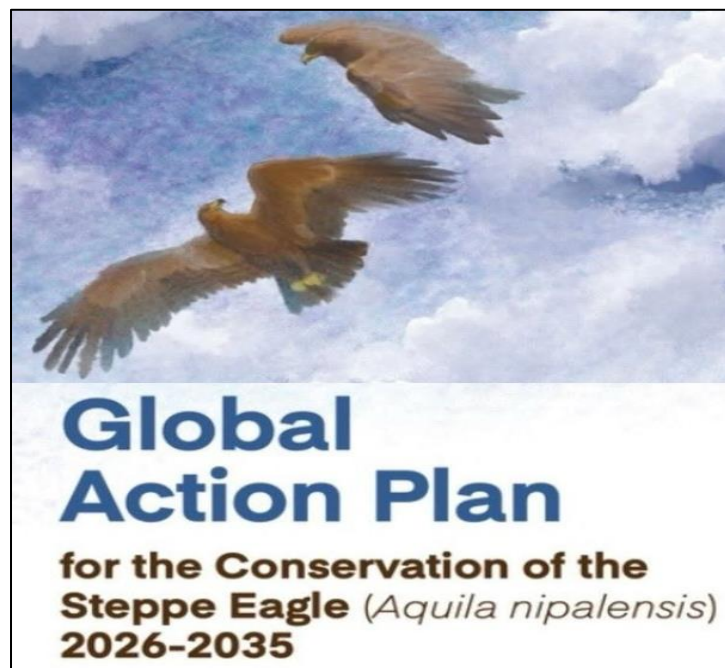
To come into force from April 1, 2026

- ▶ **Mandatory four-stream* segregation of solid waste at source**
- ▶ **Bulk Waste Generators** to ensure that waste generated by them is **collected, transported & processed** in an environmentally sound manner
- ▶ **Graded criteria** for development around solid waste processing & disposal facilities to **facilitate faster land allocation**

- ❖ The Government notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, which will come into force from April 1, 2026.
- ❖ The rules replace the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and are notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ Four-stream segregation of waste at source has been made mandatory for wet, dry, sanitary, and special care waste.

- ❖ The rules follow principles like Circular Economy, Extended Producer Responsibility, and the Polluter Pays Principle.
- ❖ Environmental compensation will be imposed for violations and monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards.
- ❖ Bulk Waste Generators are clearly defined and made responsible for the proper collection, processing, and disposal of waste.
- ❖ A centralised online portal will track waste generation, collection, transport, processing, and disposal.
- ❖ Use of Refuse Derived Fuel in industries is made mandatory with a gradual increase in the substitution rate.
- ❖ Strict restrictions are placed on landfilling, and focus is given on biomining and bioremediation of old waste dumps.

Global Action Plan for Steppe Eagle 2026–2035



- ❖ The Global Action Plan for Steppe Eagle was adopted at CMS COP15 held in Brazil.
- ❖ It is an international conservation plan to protect the endangered Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*).
- ❖ The plan aims to stop population decline through actions like reducing electrocution, illegal hunting, and poisoning.

- ❖ It includes measures for habitat restoration, research cooperation, and better implementation by countries.
- ❖ The Steppe Eagle is a migratory bird found in grasslands and semi-arid regions and follows the Central Asian Flyway.
- ❖ In India, key habitats include Rajasthan regions like Desert National Park and Jorbeer Conservation Reserve.

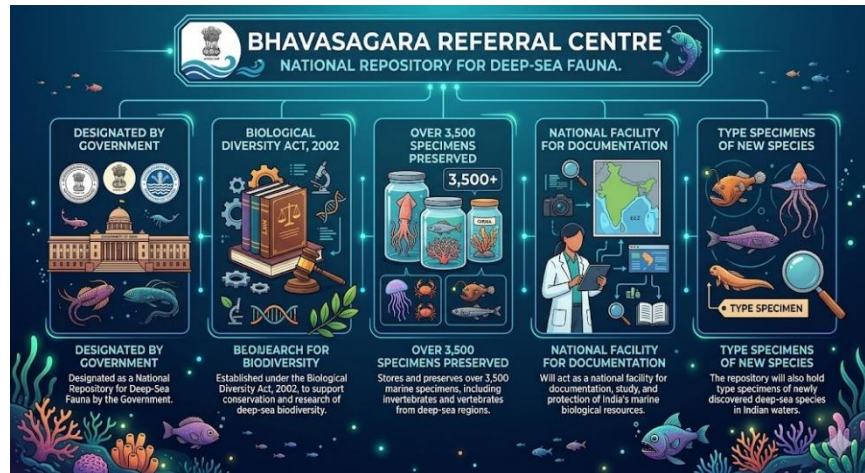
CMS COP15 – New Species Protection

- ❖ CMS COP15 held in Brazil added 40 new migratory species to the protected list due to increasing extinction risks.
- ❖ The Convention on Migratory Species is an international agreement to conserve migratory animals moving across national boundaries.
- ❖ Species like the cheetah, striped hyena, snowy owl, giant otter, and great hammerhead shark were included for protection.
- ❖ A recent global report showed that about 49% of migratory species are declining, and around 24% are facing extinction risk.
- ❖ Major threats identified include habitat loss, climate change, pollution, illegal hunting, overfishing, and disturbance in migratory routes.
- ❖ Around 188 migratory species across birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish are currently at high risk of extinction.



Bhavasagara Referral Centre

- ❖ Bhavasagara Referral Centre has been designated as a National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna by the Government.
- ❖ It is established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, to support conservation and research of deep-sea biodiversity.
- ❖ The centre stores and preserves over 3,500 marine specimens, including invertebrates and vertebrates from deep-sea regions.
- ❖ It will act as a national facility for documentation, study, and protection of India's marine biological resources.
- ❖ The repository will also hold type specimens of newly discovered deep-sea species in Indian waters.



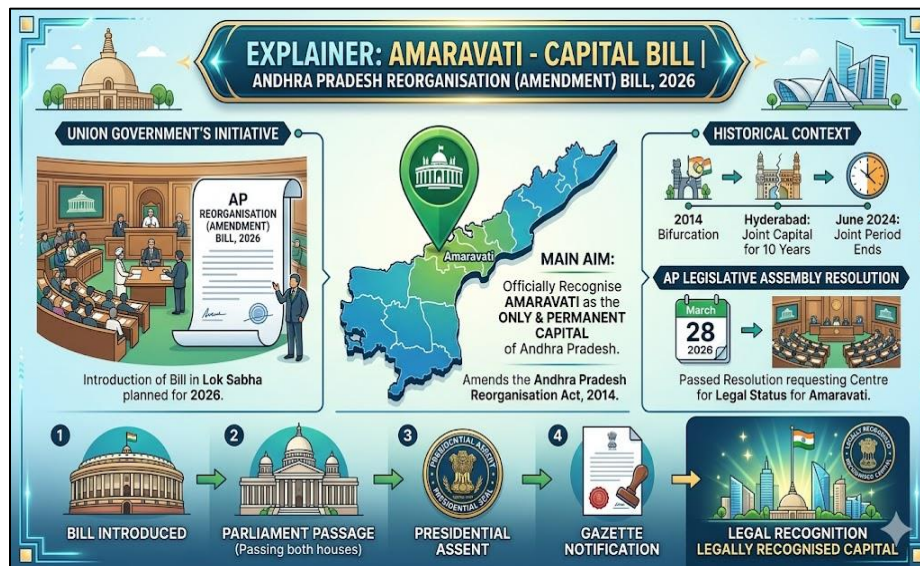
Varkala – Zero Waste Initiative



- ❖ Varkala has been selected under the global “20 Cities Towards Zero Waste” initiative for its strong efforts in sustainable waste management and environmental conservation.
- ❖ The initiative is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Habitat to promote eco-friendly urban systems and reduce waste generation worldwide.
- ❖ It focuses on reducing waste at source, increasing recycling and reuse, and promoting a circular economy where resources are used efficiently instead of being discarded.
- ❖ Varkala’s selection highlights its innovative waste management practices, improved sanitation systems, and commitment to reducing landfill waste and pollution.
- ❖ The initiative also encourages global cooperation among cities, sharing of best practices, and supports achieving sustainable development goals related to a clean environment and urban sustainability.

STATE NEWS

Amaravati - Capital Bill



- ❖ The Union Government is planning to introduce the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The main aim of this Bill is to officially recognise Amaravati as the only and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh State.
- ❖ The Bill proposes to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

- ❖ Earlier, Hyderabad was declared as the joint capital for both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for a period of 10 years after bifurcation.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed a resolution on March 28, 2026, requesting the Centre to give legal status to Amaravati.
- ❖ After the Bill is passed and notified in the Gazette, Amaravati will become the legally recognised capital.

