

April - 02

## TNPSC BITS

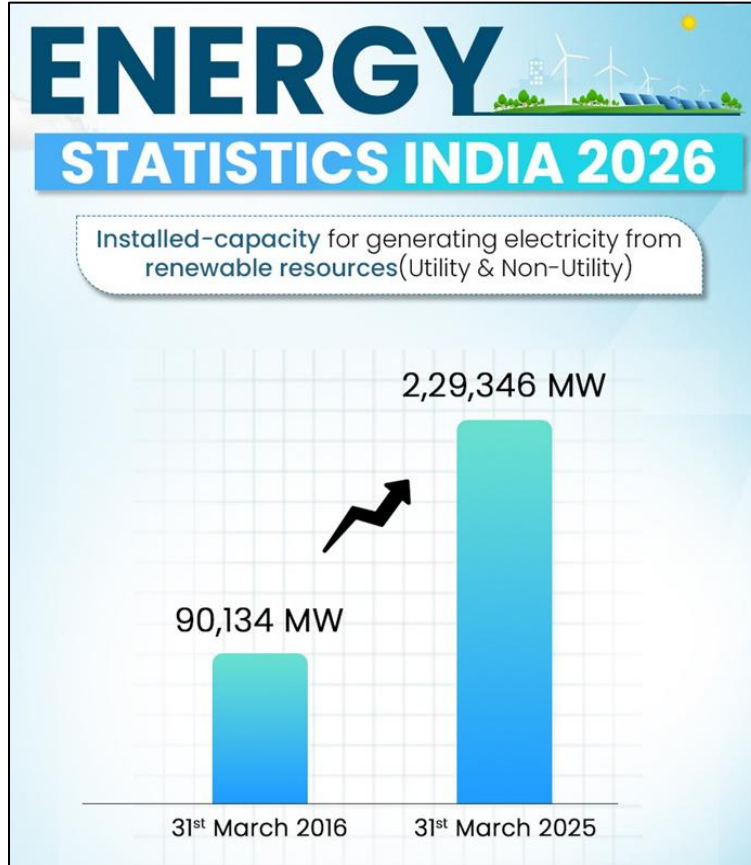
- ❖ Indonesia banned social media use for children under 16, becoming the first country in Southeast Asia to impose such a restriction.
- ❖ India conducted Exercise Dweep Shakti as a Tri-Service exercise involving the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force to strengthen coastal and island defence 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.



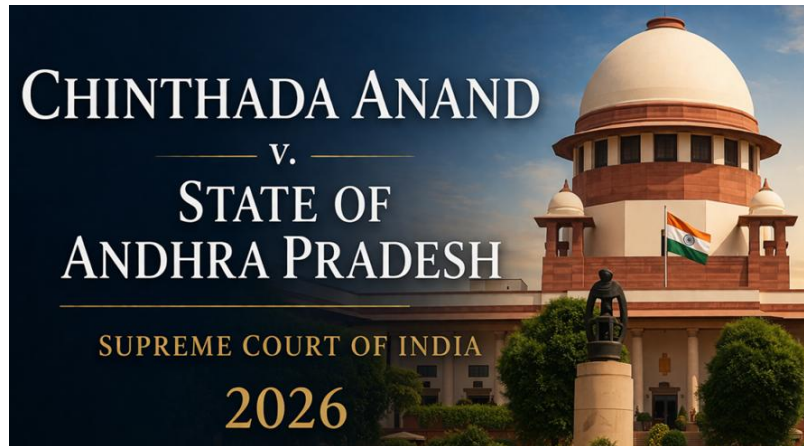
### **Samrat Samprati Museum and Semiconductor Plant**



- ❖ 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.

### **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

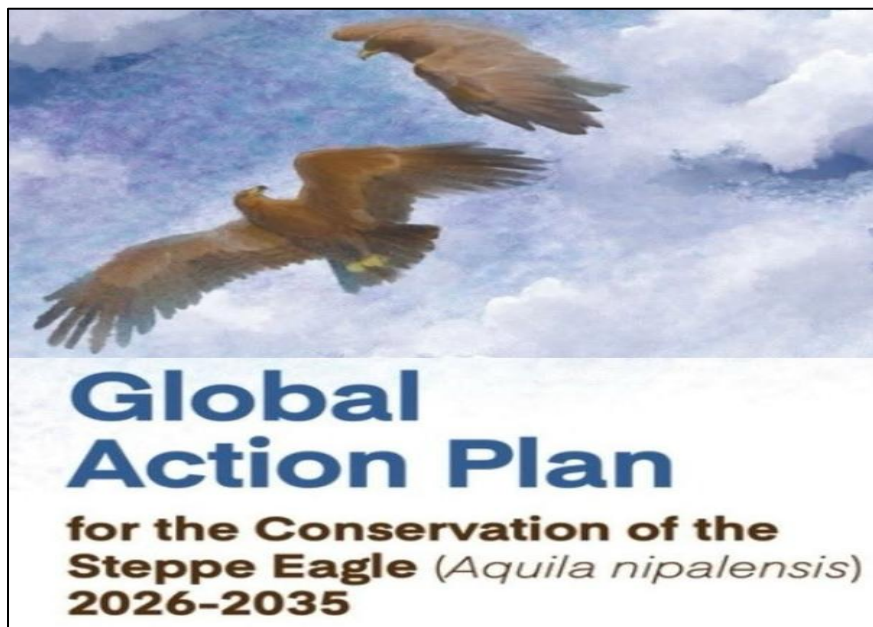
### Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026



- ❖ 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**

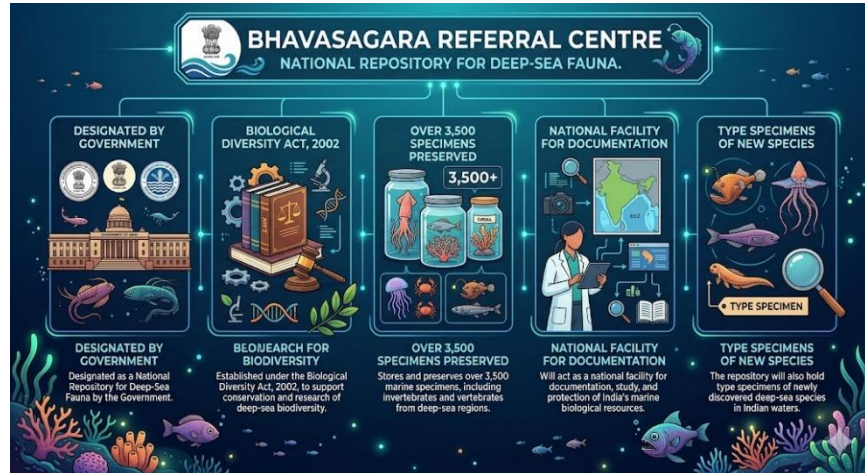
- ❖ CMS COP15 held in Brazil added 40 new migratory species to the protected list due to increasing extinction risks.
- ❖ The Convention on Migratory Species is an international agreement to conserve migratory animals moving across national boundaries.
- ❖ Species like the cheetah, striped hyena, snowy 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.



## STATE NEWS

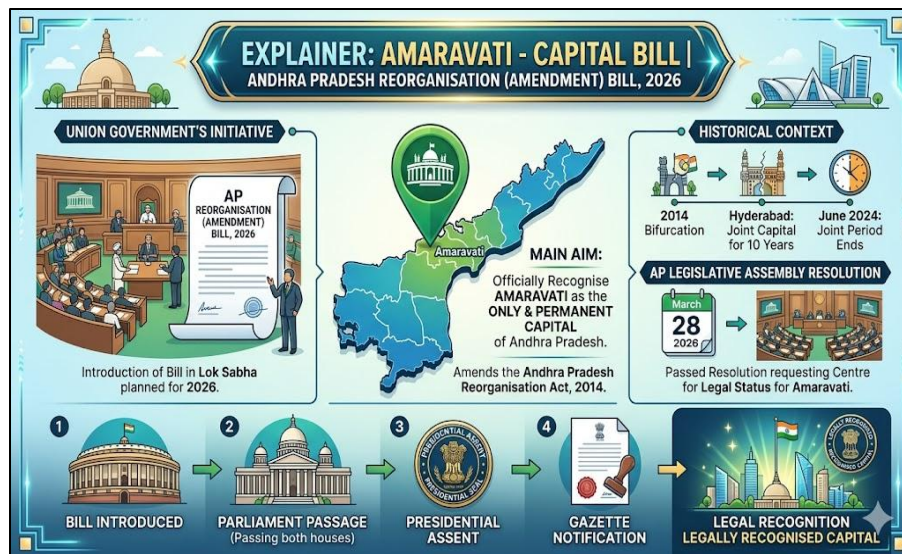
### Varkala – Zero Waste Initiative



- ❖ 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.

## 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.

