

April - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Anthropic launched Project Glasswing with Amazon Web Services, Apple, Google, and Microsoft to use AI to detect cybersecurity vulnerabilities and secure software systems.
- ❖ ISRO completed the second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for the Gaganyaan mission at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ❖ Jim Whittaker, the first American to summit Mount Everest, died at the age of 97.

NATIONAL NEWS

Skills Outcomes Fund Initiative



- ❖ The Government of India launched a campaign to build the Skills Outcomes Fund to boost youth employment in India.
- ❖ It aims to support youth from low-income backgrounds by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- ❖ The fund uses Outcome-Based Financing (OBF), linking funds to verified job results like placement and retention.
- ❖ It will be anchored by the National Skill Development Corporation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- ❖ It follows a blended finance model combining government, private, and philanthropic funding.

- ❖ It builds on the success of the Skill Impact Bond (2021) to scale employment-focused skilling programs.

Aluminium Bharat Initiative

- ❖ Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI) launched the Aluminium Bharat initiative to strengthen India's aluminium sector.
- ❖ It aims to improve the aluminium value chain and boost manufacturing and job creation.
- ❖ The sector supports over 10 lakh jobs but faces a decline in production and low capacity utilisation.
- ❖ Challenges include high raw material and energy costs, limited scrap availability, and cheap imports.
- ❖ ALEMAI will organise the Aluminium Bharat 2026 event in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to promote the sector.



CPA Zone VII Conference 2026

- ❖ The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone VII Conference 2026 concluded in Goa.
- ❖ This conference focuses on inclusive governance and democratic strengthening.
- ❖ The conference was held under CPA with the participation of 51 legislators from Zone VII states.
- ❖ Discussions covered the blue economy, coastal development, trade, and sustainable development.

- ❖ CPA, founded in 1911 and headquartered in London, promotes parliamentary democracy and cooperation among legislatures.

CPA ZONE VII CONFERENCE 2026 - INDIA REGION

EVENT CONCLUDED IN GOA
CPA Zone VII Conference 2026 concluded successfully.

KEY FOCUS AREAS
INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE
DEMOCRATIC STRENGTHENING

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE
51 LEGISLATORS participated, representing Zone VII States.

MAJOR DISCUSSION TOPICS
BLUE ECONOMY
COASTAL DEVELOPMENT
TRADE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)
FOUNDED: 1911
HEADQUARTERS: LONDON
OBJECTIVES: promotes Parliamentary Democracy & Cooperation among Legislatures.

Mundra Port automobile export

MUNDRA PORT: INDIA'S LEADING AUTOMOBILE EXPORT HUB

RECORD ACHIEVEMENT:
6,008 CARS SHIPPED IN SINGLE VESSEL

OPERATED BY ADANI PORTS
(ADANI PORTS AND SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE LIMITED)
MAJOR LOGISTICS MILESTONE

ROLL-ON / ROLL-OFF (RoRo) TERMINAL
FASTER LOADING
LOWER HANDLING COSTS

INDIA'S GROWING AUTOMOBILE EXPORTS
Strong Manufacturing & Global Demand

KEY EXPORT DESTINATIONS
MUNDRA PORT
EUROPE
MIDDLE EAST
LATIN AMERICA
AFRICA

- ❖ Mundra Port emerged as India's largest automobile export hub by shipping a record 6,008 cars in a single vessel.
- ❖ The port is operated by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone), marking a major logistics milestone.
- ❖ It uses a Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) terminal, enabling faster loading and lower handling costs.
- ❖ This achievement highlights India's growing automobile exports driven by strong manufacturing and global demand.

- ❖ Key export destinations include Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe.

Justice Yashwant Varma Resignation

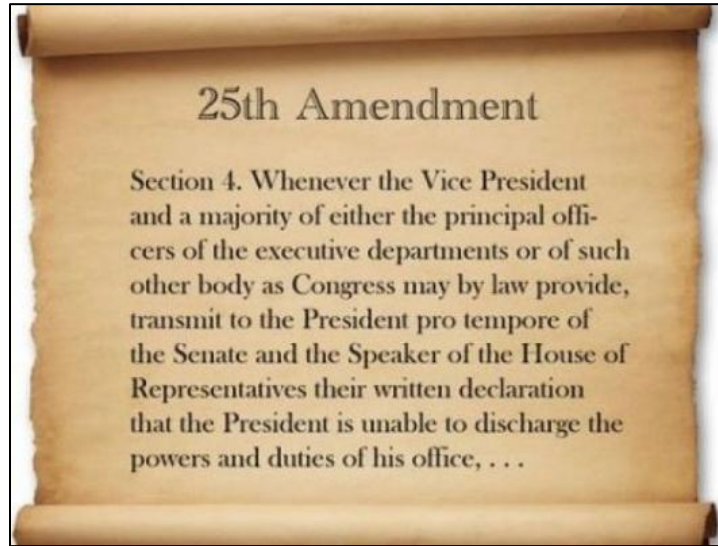


- ❖ Allahabad High Court (HC) Justice Yashwant Varma resigned amid parliamentary impeachment proceedings for his removal in New Delhi.
- ❖ He submitted his resignation to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ He also withdrew from the Judges Inquiry Committee constituted by the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, calling it an “unfair” inquiry.
- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) also dismissed his petitions challenging the inquiry process and removal proceedings.
- ❖ Removal of High Court (HC) Judges: Under Article 218 of the Constitution of India, read with Article 124(4), a judge can be removed only on grounds of proven misbehaviour or incapacity.
- ❖ The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, provides that removal requires a motion in Parliament signed by at least 100 Members of Parliament (MPs) in Lok Sabha or 50 MPs in Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ This should be followed by an inquiry committee and final approval by a special majority in both Houses.
- ❖ Upon resignation, a judge is entitled to the same pensionary benefits as a judge who superannuates from service.
- ❖ With his resignation, the future course of action over allegations levelled against him enters uncharted territory.
- ❖ However, while the threat of an impeachment motion ends, other legal methods could still be looked at by the government but that may require assent of the judiciary.

- ❖ For any court to take cognisance of an offence by a judge (for actions from the time that he held office), the Chief Justice of India would be required to grant sanction for prosecution.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

25th Amendment of the USA Constitution



- ❖ The 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution is being discussed in the context of leadership and incapacity debates.
- ❖ It was ratified in 1967 after the assassination of John F. Kennedy to clarify presidential succession.
- ❖ It states that the Vice President becomes President if the President dies, resigns, or is removed.
- ❖ It also provides rules to handle presidential inability and to fill a vacant Vice President post.
- ❖ Section 4 allows the Vice President and the majority of the Cabinet to declare the President unable to perform duties.
- ❖ In such a case, the Vice President becomes Acting President, but Congress can decide the issue with a two-thirds majority if challenged.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Artemis II Lunar Mission

- ❖ Artemis II mission astronauts safely returned to Earth after a historic Moon flyby.

- ❖ It is the first crewed lunar mission since the Apollo era by NASA.
- ❖ The Orion spacecraft completed a 10-day journey and splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The crew included Reid Wiseman (USA), Victor Glover (USA), Christina Koch (USA), and Jeremy Hansen (Canada).
- ❖ The mission tested deep-space travel, re-entry, and communication blackout systems.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Woolly-Necked Stork in Thanjavur

EXPLORING THE WOOLLY-NECKED STORK

(Ciconia episcopus)

INDIA
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

RARE SIGHTING REPORTED IN PADDY FIELDS NEAR THANJAVUR

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

BISHOP'S CAP
Large wading bird, Ciconiidae family

WOOLLY NECK

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION & COMMON NAMES

WHITE-NECKED STORK **SYNONYMS: BISHOP STORK**

PREFERRED HABITATS

Primary rufous as maintains in the stork, also ciconiidae family

WETLANDS
Wetlands or wetland wetlands

RIVERBANKS
Riverbanks or loved riverbanks

PONDS
Produce with ponds

GRASSLANDS
Grasslands mam grasslands

AGRICULTURAL FIELDS
(specifying paddy fields)
Agricultural fields tion paddy fields

CONSERVATION STATUS

NEAR THREATENED (IUCN)

HABITAT LOSS

WETLAND DEGRADATION

- ❖ A rare sighting of the Woolly-Necked Stork was reported in paddy fields near Thanjavur.

- ❖ The Woolly-Necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) is a large wading bird of the stork family (Ciconiidae).
- ❖ It is also called the White-necked Stork or Bishop Stork and is found across Africa and Asia.
- ❖ It prefers wetlands, riverbanks, ponds, grasslands, and agricultural fields where food is available.
- ❖ It is classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN due to habitat loss and wetland degradation.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Development Financing Report 2026



- ❖ The report was released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, highlighting global financing challenges for development.
- ❖ It shows issues like a weak global economy, low-income levels, and high borrowing costs in developing countries.
- ❖ It notes a \$4 trillion gap in funding for Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ It stresses strengthening domestic finance, private sector growth, and resilient financial systems.
- ❖ It highlights the Sevilla Commitment adopted to improve global financing.

STATE NEWS

Puducherry Elections 2026 - Robot 'Nila'

- ❖ Unique polling stations and a humanoid robot 'Nila' were used during the Puducherry Assembly Elections 2026 to attract voters.

- ❖ Theme-based polling booths showcased Tamil art, eco-friendly materials, and freedom history.
- ❖ At V.O. Chidambaranar Higher Secondary School, robot 'Nila' welcomed voters and assisted them.
- ❖ Keezhur polling station highlighted its role in the 1954 referendum for the merger of French territories with India.
- ❖ Voters were offered traditional food items, and first-time voters received saplings.
- ❖ The initiative aimed to increase voter awareness and participation.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Safe Motherhood Day 2026 - April 11

- ❖ The day aims to reduce maternal and infant deaths by improving healthcare access and awareness.
- ❖ It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi.
- ❖ The day was proposed by White Ribbon Alliance India and declared by the Government of India in 2003.
- ❖ It focuses on safe pregnancy, skilled birth care, antenatal (before birth) and postnatal (after birth) services.

- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Equity in Maternal Healthcare: Leaving No Mother Behind.”

