

April - 26

TNPSC BITS

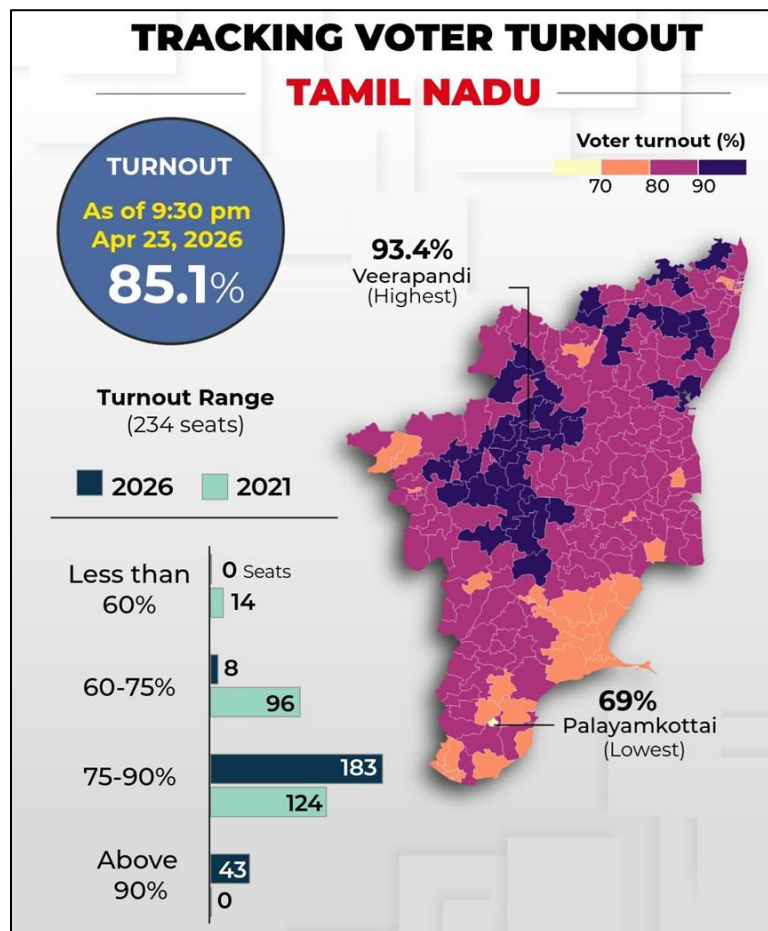
- ❖ Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh, was designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site.
 - It is a freshwater wetland located about 17 km from Aligarh, formed in 1852 after the construction of the Upper Ganga Canal.
- ❖ INS Nireekshak deployed to Colombo for the 4th India–Sri Lanka Diving Exercise (DIVEX 2026).
- ❖ For the first time in Central Asia, The 13th edition of World Para Athletics Championships 2027 will be held in Tashkent in June which is organized under the International Paralympic Committee.
- ❖ FedEx and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras conducted India's first intra-city drone delivery trials in Bengaluru.
- ❖ World Intellectual Property Organization celebrates World Intellectual Property Day every year on April 26 to highlight the role of Intellectual Property in protecting innovations and promoting creativity globally.
 - The theme for 2026 is "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections Voter Turnout

- ❖ Election Commission of India reported record turnout but the lowest increase in votes polled in 15 years.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded an all-time high voter turnout of 85.15%, the highest in the State's history.
- ❖ Despite this, there is no uniform pattern between voter turnout and electoral verdict.
- ❖ The increase in votes polled was about 5.5% over 2021, which is the lowest rise in 15 years.
- ❖ Previous increases were 6.22% (2021), 18.5% (2016), and 11.4% (2011).
- ❖ The high turnout is mainly attributed to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
- ❖ The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise led to the net deletion of about 68 lakh electors.

- ❖ The State still recorded an increase in absolute voters, but only about 24.8 lakh, lower than 31.1 lakh (2016–2021) and 64.8 lakh (2011–2016).
- ❖ Women's turnout (85.76%) was higher than men's (83.57%), showing greater female participation.
- ❖ About 2.51 crore women (out of 2.93 crore) voted, while 2.34 crore men (out of 2.8 crore) cast votes.
- ❖ Karur and Veerapandi constituencies recorded the highest polling at 93.40% each.
- ❖ No repoll was recommended in any of the 75,064 polling stations across Tamil Nadu.

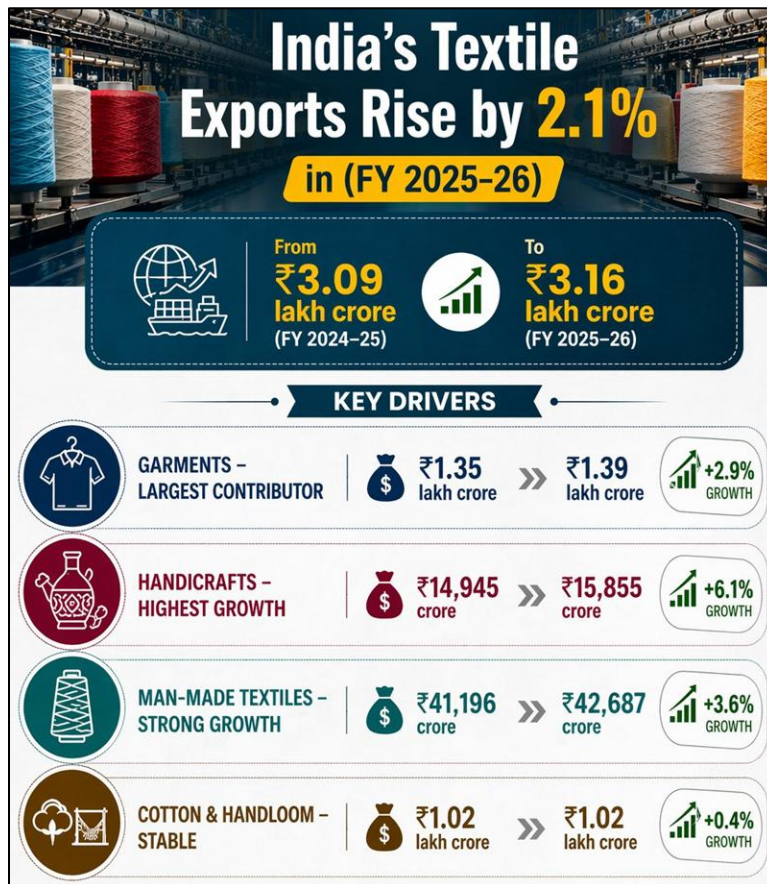


NATIONAL NEWS

India Textile Exports Rise

- ❖ India's textile exports increased by 2.1% to ₹3.16 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.

- ❖ Ready-Made Garments (RMG) remained the largest contributor, growing by 2.9% to ₹1.39 lakh crore.
- ❖ Man-made textiles rose by 3.6%, while handicrafts recorded the highest growth of 6.1%.
- ❖ Exports expanded to more than 120 countries, including the UAE, UK, Germany, Japan and Egypt.
- ❖ Growth is supported by government schemes like RoSCTL (Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies) and RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products).



Online Gaming Rules 2026

- ❖ The Government of India notified the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026, effective from next month.
- ❖ The rules aim to regulate online gaming, protect users, and safeguard the financial system.
- ❖ They provide a clear mechanism to classify games as online money games, social games, or e-sports.

- ❖ An Online Gaming Authority of India has been created as a 6-member regulatory body led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ The rules mandate user safety features, grievance redressal, transparency, and penalties with an appellate mechanism.

PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING RULES, 2026

- ➦ Provide a clear, transparent & time-bound mechanism to determine whether an online game is an online money game (and therefore prohibited) or a permissible online social game or e-sport
- ➦ Establish Online Gaming Authority of India as a unified, digital-first regulator for the sector

Agricultural Intelligence System

annam.ai

- Crop Identification**
AI recognizes crop type instantly.
- Damage Assessment**
Identify crop loss & stress areas.
- Satellite & Drone Analytics**
Field-level insights from above.
- Pest & Disease Detection**
Early alerts to protect crops.
- Yield Prediction**
Accurate harvest forecasting.
- AI + Farmer Collaboration**
Human experience powered by AI.

- ❖ IIT Ropar launched India's first fully integrated agricultural intelligence system.
- ❖ The system includes Swan (advanced weather stations), Krishi intelligence call centres, and Annam Chat Engine (ACE).
- ❖ It is developed by the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AI for Agriculture under the ANNAM.AI project.

- ❖ The ecosystem integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), climate science, and multilingual advisory systems.
- ❖ It is designed to support the entire agricultural value chain, improving decision-making and farm productivity.

India–Republic of Korea Strategic Vision 2026–2030

- ❖ India and the Republic of Korea unveiled a Joint Strategic Vision (2026–2030) during the visit of South Korean President Lee Jae Myung to India.
- ❖ The vision aims to strengthen ties in defence, trade, technology, Indo-Pacific security, and cultural cooperation.
- ❖ It aligns India’s Act East Policy with Korea’s New Southern Policy for a deeper regional partnership.
- ❖ Key initiatives include India–Korea Digital Bridge, space cooperation (ISRO–KASA), and supply chain diversification.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to upgrade the CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) and enhance climate cooperation through ISA (International Solar Alliance) and GGGI (Global Green Growth Institute).



India, South Korea Set \$54 Billion Trade Target, Sign Sweeping Agreements During Lee's State Visit

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Finland’s Nuclear Waste Vault

- ❖ Finland is preparing to operationalise the world’s first permanent nuclear waste repository.
- ❖ The facility, called Onkalo, is located on Olkiluoto Island.

- ❖ It will store spent nuclear fuel for up to 100,000 years.
- ❖ It is built 400–450 metres underground in stable bedrock using a multi-barrier safety system (metal canisters, copper capsules, bentonite clay, rock layers).
- ❖ Bentonite clay swells on contact with water and prevents leakage of radioactive material.
- ❖ The repository is designed for passive safety, meaning it will remain secure without human maintenance.
- ❖ Finland plans to store about 6,500 tonnes of nuclear waste, providing a model for safe long-term disposal globally.

Finland has completed construction of the world's first permanent nuclear waste vault, buried 400 meters underground in solid bedrock to store radioactive material for 100,000 years.

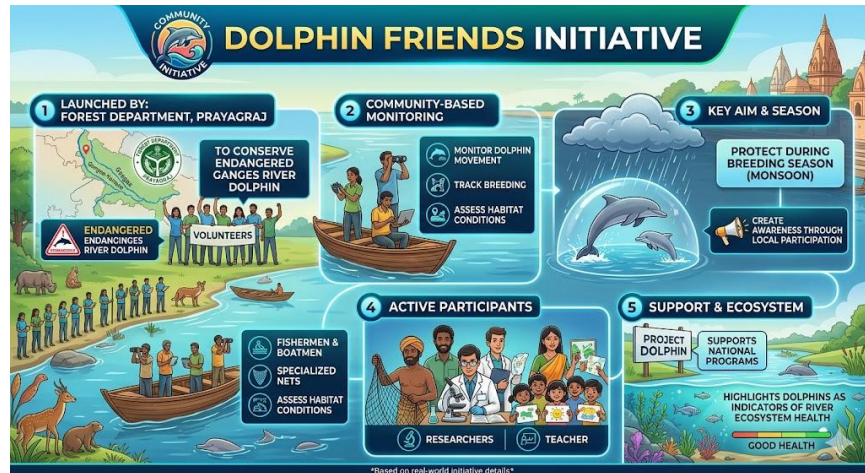


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Dolphin Friends Initiative

- ❖ The Forest Department in Prayagraj launched the Dolphin Friends volunteer network to conserve the endangered Ganges River dolphin.
- ❖ It is a community-based initiative to monitor dolphin movement, breeding, and habitat conditions in rivers.
- ❖ The aim is to protect dolphins during the breeding season (monsoon) and create awareness through local participation.
- ❖ Fishermen and boatmen are actively involved, along with researchers and teachers, in scientific monitoring.

- ❖ The initiative supports programmes like Project Dolphin and highlights dolphins as indicators of river ecosystem health.



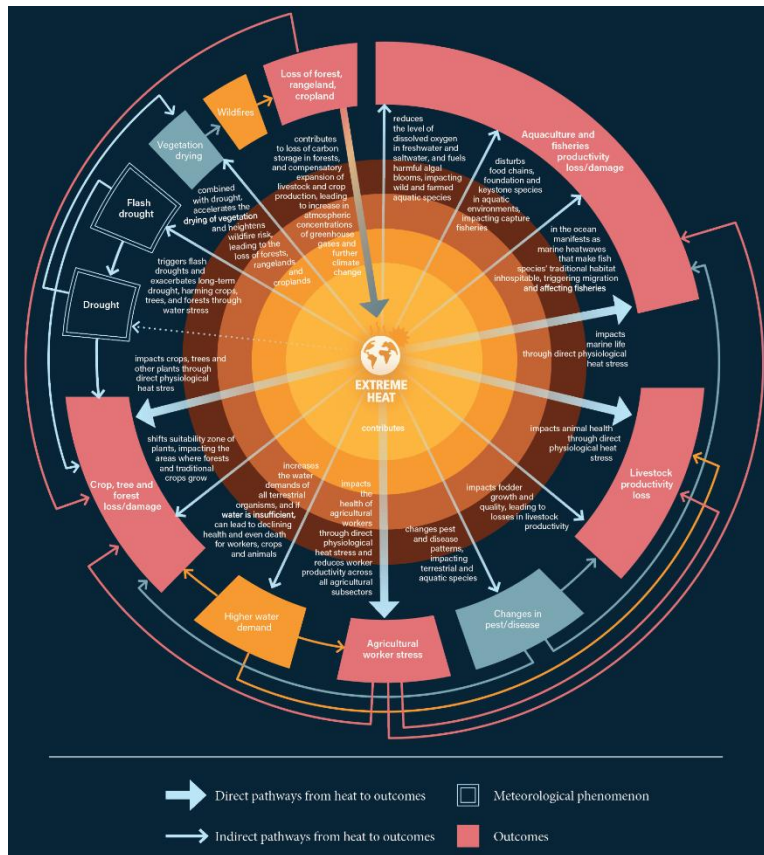
Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary - Eco-Sensitive Zone



- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a draft notification to declare an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The proposed ESZ will cover 408.7 sq km, including about 307 villages, to regulate activities and protect the surrounding ecosystem.
- ❖ Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are buffer areas around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries that act as “shock absorbers” by controlling development, industrial activities, and land use changes.
- ❖ The sanctuary is located across five districts — Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Hapur, Bijnor, and Amroha, making it an important habitat in western Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The notification aims to reduce human pressure, conserve biodiversity, and ensure sustainable development while protecting the Barasingha (swamp deer), a key species of the region.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Extreme Heat and Agriculture Report 2026



- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization and World Meteorological Organization jointly released the report “Extreme Heat and Agriculture” on April 22, 2026 (Earth Day).
- ❖ The report warns that extreme heat could make farm work unsafe for up to 250 days a year by century’s end.
- ❖ Farm workers are 35 times more likely to die from heat exposure, with about 470 billion working hours lost annually.
- ❖ Crop yields decline with rising temperatures, with losses of up to 7.5% per 1°C increase.
- ❖ Around 1 billion livelihoods are at risk, especially in regions like the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- ❖ The report also highlights “thermal safety margin” reduction and rise of flash droughts, worsening agricultural stress and productivity.

