



August - 02

TNPSC BITS

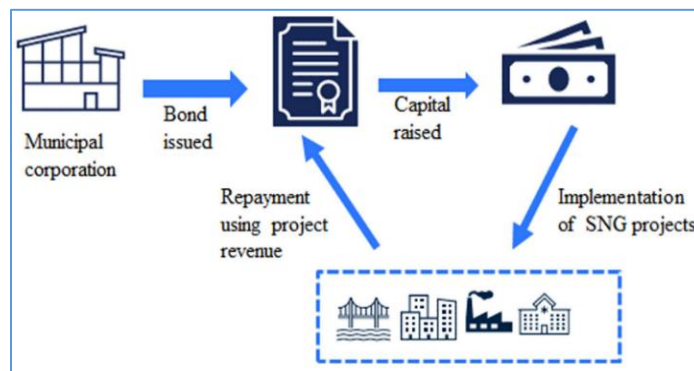
- ❖ The Indian Army conducted Exercise Divya Drishti in East Sikkim to test AI-based battlefield awareness and next-gen warfare technologies in high-altitude conditions.
- ❖ Dr. Kennedy Odede, founder of Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), won the 2025 UN Nelson Mandela Prize for his impactful service to communities in Kenya.
- ❖ Hyderabad-based stealth startup Stardour successfully test-fired India's first in-house hydrogen-oxygen propulsion engine, has developed to power its next-gen orbital transfer vehicle called Lucas.
- ❖ Indian Railways has successfully pilot tested the new Direct Drive Electronic Interlocking (DDEI) system at three stations, including Dinanagar in Jammu and Tadjpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ China has launched a new subsidy scheme offering parents 3,600 yuan (around \$500) per year for each child under age 3, starting in 2025.
- ❖ The Barbados thread snake (*Tetracheilostoma carlae*), measuring up to 10 cm, was rediscovered in 2025 after being unseen since 2006.
 - It is blind, lives underground, and feeds on ants and termites.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

First Green Municipal Bond – Chennai


- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) Council has passed a resolution to raise ₹205.64 crore.
- ❖ It was by issuing its first Green Municipal Bond to fund major environment-friendly infrastructure projects.
- ❖ The resolution said that the GCC issued a municipal bond listed on the National Stock Exchange on May 22.
- ❖ That raised ₹421 crore against a base size of ₹100 crore at an interest rate of 7.97% per annum.
- ❖ The GCC said the green bond issue would follow Securities and Exchange Board of India regulations.
- ❖ The SEBI Regulations (Guidance note) requires the establishment of a Bond Issue Committee with Commissioner as chairperson.

- ❖ The bond would adhere to international frameworks such as the Climate Bonds Standard and Certification Scheme, and the Green Bond Principles issued by the International Capital Market Association.
- ❖ Since it is a 'Green Bond', the GCC is eligible to receive up to ₹20 crore as an incentive, under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme.
- ❖ It is also eligible for an incentive of ₹10 crore per ₹100 crore raised, subject to a maximum of ₹20 crore, under the scheme.
- ❖ The proceeds from this bond will be used to part-fund the biomining project at Kodungaiyur dump yard.
- ❖ The GCC's total contribution is ₹385.64 crore — ₹205.64 crore financed through the bond and ₹180 crore through KfW, a German Bank.



Mani Maran - Living Legacy of Tamil Palm Leaf Manuscripts

**124TH EDITION OF
MANN KI BAAT**



For that, he started evening classes, where students, working youth, researchers, everyone started coming over to learn. Mani Maran Ji taught people the method of reading and understanding "Tamil Suvadiyiyal" i.e. Palm Leaf Manuscripts. Today, through a number of efforts, many students have become proficient in this art.

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the work of Mani Maran, a resident of Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ It was for his efforts in preserving and teaching the ancient art of reading Tamil palm leaf manuscripts.
- ❖ He was the Tamil Pundit of the Saraswathi Mahal Library.
- ❖ The Saraswathi Mahal Library has published 20 books written by him.
- ❖ He is also conducting research on a Monograph of the Sendalai Temple.
- ❖ Manimaran taught people how to read and understand Tamil Suvadiyal.
- ❖ It is palm-leaf manuscripts.

Tamil Nadu State Policy for Transgender Persons 2025



**சமூக நலன் மற்றும் மகளிர் உரிமைத்
துறையின் சார்பில் வடிவமைக்கப்பட்ட
“தமிழ்நாடு மாநில திருநங்கையர்
கொள்கை 2025”-ஐ முதலமைச்சர்
மு.க. ஸ்டாலின் வெளியிட்டார்.**

- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released the Tamil Nadu State Policy for Transgender Persons 2025.
- ❖ The policy said that the State would take steps to amend the Hindu Succession Act, Indian Succession Act
- ❖ It aims to ensure right of inheritance to transgender and intersex persons.
- ❖ The policy says transgenders will be treated as socially and educationally most disadvantaged and would be give preference in housing schemes.
- ❖ The State would ensure that all educational institutions would change the name and gender in academic certificates of transgender and transpersons, as per the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- ❖ Steps would be taken to amend Juvenile Justice Act and other relevant acts to address concerns of gender non-conforming persons.
- ❖ The state will operate a round-the-clock helpline for gender-related queries.

- ❖ TN has been a pioneer in introducing welfare measures for transgenders.
- ❖ It is from setting up a Transgender Welfare Board to providing a dignified nomenclature – ‘Thirunangai and Thiru Nambi’ to them.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu established the country's first Welfare Board for transgender persons under the DMK government in April 15, 2008.
- ❖ April 15 is observed as Transgender Welfare Day in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ TN was also the first state to provide a third gender option in college application forms alongside male and female.
- ❖ The only shortcoming is that the policy doesn't explicitly mention reservation for transgenders.
- ❖ Though it states that the state will take necessary steps to ensure their appropriate representation in educational institutions and govt employment.
- ❖ Currently, transgenders are provided reservation under MBC.
- ❖ But the Karnataka govt provides an exclusive 1% reservation for them.

NATIONAL NEWS

Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025

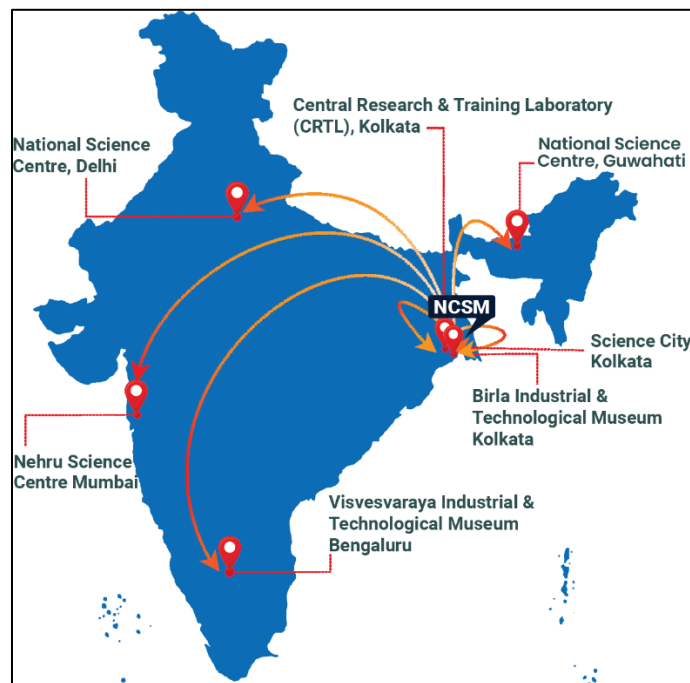


- ❖ The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched this scheme to support soldiers, veterans, and their dependents.
- ❖ The scheme offers free legal aid, advice, and support tailored to the needs of army and paramilitary personnel.
- ❖ Services include online application filing, video consultations, e-Lok Adalats, and online mediation.
- ❖ It is based on Article 39A of the Constitution, which ensures equal justice and legal aid.

- ❖ NALSA is a statutory body established in 1995 under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS)

- ❖ The SPoCS is a flagship scheme by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, to promote scientific temper and awareness.
- ❖ The scheme was implemented through the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous body under the ministry.
- ❖ As of July 2025, 27 Science Centres have been established across India under this scheme.
- ❖ The Centres in Northeast states receive 90% funding from the Ministry and are located in cities like Shillong, Dimapur, Gangtok, and Aizawl.
- ❖ Category-III centres are set up in areas with populations below 5 lakhs to promote inclusivity.



Third Voluntary National Review

- ❖ India presented its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) in New York.
- ❖ The review reaffirmed India's commitment to the 2030 Agenda.
- ❖ Around 248 million people were lifted out of multidimensional poverty between 2015 and 2025.

- ❖ Over 800 million people received free food grains under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ As of 2024, the Ayushman Bharat has provided health cover to over 55 crore beneficiaries.
- ❖ POSHAN Abhiyaan reached more than 10 crore women and children by 2024.
- ❖ India's clean energy capacity crossed 180 GW by 2025, supported by schemes like PM-KUSUM and National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- ❖ India ranks as the 3rd largest start-up ecosystem globally as of 2025.
- ❖ Over 50 crore bank accounts were opened under Jan Dhan by 2025, enabling JAM (Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile) delivery.



New rules for contaminated site management 2025

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ❖ The rules cover 189 hazardous substances listed under the Hazardous and Other Wastes Rules, 2016, excluding radioactive, mining, oil spill, and solid waste cases.
- ❖ The Local bodies must report suspected sites twice yearly; State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) assess and inform the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- ❖ Polluters must fund clean-up using approved agencies; if untraceable, SPCBs will execute and governments may fund initially.
- ❖ Polluters must repay costs within 3 months; new landowners are also held liable.



**Centre notifies rules to identify,
clean up contaminated sites**

Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules aim to prevent exposure to hazardous and toxic substances in soil, sediment and water

INTERNATIONAL NEWS


Geelong Treaty



- ❖ Australia and the United Kingdom signed the Geelong Treaty.
- ❖ It is a 50-year defence agreement under AUKUS Pillar I in Geelong, Victoria.
- ❖ It enables the very deep collaboration on the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and disposal of SSN-AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines.
- ❖ The agreement marks a long-term commitment to bilateral defence ties between the UK and Australia.

ECONOMY NEWS

New norms for co-op bank expansion



RBI

- Releases draft master directions for business authorization for co-operative banks
- Introduces new eligibility criteria for business authorization norms for co-operative banks
- ECBA norms to replace older FSWM compliance criteria
- UCBs categorised into four tiers, based on deposit size for regulatory oversight
- Compliant UCBs can open up to 10% of current branches annually without RBI approval
- Expansion of area of operation within state allowed without prior approval for compliant banks

- ❖ RBI proposes Eligibility Criteria for Business Authorisation (ECBA) to replace the existing Financially Sound and Well Managed (FSWM) rules.
- ❖ ECBA will govern approvals for new branches, ATMs, and infrastructure by urban co-operative banks (UCBs).
- ❖ Banks must meet norms on capital adequacy, asset quality, and show profits for the last two financial years.
- ❖ Net non-performing assets (NPAs) must not exceed three per cent.
- ❖ Banks must have maintained the required cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) without default.
- ❖ ECBA validity will extend up to 30 September of the following financial year.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Gazap and Hayalet bombs

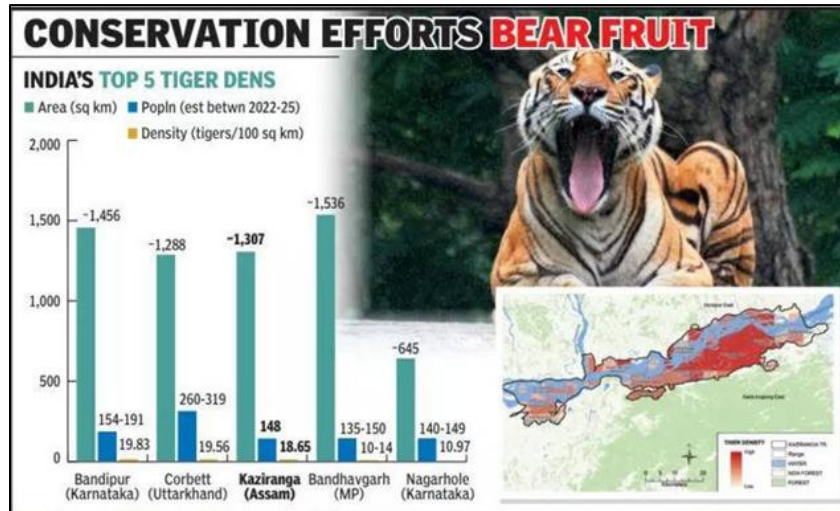
- ❖ Turkey's Gazap is a 970 kg (2,000-pound) bomb dispersing 10.16 fragments per square meter, three times stronger than standard MK-series bombs.
- ❖ Hayalet is a bunker-busting bomb that penetrates up to 90 meters in hardened surfaces like concrete and steel.

- ❖ Both bombs are deployable from Turkish F-16 and F-4 fighter jets, with Gazap planned for future drone use.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

World's third-highest tiger density in 2025



- ❖ Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) in Assam now has 148 tigers, with a density of 18.65 tigers per 100 sq km, making it the third-highest globally.
- ❖ The updated tiger count was published in the Status of Tigers in Kaziranga, 2024 report.
- ❖ In the tiger density rankings, Kaziranga is followed by Bandipur in Karnataka (19.83) and Corbett in Uttarakhand (19.56).

Amur Tiger

- ❖ The Amur tiger or Siberian tiger is revered as a spiritual being by an indigenous group like the Udege, Nanai, and Oroch in the Russian Far East.
- ❖ Known as 'Amba', the tiger is seen as a kinsman and master of the taiga tribes, central to shamanic rituals and hunting beliefs.
- ❖ Killing a tiger is taboo; if it dies, it is buried with full rites in sacred wooden houses called saktama.
- ❖ Some tribes believe in tiger-human marriages and shamans shapeshifting into tigers for spiritual journeys.
- ❖ The tiger holds cultural and spiritual significance beyond ecology, symbolising the identity and traditions of taiga communities.



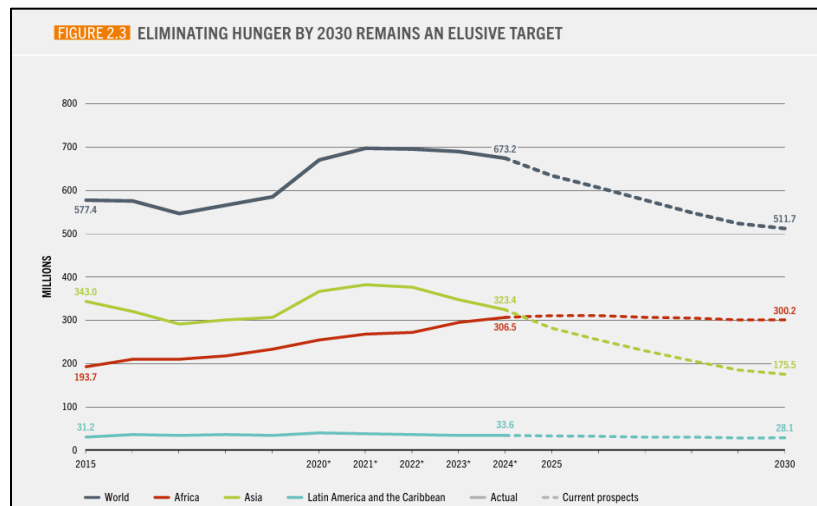
Assam's hargila army conservation model



- ❖ Twenty Cambodian women are being trained under Assam's Hargila Army model to conserve endangered storks.
- ❖ The training is taking place at Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary in Battambang Province, part of Cambodia's Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve.
- ❖ The training is led by Purnima Devi Barman, UNEP Champion of the Earth and wildlife biologist at Aaranyak.
- ❖ The Hargila Army is a women-led conservation movement that helped save the endangered greater adjutant stork in Assam.
- ❖ The initiative emphasizes women's empowerment and community-led ecological stewardship.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UN SOFI 2025 report



- ❖ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025 report was released by following five United Nations agencies –
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),
 - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
 - World Food Programme (WFP), and
 - World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The report tracks progress on Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2).
- ❖ SDG 2 aims to end hunger, ensure safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round, and eliminate all forms of malnutrition.



- ❖ The report states that in India, 55.6% of people could not afford a healthy diet in 2024.
- ❖ Globally, hunger affected around 720 million people in 2024, about 8.2% of the population.
- ❖ About 2.3 billion people were moderately or severely food insecure in 2024.
- ❖ Asia had the highest number of undernourished people at 323 million.
- ❖ Africa followed with 307 million undernourished people.
- ❖ Latin America and the Caribbean had 34 million undernourished people.
- ❖ More than 1 in 5 people in Africa faced chronic hunger in 2024.
- ❖ Nearly half of the food-insecure population lived in Asia, but food insecurity rates were higher in Africa.
- ❖ By 2030, projections estimate 512 million people (6% of the global population) may still be chronically undernourished.
- ❖ In 2030, 60% of undernourished people are expected to live in Africa, where 17.6% of the population will face chronic hunger.
- ❖ In Asia and Latin America/Caribbean, undernourishment is expected to fall below 5% by 2030.

STATES' NEWS

Poll-free tradition

- ❖ Gathamam village is located in Palanpur taluka of Banaskantha district, Gujarat.
- ❖ The village has not conducted a Gram Panchayat election since 1955.
- ❖ Leadership is chosen through mutual agreement between the Hindu and Muslim communities.
- ❖ The population is around 7,000 with approximately 4,600 registered voters.
- ❖ Hindu and Muslim residents alternate Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch posts every term.
- ❖ In 2025, the Sarpanch post was reserved for the women under the official rotation policy.
- ❖ Gathamam qualifies as a consensus-based Panchayat (Samras), but receives no Samras Gram Yojana grant.
- ❖ Samras Gram Yojana is a Gujarat government scheme for unopposed Panchayat selections, launched under former CM Narendra Modi.
- ❖ In June 2025, Gujarat held elections in 4,564 Gram Panchayats, out of which 761 were declared Samras.

- ❖ Samras Panchayats are eligible for grants ranging from ₹3 lakh to ₹13 lakh.
- ❖ Gathamam is disqualified due to one reserved Scheduled Tribe (ST) ward, despite having no ST residents.
- ❖ The ST reservation remains from a past entry of a government officer temporarily registered in the village.
- ❖ The community continues to uphold its 70-year democratic consensus model without external incentives.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Gavri Festival

TRIBES OF INDIA – BHILS

REGION: — Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Once fierce warriors and master archers, the Bhils are celebrated in the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Today, they are known for their vibrant Bhil art, a storytelling tradition painted with dots and natural dyes.

LIVELIHOOD: Farming, forest produce collection, and skilled archery — a tradition passed down generations.

INTERESTING FACT: Bhil paintings aren't just art — they narrate folklore, dreams, and daily life, using symbols of animals, deities, and nature. No two artworks are ever the same!





- ❖ The Gavri Festival is a 40-day ritual by Mewar's Bhils in Rajasthan.
- ❖ It is held after Raksha Bandhan to honour Gorkhiya Mata (Goddess Parvati).
- ❖ Bhil troupes perform village-to-village dance-dramas (khels), songs, and spiritual rites rooted in nature, resistance, and community values.
- ❖ Plays like 'Badliya Hindwa' and 'Bhilurana' depict ecological devotion and historic resistance to invaders.

