



**December - 02**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Riyadh Metro in Saudi Arabia has become the world's longest fully driverless metro network, spanning 176 kilometres across six lines and 85 stations.
- ❖ Sarayu Velpula from Telangana became India's 26th Woman Grandmaster (WGM) in 2025.
- ❖ The Norwegian film "Safe House" was awarded the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal.
- ❖ Nagpur is setting up India's largest municipal solid waste-to-compressed biogas (MSW-to-CBG) plant at Bhandewadi, using dry anaerobic digestion technology.
- ❖ Paschal Donohoe, Ireland's Minister for Finance, has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer of the World Bank Group.
  - He is the first person to hold the specific, newly-titled position of Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer (CKO) at the World Bank Group.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has surpassed 1-gigawatt (1,003.64 MW) in residential rooftop solar under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, becoming the third state after Gujarat and Maharashtra to achieve this milestone.
- ❖ The 'Operation Eagle Force', was executed by the Eagle Force Telangana, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), the Delhi Police Crime Branch, and the Noida Police Busted Nationwide Nigerian Drug Cartel.
- ❖ The 60th Annual Summit of Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) was held in New Delhi to promote stronger partnerships for better healthcare innovation, access, and quality.
  - The theme of the summit was 'Power of Partnerships'.
- ❖ India became the second-largest non-CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) source market for Moscow tourism.
  - In early 2025, 40,800 Indian tourists visited Moscow with a 40% increase year-on-year.
- ❖ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) set a Guinness World Record for conducting the largest career advice programme in a single day, held in Mumbai.
  - The event took place in Mumbai with 7,400+ participants, of which 6,166 students were officially counted for the record.
- ❖ India launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to support cyclone Ditwah hit Sri Lanka, delivering the first relief supplies by using INS Vikrant and INS Udaigiri.
- ❖ China launched the Arctic Express shipping route via the Northern Sea Route (NSR).

- The route cuts logistics costs and carbon emissions by nearly 50% and avoids congested chokepoints like the Red Sea and Hormuz.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **TN Goat and Sheep Breeding Policy 2025**



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Goat & Sheep Breeding Policy was recently unveiled by the State Government.
- ❖ It has advocated for an open nucleus breeding system for goats and for selective breeding within the breed with superior rams for sheep.
- ❖ The policy aims to improve sheep and goat for better production, to conserve local breeds and to explore registration of native/local breeds in ICAR-NBAGR.
- ❖ As per the 20th Livestock Census, the sheep population was 45 lakhs, and the goat population was 98 lakhs in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Mecheri, Kilakaraisal, Vembur, Coimbatore, Madras Red, Ramnad White, Katchaikatty Black, Nilgiri, Tiruchi Black and Chevaadu are the recognised sheep breeds in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Kanni Adu, Kodi Adu and Salem Black are the recognised goat breeds in the State.

### **Nilgiris Tahr Interpretation Centre**

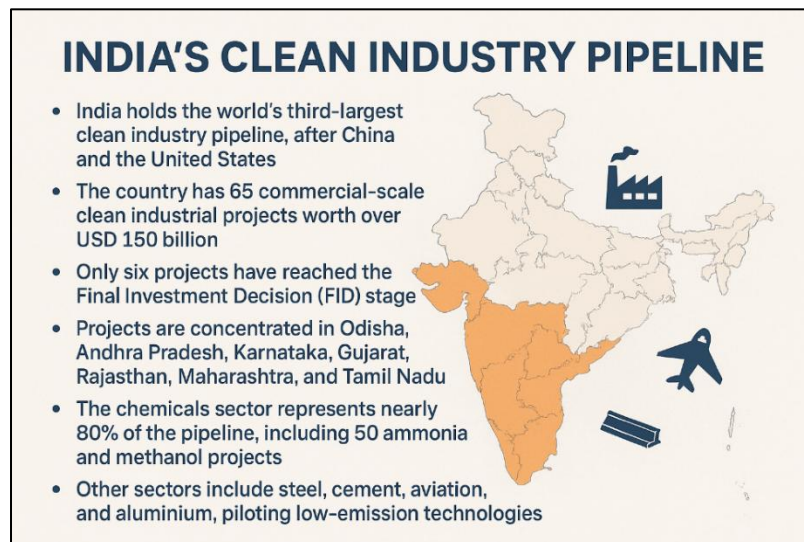
- ❖ A Nilgiris Tahr Interpretation Centre will be established in Gandhi Puram near Semmozhi Poonga, Coimbatore.
- ❖ Last year, Tamil Nadu recorded 1,031 Nilgiri Tahr during a count conducted across 13 routes and 140 locations.

- ❖ This year, the survey covered 14 habitats and 175 locations, and 1,303 Nilgiris Tahr were recorded, showing an increase of 272.
- ❖ Anamalai Grass Hills recorded the highest number in Tamil Nadu with 334 Nilgiri Tahr.
- ❖ Kerala recorded 1,352 Nilgiris Tahr, bringing the combined total for Tamil Nadu and Kerala to 2,655.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### India's Clean Industry Pipeline



- ❖ India holds the world's third-largest clean industry pipeline, after China and the United States.

- ❖ The country has 65 commercial-scale clean industrial projects worth over USD 150 billion.
- ❖ Only six projects have reached the Final Investment Decision (FID) stage.
- ❖ Projects are concentrated in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The chemicals sector represents nearly 80% of the pipeline, including 50 ammonia and methanol projects.
- ❖ Other sectors include steel, cement, aviation, and aluminium, piloting low-emission technologies.

## **SoLAR Phase II**



- ❖ SoLAR Phase II (Solar Irrigation for Agricultural Resilience) is led by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).
- ❖ The aim is to expand solar-powered irrigation for small farmers and improve climate resilience, water security, and clean energy use in agriculture.
- ❖ The program expands solar-powered irrigation in India, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Ethiopia.
- ❖ It uses evidence from Phase I (2019–2025) to make policies for solar irrigation.
- ❖ Farmers get access to solar pumps through Pay-as-you-go (PAYG), microfinance, and blended finance programs.





- ❖ The program trains farmers and local technicians to install and maintain solar irrigation systems.

### **Revised Earthquake Design Code 2025**

- ❖ India released an updated seismic zonation map under the Earthquake Design Code 2025, designed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ❖ The entire Himalayan arc from Jammu and Kashmir–Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh is now placed in the new highest-risk Zone VI.
- ❖ About 61% of India is now classified under moderate to high earthquake-hazard zones.
- ❖ Boundary towns are automatically placed in the higher-risk zone if located between two zones.
- ❖ The map uses Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA) and includes updated soil and ground-response guidelines.

**India has unveiled a radically updated seismic zonation map as part of the revised Earthquake Design Code by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), placing the entire Himalayan arc in a newly introduced highest-risk Zone VI for the first time.**

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **India–U.S. Defense Trade**

- ❖ The U.S. approved India's purchase of Javelin missiles and Excalibur projectiles worth \$92.8 million.
- ❖ India requested 216 M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles with related equipment and support systems.

- ❖ India also requested 100 FGM-148 Javelin rounds, 1 Javelin missile, and 25 Javelin Command Launch Units.
- ❖ The Excalibur deal is priced at \$47.1 million, and the Javelin deal is priced at \$45.7 million.

## JAVELIN MISSILE

- It is an American-made, man-portable, anti-tank guided missile.
- It is developed and produced jointly by American defence majors Raytheon and Lockheed Martin.
- It was designed to defeat heavily armored vehicles such as main battle tanks and lighter-skinned military vehicles.
- It first entered service with the U.S. military in 1996.

## WTDC 2025



- ❖ The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2025 was held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ The theme of the event was “Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future.”
- ❖ The conference aims to help the 2.6 billion people in the world who still do not have Internet access.
- ❖ It created a Global Roadmap for Digital Development for the years 2026 to 2029.

- ❖ The event is hosted by Azerbaijan's Ministry of Digital Development and Transport and organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

### **International Fleet Review 2025**

- ❖ India sent its first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, to the International Fleet Review 2025 in Colombo.
- ❖ India also deployed the indigenously built guided-missile frigate INS Udaygiri.
- ❖ This was the first overseas deployment for both INS Vikrant and INS Udaygiri.
- ❖ The ships took part in fleet review activities, parades, and public-access events.
- ❖ The event was held as part of the 75th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy.



### **Femicide Law - Italy**

- ❖ Italy has passed a new law that officially recognises femicide, the killing of women because of their gender.
- ❖ The law makes femicide a separate crime and allows life imprisonment for those found guilty.
- ❖ Femicide includes killings by partners, family members, or others where gender is the main motive.

- ❖ It also aims to improve public understanding of gender-based violence and its warning signs.

**Italy's parliament unanimously approved a law on November 25, 2025, defining femicide, the murder of a woman due to gender, as a distinct crime punishable by life imprisonment.**

**The bipartisan vote, with 237 in favor, was backed by PM Giorgia Meloni's center-right government and center-left opposition.**

**Italy joins few nations like Mexico (2007) and Chile with specific femicide laws and harsh penalties.**

**Only 29 countries have them in 2025, protecting just 11% of women globally amid 50,000+ cases yearly.**

### **IMO Council Election**



- ❖ India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for 2026–27.



- ❖ The election took place during the 34th session of the IMO Assembly in London.
- ❖ India received 154 out of 169 valid votes, the highest in the category of ten countries with the largest interest in international seaborne trade.

## **ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

### **First National Coral Reef Research Centre**

- ❖ India will establish the National Coral Reef Research Institute (NCRRI) in Chidiyatapu, South Andaman.
- ❖ The project cost is estimated at ₹120 crore under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ❖ NCRRI will act as the national hub for coral reef research, monitoring, and conservation.
- ❖ The centre will focus on marine biodiversity assessments, reef restoration, and climate impact studies.
- ❖ Coral reefs reduce storm impact, acting as natural coastal barriers, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are one of India's four biodiversity hotspots.

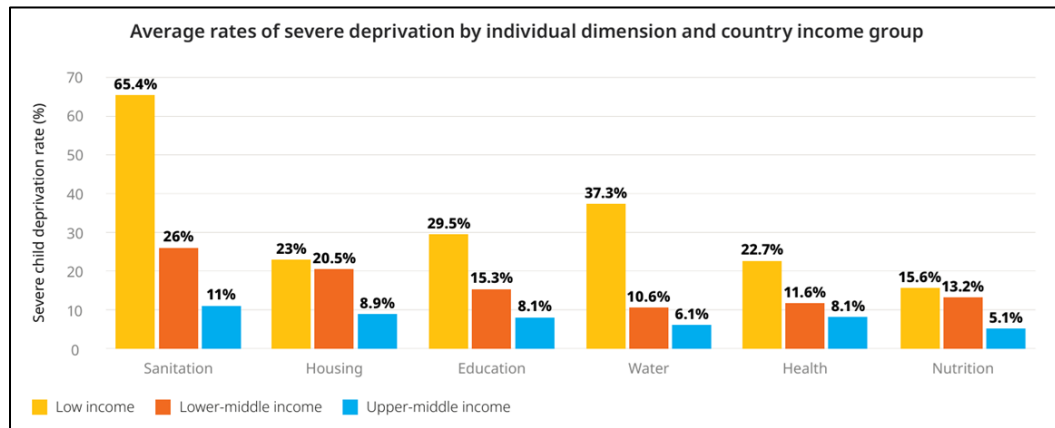


## **REPORTS AND INDICES**

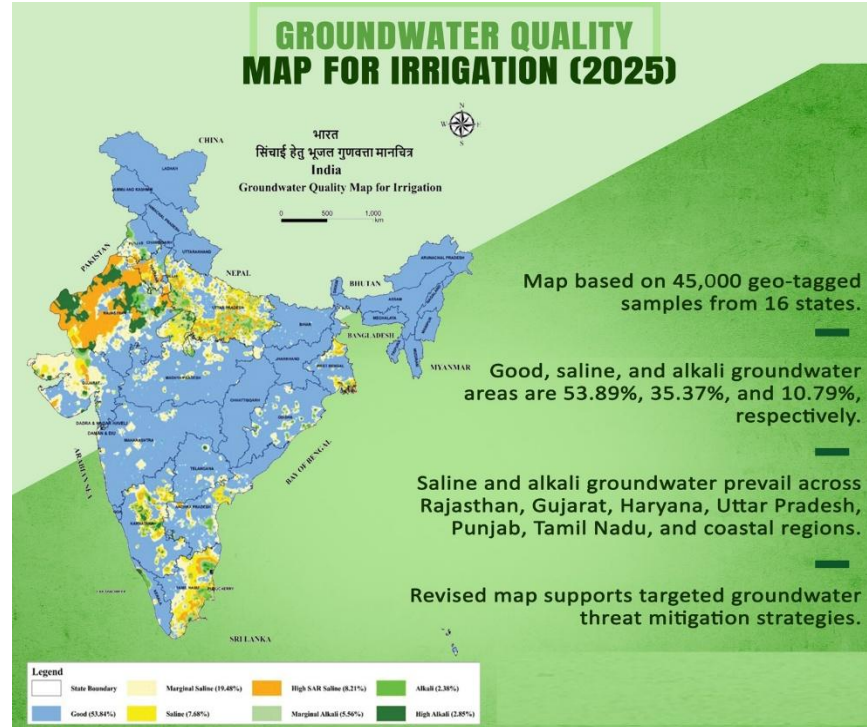
### **UNICEF SoWC 2025 Report**

- ❖ UNICEF released the SoWC (State of the World's Children) 2025 report called "Ending Child Poverty – Our Shared Imperative."
- ❖ The report used data from more than 130 low- and middle-income countries.

- ❖ Over 19% of children in the world live in extreme monetary poverty.
- ❖ More than 1 in 5 children in these countries face severe deprivation in at least two basic needs.
- ❖ In India, about 206 million children face one deprivation, and about 62 million face two or more.
- ❖ Sanitation was found to be the most common severe deprivation among children.



## Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2025



- ❖ The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) released the Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2025.

- ❖ About 71.7% of India's groundwater meets Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) limits, while 28.3% of samples exceed limits for one or more parameters.
- ❖ Nitrate is the most widespread contaminant, affecting about 20% of samples, followed by fluoride and salinity.
- ❖ Uranium contamination above safe limits (30 ppb) was found in 6.71% pre-monsoon and 7.91% post-monsoon samples, mostly in Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi.
- ❖ Groundwater is largely suitable for irrigation, with 94.3% of samples in the "excellent category."

## STATES' NEWS

### Karnataka's Quantum City Blueprint



- ❖ Karnataka unveiled India's first Quantum City (Q-City) blueprint at the 28th Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025.
- ❖ The Quantum City is planned at Hesaraghatta, Karnataka, under a ₹1,000-crore Quantum Mission.
- ❖ The Quantum City aims to promote quantum research, innovation, and commercialization in India.



- ❖ It will include research labs, a Quantum Hardware Park, cryogenic testing units, and quantum cloud/data centres.
- ❖ Karnataka will also set up a ₹1,136-crore Quantum Supremacy Centre in Bengaluru for quantum chip fabrication.

### India's First '1 Bio' Facility

- ❖ Telangana launched 1 Bio, India's first single-use bioprocess design and scale-up facility, in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.
- ❖ 1 Bio provides end-to-end process development and pilot-scale validation for start-ups and established biotech companies.
- ❖ The facility features bioreactors up to 500 litres, advanced upstream and downstream systems, analytical labs, and training centres.
- ❖ A bioprocess design centre was developed in partnership with Thermo Fisher Scientific, with ₹90 crore investment from the firm.
- ❖ The launch marks 25 years of Genome Valley and supports Telangana's goal of attracting ₹1 lakh crore investments in Life Sciences by 2030.



### Land Ownership for Tea Workers

- ❖ Assam passed the Assam Fixation of Ceiling of Land Holdings (Amendment) Act, 2025.



- ❖ The law grants legal ownership of residential land to families living in tea garden labour lines.
- ❖ It removes these lands from the category of ancillary land in tea cultivation.
- ❖ The government will notify the plot sizes to be allotted and provide compensation of about ₹65.57 crore at the rate of ₹3,000 per bigha.
- ❖ Assam has 825 tea estates with labour colonies covering over 2 lakh bighas of land.
- ❖ The amendment aims to correct long-standing inequities faced by tea worker families and strengthen their social and economic security.

