



February - 07

## **TNPSC BITS**

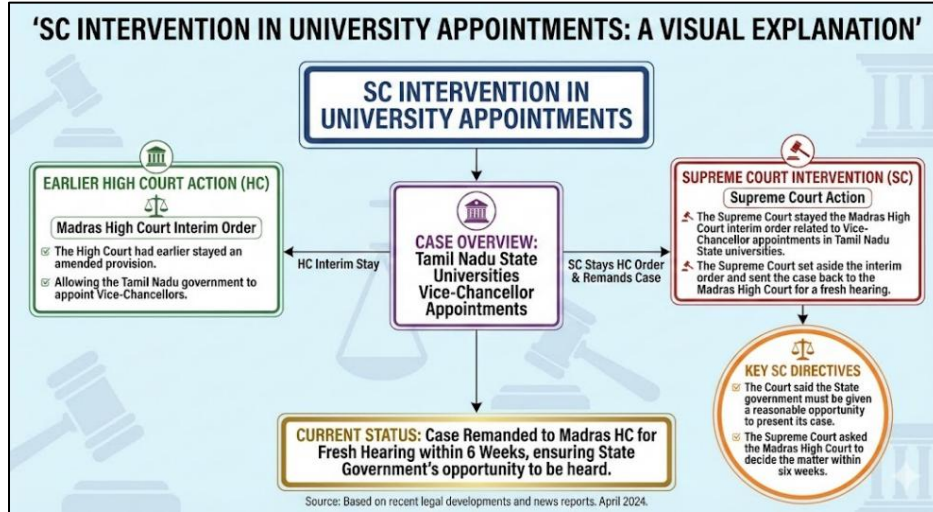
- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) restored road connectivity and conducted a rescue operation at Chatergala Pass in January 2026 after heavy snowfall.
  - The operation was carried out under Project Sampark at Chatergala Pass (10,500 feet) in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister will inaugurate Ranipet's first car manufacturing, at the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) complex in Panapakkam.
  - It will be the first facility in India to manufacture luxury Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) car models, a brand owned by Tata Motors that specialises in electric vehicles.
- ❖ Eminent educationist S.S. Rajagopalan passed away recently.
  - He was a member of the committee that formulated Samacheer Kalvi and served on the technical committee of the All-India Forum for Right Education.
- ❖ Paradip Port Authority of Odisha was named Cleanest Port of the Year and won the First Prize at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025.
- ❖ Elon Musk became the first person in history to cross a net worth of \$800 billion, according to Forbes, following the merger of SpaceX and the xAI company.
- ❖ The SAKSHAM (Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav) 2026 fuel-conservation campaign was launched in Chandigarh and is observed from February 1 to February 15, 2026.
- ❖ Union Government signed an agreement with various stakeholders to establish the Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL) to strengthen maritime logistics.
- ❖ India and China recorded a historic bilateral trade of USD 155.6 billion in 2025, growing by about 12% during the year.
  - Indian exports to China increased by 9.7% in 2025.
- ❖ World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) 2026 is observed from February 1 to 7 worldwide to promote peace, tolerance, non-violence, and interfaith understanding.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **SC on Vice-Chancellor Appointments**

- ❖ The Supreme Court stayed the Madras High Court interim order related to Vice-Chancellor appointments in Tamil Nadu State universities.
- ❖ The High Court had earlier stayed an amended provision allowing the Tamil Nadu government to appoint Vice-Chancellors.

- ❖ The Court said the State government must be given a reasonable opportunity to present its case.
- ❖ The Supreme Court asked the Madras High Court to decide the matter within six weeks.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Special Intensive Revision Case in SC

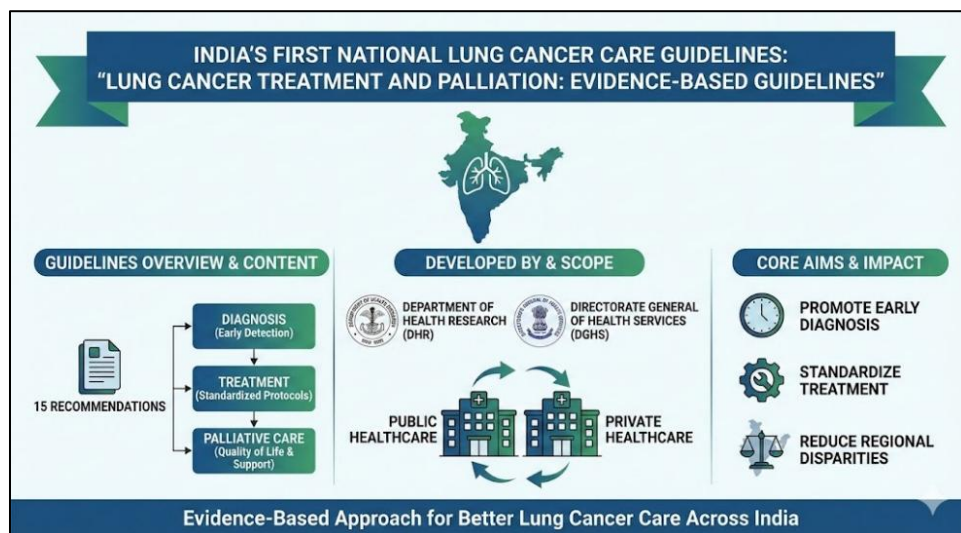


- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appeared in the Supreme Court regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
- ❖ Mamata Banerjee became the first sitting Chief Minister in India to appear personally before the Supreme Court to argue her own case.

- ❖ She sought permission from the Court to present arguments in person on a petition challenging the voter-list revision process conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- ❖ The case relates to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which is carried out by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

## Lung Cancer Care Guidelines

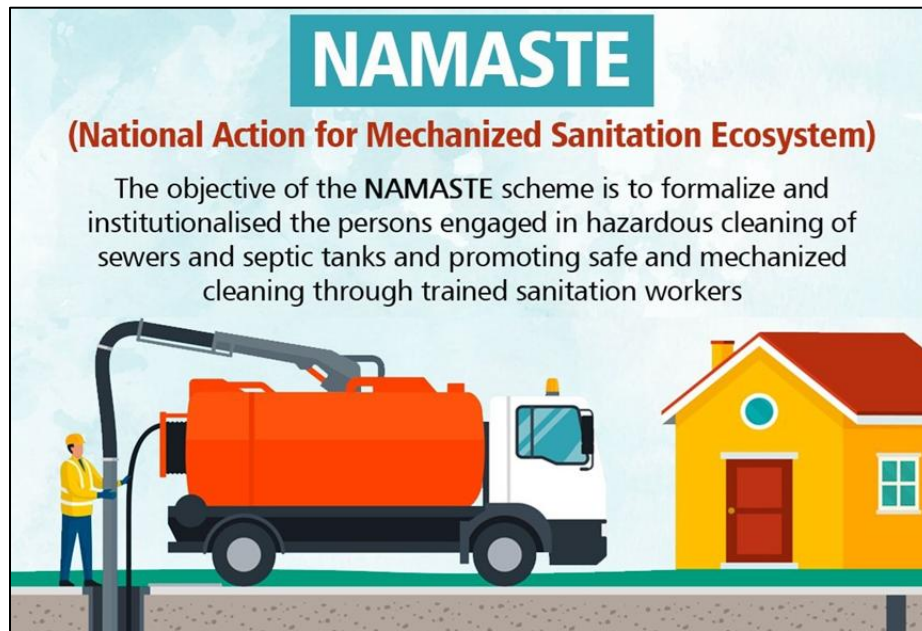
- ❖ India released its first national evidence-based lung cancer care guidelines titled “Lung Cancer Treatment and Palliation: Evidence-Based Guidelines”.
- ❖ The document provides 15 recommendations covering diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care.
- ❖ The aim is to promote early diagnosis, standardise treatment, and reduce regional disparities in lung cancer care across India.
- ❖ The guidelines apply to both public and private healthcare systems.



## National Waste-Pickers Database

- ❖ The Union Government released the first national data on waste-pickers under the NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme.
- ❖ About 1.52 lakh waste-pickers have been profiled and validated by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across 35 States and Union Territories.
- ❖ Around 84.5% of waste-pickers belong to the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) communities.
- ❖ Nearly 48.7% are women, 51.3% men, and 12 transgender persons among the profiled workers.

- ❖ The NAMASTE scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to recognise sanitation workers and eliminate deaths from hazardous sewer and septic-tank cleaning.



### Supreme Court on death Penalty



- ❖ The Supreme Court has not confirmed a single death penalty in the past three years.
- ❖ It was according to an annual statistics report on death penalties in India.
- ❖ It was published by the Square Circle Clinic, a criminal justice initiative at the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.





- ❖ In fact, in 2025, the top court acquitted 10 prisoners who had been on death row.
- ❖ It was the highest number of such acquittals in the past decade.
- ❖ The report examined death penalty trends across India over the past 10 years.
- ❖ It found that the sessions courts handed down 1,310 death sentences nationwide between 2016 and 2025.
- ❖ The lower courts sentenced 128 individuals to death in 2025 alone.

#### **High rate of acquittals**

- ❖ Of the 1,310 death sentences, 842 verdicts were handed down by the High Courts.
- ❖ Of which 70 — that is, just 8.31% — were confirmed.
- ❖ The High Court acquitted 285 people on death row.
- ❖ While 411 death sentences were commuted.
- ❖ The Supreme Court's stance has been even more restrictive, with no death sentence confirmed in the past three years.
- ❖ Also, in cases where sessions courts-imposed death sentences which were confirmed by the High Courts, not a single sentence has yet been affirmed by the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Of the 37 such death sentences which have been decided by the Supreme Court, 15 resulted in acquittal, and 14 were commuted.
- ❖ The report also showed that India had 574 prisoners — 550 men and 24 women — on death row as of December 31, 2025.
- ❖ The average time spent on death row before acquittal was over five years, with some prisoners languishing for nearly a decade before being exonerated.
- ❖ However, 138 individuals were also removed from death row during the year through acquittals, commutations, or remand orders.
- ❖ One of the report's most alarming findings concerns procedural violations at the sentencing stage.
- ❖ There were clear guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in *Manoj vs State of Madhya Pradesh*.
- ❖ It mandates psychological evaluations, prison conduct reports, and mitigation hearings.
- ❖ They were elevated to a fair trial right requirement in *Vasanta Sampat Dupare vs Union of India*.
- ❖ But in 2025, nearly 95% of death sentences in 2025 were imposed without compliance.

- ❖ Sentencing hearings were frequently conducted within days of conviction, leaving little scope for meaningful defence representation.
- ❖ Another emerging trend is the growing use of life imprisonment without remission as an alternative to the death penalty.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### World Governments Summit 2026

- ❖ The World Governments Summit 2026 was held in Dubai, UAE.
- ❖ The theme of the Summit is “Global Governance and Effective Leadership.”
- ❖ The summit aims to shape the future of governments by promoting international cooperation, innovation, and effective public administration.
- ❖ Focus areas include governance, artificial intelligence (AI), economy, healthcare, and public-sector innovation.



### Social Media ban for Children Under 16



- ❖ Spain announced a nationwide ban on social media access for children under 16 years.

- ❖ Spain became the first country in Europe and the second country in the world, after Australia, to impose such a ban.
- ❖ The government will require mandatory age-verification systems on social media platforms.

### **BRICS Industrial Competency Centre**

- ❖ India has joined the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC) to strengthen manufacturing skills and industrial cooperation among BRICS countries.
- ❖ The initiative is implemented in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- ❖ The National Productivity Council (NPC) has been designated as the India centre for BCIC activities.
- ❖ The aim is to promote Industry 4.0 skills, manufacturing productivity, and support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

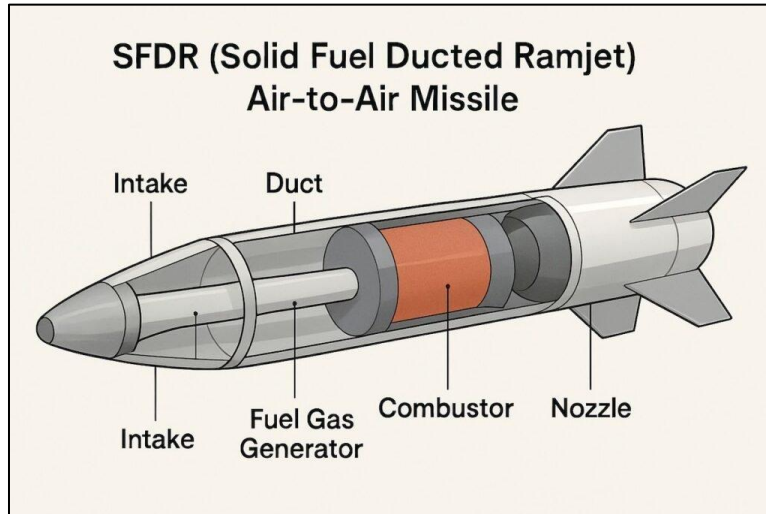


## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **SFDR Missile Technology Test**

- ❖ The DRDO successfully demonstrated Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) missile technology.

- ❖ SFDR (Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet) is a propulsion technology used in long-range air-to-air missiles.
- ❖ The missile first used a ground booster, and then the ramjet engine ignited during flight.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Indian Peacock in Manali



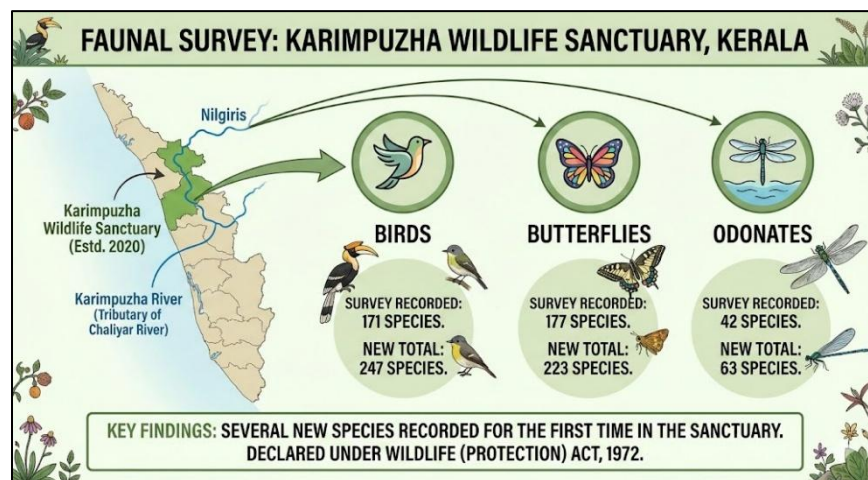
- ❖ A pair of peacocks was spotted at about 6,000 ft near Manali in Himachal Pradesh, which is unusual for this species.
- ❖ Peacocks belong to the pheasant family (Phasianidae).
- ❖ The Indian or Blue Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*) is the National Bird of India.



- ❖ Peacocks usually live in warm forests, grasslands, and agricultural areas in plains and low hills, normally below about 1,000–1,500 metres.
- ❖ According to the IUCN, it is listed as Least Concern.

### **Faunal Survey in Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary**

- ❖ A faunal survey conducted in Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala, recorded several new species in the sanctuary.
- ❖ The survey documented 171 bird species, 177 butterfly species, and 42 odonate species, with many recorded for the first time.
- ❖ With new additions, the sanctuary now has 247 bird species, 223 butterfly species, and 63 odonate species recorded.
- ❖ Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary, declared in 2020 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, on the western slopes of the Nilgiris.
- ❖ The sanctuary is named after the Karimpuzha River, a tributary of the Chaliyar River.

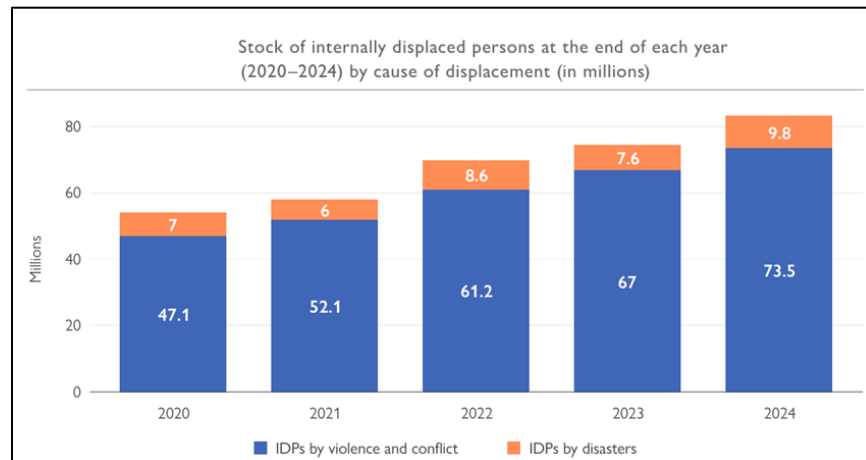


## **REPORTS AND INDICES**

### **IOM Global Appeal 2026 Report**

- ❖ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) released the Global Appeal 2026 Report.
- ❖ It requesting USD 4.7 billion to assist 41 million people worldwide in 2026.
- ❖ The report aligns with the IOM Strategic Plan 2024–2028 to support displaced populations and promote safe migration.

- ❖ Internal displacement reached 83.4 million people in 2024, the highest ever recorded globally.
- ❖ Disaster-related displacement rose to 9.8 million in 2024, showing a 29% increase from the previous year.
- ❖ Migrants sent USD 905 billion in international remittances in 2024, supporting many economies.
- ❖ There are about 168 million migrant workers worldwide, filling labour shortages across sectors.



### World Bank report on air pollution



- ❖ The World Bank released the 2025 report “A Breath of Change” on air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan Foothills.

- ❖ The report covers 13 jurisdictions across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.
- ❖ Air pollution causes about 1 million premature deaths every year in the region.
- ❖ The economic loss due to pollution is about 10% of GDP annually in the region.
- ❖ The IGP-HF region has the highest air pollution levels in the world, with PM2.5 levels 8–20 times higher than WHO guidelines.
- ❖ The report supports the “35 by 35” target to reduce air pollution levels.
- ❖ It recommends solutions through the “4Is” framework — Information, Incentives, Institutions, and Infrastructure.

## STATE NEWS

### New CM of Manipur - Yumnam Khemchand Singh



- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu revoked President’s Rule (Article 356) in the State on February 4, 2026.
- ❖ President’s Rule had been imposed on February 13, 2025, after the resignation of Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh.
- ❖ Yumnam Khemchand Singh took oath as the Chief Minister of Manipur on February 4, 2026.
- ❖ Nemcha Kipgen and Losii Dikho were sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers.

### Women Industrial Park Initiative

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh signed a MoU with FICCI-FLO to establish an exclusive women's industrial park.
- ❖ The industrial park will be developed on 30 acres for women-led industries, startups, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- ❖ FICCI-FLO will provide mentoring, training, and business support.
- ❖ The initiative supports the “One Family, One Entrepreneur” vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.
- ❖ It is also part of the state plan to develop 175 MSME parks in Andhra Pradesh.

**FLO signed a MOU with APIIC ( Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited) to establish a 30-Acre FLo Andhra FLO Industrial Park.**

