

February - 07

## TNPSC BITS

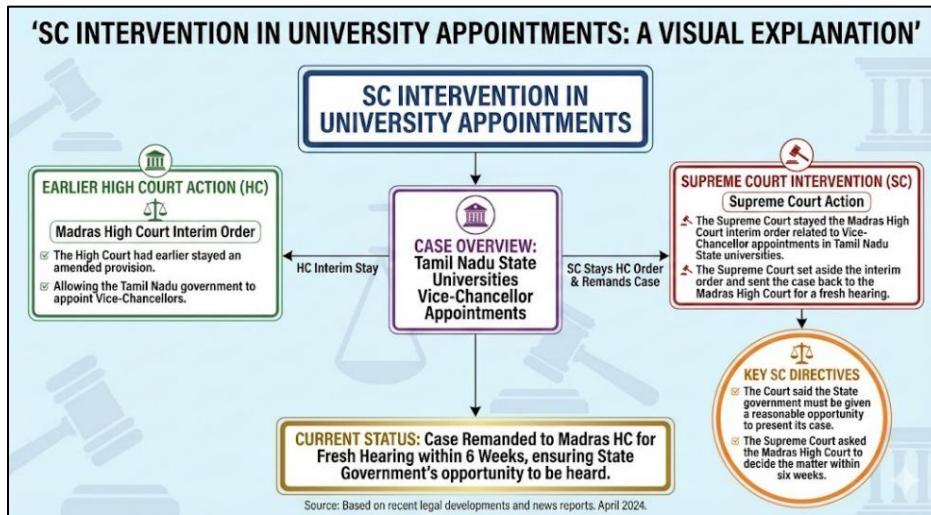
- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) restored road connectivity and conducted a rescue operation at Chatergala Pass in January 2026 after heavy snowfall.
  - The operation was carried out under Project Sampark at Chatergala Pass (10,500 feet) in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister will 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

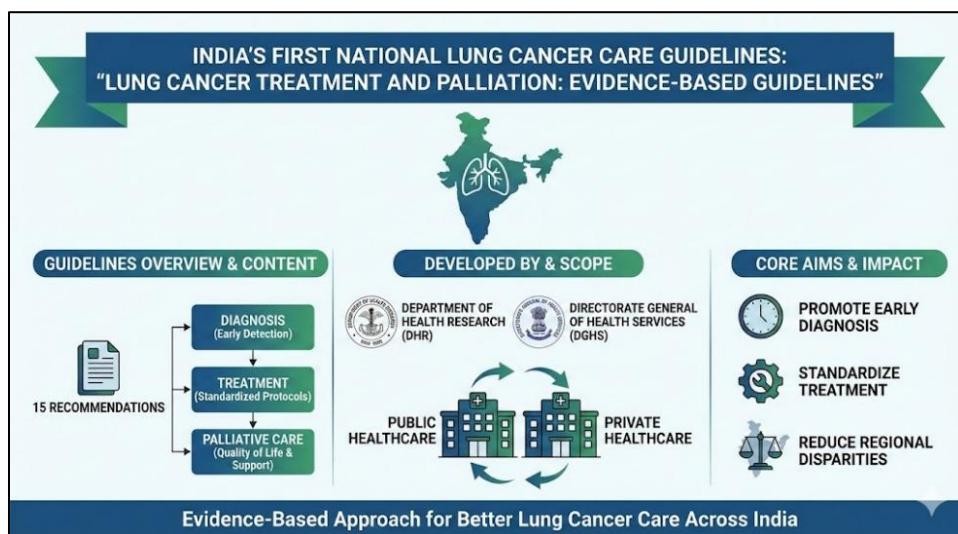


- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appeared in the Supreme Court regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
- ❖ Mamata Banerjee became the first sitting Chief Minister in India to appear personally before the Supreme Court to argue her own case.

- ❖ 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.

**NAMASTE**  
**(National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem)**

The objective of the NAMASTE scheme is to formalize and institutionalised the persons engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and promoting safe and mechanized cleaning through trained sanitation workers



### Supreme Court on death Penalty

**Under scrutiny**  
A look at the issues before the Supreme Court



- SC acknowledges the need to give accused in death penalty cases "meaningful, real and effective" hearing on mitigating circumstances
- It finds that past judgments do not address the "sufficient time" accused may need to present his or her mitigating circumstances before the trial court
- SC discusses need to form a uniform framework for trial judges to determine mitigating factors in death penalty cases

- ❖ 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).

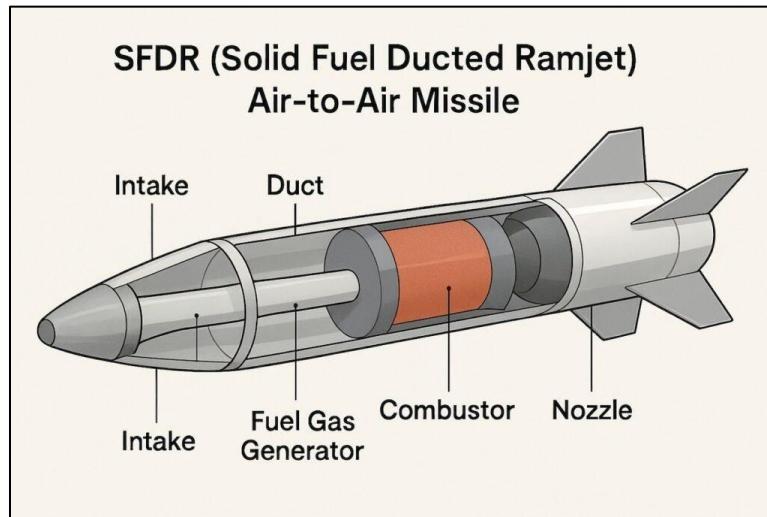


## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **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



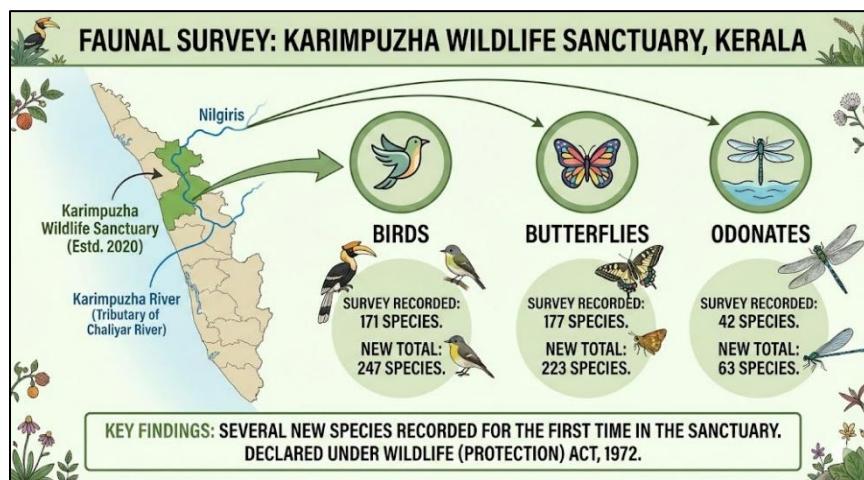
**2 peacocks was spotted at about 6,000 ft near Manali in Himachal Pradesh**

- ❖ 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.

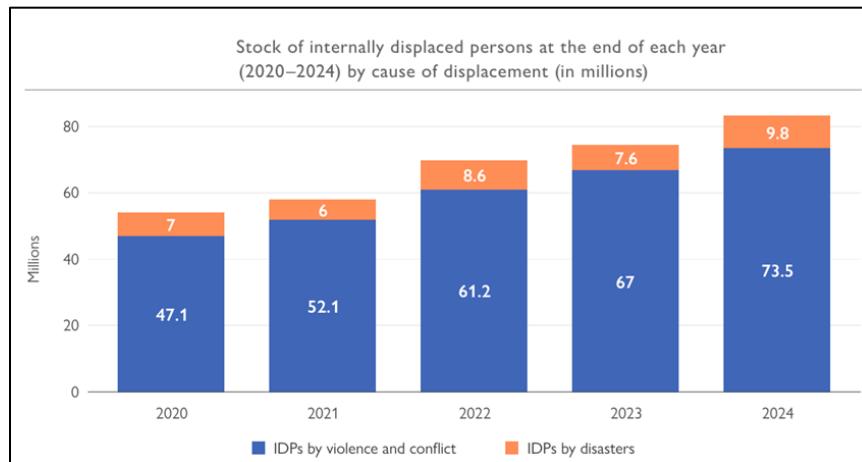


## REPORTS AND INDICES

### 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.**

