

February - 09

TNPSC BITS

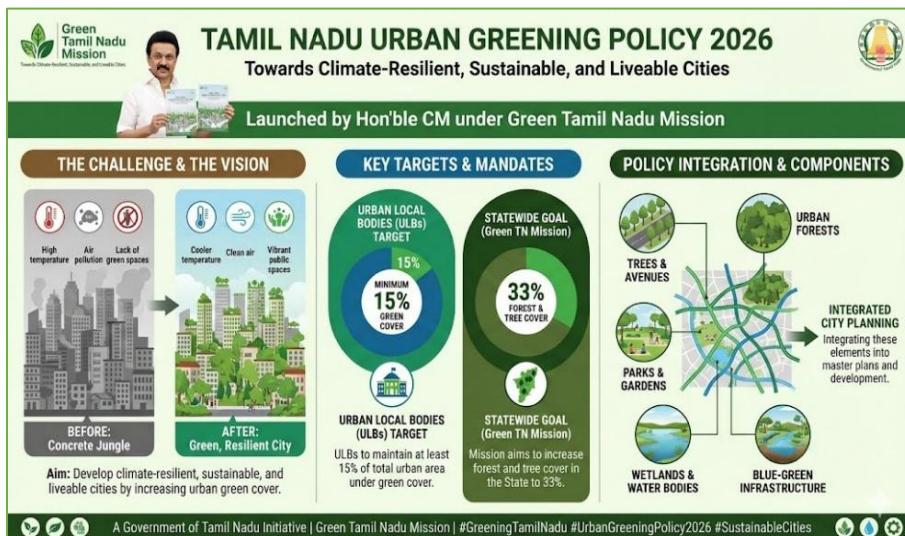
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled Tamil Nadu's first statue of German philosopher and communist leader Karl Marx at the Egmore Museum complex in Chennai.
- ❖ V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority has become the first port in India to deploy an Anti-Drone System.
- ❖ DRDO successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable Agni-3 ballistic missile (surface-to-surface missile) off the Odisha coast.
- ❖ India's foreign exchange reserves reached an all-time high of \$723.8 billion as of January 30, 2026.
- ❖ India won the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2026, defeating England in the final at Harare, Zimbabwe.
- ❖ Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh won a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the Asian Shooting Championship 2026 held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Alwar district (Rajasthan) became the first district in India to achieve 100% insurance coverage under the "Insurance for All by 2047" roadmap.
- ❖ Indian Railways has launched India's first LNG-Diesel dual-fuel DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) train at Sabarmati in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ A two-year-old, Jude Owens from Manchester (UK), set two Guinness World Records by becoming the youngest player to make a bank shot in pool and a double-pot shot in snooker.
- ❖ The Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon-2026, organised by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), entered Andhra Pradesh to mark 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram."
- ❖ The book Red Lines Redrawn: Operation Sindoor and India's New Normal, authored by Major General Bipin Bakshi (Retd), Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar (Retd), Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, and Brigadier Akhelesh Bhargava (Retd), details India's Operation Sindoor.
- ❖ An explosion in an illegal rat-hole coal mine killed 18 miners in East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.

- Rat-hole mining is a coal-extraction method using narrow tunnels (about 4–5 feet deep), and it was banned by the NGT (National Green Tribunal) in 2014 due to safety and environmental risks.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Urban Greening Policy 2026

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government released the Tamil Nadu Urban Greening Policy 2026 under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission.
- ❖ The aim is to develop climate-resilient, sustainable, and liveable cities by increasing urban green cover.
- ❖ The policy focuses on integrating trees, urban forests, parks, wetlands, and blue-green infrastructure into city planning.
- ❖ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are expected to maintain at least 15% of urban areas under green cover.
- ❖ The Green Tamil Nadu Mission aims to increase forest and tree cover in the State to 33%.



NATIONAL NEWS

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, replacing the SWM Rules, 2016, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

- ❖ The rules will come into force from 1 April 2026 across urban and rural local bodies.
- ❖ They mandate four-stream waste segregation at source — Wet, Dry, Sanitary, and Special-care waste.
- ❖ The rules apply the Polluter Pays Principle, with penalties enforced by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards.
- ❖ Bulk Waste Generators (BWG) include entities producing 100 kg of waste per day or more, or large buildings and institutions.
- ❖ A centralised online portal will track waste generation, collection, and disposal.
- ❖ Landfills will be limited to non-recyclable and inert waste, and biomining of legacy waste dumpsites is mandatory.



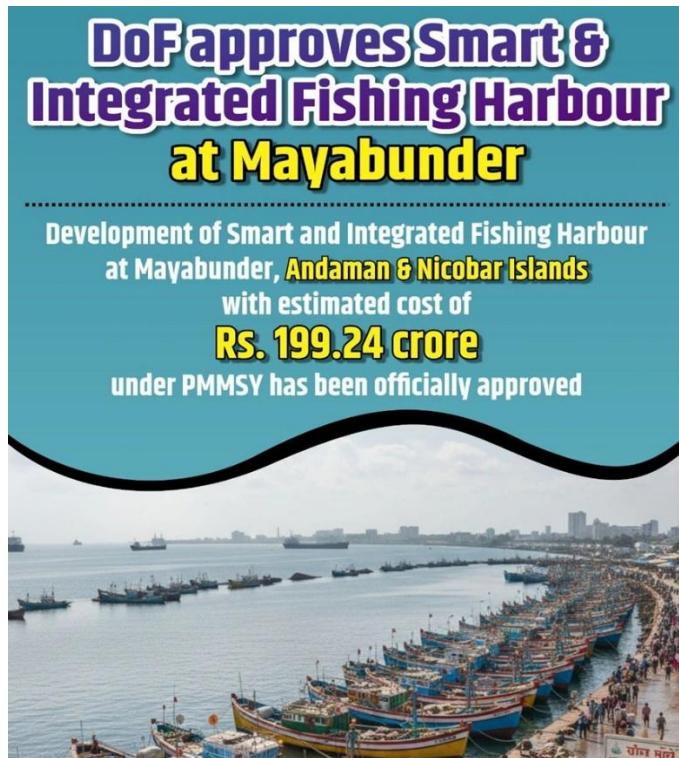
PAIMANA Portal

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the PAIMANA (Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-building) portal.
- ❖ PAIMANA is a web-based platform to monitor Central Sector infrastructure projects worth ₹150 crore and above.
- ❖ It has replaced OCMS-2006 (Online Computerised Monitoring System) for better real-time monitoring.
- ❖ The portal is integrated with DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)'s Integrated Project Monitoring Portal using APIs (Application Programming Interface).
- ❖ As of December 2025, 1,392 infrastructure projects were onboarded on the portal.

- ❖ The portal aims to improve transparency, data quality, and the timely completion of infrastructure projects.



Smart Fishing Harbour - Mayabunder



- ❖ The Union Department of Fisheries has sanctioned a Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

- ❖ Mayabunder is a town in the North and Middle Andaman district and is a key hub for fisheries, tourism, and the local economy.
- ❖ The harbour will handle 9,900 tonnes of fish annually and provide berthing for 430 fishing vessels.
- ❖ It will use Internet of Things (IoT) technology for real-time monitoring and digital traceability.
- ❖ The project focuses on sustainable management, combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Sea Turtle Conservation Centre

Tender floated

Two years after the state's announcement, the Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission has floated a Rs 6.3 crore tender to build the Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre in Guindy National Park under the World Bank-aided TN-SHORE project

Rescue and rehabilitation hub

The centre will serve as a rescue and treatment hub for injured turtles, providing medical care and rehabilitation before they are released back into the sea.

- ❖ The foundation stone for Tamil Nadu's first Sea Turtle Conservation Centre was laid at Guindy in Chennai.
- ❖ The Centre of Excellence will be established under the World Bank-aided Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy (TN-SHORE) project at a cost of ₹14.50 crore.
- ❖ The centre aims to strengthen scientific research, monitoring, training, and coordination for sea turtle conservation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the only State in India that has five of the world's six sea turtle species.
- ❖ The coasts of Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Nagapattinam, and Cuddalore witness major sea turtle nesting activity every year.

- ❖ The initiative focuses on protecting marine turtles, especially the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle.

JALAJ Livelihood Centres

- ❖ The Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated 25 JALAJ Livelihood Centres.
- ❖ These are a joint initiative of Namami Gange Mission, followed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- ❖ The initiative aims to link river conservation with sustainable livelihoods in the Ganga River basin.
- ❖ The centres are based on the circular economy model, training local people in biodiversity conservation and livelihood skills.
- ❖ The programme promotes community participation, women's involvement, and aquatic biodiversity conservation.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Biomass Energy Production Rankings 2026

- ❖ The United States ranked first in biomass energy production in the world in 2026.
- ❖ Biomass energy is produced from organic materials such as wood, agricultural waste, food waste, and animal dung.
- ❖ Brazil ranks second, mainly due to bioethanol production from sugarcane.
- ❖ Indonesia ranks third, followed by China.

- ❖ India is in fifth place in global biomass energy production.
- ❖ Biomass energy is a renewable source of energy because organic materials can be regenerated.

GLOBAL BIOMASS ENERGY PRODUCTION RANKINGS 2026			
Rank	Country	Primary Sources & Key Facts	
1	United States		Leading producer. Uses organic materials (wood, agricultural & food waste).
2	Brazil		Mainly bioethanol from sugarcane.
3	Indonesia		Significant production from agricultural waste.
4	China		Diverse sources, large-scale utilization.
5	India		Focus on agricultural waste and animal dung.

Biomass energy is a renewable source derived from regenerable organic materials.

STATE NEWS

Clean Energy Blueprint

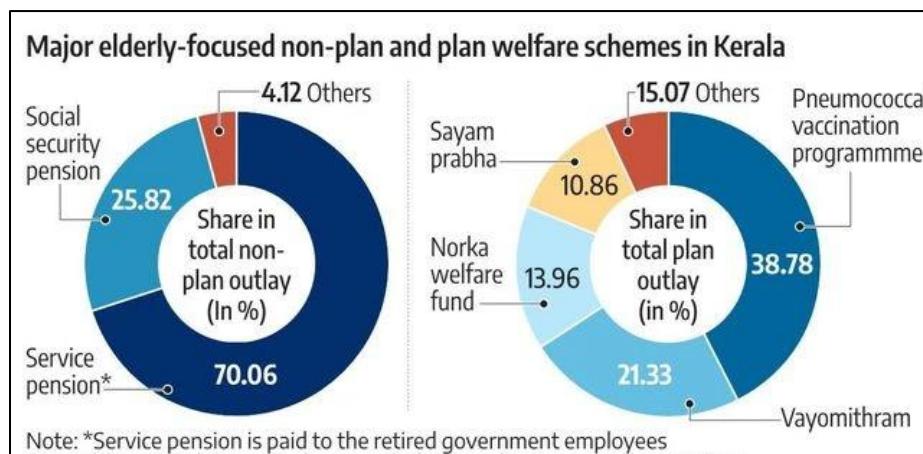


- ❖ NITI Aayog released a draft plan to make Andhra Pradesh a clean energy hub by 2035.
- ❖ It focuses on renewable energy, energy storage, grid improvement, and affordable electricity.
- ❖ The blueprint is prepared under ASSET (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition), an initiative of NITI Aayog.

- ❖ The blueprint will be finalized by March 2026, and implementation is expected to begin in 2026.

Elderly Budget FY27 - Kerala

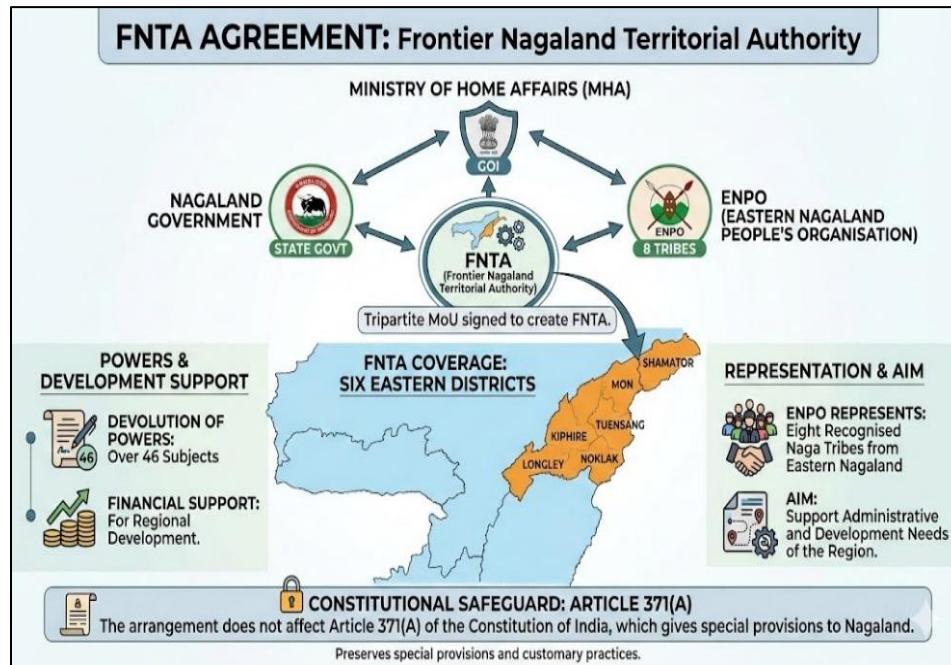
- ❖ Kerala became the first Indian state to announce a dedicated Elderly Budget for FY27.
- ❖ The total allocation for the Elderly Budget is ₹46,236.52 crore, about 19.07% of the State Budget.
- ❖ Around 68% of the allocation is for pensions of retired government employees.
- ❖ The Elderly Budget combines spending on pensions, healthcare, social security, and welfare schemes for senior citizens.



FNTA Agreement

- ❖ The Centre signed a tripartite MoU to create the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA).
- ❖ The agreement was signed between the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Nagaland Government, and the ENPO (Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation).
- ❖ The FNTA will cover six eastern districts of Nagaland — Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak, and Shamator.
- ❖ The authority will receive devolution of powers over 46 subjects and financial support for regional development.
- ❖ The ENPO represents eight recognised Naga tribes from eastern Nagaland, and the agreement aims to support the administrative and development needs of the region.

- ❖ The arrangement does not affect Article 371(A) of the Constitution of India, which gives special provisions to Nagaland.



Ballot System in Local Elections



- ❖ The Karnataka Cabinet approved the use of ballot papers and ballot boxes for the upcoming panchayat elections in February 2026.
- ❖ The decision moves away from Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for local body elections.
- ❖ The government plans to introduce the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to allow paper-ballot voting legally.

- ❖ Panchayat elections are conducted by the State Election Commission.
- ❖ Electronic Voting Machines are not constitutionally mandatory for local body elections.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Kalaignar Ninaivu Kalaithurai Vithagar Award



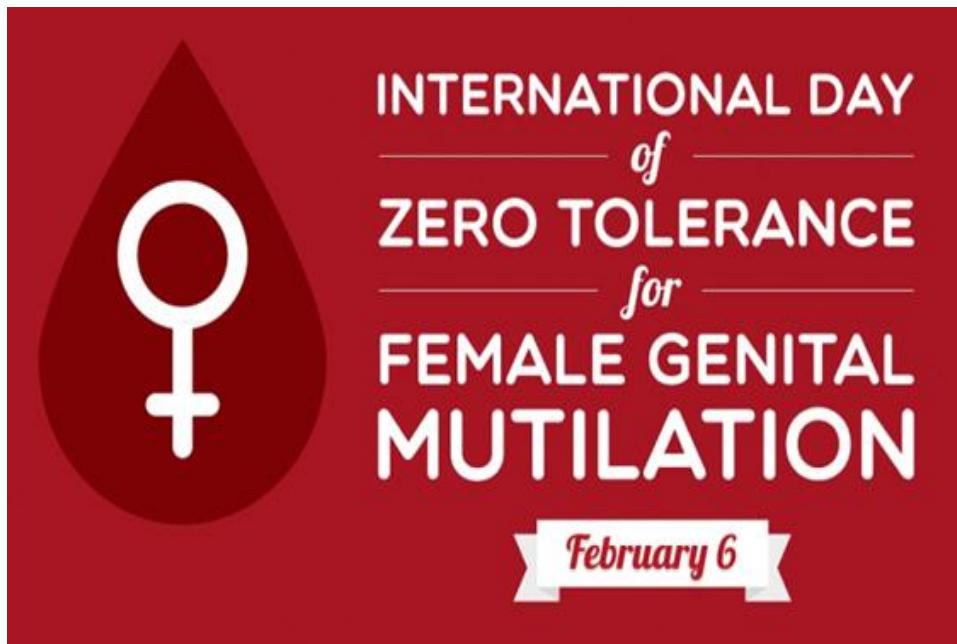
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced the Kalaignar Ninaivu Kalaithurai Vithagar Award for 2024-2025.
- ❖ The awards will be conferred on veteran actor M.N. Rajam (2024) and veteran filmmaker S.P. Muthuraman (2025).
- ❖ The award recognises outstanding contributions to Tamil cinema and the arts.
- ❖ Each awardee will receive a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a memento.
- ❖ The award is named in memory of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 2026 - February 06

- ❖ On 20 December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution and officially designated this international day.

- ❖ The concept of “Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation” was first introduced in 2003 by the Inter-African Committee (IAC).
- ❖ The aim is to create awareness and strengthen global efforts to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- ❖ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target aims to eliminate FGM by 2030.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Towards 2030: No End To FGM Without Sustained Commitment and Investment”.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

QS 2026 - Most Affordable City for International Students

City	Global Affordability Rank	Affordability Score (out of 100)
Delhi	1st	96.5
Mumbai	11th	86.3
Bengaluru	15th	84.3

- ❖ Delhi ranked as the world's most affordable city for international students in the QS Best Student Cities 2026 ranking.
- ❖ The report “India’s 155 million Student Mandate” was prepared by Knight Frank, Deloitte India, and QS.
- ❖ Mumbai ranked 11th, and Bengaluru ranked 15th in the affordability list.

- ❖ The ranking evaluated 150 cities worldwide across six indicators, including affordability, employer activity, university rankings, and city desirability.
- ❖ India has about 155 million people in the 18–23 age group, making it one of the largest higher-education markets in the world.

