



**February - 09**

## **TNPSC BITS**

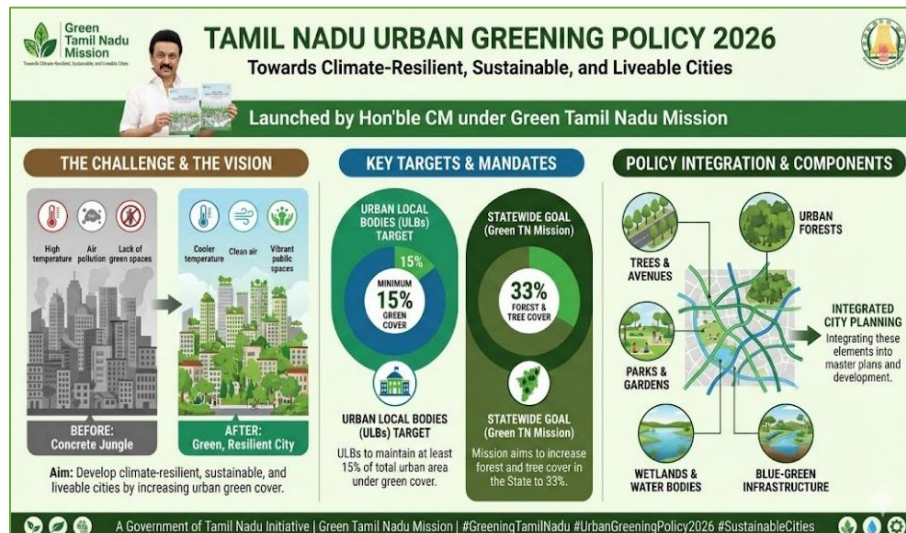
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled Tamil Nadu's first statue of German philosopher and communist leader Karl Marx at the Egmore Museum complex in Chennai.
- ❖ V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority has become the first port in India to deploy an Anti-Drone System.
- ❖ DRDO successfully 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.



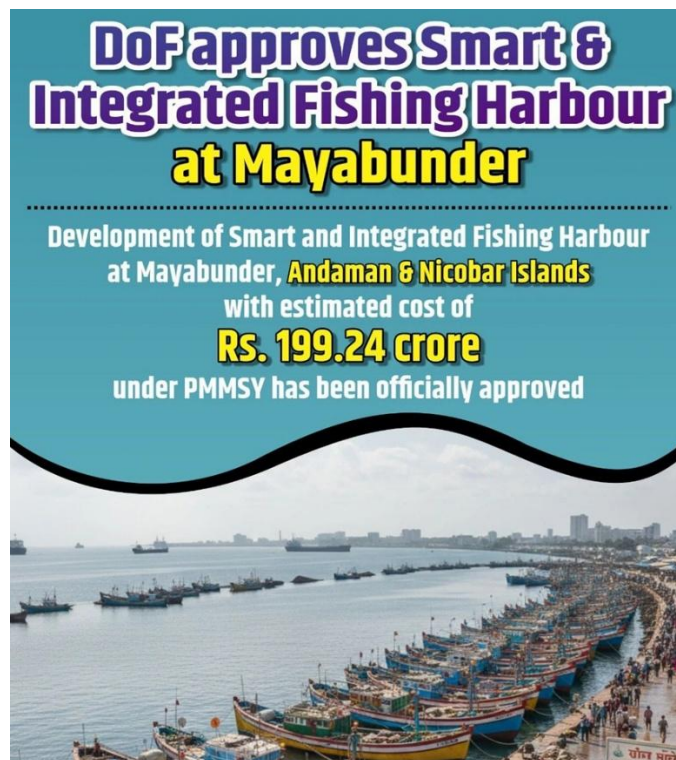
## PAIMANA Portal

- ❖ 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



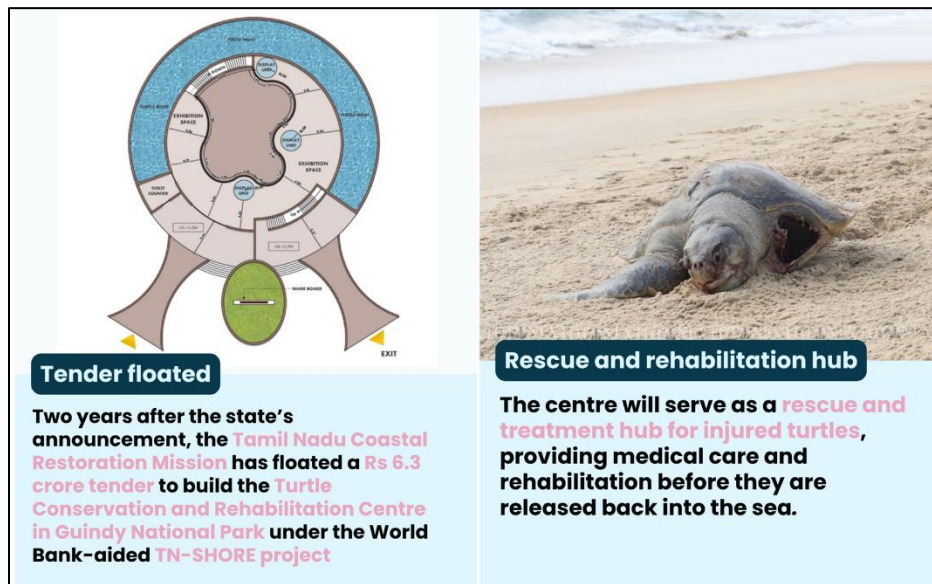
- ❖ The Union Department of Fisheries has sanctioned a Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



- ❖ 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

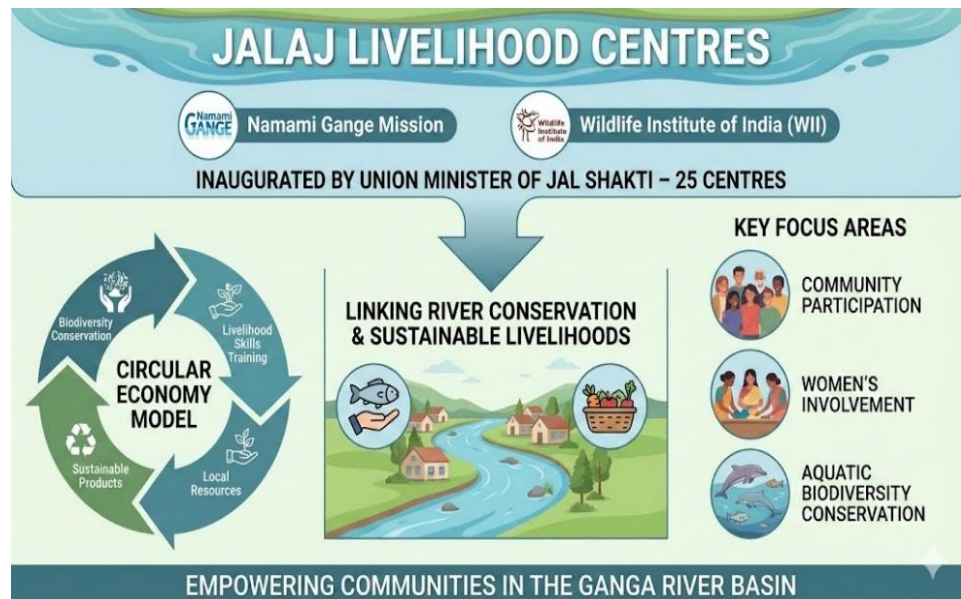


- ❖ The foundation stone for Tamil Nadu's first Sea Turtle Conservation Centre was laid at Guindy in Chennai.
- ❖ The Centre of Excellence will be established under the World Bank-aided Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy (TN-SHORE) project at a cost of ₹14.50 crore.
- ❖ 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.

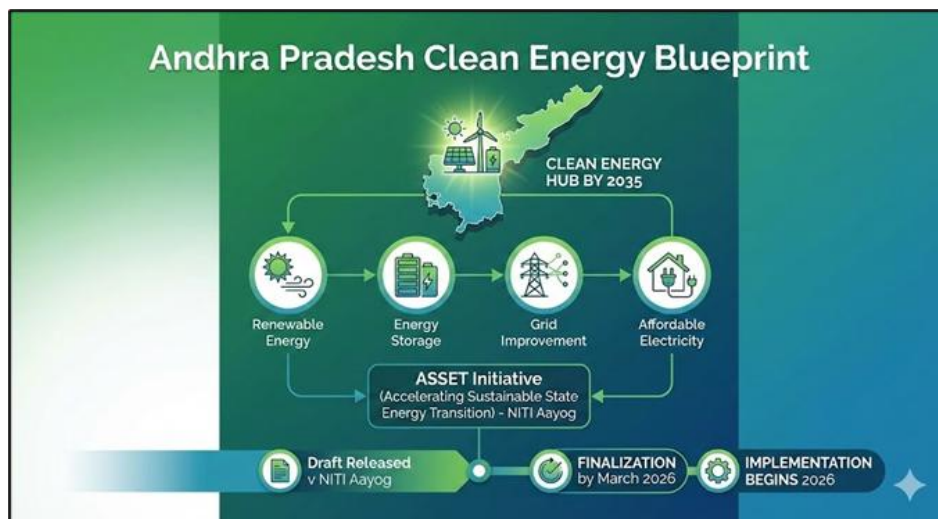
- ❖ India is in fifth place in global biomass energy production.
- ❖ Biomass energy is a renewable source of energy because organic materials can be regenerated.

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

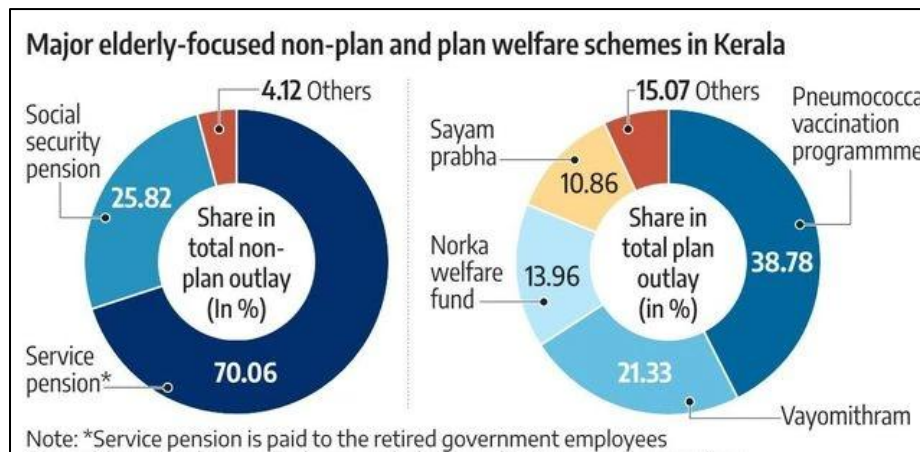


- ❖ NITI Aayog released a draft plan to make Andhra Pradesh a clean energy hub by 2035.
- ❖ It focuses on renewable energy, energy storage, grid improvement, and affordable electricity.
- ❖ The blueprint is prepared under ASSET (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition), an initiative of NITI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

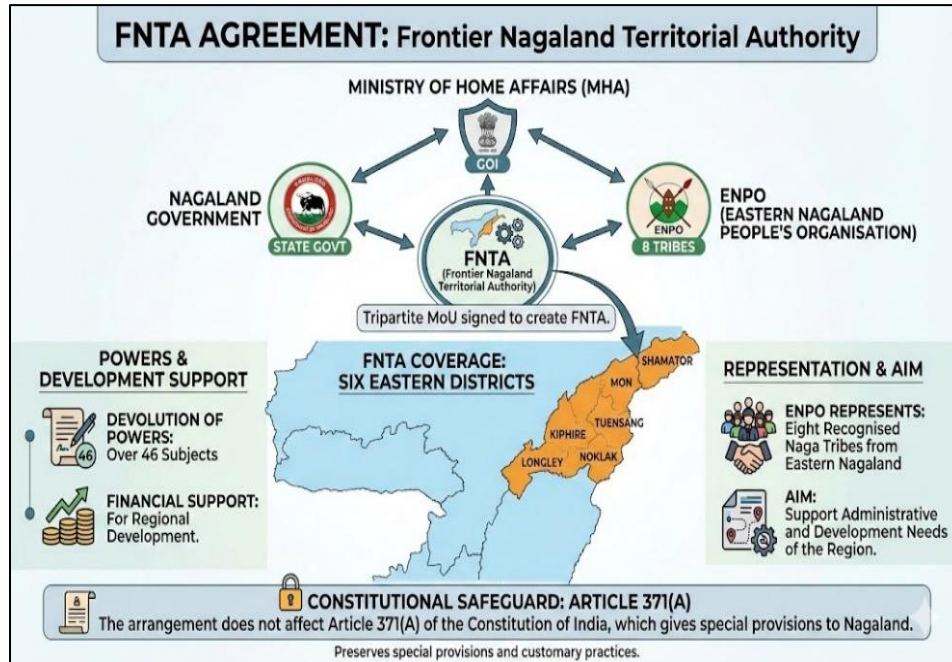


### **FNTA Agreement**

- ❖ 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



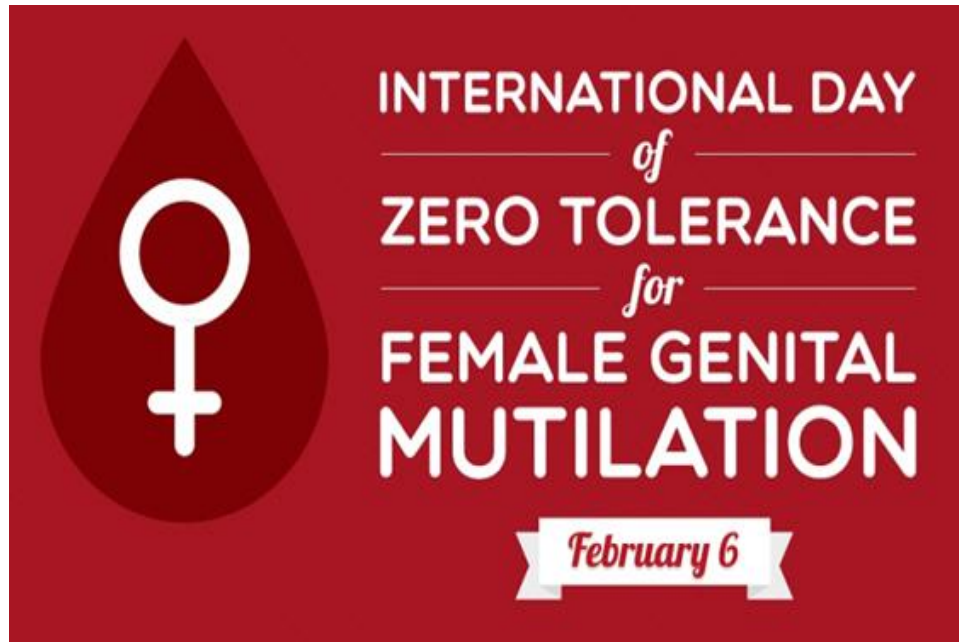
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced the Kalaignar Ninaivu Kalaithurai Vithagar Award for 2024-2025.
- ❖ The awards will be conferred on veteran actor M.N. Rajam (2024) and veteran filmmaker S.P. Muthuraman (2025).
- ❖ The award recognises outstanding contributions to Tamil cinema and the arts.
- ❖ 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.

