

February - 13

## TNPSC BITS

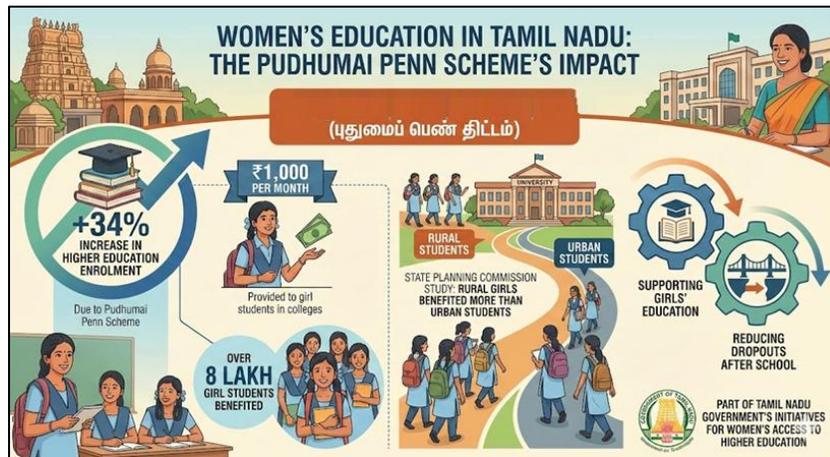
- ❖ *Colyttus bilineatus*, a rare jumping spider belonging to the family Salticidae, was recorded for the first time in India in Assam.
- ❖ Aditya Pandya, 17 years, became India's youngest male analogue astronaut after completing a lunar-habitat simulation mission at Dholavira in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
- ❖ Moltbook is an AI-only social networking platform created by Matt Schlicht, CEO of OctaneAI, designed for artificial intelligence (AI) agents to post, comment, and interact without human prompts or moderation.
- ❖ Kerala launched NeophyteID, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered mobile application to detect invasive plant species.
- ❖ Indian archer Smaran Sarvesh won the gold medal in the Recurve Under-18 Men's category at the NIMES Archery Tournament 2026 held in France.
- ❖ Thanya Nathan C. became the first visually challenged woman in Kerala to top the Judicial Service disability merit list for Civil Judge Junior Division recruitment.
  - Her achievement follows a 2025 Supreme Court judgment allowing visually impaired candidates to be eligible for judicial service.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is developing an indigenous vaccine for Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD).
  - KFD is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever caused by the KFD flavivirus, and spreads through tick bites or contact with infected animals.
- ❖ The Winter Olympics 2026/ Milano Cortina 2026 will be held in February 2026 in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.
- ❖ Indian squash player Anahat Singh entered the world top 20 rankings after winning her first Professional Squash Association PSA Bronze title at the Squash on Fire Open 2026 in Washington, USA.
- ❖ Researchers discovered a new orchid species named *Diplozentrum papillosum* in the Idukki district of Kerala, belonging to the *Diplozentrum* genus endemic to the southern Western Ghats.

- ❖ Researchers from India – Australia have developed a flexible and economical biosensor capable of rapidly detecting myoglobin, a critical cardiac biomarker linked to the early stages of a heart attack.
  - Myoglobin is an early biomarker released after cardiac muscle injury.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Women's Education in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Women's enrolment in higher education in Tamil Nadu has increased by 34% due to the Pudhumai Penn scheme.
- ❖ Under the scheme, ₹1,000 per month is provided to girl students studying in colleges.
- ❖ Around eight lakh girl students have benefited from the programme.
- ❖ A State Planning Commission study found that rural girl students benefited more than urban students.
- ❖ The Pudhumai Penn scheme aims to support girls' education and reduce dropouts after school education.
- ❖ The scheme is part of the Tamil Nadu government's initiatives to improve women's access to higher education.

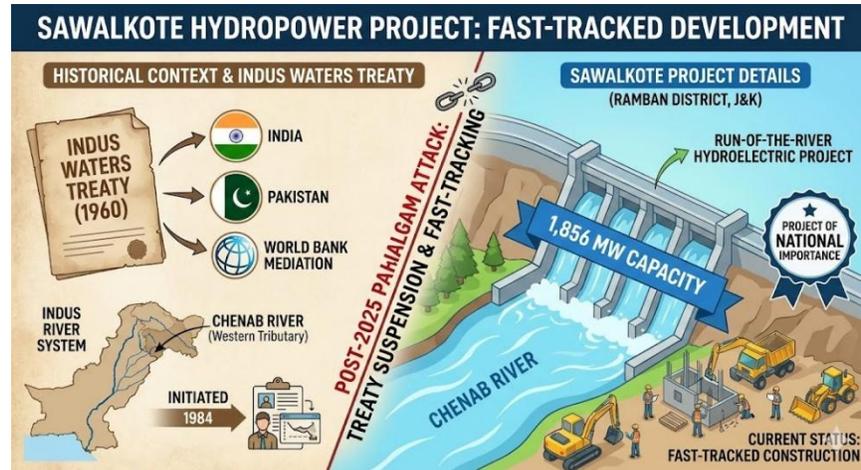


## NATIONAL NEWS

### Sawalkote Hydropower Project

- ❖ The Sawalkote Hydropower Project is being fast-tracked after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty following the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

- ❖ Sawalkote Hydropower Project is a 1,856 megawatt run-of-the-river hydroelectric project on the Chenab River in Ramban district, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The project was initiated in 1984 and later declared a project of national importance.
- ❖ The Chenab River is a western tributary of the Indus River under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960) signed between India and Pakistan with World Bank mediation.



## Elephant Intrusion Detection System



- ❖ Indian Railways has deployed an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based system to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks.

- ❖ Indian Railways introduced an AI-enabled Intrusion Detection System (IDS) to detect elephant movement near tracks.
- ❖ The system uses Distributed Acoustic Sensors (DAS) installed along optical fibre cables.
- ❖ It sends real-time alerts to loco pilots, station masters, and railway control rooms to slow or stop trains.
- ❖ The system is currently operational over 141 routes in the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR).
- ❖ The project is implemented with support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

### **SATYA lab automation portal**

- ❖ The SATYA Portal was launched under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ SATYA is a lab automation portal for the Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate.
- ❖ The portal provides digital testing, certification, and quality assurance services on a single platform.
- ❖ It aims to reduce delays, improve transparency, and support startups, MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), and the industry.



## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **India-Seychelles Strategic Partnership**

- ❖ India and Seychelles announced the SESEL Joint Vision during the visit of Seychelles President Patrick Herminie to India.

- ❖ SESEL stands for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages.
- ❖ The vision focuses on maritime security, digital public infrastructure, climate action, trade, and development cooperation.
- ❖ India announced a USD 175 million economic package, including a Line of Credit and grant assistance.
- ❖ Seychelles supported India's permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- ❖ Seychelles also agreed to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

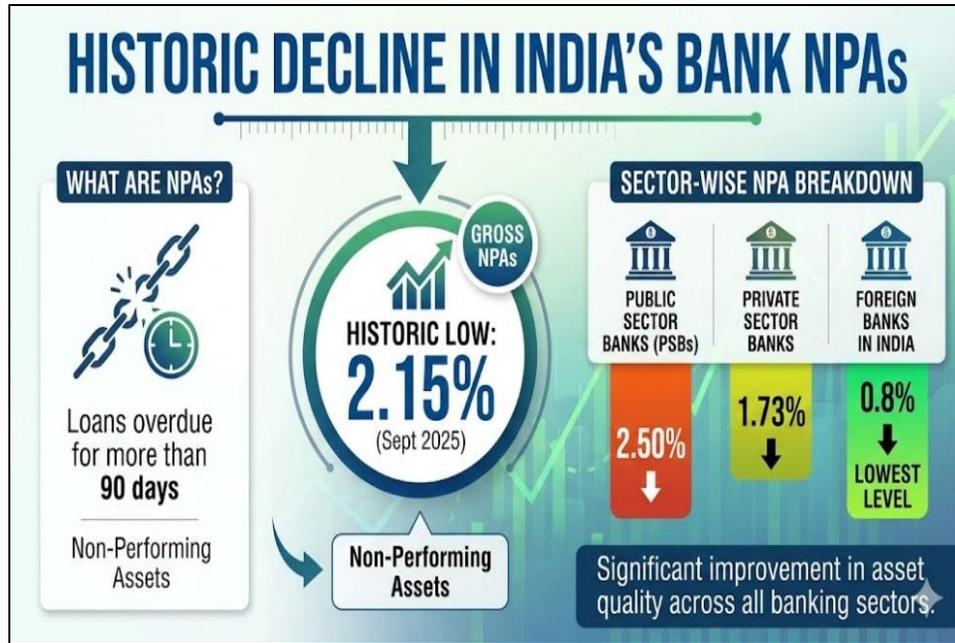


## **ECONOMY NEWS**

### **Decline in Bank NPAs**

- ❖ India's gross NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) of scheduled commercial banks fell to a historic low of 2.15% in September 2025.
- ❖ NPAs are loans where repayment is overdue for more than 90 days.

- ❖ Public Sector Banks (PSBs) recorded 2.50% NPAs, while private sector banks recorded 1.73% NPAs.
- ❖ Foreign banks in India reported the lowest NPA level at 0.8%.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### iLive Connect Healthcare Platform



- ❖ iLive Connect was introduced as the world's first doctor-led Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered home healthcare ecosystem.

- ❖ It combines medical consultation, remote patient monitoring, and home-based healthcare services on one digital platform.
- ❖ The ecosystem uses Artificial Intelligence to support doctors in diagnosis, health tracking, and personalized care planning.
- ❖ The platform focuses on continuous care for patients at home, especially elderly and chronic-disease patients.
- ❖ It aims to improve accessibility, early detection of health issues, and coordinated healthcare delivery.

### **Haven-1 Private Space Station**

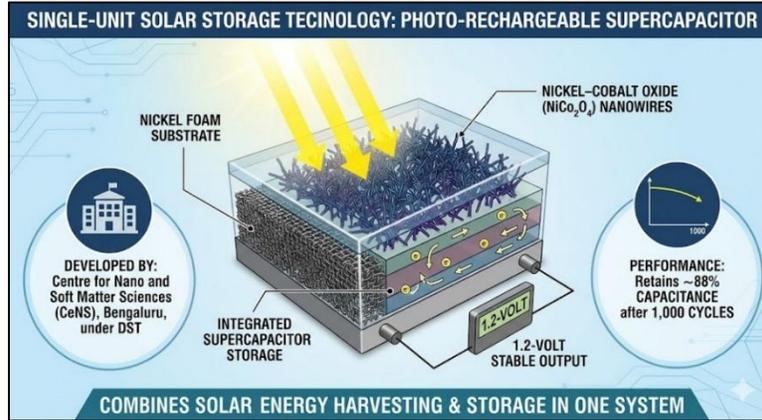
- ❖ Haven-1 is expected to become the world's first private space station, planned for launch in 2027.
- ❖ Haven-1 is being developed by Vast Space, a United States-based private space company.
- ❖ It will be launched into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) using the Falcon 9 rocket of SpaceX.
- ❖ This project supports the transition after the International Space Station (ISS) is planned to retire around 2030.



### **Single-Unit Solar Storage Technology**

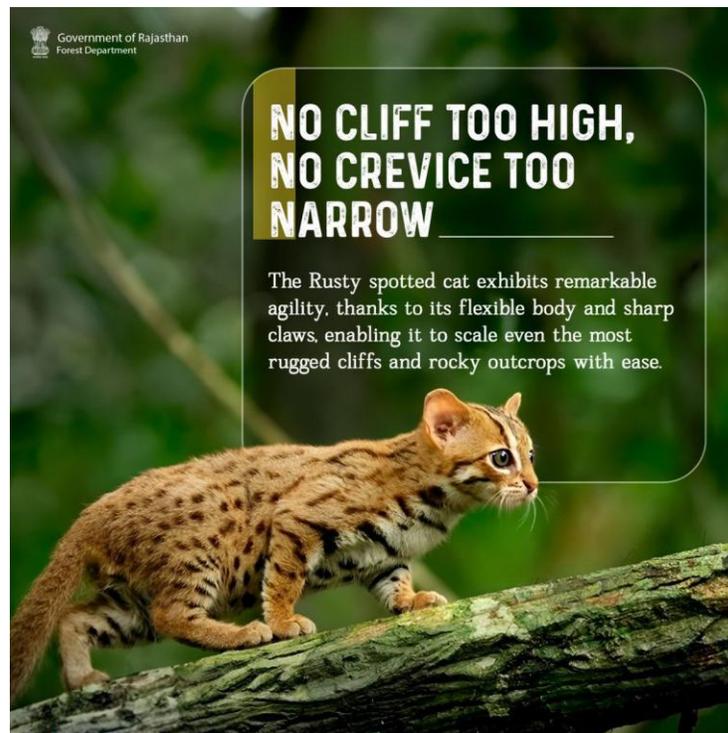
- ❖ Indian scientists developed a device that can capture and store solar energy in one unit.
- ❖ It is a photo-rechargeable supercapacitor, which combines solar energy harvesting and storage in a single system.

- ❖ It uses nickel-cobalt oxide ( $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4$ ) nanowires grown on nickel foam to absorb sunlight and store electricity.
- ❖ The device provides about 1.2-volt stable output and retains around 88% capacitance after 1,000 cycles.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Rusty Spotted Cat - Rajasthan



- ❖ A Rusty-spotted Cat was recorded alive in Shergarh Sanctuary in Baran district of Rajasthan.

- ❖ The Rusty-spotted Cat is one of the smallest wild cat species in the world.
- ❖ The species is listed as Near Threatened by IUCN.
- ❖ It is a nocturnal and solitary wild animal found in parts of India.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Network Readiness Index 2025



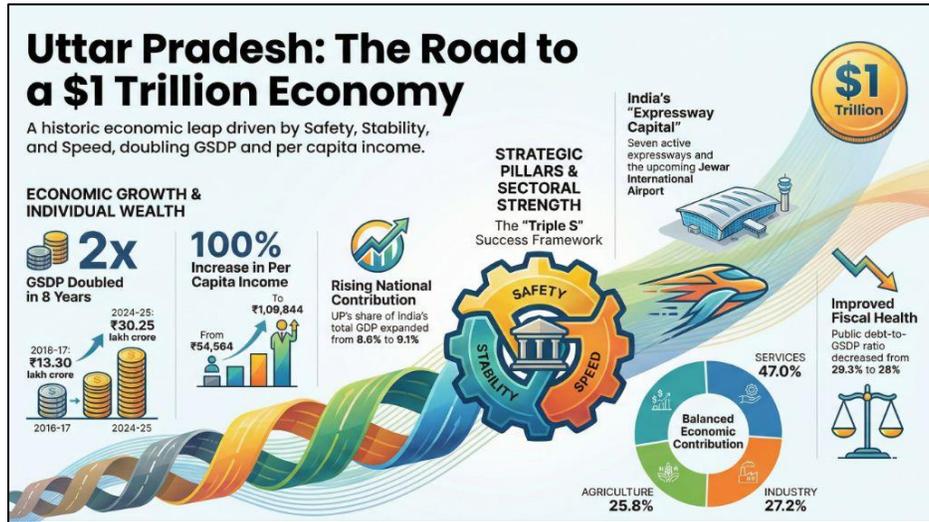
- ❖ India ranked 45th in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025, improving by four places.
- ❖ The NRI was released by the Portulans Institute.
- ❖ India ranked 2nd among lower-middle-income economies.
- ❖ India secured 1st rank globally in telecom investment, Artificial Intelligence (AI) publications, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services exports, and e-commerce legislation.
- ❖ The index evaluates 127 economies based on Technology, People, Governance, and Impact.

## STATE NEWS

### Uttar Pradesh Economic Survey 2025–26

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh presented its first Economic Survey 2025–26 in the State Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The report shows the state's plan to become a 1 trillion US dollar economy through investment-led growth.
- ❖ The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Uttar Pradesh is projected to reach ₹36 lakh crore in 2025–26.

- ❖ The government highlighted the Triple S model (Safety, Stability, Speed) to improve investment and business activity.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of the Arabian Leopard 2026 – February 10

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared this day in June 2023 through a resolution.
- ❖ The Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*) is a critically endangered subspecies found in the Arabian Peninsula.
- ❖ Fewer than 200 Arabian leopards are believed to remain in the wild in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

