

January - 17

TNPSC BITS

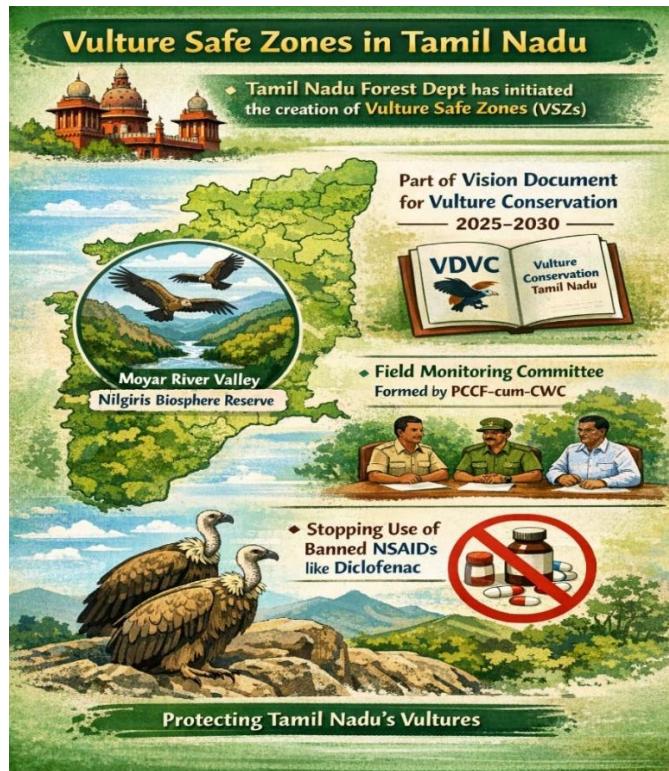
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has launched Chennai Sangamam – Namma Ooru Thiruvizha 2026 in Chennai, to promote and celebrate Tamil Nadu's art and cultural heritage.
- ❖ U.S. aircraft has launched airstrikes on ISIS in Syria on January 10, 2026, in retaliation for a December 13 attack that killed two U.S. soldiers and a civilian.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh has topped in implementing the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) system by generating 50,60,941 IDs for students as of January 7.
 - This is 88.63 per cent coverage out of the 57,10,207 students in 57,045 schools across the state.
- ❖ The DRDO successfully flight-tested the indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
 - MPATGM is a third-generation fire-and-forget missile which hit tanks from above in both day and night conditions.
- ❖ Virat Kohli regained the number one spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) One Day International (ODI) batter rankings.
 - With this innings, Kohli became the second-highest run-scorer in men's international cricket, behind Sachin Tendulkar.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Vulture Safe Zones in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department informed the Madras High Court that the process to set up Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) has started.
- ❖ The first VSZ will be created around the Moyar River Valley in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.
- ❖ It is being done under the Vision Document for Vulture Conservation (VDVC) in Tamil Nadu 2025–2030.
- ❖ A field-level monitoring committee has been formed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden (PCCF-cum-CWC).

- ❖ The VSZs aim to stop the use of banned veterinary Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) like diclofenac that kill vultures.



Corporate Research Centre



- ❖ Coromandel International Limited signed a MoU with the IIT-Madras.

- ❖ The MoU is to set up a Corporate Research Centre at the IIT Madras Research Park.
- ❖ The announcement was made during the inauguration of the IIT Madras Global Research Foundation.
- ❖ The centre will support research in agriculture, sustainability, and advanced agri-technology.
- ❖ The partnership will use the research and innovation facilities of IIT Madras in India and abroad.

NATIONAL NEWS

Zero-Fatalities Road Safety Program



- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) launched a data-driven Zero-Fatalities Program in 100 high-risk districts across 15 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- ❖ The program aims to reduce road accident deaths, which claimed nearly 89,000 lives in 2023-24, by 50% by 2030, using crash data, critical location mapping, and targeted enforcement.
- ❖ Key measures include low-cost road safety interventions, improved trauma care, ambulance response mapping, first responder training, and public awareness campaigns.

- ❖ District Collectors, Transport Ministers, and Members of Parliament from these districts will form accident prevention committees to oversee implementation.
- ❖ The initiative aligns with the Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety (2020) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Renewable Energy Agency

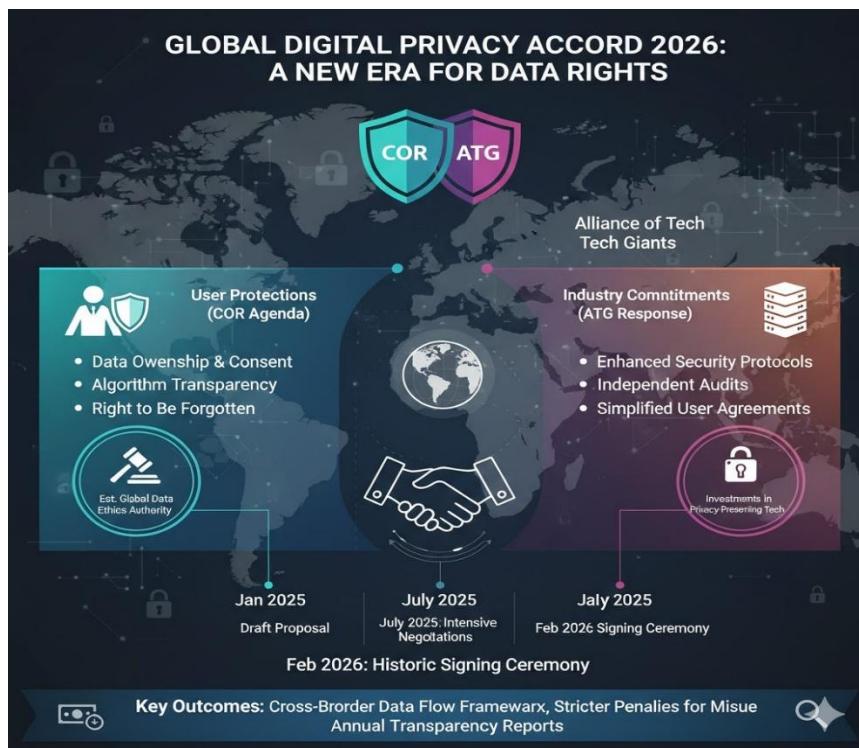
- ❖ India's Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy has attended the 16th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ IRENA is an intergovernmental organization established in 2009 to promote the use of renewable energy worldwide.
- ❖ It supports countries in shifting to a sustainable energy future by sharing policy, technology and financial knowledge.
- ❖ IRENA headquarters Abu Dhabi, UAE and has 170 members (169 countries and the European Union (EU)); India is a founding member.
- ❖ IRENA is an official observer of the United Nations (UN).



New Constitution in Yemen

- ❖ Yemen's Southern Transitional Council (STC), a coalition of separatist groups, announced a new constitution for the "State of South Arabia".
- ❖ They aiming for independence from northern Yemen.
- ❖ The STC, formed in 2017 under Aidarous Qassem al-Zubaidi.

- ❖ It initially joined Yemen's government via the Riyadh Agreement but later recaptured Aden and asserted self-rule in 2020.
- ❖ In December 2025, the STC launched "Operation Promising Future," taking control of Hadramout and Al-Mahra Governorates.
- ❖ This region holds 80% of Yemen's oil reserves.
- ❖ Saudi-led strikes soon recaptured lost territories, and Mr. al-Zubaidi was removed from the Presidential Council and fled to the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ The STC continues to pursue autonomy for southern Yemen but faces challenges in achieving a two-state reality due to regional and domestic opposition.

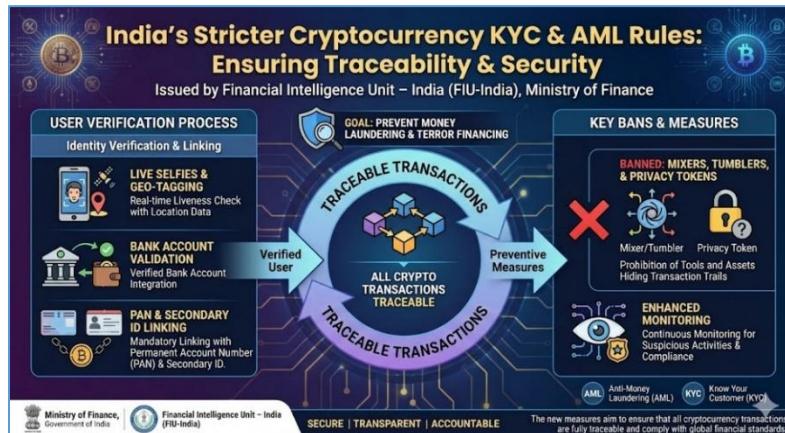


ECONOMY NEWS

Cryptocurrency KYC Rules

- ❖ India has introduced stricter Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) rules for cryptocurrency users.
- ❖ The rules are issued by the Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-India) under the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Users must complete identity verification through live selfies, geo-tagging, and bank account validation.

- ❖ Cryptocurrency accounts are required to be linked with the Permanent Account Number (PAN) and a secondary ID.
- ❖ Mixers, tumblers, and privacy tokens that hide transaction trails have been banned.
- ❖ The new measures aim to prevent money laundering, terror financing and ensure that all crypto transactions are traceable.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

India's First Legged Mobile Manipulator - SCORP



- ❖ SCORP was developed by xTerra Robotics, which is incubated at the IIT Kanpur.

- ❖ A legged mobile manipulator is a robot that combines walking legs with a robotic arm.
- ❖ SCORP can move on stairs, rubble, slopes, and uneven surfaces and also pick and handle objects.
- ❖ It is designed for use in industrial inspection, disaster response, defence, and hazardous environments.

OrbitAid's AyulSAT

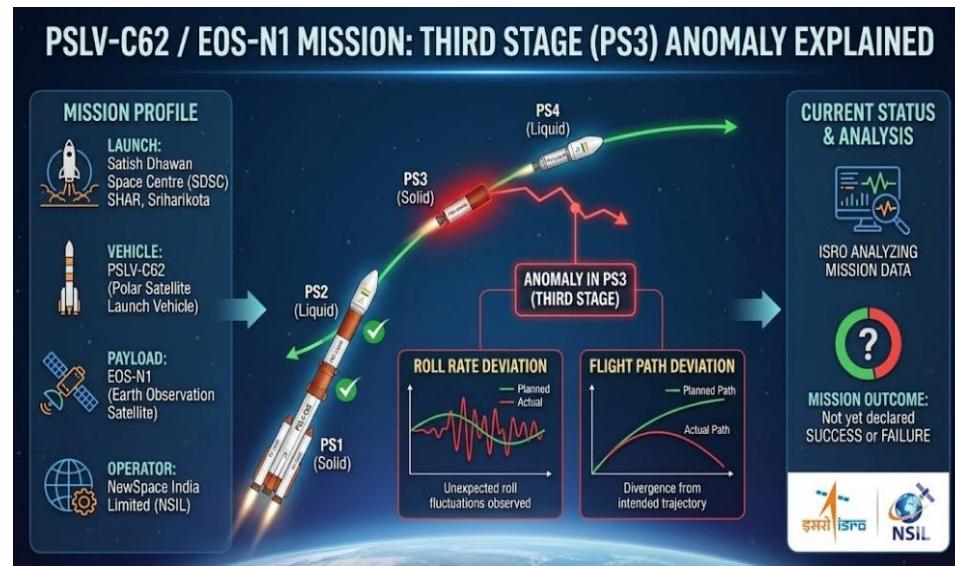


- ❖ Chennai-based OrbitAid Aerospace launched AyulSAT onboard ISRO's PSLV-C62 to demonstrate in-orbit satellite refuelling.
- ❖ AyulSAT is a 25-kg tanker satellite designed to transfer fuel, power and data in space.
- ❖ It uses SIDRP (Standard Interface for Docking and Refuelling Port) for future satellite-to-satellite refuelling.
- ❖ The mission will support satellite life-extension and reduce space debris.
- ❖ It will act as a target for a chaser satellite to perform real docking and refuelling by end-2026.
- ❖ The project supports India's Debris-Free Space Mission 2030.

PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission Anomaly

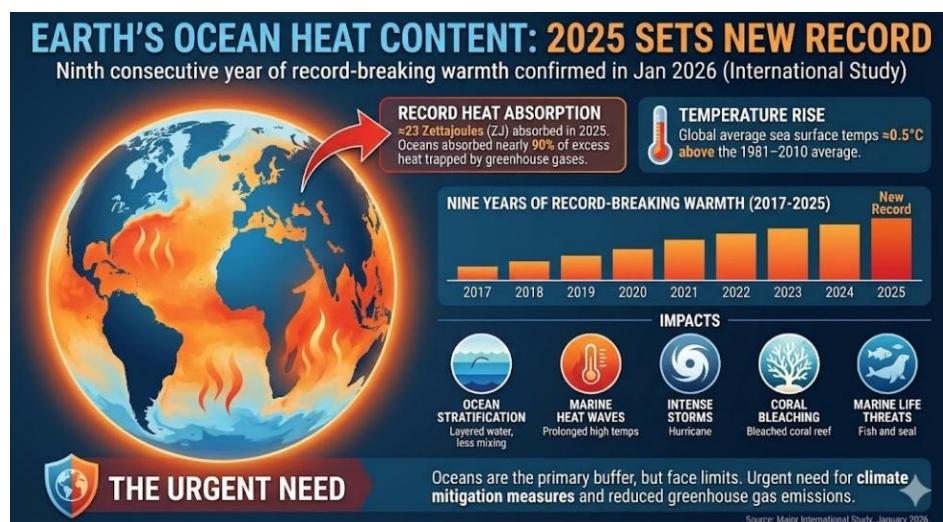
- ❖ The ISRO reported a technical anomaly in the PS3 (third stage) of the PSLV-C62 rocket during the EOS-N1 mission.
- ❖ The launch took place from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

- ❖ EOS-N1 is an Earth Observation Satellite, and the mission was carried out by New Space India Limited (NSIL).
- ❖ The rocket showed deviations in roll rate and flight path during the third stage.
- ❖ ISRO is analysing the mission data, and the mission has not yet been declared a success or failure.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Earth's Ocean Heat Content

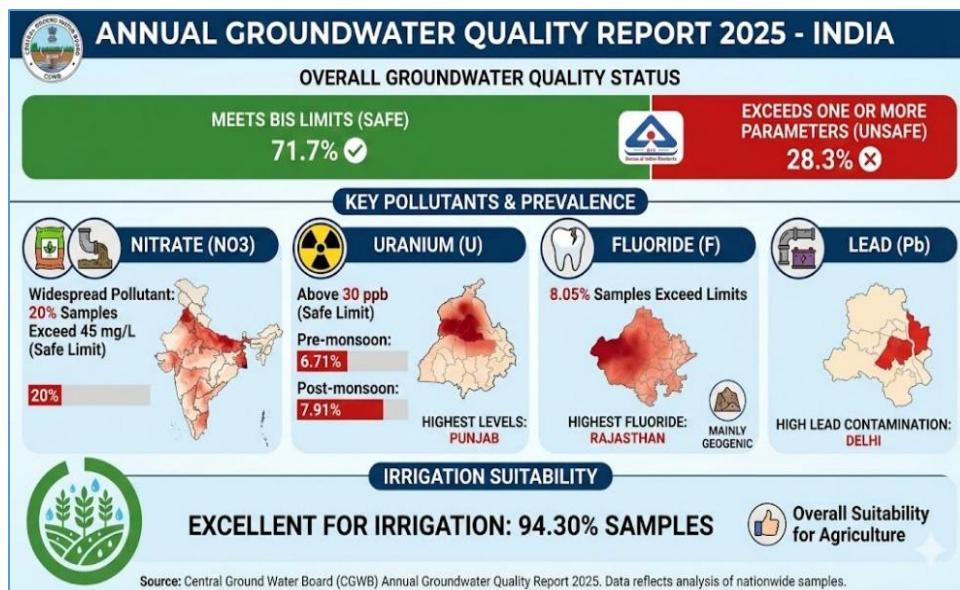


- ❖ Earth's ocean heat content (OHC) has set a new record in 2025 by absorbing an additional ~23 zettajoules (ZJ) of heat.
- ❖ It marking the ninth consecutive year of record-breaking warmth.

- ❖ Oceans absorbed nearly 90% of excess heat trapped by greenhouse gases, with global average sea surface temperatures $\sim 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ above the 1981–2010 average.
- ❖ Impacts include increased ocean stratification, marine heat waves, intense storms, coral bleaching, and threats to marine life and ocean productivity.
- ❖ The study highlights the oceans as the primary buffer of global warming and the urgent need for climate mitigation measures.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2025



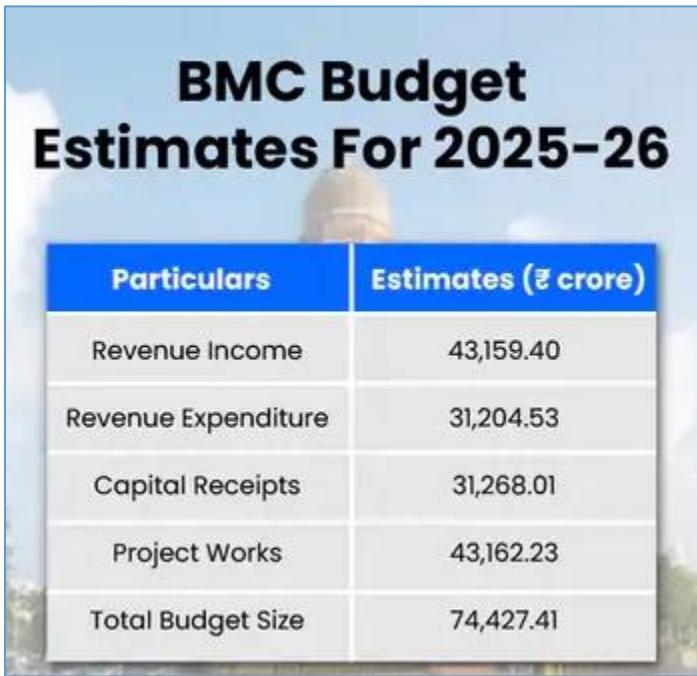
- ❖ The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has released the Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2025.
- ❖ 71.7% of India's groundwater meets BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) limits, while 28.3% of samples exceed one or more quality parameters.
- ❖ Nitrate is the most widespread pollutant, with about 20% of samples crossing the safe limit of 45 mg/L, mainly due to fertilizers, sewage and animal waste.
- ❖ Uranium contamination above the safe limit of 30 ppb (parts per billion) was found in 6.71% (pre-monsoon) and 7.91% (post-monsoon) samples, with Punjab reporting the highest levels.
- ❖ Fluoride contamination (8.05% samples) is mainly geogenic (naturally occurring).
- ❖ Rajasthan recorded the highest fluoride levels, while Delhi showed high lead contamination.

- ❖ About 94.30% of groundwater samples are excellent for irrigation use, showing overall suitability for agriculture.

STATES' NEWS

India's richest civic body

- ❖ The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is one of the largest spending authorities in the country.
- ❖ For FY 2025–26, the BMC has proposed a budget of Rs 74,427 crore, its highest ever.
- ❖ Its Capital expenditure alone accounts for about Rs 43,162 crore.
- ❖ Bengaluru's BBMP operates on roughly Rs 19,900 crore only.
- ❖ Goa's total budget for 2025–26: Rs 28,162 crore.



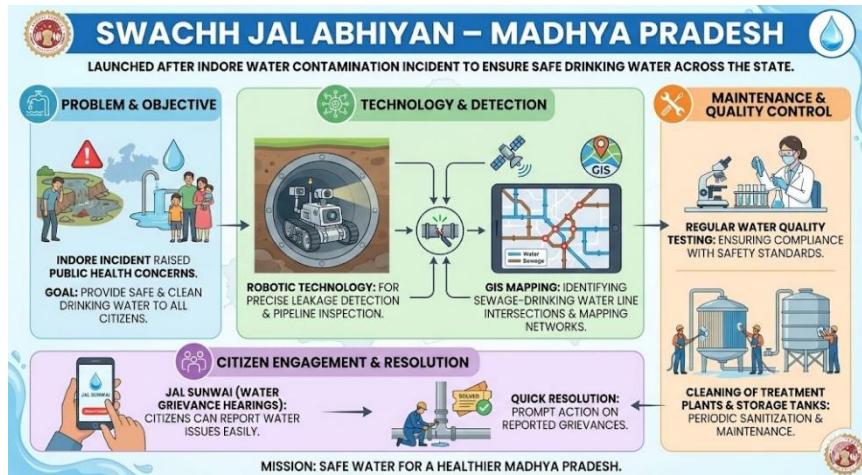
**BMC Budget
Estimates For 2025-26**

Particulars	Estimates (₹ crore)
Revenue Income	43,159.40
Revenue Expenditure	31,204.53
Capital Receipts	31,268.01
Project Works	43,162.23
Total Budget Size	74,427.41

Swachh Jal Abhiyan – Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh (MP) government launched Swachh Jal Abhiyan after a water contamination incident in Indore raised serious public health concerns.
- ❖ The campaign aims to ensure safe and clean drinking water across the state.
- ❖ The mission uses robotic technology and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to detect leakages and sewage–drinking water line intersections.

- ❖ The program includes regular water quality testing and cleaning of treatment plants and storage tanks.
- ❖ Citizens can report issues through 'Jal Sunwai' (water grievance hearings) for quick resolution.



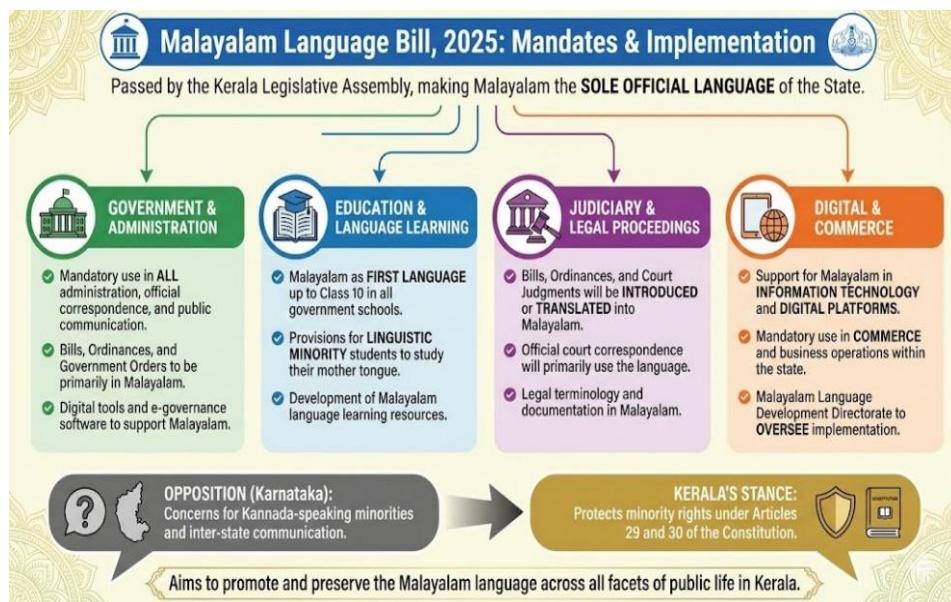
Kathputli — Rajasthan's Traditional Puppet Art



- ❖ Kathputli, meaning wooden doll (kath = wood, putli = doll), is one of Rajasthan's oldest folk-art forms.
- ❖ Around 250 families in Kathputli Nagar, Jaipur, make and preserve these puppets, sewing bright costumes and painting expressive faces.

- ❖ Puppets are used by travelling performers to narrate tales of Rajput kings, warriors, folk heroes, and moral stories.
- ❖ Performances feature strings, folk music, and rhythmic narration, reflecting Rajasthan's culture and social identity.
- ❖ Kathputlis are showcased in local homes, cultural fairs, and stages worldwide, keeping the tradition alive.

Malayalam Language Bill 2025



- ❖ The Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed the Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, making Malayalam the sole official language of the State.
- ❖ The Bill mandates the use of Malayalam in government administration, education, judiciary, public communication, commerce, and digital platforms.
- ❖ All government schools must teach Malayalam as the first language up to Class 10.
- ❖ Also, provisions exist for linguistic minority students to study their mother tongue.
- ❖ Bills, ordinances, and court judgments will be introduced or translated into Malayalam, and official correspondence will primarily use the language.
- ❖ Digital tools and software will support Malayalam in information technology and e-governance, and a Malayalam Language Development Directorate will oversee implementation.

- ❖ The Bill has faced opposition from Karnataka over concerns for Kannada-speaking minorities, while Kerala maintains it protects minority rights under Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Corridor

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) created four Guinness World Records during the construction of the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G) near Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ NHAI laid longest continuous bituminous concrete (BC) laying of 9.63 km on a three-lane stretch and for laying the highest quantity of BC (10,655 metric tonnes) in 24 hours.
- ❖ Two more records were set for the continuous laying of 57,500 metric tonnes of BC and for paving a 52 km long three-lane stretch without interruption.
- ❖ This 343 km, six-lane corridor access-controlled highway connecting Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

