

July - 15

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Madras High Court on TN By poll Notification

- ❖ The Madras High Court restrained the Election Commission of India (ECI) from notifying by-elections to five Tamil Nadu Assembly constituencies until 31 July 2026.
- ❖ The order applies to Tiruchi East, Perundurai, Ambasamudram, Viralimalai, and Karur, where the elected representatives resigned, but election petitions challenging their victories are still pending before the Court.
- ❖ The Court held that conducting by-elections before deciding the election petitions could create a situation where two persons may claim to represent the same constituency if the petitions are later allowed.
- ❖ The petition referred to Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which mandates filling a vacancy through a byelection within six months, subject to exceptions provided under the law.
- ❖ The plea also cited Supreme Court judgments (1967, 2011, and 2018) stating that by-elections should not be conducted when election petitions relating to the same constituency are pending adjudication.



NATIONAL NEWS

Drug Import Ports

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified Navi Mumbai Airport, Maharashtra, as an authorised port for importing drugs.

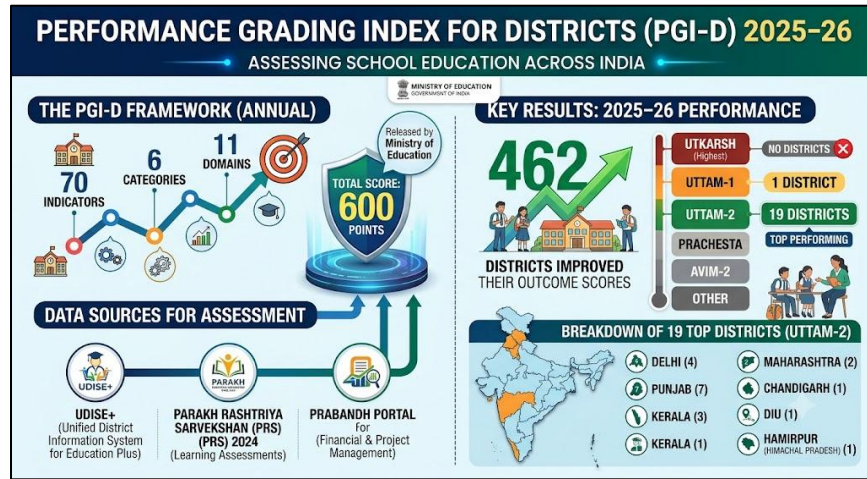
- ❖ The notification amended Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945, increasing India's notified drug import ports to 42.
- ❖ The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 regulates the import, manufacture and sale of drugs in India, while Rule 43A lists approved entry ports.
- ❖ The decision was taken after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the apex technical advisory body for drug regulation.
- ❖ Navi Mumbai Airport will facilitate the import of medicines, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and healthcare products through a regulated supply chain.



Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) 2025-26

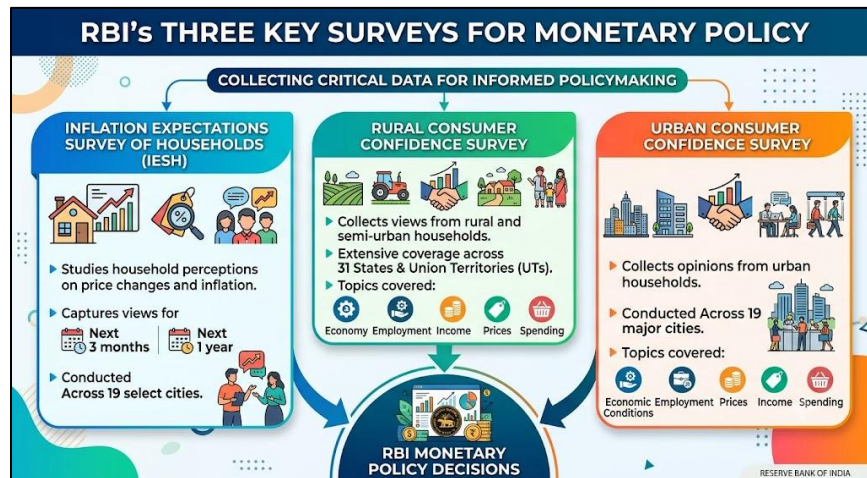
- ❖ The Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) 2025-26 to assess the performance of school education across districts.
- ❖ Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) is an annual framework that evaluates districts using 70 indicators under 6 categories and 11 domains, with a total score of 600 points.
- ❖ The assessment uses data from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (PRS) 2024, and the PRABANDH Portal.
- ❖ In 2025-26, 462 districts improved their outcome scores, but no district achieved the highest Utkarsh grade; 1 district reached Uttam-1, and 19 districts reached Uttam-2.

- ❖ The 19 top-performing districts include 4 from Delhi, 7 from Punjab, 3 from Kerala, 2 from Maharashtra, and Chandigarh, Diu, and Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh).



ECONOMY NEWS

3 Surveys for Policy - RBI



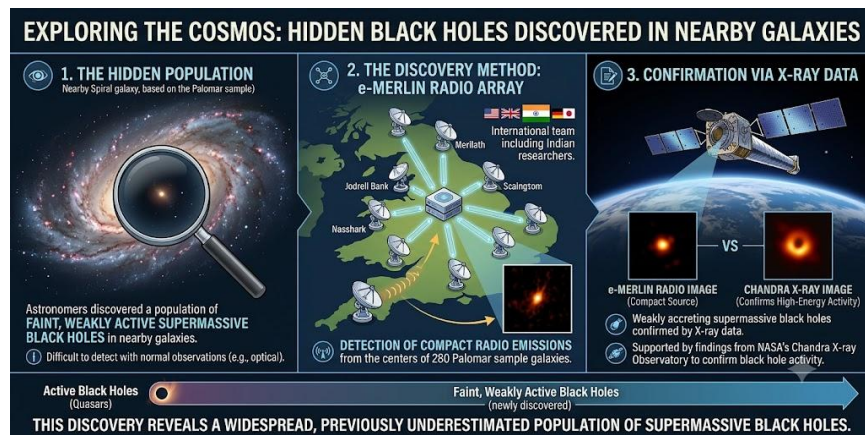
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched three key surveys to collect data for monetary policy decisions.
- ❖ The surveys include the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households, Rural Consumer Confidence Survey, and Urban Consumer Confidence Survey.
- ❖ The Inflation Expectations Survey studies household views on price changes and inflation for the next three months and one year across 19 cities.

- ❖ The Rural Consumer Confidence Survey collects views from rural and semi-urban households in 31 States/Union Territories (UTs) on economy, employment, income, prices, and spending.
- ❖ The Urban Consumer Confidence Survey collects household opinions on economic conditions, employment, prices, income, and spending across 19 cities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Hidden Black Holes

- ❖ Astronomers discovered a hidden population of faint, weakly active supermassive black holes in nearby galaxies.
- ❖ The discovery was made using the e-MERLIN (enhanced Multi-Element Remotely Linked Interferometer Network) radio array by an international team including Indian researchers.
- ❖ The team studied 280 nearby galaxies from the Palomar sample and detected compact radio emissions from their centres.
- ❖ The study identified weakly accreting supermassive black holes that are difficult to detect through normal observations.
- ❖ The findings were supported by X-ray data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory to confirm black hole activity.

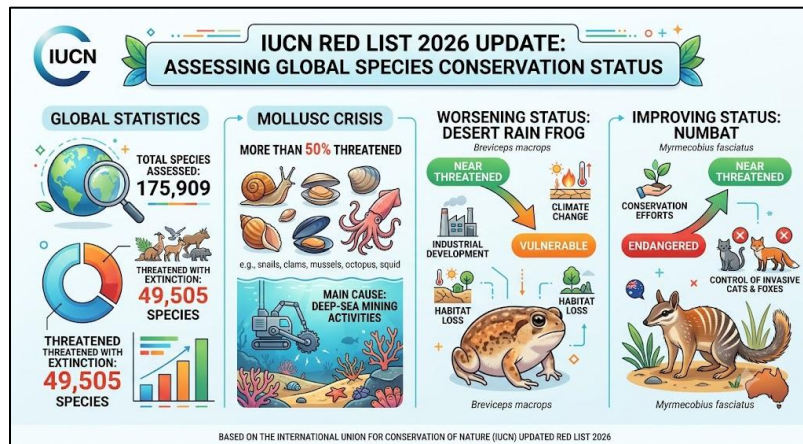


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

IUCN Red List 2026 Update

- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released the updated Red List of Threatened Species 2026, assessing the conservation status of global species.

- ❖ The updated list includes 175,909 species, of which 49,505 species are threatened with extinction.
- ❖ More than 50% of molluscs (such as snails, clams, mussels, octopus and squid) are threatened, mainly due to deep-sea mining activities.
- ❖ The desert rain frog (*Breviceps macrops*) was moved from Near Threatened to Vulnerable due to industrial development, climate change and habitat loss.
- ❖ The numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) of Australia improved from Endangered to Near Threatened due to conservation efforts against invasive cats and foxes.



Global Biomass Emissions 2026



- ❖ Global biomass burning emissions reached their lowest level on record in the first half of 2026, according to the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) data.

- ❖ Total carbon emissions from biomass burning remained below 400 mega tonnes between January 1 and June 30, 2026.
- ❖ Africa was the largest emitting region with about 154 mega tonnes of carbon, followed by Asia with around 113 mega tonnes.
- ❖ CAMS uses the Global Fire Assimilation System (GFAS) dataset to track active fires through satellite observations since 2003.
- ❖ Late-June wildfires in Eurasia and North America and possible El Niño conditions may increase emissions later in 2026.

REPORTS AND INDICES

AISHE Report 2023-24: Higher Education Growth



- ❖ The Ministry of Education released the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) Report 2023-24, showing that India's higher education enrolment reached a record 4.5 crore students.
- ❖ The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education increased to 30 in 2023-24 from 23.7 in 2014-15.
- ❖ Female enrolment reached 2.24 crore, with women accounting for 49.7% of total students; the Gender Parity Index (GPI) stood at 1.08.

- ❖ Enrolment among Scheduled Castes (SCs) increased by 51.4%, Scheduled Tribes (STs) by 75.7%, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by 60.2% since 2014-15.
- ❖ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) enrolment crossed 1 crore, with women contributing 44% of STEM students.
- ❖ AISHE is an annual survey conducted by the Ministry of Education to collect data on students, faculty, infrastructure and academic programmes of higher education institutions.

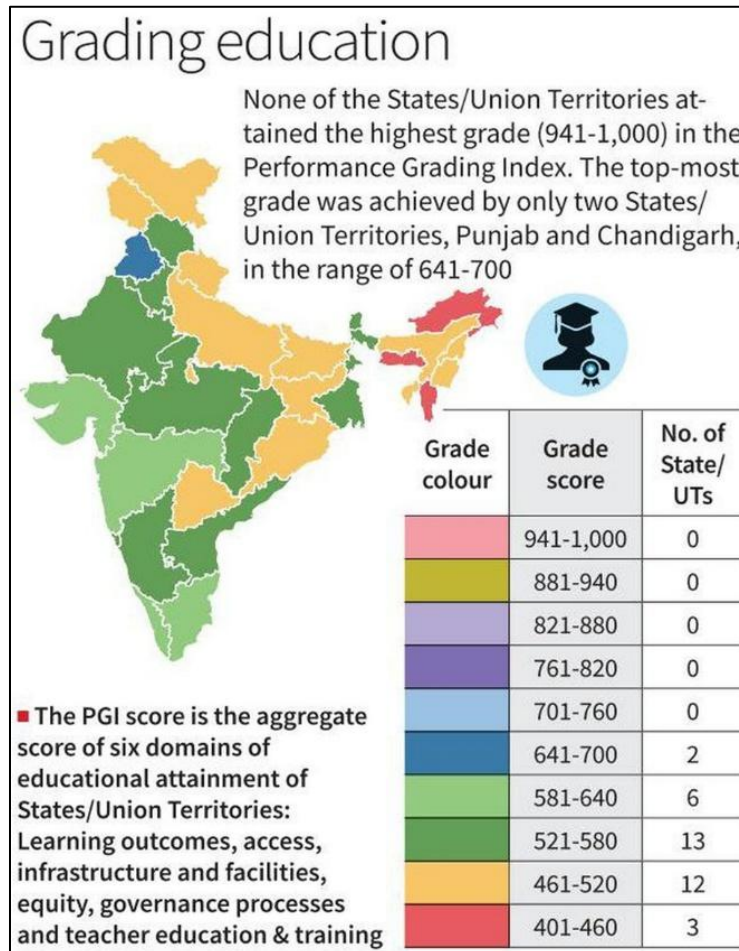
WHO Global Status Report on Cancer 2026



- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has released the Global Status Report on Cancer 2026.
- ❖ The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the global cancer burden, progress in cancer prevention and control, and health system capacity.
- ❖ It recommends seven actions under three strategic shifts: better capabilities, better protections, and better value to improve cancer care.
- ❖ The report calls for integrating cancer control into Universal Health Coverage (UHC), strengthening the health workforce, and ensuring equitable access to quality cancer care.

- ❖ It emphasises a people-centred approach by placing people affected by cancer at the centre of policies and reducing inequalities in cancer prevention, treatment, and survival.

Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 Report



- ❖ The Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report for 2022–23 and 2023–24, assessing the performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) in school education.
- ❖ Performance Grading Index (PGI) was launched in 2017 and revamped as PGI 2.0 in 2021 to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ PGI 2.0 evaluates school education using 73 indicators under 2 categories and 6 domains, with scores out of 1,000 and 10 performance levels, from Daksh (highest) to Akanshi-3 (lowest).
- ❖ For 2023–24, Chandigarh ranked first with 703 points, followed by Punjab (631.1) and Delhi (623.7), while Meghalaya ranked last with 417.9 points.

- ❖ The assessment uses data from the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021, Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), and the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) programme.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

WSIS Prize 2026 - Samriddh Gram

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2026 under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment for its Samriddh Gram initiative.
- ❖ Samriddh Gram: Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model is a rural digital transformation initiative built on the Bharat Net broadband network.
- ❖ The initiative establishes Samriddhi Kendras in villages to provide digital and assisted physical services in healthcare, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, governance, and skill development.
- ❖ The award was presented at the WSIS Forum 2026 in Geneva by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ❖ Bharat Net, which powers the initiative, has made more than 2.17 lakh Gram Panchayats service-ready, improving rural digital connectivity across India.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Fish Farmer's Day 2026 – July 10

- ❖ The day aims to honour fish farmers and promote sustainable aquaculture.

- ❖ The day commemorates the first successful induced breeding of Indian major carps by Prof. Dr. Hiralal Chaudhuri and Dr. Alikunhi on 10 July 1957 at Angul, Odisha.
- ❖ It also marks the Foundation Day of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).
- ❖ The day recognises the contributions of fish farmers, fisherfolk and aquapreneurs (aquaculture entrepreneurs) to India's fisheries sector and Blue Economy.
- ❖ In 2024–25, India's fish production reached 197.75 lakh tonnes, seafood exports crossed ₹60,500 crore, and shrimp production increased by 270% over the last decade.

