

July - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Vasant Vihar Dispensary at the SECL Headquarters, Bilaspur, in Chhattisgarh, was formally inaugurated as Coal India's first dispensary to be operated entirely by women.
- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the new terminal building of the Tuticorin airport and also laid the foundation for projects worth 4800 Crores in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Hepatitis Awareness Week is observed annually from 22 July to 28 July to raise awareness about viral hepatitis.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Paddy procurement in Tamil Nadu

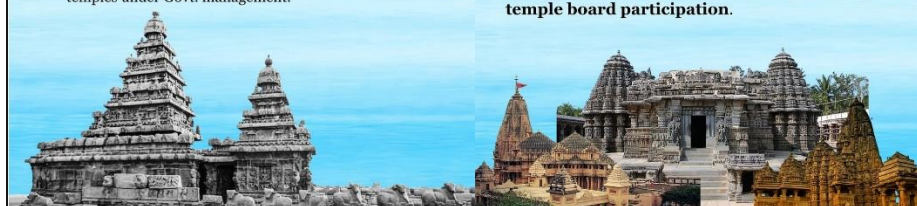
PADDY PROCUREMENT IN THE LAST 5 YEARS (in lakh tonnes)			
Year	Cauvery delta	Non-Cauvery delta	Total
2020-21	30.93	14.02	44.95
2021-22	29.37	13.91	43.28
2022-23	29.84	14.38	44.22
2023-24	25.52	9.44	34.96
2024-25*	29	15.49	44.49

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is all set to create a record in paddy procurement.
- ❖ It is going to touch the 45-lakh-tonne mark soon.
- ❖ As of now, 44.49 lakh tonnes have been procured.
- ❖ As on date, the record in procurement was 44.95 lakh tonnes during 2020-21.
- ❖ The State is procuring an average of about 15,000 tonnes from farmers on a daily basis.
- ❖ The overall figure may be eventually 47 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ The present DMK regime, during 2021-22, had fixed a target of 50 lakh tonnes but this could not be achieved then.
- ❖ As in the past, 10 districts falling under the Cauvery delta have contributed nearly two-thirds of the overall procurement with about 30 lakh tonnes.

- ❖ In the form of minimum support price, around ₹10,734 crore has been paid to farmers.
- ❖ According to data available with the Central authorities, around 3.36 lakh farmers received the payment of ₹6,899 crore during the first round (from September 2024 to March 2025) and about 1.95 lakh farmers, ₹3,835 crore subsequently.
- ❖ In addition, the State government has been providing ₹130 and ₹105 per quintal for Grade A and common varieties, respectively, to the farmers.
- ❖ Most of the procurement is done by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation with cooperatives.
- ❖ And the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) is doing the residual portion.
- ❖ There have been suggestions from experts that Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) should be involved in the procurement.

Diversion of temple funds

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF TEMPLE REGULATION	MODELS OF TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colonial Precedent: The Madras Regulation VII of 1817 allowed British control over temple revenue.• Early Reform: The Religious Endowments Act of 1863 replaced British control with local trustees.• Gurdwaras Act 1925: The British passed it for Sikh Gurdwara autonomy, showing differential treatment.• Post-1937: Under provincial autonomy, princely states and British provinces formed temple boards.• State Laws: Post-independence, states enacted laws for governance, oversight, and fund usage.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ E.g., the Tamil Nadu HRCE Act 1951 brought ~40,000 temples under Govt. management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh manage temples through Govt. departments.• In Kerala, Devaswom Boards oversee both religious rituals and administrative functions of temples.• Maharashtra, Gujarat, and others use the Public Trust model with minimal state intervention.• Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh temples are run by private families with minimal interference.• Karnataka follows a hybrid model with state oversight and temple board participation.



- ❖ Recently, a political controversy erupted in Tamil Nadu on the issue of diverting temple funds for building colleges.
- ❖ This model, predominantly developed in the erstwhile Madras Presidency, draws strength from a 200-year-old legislative framework that continues to date.
- ❖ It has gained more acceptance in South India.
- ❖ Through the Religious Endowment and Escheats Regulation 1817, the East India Company set up the earliest legislative architecture around the regulation of the religious endowments.



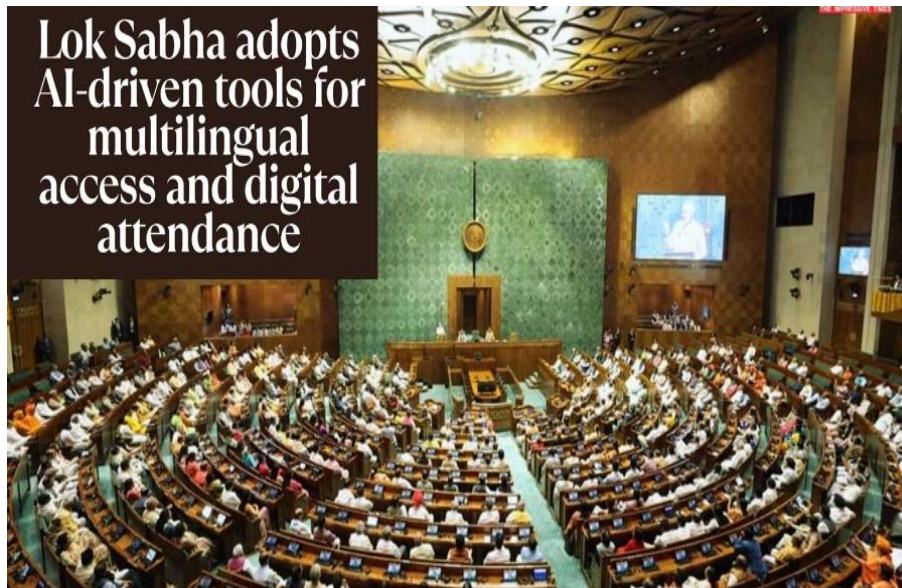
- ❖ When the British Crown assumed direct control over Indian territories in 1858, Queen Victoria issued a proclamation stating that the sovereign would restrict interference in religious affairs.
- ❖ The idea of the government supervising religious institutions came to be crystallised when the Justice Party was elected in 1920.
- ❖ One of the earliest legislative interventions by the Justices was 'Bill No. 12 of 1922: the Hindu Religious Endowments Act'.
- ❖ The issue was whether funds provided to a temple could be used for secular purposes.
- ❖ The matter was debated and settled in 1925, when the law was enacted.
- ❖ The current law is the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.
- ❖ It has retained the provision of surplus funds.
- ❖ The Section 36 of the 1959 Act permits the trustees of the religious institutions to appropriate any surplus funds for any purposes listed under the law, with the prior sanction of the Commissioner.
- ❖ Temples received lavish donations from the sovereign rulers from as far back as 970 AD, when the Chola empire was at its peak.
- ❖ Over the last century, the Self-Respect Movement, which emerged from the Madras Presidency, viewed the regulation of temples and oversight of their resources as a critical feature of anti-caste reforms.
- ❖ Without this, there would have been no temple entry legislation in 1936 and 1947.
- ❖ Today, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are among the few States where governments have appointed priests from the Backward classes after a prolonged legal struggle.

NATIONAL NEWS

Digital Attendance in Lok Sabha

- ❖ Lok Sabha MPs would have to mark their attendance from their respective seats in the House using a multi-media device.
- ❖ It begins in the 2025 Monsoon Session of Parliament.
- ❖ Till the last session, the Lok Sabha members were signing their attendance in a register in the lobby.
- ❖ The register will continue to be available for some time, allowing MPs time to familiarise themselves with the electronic system.

- ❖ The MPs can register their attendance within the House at their respective division seats by using their I-card, through biometric (thumb impression) or by entering a PIN.
- ❖ Rajya Sabha is likely to follow the new system soon.
- ❖ Last year, the Speaker Om Birla gave the members the option to mark their attendance in the House using a digital pen on an electronic tablet in the lobby.
- ❖ The officials said that this has now been upgraded with the introduction of the MMD system installed on the sleek terminals.
- ❖ These were otherwise used to access Parliamentary papers and the day's agenda, among others, at every MP's seat.
- ❖ The move is expected to help save time as lobbies are at times crowded with MPs.
- ❖ The MPs must mark their attendance to receive their daily allowances during Parliament sessions.
- ❖ However, Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition are not required to sign in their attendance.



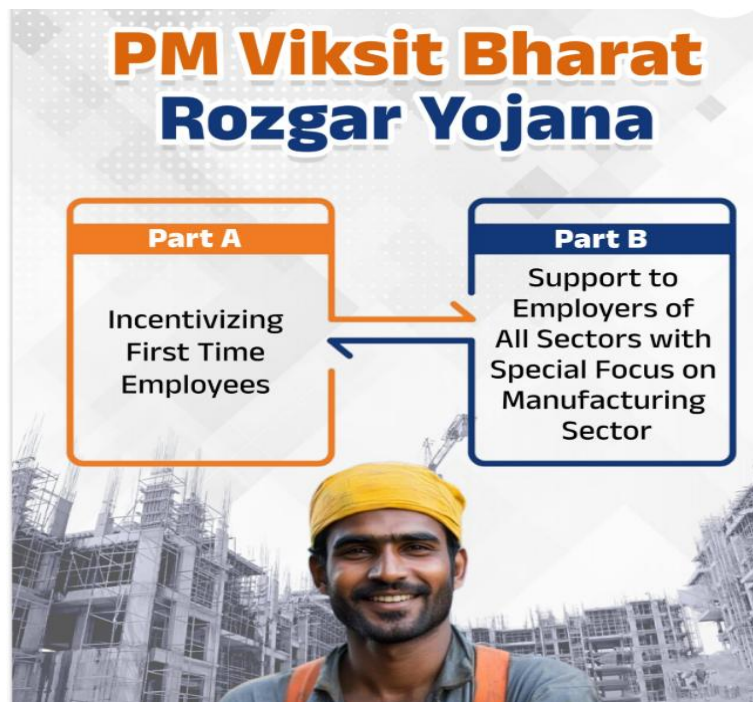
60 years of friendship – India and Maldives

- ❖ India and the Maldives celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations, marking deep-rooted ties beyond history.
- ❖ India is the Maldives' closest neighbour and trusted partner, supporting during disasters and economic recovery.
- ❖ Key projects include 4,000 social housing units, Greater Male Connectivity, Addu Road, and Hanimaadhoo Airport redevelopment.

- ❖ India extends \$565 million (approx. ₹5,000 crore) Line of Credit for the Maldives' infrastructure development.



PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana



- ❖ The PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana will be launched on 1st August 2025.
- ❖ It aims to generate over 3.5 crore jobs and promote the inclusive, sustainable employment, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector.
- ❖ It has a total financial outlay of Rs 99,446 crore over two years.
- ❖ Out of the targeted jobs, 1.92 crore will be first-time workers entering the formal workforce.

- ❖ All payments to employees will be made through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) using ABPS (Aadhaar Bridge Payment System).

Home Ministry and North Block



- ❖ The Home Ministry begins moving out of the British-era North Block.
- ❖ The Ministry has been known by this address for nearly 90 years.
- ❖ The iconic North Block building at Raisina Hills in Lutyens Delhi will no longer be home to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ The Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan was among the first to move to the new office complex.
- ❖ The MHA has been allotted 347 rooms in the new complex.
- ❖ It is shifting to the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) building on Janpath, Delhi.
- ❖ Once all offices move out of the North and South Blocks, these will be turned into a museum.
- ❖ Named 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum', it will display an estimated 25,000-30,000 artefacts.
- ❖ It is likely to be one of the largest museums in the world.
- ❖ The CCS is part of the Central Vista redevelopment plan.
- ❖ The objective of the building CCS is to improve coordination, collaboration and synergy among various organs of the Central Government.
- ❖ That will boost the productivity and obviate the need for unnecessary travel of documents and officials from the offices spread over different parts of the city.
- ❖ The British-era buildings – North Block and South Block – house the very key administrative buildings such as the office of the Prime Minister, and Ministries of Defence, Home, External Affairs and Finance.

- ❖ These red-sandstone buildings were built by British architect Herbert Baker and inaugurated in 1921.

Vice-President election 2025

● ELECTORAL COLLEGE
முறையில் மறைமுகத் தேர்தல் நடைபெறும்



தேர்தலை நடத்துவது
இந்திய தேர்தல் ஆணையம்

வாக்காளர்கள்
மக்களவை,
மாநிலங்களவை எம்.பி.க்கள்
(நியமன எம்.பி.க்கள் உள்பட)

வெற்றி பெற..
பதிவான வாக்குகளில் சரியாதிக்கும்
அதிகமான வாக்குகள் பெற வேண்டும்.
(Total Valid Votes ÷ 2) + 1

யார் போட்டியிடலாம்?

- ❖ இந்திய குடிமகனாக இருக்க வேண்டும்
- ❖ 35 வயதை பூர்த்தி செய்திருக்க வேண்டும்
- ❖ வேறு எந்த அரசுப் பதவியிலும் இருக்கக் கூடாது
- ❖ மாநிலங்களவை எம்.பி. ஆவதற்கான தகுதிகளை கொண்டிருக்க வேண்டும்

பதவிக்காலத்தை நிறைவு செய்யாமல் மருத்துவக் காரணங்களுக்காக ராஜினாமா செய்த முதல் குடியரசுத் துணைத் தலைவர் ஜெகதீப் தன்கர்



- ❖ Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned from the post on July 21, 2025.
- ❖ It created a rare mid-term vacancy in the constitutional position.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India has received the gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs notifying the resignation.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India begins preparations to elect the Vice-President.
- ❖ It has appointed the Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha, P.C. Mody, as the Returning Officer.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India, under Article 324, is mandated to conduct the election to the office of the Vice-President of India.
- ❖ The election to the office of the Vice-President of India is governed by the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.
- ❖ And the rules are made thereunder, namely the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

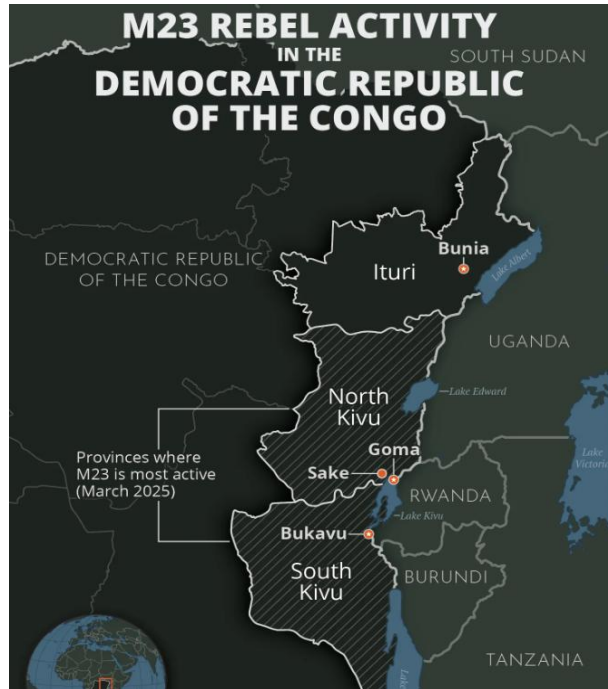


- ❖ The nomination paper has to be subscribed by at least 20 electors as proposers and at least 20 electors as seconders.
- ❖ It has to be presented to the Returning Officer, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on any day appointed for the purpose.
- ❖ It is either by the candidate himself or by any of his proposers or seconders.
- ❖ The Security Deposit for the election is ₹15,000.
- ❖ By convention, the Secretary General, Lok Sabha or the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha is appointed as the Returning Officer, by rotation.
- ❖ During the last vice-presidential election in 2022, the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha was appointed as the Returning Officer.
- ❖ Two other senior officers of the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat are appointed as the Assistant Returning Officers.
- ❖ The Vice President is elected by the Electoral College.
- ❖ It consists of all the members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, both elected and nominated.
- ❖ They are free to vote as they wish and are not bound by the party whip.
- ❖ The Vice-President holds office for five years.
- ❖ The VP is also the Rajya Sabha Chairman.
- ❖ It is second second-highest constitutional position of the country.
- ❖ However, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, he will continue to remain in office until his successor takes charge.
- ❖ In the case of death, removal or resignation of the Vice-President, Constitution does not provide any method of succession apart from a fresh election.
- ❖ In such an event, the Deputy Chairman can head the Rajya Sabha proceedings.
- ❖ Thus, in case of a resignation, the Election Commission has to call for elections immediately, as the position cannot be left vacant.
- ❖ As per Article 66 (1) of the Constitution, the election of the Vice-President shall be held “in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and the voting at such an election shall be by secret ballot.”
- ❖ The election method denotes that every elector has as many preferences as candidates contesting the elections.
- ❖ The winning candidate has to secure the required quota of votes to be declared elected.
- ❖ It is 50% of the valid votes cast plus 1.

- ❖ Unlike the Presidential election, where the value of votes cast by the Members of Parliament and of the various State Legislative Assemblies is different, the value of every vote cast in the Vice-Presidential election has the same value, that is, one.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Doha pact for Congo peace



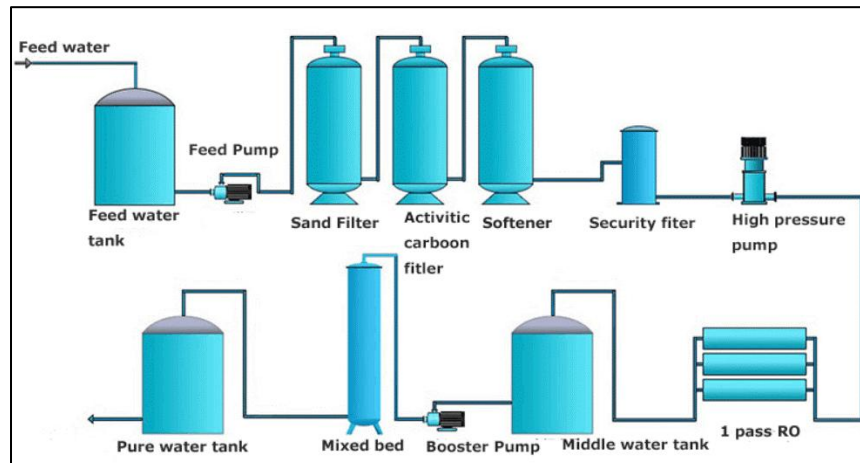
- ❖ The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government and the rebel group March 23 Movement (M23), under the Congo River Alliance, signed a Declaration of Principles in Doha, mediated by Qatar.
- ❖ The agreement, welcomed by the United Nations peacekeeping mission MONUSCO, aims to establish a ceasefire and joint implementation mechanism.
- ❖ It includes the commitments to ensure the voluntary, safe return of displaced persons and promote inclusive dialogue to address conflict roots.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

High-pressure polymeric membrane

- ❖ The DRDO has successfully developed an indigenous nano-porous multi-layered polymeric membrane for high-pressure seawater desalination.

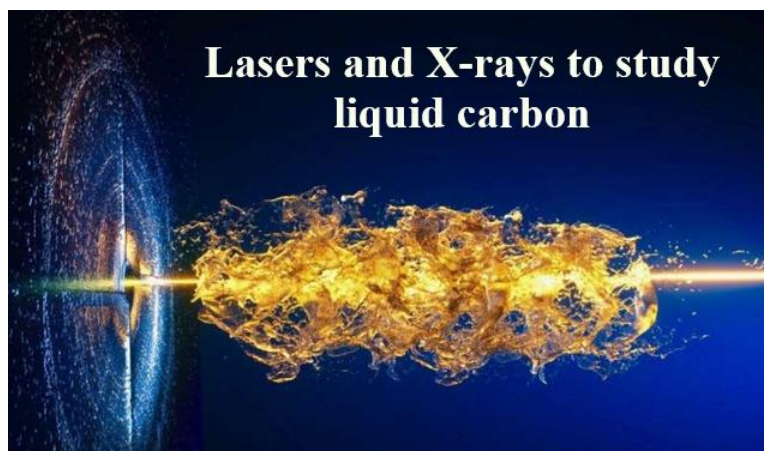
- ❖ It will be used in Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships.
- ❖ It was developed by the DRDO's Kanpur-based laboratory DMSRDE (Defence Materials Stores and Research & Development Establishment).
- ❖ It was a high-performance filtration membrane designed to purify seawater by filtering out salts and contaminants using nanoporous polymer layers.
- ❖ The Nanoporous architecture increases surface area and selectivity.
- ❖ Multi-layered design offers improved mechanical strength, salt rejection, and chemical resistance.
- ❖ Desalination is the process of removing dissolved salts and other impurities from saline water to produce fresh, drinkable water suitable for human consumption, agriculture, or industrial use.
- ❖ Reverse Osmosis (RO) is a membrane-based water purification process in which saline water is forced through semi-permeable membranes under high pressure.
- ❖ It allows only water molecules to pass through while blocking dissolved salts, minerals, and impurities.



Structure of liquid carbon

- ❖ The Scientists used lasers and X-rays to study liquid carbon, which forms under extreme heat and pressure.
- ❖ The atomic structure resembles diamond, not a simple liquid, reshaping our understanding.
- ❖ This discovery aids the planetary science, fusion energy research, and material science by revealing carbon's behaviour under conditions found in planets and fusion reactors.
- ❖ Liquid carbon refers to carbon in a liquid state, which is not naturally stable under normal temperature and pressure conditions.

- ❖ The Carbon typically exists in solid forms like graphite, diamond, or as a gas (CO_2) when oxidised.
- ❖ Carbon does not melt under normal pressure; it transitions directly from solid to gas (sublimation), making lab-based liquid-phase studies almost impossible.
- ❖ To create liquid carbon, extreme conditions are required, like pressures over 10 million times Earth's atmosphere and temperatures around $4,500^\circ\text{C}$.
- ❖ Traditional methods fail because no material can withstand these conditions without melting.
- ❖ Liquid carbon atoms have 4 neighbouring atoms each, mirroring the diamond's structure (but in liquid form).
- ❖ This challenges earlier assumptions of a simpler liquid structure.
- ❖ The structure is complex and ordered, akin to water's hydrogen-bonded network but with covalent bonds.
- ❖ The experiment has narrowed down carbon's melting point under high pressure, resolving discrepancies in past theoretical models.
- ❖ Liquid carbon exists in the cores of the giant planets (e.g., Neptune, Uranus) and white dwarf stars.
- ❖ Understanding its behaviour improves the very models of the planetary formation and dynamics.
- ❖ Inertial confinement fusion (a clean energy concept) uses carbon-rich materials.
- ❖ Knowing carbon's liquid properties helps design efficient reactors.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Long-billed bush warbler

- ❖ The Long-billed bush warbler was spotted in Ladakh's Suru Valley.

- ❖ This marks its first confirmed sighting in India after 46 years.
- ❖ Known for its long bill and tail, it is highly elusive and typically inhabits grassy alpine slopes between 2,400–3,600 metres.
- ❖ The bird is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.



Ramsar COP15



- ❖ The 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.
- ❖ A total of 172 countries participated in the conference.
- ❖ The conference theme was “Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future”.



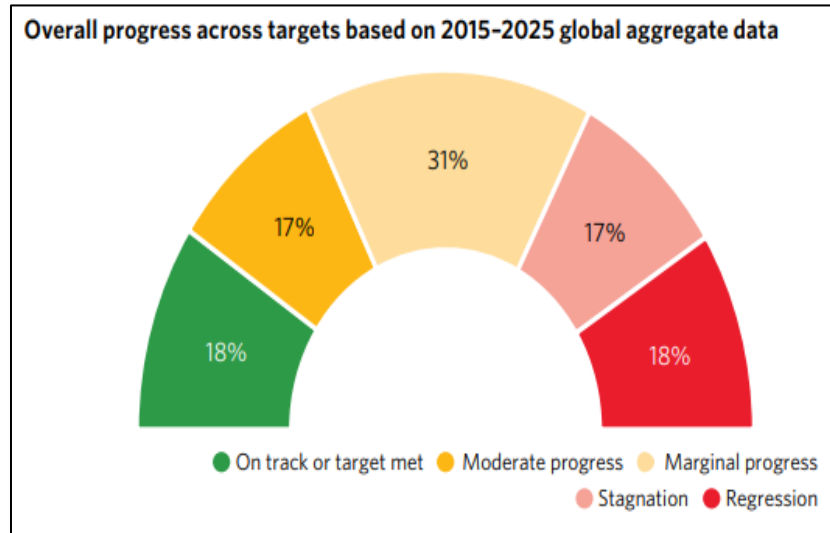
- ❖ Zimbabwe officially took over the three-year rotating presidency of the Ramsar Convention from China.
- ❖ The Victoria Falls Declaration was launched to boost global wetland restoration efforts.
- ❖ Wetlands cover only 6 per cent of Earth's surface but provide services valued at over 7.5 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ A special edition of the Global Wetland Outlook 2025 warned that one-fifth of the world's remaining wetlands could disappear by 2050.
- ❖ This loss could result in ecosystem service losses estimated at 39 trillion United States dollars (USD).
- ❖ India currently hosts 91 Ramsar Sites spread across 1.36 million hectares.
- ❖ This forms Asia's very largest and the world's third-largest network of protected wetlands.
- ❖ Additionally, Indore and Udaipur have been newly recognised as Wetland Cities.
- ❖ India's citizen-led initiatives like Mission Sahbhagita and the Save Wetlands Campaign have mobilised over two million people for wetland awareness and conservation.
- ❖ COP15 called for the creation of a Global Wetland Restoration Fund and stronger integration of wetland policies into national climate and development agendas.
- ❖ The Strategic Plan 2025–2034 was discussed, with input from regional groups including Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, Oceania, and the Caribbean to guide long-term conservation goals.

REPORTS AND INDICES

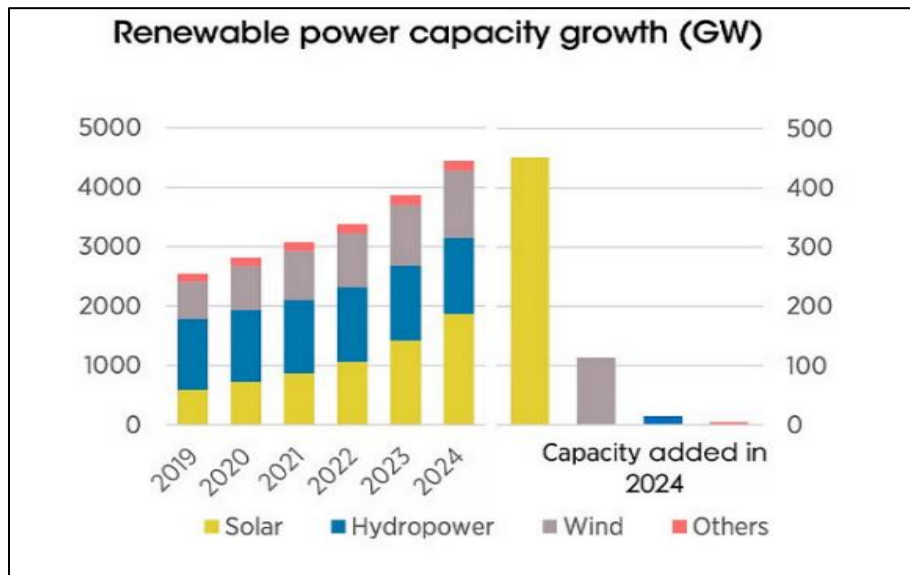
Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025

- ❖ It was the 10th edition of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025.
- ❖ It was prepared by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- ❖ It warns that 35% of measurable SDG targets are stagnating or reversing, with five years left to 2030.
- ❖ Some 35 per cent of the targets under 14 of the 17 goals with measurable data have halted or are moving backward.
- ❖ The findings of the report are particularly alarming for five critical goals — Zero Hunger (SDG2), Quality Education (SDG4), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG6), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG10) — where 50-57 per cent of the targets with data have stalled or deteriorated.

- ❖ Four other goals — the Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG12), Life Below Water (SDG14), Life on the Land (SDG15), and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG16) — too are also not faring much better, with 40 to 42 per cent of their measurable targets off-track.
- ❖ The Sub-Saharan Africa saw the highest rate, with 23.2 per cent of its population facing hunger, while the Southern Asia remained home to the largest absolute number of hungry people — 281 million.



RPGC Report 2025



- ❖ The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has released the Renewable Power Generation Costs (RPGC) Report 2025.
- ❖ The report highlights the growing cost-effectiveness of renewable energy sources.

- ❖ In 2024, global renewable power capacity additions reached 582 gigawatts (GW).
- ❖ Solar photovoltaics (PV) accounted for 452.1 GW (77.8%), and wind contributed 114.3 GW.
- ❖ In 2024, 91% of new renewable energy projects commissioned globally delivered power at a lower cost than the cheapest fossil fuel-based alternatives.
- ❖ Solar PV was, on average, 41% cheaper than fossil fuels.
- ❖ The addition of 582 GW of the renewable capacity in 2024 led to significant cost savings, avoiding fossil fuel use valued at approximately \$57 billion.

World's highest number of slum clusters

INDIA HAS HIGHEST NUMBER OF SLUM CLUSTERS IN FLOOD-PRONE AREAS

CONTEXT

- A study shows India leads globally in number of slum-dwellers living in flood-prone areas, highlighting challenges in risk management for vulnerable urban populations.

CAUSES :

- Limited financial means, social vulnerability, & a lack of viable alternatives force poor populations to inhabit unsafe, low-lying floodplains.

BACKGROUND :

- Nearly 158 million slum dwellers in India live within floodplains, a number that surpasses the population of entire large countries such as Russia.

WAY FORWARD:

- Flood mitigation and slum upgrading must be treated as interconnected agendas, with a focus on SDGs such as eliminating poverty, promoting sustainable cities.

- ❖ According to a 2024 Moody's report, more than 2.3 billion people are exposed to flooding every year.
- ❖ The study was published in Nature Cities in July 2025.
- ❖ In India, more than 600 million people are at risk of coastal or inland flooding.
- ❖ India has the world's highest number of slum clusters in flood-prone areas.
- ❖ More than 158 million slum-dwellers in India live in vulnerable settlements in floodplains.
- ❖ It is more than the population of Russia.
- ❖ Most of them concentrated in the Ganga River delta.



- ❖ The largest concentrations and largest numbers of such people are in South Asian countries.
- ❖ Northern India leads in absolute numbers.
- ❖ It is followed by Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.
- ❖ Other notable 'hotspots' include Rwanda and its neighbourhood, the northern Morocco, and the coastal regions of Rio de Janeiro.
- ❖ Overall, in the Global South, 33% of informal settlements, making up around 445 million people living in 908,077 households within 67,568 clusters.
- ❖ They lie in areas that have already been exposed to floods.
- ❖ Countries like India and Brazil also have a disproportionately high number of floodplain settlements.
- ❖ The researchers classified human settlements as rural, suburban, and urban.
- ❖ Latin America and the Caribbean had high rates of urbanisation (80%).
- ❖ And thus, more than 60% of settlements were in urban areas.
- ❖ In contrast, Sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest rates of urbanisation, and nearly 63% of informal settlements were rural.
- ❖ In Sierra Leone and Liberia, informal settlements hosted most of the population.
- ❖ In India, at the time of the study, 40% of slum dwellers resided in urban and suburban areas.
- ❖ In India and Bangladesh, the low-lying Gangetic delta and the large national population contribute to the numbers.
- ❖ People settle in, or are forced to settle in, floodplains due to a combination of factors, including access to jobs, social vulnerability, and financial constraints.

STATES' NEWS

India's second-longest cable-stayed bridge

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways inaugurated India's second-longest cable-stayed Sigandur bridge.
- ❖ It was built across the Sharavathi backwaters in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district in Karnataka.
- ❖ The bridge between Sagara and Marakutika covers 2.44 km and is 16 meters wide.
- ❖ The Sudarshan Setu (also known as the Okha-Beyt Dwarka Signature Bridge) is India's longest cable-stayed bridge connecting the Okha mainland and the Beyt Dwarka island in Gujarat.

- ❖ Atal Setu (The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link) is the longest bridge in India and also the longest sea bridge in the country.



12,000 new polling stations - Bihar

What the Shift Entails

Poll Panel's decision to limit voters to 1,200 per station could add **3 lakh polling stations**, raising costs and logistics

THE NEW LIMIT WILL TAKE EFFECT BEFORE THE BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING POLLING STATIONS

CEC
Gyanesh Kumar announced the shift, ensuring **no polling station will exceed the set limit** and that all stations will be within **2 kms of voters**

ECI's 2009 guideline set 1,500 voters per station but reverted to 1,200 during the pandemic. The **new announcement follows the SC's recommendation** to restore the 1,200 cap

- ❖ The Bihar government said that more than 12,000 new polling stations have been created in the state as per the recommendation of the Election Commission, as part of special intensive revision (SIR).

- ❖ The total number of polling stations has risen to 90,712 from 77,895, after the establishment of 12,817 new ones.
- ❖ Bihar has also become the first State in the country to achieve the target of one polling station for 1,200 electors or fewer.
- ❖ Earlier, there was a ceiling of 1,500 electors per station.
- ❖ It has been revised to 1,200, under the Special Intensive Revision.
- ❖ The move is aimed at reducing long queues and making voting more convenient.

Extension of President's Rule in Manipur



- ❖ The President's Rule in Manipur under the Article 356 has been extended for six months starting August 13, 2025.
- ❖ It was following a statutory resolution introduced by the Union Home Minister in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Under Article 356(3) of the Constitution, President's Rule is implemented through the Governor's office.
- ❖ It typically lasts for the six months and can be renewed every six months with Parliament's approval.
- ❖ It will be extended for a maximum duration of three years.

- ❖ The Manipur state assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation.
- ❖ Manipur was placed under President's Rule on 13th February this year following the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.
- ❖ Manipur has been witnessing the ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities since May 2023.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025 – July 30



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights.
- ❖ From 2020 to 2023, there were more than 200,000 detected victims globally.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Human trafficking is the organised crime – End the exploitation.”

Martyrdom Day of Shahid Udham Singh 2025 - July 31

- ❖ On April 13, 1919, a large number of Indians gathered in Jallianwala Bagh to oppose the Rowlett Act.
- ❖ On this day, British forces under Brigadier-General Dwyer opened fire without warning.
- ❖ General Dyer ordered his troops to block exits and fire indiscriminately for about 10 minutes.
- ❖ Shahid Udham Singh witnessed the brutality of the massacre, where thousands of unarmed civilians were killed.

- ❖ He assassinated Michael O'Dwyer in London in 1940 as a retaliation for the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- ❖ Singh was arrested soon after and, following a brief trial, was executed on July 31, 1940, at Pentonville Prison, London.



SHAHEED
UDHAM SINGH
26 Dec 1899 – 31 July 1940

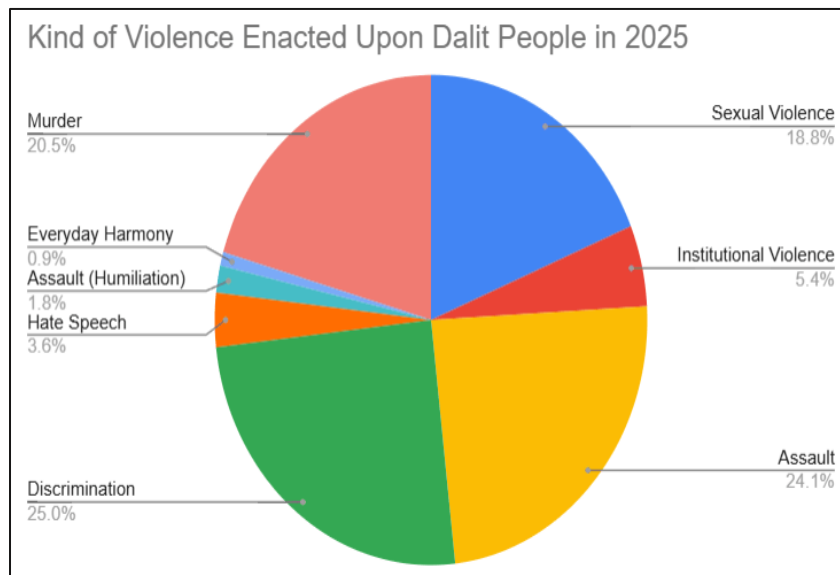
26 Dec 1899 Udham Singh was born in Sunam, Punjab	1924 He joined the Gadar Party & moved overseas for organising Indians
1927 Returned to India on Bhagat Singh's orders, along with 25 associates & ammunition. Even got arrested for this move	
1931 Released from prison & moved to London	13th Mar 1940 Assassinated Gen. O'Dwyer to avenge his act of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Untouchability Cases India 2025

- ❖ The number of criminal cases registered under the Protection of Civil Rights Act (PCR Act), 1955, for offences related to “untouchability” has seen a decline.
- ❖ It is with pendency in courts remaining above 97% and nearly all disposed cases resulting in acquittals.
- ❖ The report was recently made to the public by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The Act is intended to define various manifestations of untouchability, including in social and religious spheres, and prescribe penalties.
- ❖ It mandates an annual review report with inputs from the States and the Union Territories, covering aspects such as case registration, pendency in the police and courts, the establishment of special courts and police stations, and inter-caste marriage incentives, among others.

- ❖ According to data provided to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 13 cases were registered under the PCR Act across the country in 2022 — a decline from 24 in 2021 and 25 in 2020.
- ❖ These cases were reported from Jammu and Kashmir (5), Karnataka (5), Maharashtra (2), and Himachal Pradesh (1).
- ❖ In contrast, the number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, has risen steadily.
- ❖ The 2022 report also documented that 18,936 inter-caste marriage couples were given financial incentives of ₹2.5 lakh each under the PCR Act across 21 States and Union Territories.
- ❖ Maharashtra reported the highest number of beneficiaries at 4,100, followed by Karnataka (3,519) and Tamil Nadu (2,217).
- ❖ However, several States — including Bihar, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand — did not provide data regarding inter-caste marriage incentives.



Costliest Cities for Luxury Spending 2025

- ❖ It was according to a recent report by the Swiss wealth management firm Julius Baer Group.
- ❖ Singapore remains the world's most expensive city for luxury spending for the third year in a row.
- ❖ It has passed other famous cities like Hong Kong and London.
- ❖ Meanwhile, London has edged out Hong Kong to take the second spot.

- ❖ As the only city in the North or South America to make the top 10, New York maintained its position at number eight on the list.



Tourism in Doklam



- ❖ Doklam in Sikkim will be open to tourists from September 2025, eight years after the India-China standoff.



- ❖ It is 68 km from Gangtok and lies at the meeting point of India, Bhutan, and China, at 13,780 feet above sea level.
- ❖ Doklam has become a sensitive area in 2017 when China tried to build a road in Bhutan's claimed land, and India stepped in to help Bhutan.
- ❖ The Defence Ministry has chosen Doklam as one of three battlefield tourism spots in Sikkim to show important military sites.
- ❖ The other two places are Nathu La and Cho La, where India and China had clashes in 1967.

Court cases in India 2025

- ❖ In 2023, 86,700 cases are pending in the Supreme Court (SC).
- ❖ Over 65.3 lakh cases in High Courts (HCs), and 4.4 crore cases in district and subordinate courts (D&SCs) were pending.
- ❖ Last year, President Droupadi Murmu has criticised the 'dilatory litigation' that hampers justice delivery.
- ❖ Droupadi Murmu, in her address at the National Conference of District Judiciary, has coined the phrase 'black coat syndrome' to draw attention to the perennial problem of pendency in courts.
- ❖ She compared it to the 'white coat syndrome' patients feel in hospitals.
- ❖ The number of pending cases in India amounts to 5.1 crore cases.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has only 1,300 pending civil cases compared to the 20,400 criminal cases.
- ❖ Meanwhile, High Courts are facing an even greater disparity, with 68.3 per cent of their pending cases being civil cases.
- ❖ Similarly, the District and Subordinate Courts are facing an overwhelming 70 per cent of their pending cases as civil cases.
- ❖ This disparity underscores a systemic issue where civil cases, which often involve complex property, family or commercial disputes, exist at every level.
- ❖ HCs led by disposing of 85.3% criminal cases, followed by 80.9% by the SC, and 79.5% by district courts.
- ❖ However, when it comes to the civil litigation at the district courts, only 18.8% of pending cases were disposed of in 2023, where only 20% of new cases are added annually, and nearly 20% stretch beyond five years.
- ❖ Civil cases in district courts face the longest delays.
- ❖ It is exposing a stark mismatch between caseload and capacity.

- ❖ India's judicial functions are at 18,297, or 66.86%, of the 27,363 sanctioned posts.
- ❖ 9,065 posts are vacant, resulting in a 33% shortage.
- ❖ Vacant District and Subordinate Court posts, including those for civil litigation, have a sanctioned strength of 25,771 judges.
- ❖ It is averaging 18 judges per 10 lakh population.
- ❖ This is lower than China's 145 judges per 10 lakh population.
- ❖ To meet the judicial shortage, India needs to fill 9,065 vacant posts, which will help reduce the backlog.
- ❖ The Law Commission's recommendation of 50 judges per 10 lakh population has been largely ignored.
- ❖ But India operates with just 15 judges per 10 lakh population.
- ❖ The Lok Adalats, procedural reforms, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and digitisation are effective ways forward to ease the burden on the judiciary.
- ❖ Lok Adalats provide quicker, more affordable, and accessible justice.
- ❖ Other alternatives, such as the mediation, arbitration, and conciliation, are more suitable for resolving disputes outside the traditional courtroom.
- ❖ The success of National Lok Adalats (NLAs) is demonstrated in all levels with 13.2 crore cases having been resolved till March 2024, compared to the pending 5.1 crore cases.
- ❖ The NLAs have resolved 3.34 crore civil cases and 1.96 crore criminal pre-litigation and 3.34 crore pending court cases.

