

June - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to the Departments of Environment, Climate Change, and Forests, Tamil Nadu, has been recognised for her immense contributions to the fight against financial crimes.
- ❖ Agnikul Cosmos, the Chennai-based private space startup, has achieved a very significant milestone by successfully test-firing India's first electric motor-driven semi-cryogenic rocket engine.
- ❖ DRDO inaugurated the Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC) in Delhi, to strengthen the indigenous quantum capabilities for the strategic and defence applications.

NATIONAL NEWS

Female Cadets from NDA



309 cadets were conferred a bachelor's degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University at the convocation

84 cadets were conferred degrees in the science stream, 85 in the computer science stream and 59 in the arts stream

17 cadets from friendly foreign countries were also awarded degrees

111 Navy and Air Force cadets in the B Tech stream received "three-year course completion" certificate


(Above) Army cadet Shriti Daksh with her parents after receiving the trophy. (Left) Air cadet Lucky Kumar receives the trophy from Poonam Tandon, the chief guest at the NDA convocation, in the presence of Vice Admiral Gurucharan Singh, the NDA Commandant

➤ These Naval and Air Force cadets would be conferred with the degree after the completion of one-year training at their respective pre-commissioning training academies – Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala, and Air Force Academy (AFA), Hyderabad, respectively

- ❖ The first ever 17 women cadets of the National Defence Academy (NDA) graduated from the tri-services institute in Khadakwasla, Pune.

- ❖ In 2021, Supreme Court (SC) directed to admit women into the NDA.
- ❖ Pune's National Defence Academy is the first tri-service academy in the world.
- ❖ Shriti Daksh became the first female cadet to receive the Silver Medal and Chief of Air Staff Trophy for securing first rank in the B.A. stream.

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan 2025



The infographic for the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan 2025 campaign features a central illustration of a farmer in a white shirt and orange turban standing in a field, with a drone flying above him. The background shows a tractor and other farmers working in the field. The text is in Hindi and English.

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan
29th May to 12th June, 2025

Across 700 Districts
2000 Scientific Teams
will Participate

1.5 crore+
farmers will
Benefit

Campaign Objectives

- To share the latest technologies of kharif crops with farmers
- To share the natural farming practices
- Soil Health Card based crop selection
- Encourage balanced use of fertilizers
- Smart farming by using ICT and modern equipments
- Benefits of government schemes to more and more farmers

Main Highlights

- Live demonstrations of Agricultural Drones
- Model of crop diversification and machine-based farming
- Direct Interaction of farmers and agricultural scientists
- Promotion of farmer's innovation

- ❖ It is a nationwide campaign launched to modernize Indian agriculture through scientific outreach, sustainable practices, and farmer empowerment.
- ❖ It is conducted biannually before the Kharif and Rabi sowing seasons.
- ❖ It aims to provide a timely field-level guidance on improving crop production, soil health, and resource management.
- ❖ The campaign will mobilize ICAR's 113 research institutes, 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), agricultural universities, state agriculture departments, farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), and innovative farmers.
- ❖ It will cover over 65,000 villages across 723 districts and is expected to directly engage more than 1.3 crore farmers.

- ❖ This year's Kharif rice reached 1206.79 lakh metric tonnes, wheat 1154.30 lakh metric tonnes, maize 248.11 lakh metric tonnes, groundnut 104.26 lakh metric tonnes, and soybean 151.32 lakh metric tonnes.

Advance Authorisation Scheme

- ❖ The Union Government set to relax rules under Advance Authorisation scheme for exporters.
- ❖ Exporters are allowed duty-free import benefits under the Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme, even if their goods were shipped before the licence was issued.
- ❖ Until recently, if the shipment left the foreign port before the date on which the AA licence was granted, the benefit of duty exemption should not be available.
- ❖ The scheme allows exporters to import the inputs, such as the raw materials, its components, or chemicals, without paying Customs duty, on the condition that these will be used to manufacture products for export.
- ❖ However, this relaxation won't apply to restricted goods or products that can only be imported through designated government agencies, unless the DGFT gives special permission.

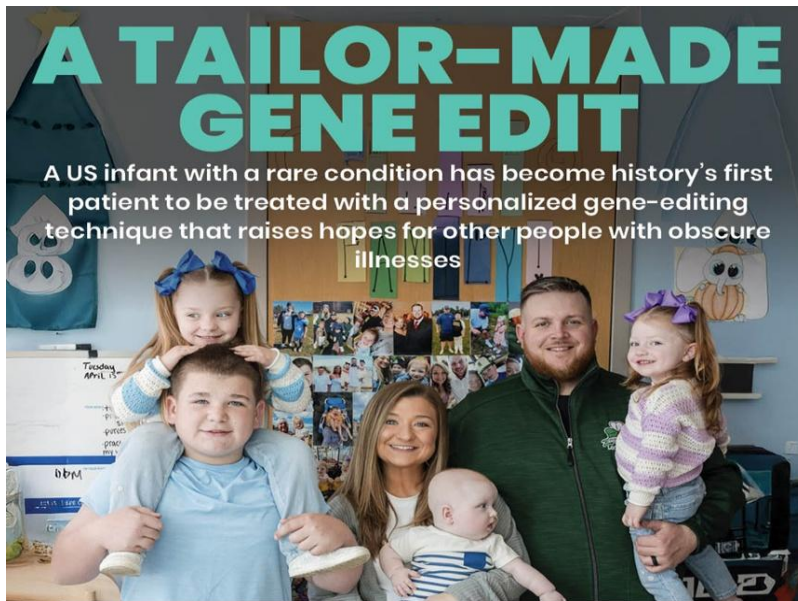


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

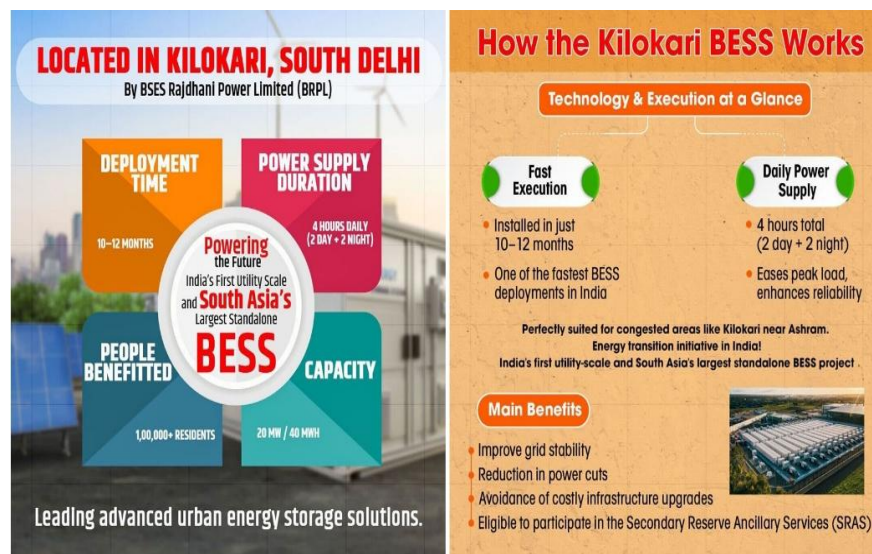
World-first CRISPR therapy

- ❖ The baby, KJ Muldoon from Pennsylvania of USA, is one of 350 million people worldwide with a rare disease - CPS1 deficiency.
- ❖ This baby became the first to successfully receive personalized gene therapy.

- ❖ The Doctors' team created a therapy designed to correct KJ's faulty gene.
- ❖ They used CRISPR, the gene editing tool that won its inventors the Nobel Prize in 2020.
- ❖ Doctors employed a technique known as "base editing."



South Asia's largest Battery Energy Storage System



- ❖ A 20-MW battery energy storage system (BESS), the "largest" one in South Asia was inaugurated at Kilokari, New Delhi.
- ❖ The system is also India's "the first commercially approved" utility-scale energy storage system.

- ❖ It uses an advanced Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) technology known for superior safety, thermal stability and durability.
- ❖ In Lithium-iron phosphate (LiFePO₄) batteries, lithium metal phosphate is used as a cathode instead of lithium metal oxide.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

3 new high-yielding crop varieties

- ❖ Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (PDKV), Maharashtra has introduced three new crop varieties.
- ❖ The new varieties include the wheat variety AKAW 5100, yellow sorghum hybrid kharif variety CSV 65 yellow, and chickpea super jaki (AKG 1402).
- ❖ AKAW 5100 is released for timely sowing in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Additionally, soybean varieties PDKV Amba (AMS 100-39) and PDKV Purva (AMS 2014-1), and groundnut variety TAG 73 (TAG 14-73) were approved for area expansion.
- ❖ TAG 73 groundnut is approved for the state of Gujarat, PDKV Amba soybean for Chhattisgarh, and PDKV Purva soybean for Assam, Meghalaya, and southeastern Madhya Pradesh.



STATES' NEWS

Kochi shipwreck issue

- ❖ The Kerala government has declared the wreckage of the Liberian-flagged cargo ship a State-specific disaster.

- ❖ The ship, MSC ELSA-3 bearing IMO number 9123221, sank near the coast of Kerala.
- ❖ It contains 640 containers including 13 with hazardous cargo and 12 containing calcium carbide.
- ❖ ICG ship Saksham, carrying pollution-response equipment, remains deployed at the site.
- ❖ The ICG's Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre (MRSC) in Kochi immediately launched a coordinated response.
- ❖ The Coast Guard's Dornier aircraft was deployed for aerial surveillance.
- ❖ Subsequently, ICG patrol ships and merchant vessels MV Han Yi and MSC Silver 2 were diverted to assist (the stranded crew)
- ❖ The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, also closely monitors the situation.
- ❖ INCOIS has activated its Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT) to assist in locating containers or drifting objects.
- ❖ Three Indian Coast Guard (ICG) vessels Vikram, Saksham, and Samarth are relying on infrared cameras to detect the extent of the oil spill.
- ❖ The Mercantile Marine Department, Kochi, issued a pollution liability warning to the vessel owners MSC under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
- ❖ Pollution response vessel Samudra Prahari is also mobilised.
- ❖ They also utilised oil spill dispersant (OSD) to contain the spread of oil from the vessel.



Impact in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Several bags of tiny plastic pellets (nurdles) were washed ashore in some of the coastal hamlets of western Kanniyakumari district.
- ❖ A few damaged bags and tiny plastic pellets were found along the shoreline of Enayampuththanthurai, Vallavilai, Eravipuththanthurai and a few more coastal villages in Kanniyakumari district.

- ❖ A container was also found washed ashore between the very coastal villages of Kodimunai and Vaniyakudi near Colachel.

Maharashtra CM Relief Fund



- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has granted the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 registration to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Maharashtra.
- ❖ This enables it to receive foreign donations for "social" programmes.
- ❖ This is the first time that the Union Home Ministry has granted FCRA nod to a state government relief body.
- ❖ It aims to supplement financial assistance to those affected by natural calamities, major accidents, communal riots, terrorist attacks or those in need of medical and educational help.
- ❖ The relief funds of State governments usually run on domestic donations and contributions.
- ❖ In 2018, Government of India declined foreign aid for Kerala flood relief.
- ❖ The Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) of Maharashtra is registered as a Trust under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950.
- ❖ It is managed by the State of Maharashtra under the chairmanship of CM who exercises overall supervision and control over the funds.
- ❖ The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund or the PM CARES Fund – was set up in March 2020.
- ❖ It aims to tackle the distress situations such as those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ It was also exempted from the FCRA provisions.
- ❖ It is compulsory to register under the Act, first enacted in 1976, if an association, group or NGO intends to receive foreign donations.
- ❖ The 1976 Act was repealed and replaced with new legislation in 2010 and was further amended in 2020.
- ❖ Registered associations can receive foreign contributions for social, educational, religious, economic and cultural programmes.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Monsoon Arrival 2025



- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences has retained its April forecast for 'above normal' rainfall from June to September.
- ❖ It expects the country to see about 92 cm of rainfall (106% of the long period average) during this southwest monsoon season, slightly higher than the 91.3 cm (105% of the average) rainfall.
- ❖ It said the southwest monsoon set in over Kerala on May 24, a week ahead of its normal onset.
- ❖ Normally, the southwest monsoon marks its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8.
- ❖ It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15.
- ❖ Not since the monsoon of 2009 has its arrival been this early.



- ❖ Since 1975, the earliest monsoon onset over Kerala occurred on May 19, 1990, 13 days ahead of schedule.
- ❖ Moreover, the monsoon also advanced to Mumbai early, breaking a 35-year-old record by reaching the city on May 26, two weeks ahead of the norm.
- ❖ The IMD officials said that a confluence of factors had played a role in “advancing the monsoon”, including a pre-cyclonic circulation and optimal temperatures in the Tibetan plateau, along with a couple of other global factors.
- ❖ The main factor favouring a good monsoon is the absence of an El Nino, which is associated with a warming of the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It is also associated with weak monsoon rainfall about 60% of the years when it is in effect.

