TNPSC BITS

❖ A. Rajeshwari, a girl from the tribal community in Kalvarayan Hills earns her seat in IIT and became the first student from Tamil Nadu to be selected for IIT after studying in a government tribal boarding school.

❖ Chennai Metro water launched a smart water ATMs at 50 key locations across the city.

❖ Economist S. Mahendra Dev has been named the new chairperson of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

❖ Flipkart, the Walmart-owned e-commerce company, has secured a non-banking financial company (NBFC) licence from RBI, the first one in India.

❖ TVS Motor appoints Sudarshan Venu as the Chairman and Managing Director, succeeding Sir Ralf Speth, effective August 25, 2025.

❖ The Tamil translation of the eminent ecologist Prof. Madhav Gadgil's auto biography 'A Walk Up the Hill: Living with People and Nature' has been launched in Chennai.

❖ The Tamil Nadu government has officially declared a Greater Flamingo sanctuary at Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram district.

❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation Mayor launched the Thooimai Mission, for sustainable waste management in the city.

❖ Nicaragua became the 101st member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to formally accept the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

❖ Italy's Mount Etna, the largest volcano in Europe, erupted recently.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Invasive-free Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary

❖ The Department of Posts released a special cover on invasive-free Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary situated in Tiruvarur district.

❖ The Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary was identified as an area of national importance and declared as a Ramsar site in 2022.

❖ The sanctuary provides habitat for around 118 bird species.

❖ Invasive species, which tend to out-compete native flora, have been removed from the sanctuary making this Ramsar site invasive-free now.

Malai Koothu

❖ 'Malai koothu', a form of 'therukoothu', is culturally moored in the lives of the Malaiyali tribes of Dharmapuri and the Javadhu and Yelagiri Hills in Tirupathur.

❖ The 'koothu' centres around The Mahabharata and the Puranas.

❖ The story-telling revolves around Draupathi.

❖ The Puritan style of performance has been seen in Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, and Cuddalore districts.

❖ The Therkathiya Bani (the southern style) is different from the Vadakathiya Bani (the northern style) seen in Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu districts.

❖ The Vanniya Puranam can be performed by anyone here; but in Tiruvannamalai, troupes comprising only Vanniyars perform it.

NATIONAL NEWS

Support to Poor Prisoners' Scheme

❖ The Centre has asked all the states and the Union Territories (UTs) to give the financial assistance from a Central fund to poor prisoners.

❖ This fund can be used to, who are unable to secure bail or release from jails on account of their inability to pay the fine awarded to them due to their financial situation.

❖ The MHA provides funds to the states and the UTs through the Central Nodal Agency (CNA).

❖ It is administered by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

❖ The Home Ministry had introduced the 'Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme' in May, 2023.

❖ As per the India Justice Report-2025, the national average occupancy rate in jails is more than 131 percent.

❖ The number of undertrial prisoners is estimated to be 76 percent of the entire prison population.

Support for Poor Prisoners

PROGRESS SO FAR

▶ Home Minister apprised Chief Ministers of all States/Union Territories about the Scheme.

▶ Detailed Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for implementation of the scheme shared with States/UTs.

▶ MHA advised Sates/UTs to constitute 'Empowered Committee' in each District of the State/UT for assessing requirement of financial support in each case.

▶ A new Budget Head created especially for the scheme.

▶ Rs. 5 crore advance obtained from Contingency Fund to India.

▶ Provision made for an Annual Budget of Rs. 20 crore each year.

▶ Hand holding States/UTs for providing maximum relief to poor prisoners.

ANNOUNCEMENT

▶ For poor persons who are in prisons and unable to afford the penalty or the bail amount, required financial support will be provided.

Voter Turnout Reporting in 2025

❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced that it would roll out an automatic reporting feature in its new mobile application ECINET, in time for the Assembly elections in Bihar.

- The new app would also enable faster reporting of voter turnout trends.
- Currently, the presiding officer of each polling station communicates the voter turnout numbers to a sector officer to the Returning Officer of the constituency over the phone or through messages.
- These data are then manually collated and the turnout for the constituency is entered into the Voter Turnout app every two hours.
- The new system will allow each of presiding officer to directly enter the turnout figures into the ECINET app every two hours.
- Through this app now onward, the turnout for the constituency will be calculated automatically and displayed for the public.
- Under the Rule 49S of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, Presiding Officers (PROs) are required to furnish Form 17C.

List of 21 New Initiatives by Election Commission of India
(Feb 19, 2025-May 29, 2025)

1. Maximum number of voters at a polling station has been restricted to 1200
2. Additional polling booths will be set up in High Rises / Colonies
3. For Electoral Roll updation, data of Death registration to be directly obtained from RGI database; will be updated after verification
4. Voter Information Slips to be made more elector friendly: serial number and part number of the voter will now be displayed more prominently
5. Provision of mobile deposit facility just outside the polling stations
6. Pan-India All-Party meetings conducted at the CEO/DEO/ERO level. 4,719 meetings held (CEO-40/ DEOs-800/EROs-3879); over 28,000 representatives of political parties participated
7. Election Commission meetings with heads of National & State political parties – AAP/BJP/BSP/CPI(M)/NPP
8. Capacity building programmes for Booth Level Agents of Political Parties at IIIDEM (Bihar, TN & Puducherry)
9. Relaxing the distance norms for canvassing – candidates/political parties now permitted to set up booths beyond 100 meters as opposed to 200 meters
10. Introduction of new Integrated Dashboard - ECINET; with aim to provide all services for all stakeholders at a single point (Single App to replace 40 + Apps/Websites)
11. Duplicate EPIC Number issue resolved; new mechanism for Unique EPIC numbers in place
12. 28 stakeholders were identified in the entire process of preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections, including electors, election officials, political parties, candidates and others based on Representation of the People Act 1950, 1951, Registration of Electors Rules 1960, Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 and the instructions issued by the ECI from time to time
13. For each of these stakeholders: training presentations are being prepared based on the Acts, Rules and Instructions of the Commission
14. National Conference of Counsels representing ECI and CEOs organized to strengthen synergy and reorient legal framework
15. BLOs to get Standard Photo ID Card
16. Capacity building programmes at IIIDEM, New Delhi:
    - More than 3500 Booth Level Supervisors already trained at IIIDEM
    - Nearly 6000 BLOs/BLO Supervisors to be trained in the next 45 days in 20 nearly batches
    - Over 1 lakh BLO Supervisors to be trained in next few years
17. Orientation programme for media officers from CEO offices of all 36 States/UTs at IIIDEM conducted
18. Training conducted for Police Officers from Bihar at IIIDEM
19. Implementation of Biometric Attendance
20. Operationalisation and Roll Out of E-Office
21. Regular meetings of ECI with CEOs of all 36 States/UTs and synergizing functioning of their offices with various divisions in ECI.

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India's First Tri-Services All-Women Sailing Team

- The Tri-Services All-Women Sailing Expedition team returned recently.
- They completed an 1,800-nautical-mile international voyage to Seychelles.
- They aboard the indigenously-built Indian Armed Services Vessel 'Triveni'.
- The team of 11 women officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force are part of this expedition.
- The crew included:

- Indian Army - Lt Col Anuja, Maj Karamjeet, Maj Tanyah, Capt Omita, Capt Dauli and Capt Prajakta

- Indian Navy - Lt Cdr Priyanka

- Indian Air Force - Sqn Ldr Vibha, Sqn Ldr Shraddha, Sqn Ldr Aruvi and Sqn Ldr Vaishali.

The first tri-service all-women global circumnavigation expedition "Samudra Pradakshina" on board the Indian Army Sailing Vessel Triveni was flagged off from Mumbai.The expedition will sail to Seychelles and come back to Mumbai.

Ayush Suraksha Portal

- ❖ The AYUSH Ministry launched the Ayush Suraksha Portal to Address Issues of Misleading Advertisements and Adverse Drug Reaction.

- ❖ This portal will strengthen consumer protection and regulatory oversight in the field of traditional medicine.

❖ The portal facilitates real-time monitoring, systematic analysis, and coordinated action on misleading advertisements and adverse drug reactions.

Enrolment in States government schools

❖ At least 11 States and Union Territories including Uttarakhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh facing low Enrolment in States government schools.

❖ The Union Ministry of Education (MoE) has asked these 11 States to take some "remedial steps" to prevent this fall.

❖ In Tamil Nadu, during the 2023-24, 64% of the government schools have 37% enrolment whereas 21% of unaided school have 46% enrolment.

❖ In Andhra Pradesh, total enrolment in government schools is 46.33% (40.5 lakh) as compared to 52.09% (45.53 lakh) enrolment in unaided schools.

❖ Kerala has witnessed the reduction of students in government and aided schools, from close to 46.37 lakh in 2022-23 to 45.50 lakh in 2023-24.
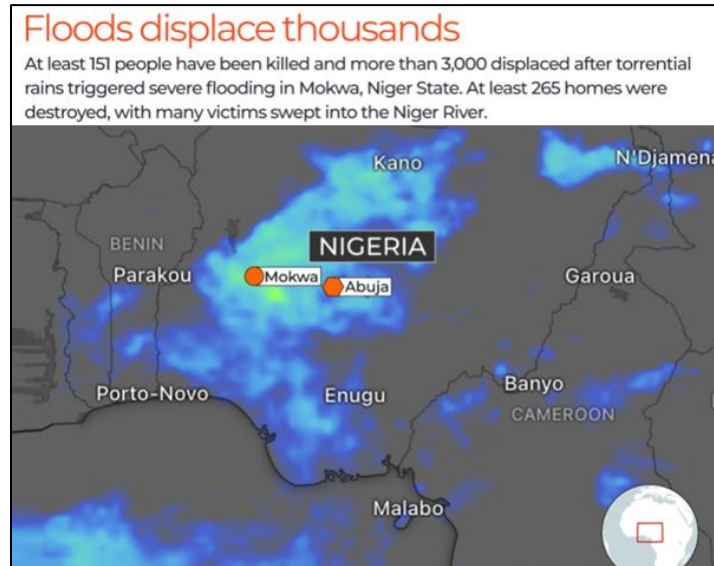

Report shows sharp decline in government school enrollment across 23 Indian state

Uttar Pradesh leads with the steepest drop in student numbers, as nationwide enrollment falls sharply
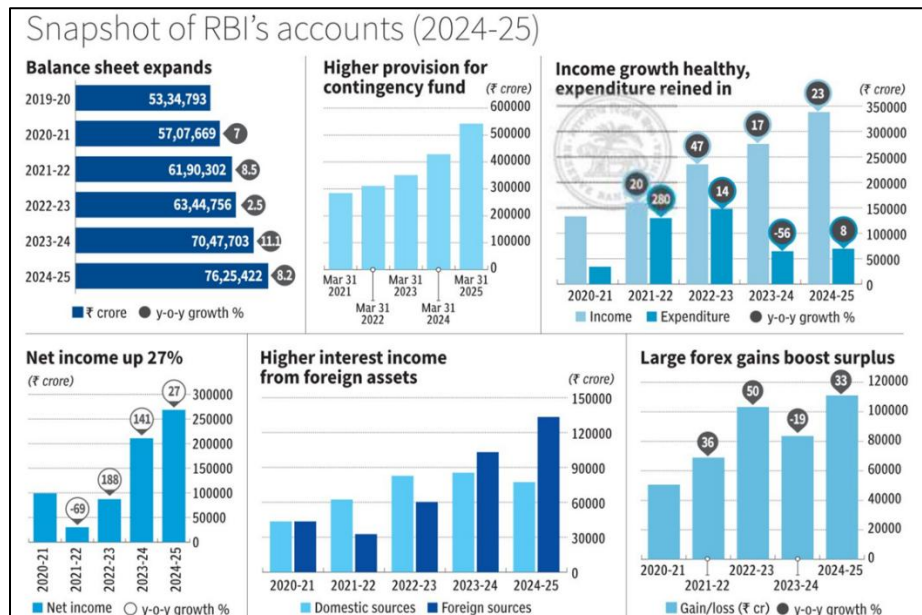
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nigeria floods 2025

❖ Flash floods triggered by heavy rains have devastated a North central Niger state's Mokwa.

❖ The floods are said to be worst in the area for 60 years.

❖ The area was also affected in 2022 when Nigeria recorded its worst flooding in more than a decade.

Floods displace thousands
At least 151 people have been killed and more than 3,000 displaced after torrential rains triggered severe flooding in Mokwa, Niger State. At least 265 homes were destroyed, with many victims swept into the Niger River.

ECONOMY NEWS

RBI Annual Report 2024–25

Snapshot of RBI's accounts (2024-25)

❖ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) balance sheet expanded by 8.2 per cent to Rs 76.25 lakh crore in the year 2024-25.

❖ The RBI's balance sheet stood at Rs 70.48 lakh crore as on March 31, 2024.

- During 2024-25, its income grew by 22.77 per cent to Rs 3.38 lakh crore from Rs 2.76 lakh crore in 2023-24.
- The expenditure increased by 7.76 per cent to Rs 69,714.02 crore in 2024-25 from Rs 64,694.33 crore as on March 31, 2024.
- The income from foreign sources has surged 38.07 per cent to 2.59 lakh crore in 2024-25.
- The total gold held by the RBI was 879.58 metric tonnes as on March 31, 2025.
- The RBI's 'other liabilities' are increased by 23.31 per cent from Rs 2.61 lakh crore as on March 31, 2024 to Rs 3.21 lakh crore as on March 31, 2025.
- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth moderated to 6.5% in 2024-25.
- Net household savings increased to 5.1% of Gross National Disposable Income (GNDI).
- Digital payments volume grew by 34.8%, value by 17.9% in 2024-25.
- The Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) of the central government reduced to 4.7% of GDP in 2024-25 from 5.5% in 2023-24.
- Counterfeit of Rs 200 and Rs 500 notes rose by 13.9% and 37.3% respectively.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

2017 OF201 - New distant dwarf planet
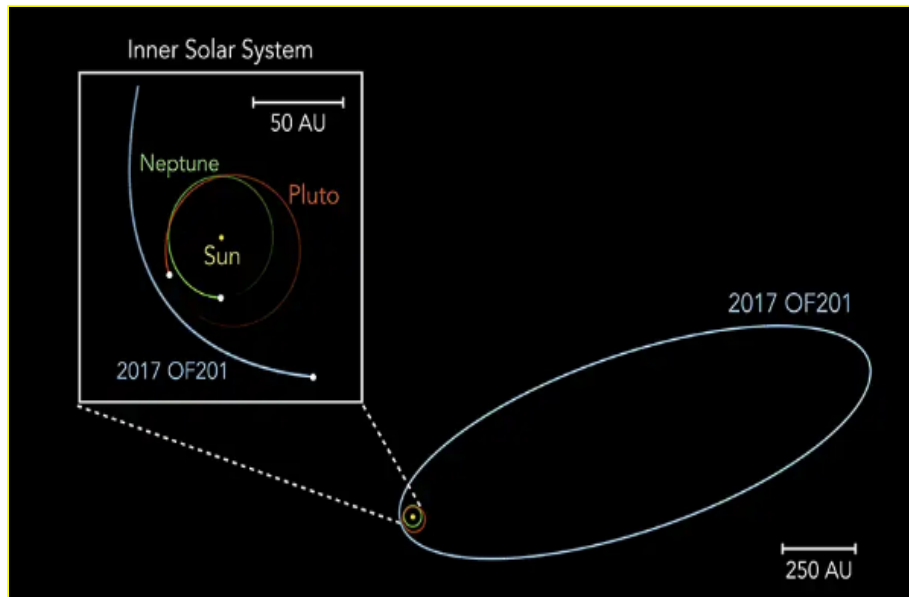
- The new dwarf planet has been discovered at the edge of our solar system.
- It takes around 25,000 years to complete one orbit around the sun.

❖ The object is known as 2017 OF201.

❖ The new object is roughly 700 kilometres (430 miles) across.

❖ The object is currently three times farther away from Earth than Neptune.

❖ A dwarf planet is a celestial body that orbits the Sun, is nearly round due to its own gravity, has not cleared its orbital path.

❖ Unlike planets, dwarf planets do not clear their orbits and often share them with asteroids or Kuiper Belt objects.

World's First Supercomputer in Space

❖ China is building the world's first supercomputer network in space, for which it launched 12 AI-powered satellites recently.

❖ Each of the 12 satellites can process up to 744 trillion operations per second, having transfer rates up to 100 gigabits per second.

❖ The space computing satellite constellation is the first constellation of the 'Star Computing' program.

❖ The "Three-Body Computing Constellation" will function as a space-based data processing network.

❖ This network is capable of computing vast amounts of information directly in orbit, without relying on any Earth-based infrastructure.

❖ Earlier this year, Beijing unveiled plans to build the "Three Gorges Dam of Space" to harness limitless solar power.

❖ This initiative involves deploying a massive solar array one kilometre wide in geostationary orbit, 36,000 kilometres above Earth.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

State of India's Environment in Figures 2025

HEALTH
India's life expectancy at birth has declined for the first time in five decades. It now stands at 69.8 years.

FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY
In 2023-24, India approved the diversion of nearly 29,000 hectares of forestland for non-forest activities. This is the highest in the past decade.

CLIMATE AND MIGRATION
At least 5.4 million Indians across 28 states/UTs were forced to migrate because of extreme weather events in 2024.

❖ The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released the annual State of India's Environment in Figures 2025 report.

❖ Using 48 indicators across four thematic areas, environment, agriculture, public health and human development, the report ranked all 36 states and Union Territories.

❖ Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa top the charts in individual categories.

❖ No state emerges as a consistent performer across all domains.

❖ Andhra Pradesh led in environmental management.

❖ Goa is the best in public health and infrastructure.

❖ Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal are ranked poorly across all categories.

❖ India's greenhouse gas emissions reached their highest global share - 7.8 per cent, since 1970.

Caspian Gull in Kerala

❖ Caspian Gull, a rare migratory bird, was sighting for the first time in Kerala.

❖ It was sighted on Kappad beach in Kozhikode in February 2020.

❖ The Caspian Gull, usually found in Central Asia, visits northwestern India, such as Gujarat, in winter.

❖ It was sighted in Goa only once and never again in south India until this time.


Global Glacier Melting status in 2025
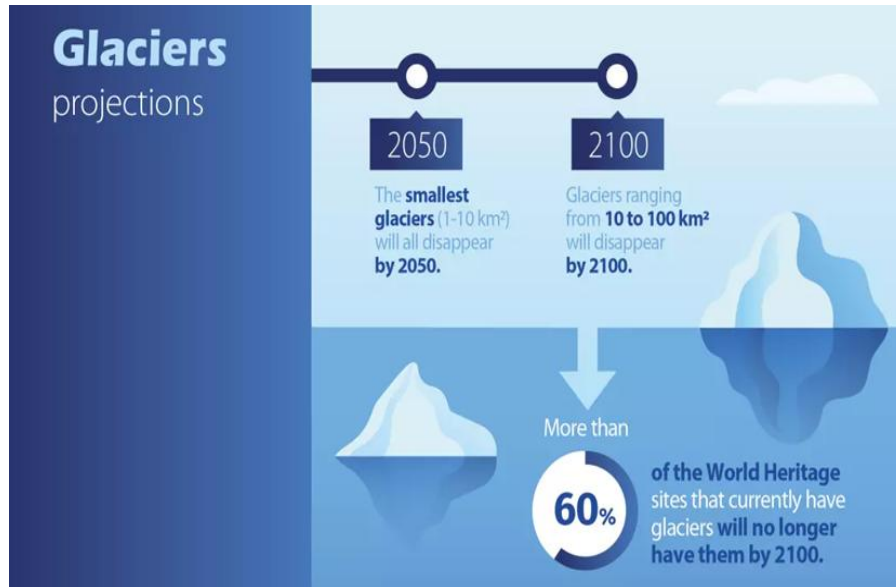
❖ If the world gets warmer by 2.7°C due to the current trajectory of climate policies, only 24% of the world's present-day glaciers will remain.

❖ Limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C — as adopted in the Paris climate agreement — could preserve up to 54% or twice as much glacier mass.

- ❖ The world's glaciers would still lose 39% of their mass, compared to 2020 levels, and that would lead to a sea level rise of 113 mm.

- ❖ Among the most vulnerable regions were the glaciers in Scandinavia, Rockies in Western Canada and the US, and European Alps.

- ❖ In the Hindu Kush Himalayas, only 25% of ice from 2020 levels will be left at 2°C of warming.

REPORTS AND INDICES

'Trends — Artificial Intelligence' Report

ChatGPT User + Subscriber + Revenue Growth – 10/22-4/25, per OpenAI & *The Information*
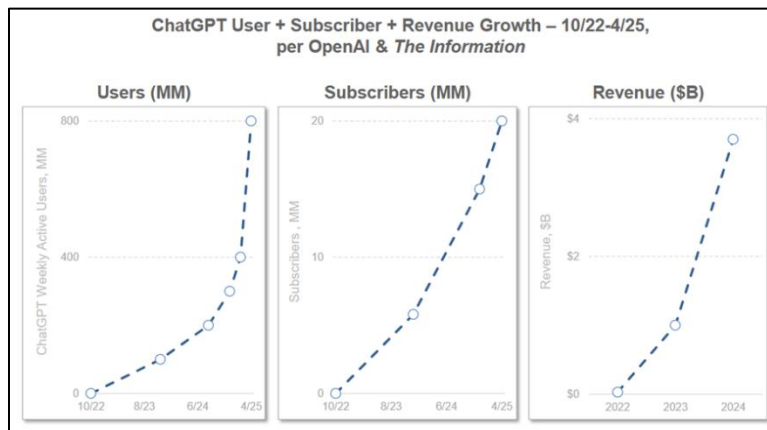
- ❖ According to Meeker's report, India contributes the highest share (13.5 per cent) of ChatGPT's mobile app users.

- ❖ It is ahead of the US (8.9 per cent) and Germany (3 per cent).

- ❖ It's also the third-largest user base for DeepSeek, a Chinese AI platform.

- ❖ China is leading the open-source race.

- ❖ It released three major models — DeepSeek-R1, Alibaba's Qwen-32B, and Baidu's Ernie 4.5.

STATES' NEWS

Samruddhi Mahamarg

- ❖ Maharashtra's most ambitious road infrastructure project, the 701-km-long Samruddhi Mahamarg, became fully operational.

- ❖ It will reduce travel time between Mumbai and Nagpur to just seven hours.

- ❖ It is popularly known as the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway though the Samruddhi Mahamarg doesn't actually begin in Mumbai.

❖ It passes through three wildlife sanctuaries

  o Katepurna wildlife sanctuary in Akola

  o Karanja-Sohol Black Buck sanctuary in Washim

  o Tansa wildlife sanctuary in Thane

Samruddhi Mahamarg

The six-lane access-controlled road, designed for a top speed of 150 kmph, is the second in Maharashtra after the Mumbai-Pune Expressway

of Trimbakeshwar and Ghrushneshwar, and the hill station of Igatpuri

■ Passes through three wildlife sanctuaries

■ 209 underpasses for animals and pedestrians, and eight underpasses and eight overpasses for wildlife movement

■ An estimated 30,000-35,000 vehicles will use the Expressway daily

■ Will boost tourism to Shirdi, Verul, Lonar lake, Ajanta, Ellora, Aurangabad, Panchavati, the jyotirlingas

■ It crosses 391 villages, 26 talukas and 10 districts

■ 138.47 MW electricity will be generated by a solar energy initiative linked to the project

Ghatampur Thermal Power Project

Ghatampur Thermal Power Project Unit-1

660 MW Unit-1 | Total 1980 MW (3x660)
Kanpur Nagar, UP

A collaboration between NLC India Ltd. (51%) and UPRVUNL (49%)

❖ NLC India has commenced the commercial operations of the first unit of its 3 x 660 MW Ghatampur Thermal Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh.

- It is developed through Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Ltd, a joint venture between NLC India and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
- Uttar Pradesh will receive 75.12% of this power, while Assam will receive 24.88%.

Stromatolites - Himachal Pradesh

- A large size of stromatolites has been recently unearthed in the pine-clad ridges of Chambaghat in Solan district, Himachal Pradesh.
- It dates from 3.6 billion years old (Australia) to 600 million years old (as per the recent Himalayan discovery).
- Stromatolites are reef-like structures built by ancient cyanobacteria in shallow seas.
- The oldest stromatolites are 3.6 billion years old and are found in Australia.

World's Oldest Stromatolite Fossil Found in Solan: 600-Million-Year-Old Discovery Unveils Secrets of the Birth of Life on Our Earth

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

81st Annual General Meeting of IATA

- The International Air Transport Association's (IATA) 81st annual general meeting was held in Delhi.
- Earlier, India hosted the event in 1958 and 1983.

- IATA was established in April 1945 in Havana, Cuba, as a successor to the 1919 International Air Traffic Association.
- Now it supports over 317 member airlines from 120+ countries (82% of global air traffic).

SPORTS NEWS

Asian Athletics Championships 2025

#	NAME	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL MEDALS
1.	CHINA	19	9	4	32
2.	INDIA	8	10	6	24
3.	JAPAN	5	11	12	28
4.	KAZAKHSTAN	3	1	2	6
5.	QATAR	3	1	2	6

- The 26th edition of the Asian Athletics Championships was held in Gumi, the Republic of Korea.

- ❖ The People's Republic of China topped the Asian Athletics Championships 2025 medal table with 32 medals.

- ❖ Indian athletes won 24 medals - eight gold, 10 silver and six bronze - and finished second in the medal tally.

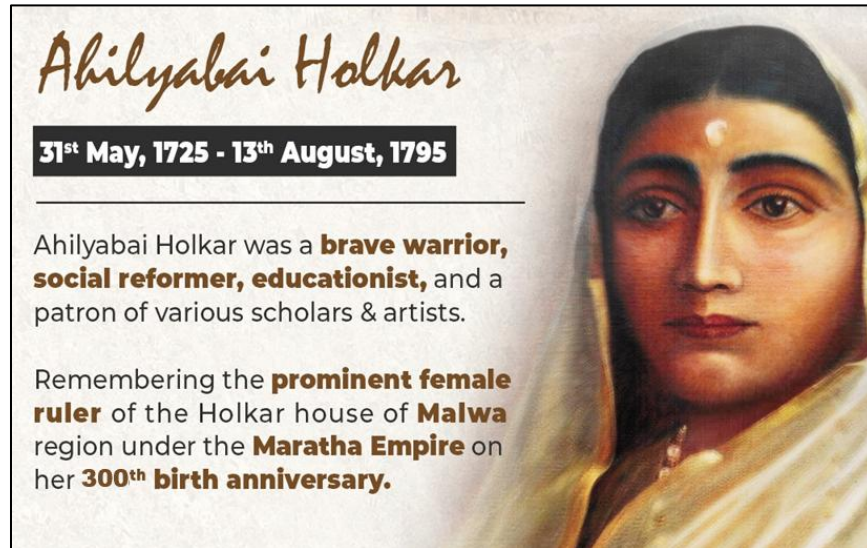# MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

IDSP analysis 2018–2023
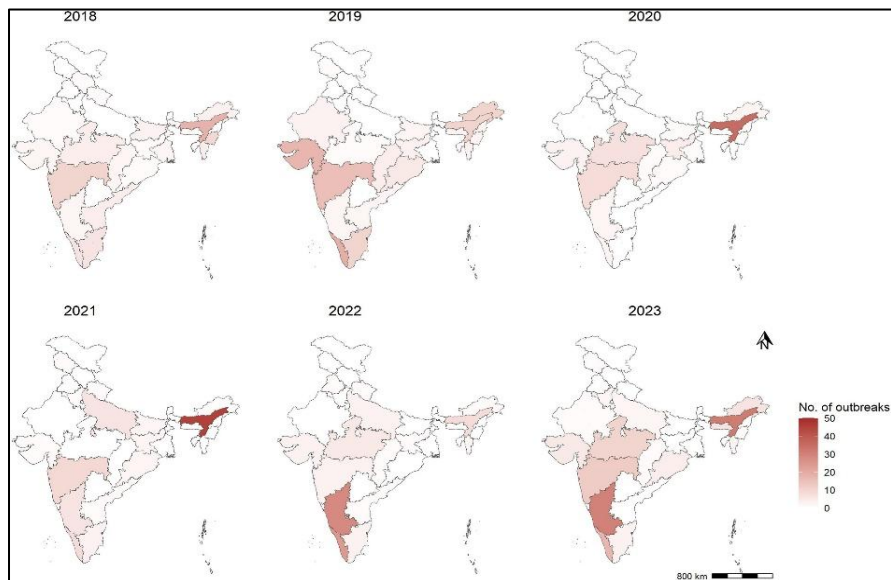
- ❖ The Researchers analysed a total of 6,948 outbreaks reported under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) to identify trends.

- ❖ Of these, 583 (8.3 per cent) were zoonotic – the Japanese encephalitis was found to account for 29.5 per cent of zoonotic outbreaks.

- ❖ It is followed by leptospirosis (18.7 per cent) and scrub typhus (13.9 per cent).

- ❖ In the Region-wise, the northeast part of the country contributed 35.8 per cent of zoonotic disease outbreaks.

- ❖ It is followed by the southern (31.7 per cent) and western regions (15.4 per cent).

- ❖ Zoonotic outbreaks consistently peaked during June, July, and August.

Ahalya Bhai Holkar - 300th birth anniversary

- ❖ Born on May 31, 1725, Ahilyabai Holkar was the Holkar Queen of the Malwa kingdom.

- ❖ She is regarded as one of the most visionary female rulers of India.

❖ She was married to Khanderao Holkar in 1733, the son of Malhar Rao Holkar.

❖ Khanderao was died in 1745 in the siege of Kumher Fort.

❖ Ahilyabai took charge of Malwa and became the ruler of Indore in 1767.

❖ She had patronised scholars like Khushali Ram, Marathi poet Moropant, and Shahir Anantaphandi.

❖ Maharashtra has announced a memorial called 'Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Smarak Sthal' to honour her legacy.

Ahilyabai Holkar
31st May, 1725 - 13th August, 1795

Ahilyabai Holkar was a **brave warrior, social reformer, educationist,** and a patron of various scholars & artists.

Remembering the **prominent female ruler** of the Holkar house of **Malwa** region under the **Maratha Empire** on her **300th birth anniversary**.

2024 ACI Hub Air Connectivity Ranking

Top 10 Hub Airports with Connectivity Leadership in 2024	
1	Dubai International Airport (DXB)
2	Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG)
3	Hamad International Airport (DOH)
4	Incheon International Airport (ICN)
5	Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (CAN)
6	Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK)
7	Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK)
8	Singapore Changi Airport (SIN)
9	Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL)
10	Delhi International Airport (DEL)

❖ The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in Delhi has been named among the top-10 hub airports across Asia-Pacific and Middle East.

❖ The Dubai International Airport leads the rankings, followed by Shanghai Pudong International Airport in second place.

❖ Hamad International Airport in Qatar and South Korea's Incheon International Airport hold the third and fourth positions, respectively.

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