

March - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for the Tirunelveli Neo Tidel Park.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Education launched Teacher App 2.0 in New Delhi, an AI-driven digital tool that provides teaching tools, digital content, and performance dashboards to support schoolteachers and improve classroom learning.
- ❖ Steel industry veteran Jatinder Mehra passed away, and he had served as Vice Chairman of the Metals and Mining Division at the Essar Group.
- ❖ The Indian Army conducted Exercise Agni Varsha 2026 at Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) set a Guinness World Record for the highest number of viewers for a live-streamed Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare lesson on YouTube.
- ❖ Gentoo penguins have become the first bird species confirmed to be infected with H5N1 avian influenza in an Australian territory.
 - The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain (clade 2.3.4.4b) has also been found in southern elephant seals and Antarctic fur seals.
- ❖ India launched the Zero Prize, its first results-based environmental award for the verified pollution reduction.
 - The prize carries a total corpus of ₹5 crore, with ₹1 crore each for reduction in air, water and land pollution.
- ❖ MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) organised Him-CONNECT during TERI's (The Energy and Resources Institute) 25th World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi.
 - Him-CONNECT is a platform to connect researchers from the Indian Himalayan Region with start-ups, investors and policymakers.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Small Dam Project

- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for a small dam across the Koilmalaiyar River in Melarasanpattu village, Vellore.
- ❖ Koilmalaiyar River is a tributary of the Palar River, and the dam will be built between Melarasanpattu and Karuthamalai Reserve Forests near Amirthi Zoological Park on the foothills of Jawadhu Hills.

- ❖ It is the first project undertaken by the Water Resources Department (WRD) after the opening of Mordhana Dam across the Koundinya River in Gudiyatham in 2001.
- ❖ As per norms, small dams are built below five metres in height, moderate dams are between five and 15 metres, and large dams are above 15 metres; the height also decides the storage capacity.
- ❖ Bheeman Falls in Veerapanur Reserve Forest atop Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai is a key water source for the Koilmalaiyar River.
- ❖ The river flows through forests and plains and joins the Palar River around 30 kilometres from the new dam site.



NATIONAL NEWS

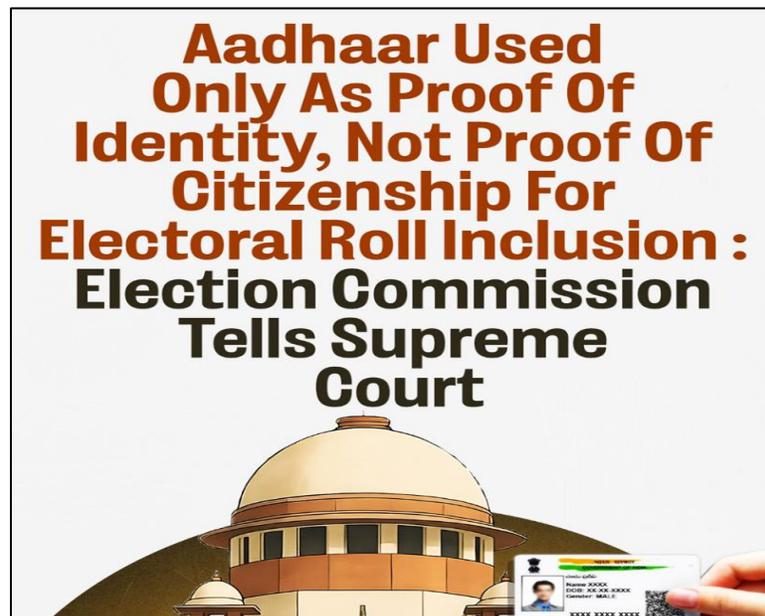
75th Foundation Year of ESIC

- ❖ The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has started its 75th Foundation Year celebrations in 2026.
- ❖ Employees' State Insurance Corporation is a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- ❖ It was created under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, and the scheme was launched on February 24, 1952.
- ❖ The ESI Scheme provides medical care and cash benefits during sickness, maternity, disability, and death due to employment injury.

- ❖ The scheme was inaugurated in Kanpur and Delhi by Jawaharlal Nehru.



Aadhaar - Not Proof of Citizenship

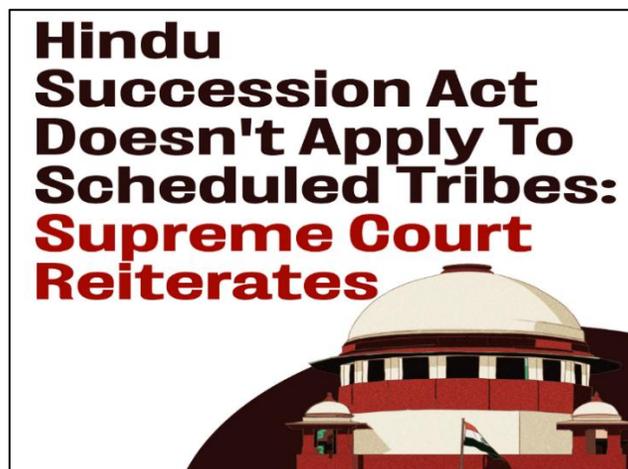


- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that Aadhaar cannot be used as proof of citizenship during hearings on electoral roll revision in West Bengal.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India stated that Aadhaar is only a proof of identity and not proof of citizenship.

- ❖ The case relates to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, where nearly 50 lakh voters are being verified.
- ❖ The Court directed the deployment of judicial officers to examine voter documents before publication of the revised list.
- ❖ It invoked Article 142 of the Constitution to treat supplementary voter lists as part of the final electoral roll.
- ❖ Aadhaar is governed by the Aadhaar Act, 2016, and the Election Commission of India conducts periodic revision of voter lists.

Tribal Women's Inheritance Rights

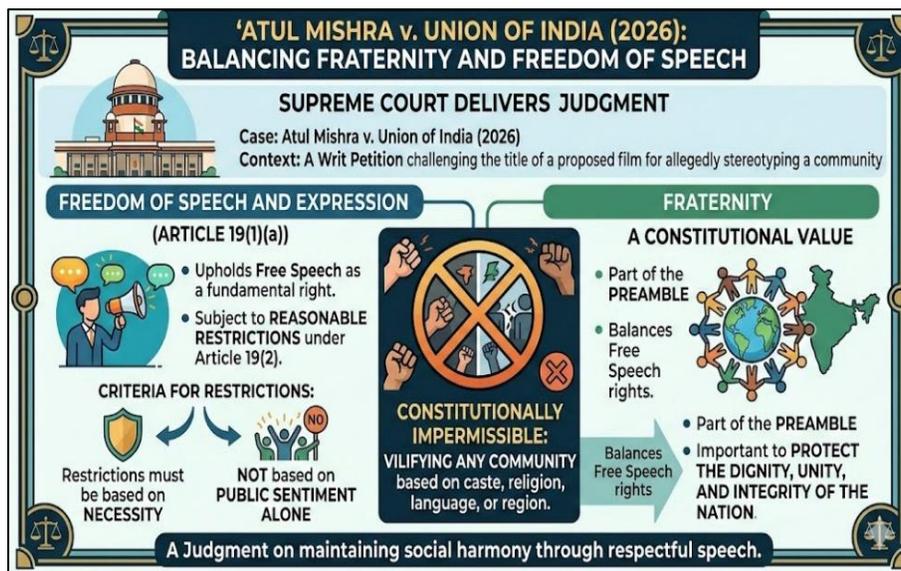
- ❖ The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, does not apply to Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India gave this ruling in the Nawang Vs. Bahadur case (October 2025).
- ❖ The Court set aside a Himachal Pradesh High Court order that had extended inheritance rights to “Hinduised” tribal women.
- ❖ It stated that Scheduled Tribes are excluded from the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, unless Parliament makes a law to include them.
- ❖ Scheduled Tribes are recognised under Article 342 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The Court said any change in inheritance rights for tribal women must be made by Parliament, not by the judiciary.



Atul Mishra v. Union of India 2026 Case

- ❖ The Supreme Court delivered a judgment in Atul Mishra v. Union of India (2026) on balancing fraternity and freedom of speech.

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India heard a writ petition challenging the title of a proposed film for allegedly stereotyping a community.
- ❖ The Court said vilifying any community based on caste, religion, language, or region is constitutionally impermissible.
- ❖ It stated that fraternity is part of the Preamble and is important to protect the dignity, unity, and integrity of the nation.
- ❖ The Court upheld freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a), but said it is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2).
- ❖ It emphasised that restrictions must be based on necessity, not on public sentiment alone.



Rah-Veer Scheme – Good Samaritan Protection

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways highlighted the Rah-Veer (Good Samaritan) Scheme to encourage people to help road accident victims during the Golden Hour.
- ❖ The Good Samaritan Rules were notified in 2020 under Section 134A of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- ❖ A person who helps an accident victim cannot be forced to reveal personal details, pay hospital charges, or face legal trouble.
- ❖ The Golden Hour is the first one hour after a serious injury, when quick medical help can save lives.
- ❖ Under the Rah-Veer Scheme, a person who helps a victim within the Golden Hour can receive ₹25,000 and a Certificate of Appreciation, up to five times in a year.

- ❖ The scheme aims to reduce road accident deaths and promote a culture of helping others without fear.



Rail Parcel App



- ❖ South Central Railway launched the Rail Parcel App at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad.

- ❖ The app provides doorstep pickup and delivery of parcels.
- ❖ It offers real-time tracking and secure digital payment options.
- ❖ The pilot project has started in seven cities, including Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Bengaluru.
- ❖ South Central Railway signed an MoU with IIM Bangalore to study freight logistics.
- ❖ The initiative supports the target of 3,000 million tonnes of cargo loading by 2030.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Low-Frequency Solar Observation



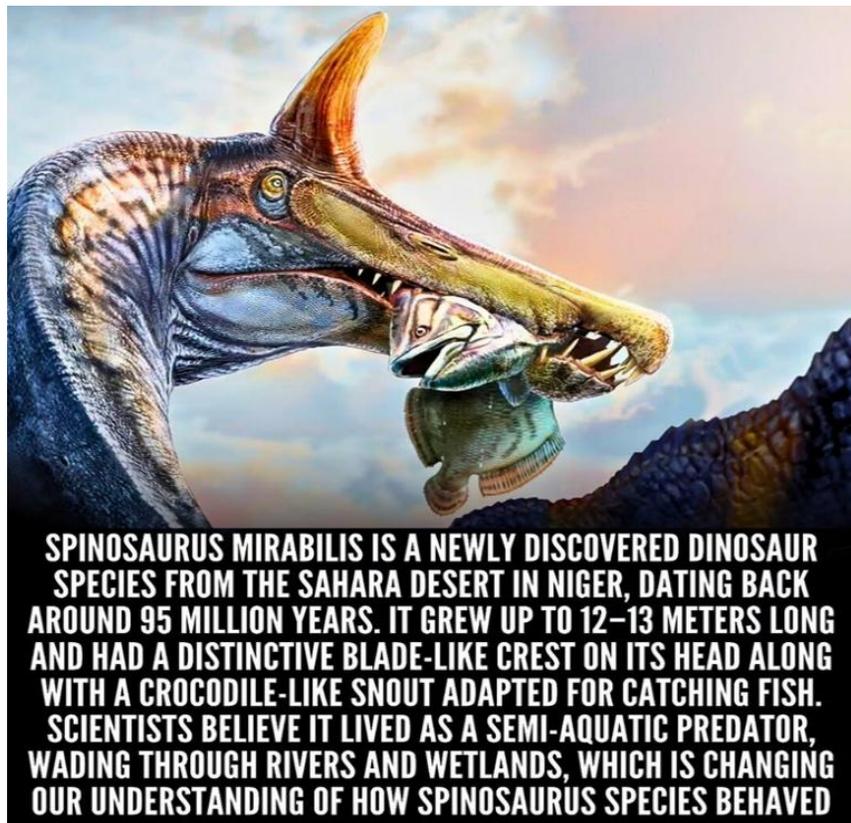
- ❖ Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics observed coronal mass ejection (CME) driven shocks using the Gauribidanur radio telescope and the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) onboard Aditya-L1.
- ❖ Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) is a payload designed to study the Sun's corona in visible wavelengths.
- ❖ The Gauribidanur radio telescope operates below 150 MHz and observes low-frequency solar radio emissions.
- ❖ The team estimated that the CME-driven shock on May 27, 2024, began at about 130,000 km from the Sun.
- ❖ The shock was travelling at nearly 1,700 km per second near the Sun.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New dinosaur species - Spinosaurus mirabilis

- ❖ A new dinosaur species named Spinosaurus mirabilis has been discovered in the Sahara Desert of Niger.

- ❖ The species lived about 95 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period (145–66 million years ago).
- ❖ It belonged to the Spinosaurid group of theropod dinosaurs.
- ❖ Three skulls and other skeletal remains were recovered by palaeontologists.
- ❖ The dinosaur measured about 12 metres in length and weighed nearly seven tonnes.
- ❖ The discovery suggests that Spinosaurids were semi-aquatic predators living in freshwater river systems.

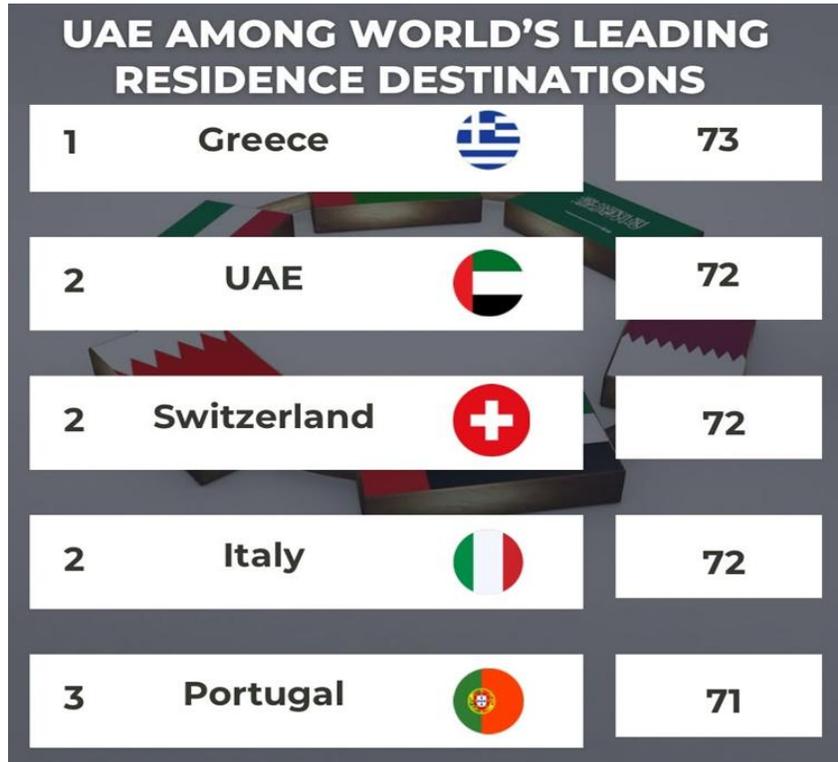


REPORTS AND INDICES

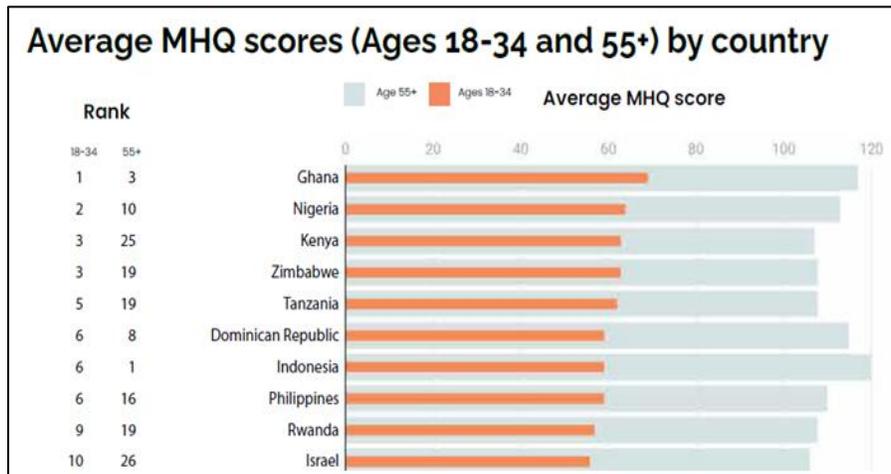
Global Residence Program Index 2026

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates ranked joint second in the 2026 index published by Henley & Partners.
- ❖ Greece secured the first position.
- ❖ The UAE shared the second position with Italy and Switzerland.
- ❖ The index evaluates 40 residence programmes based on the tax system, quality of life, visa access, and processing efficiency.

- ❖ The UAE improved from fifth position in 2025 to joint second position in 2026.



Global Mind Health 2025 Report

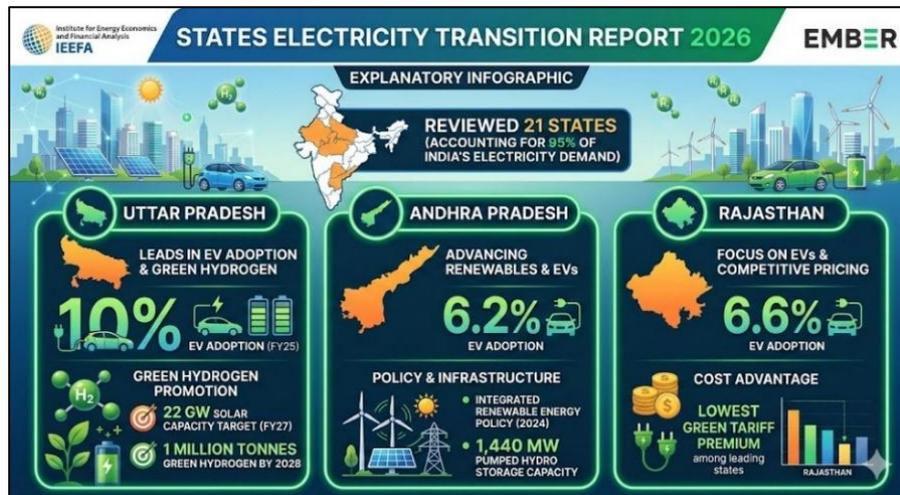


- ❖ Sapien Labs released the Global Mind Health 2025 Report under the Global Mind Project.
- ❖ The report is based on MHQ (Mind Health Quotient), which measures emotional, cognitive and social well-being.

- ❖ India ranked 60th globally among the 18–34 age group with an MHQ score of 33 (global average: 66).
- ❖ Indians aged 55 and above scored 96 and ranked 49th globally.
- ❖ The report noted 44% ultra-processed food consumption among Indian youth aged 18–34.

States Electricity Transition Report 2026

- ❖ A new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember highlighted that Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are leading in electric vehicle (EV) adoption and green hydrogen promotion.
- ❖ The report reviewed 21 States that account for 95% of India’s electricity demand.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh achieved 10% EV adoption in FY25 and set a target of 22 GW solar capacity by FY27 and 1 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2028.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh recorded 6.2% EV adoption, introduced an integrated renewable energy policy in 2024, and has 1,440 MW pumped hydro storage capacity.
- ❖ Rajasthan recorded 6.6% EV adoption and has the lowest green tariff premium among the three States.

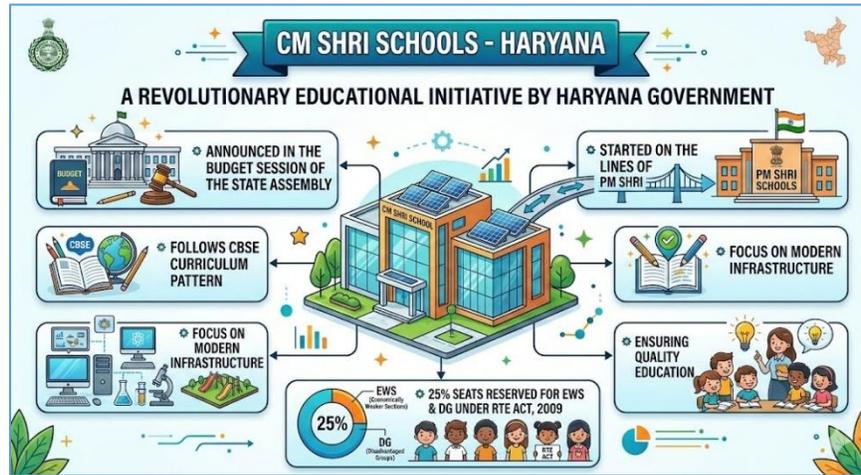


STATE NEWS

CM Shri Schools - Haryana

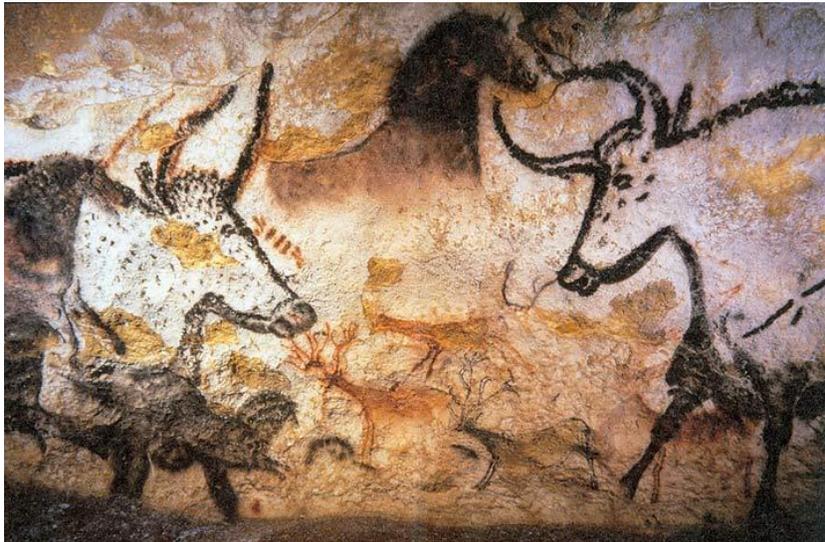
- ❖ The Haryana government announced the launch of CM Shri Schools during the Budget Session of the State Assembly.

- ❖ The schools will be started on the lines of PM Shri (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) Schools.
- ❖ CM Shri Schools will follow the CBSE curriculum pattern.
- ❖ The schools will focus on modern infrastructure and quality education.
- ❖ 25% seats will be reserved for EWS and DG (Disadvantaged Groups) under the RTE Act (Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act), 2009.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Lascaux Cave



- ❖ The discovery of the Lascaux Cave in 1940 revealed 17,000-year-old prehistoric paintings in southwestern France.
- ❖ The cave is located near Montignac in the Dordogne region of France.

- ❖ It contains over 2,000 images and about 6,000 painted or engraved figures.
- ❖ The paintings belong to the Upper Palaeolithic Magdalenian culture.
- ❖ Natural pigments like ochre, charcoal and manganese oxide were used in the artwork.

