

March - 02

TNPSC BITS

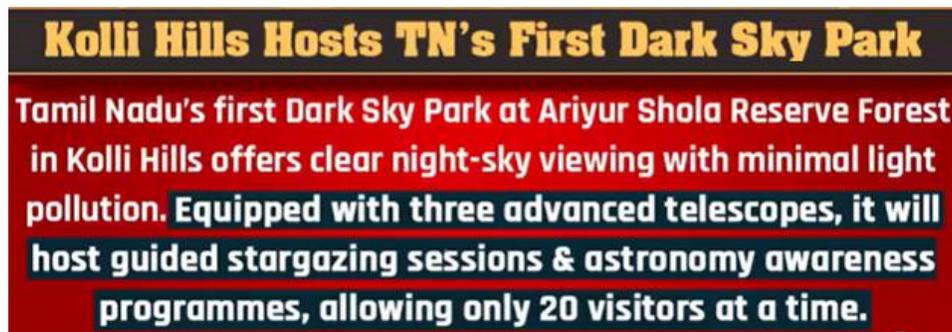
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the Speaker of the Knesset Medal, the highest parliamentary honour of Israel, in Jerusalem.
- ❖ The North East Spring Festival 2026 began in Dimapur and is being held along with the Madhya Dakshini Festival 2026 to promote cultural exchange between regions.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force conducted the 'Kalari Leap' exercise in the Lakshadweep and Minicoy archipelago.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India collegium has recommended Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari as the next Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has banned a Class 8 Social Science textbook published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for including references to "corruption in the judiciary".
- ❖ Pakistan launched Operation Ghazab Lil Haq against the Afghan Taliban along the disputed Durand Line.
- ❖ Thirteen Class XI students of Ariyakudi Government Higher Secondary School in Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu, successfully launched a 600-gram mini satellite named Vikko Sat-1.
 - Vikko Sat-1 was designed to detect fungal spores in the stratosphere using five specialised sensors.
- ❖ Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian President to undertake a sortie in the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand near the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan.
 - LCH Prachand is designed for high-altitude warfare and is equipped with advanced weapons and avionics.
- ❖ The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) released new cybersecurity guidelines for space, including satellite communication.
 - The guidelines cover four segments – Space Segment (satellite and payload), Ground Segment (mission control and stations), User Segment (terminals and devices), and Communication Links (uplink and downlink).
- ❖ IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to boost cooperation in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies and promote trade, innovation, and joint investment.
 - A Sweden-India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor (SITAC) will be launched for workshops, conferences, and visits to innovation hubs.



- ❖ Maruti Suzuki India Ltd's Gujarat in-plant railway siding has been registered as the World's First Modal Shift Transportation Project under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) of Verra, the global carbon credit registry.
- ❖ The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog launched India's first State Innovation Mission (SIM) in Tripura.
 - The mission is part of AIM 2.0 and aims to help States and Union Territories build strong innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems.
- ❖ The United Nations has approved the first carbon credits under the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) of Article 6.4.
 - The first project is a clean cooking initiative in Myanmar, implemented in partnership with the Republic of Korea.
- ❖ The Government of India has made it compulsory to sell 20% ethanol-blended petrol with a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) 95 across India from April 1, 2026.
 - India has already achieved 10% ethanol blending in 2022 and advanced the 20% blending target to 2025–26.
- ❖ The United Nations Road Safety Fund launched a Sustainable Road Safety Financing Project in Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Assam in partnership with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, WHO, and UNICEF.
- ❖ International Polar Bear Day was observed on February 27, 2026, to raise awareness about climate change and the protection of polar bears.
- ❖ National Protein Day is observed every year on February 27 in India to raise awareness about the importance of protein in the daily diet.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

First Dark Sky Park



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has launched its first 'Dark Sky Park' in Kolli Hills to promote astro-tourism and protect night sky visibility.

- ❖ The Park is located in the Kolli Hills region of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It aims to reduce light pollution and promote scientific awareness about astronomy.
- ❖ Dark Sky Parks are designated areas that preserve natural darkness for stargazing and research.

NATIONAL NEWS

Indian Railways Technology Integration



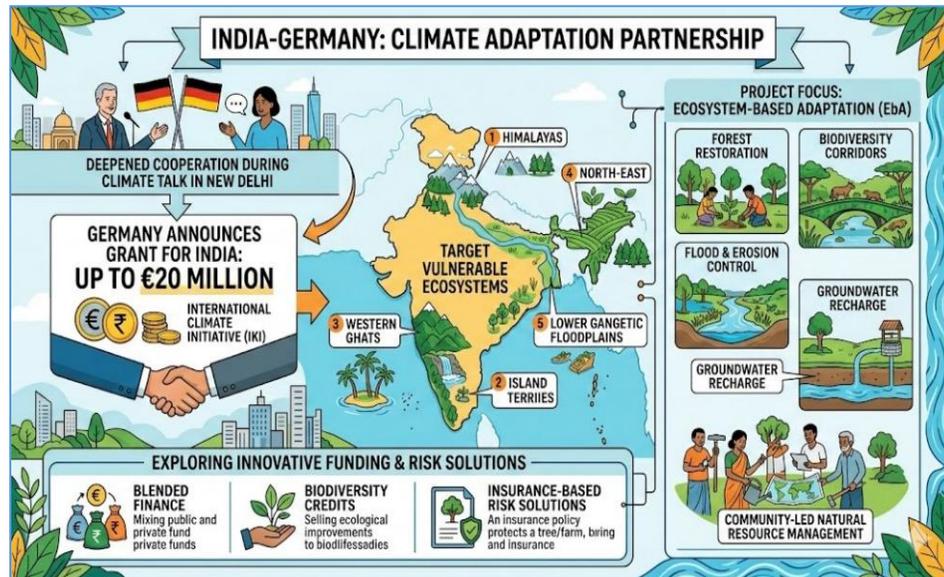
- ❖ Union Minister of Railways launched the Rail Tech Policy 2026, the Rail Tech Portal, and the e-Railway Claims Tribunal (e-RCT) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Rail Tech Policy 2026 promotes large-scale adoption of modern technology across Indian Railways.
- ❖ It focuses on safety, efficiency, and innovation through Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data-driven solutions.
- ❖ AI systems include elephant intrusion detection, fire detection in coaches, drone-based track inspection, and obstruction detection in fog.
- ❖ The Rail Tech Portal allows startups and innovators to submit proposals and pilot projects with railway departments.
- ❖ The e-Railway Claims Tribunal provides online case filing, tracking, and faster adjudication, digitizing all 23 tribunals within 12 months.

- ❖ These reforms are part of Indian Railways' plan of 52 reforms in 52 weeks to modernize operations and improve transparency.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India and Germany - Climate Adaptation Partnership

- ❖ India and Germany have deepened cooperation on climate adaptation and resilience during a high-level Climate Talk in New Delhi.
- ❖ Germany announced a grant of up to 20 million euros under the International Climate Initiative (IKI) for India.
- ❖ The project will focus on vulnerable ecosystems in the Himalayas, island territories, Western Ghats, North-East, and Lower Gangetic floodplains.
- ❖ It will promote ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), including forest restoration, biodiversity corridors, flood and erosion control, groundwater recharge, and community-led natural resource management.
- ❖ The funding will explore blended finance, biodiversity credits, and insurance-based risk solutions for long-term sustainability.

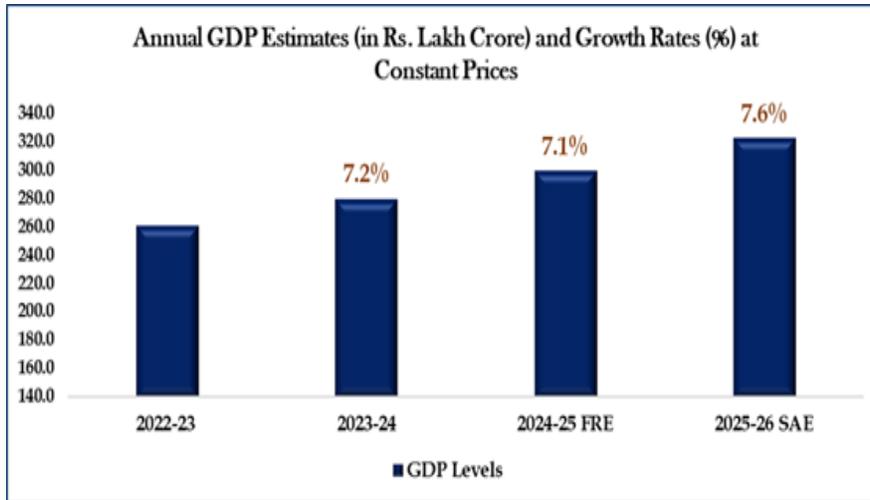


ECONOMY NEWS

Base Year Revision 2022-23

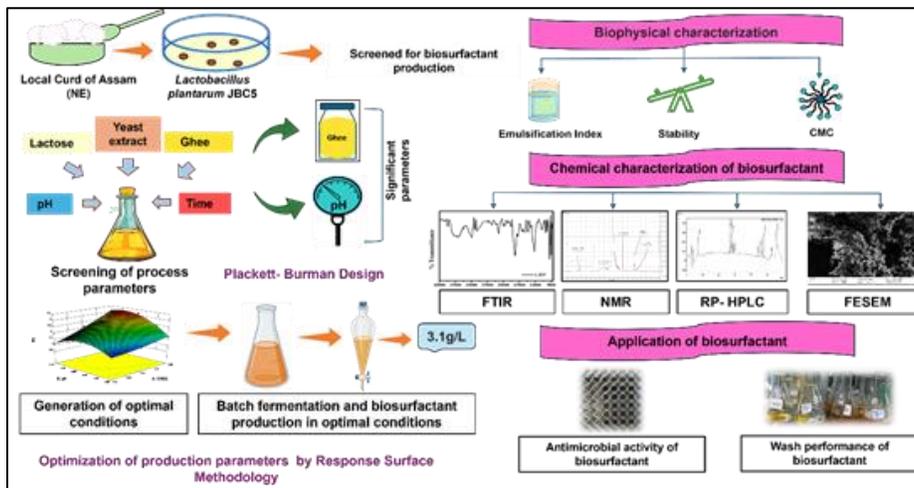
- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released a new series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates with a base year of 2022-23.

- ❖ The new series replaces the old 2011–12 base year series and improves accuracy using updated data from Goods and Services Tax (GST), Public Finance Management System (PFMS), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and household surveys.
- ❖ Real GDP for Financial Year (FY) 2025–26 is estimated at ₹322.58 lakh crore, growing 7.6%, and Nominal GDP at ₹345.47 lakh crore, growing 8.6%.
- ❖ The back series of GDP from 1950–51 will be released by December 2026.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Eco-Friendly Biosurfactant



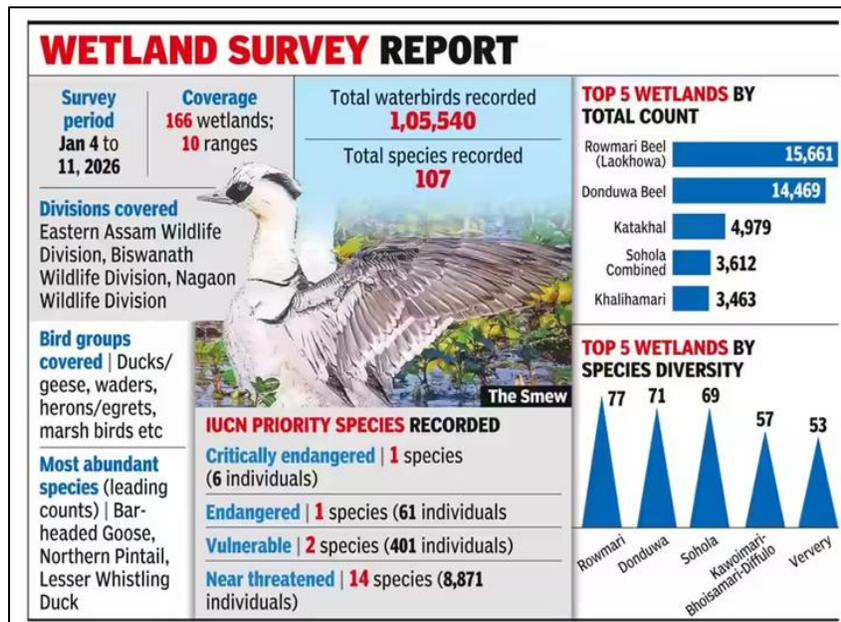
- ❖ Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, under the Department of Science and Technology, has developed a new biosurfactant using ghee.

- ❖ The biosurfactant was produced using the probiotic bacterium *Lactobacillus plantarum* JBC5 and ghee as the main raw material.
- ❖ It showed strong antibacterial action against *Staphylococcus aureus*, which causes skin and wound infections.
- ❖ The compound achieved 60% emulsification index and remained stable up to 276°C.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

7th Waterbird Census

- ❖ The 7th Waterbird Census at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve recorded the first-ever sighting of the smew (*Mergellus albellus*) in the park.
- ❖ The census recorded over 1,05,000 waterbirds during the survey.
- ❖ The count was conducted across the Kaziranga–Laokhowa–Burhachapori floodplain complex.
- ❖ The survey reaffirmed Kaziranga as an important site on the Central Asian Flyway for migratory birds.



Fishing Cat in Kaziranga

- ❖ The first scientific assessment has established Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve as a major stronghold of the fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*).

- ❖ At least 57 unique fishing cats were identified across more than 450 square kilometres of the reserve.
- ❖ The fishing cat is classified as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ The report was released on February 22, which is observed as Fishing Cat Day.



REPORTS AND INDICES

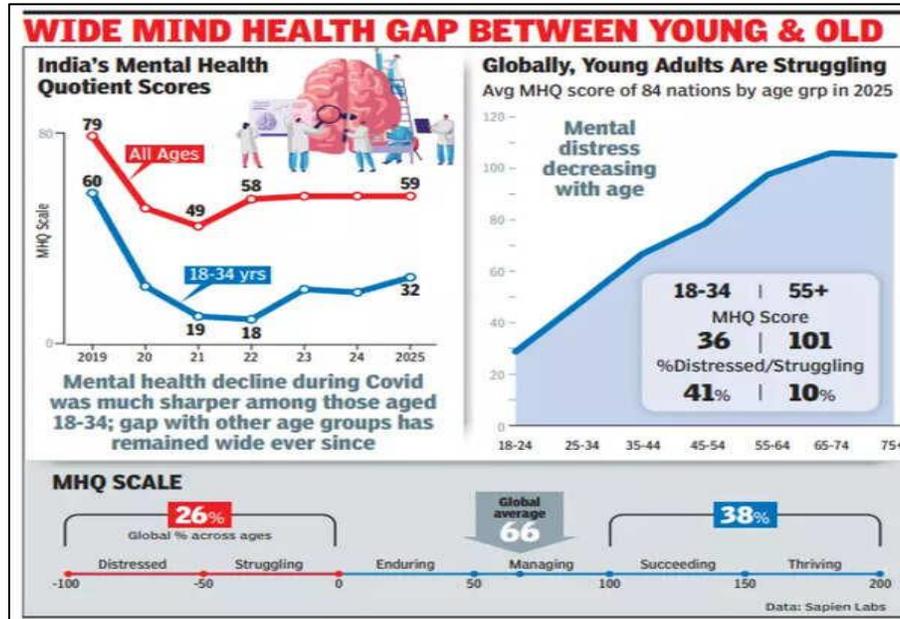
Integrated Ocean Carbon Research Report 2026



- ❖ The IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) of UNESCO released the Integrated Ocean Carbon Research (IOC-R) Report.
- ❖ The report states that the ocean absorbs about 25% of human-produced carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- ❖ It highlights a 10–20% difference in global estimates of ocean carbon absorption due to limited data and scientific gaps.

- ❖ The report identifies five priority areas, including changes in the ocean carbon sink, role of marine biology, land–ocean–ice carbon exchange, industrial impacts, and marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR).

Global Mind Health report – India

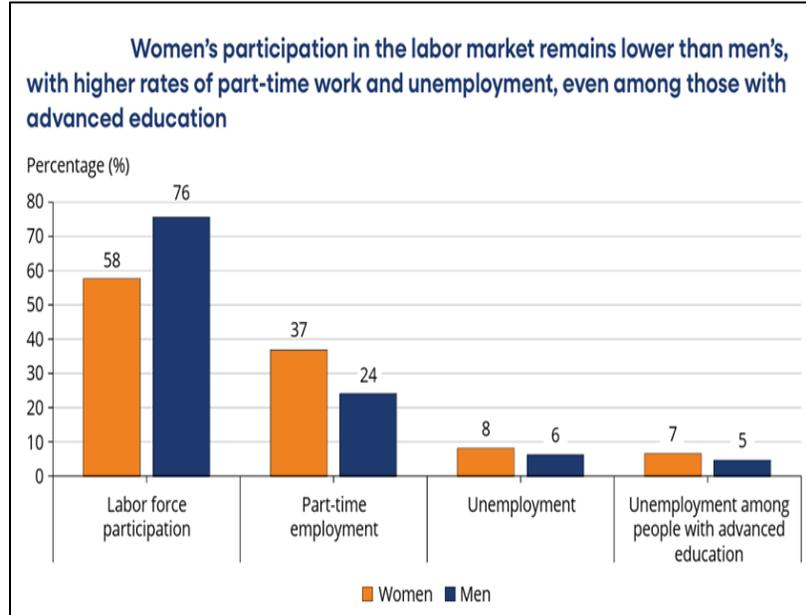


- ❖ Indian youth ranked 60th among 84 countries in youth mental well-being, according to the 'Global Mind Health in 2025' report released by Sapien Labs.
- ❖ The study surveyed more than 78,000 internet-enabled individuals across India.
- ❖ Mental well-being was measured using the Mind Health Quotient (MHQ), which evaluates 47 cognitive, emotional, social and physical indicators.
- ❖ Young adults aged 18–34 recorded an average MHQ score of 33, while individuals aged 55 and above scored 96.
- ❖ The report identified weaker family bonds, higher consumption of ultra-processed food and early smartphone exposure as key contributing factors.

Women, Business and the Law 2026 Report

- ❖ The World Bank released the Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2026 report, highlighting gaps in the implementation of women's economic rights.
- ❖ The report studies laws affecting women's economic opportunities in 190 economies using the WBL 2.0 framework.
- ❖ The global average score is 67.9 for legal frameworks, but lower for supportive frameworks (47.3) and enforcement (53.4).

- ❖ Only 4% of women live in economies with near full legal equality across all three pillars.
- ❖ The report states that closing the gender gap in labour force participation could increase global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by over 20% in the next decade.



STATE NEWS

Pakyong Airport Renaming



- ❖ The Sikkim Chief Minister announced that Pakyong Airport will be renamed as Trilochan Pokhrel Airport to honour the freedom fighter Trilochan Pokhrel.
- ❖ Trilochan Pokhrel, also called “Gandhi Pokhrel,” was Sikkim’s first independence activist.

- ❖ He participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930–34), and Quit India Movement (1942).
- ❖ Pakyong Airport is the only airport in Sikkim.

Removal of Two-Child Rule

- ❖ The Rajasthan Cabinet has removed the rule that barred candidates with more than two children from contesting Panchayati Raj and urban local body elections.
- ❖ The two-child norm was introduced in 1995 for population control but is now considered outdated, as the fertility rate has dropped to 2 from 3.6 in 1991–94.
- ❖ Two Amendment Bills will be introduced in the ongoing Assembly session to change the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, and the Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009.

<p>CABINET-CLEARED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two-child disqualification removed; individuals with more than two children can contest local body elections ➤ New Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Economic Offences to be formed to tackle financial crimes ➤ Rajasthan Industrial Park Incentive Policy, 2026, approved to accelerate investment and employment growth ➤ Rajasthan Mandapam project revised to ₹5,815 crore under a fully self-financed model 	 <p>Ministers Prem Chand Bairwa (L) & Jogaram Patel address the media in Jaipur Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approval for ₹500 crore steel plant project in Neem Ka Thana ➤ New Rajasthan Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy University approved in Ajmer district
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