

March - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is conducting Exercise 'Vayu Shakti' in Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- ❖ India's total installed power capacity has crossed 520 gigawatts, with more than half coming from non-fossil fuel sources.
- ❖ Mangaluru International Airport won the 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award for Best Airport at Arrivals – Globally from Airports Council International World, marking its second consecutive global win after 2024.
- ❖ The 7th edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian, a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Japan started in Chaubattia, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The Prime Minister of India will launch a nationwide human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive for 14-year-old girls from Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Central Bank of the UAE has launched the world's first Sovereign Financial Cloud Services Infrastructure (SFCSI).
- ❖ Micron Technology started operations at India's first advanced memory Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) facility in Sanand, Gujarat, which has the world's largest 500,000 square foot raised-floor semiconductor clean room.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir won the Ranji Trophy cricket 2025–26 title in their maiden final appearance after 67 years.
- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as a Global Champion for Road Safety by the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ The National Arogya Fair 2026, organised by the Ministry of Ayush, concluded in Shegaon, Buldhana district, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Security forces demolished over 200 Naxal-linked memorials in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh under Operation Demolishment.
- ❖ India has removed the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) clause from its Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) with France.
- ❖ Goa is hosting the fourth edition of the World Ocean Science Congress 2026 at the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Panaji, which focuses on ocean health, climate resilience and sustainable blue economy.
- ❖ Greece's Stefanos Sakellariadis won the Delhi Open 2026 men's singles title.
- ❖ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport CSMIA in Mumbai was named Asia-Pacific's Best Airport for Departures in the over 40 million passengers' category at the 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards.

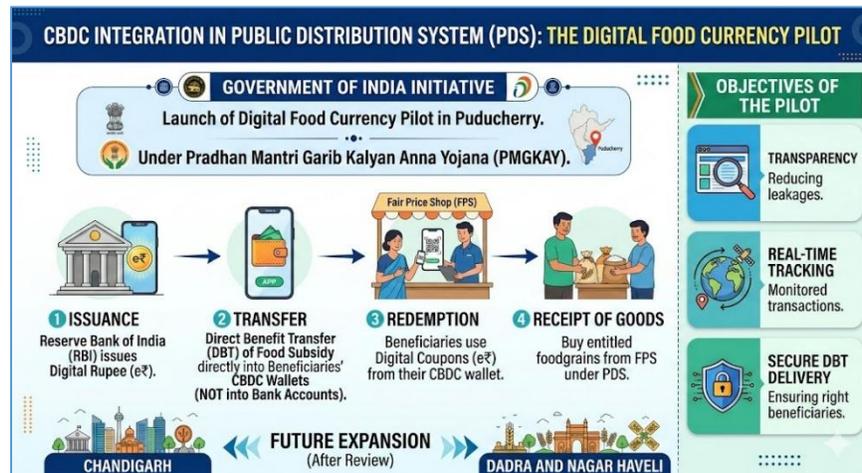
- ❖ The Rajasthan government has renamed Mount Abu as Aburaj, while Kaman has been renamed Kamvan, and Jahazpur has been renamed Yagyapur.
 - Mount Abu, located in the Aravalli Range, is Rajasthan's only hill station and is famous for the Dilwara Jain Temples.
- ❖ Three major inland waterways projects were inaugurated on National Waterway-2 in Dibrugarh, Assam, including the Bogibeel Customs and Immigration Complex, the Dhubri Customs and Immigration Complex, and the renovated IWAI Heritage Building.
 - National Waterway-2, located on the Brahmaputra River, is a major economic corridor in the Northeast and improves cargo and passenger movement.
- ❖ The Government of Assam launched Mission Basundhara 3.0 in Dhemaji district to distribute land pattas to indigenous landless families, benefiting 1,06,905 people across the state.
 - The mission also granted land rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and aims to resolve long-pending land disputes by providing legal ownership.
- ❖ The Prime Minister of India announced the Villages of Excellence initiative during his state visit to Israel to expand agricultural cooperation.
 - It is a grassroots extension to transform farming clusters into technology-driven zones and promoting precision farming, satellite-based irrigation, and integrated pest management.
- ❖ Installation of rooftop solar systems under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has crossed 30 lakh households since February 2024.
 - The scheme aims to promote rooftop solar power in one crore households across India.
- ❖ A joint team from Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) and Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports (JIM&WS) successfully summited Mount Aconcagua on 22 February 2026.
 - Mount Aconcagua is the highest peak in South America and the second-highest peak in the world outside Asia.
- ❖ The Government of West Bengal announced the Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme 2026 in the interim Budget to provide a monthly allowance of 1,500 rupees to unemployed youth.
 - The scheme will be implemented across West Bengal from 1 April 2026.
- ❖ World Seagrass Day is celebrated every year on March 1 to spread awareness about seagrass and marine conservation.
 - The theme of the year 2026 is "Seagrasses Enrich Ocean Biodiversity and Fisheries."

- ❖ Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on March 1 to promote equality and dignity for all people.
 - The theme of the year 2026 is “People First”.

NATIONAL NEWS

CBDC Integration in PDS

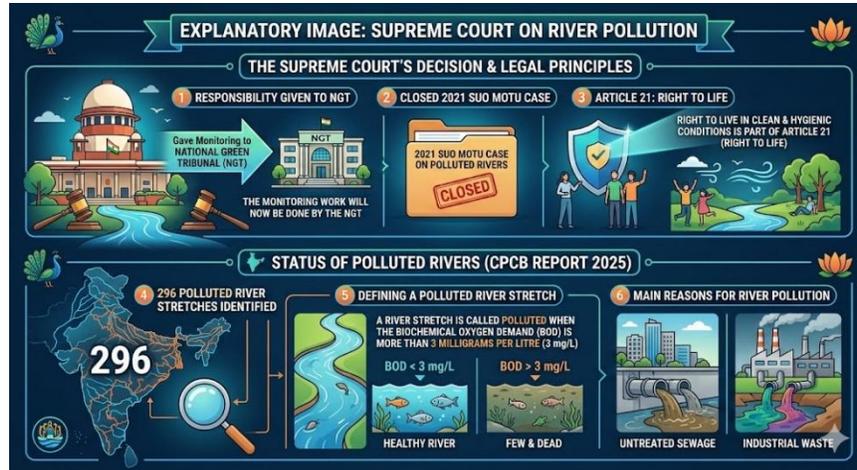
- ❖ The Government of India launched a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) based Digital Food Currency pilot in Puducherry.
- ❖ The pilot is launched under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).
- ❖ Food subsidy will be transferred directly into beneficiaries CBDC wallets instead of bank accounts.
- ❖ The Digital Rupee (₹) is issued by the RBI.
- ❖ Beneficiaries can use digital coupons to buy entitled foodgrains from Fair Price Shops (FPS) under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ❖ The pilot aims to improve transparency, real-time tracking, and secure Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) delivery.
- ❖ The project will later expand to Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli after review.



Supreme Court on River Pollution

- ❖ The Supreme Court gave the responsibility of monitoring river pollution to the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India closed its 2021 Suo motu case on polluted rivers.

- ❖ The Court said that the right to live in clean and hygienic conditions is part of Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The monitoring work will now be done by the NGT.
- ❖ As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) 2025 report, 296 river stretches are polluted in India.
- ❖ A river stretch is called polluted when the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) is more than 3 milligrams per litre.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Emergency Economic Powers Act



- ❖ A United States federal court ruled that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) does not allow the President to impose broad import tariffs.
- ❖ The IEEPA was enacted on 28 October 1977 in the United States.

- ❖ It allows the President to regulate financial transactions after declaring a national emergency.
- ❖ The Act can be used to freeze assets and restrict economic dealings in response to external threats.
- ❖ Any emergency declared under this Act must be renewed every year under the National Emergencies Act NEA.
- ❖ The IEEPA forms the legal basis for many United States economic sanctions.

ECONOMY NEWS

National Monetization Pipeline 2.0

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The pipeline was developed by NITI Aayog under the Asset Monetisation Plan 2025-30 announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- ❖ It estimates a total monetisation potential of 16.72 lakh crore rupees from Financial Year (FY) 2025-26 to FY 2029-30.
- ❖ About 5.8 lakh crore rupees is expected from private sector investment.
- ❖ The first phase of the NMP achieved nearly 90 % of its six lakh crore rupees target.

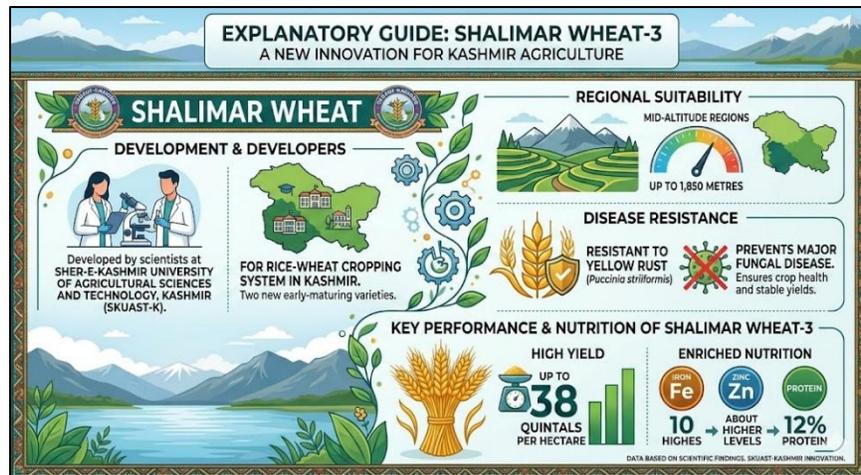


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Shalimar Wheat

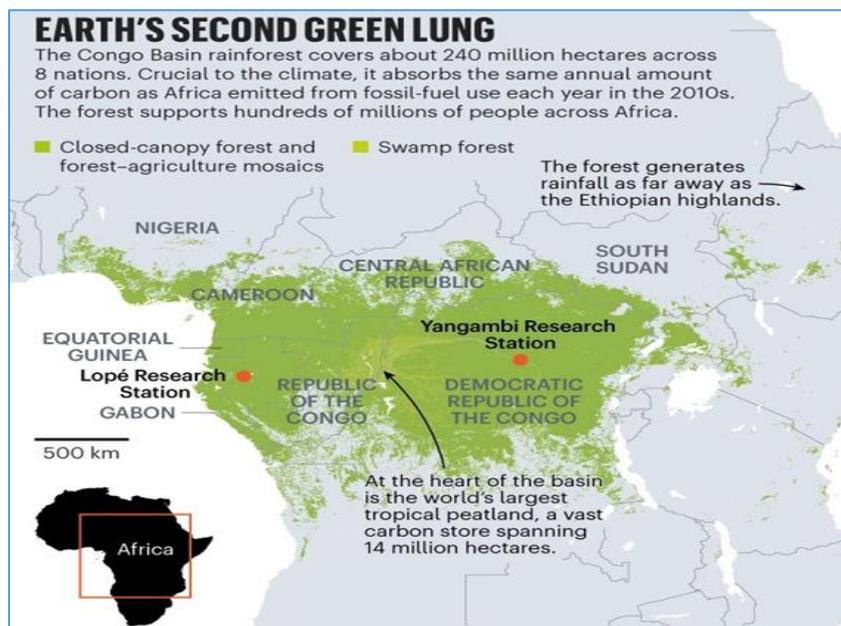
- ❖ Scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir, developed two new early-maturing wheat varieties for the rice-wheat cropping system in Kashmir.
- ❖ These varieties are suitable for mid-altitude regions up to about 1,850 metres.

- ❖ They are resistant to yellow rust, a major fungal disease of wheat.
- ❖ Shalimar Wheat-3 gives up to 38 quintals per hectare and contains higher iron, zinc, and about 12 % protein.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Carbon Leak in Congo Basin

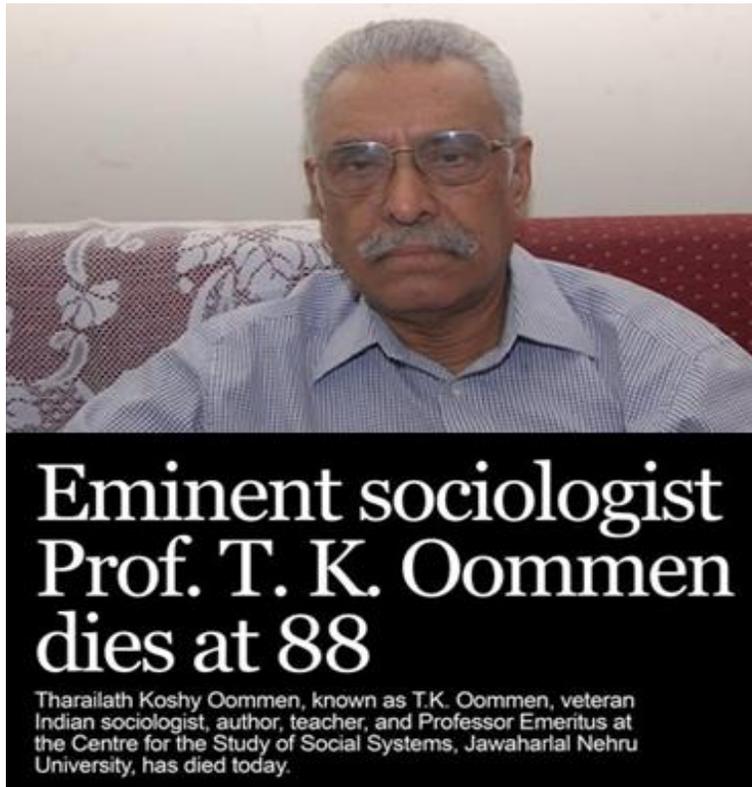


- ❖ Lake Mai-Ndombe and Lake Tumba in the Democratic Republic of Congo are releasing ancient carbon stored in nearby peatlands.
- ❖ A study found that about 40 % of the carbon dioxide released from these lakes comes from peat that is more than 3,000 years old.

- ❖ Peatlands are waterlogged areas that store large amounts of carbon from dead plants.
- ❖ The Congo Basin stores about one-third of the world's tropical peatland carbon.
- ❖ Scientists say that climate change and deforestation may increase the release of stored carbon into the atmosphere.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

T.K. Oommen Demise



- ❖ Eminent sociologist T.K. Oommen passed away on 26 February 2026 in Gurugram at the age of 88.
- ❖ T. K. Oommen was Professor Emeritus at Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for the Study of Social Systems.
- ❖ He was a leading architect of modern Indian sociology and was known for his work on social justice, identity, pluralism, social movements, and political sociology.
- ❖ He wrote his PhD thesis on the Bhoodan–Gramdan Movement led by Vinoba Bhave.

- ❖ He served as President of the International Sociological Association and the Indian Sociological Society, and was a member of the Sachar Committee.
- ❖ He was also the chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Gujarat Harmony Project, formed after the 2002 communal violence.
- ❖ He received the Padma Bhushan in 2008 and authored around 20 books and many research articles.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wildlife Day 2026 - March 03

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the conservation of wild animals and plants.
- ❖ It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013.
- ❖ The day marks the signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.
- ❖ The theme of the year 2026 is “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods.”

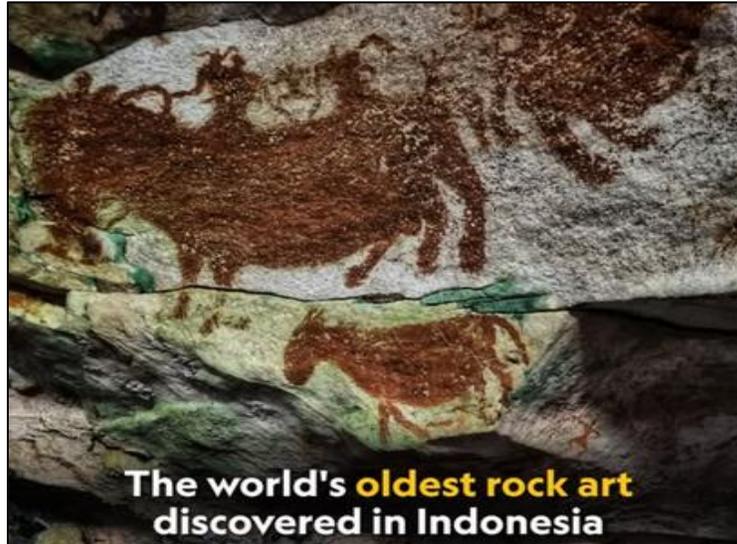


MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Oldest Rock Art - Indonesia

- ❖ A hand stencil discovered in Liang Metanduno cave in Sulawesi, Indonesia, has been dated to at least 67,800 years ago, making it the oldest known rock art.
- ❖ The mineral crust over the painting was dated to about 71,600 years old.
- ❖ The discovery supports early human migration to Sahul, the ancient landmass of Australia, New Guinea, and Tasmania.

- ❖ It shows that symbolic art existed during the Pleistocene epoch, which lasted from about 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago.



Maritime Labour Convention 2006



- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) marked the 20th anniversary of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.
- ❖ This Convention was adopted on 23 February 2006 in Geneva.



- ❖ It is known as the Seafarers' Bill of Rights.
- ❖ It sets minimum standards for wages, working hours, accommodation and medical care for seafarers.
- ❖ It ensures inspection by Flag State and Port State authorities for compliance.

