

March - 04

TNPSC BITS

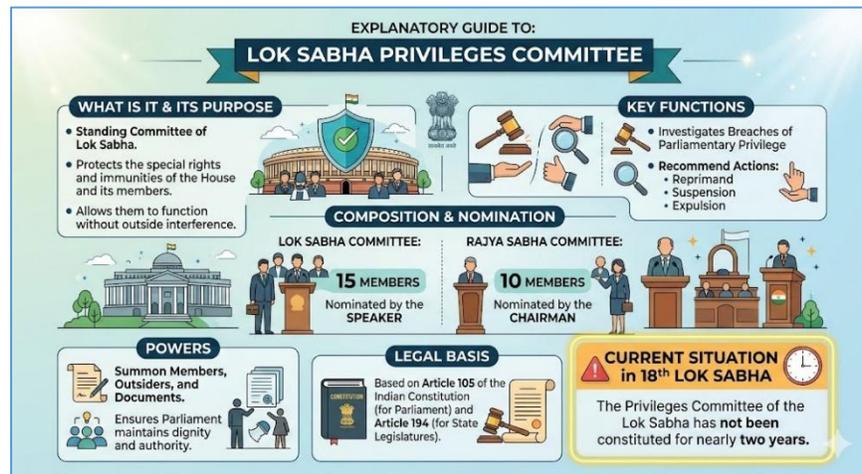
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the drogue parachute for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight program.
- ❖ Waaree Energies will set up India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery gigafactory at Rambilli in Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Joint Regional Official Language Conference (Rajbhasha Sammelan) for Eastern, North-Eastern, and Northern regions held in Agartala to promote and preserve regional languages.
- ❖ The National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise has launched a new IA91 grade aluminium alloy ingot.
- ❖ India has gifted the Maldives its first high-speed ferry to launch new transport services between key atolls-Faafu and Dhaalu Atolls.
- ❖ Iran has launched ballistic missiles, including its Khorramshahr-4 (also called "Kheibar"), in retaliation after coordinated strikes by the United States and Israel.
- ❖ Iran's Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been officially confirmed dead following major coordinated military strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran.
 - Ayatollah Alireza Arafii has been named as the temporary Supreme Leader and jurist member of a three-person interim leadership council that will lead Iran until a permanent successor is chosen.
- ❖ Rare Disease Day is observed on 28 February (or 29 February in leap years) to raise awareness about rare diseases, their diagnosis, and treatment.
 - The theme for 2026 is "More Than You Can Imagine".
- ❖ World Hearing Day is observed every year on 3 March to raise awareness about hearing loss and the importance of ear care.
 - The theme for 2026 is "From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children".

NATIONAL NEWS

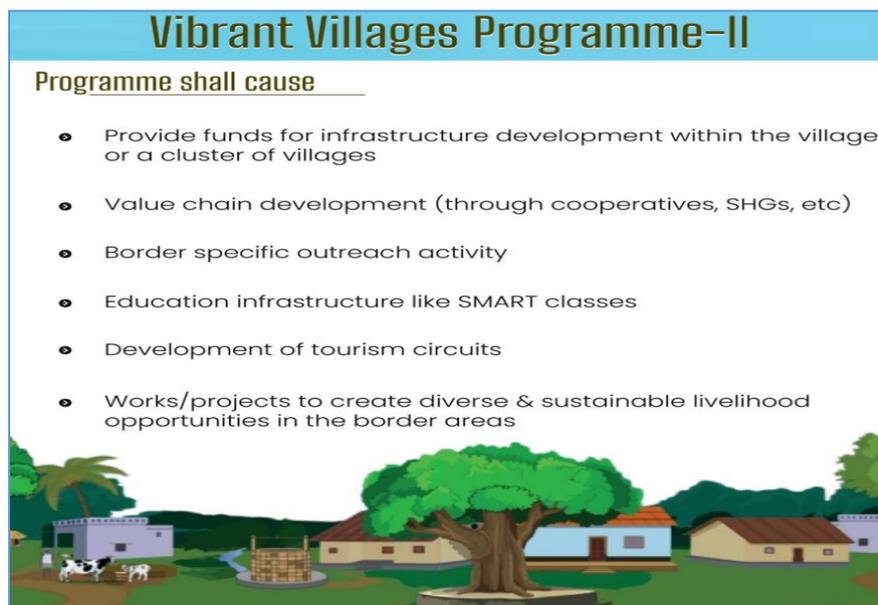
Lok Sabha Privileges Committee

- ❖ The Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha (the lower house of India's Parliament) has not been constituted for nearly two years in the 18th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ It is a standing committee that protects the special rights and immunities of the House and its members, allowing them to function without outside interference.

- ❖ The committee investigates the breaches of parliamentary privilege and can recommend actions such as reprimand, suspension, or expulsion of members.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha Privileges Committee has 15 members nominated by the Speaker, while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members nominated by the Chairman.
- ❖ Its powers are based on Article 105 of the Indian Constitution for Parliament and Article 194 for State Legislatures.
- ❖ The committee can summon members, outsiders, and documents, and ensures Parliament maintains dignity and authority.



Vibrant Villages Programme-II



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) for the years 2024–25 to 2028–29.

- ❖ The scheme will help develop villages near India's International Land Borders (ILBs), except the northern border, which is already covered under VVP-I.
- ❖ The total budget of the scheme is ₹6,839 crore, and it covers 18 states and Union Territories like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IEA Membership – India

- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) welcomed progress on India's request for full membership.
- ❖ India has been an associate member of the IEA since 2017.
- ❖ The IEA was established in 1974 by member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) after the 1973 oil crisis.
- ❖ Full IEA membership is currently limited to OECD countries, and India is not a member of the OECD.
- ❖ Member countries must maintain strategic oil reserves equal to at least 90 days of net imports.

India to become a key member of International Energy Agency soon

India's full membership in the International Energy Agency (IEA) is now in its final stages, IEA executive director Fatih Birol said. While India has been an association member since 2017, key members include the US, Japan, Germany, the UK, Canada, France, and Australia. Birol said members have welcomed discussions with India following its request to become a full member.

Five-Year Rice Pact

- ❖ India has signed a five-year agreement with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide sustained rice supplies for global hunger relief.

- ❖ The Food Corporation of India (FCI) will supply up to 200,000 metric tonnes of rice over five years, including up to 25% broken grains, for emergency food assistance.
- ❖ The price for the current supply cycle is fixed at Rs 2,800 per quintal until March 31, 2026, with annual review through mutual consultation.
- ❖ The pact aims to ensure the predictable and timely availability of food grains for crisis-affected populations in Africa, West Asia, and conflict zones.

India signs 5-year pact with UN's food programme to fight global hunger



Pax Silica Alliance – India

- ❖ India has formally joined the Pax Silica Alliance, a US-led strategic coalition, by signing the Pax Silica Declaration.
- ❖ The alliance focuses on critical minerals, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ It aims to secure global AI and semiconductor supply chains and reduce dependence on non-aligned nations.
- ❖ India's very participation leverages its engineering talent and expanding semiconductor manufacturing, including ten plants under development.

- ❖ Member countries include Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Singapore, the UAE, the UK, and the US.



Board of Peace



- ❖ India attended the first meeting of Trump's Board of Peace in Washington as an observer.
- ❖ The board aims to support Gaza's reconstruction and address global conflicts.
- ❖ India supports the Gaza Peace Plan and UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2803, but chose not to become a full member.

- ❖ The board has 27 members, including Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey, and Pakistan.
- ❖ 22 countries, including the UK, Germany, and Japan, joined as observers.
- ❖ India's observer status allows it to engage diplomatically, monitor discussions, protect regional interests, and maintain flexibility in India-US relations.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Soil Health Degradation in India



- ❖ The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) released a report titled “Healing Soils in India: For Better Crop Health and Human Nutrition.”
- ❖ Primary causes of soil degradation include overuse of urea, intensive farming, monocropping, residue burning, and water stagnation in rice fields.
- ❖ India loses about 5.3 billion tonnes of topsoil every year, along with 5.4–8.4 million tonnes of nutrients due to erosion.
- ❖ Soil degradation reduces the crop nutrient absorption, lowers crop quality, and causes hidden hunger in children due to deficiencies in zinc, iron, and other micronutrients.

- ❖ The government promotes soil health through schemes like the Soil Health Card Scheme, PM-PRANAM, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, and Neem-Coated Urea.

REPORTS AND INDICES

IEA Report 2026

- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released its State of Energy Innovation 2026 report.
- ❖ It highlights that the global clean energy innovation is growing due to the competitiveness, energy security, and climate goals.
- ❖ In 2025, over 320 energy start-ups received first-round funding, and energy-related patents increased worldwide.
- ❖ The report notes that the electricity grid integration is very slow despite mature technologies due to regulatory and market barriers.
- ❖ Countries including the USA, Germany, China, and India are competing for the technological leadership in clean energy.



STATE NEWS

Kerala's Vision 2031

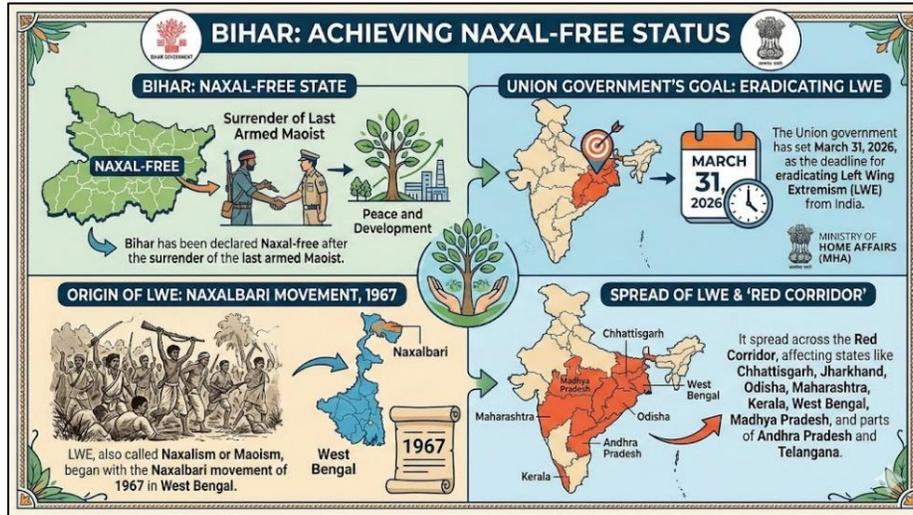
- ❖ Vision 2031 is Kerala's long-term policy framework to transform the state by its 75th year of statehood into a knowledge-driven, socially just, and democratically vibrant society.

- ❖ It was presented at the 'Vision 2031: International Conference on Development and Democracy' held in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ The vision emphasizes participatory governance, evidence-based policy, and public consultation in decision-making.
- ❖ The state government plans follow-up actions, including legislative reforms and translating conference recommendations into projects through government and semi-government agencies.
- ❖ Key focus areas include knowledge economy, environmental sustainability, quality employment, social justice, and strengthened local governance.



Naxal-Free status - Bihar

- ❖ Bihar has been declared Naxal-free after the surrender of the last armed Maoist.
- ❖ The Union government has set March 31, 2026, as the deadline for eradicating Left Wing Extremism (LWE) from India.
- ❖ LWE, also called Naxalism or Maoism, began with the Naxalbari movement of 1967 in West Bengal.
- ❖ It spread across the Red Corridor, affecting states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



Bhu-Aadhaar for Land Parcels

ULPIN (Bhu-Aadhaar)
A Unique 14-digit alphanumeric Identity for Land Parcels

ULPIN has been assigned to over 36 crore land parcels across 29 States & UTs

It eliminates duplicity, prevents benami transactions

****As of November 2025*

- ❖ The Delhi government has introduced Bhu-Aadhaar, giving every land parcel a unique 14-digit identification number.
- ❖ It is part of the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) system to modernise land records and ensure transparency.

- ❖ Each land parcel will have a geo-referenced code for accurate mapping and ownership verification.
- ❖ Drone surveys and digital mapping will create precise land maps covering coordinates, size, and ownership details.
- ❖ The system will reduce disputes, prevent multiple registrations, and support an Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS).

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

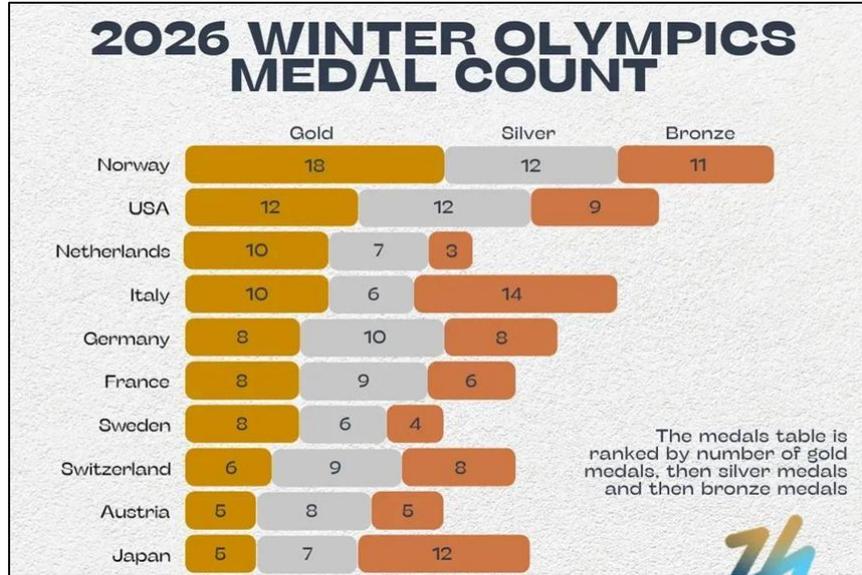
BAFTA 2026



- ❖ The 79th British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2026 were held at London's Royal Festival Hall.
- ❖ The film *One Battle After Another* won six awards, including Best Film and Best Director for Paul Thomas Anderson.
- ❖ The Manipuri-language Indian film *Boong* won Best Children's and Family Film, marking the first time an Indian film has received this award.
- ❖ *Sinners* won three awards, including Original Screenplay and Supporting Actress.
- ❖ *Hamnet* won two awards, including the Outstanding British Film and Leading Actress.
- ❖ Winners in acting categories included Robert Aramayo (Best Actor, BAFTA Rising Star), Jessie Buckley (Leading Actress), Wunmi Mosaku (Supporting Actress), and Sean Penn (Supporting Actor).

SPORTS NEWS

Winter Olympics 2026



- ❖ The 2026 Winter Olympics were successfully held from 6 to 22 February 2026 in Milan and Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy.
- ❖ Norway topped the medal table with 18 gold medals and 41 total medals.
- ❖ The United States finished second with 33 total medals, while the Netherlands secured third place with 20 medals.
- ❖ Italy, the host nation, won 30 total medals, including 10 gold medals.
- ❖ Spain, Brazil, and Kazakhstan won historic first or rare gold medals in this edition.

