

March - 05

TNPSC BITS

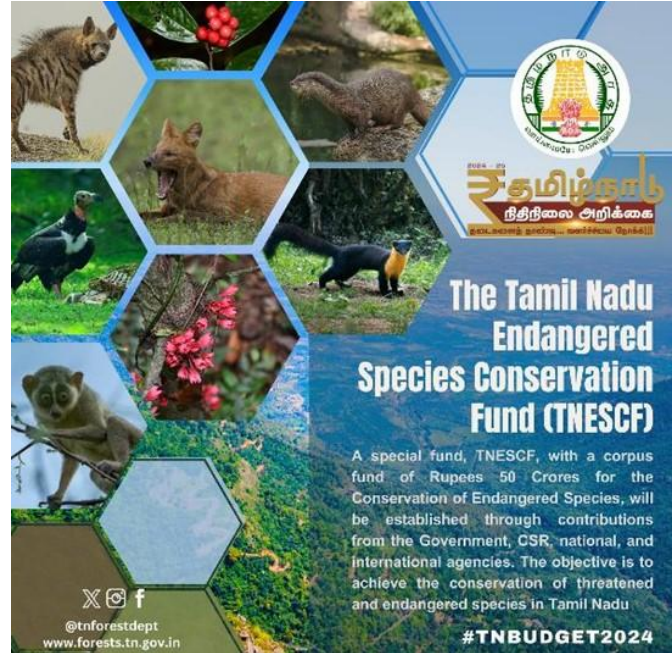
- ❖ The 10,000th FPO was recently launched in Bihar under the Central Sector Scheme for the “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- ❖ February 2025 was the hottest in India in the last 125 years, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.
- ❖ ICC chairman Jay Shah was conferred with Icon of Excellence award at FILA 2025.
- ❖ Exercise Desert Hunt 2025, an integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise of India was conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump signed an executive order designating English as the official language of the United States.
- ❖ The International Spice Conference (ISC) 2025, organised by the All-India Spices Exporters’ Forum (AISEF) was held in Bengaluru under the theme of ‘Building Trust Beyond Borders: Transparency, Sustainability, Confidence’.
- ❖ The second meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) took place in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Nobel laureate and social reformer Kailash Satyarthi launched his own autobiography 'Diyasalaai'.
- ❖ The International Wheelchair Day is observed on 1st March to celebrate the positive impact a wheelchair has in daily life.
- ❖ National Defence Day was first celebrated on March 3rd to honour the bravery and sacrifices of the Indian soldiers who fought in World War I and the Indian Army’s contribution towards the nation.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu’s lesser-known species

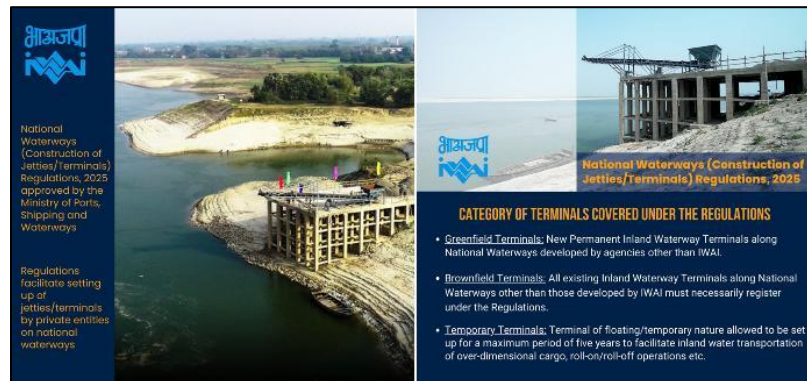
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu state government created a dedicated "Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund".
- ❖ It will be a rolling pool with a corpus of Rs 50 crore, to recover some of the biodiversity that is on the verge of extinction.

- ❖ This fund will help in formulation of new schemes for protecting endangered and critically endangered species.
- ❖ In 2011, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests gazette notified a list of 23 plant and 16 animal species that are on verge of extinction in Tamil Nadu.



NATIONAL NEWS

National Waterways Regulations, 2025



- ❖ The National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025 released by Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ❖ It aims promoting the use of inland waterways and drawing the participation of private sector.

- ❖ It will support for the establishment of jetties and terminals by various entities, including private, public, and joint ventures, on national waterways across the country.
- ❖ The cargo movement on national waterways has surged over the last decade, from 18 million tonnes to 133 million tonnes in fiscal year 2024.

Initiatives of MoPSW

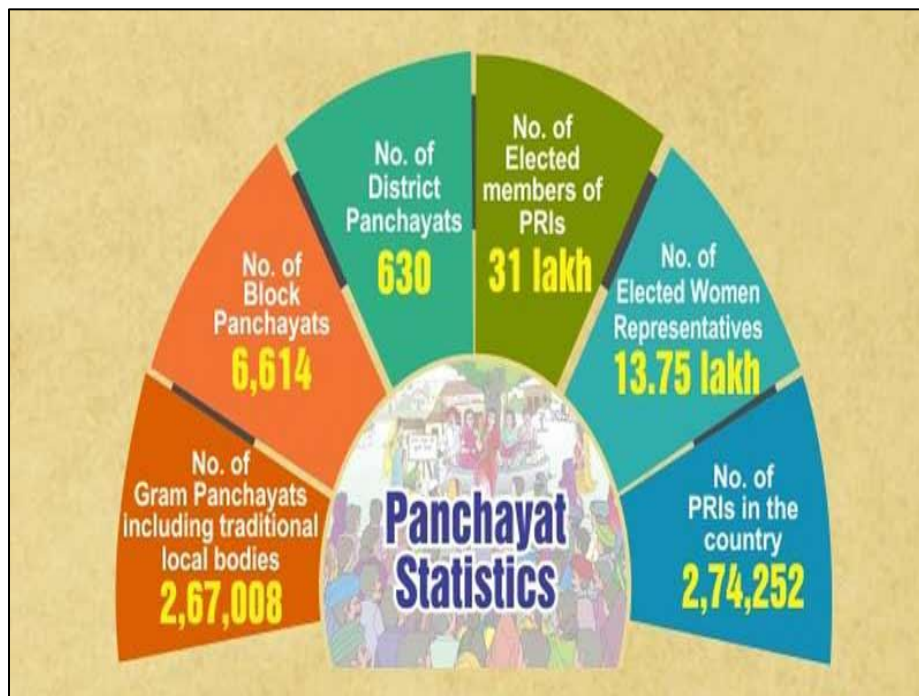
- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has launched the 'One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP)' to standardise and streamline operations across India's major ports.
- ❖ The Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for FY 2023-24 was also launched recently.
- ❖ The Bharat Global Ports Consortium was launched to Strengthen global trade by expanding India's maritime reach and enhance global trade resilience.
- ❖ The MAITRI App (the Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface) was also launched to streamline trade processes, reduce bureaucratic redundancies and expedite clearances.



Proxy Leadership

- ❖ A panel constituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has recommended "exemplary penalties" for proven cases of proxy leadership.
- ❖ It aims to curb the practice of 'Pradhan Pati', 'Sarpanch Pati' or 'Mukhiya Pati' in Gram Panchayats across the country.

- ❖ Other Initiatives recommended:
 - Gender-exclusive quotas in some panchayat subject committees and ward-level committees (like Kerala);
 - An annual award for Anti-Pradhan Pati champions;
 - Appointing women’s ombudspersons;
 - Public swearing-in of women Pradhans in Gram Sabhas;
 - Creating federation of women panchayat leaders; and
 - Setting up gender resource centres that serve as hubs for leadership training, legal advice, and support networks were also.
- ❖ India has about 2.63 lakh panchayats in all three tiers – Gram Panchayat (at village level), Panchayat Samiti (at block level) and Zila Parishad (at district level) – with 32.29 lakh elected representatives.
- ❖ Out of this, 15.03 lakh (46.6 per cent) are women.



The State of India’s Environment 2025

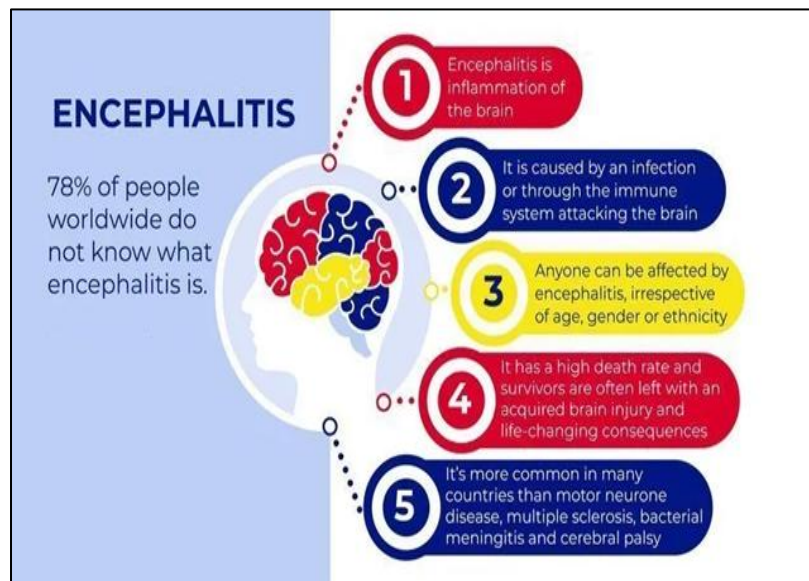
- ❖ The State of India’s Environment 2025 was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth (DTE) Magazine.
- ❖ The year 2024, in fact, was the warmest year on record, with the average global temperature at 1.60°C above the pre-industrial era (1850-1900) average.

- ❖ India saw more frequent and intense extreme weather events in 2024, compared to the previous two years.
- ❖ In the first nine months of 2024, India witnessed extreme weather events on 255 of the 274 days as against 235 days for the same period in 2023 and 241 days in 2022.
- ❖ The events drastically impacted agriculture, with 3.2 million hectares of cropland affected in 2024 — 74 per cent more than in 2022.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Encephalitis - Public Health Issue



- ❖ WHO and Encephalitis International have issued a notice about encephalitis, as a global health concern.



- ❖ Encephalitis, caused by an infectious and autoimmune factor, is an often-deadly brain inflammation that can affect anyone regardless of age, sex or ethnicity.
- ❖ It can lead to severe neurological consequences, including the permanent brain injury.
- ❖ A 2024 survey revealed that as many as 1,548 Japanese Encephalitis cases were reported from 24 states and Union Territories in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

NASA's Lunar Trailblazer

- ❖ NASA's Lunar Trailblazer has experienced a loss of communications with ground control.
- ❖ The Lunar Trailblazer is a small satellite, intended to expand our understanding of the abundance and distribution of water on the Moon's surface.
- ❖ The spacecraft has been designed to produce high-resolution maps that will help to determine where water is present, in what form, and in what quantity.



Athena Moon Lander

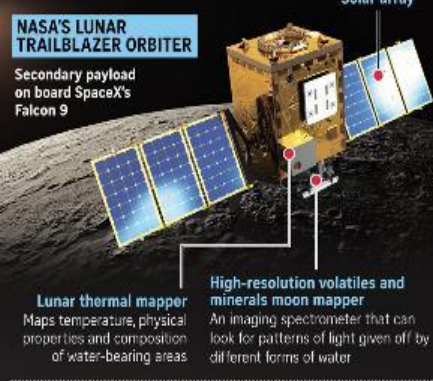
- ❖ Intuitive Machines' Athena and the Japanese private mission Resilience Hakuto-R2 are among the next lunar landers expected to touch down.
- ❖ Athena aims to improve upon the company's previous success with the Odysseus lander.
- ❖ Odysseus became the first American craft to achieve a soft lunar landing since Apollo 17 in 1972.
- ❖ The Resilience Hakuto-R2 mission, operated by the ispace, a Japanese private company, is taking a more indirect route to the Moon.

- ❖ This mission also marks Japan's second attempt at a lunar landing, following the successful deployment of the Hakuto-R1 mission's impactor.

Mission to detect water on the Moon

A Nasa satellite was launched into space from Florida on Feb 26 to identify where water can be found on the Moon's surface.

NASA'S LUNAR TRAILBLAZER ORBITER
Secondary payload on board SpaceX's Falcon 9



Solar array

Lunar thermal mapper
Maps temperature, physical properties and composition of water-bearing areas

High-resolution volatiles and minerals moon mapper
An imaging spectrometer that can look for patterns of light given off by different forms of water

Weight About 200kg	Width About 3.5m when its solar panels are fully deployed	Size About the size of a dishwasher
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The orbiter will perform a series of Moon fly-bys and looping orbits over a span of **several months** to position itself to map the surface in detail

It eventually will orbit at an altitude of **roughly 100km** and collect high-resolution images of targeted areas to determine the form, distribution and abundance of water and better understand the lunar water cycle

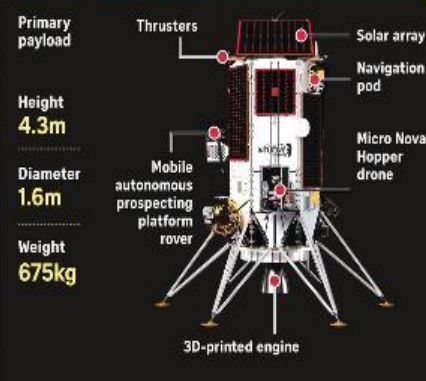
ATHENA LUNAR LANDER

Primary payload

Height 4.3m

Diameter 1.6m

Weight 675kg



Thrusters

Solar array

Navigation pod

Micro Nova Hopper drone

Mobile autonomous prospecting platform rover

3D-printed engine

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

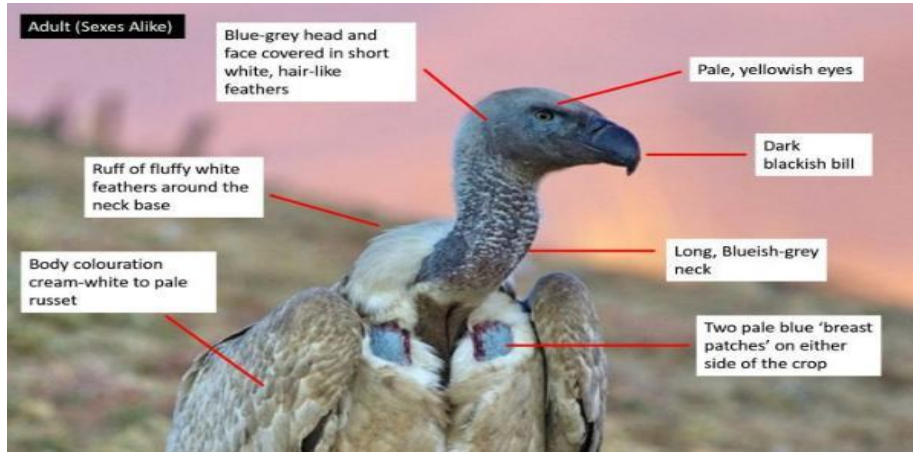
New jumping spiders' species



- ❖ Researchers discovered a two new species of jumping spiders belonging to the genus *Epidelaxia* from the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala.
- ❖ This marks the first time the genus has been recorded from India.
- ❖ It is extending its known range from Sri Lanka to other parts of the subcontinent.

- ❖ The two new species are *Epidelaxia falciformis* sp. nov. and *Epidelaxia palustris* sp. nov.

Cape Vultures in South Africa



- ❖ The Cape Vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*), has returned to the South Africa's Eastern Cape province after three decades.
- ❖ It is an Old-World vulture species that resides exclusively in Southern Africa.
- ❖ Between 1992 and 2007, populations in South Africa are reduced by 60-70% and were first categorised as 'threatened'.
- ❖ By 2021, the total population size was also estimated at 9,600 to 12,800 mature individuals, which raised their status to 'vulnerable'.
- ❖ There are 23 species of vulture globally and divided into two families.
- ❖ Accipitridae or Old-World vultures, of which there are 16 species, are also found across Africa, Europe, and Asia.
- ❖ Cathartidae or New World vultures, with seven species, are native to the Americas and the Caribbean.

STATE NEWS

MISHTI Scheme in Gujarat

- ❖ The union government has launched MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes) scheme in 2023.
- ❖ It aims to expand mangrove forest cover along the coasts of states and union territories.
- ❖ It will be ensuring the protection and preservation of the coastal communities and marine ecosystem.

- ❖ In just two years Gujarat, successfully has planted mangroves across over 19,000 hectares under this initiative.

Rank	State/UT	Mangrove Cover (sq km)	% of Total Mangrove Cover in India
1	West Bengal	2,114	42.30%
2	Gujarat	1,177	23.60%
3	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	616	12.30%
4	Andhra Pradesh	404	8.10%
5	Maharashtra	324	6.50%

Bhopal chemical waste Incineration



- ❖ The burning of the first 10-tonne batch of Union Carbide's toxic waste took place recently.
- ❖ This is a part of the first trial run to dispose of the 40-year-old waste of Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- ❖ The burning or incineration process takes about 72 hours to complete.

- ❖ The process began shortly after the Supreme Court rejected a petition that had challenged the Madhya Pradesh government's plans to dispose 358 tonnes of Union Carbide waste in Pithampur.
- ❖ The chemical waste had been lying at the now-defunct Union Carbide India Ltd (UCIL) factory in Bhopal for more than 40 years since the December 1984 gas tragedy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wildlife Day 2025 - March 03



- ❖ It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2013.
- ❖ The date also marks the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.
- ❖ The theme of 2025 is “the Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet.”

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

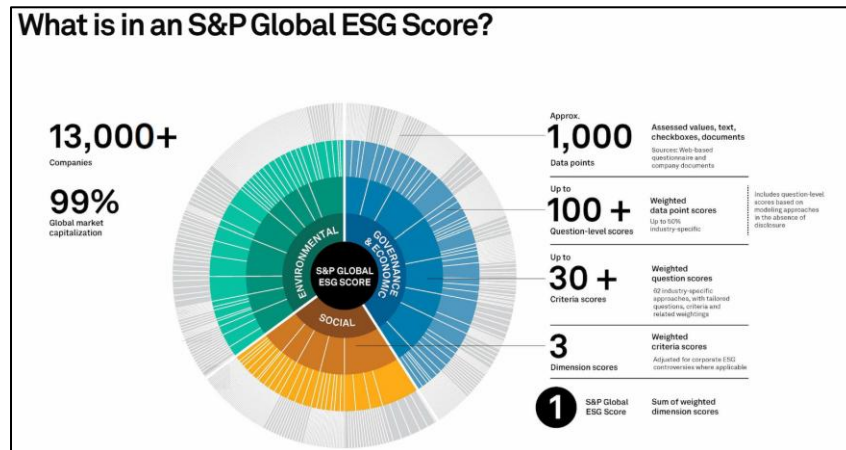
175th GSI Foundation Day

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI), founded in 1851 has marked its 175th foundation day.
- ❖ It was instrumental in the geological studies, mineral discovery, and the disaster prevention.

- ❖ It was established in 1851 by Sir Thomas Oldham.



S&P Global Sustainability Rankings 2025



- ❖ The Yes Bank has emerged as India’s highest-rated bank in sustainability for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ It is the only Indian lender included in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2025.
- ❖ This is a listing of the top 15% of the global banking leaders based on ESG performance.

