

March - 06

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Varanasi entered the Guinness World Records by planting over 2.5 lakh saplings in one hour.
- ❖ The 301 km Khurda Road–Balangir railway line in Odisha is nearing the full completion after more than 100 years of delay.
- ❖ Nine cheetahs from Botswana were brought to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh under India’s cheetah reintroduction programme, taking the total cheetah population in the country to 48.
- ❖ The endangered Forest Owlet, which is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, was spotted for the first time at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The Prime Minister launched the nationwide Human Papillomavirus vaccination drive for 14-year-old girls using Gardasil-4.
- ❖ Operation Epic Fury is a major joint military operation held by the United States in coordination with Israel against Iranian military infrastructure.
- ❖ World Civil Defence Day is observed every year on March 1 to raise awareness about civil protection, disaster prevention, and preparedness.
- ❖ World Obesity Day is observed every year on 4 March to raise awareness about obesity and promote action to prevent and manage it.
  - The theme for 2026 is “8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity.”

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Tamil Nadu Shipbuilding Policy 2026

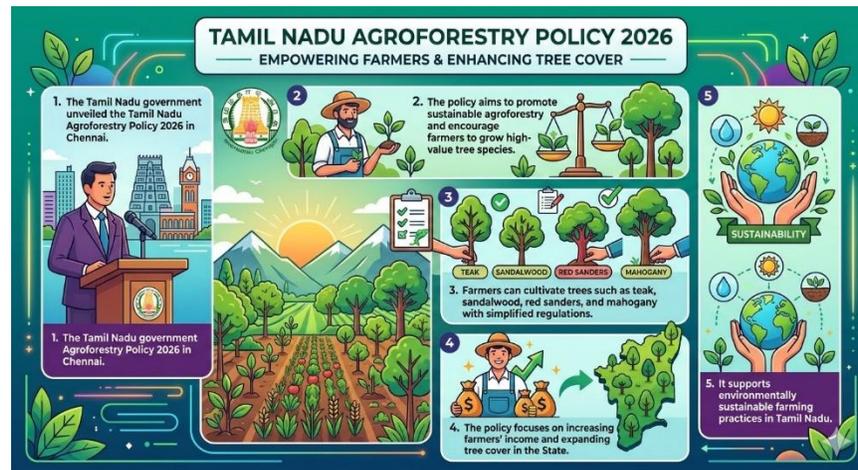


- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has released the Tamil Nadu Shipbuilding Policy 2026.

- ❖ The Shipbuilding Policy 2026 aims to develop shipbuilding clusters and promote the manufacturing, repair, and recycling of ships in the State.
- ❖ A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be created under the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu to support shipyard development.
- ❖ Shipyards investing at least ₹100 crore in green initiatives will get a 50% subsidy, subject to a maximum limit of ₹50 crore or 2% of project cost.

## Agroforestry Policy 2026

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government unveiled the Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy 2026 in Chennai.
- ❖ The policy aims to promote the sustainable agroforestry and encourage farmers to grow high-value tree species.
- ❖ The Farmers can cultivate trees such as teak, sandalwood, red sanders, and mahogany with simplified regulations.
- ❖ The policy focuses on increasing farmers' income and expanding tree cover in the State.
- ❖ It supports environmentally sustainable farming practices in Tamil Nadu.



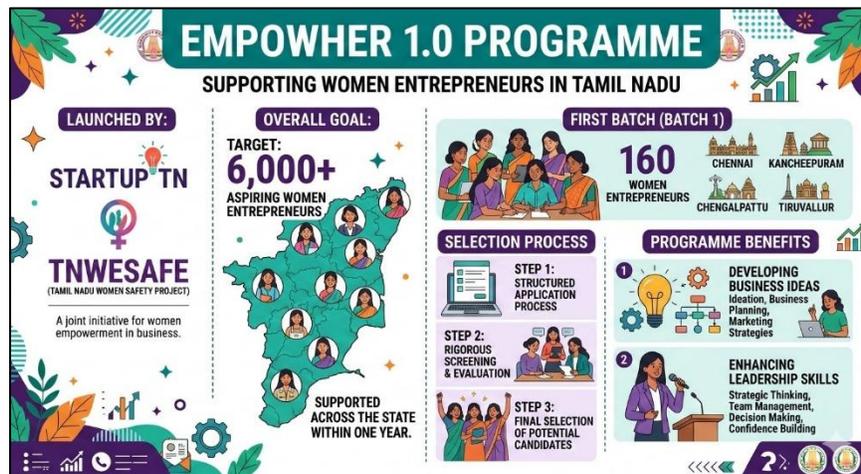
## Infrastructure Projects and Investments

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has inaugurated several infrastructure projects and laid foundation stones for new development works in the State.
- ❖ He laid the foundation stone for the first phase of works to develop the Guindy Eco Park being carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

- ❖ The Park will be developed at a cost of ₹37.85 crore with theme gardens, a children’s play area, bird habitat islands, herbal gardens, and viewing decks.
- ❖ He also inaugurated a 30 metre high Super Tree Tower at Kalaignar Centenary Park, built at a cost of ₹11.84 crore.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with MRF Limited to set up a tyre manufacturing plant in Sivaganga district with an investment of ₹5,300 crore.



## EmpowHer 1.0 Program

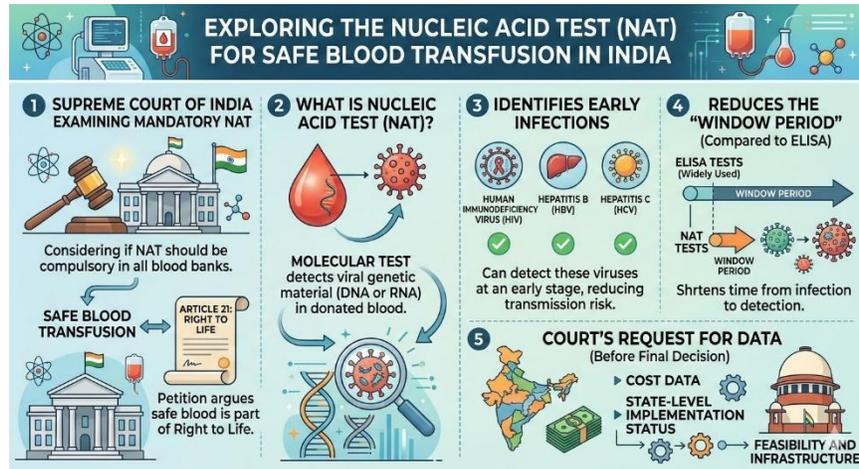


- ❖ StartupTN and TNWeSafe (Tamil Nadu Women Safety Project) have launched the EmpowHer 1.0 programme to support women entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The programme aims to help more than 6,000 aspiring women entrepreneurs across the State within one year.
- ❖ The first batch includes 160 women entrepreneurs from Chennai, Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu, and Tiruvallur districts.

- ❖ The participants were selected through a structured application process.
- ❖ The programme helps women develop business ideas and leadership skills.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Nucleic Acid Test



- ❖ The Supreme Court of India is examining whether the Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) should be made compulsory in all blood banks to ensure safe blood transfusion under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ NAT is a molecular test that detects genetic material (DNA or RNA) of viruses in donated blood.
- ❖ It can identify infections like Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C at an early stage.
- ❖ NAT reduces the “window period” compared to Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) tests, which are commonly used in India.
- ❖ The petition argues that safe blood transfusion is part of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The Court has asked for data on cost, State-level implementation, and feasibility before taking a final decision.

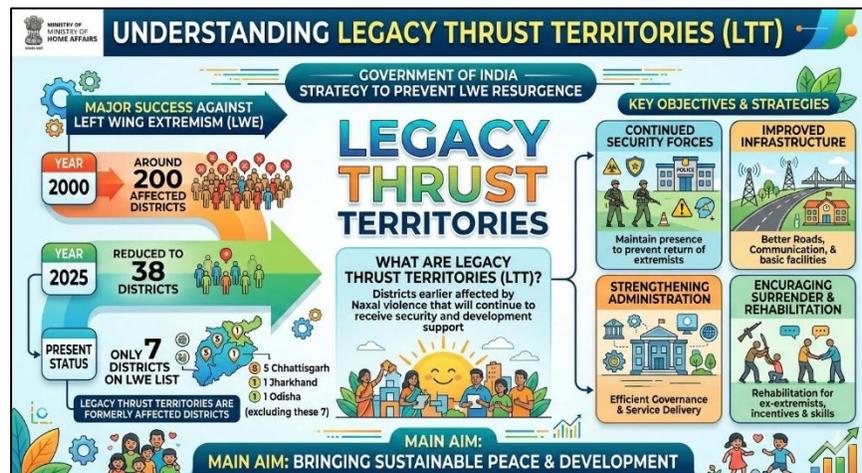
### ANVESH-2026 Conference

- ❖ The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli, organised ANVESH-2026 to promote the sustainable and healthy food systems.

- ❖ The conference aims to promote innovation, sustainability, and the idea of “Food as Medicine” in the food processing sector.
- ❖ NIFTEM-K is an Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ❖ At present, only 12–13% of India’s food produce is processed.
- ❖ The government has set a target to increase food processing to 25% in the next five years.
- ❖ Post-harvest losses in India are estimated at nearly ₹1.10 lakh crore every year.



## Legacy Thrust Territories



- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced the concept of the Legacy Thrust Territories to prevent the return of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) after the major success against Naxalism.
- ❖ Legacy Thrust Territories are districts that were earlier affected by Naxal violence but will continue to receive security and development support.

- ❖ Around 200 districts were affected by Left Wing Extremism in 2000, but by 2025, the number reduced to 38 districts.
- ❖ At present, only 7 districts remain on the LWE list, including 5 in Chhattisgarh, 1 in Jharkhand, and 1 in Odisha.
- ❖ The main aim is to stop the return of Naxalism and to bring peace and development to these areas.
- ❖ The government will continue to support security forces, improve roads and communication, strengthen administration, and encourage extremists to surrender.

### Rice Fortification 2026

## WHAT IS FORTIFIED RICE?

Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in food to improve its nutritional quality and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health



<p>➤ The fortification factor does not last for more than <b>45 days</b>, so it isn't advisable to store fortified rice for long</p>	<p>➤ According to National Family Health Survey, <b>78.7%</b> children and <b>75%</b> in the district are anaemic and suffer from malnutrition</p>	<p>➤ In the first phase, fortified rice will be distributed in Badangi, Bobbili, Ramabhadrapuram and Terlam mandals</p>
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- ❖ The Union Government has decided to temporarily stop rice fortification under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana after a study by IIT Kharagpur.
- ❖ The study found that micronutrients in fortified rice decrease over time due to moisture, temperature, humidity, and long storage.
- ❖ Rice in the central pool is often stored for 2–3 years, which increases the risk of nutrient loss.
- ❖ The government said that foodgrain supply under the Public Distribution System, Integrated Child Development Services, and PM Poshan Scheme will not be affected.

- ❖ Rice fortification means adding nutrients like Iron, Folic Acid (Vitamin B9), and Vitamin B12 as per the standards of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
- ❖ The scheme was started to reduce malnutrition and anaemia without changing the taste or quality of rice.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Indian Bison Fest 2026

- ❖ The second edition of the Indian Bison Fest will be held on 8 March 2026 at Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha.
- ❖ The festival celebrates the Indian bison, also known as gaur (*Bos gaurus*), which is the largest bovine species in the world.
- ❖ The latest census in January 2026 recorded 848 gaurs in the sanctuary, showing an increase of 190 animals in one year.
- ❖ The sanctuary is located near the Hirakud reservoir and is becoming an important gaur conservation area in eastern India.
- ❖ The gaur is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List due to habitat loss and hunting.



### Project HANUMAN

- ❖ Project HANUMAN was launched in Andhra Pradesh to address the rising human-wildlife conflict.
- ❖ The aim of the project is to reduce clashes between humans and wild animals and to protect both people and wildlife.
- ❖ Rapid response teams will be deployed to handle emergencies in conflict areas.

- ❖ Technology and monitoring systems will be used to track wildlife movement. The project will improve coordination between forest officials and local communities.
- ❖ Awareness programmes will also be conducted to prevent risky behaviour near forest areas.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Innovators Business Environment Index 2026

#### Best Business Environments in 2026

Rank	Country	Total Score
1	United States	100.000
2	Singapore	99.145
3	United Kingdom	93.900
4	Switzerland	86.901
5	United Arab Emirates	86.222
6	Canada	86.144
7	The Netherlands	85.715
8	Japan	83.644
9	Saudi Arabia	82.880
10	Estonia	78.997

- ❖ StartupBlink released the Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI) 2026 to measure business conditions for innovators across countries.

- ❖ The Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI) evaluates national business environments using a score from 0 to 100.
- ❖ It measures factors such as regulation, access to capital, taxation, digital infrastructure, and global mobility.
- ❖ The United States ranked first with a score of 100, followed by Singapore in second place and the United Kingdom in third place.
- ❖ India ranked 54th in the world with a score of 55.035.
- ❖ India ranked ahead of China, which was placed at 85th position in the index.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Safety Day 2026 - March 04



- ❖ The day aims to promote workplace safety and accident prevention in India.
- ❖ National Safety Day is organised by the National Safety Council, which was established on 4 March 1966.
- ❖ The day was first celebrated in 1972 to spread awareness about safety, health, and environmental protection.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety.”

