

March - 07

## TNPSC BITS

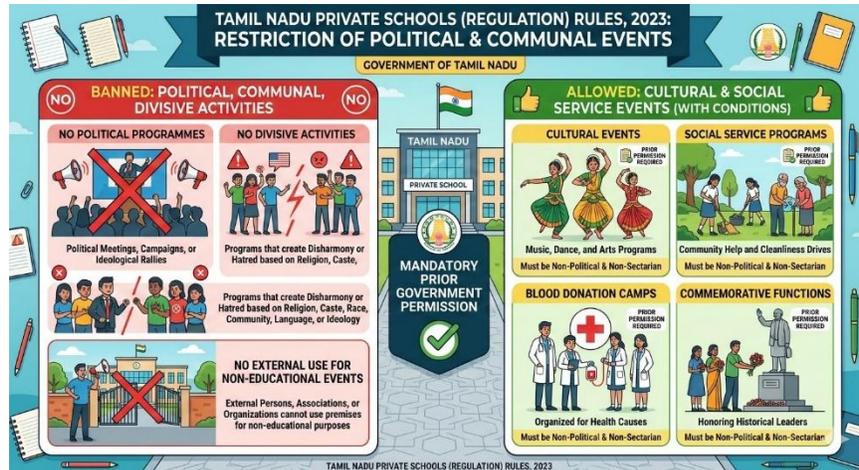
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched the Tamil Nadu Integrated Drinking Water Grievance Redressal Centre – PUNAL (1916) in Chennai.
- ❖ Researchers from TU Wien and start-up Cerabyte created the world's smallest QR (Quick Response) code, measuring about 2 square micrometres (smaller than a bacterium), and received a title from Guinness World Records.
- ❖ The foundation stone for an International Bird Centre (IBC) was laid at Agaram Reserve Forest near Kazhuveli Wetland Bird Sanctuary (Villupuram District) by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ A 14th-century shipwreck carrying porcelain from the Yuan Dynasty (1271–1368) was discovered in the waters off Singapore, and it dates back about 650 years.
- ❖ Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy has been nominated by the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) to the Rajya Sabha and could become India's first openly LGBTQ+ Member of Parliament if elected.
- ❖ Israel launched Operation Lion's Roar, conducting a pre-emptive strike on key sites in Tehran, Iran, targeting military and nuclear-related facilities.
- ❖ The Ashmolean Museum of the University of Oxford has returned a 16th century bronze idol of Saint Thirumankai Alvar to India.
  - The idol originally belongs to the Shri Soundararaja Perumal Temple in Thadikombu, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Chile has become the first country in the Americas and the second globally to be verified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating leprosy, also known as Hansen disease.
- ❖ International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness was observed on 5 March 2026 to create awareness about disarmament, arms control, and the dangers of nuclear weapons.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Restriction of Political and Communal Events

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu has amended the Tamil Nadu Private Schools (Regulation) Rules, 2023, to restrict certain activities in private schools.
- ❖ Private schools are not allowed to conduct programmes that are political, ideological, communal, or divisive in nature.

- ❖ No external person, association, or organisation can use school premises to organise meetings, campaigns, or activities unrelated to education.
- ❖ Activities that promote disharmony or hatred based on religion, caste, race, community, language, or ideology are banned.
- ❖ Cultural events, social service programmes, blood donation camps, and commemorative functions are allowed only if they are non-political and non-sectarian with prior government permission.



## New Governor for Tamil Nadu

Name	State/Union Territory
Jishnu Dev Varma	Maharashtra
Shiv Pratap Shukla	Telangana
Kavinder Gupta	Himachal Pradesh
Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain	Bihar
Nand Kishore Yadav	Nagaland
Taranjit Singh Sandhu	Delhi
Vinai Kumar Saxena	Ladakh

 <b>Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar</b> Given additional charge of Tamil Nadu Current/previous role Governor of Kerala	 <b>R.N. Ravi</b> Appointed Governor of West Bengal Current/previous role Governor of Tamil Nadu
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**West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has resigned from his post ahead of Assembly polls**

- ❖ R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu, has been transferred as the Governor of West Bengal.
- ❖ C. V. Ananda Bose stepped down from the post of Governor of West Bengal.
- ❖ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Kerala, will temporarily discharge the functions of the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

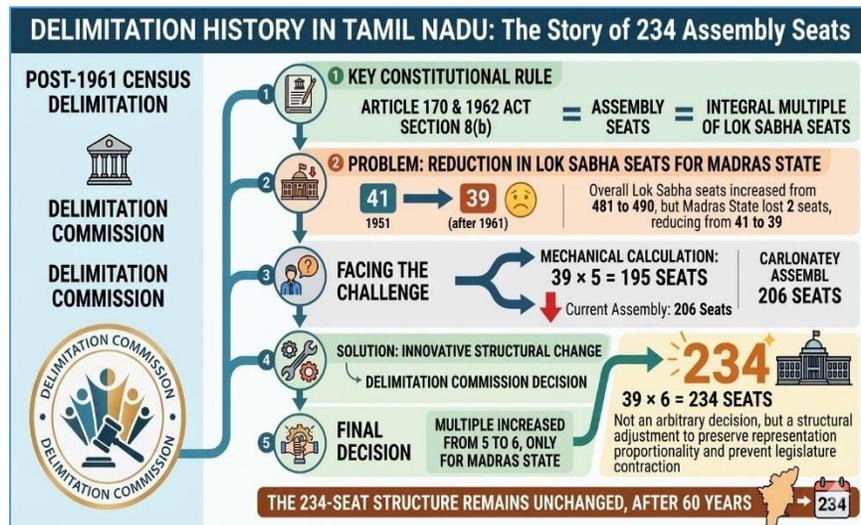


- ❖ Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the Governor of Manipur, has been given additional responsibility during the change in the Governor's post in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ R. N. Ravi served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu since 18 September 2021.

### **Delimitation in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Assembly's strength was fixed at 234 seats.
- ❖ This number was arrived at by the Delimitation Commission, which undertook the post-1961 Census redistribution of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats.
- ❖ Under Article 170 of the Constitution and Section 8(b) of the Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, the number of seats in a State Assembly must be an integral multiple of the number of Lok Sabha seats allotted to that State.
- ❖ At the time, 14 States together accounted for 481 parliamentary seats.
- ❖ Madras (as Tamil Nadu was known then) had 41.
- ❖ It was taking the overall total to 507 in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The Delimitation Commission was chaired by Justice J.L. Kapur, with C.P. Sinha and K.V.K. Sundaram as members.
- ❖ It noted that Article 81(1) fixed the maximum number of directly elected Lok Sabha members at 500.
- ❖ This meant the maximum seats available for allocation among the 14 States was 493.
- ❖ The total population of these States has increased very considerably during the last ten years.
- ❖ The average population per parliamentary constituency has increased from 732,654 in 1951 to 889,257 in 1961.
- ❖ After reviewing demographic changes revealed by the 1961 Census, the Commission concluded that retaining the existing 481 seats would disproportionately penalize some larger States.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madras would each have lost three seats, while Bihar would have lost one.
- ❖ To mitigate this, the Commission increased the total from 481 to 490.
- ❖ Even then, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madras lost two seats each, while Bihar avoided a loss.
- ❖ The Commission recorded that even raising the number to the constitutional ceiling of 493 would not have altered the losses faced by those States.
- ❖ Accordingly, Madras' Lok Sabha strength was reduced from 41 to 39.
- ❖ The next step was to determine the size of the Madras Legislative Assembly.

- ❖ At that time, the State followed a multiple of five.
- ❖ It means each Lok Sabha constituency corresponded to five Assembly segments.
- ❖ Applying that formula mechanically would have resulted in:  $39 \times 5 = 195$  Assembly seats.
- ❖ However, the Madras Assembly then had 206 elected members.
- ❖ Retaining the existing multiple would therefore have reduced the Assembly to 195 seats.
- ❖ It would be a significant contraction in representation.
- ❖ After due consideration, it was decided to retain the existing multiple in all States, except Madras.
- ❖ The commission thought that it would be proper to raise its multiple from 5 to 6 and to assign 234 seats to its Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The revised formula thus became:  $39 \times 6 = 234$ .
- ❖ Instead of shrinking the seats of the Lok Sabha for the state, the Assembly seats in the state were expanded.
- ❖ The decision was not arbitrary.
- ❖ It was a structural adjustment designed to preserve proportionality between parliamentary and Assembly representation while preventing a drastic contraction of the State legislature.
- ❖ Six decades later, the 234-seat structure remains unchanged.



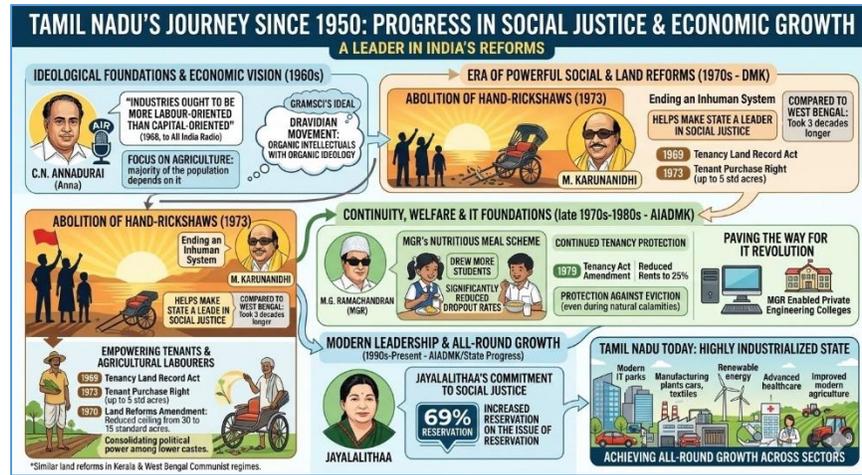
### Tamil Nadu's progress since 1950

- ❖ The abolition of hand-rickshaws is a major one, along with other major social reforms initiated in Tamil Nadu by the government.



- ❖ The DMK government led by M. Karunanidhi abolished the practice in 1973.
- ❖ It was inspired by the ideals of the Dravidian Movement.
- ❖ It helped make the State a leader in social justice reforms in India.
- ❖ In West Bengal, however, it took another three decades for the State to finally end this inhuman system.
- ❖ The Dravidian Movement was initiated and propagated by what the Italian Communist leader Antonio Gramsci would describe as organic intellectuals with an organic ideology.
- ❖ After returning from tours of the United States and Japan, Anna told All India Radio (AIR) in 1968 that in a country like India, endowed with abundant manpower, industries and development projects ought to be more labour-oriented than capital-oriented.
- ❖ Annadurai also favoured a strong emphasis on agriculture, as the majority of the population depended on it.
- ❖ Today, Tamil Nadu is a highly industrialized State, achieving all-round growth across sectors.
- ❖ Karunanidhi nationalised transport in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The laws enacted by the DMK government empowered tenants and agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu in important ways.
- ❖ It consolidated political power among the lower castes.
- ❖ One of the most significant measures was the Tenancy Land Record Act of 1969.
- ❖ In 1973, the DMK government introduced a law granting tenants the right to purchase all or part of the land, not exceeding five standard acres.
- ❖ The Land Reforms Act, amended in 1970, reduced the land ceiling from 30 standard acres to 15.
- ❖ These reforms continued even after the AIADMK, led by M.G. Ramachandran (MGR), came to power.
- ❖ Amendments to the Tenancy Act in 1979 further reduced rents to 25% and protected tenants against eviction even in cases of rent default during natural calamities.
- ❖ The Communist regimes in Kerala and West Bengal implemented similar land reforms.
- ❖ MGR's Nutritious Meal Scheme drew more students to schools and significantly reduced dropout rates.
- ❖ MGR paved the way for private engineering colleges and it aids to the capitalization of the Information Technology revolution.

- ❖ Jayalalithaa, who assumed leadership of the AIADMK after MGR, remained firm in her commitment to social justice.
- ❖ On the issue of reservation, she went a step further by increasing it to 69%.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Ethical AI Standards

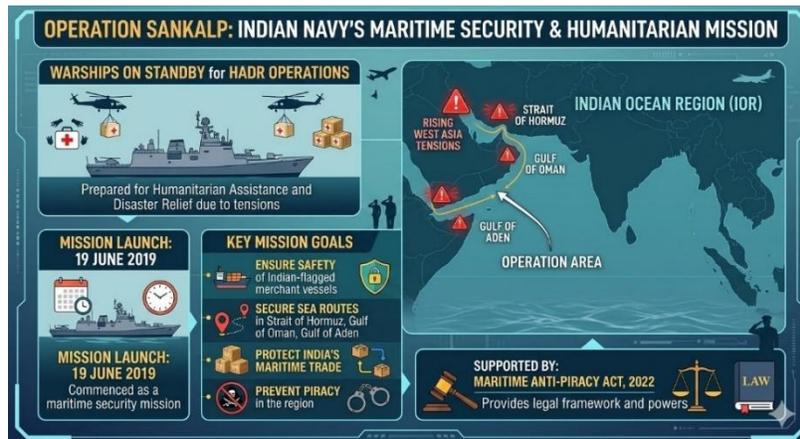


- ❖ The Government of India has notified the country's first standards for cloud computing, data centre performance, and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The standards were notified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Bureau of Indian Standards Rules, 2018.

- ❖ These standards are aligned with international frameworks of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).
- ❖ They introduce measures such as the Cooling Efficiency Ratio (CER) to evaluate the cooling performance of data centres.
- ❖ The standards also promote ethical principles in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as transparency and reduction of bias.

## Operation Sankalp

- ❖ Indian Navy warships deployed under Operation Sankalp have been placed on standby for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations due to rising tensions in West Asia.
- ❖ Operation Sankalp is a maritime security mission launched by the Indian Navy on 19 June 2019.
- ❖ It was started to ensure the safety of Indian-flagged merchant vessels in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- ❖ The operation secures sea routes in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Gulf of Aden.
- ❖ It aims to protect India's maritime trade and prevent piracy in the region.
- ❖ The mission is supported by the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act, 2022.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### India and Canada - Strategic Energy Partnership

- ❖ India and Canada signed a \$1.9 billion uranium supply agreement for 10,000 tonnes of uranium (2027–2035) to support India's nuclear power plants.

- ❖ The uranium will be supplied by Canadian company Cameco to support India's clean energy and nuclear power programme.
- ❖ Both countries have also agreed to restart negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to increase bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030.
- ❖ Canada agreed to join the International Solar Alliance and Global Biofuel Alliance, strengthening cooperation on renewable energy.
- ❖ The two countries have also decided to improve cooperation in counter-terrorism, security, energy, and technology.



### **Water Cremation - Scotland**

- ❖ Scotland became the first nation in the United Kingdom to legalise water cremation, also called alkaline hydrolysis.
- ❖ Water cremation is an eco-friendly alternative to traditional burial and flame cremation.
- ❖ The process uses water, heat, and potassium hydroxide to break down the body in a sealed chamber.
- ❖ It takes about 90 minutes, leaving only bones, which are later processed into ashes.
- ❖ The method produces fewer carbon emissions and uses less energy compared to flame cremation.

- ❖ The law was approved by the Scottish Parliament to provide more environmentally sustainable funeral options.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **Earliest Animals on Earth**



- ❖ Scientists have found evidence of the earliest animals on Earth in rocks that are about 541 million years old.
- ❖ Researchers discovered chemical fossils called steranes in ancient rocks.
- ❖ These fossils suggest that sea sponges (demosponges) were among the first animals to live in the oceans.

- ❖ The discovery shows that animal life existed before the Cambrian explosion, when many animals rapidly evolved.
- ❖ It also indicates that early animals lived in oceans with low oxygen levels.

### **Mars Beaches**

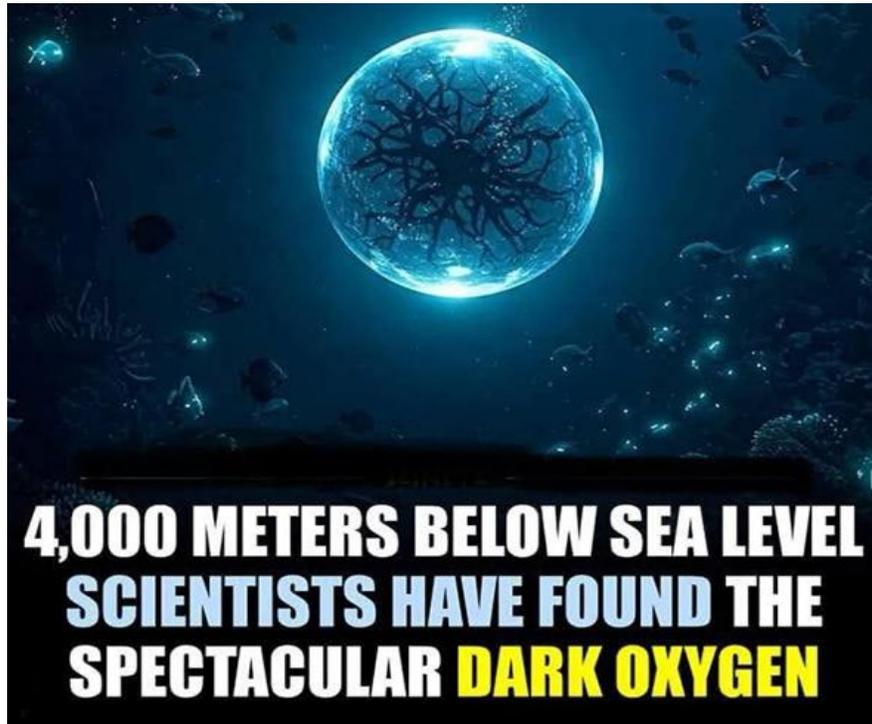
- ❖ China's Zhurong rover, part of the Tianwen-1 mission, discovered evidence of ancient beaches on Mars.
- ❖ The rover operates in Utopia Planitia, a large northern basin on Mars.
- ❖ Ground-penetrating radar detected buried sediment layers resembling coastal deposits several metres below the surface.
- ❖ These formations date back to the Late Hesperian period, around 3.5–4 billion years ago.
- ❖ The findings suggest Mars once had a long-lasting ocean called the Deuteronilus Ocean.
- ❖ Ancient Mars likely had a warmer climate and stable liquid water, potentially supporting habitable conditions.



### **Dark Oxygen in the Pacific Ocean**

- ❖ Scientists have discovered “Dark Oxygen” about 4,000 metres below the Pacific Ocean, where sunlight does not reach.
- ❖ Dark Oxygen refers to oxygen found in deep-sea regions without sunlight.

- ❖ The discovery was made in the Clarion–Clipperton Zone of the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ Scientists observed oxygen levels increasing near polymetallic nodules on the seafloor.
- ❖ Polymetallic nodules contain metals like manganese, nickel and cobalt.
- ❖ This discovery challenges the idea that oxygen is produced only through photosynthesis.

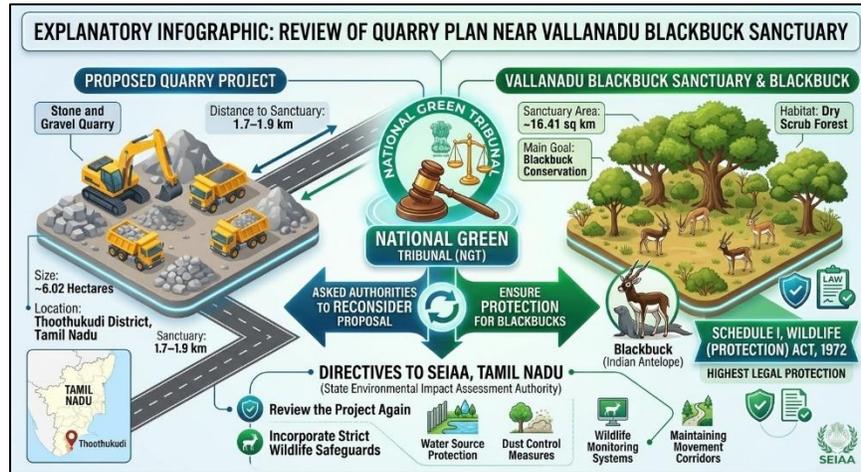


## **ENVIRONMENT NEWS**

### **Review of Quarry Plan**

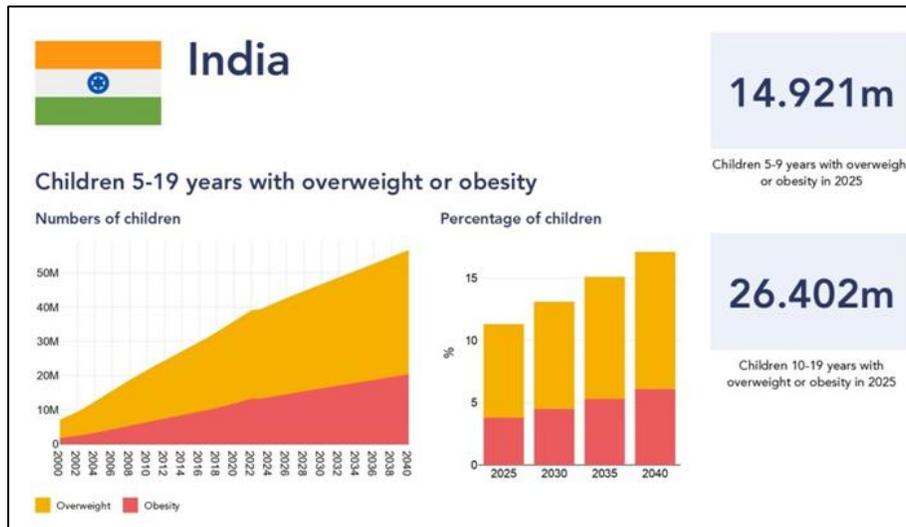
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) asked authorities to reconsider a quarry proposal near Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary while ensuring protection for blackbucks.
- ❖ The tribunal directed the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) of Tamil Nadu to review the project again with strict wildlife safeguards.
- ❖ The proposed stone and gravel quarry covers about 6.02 hectares and is located about 1.7–1.9 km from the sanctuary in the Thoothukudi district.
- ❖ The Blackbuck (Indian antelope) is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which gives it the highest level of legal protection.

- ❖ The sanctuary was established mainly to conserve blackbucks and covers about 16.41 square kilometres of dry scrub forest.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Obesity Atlas 2026



- ❖ The World Obesity Atlas 2026 report has revealed that India has overtaken the United States to become the second-highest country globally in childhood obesity.
- ❖ The report was released by the World Obesity Federation (WOF).
- ❖ India ranks second globally, after China, in childhood obesity.
- ❖ About 41 million Indian children were estimated to have high Body Mass Index (BMI) in 2025.
- ❖ Around 14 million children in India were living with obesity.

- ❖ By 2040, nearly 20 million children in India are projected to be living with obesity.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development 2026

- ❖ The day aims to highlight the role of engineers in achieving sustainable development and solving global challenges such as climate change and infrastructure needs.
- ❖ The 2026 celebration was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ It was co-organised by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO).
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Smart engineering for a sustainable future through innovation and digitalization.”

