

March - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Sarvam AI launched the Sarvam Startup Program to support Artificial Intelligence (AI) startups in India.
- ❖ Mumbai's suburban district has launched 'Saksham Skill Survey', India's first AI-based skill census to assess youth skills and improve employability.
- ❖ India will build its first riverine lighthouses on the Brahmaputra River along National Waterway-2.
- ❖ TIME magazine has named three Indian-origin leaders, Reshma Kewalramani, Reshma Saujani and Safeena Husain, among its 16 Women of the Year 2026 for global leadership and contributions across biotechnology, economic policy and education.
- ❖ The Government of India is establishing the first integrated plant based on Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) at Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep.
- ❖ The Hatti Risala festival in Jalna, Maharashtra, marks 138 years of tradition and promotes social harmony, cultural inclusiveness, and community participation.
- ❖ The President of India inaugurated the Darjeeling Hill Festival at Lok Bhavan in Darjeeling, West Bengal, celebrating the rich tribal traditions, arts, and lifestyles of India's indigenous communities.
- ❖ Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has organised Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi under the theme "Samskara: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement".
- ❖ Japan has approved the world's first stem-cell therapy for treating Parkinson's Disease, which uses Induced Pluripotent Stem (iPS) Cells to replace damaged dopamine-producing neurons in the brain.
- ❖ TNExpat digital platform was launched by the Tamil Nadu Industries Minister to help expatriates understand living, working, culture and lifestyle in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Astronomers have released the largest-ever image of the Milky Way's central region using the ACES (ALMA Central Molecular Zone Exploration Survey).

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Jain Tirthankara Sculptures

- ❖ Two stone sculptures of Jain Tirthankaras were discovered near Lagudi in Tiruchirappalli district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The sculptures were found at Neikuppai village and Pudur Uthamanur village.

- ❖ The statues are believed to belong to the later Chola period.
- ❖ The Tirthankaras are shown in a meditative posture (ardha-paryankasana) with elongated ear lobes and triple umbrellas above their heads.
- ❖ The sculptures measure about 80 cm (Neikuppai) and 112 cm (Pudur Uthamanur) in height.



NATIONAL NEWS

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

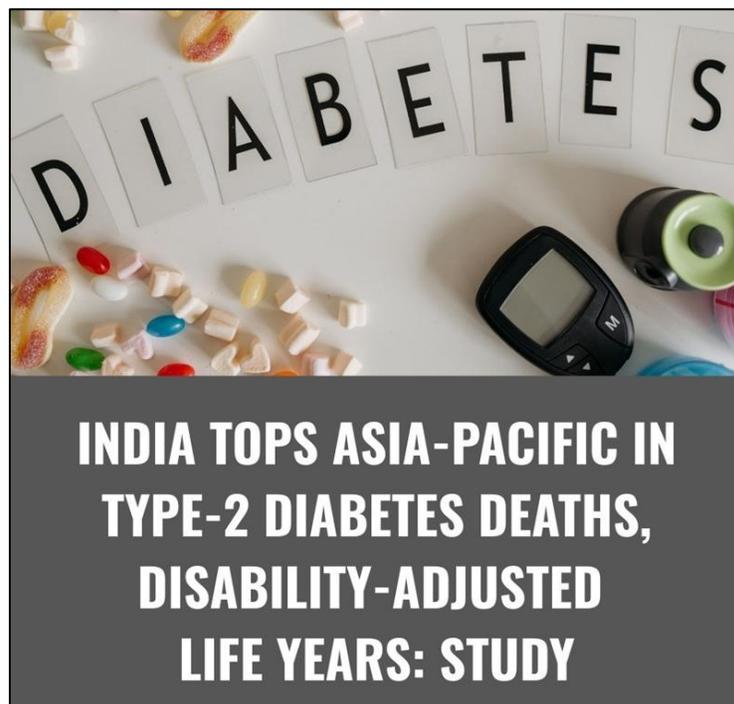
- ❖ The Government of India invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in March 2026 to ensure adequate supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) during a global energy crisis.
- ❖ The Act allows the government to regulate production, supply, distribution, and pricing of essential commodities.
- ❖ On 5 March 2026, oil refining companies were directed to maximise LPG production for domestic consumers.

- ❖ The Act also allows the government to impose stock limits to prevent hoarding and ensure fair availability.
- ❖ It was earlier invoked in August 2025 to control rising wheat prices in India.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Metabolic Health Crisis



- ❖ A recent analysis of the Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) reported that India and China have the highest metabolic disease burden in the Asia-Pacific region during 1990–2023.

- ❖ The study measures health loss using Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).
- ❖ Major metabolic conditions studied include Type 2 diabetes, high systolic blood pressure, high Body Mass Index (BMI), high Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, and Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD).
- ❖ In 2023, India recorded about 21 million DALYs and 5.8 lakh deaths due to Type 2 diabetes.
- ❖ High blood pressure caused around 3.8 crore DALYs and 15.7 lakh deaths in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

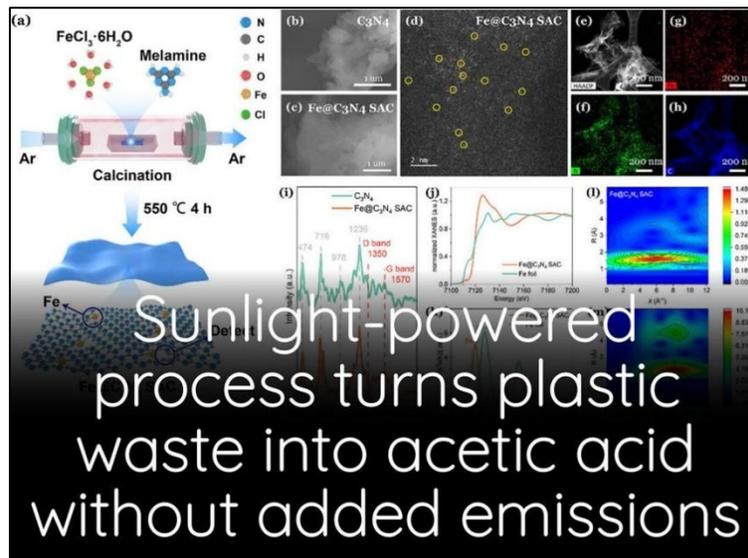
Very Low Earth Orbit Satellite Systems



- ❖ Bharat Electronics Limited and Bellatrix Aerospace signed a MoU to jointly develop Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) satellite systems.
- ❖ VLEO refers to satellite orbits at 150 km to 450 km above the Earth.
- ❖ The partnership aims to develop indigenous satellite platforms for defence and civilian uses.

- ❖ VLEO satellites face atmospheric drag, so advanced propulsion systems are used to keep them in orbit.
- ❖ Being closer to Earth allows better imaging resolution and faster signal transmission.
- ❖ If a satellite fails in VLEO, atmospheric drag pulls it down to burn in the atmosphere, reducing space debris.

Eco-Friendly Plastic Recycling



- ❖ Scientists at the University of Waterloo in Canada have found a way to turn plastic waste into acetic acid (vinegar) using only sunlight.
- ❖ The process uses photocatalysis, a chemical reaction triggered by sunlight, at room temperature without harmful chemicals.
- ❖ They tested four types of plastics: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), Polyethylene (PE), Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), and Polypropylene (PP).
- ❖ Acetic acid produced this way can be used in food, pharmaceuticals, and plastic industries.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Striped Hyena Conservation

- ❖ Tajikistan and Uzbekistan proposed to include the Striped Hyena in Appendix I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

- ❖ The proposal will be discussed at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of CMS.
- ❖ The meeting will be held in Campo Grande, Brazil from 23–29 March 2026.
- ❖ Appendix I includes endangered migratory species that require strict protection.
- ❖ Appendix II includes species that require international cooperation for conservation.
- ❖ The Striped Hyena is listed as Near Threatened in the IUCN Red List.



Dusky Eagle Owl



- ❖ A rare pair of Dusky Eagle Owls has been spotted in the Phato tourism zone of the Terai West forest division near Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand, after 15 years.
- ❖ Dusky Eagle Owl belongs to the family Strigidae.

- ❖ They prefer dense, old-growth forests near rivers and wetlands.
- ❖ Their IUCN Red List status is Least Concern.

REPORTS AND INDICES

State of the World's Migratory Species Report

- ❖ An interim update of the State of the World's Migratory Species Report warned that nearly half of migratory species populations are declining globally.
- ❖ The report is prepared under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ It assesses the conservation status of 1,189 migratory species listed under the CMS treaty.
- ❖ The report shows that about 49% of migratory species populations are declining.
- ❖ Around 24% of these species face the risk of extinction.
- ❖ Major threats include habitat loss, overexploitation, infrastructure development, and diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1).



STATE NEWS

herSTART 5.0 Programme

- ❖ The herSTART 5.0 programme was launched in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, to support women entrepreneurs.

- ❖ The programme is implemented by the Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council.
- ❖ It provides incubation, mentorship and market access for women-led startups.
- ❖ The programme aims to increase the participation of women in the startup ecosystem.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Chicago Alumni Award



- ❖ K.V. Subramanian became the first Indian economist to receive the University of Chicago Alumni Award for Professional Achievement(2026).
- ❖ It is the first time in the award's 85-year history that an Indian economist has received it.

- ❖ K.V. Subramanian served as Chief Economic Adviser of India (2018–2021).
- ❖ He also served as Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Hurun Rich List 2026



- ❖ Hurun Rich List 2026 reported that India has 308 billionaires, ranking third in the world after the United States and China.
- ❖ The total wealth of Indian billionaires reached ₹112.6 trillion, a 10% increase from the previous year.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani remained the richest person in India and Asia with a net worth of ₹9.8 trillion.
- ❖ Gautam Adani ranked second with a net worth of ₹7.5 trillion.

- ❖ Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of HCL Technologies, ranked third and is the only woman among India's top 10 richest people.
- ❖ Mumbai has the highest number of billionaires in India with 95 billionaires.

