TNPSC BITS

- The United States conducted a test launch of the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, a land-based nuclear missile with an operational range of over 6,000 miles (about 13,000 km).

- Actor Shah Rukh Khan entered the Hurun Global Rich List 2026 with an estimated net worth of $1.3 billion.

- Prime Minister of India inaugurated India's first Ring Metro in Delhi.

- Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) won a majority in the 2026 general elections, and its leader, Balendra Shah, is set to become the next Prime Minister.

- R.M. Nachammai became the first woman to head a working nuclear power plant in India as Chief Superintendent of Kaiga Generating Station Units 3 and 4 in Karnataka from 15 March 2026.

- Droupadi Murmu has addressed the 9th International Santal Conference in Darjeeling, organised by the International Santal Council, which focuses on preserving Santal culture, language, and traditions.

  o The Santhal are one of the largest tribal communities in India, mainly living in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar.

- Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation deployed the AI robot G-SPIDER at Amayizhanchan canal under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0 to clean debris and avoid manual scavenging.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Chennai Mangrove Restoration

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department planted 20,000 mangrove seedlings along the Buckingham Canal to strengthen Chennai's coastal ecosystem and improve climate resilience.

- The mangrove restoration is part of a phased programme to establish a green belt of mangrove species in the district.

- During 2024–25, about 12,500 seedlings of six species — Rhizophora mucronata, Bruguiera cylindrica, Avicennia marina, Aegiceras corniculatum, Excoecaria agallocha, and Acanthus ilicifolius — were planted across 20 hectares.

❖ In the second phase, around 5,000 mangrove saplings of species including Rhizophora mucronata, Rhizophora apiculata, Avicennia marina, and Excoecaria agallocha were planted at the Battle of Adyar Island on the Adyar River estuary.

❖ The latest phase involves planting 20,000 seedlings of five species: Avicennia marina, Avicennia officinalis, Rhizophora mucronata, Rhizophora apiculata, and Excoecaria agallocha.

❖ The step-by-step restoration aims to rebuild Chennai's mangrove cover, create a living coastal bioshield, protect the shoreline, nurture biodiversity, and strengthen the city's resilience to cyclones and sea-level rise.

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has planted 20,000 mangrove seedlings across 20 hectares along the Buckingham Canal during 2025–26 to as part of efforts to strengthen Chennai's coastal ecosystem & boost climate resilience.

To support mangrove growth, officials created a "fishbone" canal network with eight main canals, eight feeder canals & 186 distribution channels to ensure proper tidal flow & enable saline water to circulate through the plantation area.

The restoration drive, carried out by Chennai Forest Division with CSR support from ICICI Bank, is part of a phased plan to rebuild mangrove cover & create a coastal bioshield that protects the shoreline, boosts biodiversity, & improves resilience to cyclones & sea-level rise.

State Planning Commission Reports

❖ The State Planning Commission (SPC) submitted 15 studies and reports on government schemes and emerging sectors to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

❖ The reports were handed over by J. Jeyaranjan, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Commission, offering policy insights to strengthen key development initiatives in the State.

❖ The studies examined athlete development, competitive performance, and ecosystem strengthening.

❖ Tamil Nadu accounts for 36 of India's 89 Chess Grandmasters and is home to 2 World Chess Champions.

❖ The State produced 4 medallists at the Paris Paralympics and fielded 12 Olympians at Paris, including 6 athletes in track and field events.

❖ Another study on Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Future Workforce focused on preparing all levels of the workforce for the age of Artificial Intelligence and highlighted institutional, policy, and programmatic foundations built over the past 2–3 years.

❖ The SPC also conducted an in-depth analysis of the status of platform-based gig workers in Tamil Nadu.

❖ An impact assessment was carried out for Illam Thedi Kalvi 2.0, the Tamil Pudhalvan Scheme, and the nutritional assessment of Anganwadi-going children.
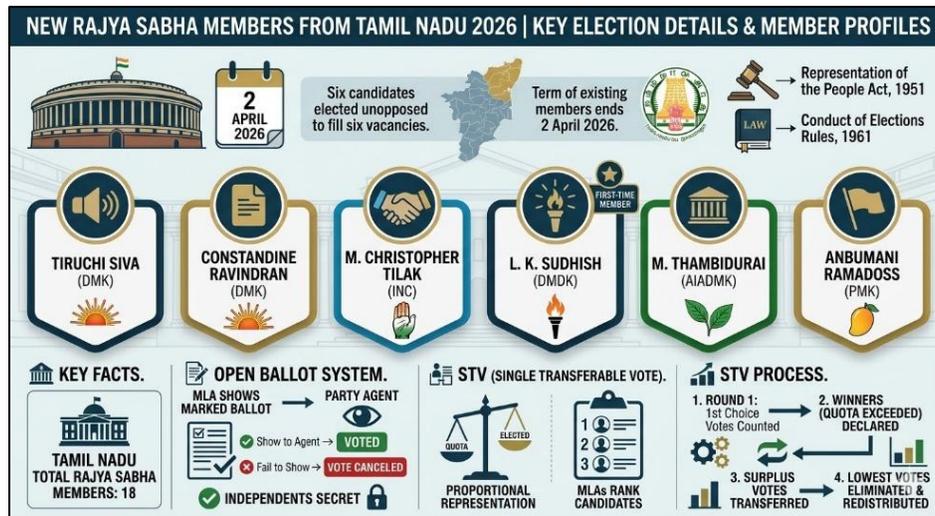

V.O.C. Port - Windmill Handling Record

VOC Port reaches new milestone, Import handling of 103 Windmill Blades on a single ship

- ❖ V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, set a national record by handling 147 windmill blades from a single vessel.
- ❖ This surpasses the previous record of 103 windmill blades handled by V.O.C. Port in November 2025.
- ❖ It marked the highest volume handled from a single vessel at any port in the country.
- ❖ The vessel MV Bo Run Jiu Zhou, loaded with 147 windmill blades, arrived from the Port of Qinzhou, China.
- ❖ V.O.C. Port is recognized as the leading windmill blade handling port in India.

New Rajya Sabha Members from Tamil Nadu 2026

- ❖ Six candidates have been elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu to fill six vacancies as the term of existing members ends on 2 April 2026.
- ❖ The elected members are Tiruchi Siva and Constandine Ravindran (DMK), M. Christopher Tilak (INC), L. K. Sudhish (DMDK), M. Thambidurai (AIADMK), and Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK).
- ❖ The candidates were declared elected unopposed by Returning Officer R. Santhi in accordance with Section 53(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and Rule 11(1) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.
- ❖ Manickam and Sudhish are being elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a total of 18 members in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ Rajya Sabha elections use an open ballot system, where each MLA must show their marked ballot to their party's authorized agent before casting it.
- ❖ Failure to do so cancels the vote.

- Independent MLAs keep their votes secret.
- The election follows Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote (STV).
- MLAs rank candidates in order of preference.
- In Round 1, all first-choice votes are counted.
- A candidate wins by reaching a specific quota calculated from the total MLAs and seats available.
- Winners exceeding the quota are declared elected.
- Surplus votes are transferred to second-choice candidates.
- If seats remain unfilled, the candidate with the lowest votes is eliminated and their votes redistributed based on the next preferences.

NATIONAL NEWS

LaBL 2.0 initiative

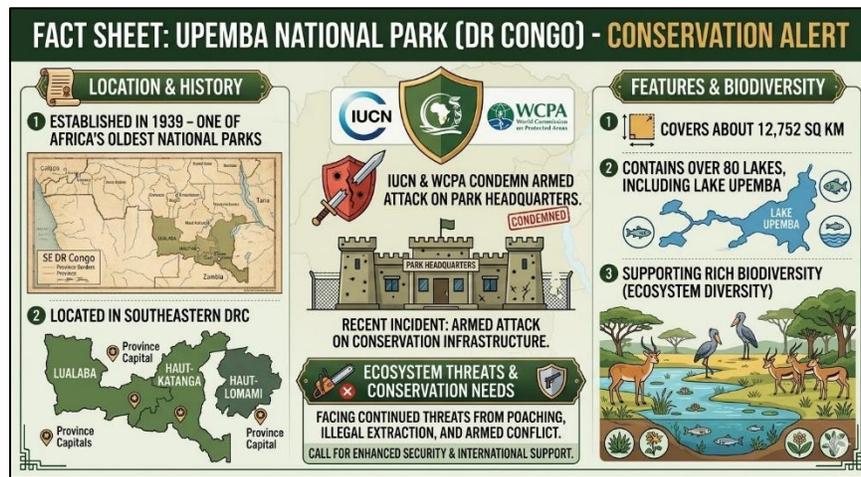

- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched LaBL 2.0 (Lighting a Billion Lives 2.0) in New Delhi to expand decentralized renewable energy in India.
- It promotes Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) solutions such as solar power in rural and off-grid areas.
- It is the second phase of the Lighting a Billion Lives initiative, which was first launched in 2008 by (TERI).
- The programme supports clean energy access, rural livelihoods, and women-led clean energy enterprises.
- It uses Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems to measure climate benefits and carbon emission reductions.
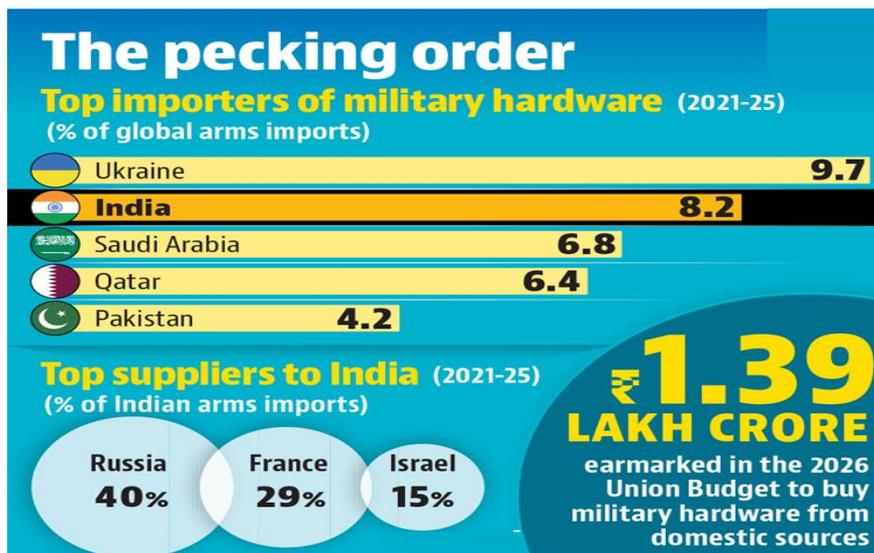
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Upemba National Park

❖ An armed attack held on the headquarters of Upemba National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

❖ Upemba National Park is one of the oldest national parks in Africa, established in 1939.

❖ It is located in southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, across Lualaba, Haut-Katanga and Haut-Lomami provinces.

❖ The Park covers about 12,752 square kilometres and contains over 80 lakes, including Lake Upemba, supporting rich biodiversity.
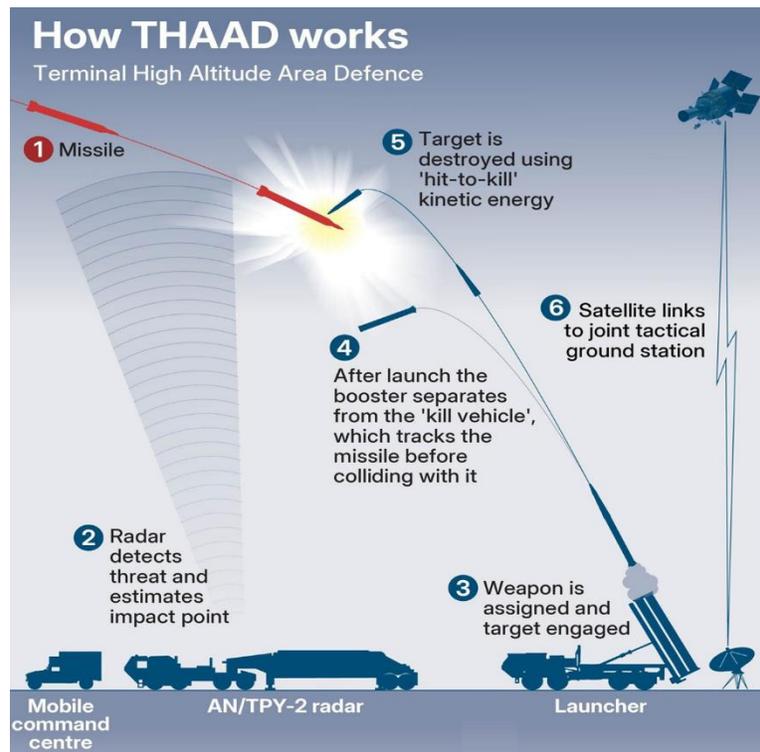

Global Arms Imports 2021–2025

- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reported that India ranked second in global arms imports during 2021–2025.

- India accounted for about 8.2% of total global arms imports during this period.

- According to the report, Ukraine is ranked first, followed by India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan.

- India has gradually reduced dependence on Russia and increased arms purchases from **France, Israel, and the United States.

- Russia's share in India's arms imports declined from about 70% (2011–2015) to around 40% (2021–2025).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile

How THAAD works
Terminal High Altitude Area Defence

1 Missile
2 Radar detects threat and estimates impact point
3 Weapon is assigned and target engaged
4 After launch the booster separates from the 'kill vehicle', which tracks the missile before colliding with it
5 Target is destroyed using 'hit-to-kill' kinetic energy
6 Satellite links to joint tactical ground station

Mobile command centre
AN/TPY-2 radar
Launcher

- The THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence) missile defence system developed by the United States Department of Defence is being used during the Israel–Iran conflict of 2026 to intercept ballistic missiles.

- THAAD is an advanced ballistic missile defence system designed to intercept short, medium and limited intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their final stage of flight.

- It uses "hit-to-kill" technology, where the interceptor destroys the incoming missile by direct collision using kinetic energy instead of an explosive warhead.
- The system can intercept missiles at a range of about 150–200 kilometres and at high altitude inside or outside the Earth's atmosphere.
- THAAD works as part of the BMDS (Ballistic Missile Defence System) and can integrate with systems like MIM-104 Patriot.

Precision Strike Missile

PRECISION STRIKE MISSILE MAKES COMBAT APPEARANCE

- The PrSM (Precision Strike Missile) was reportedly used by the United States Army during strikes in the West Asia conflict involving Iran.
- PrSM is a long-range surface-to-surface precision-guided missile.
- It is designed to replace ATACMS (Army Tactical Missile System) used by the U.S. military.
- The missile can strike targets at a range of about 60 km to over 499 km with high precision.
- It can be launched from MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) and HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) platforms.
- It is designed to attack enemy air defence systems, command centres, and logistics bases in deep-strike operations.

IMPORTANT DAYS

CISF Raising Day 2026 - March 10

- CISF Raising Day 2026 is observed on March 10 to mark the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

- ❖ The CISF was established in 1969 under the CISF Act, 1968, to provide security for critical industrial facilities in India.
- ❖ It protects airports, metro rail networks, nuclear plants, seaports, government buildings, and major public events.

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