

March - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister also released the book 100-Year-Old Trees of Chennai, a comprehensive guide documenting centenarian trees in the city.
 - The book is part of the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, aimed at scientifically documenting trees that are over 100 years old.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet of India approved international status for Madurai Airport, which is expected to boost tourism, trade and economic development in southern Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Durga Puja in Kolkata, a 10-day festival marking the victory of Goddess Durga over Mahishasura, will be observed from 17–21 October 2026.
- ❖ The cheetah population in India reached 53 after Jwala gave birth to five cubs at Kuno National Park, increasing the number of Indian-born cheetah cubs to 33.
- ❖ The International Day of Women Judges was observed on 10 March every year to promote equal participation of women in the judiciary and increase their presence in courts and judicial leadership roles.
- ❖ No Smoking Day was observed on 11 March every year to encourage people to quit tobacco and adopt healthier lifestyles.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

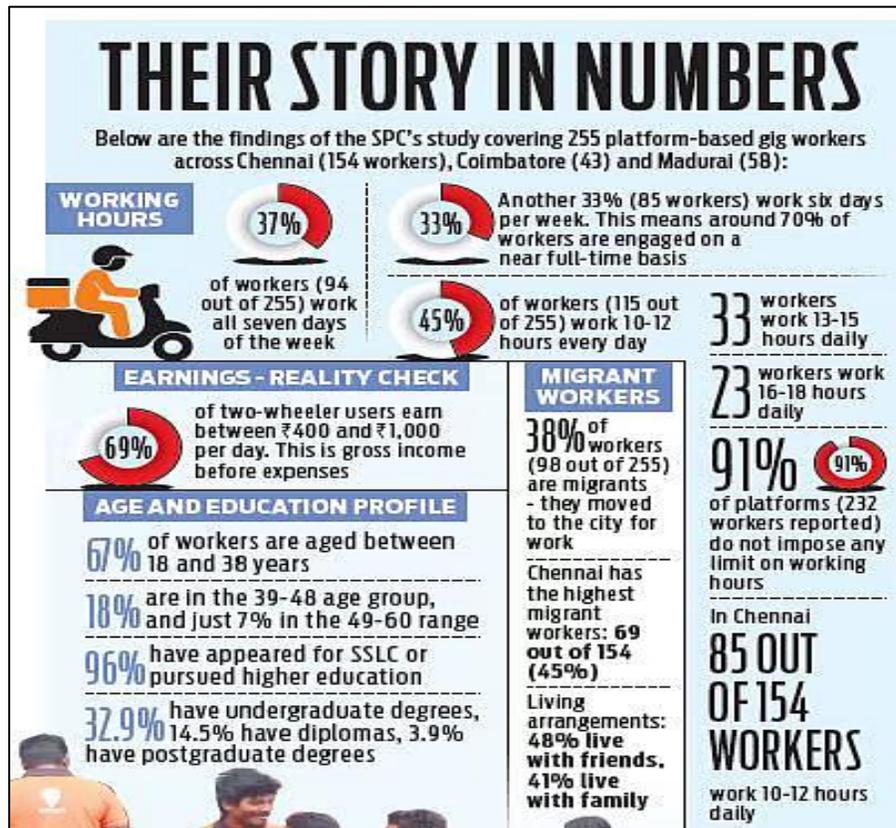
Katranai Thoorum Arivu Statue



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the Katranai Thoorum Arivu statue at Marina Beach highlighting the significance of continuous learning.

- ❖ The statue was installed by the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation under the School Education Department.
- ❖ The name Katranai Thoorum Arivu is borrowed from a Thirukkural couplet emphasizing the importance of lifelong education.

Tamil Nadu Study on Gig Workers



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission released a study on the status of platform-based gig workers in Tamil Nadu and suggested measures for their welfare and social security.
- ❖ The report recommends legal protection for gig workers to form unions for collective bargaining and representation.
- ❖ It suggests creating Social Security Funds covering benefits such as health insurance, maternity support, pensions, disability and accidental death benefits.
- ❖ The Commission proposes mandatory registration of gig workers and platforms on the e-Shram system.
- ❖ Platforms with more than 50 workers should set up internal dispute resolution committees with a State-appointed ombudsman.

Tamil Nadu Governor - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar



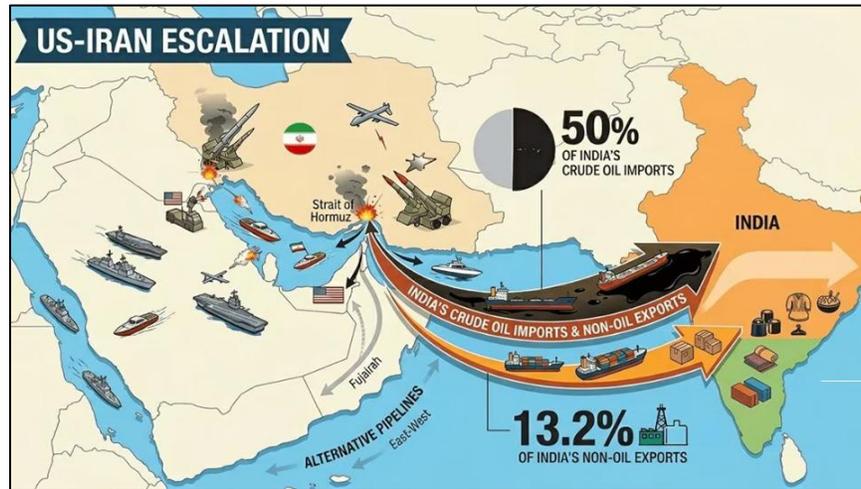
- ❖ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been appointed to additionally discharge the functions of the Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He assumed office at Raj Bhavan Chennai on 12 March 2026.
- ❖ Hailing from Goa, Mr. Arlekar assumed office as Governor of Kerala in January 2025.
- ❖ The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari.
- ❖ Former Governor R. N. Ravi completed his tenure and left the State on 11 March 2026 and now appointed as the Governor of West Bengal
- ❖ R. N. Ravi had assumed office as Governor of Tamil Nadu on 18 September 2021.

NATIONAL NEWS

Diversification of India's Energy Basket

- ❖ India is exploring new energy sources and diversifying crude oil imports due to the Strait of Hormuz disruptions amid the Iran-Israel conflict.
- ❖ India has started importing crude oil from about 40 countries to strengthen energy security.
- ❖ Around 60% of India's crude imports now arrive through alternate routes.

- ❖ India imported nearly 300 million metric tonnes of crude oil and petroleum products in 2024–25.
- ❖ The country meets about 88% of crude oil needs and 51% of gas demand through imports.
- ❖ India signed a \$3 billion Liquefied Natural Gas deal with the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited maintains Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur (Udupi, Karnataka).



Pavini Shukla vs Union of India case

"India has more girl orphans than boys – not because they're orphaned but because more are abandoned by family."



This Woman's Tireless Fight Made Supreme Court Order Free Private School Education For Orphans



- ❖ The Supreme Court of India in the Pavini Shukla vs Union of India (UoI) case suggested implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to address gender bias in personal laws.
- ❖ Uniform Civil Code (UCC) aims to replace religion-based personal laws with a common law for all citizens, irrespective of religion, caste, creed or gender.
- ❖ Article 44 of the Constitution of India directs the State to secure a UCC for citizens across India.
- ❖ Matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption and succession fall under the Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule) allowing both Centre and States to make the laws.
- ❖ UCC aims to ensure gender justice, secularism, simplified legal procedures and national unity.
- ❖ Uttarakhand is the first State in independent India to implement UCC, while Goa follows the Portuguese Civil Code (1867) as a common civil law.
- ❖ The 21st Law Commission of India (2018) said a nationwide UCC is not necessary at present, suggesting reforms in existing family laws instead.

Press Note 3 Relaxation

CABINET MEET OUTCOME

- **CABINET APPROVES RELAXATION UNDER PRESS NOTE 3**
- **FDI FROM CHINA APPROVED WITH CERTAIN RIDERS**
- **CABINET APPROVES AMENDMENT TO IBC CODE**
- **CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO COMPANIES ACT ALSO APPROVED**
- **EXTENSION TO JAL JEEVAN MISSION GET CABINET APPROVAL**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet of India has approved a partial relaxation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules under Press Note 3 (2020) for countries sharing land borders with India.
- ❖ Press Note 3 (2020) requires government approval for investments from neighbouring countries such as China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Afghanistan.

- ❖ The policy was introduced in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies.
- ❖ The new relaxation allows limited FDI in selected manufacturing sectors such as capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, and solar manufacturing inputs (polysilicon and ingot-wafer).
- ❖ Strategic sectors like semiconductors remain restricted.
- ❖ Investments up to 10% beneficial ownership from land-border countries can be allowed through the automatic route, while majority ownership must remain with Indian entities.

Passive Euthanasia Case

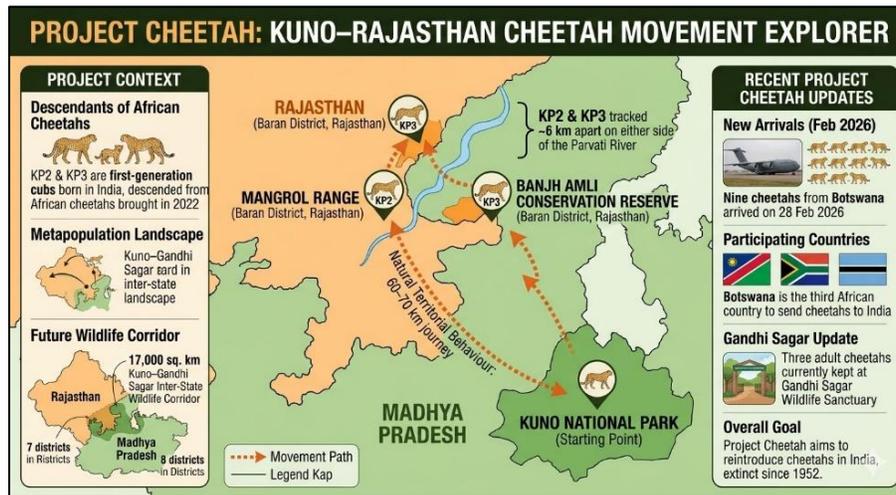
WHAT IS EUTHANASIA? A medical practice that involves intentionally ending a person's life to relieve suffering from an incurable or irreversible condition		
Active Euthanasia		
Direct action taken to end a patient's life	What it means Administering a lethal injection to cause death.	Legal status Illegal and considered an offence
Passive Euthanasia		
Allowing a patient to die naturally by withholding or withdrawing medical treatment that sustains life		
What it means Stopping ventilator support, CPR, or feeding tubes when recovery is impossible		
Legal status Legal under strict guidelines since 2018		
Allowed only after approval of a medical board and a patient's advance directive or living will, or family consent when the patient is incapable		
		
SC verdict in 2011 Aruna Shanbaug Case		
➤ Rejected request for euthanasia for Aruna Shanbaug, a nurse in Mumbai's KEM Hospital, who was left in a permanent vegetative state for 42 years after an assault in 1973		
➤ But allowed passive euthanasia under strict conditions for terminal and irreversible patients		
➤ Became the first legal recognition of passive euthanasia in India		
➤ Aruna was continued under care and passed away naturally in 2015		

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India allowed withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for Harish Rana, a 32-year-old man in a vegetative state since 2013, marking the first court-approved implementation of passive euthanasia in India.
- ❖ The bench of J. B. Pardiwala and K. V. Vishwanathan permitted withdrawal of medical treatment, including clinically assisted nutrition.
- ❖ The Court directed All India Institute of Medical Sciences to implement palliative end-of-life care ensuring dignity and comfort.
- ❖ Medical boards formed by the Court concluded that his condition was irreversible with negligible chances of recovery.
- ❖ Passive euthanasia means withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment, while active euthanasia (assisted dying) remains illegal under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.
- ❖ The legal basis comes from Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which the Court interprets as including the right to die with dignity.

- ❖ Earlier judgments such as Aruna Shanbaug case and Common Cause v. Union of India laid the framework for passive euthanasia in India.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Kuno-Rajasthan Cheetah Movement



- ❖ Two cheetahs were tracked in the Mangrol range of Baran and Banjh Aml Conservation Reserve, travelling 60–70 km from Kuno National Park.
- ❖ The cheetahs, KP2 and KP3, are about 6 km apart on either side of the Parvati River.
- ❖ They are first-generation cubs born in India, descended from African cheetahs brought in 2022 under Project Cheetah.
- ❖ The project allows inter-State movement within the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar meta population landscape.
- ❖ It supports the plan for a 17,000 sq. km Kuno-Gandhi Sagar inter-State wildlife corridor covering 7 districts of Rajasthan and 8 districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Nine cheetahs from Botswana arrived in India on 28 February 2026 under Project Cheetah.
- ❖ Botswana is the third African country to send cheetahs to India after Namibia and South Africa since September 2022.
- ❖ Project Cheetah aims to reintroduce cheetahs in India, which became extinct in 1952.
- ❖ Three adult cheetahs are currently kept at the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.

STATE NEWS

Mizo Language – Eighth Schedule Proposal

- ❖ The Mizoram Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution seeking inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The inclusion of the Mizo language will not affect the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status of the Mizo community under the Scheduled Tribes Order, 1950.
- ❖ Currently, the Eighth Schedule recognises 22 languages, which receive the government support for the development and use in official examinations and administration.
- ❖ The State government also suggested exploring Sixth Schedule status for the entire Mizoram, similar to arrangements in Meghalaya.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Archaeological Finds on Pambai River Banks





- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology found Iron Age cultural materials during archaeological exploration along the Pambai River.
- ❖ Discoveries include Iron Age urn burials, potsherds, glass beads, ring wells and ceramics.
- ❖ The survey was conducted in several villages of Villupuram.
- ❖ Archaeological remains were found at habitation mounds and burial sites.
- ❖ The materials belong to the Iron Age, Early Historic and Historic periods.

