

March - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ World Kidney Day was observed on 12 March, which falls on the second Thursday of March every year, to raise awareness about kidney health and the prevention of kidney diseases.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Kidney Health for All – Caring for People, Protecting the Planet.”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

HPV Vaccination Drive in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu launches CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION PROGRAM

- A total of 3,38,649 girls below 14 years will receive the HPV vaccine free of cost.
- 1st time such a large-scale HPV vaccination program is being introduced in India.
- Program will be implemented through government healthcare facilities.

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu reported 81% coverage in the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme in four pilot districts within six weeks.
- ❖ The programme was launched on 27 January 2026 to vaccinate 14-year-old girls to prevent Cervical Cancer.
- ❖ The pilot project was implemented in Ariyalur, Tiruvannamalai, Perambalur and Dharmapuri districts.
- ❖ Around 27,000 girls were identified, and about 81% received the single-dose HPV vaccine.

- ❖ The programme is now expanding across the State following the Government of India's nationwide HPV vaccination campaign.

Tamil Nadu Industrial Projects

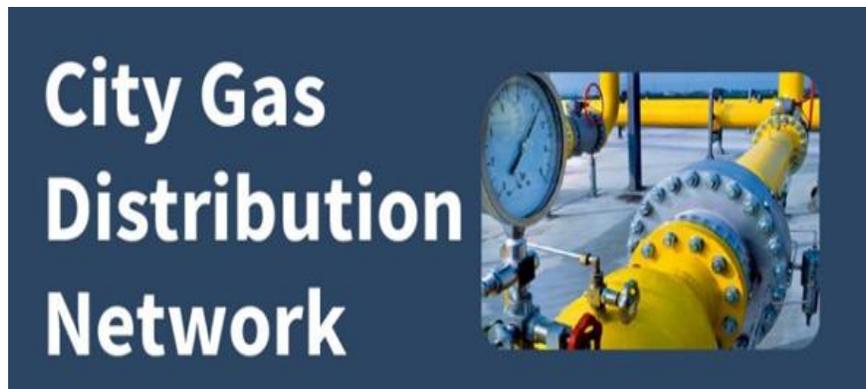


- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has launched multiple industrial and development projects in Chennai.
- ❖ The foundation stone was laid for a battery pack manufacturing unit by Ashok Leyland at Pillaipakkam (Kancheepuram district) with an investment of ₹500 crore.
- ❖ Mini Tidel Parks will be constructed in Karur, Nagapattinam and Pudukkottai districts at a total cost of ₹119 crore.
- ❖ A MoU was signed with Hirose Electric Group to establish an electrical and electronic connectors manufacturing unit in Tiruvallur district with an investment of ₹100 crore.
- ❖ Another MoU was signed with the University of California, Berkeley, to strengthen cooperation for green energy development in Tamil Nadu.

City Gas Distribution Network

- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a City Gas Distribution (CGD) network project by Bharat Petroleum.
- ❖ The project will be implemented in the Nilgiris district and the Erode district.

- ❖ It aims to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to around nine lakh households and several commercial establishments.
- ❖ CGD is a network of underground pipelines used to supply natural gas to households, industries and vehicles.
- ❖ Natural gas is considered a cleaner fuel compared to conventional fuels such as coal and diesel.
- ❖ The CGD network project is expected to reduce emissions and support environmental sustainability in the region.
- ❖ The Prime Minister also dedicated the Lube Blending Plant of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in Chennai to the nation.
- ❖ The plant is considered one of the world's largest lubricant blending facilities and will supply lubricants to various industries within and outside Tamil Nadu, reducing import dependence.
- ❖ The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for a highway bypass at Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district.



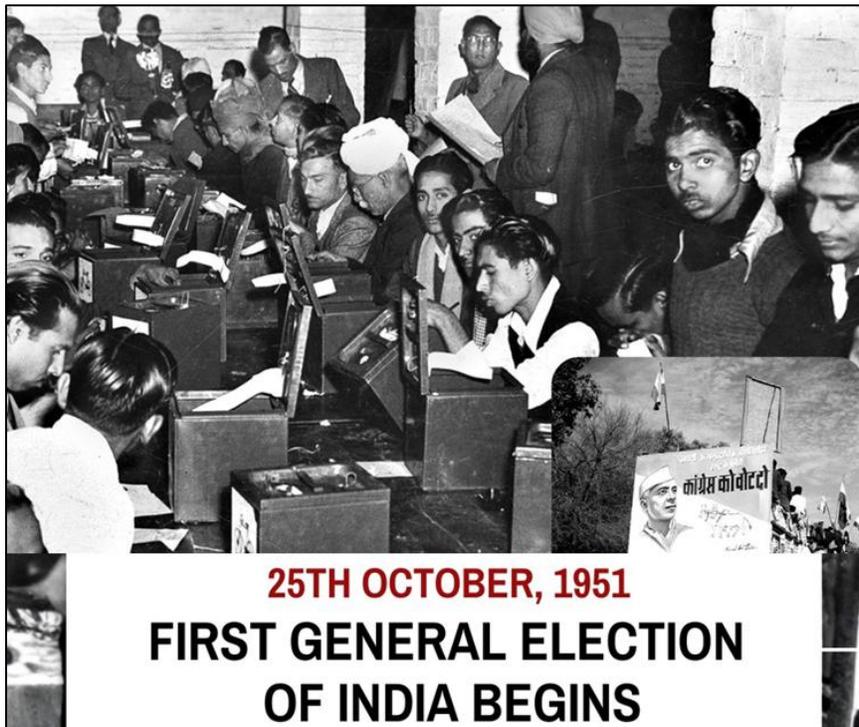
1952 Elections in Madras State

- ❖ In the first elections held in 1951-52 after the country became a Republic with the system of a universal adult suffrage in place, the major contestants were the Congress and the Communist Party of India (CPI).
- ❖ Despite the Congress having its State-level units established on linguistic lines such as the Andhra Committee and the Kerala Committee for over 20 years, the State of Andhra had not yet come into being.
- ❖ The leadership of the Congress, which was sympathetic to the idea of States on linguistic lines, did not, however, take a categorical stand in favour of it.
- ❖ Leaders including C. Rajagopalachari or Rajaji were against the idea.
- ❖ They held the view this would lead to fissiparous tendencies in the country.



- ❖ They found it then extremely difficult to come to terms with the reality after Partition.
- ❖ Rajaji had argued that the “mix of languages and cultures” had been Tamil Nadu’s (then called Madras) strength.
- ❖ And if divided on the basis of language, the province, “once so big and important and progressive, will hereafter grow narrow-minded and intensely anti-culture”.
- ❖ The sitting Chief Minister P.S. Kumaraswami Raja (secured an overwhelming majority in 1946), and most of his Ministers lost in the then elections.
- ❖ So, a hung Assembly came up.
- ❖ In the House of 375 members, the Congress obtained 152 seats only but it remained as the single largest party.
- ❖ The CPI, which finished second, garnered 62 seats.
- ❖ It was in Chennai that the CPI had announced its decision to contest the election.
- ❖ And A.K. Gopalan, one of the towering leaders of the Left movement, made the announcement
- ❖ However, the Congress party had managed to have its representative – Rajaji as Chief Minister, despite not getting a majority of its own.
- ❖ In 1952, the then Governor, Sri Prakasa nominated C. Rajagopalachari (C.R. or Rajaji) to the Legislative Council.
- ❖ It was under the constitutional provision allowing the nomination of individuals with special knowledge or practical experience in fields such as literature, science, art, the cooperative movement and social service.
- ❖ That time CR had actually retired from active politics.
- ❖ Rajaji was the only Indian to have served as Governor-General of India and accepted the Chief Minister’s post.
- ❖ The nomination of Rajaji alone had raised a political storm.
- ❖ Because he had subsequently been appointed Chief Minister of the State, which had then encompassed parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.
- ❖ The issue that continues to be debated is whether a Council of Ministers, who are in office during the period of transition after an adverse popular verdict, can recommend to the Governor for filling vacancies in the legislative House.
- ❖ And whether the Governor can act in favour of such a recommendation.
- ❖ Given such a fractured verdict, the Governor added fuel to the fire by inviting Rajaji.
- ❖ Rajaji became the leader of the Congress legislature party on March 31, 1952, to form the government.

- ❖ A surprise inclusion in the Rajaji Cabinet was the Commonweal Party's leader M. A. Manickavelu Naicker.
- ❖ By the time the Assembly was constituted in the early May, the strength of the Congress rose to 165.
- ❖ The practice that came into vogue subsequently is that no incumbent government, as soon as the model code of conduct for the Assembly election comes into force, takes any policy decision.
- ❖ If it is to take any such decision on account of exigency, it has to seek the Election Commission's nod.
- ❖ That way, Tamil Nadu having been responsible for the formulation of the practice.



NATIONAL NEWS

Natural Gas Order 2026

- ❖ The Government of India issued the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, to prioritise natural gas allocation amid global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply concerns.
- ❖ Under the order, fertilizer plants are placed under 'Priority Sector-2', ensuring at least 70% of their average natural gas supply based on the previous six months.

- ❖ The move aims to protect domestic fertilizer production and ensure adequate supply for farmers during the Kharif sowing season.
- ❖ According to the Department of Fertilizers, India's total fertilizer stock reached 180.12 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) as of 10 March 2026, about 36.6% higher than the previous year.

**GOVT ISSUES NATURAL GAS
(SUPPLY REGULATION) ORDER 2026**

GOVT SAYS

- **Necessary To Regulate Production, Sector-wise Allocation Of Natural Gas**
- **Priority Sectors Will Be Given Preference For Supply Of Natural Gas Including LNG**

Passive Euthanasia framework



The verdict marks **India's first court-ordered passive euthanasia**, pushing forward the country's right-to-die framework.

- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) applies Passive Euthanasia framework for first time.

- ❖ The SC in Harish Rana vs Union of India judgement permitted the withdrawal of artificial life support of a man.
- ❖ It was on the basis of Best Interest of the Patient Principle
- ❖ He has been in a vegetative state for more than 12 years.
- ❖ The SC waived the usual 30-day consideration period as the patient's parents and both medical boards unanimously agreed that recovery was impossible.
- ❖ It will be allowing the withdrawal of clinically assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH).
- ❖ This was the first time the Supreme Court had implemented its own 2018 Constitution Bench guidelines for what it had then called 'passive euthanasia'.
- ❖ Euthanasia refers to the hastening of a patient's death to relieve suffering.
- ❖ It is often referred to as mercy killing, typically occurring in cases where a patient suffers from an incurable or terminal distress.
- ❖ It is broadly classified into two types - Passive and Active.
- ❖ Under Passive euthanasia, a patient is allowed to die naturally by withholding or withdrawing medical treatment that sustains life.
- ❖ Therefore, it cannot be termed as the extinguishment of life or an unnatural termination of life.
- ❖ Consequently, the same is held not to fall foul of Article 21 (right to life and dignity).
- ❖ This is legal in India under strict guidelines.
- ❖ In P. Rathinam Case (1994), the SC initially held that the Right to Life includes the Right to Die, effectively de-criminalizing suicide.
- ❖ But, a Five-judge bench in Gian Kaur Case (1996), ruled that the Right to Life under Article 21 does not include the Right to Die.
- ❖ But it distinguished between dying unnaturally and dying with dignity.
- ❖ In Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug case (2011), the SC rejected a plea for euthanasia, but allowed passive euthanasia under strict conditions for terminal and irreversible patients.
- ❖ The SC legalized Passive Euthanasia in India for the first time, subject to High Court approval.
- ❖ In Common cause judgment (2018), the SC recognised it and held that right to die with dignity is a fundamental right under Article 21.
- ❖ In 2018, a Constitution Bench of the apex court had upheld passive euthanasia and the right to give advance medical directives or 'Living Wills' to smooth the dying process as part of the fundamental right to live with dignity.



- ❖ The court had ruled that the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution included the “right to die with dignity”.
- ❖ In 2026, in the present case, it laid down guidelines for it and recognised the concept of a 'living will'.
- ❖ Active euthanasia refers to the physician's deliberate act, usually the administration of lethal drugs, to end an incurably or terminally ill patient's life.
- ❖ Active euthanasia is illegal in India.
- ❖ In its judgment, the apex court acknowledged the general consensus that ‘passive euthanasia’ was an obsolete and rather confusing term.
- ❖ ‘Euthanasia’ will refer strictly to active euthanasia, which remains impermissible.
- ❖ ‘Withdrawing or Withholding of Medical Treatment’ will replace the term ‘passive euthanasia’.
- ❖ The court held that withholding of life-sustaining interventions should not be a “single act” nor an “act of abandonment” of unconscious or incompetent patients in a persistent vegetative state (PVS).
- ❖ The process of withdrawal of CANH must be part of a well-structured, tailored, robust and articulated palliative care plan for a PVS patient in his or her most vulnerable phase of life.
- ❖ The right to die with dignity is inseparable from the right to receive quality palliative and End-of-Life (EOL) care.
- ❖ The court said any decision to withdraw or withhold medical treatment must withstand scrutiny on two primary grounds.
- ❖ The first is the intervention in question must qualify as ‘medical treatment’, and secondly, its withdrawal must strictly be in the patient’s “best interests”.
- ❖ It held that CANH qualified as medical treatment, even if done at home.
- ❖ Sound medical judgment and ethical considerations both are equally important while enquiring about whether withdrawal of life support is in the ‘best interest’ of the patient.
- ❖ The court directed Chief Medical Officers in all districts to form panels of registered medical practitioners to constitute secondary medical boards to examine applications for the withdrawal of life support.
- ❖ The area Judicial Magistrates of First Class must be intimated by hospitals if a primary and second medical boards unanimously recommend withdrawal of life support in cases.
- ❖ The distinction between “active” and “passive” euthanasia goes beyond the simplistic binary of “act” versus “omission”.

- ❖ Consequently, for active euthanasia to be legally permissible, there must be an explicit legislative enactment authorizing such deprivation.

In other countries

- ❖ Several European countries have legalized forms of assisted dying, primarily including Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain, Austria, and Switzerland.
- ❖ Canada, Australia and New Zealand have all introduced assisted dying laws since 2015.
- ❖ As of mid-2025, assisted dying is illegal in the UK.
- ❖ But the House of Commons (Lower House) has passed a major bill, the "Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill".
- ❖ It aims to legalize it in England and Wales.
- ❖ In 2025, France has passed a law allowing terminally ill or gravely injured patients the right to die.

SC on creamy layer

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that income cannot be the sole criterion to decide the creamy layer among Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- ❖ It settled the long-pending question of equivalence between PSUs and private sector employees and those in the government sector.
- ❖ Earlier, those included in the 'creamy layer' are not entitled to OBC reservation benefits.
- ❖ Now, the Supreme Court's judgement will be applicable to children of parents working at PSUs and in private employment.
- ❖ It provides relief to about 100 candidates who appeared in CSEs (Civil Service Exams) since 2015 and had been denied the OBC quota.
- ❖ A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and R. Mahadevan affirmed that social status, rather than just a salary, must be the primary measure for identifying the "creamy layer".
- ❖ The Bench was hearing petitions arising due to a letter issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) with regard to the creamy layer criterion.
- ❖ It was clarifying an Official Memorandum (OM) issued long back in September 1993.
- ❖ The court noted that the OM excluded income from salary and agricultural income from the income/ wealth test for determination of creamy layer status.

- ❖ That letter dated October 14, 2004 directed inclusion of salary income of PSU and private sector employees.
- ❖ This resulted in hostile discrimination between the wards of government servants and those of PSU/private sector employees.
- ❖ It was only on the basis of their income derived from salaries.
- ❖ So, treating the children of those employed in PSUs or private employment, etc., as being excluded from the benefit of reservation only on the basis of their income derived from salaries will not be correct.
- ❖ Without reference to their posts (whether Group A or B, or Group C or D) it would certainly lead to hostile discrimination between parties who are similarly placed.
- ❖ And it would amount to equals being treated unequally.
- ❖ Thereby it was attracting the rigour of the equality doctrine under Articles 14, 15 and 16.

Background

- ❖ Following the landmark 1992 SC ruling in Indra Sawhney vs Union of India, also known as the Mandal verdict, the concept of 'creamy layer' within the OBCs was introduced.
- ❖ The idea was to exclude certain categories of OBC candidates whose families had accumulated certain social and economic privileges over the years, known as the creamy layer.
- ❖ On September 8, 1993, the DoPT issued a circular clarifying who is classified as OBC and who belongs to the creamy layer among them.
- ❖ For those in government jobs, the 'creamy layer' specifies groups such as persons occupying constitutional posts; Group-A/Class-I officers of All India Services, Central services and state services; Group-B/Class-II services of Centre and state; employees of PSUs; officers of Armed Forces; professionals and those from trade and industry; property owners; and an income/wealth test.
- ❖ If either parent is a direct recruit of Group-A, or is promoted before the age of 40, their children cannot take advantage of the OBC quota.
- ❖ Similarly, if both parents are Group-B direct recruits, their children will be covered under the creamy layer.
- ❖ For Armed Forces, officials up to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel can avail the OBC quota, but higher ranks are in the creamy layer.
- ❖ The criterion for those not in the government sector was set at Rs 1 lakh per annum in 1993.
- ❖ It was revised in due course and since 2017, this income limit is Rs 8 lakh.

- ❖ In the September 1993 circular, it was categorically stated that income from “salary” or “agriculture” would not be counted for the test of income and wealth for deciding the creamy layer status.
- ❖ But in cases of EWS, this was “included.”

Case history
Salient points from the past verdicts which dealt with the application of creamy layer concept in reservation

- **Nine-judge Bench in 1992 Indra Sawhney case:** SCs/STs are the most backward among backward classes. Once part of the Presidential List under Articles 341 & 342, there is no question of showing their backwardness again
- **Five-judge Bench in 2006 M. Nagaraj case:** Quota benefits should go to the weakest of weak and not be snatched away by members of the class who are in the “top creamy layer”
- **Five-judge Bench in 2018 Jarnail Singh case:** Creamy layer ensures that only the deserving among the SCs/STs get the benefits of reservation



No-Trust Motion Against Speaker



- ❖ The no-confidence motion brought by Opposition parties against Om Birla was dismissed by a voice vote.



- ❖ The Lok Sabha witnessed a 12-hour debate for this.
- ❖ The tradition has been that when a no-confidence motion is discussed against the Speaker, the Speaker does not occupy the Chair.
- ❖ These rare motions occurred in 1954 (against G.V. Mavalankar), 1966 (against Hukam Singh), and 1987 (against Balram Jakhar).
- ❖ In all these instances of a motion, the House was presided over for 14 days by other officers.
- ❖ The Speaker has stayed away from presiding over the Lok Sabha since the Motion of Removal against him was admitted in the first part of the Budget Session.
- ❖ BJP MP Jagdambika Pal was in the presiding officer during the debate.
- ❖ Pal sought the vote of the House, which rejected the motion by a voice vote.
- ❖ No division of votes was sought as the House was not in order.
- ❖ According to Article 94(c) under the Constitution, the Speaker can be removed only through a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Lok Sabha (Effective Majority), not merely those present and voting (Simple Majority).
- ❖ The process begins when a member submits a written notice to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha seeking removal.
- ❖ At least two Lok Sabha members have to sign the notice to move a resolution for the Speaker's removal.
- ❖ Any number of members can sign the notice, but a minimum of two is mandatory.
- ❖ At least 14 days' notice must be given before the motion can be taken up.
- ❖ Once admitted, the motion requires the support of at least 50 members to proceed for discussion in the House.
- ❖ The procedural framework governing this process is laid down in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, specifically Rules 200 to 203.
- ❖ The rules mandate that the resolution must clearly state the charges against the Speaker.
- ❖ During the debate on such a motion, the Speaker may participate in the proceedings as a member of the House.
- ❖ And while the Speaker can vote on the resolution in the first instance, he/she cannot exercise their vote in case of a tie.
- ❖ Article 96 of the Constitution bars a speaker or a Deputy Speaker from presiding over the House while a resolution for his removal from office is under consideration.
- ❖ The Speaker has a constitutional right to defend himself in the House if the resolution is discussed in the Lok Sabha.

- ❖ The language of the proposed resolution is usually examined by the deputy speaker, but since the present Lok Sabha does not have a deputy speaker, it may be examined by the senior-most member of the panel of chairpersons.
- ❖ The panel helps run the House in the Speaker's absence.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global Oil Stocks Released by IEA



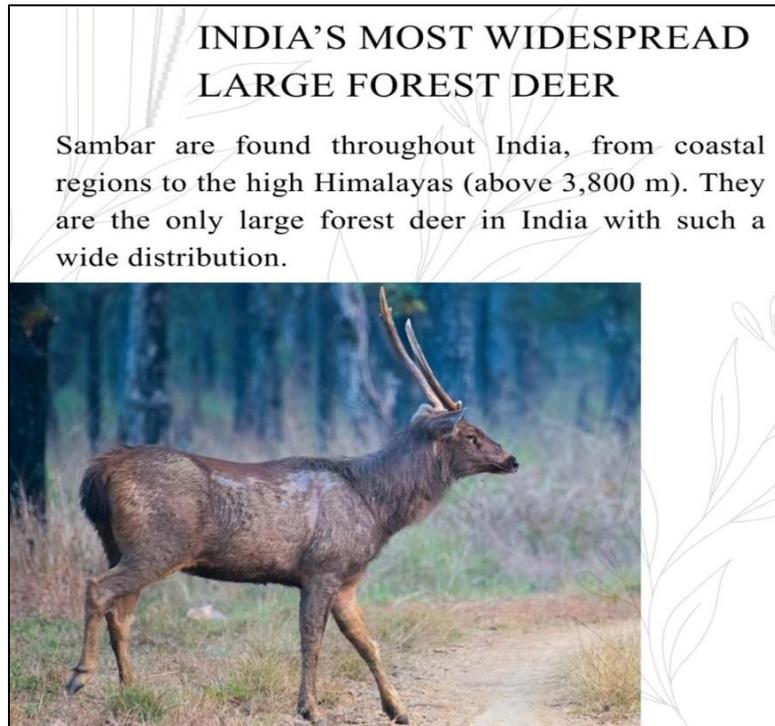
- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) will release 400 million barrels of emergency oil due to tensions in West Asia.
- ❖ The release is the largest in IEA history from member countries' strategic reserves.
- ❖ IEA member nations hold 1.2 billion barrels of public emergency oil and 600 million barrels of industry stocks under government rules.
- ❖ The decision follows attacks on commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf by Iran after US and Israeli strikes.
- ❖ Germany, Japan and Austria will release parts of their reserves.
- ❖ The release aims to stabilize global oil supply amid regional security threats.

- ❖ The Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route, has been disrupted, affecting oil transport.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Sambar Deer Recorded at High Altitudes

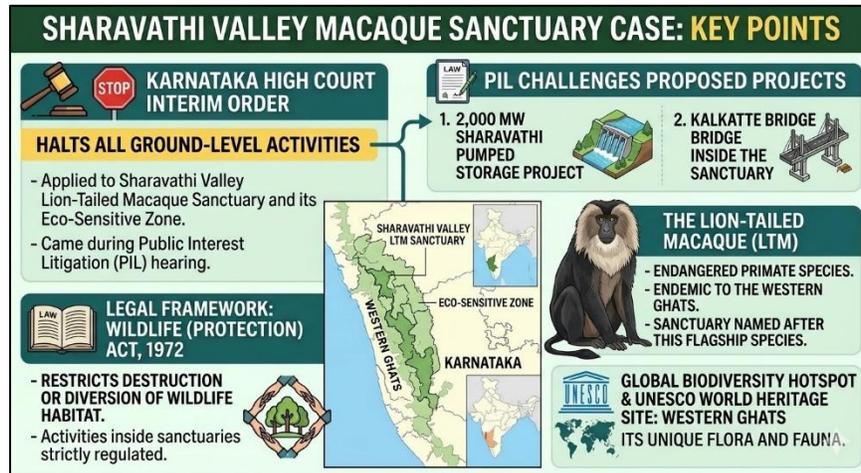
- ❖ The sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) was recorded for the first time at high-altitude protected areas in Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The species was found in Kalatop–Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary and Gamgul Wildlife Sanctuary, located at elevations above 2,500–3,000 metres.
- ❖ Sambar deer is the largest deer species in South Asia and is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The species is protected under Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary Case

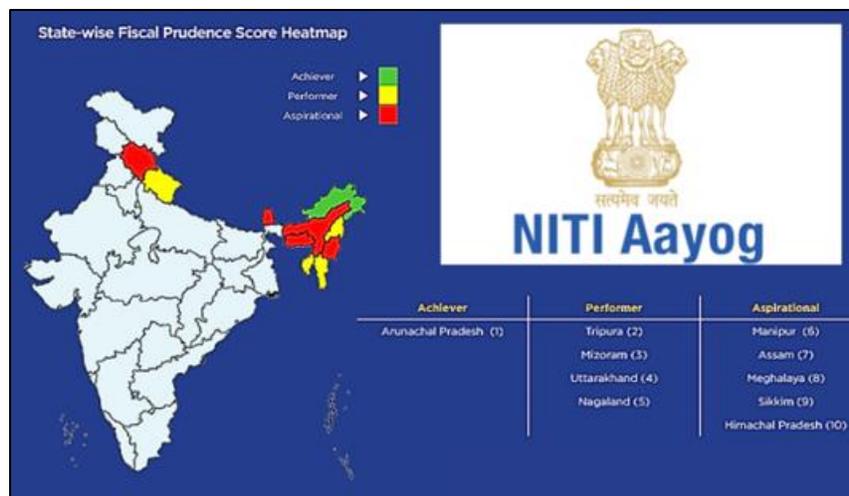
- ❖ The Karnataka High Court ordered a halt to all ground-level activities in the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary and its Eco-Sensitive Zone.
- ❖ The interim order came during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging approval for the 2,000 MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project and Kalkatte Bridge inside the sanctuary.

- ❖ The sanctuary is named after the lion-tailed macaque, an endangered primate species endemic to the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The court stated that activities inside wildlife sanctuaries are regulated under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which restricts the destruction or diversion of wildlife habitat.
- ❖ The Western Ghats are also recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a global biodiversity hotspot.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026



- ❖ NITI Aayog released the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026 to assess the financial health of Indian states.

- ❖ States account for nearly one-third of India's government debt and deliver key public services, making systematic evaluation of finances important.
- ❖ Top-performing states in the Achiever category are Odisha, Goa, and Jharkhand, with high own-tax revenue, large capital outlay (4–5% of Gross State Domestic Product), and low fiscal deficit (below 3% of GSDP).
- ❖ Bottom states include Punjab, West Bengal, and Kerala due to higher non-developmental spending and weaker fiscal patterns.
- ❖ For North-Eastern and Himalayan states, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand rank highest, while Himachal Pradesh and Manipur rank low because of weak revenue and persistent fiscal stress.
- ❖ The FHI evaluates states on five key pillars: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability using data from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

STATE NEWS

Cash Assistance Schemes for Women 2026



ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL **WOMEN'S DAY**, THE GOVERNMENTS OF **ASSAM** AND **MANIPUR** ANNOUNCED MAJOR CASH **INCENTIVES** AIMED AT SUPPORTING AND **EMPOWERING** WOMEN. IN ASSAM, THE STATE GOVERNMENT REVEALED PLANS TO DISTRIBUTE AROUND **₹3,600** CRORE TO NEARLY **40 LAKH** FAMILIES UNDER WELFARE INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON WOMEN'S FINANCIAL **SECURITY**. MEANWHILE, THE MANIPUR GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A **₹350-CRORE** SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR ABOUT **3.5 LAKH WOMEN** AFFECTED BY THE STATE'S RECENT **VIOLENCE** AND ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS, HIGHLIGHTING EFFORTS TO PROVIDE RELIEF AND **PROMOTE** WOMEN'S WELFARE.

ASSAM, MANIPUR ANNOUNCE CASH INCENTIVES FOR WOMEN ON WOMEN'S DAY

- ❖ On International Women's Day, the state governments of Assam and Manipur announced cash assistance for women, while Punjab rolled out a monthly stipend for eligible women.

- ❖ Assam announced that ₹9,000 each will be transferred to about 40 lakh beneficiary families under the Orunodoi Scheme through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on 10 March 2026.
- ❖ The scheme, launched on 2 October 2020, aims to empower women and support poor families; the ₹9,000 includes a Bihu bonus and four monthly instalments (January–April).
- ❖ The total disbursement will be about ₹3,600 crore, making it one of the largest single-day fund transfers in Assam’s history.
- ❖ Manipur Government earmarked ₹350 crore to assist about 3.5 lakh women affected by ethnic conflict in the State.
- ❖ In Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party government announced a monthly stipend scheme for eligible women in its last Budget before the next Assembly election.

Freedom of Religion Bill 2026



- ❖ The Chhattisgarh government approved the Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 to prevent illegal religious conversions.
- ❖ The bill prohibits conversions done by force, fraud, inducement (including financial incentives), or undue influence.
- ❖ The law applies to all religions and ensures conversions happen voluntarily.
- ❖ It mandates that any conversion through prohibited methods is punishable under the law.

- ❖ The bill aligns with the Indian Constitution (Articles 25–28), which guarantees freedom of religion but allows regulation in the interest of public order, morality, and health.
- ❖ The proposal aims to regulate religious conversions while maintaining public order in the state.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Jurassic Era Dinosaur Nest

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a 150-million-year-old dinosaur egg nest at Santa Cruz Beach in Torres Vedras, Portugal.
- ❖ The fossilised nest contains 10 dinosaur eggs preserved in their original nesting arrangement in sandstone cliffs.
- ❖ The eggs belong to the Upper Jurassic Period (about 163–145 million years ago).
- ❖ Preliminary analysis suggests the eggs may belong to a carnivorous theropod dinosaur.



New Ancient Reptile Species

- ❖ Scientists discovered a new ancient reptile species named *Sonselasuchus cedrus* that lived about 225–201 million years ago during the Late Triassic period.

- ❖ These fossils were found in Petrified Forest National Park, US.
- ❖ The species belongs to the shuvosaurid group, a lineage of reptiles related to ancient crocodile ancestors within the archosaur group.
- ❖ The discovery helps scientists understand the evolution and diversity of reptiles that lived alongside early dinosaurs.

