

March - 15

TNPSC BITS

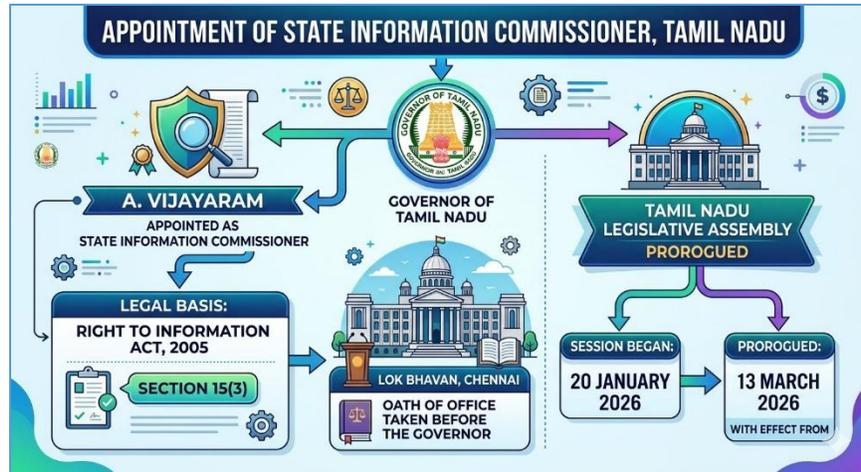
- ❖ Scientists discovered two new fruit fly species — *Acidoxantha paratotoflava* and *Hemilea suneriae* — in the Himalayan foothills of the Solan region, Himachal Pradesh.
 - The study also recorded the fruit fly genus *Rhagoletis* in India for the first time; these species belong to the Trypetinae subfamily.
- ❖ Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) won the 12th PSU National Award for its accessibility initiative Dhwani Spandana.
 - Dhwani Spandana is an onboard system that helps visually impaired passengers identify buses and travel independently.
- ❖ The Indian Orchid Festival 2026 concluded in Pakyong district of Sikkim under the theme of “Orchids for Beauty & Prosperity.”
- ❖ The 11th edition of Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2026 is being conducted between India and Seychelles, at the Seychelles Defence Academy.
- ❖ The 12th Asian and Pacific Regional Prosecutors Conference was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ RBI authorised CRED to operate as a Payment Aggregator.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launched ‘Araku Kouni’, the State’s first tribal millet-based food menu featuring traditional recipes from Alluri Sitarama Raju District.
- ❖ The International Day to Combat Islamophobia on 15 March raises awareness about discrimination against Muslims and promotes tolerance, human rights, and action against hate speech.
- ❖ Pi Day is celebrated globally on March 14 every year because the first three digits of the mathematical constant π (pi), 3.14159, match the date 3/14.
 - The theme for the year is 2026 “Mathematics and hope.”

TAMIL NADU NEWS

State Information Commissioner - Vijayaram

- ❖ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Tamil Nadu, appointed A. Vijayaram as State Information Commissioner.
- ❖ The appointment was made under Section 15(3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

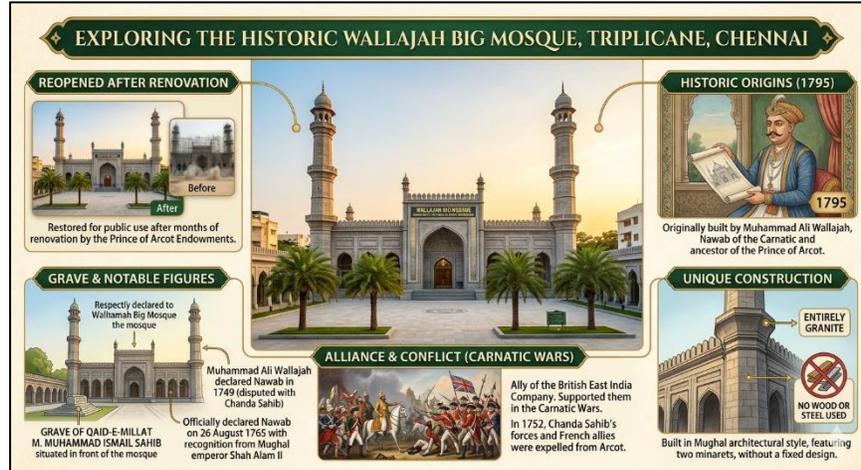
- ❖ A. Vijayaram took the oath of office before the Governor at Lok Bhavan.
- ❖ The Governor also prorogued the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly with effect from 13 March 2026.
- ❖ The Assembly session had begun on 20 January 2026.



Wallajah Big Mosque

- ❖ The historic Wallajah Big Mosque has reopened after months of renovation by the Prince of Arcot Endowments.
- ❖ The Wallajah Big Mosque, also called the Triplicane Big Mosque, is a historic mosque located in Triplicane, Chennai.
- ❖ It was originally built in 1795 by Muhammad Ali Wallajah, the Nawab of the Carnatic and ancestor of the Prince of Arcot.
- ❖ The mosque was constructed entirely of granite, without using wood or steel.
- ❖ It was built in the Mughal architectural style, featuring two minarets, though it does not follow a fixed architectural design.
- ❖ The grave of Qaid-e-Millat M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib is situated in front of the mosque.
- ❖ Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah declared himself Nawab in 1749, but his position was disputed with Chanda Sahib.
- ❖ In 1752, after several clashes, Chanda Sahib's forces and his French allies were expelled from Arcot.
- ❖ Wallajah was officially declared Nawab on 26 August 1765, with recognition from Mughal emperor Shah Alam II.
- ❖ He was an ally of the British East India Company and supported them in the Carnatic Wars against Chanda Sahib.

- ❖ After months of renovation by the Prince of Arcot Endowments, the mosque has been restored for public use.



NATIONAL NEWS

FraudPro - Artificial Intelligence

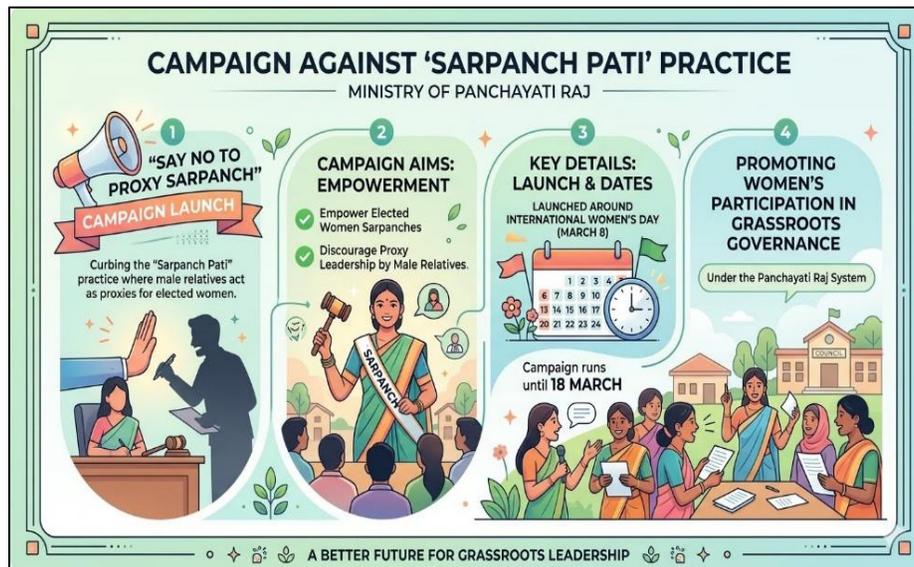


- ❖ Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) received global recognition for FraudPro at the Mobile World Congress 2026 held in Barcelona, Spain.
- ❖ FraudPro is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) based fraud detection platform.
- ❖ It helps telecom operators detect identity-based telecom fraud and fake mobile connections.

- ❖ The platform strengthens security in telecom networks.
- ❖ It is deployed by the Department of Telecommunications through the Digital Intelligence Platform and the Sanchar Saathi portal.

Campaign Against Sarpanch Pati Practice

- ❖ Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the “Say No to Proxy Sarpanch” campaign to curb the ‘Sarpanch Pati’ practice.
- ❖ The campaign aims to empower elected women sarpanches and discourage proxy leadership by male relatives.
- ❖ It was launched around International Women’s Day and runs till 18 March.
- ❖ The initiative promotes women’s participation in grassroots governance under the Panchayati Raj system.



Initiative on Childhood Obesity

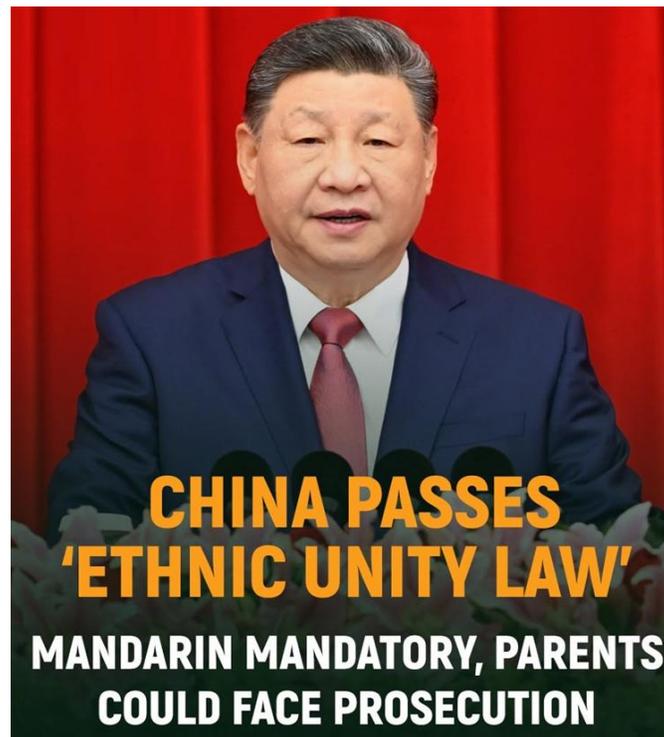
- ❖ WHO Foundation and Novo Nordisk partnered to tackle childhood obesity in India.
- ❖ The initiative will implement school-based health programmes and awareness campaigns.
- ❖ It aims to promote healthy lifestyles, balanced diets and physical activity among children.
- ❖ The programme will support early identification of health risks and strengthen primary healthcare systems.

- ❖ Obesity is linked to non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and Type 2 Diabetes.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ethnic Unity Law



- ❖ China passed a new Ethnic Unity Law to strengthen national unity and common identity.
- ❖ The law was approved by the National People's Congress, China's highest legislative body.

- ❖ It aims to integrate 56 officially recognised ethnic groups in the country.
- ❖ The law promotes Mandarin as the main language in education and government communication.
- ❖ It also encourages social integration and inter-ethnic marriages.
- ❖ The law will come into effect on 1 July 2026.

UN Resolution on Iran Attacks

- India co-sponsored a UN Security Council resolution condemning Iran's attacks on Gulf states and Jordan and calling for an immediate end to hostilities and threats to the Strait of Hormuz.
- The resolution passed with 13 votes in favour and abstentions from China and Russia.

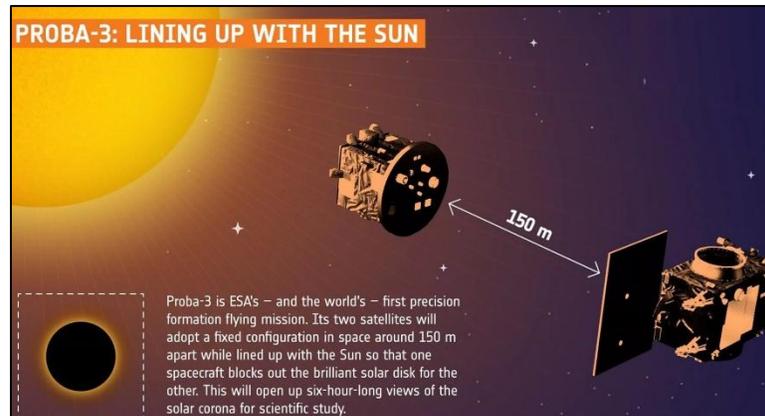
- ❖ India co-sponsored a resolution at the United Nations Security Council condemning attacks by Iran on Gulf countries and Jordan.
- ❖ The 15-member UN Security Council adopted the resolution with 13 votes in favour, while China and Russia abstained.
- ❖ The resolution condemned attacks on Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ It called for an immediate halt to hostilities and warned against threats to close the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ The move highlights India's concern for regional stability and the protection of its diaspora in Gulf countries.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Proba-3 Mission

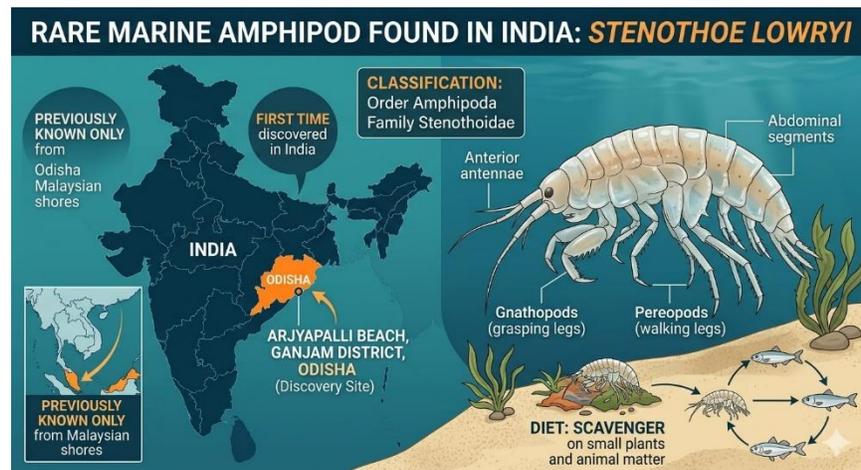
- ❖ The European Space Agency (ESA) lost contact with the Coronagraph satellite of the Proba-3 mission due to a power failure.

- ❖ Proba-3 is the first precision formation-flying mission to study the Sun's outer atmosphere (corona).
- ❖ It was launched in December 2024 aboard the ISRO PSLV-C59 rocket.
- ❖ The mission uses twin satellites: Coronagraph (camera) and Occulter (blocks the Sun to create an artificial eclipse).
- ❖ It helps study Solar Winds and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) that can disrupt satellites and power grids.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Rare Marine Amphipod



- ❖ A rare marine amphipod, *Stenthoë lowryi*, was discovered for the first time in India at Arjyapalli Beach, Ganjam district, Odisha.
- ❖ Previously, this shrimp-like species was known only from the Malaysian shores.
- ❖ It belongs to the family Stenothoidae within the order Amphipoda.

- ❖ It plays a role in the marine food web as a scavenger, feeding on small plants and animal matter.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Special 301 Report

- ❖ The United States Trade Representative began Section 301 investigations on major trading partners, including India, China and the European Union, over trade practices.
- ❖ The Special 301 Report is published annually by the United States Trade Representative under the Trade Act of 1974.
- ❖ It identifies countries that do not provide adequate protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).
- ❖ The report also assesses fair market access for United States intellectual property holders.
- ❖ Countries are classified as Priority Foreign Country, Priority Watch List, and Watch List.

Whither safety

India remains one of the most challenging major economies with regard to protection and enforcement of IP, the USTR report says



- The report says patent issues continue to be of particular concern in India
- Stakeholders have reported unauthorised file sharing of video games, reprints of academic books, among other issues
- Companies also face uncertainty due to insufficient legal means to protect trade secrets in India

Global Capital Flows Report 2025

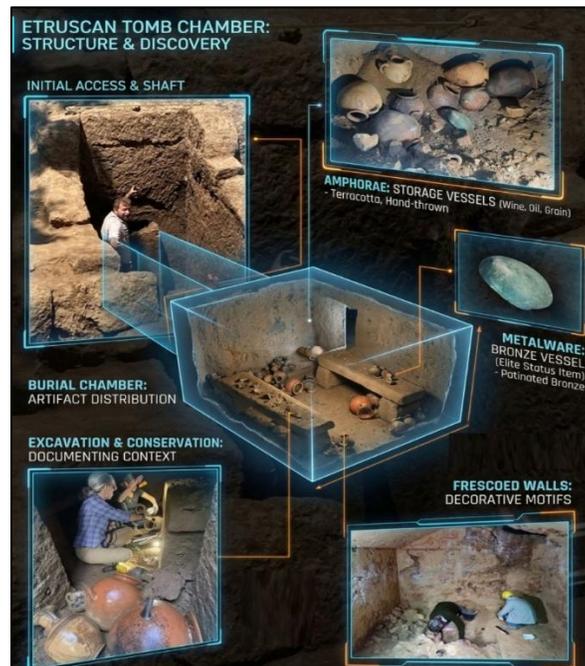
- ❖ The Global Capital Flows Report 2025, released by Colliers, stated that India ranked fourth globally in cross-border investments in land and development sites.
- ❖ The ranking highlights India's growing importance in global real estate investment.
- ❖ Real estate investments across Asia-Pacific (APAC) markets reached USD 71.9 billion in the first half of 2025.

- ❖ India received about USD 3 billion in real estate investments in H1 2025.
- ❖ Foreign investments contributed about USD 1.6 billion (around 52%), while domestic investments increased significantly.
- ❖ Major investment sectors include residential and office real estate projects.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

2600-Year-Old Etruscan Tomb



- ❖ Archaeologists discovered a 2,600-year-old sealed Etruscan tomb at the San Giuliano archaeological site in central Italy.
- ❖ The tomb dates back to around the 7th century BCE and remained undisturbed for centuries.

- ❖ It contained the remains of four individuals placed on stone beds.
- ❖ More than 100 artefacts such as ceramic vessels, iron weapons, bronze ornaments and silver jewellery were found.
- ❖ The discovery provides insights into the burial practices and social life of the Etruscan civilisation.
- ❖ The Etruscan civilisation flourished in central Italy between the 8th and 6th centuries BCE and influenced early Roman culture.

