

March - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Tamil Nadu has launched India's first Digital Twin platform, a real-time virtual model that monitors port infrastructure, vessel movements, cargo operations, and equipment using real-time data.
- ❖ Bharat Tex 2026, the world's largest integrated textile fair, was launched by the Union Minister of Textiles and will be held in July 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully tested the ADC-150 (Air Droppable Container-150) from a Boeing P-8I Poseidon aircraft near Goa.
 - ADC-150 is an indigenous container designed to air-drop supplies up to 150 kilograms to naval ships at sea.
- ❖ The Freedom Shield joint military exercise has been launched by the United States and South Korea, an annual defence drill aimed at improving military coordination and readiness against security threats.
- ❖ Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted the Purple Fest, organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to celebrate the achievements of Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) and promote inclusivity by recognising their talent, achievements, and aspirations.
- ❖ International Day of Mathematics was observed on 14 March every year, also known as Pi Day, celebrating the mathematical constant π (3.14) and the importance of mathematics in daily life, science, and technology.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Mathematics and Hope."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Proposed East Coast Railway in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ R. Sudha, Member of Parliament (MP) from Mayiladuthurai, submitted a proposal to the Union Railway Minister for a new East Coast Railway line from Chennai to Kanniyakumari.
- ❖ The proposed railway will pass through 14 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It is planned similarly to the Konkan Railway model.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a coastline of about 1,076 kilometres, supporting the idea of a coastal railway line.

- ❖ The project aims to improve tourism, the fishing industry, transport, and the export of marine products.

'CHOLA EAST COAST RAILWAY: A LANDMARK GREENFIELD PROJECT FOR TAMIL NADU!'

1,076 KM GREENFIELD RAIL CORRIDOR

MEMORANDUM SUBMISSION
Tmt. R. Sudha MP Presenting, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Union Railway Minister

ECONOMIC & TRADE BOOST
Coastal Ransmy Ports, Chennai & Thoothukudi, Coastal District Economy Growth, Trade Development

MARINE FISHERIES & EXPORT
Fishing Community Upliftment, Increased Marine Exports

TOURISM & PILGRIMAGE CIRCUIT
UNESCO Heritage Site Mamallapuram, Ancient Port Poompuhar, Spiritual Centers Velankanni, Nagore, Rameswaram, Tiruchendur, Seamless Coastal Connection, Tourism Expansion

STRATEGIC & DEFENSE MOBILITY
Disaster relief helicopters, High-Speed Transport for National Security, Rapid Deployment during Emergencies

Tamil Nadu AVGC-XR Policy 2026

TAMIL NADU AVGC-XR POLICY 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **MASSIVE JOB CREATION**
Targeting the creation of 2 lakh new jobs in the AVGC-XR sector.
- ✓ **MARKET LEADERSHIP**
Capturing 20% of India's AVGC-XR market and becoming the "IP Capital of India."
- ✓ **INFRASTRUCTURE**
ELCOT Viyan AVGC-XR Centre of Excellence" in Chennai, with regional spokes across the state.
- ✓ **SKILL DEVELOPMENT**
Digital Arts Centres in 300-400 colleges to nurture future-ready talent.
- ✓ **STARTUP GROWTH**
Supporting at least 200 new AVGC-XR startups by 2030.
- ✓ **EASE OF DOING BUSINESS**
ELCOT AVGC-XR Facilitation Cell for single-window clearances, investment promotions and startup support.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced the AVGC-XR Policy 2026 to promote animation, visual effects, gaming, comics, and extended reality sectors.
- ❖ AVGC-XR stands for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality.

- ❖ Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) will act as the nodal agency to implement the policy.
- ❖ The policy aims to create 200 AVGC-XR startups and support 100 companies by 2030.
- ❖ It also plans to establish Digital Arts Centres in 300–400 colleges for skill development.
- ❖ Chennai is emerging as a major AVGC-XR hub in India with many gaming studios and visual effects companies.

NATIONAL NEWS

Vaccine Adverse Effect Compensation

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India directed the Union Government to create a “no-fault compensation policy” for people who suffered serious adverse effects or deaths after COVID-19 vaccination.
- ❖ No-fault liability means victims or families can receive financial compensation without proving negligence by the government or vaccine manufacturers.
- ❖ The Court said the State has a positive obligation under Article 21 (Right to Life) to support people affected by rare vaccine complications.
- ❖ Monitoring of side effects is done through AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunisation) committees.
- ❖ Rare serious side effects include myocarditis and pericarditis (heart inflammation) and TTS (Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome), a rare blood-clotting disorder.



Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign

- ❖ The Government highlighted the progress of the “Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat” campaign to eliminate child marriage in India.

- ❖ The campaign was launched on 27 November 2024 to make India child-marriage-free through government and community participation.
- ❖ A 100-Days Special Campaign under this initiative started on 4 December 2025 to increase awareness and reporting of child marriage cases.
- ❖ The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) and the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act prohibit child marriage and child labour.
- ❖ Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) are appointed by state governments to prevent child marriages and create awareness.
- ❖ The Child Helpline 1098 provides a 24×7 toll-free emergency service for children in distress, including cases related to child marriage.



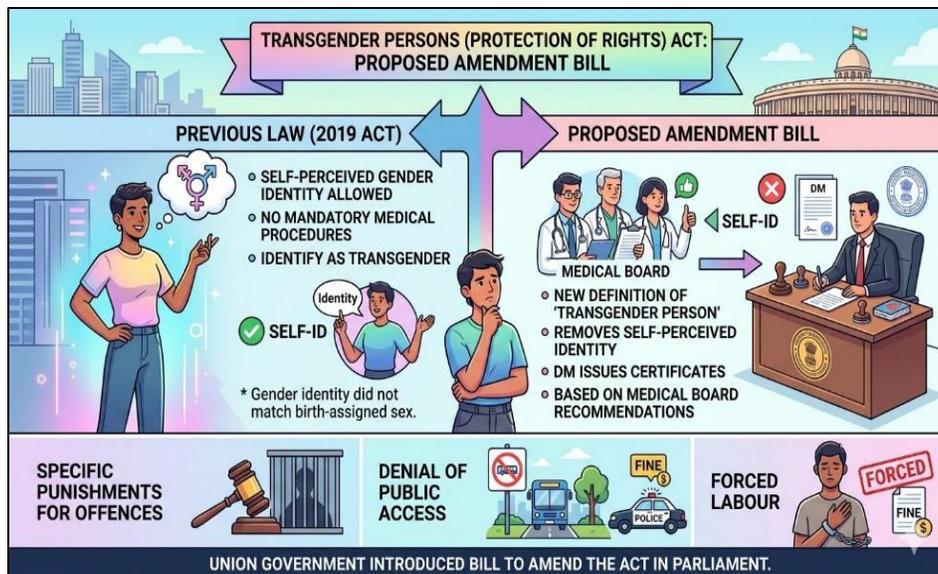
Sujal Gaon ID under Jal Jeevan Mission

- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched Sujal Gaon ID, a unique digital identifier for rural drinking water supply schemes.
- ❖ The initiative is introduced under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 to improve monitoring and transparency.
- ❖ Each rural water supply scheme will receive a unique digital ID for mapping and management.
- ❖ Around 1.64 lakh Sujal Gaon IDs have been created across 31 States and Union Territories.

- ❖ The system helps in real-time monitoring, better planning, and efficient management of rural water supply.
- ❖ The mission aims to provide safe tap water to every rural household by 2028.



Transgender Persons Act

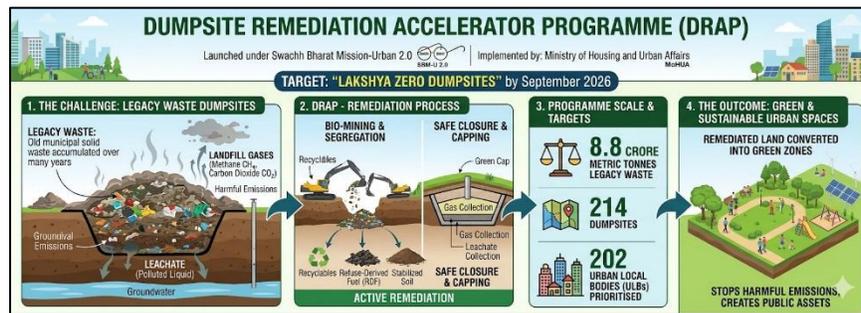


- ❖ The Union Government introduced a Bill to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act in Parliament.
- ❖ The amendment proposes a new definition of “transgender person” and removes the provision of self-perceived gender identity.
- ❖ The 2019 Act earlier allowed people whose gender did not match their birth-assigned sex to identify as transgender without mandatory medical procedures.

- ❖ The proposed Bill gives District Magistrates the authority to issue transgender identity certificates based on medical board recommendations.
- ❖ The amendment also introduces specific punishments for offences against transgender persons, including denial of public access or forced labour.

Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme

- ❖ The Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP) was launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 to achieve the target of “Lakshya Zero Dumpsites” by September 2026.
- ❖ The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ It aims to remediate legacy waste dumpsites and convert them into green zones.
- ❖ Around 8.8 crore metric tonnes of legacy waste across 214 dumpsites in 202 Urban Local Bodies have been prioritised.
- ❖ Legacy waste refers to old municipal solid waste accumulated in landfills over many years.
- ❖ Dumpsites release harmful emissions such as leachate (polluted liquid) and landfill gases like methane and carbon dioxide.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

White Phosphorus

- ❖ Human Rights Watch (HRW) has claimed that Israel used white phosphorus munitions over residential areas in Yohmor, Lebanon.
- ❖ White phosphorus is a chemical substance that ignites immediately when exposed to oxygen and produces dense smoke.
- ❖ It is used by militaries to create smoke screens, illuminate battlefields, or mark targets.
- ❖ When used as an incendiary weapon, it can cause severe burns, respiratory damage, organ failure, and death.

- ❖ International humanitarian law restricts the use of incendiary weapons in civilian or populated areas.



Black Rain over Tehran

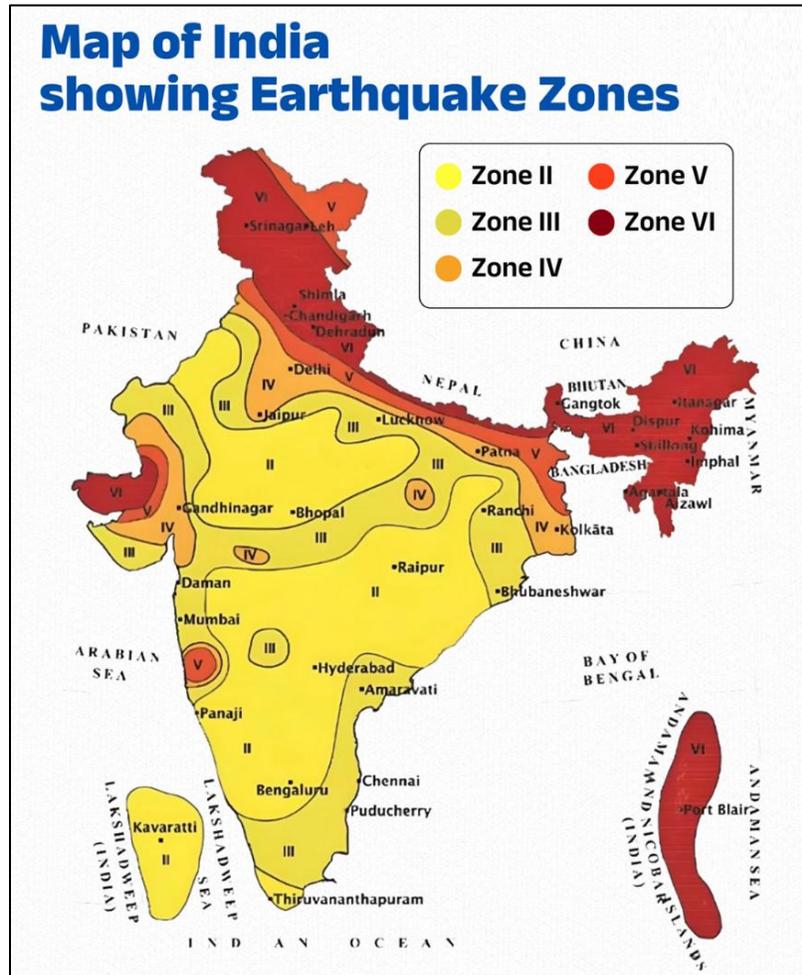


- ❖ Residents of Tehran experienced “Black Rain” after fires at oil facilities during the Israel–Iran conflict released pollutants into the atmosphere.
- ❖ Black rain is rainfall contaminated with soot, ash, oil particles, and industrial chemicals from large fires or explosions.
- ❖ It forms when rain passes through polluted air containing smoke, hydrocarbons, sulphur oxides, and nitrogen compounds.

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) warned that it may cause breathing problems, skin irritation, headaches, and chemical burns.
- ❖ Long-term exposure to chemicals like benzene can increase the risk of cancer.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

2025 Seismic Code



- ❖ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) withdrew the 2025 seismic code (IS 1893) after concerns raised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- ❖ The earlier standard IS 1893 (Part 1): 2016 is now again applicable in India.
- ❖ A seismic code is a set of building standards designed to help structures withstand earthquake forces and reduce damage.
- ❖ India is divided into four seismic zones under the code: Zone II (Low), Zone III (Moderate), Zone IV (High), and Zone V (Very High).

- ❖ About 59% of India's land area is considered earthquake-prone according to the seismic zonation system.

Checklist of Fireflies

- ❖ Scientists released India's first comprehensive checklist of fireflies, identifying 92 species across 27 genera from records between 1881–2025.
- ❖ Over 60% of the species are endemic to India, and many species have not been recorded again since the 1800s.
- ❖ The Western Ghats have the highest diversity of fireflies, followed by North East India and the Gangetic Plain.
- ❖ Fireflies belong to the beetle family Lampyridae and produce light through bioluminescence.
- ❖ The light is produced by a chemical reaction involving luciferin, luciferase, oxygen, and adenosine triphosphate (ATP).
- ❖ Fireflies are declining due to light pollution and urbanisation, highlighting the need for conservation.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Jnanpith Award 2026 – Vairamuthu

- ❖ Vairamuthu received the Jnanpith Award 2026, becoming the third Tamil writer to win the honour after 24 years.
- ❖ Earlier Tamil recipients include Akilan and Jayakanthan.
- ❖ Vairamuthu won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2003 for his novel Kallikattu Ithikasm.

- ❖ The Jnanpith Award is the oldest and highest literary award in India, instituted in 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith, founded by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain in 1944.
- ❖ The award is given to Indian writers writing in languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India and English.
- ❖ Out of 23 eligible languages, the award has been presented for works in 16 languages.

