

March - 19

## TNPSC BITS

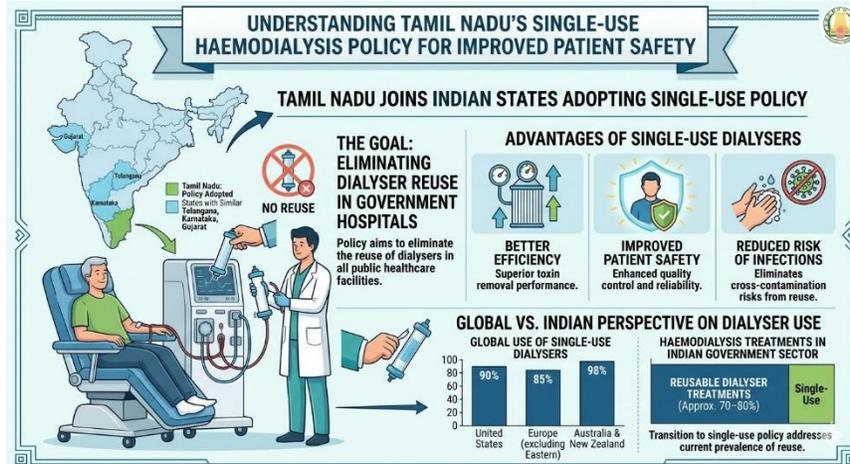
- ❖ Two giant oarfish, the longest bony fish in the world, belonging to the family Regalecidae, were recently spotted near the coast of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.
  - These deep-sea creatures normally live at depths of around 900 metres and are rarely seen near the surface.
- ❖ 9,111 women and girls performed the traditional Lezim dance simultaneously in Dombivli, Maharashtra, during International Women's Day 2026 celebrations, setting a Guinness World Record.
- ❖ *Myiophanes kempii*, a rare cave-dwelling assassin bug of the Reduviidae family, has been rediscovered in the Andaman Islands after nearly 100 years.
- ❖ *Osbeckia zubeengargiana*, a new plant species of the Melastomataceae family, was discovered in the grasslands of Manas National Park in Assam and named after Zubeen Garg.
- ❖ Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, Asia's largest tulip garden in Srinagar, has been opened to the public, marking the arrival of the spring season in Kashmir Valley, which is located at the foothills of the Zabarwan Mountains.
- ❖ Mayank Chakraborty, a 17-year-old International Master (IM) from Guwahati of Assam has become India's 94th Chess Grandmaster, also becoming the first Grandmaster from Northeast India.
- ❖ A rare Blue-and-White Flycatcher (Muscicapidae family) was spotted at Pavagadh Hill in Gujarat.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

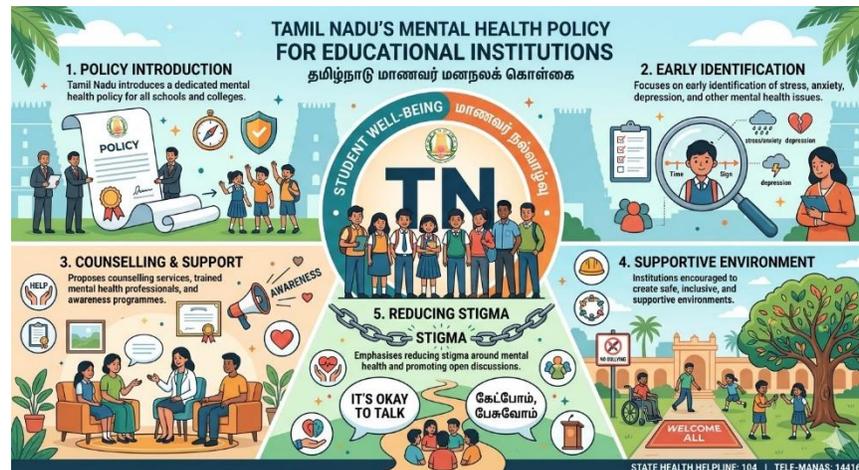
### Single-Use Hemodialysis Policy

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has adopted a single-use haemodialysis policy to improve patient safety in government hospitals.
- ❖ The policy aims to eliminate the reuse of dialysers for patients undergoing dialysis in public healthcare facilities.
- ❖ Other states like Telangana, Karnataka, and Gujarat have already introduced similar single-use dialyser policies.
- ❖ Single-use dialysers offer advantages such as better efficiency, improved patient safety, and reduced risk of infections.

- ❖ Globally, around 90% of haemodialysis in the United States, 85% in Europe (excluding eastern regions), and 98% in Australia and New Zealand use single-use dialysers.
- ❖ In India, reusable dialysers still account for about 70–80% of haemodialysis treatments in the government sector.



## Mental Health Policy for Educational Institutions



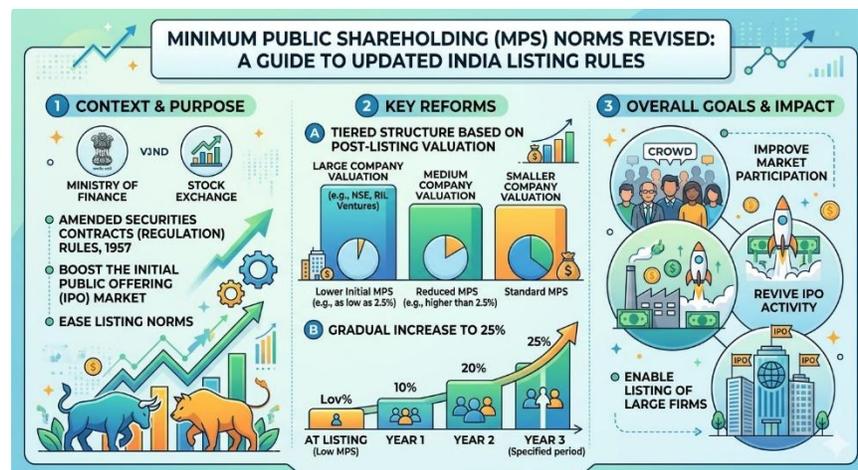
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has introduced a dedicated mental health policy for students in educational institutions.
- ❖ The policy focuses on early identification of stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues among students.
- ❖ It proposes counselling services, trained mental health professionals, and awareness programmes in schools and colleges.
- ❖ Institutions will be encouraged to create safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for student well-being.

- ❖ The policy also emphasises reducing stigma around mental health and promoting open discussions.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### MPS Norms Revision

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance has amended rules on Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) to boost the Initial Public Offering (IPO) market and ease listing norms.
- ❖ The rules introduce a tiered structure based on post-listing valuation of companies for public shareholding requirements.
- ❖ Minimum public shareholding at listing has been reduced in some cases (as low as 2.5%) to encourage large company listings.
- ❖ Companies must gradually increase public shareholding to 25% within a specified time period after listing.
- ❖ The changes amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, governing stock market listings.
- ❖ The reform aims to improve market participation, revive IPO activity, and enable the listing of large firms like Reliance Industries-linked ventures and the National Stock Exchange.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

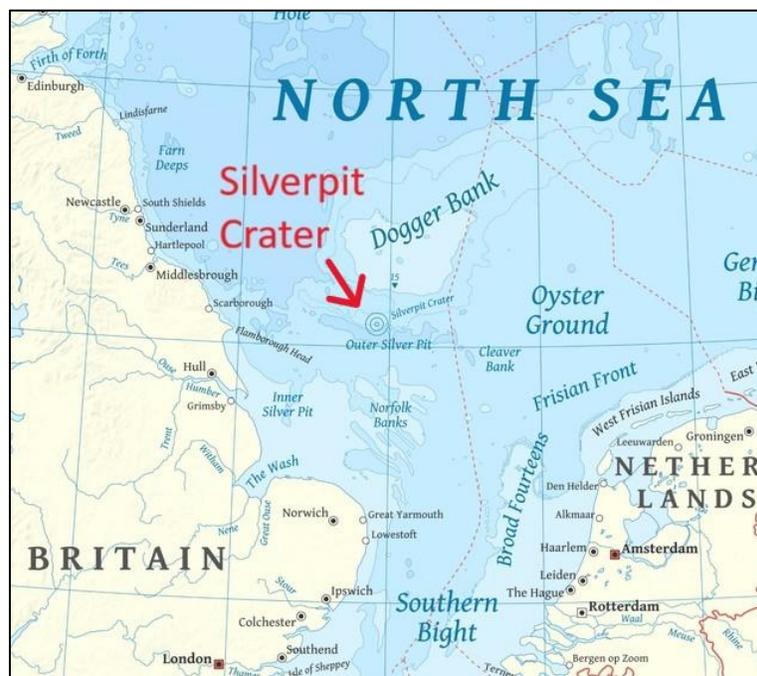
### Sejjil Ballistic Missile

- ❖ Iran has reportedly deployed the Sejjil Ballistic Missile for the first time in active combat during a military operation against positions linked to the United States and Israel.

- ❖ The Sejjil is an indigenous two-stage medium-range ballistic missile developed by Iran’s aerospace industries.
- ❖ The missile has an operational range of about 2,000 km and can carry a warhead of around 700 kg.
- ❖ The missile is nicknamed the “dancing missile” because it can perform evasive manoeuvres, making interception by missile defence systems difficult.



### Silverpit Crater

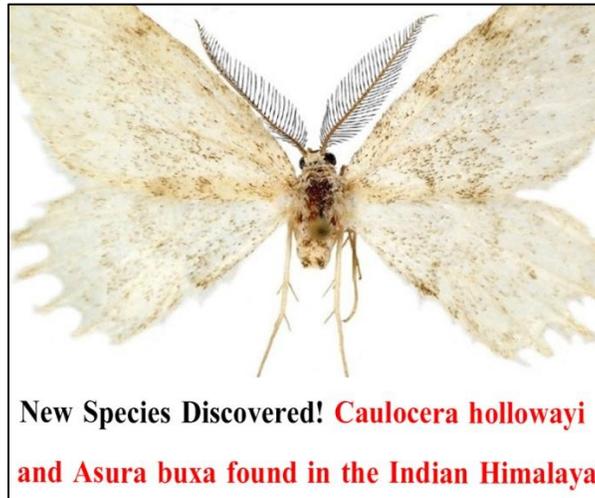


- ❖ Silverpit Crater is confirmed as an ancient asteroid impact site based on new research evidence.

- ❖ It is located under the North Sea seabed near Yorkshire and was discovered in 2002 during oil exploration.
- ❖ The crater formed about 43–46 million years ago due to a high-speed asteroid impact.
- ❖ Scientists found shocked quartz and feldspar minerals, which prove high-energy impact events.
- ❖ The crater is about 3 km wide with circular fault rings extending up to 20 km.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### New Lichen Moths



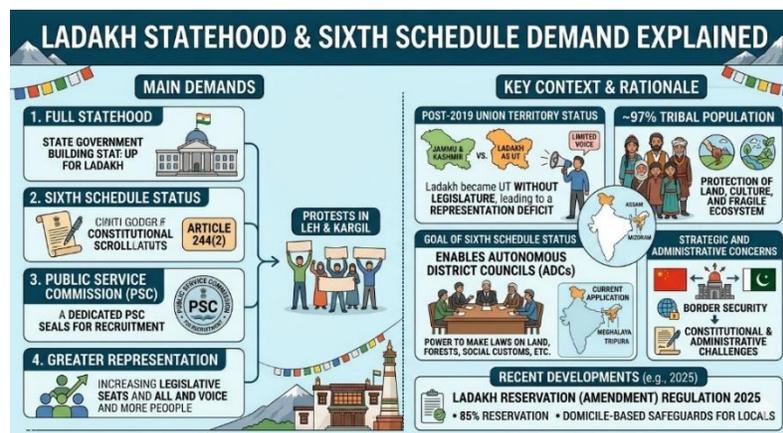
- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new lichen moth species (*Caulocera hollowayi* and *Asura buxa*) in the eastern Himalayas.
- ❖ These species were found in the Sikkim and West Bengal regions.
- ❖ Lichen moths belong to the order Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths).
- ❖ The eastern Himalayas are a major biodiversity hotspot with rich biodiversity.
- ❖ Lichen moths act as indicators of air quality as they depend on pollution-sensitive lichens.

## STATE NEWS

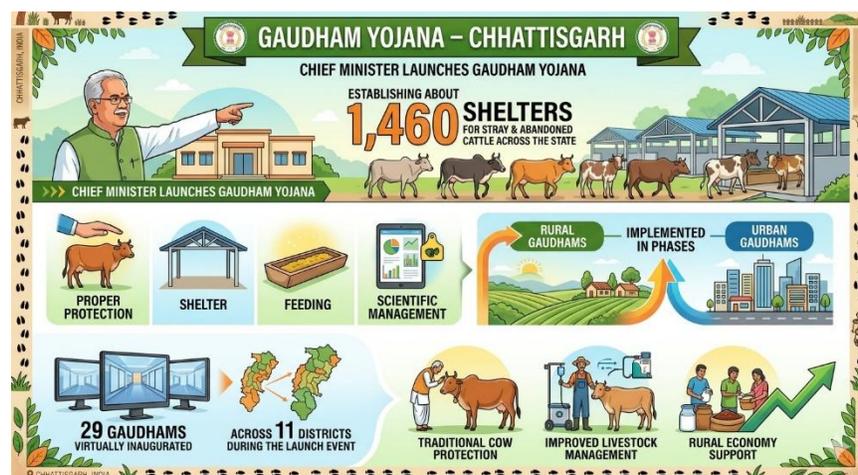
### Ladakh Statehood and Sixth Schedule Demand

- ❖ Protests in Leh and Kargil demanded the statehood, Sixth Schedule status, Public Service Commission (PSC), and greater representation for Ladakh.

- ❖ Ladakh became a Union Territory (UT) without legislature after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, leading to a “representation deficit”.
- ❖ Around 97% of the population belongs to tribal communities, seeking protection of land, culture, and the fragile ecosystem.
- ❖ Demand includes inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution (Article 244(2)) for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).
- ❖ The Sixth Schedule currently applies to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- ❖ Concerns include strategic security due to borders with China and Pakistan, along with constitutional and administrative challenges.
- ❖ Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025 provides 85% reservation and domicile-based safeguards for locals.



## Gaudham Yojana – Chhattisgarh

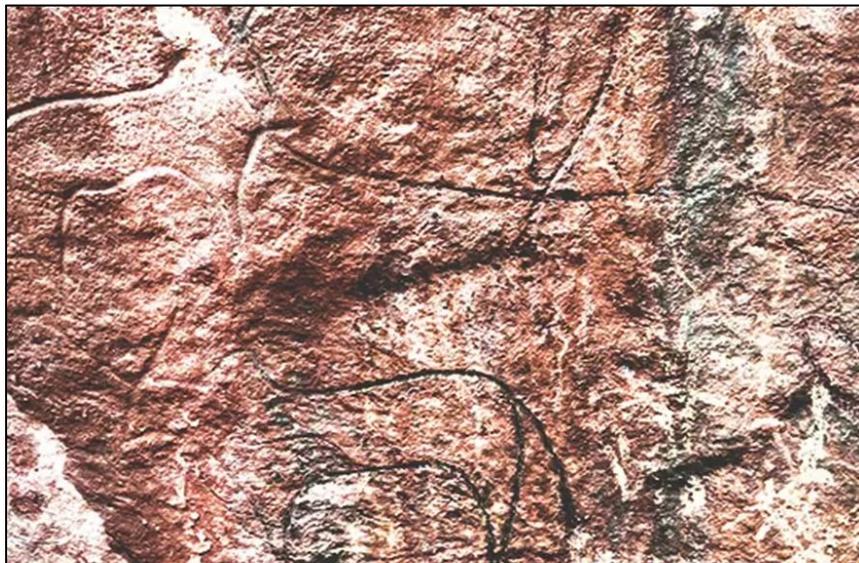


- ❖ The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has launched the Gaudham Yojana to establish about 1,460 shelters for stray and abandoned cattle across the state.

- ❖ The scheme aims to ensure proper protection, shelter, feeding, and scientific management of stray cattle.
- ❖ The initiative promotes traditional cow protection along with improved livestock management and rural economy support.

### **Ancient Petroglyphs Discovery**

- ❖ Ancient petroglyphs have been discovered near Beerappa Temple in Telangana, adding to India's prehistoric heritage.
- ❖ Petroglyphs are images carved on rock surfaces by removing outer layers using harder tools.
- ❖ The term comes from Greek words "petros" (stone) and "glyphein" (to carve).
- ❖ Techniques include pecking, incising, abrading, drilling, polishing, and scratching.
- ❖ They are found worldwide except Antarctica; in India, the Edakkal Caves are a famous example.



***Ancient petroglyphs - Beerappa Temple in  
Telangana***

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025**

- ❖ Sahitya Akademi announced awards for outstanding literary works in 24 Indian languages.

- ❖ The awards recognise excellence across genres like poetry, novels, short stories, essays, memoirs, and literary criticism.
- ❖ Among poetry winners are Shrestha Kabita (Bengali) by Prasun Bandyopadhyay, Bhattkhadaki (Gujarati) by Yogesh Vaidya, and Animesha (Telugu) by Nandini Sidha Reddy.
- ❖ Notable winners include Crimson Spring (English novel) by Navtej Sarna, Jeete Jee Allahabad (Hindi memoir) by Mamta Kalia, and Maayaamanushyar (Malayalam novel) by N. Prabhakaran.
- ❖ In Tamil, Sa. Tamilselvan won for Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal (literary criticism), highlighting Tamil short story evolution.
- ❖ The award includes a copper plaque, shawl, and ₹1,00,000 cash prize for each recipient.



### **Living Tamil Award for World Literature**

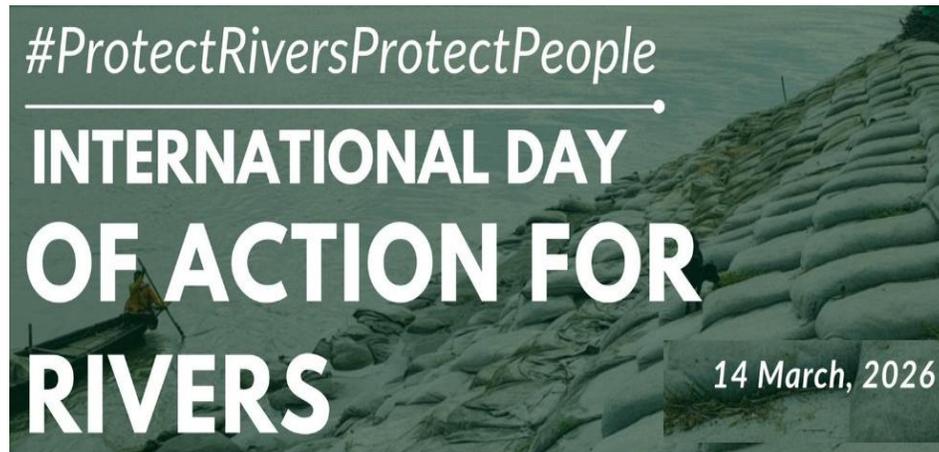
- ❖ Jeyamohan announced a new literary honour called the Living Tamil Award for World Literature.
- ❖ The award carries a prize of ₹1 crore (around \$100,000), making it one of India's biggest literary awards.
- ❖ It will recognise outstanding works in both Indian and global literature across languages and genres.

- ❖ The winner will be announced simultaneously in New Delhi and New York City.
- ❖ The initiative reflects efforts within Tamil Nadu literary circles to create independent recognition platforms.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of Action for Rivers 2026 – March 14



- ❖ The day highlights the importance of conserving rivers for clean water, biodiversity, and human survival.
- ❖ The day was adopted in 1997 at an international meeting in Curitiba, Brazil.
- ❖ The day aims to protect free-flowing rivers, ensure sustainable water use, and support affected communities.

- ❖ It raises awareness about threats like pollution, dams, and climate change impacts on rivers.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Protect Rivers, Protect People”.

### **World Social Work Day 2026 - March 17**

- ❖ The day aims to promote unity, social inclusion, cooperation, and collective responsibility among people.
- ❖ It highlights the important role of social workers in supporting communities, addressing challenges, and promoting social justice.
- ❖ It is organised by International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), a global body of social work professionals.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society”.

