


March - 21


TNPSC BITS


- ❖ Tamil Nadu is celebrating Official Language Law Week from March 21 to 25th.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation will organise Tamil Nadu Travel Market 2025 to exhibit the potential of the state as a tourist destination, encourage tourism business and attract tourism related investments.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has redesignated its Additional Advocates General (AAGs) and senior counsel M. Ajmal Khan shall now be designated as AAG-I.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank has launched the Frontier Seed (Pacific) program to support the local businesses, strengthen capital markets, and promote sustainable economic growth in the Pacific region.
- ❖ Maharashtra Chief Minister inaugurated the state's first-ever temple dedicated to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Bhiwandi, Thane.
- ❖ The Lachit Barphukan Police Academy was inaugurated in Dergaon, Assam.
- ❖ India and Malaysia co-chaired the 14th meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts Working Group (EWG) on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi.
 - This is marking India's first time leading the counter-terrorism group.


TAMIL NADU NEWS

Secondary school dropout rate 2023-24

 தமிழ்நாட்டின் தொடக்கப் பள்ளிகளில் மொத்த மாணவர் பதிவு (ஜிஇஆர்) விகிதம் 98.4% ஆகவும், உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளிகளில் 97.5% ஆகவும், மேல்நிலைப் பள்ளிகளில் 82.9% ஆகவும் உள்ள நிலையில், தேசிய அளவில் இந்த விகிதம் முறையே 91.7%, 77.4% மற்றும் 56.2% ஆக உள்ளது.

 தமிழ்நாட்டில் தொடக்க மற்றும் உயர்நிலைக் கல்வியில் ஆசிரியர்-மாணவர் விகிதம் தேசிய சராசரியைவிட அதிகமாக உள்ளது.

 மேல்நிலைக் கல்வியில் இடைநிற்றல் வீதம் தேசிய சராசரி 12.6% ஆக உள்ள நிலையில், தமிழ்நாட்டில் 4.5% ஆக மட்டுமே உள்ளது.

 நாட்டிலேயே சிறந்த ஆராய்ச்சி நிறுவனங்கள், பல்கலைக்கழகங்கள், கல்லூரிகள் தமிழ்நாட்டில் உள்ளது.

- ❖ While Tamil Nadu's school dropout rate has come down to 0% at the primary and middle school levels, the dropout rate at the secondary level is at 7%.

- ❖ The dropout rate has been declining in recent years - falling from 10.3% in 2022-23 to 7.7%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's rate is lower than both the national average of 10.9%.
- ❖ According to a UNESCO report, the global school dropout average of 13%.
- ❖ The dropout rate among boys is consistently higher than that of girls, with 10.8% of boys dropping out at the secondary level, compared to 4.4% of girls, in 2023-24.
- ❖ In 2014-15, the dropout rate for boys was 16.1%, while that for girls was 8%.

Madras HC on Parents Maintenance

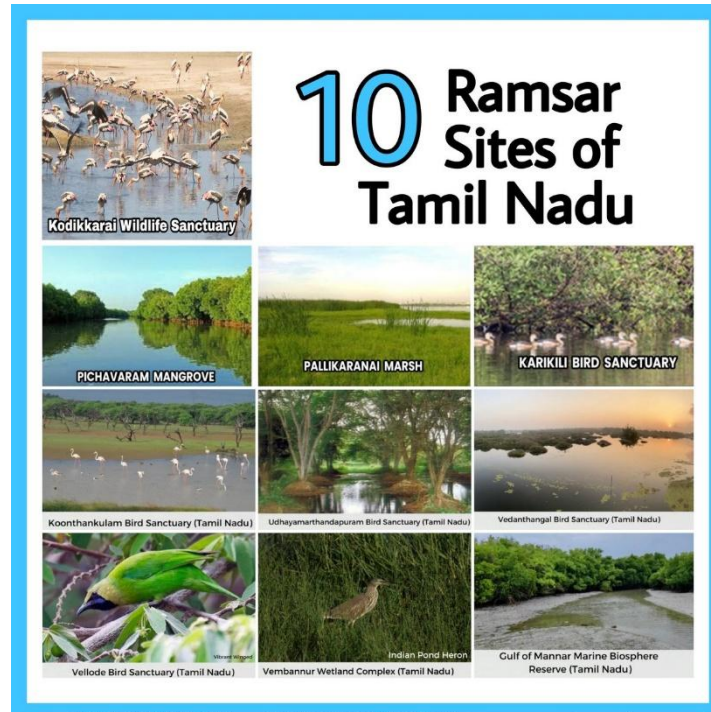


- ❖ Madras high court has said Parents are entitled to cancel gift deeds if the children fail to maintain them, even in the absence of an explicit condition mentioned in the deed.
- ❖ But, the Section 23(1) of the Maintenance of the Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 expects such a condition to have been imposed in the gift/settlement deeds.
- ❖ The Division Bench also said that the requirement under Section 23(1) need not necessarily be explicit and that it should be allowed to be implicit too based on the relationship between the parents and their children.

Wetland bird species in Tiruchi region

- ❖ Several wetland bird species were sighted and recorded during the Synchronised Wetland Bird Census 2025.

- ❖ The census in the Tiruchi district has also covered 20 wetland sites including Koothaippar, Kiliyoor, Krishnasamudram, Mukkombu, Tiruverumbur, Thuraiyur, Alathudaiyanpatti, Thubarankurichi and Manapparai.
- ❖ The census is aimed at monitoring migratory birds, assess bird habitats in lakes, ponds and other waterbodies.
- ❖ It will help to ensure the effective management and conservation of wetland birds.
- ❖ In the Pudukottai district, the census was carried out in 25 wetlands, including Kavinadu tank, Aariyur tank, Annavasal 'periyakulam' and Sirungakulam.



NATIONAL NEWS

Reducing Cooking Oil Usage

- ❖ The Union government has advised states to reduce the usage of cooking oil by 10% in the mid-day meal programme in all government and aided schools under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) scheme.
- ❖ There is an advice on reducing the usage of cooking oil by 10% in day-to-day life through innovative ways.
- ❖ 12.5 million children between 5 to 19 years were overweight in 2022 as compared to 0.4 million in 1990.
- ❖ The share of boys being more than girls in urban areas.

- ❖ The PM-POSHAN is a centrally-sponsored scheme aimed at providing nutritious meals to students.
- ❖ This initiative benefits all children enrolled in Bal-Vatika and classes 1 to 8 in government and aided schools.

PM POSHAN in Schools to continue for five more years



-  Mid Day Meal in schools renamed as National Scheme for PM POSHAN Shakti Nirman
-  Total budget of ₹1.3 lakh crore for 5 year period
-  To cover 11.80 crore children in 11.20 lakh schools
-  Promote Nutrition Gardens in schools

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US Travel Ban 2025 - on 43 Countries

Countries under potential travel restrictions by the US			
Red List	Orange List	Yellow List	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Afghanistan 2. Bhutan 3. Cuba 4. Iran 5. Libya 6. North Korea 7. Somalia 8. Sudan 9. Syria 10. Venezuela 11. Yemen 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belarus 2. Eritrea 3. Haiti 4. Laos 5. Myanmar 6. Pakistan 7. Russia 8. Sierra Leone 9. South Sudan 10. Turkmenistan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angola 2. Antigua and Barbuda 3. Benin 4. Burkina Faso 5. Cambodia 6. Cameroon 7. Cape Verde 8. Chad 9. The Republic of Congo 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Congo 11. Dominica 12. Equatorial Guinea 13. Gambia 14. Liberia 15. Malawi 16. Mali 17. Mauritania 18. St Kitts and Nevis 19. St Lucia 20. São Tomé and Príncipe 21. Vanuatu 22. Zimbabwe.

- ❖ The Donald Trump administration is considering a comprehensive travel ban that could affect citizens from up to 43 countries.

- ❖ Notably, four of India's neighbouring countries - Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Pakistan are included in this proposal.
- ❖ The proposed policy categorises the countries into 'red', 'orange', and 'yellow' lists, each with varying levels of travel limitations:

World's Largest White Hydrogen Deposit

- ❖ France has discovered a massive 46-million-ton white hydrogen reserve in the Moselle region, valued at \$92 trillion.
- ❖ Unlike the Gray and green hydrogen, the white hydrogen requires no industrial production and emits no CO₂.
- ❖ White hydrogen deposits have also been discovered in places like Russia, Oman, France, Mali, and others.

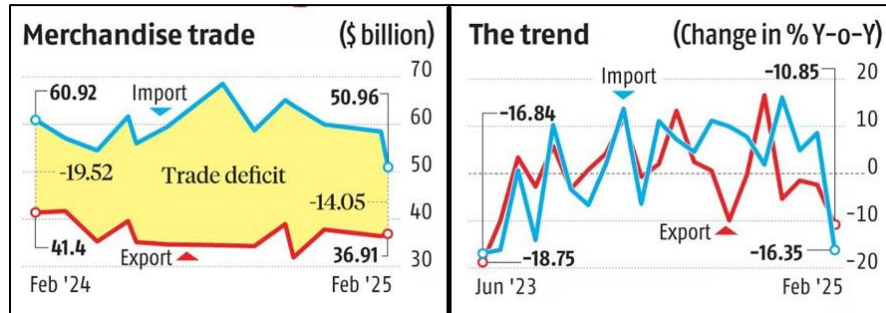
	Colour	Fuel	Process	Products
	Brown/Black	Coal	Steam reforming or gasification	H ₂ + CO ₂ (released)
	White	N/A	Naturally occurring	H ₂
	Grey	Natural Gas	Steam reforming	H ₂ + CO ₂ (released)
	Blue	Natural Gas	Steam reforming	H ₂ + CO ₂ (% captured and stored)
	Turquoise	Natural Gas	Pyrolysis	H ₂ + C (solid)
	Red	Nuclear Power	Catalytic splitting	H ₂ + O ₂
	Purple/Pink	Nuclear Power	Electrolysis	H ₂ + O ₂
	Yellow	Solar Power	Electrolysis	H ₂ + O ₂
	Green	Renewable Electricity	Electrolysis	H ₂ + O ₂

ECONOMY NEWS

India's Trade Deficit fall 2025

- ❖ India's February goods trade deficit has dropped to a three-and-a-half-year low of \$14.05 billion.
- ❖ The country posted a small surplus of around \$5 billion in February.

- ❖ Exports are dropped 11% to \$36.91 billion compared to February of the previous year, while imports fell 16% to \$50.96 billion.




SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Human Coronavirus HKU1 in Kolkata

- ❖ A patient in Kolkata is suffering from a human coronavirus or HKU1, a species of coronavirus.
- ❖ However, HKU1 is generally linked to a milder respiratory illness and is not of pandemic potential.
- ❖ HKU-1 was first identified in 2005 as a rare isolate.
- ❖ It mainly affects the lungs and respiratory system.

WHAT IS HUMAN CORONAVIRUS HKU1?

Human coronavirus HKU1 (HCoV-HKU1) belongs to the Betacoronavirus family, which also includes SARS-CoV-2 (the virus behind COVID-19). However, HKU1 usually causes mild respiratory illnesses, **mainly affecting the upper respiratory tract with cold-like symptoms, though it can sometimes lead to pneumonia or bronchiolitis.**



SYMPTOMS OF HUMAN CORONAVIRUS HKU1

Most cases of HCoV-HKU1 resemble regular flu-like illnesses and include:

- PERSISTENT COUGH
- SORE THROAT
- RUNNY NOSE OR NASAL CONGESTION
- SNEEZING
- FEVER
- FATIGUE
- HEADACHE

HKU1

In severe cases:
shortness of breath, pneumonia, or bronchitis

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

IUCN Green list - Four new sites


- ❖ Four new sites added to the IUCN Green List and three relisted.

- ❖ The addition of four new listings came from the West Asia.
- ❖ They are
 - Sharaan Nature Reserve - Saudi Arabia
 - King Abdulaziz Royal Nature Reserve of Saudi Arabia
 - Aqaba Marine Reserve of Jordan and
 - Sir Bu Nair Protected Area from UAE.
- ❖ IUCN Green List is a global program of the certification aiming to achieve and to promote effective, equitable, and successful protected and conserved area.



STATES' NEWS

OBC reservation in Telangana 2025

 IT'S ALL IN THE HOUSE Telangana Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and Appointments or Posts in the Services Under the State and Seats in Local Bodies) Bill set to be tabled in Assembly on Tuesday	
Bill is likely to propose increasing reservations for BCs to 42% in education and employment from the existing 25% (excluding 4% for backward Muslims), and 42% reservations in local bodies from the existing 23% in line with the promise made by the Congress during the 2023 Assembly elections in the form of the "Kamareddy Declaration"	Bill will propose increasing reservations for SCs to 17% from the existing 10% Government will propose enhancing reservations for STs by 1%, to a total of 7% This will take the total reservations to around 66-67%, far beyond the Supreme Court ceiling of 50%
Once the state Legislature passes the bill, it will be sent for the assent of the President of India, with a request to include it in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution as was done in the case of Tamil Nadu	
It may be recalled here that the state Legislature passed a bill in April 2017 seeking to increase reservations for Muslims from 4% to 12% and for STs from 6% to 10%. The President is yet to clear it	
BC population in Telangana is 46.25% (as per the caste survey report)	

- ❖ Telangana is set to become the first state to implement reservations based on a caste survey.

- ❖ The Legislative Assembly passing a key bill to increase reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) to 42 per cent in government jobs, educational institutions, and local body elections.
- ❖ Telangana's new reservation bill proposes a 42 per cent quota for BCs, 18 per cent for SCs, and 10 per cent for STs.
- ❖ This is an increase from the existing 29 per cent, 15 per cent, and 6 per cent, respectively.
- ❖ With this, Telangana aims to push the 50 per cent cap on reservation set by the Supreme Court to 70 per cent, which requires Centre's approval.
- ❖ Telangana is the third state in the country after Bihar and Karnataka conducted a caste survey to determine caste-wise demographics.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sunita Williams 2025



- ❖ Astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, after a stay at the International Space Station (ISS) for more than nine months, have returned to Earth.
- ❖ Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams ended up spending 286 days in space.
- ❖ It is 278 days longer than anticipated when they launched.
- ❖ They had circled Earth 4,576 times and travelled 121 million miles (195 million kilometers) by the time of splashdown.
- ❖ With 62 hours over nine spacewalks, Williams set a record as the most time spent spacewalking over a career among female astronauts.
- ❖ Both NASA astronauts flew aboard NASA's Boeing Crew Flight Test to space on June 5 last year.

- ❖ The SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft can carry up to seven passengers on missions to Earth orbit and beyond.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Sleep Day - March 14

- ❖ It is an annual awareness event observed on the Friday before the March equinox.
- ❖ This day aims to educating the people all over the world about the importance of sleep, as well as changing the way people view and experience sleep.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Make Sleep Health a Priority."



Ordnance Factories Day - March 18



- ❖ This day honours the establishment of the inaugural Ordnance Factory in the colonial India close to Kolkata in 1801.



- ❖ India's oldest Ordnance Factory, located in Cossipore, Kolkata, began on March 18, 1802.
- ❖ In 1787, a gunpowder factory was established at Ishapore, which started its production from 1791.
- ❖ In 1842, the Field Gun Factory was set up in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ In 1904, the Small Arms Factory was established in Ishapore.

