

March - 22

TNPSC BITS

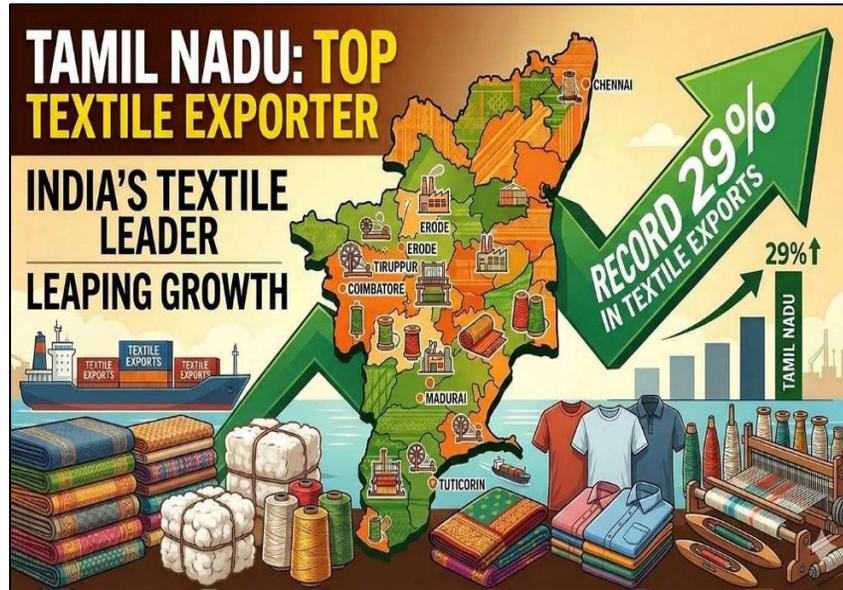
- ❖ Indian Navy has deployed P-8I aircraft for Exercise Sea Dragon, a US-led Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise near Guam in the Western Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ Argentina has formally withdrawn from the World Health Organization after notifying the United Nations on March 17, 2025.
- ❖ Former Ambassador Jawed Ashraf has been awarded the rank of Commandeur in the Legion of Honour by France.
- ❖ The N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of the Tata Group, was conferred an honorary Knighthood (KBE) by the UK.
- ❖ India Post launched “24 Speed Post”, a next-day delivery service for faster and more reliable dispatch of urgent consignments under the Department of Posts.
- ❖ World Oral Health Day is observed on 20 March every year to raise awareness and reduce oral diseases.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “A Happy Mouth is a Happy Life”.
- ❖ World Sparrow Day is observed on 20 March every year across the world to raise awareness about the rapidly declining population of house sparrows in urban areas.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "I Love Sparrows".
- ❖ International Colour Day is observed on 21 March every year across the world to celebrate the importance of colours in art, science, and daily life.
- ❖ World Day for Glaciers is observed on 21 March to highlight glacier loss and to promote research, awareness, and protection of glaciers and water resources.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

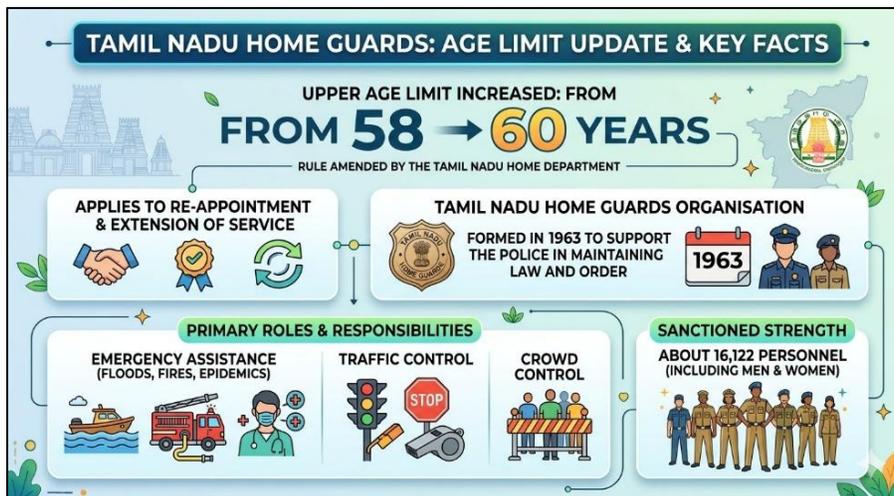
Top Textile Exporter 2026 - Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has become India’s top textile exporter in the FY 2024–25 by surpassing Gujarat and Maharashtra in total export value.
- ❖ The state recorded textile exports worth about \$7.99 billion with a growth of around 29 % in the last four years.
- ❖ It contributes 21.84 % to India’s total textile exports, which stood at about \$36.61 billion.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks first, followed by Gujarat with \$5.64 billion and Maharashtra with \$3.83 billion in textile exports.



Home Guards Age Limit update



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has increased the upper age limit for Home Guards from 58 to 60 years, and the rule was amended by the Tamil Nadu Home Department.
- ❖ The decision applies to the re-appointment and extension of service for Home Guards.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Home Guards Organisation was formed in 1963 to support the police in maintaining law and order.
- ❖ Home Guards assist during emergencies such as floods, fires, and epidemics, and also help in traffic and crowd control.

- ❖ The sanctioned strength of Home Guards in Tamil Nadu is about 16,122, including both men and women.

NATIONAL NEWS

Krishi Sakhi Initiative 2026

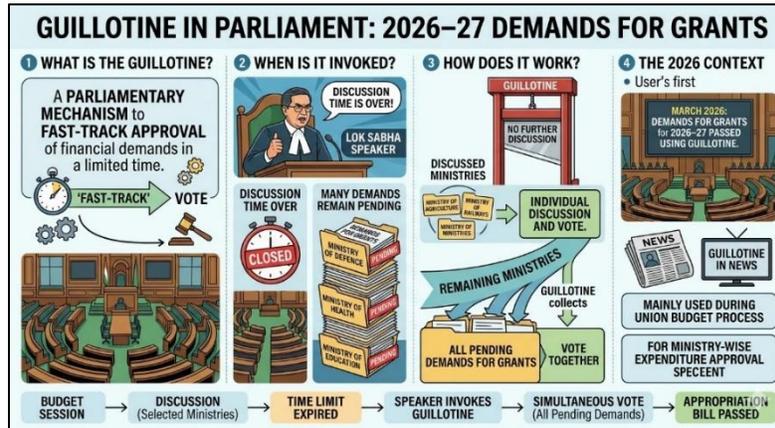
- ❖ The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC) launched the Krishi Sakhi Initiative to empower women farmers.
- ❖ The initiative aligns with the United Nations, declaring 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer.
- ❖ It aims to increase women's participation in agriculture and crop insurance and promote inclusive growth.
- ❖ The initiative also highlights the role of women in strengthening India's agricultural sector and rural development.



Guillotine in Parliament 2026

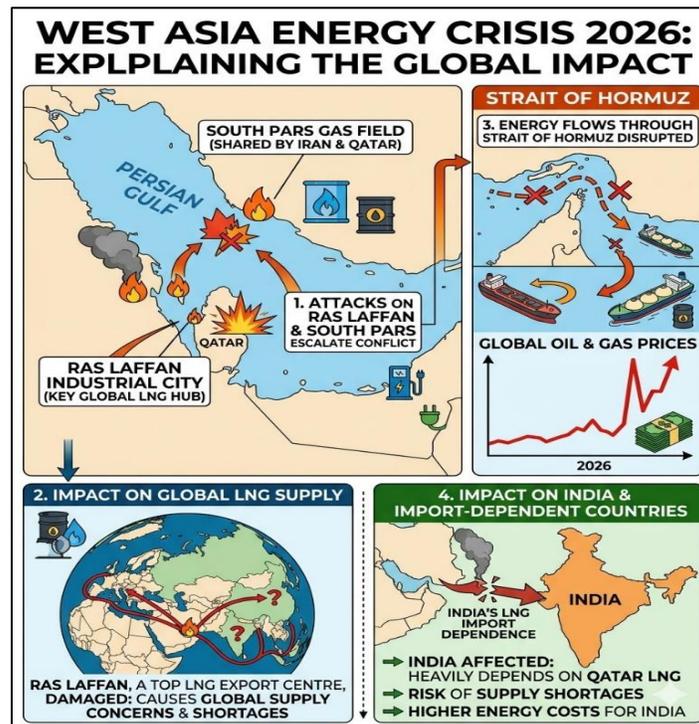
- ❖ The Lok Sabha recently invoked the guillotine procedure to clear the Demands for Grants for the 2026–27 fiscal year.
- ❖ A guillotine is a parliamentary mechanism used to fast-track approval of financial demands in a limited time.
- ❖ It is invoked by the Lok Sabha Speaker when discussion time is over, and many demands remain pending.
- ❖ Under this, all pending “Demands for Grants” are put to a vote together without further discussion.

- ❖ It is mainly used during the Union Budget process for ministry-wise expenditure approval.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

West Asia Energy Crisis 2026



- ❖ The conflict in West Asia escalated after attacks on Ras Laffan Industrial City and South Pars Gas Field, key global LNG hubs.
- ❖ Ras Laffan is one of the world's largest LNG export centres, and damage has raised concerns over global gas supply.

- ❖ The attacks disrupted energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, increasing oil and gas prices worldwide.
- ❖ India is affected as it depends heavily on LNG imports from Qatar through Ras Laffan.

UN Commission on the Status of Women 2026



- ❖ The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) concluded its 70th session in 2026, where member states adopted important conclusions on gender equality.
- ❖ It is a functional commission under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the main global body for women's rights.
- ❖ Established in 1946, it aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment across political, economic, and social fields.
- ❖ It sets global standards, monitors progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, and reviews implementation of international agreements.
- ❖ It focuses on issues like legal reforms, digital safety, access to justice, and women's health rights worldwide.

ECONOMY NEWS

RELIEF Scheme 2026

- ❖ Government of India launched the RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) to support exporters facing disruptions.

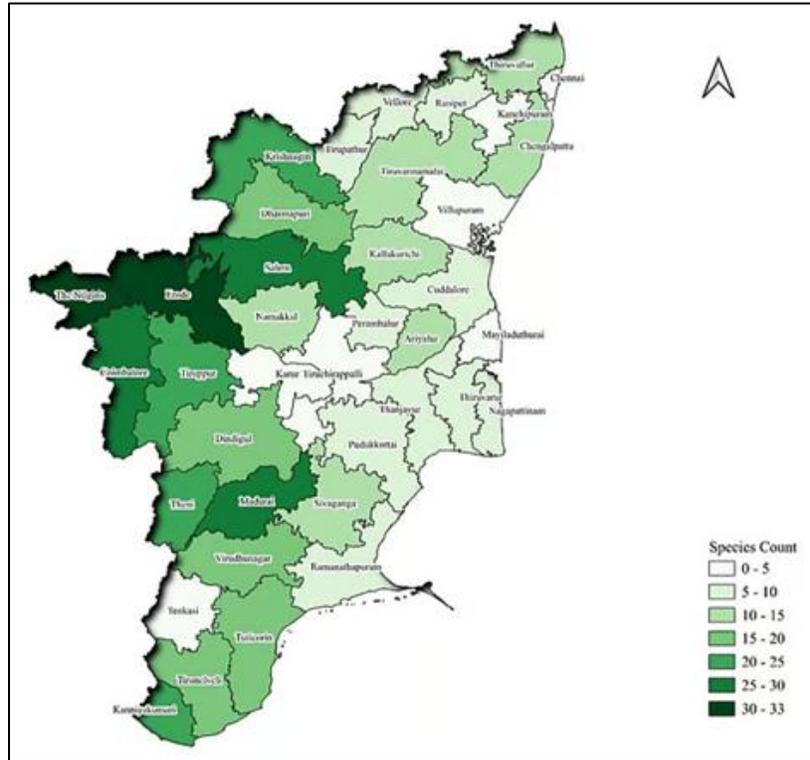
- ❖ It aims to reduce losses due to rising freight costs, higher insurance premiums, and supply chain uncertainties in global trade routes.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC), which provides export credit risk insurance.
- ❖ Exporters can get up to 100% additional risk cover for insured shipments and up to 95% cover for new shipments during the disruption period.
- ❖ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) receive up to 50% reimbursement of freight and insurance surcharges, with a maximum of ₹50 lakh per exporter.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

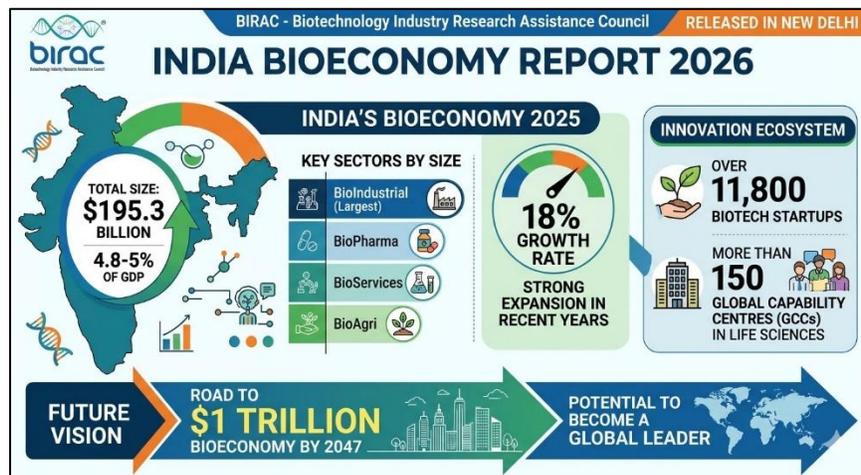
Tamil Nadu Raptor Survey 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has recorded 51 species of raptors in its first statewide scientific assessment conducted by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.
- ❖ The survey was conducted in January–February 2026 under the guidance of the Tamil Nadu Raptor Research Foundation.
- ❖ The survey recorded 40 diurnal raptor species and 11 nocturnal raptor species.
- ❖ It included rare and threatened species like the White-rumped Vulture, Red-headed Vulture, and Indian Vulture.
- ❖ The assessment provides baseline data for conservation, monitoring, and habitat protection of raptors in the state.



REPORTS AND INDICES

India BioEconomy Report 2026



- ❖ The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) released the India BioEconomy Report (IBER) 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's bioeconomy reached \$195.3 billion in 2025, contributing about 4.8–5% of GDP.

- ❖ The sector grew at 18%, showing strong expansion in recent years.
- ❖ The BioIndustrial segment was the largest, followed by BioPharma, Bio Services, and Bio Agri.
- ❖ India has over 11,800 biotech startups and more than 150 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in life sciences.
- ❖ The report highlights India's potential to become a global leader in biotechnology and aims toward a \$1 trillion bioeconomy by 2047.

STATE NEWS

GHADC Term Extension 2026



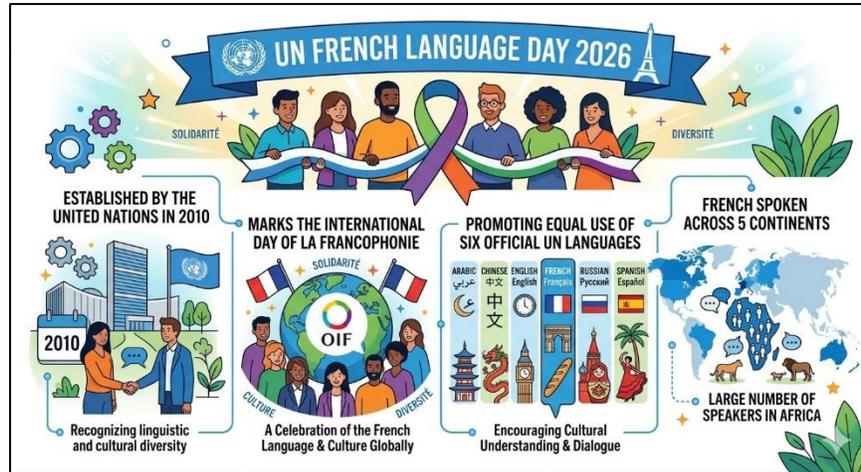
- ❖ The Meghalaya government extended the tenure of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) by six months.
- ❖ The decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting held in Shillong, Meghalaya, amid protests and unrest in the Garo Hills region.
- ❖ The issue is related to demands to restrict non-tribal participation in GHADC elections.
- ❖ GHADC is a body under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, meant to protect tribal rights and governance.
- ❖ The extension allows time for discussions on electoral reforms and helps reduce tensions in the region.

IMPORTANT DAYS

UN French Language Day 2026 – March 20

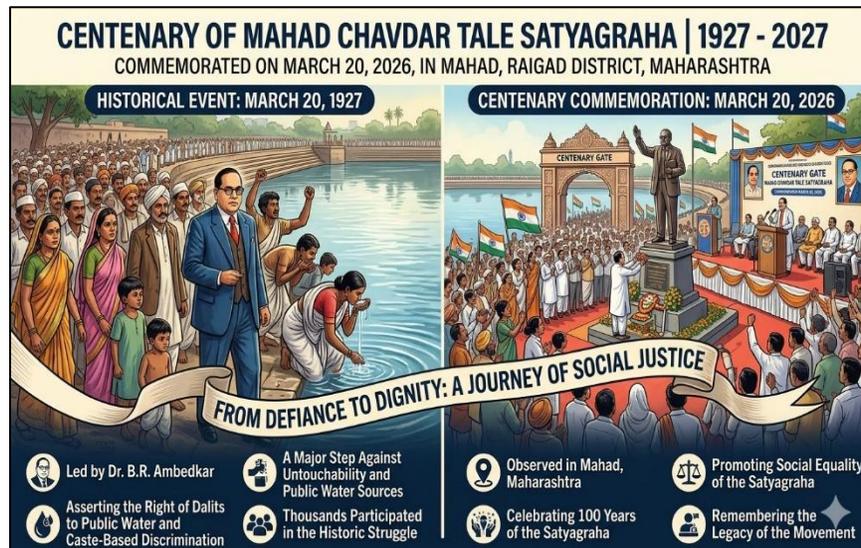
- ❖ The day was established by the United Nations in 2010.

- ❖ The day also marks the International Day of La Francophonie.
- ❖ The day aims to promote equal use of all six official languages of the United Nations and encourage cultural understanding.
- ❖ French is one of the six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).
- ❖ French is spoken across five continents, with a large number of speakers in Africa.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Mahad Chavdar Tale Satyagraha Centenary 2026



- ❖ The centenary year of the historic Mahad Satyagraha was observed in Mahad, Raigad district, Maharashtra, on March 20, 2026.

- ❖ The movement was led by B. R. Ambedkar on March 20, 1927, to assert the right of Dalits to access public water sources like the Chavdar Tale tank.
- ❖ During the movement, thousands of people drank water from the tank, challenging social restrictions imposed on Dalits.
- ❖ This event took place three years before the Salt Satyagraha and became an early example of the civil rights struggle in India.

Hurun Richest Self-Made Women List 2026

Biggest Risers – Self-Made Women Billionaires					
Rank	Name	Wealth Increase (US\$ Bn)	Main Company	Industry	Country of Residence
1	Zhong Huijuan	14.0	Hansoh	Healthcare	China
2	Zhou Qunfei	12.0	Lens	Industrial Products	China
3	Diane Hendricks	7.0	ABC Supply	Construction & Engineering	USA
4	Zeng Fangqin	6.7	Lingyi Itech	Industrial Products	China
5	Wang Laichun	5.7	Luxshare Precision	Industrial Products	China
6	Jayshree Ullal	3.8	Arista Networks	Software & Services	USA
7	Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao	3.6	VietJet	Aerospace & Defence	Vietnam
8	Judy Faulkner	3.5	Epic Systems	Software & Services	USA
9	Fan Hongwei	3.3	Hengji	Chemicals	China
10	Ye Qiongjiu	2.9	Hithink RoyalFlush	Software & Services	China

- ❖ The Hurun Research Institute released the Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2026 list featuring global billionaires.
- ❖ The list includes 150 self-made women billionaires from 20 countries, with rising wealth trends globally.
- ❖ Three Indians featured are Radha Vembu (Zoho), Falguni Nayar (Nykaa), and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (Biocon).
- ❖ These women represent India's growing presence in entrepreneurship and business leadership.

