

March - 24

TNPSC BITS

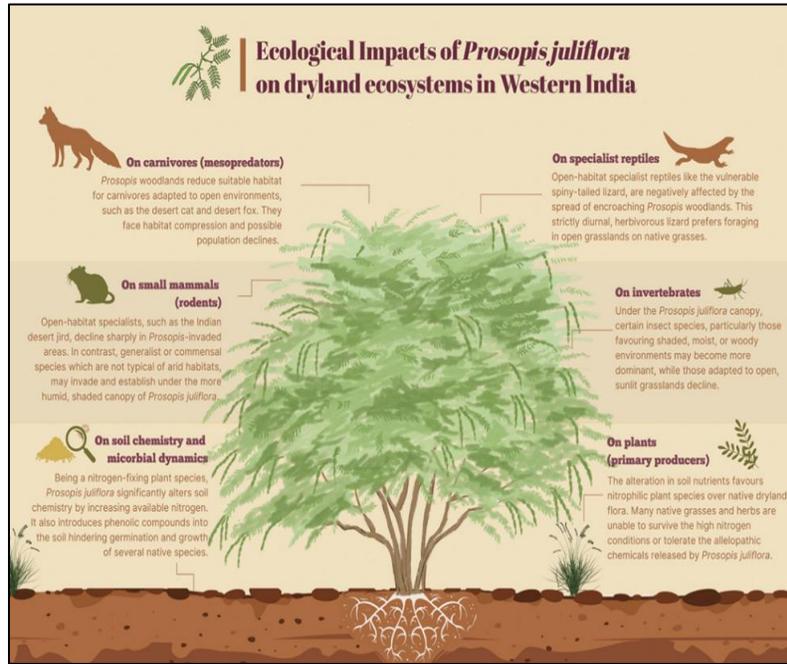
- ❖ The keel laying of two Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Indian Coast Guard was held in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
 - These vessels are part of a project to build six advanced OPVs to strengthen maritime security and coastal surveillance.
- ❖ Chapchar Kut, the spring festival of Mizoram, was celebrated in March 2026.
 - It showcases the Mizo culture and marking the completion of jhum cultivation clearing (shifting cultivation).
- ❖ World Down Syndrome Day 2026 was observed on March 21, 2026, every year to raise awareness about Down Syndrome.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Together Against Loneliness”.
- ❖ World Poetry Day 2026 was celebrated on March 21, 2026, every year across the world to promote reading, writing and sharing of poems and to support linguistic diversity.
- ❖ Bihar Diwas 2026 was celebrated under the theme of “Unnat Bihar, Ujjwal Bihar” from March 22 to 24, 2026 to marking the foundation day of Bihar.
 - It commemorates the formation of Bihar on March 22, 1912, after separation from the Bengal Presidency.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Prosopis juliflora Eradication

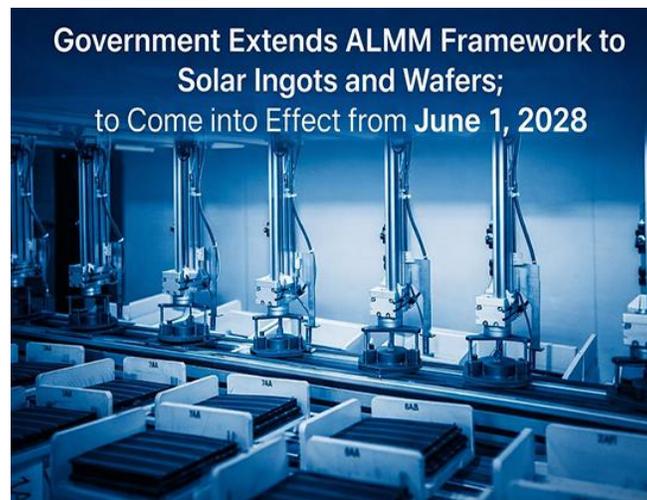
- ❖ The Madras High Court ordered the eradication of Prosopis juliflora (an invasive alien species) from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Prosopis juliflora is a plant species native to the Americas and was introduced in India during the colonial period.
- ❖ It is a shrub or small tree in the family Fabaceae, a kind of mesquite.
- ❖ It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean.
- ❖ It grows rapidly in arid and semi-arid regions and outcompetes native plants.
- ❖ The plant consumes large amounts of groundwater and degrades soil quality.
- ❖ Its spread reduces biodiversity and harms local ecosystems.

- ❖ The order aims to restore native vegetation, improve groundwater and protect biodiversity.
- ❖ All private landowners must remove the plants from their property within 30 days, after which officials will do it and recover costs.



NATIONAL NEWS

ALMM Framework



- ❖ The Government has expanded the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) framework to include the solar ingots and wafers, effective from June 1, 2028.

- ❖ It was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to ensure the quality and reliability of solar equipment.
- ❖ It allows only approved manufacturers and models to be used in government-supported solar projects.
- ❖ The framework includes List-I (Solar PV Modules), List-II (Solar PV Cells) and List-III (Solar Ingots and Wafers).

Longest Serving Head of Government - PM Modi

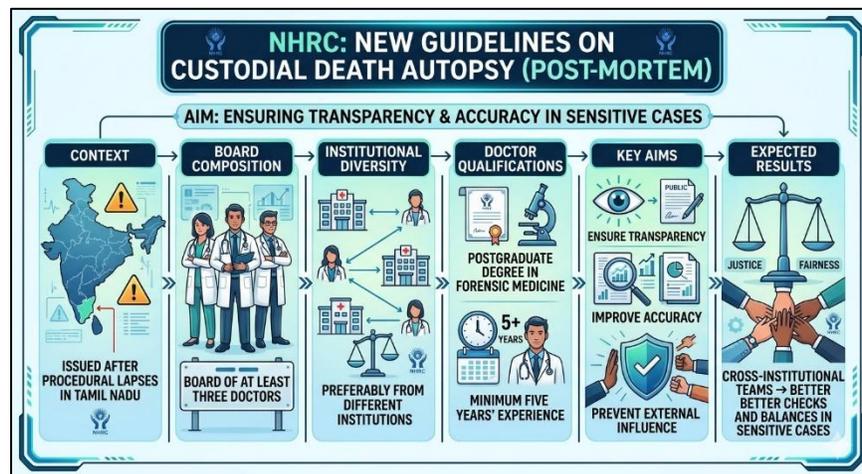


- ❖ Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving head of the government in March 2026.
- ❖ He completed 8,931 days in office, combining his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister.
- ❖ He surpassed Pawan Kumar Chamling (Sikkim CM), who held the previous record of 8,930 days.
- ❖ Narendra Modi served as Gujarat Chief Minister from 2001 to 2014 before becoming Prime Minister in 2014.
- ❖ He has led his party to victory in three Lok Sabha elections (2014, 2019, 2024).

- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru holds the record for the longest uninterrupted tenure as Prime Minister.

NHRC Guidelines on Custodial Death Autopsy

- ❖ The National Human Rights Commission issued new guidelines for post-mortem in custodial death cases after procedural lapses in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It directed that autopsies must be conducted by a board of at least three doctors, preferably from different institutions.
- ❖ All doctors must have a postgraduate degree in forensic medicine and a minimum of five years' experience.
- ❖ The guidelines aim to ensure transparency, accuracy, and prevent external influence during post-mortem examinations.
- ❖ Cross-institutional teams are expected to provide better checks and balances in sensitive cases.



RISA Timeless Tribal Scheme

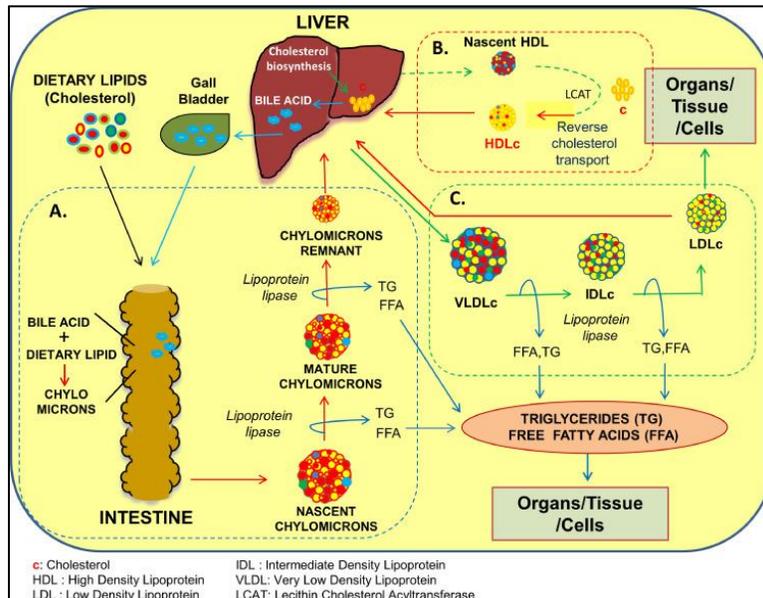
- ❖ Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched “RISA: Timeless Tribal” to promote tribal crafts and textiles.
- ❖ It is a premium national brand implemented by TRIFED to showcase tribal products.
- ❖ The scheme aims to promote tribal weaves, embroidery and handicrafts while supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).
- ❖ It focuses on cluster-based development, skill training, modern design support and eco-friendly packaging.

- ❖ It includes famous products like Eri silk (Assam), Pashmina (Ladakh), Dokhra art (Chhattisgarh) and Toda embroidery (Tamil Nadu).
- ❖ It helps improve the income of tribal artisans and preserves traditional cultural heritage.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

High Cholesterol and Cancer Spread

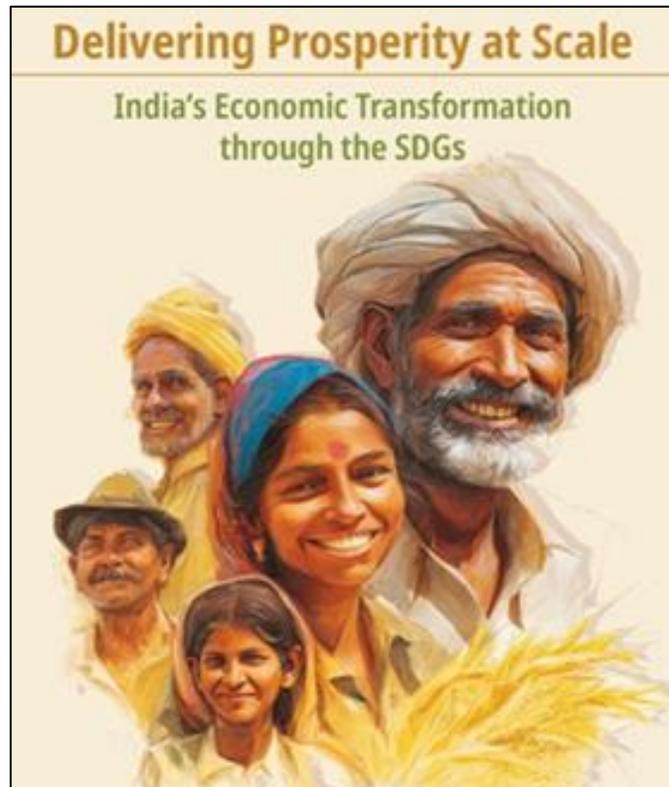


- ❖ A study by the National Institutes of Health found that high cholesterol helps cancer spread.

- ❖ High cholesterol makes the nuclear membrane (outer layer of the nucleus) soft and weak.
- ❖ This allows cancer cells to move easily through tissues and spread to other parts.
- ❖ It also causes DNA damage, leading to more mutations and severe cancer.
- ❖ The LBR (Lamin B Receptor) protein increases cholesterol inside the nucleus in cancer cells.
- ❖ Lowering cholesterol or targeting LBR may help slow down cancer spread.

REPORTS AND INDICES

SDG Bulletin Report on Prosperity

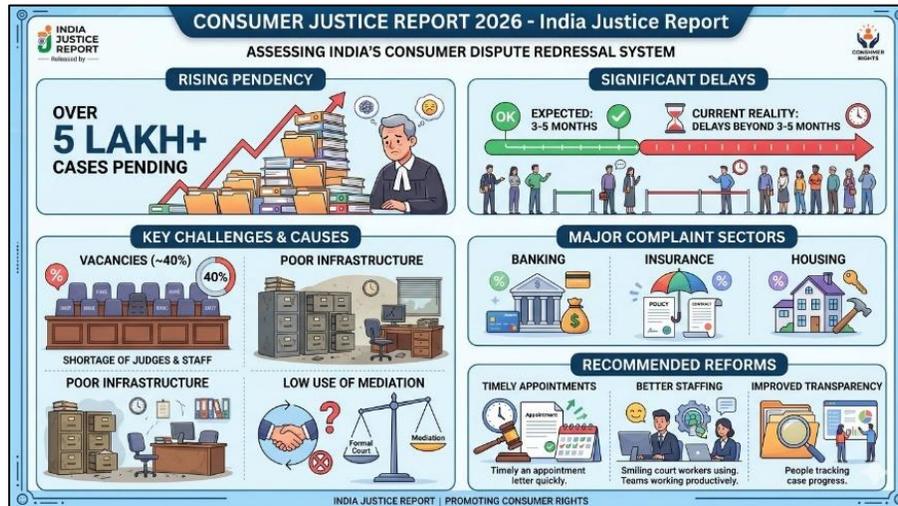


- ❖ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the report titled “Delivering Prosperity at Scale: India’s Economic Transformation through the SDGs”.
- ❖ It highlights India’s progress in economic growth, poverty reduction and improvement in living standards.
- ❖ It focuses on inclusive development, job creation, infrastructure growth and sustainable economic policies.

- ❖ The report shows how SDGs are integrated into national planning and governance frameworks.

Consumer Justice Report 2026

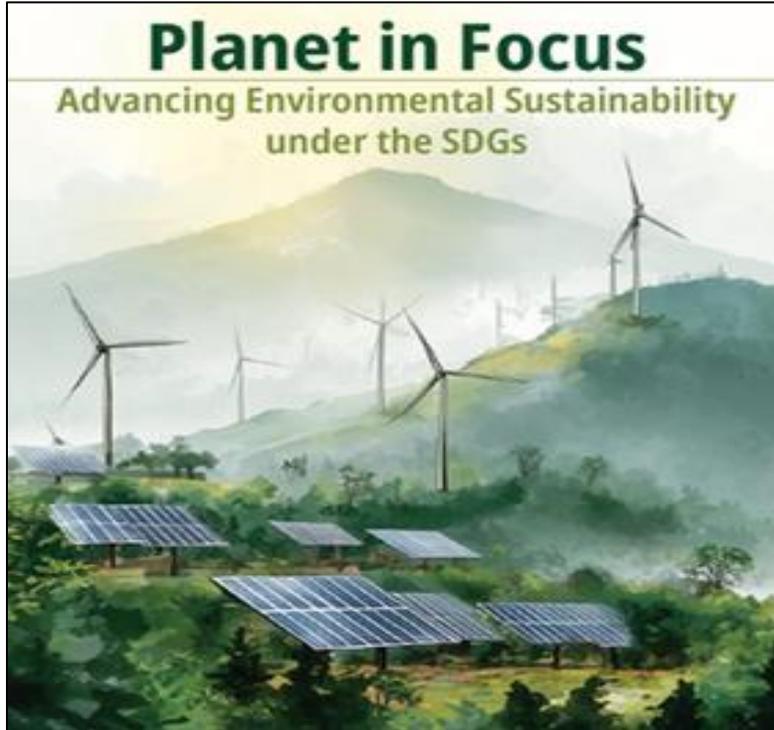
- ❖ The Consumer Justice Report 2026 was released by India Justice Report, assessing India’s consumer dispute redressal system.
- ❖ It highlights rising pendency with over 5 lakh cases and delays beyond the 3–5 months’ timeline.
- ❖ The report notes issues like vacancies (~40%), poor infrastructure and low use of mediation.
- ❖ Major complaints are from banking, insurance and housing sectors.



MoSPI - Planet in Focus Report

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the “Planet in Focus” report on environmental sustainability under SDGs recently.
- ❖ The report assesses India’s progress in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including sanitation, climate action, and ecosystems.
- ❖ India achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, and 97.2% schools have gender-segregated toilets (SDG 6).
- ❖ Waste-recycling facilities increased from 829 (2019–20) to 3,036 (2024–25), improving sustainable consumption (SDG 12).
- ❖ 698 out of 784 local bodies implemented disaster risk reduction strategies aligned with the Sendai Framework (SDG 13).

- ❖ Fisheries yield increased, and Ramsar wetland area doubled, but challenges like air pollution, water stress, and waste management remain.



UNIGME Report on Child Mortality 2025



- ❖ The United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) released its 2025 report recently.

- ❖ Globally, about 4.9 million under-five deaths were recorded in 2024, with newborns accounting for nearly half.
- ❖ Major causes include preterm birth complications, infections, pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, and malnutrition.
- ❖ India's under-5 mortality rate declined to about 26.6 (2024) and neonatal mortality to 16.7, showing significant progress.
- ❖ India played a key role in reducing child mortality in South Asia through immunisation, institutional deliveries, and newborn care.
- ❖ However, challenges remain as neonatal deaths are still high, and progress needs to accelerate to meet SDG targets.

National Report on Nagoya Protocol



- ❖ India has submitted its First National Report (NR1) on the Nagoya Protocol implementation to the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat.
- ❖ The report explains India's work on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS – sharing benefits from genetic resources) from 2017 to 2025.
- ❖ About 2,76,653 Biodiversity Management Committees were formed across India to protect local biodiversity.
- ❖ A total of 12,830 approvals were given for research and commercial use by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs).
- ❖ ₹216.31 crore was collected, and ₹139.69 crore was shared with local communities, farmers and traditional knowledge holders.

- ❖ The Nagoya Protocol (adopted in 2010) ensures fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources and protects traditional knowledge.

STATE NEWS

Sarhul Festival

- ❖ Sarhul is a major tribal festival celebrated recently mainly in Jharkhand and parts of Odisha, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It marks the worship of nature and the arrival of the spring season in tribal communities.
- ❖ The festival is associated with the sacred Sal tree, believed to be the abode of the village deity (Sarna Maa).
- ❖ It symbolises the union of the Sun and the Earth, representing renewal of life and ecological balance.

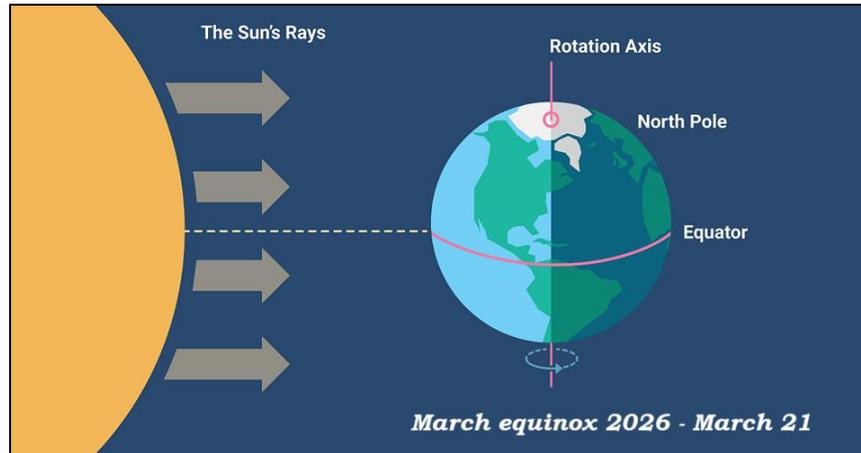


IMPORTANT DAYS

March equinox 2026 - March 21

- ❖ It is the moment when the Sun crosses the equator from south to north, marking an important astronomical event.
- ❖ It marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.
- ❖ On this day, day and night are nearly equal across the world.

- ❖ The term equinox means “equal night”.
- ❖ The Sun rises in the east and sets in the west, and it occurs twice every year (March and September).
- ❖ The March equinox is also called the Vernal Equinox or Northward Equinox.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

289-Million-Year-Old Reptile Skin Fossil



- ❖ A rare reptile skin fossil discovered in Oklahoma of USA provides new evidence about early life on land.
- ❖ The fossil was found at Richards Spur and dates back to about 289 million years ago.
- ❖ It is considered the oldest known reptile skin fossil, pushing back the timeline of skin evolution.

- ❖ The skin shows non-overlapping, pebbled scales similar to modern crocodiles, indicating early adaptation to land.
- ❖ Special conditions like low oxygen, fine clay burial and natural oil helped preserve the soft tissue.

