

March - 25

TNPSC BITS

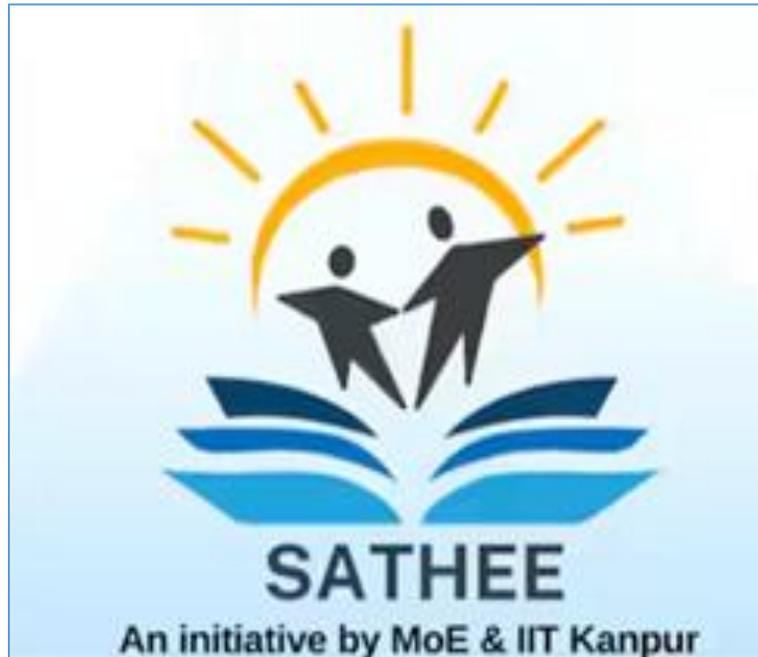
- ❖ Minor Planet Centre (under the auspices of the International Astronomical Union) announced the discovery of 15 new moons in the Solar System, including 4 around Jupiter and 11 around Saturn.
- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the 5G Innovation Hackathon 2026 under the 100 5G Use Case Labs Initiative to promote indigenous innovation and strengthen India's telecom ecosystem.
- ❖ Indian mountaineer Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma set a world record by completing the Seven Volcanic Summits in 92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes.
 - The Seven Volcanic Summits are the highest volcanoes on each continent, including Mount Elbrus (Russia), Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), and Mount Sidley (Antarctica).
- ❖ The Ministry of Mines organised the National DMF (District Mineral Foundation) Summit 2026 held in New Delhi to improve the utilisation of DMF funds in mining-affected areas.
- ❖ The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities partnered with the "Coalition of the Willing" to create India's first integrated life-cycle support model for the hearing impaired.
- ❖ World Puppetry Day 2026 was celebrated on March 21, 2026, every year across the world to promote and preserve the tradition of puppetry as a cultural art form.
- ❖ World Water Day is observed every year on March 22 to raise awareness about the importance of freshwater and the need for sustainable water management.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Water and Gender," with the campaign slogan "Where Water Flows, Equality Grows".

NATIONAL NEWS

SATHEE App for Competitive Exams

- ❖ The Ministry of Education launched the SATHEE App in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.
- ❖ SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) is a free digital platform for exam preparation like JEE, NEET, CUET, SSC, RRB, and IBPS.
- ❖ It provides video lectures, mock tests, study material, and previous year question papers for students.

- ❖ The app includes AI-enabled (Artificial Intelligence-enabled) features for personalized learning and tracking.
- ❖ It aims to support economically weaker students by providing free, quality education and accessible learning resources.



Prakriti 2026 – India’s Carbon Market Initiative



- ❖ The International Conference on Carbon Markets, “Prakriti 2026,” was held in New Delhi under the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- ❖ It focuses on carbon markets, climate finance, and emission reduction under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

- ❖ The event highlighted the Indian Carbon Market Portal and the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).
- ❖ It aims to promote transparency, global cooperation, and sustainable low-carbon economic growth.
- ❖ The conference supports India's efforts towards climate goals under the Paris Agreement.

Manuscript Mapping Drive

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture launched India's first nationwide manuscript mapping survey to preserve heritage.
- ❖ It is part of the Gyan Bharatam Mission to protect and digitise ancient knowledge.
- ❖ The survey will identify manuscripts across India and create a consolidated national digital repository.
- ❖ Manuscripts will be geotagged, documented, and digitised to prevent loss and intellectual piracy of knowledge.
- ❖ The initiative aligns with the New Delhi Declaration and promotes the preservation of India's cultural and literary heritage.



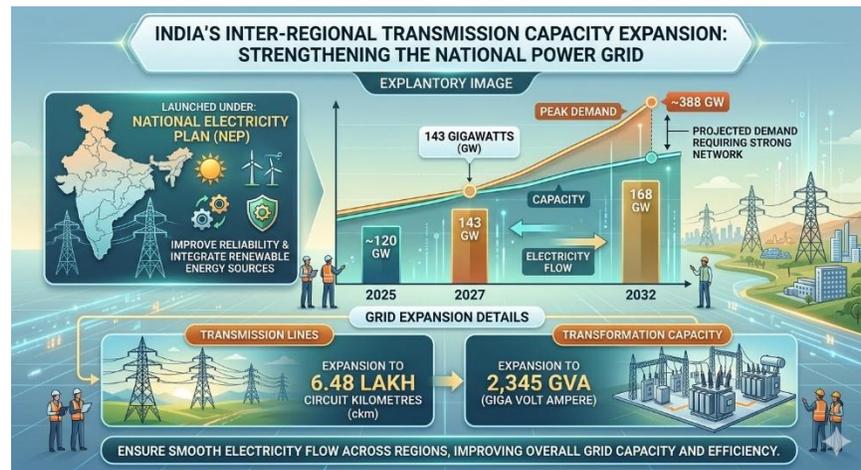
Gold Hallmarking Expansion in India

- ❖ The Government of India expanded mandatory gold hallmarking by adding 7 more districts in the sixth phase of the Gold Hallmarking Order.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Bureau of Indian Standards to ensure purity, quality, and consumer protection in gold jewellery.

- ❖ It uses Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) to enable traceability and prevent fraud in the gold trade.
- ❖ The system now covers 380 districts and includes multiple gold caratages such as 14K, 18K, 22K, and 24K, with 9K available as a voluntary option.



Inter-Regional Transmission Capacity Expansion



- ❖ India's inter-regional transmission capacity is planned to reach 143 gigawatts (GW) by 2027 to strengthen the national power grid.
- ❖ The capacity was about 120 GW in 2025 and will be expanded to 143 GW (2027) and 168 GW (2032) to ensure smooth electricity flow across regions.
- ❖ The expansion is part of the National Electricity Plan (NEP) to improve reliability and integrate renewable energy sources.
- ❖ India's peak electricity demand is projected to reach around 388 GW by 2032, requiring a strong transmission network.

- ❖ The plan also includes expansion of transmission lines to 6.48 lakh circuit kilometres (ckm) and transformation capacity to 2,345 GVA (Giga Volt Ampere), improving overall grid capacity and efficiency.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fujairah Port and Shah Gas Field Attacks – UAE

- ❖ The Fujairah Port in the UAE was attacked amid the Iran–US–Israel conflict.
- ❖ Attacks also hit the Shah gas field, one of the world’s largest sour gas fields, halting production and supply.
- ❖ These attacks caused energy disruptions and reduced crude exports from the UAE.
- ❖ The disruptions affect global oil supply, especially via the Strait of Hormuz, a key energy route.

GULF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE HIT

UAE: Shah gas field suspended

UAE: Fujairah port fire after drone hit

Iraq: Majnoon oil field targeted

Kuwait, UAE: further reduced oil output

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

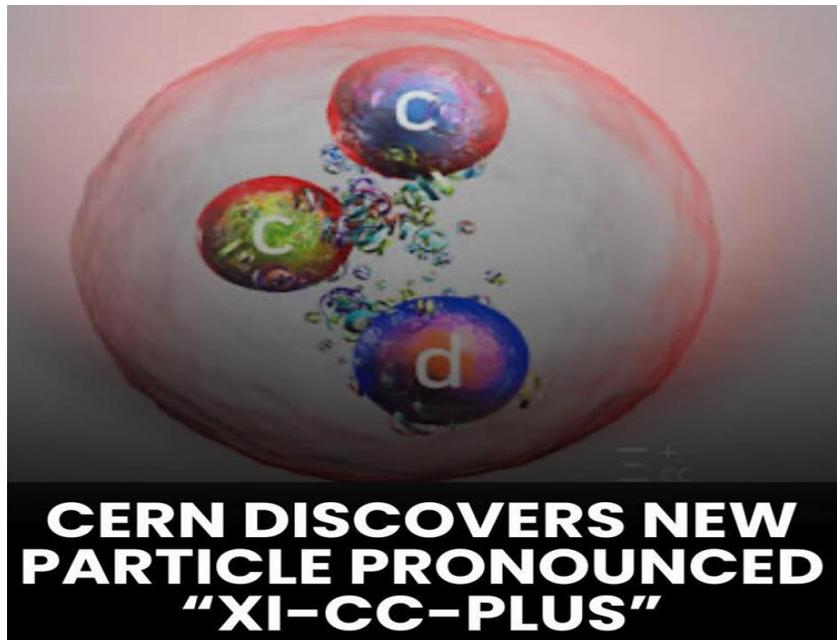
Sahiwal Cattle IVF Breakthrough

- ❖ Indian Veterinary Research Institute produced Sahiwal calves using advanced reproductive technology.
- ❖ The achievement was done by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh).
- ❖ Scientists used the OPU–IVF–ET (Ovum Pick-Up–In Vitro Fertilization–Embryo Transfer) technique for the first time at the institute.
- ❖ Five healthy Sahiwal cattle calves were born in February 2026 within five days.

- ❖ The programme started in 2022–23 to improve indigenous breeds like Sahiwal, Tharparkar, and Murrah buffalo.



Xi-cc-plus Baryon Discovery



- ❖ CERN announced the discovery of a new particle called Xi-cc-plus.
- ❖ The discovery was made at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) by the LHCb (Large Hadron Collider beauty) experiment.
- ❖ Xi-cc-plus is a heavy baryon made of two charm quarks and one down quark.
- ❖ It is about 4 times heavier than a proton and is highly unstable with a very short lifetime.
- ❖ The LHC has also discovered key particles like the Higgs Boson, exotic hadrons (particles made of four or five quarks), and rare B-meson decays.

NavIC Atomic Clock Failure – ISRO



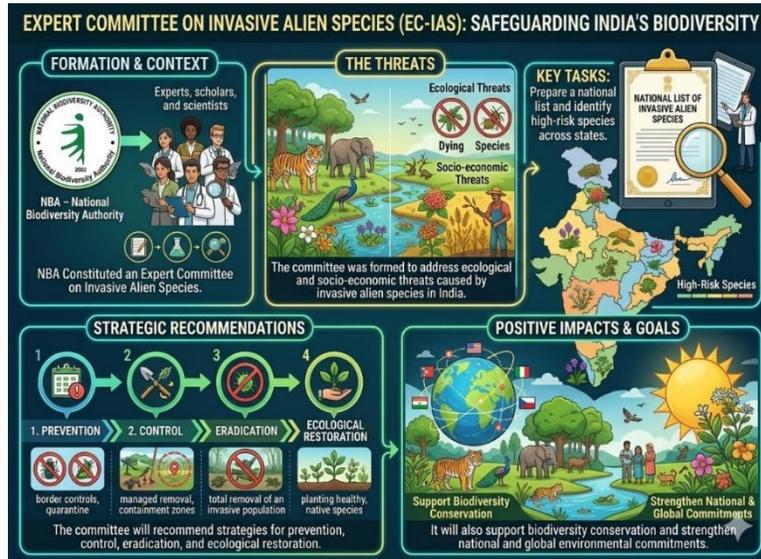
- ❖ The atomic clock in the IRNSS-1F satellite failed, affecting India's navigation system NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
- ❖ Atomic clocks are essential for accurate positioning, navigation, and timing services.
- ❖ With this failure, the number of functional satellites for NavIC reduced to three, below the required four.
- ❖ NavIC is India's indigenous regional navigation system developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation.
- ❖ ISRO plans to use indigenous rubidium atomic clocks in future replacement satellites to strengthen the system.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species

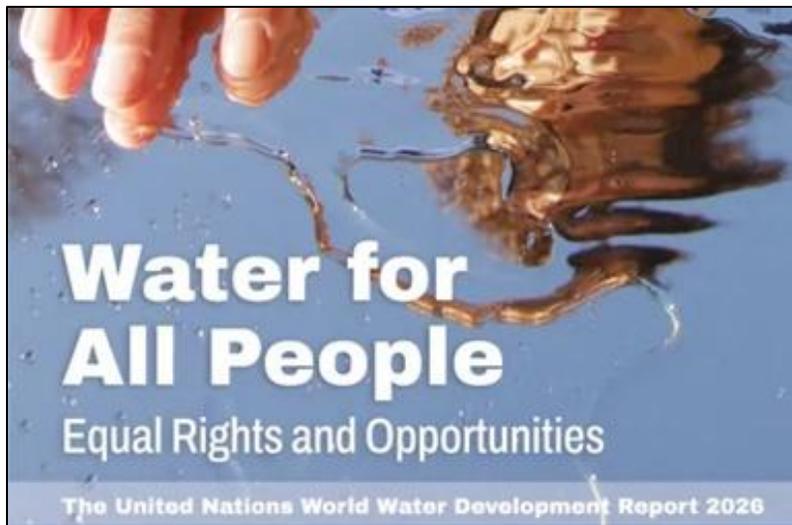
- ❖ The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA – National Biodiversity Authority) constituted an Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species.
- ❖ The committee was formed to address ecological and socio-economic threats caused by invasive alien species in India.

- ❖ It will prepare a national list of invasive species and identify high-risk species across states.
- ❖ The committee will recommend strategies for prevention, control, eradication, and ecological restoration.
- ❖ It will also support biodiversity conservation and strengthen national and global environmental commitments.



REPORTS AND INDICES

UN World Water Development Report 2026



- ❖ The United Nations Water released the World Water Development Report 2026 titled “Water for All People: Equal Rights and Opportunities.”

- ❖ 2.1 billion people still lack safely managed drinking water worldwide.
- ❖ women and girls spend about 250 million hours daily collecting water.
- ❖ It emphasizes gender inequality, as women are underrepresented in water governance and leadership roles.

STATE NEWS

Assam Peace Settlement with Kuki & Hmar Groups

- ❖ The Government of Assam signed peace agreements with Kuki militant groups and the Hmar People's Convention–Democratic.
- ❖ The agreements were signed as Memorandums of Settlement (MoS) with support from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ They aim to end insurgency and promote peace, stability, and development in the region.
- ❖ Welfare councils like the Kuki Welfare and Development Council (KWDC) and the Hmar Welfare and Development Council (HWDC) will be formed.
- ❖ The pact also includes rehabilitation of former cadres and socio-economic development in affected areas.



**ASSAM SIGNS FINAL PEACE PACTS WITH
FOUR KUKI AND HMAR ARMED GROUPS**

IMPORTANT DAYS

Pakistan Day 2026 - March 23

- ❖ It is observed every year on March 23 to mark the adoption of the Lahore Resolution.
- ❖ The resolution was passed in 1940 by the All-India Muslim League in Lahore.



- ❖ It called for independent states for Muslims in the north-western and eastern regions of India.
- ❖ In 1956, Pakistan adopted its first Constitution and became an Islamic Republic on the same day.
- ❖ The Minar-e-Pakistan was later built at the site where the resolution was adopted.

