

March - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was sworn in as Namibia's first female president.
 - She is only the second African woman to be directly elected as president, after Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam – II

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு அரசாணை வெளியீடு

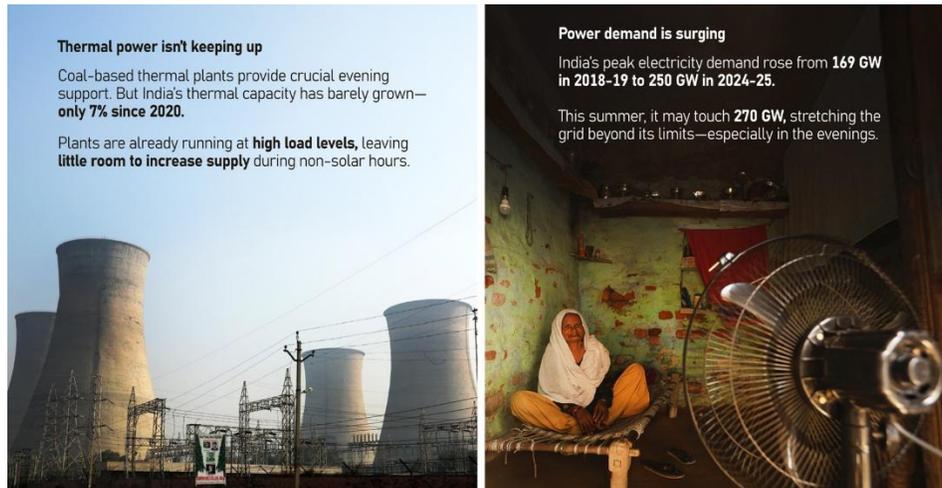
அனைத்து கிராம அண்ணா மறுமலர்ச்சி
திட்டம்-IIக்கு ரூ.1087 கோடி ஒதுக்கி
தமிழ்நாடு அரசு அரசாணை வெளியீடு

2025-26ம் ஆண்டில் 2329 கிராம ஊராட்சிகளில் பல்வேறு பணிகளை
மேற்கொள்ள நிதி ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. தமிழ்நாடு பட்ஜெட்டில்
அறிவிக்கப்பட்ட 5 நாளில் திட்டத்தை செயல்படுத்த அரசாணை வெளியீடு

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has granted administrative sanction for allocation of ₹1,087 crore for the implementation of 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam – II.
- ❖ It aims to improve basic infrastructure in rural areas during 2025-26.
- ❖ The programme is being implemented by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- ❖ The programme inducted in 2006 aims to improve the overall basic infrastructure facilities in all village panchayats in a phased manner.
- ❖ The Rejuvenation of ponds, upgrading streets and lanes, installing streetlights, ensuring livelihood and marketing facilities, among others, are undertaken under this initiative.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 12,482 village panchayats.
- ❖ During 2025-26, the programme is to be implemented in the no of 2,329 village panchayats.
- ❖ The Block Level Committees would decide the works to be taken up in a village panchayat.

- ❖ All works shortlisted by the Selection Committee should be approved by a Special Grama Sabha.
- ❖ A minimum of 30% funds were to be allocated for SC/ST habitation areas.

Report on the short-term power market in India 2023-24



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Company Limited (TNPDC) bought 8,606 million units of power from energy exchanges in 2023-24.
- ❖ TNPDC has, the erstwhile Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), purchased power at a cost of ₹7,953 crores.
- ❖ TNPDC is a major buyer of electricity from the High Price Day Ahead Market (HP-DAM) in power exchanges.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's power demand this summer is expected to surpass its previous year's all-time high peak demand of 20,830 MW, reached on May 2, 2024.
- ❖ The state record high daily consumption of 454.32 million units on April 30, 2024.

NATIONAL NEWS

Parliament Standing committee on Commerce

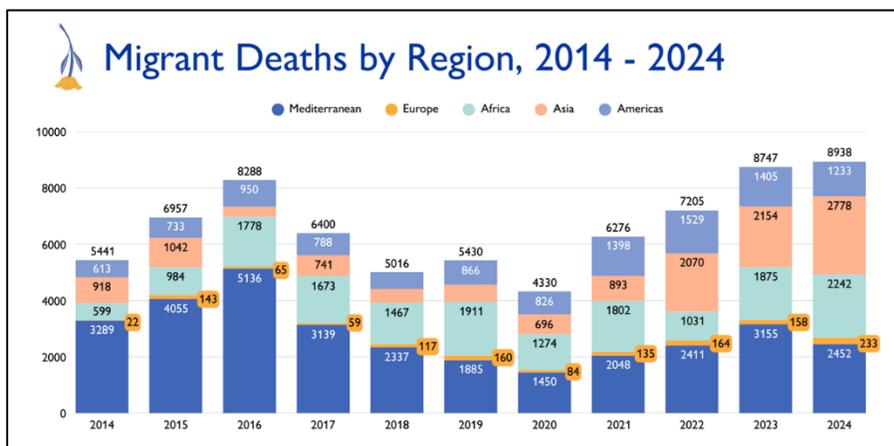
- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce gave its recommendation for the government.
- ❖ It has asked to extend the tenure and scope of the ongoing Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to more sectors and improve its effectiveness by reducing “administrative delays” and “compliance burdens”.

- ❖ It also recommended to expand its coverage to include labour-intensive sectors, such as chemicals, leather, apparel, and handicrafts.
- ❖ Currently, the PLI scheme covers 14 sectors, including mobile phones, drones, white goods, telecommunications, textiles, automobiles, specialty steel, and the pharmaceutical drugs, with an outlay of ₹1.97 trillion.
- ❖ The committee has recommended extending the scheme to the additional sectors, such as the defence manufacturing, aerospace, and ship containers to strengthen the domestic manufacturing.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Migrant Deaths in 2024



- ❖ Nearly 9,000 people have died on dangerous routes and one in 10 of those killed violently in 2024.
- ❖ Asian routes is being the most deadly followed by the Mediterranean crossing and Africa, which includes the Sahara Desert.

- ❖ Asia reported most fatalities with 2,788, followed by the Mediterranean Sea with 2,452 and Africa with 2,242.
- ❖ Most violent deaths occurred in Iran, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Mexico.

ECONOMY NEWS

Coal Production in India FY 2024–25

- ❖ India crossed the record annual coal output of 1 billion tonnes (bt) to hit 1.03 bt.
- ❖ It is constituting a 5.24 per cent uptick over the total production of 953.3 million tonnes in 2023-24.
- ❖ India is the second largest producer of coal after China, and relies on it to meet nearly 75 per cent of its electricity demand.
- ❖ India also imports high grade coal from countries like Indonesia and Australia.

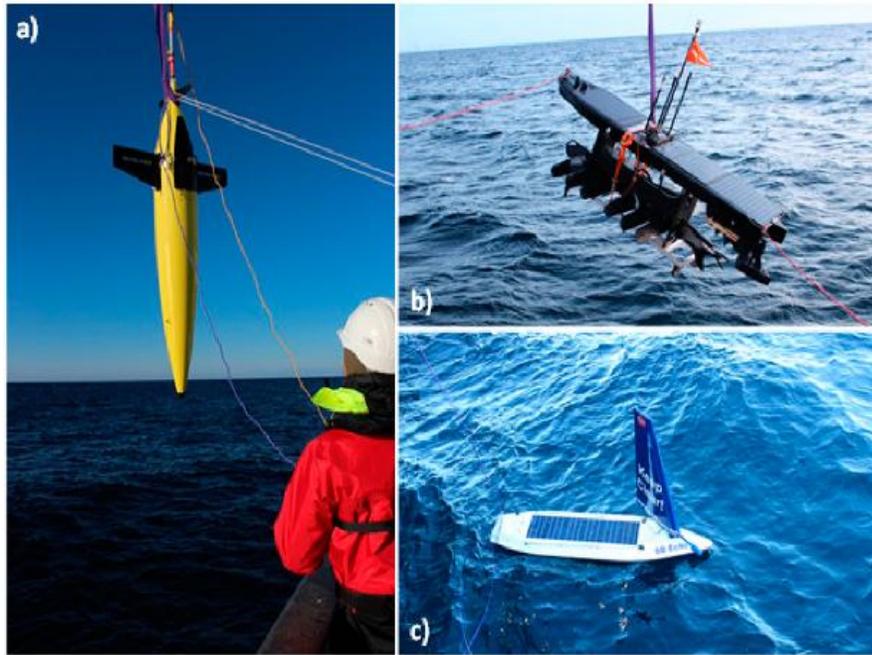


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

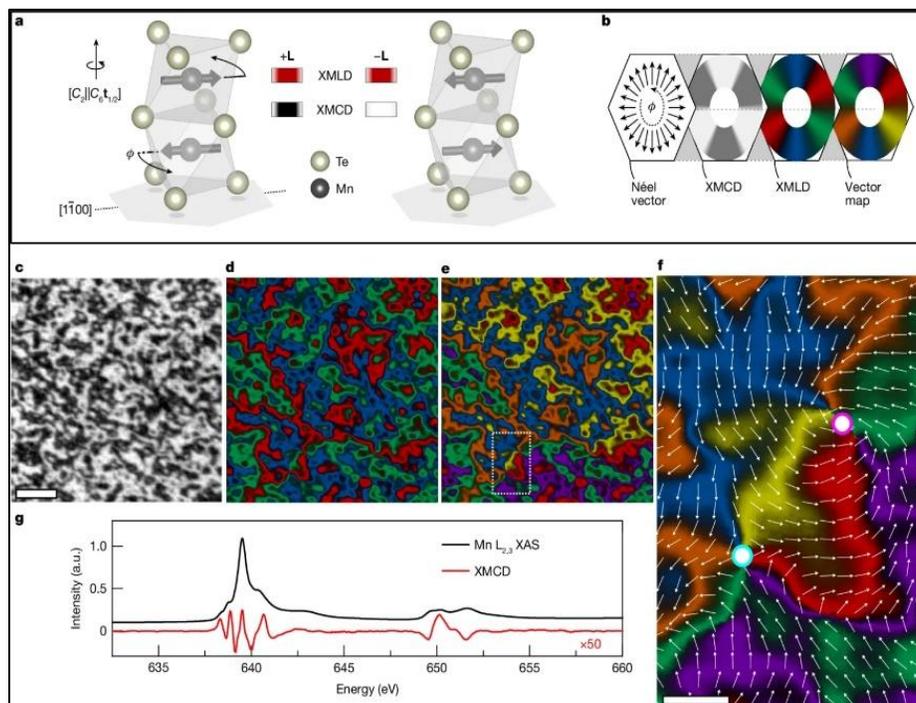
Wave Glider for Anti-Submarine Warfare

- ❖ Private firms from India and US have signed a MoU to co-develop and co-produce Autonomous Surface Vessels (ASVs) for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)—Wave Glider.
- ❖ Wave Glider, powered by wave and solar energy, is an autonomous, uncrewed surface vehicle (USV).
- ❖ They operate individually or in fleets, delivering real-time data for up to a year.

- ❖ It is currently primarily used by the oil and gas industry to monitor the offshore structures and communicate with subsea wellheads.



Third form of magnetism



- ❖ The Scientists have uncovered the first conclusive evidence of the elusive third category of magnetism - Altermagnetism.

- ❖ The other two forms of magnetism are ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism.
- ❖ Altermagnetic materials have a structure that falls between the other two.
- ❖ In altermagnets, each unit is slightly twisted relative to the adjacent magnetic atom, resulting in properties similar to ferromagnetism.
- ❖ Thus, altermagnets combine the best properties of both ferromagnetic and anti-ferromagnetic materials.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Transforming Forest Finance



- ❖ A new report, Transforming Forest Finance, has been released by the Forest Declaration Assessment, supported by UNDP.
- ❖ While an estimated \$460 billion per year is required to halt deforestation, actual financial support falls far short.
- ❖ For every \$1 spent on forest protection, \$6 is directed towards activities that drive deforestation.
- ❖ In 2023, private financial institutions invested \$6.1 trillion in sectors linked to deforestation
- ❖ The Payments under REDD+ are insufficient, ranging from \$5–\$10 per tonne of carbon dioxide.

- ❖ But, the actual cost of reducing emissions is estimated at \$30–\$50 per tonne.

Uplink initiative of World Economic Forum

- ❖ The World Economic Forum's Uplink supported ventures prevented 142,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over the past two years.
- ❖ It is an amount comparable to the annual emissions of more than 30,000 cars.
- ❖ These start-ups protected 140 million hectares of terrestrial and aquatic areas, an area nearly one-fifth the size of the Amazon rainforest.
- ❖ The treatment of 2.5 billion litres of hazardous wastewater and the tracking of 28 million tonnes of waste also made.
- ❖ In India, Indra Water increased wastewater treatment capacity, processing 1.2 billion litres in 2024.
- ❖ This was marking a 243 per cent rise compared to 2022.



STATES' NEWS

West Bengal OBC List Issue

- ❖ The West Bengal government is going to conduct a fresh survey to identify the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the state
- ❖ The state government has added 77 communities, 75 of which were the Muslim, between 2010 and 2012 to its list of OBCs.
- ❖ The additions issues have reached the Calcutta High Court, and in 2024 it struck down the additions.

- ❖ It had struck down the portions of the West Bengal Backward Classes (Other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) (the Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012.

<h2>In Need of Corrective Action</h2>	
<h3>West Bengal</h3>	
<p>Rohingyas and Bangladeshi immigrants have got OBC certificates</p>	<p>118 of the 179 castes in the state OBC list are from Muslim community</p>
<h3>Punjab</h3>	
<p>OBCs have 12% reservation and SCs 25%, which takes the total quantum to 37% while the state can give 50% reservation</p> <p>State told to increase the percentage of OBC reservation from 12% to 25%</p>	
<h3>Rajasthan</h3>	
<p>In seven districts, not a single person has got OBC reservation benefits</p> <p>State taking the income of the entire family (including brothers and sisters and not just parents) to give OBC certificates, making several people ineligible for non-creamy layer OBC certificate</p>	
<h3>Bihar</h3>	
<p>From 1993 to 2023, the state included agricultural income of class III and IV employees to calculate income and give non-creamy layer OBC certificates.</p>	<p>Bihar giving flawed certificates to those belonging to Kurmi caste.</p>

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Music Academy awards



- ❖ Violinist R.K. Shriram Kumar has been selected for this year's Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy, Chennai.

- ❖ Dancer Urmila Satyanarayana had been selected for the Nritya Kalanidhi award.
- ❖ The Sangita Kala Acharya awards will be presented to the fame vocalist Shyamala Venkateswaran and Thavil maestro T.R. Govindarajan.
- ❖ The TTK awards will go to Kathakali artiste Madambi Subramania Namboothiri and veena players J.T. Jeyaraaj Krishnan and Jayasri Jeyaraaj Krishnan.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Spring Equinoxes 2025 - March 20

- ❖ This day marks the start of the spring season for the Northern Hemisphere and fall in the Southern Hemisphere, with the arrival of the vernal equinox.
- ❖ On this day, the sun appears directly above the Equator at noon.
- ❖ Equinoxes occur twice a year, in March and in September, and are the only times when both poles are sunlit at the same time.
- ❖ In the Northern Hemisphere, the vernal or spring equinox, typically occurs in between March 19 and 21.
- ❖ The autumnal or fall equinox occurs between September 21 and 24.
- ❖ Equinoxes reflect the time of the year when the day and night are of equal length.
- ❖ During the equinox, the Earth's axis and orbit align just so that both hemispheres obtain an equal amount of sunlight.



International Nowruz Day 2025 - March 20

- ❖ Nowruz, meaning “New Day” in Persian, marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the New Year in the Persian solar calendar.
- ❖ It aligns with the spring equinox when the sun crosses the celestial equator.

- ❖ In 2009, UNESCO has inscribed Nowruz as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- ❖ Sultan Balban was the very first ruler to introduce the famous Persian festival of Nauroj in India.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Global Funding for Women-Led Startups in 2024



- ❖ The global tech sector has over 69,000 women-founded tech companies, which have collectively raised \$309 billion in funding to date.
- ❖ In 2024, women-led startups accounted for only 11.7% of total funding.
- ❖ Women-led tech companies globally secured \$29.6 billion in 2024.



- ❖ It was representing an 11% decline from \$33.1 billion in 2023 and a 21% drop from \$37.5 billion in 2022.
- ❖ India is home to over 7,000 active women-led startups, accounting for 7.5% of all active startups in the country.
- ❖ It has ranked at second rank after the US in terms of all-time funding raised by companies with women founders, with total capital mobilisation at \$26 billion.

