

March - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India achieved 1 billion tonnes of coal production for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ Indian Railways launched the SHINE app (Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment) to enhance workplace safety.
 - It allows confidential reporting of harassment cases through HRMS (Human Resources Management System).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh launched Project GANGA to provide high-speed internet connectivity to rural households and boost digital infrastructure.
 - The project aims to connect more than 20 lakh rural and semi-urban households over the next 2–3 years with reliable broadband services.
- ❖ World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People is celebrated every year on March 20 to promote theatre among children and young people worldwide.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Staging the Rights of Children. Today. Everyday."
- ❖ World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on March 23 to mark the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow."
- ❖ World atheist Day is observed every year on March 23 to recognize people who do not believe in God.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

- ❖ The tenure of the 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly is set to end on May 10, 2026, completing its five-year term.
- ❖ The Assembly began its tenure on May 11, 2021, following the state elections held in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This Assembly recorded comparatively fewer sittings than previous legislative terms, indicating a reduced number of sessions.
- ❖ It introduced a major administrative reform by shifting to a fully digital and paperless mode of budget presentation.
- ❖ On August 13, 2021, the revised Budget for 2021–22 was presented in a paperless format by former Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan.

- ❖ A significant initiative was the introduction of a separate Agriculture Budget, presented annually to give focused attention to the agriculture sector.

The 16th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly at a glance

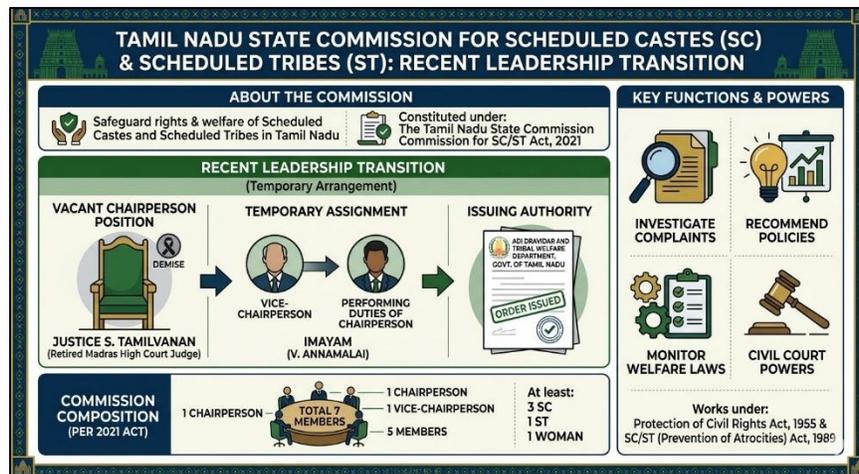
The Assembly met for 155 days - the lowest duration for a full-term Assembly since 1952	78% of the Bills were passed within a day of introduction	Most Bills focused on education and urban governance
Average annual sitting days dropped from 64 (1st term) to 32 (latest term)		No Private Members' Bills were introduced



Between 2021 and 2026, a total of **201** Bills were introduced and **194** were passed; none of these were referred to committees*

Note: This excludes Finance and Appropriation Bills. Seven Bills with unconfirmed dates of passing have been excluded from the calculation

SC/ST Commission



- ❖ The Vice-Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been assigned to perform the duties of Chairperson.
- ❖ This decision follows the demise of the Chairperson, Justice S. Tamilvanan.



- ❖ Vice-Chairperson Imayam (V. Annamalai) has been nominated to take over the responsibilities temporarily.
- ❖ The order was issued by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Commission works to safeguard the rights and welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the state.

NATIONAL NEWS

Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026

SUPREME COURT DIRECTIVE SPARKS HISTORIC REFORM: CAPF BILL TO GRANT AUTONOMY, CREATE CADRE POSTS

The Parliament is poised to debate the landmark Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, in the current session, ushering in the first comprehensive legal framework for the country's five major paramilitary forces –CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB.....

- ❖ The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, is likely to be introduced and taken up for detailed discussion in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive and uniform legal framework governing recruitment, promotions, deputation, and service conditions across all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).
- ❖ At present, forces such as the Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, ITBP, CISF, and SSB operate under separate Acts, leading to policy inconsistencies, administrative delays, and frequent service-related disputes.
- ❖ The Bill proposes structured deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, including 50% of Inspector General posts, at least 67% of Additional Director General posts, and all top-level posts like Special DG and DG through deputation.
- ❖ The proposal may limit their promotion opportunities and affect career progression despite long years of service.
- ❖ The Bill is linked to the 2025 directions of the Supreme Court of India, which recommended the cadre reforms and reduction of IPS deputation to address stagnation issues.

- ❖ Currently, CAPFs play a crucial role in internal security, border management, counter-insurgency operations, and election duties across India.

Transgender Rights Amendment Bill 2026

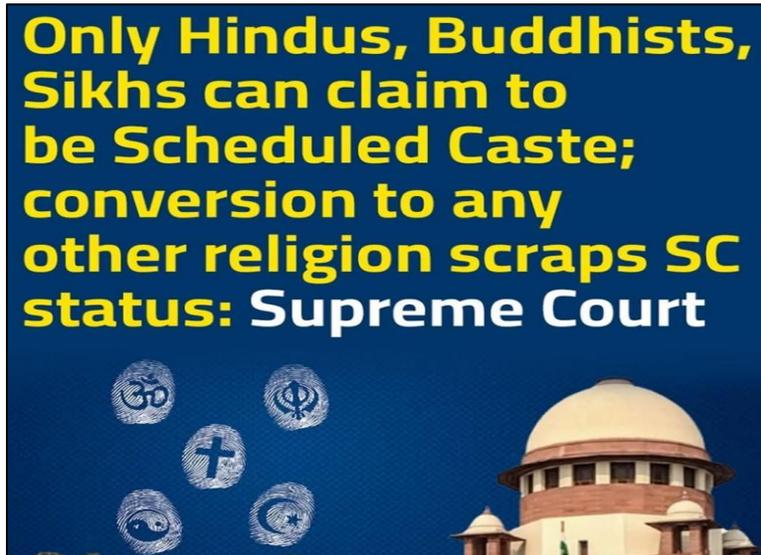
- ❖ Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, was passed by the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The Bill changes the process of identity recognition, requiring certification by the District Magistrate based on a medical board's recommendation.
- ❖ It allows transgender persons to change their name in official documents after obtaining the identity certificate.
- ❖ It amends the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India (NALSA judgment, 2014) had recognised the right to self-identification under Article 21 (Right to Life).



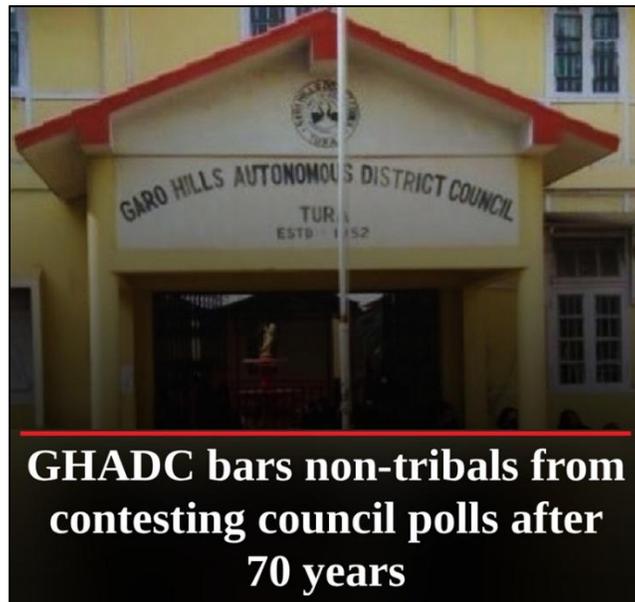
SC Status and Conversion Law

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India ruled that only Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists can claim Scheduled Caste status.
- ❖ The ruling is based on Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.
- ❖ It states that conversion to any other religion leads to immediate loss of Scheduled Caste status.

- ❖ Sikhism was included in 1956, and Buddhism was added in 1990 under this provision.
- ❖ A person cannot claim benefits under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, after converting to another religion.
- ❖ Re-conversion requires proof of original caste, genuine return to religion, and acceptance by the community.



GHADC Amendment - ST Rule for Elections

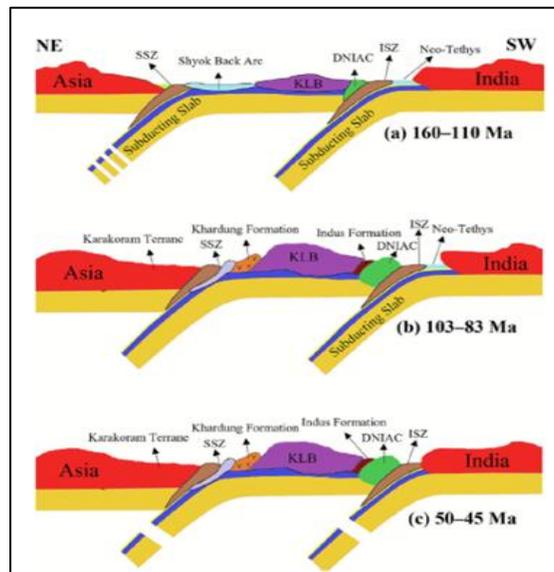


- ❖ The Garo Hills Autonomous District Council in Meghalaya amended rules to make the Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificate mandatory for contesting council elections.

- ❖ The amendment restricts election eligibility only to recognised Scheduled Tribes, excluding non-tribal residents even if they are permanent inhabitants.
- ❖ The council functions under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which provides autonomy to tribal areas and protects their customs and governance.
- ❖ The decision came after tensions over non-tribal candidates attempting to contest elections in the Garo Hills region.
- ❖ Earlier notification on this rule was struck down by the High Court due to procedural lapses, leading to a formal amendment.
- ❖ The move aims to preserve tribal identity, ensure representation of indigenous communities, and strengthen self-governance in tribal areas.

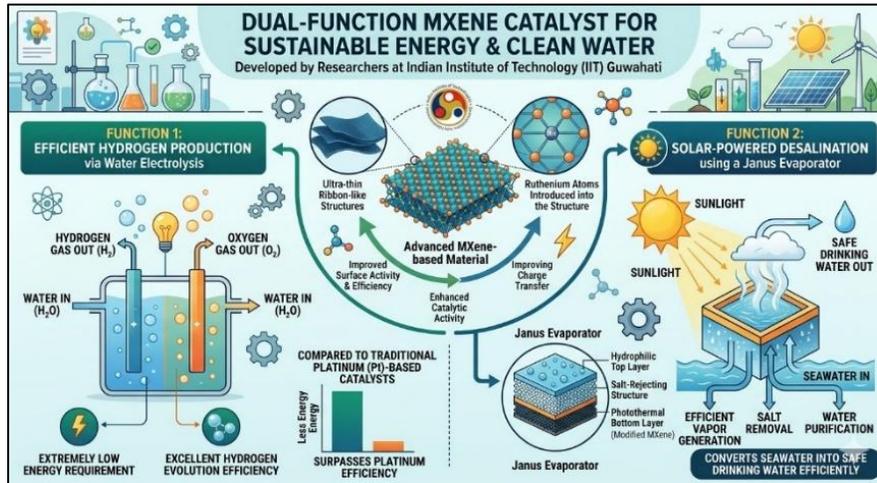
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Ladakh Magmatic Arc – Tectonic Evolution



- ❖ Scientists have recently decoded the evolution of the Ladakh Magmatic Arc, revealing a detailed geological history spanning nearly 130 million years.
- ❖ It was formed due to the continuous subduction of the Neo-Tethys Oceanic Plate beneath the Eurasian Plate over millions of years.
- ❖ The arc developed during the long geological time period from the Jurassic to the Eocene epoch (approximately 201 to 34 million years ago).
- ❖ Important geological components of this arc include the Dras–Nidar Island Arc Complex and the Ladakh Batholith, which preserve valuable rock records.
- ❖ It shows three major phases of magmatic evolution, reflecting changing tectonic conditions and eventual collision with the Indian Plate.

Dual-Function MXene Catalyst



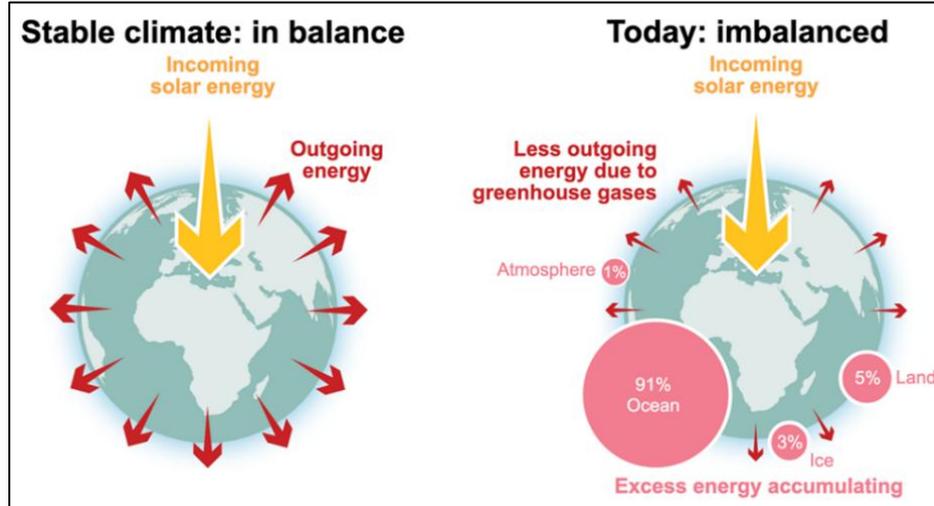
- ❖ Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati have developed an advanced MXene-based material capable of both hydrogen production and solar desalination.
- ❖ The material shows excellent performance in hydrogen generation through water electrolysis, with very low energy requirement compared to traditional platinum-based catalysts.
- ❖ It is based on MXenes, which were modified into ultra-thin ribbon-like structures to improve surface activity and efficiency.
- ❖ Ruthenium atoms were introduced into the structure to enhance catalytic activity, improving charge transfer and increasing hydrogen evolution efficiency.
- ❖ The same material also functions as a solar-powered desalination system using a Janus evaporator, converting seawater into safe drinking water efficiently.

REPORTS AND INDICES

WMO State of Global Climate Report 2026

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization released the State of the Global Climate 2026 Report, warning that Earth's climate is "flashing red".
- ❖ The report states that Earth's energy imbalance has reached a 65-year high, meaning more heat is being trapped than released into space.
- ❖ Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) are at record levels, accelerating global warming.
- ❖ Oceans absorb about 90% of excess heat, leading to ocean warming, sea-level rise, and ocean acidification.

- ❖ Global temperature is about 1.43°C above pre-industrial levels, causing extreme weather events like heatwaves, floods, and droughts.
- ❖ The report highlights serious impacts on ecosystems, human health, livelihoods, and global economic stability.



STATE NEWS

Musi River Rejuvenation Project – Telangana

- Telangana is using S Korea's Great Hangang project as a model to develop Musi riverfront
- Project, once complete, set to prevent flooding of city for next 100 years
- Plan includes diverting Godavari waters into the Musi and emulating Han river's phased development
- ADB funds will cover some of the most crucial components of the Musi rejuvenation project, which is expected to cost over ₹1 lakh crore



- ❖ Telangana State Government announced a Cabinet sub-committee for the Musi River Rejuvenation Project in 2026.
- ❖ The project aims to clean and restore the Musi River and improve the environment in Hyderabad.

- ❖ A Cabinet sub-committee led by Bhatti Vikramarka will monitor and guide the project.
- ❖ The government will provide proper rehabilitation and resettlement to people affected near river areas.
- ❖ The project focuses on river cleaning, urban development, and better living conditions.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Shaheed Diwas 2026

- ❖ It is observed every year on March 23 to remember the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev.
- ❖ They were executed by the British in 1931 at Lahore jail.
- ❖ Another Shaheed Diwas is observed on January 30 to mark the death of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948.
- ❖ The day honours all martyrs who sacrificed their lives for India's independence.

