

March - 27

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kalpana Soren has received the Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award at the BRICS CCI WE (BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Empowerment) Annual Women Summit 2026 held in New Delhi.
- ❖ National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) successfully tested an indigenous Floating LiDAR Buoy System off the Muttom coast in Tamil Nadu.
  - It is an advanced ocean-based platform that uses Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to measure high-resolution wind profiles and meteorological data over the sea.
- ❖ Karnataka Grameen Bank won the National Award for Outstanding Performance in Self-Help Group Bank Linkage for 2024–25.
- ❖ The first National Indoor Athletics Championships began at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has started the Vayu Baan project to develop India's first helicopter-launched drone system.
  - It is a small autonomous drone dropped from a moving helicopter and used for surveillance or attack.
- ❖ World Tuberculosis Day is observed annually on 24 March to highlight the global burden of Tuberculosis (TB).
  - The theme for 2026 is "Yes! We Can End TB: Led by countries, powered by people."

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Tamil Nadu Public Health Model

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh officials visited Tamil Nadu to study its successful public health model for reducing maternal deaths.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has achieved a low Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of about 35–40, compared to around 140 in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The model is based on strong healthcare infrastructure, efficient service delivery systems, and continuous monitoring mechanisms.
- ❖ Key features include district-level audits, MMR war rooms, standard treatment protocols, and a focus on high-risk pregnancy cases.

- ❖ Institutions like the National Health Mission (NHM) and Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project support implementation and coordination.

**மகப்பேறு இறப்பு விகிதத்தை குறைக்க தீர்வு காண, தமிழ்நாடு வந்துள்ள உத்தரப் பிரதேச திட்டக்குழு அதிகாரிகள், இங்கு செயல்பாட்டில் உள்ள திட்டங்கள் குறித்து சுகாதாரத்துறை அதிகாரிகளுடன் விரிவான ஆலோசனை**  
பிரசவத்தின் போது அல்லது பிரசவம் முடிந்து 42 நாட்களுக்குள் இறக்கும் தாய்மார்களின் எண்ணிக்கையை வைத்து மகப்பேறு இறப்பு விகிதம் கணக்கிடப்படுகிறது. அதன்படி, 1 லட்சம் பிரசவத்தில் தமிழ்நாட்டில் 35 பேர் உயிரிழக்கின்றனர், இது உ.பி.யில் 140 ஆக உள்ளது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order 2026

#### MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

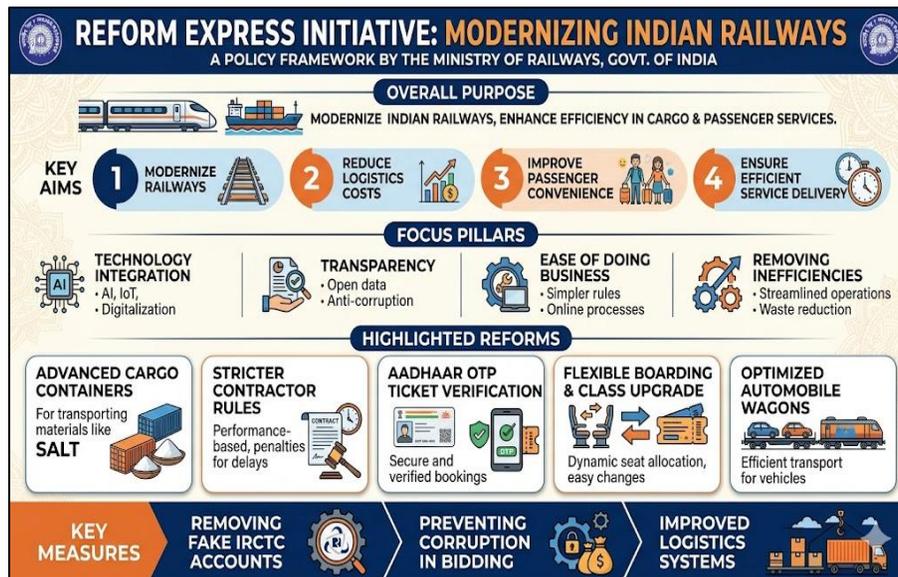
- Notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Through Laying, Building, Operation, and Expansion of Pipelines and Other Facilities) Order, 2026
- The order provides a streamlined and time-bound framework for laying and expanding pipelines across the country
- The order addresses delays in approvals and access to land
- The order will enable faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas

- ❖ The government notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to expand gas use.
- ❖ India plans to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030 from about 6.2% in 2025.
- ❖ Natural gas is a fossil fuel mainly made of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) (Methane).
- ❖ It reduces pollution by lowering Particulate Matter (PM), Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), and Sulphur Oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>).
- ❖ Consumption is expected to rise from 52 million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) in FY25 to 112 MTPA by FY40.

- ❖ Government initiatives include City Gas Distribution (CGD), Compressed Bio Gas (CBG), and Unified Tariff (UFT) policy.

### Reform Express Initiative

- ❖ Ministry of Railways has launched the Reform Express Initiative as a policy framework to modernize Indian Railways and improve efficiency in cargo and passenger services.
- ❖ The initiative aims to modernize railways, reduce logistics costs, improve passenger convenience, and ensure efficient service delivery.
- ❖ It focuses on technology integration, transparency, ease of doing business, and the removal of inefficiencies in railway operations.
- ❖ Key reforms include advanced cargo containers for salt transport, stricter contractor rules, Aadhaar OTP ticket verification, flexible boarding and class upgrade, and optimized wagons for automobile transport.
- ❖ Measures include the removal of fake IRCTC accounts, the prevention of corruption in bidding, and improved logistics systems.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Litani River - Lebanon

- ❖ Israeli airstrikes destroyed a key bridge over the Litani River of Lebanon
- ❖ The Litani River is the longest entirely within Lebanon.

- ❖ It originates near Baalbek and flows through the fertile Bekaa Valley before draining into the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❖ The river supports major infrastructure like the Qaraoun Dam for irrigation and hydroelectric power.
- ❖ The Bekaa Valley is a key agricultural region with significant arable land.

**Israeli airstrikes are destroying key bridges along the Litani River in an apparent effort to isolate southern Lebanon from the rest of the country.**

### **Philippines Energy Emergency 2026**



- ❖ The Philippines declared a national energy emergency due to tensions in West Asia affecting fuel supply.
- ❖ The government plans to secure fuel supplies and maintain the distribution of essential commodities.

- ❖ A special committee was formed to manage fuel, food, and medicine supply chains.
- ❖ The country has around 45 days of fuel reserves and aims to build strategic stockpiles.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### India Sports Economy

- ❖ India's sports industry crossed \$2 billion in 2025, reaching a value of ₹18,864 crore as per a report by WPP Media.
- ❖ The market grew by about 13.4% from 2024, showing steady expansion and increasing commercialization of sports.
- ❖ Media spending was the largest contributor with around 51% share, driven by television and rapid growth in digital streaming platforms.
- ❖ Sponsorships formed about 42% of the market, including team deals, league partnerships, and athlete endorsements.
- ❖ Cricket dominated the sector with nearly 89% share, supported by leagues like the Indian Premier League and Women's Premier League.

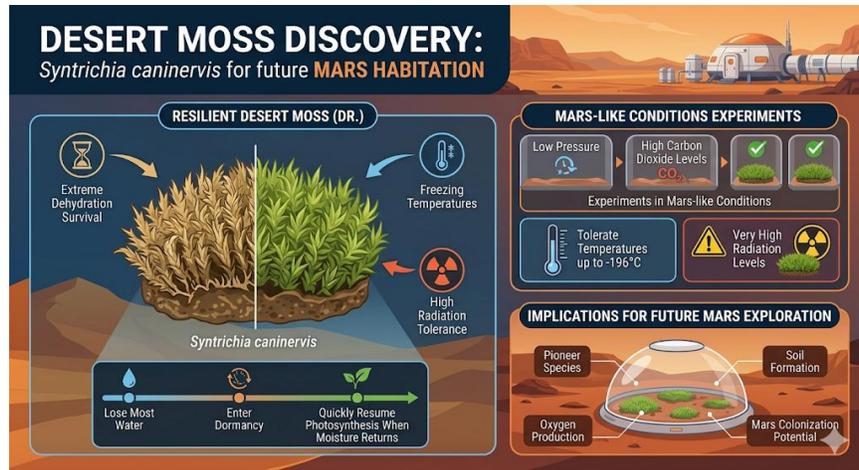


## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

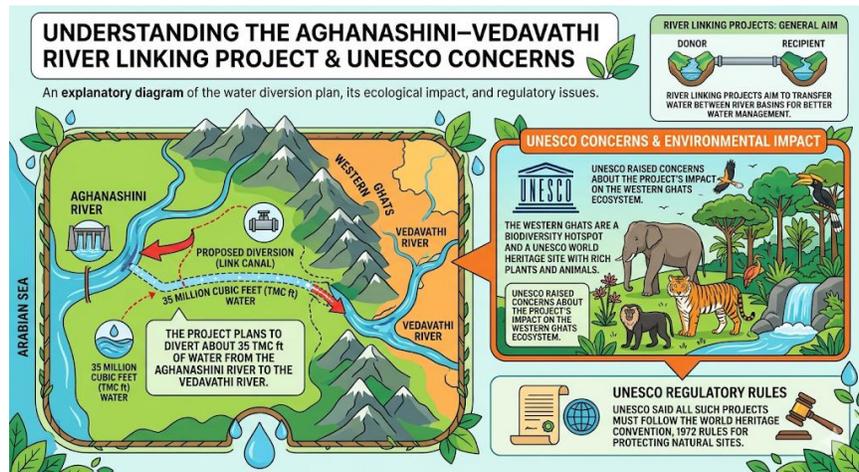
### Desert Moss - *Syntrichia caninervis*

- ❖ Scientists identified desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis* that may support future life on Mars.

- ❖ The moss can survive extreme dehydration, freezing temperatures, and high radiation.
- ❖ It can lose most of its water, enter dormancy, and quickly resume photosynthesis when moisture returns.
- ❖ Experiments in Mars-like conditions showed it can survive and regrow under low pressure and high carbon dioxide levels.
- ❖ It can tolerate temperatures up to  $-196^{\circ}\text{C}$  and very high radiation levels.



### Aghanashini-Vedavathi river linking project

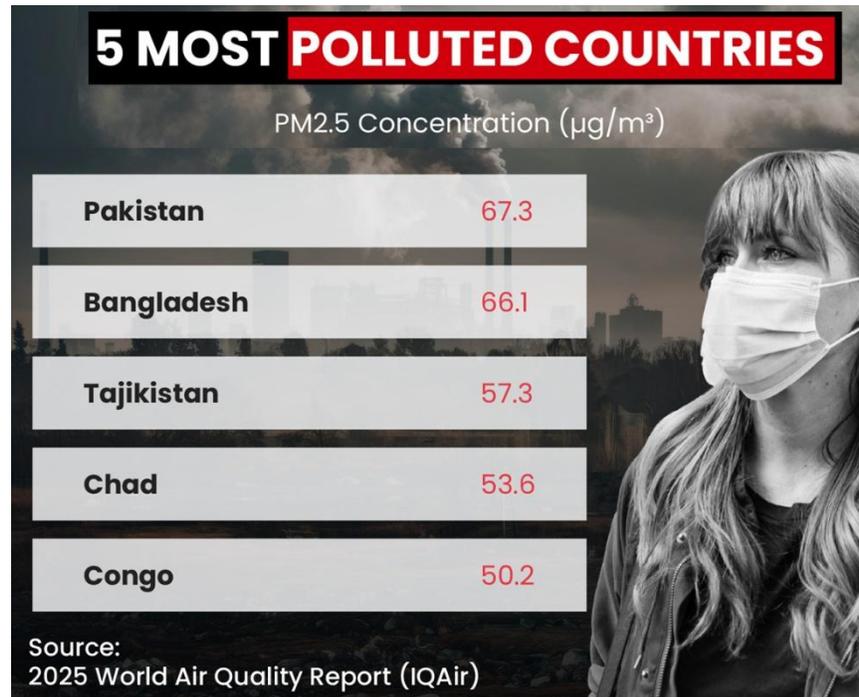


- ❖ UNESCO raised concerns about the project's impact on the Western Ghats ecosystem.
- ❖ The project plans to divert about 35 million cubic feet (TMC ft) of water from the Aghanashini River to the Vedavathi River.
- ❖ UNESCO said all such projects must follow the World Heritage Convention, 1972 rules for protecting natural sites.

- ❖ The Western Ghats are a biodiversity hotspot and a UNESCO World Heritage Site with rich plants and animals.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Air Quality Report 2025



- ❖ The World Air Quality Report 2025, released by IQAir, ranked Pakistan as the most polluted country.
- ❖ It is followed by Bangladesh and Tajikistan, while India ranked sixth.
- ❖ The rankings are based on PM2.5 levels.
- ❖ At the city level, Loni in Uttar Pradesh was the most polluted, while Delhi ranked fourth globally.
- ❖ Only about 9 percent of countries met safe air quality standards set by the World Health Organization.

## STATE NEWS

### Uniform Civil Code Bill 2026

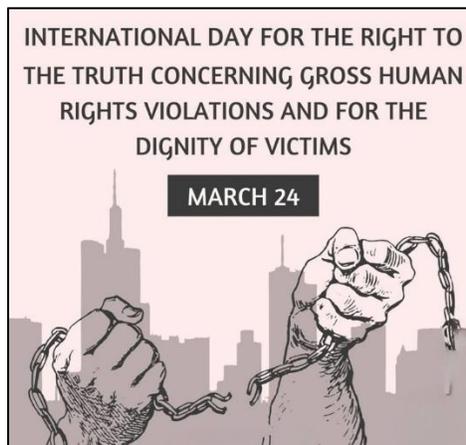
- ❖ Gujarat became the second state after Uttarakhand to pass the Uniform Civil Code Bill 2026, creating a common law for all communities.

- ❖ The law regulates marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships with compulsory registration and legal procedures.
- ❖ Practices like polygamy are banned, and fraudulent or forced marriages can lead to imprisonment and fines.
- ❖ Live-in relationships must be registered, and women are given legal protection, including maintenance rights, while children are treated as legitimate.
- ❖ Scheduled Tribes are exempted, and the bill was drafted based on recommendations of a committee led by Ranjana Desai.
- ❖ The concept of the Uniform Civil Code is mentioned under Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of India.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

**International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims 2026 - March 24**

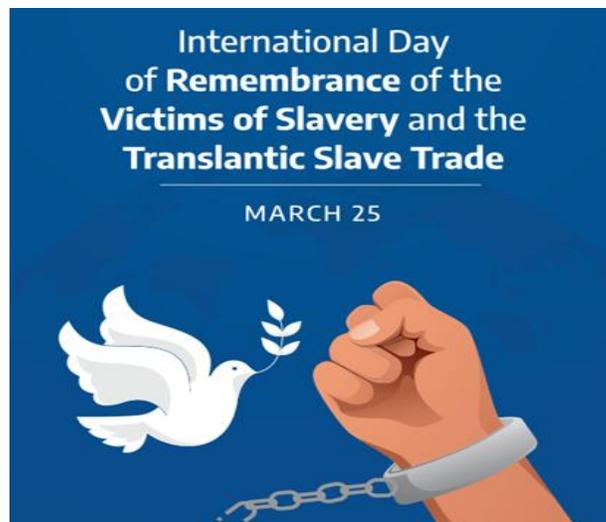


- ❖ This day was commemorated globally to uphold the right to truth and the dignity of victims of human rights violations.

- ❖ The day was established by the United Nations in 2010.
- ❖ The date honors Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was assassinated in 1980 for speaking against injustice.
- ❖ It highlights justice, transparency, and the dignity of victims of violations like torture and enforced disappearances.

### **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade 2026 - March 25**

- ❖ The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 (observed annually since 2008).
- ❖ It commemorates victims of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, one of the worst human rights violations in history.
- ❖ The date marks the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act (1807), passed in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ The day aims to honor victims, promote awareness, and educate people to fight racism and discrimination.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Justice in Action: Confronting History, Advancing Dignity, Empowering Futures.”



## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **Fossil Discovery in the Gobi Desert**

- ❖ The Scientists discovered a 1 cm long fossil in the Gobi Desert, revealing early mammalian evolution.

- ❖ The fossil belongs to a micro-mammal from the Late Cretaceous period, about 100 to 66 million years ago.
- ❖ It was found in the Ukhaa Tolgod region with a nearly complete skeleton, which is very rare.
- ❖ The specimen coexisted with dinosaurs like Velociraptor.
- ❖ Its preservation is due to protracted aridification, a long-term drying process with rapid burial by sand.



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