

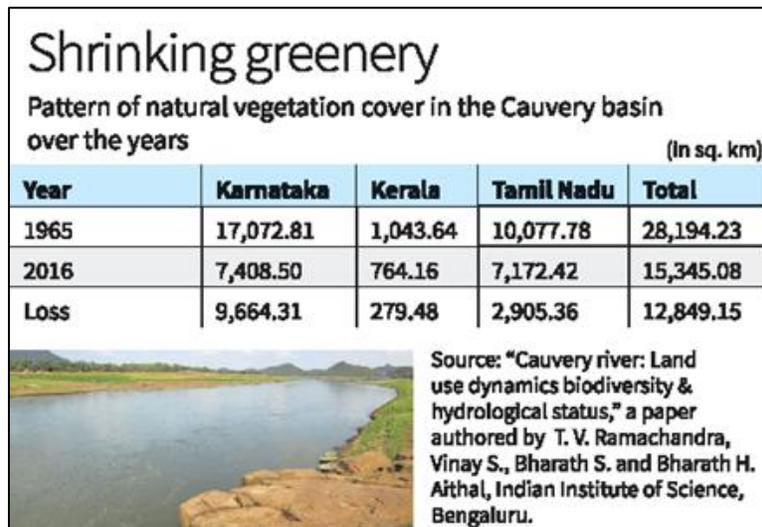
March - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India discovered a new wild kiwi species named *Actinidia indica* near Ziro Valley in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ India hosted the 12th Steering Committee Meeting of the GlobE Network in New Delhi under the anti-corruption cooperation framework.
- ❖ International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on 25 March by the United Nations to support detained and missing staff members.
- ❖ International Day of the Unborn Child is observed annually on 25 March to raise awareness about the dignity and value of unborn life.
- ❖ World Theatre Day is celebrated every year on 27 March across the world to promote theatre arts.
 - The theme for 2026 is “Theatre and a Culture of Peace”.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Cauvery River Water Decline Study

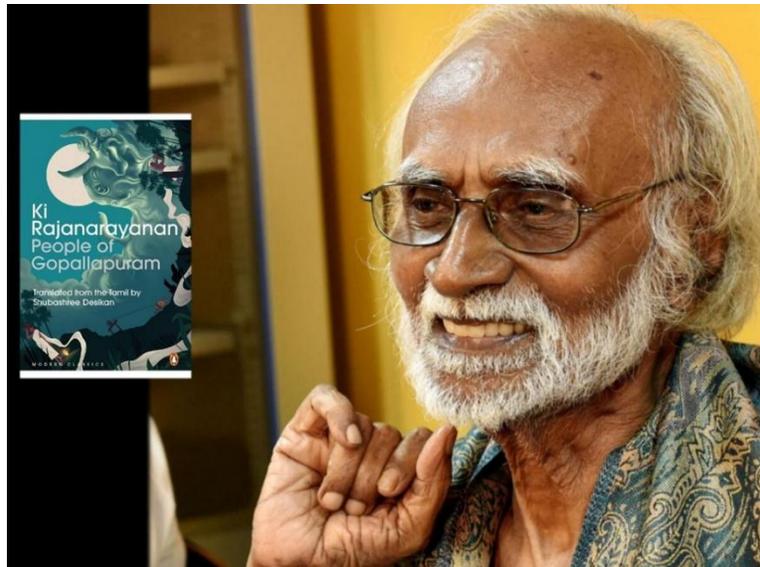


- ❖ A study by the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar shows the Cauvery River may face continuous water decline till the year 2050 due to climate change.
- ❖ The study predicts about 3.5% reduction in total river water flow between 2026 and 2050 period.

- ❖ Cauvery river flow has already decreased by about 28% between 1951 and 2012 based on observed data.
- ❖ Other major rivers like the Ganga and Indus may see an increase in water flow due to global warming effects.
- ❖ The study used CMIP6 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6) climate models for detailed scientific analysis.

People of Gopallapuram – English Translation

- ❖ The Tamil novel Gopalapurathu Makkal by Ki. Rajanarayanan is released in English as People of Gopallapuram.
- ❖ Ki. Rajanarayanan (1923–2021), also called Ki.Ra., was a famous Tamil writer and pioneer of karisal (black soil region) literature.
- ❖ He wrote about rural life, folk culture, agriculture and traditions of southern Tamil Nadu in a simple local language style.
- ❖ He is known for documenting oral stories, dialects and culture of village people in his literary works.
- ❖ The book is translated by Shubashree Desikan to reach wider readers in the English language.



Refugee Casts Vote for First Time

- ❖ R. Gokuleswaran, a 39-year-old Sri Lankan refugee camp resident from Tiruchi, will cast his vote for the first time as an Indian citizen in the upcoming State Legislative Assembly elections.

- ❖ He is a resident of the Sri Lankan Tamils Rehabilitation Camp at Kottapattu in Tiruchi district.
- ❖ His sister-in-law, K. Nalini, 40, made headlines in 2024 as the first naturalised Indian from the Kottapattu camp to exercise her franchise.
- ❖ K. Nalini received Indian citizenship in 2022 and later obtained a voter identity card.
- ❖ She proved her citizenship in the Madras High Court before getting her voting rights.

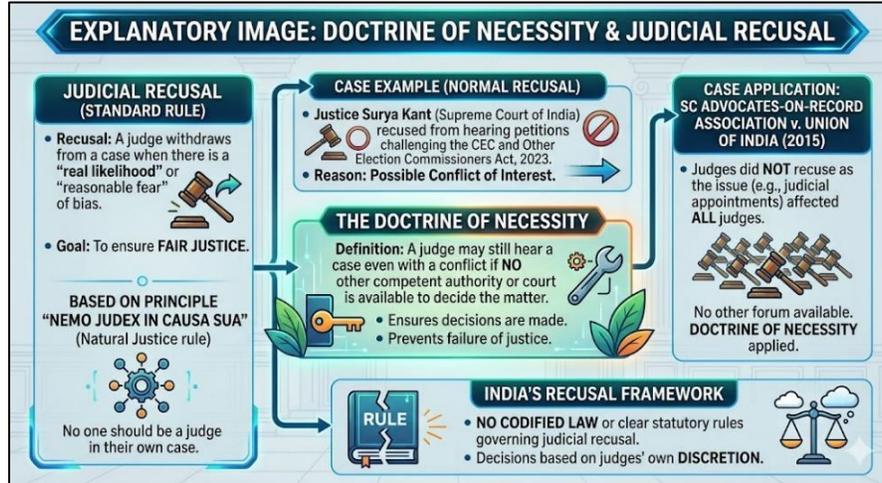


NATIONAL NEWS

Doctrine of Necessity

- ❖ Surya Kant (Chief Justice of India) recused from hearing petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, due to a possible conflict of interest.
- ❖ Recusal means a judge withdraws from a case when there is a real likelihood or reasonable fear of bias, to ensure fair justice.
- ❖ It is based on the principle “nemo judex in causa sua” (no one should be a judge in their own case), which is a rule of natural justice.
- ❖ The Doctrine of Necessity means a judge may still hear a case even with a conflict if no other competent authority or court is available to decide the matter.

- ❖ This doctrine was applied in Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015), where judges did not recuse as the issue affected all judges.
- ❖ India does not have a codified law or clear statutory rules governing judicial recusal; decisions are based on judges' own discretion.



Modified UDAN Scheme 2026



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme to improve regional air connectivity.

- ❖ The scheme, launched in 2016, aims to make air travel affordable and accessible for common people in smaller cities.
- ❖ The scheme will run for 10 years, FY 2026–27 to 2035–36, with a total outlay of ₹28,840 crore.
- ❖ It aims to develop 100 new airports from unused airstrips and improve connectivity in remote and rural areas.
- ❖ Financial support will be given for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of about 441 airports and for building 200 helipads.
- ❖ Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of ₹10,043 crore will support airlines to operate flights on less profitable routes.

IVFRT Scheme 2026–2031

Cabinet approves
Continuation of IVFRT* Scheme

 **Budgetary Outlay:**
₹1800 crore

 Scheme to continue beyond March 31, 2026 **for a period of 5 years** (From April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031)

 To **modernise & upgrade immigration & visa services** within a secure & integrated service delivery framework

 To **interlink & optimise** functions related to **immigration, visa issuance & registration of foreigners in India**

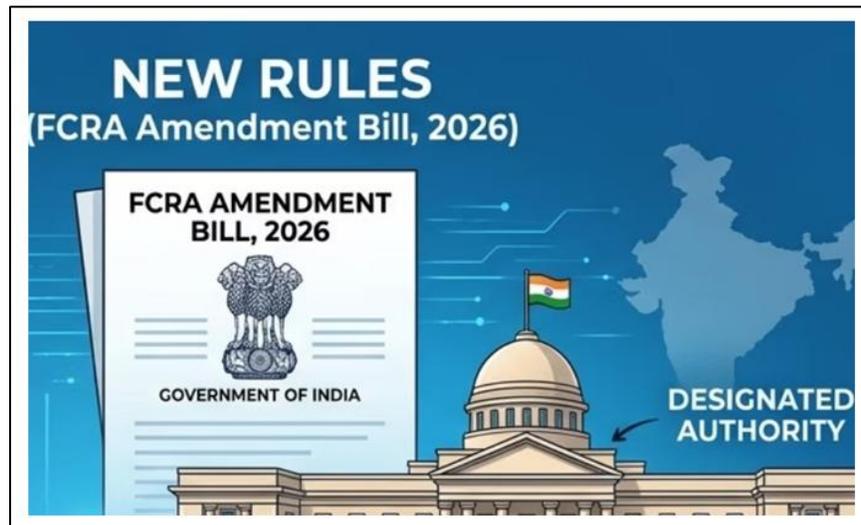


- ❖ Union Cabinet approved extension of Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme for 5 years.
- ❖ The scheme will continue from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031, to strengthen India's immigration system.
- ❖ IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking) is a digital platform to manage visa, immigration, and foreigner registration processes.
- ❖ It was first launched in 2010 to improve efficiency, security, and monitoring of foreign nationals in India.

- ❖ The scheme will use modern technologies like mobile services and self-service kiosks for faster immigration clearance.

FCRA Amendment Bill 2026

- ❖ The government introduced the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, to strengthen the regulation of foreign funding.
- ❖ The bill regulates foreign contributions (money received from foreign sources) to improve transparency and accountability of organisations.
- ❖ It proposes a Designated Authority to take control of foreign funds and assets if registration is cancelled, expired, or not renewed.
- ❖ FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) registration will automatically lapse if not renewed, ensuring strict compliance.
- ❖ Key functionaries (directors, trustees, partners) are made personally responsible for the proper use of foreign funds.
- ❖ It mandates time-bound use of funds and restricts organisations under suspension from transferring or selling assets.

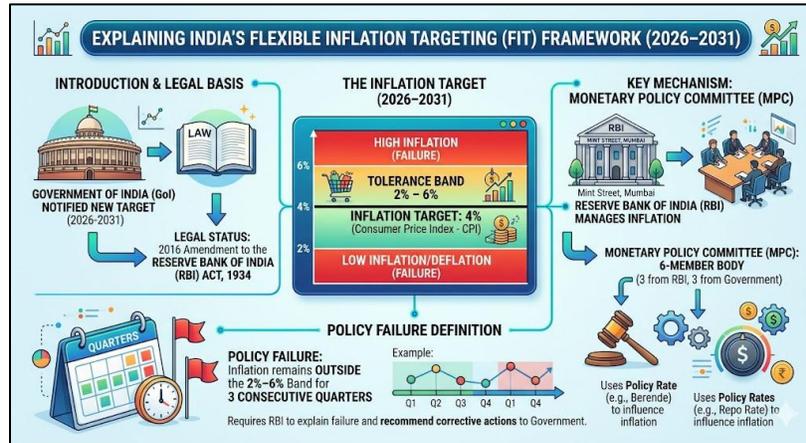


ECONOMY NEWS

Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework 2026–2031

- ❖ The government has notified the inflation target for 2026–2031 under the Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework.
- ❖ The FIT framework was given legal status through an amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, in 2016.

- ❖ Inflation target remains 4% (Consumer Price Index - CPI) with a tolerance band of 2%–6% for 2026–2031.
- ❖ Reserve Bank of India manages inflation through the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), a 6-member body.
- ❖ Inflation outside the 2%–6% band for 3 consecutive quarters is considered a policy failure.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Titanium-Rich Rocks on the Moon

INDIA DECODES MOON'S TITANIUM-RICH SECRETS

Scientists from IIT and PRL have uncovered key insights into titanium-rich lunar rocks, helping decode the Moon's interior and boosting preparations for the Chandrayaan-4 mission.



- ❖ A new study by the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur and Physical Research Laboratory explained how titanium-rich rocks formed on the Moon.

- ❖ Lunar basalts have very high titanium dioxide (TiO_2), up to 18%, compared to less than 2% on Earth.
- ❖ Scientists conducted high-pressure and high-temperature experiments to study conditions inside the Moon.
- ❖ The study found a two-stage process of melting and mixing inside the Moon's mantle.
- ❖ A dense ilmenite-bearing layer (a titanium-rich mineral layer) sank and melted to form titanium-rich magma.
- ❖ This magma later rose and formed titanium-rich volcanic rocks on the Moon's surface.

Deep-Sea Rare Earth Discovery in Japan

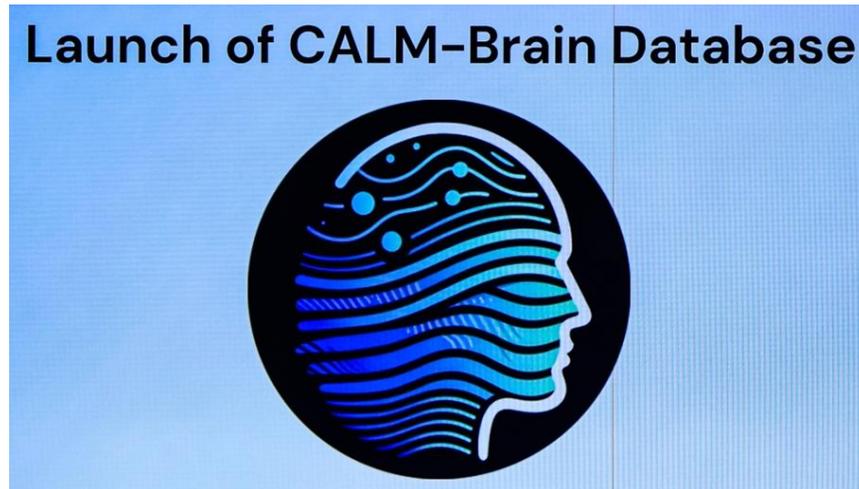


- ❖ Japan discovered a massive deep-sea rare earth deposit under the Pacific Ocean near Minamitorishima Island.
- ❖ The deposit contains about 16 million tonnes of rare earth elements like yttrium and dysprosium metals.
- ❖ It was found nearly 6,000 metres deep using the advanced drilling vessel Chikyu.
- ❖ Rare earth elements are important for electric vehicles, wind turbines and modern electronic devices.

- ❖ The deposit may meet global demand for some key elements for up to 700 years.

CALM-Brain Repository

- ❖ India's first digital repository on brain structure and function, CALM-Brain, has been launched in Bengaluru.
- ❖ It is developed by researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences and NCBS (National Centre for Biological Sciences).
- ❖ CALM-Brain stores data on psychiatric disorders like addiction, bipolar disorder, dementia, OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder), and schizophrenia.
- ❖ It includes clinical, brain imaging, behavioural, and genetic data for research.
- ❖ The repository will help in better understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health disorders.

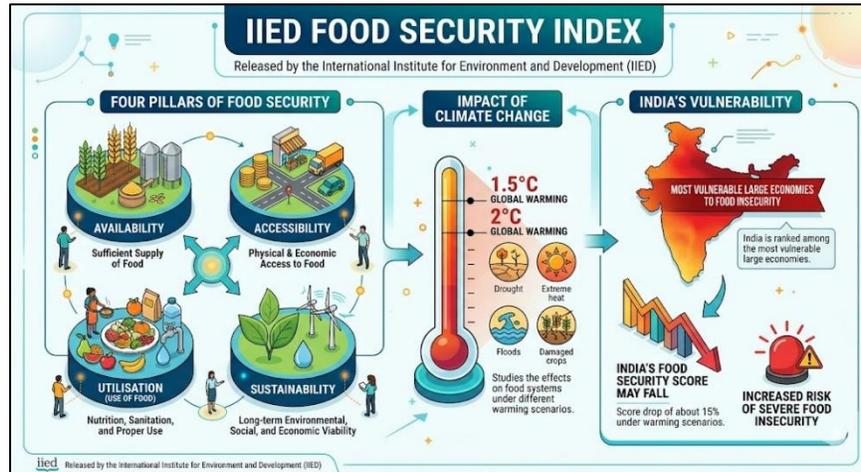


REPORTS AND INDICES

IIED Food Security Index

- ❖ The International Institute for Environment and Development released the IIED Food Security Index.
- ❖ The index measures food security based on four pillars: availability, accessibility, utilisation (use of food), and sustainability.
- ❖ It studies the impact of climate change under different warming levels, like 1.5°C and 2°C.
- ❖ India is ranked among the most vulnerable large economies to food insecurity in the index.

- ❖ India's food security score may fall by about 15% under warming scenarios, increasing the risk of severe food insecurity.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

QS World University Rankings 2026

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

QS World University Rankings by Subject | 2026 Business and Management

IIM KOZHIKODE BREAKS INTO TOP-100

#78 GLOBAL RANK

- ❖ Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode entered the global top 100 in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026.
- ❖ It secured 78th rank worldwide in the Business and Management Studies category.
- ❖ The institute improved from 141st rank in 2025, showing strong progress.

- ❖ QS rankings evaluated 6,277 institutions globally across many subjects.
- ❖ IIM Kozhikode earlier moved from the 401–450 band in 2021 to the top 100 in 2026.

