

March - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ INS Nilgiri of the Indian Navy, participated in Exercise Kakadu 2026, a biennial multinational naval exercise conducted by the Royal Australian Navy in Australia.
- ❖ Donald Trump has announced a \$300 billion refinery partnership with Reliance Industries to build the first new major oil refinery in the US.
- ❖ Scientists at CERN successfully transported antiprotons by road for the first time.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence, Government of India, signed a ₹445 crore deal with JSC Rosoboronexport to procure the Tunguska Air Defence Missile System for the Indian Army.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated Phase I of Noida International Airport, the second major international airport in NCR (National Capital Region) after Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- ❖ Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd operationalised India's first Port of Refuge (PoR) at Dighi and Gopalpur ports.
 - Port of Refuge (PoR) is a designated place where ships in distress can take shelter to protect life and the environment.
- ❖ The 40th edition of AAHAR 2026 was held in New Delhi and is one of South Asia's largest B2B food and hospitality exhibitions, jointly organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the India Trade Promotion Organisation.
- ❖ "Nagauri Paan Methi" has been registered as a Community Farmers' Variety by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA).
 - It is a traditional fenugreek variety grown in Nagaur district and scientifically called *Trigonella corniculata* L.
- ❖ The Government of India has approved a ₹3,630.77 crore Greenfield connectivity project linking the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway with Jewar International Airport.

NATIONAL NEWS

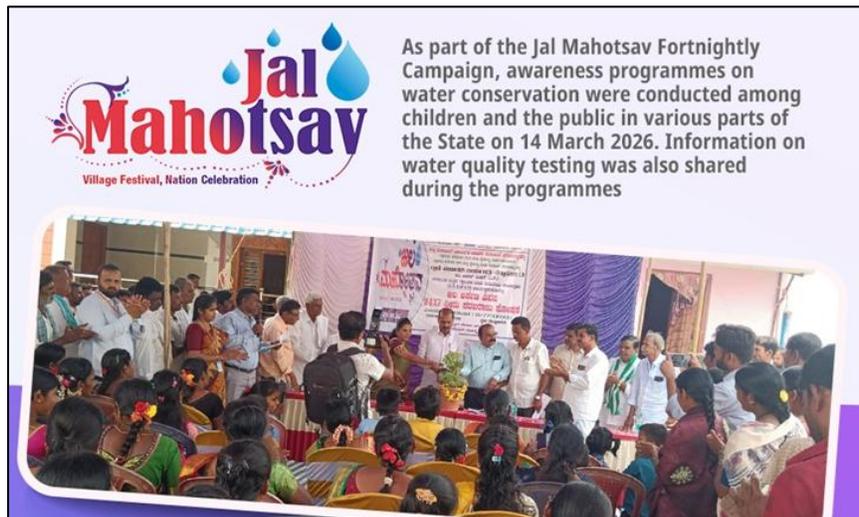
GARBH-INi Initiative for Preterm Birth Prediction

- ❖ The Government of India is using the GARBH-INi initiative to predict and prevent preterm births early by using advanced research methods and artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ GARBH-INi (Interdisciplinary Group for Advanced Research on Birth Outcomes) is a flagship programme under DBT (Department of Biotechnology), Government of India.

- ❖ India has one of the highest numbers of preterm births in the world.
- ❖ It leading to newborn deaths, child mortality, and long-term health problems.
- ❖ The initiative includes India's largest pregnancy cohort study, tracking about 12,000 pregnant women to identify early risk factors.
- ❖ It uses AI (Artificial Intelligence), clinical epidemiology, and multi-omics methods like genomics, proteomics, and microbiome studies for accurate prediction.
- ❖ GARBH-INi-DRISHTI is a digital data-sharing platform that helps researchers access, analyse, and share scientific data for better maternal healthcare outcomes.

Disseminating learnings and outcomes of GARBH-INi
A DBT India Initiative
Leveraging Longitudinal Data into Actionable Decisions for Better Birth Outcomes

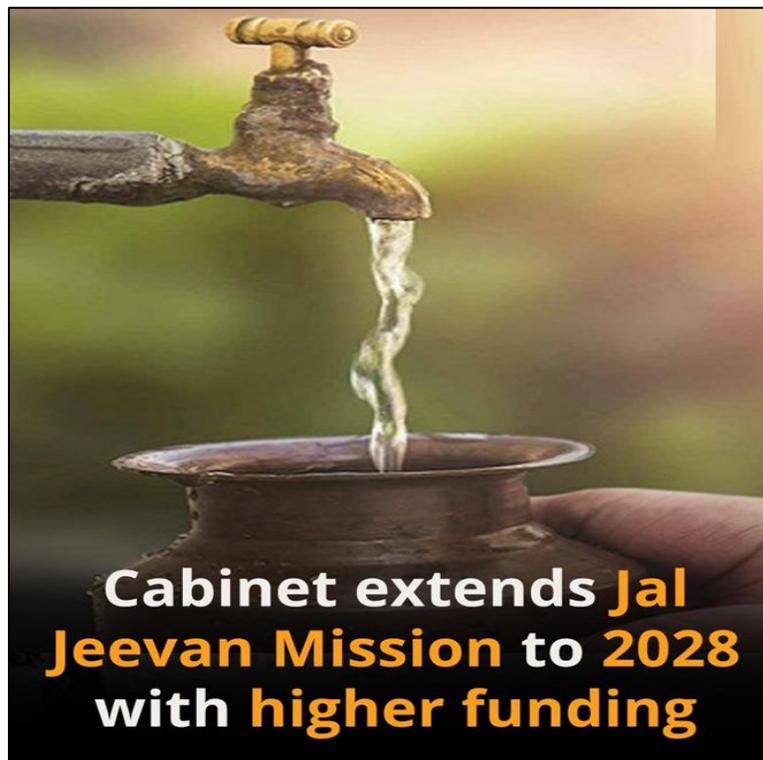
Jal Mahotsav 2026 Campaign



- ❖ Jal Mahotsav 2026 was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti on International Women's Day (March 8).
- ❖ Jal Mahotsav is a nationwide campaign held from 8th to 22nd March to promote water conservation and rural water management.

- ❖ It is organised under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ❖ Activities include Jal Arpan Diwas, Jal Sankalp (water pledge), and Jal Bandhan to involve community participation.
- ❖ The campaign works at the national, state, district, and Gram Panchayat levels for better implementation.
- ❖ Women play a key role, with lakhs involved in water testing and management using Field Testing Kits (FTKs).

Jal Jeevan Mission Extension



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has extended Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) till December 2028 with a focus on improving rural drinking water supply.
- ❖ The total financial outlay has been increased to ₹8.69 lakh crore under the upgraded version called JJM 2.0.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide functional tap water connections to all 19.36 crore rural households across India by 2028.
- ❖ At present, about 15.80 crore households (81.61%) already have tap water connections under the mission.

- ❖ A national digital system called Sujalam Bharat will be used to map and monitor water supply systems from source to household taps.

ECONOMY NEWS

Bank of Baroda - Green Bonds



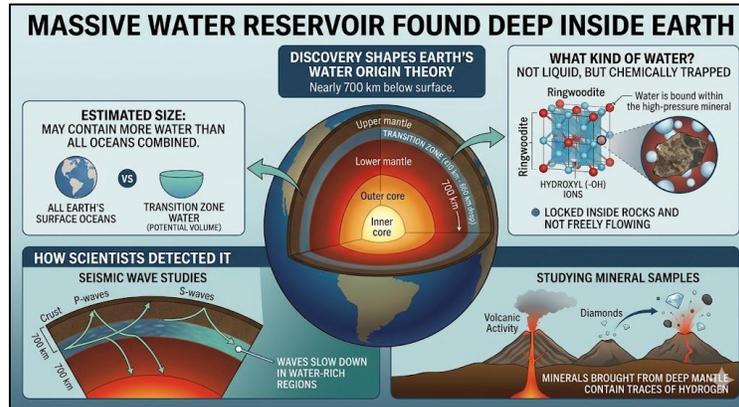
- ❖ Bank of Baroda became the first bank in India to issue domestic Green Infrastructure Bonds worth ₹10,000 crore.
- ❖ Bank of Baroda has raised ₹10,000 crore through Series I long-term Green Infrastructure Bonds for funding eco-friendly projects.
- ❖ The bond issue received strong investor demand with bids of about ₹16,415 crore, more than three times the base size.
- ❖ Green bonds are used to finance sustainable projects like renewable energy, clean transport, and climate-friendly infrastructure.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Massive Water Reservoir in Deep Earth

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a huge water reservoir nearly 700 km below Earth's surface inside the mantle, changing ideas about Earth's water origin.
- ❖ The water is not in liquid form but is chemically trapped inside a high-pressure mineral called ringwoodite in the mantle.
- ❖ This region is called the transition zone, located between 410 km and 660 km deep below the Earth's crust.

- ❖ Scientists detected this water using seismic wave studies, as waves slow down in water-rich regions, and by studying mineral samples from volcanic activity.
- ❖ The hidden reservoir may contain more water than all oceans combined, but it is locked inside rocks and not freely flowing.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

India's Third Cheetah Habitat

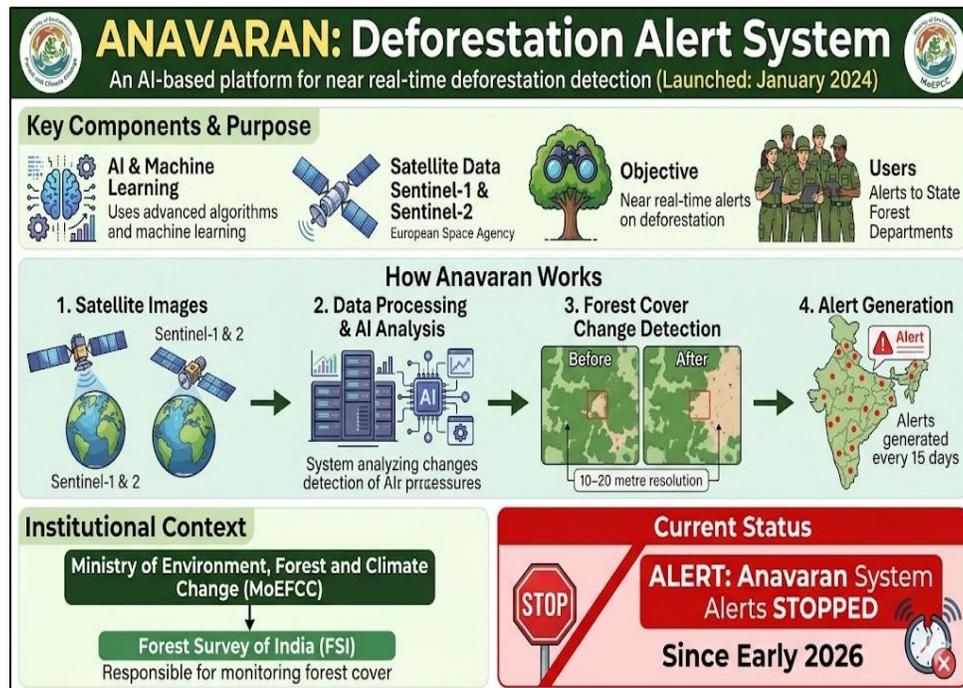


**MADHYA PRADESH'S LARGEST
TIGER RESERVE TO BECOME
THIRD HOME OF CHEETAHS
IN INDIA IN TWO MONTHS**

- ❖ Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR) in Madhya Pradesh has been developed as India's third designated site for cheetah reintroduction under Project Cheetah.
- ❖ It is formed by merging the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary.

- ❖ It is located in the Bundelkhand region across Sagar, Damoh, and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It was notified as a Tiger Reserve in September 2023 with approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- ❖ It will support the co-existence of cheetahs, tigers, leopards, and Indian wolves in a large grassland and forest ecosystem.

Anavaran Deforestation Alert System

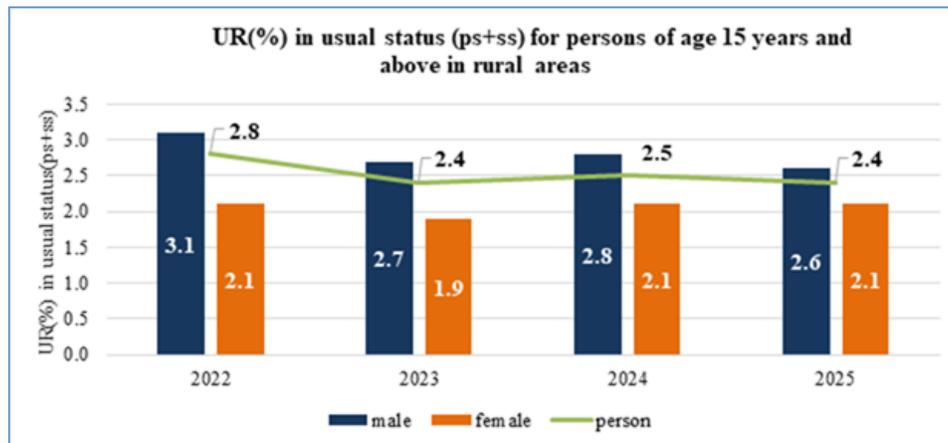


- ❖ Forest Survey of India (FSI) has stopped issuing alerts from the AI-based Anavaran deforestation system since early 2026.
- ❖ The Anavaran system is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based platform that detects forest loss using satellite data.
- ❖ It was launched in January 2024 to give near real-time alerts on deforestation to State Forest departments every 15 days.
- ❖ The system uses data from Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 satellites of the European Space Agency.
- ❖ It works on machine learning and satellite images to identify changes in forest cover with high accuracy (10–20 metre resolution).
- ❖ FSI works under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

REPORTS AND INDICES

PLFS 2025 Annual Report

- ❖ PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey) is released by NSO (National Statistics Office) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- ❖ From 2025, the survey period changed to calendar year (January–December) instead of agricultural year (July–June).
- ❖ It measures key indicators like LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate), WPR (Worker Population Ratio), and UR (Unemployment Rate).
- ❖ LFPR for age 15+ is 59.3%, WPR is 57.4%, and UR is 3.1%, showing overall employment conditions in India.
- ❖ Agriculture remains the largest employer in India, but its share slightly decreased in 2025 compared to the previous year.



Global Maternal Deaths Report 2023

- ❖ A global analysis published in The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health reported maternal mortality data for 2023.
- ❖ India recorded about 24,700 maternal deaths in 2023, among the highest in South Asia.
- ❖ The study is based on GBD (Global Burden of Disease) 2023, covering 204 countries.
- ❖ Globally, around 2.4 lakh maternal deaths occurred, with MMR (Maternal Mortality Ratio) at 190.5 per lakh live births.
- ❖ Maternal deaths have declined since 1990, but progress has slowed in recent years.

- ❖ Major causes include maternal haemorrhage and hypertensive disorders during pregnancy.

In 2023, an estimated 260 000 women died from maternal causes globally

Around **6 in 10** occurred in countries experiencing **conflict** or institutional and social **fragility**

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Ramnath Goenka Awards 2026

Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2026:



- ❖ Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2026 honoured 24 journalists across 19 categories in New Delhi.
- ❖ The awards are presented by Ramnath Goenka Foundation and were given by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan.
- ❖ They recognise excellence in print, digital, and broadcast journalism across India.



- ❖ Some winners include Avadhesh Akodia (Print Hindi), Sarvapriya Sangwan (Broadcast Hindi), and Praveen Jain (Photojournalism).
- ❖ Other winners include Deeptiman Tiwary (Politics reporting) and Mridulika Jha (Investigative reporting).
- ❖ The awards are named after Ramnath Goenka, known for fearless journalism.

