



May - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ LR Srihari, a 19-year-old from Chennai, has achieved the title of India's 86th Grandmaster.
- ❖ Dr Sukhpal Kaur, from Chandigarh, has been named one of the 10 finalists for the prestigious Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award.
- ❖ The Indian Army conducted the Teesta Prahar exercise at the Teesta field firing range in West Bengal.
- ❖ The Indian Army and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted Exercise Raahat, a large-scale joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) simulation in Assam.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has recognised that, the right of pedestrians to use footpaths is guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ India is set to launch its first manned deep-ocean mission, 'Samudrayaan', by 2026 to explore marine resources at a depth of 6,000 metres using the submersible 'Matsya'.
- ❖ At the 2025 World Bank Land Conference, India was honored as a Country of the Champion in recognition of its transformative work in rural land governance.
- ❖ The 12-day Saraswati Pushkaralu, a Kumbh Mela-like ritual for Saraswati River kick-started at the temple town Kaleshwaram, in Telangana.
- ❖ At the Archery World Cup Stage 2, India has finished its campaign with seven (7) medals, including two gold, one silver and four bronze medals in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ The Ayush Ministry has officially designated 23rd September as Ayurveda Day.
 - It is a significant shift from the earlier practice of observing this Day on Dhanteras.
- ❖ The International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed annually on 16 May to emphasizes the importance of living in harmony despite cultural, religious, or ethnic differences.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

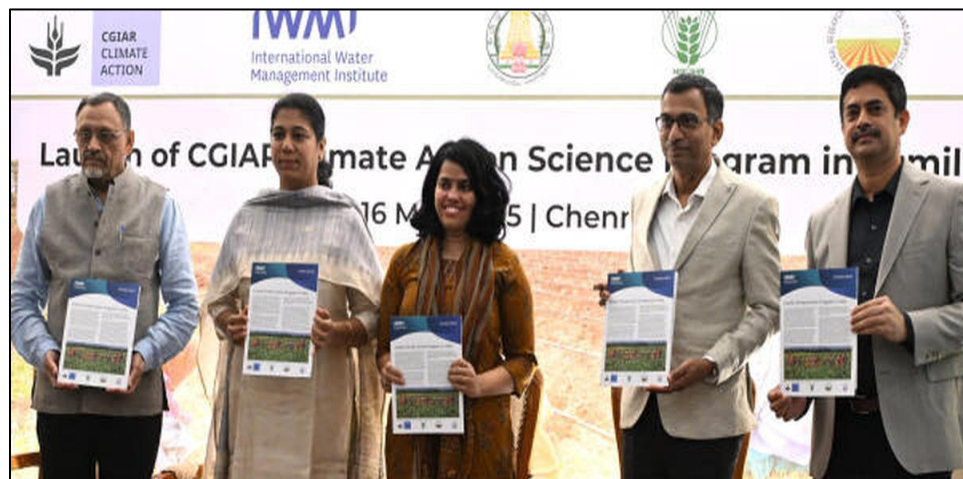
Self-registration of pregnancy - Tamilnadu

- ❖ The State government has introduced the option of self-registration of pregnancy.

- ❖ A Married women can register on the PICME website <https://picme3.tn.gov.in> using the 12-digit number to receive the Reproductive and Child Health ID number.
- ❖ Women must fill in the required details and upload the documents as specified on the website.
- ❖ A woman may choose to not reveal the name of the father of the child.
- ❖ The website also gives the woman the option of changing the name of the new baby's father, in case of changes in her marital relationship.



New climate plan 2025

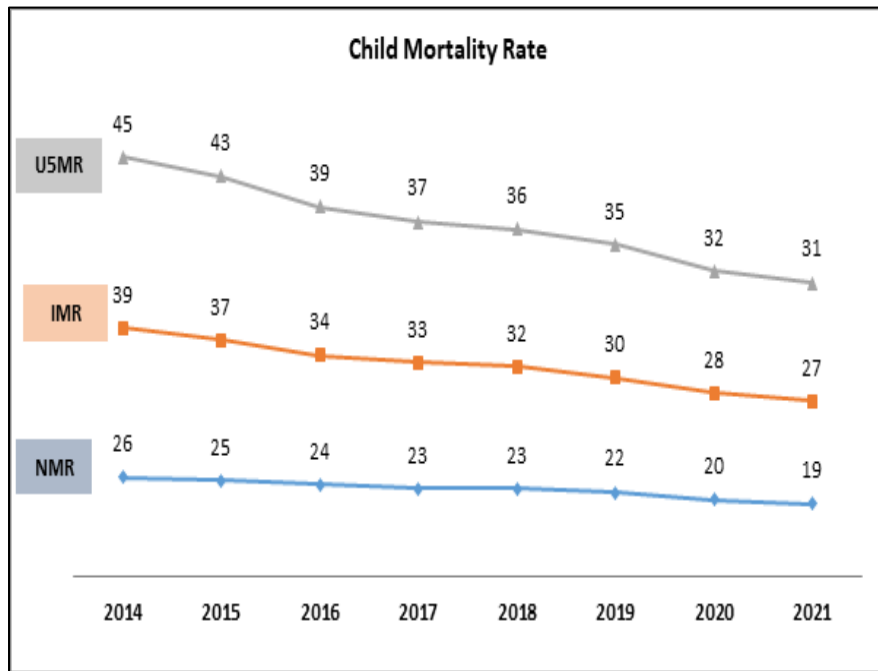


- ❖ CGIAR (the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers), a global network of agricultural research centres, has launched a new Climate Action Plan for Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It aims to help communities better manage climate risks, especially in districts that frequently experience droughts or floods.

- ❖ The Climate Action Plan will also align with the ongoing Tamil Nadu Drought Mitigation Project to address these challenges.

NATIONAL NEWS

Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2021



- ❖ The Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2021 was released by the Registrar General of India (RGI).
- ❖ The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of the country declined by 37 points from 130 per lakh live births in 2014–16 to 93 in 2019–21.
- ❖ The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of the country has declined from 39 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1000 live births in 2021.
- ❖ Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) has declined from 26 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 19 per 1000 live births in 2021.
- ❖ Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) has declined from 45 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 31 per 1000 live births in 2021.
- ❖ The Sex Ratio at Birth improves from 899 in 2014 to 913 in 2021.
- ❖ Total Fertility Rate is consistent at 2.0 in 2021, which is a very significant improvement from 2.3 in 2014.
- ❖ Eight (8) States have attained SDG target of MMR (≤ 70 by 2030).
- ❖ Twelve (12) States/UT have attained SDG target of U5MR (≤ 25 by 2030).

- ❖ Six (6) States/ UT have attained SDG target of NMR (≤ 12 by 2030).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Afrikaners status in USA

- ❖ The Trump administration claims the white people face discrimination in South Africa.
- ❖ The White Afrikaners are among the richest and most successful people in South Africa.
- ❖ They make up some 7 percent of the population but own more than 70 percent of the land and occupy the majority of top management positions.
- ❖ The recently passed Expropriation Act allows the South African government to, in exceptional circumstances, take land for public use without compensation.
- ❖ In February, Trump has signed an executive order granting refugee status to Afrikaners.



HIMARS Rocket System

- ❖ Taiwan test-fired for the first time a new US-supplied rocket system.
- ❖ Taiwan has bought 29 of Lockheed Martin's precision weapon High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS.
- ❖ They have a range of about 300 kilometers (186 miles).

- ❖ HIMARS is one of Ukraine's main strike systems, has been used multiple times during the war with Russia.

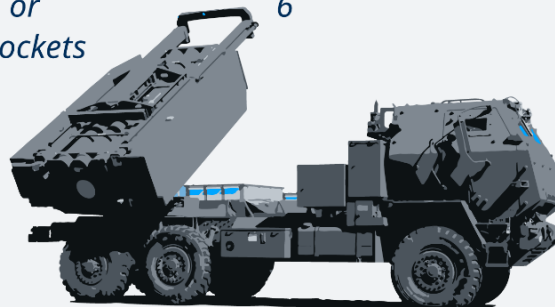
M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)

Range
300 km

Number built
540

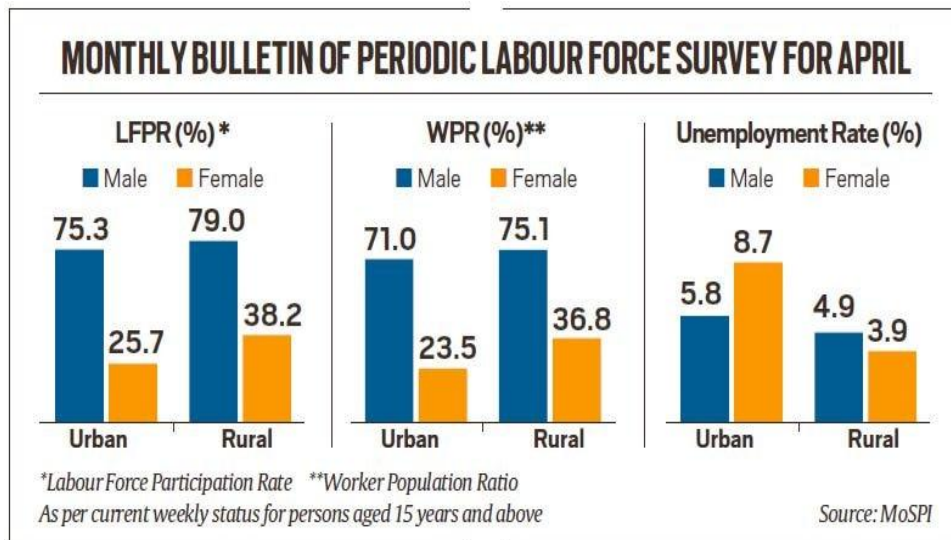
Armament
6 x M30/M31 or
1 x ATACMS rockets

Countries in use
6



ECONOMY NEWS

Periodic Labour Force Survey – April 2025



- ❖ India's unemployment rate had stood at 5.1% in April 2025 according to the first-ever monthly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
- ❖ It is released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

- ❖ Until now, such surveys were conducted on a quarterly or annual basis.
- ❖ The revamped PLFS includes employment and unemployment data from rural areas too.
- ❖ The pace of joblessness among men stayed slightly higher at 5.2% compared to that of women at 5%.
- ❖ Joblessness among those in the age group of 15-29 was 13.8% across the country.
- ❖ The rate of unemployment in urban areas stood at 17.2%, while it was 12.3% in rural areas.
- ❖ The unemployment rate (UR) among women in the age group of 15-29 was 14.4% across the country (rural+urban).
- ❖ It was 23.7% in cities and 10.7% in villages.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Major Hypersonic Tech Milestone



**India's Very Own
Scramjet Tech!**

India tested active **cooled Scramjet** in
2025
Joins elite group of **hypersonic missile**
nations
Fuel made in India for the first time



- ❖ DRDO achieves significant milestone in Hypersonic Technology by conducting a successful ground testing of scramjet engine for over thousand second.
- ❖ Hypersonic Cruise Missile is a class of weapons that can travel more than five times the speed of sound for long duration.

- ❖ It is powered by Air breathing engine, which plays a critical role for long-duration cruise conditions.

STATES' NEWS

50 Years of Sikkim's Statehood

- ❖ Fifty years ago, Sikkim became the 22nd state of India with special provisions for it and its people enshrined in Article 371-F of the Constitution.
- ❖ Before 1975, Sikkim was a sovereign Himalayan kingdom, ruled by the Namgyal dynasty since 1642.
- ❖ After India's independence in 1947, Sikkim became an Indian protectorate in 1950.
- ❖ It has retained its internal autonomy and India took control of its external affairs, defence, and communications.
- ❖ In a referendum of 1975, more than 97% of the people voted in favour of joining India.
- ❖ The 36th Constitution Amendment Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 23, 1975.
- ❖ After the President's assent, Sikkim became a India's state on May 16, 1975.

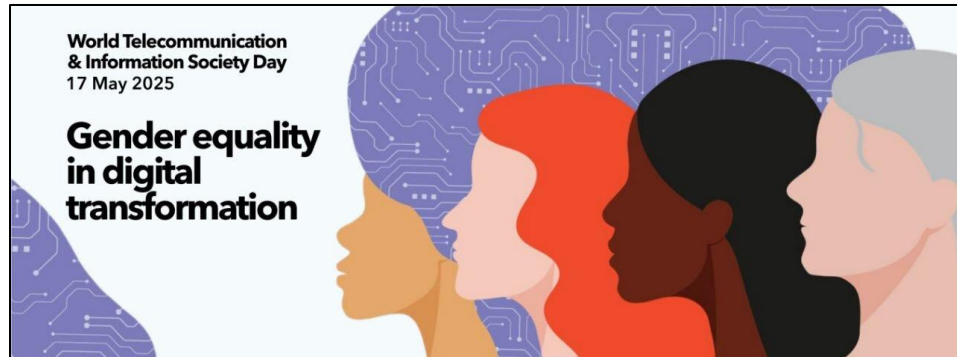


IMPORTANT DAYS

World Telecommunication Day 2025 - May 17

- ❖ This day commemorates the founding day of International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

- ❖ In 2025, ITU commemorates its 160th anniversary.
- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness about the importance of communication and information technologies in today's world.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is "Gender Equality in Digital Transformation."



World Hypertension Day 2025 - May 17

- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness about the risks associated with high blood pressure and promote effective strategies for prevention and management.
- ❖ The number of people with the hypertension is anticipated to increase by 15-20%, reaching close to 150 crores by 2025.
- ❖ The hypertensive patients have reported the normal blood pressure outside when compared to clinics and hospitals known as "white coat hypertension".
- ❖ The theme for 2021-2025 is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer".

