

May - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Assam government has launched 'Ankita', an AI-based news anchor capable of delivering updates in Assamese.
 - It is India's First AI News Anchor in Regional Language.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Lack of quorum in Coimbatore Corporation meeting



EVERYONE HAS A VOICE:
Special grama sabha held in Thirumangalam in Madurai on voter awareness in 2018

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Quorum for meetings Less than 500 voters 50 participants 500-3000 voters 100 participants 3,000- 10,000 voters 200 participants WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS Councillor must select one	VOTE representative for each area sabha A ward can have up to 10 area sabha Ward committee meeting should be conducted once in three months Councillor will be the chairperson, whereas a corporation	PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS It is a platform to discuss projects required for each area and the ward Agenda should be introduced in area sabha as well as ward committee meetings Participants can put forward their views on ongoing and proposed projects Progress of works and people benefited should be shared with participants
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- ❖ Normally, the Council meeting starts at 10.30 a.m.
- ❖ But it had less than 25% of the members out of the 100 wards.
- ❖ So, the mayor was forced to seek support from the miniscule members present to help pass the resolutions tabled at the monthly council meeting
- ❖ Normally, the Mayor, after the customary address, would announce the resolutions as unanimously passed following which the five zone chairpersons air their grievances.

- ❖ Then the opposition leader would speak and the others would take turns to express their views.
- ❖ The resolutions, according to the officials, were “very important” and had to get the stamp of approval from the council.
- ❖ These alone would get sanction of funds for laying roads in the city.
- ❖ However, when the mayor took up the resolutions, the opposition party councillor opposed it stating that it would not be proper to pass the resolution when there was lack of quorum in the House.
- ❖ Normally, the question hour would take around 120 minutes or even more.
- ❖ However, due to the presence of less than one-third of the councillors, the meeting got over in less than 70 minutes.

Availability of ombudsman



- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed the Secretary to the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply to ensure that the availability of ombudsman is exhibited prominently at all offices of local bodies.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Local Bodies Ombudsman Act was enacted in 2014 to address complaints against the elected members of the local bodies, and also officers and employees.
- ❖ The aim was to ensure transparency in the functioning of the local bodies.
- ❖ The ombudsman is the authority for conducting inquiries into the charges of corruption, irregularities, or maladministration against public servants of local bodies.

- ❖ If any public servant is involved in corruption, favouritism, nepotism, or abused his/her position for gain, the ombudsman shall entertain the complaint and decide on it as provided under the Act.

Thiruvadukoorpuranam



- ❖ A team of historians, led by the Sarasvati Mahal Library Tamil Pandit, Mani Maran deciphered the name of a Chola period Tamil work – Thiruvadukoorpuranam.
- ❖ It was from the stone inscriptions found at the Thirukandeeswaramudaiyar temple in Cuddalore district.
- ❖ The reading of the inscriptions revealed that a person name 'Vanathiban' had coined the 'Vadukoorpuranam' – the 'sthalapuranam' of the Saivite temple at Vadukoor.
- ❖ That was mentioned in the 'Thevaram' hymns sung by Thirugnanasambandar.
- ❖ However, neither the palm manuscripts nor copper plates carrying the 'Vadukoorpuranam' were available now.

NATIONAL NEWS


1 Crore Users - iGOT Karmayogi

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Personnel announced that iGOT Karmayogi had surpassed 1 crore registrations.
- ❖ Top 5 States by user count are Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ It was up from just 3 lakh users in January 2023 — a 30-fold growth in just over two years.
- ❖ iGOT Karmayogi stands for Integrated Government Online Training under Mission Karmayogi.
- ❖ It was launched under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).
- ❖ It aims to build a competent, professional, and future-ready civil service.



SC order on 'zudpi jungles'

CONTENTIOUS ISSUE		Houses, schools, crematoriums, PHCs, have come up on зудpi land
Land under encroachment		State wants 86409ha зудpi land be freed in one go
Land under non-forestry		FAC says approach Supreme Court
Fragmented land		State to move SC through inter-locutory application (IA)
27,507ha		
26,672ha		
32,229ha		

- ❖ The Supreme Court declared 'zudpi jungle' lands in Maharashtra's eastern Vidarbha region as forests in line with its 1996 verdict.

- ❖ The 1996 verdict is related with TN Godavarman judgement for non-forest purposes.
- ❖ Their conversion cannot be undertaken without prior approval from the central government.
- ❖ The state government shall seek an approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA), 1980, for their deletion from the list of forest areas.
- ❖ Being a Zudpi jungle land (peculiar to the region), there was no clarity on its usage till date.
- ❖ Zudpi was a Marathi word, literally translating to bushes or shrubs and “zudpi” lands meant an inferior type of unoccupied lands with bushy growth.

Sagar Bhavan and Polar Bhavan



- ❖ The Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Polar Bhavan and Sagar Bhavan at the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa.
- ❖ These are two first-of its-kind facilities in India and among the very few in the world.
- ❖ It comes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ Polar Bhavan will eventually serve as the home of India’s first Polar and Ocean Museum.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Afghanistan in CPEC Expansion

- ❖ The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is set to be expanded to Afghanistan.

- ❖ The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, launched in 2025, is a key initiative under China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- ❖ It focuses on developing trade routes to China via the strategically located Gwadar Port, Pakistan.
- ❖ India has been severely critical of the CPEC as it passes through Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir.
- ❖ India is also opposed to China's Belt and Road initiative as the project includes the CPEC.



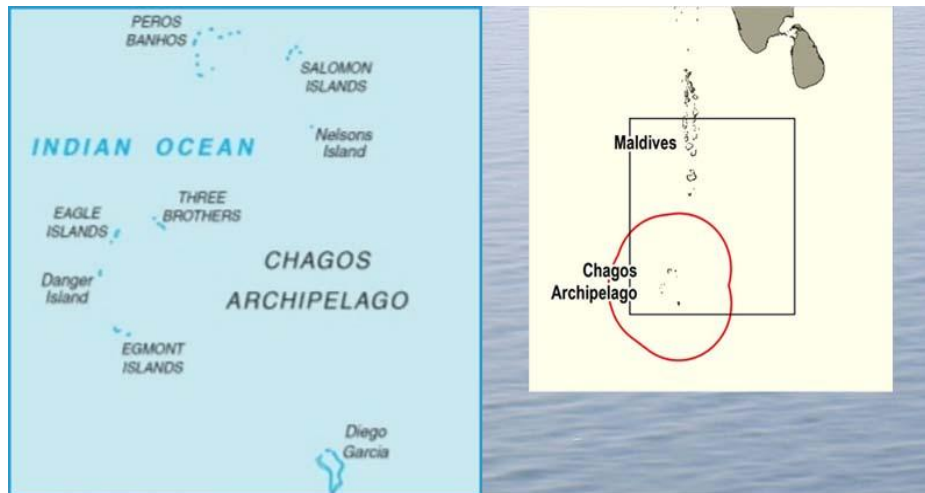
24th Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- ❖ The 24th Meeting of the IORA Council of Ministers was hosted virtually by Sri Lanka, as the IORA Chair.
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was "Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generation."
- ❖ It saw the participation from all 22 IORA Member States and IORA's 12 Dialogue Partners.
- ❖ Member states adopted the 'Colombo Communique'.
- ❖ India is currently the Vice-Chair of IORA and part of the Troika.

- ❖ India will assume the Chairship of IORA for 2025-2027.



UK's Decision on Chagos Islands Handover

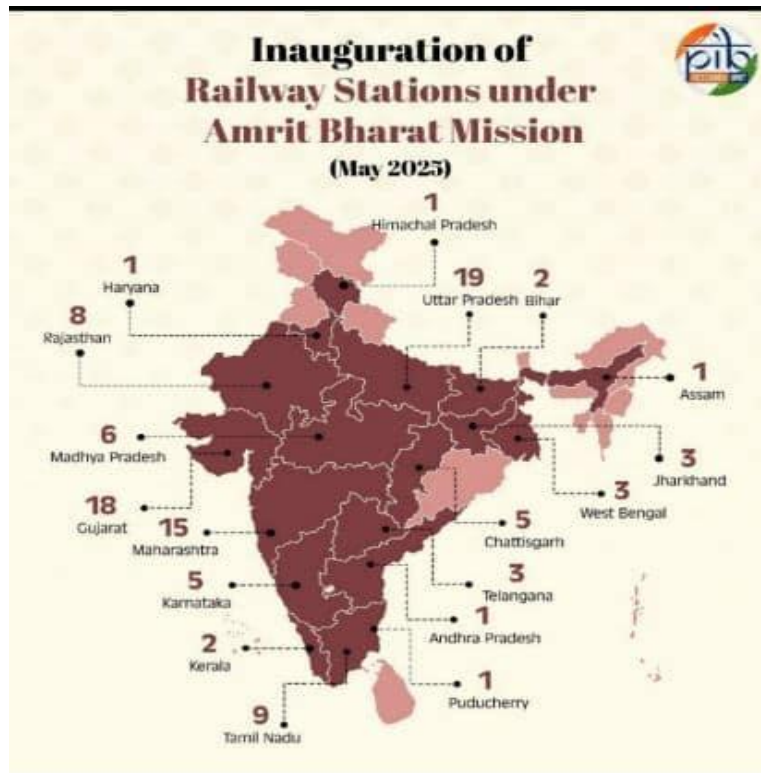


- ❖ UK signed a deal transferring sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, including the key Diego Garcia military base.
- ❖ Diego Garcia military base plays a central role in UK-US defence operations in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The base will now be leased from Mauritius under a new 99-year lease.
- ❖ The UK will pay Mauritius an average of £101 million (\$129m) per year.
- ❖ One of the last remnants of the British Empire, the Chagos Islands have been under British control since 1814.

- ❖ Britain detached the Chagos Islands from Mauritius in 1965—three years before Mauritius gained independence—and formed the British Indian Ocean Territory.
- ❖ In a non-binding 2019 opinion, the International Court of Justice ruled that the U.K. had unlawfully carved up Mauritius.
- ❖ India also welcomes U.K.'s decision.

ECONOMY NEWS

103 Amrit Bharat railway stations

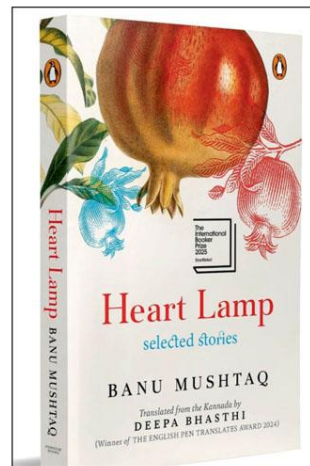


- ❖ The 103 redeveloped railway stations inaugurated by PM are spread across 86 districts in 18 states and Union Territories.
- ❖ Launched in 2022, the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a long-term plan to improve railway stations and develop them as “city centres”.
- ❖ A total of 1,300 stations have been identified for redevelopment under the scheme.
- ❖ Out of these, 157 are in Uttar Pradesh, followed by 132 in Maharashtra and 101 in West Bengal.
- ❖ Nine TN railway stations get renovated under Amrit Bharat scheme
- ❖ Among them,

- St Thomas Mount station in Chennai division
 - In the Salem division, Samalpatti station
 - The Srirangam station in Tiruchi division
 - Tiruvannamalai station
 - Polur
 - Chidambaram
 - Vriddhachalam
 - Mannargudi
 - Kulitturai station in Kanniyakumari
- ❖ While the design of the Srirangam station drew inspiration from the Ranganatha Swamy temple, the Tiruvannamalai station followed Dravidian architectural principles.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

International Booker 2025 winner



- ❖ Kannada author Banu Mushtaq's Heart Lamp wins International Booker Prize 2025
- ❖ It was translated by Deepa Bhasthi.
- ❖ It's a first win for Kannada language.
- ❖ This is also the first time in the history of the prize that a collection of short stories has been honoured.
- ❖ It was from a shortlist featuring books in French, Italian, Danish, and Japanese.

- ❖ The award for an Indian writer comes three years after Geetanjali Shree won for *Tomb of Sand*, translated from Hindi by Daisy Rockwell.
- ❖ This marks only the second time a Kannada author has been recognised by the Booker institutions
- ❖ The first was U R Ananthamurthy's nomination in 2013 for his body of work.
- ❖ Bhasthi, meanwhile, has become the first Indian translator to win the prize.
- ❖ She won the English PEN's 'PEN Translates' award for the same work in 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Guttala Sculptural Inscription



- ❖ A sculptural inscription was discovered near Chandrashekara temple at Guttala in Haveri district of Karnataka.
- ❖ It has documented the death of 6,307 people due to drought in the local area.
- ❖ Thus, it was making it the first such historical record of a humanitarian disaster caused by a natural calamity in India.
- ❖ It is also marking it as one of the large-scale natural calamities documented epigraphically in Indian history.
- ❖ The inscription is dated Saka 1461, Vikari, Bhadrapada su.5, which corresponds to August 18, 1539 CE.



- ❖ It is in the Kannada language and script.
- ❖ It notes that their bodies were buried by Marulaih Odeya, son of Nanideva Odeya of Guttavalala.
- ❖ He buried the dead in baskets to earn merit for ruler Timmarasa Svami.

