

October - 18

TAMIL NADU NEWS

First Supplementary Estimates for 2025-26



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Finance Minister presented the First Supplementary Estimates for the financial year 2025-26.
- ❖ A total allocation of ₹2,914.99 crore was proposed in the estimates.
- ❖ ₹471.53 crore was sanctioned for the procurement of 3,000 new Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) buses.
- ❖ The new buses will replace aged vehicles in the state transport undertakings.
- ❖ ₹469.84 crore was allocated for implementing the Kalaigharin Kanavu Illam scheme.
- ❖ The scheme will be carried out by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

NATIONAL NEWS

LEAPS 2025

- ❖ The Union Ministry for Commerce and Industry launched LEAPS 2025 during the 4th anniversary of PM Gati Shakti in New Delhi.

- ❖ LEAPS (Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield) is led by DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The initiative aims to benchmark logistics performance, promote innovation, and align with the NLP (National Logistics Policy) and PM Gati Shakti.
- ❖ LEAPS 2025 covers 13 award categories, including freight services, warehousing, MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), startups, and educational institutions.
- ❖ It emphasizes green logistics, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) practices, and collaboration among government, industry, and academia.



Fare se Fursat



- ❖ Alliance Air launched the 'Fare se Fursat' fixed airfare scheme.
- ❖ The scheme offers a single fixed fare that remains unchanged regardless of the booking date.

- ❖ It aligns with the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme to promote affordable regional air travel.
- ❖ The scheme is being implemented on a pilot basis across select routes till December 31, 2025.
- ❖ The initiative aims to reduce stress from fluctuating airfares and promote last-minute travel.
- ❖ The static fare model is branded as “One Route, One Fare” under the slogan ‘Naye Bharat ki Udaan’.

India's First Wearable Payment System



- ❖ IIT Madras-incubated Muse Wearables partnered with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) to launch India's first wearable payments ecosystem.
- ❖ The system enables users to make payments using the smart ring 'Ring One' by tapping on any NFC (Near Field Communication)-enabled POS (Point of Sale) terminal.
- ❖ No phone, card, or wallet is needed for transactions, and payments work only when the ring is worn.
- ❖ Muse Wallet uses RuPay to convert any RuPay card into a token stored in a Secure Element (SE) chip inside the ring.
- ❖ The SE chip ensures hardware-level security, isolating card data from the phone or apps.
- ❖ The platform is aimed at simplifying secure digital payments, especially for users in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.
- ❖ If the ring is removed, lost, or stolen, transactions are instantly disabled for security.



Nationwide Household Income Survey in 2026

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will launch the National Household Income Survey (NHIS) in February 2026.
- ❖ The NHIS will be India's first pan-India survey dedicated to measuring household income, addressing a long-standing data gap.
- ❖ The survey will provide data on living conditions, income, and expenditure patterns, supporting policy-making and economic analysis.



India Water and Rivers Forum 2025



- ❖ The India Water and Rivers Forum 2025 is a national platform promoting water stewardship, Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) risk mitigation, and basin-level collaboration.
- ❖ It was held in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact Chief Executive Officer (UNGC CEO) Water Mandate, Water Resilience Coalition, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), and World Resources Institute (WRI) India.
- ❖ The forum addressed challenges such as climate change, urbanisation, and fragmented water governance across India's major river basins.

ECONOMY NEWS

RBI's Digital Payment Initiatives



- ❖ RBI launches four new digital payment initiatives at the Global Fintech Fest.
- ❖ The initiatives include artificial intelligence-based Unified Payments Interface help for payment assistance and dispute resolution.
- ❖ Internet of Things payments enable transactions from connected devices like cars and smart TVs.
- ❖ Banking Connect offers interoperable net banking for seamless payments and merchant onboarding.
- ❖ UPI Reserve Pay allows users to manage credit limits securely for specific purposes.
- ❖ These measures aim to enhance customer convenience and boost digital payments in India.

Female Labour Force in India



- ❖ Female labour force participation in India rose from 23 percent in 2017–18 to approximately 42 percent in 2023–24.
- ❖ According to World Bank data, India recorded the highest increase in women's workforce participation among BRICS nations over the past decade.
- ❖ The rise is attributed to policy measures improving access to skills, credit, and formal employment for women.
- ❖ Government initiatives include 730 days of child care leave, 180 days of maternity leave, and same-station postings for spouses in government service.
- ❖ Women are exempted from fees for competitive examinations to encourage greater representation in government jobs.
- ❖ One Stop Centres provide integrated support for women facing violence, offering legal, medical, counselling, and shelter services.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

IUCN Green Status Assessment

- ❖ The IUCN classifies the tiger as 'critically depleted' across much of its indigenous range in Asia.
- ❖ The new Green Status assessment complements the Red List by measuring species recovery and conservation success.

- ❖ Tigers have suffered severe range loss and population declines, now regionally extinct or critically endangered in many areas.



Indian Wolf Status by IUCN



- ❖ IUCN has evaluated the Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) separately for the first time.
- ❖ It suggests that the Indian wolf may be a distinct species within the Canis genus.
- ❖ The population of Indian wolves is estimated to be around 3,000 in India and Pakistan.
- ❖ The species is classified as vulnerable due to habitat loss and persecution.

- ❖ Only 12.4 percent of its distribution lies within protected areas.

REPORTS AND INDICES

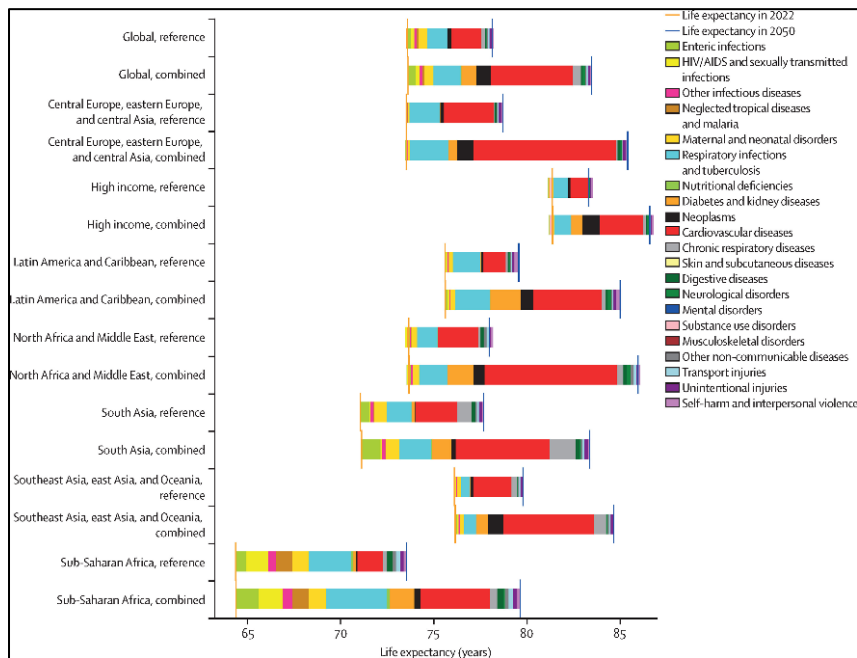
NITI Aayog Report on Blue Economy



- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report titled “India’s Blue Economy: Strategy for Harnessing Deep-Sea and Offshore Fisheries”.
- ❖ The report outlines a framework to expand deep-sea fisheries within India’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of over 2 million sq. km.
- ❖ India ranks second globally in fish production, contributing 8% of global output and supporting around 30 million livelihoods.
- ❖ Fisheries exports earned ₹60,523 crore in FY 2023–24, with deep-sea potential largely untapped beyond the continental shelf.
- ❖ The EEZ has an estimated potential yield of 7.16 million tonnes from conventional and non-conventional marine resources.
- ❖ 6 key interventions include policy reform, institutional capacity, fleet modernization, sustainable management, financing, and community participation.
- ❖ The report proposes inclusive fleet development through fisher cooperatives and cluster-based approaches.

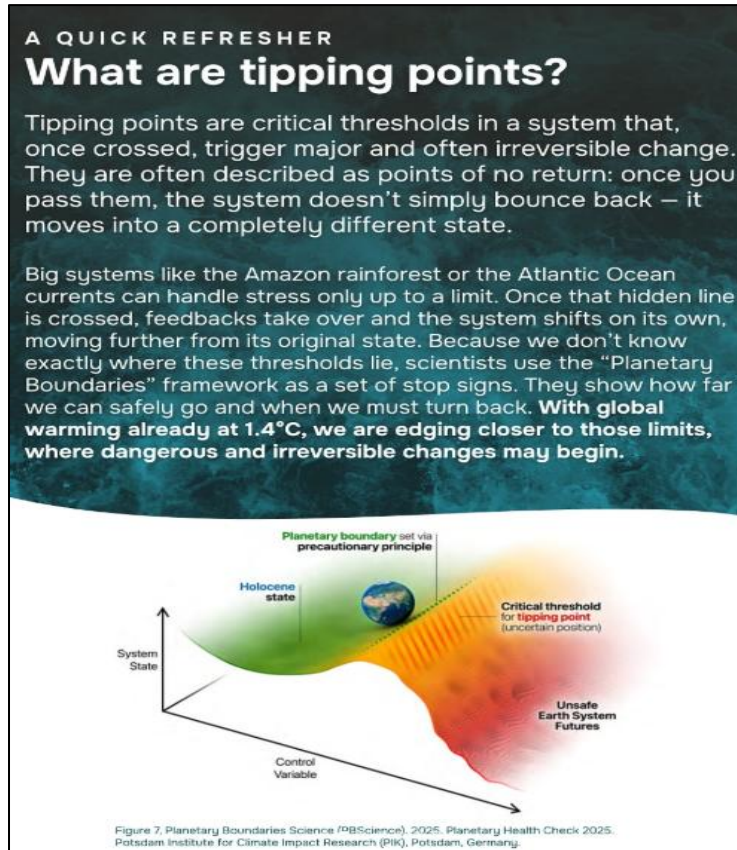
- ❖ A phased roadmap with investment estimates is outlined: Phase 1 (2025–28), Phase 2 (2029–32), and Phase 3 (2033 onwards).

Global Burden of Disease Study 2023



- ❖ Global life expectancy in 2023 is 76.3 years for females and 71.5 years for males.
- ❖ Age-standardized mortality rate declined by 67% since 1950 across all 204 countries and territories.
- ❖ Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) cause nearly two-thirds of total global deaths and disabilities.
- ❖ Nearly half of global deaths and disabilities are linked to 88 modifiable risk factors.
- ❖ COVID-19 dropped from the leading cause of death in 2021 to the 20th place in 2023.
- ❖ India faces a high burden of ischemic heart disease, stroke, and chronic respiratory diseases.
- ❖ Air pollution and high blood pressure remain major health risks in India.
- ❖ India has made progress in reducing communicable diseases, but continues to struggle with rising NCDs.
- ❖ It was published in 'The Lancet', a health journal.

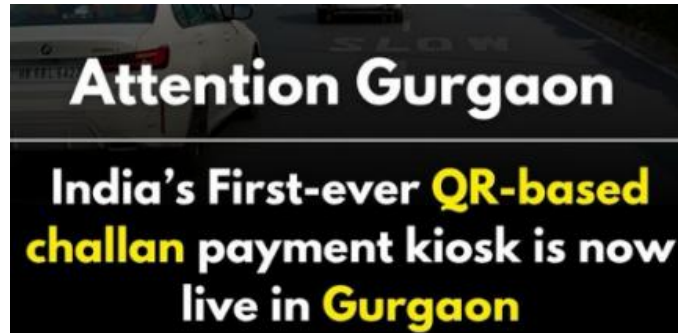
The Global Tipping Points Report 2025



- ❖ The report was released by the University of Exeter.
- ❖ Global warming is projected to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius, pushing Earth toward multiple irreversible tipping points.
- ❖ Warm-water coral reefs have already passed their thermal tipping point near 1.2 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The Amazon rainforest faces widespread dieback below 2 degrees Celsius, endangering over 100 million people.
- ❖ The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is at risk of collapse, threatening global food and water security.
- ❖ These tipping points interact in destabilising ways, creating cascading environmental and social impacts.
- ❖ Global greenhouse gas emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 to prevent irreversible harm.
- ❖ Current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are insufficient and may lead to warming above 2 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ Cryosphere tipping points in Greenland and West Antarctica may already be underway.

STATES' NEWS

First QR traffic challan kiosk



- ❖ Gurugram has launched India's first QR code-based kiosk for digital payment of traffic challans.
- ❖ Drivers can check and pay outstanding challans by entering their vehicle number and scanning a QR code.
- ❖ Payments for court-pending or overdue challans beyond 90 days cannot be made at the kiosk.
- ❖ The initiative is part of a Corporate Social Responsibility project by Gurugram police and the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority.

Blue Flag status in Maharashtra



- ❖ Five beaches in Maharashtra earned the international Blue Flag certification.
- ❖ They include Shrivardhan and Nagaon in Raigad, Parnaka in Palghar, and Guhagar and Ladghar in Ratnagiri.
- ❖ The Blue Flag is awarded by Denmark's Foundation for Environmental Education.

- ❖ Certification requires meeting 33 standards on cleanliness, safety, water quality, and environmental management.

Gomti River Rejuvenation Mission



- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister launched the Gomti Rejuvenation Mission on to restore the river's clean and continuous flow.
- ❖ The mission aims to intercept 95 percent of urban sewage entering the Gomti River across its basin from Pilibhit to Ghazipur.
- ❖ Currently, 39 major drains flow into the river, with 13 still untreated; these will be redirected or treated through new and upgraded sewage treatment plants.
- ❖ The project includes wetland development, ghat beautification, encroachment removal, and expansion of green cover along the riverbanks.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Campi Flegrei volcano

- ❖ Artificial intelligence (AI) detected over 54,000 earthquakes at Campi Flegrei volcano from 2022 to 2025, while traditional methods found only 12,000.
- ❖ A clear ring-shaped fault was discovered around Pozzuoli, where the ground is rising by about 10 centimeters (4 inches) per year.
- ❖ Two hidden faults were found converging beneath Pozzuoli, increasing the potential for magnitude 5 earthquakes.
- ❖ All detected earthquakes were shallow, occurring at depths less than 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).



- ❖ There is no evidence of magma moving toward the surface, indicating no imminent eruption signs.

