



September - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Army's Spear Corps and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) conducted a major joint firepower exercise named Achook Prahar in central Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ At the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships, held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad in Gujarat, Ajaya Babu Valluri clinched a gold medal in the men's 79kg category.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Second dedicated 'Mahout Village'

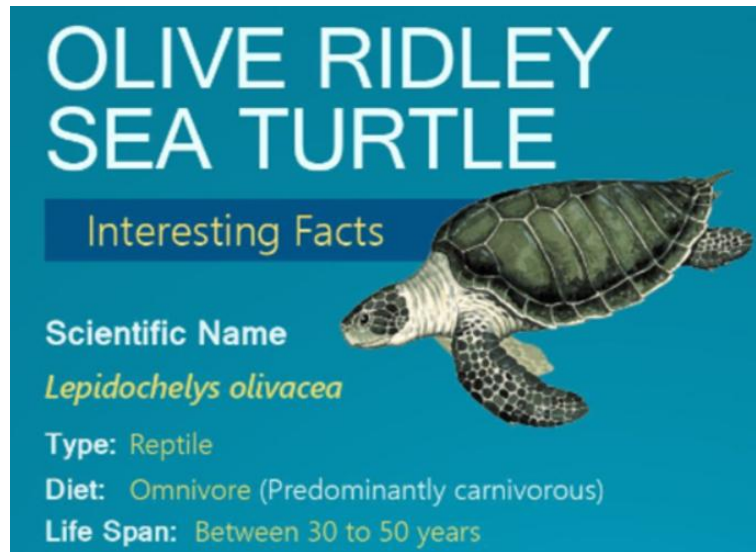
- ❖ The second dedicated 'Mahout Village' is ready for inauguration at Kozhikamuthi elephant camp in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR).
- ❖ It will accommodate 47 mahouts and cavadies from the local Malasar tribal community.
- ❖ Mahout Villages are residential colonies built exclusively for elephant handlers and their assistants.
- ❖ The first village was inaugurated in May 2025 at Theppakadu Elephant Camp, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.



Telemetry study on Olive ridley turtles

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has announced a two-year telemetry study, from 2025 to 2027.

- ❖ It aims to track the movements of Olive Ridley turtles along its coastline using satellite and flipper tagging.
- ❖ The initiative aims to identify near-shore hotspots, migratory routes, and entanglement-prone fishing areas.
- ❖ Results will provide science-backed strategies to reduce fishing-related mortality.



NATIONAL NEWS

2 New Supreme Court judges

- ❖ Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai administered the swearing-in of Justices Alok Aradhe and Vipul M. Pancholi as Supreme Court judges.
- ❖ With the swearing-in of these two judges, the Supreme Court returned to its full sanctioned judicial strength of 34.
- ❖ It will continue until the retirement of Chief Justice Gavai on November 23, 2025.
- ❖ Justice Pancholi is in line to become Chief Justice of India under the seniority norm from October 3, 2031, till his retirement on May 27, 2033.
- ❖ His appointment process witnessed a rare dissent from one of the Collegium members, Justice B.V. Nagarathna.
- ❖ She is the lone woman judge in the Supreme Court at present.
- ❖ Justice B.V. Nagarathna noted that Justice Pancholi was ranked 57th in the all-India High Court judges' seniority list and that several meritorious judge's senior to him could be considered for elevation.

- ❖ In her dissent, Justice Nagarathna wrote that his appointment would be “counter-productive” to the administration of justice and that the credibility of the Collegium was at stake.
- ❖ However, the Collegium, by a 4:1 majority, recommended Justices Pancholi and Aradhe on August 25.
- ❖ She even had asked for her dissent note to be published along with the August 25 Collegium resolution.
- ❖ However, the note was not published.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

- ❖ India signs pact with Japan for low carbon technologies.
- ❖ It will facilitate implementation of projects contributing to greenhouse gas reduction or removal and sustainable development in India.
- ❖ It is a first of its kind Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).
- ❖ JCM is a Japanese initiative.
- ❖ Japan implements and invests in low-carbon technologies in developing countries.
- ❖ This will be resulting savings in emissions are credited to Japan's account as carbon credits.
- ❖ It can use to meet its national emissions-reduction targets, not counting India.

- ❖ Japan has signed JCM agreements with 30 other countries which are in various stages of implementation.
- ❖ It will also enable the international trading of carbon credits generated from such projects under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement with Japan and other countries on similar lines, “without adversely impacting” India’s NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) commitments.
- ❖ India’s NDC commits to
 - Reducing its GDP’s emission intensity by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels,
 - Achieving 50% cumulative electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and
 - Creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030 through afforestation.
- ❖ Earlier this week, the Environment Ministry constituted the ‘National Designated Authority (NDA).
- ❖ NDA is the nodal agency to approve such projects, evaluate emission reductions and oversee the functioning of the Indian carbon market.



ECONOMY NEWS

GST compensation levy

- ❖ In the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting on September 3 and 4, a group of eight non-BJP ruled States have proposed a cess to be levied on sin and luxury goods over and above the proposed 40% GST rate.
- ❖ Without such a cess, the revenue losses from the Centre’s proposed rate rationalisation hamper at least 15% of their expenditure on development.



- ❖ The Centre has proposed removing the 12% and 28% tax slabs and moving the vast majority of items in these slabs to 5% and 18%, respectively.
- ❖ It has also proposed a 40% rate for a few sin and luxury items.
- ❖ Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh favour the proposal to allocate a GST rate without an additional tax.
- ❖ West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Karnataka support the continuation of cess via an additional levy.

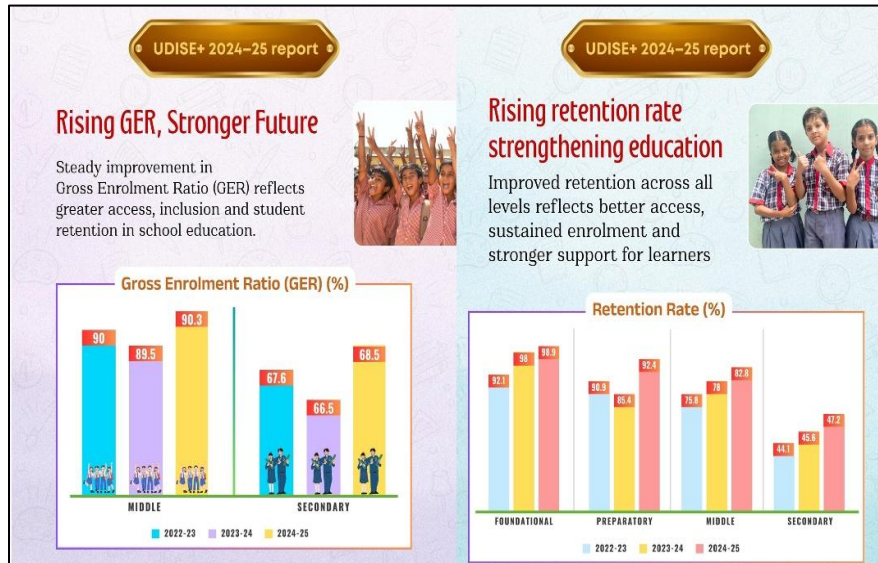
New GST Rates 2025 – What Changes for You?

Old GST Structure	New GST Proposal (2025)
4 Slabs: 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%	2 Slabs: 5% & 18%
Luxury/Sin Goods @ 28%	Ultra-Luxury & Sin Goods @ 40%
Confusing slab overlaps	Clear “Merit” (5%) & “Standard” (18%) split
Refund delays, complex filings	Pre-filled returns, faster refunds
Frequent disputes on classification	Stability & predictability promised
Higher tax on daily-use items	Lower tax burden on essentials
Startups face tough compliance	Simpler registration & compliance
Multiple rate changes in 7 yrs	Next-gen reforms with long-term rates

REPORTS AND INDICES

UDISE+ 2024–25 report

- ❖ The Ministry of Education has released the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2024-25 report.
- ❖ The academic year 2024–25 has seen a notable reduction in dropout rates across the Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary levels as compared to the last two years namely, 2022-23, and 2023-24.
- ❖ Of the 1.92 crore students admitted to class 1 in 2024-25, 80% (1.54 crore students) had pre-school experience in the same school or another school or an anganwadi centre.
- ❖ This is up from 73% in 2023-24 when of the 1.87 crore students admitted in class 1, around 1.37 crore had pre-school experience.
- ❖ The academic year 2024–25 has demonstrated a positive trend in student retention across all educational levels—Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary.



- ❖ Retention rates have improved significantly compared to the previous year,
 - Increasing from 98.0% to 98.9% at the Foundational level,
 - 85.4% to 92.4% at the Preparatory level,
 - 78.0% to 82.8% at the Middle level, and
 - 45.6% to 47.2% at the Secondary level.
- ❖ There has been a noticeable improvement in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the Middle and Secondary levels during the academic year 2024-25.
- ❖ The GER at the Middle level increased from 89.5% in 2023-24 to 90.3%, while at the Secondary level, it rose from 66.5% to 68.5%.
- ❖ The transition rate from Foundational to Preparatory increased from 98.1% to 98.6%, from Preparatory to Middle rose from 88.8% to 92.2%, and from Middle to Secondary improved from 83.3% to 86.6%.
- ❖ Single teacher schools have reduced by around 6% in the reporting year in comparison with the previous year.
- ❖ Similarly, the number of schools having zero enrolment witnessed a whopping decline of around 38%.
- ❖ The number of schools with computer access, rising from 57.2% in 2023-24 to 64.7% this year.
- ❖ The percentage of schools with internet connectivity increased from 53.9% in the previous year to 63.5%.
- ❖ Today, 93.6% of schools are powered with electricity, 97.3% have girls' toilets, and 96.2% have boys' toilets—ensuring dignity and hygiene for all students.
- ❖ Handwashing facilities are now available in 95.9% of schools, and access to safe drinking water has reached an impressive 99.3%.

- ❖ The academic year 2024–25 has also seen a rise in the representation of female teachers, with women now comprising 54.2% of the total teaching workforce.

STATES' NEWS

Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana – Bihar



- ❖ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched this special scheme for women empowerment.
- ❖ Under this scheme, preparations are being made to prepare a woman entrepreneur from every household in Bihar.
- ❖ Women of Bihar will get an amount ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 2 lakh.
- ❖ The scheme will start from September 2025.
- ❖ Under this, the first instalment of Rs 10,000 will be given directly to the bank account of the women.
- ❖ This will be in the form of a grant.
- ❖ Their work will be assessed after six months of starting employment.
- ❖ If they succeed in becoming a successful entrepreneur, then such women will also be given an additional amount of up to Rs 2 lakh.

Nuakhai Festival 2025 – Odisha

- ❖ Nuakhai is an annual harvest festival in Odisha, celebrated to welcome the season's new rice.
- ❖ Determined by the lunar calendar, the day falls on the 'Panchami tithi' (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight.
- ❖ The word 'nua' translates to new and 'khai' means food.

- ❖ Families gathered to share the season's first grain, Nabanna, offered to deities before being contributed in communal meals.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

SCOPE Eminence Awards 2025



- ❖ Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), the apex body of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) hosted the prestigious SCOPE Eminence Awards.
- ❖ These Awards are a celebration of the significant contribution of public sector enterprises to the development of India.
- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU, has been conferred with the SCOPE Eminence Award for Human Resource.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Auspicious Daruma Doll

- ❖ Prime Minister of India was presented with a traditional Daruma doll, seen as a symbol of good luck, during his visit to Japan.

- ❖ The Daruma doll is considered auspicious and a good luck charm in Japanese culture.
- ❖ Takasaki City in Gunma is the birthplace of the famous Daruma dolls.
- ❖ The Daruma tradition in Japan is based on the legacy of Bodhidharma, an Indian monk from Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He is known in Japan as Daruma Daishi, who is said to have travelled here over a thousand years ago.



350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur

- ❖ He was the 9th Sikh guru, revered for his teachings, bravery, and martyrdom.
- ❖ He is the son of Guru Hargovind (6th Sikh guru).
- ❖ He was initially known as Tyag Mal for his ascetic nature.
- ❖ Ascended as the 9th Sikh Guru in 1664, he was succeeding Guru Har Krishan.
- ❖ He contributed 116 hymns to the Guru Granth Sahib.
- ❖ In 1675, he was executed in Delhi on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

