



September - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has visited Dr. B.R. Ambedkar House in London, the residence where Babasaheb stayed while pursuing his studies at LSE.
- ❖ Air India SATS Airport Services (AISATS) became India's first ground handling firm to get DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) safety approval under a new framework aligned with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) standards.
- ❖ The 2025 World Boxing Championships in Liverpool, United Kingdom, will be the first time that both men's and women's competitions are held together.
- ❖ An Assam-based group led by We Foundation India, in collaboration with Gauhati University's Department of Zoology, launched India's first portal to network individuals working on vulture conservation.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu in NIRF 2025



- ❖ Tamil Nadu at the forefront with the highest number of colleges in the Top 100.
- ❖ 17 institutions among the top 100 in the overall category.
- ❖ 33 colleges ranked among the top 100 in the college category.
- ❖ 10 among the top 50 in the State Public University category.
- ❖ TN is followed by Maharashtra with 11 institutions and Uttar Pradesh with 9.
- ❖ Delhi remains a strong hub with 8 colleges.

NATIONAL NEWS

Kapas Kisan App

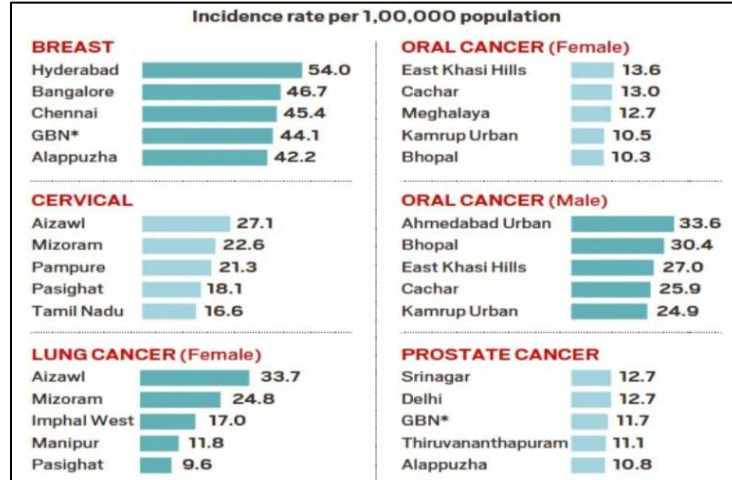
- ❖ Union Ministry of Textiles launched the Kapas Kisan mobile app.
- ❖ The app supports cotton procurement under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme.
- ❖ It enables farmer self-registration, slot booking, and payment tracking.
- ❖ The aim is to ensure transparency, reduce paperwork, and prevent distress sales.



Cancer Registry 2025

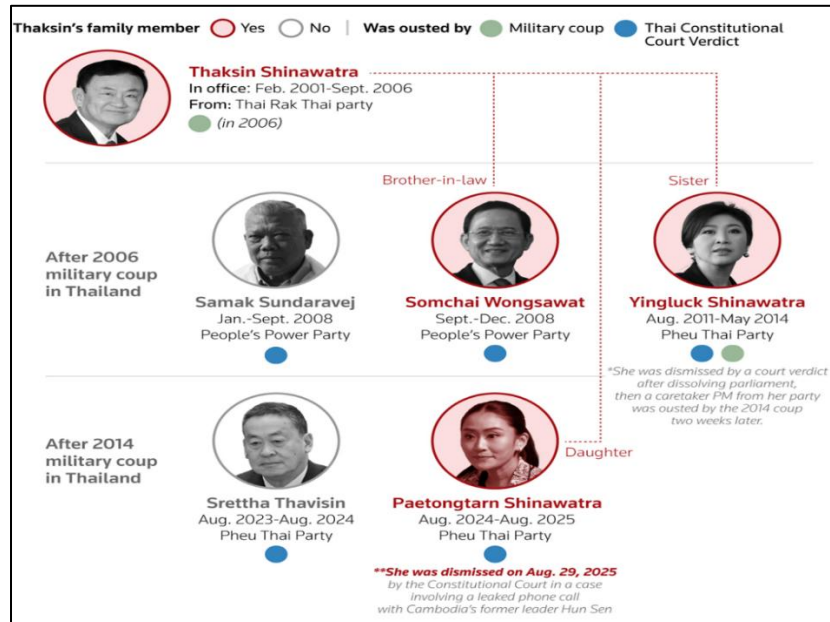
- ❖ India recorded an estimated 15.6 lakh cancer cases and 8.74 lakh cancer-related deaths in 2024.
- ❖ Women accounted for 51.1 percent of cases but only 45 percent of total cancer deaths nationwide.
- ❖ Oral cancer became the most common cancer among men, overtaking lung cancer in 14 registries.
- ❖ Breast and cervical cancers made up 40 percent of all cancers in women, with Hyderabad showing the highest breast cancer rate at 54 per 100,000.
- ❖ Aizawl reported the highest overall cancer incidence, with 198.4 per 100,000 in men and 172.5 per 100,000 in women.
- ❖ Cancer registry data from 43 centres between 2015 and 2019 showed 7.08 lakh cases and 2.06 lakh deaths during that period.
- ❖ Northeast states showed high cancer rates due to lifestyle factors like tobacco use, alcohol, smoked food, and infections such as Helicobacter pylori and HPV (Human Papillomavirus).
- ❖ Srinagar recorded the highest lung cancer incidence among men at 39.5 per 100,000 and prostate cancer at 12.7 per 100,000.

- ❖ The highest cervical cancer rate was in Aizawl at 27.1 per 100,000, and oral cancer in Ahmedabad among men at 33.6 per 100,000.
- ❖ Registries now cover 23 states and Union Territories, tracking trends in 10 to 18 percent of the population.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thailand New PM 2025



- ❖ Thailand's parliament has chosen business tycoon Anutin Charnvirakul as the country's prime minister.
- ❖ Thailand named third prime minister in two years.

- ❖ Paetongtarn Shinawatra was removed by the constitutional court recently for ethical violations over her handling of the border dispute with Cambodia.
- ❖ Paetongtarn Shinawatra belongs to Thailand's most powerful political dynasty.
- ❖ Following the progressive Move Forward Party victory in the 2023 Thai general election, the Pheu Thai Party and conservative establishment parties formed a coalition government under Srettha Thavisin.
- ❖ Srettha was removed from office in August 2024 by the Constitutional Court, and was succeeded by Paetongtarn Shinawatra.
- ❖ Thailand's Anutin Charnvirakul was elected prime minister through a parliamentary vote.
- ❖ He was trouncing the candidate of the Shinawatra family's once-dominant ruling party to end a week of chaos and political deadlock.

Power of Siberia 2 gas pipeline



- ❖ Russia and China have signed a legally binding memorandum to construct the Power of Siberia 2 gas pipeline.
- ❖ The pipeline will transport natural gas from western Siberia to China via Mongolia, supplementing the existing Power of Siberia 1 line.
- ❖ Power of Siberia 2 will add 50 billion cubic meters of annual export capacity, in addition to the current 38 billion cubic meters from Power of Siberia 1.

ECONOMY NEWS

Two-Slab GST Taxation

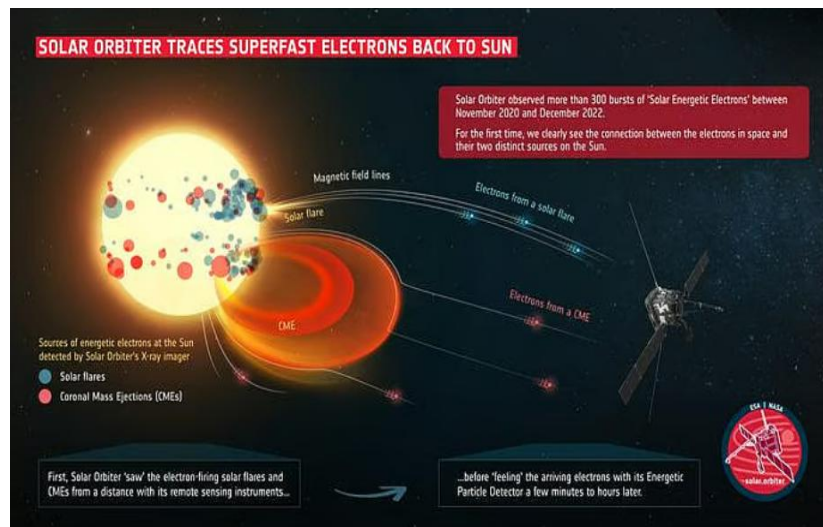
GST 2.0 IS COMING SOON		
PROPOSED GST REFORMS AT A GLANCE		
Category	Current GST	Proposed GST
Food & Textiles 	12%	5%
Electronics(TV,AC, Fridge) 	28%	18%
Small Cars 	28%+ Cess(~29%)	18%
Luxury Cars/SUV 	~50%	40%
Medicines 	12%	5%/0%
Insurance (Life / Health) 	18%	5%/0%
FMCG (Snacks, Juices Ketchup) 	12%	5%
Cement 	28%	18%
Salon Services 	18%	5%
Cinema Ticket 	12%	5% (Economy)/ 18% (Premium)

- ❖ Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, in its 56th meeting, approved a two-slab structure retaining 5% and 18% rates, effective from September 22, 2025.
- ❖ A 40% “special rate” was introduced for sin and luxury goods, including tobacco, pan masala, aerated drinks, yachts, helicopters, and large cars.
- ❖ Household products like soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, bicycles, and tableware are now taxed at 5%, down from 12% or 18%.
- ❖ Food items like pasta, instant noodles, sauces, chocolates, coffee, and packaged namkeens moved to 5% from higher slabs.
- ❖ Indian breads, including rotis, chapatis, parathas, along with ultra-high temperature (UHT) milk and paneer, moved to 0% GST from 5%.
- ❖ Two-wheelers with engine capacity up to 350cc, small cars, air-conditioners (ACs), televisions (TVs), and dishwashers are now taxed at 18%, reduced from 28%.
- ❖ Cement moved from 28% to 18%, supporting housing and infrastructure sectors.
- ❖ Buses, trucks, ambulances, and all auto parts are now uniformly taxed at 18%.
- ❖ 33 lifesaving medicines and diagnostic kits moved to 0% GST from 12%; spectacles reduced from 28% to 5%.

- ❖ Bio-pesticides, bio-menthol, handicrafts, marble, and granite blocks are now taxed at 5%, down from 12%.
- ❖ Inverted duty structure corrected in the textile sector by reducing GST on manmade fibre from 18% to 5% and manmade yarn from 12% to 5%.
- ❖ Fertilizer inputs like sulphuric acid, nitric acid, and ammonia are now taxed at 5% instead of 18%, reducing farming costs.
- ❖ Individual life and health insurance policies moved from 18% to 0% GST, expanding financial protection.
- ❖ GST on tobacco, pan masala, gutka, cigarettes, zarda, and bidi remains at 28% plus compensation cess until the Centre repays cess-related loans.
- ❖ These tobacco-related products will shift to the 40% slab once loan and interest liabilities on compensation cess are cleared, expected by the end of 2025.
- ❖ Estimated ₹48,000 crore revenue impact due to rate cuts based on 2023–24 consumption, with expected improvement in compliance and tax buoyancy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Solar Energetic Electrons



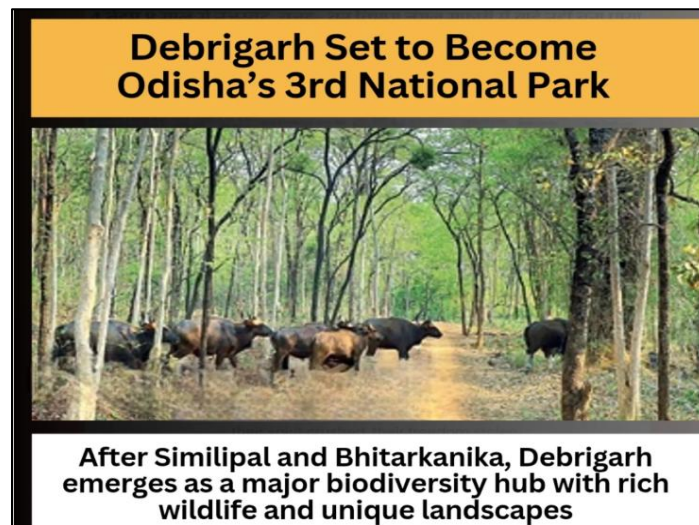
- ❖ ESA (European Space Agency) and NASA's Solar Orbiter traced the origin of Solar Energetic Electrons (SEE) from the Sun.
- ❖ The study linked SEE bursts to solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs), revealing two different release mechanisms.
- ❖ Between November 2020 and December 2022, the spacecraft detected over 300 SEE events using ten onboard instruments.

- ❖ Researchers observed time lags between solar events and SEE detection due to delayed release or turbulence in space.
- ❖ Understanding SEE can help protect astronauts and satellites from solar radiation and improve forecasting of space weather.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- ❖ Odisha's Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary to become India's newest tiger reserve.
- ❖ The Indian gaur population increased from 670 to over 700 in six months in the sanctuary.
- ❖ Prey species include gaur, sambar deer, spotted deer, wild boar, and wild dogs.
- ❖ Debrigarh borders the Hirakud wetland for over 100 kilometres.
- ❖ The sanctuary offers habitats ranging from wetlands and grasslands to forests.
- ❖ It hosts over 300 bird species, including 120 migratory species.

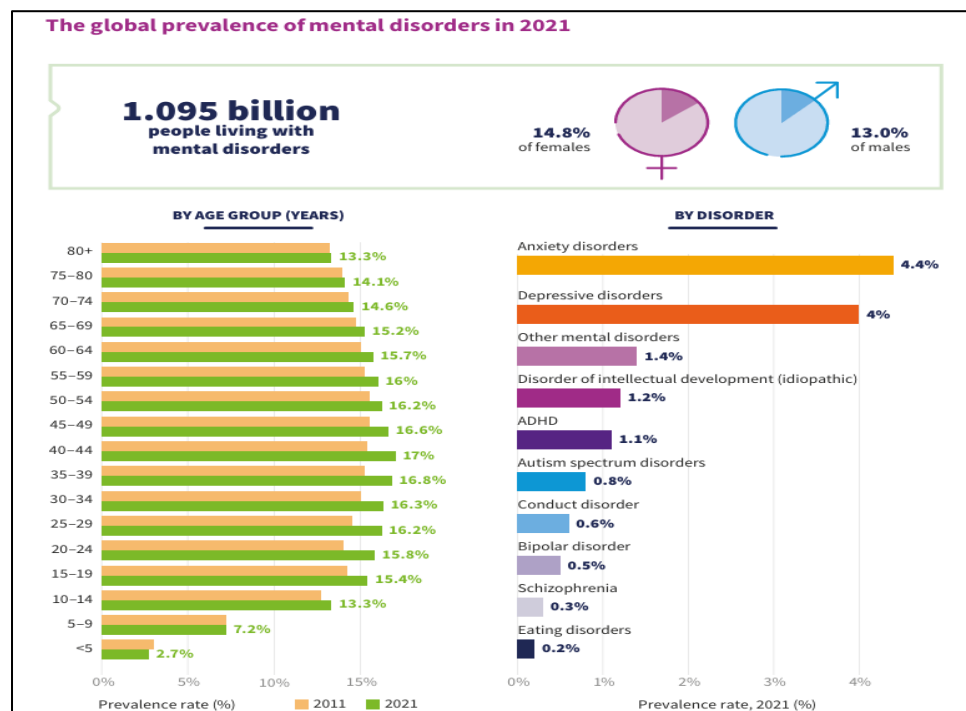


REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Mental Health Crisis in 2025

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) released two reports - World Mental Health Today and Mental Health Atlas 2024.
- ❖ The reports highlight that over 1 billion people globally live with mental health conditions.

- ❖ Mental health disorders are the second leading cause of long-term disability worldwide.
- ❖ Anxiety and depression are the most common mental health conditions globally.
- ❖ These disorders cause an estimated global economic loss of 1 trillion US dollars each year.
- ❖ In 2021, around 727,000 people died by suicide across all countries and income levels.
- ❖ Suicide remains a top cause of death among young people across all regions.
- ❖ In India, 13.7% of the population has experienced mental health disorders during their lifetime, according to NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences).
- ❖ The National Mental Health Survey 2015–16 found that 10.6% of Indian adults have mental health issues.
- ❖ Between 70% and 92% of individuals with mental health conditions in India do not receive adequate treatment.



NIRF Rankings 2025

- ❖ The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) India Rankings 2025 report was released by the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ IIT Madras topped NIRF overall rankings for the seventh consecutive year.

- ❖ IIT Madras was ranked the best engineering college for the tenth straight year.
- ❖ IISc Bengaluru topped the Universities category for the tenth consecutive year.
- ❖ IISc Bengaluru also led the Research Institutions category for the fifth consecutive year.
- ❖ IIM Ahmedabad was the top Management institute for the sixth consecutive year.
- ❖ AIIMS New Delhi led medical rankings for the eighth consecutive year and topped the Dental category for the first time.

THE TOPPERS

OVERALL

	2025	2024
1	IIT Madras	IIT Madras
2	IISc Bangalore	IISc Bangalore
3	IIT Bombay	IIT Bombay
4	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
5	IIT Kanpur	IIT Kanpur

ENGINEERING

	2025	2024
1	IIT Madras	IIT Madras
2	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
3	IIT Bombay	IIT Bombay
4	IIT Kanpur	IIT Kanpur
5	IIT Kharagpur	IIT Kharagpur

MANAGEMENT

	2025	2024
1	IIM Ahmedabad	IIM Ahmedabad
2	IIM Bangalore	IIM Bangalore
3	IIM Kozhikode	IIM Kozhikode
4	IIT Delhi	IIT Delhi
5	IIM Lucknow	IIM Calcutta

UNIVERSITIES

	2025	2024
1	IISc Bangalore	IISc Bangalore
2	JNU	JNU
3	Manipal Academy of Higher Education	Jamia Millia Islamia
4	Jamia Millia Islamia	Manipal Academy of Higher Education
5	Delhi University	Banaras Hindu University

COLLEGES

	2025	2024
1	Hindu College	Hindu College
2	Miranda House	Miranda House
3	Hans Raj College	St. Stephen's College
4	Kirori Mal College	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, West Bengal
5	St. Stephen's College	Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, Delhi

Source: NIRF 2025 report

- ❖ IIT Hyderabad ranked 12th overall and 6th in the innovation category.
- ❖ Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi was ranked best for Pharmacy studies.
- ❖ IIT Roorkee retained first place in Architecture and Planning.
- ❖ Hindu College Delhi was ranked the best college for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ NLSIU Bengaluru held top spot in Law for the eighth consecutive year.
- ❖ Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi led the Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru University ranked second among Universities after IISc Bengaluru.
- ❖ IGNOU New Delhi was the best Open University.
- ❖ IIT Madras topped the new Innovation and Sustainable Development Goals category.
- ❖ Symbiosis Skill and Professional University Pune led the Skill Universities category.

- ❖ NIRF rankings started in 2016 with limited categories and expanded to nine categories and eight subject domains by 2025.

STATES' NEWS

AI Center of Excellence for Public Good

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh signed a MoU with Tech Bharat Foundation to set up an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center of Excellence in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The initiative is led by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE and C), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The AI Center of Excellence (CoE) will focus on AI for public governance through co-created tools, policy research, and applied solutions.



Daily working hours extension





- ❖ The Maharashtra cabinet approved increasing the maximum daily working hours for private sector employees from nine to ten hours.
- ❖ Amendments will be made to the Factories Act, 1948, and the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017.
- ❖ Overtime limits will increase, and workers will receive proper compensation with mandatory written consent.
- ❖ The changes aim to attract investment, generate employment, and protect workers' rights.

