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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Recruits Training Centre (RTC) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in Arakkonam has been renamed Rajaditya Cholan (RTC), Thakkolam (Ranipet District) in memory of the Chola prince.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has named the retired IAS officer and scholar R. Balakrishnan as the Director of the International Institute of Tamil Studies.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated 'Kalangarai', a comprehensive de-addiction and rehabilitation centre in 25 medical college hospitals in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Telangana government issued orders for teaching Telugu as a compulsory subject for students of 1st to 10th classes in CBSE, ICSE, IB and other boards affiliated schools in the state from the 2025-26 academic year.
- ❖ The Punjab government has mandated Punjabi as a main subject for Class 1-10 in all schools, irrespective of their board affiliation.
- ❖ The first-ever Conference for Women Peacekeepers, themed 'Women in Peace keeping: A Global South Perspective,' took place in New Delhi.
- ❖ India hosts the first-ever Regional Dialogue on Social Justice under the Global Coalition for Social Justice in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's Pankaj Advani secured the 2025 Asian Snooker Championship men's title, defeating Iran in the final at Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ The World Protein Day is celebrated on February 27th every year to mark the importance of protein in our diet for good health.
- ❖ The Fifth Tamil Nadu Police Commission has called for the stringent disciplinary against the abuse of authority by police personnel, especially instances of verbal abuse, non-registration of genuine cases, foisting of the false cases, wrongful detentions or arrests, brutal handling of accused, biased or unfair investigation and selective enforcement of law.
- ❖ The African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), in its 21st General Session of the General Conference, held in New Delhi unanimously elected India as President for the Triennium 2025-27.
- ❖ After Kolkata Airport, the UDAN Yatri Cafe was inaugurated at Chennai Airport, offering affordable refreshments.
- ❖ A two-day national research and development fair IInvenTiv2025 was held at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.
- ❖ Dr B Amudha has been appointed as the new head of the Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai Dr S Balachandran.
 - Thus, the Regional Meteorological Centre gets woman head for the first time.



- ❖ Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq's story collection Heart Lamp is among the 13 books featured in this year's International Booker Prize longlist.
- ❖ The Madras High Court has ruled that Different caste groups may follow different ways of worshipping a deity but the members of no caste group can claim that a temple belongs only to them and therefore, only they have an exclusive right to administer it.
- ❖ Kashmir celebrated the Herath festival on the 13th day of the dark half of the month of Phalguna recently.
- ❖ The PRAKRITI 2025 (Promoting the Resilience, Awareness, Knowledge, and the Resources for Integrating the Transformational Initiatives), the International Conference on Carbon Markets, was organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Denmark has announced its Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector and advance their joint global goal towards carbon neutrality.
- ❖ Paytm has launched the Paytm Solar Soundbox, India's first solar-powered payment soundbox to accept UPI and RuPay Credit Card payments.
- ❖ The Saras Aajeevika Mela 2025 is held in Noida of Uttar Pradesh to empower Self Help Group (SHG) women entrepreneurs, showcase their exceptional craftsmanship.
- ❖ Friedrich Merz, chairman of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), is set to become Germany's next chancellor.
- ❖ Tuhin Kanta Pandey has taken over as the 11th chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ❖ Zydus Lifesciences is introducing a vaccine - VaxiFlu-4 for protection against new strain of influenza virus.
- ❖ Amazon unveiled a prototype of its first-ever in-house quantum computing chip called Ocelot.
- ❖ The 9th National Summit on Good & Replicable Practices and Innovation in the Public Healthcare System was held in Puri, Odisha.
- ❖ The 10,000th FPO was recently launched in Bihar under the Central Sector Scheme for the "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- ❖ February 2025 was the hottest in India in the last 125 years, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.
- ❖ ICC chairman Jay Shah was conferred with Icon of Excellence award at FILA 2025.



- ❖ Exercise Desert Hunt 2025, an integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise of India was conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump signed an executive order designating English as the official language of the United States.
- ❖ The International Spice Conference (ISC) 2025, organised by the All-India Spices Exporters' Forum (AISEF) was held in Bengaluru under the theme of 'Building Trust Beyond Borders: Transparency, Sustainability, Confidence'.
- ❖ The second meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) took place in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Nobel laureate and social reformer Kailash Satyarthi launched his own autobiography 'Diyasalaai'.
- ❖ The International Wheelchair Day is observed on 1st March to celebrate the positive impact a wheelchair has in daily life.
- ❖ National Defence Day was first celebrated on March 3rd to honour the bravery and sacrifices of the Indian soldiers who fought in World War I and the Indian Army's contribution towards the nation.
- ❖ India's first comics library was recently inaugurated at a government school in Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar District.
- ❖ Padmakar Shivalkar from Maharashtra, one of the finest left-arm spinners of the country in the cricket, passed away.
- ❖ The National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun, launched the 'Sugamya Yatra' (Accessible Journey) to promote accessibility and inclusivity for persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- ❖ The World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB), along with the key partners have launched Mission 300 to provide electricity to 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.
- ❖ Himmat Shah from Gujarat, a famous Indian artist known for his sculptures and modern art, passed away.
- ❖ India's first World Peace Center has been inaugurated in Gurugram, Haryana to promote peace, non-violence, and global harmony.
- ❖ Ron Draper, who was the oldest living Test cricketer, has died in South Africa at the age of 98 years and 63 days.
- ❖ Vidarbha won their third Ranji Trophy title in seven seasons, defeating Kerala in the 2024-25 final.
 - For Kerala, it was the first-ever Ranji Trophy final.
- ❖ The Assam government has officially notified the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve as the 8th national park in the state.



- The new national park will be named Sikhna Jwhlao National Park.
- ❖ The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) has instituted an award in the name of Lakshmi Vijayakumar, psychiatrist and Founder of the SNEHA Suicide Prevention Centre, Chennai.
- ❖ Noted Tamil poet and writer Nedunchelivan Singaravelu, known widely by his pen name 'Nandalala,' passed away recently.
- ❖ The 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ India has emerged as the world's third-largest biofuel producer and achieved 19.6% ethanol blending in petrol as of January.
- ❖ The Centre for Fuel Cell Technology (CFCT) has successfully demonstrated the hydrogen-powered fuel cells as a reliable backup power solution for telecom towers.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj is organized a National Workshop of Women Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and has launched the "Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan" in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the NITI Aayog launched the Swavalambini programme aimed to provide the structured support to female students in higher education institutions (HEIs) across the country.
- ❖ Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation becomes India's first local body to include a climate chapter in its budget, allocating ₹5,619.58 crore for climate action.
- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the National Referral Centre for Wildlife at Junagadh in Gujarat, which will function as the hub for the coordination and the governance of various aspects related to wildlife health and disease management.
- ❖ Prime Minister chaired the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife at Gir National Park in Gujarat.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister handed over the Kalaignar Ezhuthukol Award 2023 to journalists Nakkeeran R. Gopal and Sugitha Sarangaraj.
- ❖ For the effective management of the human-wildlife conflict, PM announced the establishment of a centre of excellence at Wildlife Institute of India campus in SACON, Coimbatore.
- ❖ The NLC India Limited (NLCIL) launched a mobile safety app – Aran to play an important role in ensuring a 'zero accident' environment at NLCIL.
- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that, the right against disability-based discrimination as a fundamental right, as it ruled that "visually impaired candidates are eligible to participate in selection for the posts under the judicial service".



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government issued orders for the creation of 17 new Maragatha Pooncholai or village woodlots at an outlay of ₹404.991 lakh.
 - With this Phase III, the total number of the Maragatha Pooncholai in villages reaches 100, marking a significant step forward in Green Tamil Nadu Mission.
- ❖ The four-day Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025 was held in Barcelona, Spain under the theme "Converge, Connect, Create."
- ❖ Architect Liu Jiakun of China was awarded the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize.
- ❖ The Microsoft has launched a new voice-activated AI assistant - Dragon Copilot to helping doctors and healthcare professionals.
- ❖ The DRDO has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft.
- ❖ Tata Motors launched the first-ever trials of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks in order to assess their viability for long haul transportation solutions.
- ❖ ICMR has published an addendum to the ICMR National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research Involving Human Participants (2017) to provide a structured ethical framework for Research in Integrative Medicine (RIM).
- ❖ The World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is observed on March 4 to fight against human trafficking and sexual abuse.
- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister was conferred with 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados in recognition of his strategic leadership and critical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Anju Rathi Rana, an Indian Legal Service officer, became the first woman to be appointed as Law secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced Thozhiyar Viduthi (hostels for the working women) in Kancheepuram, Erode, Dharmapuri, Sivagangai, Theni, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ranipet, and Karur districts.
- ❖ Jayashree Vencatesan, co-founder, Care Earth Trust, was awarded the Ramsar award for 'Wetland Wise Use', for fighting to safeguard Tamil Nadu's water bodies and wetlands.
- ❖ The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) have signed a Fiscal Support Agreement (FSA) to establish the country's first commercial semiconductor fabrication unit in Dholera, Gujarat.
- ❖ Amul (Anand Milk Union Ltd in Gujarat) plans to gradually enter Tamil Nadu's milk market, providing a cooperative model for local farmers.
- ❖ P Vimala from Tamil Nadu has been selected for the Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation 2024 for her work 'Enatu Ankal' in Tamil, which is a translation of author Nalini Jameela's autobiography 'Ente Anungal' in Malayalam.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM presented the Avvaiyar Award to Yasoda Shanmugasundaram, former Vice-Chancellor, Mother Teresa Women's University, for her contribution to the empowerment of women.
- ❖ FIFA excludes Russia, Congo, and Pakistan from 2026 Football World Cup Due to various Controversies.
- ❖ India beats New Zealand in the Final and won the 2025 ICC Cricket Champions Trophy for the third time.
- ❖ Karnataka announced that Bengaluru City University will be renamed after the late Dr Manmohan Singh and this will be the first institution in India to bear his name.
- ❖ IndiGo has emerged as the world's second fastest-growing airline in terms of seat capacity and the fastest-growing airline in flight frequency.
- ❖ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is termed as the strongest insurance brand with a steady brand value (12th rank) of \$9.8 billion.
- ❖ The Assam government has decided to name the Electronic City after Ratan Tata as a tribute to his immense contributions to India's industrial and technological development.
- ❖ Tiger state of India, Madhya Pradesh's Madhav National Park has officially been designated as India's 58th tiger reserve as well as its 9th Tiger reserve, .
- ❖ The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched 'SBI Asmita', a collateral-free digital SME loan exclusively for women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Mark Carney has been appointed as the new leader of Canada's Liberal Party and the country's next Prime Minister to replace Justin Trudeau.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has inaugurated Godrej Consumer Products Limited's ₹515-crore manufacturing facility in Thiruporur taluk of Chengalpattu district.
- ❖ The Mayiladuthurai forest Division will start functioning from April 1 with Sirkazhi and Mayiladuthurai Forest Ranges besides a Forest Extension Range.
- ❖ The Amrut Biodiversity Park was inaugurated in of New Delhi with 14,500 native plants and tree species and 3,20,000 riverine grasses.
- ❖ Pranav Venkatesh from India has secured the first position in the World Junior Chess Championship in the under-20 category held in Montenegro.
- ❖ The Professor Suman Chakraborty from IIT Kharagpur has been awarded the 2026 TWAS Award in Engineering and Computer Sciences by UNESCO.
- ❖ Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri has made a comeback to the national team at the age of 40, reversing his retirement decision from last year.
- ❖ The Ooty Literature Festival 2025 begins at Nilgiri Library in Udthagamandalam.



- ❖ The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS), comprising the INS Sujata, INS Shardul, and ICGS Veera, has successfully concluded its visit to Phuket Deep Sea Port, Thailand.
- ❖ The Assam government in collaboration with IN-SPACe proposes to set up its own satellite ASSAMSAT.
- ❖ India, participated at Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin - ITB Berlin 2025, a major meeting point for the global industry including tour operators, travel agencies and tech companies.
- ❖ India has taken over the Chairmanship of the 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the primary policy-making body for global drug-related matters.
- ❖ India has won the Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship 2025 title in Tehran, against Iran.
 - India have now won the title in five of the six editions held so far.
- ❖ IIT-Madras's startup TuTr Hyperloop has partnered with several international and national stakeholders to commercialise high-speed mobility in India.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State government has decided to continue with the special public distribution system, under which "tur dhal" and palmolein oil are provided to ration cardholders every month.
- ❖ Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio - have signed a deal with Starlink to launch mass satellite broadband services in India.
- ❖ AAHAR 2025 - The International Food & Hospitality Fair - is a flagship B2B event organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The third "International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA 2025)" was recently held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has inaugurated Chennai's first wetland sponge park in an OSR land near Poonamallee High Road, Porur.
- ❖ Australia and England will mark the 150th anniversary of Test cricket with a historic day-night match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in 2027.
- ❖ Central America's the most active volcano in Guatemala - Volcan de Fuego has erupted recently after its previous eruption in 2018
- ❖ India, led by Union Minister for Women and Child Development, participated in the 69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of the Women (UNCSW).
- ❖ The 4th No Money for Terror (NMFT) Conference was held in Germany to enhance international cooperation in curbing terror financing.



- ❖ Delhi International Airport wins prestigious ASQ Award for Best Airport over 40 million passengers in Asia-Pacific the seventh consecutive year.
- ❖ The Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) in association with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), had organized a one-day conference titled "the Water Sustainability Conference 2025" in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 54th National Safety Week was observed from March 4 to March 10 to raise awareness about safety measures across industries and workplaces to promote accident prevention and ensure employee well-being.
- ❖ The IFL Finance, non-banking financial company, has rebranded seven existing branches into all women staffed 'Shakti' branches on the occasion of Women's Day.
- ❖ 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY)' has achieved a historic milestone with 10 lakh homes now solar-powered as of 10th March 2025.
- ❖ The Madras High Court has allowed Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) to go ahead with its plan to acquire the land from two temples for the construction of a metro station.
 - It has also ruled that religious institutions have no special right to opt out of acquiring land for public purposes.
- ❖ World Rotaract Day is celebrated on the 13th of March every year to acknowledge the services provided by the Rotaractors across the world.
- ❖ The celebrations of the 160th year of Madras Bar Association and 75th year of adoption of the Constitution of India was held in Chennai.
- ❖ R. Narumpoo Nathan (64), one of Tamil Nadu's leading writers, passed away recently.
- ❖ A small cellar was found at 1,000 years old Savaite temple at Patteeswaram near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district.
- ❖ The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is becoming the first water board in India to receive certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its piped drinking water supply management system.
- ❖ Google has released Gemma 3, the latest addition to its family of lightweight open AI models that are designed to run directly on phones, laptops, and other devices.
- ❖ Tanzanian have declared the end of the country's second Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak after 42 days passed without any new cases.
- ❖ The International Day to Combat Islamophobia is observed annually on 15 March to uphold the equality, human rights, and dignity, and build inclusive societies regardless of their faith.



- ❖ A resolution moved by the AIADMK seeking to remove M. Appavu from the post of Speaker of Tamil Nadu Assembly got 154 votes against the motion and 63 votes in its favour and was defeated by 91 votes in the House.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Budget has proposed the setting up of a sanctuary for flamingos that stop at Rameswaram island near Dhanushkodi between Jan and April.
- ❖ Mumbai Indians won their second Women's Premier League title in three seasons after defeating Delhi Capitals.
- ❖ The Water Sustainability Conference 2025, organized by the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) under National Water Mission (NWM), was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Fit India Carnival, a first-of-its-kind three-day fitness and wellness event, was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The report, 'Rethinking Affirmative Action for Muslims in Contemporary India,' written by Hilal Ahmed, Mohd Sanjeer Alam and Nazima Parveen, published last month, is the first comprehensive policy document of its kind in the last 10 years.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the Digital Ethics Centre at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands as a WHO Collaborating Centre on artificial intelligence (AI) for health governance.
- ❖ Renowned Odia poet and former bureaucrat Ramakanta Rath died recently.
- ❖ Arvind Singh Mewar, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Mewar and the chairman of the HRH Group of Hotels, passed away recently.
- ❖ Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Uttar Pradesh is set to become a new sanctuary for rhinos from Nepal.
- ❖ The Hindi poet Gagan Gill and Naga author Easterine Kire, who writes in English, was honoured with the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for 2024.
 - Mr. Gill received the award for his book of poetry, Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar, and Ms. Kire for her novel Spirit Nights.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister released a book titled 'Tamil Nadu Fiscal Management: Antiquity and Continuity', which chronicles the State's financial management from the Sangam Age to the present day.
- ❖ A state-of-the-art research facility for the fluid and thermal science has been commissioned at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) recently.
- ❖ The Keel Laying ceremony of the second of the five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for Navy was held at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli.
- ❖ The foundation stone for the new permanent campus of the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) was laid in Shillong, Meghalaya.



- ❖ India's first-ever auction of exploration licences, a significant reform aimed at unlocking the nation's untapped critical and deep-seated mineral resources, was held in Goa.
- ❖ The Valueatics Re has received the insurance regulator IRDAI nod to commence reinsurance business in India and became the first private reinsurer in India to be granted a reinsurance license.
- ❖ WHO released a report, “Compassion and primary health care”, which recognises compassion as a transformative force in primary health care.
- ❖ The 353rd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation is held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is celebrating Official Language Law Week from March 21 to 25th.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation will organise Tamil Nadu Travel Market 2025 to exhibit the potential of the state as a tourist destination, encourage tourism business and attract tourism related investments.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has redesignated its Additional Advocates General (AAGs) and senior counsel M. Ajmal Khan shall now be designated as AAG-I.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank has launched the Frontier Seed (Pacific) program to support the local businesses, strengthen capital markets, and promote sustainable economic growth in the Pacific region.
- ❖ Maharashtra Chief Minister inaugurated the state's first-ever temple dedicated to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Bhiwandi, Thane.
- ❖ The Lachit Barphukan Police Academy was inaugurated in Dergaon, Assam.
- ❖ India and Malaysia co-chaired the 14th meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts Working Group (EWG) on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi.
 - This is marking India’s first time leading the counter-terrorism group.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the statue of Sir. John Hubert Marshall, British archaeologist, who was instrumental in excavations of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro sites of Indus Valley Civilization, at Egmore in Chennai.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has announced that it would provide ₹37,500 for cattle, ₹6,000 for sheep/goat and ₹200 for poultry as compensation to the farmers in case the animal/bird was killed by street dogs.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has set aside the 2022 order of the National Green Tribunal, Chennai which has barred the Auroville Foundation from going ahead with a proposed township
- ❖ project in Puducherry without environmental clearance.
- ❖ Indore is set to achieve another milestone in sustainable waste management by establishing India’s first green waste processing plant under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.



- ❖ The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 begins in England which marking the first time the tournament is held outside Asia.
- ❖ Samyuktha Narayanan (7), from Tamil Nadu's Madurai, has made the Guinness World Records by becoming the world's youngest Taekwondo instructor.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has recorded 1,540 murders in 2024, marking the lowest annual figure in the past 12 years.
- ❖ The trial run of Chennai Metro Rail's first driverless train for the Phase II network was held recently.
- ❖ Madras Medical College received the Excellence Award for the performance of its unit during the Medical Colleges Research Connect 2025 organised in New Delhi.
- ❖ Scholar and theorist Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak has won the 2025 Holberg Prize, considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in the field of the humanities, social sciences, law or theology research.
- ❖ IndiaAI, in collaboration with the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines, has launched the IndiaAI Hackathon on Mineral Targeting.
- ❖ North India's first nuclear project is coming up in Haryana in a small town called Gorakhpur with 10,380 MW capacity.
- ❖ More than 3,100 birds belonging to 162 species were recorded during the bird surveys conducted in the Gudalur forest division of the Nilgiris District recently.
- ❖ The Kalaignar Grand Library and Intellectual Centre in Tiruchi will come up with the state-of-the art facilities.
- ❖ Dr. V.I. Mathan, the former director of CMC Vellore, launched the book "To the Seventh Generation: The Journey of Christian Medical College Vellore" in Chennai.
- ❖ The World Bank-aided Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project (TNIAMP) has won the National Award for 'Excellence in Integrated Water Resources Management 2024' of the Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP).
- ❖ Himgiri, an advanced frigate, and Androth, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft has successfully completed the builder's Sea Trials.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a new Brownfield ammonia-urea Complex at the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) in Namrup, Assam.
- ❖ The Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards were presented by the President Droupadi Murmu to 27 Journalist to honour the outstanding contributions to Indian journalism.
- ❖ Vijay Sankar, the Honorary Consul General of Denmark for Southern India and Chairman of The Sanmar Group, has been awarded the prestigious Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog by the King of Denmark.



- ❖ The Global Recycling Day held annually on March 18th to acknowledging and promoting recycling as a vital tool for environmental preservation and long-term sustainability.
- ❖ The UN French Language Day is observed on 20 March every year to celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity as well as the crucial role of the French language in international relations.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has organised the first Joint Action Committee (JAC) meeting for the states to be affected by the delimitation exercise.
- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) has launched the Sagar mala Startup Innovation Initiative (S2I2) to drive maritime innovation in green shipping, smart ports, and logistics.
- ❖ The Ministry of Finance launched an Incentive Scheme for the Promotion of Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions - Rs. 2,000 or less (Person to Merchant) for the financial year 2024–25.
- ❖ Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has launched India's first frozen zoo to preserve the genetic material of endangered Himalayan species.
- ❖ Tata Communications Ltd has launched Vayu, the next-gen cloud fabric to provide cost effective cloud to enterprises.
- ❖ To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of India's maiden Hockey World Cup victory in 1975, a book titled 'March of Glory', co-authored by hockey historian K. Arumugam and journalist Errol D'Cruz, was launched recently.
- ❖ Khelo India Para Games 2025 has launched its anthem, mascot (Ujjwala) and logo in New Delhi.
- ❖ Nayara Energy signed MoUs with the Gujarat government's forest department for the conservation and restoration of the Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has set a historic milestone in freight loading by becoming the first railway zone in India to achieve 250 million tons (MT) of originating freight in the financial year 2024-25.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has announced the 58-foot statue of the freedom fighter Potti Sriramulu - the man known for being instrumental in the creation of the separate Telugu-speaking state of Andhra Pradesh in 1953 - in Amaravati.
- ❖ Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was sworn in as Namibia's first female president.
 - She is only the second African woman to be directly elected as president, after Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- ❖ Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwae, the former international swimmer, becomes the first woman and the African president of the International Olympic Committee in its 130-year-old history.



- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first-ever export of Anthurium flowers from Mizoram to Singapore.
- ❖ The Indian navy has launched Tavasya, the second frigate under Project 1135.6 Additional Follow-on Ships.
 - The first ship Tripud was launched on July 2024.
- ❖ The World Poetry Day 2025 is celebrated globally on March 21 to highlight the significance of poetry as a universal medium of expression.
- ❖ The Delhi Legislative Assembly becomes the 28th legislature to sign MoU for the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- ❖ The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) has revoked the Blue Flag certification for Rushi Konda Beach in Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh due to concerns regarding parking, security, and stray dog management.
- ❖ Former Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has been appointed as a full-time member of Niti Aayog.
- ❖ Indonesia has announced its decision to join the New Development Bank (NDB), a multilateral financial institution established by the BRICS nations.
- ❖ India has clinched both the Men's and Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 at Wolverhampton in England.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Sunil Kumar secured a bronze medal in the 87kg Greco-Roman category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 held in Amman, Jordan.
- ❖ The New Development Bank has re-elected Dilma Vana Rousseff as President of the Bank from July 2025, to July 2030.
- ❖ The International Day for the Right to Truth Concerning the Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed on 24th March annually.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, arguing that it was against the interests of Muslims in the country.
- ❖ The Fishermen leaders from Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu and their counterparts in Sri Lanka's Northern Province held talks after a gap of nine years (2016-2025).
- ❖ Legendary cricketer Syed Kirmani's autobiography was released as 'Stumped: Life Behind and Beyond the Twenty-Two Yards'.
- ❖ The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Member is observed on March 25th to mobilize action, demand justice and to strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned a sum of ₹3,500 crore for the construction of one lakh houses across the State under the Kalaignar Kanavu Illam programme during 2025-26.



- ❖ DRDO and the Indian Navy have successfully conducted the flight-test of the indigenously developed Vertically-Launched Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM).
- ❖ India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has doubled in size over the last ten years, according to the latest data released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ❖ The North and South Blocks in New Delhi are set to house the new national museum, named as Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has formed a National Task Force (NTF) to avoid student suicides in institutions of higher education.
- ❖ The Former Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra was appointed a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- ❖ JSW Steel has become the world's most valuable steelmaker after the Sajjan Jindal-led company crossed a market capitalisation of over \$30 billion.
- ❖ Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of HCL Technologies, has made history by becoming the first Indian to enter the top 10 in the Hurun Global Rich List 2025 for women (5th place).
- ❖ The Bisleri International company has announced a strategic partnership with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under their 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0 Programme'.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu state government has issued an order to increase the number of administrative zones in Greater Chennai Corporation from 15 to 20.
- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the Aadhaar Good Governance portal.
- ❖ The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) celebrates the 20-year anniversary of its entry into force.
- ❖ Researchers has created the first ever detailed geological map of the moon's south polar region using data from the rover Pragyan, which was deployed by Vikram.
- ❖ Researchers discovered a two new species of jumping spiders belonging to the genus Epidelaxia from the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala.
- ❖ The union cabinet has approved the two major ropeway projects - Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji (12.4 km) and Sonprayag to Kedarnath (12.9 km)- in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), in collaboration with Tata Power-DDL, celebrated the 5th edition of Lineman Diwas.
- ❖ India's very iconic table tennis star, Achanta Sharath Kamal, has announced his retirement from professional table tennis.



- ❖ The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India commenced its Silver Jubilee celebration on March 01.
- ❖ India's latest and most advanced air-to-air missile, the Astra MK-III, has now been officially renamed Gandiva.
- ❖ The defence ministry of India has inked a USD 248 million deal with Russia's Rosoboronexport for the procurement of engines for T-72 tanks.
- ❖ The National Archives of India (NAI) celebrated its 135th Foundation Day on 11th March with an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage through Architecture."
- ❖ ISRO has successfully completed the undocking of two satellites, part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission.
- ❖ The 'Pratibimb' module was launched by the Union Home Ministry's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which tracks the locations of criminals.
- ❖ Private firms from India and US have signed a MoU to co-develop and co-produce Autonomous Surface Vessels (ASVs) for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)—Wave Glider.
- ❖ The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025 was held in New Delhi.
 - Theme of the event is "Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions."

TAMIL NADU

New policy for HPWMI - Tamilnadu

- ❖ Chief Minister released the state policy for Care of Homeless Persons with Mental Illness and Implementation Framework – 2024.
- ❖ It delineates the service provided to the Homeless Persons with the Mental Illness (HPWMI) into four stages - rescue and acute care, intermediary care, long term care, and social integration.

Tamil Nadu's lesser-known species

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu state government created a dedicated "Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund".
- ❖ It will be a rolling pool with a corpus of Rs 50 crore, to recover some of the biodiversity that is on the verge of extinction.
- ❖ This fund will help in formulation of new schemes for protecting endangered and critically endangered species.
- ❖ In 2011, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests gazette notified a list of 23 plant and 16 animal species that are on verge of extinction in Tamil Nadu.



Share of women borrowers in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest share of women borrowers at 44%, as per the report released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The Southern States have higher shares of women borrowers with at least one live loan in their wallet – Tamil Nadu (44%), Andhra Pradesh (41%), Telangana (35%), Karnataka (34%).
- ❖ Overall country level as of December 2024 was 31%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has witnessed a 10% compounded annual growth rate in live women borrowers over the last five years.
- ❖ Maharashtra's share of women borrowers is 30%, while Rajasthan is at 26%, Madhya Pradesh is 25% and Uttar Pradesh is 23%.
- ❖ In 2024, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana accounted for 49% of all self CIBIL information monitoring women.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu alone is accounted for 11%.

Market Cess on maize

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has revoked the market cess of 1% being levied on maize.
- ❖ It is made under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act- 1987.
- ❖ Maize is also cultivated in about 4 lakh hectares across Tamil Nadu and the production is about 29 lakh MT.

8th Economic Census 2025-26

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted State and district level committees to facilitate the 8th Economic Census.
- ❖ It is conducted once in five years.
- ❖ The Economic Census is aimed at ascertaining the complete count of all the establishments within the State.
- ❖ Though the nation-wide 7th Economic Census was held in 2019, West Bengal did not take part.
- ❖ According to the All-India Report of the 6th Economic Census (the data collected between 2013-14), Tamil Nadu had 8.60%, the fourth highest in the country in terms of the total number of establishments in the country.
- ❖ TN also accounted for 8.91% of the total employment in the country and is the fourth highest among the States and Union territories in the country.



- ❖ The maximum number of larger establishments in the country was reported in Tamil Nadu (13.81%).
- ❖ The largest share in number of establishments under women entrepreneurship was held by Tamil Nadu (13.51%).
- ❖ It is followed by Kerala (11.35%), Andhra Pradesh (10.56%), the West Bengal (10.33%) and Maharashtra (8.25%).

Authoor betel leaf cultivation

- ❖ Cultivation of the famous betel leaves from Authoor (Authoor vetrilai) has been dwindling over the past year due to the severe pest infestation and unpredictable climatic conditions.
- ❖ The Climate plays a huge role in producing a good yield and any disruption significantly impacts it.
- ❖ Known for its unique alkali taste with a subtle punch, 'Authoor Betel' received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2022.

Tamil Nadu Budget 2025 highlights

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government presented its Budget for 2025-26 in the Legislative Assembly March 14.
- ❖ The State government also presented the Agriculture Budget for 2025-26 on March 15.
- ❖ The budget logo carried the slogan, 'Ellarkum Ellam', (everything for everyone) conveying the idea of inclusiveness.
- ❖ The budget has a total disbursement outlay of ₹4,39,293 crores, excluding public debt, with total receipts being ₹3,32,330 crores.
- ❖ For 2025-26, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is estimated to be ₹35,67,818 crores.
- ❖ The GSDP is estimated to grow 14.5% in 2025-26.
- ❖ It is marginally up from the 14.49% growth rate registered in the revised estimates of 2024-25.
- ❖ Fiscal deficit is estimated at ₹1,06,963 crores for 2025-26, highest since 2021-22.
- ❖ However, fiscal deficit as a percentage of GSDP is expected to fall to 3% in 2025-26, from 3.26% in 2024-25.
- ❖ Fiscal deficit is the difference between total receipts and total expenditures laid out in the budget.



- ❖ Revenue expenditure for 2025-26 was estimated to be ₹3,31,568 crores, and revenue expenditure ₹3,73,203 crores.
- ❖ This puts the revenue deficit at ₹41,635 crores, or 1.17% of the Gross State Domestic Product.
- ❖ Revenue expenditure is money spent on salaries, operation and maintenance, subsidies and grants, pensions and retirement benefits and interest payments.
- ❖ Revenue receipts is the money the State gets from taxes and non-tax revenue sources, grants-in-aid from the Centre and its share in Central taxes.
- ❖ Capital expenditure for 2025-26 was estimated to be ₹57,231 crores.
- ❖ Capital expenditure refers to expenses incurred in the creation of fixed assets like civic infrastructure, buildings, and investments made in Public Sector Undertakings.
- ❖ Among major sectoral allocations, ₹55,261 crores were allocated to the education, followed by Urban Development and Rural Development.
- ❖ The Government plans to borrow a total amount of ₹1,62,096.76 crore during 2025-26 and make repayment of ₹55,844.53 crore.
- ❖ The Outstanding Debt as a percentage of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) will be 26.07.

Tamil Nadu Budget Key Announcements

- ❖ 20 lakh college students will be provided with a tablet or laptop, based on their preference, over the next two years.
- ❖ From April 1, 2025, 1% less stamp duty if property and other assets is registered in the name of women for properties worth up to Rs.10 lakh.
- ❖ ₹2,000 stipend provided for children who lost both parents to continue their education.
- ❖ The Archaeological excavations in 8 locations are including Keeladi (Sivagangai), Telunganur (Salem), Adhichanur (Kallakurichi) and Nagappatinam.
- ❖ Under Kalaingar's house scheme, 1 lakh houses will be constructed at a cost of ₹3,500 crore.
- ❖ A new city of over 2000 acres near Chennai to be developed.
- ❖ ₹1,000 crore allocated for improving government schools' infrastructure.
- ❖ New airport in Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram given the rising tourist inflow.
- ❖ Group insurance scheme to be introduced for 1.50 lakh workers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ 'Anbucholai' old age homes at a cost of ₹10 crore in Madurai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Salem, Tiruppur, Erode, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Thanjavur, and Dindigul.



- ❖ The Raptors Research Foundation' will be established with Rs.1 crore from the Endangered Species Conservation Fund.
- ❖ Thirukkural has also been translated into 28 Indian languages and 35 world languages so far.
- ❖ To make Thirukkural available in all 193 UN-recognized official languages within three years, Rs 133 crore has been allocated.
- ❖ Two new museums will be established: the 'Noyyal Museum' in Erode - focus on the Kodumanal excavations, and 'Naavaai Museum' in Ramanathapuram.
- ❖ The 'World Tamil Olympiad' will be held annually as a computer-based exam for students worldwide, with Rs 1 crore set aside for those who secure top positions.
- ❖ 'Agaram – Museum of Languages' will be established at Madurai World Tamil Sangam to showcase Tamil's antiquity.

Rupee symbol in Budget logo

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government replaced the Rupee symbol "₹" with the Tamil script "₹" in the logo for the state's 2025-26 budget.
- ❖ The Tamil word 'Rupaai' itself has deep roots in the Sanskrit word 'Rupya,' meaning 'wrought silver' or 'a worked silver coin.'
- ❖ The rupee symbol was designed by D Udaya Kumar from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The symbol was approved in 2010.

Tamil Nadu Mineral Bearing Land Tax Act, 2024

- ❖ The Legislative Assembly passed the Tamil Nadu Mineral Bearing Land Tax Act, 2024 (the Act), which was published in the gazette on February 20, 2025.
- ❖ The Act imposes a mineral-bearing land tax on mining of the various minerals, including limestone at ₹160 per metric tonne.

TN Agri Budget 2025

- ❖ The Fifth exclusive agriculture budget was presented in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In five years, the total budgetary outlay for agriculture and allied sectors has gone up from Rs.34,221 crore in 2021-22 to Rs.45,661 crore in 2025-26.
- ❖ The total gross cropped area has increased from 146.77 lakh acres in 2019-20 to 151 lakh acres in 2023-24.
- ❖ The double-crop areas in the state have risen from 29.74 lakh acres in 2019-20 to 33.60 lakh acres in 2023-24.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has also secured the first position in the country in ragi productivity, the second position in maize, oilseeds and sugarcane productivity, and third position in groundnut and minor millets productivity.
- ❖ A key highlight of the budget is the establishment of 1,000 Chief Minister's Farmers Service Centres.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Millet Mission has been allocated Rs 55.44 crore to encourage millet production.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Oil Seed Mission would be implemented at a cost of ₹108.06 crore to achieve self-sufficiency.
- ❖ The Alternative Crop Cultivation Scheme aims to convert one lakh acres from the paddy and sugarcane to millets, pulses, and oilseeds, with an allocation of Rs 12.50 crore.
- ❖ A special incentive of Rs 215 per Metric Tonne of Sugarcane will be provided over and above the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) fixed by the Union Government.
- ❖ Additionally, Rs 160 crore has been allocated for mechanised paddy cultivation in both delta and non-delta districts.
- ❖ The budget announced Rs 2 crore allocation for an international study tour for 100 progressive farmers to Japan, China, and Vietnam "to help farmers learn the latest technologies and implement the same in their field."
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Cashew Board to be set up at an outlay of ₹10 crore to support cashew farmers and rural workers.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy to be unveiled to encourage the cultivation of high-value trees and streamline timber regulations.
- ❖ ₹24 crore allocated for providing Solar Pump sets to 1,000 farmers, with up to 70 per cent subsidy.
- ❖ The Malaivazh Uzhavar Munnetra Thittam (Hill Farmers Development Scheme) will be implemented for the welfare of 63,000 hill farmers.

Tribal Livelihood Policy

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has planned to formulate a Tribal Livelihood Policy.
- ❖ It aims to ensure easy access to various welfare measures for members of tribal communities and to preserve and leverage their traditional knowledge in the bio diversity conservation.
- ❖ There are 37 tribal communities having distinct cultural identities residing on the hilly areas of western and eastern ghats.
- ❖ The policy will also focus on implementing area-specific special schemes.



- ❖ Bargur and Kadambur hills in Erode district and Kalvarayan hills in Kallakurichi district have been chosen for implementing special schemes in the first phase.

State's Mangrove cover 2024

- ❖ The mangrove forest cover in Tamil Nadu has almost doubled in the last few years, expanding from 4,500 ha in 2021 to 9,039 ha in 2024.
- ❖ The new plantations are making up 40.1% (3,625 ha) of the total area and existing mangrove forests comprising 59.9% (5,414 ha).
- ❖ The report, titled 'Blue Carbon Monitoring for Mangroves of Tamil Nadu', says the Tiruvarur district has the largest mangrove area, covering 2,142 ha.
- ❖ Thanjavur closely follows with a total of 2,063 ha, consisting of 854 ha of the plantations and 1,209 ha of natural mangroves.
- ❖ Together, these two districts alone account for almost half of Tamil Nadu's total mangrove and plantation area.
- ❖ The mangrove covers in Cuddalore, Tiruvarur, and Thanjavur also have the very substantial carbon storage capacities, with total carbon stocks of 249 tonnes/ha, 145 tonnes/ha, and 77.5 tonnes/ha, respectively.
- ❖ Mangrove areas with lower density, such as those in Villupuram (2.59 tonnes/ha) and Tiruvallur (13.1 tonnes/ha), capture smaller quantities of carbon.

Secondary school dropout rate 2023-24

- ❖ While Tamil Nadu's school dropout rate has come down to 0% at the primary and middle school levels, the dropout rate at the secondary level is at 7%.
- ❖ The dropout rate has been declining in recent years - falling from 10.3% in 2022-23 to 7.7%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's rate is lower than both the national average of 10.9%.
- ❖ According to a UNESCO report, the global school dropout average of 13%.
- ❖ The dropout rate among boys is consistently higher than that of girls, with 10.8% of boys dropping out at the secondary level, compared to 4.4% of girls, in 2023-24.
- ❖ In 2014-15, the dropout rate for boys was 16.1%, while that for girls was 8%.

Madras HC on Parents Maintenance

- ❖ Madras high court has said Parents are entitled to cancel gift deeds if the children fail to maintain them, even in the absence of an explicit condition mentioned in the deed.



- ❖ But, the Section 23(1) of the Maintenance of the Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 expects such a condition to have been imposed in the gift/settlement deeds.
- ❖ The Division Bench also said that the requirement under Section 23(1) need not necessarily be explicit and that it should be allowed to be implicit too based on the relationship between the parents and their children.

Silahalla hydroelectric project

- ❖ The Sillahalla Ecological Social Protection Association (SESPA) urged to scrap the Silhalla pumped hydro-electric storage project considering the fragile ecology of the Nilgiris.
- ❖ The proposed hydroelectric project aims at building the two dams with a 10 km tunnel and is going to be developed in the middle of the said 25 villages.
- ❖ It is warned that around 1,000 acres of farming land and 500 acres of forest land would likely be submerged.

Chennai Corporation Budget 2025-26

- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has introduced a QR code system for tax and trade licence payments.
- ❖ It accounts for total receipts of ₹8,267.17 crore and total expenditure of ₹8,404.7 crore.
- ❖ The Councillor's Ward Development Fund would be increased from ₹50 lakh to ₹60 lakh per ward.
- ❖ The Mayor's Special Development Fund would be raised from ₹3 crore to ₹4 crore.
- ❖ A special emergency care centre for injured pet animals would be set up for ₹25 lakh.
- ❖ 10 new veterinary hospitals would be built within the existing Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres of the GCC at ₹15 lakh each.
- ❖ New veterinary hospitals would be built within the existing Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres of the GCC at ₹15 lakh each.
- ❖ ₹20 crore was earmarked for special classes to enhance English-speaking skills for students from Classes IX to XII.
- ❖ ₹40.50 crore was allocated for the competitive exam awareness programmes and incentives for students.
- ❖ A ₹4.46 crore allocation will facilitate citizen services, grievance redressal, and automated FAQs through WhatsApp-based communication.



Kamba Ramayana Festivals

- ❖ The South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), which is under the Ministry of Culture, is launching a comprehensive initiative aimed at reviving the oral tradition of 'Kamba Ramayana' recitals and its broader cultural impact".
- ❖ It has planned a week-long immersive festival to be held at Kambar Medu, the birthplace of Kambar in Theraazhundur, Mayiladuthurai District.
- ❖ This festival will feature continuous recitals of the 'Kamba Ramayana', dance dramas, and scholarly discussions.

Tamil Nadu's finances in 2025

- ❖ The finances of the Tamil Nadu government are showing signs of improvement.
- ❖ Compared to 2021-22, the proportion of capital expenditure to total expenditure is gradually moving to 13% after it went down to 10.4% in 2017-18.
- ❖ Fifteen years ago, nearly 86% of the public debt was used for capital expenditure.
- ❖ Since then, the share steadily and steeply declined to around 44% in 2021-22.
- ❖ As per the budget estimates of the coming year, it is expected to be about 55%.
- ❖ In the coming year, the overall food subsidy bill is expected to be ₹14,000 crore.
- ❖ The State government will also provide in the coming year ₹17,000 crore towards Power tariff subsidy and ₹7,700 crore for loss funding.

Tamil Nadu final supplementary estimates 2024-25

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Finance Minister has presented the final supplementary estimates for ₹19,287.44 crore for 2024-25 in the Assembly.
- ❖ The total estimates included ₹12,639.36 crore in revenue account, ₹6,429.20 crore in capital account, and ₹218.88 crore in loan account.
- ❖ The major additional appropriation was ₹2,000 crore as share capital assistance to Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.

Wildfire Crisis in Tamil Nadu 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has witnessed a staggering 3,380 forest fire incidents in 2023-24: the highest in four years.
- ❖ This represents a dramatic increase from the 1,035 incidents recorded in 2021-22 and 1,998 fires in 2022-23.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu lost 1.04-kilometre hectare (kHa) of the tree cover from fires between 2001 and 2023.



- ❖ 2023 seeing the highest loss at 148 hectare (Ha) - representing 6.8 per cent of all tree cover lost that year.
- ❖ The Monitoring systems like VIIRS (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) have detected unusually high fire alerts in recent periods.
- ❖ Ooty recorded its highest-ever temperature of 29 degree Celsius in 2024, since records began in 1951.
- ❖ One of the most devastating forest fires in recent Tamil Nadu history occurred in March 2018 at Kurangani in Theni district.

Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam – II

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has granted administrative sanction for allocation of ₹1,087 crore for the implementation of 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam – II.
- ❖ It aims to improve basic infrastructure in rural areas during 2025-26.
- ❖ The programme is being implemented by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- ❖ The programme inducted in 2006 aims to improve the overall basic infrastructure facilities in all village panchayats in a phased manner.
- ❖ The Rejuvenation of ponds, upgrading streets and lanes, installing streetlights, ensuring livelihood and marketing facilities, among others, are undertaken under this initiative.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 12,482 village panchayats.
- ❖ During 2025-26, the programme is to be implemented in the no of 2,329 village panchayats.
- ❖ The Block Level Committees would decide the works to be taken up in a village panchayat.
- ❖ All works shortlisted by the Selection Committee should be approved by a Special Grama Sabha.
- ❖ A minimum of 30% funds were to be allocated for SC/ST habitation areas.

Green School Scheme

- ❖ Three government schools in Nagapattinam district have been selected under the Green School Scheme.
- ❖ This Tamil Nadu government's initiative is aimed at addressing climate change through student involvement and sustainable practices.
- ❖ The scheme is being implemented in phases across the State, includes the Nagapattinam district for the first time this year.



- ❖ The three schools selected under the scheme are
 - Thirukkuvalai Government Higher Secondary School, Nagapattinam Town
 - Agarakkadambanur Government Higher Secondary School, and
 - Government Model Higher Secondary School, Thopputhurai.

Comparative etymological dictionary

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has released a general introduction book and the first volume of comparative etymological dictionary of Tamil and the Indo-European languages.
- ❖ The initiative is a part of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation's collaboration with the Oxford University Press.
- ❖ It aims to bring out a 12-volume comparative etymological dictionary of Tamil and Indo-European languages.
- ❖ The State government had sanctioned ₹8 crore for the project in which 20 experts, headed by Professor G. Arasenthiran, have been working since 2022.
- ❖ The first volume is a compilation based on a hypothesis of the etymology of 19 words in the Western Indo-European languages such as Latin, Greek, German, French, English and the Eastern Indo-European languages such as Sanskrit, Pali and Sinhalese, which are originated from Tamil.

Self-respect marriages since 2018

- ❖ 12,114 self-respect marriages have been registered in Tamil Nadu since 2018.
- ❖ The Self-respect marriages, also called Suyamariyadhai Thirumanam, are generally solemnised in the absence of a priest and without following any of the traditional wedding rituals.
- ❖ The registration of self-respect marriages comes under Section 7(A) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
- ❖ This Section 7(A) was inserted by the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act, 1967.

Second Biodiversity Heritage Site

- ❖ Tamil Nadu declares Kasampatty (Veeran Kovil) Sacred Grove in Dindigul as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ❖ This is the state's second BHS, following Arittapatti in Madurai, designated in 2022.
- ❖ It is spanning around 4.97 hectares near the Alagarmalai Reserve Forest.
- ❖ The grove is home to an array of the biodiversity, including 48 tree species, 22 shrubs, 21 lianas, and 29 herbs.



Carbon Neutral Transition

- ❖ The U.K. government and the Tamil Nadu government have joined hands to launch the UK-TN Partnership for Accelerating Carbon Neutral Transition.
- ❖ This partnership will focus on advancing the urban planning and mobility in the cities of Erode and Thoothukudi to the State's transition towards the carbon neutrality.
- ❖ Two urban mobility projects were unveiled.
- ❖ The first project is "Climate-Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Mobility" in Erode.
- ❖ The second project is "PACT-Digi-PULSE" which targets the city of Thoothukudi.
- ❖ The PACT-Digi-PULSE now stands for Partnering for Advancing Carbon-Neutral Transitions using Digital-Twin Based Planning for Urban Living and Sustainable Environment.

Puliyangudi - lemon city of India

- ❖ These lemon farms were safe from animals, and production was also high.
- ❖ In the early 1950s, Puliyangudi farmers decided to take a risk and go in for lemon cultivation.
- ❖ It was this change that transformed Puliyangudi into the 'lemon city of India'.
- ❖ The Puliyangudi lime has a thin aromatic skin, with a very high citrus level and abundant juice.
- ❖ These fruits, known as PKM 1, have higher ascorbic acid content of 34.29 mg per 100g of fruit juice and total soluble solids of 8.0°Brix.
- ❖ The juice content is 52.3% by weight, and it is a high-yielding variety.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board and Melapuliyangudi Farmers' Association applied for the GI tag for the Puliyangudi acid lime.

Mudhalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam 2025

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned a sum of ₹1,000 crore for improving roads in village panchayats and panchayat unions under this scheme during 2025-26.
- ❖ The total sum of ₹1,000 crore, includes ₹344 crore from the Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue (SCPAR), ₹200 crore from the Capital Grant Fund (CGF) (District), ₹300 crore from the CGF (State) and ₹156 crore from the CGF (Other District Roads).
- ❖ It has been proposed to take up about 2,500 km during 2025-26.



Vazhndhu Kattuvom 3.0

- ❖ Following the success of the Vazhndhu Kattuvom 2.0 scheme, the Tamil Nadu government will implement the Vazhndhu Kattuvom 3.0 scheme in 120 blocks across the State.
- ❖ It will be implemented at a cost of ₹1,000 crore, with assistance from the World Bank.
- ❖ It aims to promote rural enterprises, access to finance, and create employment opportunities in selected blocks of Tamil Nadu.

Conservation initiatives of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will launch a conservation initiative for hornbill by establishing a Centre for Excellence at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve to protect their habitats.
- ❖ Endangered species such as the lion-tailed macaque, Madras hedgehog, hyenas, and mahseer fish will be conserved with a budget of ₹1 crore allocated for habitat protection, population estimation, and community awareness programmes.
- ❖ The Bengal Fox and Jackal will be prioritised for the conservation.
- ❖ The state Forest Department will undertake its first telemetry study to identify congregation areas of Olive Ridley Turtles at a cost of ₹84 lakh.
- ❖ The State government will create Community Conservation Leadership Awards and launch a certificate programme for 20,000 students.
- ❖ The State will establish two new research centres at the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation in Vandalur, Chennai namely the Centre for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics and the Centre for Species Survival.
- ❖ Six new wildlife conservation incubation centres will be set up in Virudhunagar, Kallakurichi, Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, The Nilgiris, and Megamalai.
- ❖ The government will invest ₹5 crore in improvements to the Kurumbapatti Zoo in Salem and the Amirthi Zoo in Vellore.
- ❖ The Marine Elite Force for the Chennai coast will be launched to safeguard marine biodiversity.
- ❖ The Rapid response team will be created in Dindigul to mitigate human-elephant conflict.
- ❖ A tree census and the green space assessment will be conducted in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Tiruppur, and Salem.



NATIONAL

India's first hyperloop test track

- ❖ IIT Madras with the support from the Ministry of Railways, has developed a 422-meter-long, India's first hyperloop test track.
- ❖ With this, 350 km can be covered in just 30 minutes.
- ❖ This is referred to as the 'fifth mode of transport'.

Top Cleanest Cities in India 2024

- ❖ The Centre has launched a revamped format for the 9th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS), the world's largest urban cleanliness survey.
- ❖ Indore has distinguished itself by winning the overall cleanest city award for the seven consecutive years and is featured in this edition as well.
- ❖ It is also ranked along with Surat and Navi Mumbai in the 'Million Plus Cities (10 Lakh population)' category.

INS Guldar - Underwater Museum

- ❖ The Indian Navy handed over the decommissioned Landing Ship Tank INS Guldar to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation.
- ❖ The ship is set to be converted into India's first underwater museum and artificial reef.

Pig Butchering Scam

- ❖ The government has issued an alert about a new cyber fraud scheme called the 'pig butchering scam'.
- ❖ The new online fraud module is known as 'Pig Butchering Scam' or 'Investment Scam'.
- ❖ It targets unemployed youth, students, and vulnerable individuals.
- ❖ Victims not only lose money but are also forced into cyber slavery.
- ❖ It is believed that such fraud first originated in China in 2016.

One Nation-One Port Process

- ❖ Union government recently launched 'One Nation, One Port Process' Initiative.
- ❖ It aims remove the inconsistencies in documentation and processes that led to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.



- ❖ It is an initiative to standardize and streamline operations across India's Major ports.
- ❖ The 1st phase has standardised the documentation with Immigration, the Port Health Organisation, and Port Authorities.

State of States Report - AAD 2025

- ❖ India lags in nine of the 16 United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ All 36 Indian states and Union territories (UTs) have achieved at least half of the target in only four of the 15 SDGs.
- ❖ Challenges persist in one out of every six indicators in Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu, despite these states having the fewest lagging indicators.
- ❖ Sixteen states and UTs, including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, have met less than half of the target in 30-43 per cent of SDG indicators.
- ❖ The report was presented at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2025.

INS Tamal

- ❖ Tamal, the stealth frigate under construction in Russia, is to be commissioned in early June.
- ❖ Tamal will be the last warship to be commissioned outside India or imported.
- ❖ It is part of a \$2.5 billion agreement for four stealth frigates and two constructed in Russia, two at Goa.
- ❖ The first of this class, INS Tushil, was commissioned in December 2024.

Initiatives of MoPSW

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has launched the 'One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP)' to standardise and streamline operations across India's major ports.
- ❖ The Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) for FY 2023-24 was also launched recently.
- ❖ The Bharat Global Ports Consortium was launched to Strengthen global trade by expanding India's maritime reach and enhance global trade resilience.
- ❖ The MAITRI App (the Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface) was also launched to streamline trade processes, reduce bureaucratic redundancies and expedite clearances.



Proxy Leadership

- ❖ A panel constituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has recommended “exemplary penalties” for proven cases of proxy leadership.
- ❖ It aims to curb the practice of ‘Pradhan Pati’, ‘Sarpanch Pati’ or ‘Mukhiya Pati’ in Gram Panchayats across the country.
- ❖ Other Initiatives recommended:
 - Gender-exclusive quotas in some panchayat subject committees and ward-level committees (like Kerala);
 - An annual award for Anti-Pradhan Pati champions;
 - Appointing women’s ombudspersons;
 - Public swearing-in of women Pradhans in Gram Sabhas;
 - Creating federation of women panchayat leaders; and
 - Setting up gender resource centres that serve as hubs for leadership training, legal advice, and support networks were also.
- ❖ India has about 2.63 lakh panchayats in all three tiers – Gram Panchayat (at village level), Panchayat Samiti (at block level) and Zila Parishad (at district level) – with 32.29 lakh elected representatives.
- ❖ Out of this, 15.03 lakh (46.6 per cent) are women.

The State of India’s Environment 2025

- ❖ The State of India’s Environment 2025 was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth (DTE) Magazine.
- ❖ The year 2024, in fact, was the warmest year on record, with the average global temperature at 1.60°C above the pre-industrial era (1850-1900) average.
- ❖ India saw more frequent and intense extreme weather events in 2024, compared to the previous two years.
- ❖ In the first nine months of 2024, India witnessed extreme weather events on 255 of the 274 days as against 235 days for the same period in 2023 and 241 days in 2022.
- ❖ The events drastically impacted agriculture, with 3.2 million hectares of cropland affected in 2024 — 74 per cent more than in 2022.

IRCTC and IRFC - Navratna status

- ❖ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) became country’s 25th and 26th Navratna companies respectively.



- ❖ All seven listed Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) of the Indian Railways now have Navratna status.
- ❖ The Indian Railways have a total 12 CPSEs.

Pan-India Survey on Farmers' Share

- ❖ This pan-India survey was conducted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials.
- ❖ Farmers received a share ranging from 40-67 per cent of consumer prices for the major rabi crops.
- ❖ The Wheat farmers emerged as the biggest beneficiaries, with a 67 per cent share of consumer prices.
- ❖ Rice farmers received an estimated 52 per cent share of retail prices.
- ❖ The farmers' share in the prices of perishable commodities (fruits and vegetables) is estimated around 40-63 per cent.
- ❖ Within oilseeds, farmers' share for rapeseed and mustard (R&M) stood at 52 per cent, compared with the 55 per cent estimate reported by a 2021.

Arresting Powers of Custom and GST Officials

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the rights of authorised officers to make arrests under the Customs Act 1962 and the CGST Act 2017.
- ❖ According to the SC, while officers under the Customs Act and CGST Act are not police officers, they “enjoy analogous powers such as the power to investigate, arrest, seize, interrogate, etc”.
- ❖ But the powers of arrest, search and seizure exercised by police, and must be bound by the same restrictions that the police officials face under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC).
- ❖ Under Section 104(4) of the Customs Act, some of the select offences have been classified as ‘cognizable’.
- ❖ So, a customs officer (like the police) may arrest someone without a warrant if they are suspected of one of these offences.
- ❖ Section 104(5) says all other offences under the Customs Act will be considered non-cognizable, and a Magistrate must sign a warrant for arrest and investigation to take place.
- ❖ Similarly the Section 132 of the CGST Act classifies certain offences as cognizable and non-cognizable, and provides punishments based on the gravity of the crime.



PM-SYM scheme 2025

- ❖ The government has introduced new features and expanded outreach efforts to improve the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme.
- ❖ PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme aimed at providing the financial security to workers in the unorganised sector.
- ❖ It is administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and Managed by LIC of India.
- ❖ The Government of India matches the worker's contribution on a 1:1 basis.
- ❖ Minimum Assured Pension is ₹3,000 per month after 60 years of age.
- ❖ If the beneficiary passes away, the spouse receives 50% of the pension amount as a family pension.
- ❖ Family pension is applicable only to spouse.

Obesity in India 2025

- ❖ The Lancet study has predicting that 218 million men and 231 million women in India, nearly one-third of the country's population, will be obese by 2050.
- ❖ In 2021, India had the highest number of the overweight or obese young people, surpassing China and the United States.
- ❖ China (with 627 million affected individuals), India (450 million) and the USA (214 million) would continue to be the three countries with the largest numbers of people with overweight and obesity.

Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats

- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat (MWFGP) initiative.
- ❖ It is a gender-inclusive governance initiative has designed to enhance women's participation, safety, and leadership at the grassroots level.
- ❖ The Ministry is organizing nationwide Mahila Gram Sabhas on March 8, 2025, coinciding with International Women's Day.

Vividhta ka Amrit Mahotsav

- ❖ "Vividhta ka Amrit Mahotsav" is an annual cultural festival that celebrates India's diverse heritage by showcasing the unique traditions of different regions.
- ❖ The first edition, held last year, has focused on North-East India.



- ❖ The second edition highlights South India, featuring the five states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, along with Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Program

- ❖ The Union government inaugurated the first batch of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Program.
- ❖ It aims to fostering a stronger sense of Seva Bhav (spirit of service) among the government officials who are solution oriented, compassionate, and citizen-focused.
- ❖ The programme features four short training sessions (approximately 1.5 hours each).

GSI's New Initiatives

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) recently celebrated its 175th Foundation Day.
- ❖ During the event, it launched two significant digital initiatives—the Field Data Acquisition App and the Geo-heritage App 'Bhuvirasat'.
- ❖ These initiatives aim to enhance data collection efficiency and promote awareness of India's rich geo-heritage.

Pashu Aushadhi Initiative

- ❖ The Union government will open "Pashu Aushadhi" stores across the country.
- ❖ It aims to provide affordable generic veterinary medicines to people engaged in animal husbandry and dairying.

A Million Women Arise initiative

- ❖ NITI Aayog and the India SME Forum launched a joint initiative called "A Million Women Arise" to empower women entrepreneurs across India.
- ❖ It aims to create a cohesive support system through access to finance, markets, compliance support, skilling, mentorship, and networking.
- ❖ Women-owned enterprises constitute 35% of India's six crore registered MSMEs.

Project NAMAN

- ❖ HDFC Bank, Indian Army, and CSC Academy expand the Project NAMAN.



- ❖ This initiative honors veterans and will now be implemented at 26 Directorates of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) locations.
- ❖ Project NAMAN is designed to provide support and services to Army veterans, their families, and their next of kin.

Bills of Lading Bill 2025

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Bills of Lading Bill, 2024.
- ❖ It aims to update and simplify the legal framework for the shipping documents by replacing the colonial era Act of 1856.
- ❖ It empowers the Central government to issue the directions to facilitate the law's implementation along with an inclusion of a standard repeal and saving clause.
- ❖ A bill of lading refers to a document issued by a freight carrier to a shipper.
- ❖ It contains details such as the type, quantity, condition and destination of goods being carried.

Gully Erosion in India 2025

- ❖ Gully erosion is a serious obstacle in India's land degradation neutrality mission.
- ❖ India needs to intervene on the gully erosion of 77 districts to meet the United Nations agenda of land degradation by 2030.
- ❖ 70 per cent of erosion is in eastern and southern India.
- ❖ As per UNCCD, around 20 to 40 per cent of the total area of the world is affected by land degradation.

Update on "75/25" Initiative

- ❖ As of March 5, 2025, a total of 42.01 million individuals have received treatment for hypertension.
- ❖ 25.27 million have been treated for diabetes, achieving 89.7% of the target.
- ❖ On the World Hypertension Day, celebrated on May 17, 2023, the Government had unveiled the "75/25" initiative.
- ❖ It aims to provide the standardized care to 75 million individuals living with the hypertension and diabetes by December 2025.

Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill 2024

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to update the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.



- ❖ It explicitly excludes coal, lignite, and helium, likely because these are governed under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- ❖ The Bill replaces the term 'mining leases' with 'petroleum leases', which will now govern exploration, production, and disposal activities.

PM-YUVA 3.0

- ❖ The Ministry of Education has launched the third edition of the Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors (PM-YUVA 3.0).
- ❖ The initiative aims to train young authors under the age of 30 to promote reading, writing, and book culture in India.
- ❖ The program provides the mentorship and publishing opportunities to enhance Indian literature on a global platform.
- ❖ PM-YUVA 3.0 builds on the participation of young authors in 22 Indian languages and English in its previous editions.

Parliamentary panel on Water Resource

- ❖ The Standing Committee on Water Resources has tabled its report in Parliament recently.
- ❖ Nearly 40% of the allocated funds remained unspent and highlighted delays in fund disbursement and project execution.
- ❖ The total budget for the department has been raised to ₹25,276.83 crore for 2025-26, an 18.54% increase from the Rs 21,323.10 crore allocated in the previous year.
- ❖ The allocation for groundwater management and regulation has increased by 56.61% to ₹509 crore in 2025-26.
- ❖ The River Basin Management programme has also received a 56.98% increase, with ₹243 crore allocated for 2025-26.
- ❖ But the National Hydrology Project (NHP) saw a 98% reduction, from ₹661.20 crore in 2024-25 to ₹13 crore in 2025-26.
- ❖ The Catch the Rain campaign has made progress, no direct financial support has been provided to states for rainwater harvesting.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on NREGA

- ❖ It recommended the revision of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in view of the rising cost of living.



- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, headed by the Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, also sought uniform wage rates across the country.
- ❖ Currently, the per day wages vary from ₹234 in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to ₹374 in Haryana and Sikkim.
- ❖ West Bengal has not been receiving funds for MGNREGS activities since March 2022.
- ❖ The Centre froze the funding after invoking Section 27 of the MGNREGA, 2005.
- ❖ This section allows for stoppage of funds for violation of rules in implementation of the scheme.

India's UNESCO Tentative List 2025

- ❖ Six sites have been added to India's tentative list by the UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.
- ❖ It is including Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs in Telangana and palace-fortresses of the Bundelas in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Other sites included in the list are Kanger Valley National Park in Chhattisgarh, Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan Routes (multiple states), Chausath Yogini temples (multiple states) and Gupta temples in north India (multiple states).
- ❖ With these additions, India now has 62 sites on the tentative list.
- ❖ At present, a total of 43 properties from India are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- ❖ It is including 35 in the 'Cultural' category, seven in 'Natural' and one in 'Mixed' category.

Raisina Dialogue 2025

- ❖ The 10th edition of the annual Raisina Dialogue is inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❖ The central theme for Raisina Dialogue 2025 is “Kālachakra – People, Peace and Planet.”
- ❖ It witnessed an impressive gathering of participants from around 125 countries.
- ❖ It was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of External Affairs as a “flagship Indian international dialogue”.
- ❖ The Raisina Dialogue aims to bring together leaders and thinkers from around the world.



Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health

- ❖ The committee has recommended the consolidation of all the AYUSH drug-related standard-setting processes under a single independent drug controller in alignment with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ The committee has identified a need to increase the reach of AYUSH initiatives like Arogya Fair and Ayurveda Parv.
- ❖ It encourages collaboration with first-world countries to promote AYUSH among the Indian diaspora and local populations.

Astra BVRAAM

- ❖ India has successfully test fired beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) Astra from LCA Tejas AF MK1 off Odisha coast.
- ❖ The missile has been designed to destroy targets at varying range and altitudes.

Reducing Cooking Oil Usage

- ❖ The Union government has advised states to reduce the usage of cooking oil by 10% in the mid-day meal programme in all government and aided schools under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) scheme.
- ❖ There is an advice on reducing the usage of cooking oil by 10% in day-to-day life through innovative ways.
- ❖ 12.5 million children between 5 to 19 years were overweight in 2022 as compared to 0.4 million in 1990.
- ❖ The share of boys being more than girls in urban areas.
- ❖ The PM-POSHAN is a centrally-sponsored scheme aimed at providing nutritious meals to students.
- ❖ This initiative benefits all children enrolled in Bal-Vatika and classes 1 to 8 in government and aided schools.

NIDAR challenge

- ❖ The MeitY in collaboration with the Drone Federation India (DFI), launched the National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research (NIDAR).
- ❖ This is launched under the 'SwaYaan – a Capacity Building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft Systems' initiative.
- ❖ The drones are designed to contribute to disaster management by scouting and delivering essential supplies in affected areas.



Sansad Bhashini initiative

- ❖ The Lok Sabha Secretariat and MeitY have signed a MoU to develop the Sansad Bhashini initiative.
- ❖ It aims to leverage a cutting-edge AI to enhance multilingual support, streamline parliamentary operations, and improve access to vast archives of parliamentary debates and records.
- ❖ It will feature the AI-based translation that enables the real-time translation of the parliamentary content, including legacy debates, committee meetings, and agenda files, into various regional languages.
- ❖ It will also be making documents more accessible to all citizens.

Four T-Hubs - National Quantum Mission

- ❖ The National Quantum Mission is a nationwide initiative driving the cutting-edge advancements in quantum technology.
- ❖ As part of this mission, four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) have been set up, bringing together 14 Technical Groups across 17 states and 2 Union Territories.
- ❖ The four T-Hubs have been established across leading institutions in India:
 - Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru
 - Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras in association with the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi
 - Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay
 - Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.

Ashwini Radars

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has inked a capital acquisition contract with the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad for the procurement of the Low-level Transportable Radar, LLTR (Ashwini).
- ❖ LLTR (Ashwini) is an active electronically scanned phased array radar based on state-of-the-art solid-state technology.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0

- ❖ The Centre has sanctioned a total of 116 new tourist destinations across the country under various schemes.
- ❖ Out of these 34 have been sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, 42 have been identified under the “Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)”, a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan.



- ❖ 40 would be developed under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).
- ❖ The Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a flagship initiative of the Union Tourism Ministry.
- ❖ It aims to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations by focusing on theme-based circuits and providing financial assistance to state govt for infrastructure development.
- ❖ The scheme was revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable tourism destinations.

Revised National Program for Dairy Development

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD).
- ❖ It is aimed at modernizing India's dairy sector and ensuring its long-term growth.
- ❖ The scheme which was classified as a Central Sector initiative has been allocated an additional ₹1,000 crore.

Supreme Court - Food Security Inequality in India

- ❖ The Supreme Court questioned the claims of the high development rate and per capita income when certain States have about 70% of their population living below poverty line.
- ❖ As per the SC, the poor have a right to access at least two square meals a day in terms of their fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Union government was duty-bound under the National Food Security Act to provide food grains.
- ❖ The coverage under the Act was 81.35%.
- ❖ There was additional coverage for 11 crore people under the Anganwadi scheme, and further coverage for another 22-crore people.

Samarth Incubation Program

- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) launches the first cohort of Incubation Program named as "Samarth".
- ❖ It is to focus on fostering innovation and promoting technological advancements in India's telecommunications and IT sectors.
- ❖ It will support the startups and innovators in Telecom Software Applications, Cybersecurity, 5G/6G, AI, IoT, and Quantum Technologies.



Parliament Standing committee on Commerce

- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce gave its recommendation for the government.
- ❖ It has asked to extend the tenure and scope of the ongoing Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to more sectors and improve its effectiveness by reducing “administrative delays” and “compliance burdens”.
- ❖ It also recommended to expand its coverage to include labour-intensive sectors, such as chemicals, leather, apparel, and handicrafts.
- ❖ Currently, the PLI scheme covers 14 sectors, including mobile phones, drones, white goods, telecommunications, textiles, automobiles, specialty steel, and the pharmaceutical drugs, with an outlay of ₹1.97 trillion.
- ❖ The committee has recommended extending the scheme to the additional sectors, such as the defence manufacturing, aerospace, and ship containers to strengthen the domestic manufacturing.

Disclosure of Form 17C – ECI

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has offered to engage with the petitioners demanding the immediate disclosure of authenticated voter turnout records.
- ❖ A case filed in SC to challenge ECI’s reluctance to publish Form 17C.
- ❖ 17C is a key electoral document that records votes cast at each polling station.
- ❖ Part I of it contains details such as the number of electors assigned to a polling station, registered voters, electors who did not vote, and total votes recorded on EVMs.
- ❖ Part II includes candidate-wise vote counts and is signed by polling agents before being checked by the returning officer.
- ❖ The Polling agents receive a copy of Form 17C at the end of polling, but ECI has historically not made it publicly available online.

NITI Aayog’s TB-Free Target – Gujarat

- ❖ Gujarat has achieved 95% of the tuberculosis registration target and 90% of the treatment target set by the Niti Aayog for 2024.
- ❖ Gujarat was given a target to identify and register 1,45,000 TB patients in 2024, and it registered 1,37,929 patients during the year.
- ❖ 1,31,501 patients were treated for tuberculosis during the period.



Hike in Salaries and Pensions for MPs

- ❖ The Centre has increased the salaries, allowances and pensions of the Members of Parliament with effect from April 1, 2023.
- ❖ The salary of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members has been raised to Rs 1.24 lakh per month from Rs 1 lakh at present.
- ❖ The daily allowance has been raised to Rs 2,500 from Rs 2,000 earlier.
- ❖ The pension paid to former MPs has also been increased to Rs 31,000 per month from Rs 25,000 at present.
- ❖ The additional pension for every year of service in excess of five years has been increased to Rs 2,500 from Rs 2,000 earlier.
- ❖ They enjoy 34 free domestic flights per year for themselves and their families, and first-class train travel at any time for professional and personal use.
- ❖ MPs also enjoy the benefits of 50,000 free units of electricity and 4,000 kilolitres of water annually.

Fast Track Special Courts 2025

- ❖ The Union Cabinet extended the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme until March 31, 2026.
- ❖ The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) was launched on October 2, 2019.
- ❖ It aims to provide the speedy justice in cases of sexual offenses particularly under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and rape cases.
- ❖ This Scheme has an impressive disposal rate of 96.28%.
- ❖ In 2024 alone, 88,902 new cases were instituted and 85,595 cases were resolved under this Scheme.

In-House Inquiry Process for Judges in India

- ❖ CJI has constituted an in-house committee to conduct an inquiry into allegations of misconduct against Justice Yashwant Varma.
- ❖ The resolution for in-house procedures for action against judges was adopted in 1999 and made public in 2014.
- ❖ When a complaint is received against a judge of a High Court, the CJI will decide whether the issue is frivolous or warrants an inquiry.
- ❖ If an inquiry is deemed necessary, the judge's initial response along with the comments of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court are taken on record.



- ❖ The CJI can then form a three-member committee consisting of the two Chief Justices from other High Courts and one High Court judge.
- ❖ The committee after completing the inquiry can provide a recommendation that the misconduct is serious enough to warrant removal or not serious enough.
- ❖ If the recommendation is not for the removal, then the judge would be apprised accordingly.
- ❖ However, if the recommendation is for the judge's removal, he/she will be asked to resign.
- ❖ In the event of the judge unwilling to resign, the President and the PM will be informed of the findings for the Parliament to initiate action for removal as per provisions of the Constitution.
- ❖ Any complaint against the Chief Justice of a High Court, would be inquired by a committee consisting of a Supreme Court judge and two Chief Justices of other High Courts.
- ❖ In case of a complaint against a Supreme Court judge, the committee would consist of three Supreme Court Judges.

Finance Bill 2025

- ❖ The Lok Sabha approved the Finance Bill 2025, which included 35 government amendments.
- ❖ The Union Budget 2025-26 envisages a total expenditure of Rs 50.65 lakh crore, an increase of 7.4 per cent over the current fiscal.
- ❖ The total capital expenditure proposed for the next fiscal is Rs 11.22 lakh crore and an effective capital expenditure of Rs 15.48 lakh crore.
- ❖ It proposes a gross tax revenue collection of Rs 42.70 lakh crore and a gross borrowing of Rs 14.01 lakh crore.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit for FY26 is projected at 4.4 per cent against 4.8 per cent in the current fiscal.
- ❖ Under the new framework of the Finance Bill 2025, the tax officials can access encrypted communications, cloud storage, and the digital asset exchanges if they believe a person has concealed taxable income or cryptocurrency holdings.

Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Disaster Management Amendment Bill, 2024.
- ❖ It provides the statutory status to existing bodies such as the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) and the High-Level Committee (HLC).



- ❖ It empowers the state governments to constitute a separate authority for state capitals and cities with a municipal corporation.
- ❖ It also empowers the NDMA to specify the number and category of officers and employees, with previous approval of the central government.
- ❖ It adds new functions like periodic review of disaster risks, setting guidelines for minimum relief standards, creating national and state disaster databases, etc.

World's Top Milk Producer – India

- ❖ India became the top producer of milk in the world.
- ❖ It has set a target of producing 300 million metric tons (MMT) of milk in the next five years from the present 239 MMT.
- ❖ Since 2014, the milk production in the country has increased by 63.5 per cent and the government is hopeful of further increasing it by 15 per cent in next three years.
- ❖ Rashtriya Gokul Mission, launched in 2014, is continued under revised realigned schemes of the Department from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026.

Gold Monetization Scheme

- ❖ The Centre has discontinued the medium- and long-term deposits under the Gold Monetisation Scheme from March 26.
- ❖ The Gold Monetisation Scheme was launched in November 2015 to make idle gold productive.
- ❖ It let consumers to either sell their gold or store it with banks, so it could merge into the formal economy and reduce the country's gold imports.
- ❖ GMS was a revamped version of an older Gold Deposit Scheme.
- ❖ It consisted of three components:
 - Short-term bank deposit (1-3 years);
 - Medium-term government deposit (5-7 years); and
 - Long-term government deposit (12-15 years).
- ❖ The minimum deposit allowed was 10 gm of raw gold (bars, coins, jewellery excluding stones and other metals).
- ❖ There was no maximum limit for deposit under the scheme.



INTERNATIONAL

Tea Horse Road

- ❖ The historic Tea Horse Road spanned more than 2,000 km, and connected China to India via Tibet.
- ❖ The Ancient Tea-Horse Road witnesses the exchanges and interaction between China and India throughout the long river of history
- ❖ Although not as well-known as the Silk Road, which linked China and Europe, the Tea Horse Road was a crucial commercial pathway for centuries.
- ❖ The Tea Horse Road does not refer to a single road but a network of branching paths that began in southwest China and ended in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ The two main pathways passed through cities like Dali and Lijiang in Yunnan province, and reached Lhasa in Tibet, before entering the India.
- ❖ The origin of the Tea Horse Road can be traced to the rule of the Tang dynasty in China (618-907 CE).
- ❖ The writings of Buddhist monk Yijing (635-713 CE) mention products like sugar, textiles, and rice noodles being transported from southwestern China to Tibet.
- ❖ From India horses, leather, Tibetan gold, saffron and other medicine herbs went to China.

Gold Card Immigration Program

- ❖ President Donald Trump has announced a visa program called “Gold Card” for foreign investors seeking permanent residency in the United States.
- ❖ The Gold Card price has fixed about \$5 million.
- ❖ It gives Green Card privileges, and be a route to (American) citizenship.
- ❖ The EB-5 programs, created by Congress in 1990 and administered by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- ❖ It grants permanent residency (Green Card) to foreigners who invest in American businesses.
- ❖ Investors must put in at least \$1.05 million (\$800,000 in certain specific cases), and create at least 10 jobs for Americans.

Blue Visa – UAE

- ❖ UAE has unveiled the Blue Visa, a 10-year residency permit aimed at individuals who have made significant contributions to environmental protection and sustainability.



- ❖ This initiative aims to attract and retain the global talent dedicated to ecological preservation.
- ❖ The Blue Visa complements the existing UAE residency programs, such as the Golden and Green Visas.

Three Simultaneous Tropical Cyclones

- ❖ The cyclones, named Rae, Seru, and Alfred, developed within a span of five days and are currently swirling in Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The last instance of three tropical cyclones occurring simultaneously in the South Pacific was in January 2021.
- ❖ The cyclones Lucas, Ana, and Bina were active at the same time.

Global Breast Cancer Rates

- ❖ Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of breast cancer incidence in the world.
- ❖ One in 20 women globally will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and that one in 70 will die from the disease.
- ❖ The incidence rates were highest in Australia and New Zealand.
- ❖ It is followed by Northern America and Northern Europe and the lowest in south-central Asia.
- ❖ It found that the age-standardised incidence rate (ASIR) of the breast cancer in Australia and New Zealand in 2022 was 100.3 cases per 100,000 people.
- ❖ By comparison, in south-central Asia, the ASIR was 26.7 cases per 100,000 people.
- ❖ The age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR) for breast cancer were the highest in Melanesia at 26.8 deaths per 100,000 people.
- ❖ It is followed by Polynesia and western Africa and the lowest in eastern Asia at 6.5 deaths per 100,000 people.

Hague service convention

- ❖ The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has sought the assistance from Indian authorities to serve the legal documents to Adani Group founder.
- ❖ The US panel has invoked the Hague Service Convention to formally notify them of the lawsuit.



- ❖ The Hague Service Convention, formally known as the 'Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters.'
- ❖ It was established to standardise the process of delivering legal documents across international borders.
- ❖ With 68 signatory countries, the convention is the most widely recognised method for international legal service.

Encephalitis - Public Health Issue

- ❖ WHO and Encephalitis International have issued a notice about encephalitis, as a global health concern.
- ❖ Encephalitis, caused by an infectious and autoimmune factor, is an often-deadly brain inflammation that can affect anyone regardless of age, sex or ethnicity.
- ❖ It can lead to severe neurological consequences, including the permanent brain injury.
- ❖ A 2024 survey revealed that as many as 1,548 Japanese Encephalitis cases were reported from 24 states and Union Territories in India.

Massive thorium in China

- ❖ China may have discovered a nearly limitless energy source capable of sustaining the country for tens of thousands of years.
- ❖ New geological survey suggests that China's thorium reserves could be far more abundant than previously believed.
- ❖ Scientists estimate that the Bayan Obo mining complex of China, if fully utilised, could yield 1 million tonnes of thorium.
- ❖ It is enough to sustain China's energy needs for an astonishing 60,000 years.

Copper and cobalt exploration in Zambia

- ❖ The Indian government has secured 9,000 square kilometres of greenfield land in Zambia for the exploration of copper and cobalt.
- ❖ Zambia ranks 7th globally in copper production (after Chile, Peru, and the DRC).
- ❖ India's domestic ore production in 2023-24 was 3.78 million tonnes, 8% lower than in 2018-19.



Cairo Declaration 2025 – Arab League

- ❖ An Emergency Summit of the Arab League adopted a \$53-billion Egyptian plan for the reconstruction of Gaza as a “comprehensive Arab strategy”.
- ❖ This Cairo Declaration follows the Bahrain Declaration from the last Arab League Summit in Manama in May 2024.
- ❖ The plan supports a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as Palestine’s capital.
- ❖ It also calls for a “Gaza administration committee” of the qualified Gazans for a transitional period and a trust fund for recovery projects.

Golden Dome Missile Defence Shield

- ❖ Donald Trump has vowed to construct a 'Golden Dome' - similar to Israel's 'Iron Dome' missile defence.
- ❖ Golden Dome will protect against a broader range of missile threats, including those from peer and near-peer adversaries like hypersonic missiles.
- ❖ It will protect the entire US territory from advanced missile threats, including hypersonic and ballistic missiles.

Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum

- ❖ The 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was held in Jaipur, India.
- ❖ Theme of the event was ‘Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific’.
- ❖ The Forum focused on the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3R), aiming to create a roadmap for sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- ❖ The last Forum was hosted in 2023 by Cambodia.

Camp Hill Virus - USA

- ❖ A mysterious virus discovered in Alabama dubbed the Camp Hill virus after the small town where it was found.
- ❖ This the first henipavirus ever found in North America.
- ❖ Henipaviruses are among the deadliest viruses known to science, with fatality rates ranging between 40% and 75%.
- ❖ Henipaviruses can infect many animals, including bats, horses, monkeys, dogs, cats and even rodents.



- ❖ Previous henipavirus outbreaks, including the Nipah virus in Southeast Asia and Hendra virus in Australia.

Convention on Cluster munitions – Lithuania

- ❖ Lithuania officially withdrew from the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), citing security concerns due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.
- ❖ Lithuania is the first country to withdraw from the convention.
- ❖ India is NOT a signatory to the Convention.
- ❖ Neither Russia nor Ukraine are signatories to the convention.

BRICS CCI WE Summit 2025

- ❖ The BRICS CCI WE hosted the fifth edition of the BRICS CCI WE Annual Women's Summit & Felicitations 2025.
- ❖ The theme for this year's Summit was 'Women Changemakers: Transforming the World, Shaping the Future'.

A23a at South Georgia Island

- ❖ The world's largest iceberg has run aground in the shallow waters off the remote British island of South Georgia.
- ❖ The iceberg is about twice the size of Greater London.
- ❖ It calved from Antarctica's Filchner Ice Shelf in 1986.
- ❖ It continued stuck in the Weddell Sea for more than 30 years.

AHAIC 2025

- ❖ The Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC 2025) was convened recently in Kigali, Rwanda.
- ❖ It has called for urgent reforms in health financing to ensure sustainability and reduce dependence on donor funding.
- ❖ The 1978 Alma-Ata Declaration remains a landmark in the global public health, recognising PHC as essential to achieving Health for All.
- ❖ The Alma-Ata Declaration is advocating primary healthcare (PHC) as the bedrock of universal health coverage (UHC).



US Withdrawal from Climate Loss and Damage Fund

- ❖ The US has withdrawn from the board of the recently-created Loss and Damage Fund.
- ❖ This fund provides the financial support to countries ravaged by climate change disasters.
- ❖ It has already pulled out of the Paris Agreement and has cancelled the previously committed money for the Green Climate Fund.

Arrest on ICC warrant

- ❖ The Former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), for crimes against humanity arrested in Manila.
- ❖ During his reign, more than 5,000 people had been killed across the country, including 2,041 drug suspects eliminated in police operations.
- ❖ He withdrew from the Hague-based ICC in March 2019.
- ❖ But under the ICC rules, even if a state withdraws as a member, the court retains jurisdiction over crimes within its administration that are committed during the membership period.

Minimum Dietary Diversity Indicator

- ❖ A new indicator on Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) has been adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission.
- ❖ This indicator would help track progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 2 on zero hunger—one of the 17 goals under the 2030 Agenda.

US Travel Ban 2025 - on 43 Countries

- ❖ The Donald Trump administration is considering a comprehensive travel ban that could affect citizens from up to 43 countries.
- ❖ Notably, four of India's neighbouring countries - Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Pakistan are included in this proposal.
- ❖ The proposed policy categorises the countries into 'red', 'orange', and 'yellow' lists, each with varying levels of travel limitations:

World's Largest White Hydrogen Deposit

- ❖ France has discovered a massive 46-million-ton white hydrogen reserve in the Moselle region, valued at \$92 trillion.



- ❖ Unlike the Gray and green hydrogen, the white hydrogen requires no industrial production and emits no CO₂.
- ❖ White hydrogen deposits have also been discovered in places like Russia, Oman, France, Mali, and others.

Mexico's Constitutional Reform

- ❖ Mexico has amended its Constitution to recognise native corn as an element of national identity and banning the planting of genetically modified (GM) seeds.
- ❖ The crop has originated in Mexico nearly 9,000 years ago when Mesoamerican farmers domesticated teosinte, a wild grass.
- ❖ Since then, corn has remained central to Mexican life.
- ❖ Corn imports surged from 3.1 million metric tonnes in the early 1990s to nearly 23.4 million metric tonnes today.

Squad alliance – India

- ❖ India may soon be a part of military alliance with focus on security in the South China Sea.
- ❖ The grouping 'Squad' comprises the United States, Australia, Japan and the Philippines.
- ❖ It aims to exchange intelligence and hold joint military exercises and operations to counter China's dominance in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ India is already a member of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad).

Alien Enemies Act 1798 – USA

- ❖ The U.S. President Donald Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act in a proclamation to deport millions of people who are in the country illegally.
- ❖ He also ordered the removal of hundreds of Venezuelans from the US for their alleged links to a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation named Tren de Aragua.
- ❖ The Alien Enemies Act was enacted in 1798 to combat spying and sabotage during tensions with France.
- ❖ The act requires the president to publicly proclaim the event that prompted the act to be invoked.
- ❖ The act remains in effect until the president terminates it.



H7N9 Bird Flu Outbreak in USA

- ❖ The United States has reported an outbreak of the deadly H7N9 strain of the highly pathogenic avian flu (HPAI) virus in commercial poultry.
- ❖ Avian influenza A(H7N9) is a subtype of influenza viruses that have been detected in birds in the past.
- ❖ The virus was first detected in March 2013 in China.
- ❖ This is the second outbreak since March 2017.
- ❖ H7N9 bird flu virus has proved to have a far higher death rate, killing nearly 40 per cent of the humans infected.

Nitrogen Gas Execution – Louisiana of USA

- ❖ Louisiana has executed a man using nitrogen gas for the first time.
- ❖ This was the state's first execution in 15 years.
- ❖ This execution is the second in the United States using this method.
- ❖ Nitrogen gas has been used just four other times to execute a person in the United States — all in Alabama.
- ❖ Nitrogen hypoxia is an execution method that deprives the inmate of oxygen, leading to death.

Ottawa Treaty

- ❖ Poland and the Baltics - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are preparing to exit the Ottawa Treaty.
- ❖ The Ottawa Treaty, also known as the Mine Ban Treaty, came into force in 1997.
- ❖ It aims to ban the anti-personnel mines - those aimed at humans - worldwide, and has been signed by more than 160 countries.
- ❖ But some major military powers - including China, India, Russia, Pakistan, and the US - never signed up to it.

Migrant Deaths in 2024

- ❖ Nearly 9,000 people have died on dangerous routes and one in 10 of those killed violently in 2024.
- ❖ Asian routes is being the most deadly followed by the Mediterranean crossing and Africa, which includes the Sahara Desert.



- ❖ Asia reported most fatalities with 2,788, followed by the Mediterranean Sea with 2,452 and Africa with 2,242.
- ❖ Most violent deaths occurred in Iran, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Mexico.

CHNV Parole Programs – USA

- ❖ The US announced the ending of a Biden-era programme that allowed migrants from certain countries “legal pathways” into the US.
- ❖ It would revoke the temporary legal status of 532,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, who had arrived in the US since October 2022.
- ❖ The parole period, including the work permits and protection from deportation under the programme, will expire on April 24.
- ❖ The Parole under the Immigration and Nationality Act officially grants a person permission to enter and temporarily stay in the US under DHS supervision.
- ❖ In 2022, the President Joe Biden has introduced a parole entry programme for the Venezuelans, expanding this to Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans in 2023.
- ❖ The US does not have diplomatic relations with the four countries.

Myanmar Earth Quake 2025

- ❖ Two back-to-back earthquakes of magnitudes 7.7 and 6.4 struck Myanmar.
- ❖ Thailand's capital, Bangkok, has been declared a disaster area.
- ❖ Myanmar’s military government declared a state of emergency in six regions and states.
- ❖ The iconic 90-year-old Ava Bridge in Myanmar's Mandalay crumbled into the Irrawaddy River.
- ❖ Earlier in Myanmar, six strong quakes of magnitude 7 or higher struck from 1930 to 1956 near the Sagaing Fault.
- ❖ A magnitude 6.8 earthquake occurred in central Myanmar killed three people in 2016.
- ❖ India has launched the Operation Brahma, an emergency relief mission aimed at providing disaster relief, search and rescue operations in Myanmar.



ECONOMY

Tariffs and India report – GTRI

- ❖ The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) suggested the government identify tariff lines (or product categories) where India can eliminate the import duties for American imports without harming domestic industries and agriculture.
- ❖ India may propose a zero-for-zero strategy to the US, eliminating tariffs on 90 per cent of industrial goods to prevent aggressive tariff hikes.
- ❖ Though the 'zero for zero' tariff strategy violates the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it is less harmful compared to negotiating a full FTA.
- ❖ If the US imposes a uniform tariff, Indian exports could face an additional tariff of 4.9 per cent, compared to the current 2.8 per cent.
- ❖ Indian farm exports would be hit "hardest", with shrimp, dairy, and processed foods facing tariffs of up to 38.2 per cent.
- ❖ Indian farm exports to the US currently face a 5.3 per cent tariff, whereas US farm exports to India face a much higher 37.7 per cent import duty.

India's Gender Employment Paradox report

- ❖ The women's employment in urban India is jumping 10% in six years (2017-18 to 2023-24).
- ❖ But more than 89 million urban Indian women are still out of the labour market in 2023-2024.
- ❖ This 89 million is higher than the population of Germany, France, or the UK, and triple of Australia.
- ❖ Meanwhile, young male unemployment in urban India outpaces women's (10% vs 7.5% for ages 20-24).

India Financial System Stability Assessment 2025

- ❖ It was the International Monetary Fund report titled as "India Financial System Stability Assessment".
- ❖ It found that 63% of the power sector loans were from three largest Infrastructure Financing Companies, a type of an NBFC in fiscal 2024.
- ❖ This increased from 55% in 2019-20.
- ❖ Moreover, 56% of their lending was financed by market instruments and only rest alone by bank borrowings.



- ❖ Public sector banks (PSBs) may have difficulties maintaining a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of barely 9%.
- ❖ The CAR is the ratio of capital to risk weighted assets, used to measure the bank's ability to absorb losses.
- ❖ The RBI mandates a 12% and 9% CAR for PSB and Scheduled commercial banks respectively.

India - Top Source of FDI into Dubai

- ❖ Dubai has been ranked the world's No.1 destination for Greenfield Foreign Direct investment (FDI) projects for the fourth successive year.
- ❖ India has emerged as the key source country for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Dubai.
- ❖ For the year 2024, India has surpassed USA, France and UK to become the top source countries for FDI into Dubai.
- ❖ India's contribution to FDI inflow accounted for 21.5%, followed by the United States (13.7%), France (11%), United Kingdom (10%), and Switzerland (6.9%).

Zero for zero tariff strategy – India

- ❖ Recently, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has suggested a zero for zero tariff agreement with the US in the textile and apparel sector.
- ❖ India and the US have agreed to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

New Zero-Coupon Bond

- ❖ The Finance Ministry has notified Zero Coupon Bond (ZCB) for Power Finance Corporation.
- ❖ The company can raise up to ₹10,000 crore.
- ❖ The ZCB is an instrument that doesn't pay interest during its term, but instead is sold at a discount to its face value.
- ❖ When the bond matures, the investor receives the full-face value.
- ❖ There will be no periodic payment of interest.
- ❖ These bonds will have the maturity value of 121 months or 10 years and one month.

Sixth round of India's Remittance Survey 2023/24

- ❖ India's remittances have more than doubled from \$55.6 billion in 2010-11 to \$118.7 billion in 2023-24.



- ❖ India's total remittances has jumped to \$129 billion in 2024, with a 14.3 percent share of global flows.
- ❖ US surpassed UAE to become the largest contributor with a 27.7 percent share in India's total remittances.
- ❖ The UAE's share during this period declined from 26.9 percent to 19.2 percent.
- ❖ Similarly, the United Kingdom, which just had a 3 percent share in 2016-17, has replaced Saudi Arabia with a 10.9 percent share in 2023-24.
- ❖ Maharashtra received the largest share of 20.5 per cent in 2023-24.
- ❖ Kerala followed closely with its share increasing to 19.7 per cent from about 10 per cent during the same period.
- ❖ It is followed by Tamil Nadu (10.4 per cent), Telangana (8.1 per cent), and Karnataka (7.7 per cent).

India's total exports 2024-25

- ❖ India's total exports (Merchandise and Services combined) for February-2025 are estimated at USD 71.95 Billion.
- ❖ It was registering a positive growth of 3.16 percent vis-à-vis February-2024.
- ❖ The total imports (Merchandise and Services combined) for February 2025 are estimated at USD 67.52 Billion.
- ❖ It was registering a negative growth of (-)11.34 percent vis-à-vis February 2024.
- ❖ India's total exports during April-February 2024-25 are estimated at USD 750.53 Billion registering a positive growth of 6.24 percent.
- ❖ Total imports during April-February 2024-25 are estimated at USD 839.89 Billion registering a growth of 7.28 percent.

India's Net FDI 2024-25

- ❖ The net foreign direct investment (FDI) in India declined to \$1.4 billion during the 10 months of 2024-25 (April 2024-January 2025) from \$11.5 billion a year ago.
- ❖ However, gross FDI remained elevated, with 12.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth to \$67.7 billion in the April 2024-January 2025.
- ❖ It was \$60.2 billion in April 2023-January 2024.
- ❖ Repatriation/disinvestment by those who made direct investments in India rose to \$46.1 billion during the 10-month period of 2024-25.
- ❖ Overseas investments made by Indian firms, i.e., outward FDI, rose sharply to \$20.2 billion in April 2024-January 2025 from \$11.8 billion a year ago.



- ❖ Over 75 per cent of the flows were from Singapore, Mauritius, the US, the UAE, and the Netherlands during the period.
- ❖ The flow of money from overseas Indians in NRI deposit schemes rose by 40.82 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) basis.
- ❖ It is raised to \$ 14.30 billion between April 2024 and January 2025 from \$ 10.16 billion.

India's tobacco exports 2024/25

- ❖ India's tobacco exports have doubled over the past four years in dollar terms on rising global demand.
- ❖ India's shipments have increased in value from \$923 million in 2021-22 to over \$1,840 million till February in the current fiscal.
- ❖ They are likely to touch \$2-billion mark by the end of March.
- ❖ Tobacco exports registered 38.59 per cent growth during April-February 2024-25 at \$1,840.70 million compared with \$1,328.17 million a year ago.
- ❖ During February, tobacco exports were \$141.80 million (\$111.87 million).

Coal Production in India FY 2024-25

- ❖ India crossed the record annual coal output of 1 billion tonnes (bt) to hit 1.03 bt.
- ❖ It is constituting a 5.24 per cent uptick over the total production of 953.3 million tonnes in 2023-24.
- ❖ India is the second largest producer of coal after China, and relies on it to meet nearly 75 per cent of its electricity demand.
- ❖ India also imports high grade coal from countries like Indonesia and Australia.

4-Point Action Plan with IBC

- ❖ The Standing Committee on Finance has directed the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to implement a direct submission system for resolution plans through a central online portal.
- ❖ This move aims to ensure confidentiality in the submission process, preventing any undue advantage for certain parties.
- ❖ The 4 points are
 - Implementation of a Direct Submission System for Resolution Plans;
 - Enhancing the Role and Accountability of Resolution Professionals;



- Transparent Monitoring of Case Resolution Timelines and
- Review of the Committee of Creditors' (CoC) Structure.
- ❖ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) aims to provide time-bound and creditor-driven process for insolvency resolution.
- ❖ Insolvency refers to a situation where the individuals or companies cannot repay back their outstanding debt obligations.
- ❖ Bankruptcy refers to a legal status declared by a court of competent jurisdiction for a person or entity that is insolvent i.e. unable to pay off debts.

Anti-Dumping Duty on Chinese Products

- ❖ India imposed an anti-dumping duty on around five products that were exported to India from China at below-normal prices in March 2025.
- ❖ These anti-dumping duties were imposed on products like the Soft Ferrite Cores, vacuum-insulated flasks, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid (acid used for water treatment), and Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin.

Effects of Domestic Migration in India

- ❖ The migration of labour from low-income states to high income states is resulting in higher inflation in high income States in the South such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The region wise analysis of retail prices shows that southern states display a higher trend in prices for items like vegetables, cereals and most of the pulses.
- ❖ The Northeast and Western regions have had the lowest inflation against higher inflationary trends displayed by Southern and Eastern regions.
- ❖ In the post-pandemic period (FY21 to FY25), inflation declined by 3.4% in the NE areas, while in Southern region it declined by 2.6% only.
- ❖ Among all 35 states/UTs during the period FY13 and FY25 Tamil Nadu inflation is higher than all India inflation for 9 years out of the last 13 years.
- ❖ Gujarat and Punjab have lower inflation than all India inflation for 9 years from the last 13 years
- ❖ The share of sales tax collection by states, Southern states hold the highest share of 30%, followed by Northern region.
- ❖ Among the States, Kerala clocked the highest CPI inflation rate of 7.3% in Feb, followed by Chhattisgarh 4.9%.



BHIM 3.0

- ❖ The NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) has launched Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) 3.0.
- ❖ BHIM 3.0 aims to provide a more seamless and user-friendly experience with the improved accessibility, financial management tools, and exclusive offerings for businesses.
- ❖ It is now available in 15+ Indian languages to cater to a wider audience.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Solar Coronal Holes

- ❖ A new study has accurately estimated the physical parameters of thermal and magnetic field structures within solar coronal holes.
- ❖ They have a significant influence on space weather and the Indian summer monsoon rainfall.
- ❖ There is no significant variation in the temperature structure of coronal holes across different latitudes.
- ❖ Also, the strength of the magnetic field structure within coronal holes varies with latitude, increasing from the solar equator to the poles.
- ❖ Understanding the thermal structure allows scientists to estimate the depths of origin of coronal holes.

Evidence of Ancient Martian Ocean

- ❖ China's Zhurong rover has made a stunning discovery on the rugged terrain on Mars.
- ❖ The beach is buried beneath the Martian surface.
- ❖ The discovery is the latest evidence indicating the existence of this hypothesized ocean, called Deuteronilus, roughly 3.5 to 4 billion years ago.
- ❖ Earth, Mars and the solar system's other planets formed roughly 4.5 billion years ago.
- ❖ Deuteronilus would have disappeared approximately a billion years into Martian history when the planet's climate changed dramatically.



Naval Anti-Ship Missile

- ❖ India has successfully test fired a first-of-its-kind naval anti-ship missile from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- ❖ This is the first-of-its-kind Naval Anti-Ship missile (NASM-SR) from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.
- ❖ The missile uses an indigenous imaging infra-red seeker for terminal guidance.

Spinal muscular atrophy

- ❖ A two-and-a-half-year-old girl has shown no signs of a genetic disorder — known as spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).
- ❖ This girl was becoming the first person in the world to be treated for the disease while in the womb.
- ❖ SMA is a debilitating genetic condition which affects motor neurons that control movement, and leads to progressive muscle weakening.
- ❖ About one in every 10,000 births have some form of the condition.

NASA's Lunar Trailblazer

- ❖ NASA's Lunar Trailblazer has experienced a loss of communications with ground control.
- ❖ The Lunar Trailblazer is a small satellite, intended to expand our understanding of the abundance and distribution of water on the Moon's surface.
- ❖ The spacecraft has been designed to produce high-resolution maps that will help to determine where water is present, in what form, and in what quantity.

Athena Moon Lander

- ❖ Intuitive Machines' Athena and the Japanese private mission Resilience Hakuto-R2 are among the next lunar landers expected to touch down.
- ❖ Athena aims to improve upon the company's previous success with the Odysseus lander.
- ❖ Odysseus became the first American craft to achieve a soft lunar landing since Apollo 17 in 1972.
- ❖ The Resilience Hakuto-R2 mission, operated by the ispace, a Japanese private company, is taking a more indirect route to the Moon.
- ❖ This mission also marks Japan's second attempt at a lunar landing, following the successful deployment of the Hakuto-R1 mission's impactor.



Blue Ghost Mission 1

- ❖ Firefly Aerospace, a US company, successfully landed its spacecraft on the Moon.
- ❖ It is near Mons Latreille, a volcanic formation in Mare Crisium on the Moon's northeastern near side.
- ❖ This was marking only the second private mission to achieve the milestone -- and the first to do so upright.
- ❖ Only five nations—the Soviet Union, the U.S., China, India, and Japan—had accomplished soft lunar landings.

Aditya-L1 - First-ever Image of Kernel

- ❖ India's Aditya-L1 mission has captured the very first-ever image of a solar flare of 'kernel.'
- ❖ This rare observation was made in the lower solar atmosphere.
- ❖ The captured image also shows the phenomenon in the photosphere and the chromosphere.

Maple Syrup Urine Disease

- ❖ The Scientists have created a new gene therapy for a debilitating genetic disorder called maple syrup urine disease (MSUD).
- ❖ The treatment can prevent recurrence of deadly symptoms in a cow calf born with the disease.
- ❖ Classic MSUD arises from mutations in the three genes that encode the protein subunits of branched chain alpha-keto acid dehydrogenase complex (BCKDH).

Blue Origin Tourism

- ❖ The Billionaire Jeff Bezos' space company Blue Origin launched its 10th space tourism mission.
- ❖ It will be sending six passengers, including Indian-origin Tushar Mehta.
- ❖ The six crew members on the New Shepherd (NS) spacecraft named themselves "Perfect 10".
- ❖ Mehta became the second Indian-origin person after Gopi Thotakura to take a Blue Origin flight.

Bose Metal

- ❖ Researchers have recently discovered a potential new state of matter, the Bose metal.



- ❖ NbSe₂ becomes a superconductor at the low temperature but with additional 'abilities'
- ❖ A Bose metal is a kind of anomalous metallic state (AMS).

Chandrayaan-3 - Ice Beneath Moon's Surface

- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 data suggests that, the hidden reserves of water ice may be more abundant than once believed.
- ❖ ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 successfully soft-landed near the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023.
- ❖ ChaSTE equipment was designed to measure the thermal conductivity and the temperature of the lunar surface.
- ❖ It measured temperatures from the surface down to a depth of 10cm.
- ❖ Temperatures at the landing site, as named 'Shiv Shakti Point,' ranged from 82C during the day to -170C at night.

SE2000 Semi-Cryogenic Engine

- ❖ ISRO recently successfully conducted the hot test on a semi-cryogenic engine (SE2000).
- ❖ This test is known as the Power Head Test Article (PHTA) and the first hardware test for the development of semi-cryo engines.

Brahmastra Missile 2025

- ❖ The Indian scientists have developed a modern-day 'Brahmastra' with an amazing speed of 12,144 km per hour.
- ❖ This weapon, named the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM), is a hypersonic glide missile developed by DRDO.
- ❖ This missile operates at 10 Mach, making it 10 times faster than the speed of sound.
- ❖ Unlike China's DF-17, which has a 1,000 km range, India's LRAShM boasts a 1,500 km range.

POLG Mitochondrial Disease

- ❖ Prince Frederik of Luxembourg was recently died due to POLG mitochondrial disease
- ❖ It is a rare genetic disorder affecting approximately one in 5,000 people.



- ❖ POLG is a genetic mitochondrial disorder that deprives the body's cells of energy.
- ❖ This is leading to progressive organ dysfunction and eventual failure.
- ❖ Following his diagnosis, the young prince established the POLG Foundation in 2022.
- ❖ This Foundation aims to support research and increase awareness for those who suffer from the disease.

Existence of Fourth Form of Water

- ❖ Scientists have now confirmed a fourth form of ice, called Plastic Ice VII.
- ❖ This rare phase allows water molecules to rotate freely while staying in a solid structure.
- ❖ Unlike regular ice, the Plastic Ice VII has a rigid structure but allows molecular rotation.

Large Phased Array Radar – China

- ❖ China has deployed a powerful Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR) in the Yunnan province.
- ❖ With an estimated detection range exceeding 5,000 km, the system allows Beijing to track India's missile launches in real time.
- ❖ The Indian missile testing site is located approximately 2,000-2,200 km south west of China's new LPAR station.

Flareless Coronal Mass Ejection 2025

- ❖ Scientists have reported observations of a flareless coronal mass ejection (CME) from the solar atmosphere.
- ❖ This was observed with the help of Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) instrument onboard Aditya-L1 mission.

SPHEREx Space Telescope – NASA

- ❖ A NASA telescope was launched to explore the origins of the universe and to scour the Milky Way galaxy for hidden reservoirs of water.
- ❖ The SPHEREx mission (the short for Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer).
- ❖ It will map the entire sky four times over two years.



- ❖ SPHEREx will map the universe while detecting two kinds of cosmic light, optical and infrared.
- ❖ It will also identify water- and life-forming molecules, also known as biogenic molecules (such as carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen), in the Milky Way galaxy,

Chandrayaan-5 Mission

- ❖ The Centre has recently accorded the approval for the ambitious Chandrayaan-5 mission to study the Moon.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-5 mission would carry a 250 kg rover to study the Moon's surface.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-1, successfully launched in 2008, made chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic maps of the Moon.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-2 mission in 2019 concluded when its lunar lander crashed on the moon's surface.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 mission was successfully made soft-land on the moon's south pole region on August 23, 2023.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-4 mission is expected to be launched in 2027.
- ❖ It will aim to collect samples of the lunar soil from the moon and bring the back to the earth for further study.

Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201

- ❖ The ISRO and the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh have jointly developed two cutting-edge 32-bit microprocessors specifically designed for space applications.
- ❖ Vikram 3201 is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor qualified for use in the harsh conditions of launch vehicles.
- ❖ Kalpana 3201 is designed to be compatible with open-source software toolsets and has been tested with flight software.

Human Coronavirus HKU1 in Kolkata

- ❖ A patient in Kolkata is suffering from a human coronavirus or HKU1, a species of coronavirus.
- ❖ However, HKU1 is generally linked to a milder respiratory illness and is not of pandemic potential.
- ❖ HKU-1 was first identified in 2005 as a rare isolate.
- ❖ It mainly affects the lungs and respiratory system.



Pink Bollworm Resistant GM cotton

- ❖ The Scientists at the CSIR-NBRI in Lucknow claim to have developed the world's first genetically modified (GM) cotton.
- ❖ It is totally resistant to the Pink Bollworm (PBW).
- ❖ PBW is a devastating pest affecting cotton crop in India, Africa and Asia.
- ❖ A PBW infestation has been reported from Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and other cotton-growing belts in central and southern India since 2015-2016.

Third form of magnetism

- ❖ The Scientists have uncovered the first conclusive evidence of the elusive third category of magnetism - Altermagnetism.
- ❖ The other two forms of magnetism are ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism.
- ❖ Altermagnetic materials have a structure that falls between the other two.
- ❖ In altermagnets, each unit is slightly twisted relative to the adjacent magnetic atom, resulting in properties similar to ferromagnetism.
- ❖ Thus, altermagnets combine the best properties of both ferromagnetic and anti-ferromagnetic materials.

FireSat Initiative

- ❖ This Google-backed initiative is aimed at using satellites to detect and prevent wildfires before they escalate, has moved one step closer to its goal.
- ❖ The FireSat project's first satellite was successfully placed into low Earth orbit (LEO).
- ❖ This satellite is the first of more than 50 in a first-of-its-kind constellation.
- ❖ It is designed to use AI to detect and track the wildfires as small as a classroom (roughly 5×5 meters).

Gaia Mission End

- ❖ The ESA's European Space Operations Centre switched off the Gaia spacecraft's subsystems and sent it into a 'retirement orbit' around the Sun.
- ❖ It was launched in 2013 and mapped the positions, distances, motions, and properties of nearly two billion stars and other celestial objects.
- ❖ It was stationed at the Lagrange point 2, around 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.



ENVIRONMENT

Black plastic pollution

- ❖ Black plastic is often made from recycled electronic waste such as computers, TVs, and appliances.
- ❖ These electronics typically contain the substances such as the flame-retardant bromine; antimony; and heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and mercury.

Mount Fentale eruption

- ❖ The Fentale volcano in Ethiopia has emitted vast amounts of methane into the atmosphere.
- ❖ Researchers have described this event as a “burp,” as the volcano expelled huge plumes of the potent greenhouse gas.
- ❖ The volcano was emitting 58 metric tonnes of methane per hour.
- ❖ Methane traps 28 times more heat than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period.
- ❖ It is the second-largest contributor to global warming.
- ❖ It is responsible for around 11% of total greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.
- ❖ Mount Fentale is not known for frequent eruptions.
- ❖ The last recorded eruption occurred in 1820.

China’s last Wild Alligators

- ❖ The Chinese Alligator (*Alligator sinensis*), the small crocodylian species that has inspired the Chinese dragon, is facing grave threats.
- ❖ The Chinese alligator is endemic to freshwater wetlands in eastern China.
- ❖ They were formerly distributed across the middle-lower Yangtze and Yellow River basins.
- ❖ Today, wild Chinese alligators numbering only 200 individuals.

India’s Highest Vulture Population

- ❖ The latest census has counted the vulture population in Madhya Pradesh at 12,981, an increase by 2,136 over the last census.
- ❖ In the 2024 census, the vulture population in the state was counted at 10,845.
- ❖ In the last six years, the population of the avian species in the state has increased by 35 percent.



- ❖ In 2019, Madhya Pradesh had 8,397 vultures and since then the vulture population has been increasing steadily.
- ❖ In 2021, the population of vultures in the state was 9,446.
- ❖ As per the latest census, Madhya Pradesh houses seven species of vultures.
- ❖ Of them, four are local species and the remaining three are migratory ones.

Doomsday Fish

- ❖ The rare oarfish, popularly called the "Doomsday Fish" has been spotted near the shores of Baja California Sur, Mexico.
- ❖ This deep-sea creature has a long, ribbon-like body and shimmering silver scales.
- ❖ The oarfish has the nickname of "Ryugu no tsukai," or "the sea god's palace messenger" in Japanese folklore.
- ❖ This myth traces back to the 17th century and says that the surfacing of the oarfish is a harbinger of future natural disasters.

CBD COP16 2025 - Cali Fund

- ❖ COP16 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Rome have reached a historic agreement on financing global conservation goals.
- ❖ The conference, which had been paused in Cali, Colombia, in 2024, resumed in Rome on February 2025.
- ❖ The agreement establishes long-term financial mechanisms under the CBD.
- ❖ It includes enhancing existing funding sources and exploring new ones, such as private sector contributions and blended finance.
- ❖ The Governments pledged to mobilise \$200 billion annually by 2030.
- ❖ It was including \$20 billion per year by 2025, rising to \$30 billion per year by 2030 from international sources.
- ❖ The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has already allocated over \$3 billion in support of biodiversity goals, leveraging an additional \$22 billion, including \$1.9 billion from the private sector.
- ❖ The COP17 is to be held in Armenia in 2026.

Arctic Glaciers Leaking Methane

- ❖ Scientists have discovered that the Arctic glaciers are leaking significant amounts of methane into the atmosphere.



- ❖ Methane concentrations in the melt river were found to be up to 800 times higher than the atmospheric equilibrium level.

Sea unicorns – Narwhals

- ❖ In a first, scientists from Canada have studied and captured footage of the iconic narwhals of the Arctic using their tusks to hunt.
- ❖ The narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) lives in remote Arctic waters.
- ❖ Males are known for their long, spiral tusks, which is really an elongated tooth.

Cobitis Beijingensis

- ❖ A new species of spined loach, officially named the *Cobitis beijingensis*, has been discovered in the Beijing area in China for the first time in over 40 years.
- ❖ This is the first time a fish species has been named using the pinyin "Beijing".
- ❖ Historically, Beijing was home to 78 species of indigenous fish.
- ❖ But in 2010 only about 40 species could be collected.

Dolphin Survey 2025

- ❖ India's first-ever riverine dolphin estimation report has recorded 6,327 dolphins across 28 rivers in eight states.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.
- ❖ In India, Ganges River dolphins inhabit the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna River system and its tributaries.
- ❖ A small population of Indus River dolphins resides in the Indus River system.

Crassolabium dhritiae – Odisha

- ❖ The Scientists had discovered a species of soil-dwelling nematode in the Deccan Peninsular biogeographic zone of Odisha's Keonjhar district.
- ❖ The species, *Crassolabium dhritiae*, is named after ZSI chief Dr Dhriti Banerjee in recognition to her contributions to zoology and taxonomic research.

Synchronized Wetland Bird Census 2025 - Tamilnadu

- ❖ Several wetland bird species were sighted and recorded during the Synchronised Wetland Bird Census 2025.



- ❖ The census in Tiruchi district covered 20 wetland sites.
- ❖ The census aimed at monitoring migratory birds, assess bird habitats in lakes, ponds and other waterbodies and ensure the effective management and conservation of wetland birds.
- ❖ In Pudukottai district, the census was carried out in 25 wetlands, including Kavinadu tank, Aariyur tank, Annavasal 'periyakulam' and Sirungakulam.
- ❖ The census in Ariyalur district covered 10 wetlands, which included the Karaivetti bird sanctuary.
- ❖ In Perambalur district, the exercise covered 20 wetlands.

World Air Quality Report 2024

- ❖ Thirteen of the world's top 20 most polluted cities are in India, with Byrnihat in Assam topping the list.
- ❖ Delhi remains the most polluted capital city globally.
- ❖ India ranked as the world's fifth most polluted country in 2024, down from third in 2023.
- ❖ Overall, 35 per cent of the Indian cities reported annual PM2.5 levels exceeding 10 times the WHO limit of 5 micrograms per cubic metre.
- ❖ Air pollution remains a serious health risk in India, reducing life expectancy by an estimated 5.2 years.

New eel species in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Researchers of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), have discovered a new species of Congrid eel and named it after Tamil.
- ❖ The species, belonging to the genus Ariosoma, was found off the Thoothukudi coast.
- ❖ It was named tamilicum, "with reference to the world's oldest language, Tamil.

Olive Ridley turtle nesting in Tamil Nadu 2025

- ❖ The Volunteers and the Tamil Nadu Forest Department have collectively gathered 2,53,719 turtle eggs across the State so far, nearing last year's total of 2,58,907.
- ❖ This is the highest in the last six years.
- ❖ In January and February, over 1,200 dead turtles washed ashore along the coasts of Chennai and Chengalpattu.
- ❖ Cuddalore tops the list with 89,784 eggs collected as of March 11.



- ❖ It is followed by Chennai division with 47,082 eggs.
- ❖ Nagapattinam ranks third with 73,728 eggs.
- ❖ Villupuram and Ramnad divisions collected 23,403 and 18,073 eggs respectively.

Nothobranchius Sylvaticus - 'killifish'

- ❖ Scientists have discovered and described a new type of 'killifish' that is endemic to a Kenyan forest.
- ❖ But it is already critically endangered and may become extinct soon.
- ❖ Killifish are oviparous or egg-laying fish.
- ❖ They are mainly found in the fresh or brackish waters of the Americas, southern Europe, much of Africa, the Middle East and Asia.
- ❖ There are around 1,270 species of killifish.
- ❖ They are known as "the annual killifish" because they live in temporary pools that dry up seasonally, with their eggs surviving in the dry mud until the next rainy season.

IUCN Green list - Four new sites

- ❖ Four new sites added to the IUCN Green List and three relisted.
- ❖ The addition of four new listings came from the West Asia.
- ❖ They are
 - Sharaan Nature Reserve - Saudi Arabia
 - King Abdulaziz Royal Nature Reserve of Saudi Arabia
 - Aqaba Marine Reserve of Jordan and
 - Sir Bu Nair Protected Area from UAE.
- ❖ IUCN Green List is a global program of the certification aiming to achieve and to promote effective, equitable, and successful protected and conserved area.

Transforming Forest Finance

- ❖ A new report, Transforming Forest Finance, has been released by the Forest Declaration Assessment, supported by UNDP.
- ❖ While an estimated \$460 billion per year is required to halt deforestation, actual financial support falls far short.
- ❖ For every \$1 spent on forest protection, \$6 is directed towards activities that drive deforestation.



- ❖ In 2023, private financial institutions invested \$6.1 trillion in sectors linked to deforestation
- ❖ The Payments under REDD+ are insufficient, ranging from \$5–\$10 per tonne of carbon dioxide.
- ❖ But, the actual cost of reducing emissions is estimated at \$30–\$50 per tonne.

Uplink initiative of World Economic Forum

- ❖ The World Economic Forum's Uplink supported ventures prevented 142,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over the past two years.
- ❖ It is an amount comparable to the annual emissions of more than 30,000 cars.
- ❖ These start-ups protected 140 million hectares of terrestrial and aquatic areas, an area nearly one-fifth the size of the Amazon rainforest.
- ❖ The treatment of 2.5 billion litres of hazardous wastewater and the tracking of 28 million tonnes of waste also made.
- ❖ In India, Indra Water increased wastewater treatment capacity, processing 1.2 billion litres in 2024.
- ❖ This was marking a 243 per cent rise compared to 2022.

George VI Ice Shelf - dozens of new species

- ❖ Scientists may have discovered dozens of new species, on the newly exposed seafloor left behind by the A-84 iceberg that broke away from the George VI Ice Shelf.
- ❖ The new species includes giant sea spiders, octopi, and corals.
- ❖ They Used the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) SuBastian to explored the seafloor and found flourishing ecosystems at depths of up to 1,300 metres.

African Penguin Conservation

- ❖ South Africa has established measures to protect six crucial breeding sites in an effort to save the African penguin from extinction.
- ❖ The court has imposed a 10-year ban on commercial fishing around the breeding colonies.
- ❖ African penguins are very smaller than Emperor penguins and found exclusively in southern Africa.
- ❖ At the current rate of decline, these unique birds could be extinct in the wild by 2035.



Status of Tigers, Prey and Other Mammals – 2024

- ❖ The number of big cats in the Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) in the Nallamala forest area in Andhra Pradesh has increased from 74 in 2023 to 76 in 2024.
- ❖ In 2018, the reserves had 47 tigers which has swelled to 76 in the last six years, an increase of 61.7 per cent.
- ❖ There are 393 tigers in the five tiger reserves of the Karnataka State (Bandipur, Nagarahole, Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Bhadra, and Kali tiger reserves) as per the 2024 Phase IV monitoring conducted by the Karnataka.
- ❖ The Karnataka State had 408 tigers in the 2023 exercise, 417 in 2022, while it was 472 in the 2018 exercise.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Busiest Airport 2025 - OAG report

- ❖ The Dubai International Airport (DXB) retains its position in March 2025 as the World's Busiest International Airport with 5.2 million seats.
- ❖ London Heathrow Airport (LHR) is in second place with 4 million seats.
- ❖ Singapore Changi Airport has moved up to be the third busiest international airport with capacity growing by 5%.
- ❖ Seoul Incheon International Airport (ICN) of South Korea is close behind in fourth place with 3.58 million seats.

UNESCO's Report on Multilingual Education 2025

- ❖ The report titled 'Language Matter: Global Guidance on Multilingual Education', was released by UNESCO.
- ❖ 40 percent of the global population does not have access to the education in the language they speak or understand.
- ❖ This figure rises to an alarming 90% in some low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ Over 31 million displaced youths facing language barriers in education.

Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2025

- ❖ India has emerged as a leading global wealth hub, with a current population of 85,698 High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs), placing it fourth globally



- ❖ It is behind only the US, China, and Japan.
- ❖ The number of HNWI—defined as individuals with at least US\$1 million in investable assets—rose by 4.4% globally in 2024.
- ❖ Notably, the population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), those with assets exceeding US\$100 million, surpassed 100,000 for the first time.
- ❖ In 2024, the US led the world with a 5.2% increase in its population of HNWIs.
- ❖ Asia is closely followed, growing at a rate of 5%, while Africa saw a 4.7% rise.

Glass-Ceiling Index 2025

- ❖ Sweden secured the top position in the index for 2025, ending Iceland's two-year reign as the best country for working women.
- ❖ The OECD has been observing an average increase in women's parliamentary representation to 34%.
- ❖ Japan and Britain recorded significant gains, with representation rising to 16% (up from 10%) and 41% (up from 35%), respectively.
- ❖ In contrast, the United States experienced a slight decline, with representation falling to 28.7%.
- ❖ The average monthly salaries of women in Sweden were 90% of men's.
- ❖ Sweden was also the first country to replace gender-specific maternity leave with gender-neutral leave.

Global Terrorism Index 2025

- ❖ The number of countries with a recorded terrorist incident increased from 58 to 66 countries in 2024.
- ❖ The Sahel is the most affected region globally, accounting for over half of all the deaths from terrorism in 2024.
- ❖ Burkina Faso remains the country most impacted by terrorism this year.
- ❖ Niger and Pakistan had the largest increases in deaths from terrorism.
- ❖ Terrorist attacks jumped by 63% in the West and Europe was most affected where attacks doubled to 67.
- ❖ Seven Western countries are in the first 50 most impacted countries.
- ❖ Islamic State (IS) has expanded its operations to 22 countries and remains the deadliest organization (active in Syria and DRC).
- ❖ India is ranked at 14th place.



SIPRI Report 2020-24

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released this report on Arms transactions.
- ❖ Ukraine was the world's largest importer of major arms during 2020-2024.
- ❖ The country's imports surged nearly 100 times over compared to 2015-2019.
- ❖ Most of the major arms supplied to Ukraine came from the US (45 per cent), followed by Germany (12 per cent) and Poland (11 per cent).
- ❖ India ranked second in global arms imports during the same period.
- ❖ India's arms imports declined by 9.3 per cent between 2015-19 and 2020-24.
- ❖ The United States increased its share of global arms exports to 43 per cent, while Russia's exports fell by 64 per cent.
- ❖ China was the fourth largest exporter of arms in 2020-24, with 5.9 per cent of global arms exports.

WHO - Global maternal mortality crisis

- ❖ Every day in 2020, approximately 800 women died from the preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, equating to one death every two minutes.
- ❖ In 2020, an estimated 287,000 women worldwide died from maternal causes.
- ❖ In 2020, the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) stood at 223 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.
- ❖ Globally, most pregnancy-related infection deaths occurred in the postpartum period, which extends up to 42 days after child birth.
- ❖ The SDG target 3.1 aims to reduce the global MMR to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

FAO reports on Food Grains 2025

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) Food and the FAO released two key reports: the 'Cereal Supply and Demand Brief' and the 'Crop Prospects and Food Situation Report'.
- ❖ The Wheat production may reach 796 million tonnes (Mt) in 2025, marking a 1% increase from the previous year.

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025

- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has maintained the top position for the 13th consecutive year in the QS World University Rankings 2025.



- ❖ Imperial College London take second and the University of Oxford and Harvard University are in third and fourth place respectively.
- ❖ The University of Cambridge rounds out the top five.

Institute	Rank	Department
IIT Madras	31 st	Engineering - Petroleum
ISM Dhanbad	20 th	Engineering - Mineral and Mining
IIT Bombay	40 th	Engineering - Mineral and Mining
IIT Kharagpur	45 th	Engineering - Mineral and Mining
IIT Delhi	47 th	Engineering - Electrical and Electronic
IIT Bombay	50 th	Engineering - Electrical and Electronic
IIM Ahmedabad	27 th	Business and Management Studies
IIM Bangalore	40 th	Business and Management Studies
JNU	29 th	Development Studies

Future of Free Speech Index 2025

- ❖ The report, titled ‘Who in the World Supports Free Speech?’ was released by The Future of Free Speech, an independent U.S.-based think tank.
- ❖ India ranked 24th out of the 33 countries surveyed on the question of support for free speech.
- ❖ Norway and Denmark finishing at the top of the Index.
- ❖ Indonesia (56.8), Malaysia (55.4), and Pakistan (57.0) have showed the biggest improvements.
- ❖ U.S., Israel, and Japan have seen a drop-in free speech support since 2021.

International Debt Report 2024

- ❖ The International Debt Report 2024 was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ The Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) reached a record high of USD 8.8 trillion by the end of 2023, an 8% increase since 2020.
- ❖ External debt rose by 18%, reaching USD 1.1 trillion.
- ❖ Interest rates doubled to over 4% on loans from official creditors in 2023.
- ❖ Interest rates rose to 6%, the highest in 15 years.
- ❖ For India, the report notes an increase in external debt by \$31 billion, reaching \$646.79 billion in 2023.



- ❖ The interest payments jumped from \$15.08 billion in 2022 to \$22.54 billion in 2023.
- ❖ Long-term debt also increased by 7%, while short-term debt saw a slight decline.

World Happiness Rankings 2025

- ❖ Finland has secured its position as the world's happiest nation for the eighth consecutive year.
- ❖ It is followed by Denmark and Iceland.
- ❖ Israel secured 8th position despite the Hamas conflict
- ❖ The United States has dropped to its lowest position at 24th, down from its peak at 11th in 2012.
- ❖ Afghanistan remains at the bottom of the rankings.
- ❖ India ranked 118th in the World Happiness Report 2025 published Thursday, up from the 126th position in the previous year
- ❖ Among India's neighbouring countries, Sri Lanka was ranked at 133, Bangladesh at 134, Pakistan at 109, Nepal at 92 and China at 68.
- ❖ It is released by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford, in the collaboration with Gallup, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and an independent editorial board.

State of climate report 2024

- ❖ 2024 is the warmest year in the 175-year observational record.
- ❖ It was likely the first calendar year to be more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era.
- ❖ The global mean near-surface temperature of 1.55 ± 0.13 °C above the 1850-1900 average.
- ❖ 2024 saw the highest ocean heat content in 65 years, with the warming rates doubling since 1960.
- ❖ The rise of 2.1 millimetres per year recorded between 1993 and 2002 has been dwarfed by a 4.7-millimeter increase between 2015 and 2024.
- ❖ Tropical cyclones, floods, droughts and other hazards in 2024 have displaced the highest number of people since 2008.
- ❖ 36 million people were forced from their homes in 2024.
- ❖ In eight countries, at least one million more people faced acute food insecurity compared with 2023.



- ❖ In 2023, atmospheric CO₂ reached 151% of pre-industrial levels, the highest in 800,000 years.

UN World Water Development Report 2025

- ❖ The United Nations 'World Water Development Report 2025 – the Mountains and Glaciers: Water Towers' was released by UNESCO.
- ❖ The Asia-Pacific region is home to some of the world's highest mountains and most extensive glacier systems — and is among the most vulnerable to climate change.
- ❖ Retreating glaciers threaten the food and water supply of 2 billion people around the world.
- ❖ The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region is experiencing the most dramatic losses due to climate change — retreating 65 per cent faster in 2011-2020 than in the previous decade.
- ❖ If temperatures rise between 1.5°C and 4°C, mountain glaciers worldwide are projected to lose 26 to 41 per cent of their total mass by 2100, compared to 2015 levels.

Global Energy Review 2025

- ❖ The report titled Global Energy Review 2025 was released by International Energy Agency.
- ❖ Global electricity demand increased by 4.3 per cent in 2024, a step change from the 2.5 per cent growth seen in 2023.
- ❖ The Extreme temperatures in 2024 – the warmest year recorded, surpassed the previous record set in 2023.
- ❖ Global electricity consumption in buildings increased by more than 600 terawatt-hours (TWh) or five per cent in 2024.
- ❖ The industry sector has made up nearly 40 per cent of total growth in electricity demand in 2024.
- ❖ Electricity use in industry grew by nearly 4 per cent in 2024.
- ❖ In 2024, 80 per cent of the growth in the global electricity generation was provided by renewable sources and nuclear power.
- ❖ Global coal emissions rose by 0.9 per cent (135 Mt CO₂) in 2024.
- ❖ China remained the largest coal consumer globally, accounting for a record 58 per cent of global coal use.



STATES

HIV self-testing - Mizoram

- ❖ Among all states, Mizoram has the highest prevalence of HIV in the adult population.
- ❖ It was standing at 2.73%, significantly surpassing the national average of 0.2%.
- ❖ An estimated 25.44 lakh people live with HIV in India.
- ❖ Nagaland (1.37%), Manipur (0.87%), Andhra Pradesh (0.62%), and Telangana (0.44%) are the five states with the highest HIV burden in the adult population.

Jhumur Dance 2025

- ❖ The “biggest ever” jhumur event in history was held in Assam.
- ❖ Some 8,600 dancers performed at the Jhumoir Binandini 2025 to mark the 200th anniversary of Assam’s tea industry.
- ❖ The term “tea tribe” loosely refers to a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic community of tea garden workers and their descendants.
- ❖ These people came from Central India and settled in Assam in the 19th century to work in the tea gardens that the British were setting up.
- ❖ They are mostly from present-day Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal.

Soliga Tribes

- ❖ The PM praised the role of the Soliga tribal community in the rise of the tiger population in the Biligirirangana Hills (BRT) Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The Soliga tribe population is around 40,000, and many of them live in the Chamarajanagar district, especially in the BR Hills region of Karnataka.
- ❖ They were the first ones to get forest land rights inside the tiger reserve in 2011.
- ❖ The tiger population increased from 8-10 tigers a few years ago to around 50 tigers now.

10 Gharials in Chambal River

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh CM released 10 gharials, into the Chambal River at the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary in Morena.
- ❖ The state boasts the highest number of gharials in India, with a 2024 census recording 2,456 individuals in the sanctuary.



- ❖ The gharial is a species of the *Gavialis gangeticus* — the long-snouted, fish-eating crocodilians.
- ❖ Globally, the Gharial populations saw a steady recovery until 1997, but between 1997 and 2006, numbers plummeted by 58%, dropping from 436 adults to 182.
- ❖ Between 1975 and 1982, India has established 16 captive breeding and release centers and five gharial sanctuaries.
- ❖ Spanning three states, the Chambal sanctuary protects a 435-km stretch of one of India's cleanest rivers.
- ❖ It is critically endangered as per IUCN Red List.

MISHTI Scheme in Gujarat

- ❖ The union government has launched MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes) scheme in 2023.
- ❖ It aims to expand mangrove forest cover along the coasts of states and union territories.
- ❖ It will be ensuring the protection and preservation of the coastal communities and marine ecosystem.
- ❖ In just two years Gujarat, successfully has planted mangroves across over 19,000 hectares under this initiative.

Bhopal chemical waste Incineration

- ❖ The burning of the first 10-tonne batch of Union Carbide's toxic waste took place recently.
- ❖ This is a part of the first trial run to dispose of the 40-year-old waste of Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- ❖ The burning or incineration process takes about 72 hours to complete.
- ❖ The process began shortly after the Supreme Court rejected a petition that had challenged the Madhya Pradesh government's plans to dispose 358 tonnes of Union Carbide waste in Pithampur.
- ❖ The chemical waste had been lying at the now-defunct Union Carbide India Ltd (UCIL) factory in Bhopal for more than 40 years since the December 1984 gas tragedy.

Gandhisagar Sanctuary - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Cheetah Reintroduction Project will now extend to the Banni Grasslands in Gujarat and Gandhisagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.



- ❖ Banni Grasslands, located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, is a vast 2,500 sq km protected forest ecosystem.
- ❖ It offers a semi-arid landscape similar to African savannas, providing an ideal habitat for cheetahs.
- ❖ Gandhisagar Sanctuary spans across the Mandsaur and Neemuch districts.
- ❖ This region, also known as Nimar, borders Rajasthan and features a dry, semi-arid landscape.
- ❖ Geographic conditions resemble cheetah-friendly landscapes found in Africa.

Punjab - Agriculture Infrastructure Fund scheme

- ❖ Punjab has utilised 100% of the Rs 4,713 crore allocated to it by the Centre under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme.
- ❖ With this, Punjab ranks at number 1 in the country in implementing this scheme.

Assam amendment on autonomous council

- ❖ The Assam Assembly passed amendment Bills related to the seven autonomous councils.
- ❖ It was authorising the governor to take over the functioning of these bodies if holding of elections is found to be "impractical".
- ❖ There is a provision of extending the term of the elected councils running these bodies for a maximum of one year.
- ❖ The normal term of the elected councils is five years.

Policy for burn victims

- ❖ Karnataka has become the first in the country to have a separate comprehensive policy for victims of burns.
- ❖ The policy incorporates insurance, housing, rehabilitation, employment and the other welfare measures including pension for burn victims.

Melioidosis in Odisha

- ❖ The Mapping the occurrence of melioidosis in Odisha shows that infections are seasonal and tend to be highest during heavy rainfall, high humidity, high cloud cover, and low sunlight conditions.
- ❖ Melioidosis can be considered an 'environmentally driven infectious disease.



- ❖ It is an emerging tropical disease caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.
- ❖ It is a rare disease globally, and ubiquitous in the south and southeast Asia, including India.

Shishtachar Squad

- ❖ Delhi Police is set to launch 'Shishtachar' squads, also known as 'anti-eve teasing' squads.
- ❖ It aims to improve women's safety in the national capital.
- ❖ The initiative will "focus on enforcing the law, rather than imposing the personal or cultural morality on individuals".
- ❖ Each district will have the Squads led by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP).

Hmar and Zomi Tribe

- ❖ The Hmar Inpui and the Zomi Council agreed to work together for the peace in Manipur.
- ❖ Hmar tribe belongs to the larger Chin-Kuki-Mizo ethnic group.
- ❖ Zomis are part of the larger Zo ethnic group, which includes Mizo, Kuki, and Chin communities.
- ❖ Hmar speaks Hmar dialect, part of the Kuki-Chin-Mizo language family.
- ❖ Zomis speaks one of the Kukish language dialects within the Kuki-Chin linguistic family.

Special Category Status Demand – Bihar

- ❖ The government of Bihar made a fresh demand for special category status before the 16th Finance Commission.
- ❖ At the moment, no state has special category status.
- ❖ It was used to be under the Planning Commission.
- ❖ That classification ceased to exist with the Planning Commission.

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

- ❖ The mission aims to develop 300 clusters of villages while preserving rural community life and ensuring access to urban-like facilities in rural India.



- ❖ It is covering 34 States and UTs with the objective of bridging Rural-Urban divide.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has topped the national rankings with a score of 96.32, followed by Mizoram (93.96), Uttar Pradesh (92.37), and Telangana (91.87).

First Scientific Coal Mining Block

- ❖ The Meghalaya state government has inaugurated the first 'scientific' coal mining block at Saryngkham-A in the Byndihati area of the East Jaintia Hills district.
- ❖ The Wahkhian and Rashiang rivers drain the area.
- ❖ The Wahkhian, a tributary of the Wailong river, flows along the southern boundary of the coal block.

Megaliths in Kerala & Buddhist Finds in Odisha

- ❖ A huge number of the megalithic structures have been discovered during a recent archaeological excavation near the Malampuzha dam in Palakkad, Kerala.
- ❖ The ASI discovered ancient inscriptions at Kadapa's Lankkamala Reserve Forest in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The survey led to the discovery of three rock shelters.
- ❖ One of these contained prehistoric paintings depicting the animals, geometric patterns, and human figures.
- ❖ The paintings are dating back to the Megalithic (Iron Age) and the early historic periods (2500 BCE-2nd century CE).
- ❖ In Odisha's Ratnagiri, the three colossal Buddha heads, a brick stupa with a crisscross design, a rectangular chaitya complex, and a slew of votive stupas featuring deities like Tara, Chunda, and Manjusri were found.

Certification for Eri Silk

- ❖ The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC) has received the Oeko-Tex certification from Germany for Eri silk.
- ❖ Eri silk is primarily produced in the northeastern states of India, particularly in Assam, Meghalaya, and parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Manipur.
- ❖ Assam is especially known for its Eri silk production.
- ❖ It is also known as the "Ahimsa Silk" or "Peace Silk".
- ❖ It is produced without the killing of the silkworms, making it an eco-friendly and the sustainable choice.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Music Academy Awards	
R.K. Shriram kumar - Violinist	Sangita Kalanidhi Award
Urmila Satyanarayana - Dancer	Nritya Kalanidhi Award
Shyamala Venkateswaran – Vocalist T.R. Govindarajan - Thavil	Sangita Kala Acharya Awards
Madambi Subramania Namboothiri – Kathakali J.T. Jeyaraaj Krishnan and Jayasri Jeyaraaj Krishnan - Veena Players	Ttk Awards

ACM A.M. Turing Award 2024	
Andrew G. Barto	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Richard S. Sutton	University of Alberta

e-Toycathon 2025	
Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore for Play Mat Toy	First prize
Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida, for Robo-Mentor AI	Second prize
NIT Durgapur for Interactive Educational Chart	Third place

Hockey India Annual Awards 2024	
Harmanpreet and Savita (Men's and Women's Categories)	Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of the Year
Victorious Squad From 1975	Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award
Prasar Bharati	Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award



National Dhanwantri Ayurveda Awards 2025

Vaidya Tara Chand Sharma	Nadi Vaidya and Author
Vaidya Maya Ram Uniyal	Distinguished Scholar of Dravyaguna Vigyana
Vaidya Sameer Govind Jamadagni	Founder of the Vishwa Vyakhyanmala National Conference

Oscars 2025

Anora	Best Picture, Best Actress (Mikey Madison), Best Director, Best Film Editing and Best Original Screenplay
Adrien Brody – The Brutalist	Oscar for Best Actor
Zoe Saldaña – Emilia Pérez	Best Supporting Actress
I'm Still Here – Brazil	Best International Feature

Forbes India Leadership Awards (FILA) 2025

BrowserStack	Outstanding Startup of The Year
Ajay Singh Katrina Kaif	The Icons of Excellence Award
Jay Shah	Icons of Excellence
Rajesh Jejurikar	CEO of the Year

Kalai Chemmal Award 2024

A. Manivelu	Traditional Painting Category
V. Balachander and K. Kanniyappan	Sculpture Category
K. Muralitharan and A. Selvaraj	Modern Painting Category
N. Raghavan	Sculpture Category



Other Awards		
Prize/Awards	Awardee	Remarks
Jnanpith Award	Vinod Kumar Shukla	Hindi Poet and Novelist
Abel Prize 2025	Masaki Kashiwara	Japanese Mathematician
Stockholm Water Prize 2025	Günter Blöschl	A pioneer of water engineering of Austria

Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Award 2025

- ❖ The “Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Award Ceremony” was organised by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).
- ❖ This year’s “Prani Mitra Awards” were conferred to 5 individuals / organizations under five categories:
- ❖ AWBI has been established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.
- ❖ It aims to ensure that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering.

Festival of Letters 2025

- ❖ Sahitya Akademi under the Ministry of Culture is organizing its annual Festival of Letters in New Delhi.
- ❖ This is Asia’s Largest Literature Festival with about 700 writers from different parts of the country representing more than 50 languages.
- ❖ Theme of the festival is Indian Literary Traditions.

National Public Bus Transport Awards for 2023-24

- ❖ The State Transport Corporations of Tamil Nadu had bagged 19 National Public Bus Transport Awards for 2023-24.
- ❖ Kumbakonam Division, has bagged five National Public Bus Transport Awards given away by the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTU) for 2023-24.
- ❖ The TNSTC Salem and Madurai divisions had bagged four awards each.
- ❖ The State Express Transport Corporation won three awards.
- ❖ The MTC, Chennai got two awards and the TNSTC, Villupuram Division got one.



Ilaiyaraja symphony 2025

- ❖ The Veteran composer Ilaiyaraja has unveiled his "first-ever Western classical Symphony," Valiant, at London.
- ❖ He is the first musician from Asian cinema to achieve this feat in London.
- ❖ Ilaiyaraja recorded Valiant alongside the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.
- ❖ He is also among the first composers from India to utilise elements of Western classical music for film music, as well as the first to compose a full-length symphony.

Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0

- ❖ The Department of Fisheries, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, organised the Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0 in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The event aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, technological advancements and sustainability in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- ❖ During the conclave, the NFDP Mobile Application was launched.
- ❖ It is developed under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY).
- ❖ This app is designed to streamline access to government schemes, particularly benefiting startups and stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

RBI - Digital Transformation Award 2025

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has bagged the 2025 Digital Transformation Award of the Central Banking Award announced by the London-based Central Banking.
- ❖ The RBI was selected for this accolade in recognition of its Pravaah and Sarthi digital initiatives.
- ❖ The Sarthi system, named after the Hindi word for 'charioteer', was launched in January 2023 to digitise all of RBI's internal workflows.
- ❖ It enables employees to securely store and share documents, improving record management and enhancing data analysis through reports and dashboards.
- ❖ The Pravaah system, meaning 'smooth flow' in Hindi, was introduced in May 2024.
- ❖ This platform allows external users to submit regulatory applications digitally, seamlessly integrating with the Sarthi database for processing within the RBI's offices.



Sunita Williams 2025

- ❖ Astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, after a stay at the International Space Station (ISS) for more than nine months, have returned to Earth.
- ❖ Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams ended up spending 286 days in space.
- ❖ It is 278 days longer than anticipated when they launched.
- ❖ They had circled Earth 4,576 times and travelled 121 million miles (195 million kilometers) by the time of splashdown.
- ❖ With 62 hours over nine spacewalks, Williams set a record as the most time spent spacewalking over a career among female astronauts.
- ❖ Both NASA astronauts flew aboard NASA's Boeing Crew Flight Test to space on June 5 last year.
- ❖ The SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft can carry up to seven passengers on missions to Earth orbit and beyond.

4th Conference of Global Intelligence & Security Chiefs

- ❖ The National Security Advisor (NSA) of India hosted the 4th Conference of Global Intelligence and Security Chiefs.
- ❖ It has witnessed the participation of intelligence officials from over 20 countries including the chiefs of the Five Eyes Alliance.
- ❖ This high-level annual security dialogue organized as part of the Raisina Dialogue 2025.
- ❖ It is modelled on the lines of the annual Munich Security Conference and the Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.

30th Session of the ISA

- ❖ The 30th Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) commenced in Jamaica.
- ❖ Around 170 member states and the European Union convened to discuss deep-sea mining regulations.
- ❖ The ISA is an autonomous international organisation, formed in 1994.
- ❖ It was created when the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) became effective in 1982.
- ❖ ISA manages mining and related activities on the international seabed.
- ❖ Deep-sea mining involves extracting minerals from the ocean floor at depths greater than 200 metres.



Partnership for Healthy cities summit – 2025

- ❖ This Summit was co-hosted by the Bloomberg Philanthropies, the World Health Organisation (WHO), Vital Strategies, and the City of Paris.
- ❖ The Partnership for Healthy Cities is a global network of 74 cities working to prevent non-communicable diseases and injuries.
- ❖ Cordoba (Argentina), Fortaleza (Brazil) and Manchester (UK) were recognised by the WHO this year for their achievements in preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries.

SPORTS

2025 Archery Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament

- ❖ India topped the medal standings at the first leg of the Asia Cup World Ranking Archery tournament.
- ❖ It secured eight medals, including 5 gold, at the conclusion of competitions.
- ❖ South Korea finished second in the medal tally with five medals, including two gold.

Harry Brook Withdraws from IPL 2025

- ❖ England batsman Harry Brook pulled out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 for the second successive season.
- ❖ He was signed to Delhi Capitals for the new IPL season beginning later this month.
- ❖ The Player who registers for [an] auction and, after getting picked at the auction, makes himself unavailable before the start of the season will get banned from participating in the IPL/IPL auction for two seasons.

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025

- ❖ The New Delhi World Para Athletics Grand Prix was the first international para event hosted by India.
- ❖ It will be an annual event till 2028.
- ❖ India finished on top of the medal tally with a total haul of 134 - 45 gold, 40 silver, and 49 bronze.



Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025

- ❖ India secured 12 medals on the concluding day of the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy.
- ❖ India's total count stood 33, comprising 8 gold, 18 silver and 7 bronze medals.
- ❖ India has recorded 10 medals each in Snowshoeing and Alpine Skiing, six medals came in Snowboarding.
- ❖ The Short Track Speed Skating, Cross Country Skiing and Floorball brought the country four, two and one medal respectively.

Khelo India Para Games 2025

- ❖ Haryana once again finishing on top of the team standings with 34 gold medals in the second edition of the Khelo India Para Games 2025.
- ❖ Haryana once again dominated with a total of 104 medals (34 gold, 39 Silver, and 31 Bronze).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu climbed to the second position with 74 medals (28 gold, 19 Silver and 27 Bronze).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh had finished second the last time, finished in the third position with 64 medals (23 gold, 21 Silver, and 20 Bronze).

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Important Day	Theme
March 01	Zero Discrimination Day 2025	We stand together
March 01	World Civil Defense Day 2025	
March 01	World Seagrass Day 2025	
March 03	World Wildlife Day 2025	The Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet
March 03	World Hearing Day 2025	Changing mindsets: Empower yourself to make ear and hearing care a reality for all
March 03	World Obesity Day 2025	Changing System, Healthier Lives
March 04	National Safety Day 2025	Safety & Well-Being Crucial for Viksit Bharat



March 04	World Engineering Day 2025	Unleashing the power of the engineers to advance the Sustainable Development Goals
March 05	International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day 2025	–
March 06	World Dentist’s Day 2025	–
March 07	Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025	–
March 08	International Women's Day 2025	For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment
March 08	International Women’s Day 2025	Accelerate Action
March 10	International Day of Women Judges 2025	–
March 10	CISF Raising Day 2025	–
March 10	Commonwealth Day 2025	Together We Thrive
March 12	No Smoking Day	
March 13	World Kidney Day 2025	Are Your Kidneys OK? Detect early, protect kidney health
March 14	Pi Day 2025	–
March 14	International Day of Action for Rivers 2025	Our Rivers, Our Future
March 14	World Sleep Day	Make Sleep Health a Priority
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day 2025	A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles
March 16	National Vaccination Day 2025	–
March 18	Ordnance Factories Day	–
March 20	International Day of Happiness 2025	Caring and Sharing
March 20	World Sparrow Day 2025	A Tribute to Nature’s Tiny Messengers
March 20	World Oral Health Day 2025	A happy mouth is... A HAPPY MIND



March 20	Spring Equinoxes 2025	–
March 20	International Nowruz Day 2025	–
March 21	World Day for Glaciers 2025	–
March 21	International Day of Forests 2025	Forest and Food
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day 2025	Improve Our Support Systems
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2025	–
March 21	World Puppetry Day 2025	Robots, AI and the dream of the puppet?
March 22	World Water Day 2025	Glacier Preservation
March 22	113 th Bihar Statehood Day	Advanced Bihar, Developed Bihar
March 22	Earth Hour 2025	The Power of Nature
March 23	Shaheed Diwas 2025	–
March 23	World Meteorological Day 2025	Closing the early warning gap together
March 24	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2025	Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver
March 25	The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade 2025	Acknowledge the past. Repair the present. Build a future of dignity and justice
March 25	International Unborn Child Day 2025	–
March 27	World Theatre Day 2025	–



MILITARY EXERCISES

Exercise Name	Countries Involved	Venue
Sea Dragon 2025 Naval Exercise	India, Japan, Australia and Republic of Korea	Western Pacific Ocean
Joint Military Exercise Khanjar – XII	India and Kyrgyzstan	Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan
4th edition of Bilateral Exercise – BONGOSAGAR-23 6th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)	Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy	Northern Bay of Bengal
Maritime Security Belt 2025 Naval Exercise	Russia, Iran, and China	Gulf of Oman
Bilateral Naval Exercise ‘Varuna’ – 23rd edition	India and France	Goa coast

MISCELLANEOUS

Most Valuable Indian Brands of 2025

- ❖ Tata Group, with a brand value of \$31.6 billion, topped in the list.
- ❖ Following closely, Infosys stands as the second most valuable Indian brand.
- ❖ It has also been recognized as the third most valuable IT services brand globally for four consecutive years.
- ❖ It is followed by HDFC Group, with a brand value of \$14.2 billion, the Larsen and Toubro (L&T), valued at \$7.4 billion, and Jio Group, with a brand value of \$6.5 billion.
- ❖ LIC has emerged as the fastest-growing Indian brand in 2025.

The Freemasons Hall

- ❖ The Freemasons Hall, Chennai, completes a hundred years recently.
- ❖ The Lodge of Perfect Unanimity (PU), founded in 1786, is the senior-most.
- ❖ The District Grand Lodge (DGL) of Madras, the administrative body for all lodges in the Presidency, came into existence in 1866.



- ❖ It was designed by the architect's firm of Jackson & Barker.
- ❖ The Freemasons Hall was inaugurated by Governor Lord Goschen on February 26, 1925.

Time Use Survey 2024

- ❖ The second All-India Time Use Survey, 2024 was recently released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- ❖ The time spent by females in a day on unpaid domestic services for household members reduced by 10 minutes to 289 minutes in 2024.
- ❖ It was 299 minutes in 2019.
- ❖ Females spent 201 more minutes in a day in unpaid domestic services for the household members than their male counterparts last year.
- ❖ Females also spent 62 more minutes in a day in unpaid caregiving activities for household members than males.
- ❖ The share of unpaid household work for females aged 15-59 years remained high as they spent 305 minutes in such work in 2024.
- ❖ For employment and related activities, however, men spent 132 minutes more than females (341 minutes by females, 473 minutes by males).
- ❖ Overall, around 83.9 per cent females participated in the unpaid activities during a day in 2024.
- ❖ It is almost the same as the level of 84.0 per cent in 2019.
- ❖ For paid activities, their share increased 20.6 per cent in 2024 from 17.1 per cent in 2019.
- ❖ The participation rate of males in unpaid activities increased to 45.8 per cent in 2024 from 43.9 per cent in 2019.
- ❖ For paid work, their share increased to 60.5 per cent from 54.8 per cent.
- ❖ Males spent 415 minutes in a learning activity in 2024 as against 426 minutes earlier in 2019.
- ❖ Females spent 413 minutes in such activities in 2024, down from 423 minutes in 2019.

India Philanthropy Report 2025

- ❖ The social sector funding has grown by about 13% over the past five years to reach ₹25 lakh crore in FY24.
- ❖ Social sector funding is projected to reach ₹45 lakh crore in FY29.



- ❖ The NITI Aayog estimates that the sector is short by about ₹14 lakh crore.
- ❖ This funding gap will widen to ₹16 lakh crore by FY29, according to the 2025 report.
- ❖ Social spending is largely led by the public sector, which constitutes 95% of the total funding.
- ❖ Public sector funding stood at ₹23 lakh crore in FY24 and is expected to reach ₹43 lakh crore in the next five years.
- ❖ Public sector spending, as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product stood at 7.9% in FY24, up from 6.8% in FY19.
- ❖ In FY24, private spending reached ₹1.31 lakh crore, up just 7% from FY23.

Petrified fossil – Jharkhand

- ❖ Geologists have unearthed a rare and well-preserved petrified fossil at Rajmahal Hills near Barmasia village in Pakur district.
- ❖ It is estimated to be around 100-145 million years old.
- ❖ The fossil of this magnitude was the first in situ discovery in not only Jharkhand but also the country.
- ❖ The group of explorers discovered an around 20ft tree, divided into 14 parts.

S&P Global Sustainability Rankings 2025

- ❖ The Yes Bank has emerged as India's highest-rated bank in sustainability for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ It is the only Indian lender included in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2025.
- ❖ This is a listing of the top 15% of the global banking leaders based on ESG performance.

Linguistic Data in India

- ❖ Non-Hindi speakers are generally more open to learning new languages, whereas Hindi speakers exhibit lower multilingualism.
- ❖ In 1991, 84.5% of native Tamil speakers in Tamil Nadu (those who speak Tamil as their first language in the state) were monolingual, a figure that dropped to 78% by 2011.
- ❖ Similarly, the share of native Odia speakers in Odisha who were monolingual declined from 86% to 74.5%.



- ❖ In contrast, States where Hindi is the predominant first language already had a high share of monolinguals, and in many cases, this share increased over time.
- ❖ For instance, in 1991, 90.2% of Hindi speakers in undivided Bihar were the monolingual.
- ❖ By 2011, in the divided Bihar, this figure had risen to 95.2%.
- ❖ Similarly, in Rajasthan, the share of monolinguals among the Hindi speakers had increased from 93% in 1991 to 94.3% in 2011.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, 13.5% of native Tamil speakers also spoke the English in 1991, a figure that rose to 18.5% by 2011.
- ❖ In contrast, in Haryana, the share of native Hindi speakers who also spoke the English declined from 17.5% to 14.6% over the same period.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, only 0.5% of native Tamil speakers also spoke Hindi in 1991, a figure that rose slightly to 1.3% in 2011.
- ❖ But, the share of native language speakers who also spoke Hindi saw a significant increase in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Selenium and Hair Loss

- ❖ Wheat supplied through government ration or PDS shops, imported from Punjab and Haryana contained dangerously high amounts of selenium.
- ❖ Selenium helps our bodies fight oxidative damage and supports thyroid hormone function.
- ❖ But, too much of it can lead to a condition called the selenosis, which causes hair loss, brittle nails, skin problems, and other health issues.
- ❖ The unwashed wheat had 14.52 mg per kilogram of the selenium, and even the washed wheat had 13.61 mg per kilogram.
- ❖ These are almost eight times the safe level of 1.9 mg/kg, which is normal for wheat.
- ❖ The rocks of the range contain selenium naturally, and in the rainy season, rainwater dissolves these rocks and carries selenium-rich sediments.
- ❖ The sediments get dissolved in water and drain through the Punjab's agricultural lands, enriching the soil with selenium.

Animal Rescue Facility – Vantara

- ❖ The project, which was spread over 3,500 acres, has the “world’s largest cheetah conservation project”.



- ❖ Vantara is to be home to more than 2,000 species and over 1.5 lakh rescued, endangered, and threatened animals from across the world.
- ❖ The Central government recently conferred Vantara with the prestigious 'Prani Mitra' National Award, India's highest honour in animal welfare.

Wallace Line in Biodiversity

- ❖ In the late 19th century, the English naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace had noticed a dramatic shift in the composition of the organisms as he moved from Asia to Australia, New Guinea, and other islands nearby.
- ❖ He posited an invisible barrier in the ocean, later called the Wallace line.
- ❖ It was running between the islands of Bali and Lombok, striking north between Borneo and Sulawesi before curving south of Mindanao.
- ❖ West of the Wallace Line consists of monkeys, apes, rhinos, squirrels, tigers, and hornbills, which are characteristic of the Asian ecosystem.
- ❖ East of the Wallace Line includes the tree kangaroos, cockatoos, and honeyeaters, linked to the Australian ecosystem.
- ❖ The region between the Wallace Line and the Weber Line is known as Wallacea.
- ❖ This Isolated Wallacean islands have lower biodiversity than nearby continents and host unique species like the Komodo dragon, babirusa, and giant bees.

Lankamala Shaivite Centre – Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Mysore, has uncovered some ancient inscriptions and prehistoric rock art in Lankamala Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ They have documented 12 label inscriptions written in Siddhamatrika, Shankha script, and Devanagari.
- ❖ The findings are dating from the fourth to 16th century Common Era (CE).
- ❖ It indicates that Lankamala was a major Shaivite pilgrimage centre visited by the North Indian devotees.
- ❖ The team also identified 15 additional label inscriptions, including 14 in the rare Shankha script and one in Brahmi.
- ❖ This marks the 1st discovery of Shankha script inscriptions in the Rayalaseema region.
- ❖ A significant find was 2 inscriptions on the same rock from different periods,



- One in Brahmi from the 4th century and
- Another in Shankha script from the 6th century, providing insights into the evolution of writing styles in South India.
- ❖ The team also uncovered three rock shelters, one containing the prehistoric rock paintings.
- ❖ The site is believed to date back to the Megalithic (Iron Age) and Early Historic periods (2500 BCE - 2nd century CE).

Shingles disease

- ❖ The Shingles Awareness Week was observed during February 24 to March 2.
- ❖ A new global survey shows that 56.6% of Indian participants aged 50 and above know little to nothing about shingles.
- ❖ More than 90% of the adults above 50 years have this virus in their body, and are vulnerable to the disease.
- ❖ Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus (VZV), the same virus that causes chickenpox.
- ❖ Shingles is a painful disease that can have serious and have very long-lasting complications.

World's most expensive cattle 2025

- ❖ Viatina-19, An Indian-origin cow, is the world's most expensive cattle.
- ❖ The cow - Viatina-19 - was sold for Rs 40 crore at an auction in Minas Gerais, Brazil in 2023.
- ❖ The cow reportedly weighs around 1,101 kg, twice the average weight of other cows of the same Nellore breed.
- ❖ Viatina-19 belongs to the Nellore breed, also known as the Ongole breed, which was first brought to Brazil in the 1800s
- ❖ Viatina-19 won Miss South America at the "Champion of the World" competition in Fort Worth, Texas.
- ❖ The Nellore breed is well known for its ability to adapt to tropical climates and disease resistance.
- ❖ Brazil is now the world's largest breeder of Nellore cattle.
- ❖ The breed has also been exported to Argentina, Paraguay, Venezuela, Central America, Mexico, the United States, and numerous other nations.



- ❖ At least 80 per cent of cows in Brazil are Zebu cattle, a subspecies that originated in India and is distinguished by its hump and dewlap.

YouGov India Value Rankings 2025

- ❖ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) has been ranked as the 3rd most valued brand in India in the prestigious YouGov India Value Rankings 2025.
- ❖ Amul is the only Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand in the top three list.
- ❖ Amazon ranks first with a score of 56.5, followed by Flipkart at 53.0.
- ❖ They cover six key industries, which includes airlines, electronics, automobiles, insurance, travel booking, and e-commerce.

World's Oldest Impact Crater

- ❖ In the Western Australia, the researchers have found the oldest meteorite impact crater in the world.
- ❖ It is estimated that a huge meteorite struck the Earth 3.5 billion years ago, creating the North Pole Dome Site in the Pilbara region.

Geet Gawai welcome

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister received a traditional Bihari welcome in Mauritius by the Indian diaspora.
- ❖ Women welcomed him with a Bihari cultural performance known as Geet Gawai.
- ❖ Geet Gawain is a traditional Bhojpuri musical ensemble that embodies the rich cultural heritage brought to Mauritius by women from the Bhojpuri belt of India.
- ❖ It was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2016.
- ❖ During this 2-day visit, the PM received Mauritius' highest honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.

CAR T-Cell Therapy for Cancer

- ❖ The clinical trial results of India's first CAR T-cell therapy worked for nearly 73 per cent of patients.
- ❖ This is the first clinical trial of a CAR T-cell therapy from India to be published in an international journal.



- ❖ CAR T-cell therapy, or chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy, trains the body's own immune cells to identify and destroy cancer cells.

Mobile Broadband Index

- ❖ Nokia disclosed the findings of its annual Mobile Broadband Index (MBiT).
- ❖ India saw a three-fold year-on-year increase in 5G data traffic in 2024.
- ❖ The average monthly data consumption per user will increase to 27.5 gigabytes in 2024.
- ❖ The number of active 5G devices doubling year-on-year to reach 271 million in 2024.

Global Funding for Women-Led Startups in 2024

- ❖ The global tech sector has over 69,000 women-founded tech companies, which have collectively raised \$309 billion in funding to date.
- ❖ In 2024, women-led startups accounted for only 11.7% of total funding.
- ❖ Women-led tech companies globally secured \$29.6 billion in 2024.
- ❖ It was representing an 11% decline from \$33.1 billion in 2023 and a 21% drop from \$37.5 billion in 2022.
- ❖ India is home to over 7,000 active women-led startups, accounting for 7.5% of all active startups in the country.
- ❖ It has ranked at second rank after the US in terms of all-time funding raised by companies with women founders, with total capital mobilisation at \$26 billion.

High-Growth Companies Asia-Pacific 2025

- ❖ Lendbox, an Indian peer-to-peer lending platform, has topped the Financial Times and Statista's ranking of 500 high-growth Asia-Pacific companies.
- ❖ Other notable Indian firms like BluSmart (6th), Meesho (72nd), Titan Company (301st), Aditya Birla Capital (374th), and Havells (396th) also secured spots on the prestigious list.
- ❖ In total, 81 companies from India made it to the list.
- ❖ Singapore was the city and country with the most companies on the ranking this year, with 108.



Vikramashila university

- ❖ The Centre had initially allocated Rs 500 crore for its development in 2015.
- ❖ The state government approves Rs 87.99 crore for the acquisition of land at Antichak village now in Bihar.
- ❖ Nalanda university flourished from the Gupta Period (320-550 AD) to the 12th Century, Vikramashila thrived during the Pala Period.
- ❖ It was founded by Pala king Dharmapala of the Pala dynasty in the late 8th to early 9th Century AD.

Lapis Lazuli - Afghanistan

- ❖ Lapis lazuli is a vividly blue rock, sometimes with streaks of gold and used as a semi-precious gemstone.
- ❖ It gets its colour from the presence of an unusual mineral called lazurite (25-40%).
- ❖ Its blueness depends on the amount and structure of sulphur in this mineral.
- ❖ Lapis lazuli has been found in many countries so far, including Chile, Russia, and the US.
- ❖ But the highest quality of rock comes from Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, where people have been mining it for more than 6,000 years.
- ❖ The rock gets its name from two languages: lapis is the Latin for 'stone' whereas 'lazuli' comes from the Persian word lazward, meaning 'blue'.

