



# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 01-28, 2025

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## Foot Prints (Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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# TAMIL NADU

## ➤ **New Wetlands in Tamil Nadu 2025**

- ✓ Two bird sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district – Sakkarakottai and Therthangal – have been designated as Ramsar sites.



- ✓ With this, the State has 20 Ramsar sites and continues to have the highest number of Ramsar sites in India.
  - ✓ Uttar Pradesh follows with 10 sites.
  - ✓ Ramanathapuram hosts two other Ramsar sanctuaries, that is Chitrangudi and Kanjirankulam.
  - ✓ Other 2 new sites are the Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim), and the Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand).
  - ✓ Thus, now India hosts total of 89 Ramsar sites.
- **Economic Survey spotlights State's efforts to foster footwear manufacturing and provide education to students at doorstep**



- ✓ The Economic Survey 2024-25, tabled in Parliament on Friday by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, highlights the Tamil Nadu government's strategic initiatives to foster footwear manufacturing and Illam Thedi Kalvi (education at the doorstep).

- ✓ “Tamil Nadu is a leader in the traditional leather sector and now championing the growth of nonleather footwear.
  - ✓ The State contributes a 38% share to India’s footwear and leather products output and accounts for 47% of India’s total leather export.
  - ✓ This sector generates more than 2 lakh jobs,” the survey says.
- **India’s First White Tiger Breeding Centre**
- ✓ Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved India’s first white tiger breeding centre in Madhya Pradesh’s Rewa district.



- ✓ This initiative marks a significant step in wildlife conservation, especially since Rewa is historically linked to the last known wild white tiger.
  - ✓ The project, initially approved in principle in 2011, will be established in Govindgarh, near the state’s only white tiger safari in Mukundpur.
  - ✓ The breeding centre is expected to enhance biodiversity conservation, promote wildlife tourism, and create job opportunities for the local population.
- **Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 3.0**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will soon formulate and announce a policy for climate literacy.



- ✓ “We are going to spread climate awareness to all sections of people through students,” said Chief Minister MK Stalin in his inaugural speech at the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 3.0 in Chennai on Tuesday.
  - ✓ One of the important measures on the mission is setting up eco-clubs in all schools in Tamil Nadu,” he added.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu government plans to educate about climate change through education.
  - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has declared the heat wave as a state calamity and notified it in the gazette.
  - ✓ Climate change is the biggest challenge facing the world and human society today.
- **Udhayanidhi Stalin Opens Birds Park in Tiruchirappalli**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin inaugurated a birds park at Kamarasampettai, built under Namakku Naame Thittam for ₹18.63 crore.



- ✓ Spanning 4.02 acres, the aviary features birds categorized by Tamil Sangam landscapes & attractions like a 7D theatre and koi fish pond.
  - ✓ The scheme promotes public participation in community infrastructure; work began in November 2023.
- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0**
- ✓ Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0 is scheduled from 15th to 24th February 2025.



- ✓ It involves around 1080 delegates from Tamil Nadu, including students, teachers, farmers, professionals, and artists.
- ✓ The event is organised by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with other ministries and aims to celebrate the cultural and historical links between the two regions.
- ✓ The theme for this edition is Maharishi Agasthiyar, a revered figure in Tamil culture.
- **Five major dams in the State to be rehabilitated soon**
- ✓ Five major dams in the State, which are over five decades old, are proposed to be rehabilitated soon under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)-II with World Bank assistance.



- ✓ The projects, which aim to ensure dam safety and improve the operation of the structures, are in various stages of implementation.
- ✓ The Water Resources Department (WRD) would soon start work to rehabilitate Vaigai dam and carry out catchment area treatment works at a cost of nearly ₹20 crore.
- **Tamil Nadu to set up Eco Clubs in all Schools to advance Climate Education**
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday announced that eco clubs would be established in all schools in Tamil Nadu, as part of the government's plan to teach students about climate change and its impact from a young age.



- ✓ Participating in the inaugural of the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 3.0, he said the government would soon introduce a policy on climate education, aimed at raising climate awareness among all sections of society through students.
- **Now, 108 ambulances can be tracked with mobile phones**



- ✓ After a pilot run, the 108 ambulance network has rolled out its app – ‘Avasaram 108 Tamilnadu’ – that will now enable persons seeking ambulances for medical emergencies to track the vehicles on their mobile phones, not only through the app but also by SMS.
- ✓ Those who call the 108 Emergency Response Centre on their mobile phones will receive an SMS with a link for real-time tracking of the ambulances.
- **New members to SC/ST Commission 2025**
- ✓ Noted writer and Sahitya Akademi Award recipient Imayam alias V. Annamalai has been named the Vice-Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for SC/ST.
- ✓ S. Selvakumar (Coimbatore district), S. Ananda Raja (Thanjavur), M. Pon Dhus (the Nilgiris) and P. Ilanchezian (Tirunelveli) were the other members of the Commission.
- ✓ The members of the commission have three-year tenure.
- ✓ It appointed a retired Madras High Court Judge S. Tamilvanan as Chairperson.

➤ **Chief Minister's Pharmacies**

- ✓ The Tamilnadu State government plans to open 1,000 Mudhalvar Marunthagam (Chief Minister's Pharmacies) across the State by the end of this month.



- ✓ The initiative aims at providing medicines at prices lower than those offered at cooperative, Amma, and Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi pharmacies.
- ✓ These pharmacies will offer 186 varieties of generic medicines, along with Siddha, Ayurveda, Unani, IMCAPS, DAMCAL, surgical, and nutraceutical products.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) will procure the quality medicines and sell them at a 10% discount price compared to other government pharmacies.

# STATE

## ➤ Himachal Pradesh Launches Cannabis Farming Pilot Project



- ✓ In response to increasing demand for cannabis cultivation and global recognition of its medicinal, agricultural, and industrial value, the Himachal Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, approved a pilot project for cannabis (hemp) farming.
- ✓ The project aims to explore the potential benefits of cannabis cultivation in the region, with an emphasis on its medicinal and industrial uses.

## ➤ Himachal Sets Stage for North India's First Green Hydrogen Facility

- ✓ In a significant step toward green energy transition, Himachal Pradesh has initiated North India's first Green Hydrogen Plant at Dabhota in Nalagarh, situated in the state's industrial belt of Baddi-Brotiwala and Nalagarh near Chandigarh.



- ✓ Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu laid the foundation stone for the 1 MW plant, which aligns with the state's goal of becoming India's first green state by March 31, 2026.

- ✓ The plant is expected to be operational within a year and will contribute to reducing carbon emissions by utilizing renewable energy sources for hydrogen production.

➤ **Govt Approves Nilgai Culling in Haryana**

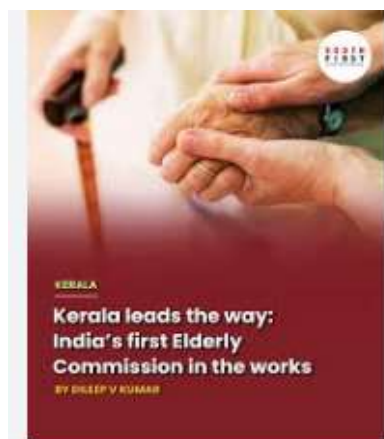
- ✓ The Haryana government has recently introduced new Wildlife (Protection) Rules allowing the shooting of male Nilgais, also known as blue bulls.



- ✓ This decision aims to address the growing human-wildlife conflict, particularly the damage Nilgais cause to agriculture.
- ✓ However, it has sparked protests from environmentalists and local communities, particularly the Bishnoi community, who consider Nilgais sacred.
- ✓ Critics argue that culling is neither ethical nor a sustainable solution to the issue.

➤ **India's First Elderly Commission**

- ✓ Kerala is set to establish India's first Elderly Commission.

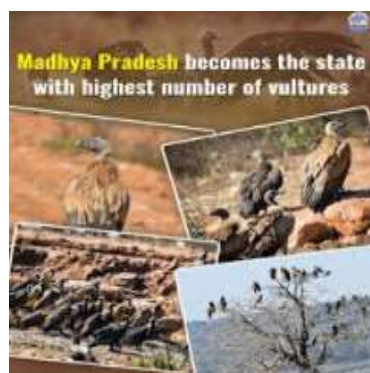


- ✓ It aims to address the challenges of its rapidly ageing population, ensuring senior citizens' rights, welfare, and social integration.
- ✓ The state's proportion of people aged 60 and above, which stood at 12.6 percent in 2011, is projected to rise to 22.8 percent by 2036.

- ✓ Kerala's elderly population is growing at an annual rate of 4 percent – higher than the national average of 3.3 percent.
- ✓ Kerala's elderly population is projected to reach 8.4 million by 2036.
- **Nayanamritham 2.0**
- ✓ Kerala launched the world's first AI-driven chronic eye disease screening program 'Nayanamritham 2.0'.



- ✓ This initiative uses artificial intelligence to enhance early detection and streamline eye disease screening.
- ✓ It will make quality eye care more accessible and efficient across the state.
- ✓ Nayanamritham 2.0 has expanded its scope to include screening for two other major chronic eye diseases such as glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).
- ✓ This initiative will also empower healthcare providers to deliver better patient care.
- **Madhya Pradesh Now Home to India's Highest Vulture Population**
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the state with the highest vulture population in India, marking a major success in wildlife conservation.



- ✓ According to the first phase of the 2025 vulture census, the state's vulture population has reached 12,981, a significant increase from 10,845 in 2024 and 8,397 in 2019.
- ✓ This steady rise highlights the effectiveness of conservation measures implemented over the years.



# NATIONAL

## ➤ Union Budget 2025-26

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget 2025-26 in the Lok Sabha.



- ✓ It will be the second budget of the Narendra Modi government in its third term.
- ✓ This will be Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's eighth consecutive budget presentation since taking office in 2019.
- ✓ On 1st February 2021, Finance Minister Sitharaman presented the first paperless budget, and the digital budget has been presented ever since then.
- ✓ The first part of the budget session will be held till 13th February, while the second leg of the session will be held from 10th March to 4th April.

## ➤ India Adds 4 New Ramsar Sites

- ✓ Centre has announced the addition of four new Ramsar sites in India, taking the tally to 89.



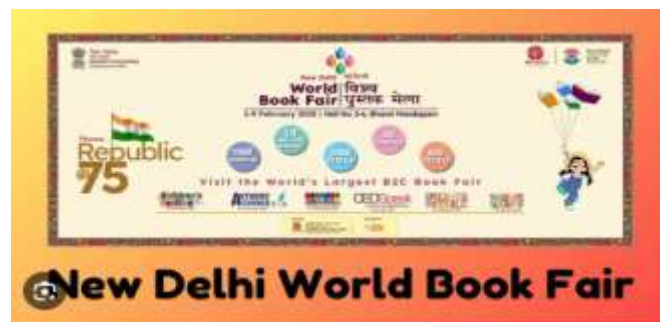
- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that ahead of World Wetlands Day, the government announced that Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary and Therthangal Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Khecheopalri Wetland

in Sikkim, and Udhwa Lake in Jharkhand have been included in the list of Ramsar sites in the country.

- ✓ Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav shared that India still stands as the country with the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia and third in the world.
- ✓ He congratulated Tamil Nadu for becoming the state with the maximum number of Ramsar sites, with a tally of 20.

### ➤ **World Book Fair 2025**

- ✓ New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 will commence on 1st February at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.



- ✓ This year, the fair's theme is 'We the People of India', commemorating 75 years of the Republic of India.
- ✓ The nine-day fair will be inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu. Speaking to Akashvani News, the Director of the National Book Trust, Yuvraj Malik, highlighted that this year, Russia is the focus country of the fair, and over 50 countries will participate, including France, Argentina, Spain, Colombia, UAE, and Qatar.
- ✓ He added that nearly two thousand publishers and one thousand speakers will attend the fair.

### ➤ **Watershed Yatra**



- ✓ Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the national-level mass outreach campaign “Watershed Yatra” on February 4, 2025, to promote awareness and active participation in watershed development activities under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).
  - ✓ The campaign aims to engage people in soil and water conservation efforts and promote sustainable natural resource management, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity, livelihoods, and environmental health across India.
- **India’s First AI University**
- ✓ Maharashtra is set to establish India’s first Artificial Intelligence (AI) university, marking a significant step in advancing AI education, research, and innovation.



- ✓ A task force has been formed to plan and implement the project, bringing together experts from academia, industry, and government.
  - ✓ The university aims to promote research and development, enhance technological innovation, support skill development, and shape AI policies, making Maharashtra a global hub for AI education and innovation.
  - ✓ A task force has been created for planning and implementation.
- **100 GW In Solar Power**
- ✓ India has achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 100 Giga Watt (GW) of installed solar power capacity, reinforcing its position as a global leader in renewable energy.



- ✓ It marks a significant step toward realizing the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030.
- ✓ Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, mentioned that initiatives like solar panels, solar parks, and rooftop solar projects have brought about revolutionary changes.
- ✓ In 2014, the country had a limited solar module production capacity of just 2 GW. Over the past decade, this has surged to 60 GW in 2024, establishing India as a global leader in solar manufacturing.
- **India to Host First Regional Social Justice Dialogue in 2025**
- ✓ India is set to host the first-ever Regional Dialogue on the Global Coalition for Social Justice on February 24-25, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.



- ✓ Organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Employers' Federation of India (EFI), the event aims to bring together global stakeholders to discuss inclusive and sustainable social policies.
- **New Income Tax Bill 2025**
- ✓ The New Income Tax Bill 2025 aims to modernise and simplify India's income tax framework.



- ✓ Scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2026, the bill introduces several changes while maintaining existing tax rates and principles.
- ✓ It focuses on clarity, coherence, and ease of understanding for taxpayers, addressing long-standing complexities in the current tax legislation.
- ✓ The bill is guided by three core principles – simplification of language and structure, continuity in tax policy, and preservation of existing tax rates.

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# SCHEMES

## ➤ Skill India Programme

- ✓ On 7 February, the continuation and restructuring of the 'Skill India Programme (SIP)' till 2026, with an outlay of Rs 8,800 crore for the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, has been approved by the Union Cabinet.



- ✓ The government has combined three components—Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0), Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS), and the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme—under the composite central sector scheme, the Skill India Programme (SIP).
- ✓ The government has launched these initiatives to provide structured skill development, on-the-job training (OJT), and community-based learning, ensuring that both urban and rural populations, including marginalized communities, have access to high-quality vocational education.

## ➤ Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWRs

- ✓ The Government of India has announced measures to improve credit access for farmers.



- ✓ A ₹1,000 crore allocation for the Credit Guarantee Scheme for electronic-Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs) aims to transform agricultural financing.
- ✓ This initiative is part of the Digital India Mission and includes the e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi (e-KUN) programme.
- ✓ This programme provides farmers with low-interest loans through e-NWRs, protecting them from distress sales.

➤ **Pink Auto Scheme: State Government to Amend Rules**

- ✓ In line with the announcement made by Minister for Social Welfare P. Geetha Jeevan for introducing “pink autos” in Chennai to ensure the safety of women, the State government has proposed to amend the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.



- ✓ According to the draft amendment, the initiative would pave the way for autorickshaws owned and driven by women drivers, under the “pink auto scheme” of the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department.
- ✓ He said that the autorickshaws would help women passengers commute safely.

# INTERNATIONAL

## ➤ International Big Cat Alliance Officially Established

- ✓ The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was officially established as a treaty-based intergovernmental organization.



- ✓ Five founding countries signed the Framework Agreement, marking milestone in wildlife conservation.
- ✓ The IBCA was created after the approval of the Indian Union Cabinet on 29 February 2024.
- ✓ The headquarters is located in India.
- ✓ Currently, 27 countries have expressed their commitment to join the alliance.
- ✓ The primary goal of the IBCA is to conserve seven major big cats – Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

## ➤ Indian Ocean Strategic Venture

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump will activate new initiatives under the Quad grouping.



- ✓ PM Modi and President Trump launched a new bilateral forum, the Indian Ocean Strategic Venture.

- ✓ It will be a forum for advance coordinated investments in economic connectivity and commerce.
  - ✓ Both leaders recognised the need to build “new plurilateral partnerships in the Western Indian Ocean, Middle East, and Indo-Pacic.
  - ✓ Quad grouping comprises India, Japan, Australia and the United States.
- **India Takes Chairmanship Of Bay Of Bengal Organisation**
- ✓ India has recently assumed the Chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) from Bangladesh.



- ✓ This transition took place during the 13th Governing Council Meeting held in Malé, Maldives.
- ✓ The BOBP-IGO was established in 2003.
- ✓ Its primary aim is to assist member countries in enhancing livelihood opportunities for small-scale fisherfolk in the Bay of Bengal region.
- ✓ Current member countries include Bangladesh, Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

➤ **Gold Card Investor Visa Programme**

- ✓ United States President Donald Trump has announced a new gold card investor visa programme for wealthy immigrants, replacing the existing EB-5 visa.



- ✓ Speaking at the Oval Office, Trump said the companies can buy immigration Gold Cards on payment of 5 million dollars for highly talented employees to deal with the uncertainties of work visas and green cards.

- ✓ He described the initiative as green card privileges plus an upgrade from the green card system.



# INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

## ➤ India and the Philippines

- ✓ A statue of noted Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar has been unveiled in the Philippines.



- ✓ An official statement, it was unveiled at the Gullas College of Medicine in Cebu as part of the celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines.
  - ✓ The statement said that Indian Ambassador Harsh Kumar Jain unveiled the statue and attended the Indo-Philippine Cultural and Educational Exchange Summit at the college.
- **India, U.S. to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030**
- ✓ India and the U.S. agreed to negotiate the first segment of a trade agreement by the autumn of 2025, with India looking to increase energy purchases from the U.S. to address U.S.



- ✓ President Donald Trump's concerns about the U.S.'s trade deficit with India, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Mr. Trump for bilateral discussions in Washington.



# CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

## ➤ **BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025**

- ✓ BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 begins in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



- ✓ The BIMSTEC Youth Summit will take place from 7th to 11th February 2025.
- ✓ BIMSTEC Youth Summit aimed to bring together youths of BRICS countries on a unified platform to exchange their experiences and insights.
- ✓ This summit is centred around the theme “Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange”.
- ✓ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization of India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan.

## ➤ **Paris AI Summit**

- ✓ Paris AI Summit was co-chaired by India and France at the Grand Palais, Paris.



- ✓ The declaration aimed to regulate Frontier AI systems (advanced AI) to prevent misuse (terrorism, crime).
- ✓ Jointly chaired by PM Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, it witnessed the participation of over 90 countries.
- ✓ During the summit, French President Macron is pushing for tech sovereignty.

➤ **India to Host Next Global AI Summit**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will host the next Global AI Summit, following discussions at the AI Action Summit in Paris.



- ✓ The summit, co-chaired by PM Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, focused on fostering global cooperation in AI development.
- ✓ India's leadership in AI, its commitment to inclusivity, and the establishment of key AI initiatives were highlighted during the event.

➤ **World Government Summit 2025**

- ✓ The World Government Summit (WGS) 2025 commenced on February 10, 2025, in Dubai, UAE.



- ✓ This 12th edition of the summit is centred around the theme "Shaping Future Governments".
- ✓ It has garnered unprecedented international participation, featuring over 30 heads of state and more than 400 ministers.
- ✓ The event runs until February 14 and includes various forums addressing critical issues in governance, innovation, and sustainable development.

➤ **Indian Ocean Conference 2025**

- ✓ The 8th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) commenced in Muscat on February 16-17, 2025.



- ✓ This year's theme is Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership.
- ✓ The conference aims to enhance inclusivity and encourage new partnerships within the maritime sector.
- ✓ It gathers participants from over 60 countries and international organisations.
- ✓ This reflects the strategic significance of the Indian Ocean region and the necessity for collaborative solutions.

#### ➤ **Waste Recycling and Climate Change 2025 Conclave**

- ✓ On February 18, 2025, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated the 'Waste Recycling and Climate Change 2025' conclave, organized by the Recycling and Environment Industry Association of India (REIAI).



- ✓ The event focused on how waste recycling can contribute to environmental sustainability and economic growth in India.
- ✓ The minister highlighted the importance of transitioning to a circular economy, which can reduce waste, improve resource efficiency, and generate employment.

#### ➤ **Global Investors Summit**

- ✓ On February 24, the Global Investors Summit (GIS) inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.



- ✓ The two-day summit organised departmental summits and special sessions on pharma and medical devices, transport and logistics, industry, skill development, tourism and MSME, etc.
  - ✓ It also included international sessions such as the Global South Country Conference, the Latin America and Caribbean Session, and special sessions for key partner countries.
  - ✓ Three major industrial exhibitions were held during the Summit: the Auto Show, the Textile and Fashion Expo, and the “One District-One Product” (ODOP) Village.
- **First Conference for Women Peacekeepers in New Delhi**
- ✓ The Conference on the theme “Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective” took place in New Delhi.



- ✓ The conference is being organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping.
- ✓ The conference brings together the participation of women peacekeepers from 35 troop-contributing countries from Global South.

➤ **Prakriti 2025: Advancing India's Carbon Market**

- ✓ The first International Conference on Carbon Markets, Prakriti 2025, was held in New Delhi on February 24-25, 2025, marking a crucial moment in India's climate action strategy.



- ✓ Organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power, the event brought together over 600 delegates, including policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and international experts, to discuss the future of carbon markets in India.
- **Bharat Calling Conference 2025: A Vision for Viksit Bharat 2047**
- ✓ In a significant move towards shaping India's economic future, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, inaugurated the 'Bharat Calling Conference 2025', organized by the IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Mumbai.



- ✓ The conference, themed 'Path to Viksit Bharat 2047: Pioneering Prosperity for All', underscores India's pivotal role in global economic growth and its potential as a leading investment destination.
- ✓ With a resilient economy, a large consumer market, and business-friendly government policies, India is set to attract investments across diverse sectors.

# DEFENCE

## ➤ DRDO Successfully Tests VSHORAD System

- ✓ DRDO conducted three consecutive successful flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) system, targeting low-altitude, high-speed threats.



- ✓ The missile intercepted and destroyed targets mimicking low-flying drones, demonstrating precision and effectiveness.
- ✓ The tests were carried out in a final deployment configuration, showcasing the system's readiness and capability.

## ➤ India-Maldives Military Exercise 'Ekuverin': Strengthening Bilateral Defence

- ✓ The 13th edition of the joint India-Maldives military exercise 'Ekuverin' is being hosted by the Maldives from 2-15 February 2025.



- ✓ This biennial exercise, which alternates between India and the Maldives, is a cornerstone of the Defence cooperation between the two nations.
- ✓ The inaugural ceremony of the 13th Ekuverin exercise was held on 2 February 2025 at the Official Composite Training Center of the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) in Maafilaafushi, Maldives.

➤ **Exercise TROPEX**

- ✓ The Indian Navy's biennial capstone Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX) is currently being conducted in the Indian Ocean Region from January to March.



- ✓ The exercise involves a combined fleet of approximately 65 Indian Navy ships, nine submarines, and over 80 aircraft of various types.
  - ✓ This operational-level exercise is conducted biennially with substantial participation of all operational units of the Navy as well as the Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard. TROPEX-25 aims to validate the Indian Navy's core war fighting skills and enhance its operational readiness.
- **Joint Military Exercise 'Cyclone 2025'**
- ✓ A significant military collaboration between India and Egypt has commenced today with the launch of the joint exercise 'Cyclone 2025'.



- ✓ This exercise, taking place at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, is set to run for 14 days.
- ✓ Aimed at bolstering the defense ties between the two countries, it focuses on enhancing the interoperability of special forces while sharing professional skills in challenging desert environments.

- **Indian Army and IAF Execute 'Winged Raider' in Eastern Theater**
- ✓ The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) have successfully conducted the joint military exercise 'Winged Raider' in the Eastern Theater.



- ✓ This strategic drill focused on special airborne operations to enhance coordination between the two forces.
  - ✓ The exercise, held in a key operational zone, is part of efforts to improve rapid deployment capabilities and inter-service synergy.
- **5th Multilateral Naval Exercise KOMODO Started in Indonesia**
  - ✓ INS Shardul and P8I joined Exercise Komodo, a multilateral naval drill to enhance maritime interoperability.



- ✓ The exercise involved 39 countries, including Türkiye, kicked off in Indonesia's island province of Bali.
  - ✓ Themed "Maritime Partnership for Peace and Stability," is the fifth edition of the biennial event and began with a fleet review.
  - ✓ The first Komodo was held in 2014 in Indonesia.
- **'Sagar Kavach' Drill for Coastal Security**
  - ✓ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) successfully conducted the 'Sagar Kavach' security exercise along the 158 km West Bengal coastline on February 21-22, 2025.

## Coastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach



- ✓ This two-day operation aimed to test and enhance the coastal security mechanism by involving multiple agencies in tackling simulated threats.
  - ✓ The exercise focused on refining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and strengthening inter-agency coordination to counter potential threats along India's eastern maritime border.
- **Military Exercise 'Jal-Thal-Raksha 2025'**
- ✓ The Indian Army, in collaboration with the Indian Coast Guard and Marine Police, conducted the large-scale military exercise 'Jal-Thal-Raksha 2025' at Bet Dwarka, Gujarat.



- ✓ The drill focused on island security, combating illegal encroachments, and enhancing coordination between security forces.
- ✓ The exercise featured hovercraft landings, securing critical infrastructure, and simulated responses to security threats, ensuring preparedness against potential risks.

# ECONOMY

## ➤ Union Budget 2025-26

- ✓ Finance Minister presented the Union Budget 2025-26 with the theme “Sabka Vikas”.
- ✓ The Budget aims to make reforms in Taxation, Power Sector, Urban Development, Mining, Financial Sector, and Regulatory Reforms.
- ✓ Union Budget highlights that Agriculture, MSME, Investment, and Exports are engines in the journey to Viksit Bharat.



- ✓ Main Headlines:
- ✓ 1. Finance Minister presented the Union Budget 2025-26 with the theme “Sabka Vikas”.
- ✓ 2. Government target Fiscal Deficit of 4.4% of GDP.
- ✓ 3. Finance Minister announced that no income tax will be payable for those with an income up to ₹12 lakh.
- ✓ 4. Finance minister proposed to introduce identity cards for gig workers and UPI-linked credit cards for street vendors.
- ✓ 5. Ministry of Railways has introduced the SuperApp ‘SwaRail’.
- ✓ 6. The government will launch a 6-year “Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses.
- ✓ 7. A comprehensive multi-sectoral ‘Rural Prosperity and Resilience’ programme will be launched in partnership with states.
- ✓ 8. In the budget 2025, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced establishment of Cancer Center in each district.
- ✓ 9. The Government announced the increase in loan limits from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs for loans taken through Kisan Credit Cards.
- ✓ 9. The government will also launch a new scheme for 5 lakh women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes first-time entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Under this scheme, loans up to Rs. 2 crores will be provided during the next 5 years.
- ✓ 10. Government will also launch a scheme to make India a global hub for toys representing the 'Made in India' brand.

- ✓ 11. Five National Centres of Excellence for skilling will be set up with global expertise and partnerships.
- ✓ 12. A Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education will be set up with a total outlay of 500 crore.
- ✓ 13. Budget proposed Gyan Bharatam Mission, for survey, documentation and conservation of more than 1 crore manuscripts in academic institutions.

➤ **Gender Budgeting in 2025-26: A Step Toward Inclusive Growth**



- ✓ The Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2025, has made significant strides in gender budgeting, increasing the share of the Gender Budget allocation to 8.86% of the total Union Budget, compared to 6.8% in FY 2024-25.
- ✓ The allocation for women and girls has risen to ₹4.49 lakh crore, marking a 37.25% increase from the previous year's ₹3.27 lakh crore.
- ✓ Additionally, 49 Ministries/Departments and 5 UTs have reported gender-specific allocations, making it the highest number of contributors to the Gender Budget Statement (GBS) since its inception.

➤ **Repo Rate Cut by 25 bps**

- ✓ RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.25 per cent.



- ✓ It was marking the first-rate reduction in nearly five years.
  - ✓ The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate is set at 6 per cent.
  - ✓ The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate are at 6.50 per cent.
- The central bank last reduced the repo rate in May 2020, when it cut rates by 40 basis points to 4 per cent.

➤ **Urban Unemployment Rate Steady at 6.4% in Q3 FY25**



- ✓ The urban unemployment rate in India stood unchanged at 6.4% in the October-December quarter of FY25, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on February 18, 2025.
- ✓ This follows a slight decline from 6.6% in Q1 FY25 to 6.4% in Q2 FY25, indicating a stable employment scenario in urban areas.

➤ **India's Smartphone Exports Reach ₹1.5 Trillion, Boosted by PLI Scheme**

- ✓ India's smartphone exports have reached an all-time high of Rs. 1.55 trillion in the April 2024 to January 2025 period, reflecting a 56% surge from Rs. 991.2 billion in the same period last year.



- ✓ This growth has been primarily fueled by the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which has strengthened India's smartphone manufacturing ecosystem and boosted exports.

- ✓ The government's push for local production has played a crucial role in transforming India into a major hub for smartphone manufacturing and exports.
- **India's Road to High-Income Status by 2047**



- ✓ India is on track to become a high-income nation by 2047, with its GDP projected to reach between \$23 trillion and \$35 trillion, according to a recent report by Bain & Company in collaboration with Nasscom.
- ✓ The services sector is expected to be the biggest contributor, making up 60% of GDP, while manufacturing will account for 32%.

APP  
STUDY CENTRE

# APPOINTMENT

## ➤ India's New Chief Election Commissioner

- ✓ On February 17, 2025, the Election Commissioner of India, **Gyanesh Kumar**, was officially appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) by the Law Ministry.



- ✓ This appointment marks a significant milestone, as he is the first CEC to be appointed under the new law governing the selection of Election Commission (EC) members.
- ✓ His tenure will last until January 26, 2029, positioning him at the helm of the Election Commission of India (ECI) during crucial electoral events, including the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

## ➤ Rekha Gupta takes oath as Delhi CM

- ✓ Mrs. Rekha Gupta takes oath as the new Chief Minister of Delhi at the iconic Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi.



- ✓ Rekha Gupta has won the Shalimar Bagh seat in the Delhi assembly elections.
- ✓ She began her political journey with ABVP at the Daulat Ram College of Delhi University, in 1992.
- ✓ She became the President of the Delhi University Students' Union.

- ✓ Rekha will be the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi after Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit and Atishi.



# AWARDS

## ➤ **BBC Sportswoman Of The Year**

- ✓ Indian shooter Manu Bhaker received the BBC Sportswoman of the Year after an impressive campaign at the Paris Olympics 2024, where she bagged two bronze medals.



- ✓ The stellar performances from the 22-year-old established her status as one of the elite sporting talents in the country.
- ✓ She became the first Indian shooter to win multiple medals at a single Olympics.
- ✓ Also, she became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.

# PERSONALITIES

## ➤ **First Black Mrs World**

- ✓ Soweto-born Tshego Gaelae has made history by becoming the first Black woman to win the Mrs World 2025 title at the grand finale in Las Vegas.



- ✓ The 34-year-old attorney and 2024 Mrs South Africa Queen follows in the footsteps of Candice Abrahams, the only other South African to hold the title (2016).
- ✓ Gaelae's victory is a milestone in the pageant's 40-year history, and she plans to use this platform to champion women's empowerment while representing South Africa on a global stage.

## ➤ **Purnima Devi Barman**

- ✓ Indian biologist and wildlife conservationist Purnima Devi Barman has been named "Woman of the Year" by Time magazine.



- ✓ Purnima Devi Barman is the only Indian woman on this year's list.
- ✓ Purnima Devi is famous for her unwavering efforts in protecting the endangered greater adjutant stork, locally known as Hargila.

- ✓ It is one of the world's rarest storks.
- ✓ Due to Dr. Barman's dedication, their population in Assam has increased to 1,800.



# BOOKS & AUTHORS

## ➤ **Namita Gokhale's Life on Mars**

- ✓ Namita Gokhale's latest book, *Life on Mars: Collected Stories*, brings together 15 short stories that explore themes of love, fate, and human existence.



- ✓ Released in January 2025, this collection reflects the author's deep engagement with storytelling.
- ✓ The book is structured into two distinct sections – 'Love and Other Derangements' and 'The Mirror of the Mahabharata' – each offering a different lens on relationships, mythology, and human emotions.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## ➤ Sunita Williams Sets New Spacewalk Record

- ✓ Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams has set a new record for the longest spacewalking time by a woman, surpassing former astronaut Peggy Whitson's previous record.



- ✓ Williams has now logged a total of 62 hours and 6 minutes of spacewalking time across nine spacewalks.
  - ✓ The achievement came during her latest extravehicular activity (EVA) alongside fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore on the International Space Station (ISS).
- ## ➤ Samudrayaan Mission
- ✓ India's ambitious mission to send scientists to explore the depths of the ocean in specially-designed submersible Samudrayaan got a boost with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocating Rs. 600 crore for the Deep Ocean Mission.



- ✓ The mission involves mapping deep ocean floors and developing technologies like a manned submersible with 6000 m water-depth rating.
- ✓ It also involves exploration of deep-sea mining for sustainable utilisation of deep-sea bioresources and developing engineering designs for offshore thermal energy-driven desalination plants.

➤ **Kavach: India's Pledge to Safer Railways**

- ✓ India's railway safety is about to undergo a major transformation with the nationwide rollout of the Kavach Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.



- ✓ Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw confirmed that this ambitious project will cover the entire railway network in the next six years.
- ✓ The aim is clear - to ensure safer, more efficient train operations while boosting passenger confidence in one of the world's largest railway systems.

➤ **Oleg Kononenko Sets World Record For Most Time In Space**

- ✓ Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko achieved a historic milestone by setting a world record for the most time spent in space, surpassing his compatriot Gennady Padalka's previous record of 878 days in orbit.



- ✓ At 0830 GMT, Oleg Kononenko officially broke the record, marking a significant achievement in the history of space exploration.
- ✓ The 59-year-old cosmonaut surpassed the previous record held by Gennady Padalka, who accumulated a total of 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds in space.

➤ **India's Woman Robot Astronaut "Vyommitra"**

- ✓ In a pioneering leap for India's space endeavors, Vyommitra, the woman robot astronaut developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is set to embark on an uncrewed mission in the third quarter of this year.



- ✓ The mission, named after the Sanskrit words "Vyoma" (Space) and "Mitra" (Friend), signifies a significant stride towards the ambitious Gaganyaan mission, the country's maiden manned space flight, slated for 2025.
- ✓ Vyommitra, equipped with advanced capabilities, is designed to monitor module parameters, issue alerts, and execute life support operations.

➤ **ISRO Unveils FEAST 2025 Software**

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has introduced the latest version of its structural analysis software, Finite Element Analysis of Structures (FEAST) 2025.



- ✓ FEAST is an indigenous finite element analysis (FEA) software developed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- ✓ It is designed to predict how structures react to real-world forces like stress, strain, and temperature variations.
- ✓ With FEAST, ISRO is providing a made-in-India, customizable, and cost-effective solution, particularly beneficial for students, researchers, and industries.

➤ **ISRO Successfully Tests CE20 Cryogenic Engine Ignition**

- ✓ On February 7, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted an ignition trial of the CE20 cryogenic engine.



- ✓ This engine powers the upper stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3).
  - ✓ The test took place at the High Altitude Test Facility in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ The CE20 engine is essential for the Gaganyaan mission.
  - ✓ It is designed to operate under vacuum conditions and can generate thrust levels between 19 tonnes to 22 tonnes.
  - ✓ The engine's successful ignition is a milestone in India's space exploration efforts.
- **Indigenous Chip for Space**
- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have collaboratively developed and successfully booted an indigenous semiconductor chip named 'IRIS' (Indigenous RISC-V Microprocessor for Space Applications).



- ✓ This development aligns with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, aiming to reduce dependence on foreign technology in critical sectors.

- ✓ The 'IRIS' chip is derived from the 'SHAKTI' microprocessor project, which is based on the open-source RISC-V Instruction Set Architecture (ISA).
- **Elon Musk Unveils Grok 3 AI: The Smartest AI on Earth**
- ✓ Elon Musk and his artificial intelligence company xAI have launched **Grok 3**, an advanced AI chatbot that promises to be the most intelligent AI ever developed.



- ✓ The launch event, which attracted nearly 100,000 viewers, showcased the remarkable capabilities of Grok 3, its development process, and how it outperforms leading AI models.
- **Centre Launches AI Programme**
- ✓ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and Intel India have launched the 'AI for Entrepreneurship' micro-learning module.



- ✓ The initiative is designed to simplify artificial intelligence (AI) concepts and encourage entrepreneurial thinking among young innovators across India.
- ✓ The programme aims to empower 1 lakh youth by 2025 by equipping them with essential skills to thrive in a technology-driven economy.
- ✓ The 'AI for Entrepreneurship' module is part of India's broader vision to foster innovation and promote inclusivity in learning.

➤ **ISRO Develops World's Largest Vertical Propellant Mixer**

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone by developing a 10-tonne vertical planetary mixer, the largest of its kind globally, for solid propellant production.



- ✓ This indigenous mixer, created in collaboration with the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) in Bengaluru, is set to enhance the efficiency and safety of solid rocket motor manufacturing, marking a substantial advancement in India's space capabilities.

➤ **New Bat Coronavirus HKU5-CoV-2 Discovered in China**

- ✓ Chinese researchers have identified a new bat coronavirus, named HKU5-CoV-2, which has the ability to infect human cells.



- ✓ The virus uses the ACE2 receptor, the same pathway that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, uses to enter human cells.
- ✓ The discovery has raised concerns about potential zoonotic transmission, emphasizing the need for continuous surveillance of bat-borne viruses.

➤ **Mangroves as Bio-Shields Against Coastal Disasters**

- ✓ Coastal mangroves serve as vital bio-shields against natural disasters.



- ✓ Recent research marks their effectiveness in mitigating the impacts of tsunamis and flooding along India's coastline.
  - ✓ The study, conducted by a team from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, utilised advanced simulations to evaluate how emergent vegetation, particularly mangroves, acts as a protective barrier.
  - ✓ This research puts stress on the importance of integrating natural solutions into coastal defence strategies.
- **Moon's South Pole: First Detailed Geological Map Unveiled**
- ✓ Indian scientists have achieved a historic breakthrough by creating the first-ever detailed geological map of the Moon's south-pole, using data from the Chandrayaan-3 mission.



- ✓ This new map provides crucial insights into the lunar surface, offering valuable information about the region's topography, crater formations, and geological history.
  - ✓ The research, a collaborative effort between the Physical Research Laboratory (Ahmedabad), Punjab University (Chandigarh), and ISRO's Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems, marks a significant step in understanding the Moon's evolution.
- **Green Transition Alliance India (GTAI)**
- ✓ Denmark announced the Green Transition Alliance India (GTAI) initiative.



- ✓ The Green Transition Alliance India (GTAI) initiative has been launched by Denmark to strengthen collaboration with India on sustainable energy solutions.
- ✓ It will help in the commitment to achieve global carbon neutrality.
- ✓ This new alliance will play a key role in fostering sustainable energy growth in India by creating an ecosystem that promotes collaboration between businesses, government bodies, research institutions, and financial stakeholders of both countries.

APPOLLO  
STUDY CENTRE

# SPORTS

## ➤ Tata Steel Masters 2025

- ✓ In Chess, Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa clinched the prestigious Tata Steel Masters 2025 title in a thrilling showdown, defeating reigning World Champion D. Gukesh in a nail-biting tiebreaker at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.



- ✓ This victory makes R. Praggnanandhaa the first Indian since Viswanathan Anand in 2006 to claim the prestigious title.
- ✓ The 14-player round-robin event ended dramatically, with both Gukesh and Praggn tied at 8.5 points after 13 rounds.

## ➤ U-19 Women's T20 World Cup Title

- ✓ India has defended their ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup title, beating South Africa by 9 wickets in the final match at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



- ✓ Gongadi Trisha's unbeaten innings of 44 runs helped Niki Prasad led Women in Blue to chase the target of 83 runs in the 12th over.

- ✓ She also got Player of the Match award. Earlier, South Africa got bundled out for just 82 runs.
- **38th National Games 2025**
- ✓ 38th National Games 2025 Concluded in Uttarakhand.



- ✓ The 38th National Games of India, held across various venues in Uttarakhand, concluded on 14 February.
- ✓ Services Sports Control Board topped the event with 68 gold, 26 silver, and 27 bronze medals.
- ✓ Maharashtra secured second position with 54 gold, 71 silver, and 76 bronze medals.
- ✓ Haryana won 48 gold, 47 silver, and 58 bronze medals and secured third position. Meghalaya has received the honour of hosting the 39th National Games in 2026.

# REPORT

## ➤ Panchayat Devolution Index 2024

- ✓ The report - Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States (2024) - An Indicative Evidence Based Ranking' - was launched by the Union Minister of State for the Panchayati Raj.



- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been ranked third at the all-India level under the Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI).
  - ✓ The State has received a score of 68.38 next to Karnataka (72.23) and Kerala (70.59).
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu has the highest score at the national level with 60.24 with regard to the dimension of "functions."
  - ✓ In Tamil Nadu, there are 12,525 village panchayats, 388 panchayat unions and 37 district panchayats.
- ## ➤ India's Extreme Weather Crisis: Rising Deaths & Economic Losses
- ✓ India is witnessing a sharp rise in extreme weather events, with devastating consequences for human life and the economy.



- ✓ A recent report highlights that the country accounts for 10% of global deaths due to extreme weather, making it one of the worst-hit nations.

- ✓ From 1993 to 2022, India recorded over 400 extreme weather events, leading to nearly 80,000 deaths and an estimated economic loss of \$180 billion.
- ✓ The frequency of these disasters is increasing, raising serious concerns about the country's preparedness and response.
- **International Energy Agency (IEA) released Electricity 2025 Report**
- ✓ Global energy demand rose by 4.3% in 2024 and forecast to continue to grow at close to 4% out to 2027.



- ✓ China emerged as highest consumer of electricity leaving behind US or EU.
- ✓ India - Electricity demand surged 5.8% in 2024, and forecast to grow at an average 6.3% annually from 2025- 2027.
- ✓ India's thermal power capacity will rise to 283 GW by 2032.
- ✓ Coal remains dominant with 74% of India's power mix in 2024.
- ✓ Renewable energy share to grow from 21 % (2024) to 27% (2027), with solar PV leading the expansion.
- ✓ Nuclear power rose 13% in 2024, and set to triple from 8.2 GW to 22.5 GW by 2031-32.

# RANKING

- **India Ranks 3rd in LEED Green Building Certifications**
- ✓ India retained its third spot in the USGBC's 2024 LEED certification rankings, with 370 projects covering 8.50 million GSM.



- ✓ China led the rankings with 25 million GSM certified, followed by Canada with 10 million GSM.
- ✓ LEED certifications in India are managed by GBCI, driving the adoption of sustainable and resilient buildings.
- **India's Rank in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024**
- ✓ Corruption remains a significant global challenge, affecting governance, democracy, and development.



- ✓ The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024, released by Transparency International, ranks India at 96th position out of 180 countries, with a score of 38—a decline from 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022.
- ✓ The CPI evaluates nations based on perceived levels of public sector corruption, using a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

➤ **Tamil Nadu bags Third Spot in Panchayat Devolution Index**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been ranked third at the all-India level under the Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI).



- ✓ The State has received a score of 68.38 next to Karnataka (72.23) and Kerala (70.59), according to a study commissioned by the Union Panchayati Raj Ministry.
- ✓ Apart from the overall PDI, Tamil Nadu has the highest score at the national level with 60.24 with regard to the dimension of “functions,” one of the six dimensions scrutinised to assess the performance of 28 States and seven Union Territories.

➤ **India is ranked 5th in the Global Economy Ranking**

- ✓ NITI Aayog has said that India is ranked 5th among the world's top economies, and its real gross domestic product (GDP) will be \$4.3 trillion by 2025.



- ✓ Niti Aayog, citing the International Monetary Fund, said India's real GDP is on track to grow significantly, rising from \$2.4 trillion in 2015 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025.
- ✓ The highest inflation-adjusted growth of 77% among the top 20 countries was also recorded by India, surpassing major economies like China and the United States.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
February 01	Indian Coast Guard Day	The theme for Indian Coast Guard Day 2025 was "Indian Coast Guard: Innovating, Protecting, and Serving with Valor".
February 02	World Wetlands Day	The theme for World Wetlands Day 2025 was "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future".
February 04	World Cancer Day	The theme for World Cancer Day 2025-2027 is 'United by Unique.'
February 04	International Day of Human Fraternity	Theme 2025 - <b>Human fraternity for world peace and living together.</b>
February 07	National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	"Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities".
February 10	International Epilepsy Day	Theme - "MyEpilepsyJourney".
February 10	World Pulses Day	The theme for World Pulses Day 2025 was "Pulses: Bringing diversity to agrifood systems".
February 10	National Deworming Day	The official theme for National Deworming Day 2025 is "Eliminate STH: Invest in a healthier future for children".
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	The theme for 2025 is: "Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science".
February 11	World Unani Day	Theme: Unani Medicine for One Earth, One Health"

February 12	<b>National Productivity Day</b>	Theme: "From Ideas to Impact: Protecting Intellectual Property for Competitive Startups."
February 13	<b>World Radio Day</b>	This year the World Radio Day theme is - Radio and Climate Change.
February 13	<b>National Women's Day</b>	Celebrating the legacy of Sarojini Naidu, the "Nightingale of India."
February 15	<b>World Hippo Day</b>	The theme for World Hippo Day 2025 is "A tribute to nature's river giants".
February 17	<b>World Pangolin Day</b>	The theme for World Pangolin Day 2025 was "Youth Legacy for Pangolin Conservation".
February 18	<b>World Whale Day</b>	The theme for World Whale Day 2025 is "Celebrate and protect Earth's majestic giants, our whales".
February 20	<b>World Day Of Social Justice</b>	Theme - "Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances," highlights the importance of collaboration and partnership in tackling global challenges.
February 21	<b>International Mother Language Day</b>	Theme - "Silver Jubilee Celebration of International Mother Language Day".
February 22	<b>World Scout Day</b>	The theme for World Scout Day 2025 was "Our Story".
February 24-28	<b>Financial Literacy Week</b>	The theme of this year emphasizes empowering women financially and socially.
February 27	<b>World NGO Day</b>	"Empowering Grassroots Movements for a Sustainable Future" is the theme for 2025.

<b>February 27</b>	<b>World Protein Day</b>	Theme - #RightWayToProtein.
<b>February 28</b>	<b>National Science Day</b>	The theme of National Science Day 2025 is "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for VIKSIT BHARAT."



# CURRENT AFFAIRS - TNPSC ORIGINAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - EXAMS CONDUCTED IN 2025

## TNPSC GROUP IIA MAIN 2025

### CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. iTNT Hub is located at  
**a. Anna University**  
b. Madras University  
c. Vellore Institute of Technology  
d. Madurai University  
e. Answer not known
- iTNT ஹப் \_\_\_\_\_ அமைந்துள்ளது  
a. அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழகம்  
b. சென்னை பல்கலைக்கழகம்  
c. வேலூர் தொழில்நுட்ப நிறுவனம்  
d. மதுரை பல்கலைக்கழகம்  
e. விடை தெரியவில்லை
2. Which of the following statements is true about World Tamil Diaspora Day?  
(i) The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu declared January 12 as World Tamil Diaspora Day  
(ii) The Diaspora Tamils conference was successfully held, with the theme of 'we will win'  
(iii) Rs. 5 crore has been sanctioned for the establishment of Tamil Parapurai Kazhagam to teach Tamil to Tamils living in foreign countries.  
**a. (i) only**  
b. (i) and (iii) only  
c. (i) and (ii) only  
d. (ii) and (iii) only  
e. Answer not known
- உலகத் தமிழ் புலம்பெயர் நாள் பற்றிய பின்வரும் கூற்றுகளில் எது உண்மை?  
(i) தமிழக முதலமைச்சர் அவர்கள் ஜனவரி 12-ஐ உலக புலம்பெயர் தமிழர் தினமாக அறிவித்தார்.  
(ii) 'நாம் வெல்வோம்' என்ற கருப்பொருளுடன் புலம்பெயர் தமிழர்கள் மாநாடு சிறப்பாக நடைபெற்றது.  
(iii) வெளிநாடுகளில் வாழும் தமிழர்களுக்குத் தமிழ் கற்பிக்க தமிழ்ப் பரப்புரை கழகம் அமைப்பதற்கு ரூ. 5 கோடி ஒதுக்கீடு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.  
a. (i) மட்டும்  
b. (i) மற்றும் (iii) மட்டும்  
c. (i) மற்றும் (ii) மட்டும்  
d. (ii) மற்றும் (iii) மட்டும்  
e. விடை தெரியவில்லை
3. Which of the following is correctly paired?  
(1) Manjusha Kanwar - Badminton  
(2) Vineet Kumar Sharma - Chess  
(3) Kavitha Selvaraj - Kabaddi  
(4) R. Vaishali - Hockey  
**a. (2) and (4) are correct**  
b. (1) and (3) are correct  
c. (3) and (4) are correct  
d. (1) and (2) are correct  
e. Answer not known
- கீழ்க்கொடுக்கப்பட்டவற்றுள் பொருத்தமான இணையைத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கவும்.  
(1) மஞ்சஷா கன்வர் - இறகுப் பந்தாட்டம்  
(2) வினிக்குமார் ஷர்மா - சதுரங்கம்  
(3) கவிதா செல்வராஜ் - கபடி  
(4) R. வைஷாலி - ஹாக்கி  
a. (2) மற்றும் (4) சரி  
b. (1) மற்றும் (3) சரி  
c. (3) மற்றும் (4) சரி  
d. (1) மற்றும் (2) சரி  
e. விடை தெரியவில்லை

4. Why was the My Scheme Platform introduced by the Government of India?
- To provide online shopping for government products
  - To allow users to discover eligible government schemes based on their demography**
  - To give citizens free access to educational resources
  - To help people apply for government jobs across the country
  - Answer not known

My Scheme இயங்குதளம் ஏன் இந்திய அரசால் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டது?

- அரசு தயாரிப்புகளுக்கு ஆன்லைன் ஷாப்பிங் வழங்குதல்
- பயனர்கள் தங்களின் மக்கள்தொகை அடிப்படையில் தகுதியான அரசு திட்டங்களை கண்டறிய அனுமதிப்பது
- குடிமக்களுக்கு கல்வி வளங்களை இலவசமாக வழங்குதல்
- நாடு முழுவதும் உள்ள அரசாங்க வேலைகளுக்கு விண்ணப்பிக்கும் மக்களுக்கு உதவுதல்
- விடை தெரியவில்லை

5. People in Tamil Nadu Greet Chief Minister as “Thayumanavar” (Man who becomes Mother) for the introduction of the scheme
- Breakfast in schools
  - Vidiyal Payana Thittam
  - Neengal Nalama
  - Makaludan Mudalvar
  - Answer not known

தமிழ்நாட்டில், இத்திட்டத்தை அறிமுகப்படுத்தியதற்காக, முதலமைச்சரை, மக்கள் “தாயுமானவர்” என்று அழைக்கின்றனர்

- பள்ளியில் காலை உணவு
- விடியல் பயணத் திட்டம்
- நீங்கல் நலமா
- மக்களுடன் முதல்வர்
- விடை தெரியவில்லை

**This question and answer are to be placed before the expert committee for final decision**

6. “Neengal Nalama” is the scheme inaugurated by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Intended to reduce the gap between the people and government
  - It is made up of an instrument of e-governance
  - It focuses on ensuring that government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries
  - All of these**
  - Answer not known

தமிழ்நாடு அரசால் துவங்கப்பட்டுள்ள ‘நீங்கல் நலமா’ என்னும் திட்டமானது

- மக்களுக்கும் - அரசாங்கத்திற்கும் இடையேயான இடைவெளியை குறைப்பதற்குமானதாகும்
- இத்திட்டமானது மின் ஆளுகை எனும் கருவியால் உருவாக்கப்பட்டதாகும்
- இத்திட்டமானது அரசு பொதுநல திட்டங்கள் குறிப்பிட்டவர்களுக்கு சென்று சேர்கிறதா என்று உறுதிப்படுத்துகின்றது
- இவை அனைத்தும்
- விடை தெரியவில்லை

7. Which of the following is incorrectly paired?

- Atal Tinkering Lab - Nurtures an innovative mindset towards research amongst high school students
- Krishi Neev - Platform to promote technology interventions in agriculture
- Palna - Provides support service like safe accommodation and Medical assistance to working women



SPECIAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION 08/02/2025

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sports

1. Who got the second place in the World Cup Chess Championship in 2023?  
a. Vaishali                      **b. Praggnanandhaa**                      c. Vijayalakshmi  
d. Viswanathan Anand                      e. Answer not known

2023 ஆம் ஆண்டு உலகக் கோப்பைச் சதுரங்கப் போட்டியில் இரண்டாம் இடத்தைப் பிடித்தவர் யார்?

- a. வைசாலி                      b. பிரக்ஞானந்தா                      c. விஜயலக்ஷ்மி  
d. விசுவநாதன் ஆனந்த                      e. விடை தெரியவில்லை



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STUDY CENTRE