

TNPSC WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY 01 – 04, 2026

1. NATIONAL NEWS

1.1 Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model

- India launched the **Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model** to improve international air connectivity from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- The first service started from **Varanasi**, connecting passengers to international destinations through New Delhi under Air India Easy Connect.
- Passengers complete immigration and baggage formalities at the origin airport before transiting through a major hub airport.
- Identified hub airports are **Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad**, with the network planned to expand to 30 airports, including Nagpur.
- The initiative aims to make India a global aviation hub by **2047** by improving international connectivity through domestic airports.

Learn Basics:

- Hub-and-spoke model: smaller 'spoke' airports feed passengers into a major 'hub' airport, from where long-haul flights connect to final destinations.
- This differs from a point-to-point model, where flights connect two cities directly without routing through a central hub.
- **Exam point of view:** Note the four identified hub airports (Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad) and the target year 2047, linked to India's centenary of independence goals.

1.2 Nuclear Heat-Based Hydrogen Facility 2026

- The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility using nuclear process heat at **IGCAR, Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**.
- The facility uses the **Copper–Chlorine (Cu–Cl) thermochemical cycle**, powered by heat from the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**.
- It was developed by the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** as a technology demonstrator for carbon-free hydrogen production.
- It is the first facility globally to integrate nuclear reactor heat with Cu–Cl hydrogen production technology.

Learn Basics:

- IGCAR (Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research) is India's premier nuclear research centre for fast breeder reactor technology, located at Kalpakkam.

- A thermochemical cycle produces hydrogen using heat-driven chemical reactions instead of electrolysis, making it more energy-efficient.
- **Exam point of view:** This is also a Tamil Nadu-linked national news item — Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu) hosts both IGCAR and the Fast Breeder Test Reactor, a favourite TNPSC location-based question.

1.3 Ban on 16 Fixed-Dose Drug Combinations (FDCs)

- The Government of India banned **16 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs)** under **Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, citing lack of therapeutic justification and safety concerns.
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** issued notifications prohibiting manufacture, sale, and distribution of these medicines with immediate effect.
- The decision was based on the recommendations of an expert committee after scientific assessment of risks and benefits.
- The banned combinations include drugs used in pain relief, antibiotics, dermatological treatments, and antispasmodic treatments.

Learn Basics:

- A Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) is a medicine that combines two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients in a single dosage form.
- Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 empowers the central government to prohibit manufacture and sale of a drug in public interest.

1.4 National Drug Control Plan 2026

- The Union Government launched the **Vision Document on Drug Control (2026–2029)** during the **10th Apex-Level meeting of NCORD** in New Delhi.
- It was launched by the **Union Home Minister**, at a meeting organised by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**.
- It follows a **three-pronged strategy**: detect trafficking networks, disrupt supply chains, and destroy drug ecosystems.
- The plan integrates over **40 ministries**, state governments, and institutions for coordinated action.
- It strengthens enforcement under the **Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988**.

Learn Basics:

- NCORD (Narco-Coordination Centre) is the apex-level inter-ministerial body coordinating India's anti-drug-trafficking efforts.

- NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau) is the central agency responsible for enforcing narcotics-control laws in India.
- **Exam point of view:** Do not confuse NCORD (coordination body chaired at Home Ministry level) with NCB (the enforcement agency that organises NCORD meetings).

1.5 DISHA 2.0 – Access to Justice

- The Union Government approved **DISHA 2.0 (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice)** for digital and AI-based legal aid.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** implemented by the **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice**, for **2026–2031** with an outlay of **₹255 crore**.
- The scheme builds on DISHA (2021–2026), which reached more than **2.37 crore beneficiaries**.
- Key components: **Tele-Law**, **Nyaya Bandhu** (pro bono legal services), and the **Legal Literacy & Awareness Programme (LLLAP)**.
- A new digital platform, **VIDHI-Sanjeevani**, is introduced for monitoring and data-driven governance of legal aid delivery.

Learn Basics:

- Tele-Law provides legal advice to marginalised communities through Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas.
- Nyaya Bandhu is a scheme facilitating free (pro bono) legal services for eligible citizens through volunteer lawyers.

1.6 Foodgrain Entitlement Changes – Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- The government proposed an amendment to the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**, to revise foodgrain entitlement for **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** beneficiaries.
- It proposes **7 kg per person per month** instead of household-based allocation, retaining a maximum cap of **35 kg per household**.
- The change aligns foodgrain norms with **ICMR** nutritional guidelines (~7.5 kg of cereals per adult per month).
- **AAY** covers the poorest of the poor households, while **Priority Households (PHH)** receive **5 kg per person per month** at subsidised rates.

Learn Basics:

- AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) targets the poorest-of-the-poor households under the NFSA, distinct from Priority Households (PHH), which are relatively better off.

- **Exam point of view:** Do not mix up AAY's household cap (35 kg) with PHH's per-person entitlement (5 kg per person per month) — TNPSC often frames these as a comparison question.

1.7 Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)

- The Indian Army plans to operationalise its first **Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)** from **1 July 2026** under the **XVII Corps (Mountain Strike Corps)** at Panagarh, West Bengal.
- An IBG is a brigade-sized, self-contained combat formation with **5,000+ troops**, integrating infantry, artillery, engineers, signals, air defence, logistics and medical units under one command.
- IBGs are designed for rapid mobilisation (within **48 hours**) for operations along the China border in mountainous terrain.
- The concept was proposed by **General Bipin Rawat** and was first tested in 2019 in IX Corps and Exercise HimVijay.
- The Army plans to complete IBGisation by **2029**, alongside Rudra Brigades, Bhairav Battalions, Divyastra Batteries, and Shaktibaan units.

Learn Basics:

- An Integrated Battle Group (IBG) is a self-contained, brigade-sized combat formation combining multiple arms under a single command for faster mobilisation.
- **Exam point of view:** Link the originator (General Bipin Rawat), the first operational corps (XVII Corps, Mountain Strike Corps), and the completion target year (2029).

1.8 Aarogya Setu 2.0

- Union Health Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda** launched **Aarogya Setu 2.0** and new digital health initiatives under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.
- Aarogya Setu 2.0 has been transformed from a COVID-19 contact-tracing app into a **Personal Health Record (PHR)** application integrated with ABDM.
- It allows users to create and manage an **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)** and use Scan & Share for faster hospital registration.
- The launch also included **NHCX** (National Health Claims Exchange), Drug Registry, **CLCI**, and **BHTS** to standardise digital healthcare and insurance claims.
- As of June 2026, ABDM had generated **90+ crore ABHA accounts**, with over 4.8 lakh registered health facilities and 9.5 lakh registered doctors.

Learn Basics:

- ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) is a unique digital health ID that allows citizens to securely store and share their health records.

- ABDM (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) is the umbrella national digital health infrastructure programme under which Aarogya Setu 2.0 and ABHA function.
- **Exam point of view:** Aarogya Setu was originally a COVID-19 contact-tracing app (2020) — its repurposing as a Personal Health Record app under ABDM in 2026 is a common 'then vs now' question.

1.9 UN SDG Index 2026 – India's Performance

- India improved to **94th rank** (score **68.3/100**) in the **2026 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index**, its highest-ever position.
- India has risen **18 places since 2015**, but remains behind Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in South Asia.
- The report says India faces challenges in **13 of 17 SDGs** and is not on track to achieve the 2030 SDG targets.
- Major concerns: **Zero Hunger (SDG 2)**, **Good Health (SDG 3)**, **Gender Equality (SDG 5)**, **Climate Action (SDG 13)**, and **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)**.
- India has made notable progress in **electricity access (SDG 7)** and **digital connectivity (SDG 9)**.

Learn Basics:

- The UN SDG Index, published annually, ranks countries on progress toward the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015.
- **Exam point of view:** Remember India's exact rank (94th) and score (68.3/100) — TNPSC frequently tests the latest rank/score pair for such global indices.

1.10 World's Best School Prizes 2026

- **Seven Indian schools** have been shortlisted in the **World's Best School Prizes 2026**, the highest number from any country in a single year.
- The awards are organised by **T4 Education** across five categories: Innovation, Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Overcoming Adversity, and Supporting Healthy Lives.
- Winners will be selected by an expert Judging Academy, while the Community Choice Award will be decided through a global public vote.
- Finalists and winners will be announced in **November 2026**, with shortlisted schools attending the World Schools Summit in **London (January 2027)**.

Learn Basics:

- T4 Education is a global organisation that promotes and recognises impactful teaching and school practices through such awards.

1.11 Other Updates in Brief

- The **Hemis Festival 2026** began at Hemis Monastery, Leh (Ladakh), marking the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche).
- The **Haj Policy 2027** was announced by the Ministry of Minority Affairs; applications opened via the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) portal and Haj Suvidha App.
- Madhya Pradesh received GI tags for **Indori Malwi Potato, Garadu, Balam Kakdi**, and Mandu's **Baobab tree fruit**.
- India successfully tested '**Garudastra**', its heaviest indigenous 120-mm vehicle-mounted mortar system, developed by **Nibe Limited**.
- The government proposed **seven new bullet train corridors**, including Mumbai–Pune, Hyderabad–Chennai, Bengaluru–Chennai, and Delhi–Varanasi.
- **Nasha Mukta Bharat Saptah 2026** was observed from 17–26 June 2026 under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- An Indian Army field hospital under '**Operation Amistad**' became fully operational in earthquake-hit Venezuela, providing 24×7 free medical services.
- The **National Rural Development Conference 2026** was held on 28–29 June 2026 in New Delhi to review flagship rural development programmes.
- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)** secured World No. 1 in SDG-5 (Gender Equality) in the **THE Impact Rankings 2026**, remaining in the 101–200 global overall band.

2. TAMIL NADU NEWS

2.1 Tamil Nadu Textile Export Target 2030

- The Union Government set a target of **USD 21 billion** in textile and apparel exports from Tamil Nadu by **2030**.
- India aims to achieve **USD 100 billion** in textile and apparel exports by 2030, with Tamil Nadu contributing one-fifth of the total.
- The **Tiruppur textile cluster** alone is expected to contribute **USD 11.5 billion** in exports.
- The Tamil Nadu Government will construct '**Thozhi Hostels**' for women workers in industrial clusters under a **₹1,250 crore** scheme.
- A **Centre of Excellence for Athleisure** will also be established in Tiruppur.

Learn Basics:

- Athleisure refers to clothing designed for both athletic activity and everyday casual wear — a growing segment of the textile/apparel export market.

- **Exam point of view:** Keep the three export figures distinct: India's overall target (USD 100 bn), Tamil Nadu's share (USD 21 bn), and Tiruppur cluster's contribution (USD 11.5 bn).

2.2 Reconstitution of Curriculum Design Committee

- The Tamil Nadu Government reconstituted the **Curriculum Design Committee** and appointed **Mylswamy Annadurai** as its new Chairman.
- Mylswamy Annadurai replaces **Sultan Ahmed Ismail**, while all other committee members have been retained.
- The committee has been given a **three-year tenure** to guide revision of the State school curriculum.
- The committee was originally constituted in **2025** as part of Tamil Nadu's school curriculum revamp.
- New curriculum-based textbooks have already been introduced for **Classes I to III**, with work in progress for higher classes.

Learn Basics:

- Mylswamy Annadurai is a renowned Indian space scientist (former ISRO Director), known for his role in the Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan missions.

2.3 VB-G RAM G in Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu Government notified implementation of the **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G)** from 1 July 2026.
- The **₹12,642-crore** scheme is funded in a **60:40 ratio** — Union Government **₹7,585 crore**, State Government **₹5,057 crore**.
- It guarantees **125 days** of wage employment per financial year to rural households willing to undertake unskilled manual work.
- The scheme focuses on water conservation, rural infrastructure, livelihood assets, and reducing the impact of extreme weather events.
- A **State Rural Employment Guarantee Council** and a **Steering Committee** will oversee implementation.

Learn Basics:

- VB-G RAM G is aligned with the earlier MGNREGA framework but rebranded and restructured under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, with a stronger focus on durable assets.
- **Exam point of view:** Note the funding split (60:40, Centre:State) and the wage-employment guarantee (125 days) — both are classic numeric-recall points.

2.4 New Chola-Era Stone Inscriptions – Ariyalur

- Three new stone inscriptions linked to **Rajathirajan I**, grandson of Emperor **Raja Raja Cholan**, were found at **Sri Sundareswarar Temple**, Kolathur, Ariyalur district.
- One inscription is believed to date to the reign of Rajathirajan I (**1044–1052 AD**).
- Another inscription confirms the temple existed during both the **Pandya** and **Vijayanagara** periods.
- The inscriptions provide new historical evidence about the temple and the Chola Empire.
- Fossils were also discovered near the temple during the study.

Learn Basics:

- Rajathirajan I was a Chola king and grandson of Raja Raja Chola I; his reign is dated approximately 1044–1052 AD.
- **Exam point of view:** Do not confuse Rajathirajan I (grandson of Raja Raja Cholan) with Rajaraja Chola I himself or with Rajendra Chola I (Raja Raja's son) — TNPSC often tests Chola genealogy.

2.5 Other Updates in Brief

- **National Electricity Safety Week 2026** was observed from 26 June to 2 July by the Electricity Department in Tamil Nadu, themed '**Today's Awareness, Tomorrow's Prevention.**'

3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

3.1 BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting 2026

- India hosted the **11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting** in Gurugram, Haryana, organised by the Ministry of Power.
- India's Energy Track theme is '**SarveshamUrjam (Energy for All)**', aligned with the BRICS theme '**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.**'
- India showcased achievements including expanded solar capacity, over **60 million smart meters**, Green Energy Corridors, and the **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)** initiative.
- The meeting aimed to enhance collaboration on clean energy, energy security, and sustainable development among BRICS countries.

Learn Basics:

- BRICS currently comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Indonesia.
- OSOWOG (One Sun One World One Grid) is an India-led initiative to build a global grid for transmitting solar power across regions and time zones.

3.2 Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity 2026

- The **Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity 2026** was held in **Jeju, South Korea**, bringing together global leaders and experts.
- It is one of Asia's leading international dialogue platforms on peace, prosperity, and regional cooperation.
- The 2026 theme focused on addressing **global fragmentation** through renewed cooperation and collective action.

Learn Basics:

- The Jeju Forum is organised by the World Federation of United Nations Associations and is held annually in Jeju Island, South Korea.

3.3 U.S. Patriot Passport 2026

- The United States unveiled a limited-edition '**Patriot Passport**' to mark the **250th anniversary** of American Independence.
- It will be available from **6 July 2026** through selected U.S. passport agencies.
- It features **President Donald Trump**, making him the first sitting U.S. President to appear in an American passport.
- The design includes a painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the words '**United States of America 250.**'

3.4 World Hydropower Outlook 2026

- The **World Hydropower Outlook 2026**, released by the **International Hydropower Association (IHA)**, reported the highest annual deployment of pumped storage hydropower on record.
- Global pumped storage capacity crossed **200 gigawatts (GW)** for the first time in 2025, the world's largest source of long-duration energy storage.
- India added over **4 GW** of hydropower capacity in 2025, surpassing Russia to become the world's **5th-largest** country in installed hydropower capacity.
- India's pumped storage potential is estimated at **288 GW**, with a target of **100 GW by 2035–36**; 10 projects with 7.425 GW capacity are currently operational.

Learn Basics:

- Pumped Hydro Storage (PHS) stores electricity by pumping water between two reservoirs at different elevations and releasing it to generate power on demand.
- **Exam point of view:** Distinguish the global pumped storage milestone (200 GW, 2025) from India's own installed hydropower rank (5th largest, surpassing Russia) — both figures appear together but mean different things.

3.5 Mongla Port Zone – Bangladesh

- Bangladesh signed an agreement with a **Chinese state-owned company** to develop the **Mongla Port Economic Zone**, replacing an earlier plan for an Indian economic zone.
- The agreement was signed between the **Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)** and the **China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC)**.
- **Mongla Port** is Bangladesh's second-largest and second-busiest seaport, located about 188 km from Kolkata, near the Sundarbans.
- China also expressed support for the **Teesta River rehabilitation project**, which has strategic relevance due to its proximity to the India–Bangladesh border.

Learn Basics:

- The Mongla Port site was originally designated for an India-backed economic zone, which was delisted in 2025 after long inactivity — now allotted to a Chinese firm.
- **Exam point of view:** This is a geopolitically sensitive current affairs point for TNPSC's International Relations section — link it with India–Bangladesh–China dynamics near the Sundarbans/Teesta region.

3.6 Birthright Citizenship in USA

- The **U.S. Supreme Court** upheld birthright citizenship and rejected an executive order limiting citizenship for children of undocumented or temporary immigrants.
- The court relied on the **14th Amendment**, which grants citizenship to all persons born in the U.S. and subject to its jurisdiction.
- The ruling reaffirmed the **1898 Wong Kim Ark** precedent, which recognised citizenship for U.S.-born children of foreign nationals.
- The executive order, signed by **President Donald Trump**, had sought to exclude children of non-citizens from automatic citizenship, affecting over **250,000 births annually**.

Learn Basics:

- Birthright citizenship (jus soli) grants citizenship automatically to anyone born within a country's territory, regardless of parents' nationality.

3.7 HIV/AIDS Declaration – UNGA

- The **UN General Assembly** adopted the **2026 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS** to end AIDS as a public health threat by **2030**.
- It reaffirms the **95-95-95 targets**: 95% of people with HIV should know their status, 95% should receive treatment, and 95% should achieve viral suppression.
- It aims to provide HIV treatment to **40 million people**, expand ARV-based prevention to **20 million people**, and mobilise **US\$21.9 billion annually** by 2030.

- It calls for annual progress reports to UNAIDS and a UNGA High-Level Meeting in **2031** to review global progress.

Learn Basics:

- The 95-95-95 targets (successor to the earlier 90-90-90 targets) are UNAIDS benchmarks for diagnosis, treatment, and viral suppression among people living with HIV.

3.8 UNESCO World Heritage Capital – Italy

- **Italy** has become the country with the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with a total of **61 protected sites**.
- Italy has **55 Cultural Heritage Sites** and **6 Natural Heritage Sites**, the highest total for any country.
- The latest addition is the **Funerary Tradition in the Prehistory of Sardinia – Domus de Janas**, inscribed in 2025.
- Italy's heritage includes landmarks such as Rome, Florence, Venice, Pisa, Pompeii, the Dolomites, and Mount Etna.

Learn Basics:

- UNESCO grants World Heritage status to sites of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for their cultural or natural importance.
- **Exam point of view:** Remember the exact split — 55 cultural + 6 natural = 61 total — as TNPSC often asks for the cultural/natural breakup, not just the total.

3.9 India–Seychelles Relations

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** received Seychelles' highest honour, '**Guardian of the Blue Horizon**,' during his State Visit to Seychelles.
- PM Modi attended Seychelles' **50th Independence Day** celebrations as **Guest of Honour** — the first Indian Prime Minister to do so.
- Seychelles gained independence from the **United Kingdom** on **29 June 1976**; 2026 marks 50 years of independence and of India–Seychelles diplomatic relations.

Learn Basics:

- Seychelles is an archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean, a key partner in India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) maritime strategy.

3.10 I-2SEA Submarine Cable Project

- The **I-2SEA (India–Singapore–Malaysia)** submarine cable project was unveiled on **2 July 2026** to strengthen digital connectivity between the three countries.
- The **3,600-km** fibre-optic submarine cable will have landing stations at **Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh)** and **South Chennai (Tamil Nadu)** in India.

Learn Basics:

- A submarine cable is a fibre-optic cable laid on the seabed to carry internet and telecommunications data between countries/continents.
- **Exam point of view:** Note both Indian landing stations — Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and South Chennai (Tamil Nadu) — a likely TNPSC location-based question given the Tamil Nadu connection.

3.11 Other Updates in Brief

- An **85-foot-tall statue of footballer Lionel Messi** was unveiled in CutralCó, Patagonia (Argentina), becoming the world's tallest Messi statue, surpassing the 70-foot Kolkata statue.
- **35 countries**, including India, signed the **Joint Statement on AI Opportunity** at the 2nd Pax Silica Summit in Washington, D.C.
- The **SCO Women's Forum 2026** was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, discussing women's leadership and socio-economic participation.
- Albania is witnessing the '**Flamingo Revolution**', protests against a luxury resort project in the Vjosa–Narta Protected Area backed by Jared Kushner.
- The U.S. launched **Valiant Shield 2026** (with Japan, Australia, Canada, New Zealand) and **Resolute Dragon 26** (US–Japan) military exercises in the Western Pacific.
- The **Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC) 2026** in Germany hosted the release of the **UN Sustainable Development Report 2026**.

4. ENVIRONMENT NEWS

4.1 SOP for Threatened Species

- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for notification of threatened species under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- It provides a step-by-step process for scientific assessment, stakeholder consultation, validation, notification, and conservation planning.
- States and Union Territories must use scientific evidence, field studies, and traditional knowledge for species identification.
- **Biodiversity Management Committees**, the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)**, and the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** are involved in the process.

Learn Basics:

- NBA (National Biodiversity Authority) is a statutory body under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, that regulates access to biological resources.

4.2 Niokolo-Koba National Park Conservation Initiative

- The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** approved **US\$1.26 million** for a new conservation initiative led by the **IUCN** in Niokolo-Koba National Park, Senegal.
- The park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve, spanning about **913,000 hectares** of Sudanian savanna ecosystem.
- The park was listed as a **World Heritage Site in Danger in 2007** but was removed from the danger list in **2024** after conservation efforts.

Learn Basics:

- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is a global body known for maintaining the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

4.3 Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme – UNEP/GEF

- The **Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP)** was launched by **UNEP** and the **GEF** to strengthen monitoring of hazardous chemicals globally.
- It supports evaluation of the **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** and the **Minamata Convention on Mercury**.
- GCMP is a **US\$23.5 million** initiative with about **US\$50 million** co-financing, aimed at improving chemical pollution data and policy decisions in developing countries.
- POPs are toxic chemicals that persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in food chains; mercury is toxic to the nervous, digestive, and immune systems.

Learn Basics:

- The Stockholm Convention (POPs) and the Minamata Convention (mercury) are separate international treaties targeting different classes of hazardous chemicals.
- **Exam point of view:** Do not mix up the two conventions — Stockholm Convention covers Persistent Organic Pollutants, while Minamata Convention specifically covers mercury.

4.4 Sistan Sand Boa Species

- A new herpetological study reported the **first confirmed record of the Sistan sand boa (Eryx sistanensis)** in India.
- It was documented in the **northern Thar Desert** region of **Rajasthan**.
- It is a small, non-venomous, burrowing snake, previously known only from Iran and Pakistan.
- India now has **four sand boa species**: red sand boa, rough-scaled sand boa, Whitaker's boa, and Sistan sand boa.
- The species is listed under **Schedule II** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Learn Basics:

- Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides a high degree of protection, though slightly lower than Schedule I species.

4.5 Vulture Reintroduction Setback

- A radio-tagged **White-rumped Vulture** died from electrocution after contact with a power line near Ebbanad, **Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu**.
- The captive-bred bird was released in **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** in April 2026, having earlier been released in Tadoba–Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra (December 2025).
- The White-rumped Vulture is endemic to South Asia, **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List, and protected under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Its population declined sharply due to poisoning from the veterinary drug **Diclofenac**, which causes kidney failure in vultures feeding on treated livestock carcasses.

Learn Basics:

- Diclofenac is a veterinary anti-inflammatory drug whose residue in livestock carcasses causes fatal kidney failure in vultures that feed on them — the primary cause of South Asia's vulture population crash.
- **Exam point of view:** This is a Tamil Nadu-specific Environment item (Nilgiris) — note it separately from the national Schedule I/II classification questions.

4.6 All-India Tiger Estimation 2026

- Preliminary findings of the **All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026** reported a rise in tiger numbers at **Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR), Telangana**.
- AITE is a nationwide tiger census conducted **every four years** using sign surveys, camera traps, and genetic (DNA) sampling.
- The 2026 survey at ATR recorded **42 tigers**, up from 36 in the previous survey.
- The survey also recorded the **Indian Grey Wolf**, a Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- India's previous AITE (2022) estimated **3,682 wild tigers**, about **75%** of the global wild tiger population.

Learn Basics:

- AITE (All-India Tiger Estimation) is conducted every four years by the NTCA and Wildlife Institute of India under Project Tiger.
- **Exam point of view:** Keep the ATR tiger count trend (36 → 42) separate from the national AITE 2022 estimate (3,682 tigers, ~75% of global population) — these are different scales of data.

5. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

5.1 Omega Block Weather Pattern

- An **Omega Block** weather pattern is driving a deadly heatwave across Western Europe, with temperatures crossing **40°C** in parts of France and Spain.
- An Omega Block is a high-pressure system trapped between two low-pressure systems, forming the shape of the Greek letter Omega (Ω).
- It disrupts the normal jet stream, causing the weather system to remain stationary for **3–10 days** or even several weeks.
- The high-pressure area brings hot, dry, cloud-free conditions, while surrounding low-pressure areas receive cooler, wetter weather.
- Climate change is understood to increase the intensity and frequency of heatwaves, though its effect on Omega Block frequency is still under study.

Learn Basics:

- The jet stream is a fast-flowing air current in the upper atmosphere that normally steers weather systems from west to east; an Omega Block disrupts this flow.

5.2 GAGAN-Based Satellite Landing of Jet Aircraft

- India conducted its **first satellite-based landing** of a jet aircraft using **GAGAN** at **Udaipur Airport**.
- **GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation)** is India's Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS), jointly developed by **ISRO** and the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
- GAGAN improves the **accuracy** of GPS-based navigation for civil aviation, enabling satellite-guided landings without ground-based instrument systems.

Learn Basics:

- SBAS (Satellite-Based Augmentation System) improves the accuracy and reliability of basic GPS signals for applications like aviation navigation.
- GAGAN is a joint ISRO–AAI project; it should not be confused with NavIC, India's independent regional satellite navigation system.
- **Exam point of view:** GAGAN augments existing GPS signals, whereas NavIC is India's own standalone satellite navigation constellation — a frequently confused pair in TNPSC science questions.

6. ECONOMY NEWS

6.1 Index of Services Production

- **MoSPI** will launch the **Index of Services Production (ISP)** in July 2026 on a trial basis.

- ISP is a monthly high-frequency indicator measuring the real output of India's formal services sector, similar to the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** for industries.
- It was developed by a Technical Advisory Committee chaired by **Debjani Ghosh**.
- The ISP uses **2024–25** as the base year and follows the fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index method with GVA-based sector weights.
- It uses GST data, administrative data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE), excluding the informal sector, public administration, and defence.

Learn Basics:

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures industrial output; the new Index of Services Production (ISP) is its counterpart for the services sector.
- **Exam point of view:** Note the base year (2024–25) for ISP — a fresh base year distinct from IIP's base year (2011–12) is a likely comparison question.

6.2 Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026

- India retained the **4th position** with **61 unicorn startups** in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026.
- The index ranks privately held startups valued at **US\$1 billion** (about ₹8,300 crore) or more.
- **Bengaluru** remained India's unicorn capital with 25 unicorns, followed by **Mumbai** with 13.
- The United States (806) ranked first, followed by China (381), the United Kingdom (70), and India (61); **San Francisco** was the world's top unicorn city with 222 unicorns.
- **Anthropic** became the world's most valuable unicorn, while **Zerodha** (\$9 billion) remained India's highest-valued unicorn, followed by Zepto (\$7 billion) and Razorpay (\$6 billion).

Country	Unicorn Count (2026)
United States	806
China	381
United Kingdom	70
India	61

Learn Basics:

- A 'unicorn' is a privately held startup company valued at US\$1 billion or more.

- **Exam point of view:** Remember India's rank order among countries (4th, after US, China, UK) as well as the city-level order within India (Bengaluru > Mumbai) — TNPSC likes layered ranking questions.

6.3 Banganapalle Mango Export to Singapore

- **APEDA** facilitated the first commercial sea export of a **5-metric tonne** consignment of **Banganapalle mangoes** from India to Singapore.
- Banganapalle (Benishan) is a premium mango variety from **Andhra Pradesh**, which received the **GI tag in 2017**.

Learn Basics:

- APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) promotes the export of agricultural and processed food products from India.

7. STATE NEWS

7.1 Uniform Civil Code Bill – West Bengal

- The **West Bengal Government** is set to table the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill** in the State Assembly during the Budget Session.
- The Bill proposes uniform laws for marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption, irrespective of religion.
- The draft includes a ban on polygamy, invalidation of child marriages, and mandatory registration of live-in relationships.
- **Article 44** of the Constitution places the UCC under the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**.
- If enacted, West Bengal would become the **fourth State**, after **Uttarakhand, Gujarat, and Assam**, to implement a UCC.

Learn Basics:

- **Article 44 (DPSP)** directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens across India; DPSPs are non-justiciable (not enforceable in court).
- **Exam point of view:** Remember the sequence of States implementing UCC: Uttarakhand → Gujarat → Assam → (proposed) West Bengal — a likely ordering question.

7.2 PM Family Care Tracker

- The **Prime Minister Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)** was launched as a pilot project in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- It is a family-centric digital platform tracking health, nutrition, and welfare of pregnant women, newborns, children, and adolescents (up to 18 years).

- It provides real-time monitoring of antenatal/postnatal care, immunisation, nutrition, growth, school enrolment, and adolescent health.
- The platform includes **Digital Health Passports**, dashboards, and automated alerts for missed vaccinations.
- It integrates data from birth and death registration, health, nutrition, and education databases to reduce duplication.

Learn Basics:

- PM-FCT is distinct from ABDM/Aarogya Setu 2.0 (National News) — PM-FCT specifically tracks family welfare across the maternal-to-adolescent life cycle, piloted at the state level.

IMPORTANT DAYS (JUNE 27 – JULY 4, 2026)

Why Important Days Matter: TNPSC exams regularly test dates, observing bodies, and specific themes.

- **June 21–27:** World Allergy Week 2026 (World Allergy Organization). Theme: 'Allergy Care is Essential Care.'
- **June 27:** International Day of Deafblindness (UN, marking Helen Keller's birth anniversary). Theme: 'Connected by Touch: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges.'
- **June 28:** National Insurance Awareness Day — encourages people to review and update their insurance policies.
- **June 29:** International Day of the Tropics (UNGA, established 2016) — focus on climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development in tropical regions.
- **June 30:** International Asteroid Day (UNGA, marks the 1908 Tunguska impact). Theme: 'Planetary Defence and Asteroid Impact Hazards.'
- **June 30:** International Day of Parliamentarism (UNGA, marks founding of the IPU in 1889). Theme: 'Bring Human Rights into Focus.'
- **July 1:** GST Day 2026 — marks 9 years of GST, launched on 1 July 2017; taxpayer base grew to about 1.65 crore (from 66.5 lakh in 2017).
- **July 1:** Chartered Accountants (CA) Day — marks the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1949.

PERSONS & AWARDS

- **Puviyarasu (S. Jegannathan):** Two-time Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Tamil poet passed away at 96; founder of the Vanampadi literary movement, authored 80+ books.
- **Dr Florence Rabier (France):** Received the WMO's International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize 2026 for contributions to Numerical Weather Prediction and satellite data assimilation.
- **India – ISSF Junior World Championship 2026:** Topped the medal tally with 25 medals (7 gold, 8 silver, 10 bronze).
- **Narendra Modi:** Received Seychelles' highest honour, 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon'; first Indian PM to attend Seychelles' Independence Day celebrations as Guest of Honour.

Learn Basics:

- The Sahitya Akademi Award is India's national literary honour, awarded annually by the Sahitya Akademi across 24 recognised languages, including Tamil.
- The IMO Prize (International Meteorological Organization Prize) is the World Meteorological Organization's highest honour for meteorological work.
- ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) governs Olympic shooting sports globally.
- **Exam point of view:** Do not confuse the WMO's 'IMO Prize' (meteorology) with the 'IMO' that commonly refers to the International Maritime Organization — they are unrelated bodies sharing an acronym.