

# **TNPSC WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**JULY 5 – 11, 2026**

## **1. NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1.1 Modified UDAN Scheme**

- Outlay: The Union Cabinet approved the Modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme for FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 with a total outlay of **₹28,840 crore**.
- Airports: The scheme will upgrade 100 existing unserved/underserved airstrips into UDAN airports to boost regional connectivity.
- Helipads: It proposes construction of 200 modern helipads in remote and difficult terrain, at an estimated ₹15 crore each.
- VGF extension: Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support for airline operators has been extended from **3 years to 5 years**.
- Indigenous push: The scheme promotes use of indigenous aircraft/helicopters such as HAL Dhruv and Dornier under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- UDAN stands for "Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik," a Regional Connectivity Scheme launched to make air travel affordable for common citizens.
- Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is government financial support given to airlines to operate on routes that are not immediately commercially viable.
- Exam point of view: Don't confuse the Modified UDAN (2026-27 to 2035-36, ₹28,840 crore) with the original UDAN scheme officially launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on October 21, 2016. First inaugural flights taking off on April 27, 2017. — TNPSC may test the outlay figure or the VGF extension period.

### **1.2 LokOS – Digital Platform for Rural Self-Help Groups**

- The Ministry of Rural Development launched LokOS (People Operating System), a digital platform for end-to-end digitisation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs).
- LokOS is implemented under **DAY-NRLM** (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission).
- The platform digitises SHG member records, savings, loans, repayments and livelihood details, with Aadhaar- and bank-linked digital identities.
- LokOS supports the Lakhpati Didi initiative through beneficiary tracking, and SHE-LEAPS (launched under LokOS in June 2026) promotes rural women's entrepreneurship.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- DAY-NRLM is the Union government's flagship programme for organising rural poor women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to promote livelihoods.
- Lakhpati Didi is a scheme aiming to help SHG women earn a sustainable annual household income of over ₹1 lakh.
- Exam point of view: LokOS (rural SHGs, Ministry of Rural Development) should not be confused with UDISE+ (school data, Ministry of Education) — both are "digital platforms" but track very different beneficiaries.

### 1.3 Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)

- The MHA announced that the nationwide rollout of the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is on track, connecting police, courts, prisons, prosecution and forensic labs into one platform.
- From **1 January 2027**, all investigations and trials under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya SakshyaAdhiniyam (BSA) will be digitally recorded.
- ICJS is implemented by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** and developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
- It follows the "One Data, Once Entry" principle, allowing case information to be entered once and shared securely across all connected agencies.

#### Learn Basics:

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya SakshyaAdhiniyam (BSA) are the three new criminal laws that have replaced the IPC, CrPC, and Indian Evidence Act respectively.
- NCRB, under the MHA, is the nodal agency for maintaining India's crime statistics and criminal records databases.
- Exam point of view: Remember NCRB implements ICJS while NIC develops it — TNPSC often tests "implementing vs developing agency" pairs.

### 1.4 DIKSHA – "One Nation, One Digital Platform" for School Education

- The Central Government designated DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) as "One Nation, One Digital Platform" for school education.
- DIKSHA was launched in 2017 and is managed by **NCERT** with support from **CIET** (Central Institute of Educational Technology).
- It provides curriculum-based digital learning resources from the Foundational Stage to Class 12, used by education boards across almost all States and UTs.
- It supports teacher training through the NISHTHA programme and offers offline access, DAISY-format materials and text-to-speech for learners with disabilities.

#### Learn Basics:

- NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) is a nationwide teacher-training programme run through DIKSHA.
- DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) is a format that makes digital content accessible to visually impaired learners.
- Exam point of view: Note the managing body — NCERT (curriculum content) with CIET support — since TNPSC may test which body "manages" DIKSHA versus which body "developed" it.

### 1.5 SUMAN Roadmap 2030 & SSBSK – Maternal and Child Health

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 at the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, anchored in the RMNCHA+N approach.
- It aims to reduce the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) below **70 per 1 lakh live births by 2030**, covering 130 districts across 13 high-focus states.
- The Ministry also launched the SamagraShishu Bal SwasthyaKaryakram (SSBSK), merging Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Young Child Care (HBYC) into a single programme.
- SSBSK provides risk-based home visits for children up to 36 months, delivered by ASHAs, ANMs, CHOs and Anganwadi workers.

#### Learn Basics:

- RMNCHA+N stands for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition — the umbrella strategy for India's health missions.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is the number of maternal deaths per 1 lakh live births; India's national SUMAN target is below 70 by 2030.
- Exam point of view: Don't mix up SUMAN (maternal/newborn care roadmap) with SSBSK (child healthcare up to 36 months) — they were launched together but serve different age-groups.

### 1.6 ABHA Digital Health Mission Milestone

- The Government announced that over **104 crore health records** have been linked to more than **93 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** accounts.
- ABHA is a 14-digit unique digital health ID under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- It securely links an individual's health records with hospitals, doctors, insurers and other healthcare providers.
- The Government aims to expand the ABDM network to cover all patients and healthcare facilities across India.

#### Learn Basics:

- ABDM (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) aims to create a seamless online platform for India's digital health ecosystem.
- ABHA is different from Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY (the health insurance scheme) — ABHA is a digital health ID, not an insurance card.
- Exam point of view: A classic mix-up: ABHA (14-digit digital health ID) vs PM-JAY (health insurance cover up to ₹5 lakh) — both fall under "Ayushman Bharat" but serve different purposes.

### 1.7 Zero Coal Leakage Plan & Bureau of Port Security

- The Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation directed adoption of a "Zero Coal Leakage Plan" for a time-bound response to illegal coal mining and unauthorised transportation.
- Officials of CISF and Coal India Limited have been authorised to act under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and coal has been added to the CISF priority deployment list.
- The Government established the **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, modelled on the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- CISF has been designated as the Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for ports, with BoPS focusing on port/ship security, intelligence sharing and cyber-threat prevention.

#### Learn Basics:

- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 is the central law governing regulation of mines and mineral development in India.
- BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) is the model on which BoPS has been designed, extending a similar security-oversight approach from air to maritime transport.
- Exam point of view: Remember CISF's dual new role in this cycle — priority deployment for coal security AND Recognised Security Organisation for ports.

### 1.8 NITI Aayog's Roadmap on Ayurveda & Amendment to Drug Rules, 1945

- NITI Aayog released the "Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global," aiming to expand Ayurveda's global reach from 2025 to 2047.
- Ayurveda exports increased from USD 1.09 billion (2014) to USD 2.16 billion (2023), now reaching about 150 countries; the WHO has included Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) in ICD-11 and ICHI.
- The roadmap proposes a Global Ayurveda Register (GAR), WHO-GMP certification, and Medical Value Travel (MVT) hubs, targeting recognition in at least 20 national health systems by 2047.
- Separately, the Government amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, bringing advanced cell, stem cell, gene therapy products and xenografts under the Centrally Licensed Approving Authority (CLAA) of the CDSCO.

### Learn Basics:

- ICD-11 (International Classification of Diseases) and ICHI (International Classification of Health Interventions) are WHO frameworks; their inclusion of Ayurveda/Siddha/Unani gives these systems global recognition.
- A xenograft is an organ or tissue transplanted from one species (e.g., pigs) to another (e.g., humans); CLAA under CDSCO now regulates such advanced therapies.
- Exam point of view: Note the ASU acronym (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani) carefully — TNPSC may test which two WHO classifications (ICD-11 and ICHI) now include these systems.

### 1.9 National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to prevent substance abuse and promote rehabilitation.
- The framework focuses on prevention, awareness, capacity building, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration.
- The ministry has expanded its de-addiction and rehabilitation network to **768 centres**, including 348 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA).
- A 2019 national survey estimated over 7 crore people in India were affected by substance use disorder; the toll-free helpline 14446 and Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan support the initiative.

### Learn Basics:

- IRCA (Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts) is a facility that provides counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services for persons with substance use disorder.
- Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan ("Drug-Free India Campaign") is the Government's public-awareness umbrella campaign under NAPDDR.
- Exam point of view: NAPDDR falls under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, not the Ministry of Health — a common ministry mix-up in TNPSC papers.

### 1.10 NIIF Capital Expansion

- The Union Cabinet approved an additional **₹30,000 crore** investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), taking the Government's total commitment to **₹60,000 crore**.
- NIIF is India's sovereign-anchored investment platform, with the Government holding a 49% stake.
- The investment will support NIIF Infrastructure Fund II (target corpus ₹30,000 crore) and new/successor fund strategies.

- The fund will invest in transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure and e-mobility sectors.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- A "sovereign-anchored" fund means the government provides initial capital to attract further investment from global and domestic institutional investors.
- Exam point of view: Note the Government's stake in NIIF is 49% (not a majority) — TNPSC may test this exact percentage against the total ₹60,000 crore commitment figure.

#### **1.11 India's Nuclear Warheads Deployment (SIPRI Yearbook 2026)**

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 2026 Yearbook classified **12 of India's estimated 190 nuclear warheads** as "operationally deployed."
- Operational deployment means warheads are mated with delivery systems such as missiles or submarines and kept in a ready state.
- SIPRI clarified this does not indicate any change in India's "No First Use (NFU)" doctrine or credible minimum deterrence policy.
- The development is linked to strengthening of India's nuclear triad, especially Arihant-class nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs).

#### **Learn Basics:**

- "No First Use (NFU)" is India's nuclear doctrine committing not to use nuclear weapons first in a conflict.
- A nuclear triad refers to the capability to launch nuclear weapons from land, air, and sea (submarines).
- Exam point of view: SIPRI is a Stockholm-based independent institute (not a UN body) — don't confuse it with IAEA, which is a UN nuclear watchdog.

#### **1.12 Other Updates in Brief**

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, at Visakhapatnam.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs launched the Electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) platform, enabling fully online OCI applications; the OCI card was originally introduced in 2005.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister announced a plan to establish a cooperative life insurance company on the 5th Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation; India has around 8.5 lakh cooperatives with more than 30 crore members.
- The UDISE+ Report 2025-26 recorded a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 71.7% at the secondary level (up from 68.5%) and India's teacher workforce crossing 1.02 crore for the first time.
- The Civil Registration System (CRS) 2024 report recorded 99.1% birth registration and 99.4% death registration, with a sex ratio at birth of 917 females per 1,000 males.

## 2. TAMIL NADU NEWS

### 2.1 India's Deep-Water Port Milestone – Kamarajar Port

- Kamarajar Port has become India's second major port with an **18-metre draft** capability, after completion of the Capital Dredging Phase VI project.
- The port can now handle Capesize vessels carrying cargo of up to 1,70,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT).
- Visakhapatnam Port remains the first major port in India to achieve an 18-metre draft.
- Kamarajar Port, formerly Ennore Port, is located near Chennai and is India's first corporatized major port.

#### Learn Basics:

- Deadweight Tonnage (DWT) is the total weight a ship can safely carry, including cargo, fuel, and crew.
- A "corporatized" port is one that is run as a company (rather than as a government department/board), giving it greater operational and financial autonomy.
- Exam point of view: Note the sequence — Visakhapatnam (1st with 18m draft) then Kamarajar (2nd major port overall, also achieving 18m draft) — a common ordering trap in TNPSC questions.

### 2.2 Changes in Food Security Law & Tamil Nadu's AAY Rice Quota

- The Union Government has proposed amendments to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, opposed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- The draft amendment proposes **7 kg of foodgrains per person per month** for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household.
- Tamil Nadu estimates its monthly AAY allocation would decline from 65,261 tonnes to 42,040 tonnes under the proposed system; the state has urged the Centre to retain the existing 35 kg per household entitlement.
- Tamil Nadu has about 18.65 lakh AAY ration cards, covering nearly 69.27 lakh beneficiaries, and drew less rice than its allocated quota in five of the last seven years.

| Year    | Allocation (t) | Off-take (t) |
|---------|----------------|--------------|
| 2019-20 | 6,89,246       | 7,50,046     |
| 2020-21 | 6,99,628       | 6,86,052     |
| 2021-22 | 7,04,819       | 5,42,877     |

|         |          |          |
|---------|----------|----------|
| 2022-23 | 7,43,975 | 5,50,171 |
| 2023-24 | 7,51,547 | 5,52,537 |
| 2024-25 | 7,38,492 | 5,85,126 |
| 2025-26 | 7,39,718 | 8,01,574 |

### Learn Basics:

- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is a sub-scheme of the NFSA, 2013 targeting the "poorest of the poor" households with 35 kg foodgrains per household per month.
- NFSA, 2013 provides legal entitlement to subsidised foodgrains for about two-thirds of India's population.
- Exam point of view: TNPSC may ask for the exact proposed change — from a flat 35 kg per household to a per-capita 7 kg formula (capped at 35 kg) — and Tamil Nadu's specific allocation figures.

### 2.3 Tamil Nadu Welfare Reform – Social Justice Department

- The Tamil Nadu Government has renamed the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department as the **Social Justice Department**.
- The change was notified through a Government Order issued by the Human Resources Management Department, and the Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, 1978 were amended accordingly.
- The renaming follows the earlier renaming of the Ministry of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare as the Ministry of Social Justice.
- The move aims to align the department's name with the broader objective of social justice and inclusive welfare.

### Learn Basics:

- The Tamil Nadu Government Business Rules, 1978 govern the allocation and conduct of business among government departments in the state.
- Exam point of view: Remember the renaming happened in two stages — first the Ministry, then the corresponding Department — TNPSC may test which came first.

### 2.4 Beekeeping Initiative in Pichavaram Mangroves

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department launched a beekeeping initiative in the Pichavaram mangroves, Cuddalore, to improve the livelihood of the Irula tribal community.
- It is implemented through the Eco-Tourism Management Committee (ETMC) under the Climate Resilient Village (CRV) initiative, funded with ₹25.37 lakh by NABARD under the TRIBES scheme.
- The project trains beneficiaries in scientific beekeeping, honey processing, branding and marketing under the "Pichavaram Mangrove Honey" brand.

- The initiative is expected to boost pollination, mangrove regeneration and biodiversity in the Ramsar-listed Pichavaram ecosystem.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- A Ramsar site is a wetland designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on wetland conservation.
- NABARD's TRIBES scheme supports livelihood and skill-development projects for Scheduled Tribe communities in rural and forest areas.
- Exam point of view: Pichavaram is Ramsar-listed and home to the Irula tribal community — TNPSC may pair this with other Tamil Nadu Ramsar sites (e.g., Point Calimere, Kazhuveli).

### **2.5 Chola Heritage at Tiruvalanchuzhi – Stone Window & Pidari Ekaveeri Inscription**

- The stone lattice window (palakani) at the Nurai Pillaiyar shrine, within the Sadaimudinathar Temple complex near Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district, showcases exceptional later Chola craftsmanship.
- The palakani features four stone pillars, intricate lattice work, floral designs and sculptures of yazhis (mythical lion-like creatures); the two central pillars are carved from single blocks of stone.
- A rediscovered inscription at the same temple reveals a Chola-era royal grant — Kunthanan Amuthavalliyar, mother-in-law of Raja Raja I, donated 40 gold coins to the goddess Pidari Ekaveeri for the Avapala Anjanai ritual.
- The endowment provided an annual interest of 30 kalam of paddy through six Brahmins; during Rajendra II's reign it continued at 15 kalam of paddy annually.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- A palakani is a decorative stone lattice window characteristic of later Chola temple architecture.
- Royal temple endowments in Chola inscriptions typically specify the donor, the deity, the amount donated, and the recurring interest/allocation for rituals — a recurring TNPSC theme.
- Exam point of view: Note the relationship — Kunthanan Amuthavalliyar was mother-in-law of Raja Raja I — a specific genealogical detail TNPSC likes to test in epigraphy questions.

### **2.6 Egyptian Vulture Decline & Z25 Vulture Monitoring in Tamil Nadu**

- Conservationists have urged urgent measures, including a breeding programme, for the Endangered Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), which has become locally extinct in the Nilgiris with no confirmed active breeding sites in Tamil Nadu.
- Major threats include diclofenac (a veterinary NSAID), electrocution, poisoning and habitat disturbance; fewer than 150 resident Egyptian Vultures remain across Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has proposed an Egyptian Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme, with potential sites at Nilgiris, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Coimbatore.
- Separately, a radio-tagged White-rumped Vulture (Z25), bred at the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Haryana, died after electrocution by a power line in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- Diclofenac, a veterinary painkiller, is toxic to vultures feeding on treated cattle carcasses and is a major cause of the Indian vulture population collapse.
- Radio telemetry is a tracking technology that helps scientists monitor endangered species' movement, behaviour and threats in real time.
- Exam point of view: Don't confuse the two vulture species in this news — the Egyptian Vulture (conservation-breeding proposal) and the White-rumped Vulture (Z25's electrocution death) are different species with different Tamil Nadu locations (Nilgiris vs Mudumalai).

#### **2.7 Other Updates in Brief**

- The Tamil Nadu Government plans to expand the Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme, which provides doorstep delivery of ration items to the elderly and persons with disabilities, by lowering the eligibility age from 70 to 60 years — expected to add about 4 lakh beneficiaries to the existing 20 lakh.

## **3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **3.1 NATO Summit 2026**

- The 2026 NATO Summit was held in **Ankara, Türkiye**, with members reaffirming their "ironclad commitment" to Article 5 (an attack on one member is an attack on all).
- The summit announced billions of dollars in defence and arms agreements among member countries.
- The United States stated Ukraine would be allowed to produce Patriot missile systems to strengthen its air defence.
- NATO countries also agreed to send minesweepers to the Strait of Hormuz to enhance maritime security.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- Article 5 is NATO's collective-defence clause, under which an armed attack against one member is treated as an attack against all members.
- Exam point of view: Note the 2026 venue — Ankara, Türkiye — TNPSC may test NATO summit host cities/years alongside member-related current affairs.

### **3.2 India-Japan Annual Summit & 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties**

- The 16th India-Japan Annual Summit was held in New Delhi to strengthen the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries.
- India and Japan agreed on the UNICORN (Unified Complex Radio Antenna) project — their **first defence co-development programme** — and adopted agreements on clean energy, AI, resilient supply chains, green hydrogen, biogas and semiconductors.
- Both sides agreed to accelerate review of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and work towards a ¥10 trillion Japanese investment target in India.
- India and Japan will celebrate **2027** as the "India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons," launching IMAGE-75, RASA-75, SPORT-75, and 'Cricket Kizuna-75' to mark 75 years of diplomatic ties.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- India-Japan relations were elevated to Global Partnership (2000), Strategic and Global Partnership (2006), and Special Strategic and Global Partnership (2014).
- India did not attend the 1951 San Francisco Conference after World War II but signed a separate Peace Treaty with Japan on 28 April 1952.
- Exam point of view: Remember the progression of partnership levels (2000 → 2006 → 2014) — TNPSC frequently tests the sequence and years of India's bilateral partnership upgrades.

### **3.3 UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance & AI for Good Global Commission**

- India participated in the inaugural UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance in Geneva, covering four clusters: AI's social/economic implications, bridging the global AI divide, promoting safe/trustworthy AI, and safeguarding human rights.
- The Dialogue, established under UNGA Resolution 79/325, follows the Global Digital Compact adopted under the Pact of the Future (September 2024); a second session follows in New York in May 2027.
- Separately, Kazakhstan joined the AI for Good Global Commission as a founding member at the invitation of the ITU, alongside over 40 global leaders from governments and technology companies.
- The Commission, launched at the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, focuses on developing trustworthy AI and reducing the digital divide.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- The Global Digital Compact, adopted as part of the UN's Pact of the Future (2024), is a framework for international cooperation on digital and AI governance.
- ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is the UN specialised agency for information and communication technologies.
- Exam point of view: Two similarly-themed AI bodies appeared this week — the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance (under UNGA Resolution 79/325) and the ITU's AI for Good Global Commission — don't mix up their parent organisations.

### 3.4 India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA)

- India and Israel signed a new Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA), making Israel the **first OECD country** to adopt India's new investment treaty model.
- The agreement replaces the earlier Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed in 1996, which was terminated in 2017.
- A BIA protects and promotes investments between two countries through investor rights and dispute-settlement mechanisms.
- India's investment treaty framework is based on the Model BIT, 2015, balancing investor protection with the government's regulatory powers.

#### Learn Basics:

- OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is a group of mostly developed economies promoting policies for economic growth and trade.
- Exam point of view: Note the timeline — 1996 BIT signed, terminated 2017, replaced by the new 2026 BIA — TNPSC may test this sequence of India-Israel investment agreements.

### 3.5 UNCTAD Consumer Protection Experts Session – India Chairs

- India has been appointed Chair of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, organised by UNCTAD in Geneva.
- The United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (UNGCP) is an internationally agreed framework guiding countries on consumer protection laws and policies.
- UNGCP was first adopted by the UN General Assembly through Resolution 39/248 on **16 April 1985**, expanded in 1999, and revised in 2015.
- UNGCP is a non-binding soft law instrument promoting consumer rights, product safety, digital commerce safety and sustainable consumption.

#### Learn Basics:

- UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) is the UN body dealing with trade, investment and development issues.
- A "non-binding soft law instrument" is a framework that guides but does not legally compel countries to comply.
- Exam point of view: Remember the UNGCP adoption/revision years — 1985 (adopted), 1999 (expanded), 2015 (revised) — a classic date-sequence question.

### 3.6 BRICS Anti-Drugs Meeting 2026

- Representatives of member countries converged in Guwahati, Assam, for the two-day BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies' Meeting 2026 — the **first time India has hosted** this meeting.

- BRICS initially comprised Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Indonesia.
- These countries together represent almost half the global population and more than 40% of the world's Gross Domestic Product.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- BRICS is an intergovernmental grouping of major emerging economies, named for its founding members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Exam point of view: Note the expanded BRICS membership list (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Indonesia) — TNPSC may ask which countries were added in the expansion.

### **3.7 World Bank Income Classification 2026**

- The World Bank Group released its annual Country Income Classifications for 2026-27, based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita data for 2025.
- Countries are classified into four categories: Low Income, Lower-Middle Income, Upper-Middle Income, and High Income, using the Atlas Method (a three-year moving average of exchange rates).
- India remains in the **Lower-Middle Income** category, with a GNI per capita range of USD 1,176 to USD 4,635.
- Six countries — Jordan, Micronesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Togo — moved to higher income categories; the share of low-income economies declined from 30% to 11% in 2026.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- Gross National Income (GNI) per capita measures the average income earned by a country's residents, including income from abroad, divided by population.
- The Atlas Method smooths short-term currency fluctuations by applying a three-year moving average of exchange rates.
- Exam point of view: Memorise India's current GNI per capita bracket (USD 1,176-4,635, Lower-Middle Income) as TNPSC frequently tests India's classification status.

### **3.8 Other Updates in Brief**

- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has been launched in Greece through Eurobank, and India and Seychelles signed an MoU to launch UPI in Seychelles by the end of 2026.
- IIM Bangalore will establish its first overseas campus at the Singhasari Special Economic Zone, Indonesia, to strengthen India-Indonesia higher-education cooperation.
- The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) has started the third Long Shutdown (LS3, 2026-2030) of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which will be upgraded into the High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) with up to 10 times the original luminosity.

- The United States celebrated the 250th anniversary of its independence on 4 July 2026 through the nationwide "Freedom 250" campaign, marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence (adopted 4 July 1776).

## 4. ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### 4.1 Status of the Himalayan Pangolin

- The Himalayan pangolin (*Manis aurita*) has been confirmed as a **distinct extant species**, separate from the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*), of which it was earlier considered a subspecies.
- Its distribution is restricted to the southern Himalayan foothills, with confirmed populations in Nepal, South Tibet, and Northeast India (including Assam).
- Major landscape features such as the Brahmaputra drainage and the Arakan Mountains acted as "synergistic filters" separating the two species.
- All eight currently recognised pangolin species have been transferred to CITES Appendix I, prohibiting international commercial trade in them.

#### Learn Basics:

- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) regulates international trade in specimens of endangered species; Appendix I bans commercial trade entirely.
- Pangolins are the world's most heavily trafficked mammals, prized illegally for their scales and meat.
- Exam point of view: Note that this is a taxonomic reclassification (subspecies → distinct species), not a new discovery — a distinction TNPSC likes to test.

### 4.2 Satkosia Tiger Reserve – Tiger Reintroduction

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) gave in-principle approval to resume the tiger reintroduction project in Satkosia Tiger Reserve, **Odisha**, which currently has no resident tigers.
- Satkosia covers 1,136 sq. km, including a 523 sq. km core area; the 2018 reintroduction attempt failed after one tiger died in a poacher's snare and the tigress Sundari was relocated due to human-wildlife conflict.
- NTCA has directed measures such as village relocation, prey-population improvement, creation of inviolate areas, staff capacity building, and stronger protection before the project resumes.

#### Learn Basics:

- Tiger reintroduction involves relocating tigers to habitats where the species has declined or disappeared, after ensuring suitable habitat and prey availability.
- An "inviolate area" is a core tiger habitat kept free of human settlement/activity to allow undisturbed breeding.

- Exam point of view: Remember Satkosia's 2018 project failure was due to both poaching (male tiger) and human-wildlife conflict (tigress Sundari) — two distinct causes TNPSC may test separately.

#### 4.3 Animal & Plant Discoveries 2025 and Borjuli Wetland Biodiversity Heritage Site

- The Animal Discoveries–2025 and Plant Discoveries–2025 reports were released during the 111th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata.
- Animal Discoveries–2025 recorded 709 additions to India's fauna (483 new species, 226 first records for India), taking total faunal diversity to 1,05,953 species; **Kerala** recorded the highest new animal discoveries (98).
- Plant Discoveries–2025 recorded 353 additions to India's flora (221 taxa new to science, 132 new distribution records); **Arunachal Pradesh** recorded the highest new plant discoveries (49).
- The Borjuli Wetland in Assam's Sonitpur district has been notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, to protect the wild rice species *Oryza rufipogon*.

##### Learn Basics:

- ZSI (fauna) and BSI (Botanical Survey of India, flora) are the two national bodies that annually document new species discoveries in India.
- *Oryza rufipogon* is the wild ancestor of cultivated rice (*Oryza sativa*), valuable for developing pest-, flood- and salinity-resistant rice varieties.
- Exam point of view: Note which state led in each report — Kerala (animals) vs Arunachal Pradesh (plants) — a common state-pairing trap.

#### 4.4 Van Mahotsav 2026

- Van Mahotsav 2026, India's week-long "Festival of Forests," is being observed across India from 1 to 7 July 2026.
- The festival was started in **1950 by K.M. Munshi**, then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food, to promote tree plantation and forest conservation.
- It is celebrated in the first week of July because the onset of the monsoon increases the survival rate of newly planted saplings.

##### Learn Basics:

- Van Mahotsav literally means "Festival of Forests," involving mass tree-plantation drives by schools, government bodies, NGOs and citizens.
- Exam point of view: Remember the founder — K.M. Munshi (1950) — a frequently tested "who started it" question in TNPSC environment sections.

#### 4.5 Global Biofuel Trends 2035 (OECD-FAO Report)

- The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2026-2035 report stated that food crops will remain the main source of global biofuel production until 2035.
- First-generation biofuels (from maize, sugarcane, cereals and vegetable oils) will continue to dominate; second-generation biofuels from crop residues/woody biomass are not expected to see a major rise.
- Global ethanol production is projected to reach **162.5 billion litres by 2035**, with maize as the major feedstock.
- Emerging economies including India, Brazil and Indonesia are expected to contribute 80% of global biofuel demand growth.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- First-generation biofuels are made from food crops, while second-generation biofuels use non-food biomass such as crop residues.
- OECD-FAO is a joint publication of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- Exam point of view: Note the projected 2035 ethanol figure (162.5 billion litres) and that food crops — not second-generation sources — remain dominant, a nuance TNPSC may test against common assumptions.

## **5. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

### **5.1 Oldest Quasars by Euclid & Rare Radio Galaxy RAD-BAARG**

- Scientists discovered the oldest known quasars, including the two oldest ever observed (dating to when the universe was about 670 million years old), using the European Space Agency's Euclid Space Telescope (launched 2023).
- Astronomers identified 31 quasars belonging to the Epoch of Reionisation, when the first stars and galaxies formed after the universe's "dark ages."
- Separately, an Indian research team discovered a rare bow-and-arrow-shaped radio galaxy (RAD-BAARG), about 2 billion light years from Earth and 1.8 million light years wide, using LOFAR Two-metre Sky Survey data.
- RAD-BAARG was discovered by RAD@home Astronomy Collaboratory, India's first citizen science astronomy research platform; scientists believe the galaxy is moving supersonically through a galaxy cluster, creating a giant bow shock.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- A quasar is the extremely bright core of a distant galaxy powered by a supermassive black hole.
- A radio galaxy is an active galaxy powered by a supermassive black hole that emits large amounts of radio waves.
- Exam point of view: Don't confuse the Euclid Space Telescope (ESA, quasars) with the LOFAR Two-metre Sky Survey (used for RAD-BAARG) — two different instruments in the same week's space news.

## 5.2 Placenta-on-Chip Platform

- Indian scientists from IIT Bombay and ICMR-NIRRH, Mumbai, developed a lab-grown placenta-on-chip platform to study pregnancy functions and test medicines.
- A placenta-on-chip is a microfluidic device that replicates human placenta functions — such as transferring oxygen/nutrients and removing waste — in a controlled laboratory environment.
- It can be used for drug testing and research on pregnancy complications such as preeclampsia and gestational diabetes, while reducing reliance on animal testing.

### Learn Basics:

- A microfluidic device manipulates tiny volumes of fluid through miniature channels to mimic biological processes in a lab setting.
- ICMR-NIRRH (National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health) is ICMR's dedicated reproductive-health research institute in Mumbai.
- Exam point of view: Note the two collaborating institutions — IIT Bombay (engineering) and ICMR-NIRRH (medical research) — a common institution-pairing question.

## 5.3 Underwater Fibre Optic Sensing System (UFOSS)

- DRDO launched a project to deploy an indigenous Underwater Fibre Optic Sensing System (UFOSS) for seabed-based submarine surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- UFOSS is a fixed underwater network of acoustic and hydrographic sensors providing continuous monitoring, detecting submarines via propeller noise, engine vibrations and machinery sounds through seabed-mounted hydrophones.
- The system converts acoustic signals into optical data via underwater fibre-optic cables, analysed at naval shore stations, and is designed for a **20-year operational lifespan**.

### Learn Basics:

- A hydrophone is an underwater microphone used to detect sound waves, such as those from submarines or marine life.
- The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is a strategic maritime zone central to India's naval security planning.
- Exam point of view: UFOSS is a DRDO (defence) initiative for seabed surveillance — don't confuse it with GAGAN or ISRO's civilian satellite systems covered elsewhere this week.

## 5.4 Fractional Fermi Sea

- Scientists at the University of Innsbruck created a new exotic quantum state of matter called the fractional Fermi Sea.
- The experiment used around 70,000 caesium atoms cooled to a few nanoKelvin and trapped in one-dimensional tubes to control particle movement.
- The discovery explores quantum behaviour beyond the Tomonaga-Luttinger liquid theory, which describes interacting particles in one dimension; caesium (Cs) is an alkali metal with atomic number 55.

#### Learn Basics:

- A fractional Fermi Sea is a quantum state formed under ultracold conditions where particles display unusual collective behaviour.
- Exam point of view: Remember caesium's atomic number (55) — TNPSC science sections sometimes test atomic numbers of elements mentioned in current-affairs discoveries.

### 5.5 SOLVE Ground Test (Gaganyaan) & Skyroot's Vikram-1

- ISRO successfully tested the SOLVE (Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments) solid motor at SDSC, Sriharikota, to validate the parachute-based deceleration system of the Gaganyaan Mission Crew Module.
- The SOLVE motor is derived from the PSLV Strap-on Motor; Gaganyaan aims to send three astronauts to a 400 km Low Earth Orbit for three days, using HLVM3, the Crew Escape System, Orbital Module, Crew Module and Service Module.
- Separately, Skyroot Aerospace announced the launch window for Mission Aagaman, the maiden test flight of Vikram-1, **India's first private orbital rocket**, designed to place up to 350 kg payload into a 450 km LEO.
- ISRO also conducted a 175-tonne hot test of the Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.

#### Learn Basics:

- HLVM3 (Human-Rated LVM3) is the ISRO launch vehicle rated safe for carrying human crew, used for the Gaganyaan mission.
- A semi-cryogenic engine uses refined kerosene and liquid oxygen as propellants, offering higher efficiency than solid-fuel engines.
- Exam point of view: Note the Tamil Nadu link — the Semi-Cryogenic Engine hot test was conducted at Mahendragiri (ISRO Propulsion Complex), a location TNPSC frequently references in Tamil Nadu-specific S&T questions.

### 5.6 PinS Instrument Approach & GAGAN Satellite Landing Trial

- India approved its first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure for helicopter operations at Undavalli Heliport, Andhra Pradesh, developed by AAI and approved by DGCA.

- PinS is a satellite-based procedure using Performance-Based Navigation (PBN) that enables helicopters to land safely without conventional instrument landing systems.
- The DGCA also conducted India's first satellite-based landing system (SLS) approach trial on an IndiGo Airbus A320 at Udaipur Airport, using the indigenous GAGAN navigation system for a Localiser Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV) precision landing.
- GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) is India's Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS), jointly developed by **AAI and ISRO**, reducing dependence on ground-based Instrument Landing Systems.

#### Learn Basics:

- Performance-Based Navigation (PBN) uses satellite positioning rather than ground-based beacons to guide aircraft/helicopters.
- SBAS (Satellite Based Augmentation System) improves GPS accuracy by broadcasting correction signals via geostationary satellites.
- Exam point of view: Don't confuse PinS (for helicopters, Andhra Pradesh) with the GAGAN/A320 trial (fixed-wing aircraft, Udaipur) — both are satellite-navigation "firsts" reported the same week.

#### 5.7 Other Updates in Brief

- The WHO added the first molecular diagnostic test for the Bundibugyo Ebola virus (a species distinct from the more common Zaire Ebola virus) to its Emergency Use Listing (EUL).

## 6. ECONOMY NEWS

### 6.1 Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 2026

- The Central Government notified the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 2026, replacing the EPF Scheme, 1952, under the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- The mandatory EPF contribution remains **12% of wages each** from employee and employer, with the 10% rate continuing for notified establishments.
- The scheme promotes electronic filings, online claims, e-passbooks and Universal Account Number (UAN) linkage, and updates partial-withdrawal rules for medical treatment, education, marriage and housing.

#### Learn Basics:

- The Code on Social Security, 2020 consolidates multiple labour laws (including the EPF Act) into a single unified code.
- UAN (Universal Account Number) is a unique number linking all of an employee's EPF accounts across employers for portability.
- Exam point of view: Note that the EPF Scheme, 2026 replaces the 1952 Scheme but retains the same 12% contribution rate — a "what changed vs what stayed the same" question.

## 6.2 RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2026

- The RBI implemented the revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2026 from **1 July 2026**, replacing the 2021 framework, following a "One Nation, One Ombudsman" system.
- It provides a faster, cost-free, non-adversarial complaint-redressal mechanism against banks, NBFCs, payment system operators and credit information companies.
- The RBI increased compensation limits up to **₹30 lakh** for financial loss and **₹3 lakh** for harassment, delay and mental anguish.
- Customers must first approach the concerned financial institution and can escalate to the RBI Ombudsman if unresolved within 30 days.

### Learn Basics:

- An Ombudsman is an independent authority that investigates and resolves complaints against organisations, here specifically regulated financial entities.
- NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company) is a financial institution offering banking-like services without holding a full banking licence.
- Exam point of view: Remember the new compensation ceilings — ₹30 lakh (financial loss) and ₹3 lakh (harassment/mental anguish) — precise figures TNPSC likes to test.

## 6.3 India's External Debt in FY26

- As per RBI data, India's external debt rose to **\$762.8 billion** in FY26, an increase of \$26.3 billion over FY25.
- The external debt-to-GDP ratio rose from 19.8% to **20.8%** during the same period, influenced by higher overseas borrowings and global currency valuation effects.
- External debt includes borrowings by the government, banks and the private sector from foreign sources.

### Learn Basics:

- The external debt-to-GDP ratio measures a country's foreign debt burden relative to the size of its economy.
- Exam point of view: Memorise the exact FY26 figures — \$762.8 billion external debt and 20.8% debt-to-GDP ratio — as TNPSC often tests precise economic-indicator values from RBI reports.

## 6.4 World LNG Report 2026

- The World LNG Report 2026, released by the International Gas Union (IGU), recorded global LNG trade reaching a record **437 million tonnes** in 2025.
- Asia led global LNG regasification capacity additions in 2025 (China 24%, India 11.3%); India added 52.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of regasification capacity across eight terminals, surpassing Spain to become the **4th largest regasification market**.

- Dahej LNG Terminal, Gujarat, ranks as the **6th largest** regasification facility globally and is India's premier ultra-large energy hub.
- Canada and Mauritania/Senegal joined as the first new LNG export markets since 2022, while Europe's imports jumped due to the loss of Russian pipeline transit through Ukraine.

### Learn Basics:

- LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) is natural gas cooled into liquid form for efficient storage and transport.
- Regasification capacity refers to a terminal's ability to convert imported LNG back into gas form for use.
- Exam point of view: Note India's exact rank (4th largest regasification market, surpassing Spain) and Dahej's global rank (6th) — precise rankings TNPSC frequently tests from such reports.

## 6.5 Global Passport Index 2026

- India's rank in the Global Passport Index (GPI) 2026, published by Global Citizen Solutions (GCS), declined to **125th position**, one place lower than the previous year.
- The index ranks passports under Enhanced Mobility (50%), Investment (25%), and Quality of Living (25%) categories, using 14 indicators and data from institutions like the World Bank and WEF.
- The strongest passports in the 2026 index are Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

### Learn Basics:

- The Global Passport Index differs from the more commonly cited Henley Passport Index in its weighting methodology, which includes investment and quality-of-living factors, not just visa-free travel.
- Exam point of view: Note India's exact 2026 rank (125th) is a decline of one place — TNPSC may test the direction of change (improved/declined) alongside the number.

## 6.6 Other Updates in Brief

- ACME Green Molecules Business signed India's first long-term global agreement to supply 1,00,000 tonnes of green methanol per year to Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company of Japan.
- Chota Tingrai Tea Estate in Tinsukia district, Assam, produced and sold India's first commercially produced matcha tea at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre.

# 7. STATE NEWS

## 7.1 Gujarat's First Air-Filled Rubber Dams

- Gujarat is constructing its first two air-filled rubber dams — the Rajvasana Rubber Dam (Heran River, Chhota Udepur district) and the Pathakwadi Rubber Dam (Ambika River, Tapi district) — using South Korean technology.
- An air-filled rubber dam uses an inflatable rubber bladder, raised or lowered to control water flow for water storage, irrigation and flood management.
- The two projects have a combined cost of over **₹162 crore** and use SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) automation systems.

#### Learn Basics:

- SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) is an automated control system used to monitor and manage industrial/infrastructure processes remotely.
- Exam point of view: Note the two rivers and districts paired correctly — Heran River/Chhota Udepur (Rajvasana Dam) vs Ambika River/Tapi (Pathakwadi Dam) — a common river-district matching trap.

### 7.2 Historic Agreement on the Narmada River

- Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra reached an agreement on pending issues related to the Narmada Project, including cost-sharing for the Sardar Sarovar Project and decades-old displacement/compensation disputes.
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam, one of 25 major dams planned on the Narmada, is the largest among them and the **second-largest gravity dam globally** by concrete volume (6.82 million cubic metres), after the Grand Coulee Dam, USA.
- At 163 metres, it is India's **third-highest** concrete dam, after Bhakra (226 m) and Lakhwar (192 m); its spillway discharge capacity of 30 lakh cusecs ranks third in the world.
- The dam is located in Gujarat's Narmada district on the Maharashtra border, overlooked by the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue.

#### Learn Basics:

- A gravity dam holds back water using its own weight (mass of concrete/masonry) rather than an arch or other structural design.
- The Statue of Unity, a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, is the world's tallest statue and overlooks the Sardar Sarovar reservoir.
- Exam point of view: Memorise the three height rankings correctly — Bhakra (226m, 1st) > Lakhwar (192m, 2nd) > Sardar Sarovar (163m, 3rd) — TNPSC often flips this order in distractor options.

### 7.3 TribeX Platform & Santali Constitution Translation

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched TribeX in Bhubaneswar, Odisha — India's first digital learning platform dedicated to tribal arts, culture, languages and traditional knowledge, offering UGC-recognised PG diplomas.

- Among its courses is one in the tribal language Santali (Ol Chiki script); the Constitution of India was also recently released in Santali using the Ol Chiki script — its **first-ever official translation** into Santali.
- Santali was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution by the **92nd Amendment Act, 2003**; the Ol Chiki script was created by Pandit Raghunath Murmu, whose birth centenary fell on 25 December 2025.

#### Learn Basics:

- The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution lists officially recognised languages of India; the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003 added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali to it.
- Ol Chiki is the writing script devised specifically for the Santali language by Pandit Raghunath Murmu.
- Exam point of view: Note the Eighth Schedule amendment year (92nd Amendment, 2003) that added Santali — a frequently tested Constitutional amendment fact.

#### 7.4 125 New Geographical Indications (GI) in 2025-26

- **125 GIs** were registered in India between April 2025 and March 2026, led by Madhya Pradesh (26) and West Bengal (24, taking its total to 59).
- Madhya Pradesh's new GI products include Khajuraho Stone Craft, Betul Bharewa Metal Craft, and four tribal crops — Sitahi Kutki, Nagdaman Kutki, Baigani Arhar, and Mahakoshal Chhatriya Chawal.
- Jharkhand registered 11 GIs (mostly handicrafts/textiles, including Tussar Silk Sarees), while Himachal Pradesh recorded 13 registrations; the total number of GIs registered in India now stands at **822**.
- Handicrafts comprise about 53% of all registered GIs, followed by agricultural products (31%); Uttar Pradesh (79) leads statewise cumulatively, followed by Tamil Nadu (74) and West Bengal (59).

| Rank | State         | Total GI Tags |
|------|---------------|---------------|
| 1    | Tamil Nadu    | 107+          |
| 2    | Uttar Pradesh | 89+           |
| 3    | Kerala        | 67+           |
| 4    | Karnataka     | 60+           |
| 5    | West Bengal   | 45+           |
| 6    | Maharashtra   | 41+           |

#### Learn Basics:

- A Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign on products with a specific geographical origin and qualities/reputation due to that origin, registered under the GI of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

- GIs fall under intellectual property rights recognised by the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- Exam point of view: Two different rankings appeared this week — GI registrations in 2025-26 alone (Madhya Pradesh 1st, West Bengal 2nd) versus cumulative all-time GI totals (Uttar Pradesh 1st, Tamil Nadu 2nd) — don't mix these up.

### 7.5 Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2026

- The Delhi government notified the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0, aiming for **30% electrification** of Delhi's total vehicle fleet by 31 March 2030.
- From 1 January 2027, only electric three-wheelers and N1-category goods vehicles will be registered in Delhi; from 1 April 2028, only electric two-wheelers will be eligible for new registration.
- Existing fossil-fuel vehicles will be allowed to complete their lifecycle; the policy provides incentives, scrappage benefits and expanded charging infrastructure, but excludes hybrid vehicles from subsidies.

#### Learn Basics:

- An N1-category vehicle is a goods-carrying motor vehicle with a gross weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes.
- Exam point of view: Note the phased registration deadlines — three-wheelers/N1 goods vehicles (Jan 2027) before two-wheelers (April 2028) — a sequencing detail TNPSC may test.

### 7.6 Other Updates in Brief

- The West Bengal government announced implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana, a Central scheme providing over 10 lakh tea garden workers in Assam and West Bengal access to better healthcare, education and resting facilities (₹314 crore support).
- Three Hooghly district (West Bengal) products — **Chandannagar's Jalbhara Sandesh**, Janai's Manohara, and Balagarh's traditional wooden (Dingi) boats — received GI tags.
- Eight traditional Himachal Pradesh products, including Spiti Seabuckthorn (Chharma), Kinnauri Apple and Kinnauri Jewellery, received GI tags, taking the state's total to 17.
- Sirsa Kinnow received a GI tag, becoming Haryana's first fruit to receive this recognition.
- The Dree Festival 2026, the major agricultural festival of the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, was celebrated centring on the Ziro Valley.
- Rajasthan and Haryana signed the Yamuna Water Project Agreement, based on the 1994 MoU on sharing utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin, for a drinking-water supply project.

## IMPORTANT DAYS (JULY 3 – 11, 2026)

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

- 3 July: International Plastic Bag Free Day. Theme: 'Breaking Free from Single-Use Plastics: Towards a Sustainable Future.'
- 5 July: International Day of Cooperatives (United Nations). Theme: 'Cooperatives for a Peaceful World.'
- 6 July: World Zoonoses Day. Theme: 'One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses.'
- 6 July: World Rural Development Day. Theme: 'Financing the First Mile of Food Systems.'
- 7 July: World Kiswahili Language Day (UNESCO). Theme: 'Kiswahili for Peace, Solidarity and Global Economic Diplomacy.'
- 7 July: World Bioproduct Day (World Bioeconomy Association, observed since 2021). 2026 message: 'Bioproducts are everywhere — often without us even noticing.'

## PERSONS & AWARDS

- General Dhiraj Seth took charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) on 30 June 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi.
- Kidambi Srikanth won the silver medal in men's singles badminton at the US Open 2026.
- Sunil Bharti Mittal received the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum's (USISPF) 2026 Leadership Award.
- Kerala's Ancy Sojan broke Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old Indian women's long jump national record with a **6.88 m** jump at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships 2026, Bhubaneswar.
- Ethan Vaz and Harshavardhan G.B. became India's 96th and 97th Chess Grandmasters; Kanyakumari's Aswath S became India's 98th Chess Grandmaster at the 2026 Pune International GM Round Robin.
- Indian Army Havildars Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh won India's first-ever World Rowing Cup gold medal (Lightweight Men's Double Sculls) at Lucerne, Switzerland.
- Girish Bharadwaj, the "Bridge Man of India" who built over 140 low-cost suspension bridges for rural connectivity, passed away at 76; he received the Padma Shri in 2017.
- Teejan Bai, the renowned Pandavani (Chhattisgarhi folk musical narration of the Mahabharata) exponent who received the Padma Shri (1988), Padma Bhushan (2003) and Padma Vibhushan (2019), passed away at 70.

- Jestha Varna Maha Vihar, a 17th-century Nepalese Buddhist monastery rebuilt with Indian assistance after the 2015 earthquake, won the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Conservation Award.
- The International Booker Prize has been renamed the Bukhman International Booker Prize, with the winner's prize money doubled from £50,000 to £100,000, shared equally between author and translator.
- Australia won its 7th Women's T20 World Cup title, defeating England in the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup (tenth edition), hosted by the England and Wales Cricket Board.
- India won five medals (3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) at the Global Skills Challenge 2026 in Australia, a preparatory event for the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai.

#### **Learn Basics:**

- Padma awards (Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, in ascending order of prestige) are India's civilian honours for distinguished service.
- Pandavani is a traditional Chhattisgarhi folk theatre form narrating episodes from the Mahabharata, performed in Vedamati (sitting) or Kapalika (standing) styles.
- Exam point of view: Note India's three new Chess Grandmasters this cycle in the correct order — Ethan Vaz (96th), Harshavardhan G.B. (97th), and Aswath S (98th) — TNPSC may test the sequential GM numbers.