

April - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Greater Chennai Corporation has planned to construct air-conditioned rest areas for gig workers who are involved in food and e commerce delivery on important roads in the city, similar to that of Dubai.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government has formed a dedicated cell under the Additional Secretary (Home) for dealing with mercy petitions filed by death row convicts.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with the various entities for the procurement of the Nag Missile System (NAMIS) Tracked version of the anti-tank weapon platform, and around 5,000 Light Vehicles for the armed forces, at a total cost of around Rs 2,500 crore.
- ❖ World Piano Day is observed on the 28th (if it is a leap year) or 29th of March - 88th day of the year because of the number of keys on the instrument.
- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister Modi visits RSS Headquarters in Nagpur for the first time since becoming PM.
 - Atal Bihari Vajpayee had visited it in 2000 during his third term as PM.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

7 Town Panchayats upgradation



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has upgraded seven town panchayats to municipalities.



- ❖ The town panchayats of Polur, Chengam, Kanniyakumari, Sankagiri, Kothagiri, Avinashi, and Perundurai have been officially designated as municipalities.
- ❖ The municipalities have been declared under provisions of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.
- ❖ The state government has created 10 new corporations and 31 municipalities in the last four years.
- ❖ As many as 149 panchayats, 4 municipalities, and 5 town panchayats are in the process of being merged with 16 corporations.
- ❖ Once the merging and upgrading process is completed, the state will totally have 25 of the municipal corporations including the Greater Chennai Corporation, 146 municipalities, and 491 town panchayats in the state.

Minimum standards for de-addiction centers

WHAT THE RULES SAY	
<p>Rules for running de-addiction and rehabilitation centres are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No patient can be compelled to undergo treatment without his consent ➤ Nursing and other staff should be duly qualified ➤ Officer in charge of such a centre should be a qualified psychiatrist or an MBBS doctor ➤ If a doctor is in-charge, then the centre should have a psychiatrist on its rolls who visits it at least 	<p>once a week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It should have ambulance facility ➤ The centre must ensure round-the-clock medical care to patients ➤ There should be additional rooms for individual counselling, group therapy ➤ Confidentiality of patients is to be maintained ➤ Requisite number of beds (one for each patient) ➤ Fresh and nutritious meals

- ❖ The state government notified the Tamil Nadu State Mental Healthcare Minimum Standards for De-addiction Centres Regulations 2025.
- ❖ The regulations are framed under the Mental Health Care Act, 2017.
- ❖ It has classified the centres into two categories based on the services they offered
 - Comprehensive De-addiction Centres (CDC) and
 - Rehabilitation Centres (RC) for persons with substance abuse disorders (SUD).

- ❖ CDCs can provide detoxification and rehabilitation care; the RCs will mainly offer psychosocial intervention after detoxification.
- ❖ All centres should be registered with the State Mental Health Authority.

NATIONAL NEWS

Rules for Disclosure of Judges' Assets

1997

Then Chief Justice of India J S Verma in a meeting adopted a resolution which stated:

“ Every judge should make a declaration of all assets in the form of real estate or investment held in their names, in the name of their spouses or any other person dependent on them, to the Chief Justice. ”

However, this was not a call for public disclosure of the assets of judges.

2009

A full Bench of the Supreme Court on September 8 resolved to declare the assets of judges on the court's website, but added that this was being done "purely on a voluntary basis".

These declarations appeared on the Supreme Court website in November that year, and a few High Courts followed suit.

Unlike public servants, judges are not bound to disclose details of their assets publicly.

As of March 1, 2025, only 97 out of 770, i.e. less than 13% of all HC judges, publicly declared their assets and liabilities.

A Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in 2023 introduced a legislation for mandatory disclosure of such data from SC and HC. But there has been no progress on it.

- ❖ Only 13 percent of High Court judges in India have declared their assets.
- ❖ As of March 2025, there are 34 judges in the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice, and about 1,100 judges in the High Courts.
- ❖ Out of these, only 98 judges have publicly disclosed their assets, primarily from the Kerala, Punjab-Haryana, and Delhi High Courts.
- ❖ In 1997, the Supreme Court adopted norms requiring judges to declare all assets before the Chief Justice, including immovable property and investments in their names, their spouses' names, or dependents' names.
- ❖ This was not a call for public disclosure of the assets of judges — only a disclosure to the Chief Justice.
- ❖ In 2009, the Supreme Court resolved to publish judges' asset declarations on its official website voluntarily.
- ❖ The Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, and Law and Justice recommended legislation to mandate the declaration of judges' assets.

Imran Pratapgadhi vs State of Gujarat

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India judgment quashing a Gujarat police case against Congress Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Imran Pratapgadhi.

- ❖ The case, filed for posting an allegedly inflammatory poem on social media, is a welcome intervention in favour of free speech.
- ❖ The verdict will have to serve as a guide to the police officers deciding to invoke the Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Section 153A of IPC).
- ❖ The section 196 deal the case about, promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing the acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

Police must understand free speech at least after 75 years of Constitution: Supreme Court on FIR against Congress MP



Even if a large number of persons dislike the views expressed by another, the right of the person to express the views must be respected and protected. Literature including poetry, dramas, films, stage shows, satire, and art make the life of human beings more meaningful.

- Supreme Court

Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System

Digital Agriculture Mission

Using Technology for Improving Farmers' Lives

Two foundational pillars

Agrf Stack	Krishi Decision Support System
 Farmers registry	 Geospatial data
 Village land maps registry	 Drought/flood monitoring
 Crop Sown Registry	 Weather/satellite data
	 Groundwater/water availability data
	 Modelling for crop yield and Insurance



- ❖ Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System has been established to collect the crop-sown details via a mobile interface, ensuring data is captured directly from the field.
- ❖ This database provides very accurate, real-time crop area information for every agricultural plot, which will help to arrive at accurate production estimation.
- ❖ 23 crore plots in 3 lakh villages of 435 districts in 14 states are already mapped.
- ❖ It has been found that there is 19 per cent jump in acreage data from the manual estimate of the crop sown area.

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Rajasthan are the best performing states as each of these states have completed over 90 per cent of their targeted plots in the Kharif season last year.
- ❖ Gujarat and Odisha had covered more than 50 per cent of their targeted plots.

Indian Ports Bill 2025



- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the 'Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024'.
- ❖ This bill seeks to modernise and update the legal framework and also Ease of Doing Business in the country's maritime sector.
- ❖ The Bill replaces the colonial-era legislation, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925.
- ❖ Bill addresses critical aspects such as pollution control, disaster management, emergency response, security, safety, navigation, and data management at ports.
- ❖ It also seeks to ensure India's compliance with the international obligations and the maritime conventions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Nilasatellite

- ❖ Small satellite manufacturing company HEX20 became the State's first startup to partner with SpaceX for launching its maiden satellite 'Nila'.
- ❖ The satellite, named after Kerala's longest river, was launched by the SpaceX's Transporter 13 mission.

- ❖ HEX20 builds payload agnostic satellite platforms and offers satellite mission as a service and payload hosting capabilities for in-orbit demonstration to its very customers.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Second National Gene Bank

GENE BANK FOR CROPS GERmplasm

- ✓ A 2nd National Enlarged Gene Bank to be established under permafrost conditions, to conserve 10 lakh germplasm lines for future food security, supporting both public and private sectors
- ✓ **Outcome:** The new global facility will safeguard plant genetic resources against any future untoward incident, supporting both India's agricultural research system and CGIAR, playing a pivotal role in ensuring future food security.

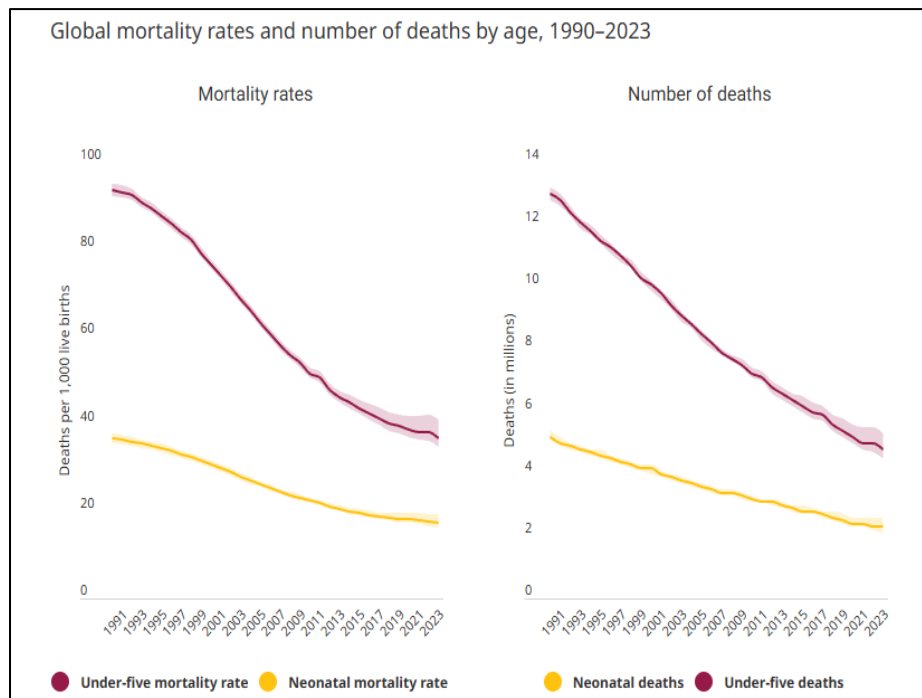


- ❖ The central government has announced the establishment of the second National Gene Bank (NGB) after 29 years to ensure the long-term food and nutritional security.

- ❖ The first National Gene Bank is located at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Currently it holds the distinction of being the second-largest gene bank in the world, with 4,71,561 accessions from 2,157 species.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Levels and trends in child mortality 2024



- ❖ The United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) released a data of 2024.
- ❖ Between 2000 and 2023, India achieved a 70 per cent decline in the under-five mortality rate and 61 per cent decline in the neonatal mortality rate.
- ❖ India is in seventh position among the top 10 countries in the highest reduction of stillbirths in the range of 60-70 percent.
- ❖ India has registered a 60.4 per cent reduction between 2000-2023 in comparison to a 37 per cent global reduction in stillbirth.
- ❖ Globally, the annual number of global under-five deaths in 2022 declined by more than half from the 2000 estimate- from 9.9 million to 4.9 million.
- ❖ Between 2000 and 2022, the world lost 221 million children, adolescents, and youth.

- ❖ The trend of under-five deaths has increased in the neonatal period from 41% in 2000 to 47% in 2022.

STATES' NEWS

Rajasthan Day 2025

- ❖ On March 30 of 1949 the four princely states - Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer - joined hands to form Greater Rajasthan.
- ❖ This year, state govt has announced a calendar shift and Rajasthan Day will now be celebrated annually on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada, the first day of the Hindu calendar.
- ❖ In 2025, that falls on March 30 but in future years, the date will vary.
- ❖ In 2026, for example, Chaitra Pratipada will fall on March 19.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2025 Windham Campbell Prize

- ❖ Yale University announced the eight recipients of the 2025 Windham-Campbell Prizes.
- ❖ It is one of the world's most significant international literary awards.
- ❖ Rana Dasgupta, a British author of Indian origin, has been awarded the Prize for his nonfiction.

- ❖ Dasgupta is also the author of the novels Tokyo Cancelled, and Solo.
- ❖ He was the founding director of the JCB Prize for Literature in India.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Light Fishing on Indian Coast



- ❖ Light fishing method uses high-powered artificial lights to lure fish and squid to the surface.

- ❖ This technique leads to overfishing, often capturing juvenile fish and non-target species.
- ❖ It has been banned in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) since 2017.
- ❖ In states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, light fishing is not totally banned in territorial waters and where rules do exist.

