

March - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Recruits Training Centre (RTC) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in Arakkonam has been renamed Rajaditya Cholan (RTC), Thakkolam (Ranipet District) in memory of the Chola prince.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has named the retired IAS officer and scholar R. Balakrishnan as the Director of the International Institute of Tamil Studies.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated 'Kalangarai', a comprehensive de-addiction and rehabilitation centre in 25 medical college hospitals in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Telangana government issued orders for teaching Telugu as a compulsory subject for students of 1st to 10th classes in CBSE, ICSE, IB and other boards affiliated schools in the state from the 2025-26 academic year.
- ❖ The Punjab government has mandated Punjabi as a main subject for Class 1-10 in all schools, irrespective of their board affiliation.
- ❖ The first-ever Conference for Women Peacekeepers, themed 'Women in Peace keeping: A Global South Perspective,' took place in New Delhi.
- ❖ India hosts the first-ever Regional Dialogue on Social Justice under the Global Coalition for Social Justice in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's Pankaj Advani secured the 2025 Asian Snooker Championship men's title, defeating Iran in the final at Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ The World Protein Day is celebrated on February 27th every year to mark the importance of protein in our diet for good health.

TAMIL NADU

Fifth Police Commission recommendations 2025

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Fifth Police Commission has called for making the biometric registration mandatory for migrant workers.
- ❖ According to the report, biometric registration of all migrant labourers should be made compulsory.
- ❖ The contractors who brought migrant labourers should also be registered under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979.
- ❖ The Commission has called for the firm action against teachers promoting caste discrimination in schools.

- ❖ All the government and the government-aided schools may be brought under the coverage of an extensive CCTV network.



NATIONAL

India's first hyperloop test track



- ❖ IIT Madras with the support from the Ministry of Railways, has developed a 422-meter-long, India's first hyperloop test track.
- ❖ With this, 350 km can be covered in just 30 minutes.
- ❖ This is referred to as the 'fifth mode of transport'.
- ❖ Hyperloop is a high-speed transportation system for long-distance travel.
- ❖ It allows trains to travel at very high speed via special capsules in vacuum tubes.
- ❖ It involves an electromagnetically levitating pod within a vacuum tube thus eliminating friction.

- ❖ It will be allowing the capsules to reach high speeds of over 1,000 km/h.
- ❖ A Mach is around 761 miles per hour at sea level on a standard day.

Top Cleanest Cities in India 2024

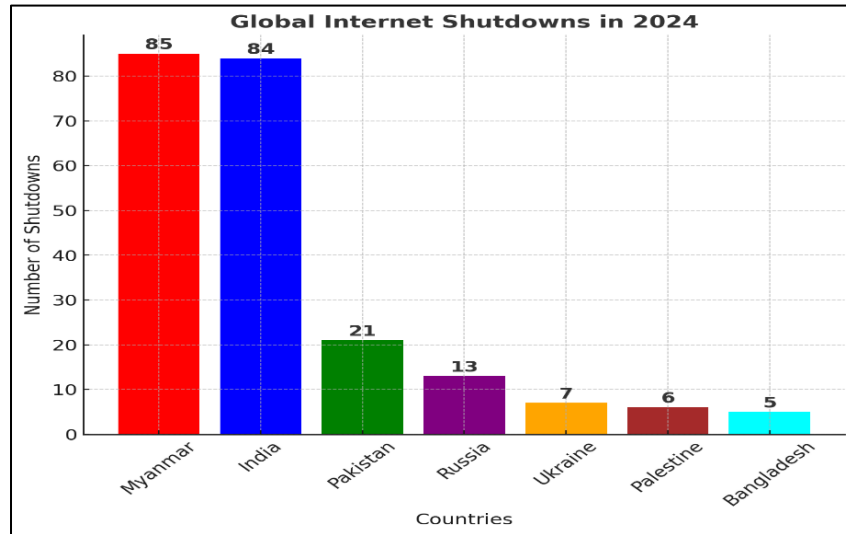
- ❖ The Centre has launched a revamped format for the 9th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS), the world's largest urban cleanliness survey.
- ❖ Indore has distinguished itself by winning the overall cleanest city award for the seven consecutive years and is featured in this edition as well.
- ❖ It is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

Indian Cities in the Super Swachh League (2024)		
Category: Very Small Cities – < 20,000		
Serial Number	City	State
1	Panchgani	Maharashtra
2	Patan	Gujarat
Category: Very Small Cities – 20,000 – 50,000		
Serial Number	City	State
3	Vita	Maharashtra
4	Sasvad	Maharashtra
Category: Medium Cities – 50,000 – 3,00,000		
Serial Number	City	State
5	Ambikapur	Chhattisgarh
6	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh
Category: Big Cities – 3,00,000 – 10,00,000		
Serial Number	City	State
7	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
8	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Category: Million Plus Cities – > 10,00,000		
Serial Number	City	State
9	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
10	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra
11	Surat	Gujarat
12	New Delhi Municipal Council	Delhi

Internet Shutdown in India 2024

- ❖ India recorded 84 internet shutdowns in 2024.
- ❖ This is the highest among the democratic nations, surpassed only by Myanmar, which saw 85 such blackouts imposed by the military regime in the country.
- ❖ The report was released by digital rights organisation Access Now.
- ❖ This is the first time in six years that India has not been named as the country which saw the greatest number of internet shutdowns in the world.

- ❖ Out of the 84 shutdowns, 41 were related to the protests while 23 of them were triggered by communal violence.
- ❖ Manipur had imposed the greatest number of shutdowns (21) within the country, followed by Haryana (12), and Jammu & Kashmir (12).
- ❖ Last year saw over 296 government-imposed internet shutdowns in 54 countries.



ECONOMY

Tariffs and India report – GTRI

SECTORAL IMPACT (US, India trade data for 2024)	USA export to India (\$mn)	USA import from India (\$mn)	Weighted average tariffs (%)	
			Faced by the US exports in India	Faced by Indian exports in the US
Agriculture, meat, processed food	1.94	6.04	37.66	5.29
Automobiles	0.42	2.8	24.14	1.05
Diamonds, gold, products	1.92	11.88	15.45	2.12
Chemicals & pharmaceuticals	3.52	18.44	9.68	1.06
Total*	34.34	91.23	7.67	2.79

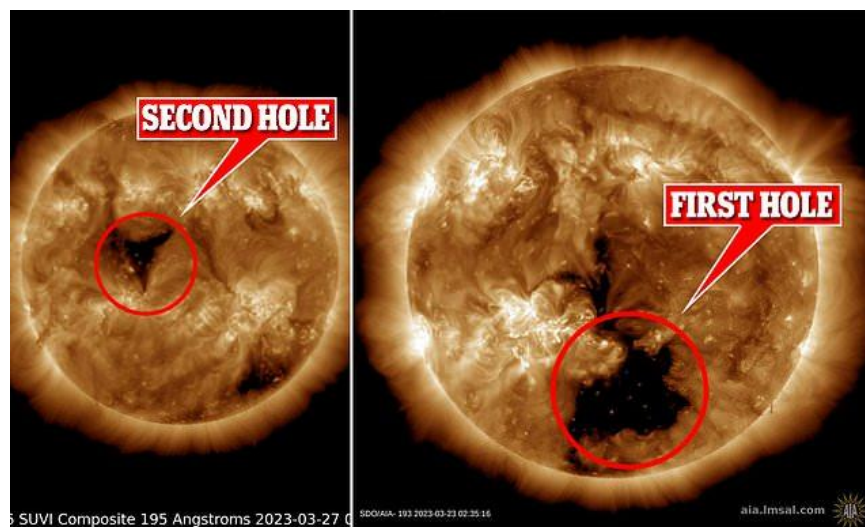
Note: Above mentioned sectors may face highest reciprocal tariffs, according to GTRI

- ❖ The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) suggested the government identify tariff lines (or product categories) where India can eliminate the import duties for American imports without harming domestic industries and agriculture.
- ❖ India may propose a zero-for-zero strategy to the US, eliminating tariffs on 90 per cent of industrial goods to prevent aggressive tariff hikes.
- ❖ Though the 'zero for zero' tariff strategy violates the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it is less harmful compared to negotiating a full FTA.

- ❖ If the US imposes a uniform tariff, Indian exports could face an additional tariff of 4.9 per cent, compared to the current 2.8 per cent.
- ❖ Indian farm exports would be hit "hardest", with shrimp, dairy, and processed foods facing tariffs of up to 38.2 per cent.
- ❖ Indian farm exports to the US currently face a 5.3 per cent tariff, whereas US farm exports to India face a much higher 37.7 per cent import duty.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Solar Coronal Holes



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

Evidence of Ancient Martian Ocean

- ❖ China's Zhurong rover has made a stunning discovery on the rugged terrain on Mars.

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



ENVIRONMENT

Black plastic pollution



- ❖ Black plastic is often made from recycled electronic waste such as computers, TVs, and appliances.

- ❖ These electronics typically contain the substances such as the flame-retardant bromine; antimony; and heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and mercury.
- ❖ These electronics comprise flame retardants in a bid to prevent fire hazards.
- ❖ The above substances and heavy metals are known to be toxic to humans at high levels of exposure and are now banned in many countries.
- ❖ Some kitchen utensils would result in a likely dose of 34,700 ng per day of BDE-209.

STATES

Maharashtra-Karnataka Border Dispute 2025



- ❖ The boundary dispute goes back to the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines through the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- ❖ Since its creation on May 1 of 1960, Maharashtra has claimed that 865 villages in Karnataka should be merged with Maharashtra.
- ❖ On October 25, 1966, on the insistence of Maharashtra, the Centre constituted a Commission headed by the former Chief Justice of India Mehr Chand Mahajan to study the issue.

- ❖ The Mahajan Commission had rejected Maharashtra's claim over Belagavi (then Belgaum).
- ❖ But it recommended an exchange of some territories.
- ❖ It said that 247 villages/ places in Maharashtra, including Jatt, Akkalkote, and Solapur, should be made part of Karnataka, and 264 villages/ places in Karnataka, including Nippani, Khanapur, and Nandagad, should be made part of Maharashtra.
- ❖ The recommendations were rejected by Maharashtra.

HIV self-testing - Mizoram

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



SPORTS

2025 Archery Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament

- ❖ India topped the medal standings at the first leg of the Asia Cup World Ranking Archery tournament.
- ❖ It secured eight medals, including 5 gold, at the conclusion of competitions.

- ❖ South Korea finished second in the medal tally with five medals, including two gold.



MISCELLANEOUS

Most Valuable Indian Brands of 2025

Rank 2025	Company	Brand Valuation	Industry	Global Rank 2025
1	Tata Group	\$31.6 bn	Diversified	60
2	Infosys	\$16.3 bn	IT Services	132
3	HDFC Group	\$14.2 bn	Banking	164
4	LIC	\$13.3 bn	Insurance	177
5	Reliance Group	\$9.8 bn	Diversified	237
6	SBI Group	\$9.6 bn	Banking	241
7	HCLTech	\$8.9 bn	IT Services	262
8	Airtel	\$7.7 bn	Telecommunications	292
9	Larsen & Toubro	\$7.4 bn	Diversified	316
10	Mahindra Group	\$7.2 bn	Diversified	330

- ❖ Tata Group, with a brand value of \$31.6 billion, topped in the list.
- ❖ Following closely, Infosys stands as the second most valuable Indian brand.

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

The Freemasons Hall



- ❖ The Freemasons Hall, Chennai, completes a hundred years recently.
- ❖ The Lodge of Perfect Unanimity (PU), founded in 1786, is the senior-most.
- ❖ The District Grand Lodge (DGL) of Madras, the administrative body for all lodges in the Presidency, came into existence in 1866.
- ❖ It was designed by the architect's firm of Jackson & Barker.
- ❖ The Freemasons Hall was inaugurated by Governor Lord Goschen on February 26, 1925.

