

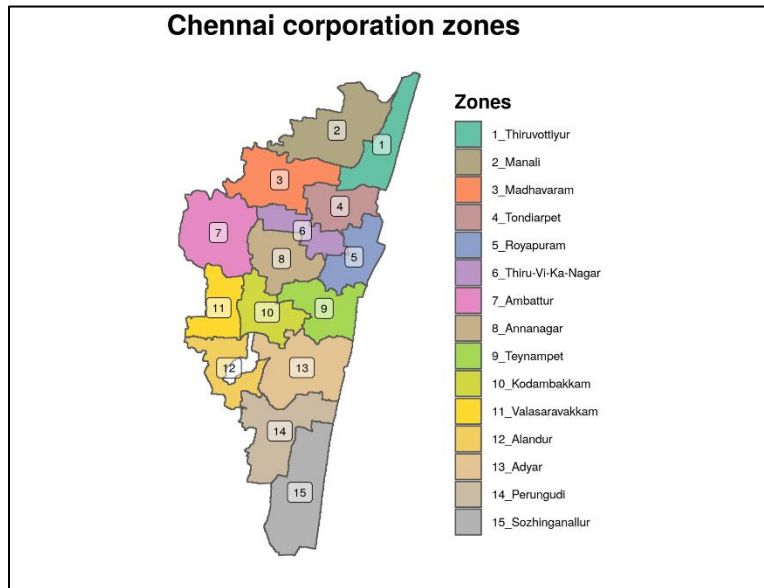
March - 03

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ After Kolkata Airport, the UDAN Yatri Cafe was inaugurated at Chennai Airport, offering affordable refreshments.
- ❖ A two-day national research and development fair InvenTiv2025 was held at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.
- ❖ Dr B Amudha has been appointed as the new head of the Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai Dr S Balachandran.
  - Thus, the Regional Meteorological Centre gets woman head for the first time.
- ❖ Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq's story collection Heart Lamp is among the 13 books featured in this year's International Booker Prize longlist.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Chennai corporation zones



- ❖ The Tamilnadu state government has issued an order to increase the number of administrative zones in Greater Chennai Corporation from 15 to 20.
- ❖ It aims to ensure the equitable distribution of resources based on population and effective delivery of services.
- ❖ The GCC was expanded in 2011 by merging 42 local bodies, extending its geographical limits to 426 square kilometres.

- ❖ While the population was at 66.72 lakh in 2011, it is estimated to be around 85 lakhs now.
- ❖ Currently, the city is divided into 15 zones and 200 wards.
- ❖ There are 22 Assembly constituencies in GCC.

### **New policy for HPWMI - Tamilnadu**

- ❖ Chief Minister released the state policy for Care of Homeless Persons with Mental Illness and Implementation Framework – 2024.
- ❖ It delineates the service provided to the Homeless Persons with the Mental Illness (HPWMI) into four stages - rescue and acute care, intermediary care, long term care, and social integration.
- ❖ The policy proposes a standard operating procedure (SOP) to be followed in rescue operations.
- ❖ The policy also details what should be done if the person is below 18 years, woman or pregnant and a victim of crime.
- ❖ Chief executive officer of State Mental Health Authority (SMHA) shall be the nodal authority for empanelling NGOs.
- ❖ 102 will be the designated helpline number for the rescue of homeless persons with mental illness



## **NATIONAL NEWS**

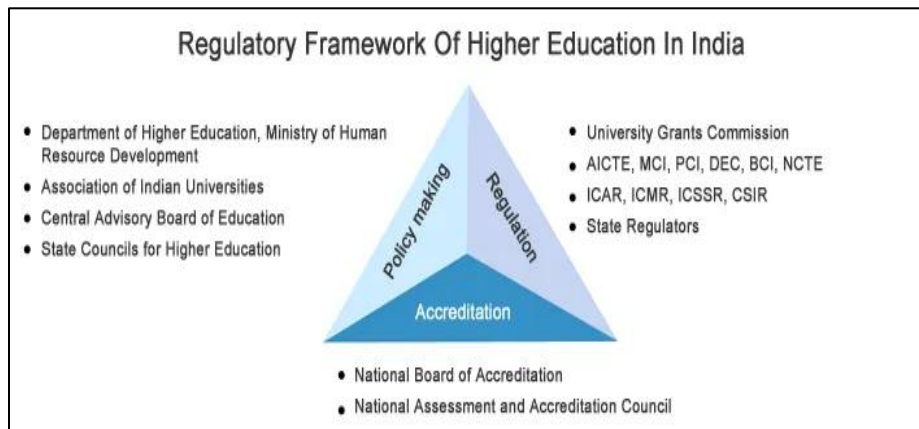
### **One Nation-One Port Process**

- ❖ Union government recently launched 'One Nation, One Port Process' Initiative.
- ❖ It aims remove the inconsistencies in documentation and processes that led to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.

- ❖ It is an initiative to standardize and streamline operations across India's Major ports.
- ❖ The 1st phase has standardised the documentation with Immigration, the Port Health Organisation, and Port Authorities.



### UGC Equity Guidelines



- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released revised draft guidelines to promote equity in higher education.
- ❖ It will be including the mandatory undertakings from students and faculty, Equal Opportunity Centres, representation of women and SC/ST communities in equity committees, and a faster procedure in cases of discrimination, among others.

- ❖ The guidelines also call for stricter penalties for non-compliance, and even de-recognition in some cases.
- ❖ An equity committee, appointed by the head of the institution, will manage the centre's operations and address complaints of discrimination.
- ❖ The committee must include at least one woman and one member each from the SC and ST categories.

### **Aadhaar Good Governance Portal**

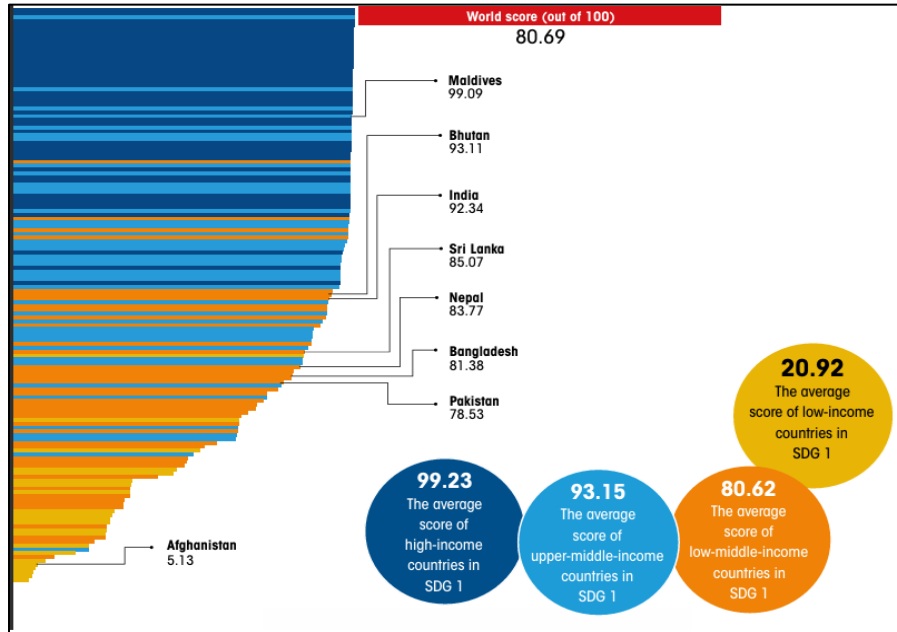


- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the Aadhaar Good Governance portal.
- ❖ It is to streamline the approval process for Aadhaar authentication requests.
- ❖ It simplifies the approval process for the Aadhaar authentication requests by the government and private entities.
- ❖ It allows both government and private entities to seek Aadhaar authentication for public interest services.

### **State of States Report - AAD 2025**

- ❖ India lags in nine of the 16 United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ All 36 Indian states and Union territories (UTs) have achieved at least half of the target in only four of the 15 SDGs.
- ❖ Challenges persist in one out of every six indicators in Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu, despite these states having the fewest lagging indicators.

- ❖ Sixteen states and UTs, including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, have met less than half of the target in 30-43 per cent of SDG indicators.
- ❖ The report was presented at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2025.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Gold Card Immigration Program

<p><b>Gold Card Announcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Donald Trump introduces \$5 million 'Gold Card' visa</li> <li>■ Offers residency, work rights, and a pathway to US citizenship</li> </ul> <p><b>Purpose of the Gold Card</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Aimed at wealthy immigrants &amp; job creators</li> <li>■ Intended to help reduce the US national deficit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gold Card vs. Green Card</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Seen as a premium alternative to the traditional Green Card</li> <li>■ Targets high-net-worth individuals</li> </ul> <p><b>End of EB-5 Program?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ EB-5 visa allows Green Cards via investment in US businesses</li> <li>■ Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick calls EB-5 "full of nonsense"</li> <li>■ Trump plans to replace EB-5 with the Gold Card</li> </ul>
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- ❖ President Donald Trump has announced a visa program called "Gold Card" for foreign investors seeking permanent residency in the United States.

- ❖ The Gold Card price has fixed about \$5 million.
- ❖ It gives Green Card privileges, and be a route to (American) citizenship.
- ❖ The EB-5 programs, created by Congress in 1990 and administered by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- ❖ It grants permanent residency (Green Card) to foreigners who invest in American businesses.
- ❖ Investors must put in at least \$1.05 million (\$800,000 in certain specific cases), and create at least 10 jobs for Americans.

### **Blue Visa – UAE**

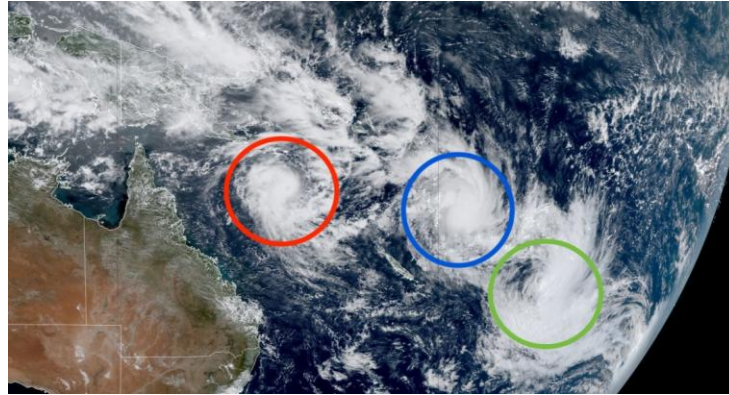
- ❖ UAE has unveiled the Blue Visa, a 10-year residency permit aimed at individuals who have made significant contributions to environmental protection and sustainability.
- ❖ This initiative aims to attract and retain the global talent dedicated to ecological preservation.
- ❖ The Blue Visa complements the existing UAE residency programs, such as the Golden and Green Visas.



### **Three Simultaneous Tropical Cyclones**

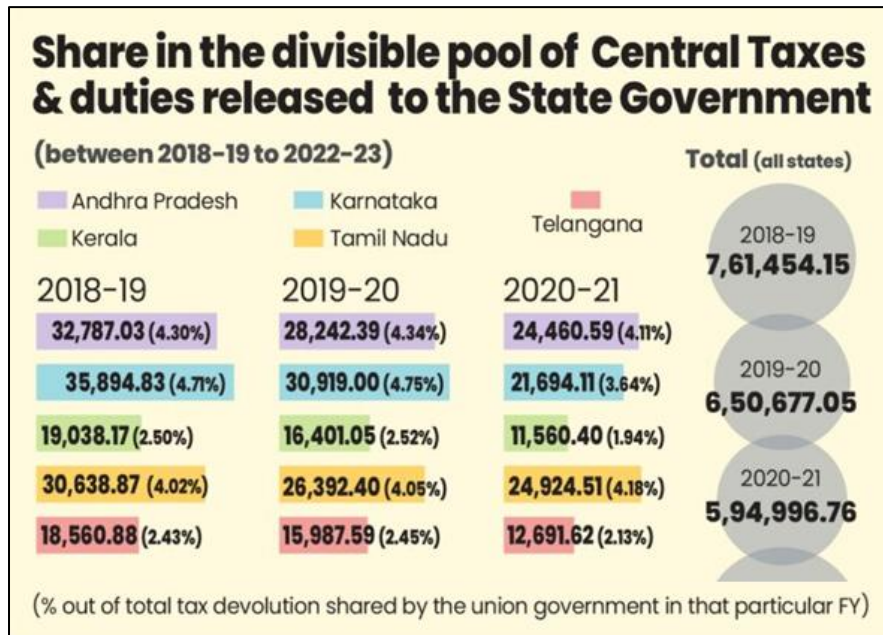
- ❖ The cyclones, named Rae, Seru, and Alfred, developed within a span of five days and are currently swirling in Pacific Ocean.

- ❖ The last instance of three tropical cyclones occurring simultaneously in the South Pacific was in January 2021.
- ❖ The cyclones Lucas, Ana, and Bina were active at the same time.



## ECONOMY NEWS

### Share of central taxes from 2026



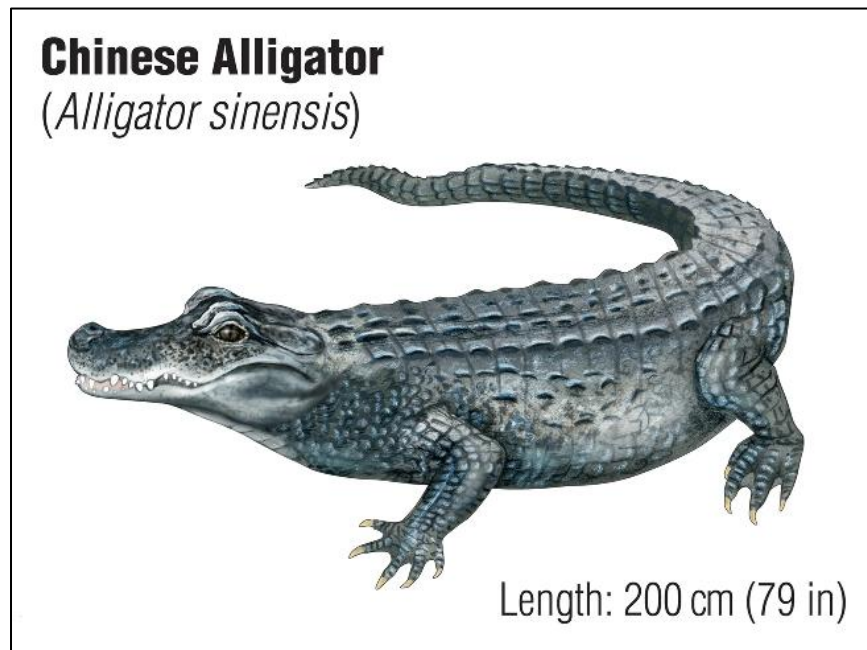
- ❖ The government is looking to cut central tax revenues that it shares with states.
- ❖ The Finance Commission of India makes recommendations on tax sharing along with other aspects of centre-state fiscal relations.
- ❖ The Arvind Panagariya-led panel will submit its recommendation by October 31, with an aim of getting it implemented from the financial year 2026-27.

- ❖ The central government is likely to recommend a reduction in the share of tax revenue going to states to at least 40% from the current 41%.
- ❖ The 1% swing in the states' share of the tax revenue could give the central government about Rs 3,500 crore.
- ❖ The share of taxes going to the state governments has increased from 20% in 1980 to 41% now.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### China's last Wild Alligators

- ❖ The Chinese Alligator (*Alligator sinensis*), the small crocodylian species that has inspired the Chinese dragon, is facing grave threats.
- ❖ The Chinese alligator is endemic to freshwater wetlands in eastern China.
- ❖ They were formerly distributed across the middle-lower Yangtze and Yellow River basins.
- ❖ Today, wild Chinese alligators numbering only 200 individuals.



### India's Highest Vulture Population

- ❖ The latest census has counted the vulture population in Madhya Pradesh at 12,981, an increase by 2,136 over the last census.
- ❖ In the 2024 census, the vulture population in the state was counted at 10,845.



- ❖ In the last six years, the population of the avian species in the state has increased by 35 percent.
- ❖ In 2019, Madhya Pradesh had 8,397 vultures and since then the vulture population has been increasing steadily.
- ❖ In 2021, the population of vultures in the state was 9,446.
- ❖ As per the latest census, Madhya Pradesh houses seven species of vultures.
- ❖ Of them, four are local species and the remaining three are migratory ones.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Award 2025**



- ❖ The “Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Award Ceremony” was organised by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

- ❖ This year's "Prani Mitra Awards" were conferred to 5 individuals / organizations under five categories:
- ❖ AWBI has been established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.
- ❖ It aims to ensure that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering.

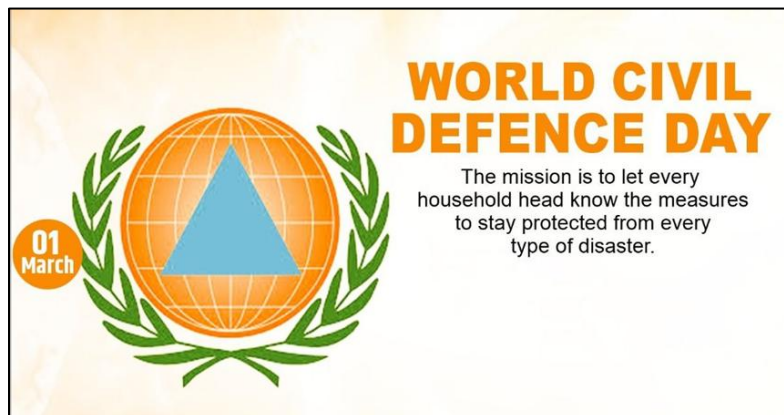
## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Zero Discrimination Day 2025 - March 01

- ❖ This annual observance sheds light on the discrimination in the various forms, encouraging a more just and equitable society.
- ❖ The Zero Discrimination Campaign was launched By UNAIDS in December 2013.
- ❖ This year's theme is "We stand together".



### World Civil Defense Day 2025 - March 01



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of civil defence strategies and the protection of people.

- ❖ The ninth General Assembly of the International Civil Defence Organisation has designated this day in 1990.
- ❖ The International Civil Defence Organization was founded in 1931.
- ❖ It has 61 member states, 16 observer states and 23 affiliated members.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### India Philanthropy Report 2025

- ❖ The social sector funding has grown by about 13% over the past five years to reach ₹25 lakh crore in FY24.
- ❖ Social sector funding is projected to reach ₹45 lakh crore in FY29.
- ❖ The NITI Aayog estimates that the sector is short by about ₹14 lakh crore.
- ❖ This funding gap will widen to ₹16 lakh crore by FY29, according to the 2025 report.
- ❖ Social spending is largely led by the public sector, which constitutes 95% of the total funding.
- ❖ Public sector funding stood at ₹23 lakh crore in FY24 and is expected to reach ₹43 lakh crore in the next five years.
- ❖ Public sector spending, as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product stood at 7.9% in FY24, up from 6.8% in FY19.
- ❖ In FY24, private spending reached ₹1.31 lakh crore, up just 7% from FY23.

