

March - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The IFL Finance, non-banking financial company, has rebranded seven existing branches into all women staffed 'Shakti' branches on the occasion of Women's Day.
- ❖ 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY)' has achieved a historic milestone with 10 lakh homes now solar-powered as of 10th March 2025.
- ❖ The Madras High Court has allowed Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) to go ahead with its plan to acquire the land from two temples for the construction of a metro station.
  - It has also ruled that religious institutions have no special right to opt out of acquiring land for public purposes.
- ❖ World Rotaract Day is celebrated on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March every year to acknowledge the services provided by the Rotaractors across the world.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### TN Agri Budget 2025

வேளாண்மை நிதிநிலை அறிக்கை 2025-26



வட்டாரங்கள் தோறும் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்ட பொது சேகரிப்பு மையங்களில் வேளாண் விளைபொருட்கள் வர்த்தகம்

வேளாண்மை நிதிநிலை அறிக்கை 2025-26



**ரூ 15**  
இலட்சம்

நல்லூர் வரகு (கடலூர்), வேதாரண்யம் முல்லை (நாகப்பட்டினம்), நத்தம் புளி (திண்டுக்கல்), ஆயக்குடி கொய்யா (திண்டுக்கல்), கப்பல்பட்டி கரும்பு முருங்கை (திண்டுக்கல்) ஆகிய 5 வேளாண் விளைபொருட்களுக்கு புவிசார் குறிப்பீடு

- ❖ The Fifth exclusive agriculture budget was presented in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In five years, the total budgetary outlay for agriculture and allied sectors has gone up from Rs.34,221 crore in 2021-22 to Rs.45,661 crore in 2025-26.
- ❖ The total gross cropped area has increased from 146.77 lakh acres in 2019-20 to 151 lakh acres in 2023-24.

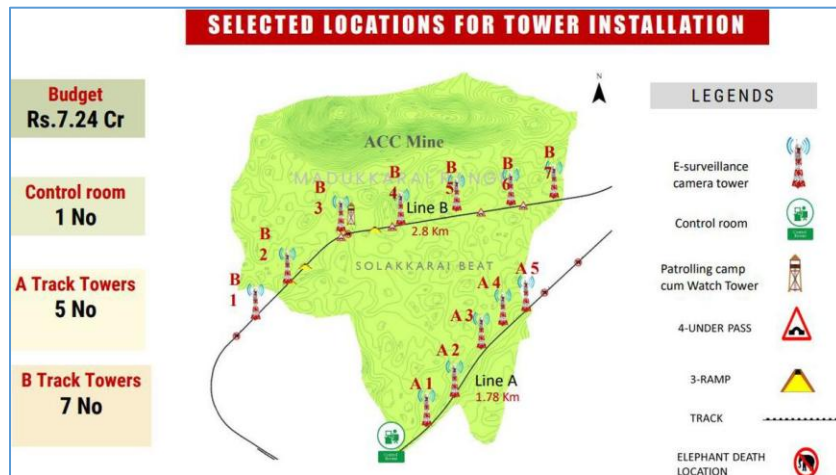


- ❖ The double-crop areas in the state have risen from 29.74 lakh acres in 2019-20 to 33.60 lakh acres in 2023-24.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has also secured the first position in the country in ragi productivity, the second position in maize, oilseeds and sugarcane productivity, and third position in groundnut and minor millets productivity.
- ❖ A key highlight of the budget is the establishment of 1,000 Chief Minister's Farmers Service Centres.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Millet Mission has been allocated Rs 55.44 crore to encourage millet production.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Oil Seed Mission would be implemented at a cost of ₹108.06 crore to achieve self-sufficiency.
- ❖ The Alternative Crop Cultivation Scheme aims to convert one lakh acres from the paddy and sugarcane to millets, pulses, and oilseeds, with an allocation of Rs 12.50 crore.
- ❖ A special incentive of Rs 215 per Metric Tonne of Sugarcane will be provided over and above the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) fixed by the Union Government.
- ❖ Additionally, Rs 160 crore has been allocated for mechanised paddy cultivation in both delta and non-delta districts.
- ❖ Rs 15 lakh has been allocated to secure GI tags for five additional products. - Nallur Varagu (Cuddalore), Vedaranyam Mullai (Nagapattinam), Natham Puli (Dindigul), Ayakudi Koyya (Dindigul), and Kappalpatti Karumbu Murungai (Dindigul).
- ❖ The budget announced Rs 2 crore allocation for an international study tour for 100 progressive farmers to Japan, China, and Vietnam "to help farmers learn the latest technologies and implement the same in their field."
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Cashew Board to be set up at an outlay of ₹10 crore to support cashew farmers and rural workers.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy to be unveiled to encourage the cultivation of high-value trees and streamline timber regulations.
- ❖ ₹24 crore allocated for providing Solar Pump sets to 1,000 farmers, with up to 70 per cent subsidy.
- ❖ The Malaivazh Uzhavar Munnetra Thittam (Hill Farmers Development Scheme) will be implemented for the welfare of 63,000 hill farmers.

### **AI Surveillance for Human-Elephant Conflicts**

- ❖ The country's first artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning-enabled surveillance system launched last year.

- ❖ It is designed to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks.
- ❖ Since its inauguration in the month of February 2024, the AI surveillance system has effectively safeguarded the very traditional migratory path in the Walayar-Madukkarai forest range.
- ❖ Notably, no wild elephants have been killed on the two railway tracks, marking a significant success for elephant safety.
- ❖ Now a year after commissioning, it resulted as zero elephant accidents, 5,011 AI-generated alerts, and 2,500 safe elephant crossings.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### PM-YUVA 3.0

•ANNOUNCING•

# PM-YUVA 3.0

Prime Minister's Mentorship Scheme for Young Authors

**Themes**

- Contribution of Indian Diaspora in Nation Building**  
Share the inspiring stories of Indians abroad who have played a pivotal role in shaping our nation's growth and global success.
- Indian Knowledge Systems**  
Illuminate timeless wisdom of India's ancient wisdom and cultural heritage.
- Makers of Modern India (1950-2025)**  
Bring to life the journeys of visionaries who have defined and redefined India in the modern era.

Call for Budding Writers!

- ❖ The Ministry of Education has launched the third edition of the Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors (PM-YUVA 3.0).

- ❖ The initiative aims to train young authors under the age of 30 to promote reading, writing, and book culture in India.
- ❖ The program provides the mentorship and publishing opportunities to enhance Indian literature on a global platform.
- ❖ PM-YUVA 3.0 builds on the participation of young authors in 22 Indian languages and English in its previous editions.

## Parliamentary panel on Water Resource

**Reports to be Presented in Lok Sabha**

**Standing Committee on Water Resources**

- ❑ Third Report on 'Demands for Grants' (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ❑ Fourth Report on 'Demands for Grants' (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
- ❑ Fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the 27<sup>th</sup> Report on 'Review of Upper Yamuna River Cleaning Projects Upto Delhi And River Bed Management In Delhi'.

- ❖ The Standing Committee on Water Resources has tabled its report in Parliament recently.
- ❖ Nearly 40% of the allocated funds remained unspent and highlighted delays in fund disbursement and project execution.
- ❖ The total budget for the department has been raised to ₹25,276.83 crore for 2025-26, an 18.54% increase from the Rs 21,323.10 crore allocated in the previous year.
- ❖ The allocation for groundwater management and regulation has increased by 56.61% to ₹509 crore in 2025-26.
- ❖ The River Basin Management programme has also received a 56.98% increase, with ₹243 crore allocated for 2025-26.
- ❖ But the National Hydrology Project (NHP) saw a 98% reduction, from ₹661.20 crore in 2024-25 to ₹13 crore in 2025-26.



- ❖ The Catch the Rain campaign has made progress, no direct financial support has been provided to states for rainwater harvesting.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Arrest on ICC warrant

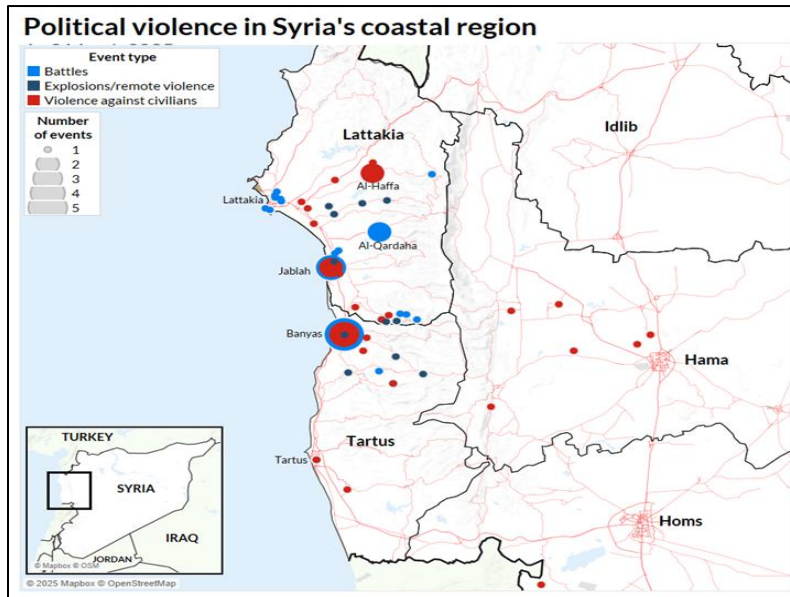
HEADS OF STATE WITH ICC WARRANTS OF ARREST		HEADS OF STATE WITH ICC WARRANTS OF ARREST	
 <p><b>BENJAMIN NETANYAHU</b> POSITION AT THE TIME OF THE RELEVANT CONDUCT: <i>Prime Minister of Israel</i> ARREST WARRANT ISSUED: <i>November 21, 2024</i> CASE: <i>Allegedly responsible for the war crimes of starvation as a method of warfare, and of intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population, and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024.</i></p>	 <p><b>RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE</b> POSITION AT THE TIME OF THE RELEVANT CONDUCT: <i>President of the Philippines, Mayor of Davao City, and allegedly the founder and head of the Davao Death Squad (DDS).</i> ARREST WARRANT ISSUED: <i>March 7, 2025</i> CASE: <i>Allegedly responsible for the crime against humanity of murder, committed on the territory of the Republic of the Philippines between 1 November 2011 and 16 March 2019 in the context of the 'war on drugs' campaign.</i></p>		
 <p><b>VLADIMIR PUTIN</b> POSITION AT THE TIME OF THE RELEVANT CONDUCT: <i>President of the Russian Federation</i> ARREST WARRANT ISSUED: <i>March 17, 2023</i> CASE: <i>Allegedly responsible for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.</i></p>	 <p><b>LAURENT GBAGBO</b> POSITION AT THE TIME OF THE RELEVANT CONDUCT: <i>former President of Côte d'Ivoire</i> ARREST WARRANT ISSUED: <i>November 23, 2011</i> CASE: <i>Four counts of crimes against humanity: murder, rape, other inhumane acts or in the alternative attempted murder, and persecution, allegedly committed during the 2010-2011 post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire.</i></p>		

- ❖ The Former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), for crimes against humanity arrested in Manila.
- ❖ During his reign, more than 5,000 people had been killed across the country, including 2,041 drug suspects eliminated in police operations.
- ❖ He withdrew from the Hague-based ICC in March 2019.
- ❖ But under the ICC rules, even if a state withdraws as a member, the court retains jurisdiction over crimes within its administration that are committed during the membership period.

### Syrian conflict 2025

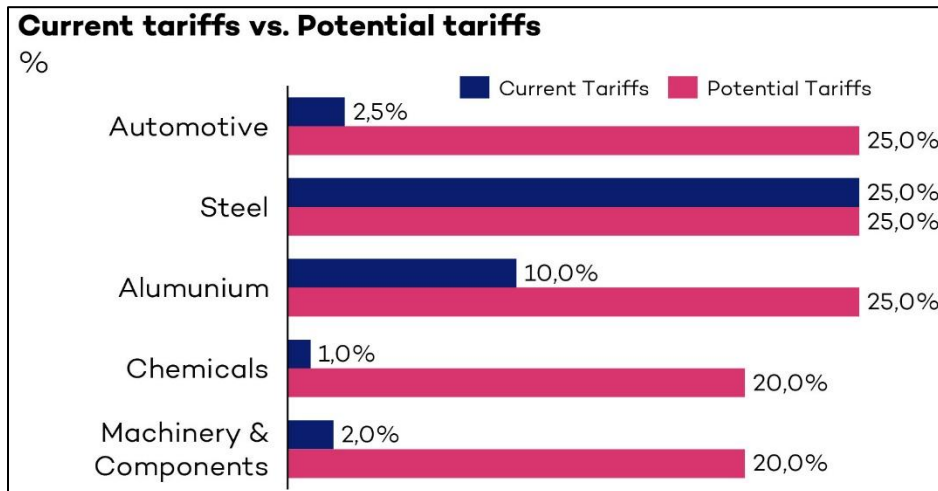
- ❖ More than 1,000 people have been killed in Syria amid clashes between anti-government groups and security forces and a spate of “revenge killings.”
- ❖ In December, Syria’s long-time leader Bashar al-Assad was deposed by rebel groups.
- ❖ From 1971, Syria was in the control of Hafez al-Assad, Bashar’s father and all-powerful President, seen by many as a dictator.

- ❖ Bashar took over in 2000 after Hafez died.
- ❖ In 2011, when the Arab Spring saw dictators being toppled across the West Asia, protests began against Assad too.



## ECONOMY NEWS

### Zero for zero tariff strategy – India

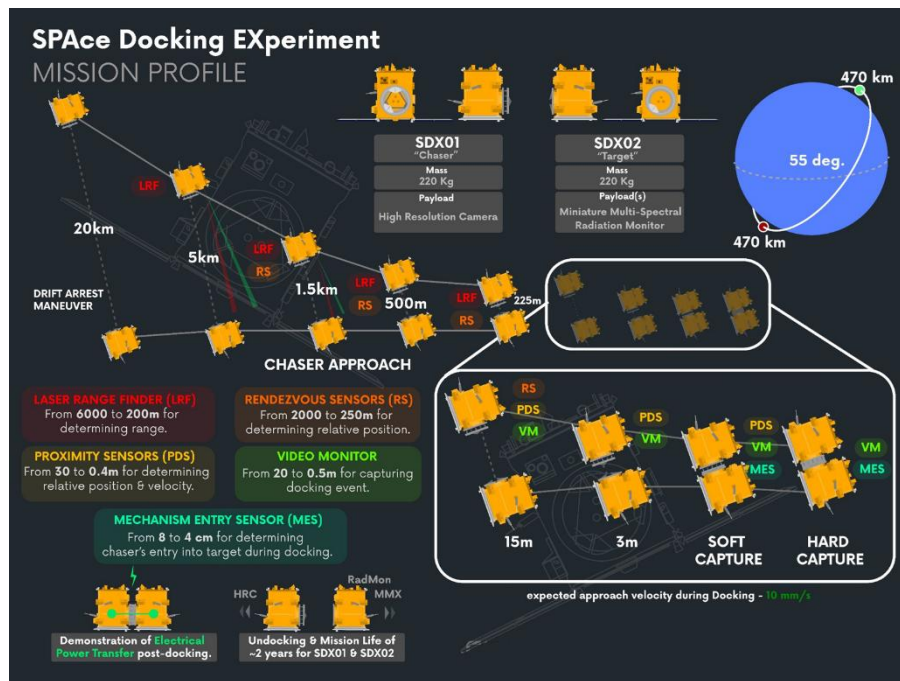


- ❖ Recently, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has suggested a zero for zero tariff agreement with the US in the textile and apparel sector.
- ❖ India and the US have agreed to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.
- ❖ And both negotiates the first phase of a bilateral trade agreement by the fall of 2025.

- ❖ Zero-for-zero tariff is an approach where the two countries can identify specific product categories and to eliminate the levies on them, instead of imposing a blanket range of tariffs or inking a broader trade deal.
- ❖ India held a trade surplus of around \$46 billion with the US in 2024.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### SpaDeX Mission 2025



- ❖ ISRO has successfully completed the undocking of two satellites, part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission.
- ❖ The undocking process has involved the separation of the SDX-01 and SDX-02 satellites.
- ❖ With this success, India became the 4<sup>th</sup> country after the United States, Russia, and China in achieving such complex manoeuvres.

### Large Phased Array Radar – China

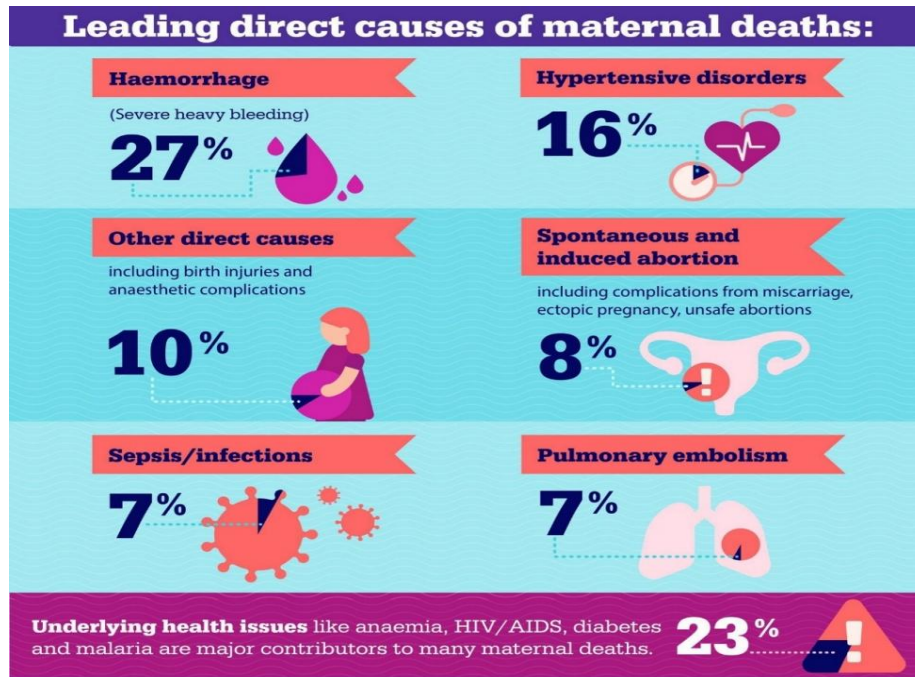
- ❖ China has deployed a powerful Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR) in the Yunnan province.
- ❖ With an estimated detection range exceeding 5,000 km, the system allows Beijing to track India's missile launches in real time.

- ❖ The Indian missile testing site is located approximately 2,000-2,200 km south west of China's new LPAR station.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### WHO - Global maternal mortality crisis



- ❖ Every day in 2020, approximately 800 women died from the preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, equating to one death every two minutes.
- ❖ In 2020, an estimated 287,000 women worldwide died from maternal causes.
- ❖ In 2020, the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) stood at 223 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.



- ❖ Globally, most pregnancy-related infection deaths occurred in the postpartum period, which extends up to 42 days after child birth.
- ❖ The SDG target 3.1 aims to reduce the global MMR to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

## FAO reports on Food Grains 2025



- ❖ The United Nations (UN) Food and the FAO released two key reports: the 'Cereal Supply and Demand Brief' and the 'Crop Prospects and Food Situation Report'.
- ❖ The Wheat production may reach 796 million tonnes (Mt) in 2025, marking a 1% increase from the previous year.
- ❖ The FAO expects the world grain reserves to shrink by 1.9%, bringing the total to 869.3 Mt in 2025.
- ❖ Revised its forecast for the global grain production in 2024 to 2,842 Mt, slightly higher than in 2023.
- ❖ Rice production globally is expected to set a new record of 543 Mt in 2024 -25.
- ❖ The total consumption of cereals is also expected to increase, reaching 2,867 Mt in 2024 - 25.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Pi Day 2025 - March 14

- ❖ The date, when written as 3/14, mirrors the first three digits of Pi.
- ❖ Pi is an infinitely long, irrational number and its exact value cannot be known.

- ❖ Since Pi's exact value cannot be known, we can never find the exact area or the circumference of a circle.
- ❖ The symbol of Pi was discovered by William Jones in the year 1706.
- ❖ The value of Pi was first calculated by Mathematician, Archimedes of Syracuse.
- ❖ UNESCO started observing Pi Day as 'International Day of Mathematics' from the year 2019.
- ❖ Pi Approximation Day is observed on July 22 (22/7 in the day/month format).

