

March - 19

TNPSC BITS

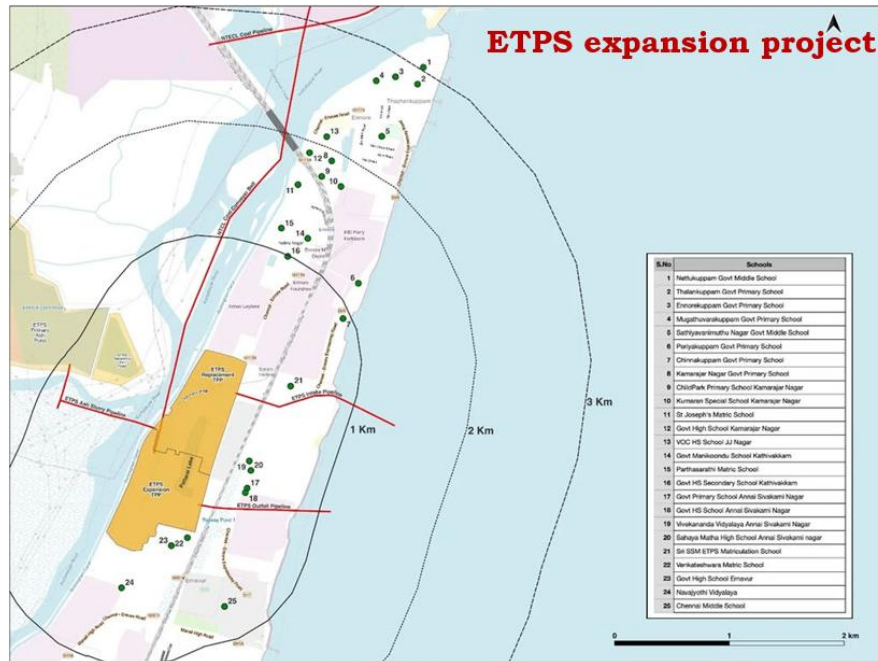
- ❖ A resolution moved by the AIADMK seeking to remove M. Appavu from the post of Speaker of Tamil Nadu Assembly got 154 votes against the motion and 63 votes in its favour and was defeated by 91 votes in the House.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Budget has proposed the setting up of a sanctuary for flamingos that stop at Rameswaram island near Dhanushkodi between Jan and April.
- ❖ Mumbai Indians won their second Women's Premier League title in three seasons after defeating Delhi Capitals.
- ❖ The Water Sustainability Conference 2025, organized by the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) under National Water Mission (NWM), was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Fit India Carnival, a first-of-its-kind three-day fitness and wellness event, was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The report, 'Rethinking Affirmative Action for Muslims in Contemporary India,' written by Hilal Ahmed, Mohd Sanjeer Alam and Nazima Parveen, published last month, is the first comprehensive policy document of its kind in the last 10 years.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the Digital Ethics Centre at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands as a WHO Collaborating Centre on artificial intelligence (AI) for health governance.
- ❖ Renowned Odia poet and former bureaucrat Ramakanta Rath died recently.
- ❖ Arvind Singh Mewar, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Mewar and the chairman of the HRH Group of Hotels, passed away recently.
- ❖ Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Uttar Pradesh is set to become a new sanctuary for rhinos from Nepal.
- ❖ The Hindi poet Gagan Gill and Naga author Easterine Kire, who writes in English, was honoured with the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for 2024.
 - Mr. Gill received the award for his book of poetry, Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar, and Ms. Kire for her novel Spirit Nights.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

ETPS expansion project

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd (TNPGL) has decided to execute the 660-MW Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) expansion project.

- ❖ Earlier it was also proposed to execute the project under the public private partnership (PPP) route.
- ❖ TNPGL own thermal power capacity is 4,320 MW.
- ❖ Along with the State's share from Central Generating Stations (CGS) and other contracts, Tamil Nadu's total conventional capacity stands at 15,839.56 MW.



NATIONAL NEWS

Parliamentary Standing Committee on NREGA

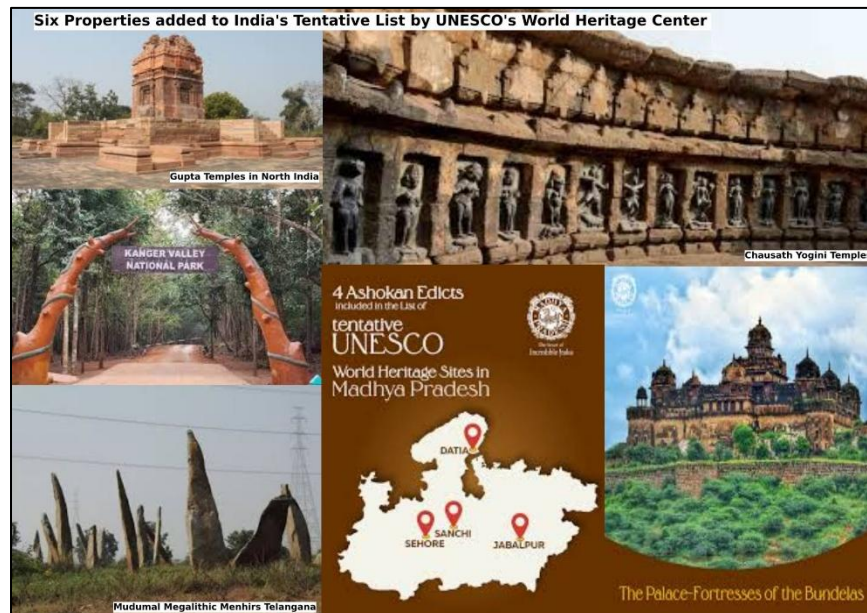
- ❖ It recommended the revision of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in view of the rising cost of living.
- ❖ The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, headed by the Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, also sought uniform wage rates across the country.
- ❖ Currently, the per day wages vary from ₹234 in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to ₹374 in Haryana and Sikkim.
- ❖ As per the report, till February 15, the total pending liabilities stood at ₹23,446.27 crore, including ₹12,219.18 crore in wage dues.
- ❖ West Bengal has not been receiving funds for MGNREGS activities since March 2022.
- ❖ The Centre froze the funding after invoking Section 27 of the MGNREGA, 2005.

- ❖ This section allows for stoppage of funds for violation of rules in implementation of the scheme.

HIGHEST HIKE IN...			
State/UT	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Increase
Goa	₹322	₹356	10.56%
Karnataka	₹316	₹349	10.44%
Andhra Pradesh	₹272	₹300	10.29%
Telangana	₹272	₹300	10.29%
Chhattisgarh	₹221	₹243	9.95%

LOWEST HIKE IN...			
State/UT	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Increase
Rajasthan	₹255	₹266	4.31%
Kerala	₹333	₹346	3.90%
Lakshadweep	₹304	₹315	3.62%
Uttar Pradesh	₹230	₹237	3.04%
Uttarakhand	₹230	₹237	3.04%

India's UNESCO Tentative List 2025



- ❖ Six sites have been added to India's tentative list by the UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.
- ❖ It is including Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs in Telangana and palace-fortresses of the Bundelas in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ Other sites included in the list are Kanger Valley National Park in Chhattisgarh, Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan Routes (multiple states), Chausath Yogini temples (multiple states) and Gupta temples in north India (multiple states).
- ❖ With these additions, India now has 62 sites on the tentative list.
- ❖ At present, a total of 43 properties from India are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- ❖ It is including 35 in the 'Cultural' category, seven in 'Natural' and one in 'Mixed' category.

Indian Railways Freight 2024-25



- ❖ Indian Railways has recorded a significant surge in freight movement, with total loading reaching at 1,465.371 million tonnes (MT) in the first 11 months of the financial year 2024-25.
- ❖ This figure has already surpassed the full-year freight loading of 1,443.166 MT in 2023-24.
- ❖ The national transporter has set an ambitious target of achieving 3,000 MT in freight loading by 2027.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Minimum Dietary Diversity Indicator

- ❖ A new indicator on Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) has been adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

- ❖ This indicator would help track progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 2 on zero hunger—one of the 17 goals under the 2030 Agenda.
- ❖ The MDD represents the variety of foods that we consume and is important as the quality of our diet is essential for health, growth, development, and well-being.
- ❖ MDD is a yes/no indicator of whether women and children have consumed at least five out of 10 defined food groups in the previous 24 hours.

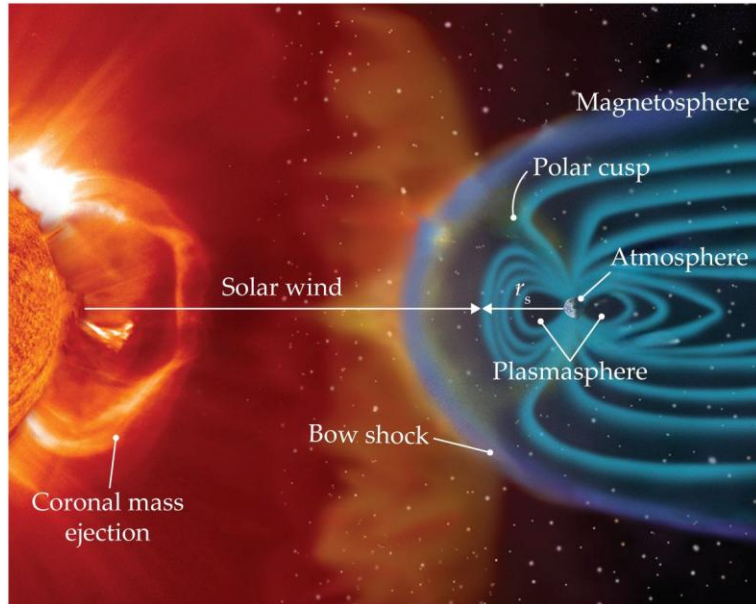


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Flareless Coronal Mass Ejection 2025

- ❖ Scientists have reported observations of a flareless coronal mass ejection (CME) from the solar atmosphere.
- ❖ This was observed with the help of Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) instrument onboard Aditya-L1 mission.
- ❖ Flares and CMEs are explosive events in the Sun.
- ❖ They are due to the magnetic reconnection during which magnetic field lines rearrange.

- ❖ During a flare, energy is released primarily as electromagnetic radiation from the heated plasma.
- ❖ Compared to flares, the CMEs are massive eruptions of the plasma and magnetic field weighing about the trillion kilograms at speeds up to 3,000 kilometres per second.



Super solid state of light



- ❖ Researchers have successfully turned light into a "super solid" for the first time ever.

- ❖ This novel phase of matter is combining the characteristics of both solids and super fluids.
- ❖ Light is typically considered a form of energy, has now been transformed into a solid-state material with extraordinary properties.
- ❖ A super solid is an exotic state of matter that exhibits both solid-like rigidity and the ability to flow without friction.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Nothobranchius Sylvaticus - 'killifish'

- ❖ Scientists have discovered and described a new type of 'killifish' that is endemic to a Kenyan forest.
- ❖ But it is already critically endangered and may become extinct soon.
- ❖ Killifish are oviparous or egg-laying fish.
- ❖ They are mainly found in the fresh or brackish waters of the Americas, southern Europe, much of Africa, the Middle East and Asia.
- ❖ There are around 1,270 species of killifish.
- ❖ They are known as "the annual killifish" because they live in temporary pools that dry up seasonally, with their eggs surviving in the dry mud until the next rainy season.

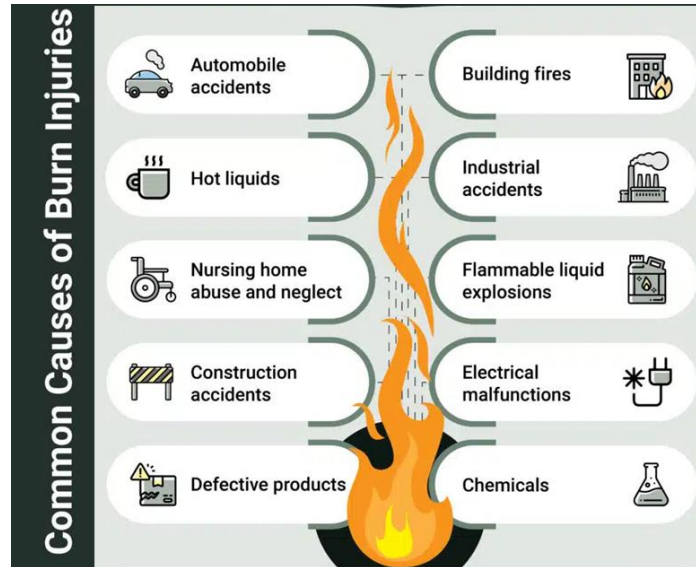


STATES' NEWS

Policy for burn victims

- ❖ Karnataka has become the first in the country to have a separate comprehensive policy for victims of burns.

- ❖ The policy incorporates insurance, housing, rehabilitation, employment and the other welfare measures including pension for burn victims.
- ❖ A burn is an injury to the skin or other organic tissue primarily caused by heat.
- ❖ Skin injuries due to the ultraviolet radiation, radio activity, electricity or the chemicals, as well as respiratory damage resulting from smoke inhalation, are also considered to be burns.



SPORTS NEWS

Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025



- ❖ India secured 12 medals on the concluding day of the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

- ❖ India's total count stood 33, comprising 8 gold, 18 silver and 7 bronze medals.
- ❖ India has recorded 10 medals each in Snowshoeing and Alpine Skiing, six medals came in Snowboarding.
- ❖ The Short Track Speed Skating, Cross Country Skiing and Floorball brought the country four, two and one medal respectively.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Vaccination Day 2025 - March 16

- ❖ This day commemorates the initiation of Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme in 1995.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed India polio-free on the 27th of March 2014.
- ❖ This day serves as a reminder of the collective efforts required to combat vaccine-preventable diseases.
- ❖ Vaccination is the key process for building resistance against any disease in the body through a vaccine.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Trends in India's Housing Sector for 2024

- ❖ The National Housing Bank (NHB), a statutory body under the Government of India has released the Report on Trends and Progress of Housing in India, 2024.
- ❖ Individual housing loans outstanding as on 30-09-2024 stood at ₹33.53 lakh crore.

- ❖ It was showing growth of 14% over the corresponding period of previous year.
- ❖ These loans shows that Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low-Income Groups (LIG) account for 39%.
- ❖ The Middle-Income Group (MIG) represents 44%, and High-Income Groups (HIG) make up 17%.
- ❖ The Housing Price Index (NHB-RESIDEX) has recorded year-on-year increase of 6.8% for the quarter ending September 2024.

