

March - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ More than 3,100 birds belonging to 162 species were recorded during the bird surveys conducted in the Gudalur forest division of the Nilgiris District recently.
- ❖ The Kalaignar Grand Library and Intellectual Centre in Tiruchi will come up with the state-of-the art facilities.
- ❖ Dr. V.I. Mathan, the former director of CMC Vellore, launched the book "To the Seventh Generation: The Journey of Christian Medical College Vellore" in Chennai.
- ❖ The World Bank-aided Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project (TNIAMP) has won the National Award for 'Excellence in Integrated Water Resources Management 2024' of the Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP).
- ❖ Himgiri, an advanced frigate, and Androth, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft has successfully completed the builder's Sea Trials.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a new Brownfield ammonia-urea Complex at the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) in Namrup, Assam.
- ❖ The Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards were presented by the President Droupadi Murmu to 27 Journalist to honour the outstanding contributions to Indian journalism.
- ❖ Vijay Sankar, the Honorary Consul General of Denmark for Southern India and Chairman of The Sanmar Group, has been awarded the prestigious Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog by the King of Denmark.
- ❖ The Global Recycling Day held annually on March 18th to acknowledging and promoting recycling as a vital tool for environmental preservation and long-term sustainability.
- ❖ The UN French Language Day is observed on 20 March every year to celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity as well as the crucial role of the French language in international relations.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu final supplementary estimates 2024-25

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Finance Minister has presented the final supplementary estimates for ₹19,287.44 crore for 2024-25 in the Assembly.

- ❖ The total estimates included ₹12,639.36 crore in revenue account, ₹6,429.20 crore in capital account, and ₹218.88 crore in loan account.
- ❖ The major additional appropriation was ₹2,000 crore as share capital assistance to Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.

Demand Number	இக்கோரிக்கை எந்த பணிக்கு அல்லது எந்த நிருவாகத்திற்குத் தொடர்புடையது Services or Administration to which the Demand relates	2024-2025 ஆம் ஆண்டு செலவுக்காகத் தேவைப்படும் தொகை மதிப்பீடு – மொத்தக் கோரிக்கை Estimate for the Amount required for further Expenditure for 2024-2025 -Gross Demand					
		சமீபியது Charged			அனுமதித்தது Voted		
		வருவாய் Revenue	மூலதனம் Capital	கடன் Loan	வருவாய் Revenue	மூலதனம் Capital	கடன் Loan
054	வனம் (சுற்றுச்சூழல், காலநிலை மாற்றம் மற்றும் வனத்துறை) FORESTS (Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department)	4.93	...	...	149.41,89	19	...
055	இயற்கை வளங்கள் துறை NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	6.30	...	...	189.07,97	1	25.00
056	கடன் செலவுகள் DEBT CHARGES	95.55	...	...	...	...	...
057	மொத்தக் கடன்-திரும்பிச் செலுத்தல்கள் PUBLIC DEBT-REPAYMENT	...	...	3	...	...	...
மொத்தம் Total		103,46,51	93,35,76	3	12,535,89,38	6,335,84,56	218,88,23
சமீபிய மொத்தத் தொகை Total of sums Charged				196,82,30			
அனுமதித்த மொத்தத் தொகை Total of sums Voted				19,090,62,17			
பெருமொத்தம் Grand Total				19,287,44,47			

NATIONAL NEWS

Revised National Program for Dairy Development

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

CABINET DECISIONS
19th March 2025

Cabinet Approves Revised National Program for Dairy Development

₹ Additional outlay of **₹1,000 crore**

₹ Total outlay of **₹2,790 crore** from 2021-22 to 2025-26



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

CABINET DECISIONS
19th March 2025

Cabinet Approves Revised National Program for Dairy Development

AIM

- Establish **10,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies***
- Generate an additional **3.2 lakh direct & indirect employment opportunities**, particularly benefitting **women**, which constitute **70% of dairy workforce**



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD).
- ❖ It is aimed at modernizing India's dairy sector and ensuring its long-term growth.

- ❖ The scheme which was classified as a Central Sector initiative has been allocated an additional ₹1,000 crore.
- ❖ The scheme has benefited over 18.74 lakh farmers and generated more than 30,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.
- ❖ It has increased milk procurement capacity by an additional 100.95 lakh litres per day.

300 Heat Action Plans (HAPs)

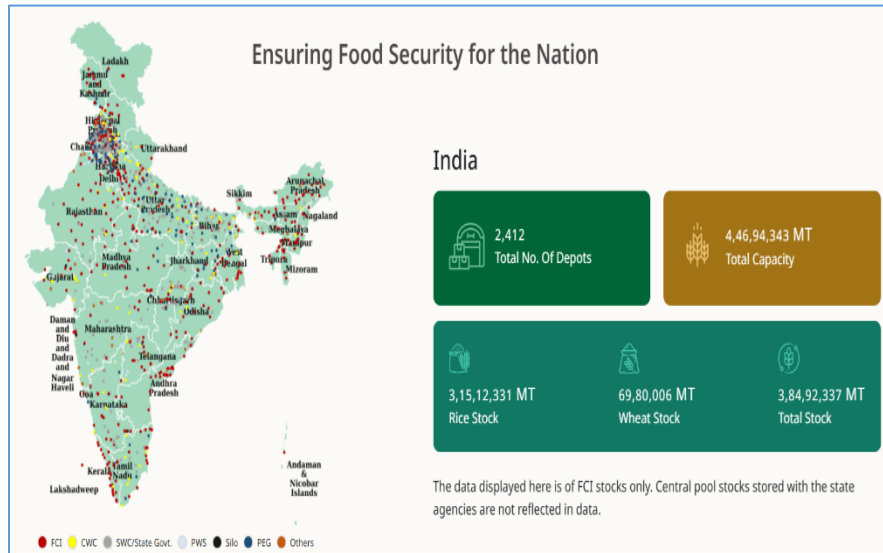
SHORT-TERM					LONG-TERM (INTENTIONAL)						
9 Awareness campaigns		9 ORS		8 Hospital cool wards		8 Health staff training		4 Training for implementers		4 Urban heat island mapping	
8 Cooling centres		4 Drinking water provision in public places		7 Water supply (tankers)		5 Shade in public spaces		7 Death surveillance		3 Automatic weather station	
7 Working hour change for workers		4 Shade for workers		4 Animal/livestock protection		4 School timing change		3 Forest fire management		2 Cool roof	
4 Water for workers		4 Water sprinkling on road		3 Office timing change		1 Power		1 Trees		2 Vulnerability Assessment	
7 Rooftop solar		7 Open spaces		5 Rainwater harvesting		4 Water body rejuvenation		2 Health insurance			

- ❖ The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is planning to come up with 300 more heat action plans (HAPs) at the city level.
- ❖ Nearly 200 such plans have been finalised in India at the city level.
- ❖ The NDMA aims to expand this to 500 plans.
- ❖ This year, the temperatures is going to rise above 40°C in states like Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, West Bengal and Odisha.

Supreme Court - Food Security Inequality in India

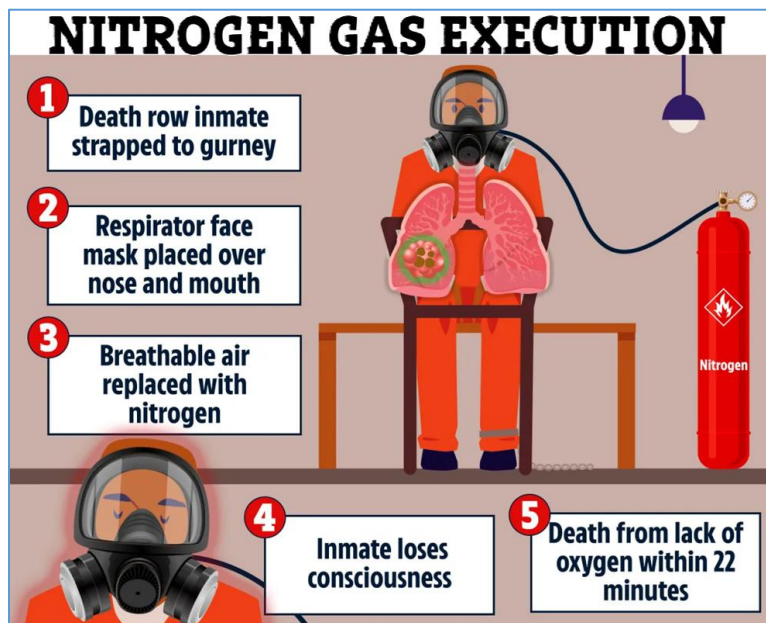
- ❖ The Supreme Court questioned the claims of the high development rate and per capita income when certain States have about 70% of their population living below poverty line.
- ❖ As per the SC, the poor have a right to access at least two square meals a day in terms of their fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

- ❖ The Union government was duty-bound under the National Food Security Act to provide food grains.
- ❖ The coverage under the Act was 81.35%.
- ❖ There was additional coverage for 11 crore people under the Anganwadi scheme, and further coverage for another 22-crore people.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nitrogen Gas Execution – Louisiana of USA

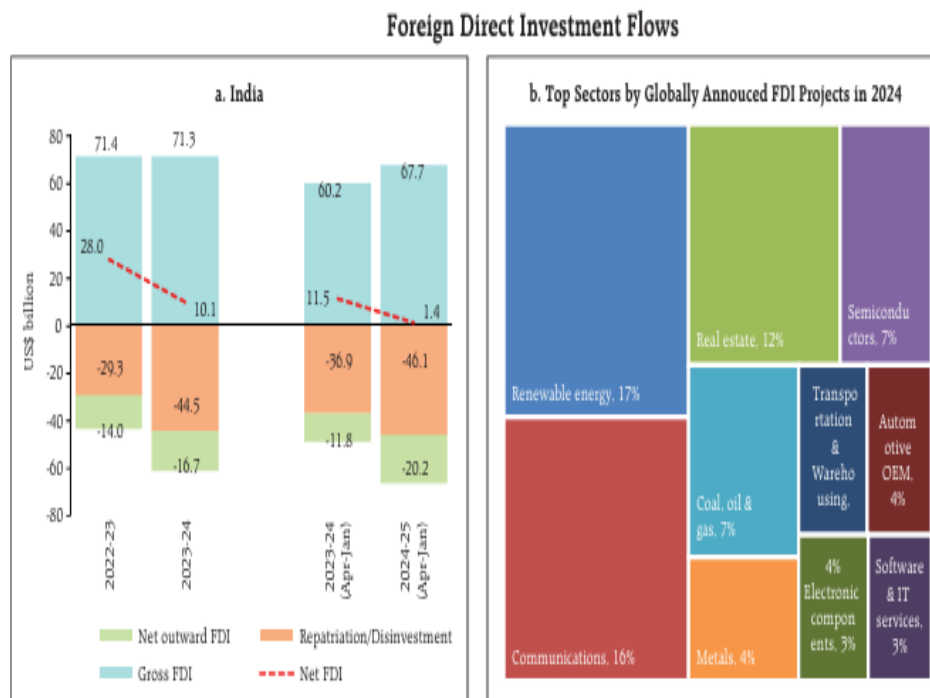


- ❖ Louisiana has executed a man using nitrogen gas for the first time.

- ❖ This was the state's first execution in 15 years.
- ❖ This execution is the second in the United States using this method.
- ❖ Nitrogen gas has been used just four other times to execute a person in the United States — all in Alabama.
- ❖ Louisiana state has struggled to obtain lethal injection drugs.
- ❖ More than 50 inmates remain on Louisiana’s death row.
- ❖ The state built a special nitrogen hypoxia facility for future executions.
- ❖ Nitrogen hypoxia is an execution method that deprives the inmate of oxygen, leading to death.

ECONOMY NEWS

India’s Net FDI 2024-25



- ❖ The net foreign direct investment (FDI) in India declined to \$1.4 billion during the 10 months of 2024-25 (April 2024-January 2025) from \$11.5 billion a year ago.
- ❖ However, gross FDI remained elevated, with 12.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth to \$67.7 billion in the April 2024-January 2025.
- ❖ It was \$60.2 billion in April 2023-January 2024.
- ❖ Repatriation/disinvestment by those who made direct investments in India rose to \$46.1 billion during the 10-month period of 2024-25.

- ❖ Overseas investments made by Indian firms, i.e., outward FDI, rose sharply to \$20.2 billion in April 2024-January 2025 from \$11.8 billion a year ago.
- ❖ Over 75 per cent of the flows were from Singapore, Mauritius, the US, the UAE, and the Netherlands during the period.
- ❖ The flow of money from overseas Indians in NRI deposit schemes rose by 40.82 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) basis.
- ❖ It is raised to \$ 14.30 billion between April 2024 and January 2025 from \$ 10.16 billion.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Caracal in Mukundra Hills, Rajasthan



- ❖ A rare caracal has been spotted in Rajasthan's Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ This elusive wild cat has a population of less than 50 in India.
- ❖ The caracal is a medium-sized, wild cat native to Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and India.

- ❖ In India, they are usually found in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The caracal is classified as critically endangered in India.

Dog-Faced Water Snake in Assam



- ❖ The dog-faced water snake (*Cerberus rynchops*) was spotted for the first time in Northeast India.
- ❖ *Cerberus rynchops* is a mildly venomous, semi-aquatic species that thrives in saltwater.
- ❖ Typically, this snake is found in the mangrove forests, coastal mudflats, and the estuaries across South and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ In India, it has been recorded in coastal regions such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

STATES' NEWS

Special Category Status Demand – Bihar

- ❖ The government of Bihar made a fresh demand for special category status before the 16th Finance Commission.
- ❖ At the moment, no state has special category status.
- ❖ It was used to be under the Planning Commission.

- ❖ That classification ceased to exist with the Planning Commission.

The Centre claims that following the increase in tax devolution to States from 32% to 42% of divisible pool of central taxes, there is no further need to give 'Special Category' status to any State

BENEFITS AS PER GADGIL-MUKHERJEE FORMULA		
<p>Special Category States</p> <p>CRITERIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hilly terrain Low density Location along borders Economic backwardness 	<p>On account of their location and backwardness, Special Category States have been allocated assistance as grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are provided 30 % of the total central assistance (90% of it as grants) Special plan assistance for projects (90% of it as grants) Untied special central assistance (100% of it provided as grant) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance for externally aided projects (90% grant) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) assistance (90% as grant) Central incentives for the promotion of industry on account of economic backwardness 	
	DILUTION FOLLOWING UNION BUDGET 2015-16	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinued are central assistance, special central assistance and special plan assistance Very few externally aided projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocations under AIBP reduced from Rs.8,992 crore in 2014-15 to just Rs.1,000 crore: scheme to be run with a higher matching contribution by States

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

30th Session of the ISA

The 30th Session of the International Seabed Authority

Part 1

Legal and Technical Commission
Council

3 - 14 March 2025
17 - 28 March 2025

- ❖ The 30th Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) commenced in Jamaica.

- ❖ Around 170 member states and the European Union convened to discuss deep-sea mining regulations.
- ❖ The ISA is an autonomous international organisation, formed in 1994.
- ❖ It was created when the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) became effective in 1982.
- ❖ ISA manages mining and related activities on the international seabed.
- ❖ Deep-sea mining involves extracting minerals from the ocean floor at depths greater than 200 metres.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Happiness 2025 - March 20

- ❖ The idea of global happiness day originated in Bhutan.
- ❖ Bhutan is known for prioritising its Gross National Happiness (GNH) over Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ In 2012, the UN officially declared this day.
- ❖ The theme for this year's is "Caring and Sharing".



World Sparrow Day 2025 - March 20

- ❖ It aims to raise an awareness about the declining population of the avian species and the need to protect them.

- ❖ This day was the brainchild of The Nature Forever Society of India and the Eco-Sys Action Foundation of France.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is 'A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers'.



World Oral Health Day 2025 - March 20

- ❖ It aims to raise an awareness about oral hygiene, its importance, and the factors that have contributed to oral diseases.
- ❖ The day was first established by the World Dental Federation (FDI) in 2007.
- ❖ This year's theme is "A happy mouth is... A HAPPY MIND".

