

March - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Delhi Legislative Assembly becomes the 28th legislature to sign MoU for the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- ❖ The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) has revoked the Blue Flag certification for Rushi Konda Beach in Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh due to concerns regarding parking, security, and stray dog management.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Comparative etymological dictionary

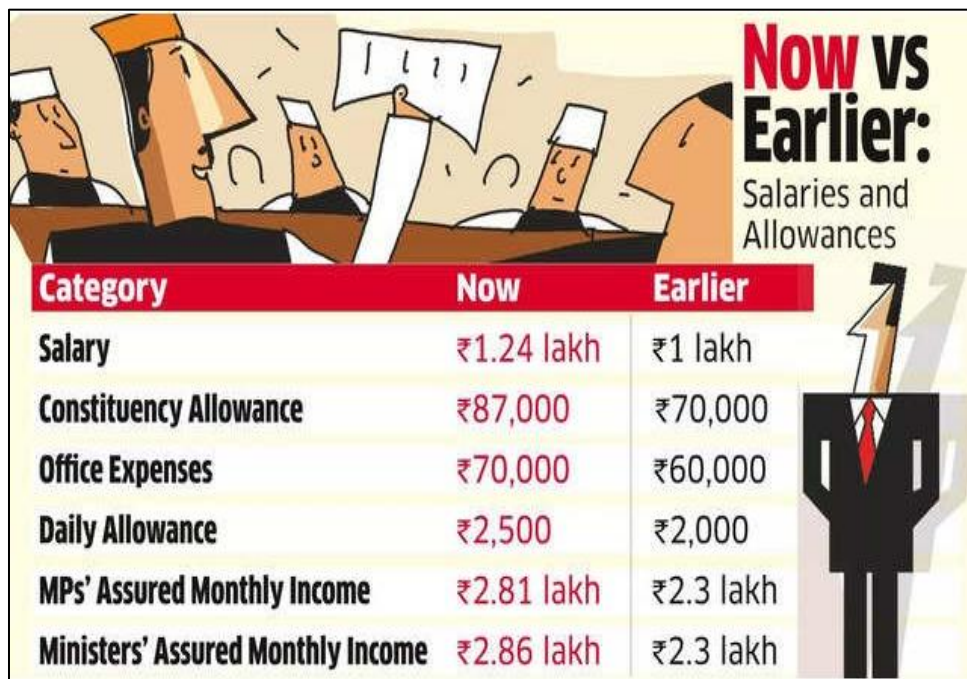


- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has released a general introduction book and the first volume of comparative etymological dictionary of Tamil and the Indo-European languages.
- ❖ The initiative is a part of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation's collaboration with the Oxford University Press.
- ❖ It aims to bring out a 12-volume comparative etymological dictionary of Tamil and Indo-European languages.

- ❖ The State government had sanctioned ₹8 crore for the project in which 20 experts, headed by Professor G. Arasenthiran, have been working since 2022.
- ❖ The first volume is a compilation based on a hypothesis of the etymology of 19 words in the Western Indo-European languages such as Latin, Greek, German, French, English and the Eastern Indo-European languages such as Sanskrit, Pali and Sinhalese, which are originated from Tamil.

NATIONAL NEWS

Hike in Salaries and Pensions for MPs



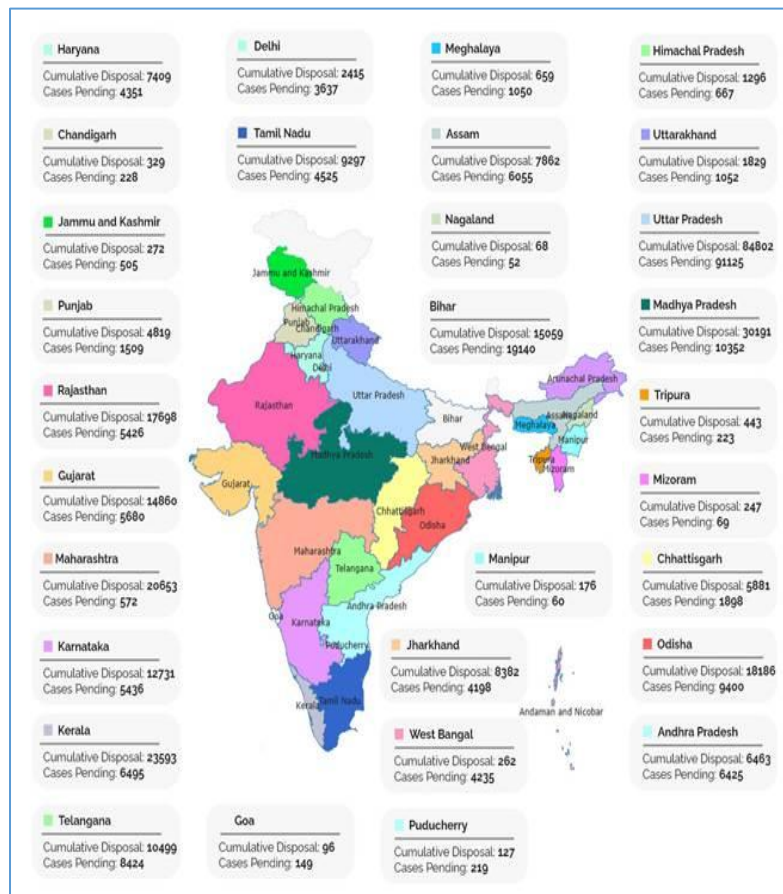
Category	Now	Earlier
Salary	₹1.24 lakh	₹1 lakh
Constituency Allowance	₹87,000	₹70,000
Office Expenses	₹70,000	₹60,000
Daily Allowance	₹2,500	₹2,000
MPs' Assured Monthly Income	₹2.81 lakh	₹2.3 lakh
Ministers' Assured Monthly Income	₹2.86 lakh	₹2.3 lakh

- ❖ The Centre has increased the salaries, allowances and pensions of the Members of Parliament with effect from April 1, 2023.
- ❖ The salary of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members has been raised to Rs 1.24 lakh per month from Rs 1 lakh at present.
- ❖ The daily allowance has been raised to Rs 2,500 from Rs 2,000 earlier.
- ❖ The pension paid to former MPs has also been increased to Rs 31,000 per month from Rs 25,000 at present.
- ❖ The additional pension for every year of service in excess of five years has been increased to Rs 2,500 from Rs 2,000 earlier.
- ❖ They enjoy 34 free domestic flights per year for themselves and their families, and first-class train travel at any time for professional and personal use.

- ❖ MPs also enjoy the benefits of 50,000 free units of electricity and 4,000 kilolitres of water annually.

Fast Track Special Courts 2025

- ❖ The Union Cabinet extended the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme until March 31, 2026.
- ❖ The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) was launched on October 2, 2019.
- ❖ It aims to provide the speedy justice in cases of sexual offenses particularly under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and rape cases.
- ❖ This Scheme has an impressive disposal rate of 96.28%.
- ❖ In 2024 alone, 88,902 new cases were instituted and 85,595 cases were resolved under this Scheme.



Revisions to MSME Criteria

- ❖ The government has notified significant revisions to the turnover and investment criteria for classifying MSMEs, which will come into effect from April 1.



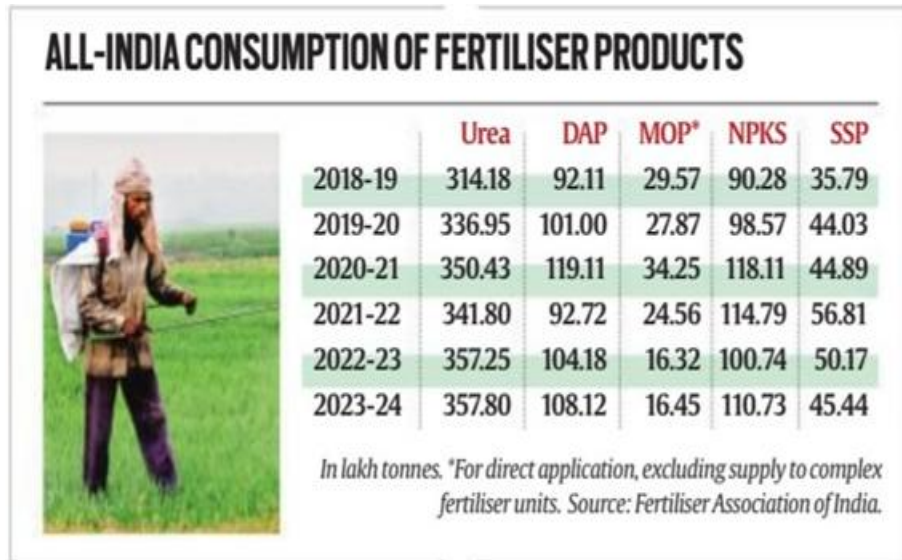
- ❖ The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with investments up to ₹2.5 crore will now be classified as micro-enterprises, up from the previous threshold of ₹1 crore.
- ❖ The turnover limit has also been revised from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore.
- ❖ Units with investments up to ₹25 crore will be classified as small enterprises, from the earlier ₹10 crore.
- ❖ The turnover limit for such enterprises has been doubled from ₹50 crore to ₹100 crore.
- ❖ MSMEs with investments up to ₹125 crore will now be classified as medium enterprises, from the earlier limit of ₹50 crore.
- ❖ For medium enterprises, the turnover limit has been doubled to ₹500 crore.

<h2 style="color: blue;">New classification of MSME</h2>				
Type	INVESTMENT		TURNOVER	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
MicroEnterprise	Rs 1cr	Rs 2.5cr	Rs 5cr	Rs 10cr
Small Enterprise	Rs 10cr	Rs 25cr	Rs 50cr	Rs 100cr
Medium Enterprise	Rs 50cr	Rs 125cr	Rs 250cr	Rs 500cr

Funding of Nutrient Subsidy Schemes

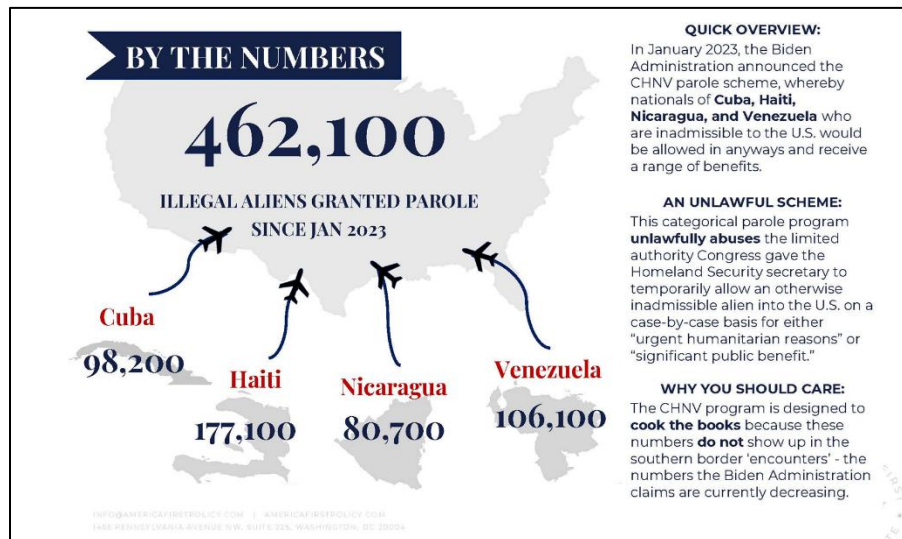
- ❖ The parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers has urged the Ministry to seek additional funds for the sector at the revised estimate stage to ensure that subsidy schemes for farmers are not negatively affected.
- ❖ The panel also recommended to the Centre the expansion of production capacity of nano urea and nano diammonium phosphate (DAP) by ensuring the timely establishment of production units.
- ❖ Additionally, it has called for a strategy to popularise these nano fertilizers among farmers.
- ❖ The Committee has also highlighted underutilisation of funds across various categories during 2024-25.

- ❖ It is including 20% under indigenous phosphorus and potassium (PK) fertilizers, 12% under imported PK, 14.76% under the indigenous urea, and 59.57% under Market Development Assistance (MDA).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CHNV Parole Programs – USA



- ❖ The US announced the ending of a Biden-era programme that allowed migrants from certain countries "legal pathways" into the US.
- ❖ It would revoke the temporary legal status of 532,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, who had arrived in the US since October 2022.

- ❖ The parole period, including the work permits and protection from deportation under the programme, will expire on April 24.
- ❖ The Parole under the Immigration and Nationality Act officially grants a person permission to enter and temporarily stay in the US under DHS supervision.
- ❖ In 2022, the President Joe Biden has introduced a parole entry programme for the Venezuelans, expanding this to Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans in 2023.
- ❖ The US does not have diplomatic relations with the four countries.

ECONOMY NEWS

4-Point Action Plan with IBC

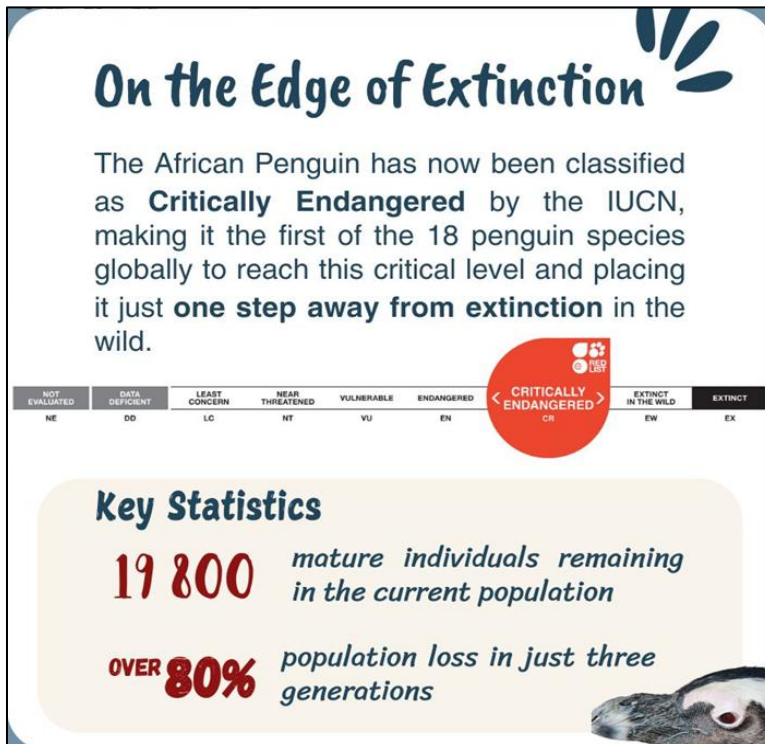


- ❖ The Standing Committee on Finance has directed the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to implement a direct submission system for resolution plans through a central online portal.
- ❖ This move aims to ensure confidentiality in the submission process, preventing any undue advantage for certain parties.
- ❖ The 4 points are are
 - Implementation of a Direct Submission System for Resolution Plans:

- Enhancing the Role and Accountability of Resolution Professionals;
- Transparent Monitoring of Case Resolution Timelines and
- Review of the Committee of Creditors' (CoC) Structure.
- ❖ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) aims to provide time-bound and creditor-driven process for insolvency resolution.
- ❖ Insolvency refers to a situation where the individuals or companies cannot repay back their outstanding debt obligations.
- ❖ Bankruptcy refers to a legal status declared by a court of competent jurisdiction for a person or entity that is insolvent i.e. unable to pay off debts.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

African Penguin Conservation



On the Edge of Extinction

The African Penguin has now been classified as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN, making it the first of the 18 penguin species globally to reach this critical level and placing it just **one step away from extinction** in the wild.

NOT EVALUATED (NE) DATA DEFICIENT (DD) LEAST CONCERN (LC) NEAR THREATENED (NT) VULNERABLE (VU) ENDANGERED (EN) **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR)** EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW) EXTINCT (EX)

Key Statistics

19 800 *mature individuals remaining in the current population*

OVER 80% *population loss in just three generations*

- ❖ South Africa has established measures to protect six crucial breeding sites in an effort to save the African penguin from extinction.
- ❖ The court has imposed a 10-year ban on commercial fishing around the breeding colonies.
- ❖ African penguins are very smaller than Emperor penguins and found exclusively in southern Africa.

- ❖ At the current rate of decline, these unique birds could be extinct in the wild by 2035.

STATES' NEWS

First Scientific Coal Mining Block



Meghalaya Opens First Scientific Coal Mining Block After 10-Year Ban, Boosting Economic Growth and Sustainability

- ❖ The Meghalaya state government has inaugurated the first 'scientific' coal mining block at Saryngkham-A in the Byndihati area of the East Jaintia Hills district.
- ❖ The Wahkhian and Rashiang rivers drain the area.
- ❖ The Wahkhian, a tributary of the Wailong river, flows along the southern boundary of the coal block.
- ❖ The Supreme Court and the NGT have banned the hazardous rat-hole coal mining in April 2014.
- ❖ The finding of an NGT-appointed committee showed that around 24,000 illegal rat-hole coal mines were still operational in the state by the end of 2024.

IMPORTANT DAYS

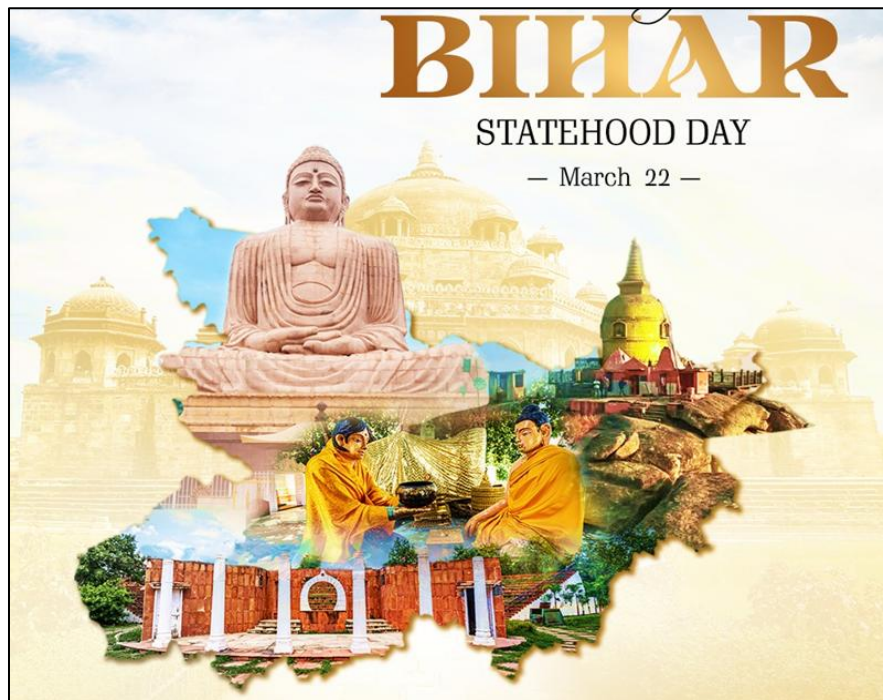
World Puppetry Day 2025 - March 21

- ❖ Puppetry has been practiced in ancient Greece since the fifth century B.C.
- ❖ This was conceived by Iranian puppet theatre artist Javad Zolfaghari.
- ❖ The International Puppetry Association was established in Prague in 1929.

- ❖ The Puppetry in India broadly classified into four categories - String, Shadow, Rod and Glove Puppetry
- ❖ The Bommalattam of Tamil Nadu's puppets are the largest, heaviest, and most articulate of all traditional Indian marionettes.
- ❖ Bommalattam combines the techniques of both rod and string puppets.
- ❖ Theme of the 2025 – Robots, AI and the dream of the puppet?



113th Bihar Statehood Day - March 22



- ❖ On this day in 1912, the British had formed a new province 'Bihar' separate from Bengal.

- ❖ The Bengal Presidency was split into four Subhas of Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, and Assam.
- ❖ The Patna High Court started functioning from March 1, 1916.
- ❖ The state was put under President's rule on eight occasions for various reasons.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Advanced Bihar, Developed Bihar'.

Earth Hour 2025 - March 22



- ❖ It was launched by the Worldwide Fund (WWF) in 2007.
- ❖ This initiative is to raise awareness of the major issues affecting the environment.
- ❖ It encourages people to turn off the non-essential lights for an hour from 8:30 to 9:30 pm IST.
- ❖ This year's Earth Hour is "The Power of Nature".

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

High-Growth Companies Asia-Pacific 2025

- ❖ Lendbox, an Indian peer-to-peer lending platform, has topped the Financial Times and Statista's ranking of 500 high-growth Asia-Pacific companies.
- ❖ Other notable Indian firms like BluSmart (6th), Meesho (72nd), Titan Company (301st), Aditya Birla Capital (374th), and Havells (396th) also secured spots on the prestigious list.
- ❖ In total, 81 companies from India made it to the list.

- ❖ Singapore was the city and country with the most companies on the ranking this year, with 108.

Rank †	Name †	Country †	Category †	Absolute growth rate (%) †	Compound annual growth rate (%) †	Revenue 2023 (\$mn) †	Revenue 2020 (\$mn) †	Number of employees (2023) †	Founding Year †
1	Lendbox	India	Fintech, Financial Services & Insurance	25,703.14	536.64	5113	0.22	108	2015
2	Borong	Malaysia	Ecommerce	18,086.26	466.56	5133	0.31	69	2017
3	Etaily	Philippines	Ecommerce	13,086.45	408.99	2903	0.22	121	2019
4	Library Company	South Korea	Leisure & Entertainment	12,681.74	403.73	18.35	0.16	24	2017
5	Habifactory	South Korea	Fintech, Financial Services & Insurance	7,655.22	326.45	994	0.14	58	2016
6	BluSmart	India	Logistics & Transportation	6,921.43	312.55	39.32	0.56	643	2018
7	BigHaat	India	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	6,237.80	298.70	128.00	2.25	239	2015
8	Zypp Electric	India	Logistics & Transportation	5,859.16	290.60	36.64	0.69	1,200	2017
9	Kuku FM	India	Leisure & Entertainment	5,320.48	278.45	12.61	0.26	237	2018
10	MyVenue	Australia	IT & Software	5,114.64	273.60	918	0.18	40	2017

