

March - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned a sum of ₹3,500 crore for the construction of one lakh houses across the State under the Kalaignar Kanavu Illam programme during 2025-26.
- ❖ DRDO and the Indian Navy have successfully conducted the flight-test of the indigenously developed Vertically-Launched Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM).
- ❖ India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has doubled in size over the last ten years, according to the latest data released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ❖ The North and South Blocks in New Delhi are set to house the new national museum, named as Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has formed a National Task Force (NTF) to avoid student suicides in institutions of higher education.
- ❖ The Former Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra was appointed a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- ❖ JSW Steel has become the world's most valuable steelmaker after the Sajjan Jindal-led company crossed a market capitalisation of over \$30 billion.
- ❖ Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of HCL Technologies, has made history by becoming the first Indian to enter the top 10 in the Hurun Global Rich List 2025 for women (5th place).

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Conservation initiatives of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will launch a conservation initiative for hornbill by establishing a Centre for Excellence at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve to protect their habitats.
- ❖ Endangered species such as the lion-tailed macaque, Madras hedgehog, hyenas, and mahseer fish will be conserved with a budget of ₹1 crore allocated for habitat protection, population estimation, and community awareness programmes.
- ❖ The Bengal Fox and Jackal will be prioritised for the conservation.
- ❖ The state Forest Department will undertake its first telemetry study to identify congregation areas of Olive Ridley Turtles at a cost of ₹84 lakh.

- ❖ The State government will create Community Conservation Leadership Awards and launch a certificate programme for 20,000 students.
- ❖ The State will establish two new research centres at the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation in Vandalur, Chennai namely the Centre for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics and the Centre for Species Survival.
- ❖ Six new wildlife conservation incubation centres will be set up in Virudhunagar, Kallakurichi, Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, The Nilgiris, and Megamalai.
- ❖ The government will invest ₹5 crore in improvements to the Kurumbapatti Zoo in Salem and the Amirthi Zoo in Vellore.
- ❖ The Marine Elite Force for the Chennai coast will be launched to safeguard marine biodiversity.
- ❖ The Rapid response team will be created in Dindigul to mitigate human-elephant conflict.
- ❖ A tree census and the green space assessment will be conducted in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Tiruppur, and Salem.



Mudhalvarin Grama Salaigal Membattu Thittam 2025

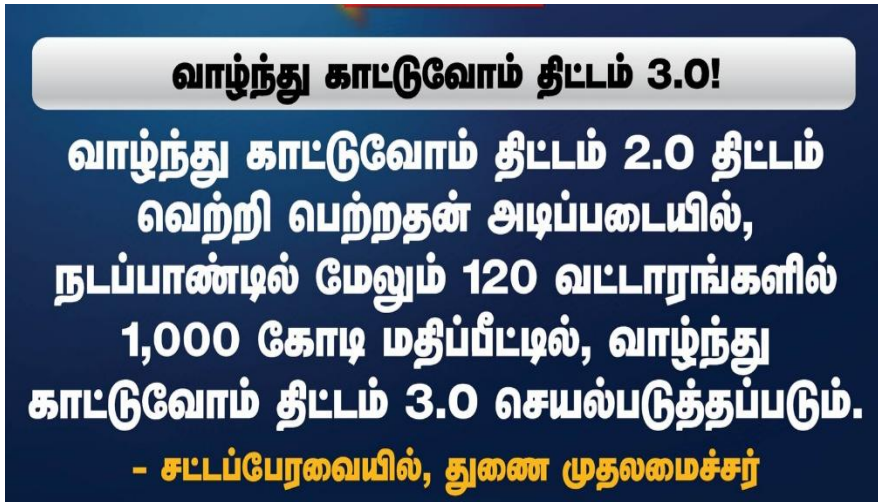
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned a sum of ₹1,000 crore for improving roads in village panchayats and panchayat unions under this scheme during 2025-26.
- ❖ The total sum of ₹1,000 crore, includes ₹344 crore from the Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue (SCPAR), ₹200 crore from the Capital Grant Fund

(CGF) (District), ₹300 crore from the CGF (State) and ₹156 crore from the CGF (Other District Roads).

- ❖ It has been proposed to take up about 2,500 km during 2025-26.



Vazhndhu Kattuvom 3.0



- ❖ Following the success of the Vazhndhu Kattuvom 2.0 scheme, the Tamil Nadu government will implement the Vazhndhu Kattuvom 3.0 scheme in 120 blocks across the State.

- ❖ It will be implemented at a cost of ₹1,000 crore, with assistance from the World Bank.
- ❖ It aims to promote rural enterprises, access to finance, and create employment opportunities in selected blocks of Tamil Nadu.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Guidelines on Medical Oxygen Management

- ❖ The Union Health Ministry has released a national guideline on medical oxygen management, along with announcing a national capacity building program.
- ❖ This Guidelines provide a important comprehensive framework for the effective procurement, storage, and administration of medical oxygen.
- ❖ The oxygen capacity programme aims to train around 200 master trainers across the country.
- ❖ The programme would be undertaken in collaboration with the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.



Gold Monetization Scheme

- ❖ The Centre has discontinued the medium- and long-term deposits under the Gold Monetisation Scheme from March 26.
- ❖ The Gold Monetisation Scheme was launched in November 2015 to make idle gold productive.
- ❖ It let consumers to either sell their gold or store it with banks, so it could merge into the formal economy and reduce the country's gold imports.

- ❖ GMS was a revamped version of an older Gold Deposit Scheme.
- ❖ It consisted of three components:
 - Short-term bank deposit (1-3 years);
 - Medium-term government deposit (5-7 years); and
 - Long-term government deposit (12-15 years).
- ❖ The minimum deposit allowed was 10 gm of raw gold (bars, coins, jewellery excluding stones and other metals).
- ❖ There was no maximum limit for deposit under the scheme.

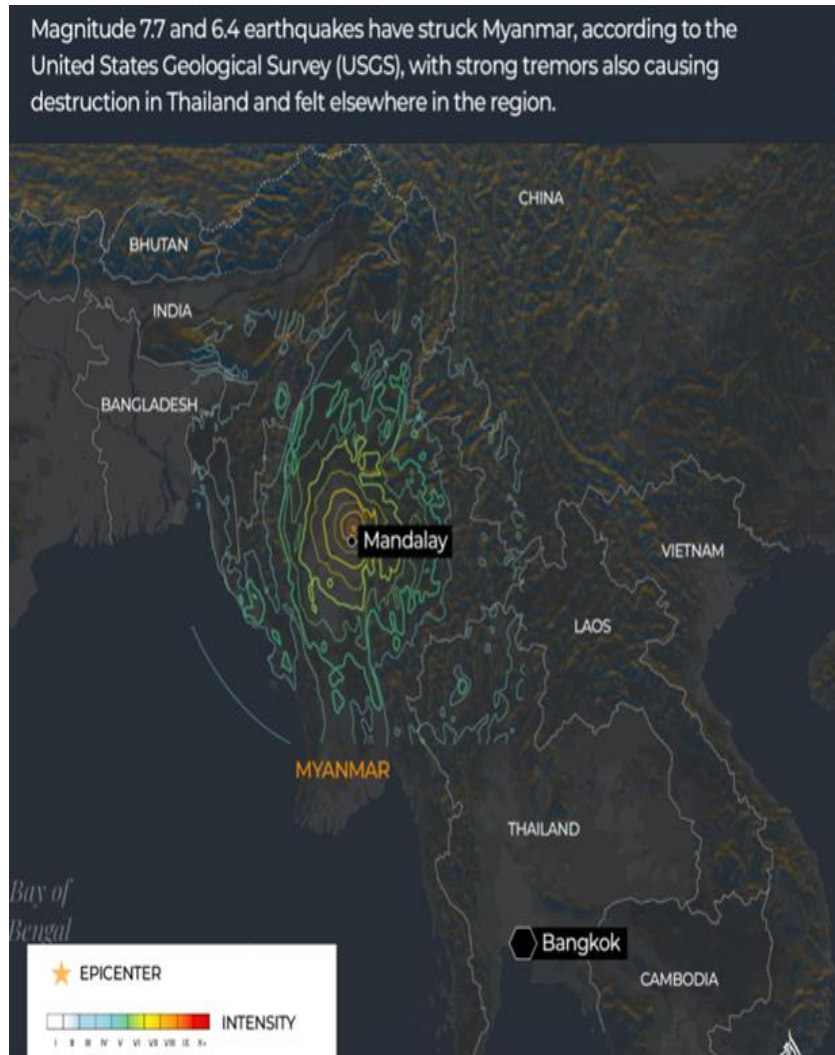


INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Myanmar Earth Quake 2025

- ❖ Two back-to-back earthquakes of magnitudes 7.7 and 6.4 struck Myanmar.
- ❖ Thailand's capital, Bangkok, has been declared a disaster area.
- ❖ Myanmar's military government declared a state of emergency in six regions and states.
- ❖ The iconic 90-year-old Ava Bridge in Myanmar's Mandalay crumbled into the Irrawaddy River.
- ❖ Earlier in Myanmar, six strong quakes of magnitude 7 or higher struck from 1930 to 1956 near the Sagaing Fault.

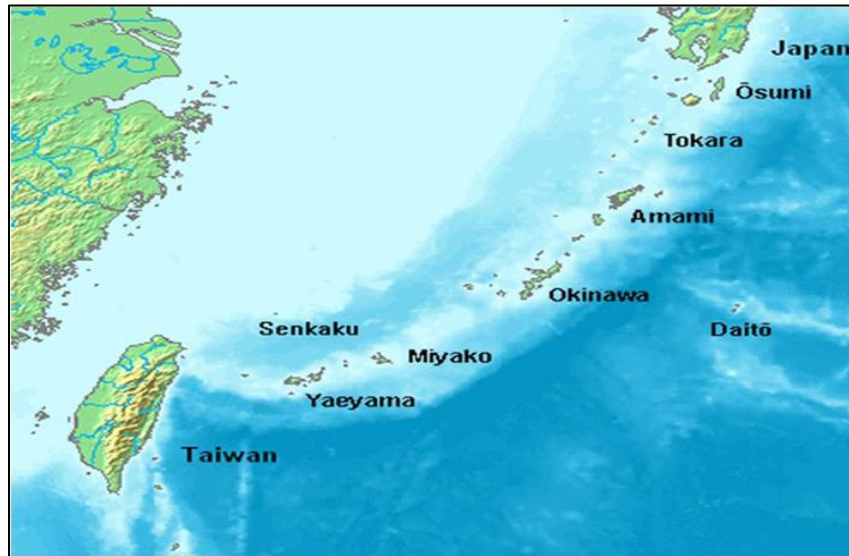
- ❖ A magnitude 6.8 earthquake occurred in central Myanmar killed three people in 2016.
- ❖ India has launched the Operation Brahma, an emergency relief mission aimed at providing disaster relief, search and rescue operations in Myanmar.



Islands dispute 2025

- ❖ China Coast Guard (CCG) patrol vessels entered the territorial waters of disputed islands and stayed for a record 92 hours and 8 minutes.
- ❖ This island is located in the East China Sea between Japan and China.
- ❖ The group comprises eight uninhabited islands with a total area of approximately 7 sq km.
- ❖ The dispute over the Senkaku Islands, known as Diaoyu in China and Diaoyutai in Taiwan, has persisted for decades.

- ❖ The islands are currently administered and controlled by Japan since 1972.



ECONOMY NEWS

Revised priority sector lending norms

RBI RELEASES REVISED PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING (PSL) GUIDELINES

- New Guidelines To Come Into Effect From April 1, 2025

Revised PSL Guidelines

- Enhancement Of Several Loan Limits, Including Housing Loans For Enhanced PSL Coverage
- Broadens The Purposes Based On Which Loans May Be Classified Under 'Renewable Energy'
- Revises Overall PSL Target For UCBs To 60% Of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) Or Credit Equivalent Of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBSE), Whichever Is Higher
- Expands List Of Eligible Borrowers U/Category Of Weaker Sections & Removes Cap On Loans By UCBs To Individual Women Beneficiaries

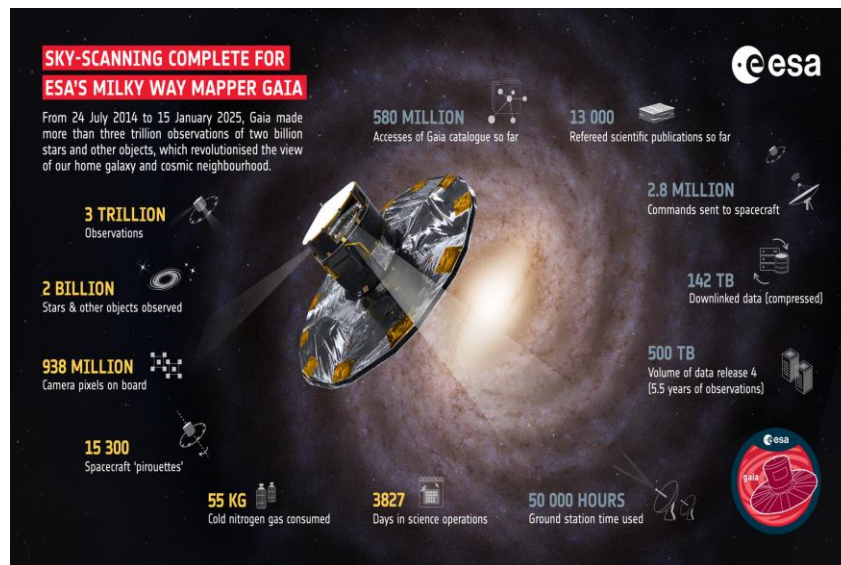
- ❖ The RBI has issued revised guidelines on Priority Sector Lending (PSL) to facilitate better targeting of bank credit to the priority sectors of the economy.
- ❖ The new guidelines will come into effect from April 01, 2025.

- ❖ The revised norms also expand the renewable energy lending allowing bank loans up to ₹35 crore for renewable energy-based power generators and public utilities.
- ❖ The RBI has raised PSL targets for the Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) to 60% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or the Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBSE), whichever is higher.
- ❖ The Loans taken against the gold jewellery acquired by banks from Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) will not qualify as PSL.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Gaia Mission End

- ❖ The ESA's European Space Operations Centre switched off the Gaia spacecraft's subsystems and sent it into a 'retirement orbit' around the Sun.
- ❖ It was launched in 2013 and mapped the positions, distances, motions, and properties of nearly two billion stars and other celestial objects.
- ❖ It was stationed at the Lagrange point 2, around 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.



STATES' NEWS

Kerala Private Universities Bill 2025

- ❖ The Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed the Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2025.
- ❖ It was paving the way for private universities in the state.

- ❖ The bill allows for the establishment of ‘multi-campus’ universities.
- ❖ It stipulates reserving 40% of the seats in each course for permanent residents of the state.
- ❖ Currently, Kerala is the only state without private universities.
- ❖ There were 471 private universities across the country.
- ❖ Gujarat has the largest number of private universities (65), followed by 53 each in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.



PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

1. Kerala Assembly passed The Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill 2025
2. Reserves 40% seats in each course for permanent residents of Kerala
3. Government Nominees in university's governing council, academic council, executive council

SPORTS NEWS

Khelo India Para Games 2025

Rank	State	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total medals
1	Haryana	34	39	31	104
2	Tamil Nadu	28	19	27	74
3	Uttar Pradesh	23	21	20	64
4	Rajasthan	22	18	24	64
5	Maharashtra	18	13	12	43
6	Gujarat	12	24	23	59
7	Karnataka	10	5	7	22

- ❖ Haryana once again finishing on top of the team standings with 34 gold medals in the second edition of the Khelo India Para Games 2025.
- ❖ Haryana once again dominated with a total of 104 medals (34 gold, 39 Silver, and 31 Bronze).



- ❖ Tamil Nadu climbed to the second position with 74 medals (28 gold, 19 Silver and 27 Bronze).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh had finished second the last time, finished in the third position with 64 medals (23 gold, 21 Silver, and 20 Bronze).

