

SHORT NEWS:

1. Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam) – Historic Port Town

Ancient Significance

- Located at the mouth of **Krishna River** on the **Bay of Bengal**, part of the **Coromandel Coast**.
- Known as **Maisolos** in the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* (1st century CE).
- Major seaport for trade with **Romans, Arabs, and Southeast Asia**.
- Acted as a **gateway to the Deccan**.

Satavahana Period (1st BCE – 3rd CE)

- Flourished as a **vibrant port** under Satavahanas.
- Exported **muslin, spices, pearls, and textiles**.
- Connected to **Amaravati and Dharanikota**, key Buddhist and trade centres.

Medieval and Colonial Era

- Re-emerged as an important port in **16th–18th centuries** under **Golconda Sultanate**.
- Became a trading hub for **Dutch, British, and French East India Companies**.
- Lost significance by 18th century as **focus shifted to Madras (Chennai)**.

Ancient Indian Port Cities and Associated Dynasties

Port City	Present Location	Associated Dynasty/Period
Lothal	Gujarat	Indus Valley Civilization
Arikamedu	Puducherry	Cholas, Early Tamil Kingdoms
Kaveripattinam	Tamil Nadu	Cholas
Sopara	Maharashtra	Satavahanas
Tamralipta	West Bengal	Mauryas and Guptas
Barygaza	Bharuch, Gujarat	Indo-Greek, Kushan Period

2.SWEIDA, SYRIA

Context: Over 30 people were killed in sectarian clashes between Druze militias and Bedouin tribes in Sweida city, Syria, in July 2025.

About Syria

- **Location:** Syria is located in **Western Asia** with the capital at **Damascus**.
 - It is bordered by **Turkey** to the north, **Iraq** to the east, **Jordan** to the south, **Israel** and **Lebanon** to the southwest, and the **Mediterranean Sea** to the west.
- **Rivers:** The **Euphrates** is the longest and most significant river in Syria, flowing southeast across the country into Iraq.
 - Other rivers include the Orontes and the Khabur.

- **Mountains:** Key mountain ranges include the **Anti-Lebanon Mountains** (along the Lebanese border) and the coastal **Al-Ansariyah Mountains**.

About Sweida

- **Location:** Sweida (also spelled Suwayda) is a city in southwestern Syria and the capital of the Sweida Governorate.
 - It lies **near the border with Jordan** and southeast of **Damascus**.
- **Demographics:** It is predominantly inhabited by the **Druze minority**, a distinct ethnoreligious group which is part of **Shiite Islam**.
 - **Bedouins** are **Sunni Islamist clans** in Syria.
- **Geography:** Sweida is situated on the volcanic plateau of **Jabal al-Druze**, a mountainous region in southern Syria known for its rugged terrain and elevation.
 - The city is part of the **Jabal al-Arab**. (Mountain of the Arabs)

3.WTTC'S 2024 ECONOMIC IMPACT TRENDS REPORT

Context: India has **ranked 8th** in the 'WTTC's 2024 Economic Impact Trends Report', marking a significant rise in its global tourism economy.

Key Highlights of WTTC's 2024 Economic Impact Trends Report

- **India Among Top 10 Tourism Economies:** India contributed **\$231.6 billion** to the global travel and tourism economy in 2024, rising from 10th to **8th position**, indicating strong post-pandemic recovery and economic resilience.
- **Global Tourism Surge Post-COVID:** The global travel and tourism sector added **\$10.9 trillion** to the world economy in 2023.
 - The **WTTC projects** this to grow to **\$16 trillion by 2034**, or over **11% of global GDP**.
- **Top Global Economies in Tourism:** The **United States** remains the largest contributor with **\$2.36 trillion**, followed by **China** with **\$1.3 trillion**, while **Japan, UK, and Germany** also hold strong positions.
- **Fast-Growing Asian Economies:** Countries like **Malaysia, Philippines, and Hong Kong SAR** are emerging as regional powerhouses.
 - India's upward trajectory reflects its growing role as a tourism hub in Asia.

About World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)

- The **World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)** is a **global forum for the travel and tourism industry**, representing the private sector and working to raise awareness about the sector's economic impact.
- **Establishment:** WTTC was **founded in 1990** and is headquartered in **London, United Kingdom**.
- It aims to promote sustainable growth and development in global tourism.
- **Membership:** The council comprises **over 200 CEOs**, chairpersons, and presidents from the world's top **travel and tourism companies**.

- **Reports Published: Annual reports** such as the **Economic Impact Trends Report** and **Country-specific outlooks**.

4.JARAWA TRIBE

Context: Experts believe the 16th Census of India will face no major hurdles in reaching the indigenous Jarawa tribe, citing ongoing contact and established welfare measures.

About Jarawa Tribe

- The **Jarawas** are one of the world's **oldest surviving tribes**, living as **nomadic hunter-gatherers** in groups of 40–50 individuals called as **chaddhas**.
- In the **2011 Census**, 380 Jarawas were recorded out of the **28,530 Scheduled Tribe individuals** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- They inhabit the western coasts of **South and Middle Andaman** Islands, a region rich in biodiversity that supports their traditional way of life.
- They hunt **pig and turtle** and fish with bows and arrows in the coral-fringed reefs for **crabs and fish**, including striped **catfish-eel** and the toothed pony fish.
- They also gather fruits, wild roots, tubers and honey.
- Molluscus constitutes a major part of their food.
- Their population has risen from **260 (1998)** to around **647 (2025)** due to better healthcare and low external interference.
- A study of their nutrition and health found their '**nutritional status**' was '**optimal**'. They have detailed knowledge of more than **150 plant and 350 animal species**.
- Entry into the **Jarawa Reserve** is restricted under the **Andaman and Nicobar Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation (ANPATR), 1956**.

5.INDIA'S CLEAN ENERGY MILESTONE

Context: India has achieved 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by June 2025, five years ahead of its 2030 target.

India's Clean Energy Targets

- **2030 Goal:** Install **500 GW** of electricity capacity from **non-fossil fuel sources** under its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.
- **Non-Fossil Dominance:** To achieve **about 50 percent cumulative electric power** installed capacity from **non-fossil fuel-based energy** resources by 2030.
- **Net-Zero Goal:** Achieve **net-zero carbon emissions** by 2070.

India's Electrical Energy Mix

Source	Capacity (GW)	Percentage
Thermal (Fossil)	242.04	49.92%
Non-Fossil Fuel (RE + Large Hydro + Nuclear)	242.78	50.08%
Total Installed Capacity	484.82	100%

Flagship Initiatives Enabling the Transformation

PM-KUSUM Scheme

- Solarises **agriculture pumps** and rural feeders.
- Empowers **farmers** and promotes **agrovoltatics**.
- **PM-KUSUM 2.0** to be launched, following success in states like **Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh**.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (2024)

- Targeted **1 crore rooftop solar homes**.
- Promotes **decentralised solar generation** and citizen ownership.

Solar Parks and Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy

- **Utility-scale solar parks** developed at record-low tariffs.
- Hybrid systems ensure **round-the-clock renewable supply**

6. NORTH EASTERN REGION SDG INDEX

Context: The North Eastern Region has made significant progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as highlighted in the **NER SDG Index**.

About SDG India Index

- The SDG India Index is a tool developed by **NITI Aayog** to measure and track India's progress towards the SDGs set by the United Nations.

District SDG Index 2023–24.

- Released by **NITI Aayog** and **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** (MoDoNER), with **UNDP support**, the index assesses 121 districts across eight states on 15 of the 17 SDGs.
- The Index aids **SDG localization** by guiding states to align development plans with SDGs, serving as a benchmark to identify gaps and prioritize actions for achieving targets by 2030.

Overall Performance

- All districts in **Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura** have achieved **Front Runner** status.
- **Hnahthial** in Mizoram emerged as the **top-performing district** in the region.
- The share of **Front Runner districts increased** from **62% (2021–22)** to **85% (2023–24)**.
- Significant gains were observed in goals such as **no poverty, zero hunger, good health & well-being, quality education, gender equality, and clean water & sanitation**.
- National flagship schemes like the **Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission, and aspirational districts programme contributed** significantly to these improvements.

State-Level Trends

- Among the top 10 districts, **Mizoram** had three entries, while **Tripura** and **Nagaland** contributed three districts each, and **Sikkim** had one.
- **Sikkim** demonstrated the **smallest gap** between its **top and bottom-ranked districts**, indicating uniform development.
- **Assam: 89% of districts** achieved Front Runner status.

- **Arunachal Pradesh** showed **mixed performance**, lagged in **infrastructure and climate action**.

Persistent Challenges

- Climate action
- Reducing inequalities
- Responsible consumption and production