

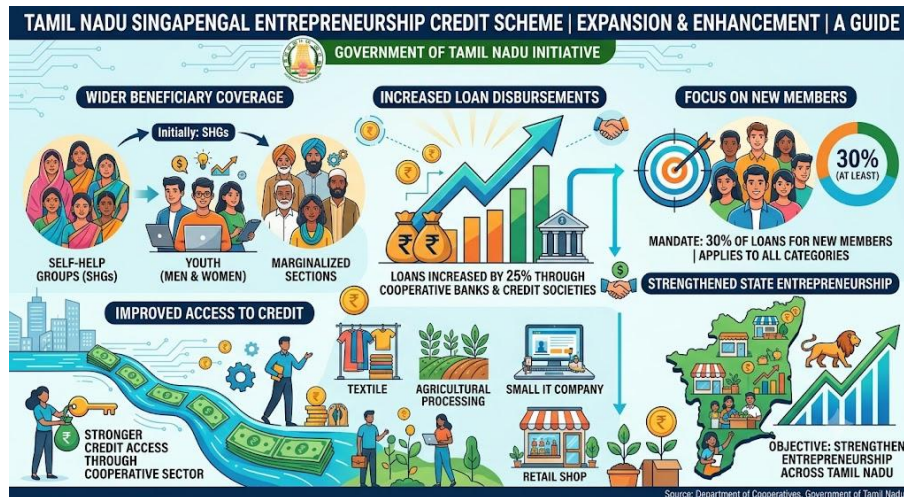
August - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India and the Maldives have launched the Favara–Unified Payments Interface (UPI) cross-border payment corridor for real-time money transfers.
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first-ever air shipment of Neelam and Totapuri mangoes from Karnataka to the Maldives.
- ❖ Prime Minister of India has inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh.
 - It is Andhra Pradesh's first Greenfield International Airport after the 2014 bifurcation of the state.
- ❖ Asmita Dey (women's 48 kg category) and Harsh Singh (men's 60 kg category) won India's first-ever judo gold medals at the 2026 Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, Scotland.
- ❖ World Ranger Day is observed every year on 31 July to honour rangers who lost their lives or were injured while protecting nature and cultural heritage.
 - The theme for the year 2026 "Rangers: Guardians of a Changing Planet."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

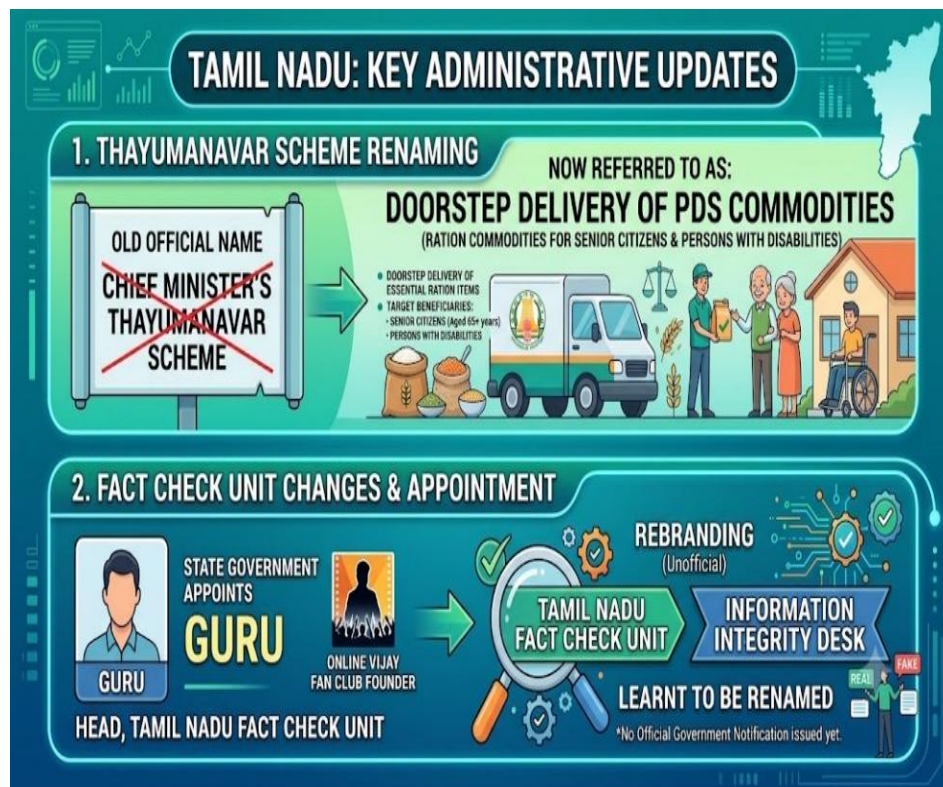
Tamil Nadu Singapengal Entrepreneurship Credit Scheme



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has decided to expand the Singapengal Entrepreneurship Credit Scheme by increasing cooperative lending and widening beneficiary coverage.

- ❖ The State Government has directed officials to increase loans under the scheme by 25% through cooperative banks and credit societies.
- ❖ The scheme will now cover youth and marginalised sections, in addition to Self-Help Groups (SHGs), to promote entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Officials have been instructed to ensure that at least 30% of loans in all categories are provided to new members.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve access to credit through the cooperative sector and strengthen entrepreneurship across the State.

Rename of Thayumanavar Scheme



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has dropped the name "Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme" from its official communications.
- ❖ The scheme is now officially referred to as the doorstep delivery of Public Distribution System (PDS) (ration) commodities for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The scheme provides doorstep delivery of essential ration items to senior citizens aged above 65 years and persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The State Government has also appointed Guru to head the Tamil Nadu Fact Check Unit.

- ❖ The Fact Check Unit is learnt to have been renamed the Information Integrity Desk, though no official government notification has been issued yet.

NATIONAL NEWS

Revamp of India's Sports Mission

REVAMPED KHELO INDIA SCHEME

- ❶ Cabinet approves **revamped Khelo India Scheme**
- ❷ The Scheme will have a total outlay of **₹36,441 crore** for the period from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31
- ❸ Creation of **Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs)** category to expand the structured athlete development ecosystem by nearly 10 times
- ❹ **National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB)** to standardise coaching qualifications, enhance professional standards and strengthen the capacity of coaches and support staff



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) scheme to strengthen India's sports ecosystem.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented from Financial Year (FY) 2026–27 to FY 2030–31 with a total financial outlay of ₹36,441 crore.
- ❖ Khelo India Scheme, launched in 2016–17 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, aims to promote grassroots sports, identify talent, and develop sports infrastructure.
- ❖ It introduces Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs), Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS), and Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas (KIUV) for early talent identification and athlete development.

- ❖ The scheme strengthens training centres including National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs), Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs), and Sports Authority of India (SAI) Training Centres (STCs).
- ❖ It also establishes the National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB) and a unified digital sports platform to improve coaching standards, athlete tracking, and sports funding management.

SC on green clearances

Supreme Court Quashes 2021 Office Memorandum Allowing Ex Post Facto Environmental Clearances



- ❖ The Supreme Court quashes the Centre's 2021 Office Memorandum on ex post facto environmental clearance.
- ❖ It ruled that any future amnesty under the Environment (Protection) Act must flow from a statutory notification, not an administrative order, and be confined to projects of supervening public interest under the EIA framework of 2006.
- ❖ An administrative order cannot create a perpetual and parallel regime to grant retrospective authorisation to big-ticket infrastructure projects commenced without prior, valid environmental clearance.
- ❖ However, the court has not barred retrospective ECs totally.
- ❖ It has, in fact, adopted a note of reconciliation and called for "measured regularisation".



- ❖ The court held that ex post facto environmental regularisation must be restricted to "a narrow, time-bound, reasoned and supervised window", and done only in projects of "supervening public interest".
- ❖ The judgment will apply prospectively, thus saving projects that got retrospective environment clearances (ECs) from demolition and other punitive measures.
- ❖ The Supreme Court was using its power under Article 142, which aims to do complete justice in appropriate cases.
- ❖ It said the office memorandum does not satisfy the test of proportionality and reasonableness and is violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ India's EIA framework is built around a simple principle: projects requiring environmental clearance (EC) must obtain it before construction or operations begin.
- ❖ The 2006 EIA Notification explicitly mandates "prior environmental clearance", allowing regulators to evaluate ecological impacts, hear public objections and prescribe safeguards before irreversible environmental damage occurs.
- ❖ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) comes under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Registration of Births and Deaths Bill, 2026

- ❖ It was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.
- ❖ It amends the 1969 Registration of Births and Deaths Act (as amended in 2023) to establish stricter regulations and a tiered approval process for delayed registrations.
- ❖ Under the Act, an order is required to register a birth or death for which information is given to the Registrar after one year of its occurrence.
- ❖ Such an order may be issued by: (i) a district magistrate, (ii) a sub divisional magistrate, or (iii) an executive magistrate authorised by the district magistrate.
- ❖ The order may be issued after verifying the correctness and on the payment of a prescribed fee.
- ❖ The Bill instead provides that for a delay of more than two years, the order may be issued only by a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class.
- ❖ The proposed legislation introduces a two-tier approval mechanism based on the duration of the delay.
- ❖ As per the existing Act, registration of births and deaths is mandatory, and the certificate issued under the Act provides legal identity to an individual.

- ❖ The new Bill has been brought to make provisions for delayed registration more stringent and to encourage timely reporting of births and deaths.



One Entitled Officer, One Official Car policy

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance has introduced a strict "One Officer, One Official Car" policy.
- ❖ It was a move aimed at cutting wasteful spending and preventing misuse of official resources.
- ❖ The revised rules make it clear that eligible officers cannot be allotted more than one government vehicle, even if they are handling additional responsibilities in another ministry, department, public sector undertaking (PSU) or autonomous body.
- ❖ The new instructions have been issued by the Department of Expenditure through an Office Memorandum.
- ❖ These are meant to ensure that government vehicles are used only for official purposes.
- ❖ Under the revised norms, an officer who is already entitled to a government staff car will continue using the same vehicle, even if they take charge of another office or organisation.
- ❖ Ministries and departments have been directed not to sanction an additional official vehicle in such cases.
- ❖ The government has also barred Central government officers from using vehicles belonging to PSUs, autonomous bodies or quasi-government organisations, except while travelling on authorised official duty or tours.
- ❖ Departments have been told to ensure that unused or surplus vehicles remain in safe custody instead of being put to unofficial use.
- ❖ The objective is to improve administrative efficiency, avoid duplication and promote better management of government resources.

- ❖ The renewed emphasis is intended to strengthen fiscal discipline and ensure that taxpayer-funded resources are used responsibly across the Central government.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Italy-Spain Border Controls

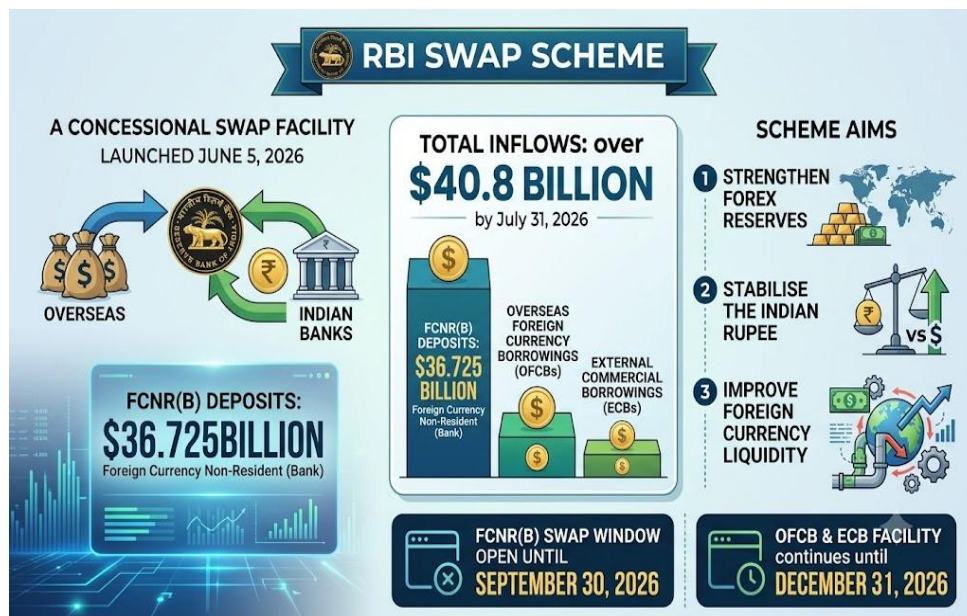


- ❖ Italy temporarily suspended Schengen free-movement rules with Spain from 1 August 2026 for one month after a large influx of irregular migrants into Ceuta.

- ❖ The Schengen Area allows passport-free travel between most participating European countries.
- ❖ Under the Schengen Borders Code, member countries can temporarily restore internal border checks for public security or internal security reasons.
- ❖ Ceuta is a Spanish enclave on the North African coast of Morocco and is a key migration route between Africa and Europe.
- ❖ The temporary checks mainly apply to third-country nationals arriving from Spain, while European Union (EU) citizens can continue regular travel.
- ❖ Italy said the measure was taken to strengthen border security and manage migration pressure.

ECONOMY NEWS

RBI Swap Scheme



- ❖ RBI's concessional swap facility attracted over \$40.8 billion foreign exchange (forex) inflows by July 31, 2026.
- ❖ The facility was launched on June 5, 2026, to encourage foreign currency inflows and support domestic liquidity.
- ❖ Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits contributed the highest share with \$36.725 billion, followed by Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) and External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).
- ❖ The scheme aims to strengthen forex reserves, stabilise the Indian rupee, and improve foreign currency liquidity amid global economic pressures.

- ❖ FCNR(B) swap window will remain open until September 30, 2026, while the OFCB and ECB facility continues until December 31, 2026.

Revised base year of the Consumer Price Index

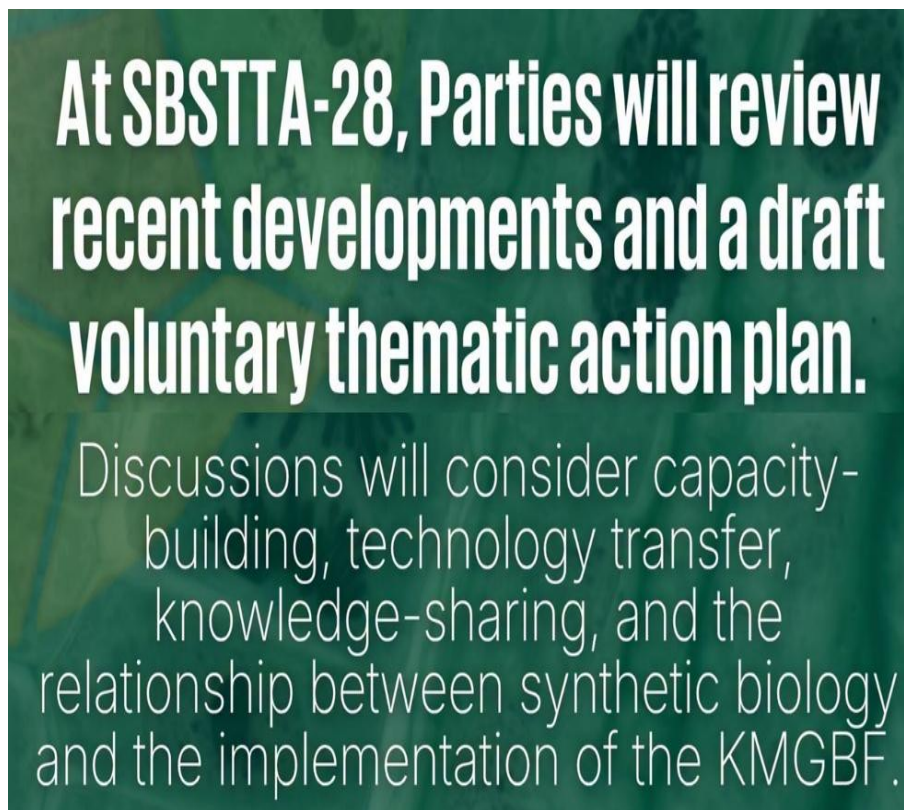


- ❖ Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index from 2012=100 to 2024=100.
- ❖ It incorporated updated consumption weights from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24 and expanded market coverage.
- ❖ Under the CPI 2024 series, the inflation data is available from January, 2026 onwards.
- ❖ The inflation data of the CPI 2012 series is available up to December, 2025.
- ❖ A direct comparison of inflation under the new series with that of the previous series is not feasible on account of the changes in the item basket, weights, coverage of markets and methodology between the two series.
- ❖ The new series introduces rural house rent for the first time, significantly improving the coverage of rural housing consumption.

- ❖ Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the change in retail prices of a fixed basket of goods and services consumed by households, and is India's headline retail inflation indicator (YoY % change in CPI).
- ❖ India's final CPI is made by mixing Rural CPI and Urban CPI in proportion to their share in total consumption (weights).
- ❖ CPI-based inflation is also the primary indicator for the Reserve Bank of India to help guide it in decisions such as interest rates and inflation control.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

SBSTTA28 Meeting on Biodiversity



- ❖ The 28th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA28) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) concluded in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ The meeting was held ahead of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the CBD, scheduled in Yerevan, Armenia.
- ❖ SBSTTA provides science-based advice for implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which has 23 biodiversity targets for 2030.

- ❖ Countries discussed marine and coastal biodiversity, sustainable wildlife management, protected areas, and progress towards global biodiversity goals.
- ❖ A major discussion was on synthetic biology (use of genetic engineering to design or modify biological systems) and its potential benefits and ecological risks.
- ❖ Countries agreed that the draft Synthetic Biology Action Plan is a good basis but differed on issues like flexibility, expert groups, and technology-sharing mechanisms.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Friendship 2026 - July 30



- ❖ International Day of Friendship was observed on 30 July 2026, while India celebrated Friendship Day on 2 August 2026 (the first Sunday of August).
- ❖ The United Nations (UN) declared 30 July as the International Day of Friendship in 2011 to promote friendship, peace, and understanding among people and nations.
- ❖ In India, Friendship Day is traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday of August, a practice followed for many years.
- ❖ The idea of a global Friendship Day was first proposed in 1958 by Dr. Ramón Artemio Bracho of Paraguay, leading to the World Friendship Crusade.

- ❖ The day encourages people to strengthen friendships, promote kindness, and build mutual understanding across communities and countries.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Border Trade via Nathu La Pass

- ❖ India–China border trade through Nathu La Pass, Sikkim, resumed on 1 August 2026 after a six-year suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions.
- ❖ Nathu La Pass is one of the designated border trading points between India and China and is part of the ancient Silk Route.
- ❖ The seasonal trade will operate from Monday to Thursday until November under the existing bilateral trade protocol.
- ❖ Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has implemented security arrangements, including the deployment of additional personnel and a women's platoon for the first time.
- ❖ Nathu La border trade was reopened in 2006 after being closed for over four decades following the 1962 India–China War.



**Border trade with China
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