

August - 08

TAMIL NADU NEWS

India's First AI City - Arivagam

- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced India's first dedicated Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Innovation City, named 'Arivagam', in the 2026–27 State Budget.
- ❖ A feasibility study for the project will be carried out at an estimated cost of ₹5 crore.
- ❖ Arivagam will include an Artificial Intelligence (AI) University, an International Skill Development Centre, a Semiconductor Hardware Testing Laboratory, multi-domain innovation incubators, and residential facilities.
- ❖ The project aims to promote Artificial Intelligence (AI), deep-tech research, innovation, startups, and skilled workforce development.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will also introduce Guidance 3.0, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered investment service system, and upgrade the Tamil Nadu Single Window Portal 3.0 to provide all industrial approvals through a single platform.



Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget 2026–27

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister R. Vinoth presented the Agriculture Budget for 2026–27 in the Legislative Assembly.



- ❖ The budget focused on farmers' welfare, modern technology, irrigation, crop protection, and sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ Farm mechanisation initiative will support 24,000 farmers with subsidised agricultural machinery through an allocation of ₹227.2 crore.
- ❖ The Farmers AI Scheme will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) tools for weather updates, soil health monitoring, and market information with an allocation of ₹2 crore.
- ❖ The free electricity scheme for farmers will receive ₹7,432 crore for the financial year 2026–27.

TN Assembly: Minister Vinoth presents TVK government's first Agriculture Budget

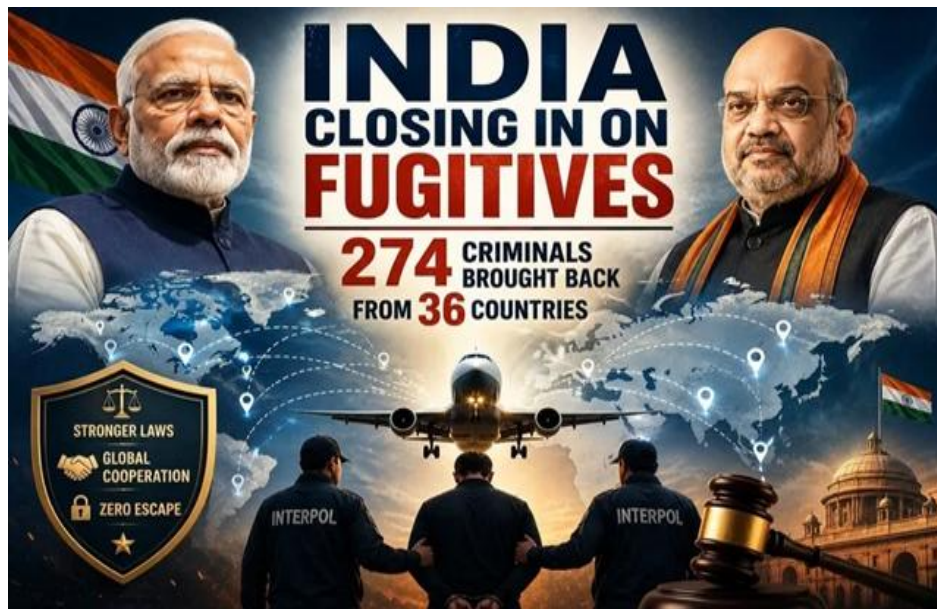
Agriculture Minister Vinoth on August 6 presented the TVK government's first Agriculture Budget in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, outlining a roadmap focused on farmer welfare, continuity of existing schemes, and the introduction of new initiatives for the agriculture sector. Presenting the Budget, the minister said the financial statement had been prepared after incorporating suggestions from farmers and agricultural exporters.

- ❖ Soil fertility improvement measures will be implemented with ₹600 crore to enhance nutrient levels in agricultural lands.
- ❖ Soil Health Cards will be provided to 1 lakh farmers to encourage efficient fertiliser use with an allocation of ₹4 crore.
- ❖ Velan Kadugal Thittam will promote agroforestry by encouraging tree plantation around agricultural fields with ₹17.7 crore.
- ❖ Crop protection measures against wild boars and elephants will be strengthened with ₹7.35 crore to reduce human-wildlife conflict impacts.
- ❖ Annal Ambedkar Velan Udhavi Thittam will provide support to small and marginal Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers with ₹56.7 crore.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Millet Mission will expand millet cultivation and productivity with ₹63.81 crore.
- ❖ The Cotton Revolution Movement will support cotton farmers through a five-year programme with ₹27.2 crore.

- ❖ Storage facilities for small onions (shallots) will be established with a capacity of 57,000 metric tonnes through an allocation of ₹22 crore.
- ❖ Under Vetri Vanmagal Thittam, 500 farmers will be trained in drone technology, including 100 women farmers, with ₹4 crore allocated.
- ❖ Agricultural exports from Tamil Nadu will be promoted through an allocation of ₹8.4 crore.
- ❖ The state government aims to increase annual foodgrain production to 131 lakh metric tonnes within the next five years.

NATIONAL NEWS

Operation Trishul



- ❖ Operation Trishul has helped India bring back 274 fugitives from 36 countries since 2019.
- ❖ The operation tracks fugitives involved in cases related to terrorism, organised crime, narco-terrorism, financial fraud, murder, sexual offences, and human trafficking.
- ❖ It uses satellite imagery, surveillance inputs, and digital footprints to locate fugitives hiding abroad.
- ❖ The operation involves coordination among the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), state police forces, and Interpol.

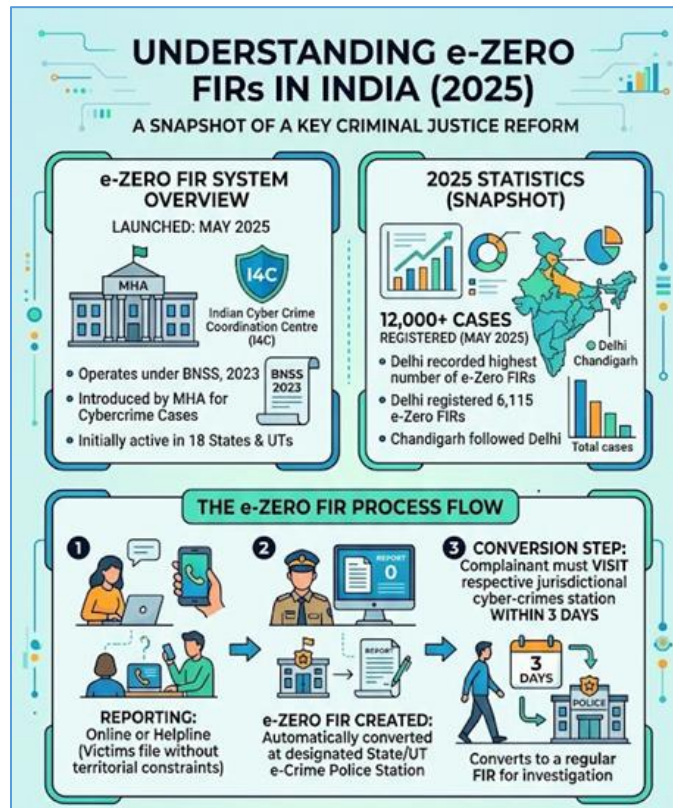


- ❖ India brought back 70 fugitives in 2025 and 45 fugitives by July 2026 under international cooperation mechanisms.

e-zero FIRs in 2025

- ❖ Delhi recorded the highest number of e-zero FIRs.
- ❖ The e-Zero FIR system was launched in 2025 May last year.
- ❖ It was done by the Ministry of Home Affairs via the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- ❖ It operates under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.
- ❖ 12 thousand cases have been registered under e-Zero FIRs
- ❖ Delhi has registered 6,115 e-Zero FIRs, followed by Chandigarh.
- ❖ MHA introduces e-Zero FIR system for cybercrime cases in 18 states and UTs.
- ❖ It allows victims of cyber financial fraud to report the crime either directly online or through a helpline, which ensures that the victims are able to file a Zero FIR without any constraints.
- ❖ It will automatically be converted into an e-Zero FIR at the designated state or Union Territory e-Crime Police Station.
- ❖ However, to convert an e-Zero FIR into a regular FIR, the complainant has to visit their respective jurisdictional cyber-crimes police station within three days of filing the complaint.
- ❖ Zero FIR under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) allows any police station to register an FIR for a cognizable offence regardless of where the incident happened.
- ❖ Key items include mandatory registration, a zero-serial number, and subsequent transfer.
- ❖ Section 173 BNSS: Gives formal statutory backing to the Zero FIR process, replacing older administrative guidelines.
- ❖ No Territorial Refusal: Police officers cannot reject a complaint about a cognizable crime using the excuse of jurisdiction.
- ❖ Serial Number "0": The initial station assigns a "0" number because it will not retain or investigate the core case.
- ❖ The victim or complainant gives oral or electronic information at any convenient police station - either orally or in writing or by electronic communication, at any police station.
- ❖ Immediate Action: The local station takes urgent steps like medical aid or evidence preservation if needed right away.

- ❖ **Transfer of Case:** The files are sent promptly to the correct jurisdictional police station, which converts it into a regular numbered FIR and starts the main investigation.
- ❖ A significant reform in India's criminal justice system that allows any police station to register an FIR for a cognizable offence, regardless of jurisdiction.
- ❖ It ensures prompt action without delay due to territorial boundaries.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRICS Anti-Corruption Meeting 2026

- ❖ India hosted the Second BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting and Second BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery Meeting in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The meetings were organised by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under India's BRICS Presidency 2026 to strengthen cooperation against cross-border corruption.
- ❖ BRICS countries discussed cooperation in tracing fugitive offenders, recovering illegal assets, and improving information sharing among enforcement agencies.
- ❖ Members agreed to continue discussions on creating a BRICS Network of Law-Enforcement Practitioners for corruption-related cases.

- ❖ The meeting focused on using Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and digital systems to improve transparency and prevent corruption.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Neptune's Ancient Celestial Collision



- ❖ NASA's James Webb Space Telescope found evidence of an ancient catastrophic event that reshaped Neptune's moons and rings billions of years ago.
- ❖ The telescope detected clay minerals on Neptune's inner moons — Proteus, Larissa and Galatea — indicating material from a larger destroyed celestial body.
- ❖ Scientists suggest that Triton, Neptune's largest moon, was captured from the Kuiper Belt and caused collisions among Neptune's original moons.

- ❖ The debris from these collisions later formed Neptune's present inner moons and rings.
- ❖ Triton is the only large moon in the Solar System that orbits opposite to its planet's rotation, supporting the theory that it was captured.

WHO Cancer Agency's Drug Classification

IARC CARCINOGEN CLASSIFICATIONS
GROUP 1: CARCINOGENIC TO HUMANS A causal relationship between the exposure and cancer development in humans exists. <i>examples: alcohol, human papillomavirus, hepatitis B virus, asbestos</i>
GROUP 2A: PROBABLY CARCINOGENIC Limited evidence of exposure likely causing cancer in humans (such as positive association, but no causal relationship), and either strong mechanistic evidence (why it could cause cancer) or sufficient evidence of substance causing cancer in animal models. <i>examples: very hot beverages, glyphosate, night shift work</i>
GROUP 2B: POSSIBLY CARCINOGENIC Even less evidence than 2A: only limited evidence of possible carcinogenicity in humans, only strong mechanistic evidence, or only sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animal models. <i>examples: Aloe vera, pickled vegetables, kava root, aspartame</i>
GROUP 3: NOT CLASSIFIABLE AS TO CARCINOGENICITY IN HUMANS Inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity in humans and inadequate or limited evidence in animal models. <i>examples: caffeine, carrageenan, saccharin, surgical implants</i>

- ❖ The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer research agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), classified three commonly used medicines as "carcinogenic to humans" (Group 1).
- ❖ The medicines are Hydrochlorothiazide (used for high blood pressure), Voriconazole (used for fungal infections), and Tacrolimus (an immunosuppressant used to prevent organ transplant rejection).
- ❖ Hydrochlorothiazide and Voriconazole were associated with increased risk of squamous cell skin carcinoma, while Tacrolimus was linked with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders.
- ❖ The medicines are included in the World Health Organization (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines and are used by millions worldwide.

- ❖ Experts clarified that patients should not stop these medicines without medical advice, as the classification identifies potential hazards and does not measure cancer risk at prescribed doses.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Darwin's Theory in Carnivorous Plant

- ❖ Scientists confirmed Charles Darwin's 150-year-old prediction that the plant *Saxifraga candelabrum* is an insect-eating (carnivorous) plant.
- ❖ The study showed that the plant attracts and traps tiny insects using sticky hair-like structures called glandular trichomes.
- ❖ Researchers found that the plant uses an enzyme called phosphatase to digest trapped insects and absorb nutrients.
- ❖ Isotope labelling confirmed the transfer of nitrogen-15 from insects to the plant, proving nutrient absorption from prey.
- ❖ *Saxifraga candelabrum* grows at high altitudes (2,500–3,300 metres) in China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and Hengduan Mountains.

SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY AN INSECT-EATING PLANT, PROVING CHARLES DARWIN RIGHT AFTER 150 YEARS

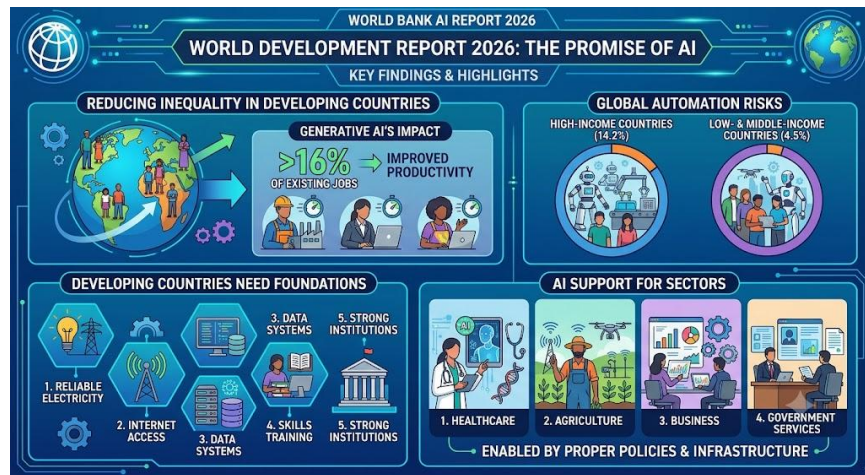


REPORTS AND INDICES

World Bank AI Report 2026

- ❖ The World Bank released the World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence (AI), highlighting AI's potential to reduce inequality in developing countries.

- ❖ The report stated that Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) could improve productivity in more than 16% of existing jobs in developing economies.
- ❖ It noted that jobs in high-income countries face higher automation risks (14.2%) compared to low- and middle-income countries (4.5%).
- ❖ The report warned that developing countries need basic facilities like reliable electricity, internet access, data systems, skills and strong institutions to benefit from AI.
- ❖ It highlighted that AI can support sectors like healthcare, agriculture, business and government services when supported by proper policies and infrastructure.

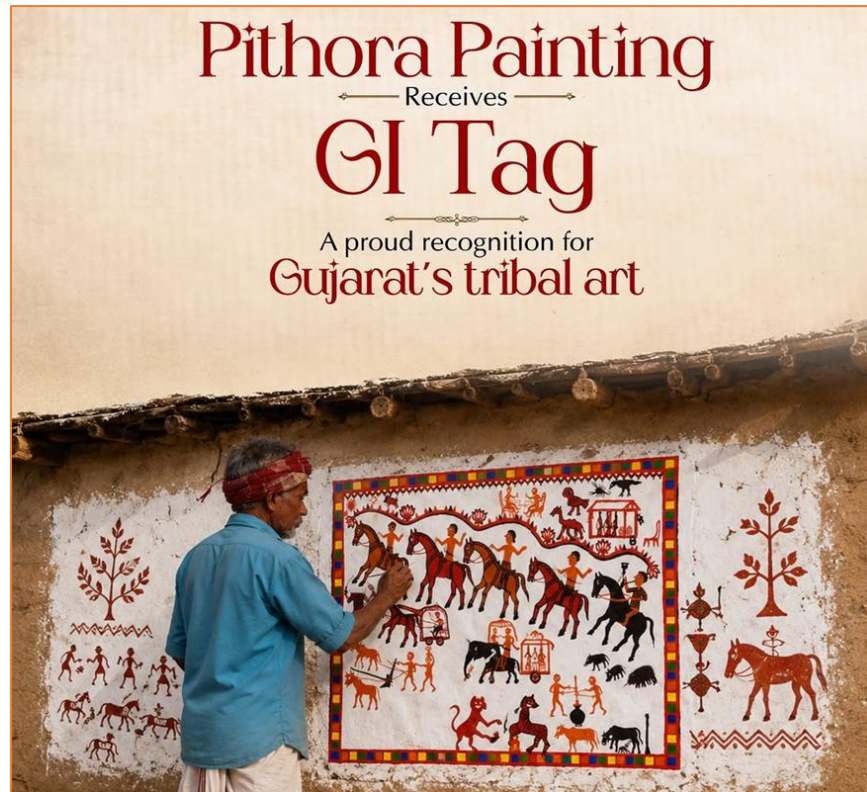


STATE NEWS

Pithora Painting

- ❖ It is the centuries-old wall art tradition of Gujarat's Rathwa tribal community.
- ❖ It is mainly in Panch mahal and Chhota Udaipur.
- ❖ It dates back to around the 13th century - done by tribes such as the Rathwa, Bhil, and Bhilala.
- ❖ It was created on the walls of homes.
- ❖ The paintings were often commissioned during significant life events, such as weddings, births, and festivals.
- ❖ These were executed by specialist ritual painters known as Lakharas, under the guidance of a priest called Badwa.
- ❖ The walls are prepared by applying a mixture of cow dung and clay
- ❖ Artists use natural pigments derived from minerals, plants, and other organic materials to create the colours for their paintings

- ❖ Painters use a combination of bamboo sticks, cotton and wooden stencils.
- ❖ The paintings show tribal and Hindu deities, horses, animals, and scenes from daily life like farming, hunting, and dancing.
- ❖ Common colours include red, yellow, green, and blue, each derived from specific natural sources.
- ❖ Today's generation of Pithora painters use paper and canvas that they sell commercially.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Environment Protection Award 2026

- ❖ P. Pechiyammal and Govindhammal received the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026 in Chennai.
- ❖ The award recognises grassroots individuals and organisations for outstanding contributions to environment protection, biodiversity conservation, marine plastic cleanup, and sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ It is instituted by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in partnership with CavinKare Pvt. Ltd. and the Rotary Club of Madras East.

- ❖ P. Pechiyammal (Ramanathapuram) was honoured for removing abandoned fishing nets to protect marine life and coral reefs.
- ❖ Govindhammal (Villupuram) was honoured for promoting organic farming, climate-resilient agriculture, and strengthening Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Handloom Day 2026 - August 07



- ❖ The day aims to honour India's handloom weavers and promote the handloom sector.
- ❖ The day has been observed since 2015 to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi Movement on 7 August 1905, which promoted the use of indigenous goods.

- ❖ According to the Fourth All India Handloom Census (2019–20), India has 35.22 lakh handloom weavers and allied workers, of whom over 72% are women.
- ❖ India has 28.20 lakh handlooms, with nearly 90% located in rural areas, supporting rural employment and livelihoods.
- ❖ As of June 2026, 106 handloom products have received Geographical Indication (GI) registration, and India's handloom exports reached about ₹1,330.96 crore in 2025–26.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

81st Hiroshima Bomb Anniversary

- ❖ Japan observed the 81st anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombing on 6 August 2026.
- ❖ The United States (U.S.) dropped the world's first wartime atomic bomb, "Little Boy," on Hiroshima at on 6 August 1945, destroying most of the city and killing about 140,000 people by the end of 1945.
- ❖ A second atomic bomb, "Fat Man," was dropped on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945, causing about 70,000 deaths by the end of 1945.
- ❖ Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945, bringing World War II (WWII) to an end.
- ❖ The number of Hiroshima atomic bomb survivors (Hibakusha) has declined to 91,105, with their average age now over 86 years.



Hiroshima marks 81st atomic bomb anniversary as mayor deplores the pursuit of nuclear weapons

