



August - 11

TNPSC BITS

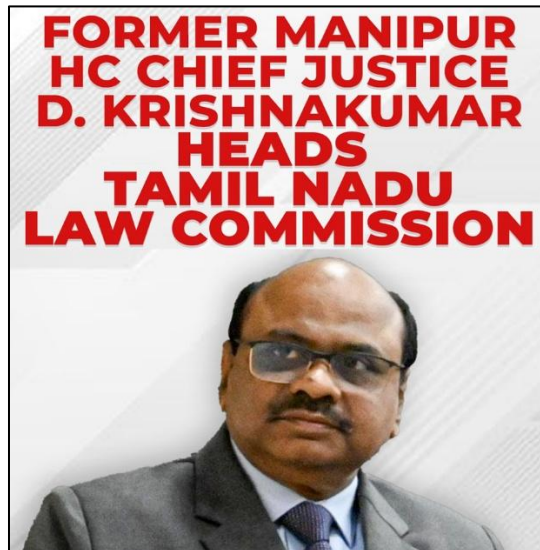
- ❖ India successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable Agni-4 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha, under the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).
 - Agni-4 is a two-stage, solid-fuel missile with a range of around 4,000 km and a payload capacity of about 1,000 kg.
- ❖ The 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
 - The meeting focused on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), skill development, research and innovation, mutual recognition of qualifications, and academic leadership.
- ❖ The elusive Himalayan serow (*Capricornis thar*) was recorded in Dalhousie Forest Division, Himachal Pradesh, after nearly 20 years.
 - The IUCN lists it as Near Threatened due to habitat degradation, fragmentation and hunting.
- ❖ IIT Hyderabad and Crimson Energy Experts Pvt. Ltd. launched ANUGYAN (Nuclear Technology Orientation Programme), a three-month residential programme and India's first industry-academia course for civil nuclear energy professionals.
- ❖ Bengaluru-based Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled EVEREST, India's first privately built 800-kilonewton (kN) Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) rocket engine.
- ❖ Indian squash player Suraj Kumar Chand became the first Indian to win the individual gold medal at the FISU (International University Sports Federation) World University Squash Championship, held at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Maharashtra.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu – Law Commission

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has appointed former Manipur High Court Chief Justice D. Krishnakumar as Chairman of the reconstituted Tamil Nadu State Law Commission.

- ❖ Justice R.M.T. Teekaa Raman, T.K. Ramachandran and A. Arunagiri were appointed full-time members, while P. Mohan Doss and R. Govindarajan were appointed part-time members.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Law Commission is a State-level body that examines existing laws and suggests changes to improve the legal system.
- ❖ Its work includes identifying loopholes in existing laws and recommending suitable amendments or new legal measures.
- ❖ The Commission can also suggest social and economic legislative measures for Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The previous State Law Commission's tenure had also been extended for three years from June 19, 2020, showing that the Commission functions through fixed-term reconstitutions.

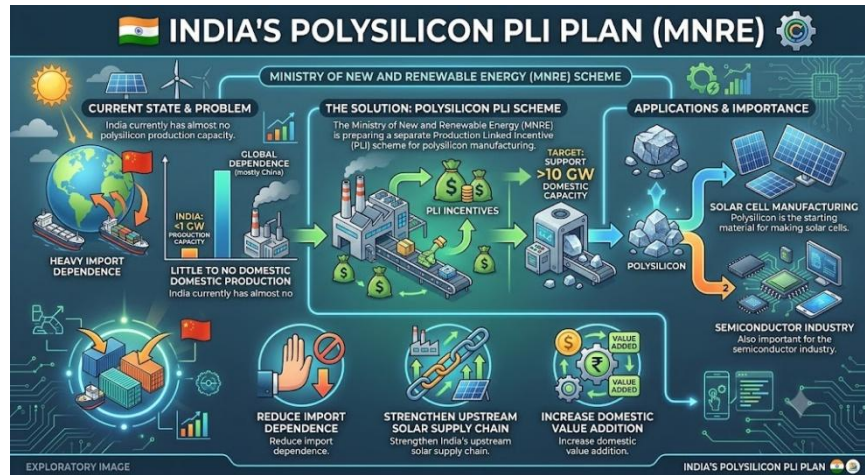


NATIONAL NEWS

India's Polysilicon PLI Plan

- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is preparing a separate Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for polysilicon manufacturing.
- ❖ India currently has almost no polysilicon production capacity and depends heavily on imports, mainly from China.
- ❖ The proposed scheme aims to support more than 10 GW of domestic polysilicon manufacturing capacity.
- ❖ Polysilicon is the starting material for making solar cells and is also important for the semiconductor industry.

- ❖ The move aims to strengthen India's upstream solar supply chain, reduce import dependence and increase domestic value addition.



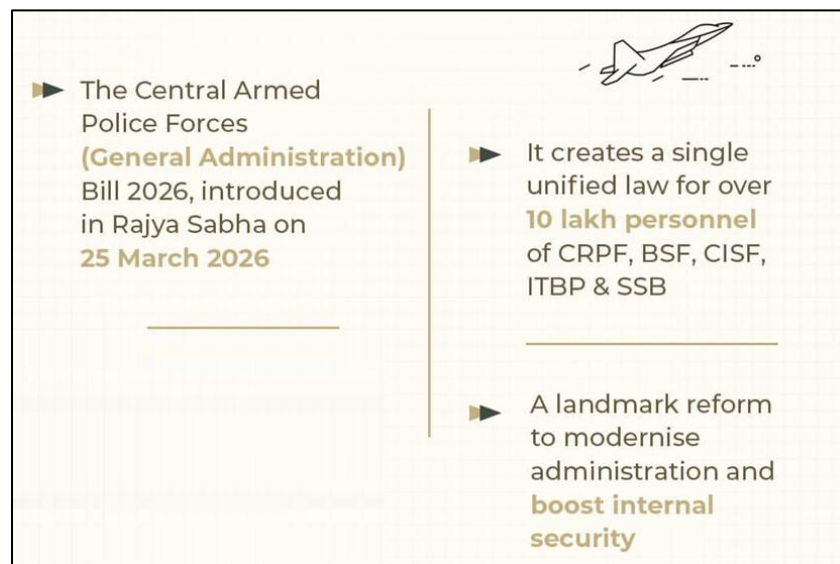
India – Lesotho relations 2026



- ❖ India and Lesotho reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation during the recently held Joint Bilateral Commission for Cooperation in Delhi.
- ❖ India and Lesotho enjoy close ties of friendship and cooperation across diverse sectors, rooted in their shared commitment to enhancing South-South cooperation.
- ❖ Both countries agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Bilateral Commission for Cooperation will be held in Maseru in 2027
- ❖ Lesotho is a landlocked Country surrounded by South Africa.

- ❖ It is also known as the "Kingdom in the Sky" or "Mountain Kingdom".
- ❖ It is the only country in the world entirely above 1400 m elevation.
- ❖ Lesotho is located in the Maloti Mountains, with the highest peak in southern Africa.
- ❖ Its major Ranges are the Drakensberg and Maloti Mountains.
- ❖ Over 80% of the country lies above 1,800 metres (5,906 ft).
- ❖ Lesotho is the southernmost landlocked country in the world.
- ❖ It is the largest of the world's three independent states surrounded by the territory of another country, with Vatican City and San Marino being the other two.
- ❖ It is the only such state outside the Italian peninsula and Europe, as well as the only one that is not a microstate.

Supreme Court on CAPF Act



- ❖ More than 3,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) Group A cadre officers have moved the Supreme Court to challenge the Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2026.
- ❖ The petitioners have contended that the Act brought in after this judgment is unconstitutional and violative of Articles 14, 16, and 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Act will make it harder for CAPF cadre officers to be promoted through the ranks to leadership positions.
- ❖ The legislation was enacted to effectively negate a May 2025 Supreme Court ruling that directed the exact opposite action: to reduce Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in the CAPF leadership and make it easier for CAPF officers to reach top positions.



- ❖ The law states that in all CAPFs, 50% of the total posts in the rank of Inspector General, at least 67% of the posts in the rank of Additional Director General, and all posts in the rank of Special Director General and Director General must be filled by IPS officers on deputation.
- ❖ Until now, such postings were done based on executive orders.
- ❖ The practice of reserving 50% of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) posts for Group A CAPF officers also finds no place in the Act.
- ❖ Thus, it is paving the way for a higher percentage of IPS deputed officers filling those posts.
- ❖ The petitioners have sought directions for the implementation of the Supreme Court's judgment dated May 23, 2025, in Sanjay Prakash v. Union of India.
- ❖ And a declaration that Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) posts in all CAPFs be filled from among eligible executive cadre officers of the respective forces, rather than exclusively through deputation, along with any other relief.
- ❖ On May 23, 2025, the Supreme Court had ruled that Group "A" Executive Cadre officers of CAPFs are organized Group A Services for all purposes.
- ❖ Besides progressively reducing the IPS deputation in CAPFs up to the level of I-Gs in the next two years, the court asked for a time bound review of cadre and service rules within six months.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) challenged the judgment, but on October 28, 2025, the court dismissed the review petition, making the ruling final.
- ❖ The CAPF is classified into three groups: Border Guarding Forces (Assam Rifles, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and Sashastra Seema Bal), Forces for Internal Security (Central Industrial Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force), and Special Task Force (National Security Guard).
- ❖ The plea contended that the Act has the effect of negating the Supreme Court judgment using legislative means.
- ❖ That step is in violation of the doctrine of separation of powers.

SC on third party insurance

- ❖ The Supreme Court extended the mandatory third-party motor insurance coverage of new vehicles by a year.
- ❖ New cars will now have four years of coverage and two-wheelers six years.
- ❖ The court observed that despite the statutory mandate, a "shocking" number of vehicles continued to ply on Indian roads without third-party insurance.
- ❖ It was forcing accident victims and their families to "run from pillar to post" to secure compensation.

- ❖ The court proposed a system in which vehicles without valid insurance can be denied fuel at petrol pumps.
- ❖ It also directed that Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, deployed on highways and roads to detect traffic violations, be integrated with insurance data maintained by the Insurance Information Bureau of India (IIB) and vehicle registration data available on the VAHAN portal.
- ❖ In its 2018 judgment in the S. Rajaseekaran v. Union of India case, the apex court had required purchasers of new vehicles to obtain three-year third-party insurance for cars and five-year cover for two-wheelers at the time of purchase or registration.



SUPREME COURT ORDERS

THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE EXTENDED FOR NEW VEHICLES

Stronger protection. Safer roads. Better compliance.

NEW PRIVATE CARS	NEW TWO-WHEELERS
EARLIER 3 YEARS	EARLIER 5 YEARS
NOW 4 YEARS	NOW 6 YEARS

"NO INSURANCE, NO FUEL"

Pilot project proposed to improve compliance and reduce uninsured vehicles on roads.

SC on live-in relationships

- ❖ The Supreme Court extends domestic cruelty offence to live-in relationships.
- ❖ The Supreme Court said the criminal offence of domestic cruelty would extend to live-in relationships between consenting adults that qualify as "relationships in the nature of marriage".
- ❖ The judgment came while dealing with a question whether a man who is in a live-in relationship can be prosecuted under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
- ❖ Section 498A (domestic cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code, now replaced by Sections 85 and 86 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, should not be limited to married relationships alone.

- ❖ Live-in relationships were a reality in modern, urban life.
- ❖ The court said the marital status of a woman, in the present day, did not have a proximate link to the objective of Section 498A, which was to prevent cruelty in a household setting.
- ❖ The court reasoned those relationships in the nature of marriage and which show the requisite intent to marry were the “closest to marriage itself”.

LIVE-IN RIGHTS



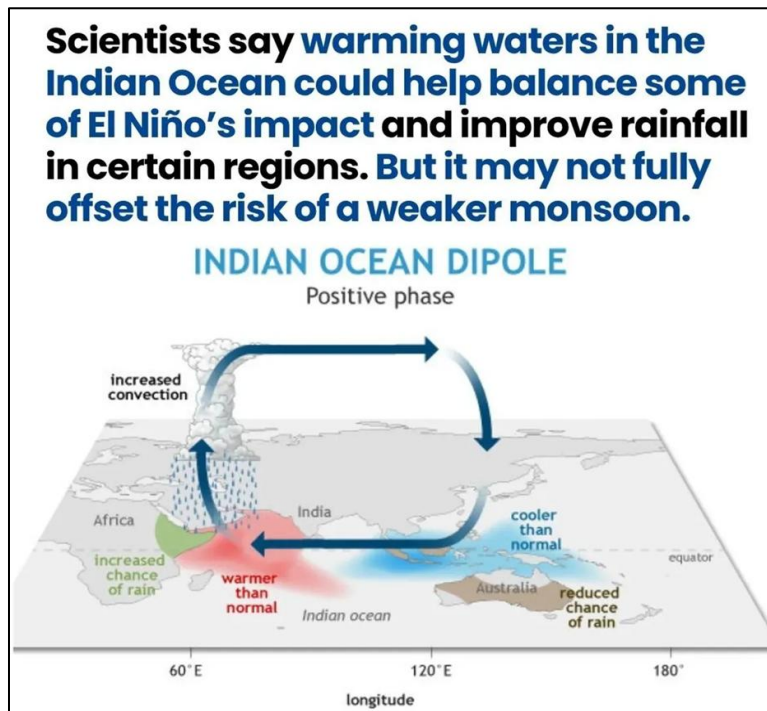
SC says women in marriage-like live-in relationships can file cruelty cases against partners under Indian law

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Super El Niño and Positive IOD

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) expects a strong Super El Niño to combine with a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) between August and October 2026.
- ❖ El Niño is the unusual warming of sea-surface and subsurface waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, which weakens or reverses normal trade winds.
- ❖ It can cause reduced monsoon rainfall in India, higher global temperatures, heat waves, droughts, wildfires and marine heat waves.

- ❖ The 2026 El Niño was declared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on June 11, 2026, and has been strengthening rapidly.
- ❖ Sea-surface temperature anomalies are forecast to exceed 2.9°C, making the event potentially one of the strongest on record.
- ❖ A positive IOD means warmer-than-normal waters in the western Indian Ocean and cooler waters in the eastern Indian Ocean, which can support rainfall over India and partly offset El Niño's effect.
- ❖ The combined impact may increase the risk of extreme heat, droughts, floods and wildfires in different parts of the world.



STATE NEWS

Hoysala-Era Hero Stone Found

- ❖ A centuries-old Veeragallu (hero stone) with a Kannada inscription was discovered at Neeragunda, Karnataka, shedding light on Hoysala ruler Vishnu vardhana's death.
- ❖ The inscription records that soldier Boppa died soon after Vishnuvardhana's death at Bankapura and was commemorated by his wife Maravve.
- ❖ The inscription gives the date as Ekadashi of Pushya Masa, Durmathi Samvatsara, 1064, corresponding to December 11, 1141.

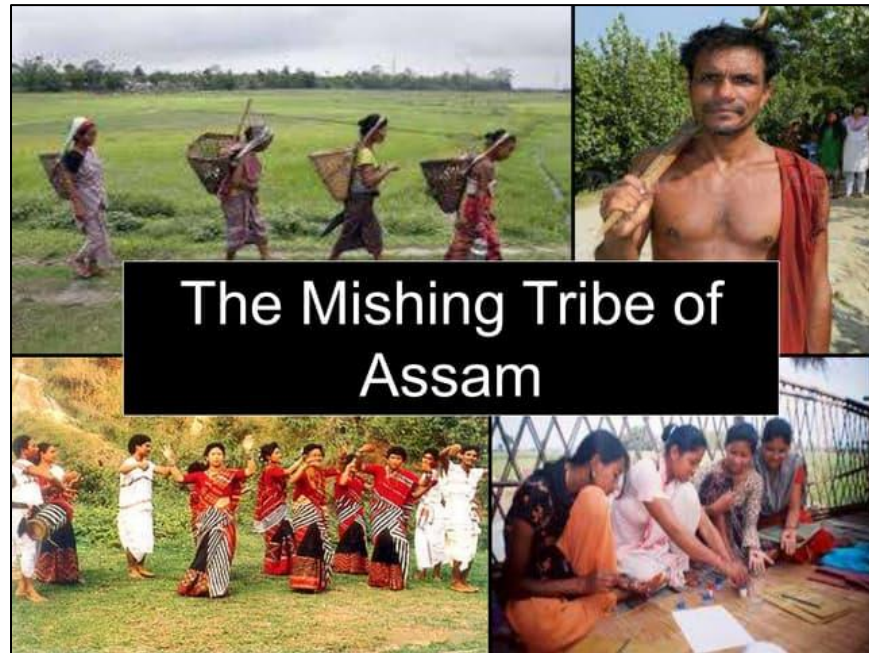
- ❖ Vishnuvardhana is believed to have died at Bankapura, but historians have differed between 1149 and 1152 for his death.
- ❖ The Veeragallu was found at the Lakshmi Narayana Swamy Temple in Neeragunda village, Hassan district, Karnataka.



Mising Tribe of Assam

- ❖ The Mising, Assam's second-largest plains tribe, was highlighted on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (August 9) for its traditional adaptation to floods.
- ❖ The Mising mainly live-in riverine areas along the Brahmaputra and its tributaries, especially in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Jorhat and Sonitpur districts.
- ❖ They traditionally use Chang Ghar, houses built on bamboo stilts, which keep living spaces above floodwaters.
- ❖ Their traditional livelihoods include paddy cultivation, livestock rearing, fishing and handloom weaving, using locally available resources such as bamboo and thatch.
- ❖ The community celebrates Ali-Aye-Ligang, its traditional sowing festival, and traditionally follows Donyi-Poloism, associated with the Sun and Moon.

- ❖ Traditional Mishing practices include seasonal farming, flood-adapted housing and local ecological knowledge used in flood-prone areas.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sant Kabir Handloom Awards 2025



- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu presented the Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards 2025 at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.



- ❖ A total of 22 awards were presented — 3 Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and 19 National Handloom Awards.
- ❖ The Sant Kabir awards went to Ram Meher (Odisha), Runima Chetiya Choudhury (Assam) and Shah Muhammad Ansari (Uttar Pradesh).
- ❖ The National Handloom Awards recognised traditional textiles including Kanchipuram Silk (Tamil Nadu), Ikat (Telangana) and Kani Shawls (Jammu and Kashmir).
- ❖ The President also released four commemorative postage stamps on India's weaving traditions.

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